

Round Up

Hindustan Zinc to pay 45% dividend

Chennai, Hindustan Zinc has recommended final dividend of 45 per cent for the year ended March 31, 2012.

The total dividend for the year is 120 per cent Rs 2.40 per share.

In a filing with the Bombay Stock Exchange, the company said that it had posted a net profit of Rs 1,412.84 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 against Rs 1,771.27 crore in the same period in the previous year. Total income had declined to Rs 3516.06 crore from Rs 3545.89 crore.

For the year ended March 31, 2012, the company reported a net profit of Rs 5526.04 crore against Rs 4,900.49 crore in the previous year. Total income had risen to Rs 12,948.14 crore from Rs 10,905.19 crore.

Slowdown hits electrical equipment industry

New Delhi, The growth of India's electrical equipment industry fell to 6.6 percent in 2011-12 as compared to 13.7 percent in the previous year, industry data showed Friday.

"Sluggish growth in power sector and escalating imports of electrical equipment is significantly impacting the commercial viability of the domestic electrical equipment industry and will have severe long-term consequences," Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) said in a report.

All three segments of the power sector - generation, transmission and distribution - are facing several challenges which need to be addressed expeditiously, it said.

Growth in capacitor, switchgear and transmission line segments turned negative in 2011-12, implying distinct slowdown in industrial capex activities and slowdown in off-take by users due to credit squeeze and high interest costs.

The cable industry is the only sector that has shown a double-digit growth of 25.7 percent in the year under review.

India clears \$660 mn deal for artillery guns

New Delhi, The Indian Army got a shot in the arm Friday with the defence ministry clearing its long-pending \$660 million (Rs.3,000 crore) proposal to buy 145 ultra-light howitzer guns to add teeth to its ageing inventory. This is the first time the army is buying artillery guns in 27 years, since the Bofors guns payoff scandal broke out in the late 1980s. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Defence Minister A.K. Antony, cleared the deal for the M777 BAE Systems guns that will be bought through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route of the US government.

Trade deficit records new high at \$185 b

New Delhi: Braing the downturn in the United States and the economic slowdown in the eurozone, India, announced that it had surpassed the export target of \$300 billion for 2011-12.

The rising trade deficit, touching \$184.9 billion mark was a worrying factor.

Briefing newsmen here, Commerce Secretary Rahuo Khullar said the country had been able to surpass the trade target of \$300 billion despite slowdown in demand in its traditional markets of the US and Europe.

Exports surged by 21 per cent to \$303.7 billion in 2011-12 powered by a strong growth in petroleum, pharmaceuticals and engineering products.

India managed to go past the export target by adopting product and market diversification strategy.

However, imports surged by 32.1 per cent to

\$486.6 billion, leaving the highest ever trade deficit of \$184.9 billion. Interestingly, the government had set a target of \$150 billion trade deficit.

This is the highest ever trade deficit and is a matter of serious concern, Mr. Khullar said.

He said owing to the huge trade deficit, the current account deficit CAD is likely to be close to an uncomfortable four per cent of gross domestic product in 2011-12.

A country runs a CAD when its total import of goods, services and transfers are more than its total export of goods, services and transfers, in turn, making it a net debtor to the world, he said.

The Commerce Secretary said the year 2012-13 was going to be a difficult one for trade given the global slowdown.

The export market effectively collapsed from September 2011, on-

wards, he said. However, for the first time since September 2011, exports increased on month on month basis in March 2012.

On imports, he said, gold imports were expected to come down due to the duties imposed in the recent Union Budget.

Engineering exports grew by 16.9 per cent to \$58.2 billion. Export of petroleum and oil products surged by 38.5 per cent to \$57.5 billion and gems and jewellery exports increased to \$45.9 billion, which is 13.3 per cent higher than in the previous year.

Other sectors which showed healthy performance included drugs and pharmaceuticals up 21.9 per cent at \$13.1 billion, leather up 22.5 per cent at \$4.2 billion, electronics up 9.2 per cent at \$9 billion cotton yarn and fabric made up 17.4 per cent at \$7.2 billion, readymade

garments yarn and fabrics up 18 per cent at \$13.7 billion and marine products up 31.4 per cent at \$3.4 billion.

Imports also registered a huge surge with petroleum, oil and lubricants going up by a steep 46.9 per cent to \$155.6 billion largely due to increased prices in international markets. This has also been the main reason for widening deficit. Imports of gold and silver jumped by 44. Per cent \$612.5 billion, while that of coal surged by 80.3 per cent to \$17.6 billion.

Imports of machinery increased by 27.7 per cent to \$3.54 billion, electronic goods by 23 per cent to \$32.7 per cent to \$11.9 billion, vegetable oil by 47.5 per cent to \$9.7 billion to \$11 billion. However, imports of gems and jewellery fell by 10.6 per cent to \$31 billion.



The Minister for Foreign Affairs & Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore, Mr. K. Shanmugam calling on the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi.

HCL Tech Q3 net profit up 28.7% at Rs 602.5 crore

New Delhi, HCL Technologies reported a 28.7 per cent rise in quarterly profit at Rs 602.5 crore for the January-March quarter, powered by strong demand from clients looking to save costs in an uncertain economic environment.

The company, which follows July-June fiscal year, had a net profit of Rs 468.2 crore in third quarter of 2010-11.

Buoyed by the results, shares of the company closed 3 per cent higher at Rs 495.55 apiece from their previous close on BSE.

Though HCL Technologies remains cautious, it is also confident that a number of opportu-

nities exist in Europe and the US which will start reflecting from October onwards.

We have, in this quarter, done over \$1.5 billion booking. This is the biggest ever quarter in booking terms in our history. In the last six months, we have done \$2.5 billion worth of booking, HCL Technologies Vice chairman and chief Executive Officer Vineet Nayyar said.

He said there were pressures both in US and Europe as IT budget are expected to be flat or negative this year.

In the United States, companies are becoming prudent in spending. IT budgets are negative to flat and there is vendor

churn as companies are looking at consolidation in Europe, there are all kinds of pressures. There are a lot of first time outsources and there is high emphasis on cost reduction, he added.

Indian players get about 80 per cent of their revenues from US and Europe-HCL Technologies' revenues for the reported quarter were up 26 per cent at Rs 5215.6 crore from Rs 4138.2 crore in Q3 of FY'11. However, on sequential basis, revenue were down 0.6 per cent. Nayyar said he expects the October-December quarter of fiscal year 2012-13 to bring back strong growth in the sector.

ICICI Bank, PNB cut lending, deposit rates

Mumbai, ICICI Bank said it would cut its base rate by 0.25 percentage point to 9.75 per cent from ten per cent with effect from April 25. The bank has also announced a reduction of 0.25 percentage point in its benchmark prime lending rate and in its floating reference rate for consumer loans including home loans with effect from the same date. The rates are used for determining the interest rates on loans and advances sanctioned up to June 30. The fixed rate customers will not be impacted by this reduction and their contracted rates will remain unchanged,

said ICICI Bank. With the easing of systemic liquidity, we have already seen some correction in wholesale deposit rates. We expect the cost of funds to gradually come down and this reduction in the lending rates is a proactive move by us to pass on the benefit to our valued customers, said Chanda Kochhar, Managing director and CEO of ICICI Bank. The banks also said it would cut interest rates for various tenors of retail fixed deposits by 0.25 percentage point. The Reserve Bank of India cut the indicative policy rate the repo

rate by 50 basis points on 8.5 per cent to 8 per cent. The repo rates is the rate at which banks borrow funds from the central bank. Punjab National Bank too announced a cut in lending rates by upto 0.25 percentage points. It has also reduced the fixed deposit rates by upto 0.5 percentage point. For better transmission of monetary policy measures declared by the RBI in its annual monetary policy in April, PNB has reviewed its lending rates and decided to revise downwards the base rate by 25 basis points from 10.75 per cent

to 10.50 per cent and the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate to 14 per cent from 14.25 per cent, to lessen the interest burden on esteemed customers, the bank said. Consequently upon the reduction, all landing rates linked to the base rate and the BPLR would get reduced accordingly, it said.

The base rate is the minimum interest rate below which, the bank cannot lend. Besides, PNB has also decided to slash the interest rate on term deposits of less than Rs 1 crore by 25 to 50 basis points in select buckets.

PMO seeks report cards from ministries as key decisions await green sign

New Delhi, Even as some of the key decisions like formulation of the new steel policy, diesel deregulation, foreign direct investment in multibrand retail, and coal auction through competitive bidding, are stuck in limbo due to acute indecisiveness on part for the Government, the PMO has directed all the ministries to come out with an updated list of all their activities in the past 12 months, as it is preparing to unveil its annual report to the people on the third anniversary of UPA II.

Incidentally, the PMO has asked the ministries to send in their respective report cards to it, whereas the letter has reached various departments only earlier this week. The letter, dispatched by the Principal Secretary in the PMO Pulk Chatterjee, has asked all the departments to prepare an updated report on all the development initiatives undertaken by them. Though this has been an annual exercise by the UPA Government ever since it came to power first in May 2004, it is being conducted at a time when several of its key initiatives are awaiting implementation due to want of any green signal from the top, and the Government is being roundly criticized for this inactivity. To list just a few, the Steel Ministry's ambitious plan of coming out with an integrated policy

aimed at ensuring time bound implementation of green field projects towards fluctuating faster growth of the sector in the country in short the National Steel Policy, is yet to be formulated. Under construction since quite some time, the policy, ministry sources now say, would take another couple of months to be finalized. It had been necessitated due to the changing dynamics of the sector, including sharp rise in imports and would be replacing the existing one, which has been in use since November 2005. It had projected the country's steel consumption to grow at 7 per cent, based on a 7-7.5 per cent GDP growth rate, and production of 110 million tonnes by 2019-20.

The Government also does not seem to be in a hurry to go in for deregulations of diesel, even as the oil marketing companies have been shouting themselves shares on the losses they are incurring by selling the aam admi commodity at much less than the market price.

State run fuel retailers are selling diesel at loss of Rs 14.57 per litre, and, in fact, recently even the Reserve bank of India during its third quarter review, of the monetary policy earlier this year, had suggested the Government to deregulate diesel to check mounting trade deficit and increasing dieselization of the economy.

However, Petroleum Minister S Jaipal Reddy had practically ruled out the option, saying that while their RBI suggestions has academic relevance, we have to take all practical and political difficulties into consideration.

Even on the issue of introducing foreign direct investment in multi brand retail, the Government after showing initial enthusiasm, had to put the proposal in deep freeze after facing vehement pollical

opposition, principally from its biggest ally Trinamool Congress.

In the crucial energy sector also, the inadequate supply of coal to power stations, forced the Government to evoke President's Reference, thus virtually ordering Coal India Ltd. to sign fuel supply agreements with power entities in order to ensure that power stations come masoned till December 2011, do not fall short of dry fuel.

RIL Q4 net down 21%

Mumbai, Reliance Industries Ltd. announced a lower net profit of Rs 4236 crore for the quarter ended March 31 2012 a drop of 21.2 per cent as compared to Rs 5376 crore recorded in the same period in the previous year, owing to lower gas output from its oil fields and lower refining margins.

The company announced a dividend of Rs 8.5 per share for 2011-12. During the quarter, a company said, oil and gas exploration business revenues were down 36.5 per cent at Rs 2608 crore with lower operating margin of 36.5 per cent. Its refining business and gross refining margin was lower at \$7.6 barrel. Even though the turnover for the fourth quarter of the last fiscal rose 16.7 per cent to

GoAir keen to fly global routes

Chennai, Domestic airline GoAir is not averse to expanding its operations to international routes, subject to revision of certain eligibility norms, even while retaining its focus on growing in the country.

I might apply with a request for a revision in the norms, Giorgio De Roni, Chief Executive Officer, GoAirlines India said, referring to the government stipulation that domestic carriers could go abroad only if they have a minimum 20 aircraft. Some foreign airlines with less than twenty aircraft, he added, were, however, allowed to operate. While stating that GoAir respected the regulatory framework, he said the government stood to gain by permitting the do-

mestic carriers to operate on international routes as the move would bring more foreign tourists, foreign exchange and have a positive impact on allied businesses such as hotels.

Mr. Roni was addressing a press meet to announce the decision of GoAir to start operations in Chennai from May 1. It has also got its 12th Airbus A320. Chennai, the 22nd destination for the carrier, he added.

To a query on the plans more aircraft, he said GoAir had 12, of which one was on a short lease.

The company proposes to add three more aircraft this fiscal. The number would increase to 20 by 2014. It has also placed orders for 72 air-

craft, which will come by 2016.

On the decision of the government to allow foreign direct investment in airlines, he said, the group was willing to sell, but would consider if there was an opportunity to improve our vision and market. He said GoAir was in discussions with two big brothers in Europe for a tie up for maintenance and spare parts, but not with anyone for FDI.

The carrier, like many others in the industry, was evaluating the prospects of importing aviation fuel, he said, pointing out that cost of fuel represented 50 per cent of the total cost for airlines. Importing fuel would mean lot of investments for the airlines, he added.

\$1 bn cap on ECBs for aviation sector

New Delhi, The Centre said companies engaged in the working capital resources through the external commercial borrowings ECBs route to the tune of \$1 billion, where the limit for individual airline companies would be \$300 million.

Noting Finance minister had promised in his budget speech that companies in the aviation sector would be allowed to avail themselves of ECBs for one year for working capital refinancing of out-

standing working capital rupee loans, a finance ministry said. The ECB made under this provision would have a maximum ceiling of \$1 billion for the entire civil aviation sector.

The limit for individual airline companies would be \$300 million. This limit can be availed themselves of either in a lump sum or in tranches, depending on the utilization of the limit during the one year when the facility is available, he said. Till now, airlines were allowed to raise foreign

capital only for import of capital equipment such as aircraft.

Proposals of individual companies would be considered by the RBI under the approval route based on the parameters such as cash flows and the capacity of individual companies to repay these loans from their foreign exchange earnings. To increase access to ECBs, the RBI would consider relaxation in the average maturity period for ECBs above \$20 million from five to the

WESTERN TIMES From Editor's Desk..... France, Europe set for major changes

A week is a long time in politics, Sunday's elections have brought about changes in France and Greece that could conceivably send Greece out of the eurozone, upturn the European Union's deal with the IMF for harsh austerity measures that sharply cut employment and welfare across Europe but infused bailout funds to the tune of 105 billion euros, and possibly reverse the trend of core economic policies across Europe, although no one can be sure if this will worsen the financial crisis arising out of the deepening sovereign debt situation in several European states, or help manage the situation better. All that can be said for now is that a dose of neo-Keynesian economics is certainly on the cards.

On Sunday, when Socialist leader Francois Hollande ousted Nicolas Sarkozy as French President, it was the first time since 1981 that France was putting a Socialist in the Elysee Palace. Mr Hollande announced straightaway: "Austerity need not be Europe's fate." He called for "a new start", namely policies aimed at growth and employment -- a public spending -- the incorporated into Europe's pact with the European Central Bank and the IMF. In Greece, 60 per cent of elected MPs are against the austerity measures that Mr Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel had been championing, and by virtue of their sheer weight in Europe, making other countries accept. If Greece abandons that line which eliminates welfare, it may be difficult for it in the short run to get out of its sovereign debt crisis. Presumably voters have given this some thought as the debate on the crisis in Europe has been raging for months.

Since the fall of Communism, socialists and social democrats have had a tough time in Europe. Bit 10 years ago there were still social democratic governments in half the European Union countries. By the end of last year, there were none. And now, with Europe in a deep financial mess, France, a major European power, has preferred a Socialist to the incumbent centre-right leader who was seeking to become attractive to the xenophobic right and holding tight to the plan of severe austerity for Europe. It is too early to say if the French result will set a trend. But if Mr Hollande can quickly bring in the conscious growth factor into public policy, it could have a demonstration effect. On the day the new French President was reading his victory speech, Ms Merkel's Christian Democrats in Germany -- whose line is the opposite of Mr Hollande's -- were being pushed back in regional elections. In Britain, the Conservatives suffered humiliating defeats in local council elections while Labour gained. Fascinating times for politics and policy watchers.

ACC Q1 net dips on cost pressures

Mumbai, ACC reported a net profit of Rs 155 crore for the first quarter of 2012 against Rs 350 crore in the same period last year. ACC said its manufacturing costs and realization were affected by a steep rise in the cost of inputs such as cost, fly ash and gypsum. The company reported a 9 per cent rise in sales volume of 6.72 million tonnes and a consolidated turnover of Rs 3105 crore but the profit before tax was lower at Rs 208 crore. The company said the during the quarter, it had recognized an additional depreciation charge of Rs 341 crore including Rs 335 crore relating to earlier years disclosed as an exceptional item. This is because it changed, with retrospective effect, its method of providing depreciation on captive power plants from straight line to written down value method. He said that in the case on the earlier method of depreciation, the net profit would have been Rs 383 crore instead of Rs 152 crore reported.

FDI proposals worth \$112.5 m cleared

New Delhi, The Fetrne approved 22 foreign direct investment proposals amounting to Rs 586,137 crore. The proposals were cleared following recommendations of the Foreign Investments Promotion Board at its meeting, the finance ministry said. The government cleared Shantha Biotechnics' proposals of Rs 514 crore to increase its foreign equity in brown field pharmaceutical sector to carry out the activities of research, development, manufacturing and marketing of bio-tech products and other biogenics. It also cleared Mahindra and Mahindra's Rs 25.99 crore proposal for setting up a joint venture company to develop, manufacture and provide service support for radar systems and various kinds of defence electronics systems. The government also allowed Springer Editorial Services Rs 12.87 crore proposal to increase foreign equity up to 100 per cent for publishing services, content, development, content management and content outsourcing among others.

Govt to bring new guidelines for greater flexibility for PSUs

New Delhi, The Government said it will soon come out with fresh guidelines for public sector units that have Maharatna and Navratna status to enable them greater operational flexibility in achieving annual targets. Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Praful Patel met the heads of Maharatna and few Navratna companies how made presentation to the minister on the issues facing them while meeting annual targets set in the Memorandum of Understanding MOU with the

government. The MOUs are fixed, but at times they are unrealistic. Targets cannot be met. Maharatna and Navratna companies need more operational flexibility, so guidelines will have to be brought in place, Patel told. Patel said there is a substantial merit in what these companies have stated. Ultimately, if these companies have to become global companies, they will have to require more operational flexibility which we are very inclined to look at, he added.

Apply dynamics price policy to passenger fares to keep Rly running: Plan Panel

New Delhi, The beleaguered Railways will face server funds crunch in the 12th Plan unless it rationalize fares or generates alternative resources. A Working Group report of Planning commission on Railways, formed to cut our strategy for Indian Railways in the 12th Plan says with the current set of fares, Railways will have receipts of Rs 7,36,278 crore over the next five years while the expenditure will Rs 6,99,838 crore. Thus, it will be left with internal resources of only Rs 36,440 crore which is highly inadequate compared to the requirement of Rs 2,01,805 crore, crating a gap of Rs 1,65,365 crore. The report says Railways' finance, need to be improved to be able to support the capacity aug-

mentation and modernization plans. The Group has estimated a total fund requirement of Rs 7,19,671 from various avenues for Railway in various avenues for Railways in the 12th Plan. Major requirement of funds has been projected under New Lines - Rs 1,22,3000 crore, Rolling Stock. Rs 1,57,818 crore and investments in PSUs/JVs/SPVs - Rs 1,42,665 crore out of which Rs 1,06,465 crore is for Western and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor being implemented by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India. To generate internal resources, the Group advocates the market driven Dynamic Pricing initiatives introduced in the 11th Plan and says it needs to be carried forward and applied to pas-

sengers fares too. Rationalizing of freight and passenger fares would be crucial to achieve financial viability. For further increasing revenues, Railways would need to look beyond transportation and capture more value in the logistics value chain. Warehousing, multimodalism, growing containerizable cargo etc. offer excellent opportunities for increasing the topline. Railways would need to think of entering into businesses other than conventional and develop new required capabilities and from strategic alliances where required to increase its share in the logistics value chain, it recommends. It also calls for evolving a pricing policy for parcel tariff Escalation in freight for parcel traffics

could be based on the Whole Sale Price Index and increase in the cost of petrol and diesel. Another point it moots is that Railways carries Magazines parcel traffic at highly subsidized rates. Nowadays the cost of magazine is very high and it is a profitable business. The Magazines are not read by poor class of the society. So there is need to withdraw the concessional rates for the transportation of Magazine parcel traffic. However, Newspapers can continuously be carried at subsidized rates. It would also need to increase asset utilization by running heavier, longer and faster freight trains to achieve higher levels of productivity. The source wise requirements of funds during the 12th Plan period.

Connecting customers, the Volvo way

Chennai, Swedish luxury car maker Volvo is stepping on the gas to take on competition from German brands in India. Besides expanding its dealer network and strengthening marketing operations, it has decided to engage with prospective customers through a range of activities, including gold tournaments. In the last couple of month, there has been a new focus on India from the head office, Volvo Auto India Pvt Ltd. Managing Director said. The potential for luxury cars in India was huge, he said, adding that the market offered space for more brands. Worldwide, luxury cars account for ten per cent of all cars sold whereas in India their numbers add up to a mere one per cent. It market is not overcrowded and no

one want to be away from India, he said, adding that by 2020, the share of luxury cars was expected to increase to 3 per cent. Mr. Ernberg was seeking to the inauguration of the first Volvo showroom in Chennai by Tamil Nadu Governor. Noting that Volvo was making inroads into the market dominated by German brands Audi, Mercedes and Porsche, he said the company sold 320 units last year and was looking to sell 1000 units this year. A three gold increase was in line with past sales of Volvo Auto India, which sells four premium modes - SUVs Xc90 and Xc90 and sedans S80 and S60. The newest offering is the D3 diesel variant launched earlier this year. The vehicles are priced between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 50 lakh each.

Air India posts healthy growth revenue

Mumbai, Riding on high yields and an increased passengers load factor, state owned Air India posted a healthy 46 per cent revenue growth last month over the same period last year, airline sources said. The yields on domestic sector had significant improvement of 38.5 per cent in March vis-a-vis last year. The seat factor during this period also increased nearly 7.9 per cent. Consequently, the airline posted a healthy growth in revenue of 46.1 per cent, the sources said. On international routes too, the airlines put up a good performance, clocking a nearly 33 per cent growth in passengers rev-

enue. The higher growth came on the back of an eight per cent up in load factor and higher yields at 28 per cent. For the quarter ending March this year, the passengers revenue showed an improvements of 36.1 per cent, besides a 15.7 and 23 per cent rise in seat factor and yields respectively over the same period last year, the sources said. On a cumulative basis, the revenue for fiscal 2012 posted a growth of 13 per cent with load factor of 5.7 per cent, they said, adding that the yields were up nearly ten per cent. The results came a week after the government approved the much awaited turnaround plan

and a financial restructuring plan involving Rs 30,000 crore equity inflation over the next eight years and a debt recast CDR of Rs 21,200 crore. The financial restructuring plan would provide relief to Air India from the debt servicing obligations on working capital loans in the form of a substantial reduction in the form of a substantial reduction in interest outlays, while giving it the necessary time to improve its operational efficiency. Air India's current outgo on interest payment to the banks is Rs 2,400 crore, which is expected to come down drastically due to the financial restructuring plan (FRP).

Per second plana must, TRAI tells telecom companies

New Delhi, The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India came out with a new tariff order making it mandatory for operators to offer at least one tariff plan each for post paid and prepaid subscribers with a uniform one second pulse rate. It has also put a ceiling on tariff for calls and SMS meant for participating in contests and games. In its amendments to the Telecommunications Tariff Order, TRAI said the rates for premium rate services now levied by services provider were substantially higher vis a vis the normal tariff applicable for a two way communication because the charges levied also included the price for content. Keeping in view the fact that calls and SMS

made for participating in competitions and voting hardly contain any content, the authority has mandated that the tariff for such calls and SMS shall not exceed four items of the applicable local call / SMS charges, it said. The new amendments also provide flexibility to service providers to apply revision in ILD tariff uniformly for new as well as existing subscribers. Meanwhile, TRAI has announced a minor hike in the processing fee for all mobile recharge coupons top up vouchers priced above Rs 20. The authority has decided to increase the ceiling on processing fee on top up vouchers to Rs 3 from Rs 2 in respect of top up vouchers having a maximum retail prices on Rs 20 and above and

to continue with the existing selling of Rs 2 in respect of top up vouchers having MRP of less than Rs 20, a TRAI said. Notably, the processing fee is included within the MRP of recharge coupon purchased, which means that a pre paid customer will get slightly leaser talk time for his recharge coupons. TRAI has also directed all telecom service providers to provide consumers with at least one top up voucher priced at Rs 10. With a view to protecting the interests of users, the authority mandates that every service provider shall offer and make available to the consumer at least one top up voucher, of denomination of Rs 10, it added.

Uninor optimistic of 'solution' to 2G row

Kolkata, Uninor Managing Director Sigve Brekke said that the company had decided to stay on course and continue investing. There is no plan B forums but we have the benefit of being a long term investor. He said that the company was in talks with five to six players for selecting its new joint ventures partner but it would now like to have a higher stake of around 74 per cent. We have told the government that we will disclose the name later, he added. Mr. Brekke said that the company was meeting Foreign Investment Promotion Board officials and had said that it would disclose the names once the process of approval got under way.

Uninor, whose 22 licences were cancelled by the Supreme Court in February in wake of the 2G scam, has also fallen out with its partner Unitech from whom it has sought compensation. Telenor held Unitech liable for the breach of warranties related to the cancellation of the licences, seeking compensation for all investment, guarantees and damages caused by the Supreme Court order, it had said in statement. Mr. Brekke said that Uninor had added 2.34 million subscribers in February taking its total user base to 41.14 million. The company holds a licences in each of India's 22 circles.

Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee has taken the stand that some of the amendments proposed by him in tax provisions with retrospective effect are not substantive but clarificatory in nature. The issue that has triggered concerns among foreign companies, doing business in India was brought up by US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner during his meeting with Mukherjee on Washington. Following a missive from 12 major American industry and trade bodies, Geithner sought reassurances from the Finance Minister arguing that the proposed changes have dampened enthusiasm about India's investments climate. Responding to the American concessions, Mukherjee informed his US counterpart that the

Retrospective tax changes 'clarificatory': FM

tax changes proposed are not substantive but clarificatory immature as the changes reiterated only the intent of the legislation. During the meeting, it was also pointed out that as per Section 149 of the Income Tax Act, no tax cases can be opened beyond 6 years. It was also informed that tax cases which have already been assessed and finalized upto April 1, 2012 cannot be reopened, said a Finance Ministry after the meeting. It also stressed that Indian tax laws are very clear that companies making capital gains from the assets located in India will have to pay taxes either in the country of their original or in India. It is not a case of double taxation but ensuring that companies that are liable to pay tax must pay some tax.

On the issue of categorization of software sales as royalties, Mukherjee noted that discussions have been held in the past between the tax authorities in both the countries and they had agreed to disagree on such characterization. US Treasury Kara Alaimo said the Treasury Department was examining India's proposed tax provisions to determine their impact on the US-India bilateral income ax treaty. The discussion on bilateral economic and financial cooperation as well as recent developments in the global economy, Mukherjee noted that India-US political and strategic engagement was at an unprecedented level, with high level of cooperation in defence, counter terrorism, trade, investments, science and technology, education and energy.

Arindam Chaudhury enthralled students HBS and urges them to look beyond profits!

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New Delhi, Management Guru and Director of the IIPM Think Tank, Arindam Chaudhury delivered a lecture on the future of Indian Economy and FDI in the next ten years at the prestigious Harvard Business School. The Management Guru with a million plus Facebook followers the highest amongst all management icons and economists globally embarked upon his American Business Schools Tour, titled Arindam At America earlier this week with a much appreciated opening lectures at UC Davis, Graduate School of Management, University of California followed by lecture at HBS. In the last led of

his tour he is now scheduled to speak at Denver University Daniels School of Business and University of North Carolina Kenan Flagler Business School. The Harvard Business School, he enthralled the audience with his in depth analysis of the Indian Economy, Praising the Chinese success story, he went on to shatter the myth that both Nations were comparable. However, he summed up his speech by saying that its the Democratic framework of India that will finally give India at the edge. He also elaborated on the illusory concept of Indian Billionaires without

any global Brands worth, naming and yet showed how private individuals are altering the landscape of the Indian economy. The sessions was followed by a very interactive Q and A session where students also got a dose of the Management Gurus unique concept of Survival of the Weakest for a truly globalized world. He urged the students of Harvard to look beyond profits and lobby for a world free of poverty for the sake of their own future and hoped that many of the Indian students there would come ABC to Indian and make a India a better place by contributing in the area of spreading better education and health facilities.

ESPN gets into event management

Chennai, ESPN Star Sports, a leading sports broadcaster, has set up an independent division to manage sporting events in India. The event management division will function as a profit centre within the India outfit of ESPN Star Sports Event Management is some sort of a backward integration for ESPN Star Sports. With its entry into this space, the sports broadcaster will have capability to offer everything connected to sports under one roof. ESPN Star Sports it may be noted, has a well established event man-

agement group across the Asia Pacific region. In a release, Sanjay Kailahs Executive Vice President, ESPN Software India Pvt Ltd., felt that ESPN could bring its deep international experience into play in India and create tailor made events and offer interesting and innovative marketing solutions using multiple platforms of ESPN Star Sports. It has signalled its entry into sporting event management space by inking a deal with Pepsico India to manage its Pepsi T20 Football on ground event in India. As a part of the deal, ESPN Star Sports is also producing and showcasing the Pepsi

T20 Football tournaments in a special eight episode series. The event management division has just signed up to manage the School Quiz 2012, where it has roped in HDFC Life as the title sponsor, while on ground initiatives around the HDFC Life School Quiz 2012 have already stated on air telecast of the Quiz will begin in June, the release says. Its event management group manage and promotes premier sporting events around Asia. It specialises in creating, managing, promoting, consulting, producing and syndicating leading sporting events.

Food Ministry signs MOU with WFP for computerization of PDS

New Delhi, Ministry of Food signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with United Nations World Food Programme for scaling up computerization of Targeted Public Distribution Systems within the country. Modernization including computerizations of TPDS in the country is enabling timely allocation of foodgrains, biometric identification of beneficiaries, recording of transactions at the fair price shops and tracking of foodgrains. This has brought about a perceptible change in targeting of PDS, elimination of over 2.48 crore bogus ineligible ration cards and resultant saving of foodgrains. The WFP programme will assist the

selected States to expedite their TPDS computerization programs and will complement the ongoing efforts being made for modernization of TPDS by the Government of India and State Governments. The MOU provides for development and implementation of additional; TPDS Pilot projects based on the WFP model in Rayagada district of Odisha where in partnership with the WFP, Government of Odisha is implementing a pilot project to strengthen the TPDS through use of new ration cards against biometric validations or Smart Cards with point of sale devices in fair price shops duplication of ineligible

cards, etc. A project covering Bhubanewar, Odisha is under preparation by WFP and additional pilot projects would be implemented in consultation with the States, Central Government and WFP. The selection of States under the MOU would include those which have not fully implemented computerization of TPDS. Under the MOU, the Department of Food and Public Distribution will facilitate the WFP TPDS computerization programme. It will also provide the necessary information and advise on the programme as well as the selection of States for implementation.

BIZ NEWS IN NUTSHELL

Annual Plan for Kerala fixed at Rs 14,010 crore

New Delhi, Annual Plan for Kerala was fixed at Rs 14010 crore for the year 2012-13 at a meeting between Planning Commission, Deputy Chairman, Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Chief Minister of Kerala, Oommen Chandy. This is an increase of 27 per cent over last year's outlay of Rs 11,030 crore. Chandy said that in the annual plan 2012-13, the State will give the agriculture sector top priority by providing substantial increase in the outlay. He added that infrastructure development is one of the major thrust areas, State Road Improvement Project, Improvement of Road Maintenance Project and Road safety enhancement are some of the new proposals for infrastructure development. Ahluwalia appreciated the State's efforts aimed at linking planning with targets and introducing a strict system of plan monitoring at all levels. He said the attempt to capture progress of implementation at various levels at all stage would help in substantially improving plan achievements.

Panel favours use of cement in road projects

New Delhi, A Plan panel appointed group has suggested use of cement in all expansion works of National and State highways. All new expansions in the national and State highways may be made of cement concrete as a policy. To begin with this percentage can be 20 per cent of the total allocations, the Planning Commission appointed Working Group for charting out the road map for the XII Plan, said. The creation of roads with the use of cement concrete was needed to build a worldclass road infrastructure in the country for the rapid and inclusive growth of the economy. The domestic cement industry, which has around 330 million tonnes installed capacity has been pitting for the idea for quite some time now.

Vodafone inks pact to buy CWW

London, Telecom giant Vodafone, said it had reached an agreement to buy British firm Cable and Wireless Worldwide (CWW) for about 1.04 billion pound about \$1.67 billion or Rs 8800 crore. Tata Communications was also in fray to acquire the British firm, but had pulled out of the race for failing to reach an agreement on the offer price. With the Tatas moving out, UK based Vodafone which has a major presence in India with around 150 million wireless subscribers was the only contender left for the bid. Vodafone Europe and CWW have reached an agreement on the terms of a recommended cash offer persuasion to which Vodafone will acquire the entire is used and to be issued ordinary share capital of CWW, Vodafone said in a filing to the Linden Stock Exchange.

Initial gains not fully held on BSE

Mumbai, The BSE benchmark index, Sensex, erased initial gains and closed barley thirty points up at 17392.39 on profit booking. Auto, healthcare oil and gas and metal stocks attracted buying. The BSE thirty scrip Sensex opened higher at 17447.26 and moved between 17522.80 and 17371.29 up 34.45 points against its last close of 17357.94. The Sensex had gained over 263 points in the last two sessions. Reversing its initial gains, the rupee, fell back by 31 paise to close at 51.78/79 against the US currency following strong dollar demand from importers. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened higher at 51.38/39 a dollar from the overnight close of 51.47/48 and touched a high of 51.35 on renewed selling of dollars by banks and exporters. But, later it reacted downwards to close at 51.78/79, showing a loss of 31 paise on fresh dollar demand from importers amidst firm dollar overgas.

Pvt power cos cry foul over FSA clause issue: NTPC cautious

New Delhi, Even as private power producers have been crying foul over Coal India Ltd. decision to levy an abysmally low penalty of 0.01 per cent on itself in case it fails to deliver 80 per cent of the committed coal top lower entities, state owned companies seem to differ with their counterparts and have in fact welcomed CILs move to ink fuel supply pacts with thermal plants commissioned till December 31, 2011.

While private power companies felt that the low penalty clause would kill the very spirit of the FSA, i.e. ensuring 80 per cent committed, coal supply to thermal plants, state owned National Thermal Power Corporation chose to be diplomatic and said that the CIL FSAs are good news and it expected the company to meet the pacts commitment. Both the Power as well as Coal Ministries however said that they are yet to hear any grievances on the matter from any of the parties concerned. The private players are all the more angered by the penalty, as besides being too low, it would be applicable only in the third year of the agreement. Sources in the NTPC seemed to dismiss the private players' apprehension and said that there should not be any negative approach about the entire matter and there should be a need to think

positively. CIL has not adhered to the intent and spirit of the Government's directive. With this level of penalty, this is business as usual, supply at best efforts - no effective commitment, Director General of Association of Power Producers, Ashok Khurana said, expressing disappointment at the low penalty clause finalized by CIL. APP consists of all major private power producers like Reliance Power, Adani Power, Tata Power, among others. In February this year, after power companies had taken the issue of non supply of coal to Prime Minister's Manmohan

Singh, the PMO had asked CIL, to ensure supply of the same for thermal stations. In a related development, earlier this month the Coal Ministry had issued the Presidential Reference, virtually asking the company to sign fuel supply agreements within 15 days, but left it at the discretion of the Maharatna company to decide the penalty clause, in case it failed to meet the supply targets. Subsequently, in its April 16 board meeting, CIL finalized the 0.01 per cent penalty for itself, which immediately invited the ire of private power companies. Amid all the

brouhaha, Coal Ministry said that till now they have not received any complaints from the power companies on the penalty clause in the FSAs, even as CIL started signing the pacts with the power entities. A ministry official said that CILs subsidiaries have started inking the pacts as the FSAs draft document has been sent to all of them. In fact, the Power Ministry too seemed to echo the same sentiments as that of the same sentiments as that of he Coal Ministry, as a Sharma Shakti Bhavan officials said that they have not been approached by either the Coal Ministry or the power producers on the penalty issue. The officials said that as long as anybody does not get in touch with them, no action can be taken on the matter.

Daimler's Chennai facility on stream

Chennai, German automobile major Daimler will start rolling out trucks from its Oragadam plant near September. It has committed an investment of Rs 4,400 crore in this facility. Announcing that the plant has become operational from Daimler India Commercial Vehicles Pvt Ltd., Managing Director Marc Llistosella said the plan was to start commercial productions of 25 tonne trucks and then move into thirty one tonne. Seventeen models of Bharat Benz trucks were to be launched in 18

months from September, he said. In a move to make the 400 acre, Oragadam facility as its India hub for truck manufacturing Daimler has decided to shift the productions of the Actors range heavy vehicles from Pune. The Actors range trucks are specialized and used in the mining segment. The process had begun and is expected to be completed by August-September, he said. Mr. Llistosella was addressing presspersons after the inauguration of the plant by Chief Minister Jayalalitha.

Top earners can find ways around Buffett rule minimum tax rate

Washington, The highest earning US households have ways to escape President Barack Obama's Buffett rule with tax planning techniques that would limit their liability and under mine the proposals purpose. Those affected taxpayers the fewer than 0.5% of Americans with annual incomes exceeding \$1 million and tax rates of less than 30% could take advantage of tax free investments such as municipal bonds to escape the Buffett rules bite. They also could time asset sales for maximum tax benefits engage in transactions that don't result in taxable income and make charitable contributions that yield deductions. Largely, the Buffett rule is going to be manageable, said David Miller, a partner at Cadwalder,

Wiekersham and Taft in New York. That is, with tax planning people will be able to avoid it. The proposal would deny higher income taxpayers many deductions and other breaks they use to drive down their average tax rate without closing out the tactics employed by the wealthiest, most sophisticated taxpayers. The rule named for billionaire investor Warren Buffett would require that tax payers with at least \$2 million in adjusted gross income pay a minimum rate of 30% and would impose the increase on a sliding scale for those with income between \$1 and \$2 million. Obama has been campaigning for the proposal in advance of a procedural vote in the Senate. Republican are expected to block the Buffett rule bill, which requires 60 votes to

advance in the Senate. Preferential tax treatment for capital gains and dividend is among the reasons why some high income households have relatively low effective tax rates, and one result of the Buffett rule would be to raise effective tax rates on capital income. The Buffett rule measures would generate \$47 billion for the government over the next decade, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. That estimate assumes that income tax cuts expire as scheduled at the end of 2012, it those cuts are extended, the bill would generate about \$162 billion, according to Whitehouse's office.

Government of India
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (HANDICRAFTS)
West Block No. 7, R.K. Puram, Sector-1, New Delhi-110 066.

Subject : Request for proposal for fresh projects to be implemented under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for 2012-13.

Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been implementing a cluster Development Scheme for sustainable development of cluster of handicrafts artisans through different implementing partners. The scheme is implemented in a projectised and need based mode, generally for a period of 5 years with the aim to empower the artisans. Under this scheme the artisans are given financial assistance for a package of Social, Technological, Marketing and Financial interventions depending on the need.

Eligible Organizations :
Reputed NGOs, Cooperatives, Apex Cooperative Societies, Trusts, COHANDS, EPCH, CEPC, MHSC, IICT, NCDPD, NIFT, NID, University Deptt. DRDA, NISSIET, EDIs, Central/ State Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporations and other related Govt. Corporations/ Agencies, Federation of NGOs/ SHGs, Associations of entrepreneurs/ designers/ exporters, etc. registered under proper statute, for sustainable development of identified craft clusters.

The proposal along with the list of proposed artisans and self grading can be submitted to the concerned Regional Offices or at the concerned Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres/ Carpet Weaving Training Service Centre/ Field Administrative Cell Proposal for artisanal category of General, SV and ST shall be submitted separately.

Last date for submission of proposals is 31st May 2012.

Note : Scrutiny of the proposal would be based on various parameters established by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). For Application proforma, Self Grading proforma, other details and Address established by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). For Application proforma, Self Grading proforma, other details and Address of Regional / Field Offices please visit web site <http://www.handicrafts.nic.in> (click on scheme AHVY)

OR

Visit the nearest Regional Office or Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres/ Carpet Weaving Training Service Centre/ Field Administrative Cell, Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

dayp41103/11/0013/1213

SBI hints at cutting interest rates soon

Hyderabad, State Bank of India will pass on the interest rate cut announced by the Reserve Bank of India recently to its customers very soon, managing director of the bank A Krishna Kumar has stated. After inaugurating the second SME city credit centre Mr. Krishna Kumar said they had already taken up adjustment of interest in the education loan book. Passing on the rate cut to auto loan customers would be taken up in a couple of days and other would follow, he noted. The rate cut would not have any significant impact on the book performance of the bank in the long run as it would reflect on both sides of the balance sheet, Mr. Krishna Kumar said responding to a question on the first rate cut for about three years. It will, however, have some impact in the short term, he admitted. Acknowledging that deposit growth and credit off take were not as much as in

the previous year during 2011-12, Mr. Krishna Kumar said SBI had registered 18 to 20 per cent growth in deposits and 15 to 16 per cent in advance. The bank had plans to achieve about 25 per cent growth in deposits and 20 per cent in credit during the current year, he explained. On the expansion plans, the SBI officials said they had achieved about 14,000 branches network in the country till March 31 and were planning to add another 1000 branches during 2012-13. There is no stoppage or let up in expansion of the bank outside the country. It is going on according to plans. We are also adding about 12,000 staff this year, Mr. Krishna Kumar said. Stating that they were planning to lay emphasis on advance oriented schemes this year in the backdrop of upswing seen in the economy the SBI official indicated relaxation in norms to give thrust to credit off take. Whenever we find an opportunity we concentrate on such sectors, he noted.

INDO PACIFIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly known as AIG HOME FINANCE INDIA LIMITED and previously WEIZMANN HOMES LIMITED)

Branch: Ground Floor, Ravish Complex, Opp. Kiran Motors, Nr.Swastik Cross Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad :- 380009

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule- 8 (1))

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Indo Pacific Housing Finance Limited (formerly known as AIG Home Finance India Ltd., and previously Weizmann Homes Ltd.,) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Oct. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following Borrower/s & Co-borrower/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice appended below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment or realization.

The Borrower having failed to repay the entire notice amount together with further interest and other charges, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 8 of the said rules on the date of this notice.

Sr No.	LAN No.	Borrower Name & Co-borrower	Property At	Date	Amount Rs.	Possession Date
1	AMD 1486	Mr. Shailesh Kumar M. Patel	All the Piece and parcel of property D-49, Swaminarayan Park-1, Opp. Karnavati, Bunglows, Vastral, Ahmedabad-382418. Survey No-1048 to 1053, TPS No-113, FP NO-50,51 & 52/1 Moje-Vastral. Sub-district & District Ahmedabad. In all measuring 160 Sq.yds. Boundaries:- East : Road West : D-50 North : Open Plot South : D-48	17.08.2012	4,89,668/-	13.04.2012

The Borrower in particular and the public is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will be subject to charge of Indo Pacific Housing Finance Limited (formerly known as AIG Home Finance India Ltd., and previously Weizmann Homes Ltd.,) for an amount mentioned in the demand notice together with further interest and other charges thereon from the date of the notice till payment or realization.

SD/- AUTHORISED OFFICER
INDO PACIFIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly known as AIG HOME FINANCE INDIA LIMITED and Previously WEIZMANN HOMES LIMITED)

Date : 12.05.2012
Place : Ahmedabad

Defiance Tech to play system integrator for aerospace cos

Chennai, Defiance Technologies, Hinduja group company and a provider of integrated engineering enterprise resource planning and IT solutions and services, plans to provide end-to-end solutions for aerospace companies as systems integrator. It will leverage Ashok Leyland's manufacturing capabilities to provide this service according to Subu D Subramanian, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

Similarly, for automotive companies, he said, Defiance Technologies was gearing up to provide product development as service. It would provide services from concept to prototype. The company had entered into an agreement with five aerospace and four automotive companies for the above businesses. To strengthen its presence in aerospace and SAP consultancy, the company had decided to

acquire one aerospace engineering company in Germany and two SAP consultancy companies one each in Europe and the US. There will be two types of discussions - small cap companies having a turnover of \$5-10 million and large cap companies with a turnover of \$40-50 million, he said.

The company also proposed to invest 5-7 per cent of its revenue in creating IP and innovation. Defiance technologies recorded a revenue of \$50 million this year and hoped to double it next year.

At present, the company earned 55 per cent of its revenue from emerging technology and manufacturing space. The remaining came from enterprise and engineering space. It planned to enter never geographies such as France, Singapore, Korea and Thailand.

Mr. Subramanian said the Chennai based company had operations in the

United States, Germany, South Africa and Dubai and employed around 12,000 people. It had five centres in India and one development centre in Germany. On the automotive business, he said all the auto majors were present in the emerging markets. India was becoming a major hub for all these majors. The main agenda of these auto companies is to capitalise opportunities in the emerging countries and grow faster by applying the emerging technologies. Defiance Technologies will align with the auto majors to provide customized design to suite these emerging markets, he added.

We redesign and engineer the entire automobile's body structure body in white and engine power train for the emerging markets. Nearly 40 per cent of the automobile's products are customized for the emerging countries, he said.

Pfizer nears \$9 b deal with Nestle: Report

New York,

US pharmaceuticals giant Pfizer is close to reaching a \$9 billion deal to sell its infant nutrition business to Nestle.

The Wall Street Journal said Nestle, the Swiss food giant had apparently beaten out Groupe Danone, and Mead Johnson Nutrition, which had considered a joint bid for the business and that the final deal could be announced.

A Pfizer contacted by AFP, refused to comment on the report, saying no decision have been made at this point on the sale of the infant nutrition business or an animal health

business also set to be auctioned off. The annual health and nutrition businesses are highly valued assets, and our decision about strategic options will be driven by value creation and delivering the best after tax value for our shareholders, she said.

Pfizer has moved to unload peripheral entities in recent months in order to focus on its core medicine business.

In November last, its patent on the best selling drug of all time, the cholesterol lowering medication Lipitor, expired opening the path to generic competitors for America's most popular medication.

Godrej recipe for growth

New Delhi,

Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej, who is now the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry urged the government to focus on reforms and good governance to push economic growth.

I strongly feel that we are at the cross roads between choosing business as usual and a 9 per cent plus growth. I choose the latter and in my capacity as the CII President will urge the government to focus on reforms and governance, Godrej said.

Wipro's Azim Premji, Keshub Mahindra of M&M, Anu Aga of Thermax and HDFC's Deepak Parekh along with other industri-

alists had written an open letter to the government.

The letter spoke of a strong news among certain corporate houses, politicians, bureaucrats and power brokers. This is one of the greatest threats to the Indian economy.

Godrej said further reforms in land acquisition, power, agriculture, acceptance of goods and service tax and FDI in multi retail brand were the key.

The newly appointed CII President will ask Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to fast track reforms, which in turn will boost investments.

We met the Prime Minister and discussed with him about taking the reforms process forward. This will help in improving perception about India's image, attract more investment and revive the growth, he said.

Both these areas will be concentrated upon. We will work closely with the central government, state governments and the Opposition to form a consensus on reforms, including allowing FDI in multi brand retail, Godrej said.

Protests by the Opposition along with the UPA allies Trinamul Congress and the DMK had forced the government to hold its decision on foreign direct investment in multi brand retail.

Godrej welcomed by the Reserve Bank's decision to cut the repo rate by 50 basis points.

The move will boost business sentiment and revive investment in growth. He added that the RBI should concentrate on growth and curb inflation not only through monetary policy but also through supply side corrections.

RIL moves court seeking arbitration on KG basin

New Delhi,

Reliance Industries Ltd. approached the Supreme court, seeking appointment of an arbitrator on behalf of the government to decide its dispute over recovery of cost in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin.

The move comes in the wake of governments, refusal to settle the dispute through arbitration. The petition, filed by RIL, said it had already appointed former Chief Justice of India SP Bharucha as arbitrator but the government had not done so as per the contractual obligation.

The petition, filed through advocate Sameer Parekh, said that as per the contract, the government could not reduce the recovery amount.

The Petroleum Ministry had proposed to restrict the cost of around Rs

6343 crore, which the company had sought to recover for developing the KG-D field.

RIL had issued an arbitration notice to the government in November 2011, proposing appointment a former Chief Justice of India SP Barucha as arbitrator in the dispute and asked the Ministry to appoint a second arbitrator. However, the government had refused the plea of RIL, saying there was no dispute, the advocate said.

RIL's petition stated that instead of appointing an arbitrator as per the Arbitration Agreement contained in a Production Sharing Contract dated April 12, 2000, the government had called upon the company to withdraw the November 23 arbitration notice.

It said the contentions raised by the government

to deny the recovery cost were entirely misconceived and are nowhere envisaged in the terms of the PSC.

The petition stated that RIL and the Directorate Gen of Hydrocarbons and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) had differed over the scope and interpretation of the provisions of the PSC relating to contractor's obligations in achieving rates of production, carrying out activities such as drilling of development wells and the consequent entitlement of the contractor to recover the incurred costs.

Seeking apex court's direction to appoint a fit and proper person as the second arbitrator, RIL said the disagreements and differences, which have arisen, will inevitably lead to serious problems in the working of the PSC.

ECB norms eased for power, road sectors

New Delhi,

The government, sought to liberalize the external commercial borrowing norms for the power sector, making implementation of the announcement to this effect by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, while presenting the budget for 2012-13.

In a significant easing of utilization guidelines, power sector companies will, henceforth, be able to use upto forty per cent of ECB loans to refinance their rupee debt, provided the balance is utilized for investments in new projects. Till now, power companies were permitted to use only 25 per cent of the ECB to refinance their domestic rupee debt loan.

Alongside, the government also opened the EC Broute for capital expenditure on maintenance and operations of toll systems in the roadways and highways sector, only if these constitute a part of the original project.

The relevant notifica-

tions are to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India within a week time.

Announcing implementation of three budget initiatives at a press briefing here, Joint Secretary Capital Markets Division Thomas Mathew said that the RBI is expected to issue relevant notifications within seven days giving effect to these budget announcements. Mr. Mathew explained that the liberalized norms would now enable power companies to raise ECBs for refinancing their rupee debt up to a maximum limit of 40 per cent. But this would be on the condition that the remaining 60 per cent of the ECB raised is utilized for investment in a new project. The ECB route of raising funds is considered to be attractive as the cost is generally lower than that of mopping up funds in the domestic market. Alongside, it also provides borrowers with an additional avenue to access large amounts from the global financial market.

IDBI Bank to pay Rs 1.50 final

Mumbai,

IDBI Bank reported a net profit of Rs 771 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2012, up 49.42 per cent as compared to Rs 516 crore in the corresponding period in the previous year.

The net profit for the year, ended March 31, 2012, was higher by 23.2 per cent at Rs 2032 crore against Rs 1650 crore in the previous fiscal.

The board declared a dividend of Rs 3.50 per cent share for the year 2011-12 which includes the final dividend of Rs 1.50 per share declared today and the interim dividend of Rs 2 per share already paid.

In this financial year, the bank is expecting its fund based business to grow by 15 per cent and non fund business by 20-25 per cent, said RM Malla, Chairman and Managing Director, IDBI Bank, while addressing press conference.

Total business deposits and advances as of

March 31, 2012, stood at Rs 3,91,651 crore as against Rs 3,37,584 crore as of March 31, 2011, registering a growth of 16.02 per cent. Deposits rose to Rs 2,10,493 crore at end March 2012 from Rs 1,80,486 crore at end March 2011, a growth of 16.6 per cent. Advance increased by 15.32 per cent to Rs 1,81,158 crore from Rs 1,57,098 crore. Mr. Malla also said that Tier 1 bonds of Rs 2,130.50 crore held by the Government were converted into equity share capital of the bank at Rs 112.99 per share. In March 7.16 crore shares and 3.35 crore shares were allotted to the Government and Life Insurance Corporation of India, respectively on a preferential basis amounting to Rs 810-crore and Rs 378.52 crore, respectively. During the year under review, number of branches of the bank increased to 973 from 816 in the previous fiscal, Mr. Malla said that the bank was now giving lot of

thrust to retail business and in the last one year, its retail business had grown substantially. This financial year, too, the bank planned to expand its retail business. We use social media network also to develop our business, he added.

Mr. Malla admitted that was an increase in non performing assets due to general lackluster turned in the business environment. However, he said gross NPAs had declined from the level of December 2011.

IDBI Bank was one of the first banks which cut its lending rates by 25 basis points while term deposit rates were reduced by 10-50 basis points.

There will be pressure in the margin in the first quarter. But, going forward, the impact will be positive, said Mr. Malla.

Inter-Ministerial group to examine Vodafone's dispute notice

New Delhi,

The Government will soon set up an Inter-Ministerial Group headed by Finance Secretary RS Gujral, to look into Vodafone's notice threatening international arbitration in the Rs 11,000 crore tax case. The government will form an Inter-Ministerial Group soon to examine the notice of Vodafone as senior finance officials told.

The Dutch subsidiary of UK based Telecom major Vodafone had served a notice on the Indian Government invoking Bilateral Investments Protection Agreement between India and the Netherlands and threatened international arbitration in the tax case.

Besides Gujral, the officials said, the IMG would include Department of Economic Affairs Secretary R Gopalan, Telecom Secretary R Chandrashekar and officials of the Law and Justice Ministry. The official further pointed out that the notice served by Vodafone is premature. Taxation does not come under BIPA. The issue pertains to the proposed amendment in Income Tax Act with retrospective effect, which would bring Vodafone type deals under the tax net and the UK based Telecom firm would be liable to pay Rs 11,000 crore tax for its acquisition of Hutchisons stake in Hutchison Essar Limited

in May 2007. Ven Gujral had earlier said that Vodafone like transactions, involving domestic assets, are liable to be taxed in the UK, the US, China and other OECD countries. Vodafone, however, in a statement had said, the proposal to tax indirect transfers of Indian companies is without regard to international tax law norms and is not in line with the OECD or the UN model double taxation treaty. Another Finance Ministry officials had also questioned the decision of the British Telecom major to invoke India Netherlands investment treaty saying the \$11.2 billion deal was signed in Cayman Islands.

Citi shareholder sues Pandit, directors over compensation

New York,

Citigroup's India-born CEO Vikram Pandit and its directors have been sued by a shareholder, saying that the board spent funds in an unwarranted and excessive manner on compensation package for its executives.

The lawsuit was filed on April 20 in Manhattan Federal Court by Citigroup shareholders Stanley Moskal, who said Pandit and other Citi directors breached their fiduciary duties by awarding more than \$54 million in compensation to the executives in 2011, a year when the bank had an extremely disappointing performance.

This is a failed say on pay shareholder derivative action, arising from the Board's unwarranted and excessive sending of company funds on executive

compensation namely the Board's recent authorization of excessive 2011 compensation for executives who have presided over extremely disappointing company performance, the lawsuit said.

It added that of the total \$54 million of compensation awarded to top Citigroup executives in 2011, \$14.9 million was for Pandit a raise of 1,499,999,900 per cent over his 2010 compensation. Pandit was paid \$15 million in 2011, which included a base salary of \$1.7 million and a cash bonus of \$5.3 million. A the height of the financial crisis, he had taken an annual salary of just \$1 for most of 2009 and 2010.

Citigroup plans to get the suit dismissed saying it is baseless.

The suit came just days after Citis sharehold-

ers rejected a proposal on executive compensation at the bank's annual meeting.

It is filled under the say on pay provision of the Dodd Frank reform act which gives shareholders the right to vote on executive pay.

In the April 17 vote at Citi's annual shareholders meeting in Dallas, 55 per cent of shareholders voted against the proposal on executive compensation, which included approving Pandit's \$15 million pay package.

The vote cast doubt on the board's decision making process, as well as the accuracy and truthfulness of its public statements, the complaint said, adding, Absent this lawsuit, the majority will of the company's stockholders shall be rendered meaningless.

Oomen Chandy woos global investors

New Delhi,

Kerala Chief Minister Oomen Chandy, gave a big welcome to diplomats of foreign missions here and who is who of Indian Industry to invest in Kerala. Wooing them at a mega event, organized by the State Government for promoting industries, Mr. Chandy said Kerala is ready for investment. We want to send out a message to the world that investment is welcome.

Mr. Chandy, who was accompanied by his Cabinet colleagues and State officials, urged the heads of foreign missions to take the message to their countries and facilitate the flow of investment. The investors need not worry about land acquisition as the government had worked out a suitable rehabilitation and compensation mechanism for the land owners, he said. The meeting was a run up to Emerging Kerala Global Connect, to be organized by the State, at Kochi during September 12-14. The

State Government has a clear development agenda, which is tailor made to attract investments. The long-term economic growth and progress of the State is the number one objective for the emerging Kerala initiatives, he said.

Mr. Chandy, claimed that his Government had worked out a proactive industrial and commercial policy for the State. It was intended to transform Kerala into a vibrant entrepreneurial society with faster and inclusive growth. It also aims to promote Kerala as a prime destination for industrial investments, by ensuring environmental protection, he added. Kerala had identified core sectors for a sustainable eco-friendly development. We have also worked out a fair and equitable labour policy and a single window clearance mechanism for investment decisions. These policy initiatives are targeting to create an investor friendly environ-

ment for the long term economic growth of the State, he said.

State Industries, Minister Kunshalikutty said Kerala had already demonstrated its strengths in various areas, including IT and IT enabled services, tourism and healthcare. Ours is a green State and we are taking special efforts to encourage eco-friendly industries, he said. Kerala was developing a National Manufacturing and Investment Zone into the Kochi Palakkad region, covering four district, he said.

From 2004-05 to 2010-11, Kerala has achieved 9.57 per cent combined average growth rate in the manufacturing sector and the State has been doing remarkably well in the services sector. Kerala is aiming to get a minimum 5 per cent of the total IT business of the country. It is proposed to create built up space of over 60 million sq ft. for new IT units in the State, the Minister added.

Nestle to buy Pfizer's infant nutrition biz for \$11.85 b

New Delhi,

Nestle, said it has agreed to acquire Pfizer's infant nutrition business for \$11.85 billion a move that will enhance Swiss food giant's position in emerging markets. Both the companies have significant presences in India.

In a strategic move to enhance its position in global infant nutrition, Nestle has agreed to acquire Pfizer Nutrition for \$11.85 billion, Nestle said.

Pfizer Nutrition generates 85 per cent of its sales from emerging markets, many of them, with large, fast growing populations.

Pfizer Nutrition is an excellent strategic fit and this acquisitions to be the world's leading nutrition, health and wellness company, Nestle CEO Paul Buckle said.

The combined entities

will enable us to deepen our engagement with consumers offering them a wider choice of nutritious food to ensure their children make a healthy start to a healthy life, he added. The Switzerland based firm said that the transaction was subject to regulatory approval.

Nestle estimates that Pfizer Nutrition's sales would reach about \$2.4 billion in 2012.

We will be able to combine well known brands such as S-26 Gold, SMA and Promil with our existing portfolio of trusted and successfully brands such as Nan, Gerber, Lactogen, Nestogen and Celeriac Infant cereal, Nestle said.

Nestle, which has completed 100 years in India, has seven manufacturing facilities in the country, where its products are sold in more than 3.5 million outlets.

Exit price fixed at Rs 15 for Chemplast Sanmar shares

Chennai,

Chemplast Sanmar announced that the promoter group Sanmar Holdings along with Sanmar Group International has fixed the exit price for the equity shares tendered by the public shareholder at Rs 15 per equity share of Rs 1 face value.

The bid opened in April 12, and closed in April 18. The company has stated that all public shareholder who did not or were not able to participate in the reverse book building process or who unsuccessfully tendered their equity shares in the RBP process would be able to offer their equity shares to the promoter group at the exit price during a period of one year starting from the

date of delisting of the equity shares of the company from BSE, National Stock Exchange and the Madras Stock Exchange.

A separate offer letter the exit offer letter in this regard would be sent to the remaining public shareholders, the company, said in a notification to the stock exchanges.

Earlier, in March, Chemplast Sanmar informed the BSE that the company had received a letter from its promoter group, intimating the company that the floor price of the equity shares had based fixed at Rs 4.51 per share.

The bid opened in April and closed in April second week. The shares closed at Rs 764 on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

BRAIN MAPPING PROBLEMS FOR THE YEAR - 2012 (Part-13)

(By : Rajan L. Shodhan - M.Sc., B.Ed., M.Phil.)

[195] The probability function of a binomial distribution is $P(x) = 6C_x \cdot p^x \cdot q^{6-x}$; $x = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 6$. If $\frac{1}{3} \cdot P(2) = 503 \cdot P(3)$; then find 'q'.

Sol. Let $P(x) = 6C_x \cdot p^x \cdot q^{6-x}$; $x = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 6$
 $\therefore P(2) = 6C_2 \cdot p^2 \cdot q^4$ and
 $P(3) = 6C_3 \cdot p^3 \cdot q^3$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{3} \cdot P(2) = 503 \cdot P(3) \quad [\text{given}]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{3} \cdot 6C_2 \cdot p^2 \cdot q^4 = 503 \cdot 6C_3 \cdot p^3 \cdot q^3$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{6 \cdot 5}{1 \cdot 2} \cdot q = 503 \cdot \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} \cdot p$$

$$\Rightarrow 5q = (503)(3)(4) \cdot p$$

$$\Rightarrow q = 2012p \Rightarrow p = \frac{q}{2012}$$

but $p + q = 1$ (\therefore For probability binomial distribution)

$$\Rightarrow q = 1 - p \Rightarrow q = 1 - \frac{q}{2012}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2012q = 2012 - q$$

$$\Rightarrow 2013q = 2012$$

$$\Rightarrow q = \frac{2012}{2013}$$

[196] If $x^{1006} = \sqrt{a \sin^{-1} t}$; $y^{1006} = \sqrt{a \cos^{-1} t}$;

$$|t| < 1 \text{ then } \frac{dy}{dx} = \dots\dots$$

Sol. $x^{1006} = \sqrt{a \sin^{-1} t} \Rightarrow x^{2012} = a \sin^{-1} t$

$$\text{and } y^{1006} = \sqrt{a \cos^{-1} t} \Rightarrow y^{2012} = a \cos^{-1} t$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{2012} \cdot y^{2012} = a \sin^{-1} t \times a \cos^{-1} t$$

$$\Rightarrow (xy)^{2012} = a \sin^{-1} t + \cos^{-1} t$$

$$\Rightarrow (xy)^{2012} = \frac{\pi}{2} \quad [\because \sin^{-1} t + \cos^{-1} t = \frac{\pi}{2}]$$

$$|t| < 1$$

$$\Rightarrow xy = \frac{\pi}{a^{4024}}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} + y(1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x}$$

[197] Evaluate : $\frac{d^{2012}}{dx^{2012}} (2 \cos x \cdot \cos 3x)$

Sol. Let $y = 2 \cos x \cdot \cos 3x = \cos 4x + \cos 2x$

$$\Rightarrow y_1 = -4 \sin 4x - 2 \sin 2x = 4 \cos \left[4x + \frac{\pi}{2} \right] +$$

$$2 \cos \left[2x + \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow y_2 = -4^2 \cdot \sin \left[4x + \frac{\pi}{2} \right] - 2^2 \cdot \sin \left[2x + \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$$

$$= 4^2 \cdot \cos \left[4x + 2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} \right] + 2^2 \cdot \cos \left[2x + 2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow y_3 = 4^3 \cdot \cos \left[4x + 3 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} \right] + 2^3 \cdot \cos \left[2x + 3 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$$

$$y_n = 4^n \cdot \cos \left[4x + n \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} \right] + 2^n \cdot \cos \left[2x + n \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$$

To put $n = 2012$

$$y_{2012} = 4^{2012} \cdot \cos[4x + 1006\pi] + 2^{2012} \cdot \cos[2x + 1006\pi]$$

$$= 4^{2012} \cdot \cos 4x + 2^{2012} \cos 2x$$

$$= 2^{2012} \cdot [\cos 2x + 2^{2012} \cos 4x]$$

$$\therefore \frac{d^{2012}}{dx^{2012}} (2 \cos x \cdot \cos 3x) = 2^{2012} \cdot [\cos 2x + 2^{2012} \cos 4x]$$

[198] $\frac{d^{2012}}{dx^{2012}} (\log x)$ is equal to

Sol. Let $y = \log x$

$$\text{Then } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{-1}{x^2} = (-1)^{2-1} \cdot \frac{(2-1)!}{x^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} = \frac{2}{x^3} = (-1)^{3-1} \cdot \frac{(3-1)!}{x^3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^4 y}{dx^4} = \frac{-6}{x^4} = (-1)^{4-1} \cdot \frac{(4-1)!}{x^4}$$

$$\frac{d^{2012} y}{dx^{2012}} = (-1)^{2012-1} \cdot \frac{(2012-1)!}{x^{2012}}$$

$$\therefore \frac{d^{2012}}{dx^{2012}} (\log x) = (-1)^{2011} \cdot \frac{2011!}{x^{2012}}$$

$$\frac{d^{2012}}{dx^{2012}} (\log x) = (-1)^{2011} \frac{2011!}{x^{2012}}$$

[199] If $y(t)$ is a solution of $(1+t) \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} - ty = 1$ and $y(0) = -1$; then $y(2012)$ is equal to

Sol. Let $(1+t) \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} - ty = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dt} + \left[\frac{-t}{1+t} \right] \cdot y = \frac{1}{1+t} \quad \dots\dots (i)$$

is in the form of $\frac{dy}{dt} + py = Q(t)$.

$$\therefore P = \frac{-t}{1+t} \therefore \text{IF} = e^{\int p dt} = e^{\int \frac{-t}{1+t} dt}$$

$$\therefore \text{IF} = e^{-\int \left[\frac{1-1}{1+t} \right] dt} = e^{-[t - \log(1+t)]}$$

$$= e^{-t + \log(1+t)} = e^{-t} \cdot e^{\log_e(1+t)}$$

$$= e^{-t} \cdot (1+t).$$

Multiplying equation (i) by $e^{-t} \cdot (1+t)$ on both sides.

$$\Rightarrow e^{-t} (1+t) \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} + e^{-t} (1+t) \left[\frac{-t}{1+t} \right] \cdot y = e^{-t} (1+t) \cdot \frac{1}{1+t}$$

$$\therefore y = e^{-t} (1+t) \cdot \frac{1}{(1+t)}$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{-t} \cdot (1+t) \frac{dy}{dt} - e^{-t} \cdot ty = e^{-t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{y \cdot (1+t) \cdot e^{-t}}{1+t} \right) = e^{-t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{d}{dt} (y \cdot (1+t) \cdot e^{-t}) dt = \int e^{-t} dt$$

$$\Rightarrow y (1+t) e^{-t} = -e^{-t} + C$$

Since $y(0) = -1$

$$\Rightarrow C = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y (1+t) \cdot e^{-t} = -e^{-t}$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{-e^{-t}}{e^{-t} (1+t)} \Rightarrow y(t) = -\frac{1}{1+t}$$

$$\Rightarrow y(2012) = -\frac{1}{1+2012}$$

$$\Rightarrow y(2012) = -\frac{1}{2013}$$

$$\Rightarrow y(2012) = -\frac{1}{2013}$$

[200] $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1^{2011} + 2^{2011} + 3^{2011} + \dots + n^{2011}}{n^{2012}}$ is equal to

$$\text{Sol. } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1^{2011} + 2^{2011} + 3^{2011} + \dots + n^{2011}}{n^{2012}}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{r=1}^n \left(\frac{r^{2011}}{n^{2012}} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{r}{n} \right)^{2011}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^1 x^{2011} dx = \left[\frac{x^{2012}}{2012} \right]_0^1$$

$$= \frac{1}{2012}$$

[201] If g is the inverse of f and

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{[1+x^{2012}]}$$
; then $g'(x)$ equals to

Sol. $f^{-1}(x) = g(x)$

$$\Rightarrow x = f[g(x)] \quad \dots\dots (i)$$

On differentiating (i) with respect to 'x'. We get

$$f'[g(x)] \cdot g'(x) = 1$$

$$\therefore f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^{2012}}$$

$$\Rightarrow f'[g(x)] = \frac{1}{1+[g(x)]^{2012}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{1+[g(x)]^{2012}} \cdot g'(x) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow g'(x) = 1 + [g(x)]^{2012}$$

[202] The value of $\prod_{p=1}^{2012} \left[\sin \frac{2p\pi}{2013} - i \cos \frac{2p\pi}{2013} \right]$ equals to

$$\text{Sol. Let } \prod_{p=1}^{2012} \left[\sin \frac{2p\pi}{2013} - i \cos \frac{2p\pi}{2013} \right]$$

(Π denote product sign)

$$= (i)^{2012} \prod_{p=1}^{2012} \left[\cos \frac{2p\pi}{2013} + i \sin \frac{2p\pi}{2013} \right]$$

$$= (i)^{2012} \prod_{p=1}^{2012} e^{i \frac{2p\pi}{2013}} \quad (\because e^{\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$$

$$= (1) e^{\frac{2\pi}{2013} [1+2+3+\dots+2012]}$$

$$= \frac{2\pi (2012)(2013)}{e^{2013} \cdot 2}$$

$$= e^{2012\pi}$$

$$= \cos 2012\pi + i \sin 2012\pi$$

$$(\because e^{\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$$

$$= 1 + i(0)$$

$$= 1$$

[203] If $f(x) = 2x + 1$ and $g(x) = \frac{x-1}{2}$ for all real

x , then $(fog)^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{2012} \right)$ is equal to

Sol. $f(x) = 2x + 1$ and $g(x) = \frac{x-1}{2}$

$$\therefore (fog)(x) = f \left[\frac{x-1}{2} \right]$$

$$= 2 \left[\frac{x-1}{2} \right] + 1$$

$$= x - 1 + 1$$

$$= x$$

Now $(fog)(x) = x$

$$[\because (fog)(x) = x \Rightarrow fog = I]$$

$$\Rightarrow (fog)^{-1}(x) = x$$

$$\Rightarrow (fog)^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{2012} \right) = \frac{1}{2012}$$

[204] $f(x) = \frac{2012x-67}{47}$; then $f^{-1}(x)$ is equal to

Sol. Let $y = \frac{2012x-67}{47}$; where $y = f(x)$

$$\Rightarrow 47y = 2012x - 67$$

$$\Rightarrow 2012x = 47y + 67$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{47y + 67}{2012}$$

$$\Rightarrow f^{-1}(y) = \frac{47y + 67}{2012} \quad [\because y = f(x) \Rightarrow x = f^{-1}(y)]$$

$$\therefore f^{-1}(x) = \frac{47x + 67}{2012}$$

[205] If $f(x) = \frac{1}{2012} \left[\frac{1-2012x}{1+2012x} \right]$; then prove that function is inverse itself.

Sol. Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{2012} \left[\frac{1-2012x}{1+2012x} \right]$

$$\Rightarrow (fof)(x) = f[f(x)] = f \left[\frac{1}{2012} \left[\frac{1-2012x}{1+2012x} \right] \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2012} \left[\frac{1 - 2012 \cdot \frac{1}{2012} \cdot \frac{1-2012x}{1+2012x}}{1 + 2012 \cdot \frac{1}{2012} \cdot \frac{1-2012x}{1+2012x}} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2012} \left[\frac{x + 2012x - x + 2012x}{1 + 2012x + 1 - 2012x} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2012} \left[\frac{4024x}{2} \right]$$

$$= \frac{4024x}{4024}$$

$$= x$$

$$\therefore (fof)(x) = x$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = f^{-1}(x)$$

Hence function is inverse itself.

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HDFC Bank to pay Rs 4.30 per share

Mumbai, HDFC Bank announced a dividend of Rs 4.30 per share of Rs 2 face value for the year ended March 31, 2013, as against Rs 3.30 in the previous financial year. The bank posted a net profit of Rs 1453 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 upto 30.4 per cent as compared to Rs 1115 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2011. Total income increased by 32 per cent to Rs 8880 crore from Rs 6743 crore in the year ago period. The net profit was up by 31.6 per cent at Rs 5167 crore for the year ended March 31, 2012, against Rs 3926 crore in the previous year. Total income has risen sharply to Rs 3,2530 crore from Rs 24,263 crore in

the previous financial year. The banks consolidate net profit increased by 31.4 per cent to Rs 5247 crore in the 2011-12. Its total balance sheet size increased by 21.8 per cent to Rs 3,37,909 crore from Rs 2,77,353 crore as of March 31, 2011, recording a growth of 22.2 per cent. Gross advances were Rs 1,95,420 crore while total deposits grew by 18.3 per cent at Rs 2,46,706 crore. The capital adequacy ratio stood at 16.5 per cent at the end of 2011-12 as against 16.2 per cent as of March 31, 2011. Gross non performing asset NPA as a proportion of advances declined to one per cent from 1.1 per cent in the previous fiscal. Net NPA, however, remained stable at 0.2 per cent during the year.

Akshaya Tritoia gold sales likely to touch 15 tonnes

New Delhi, Notwithstanding gold prices, touching a two month high, jewellers are expecting a 5 per cent rise in sale of the metal to about 15 tonnes on the auspicious Akshaya Tritoia day. Traders said buying activities picked up for the festival and customers ignored a weakening trend in overseas markets. The Delhi Bullion and Jewellers Merchants Association projected gold sales across the country to touch about fifteen tonnes. This is 5 per cent more than the last Akshaya

Tritoia, a day in the Hindu calendar which is considered auspicious for buying the precious metal. This may generate revenue worth Rs 4,000 crore, 15 per cent more than the last time, association President Vimal Goyal said. While the bullion giant MMTC is expecting to sell the yellow metal worth Rs 10 crore at its ongoing gold exhibition on Akshaya Tritoia, the Department of Posts has offered a six per cent discount on purchase of gold coins from its select outlets.

India, BRICS nations hold back on new contributions to IMF

Washington, India and the other four BRICS nations have opted to hold back on their announcement of new contributions to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to enable it to create farewell to protect the global economy from the worsening of the Eurozone debt crisis. Although G-20 countries have collectively pledged to provide IMF \$430 billion in new resources, the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, In-

dia, China and South Africa) have refrained from announcing their individual quantum of funding for the 188 nation IMF's crisis related operations. More over the stonewalling of major IMF reforms by the advanced economies over the years, Brazil led the push at the just concluded meeting in Washington for a greater clout for emerging economies through higher quotas and increased say on governance of IMF. Brazil's Finance Minister Guido Mantega, without mincing words on the issue said we conditioned the additional money to the completion of IMF's quota reform so that emerging countries have larger representation that was accepted. The United States, the world's number one economy, has made it clear that it will not be participating in this round of crisis funding, taking the stand that it has already done enough by providing

dollar liquidity for European banks. Neighbouring Canada also appeared to be holding out, saying Europe needs to do more to erect a financial farewell. Although the emerging economies received assurances from their G-20 partners that they would be accorded their due voting power in IMF through increased quotas, there is no definitive word on how soon that would come about. Indications are that the BRICS group might announce their new crisis related contributions by June when the G-20 summit takes place in Los Cabos, Mexico. Besides domestic government level consultations, they could take a view on progress over enhanced voting power for them by the next bi-annual IMF World Bank meetings.

Director Christine Lagarde said the BRICS nations have made private pledge but opted to make public commitments later after their individual government level consultations. We warmly welcome pledges by our members to increase IMF resources by over US\$430 billion, almost doubling our lending capacity, Lagarde said in a statement. Besides China and Russia which have given firm and specific commitments, she said. I am also grateful to Brazil, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand all of whom have indicated that they will be among the contributors, which will raise the total further. While Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee voiced India disappointment with the progress on IMF reforms relating to quota and governance issues, his Brazilian counterpart Guido Mantega used strong language to attack the delays on the score.

SBI cuts fixed deposit rates by upto 100 bps

New Delhi, State Bank of India (SBI) slashed the interest rates on fixed deposits by upto 100 basis points across various maturities, a move that might prompt other lenders to follow suit. The bank, however, has ruled out cut in the benchmark lending rate, saying it is offering some of the lowest rates in the industry. The base rate for the minimum lending rate of SBI stands at 10 per cent. The base rate is the benchmark rate below which a bank cannot lend. As regards, deposit rates, SBI said, the bank has decided to revise its retail term deposit rates across various tenors with reduction ranging from 0.25 per cent point. The bank however, has raised the interest rate on the 180 day field deposits scheme from the existing 7 per cent to 7.25 per cent.

The new rates would be effective from April, it said. In the meanwhile, private sector Lakshmi Vilas Bank, too, reduced its field deposit rates on select maturities by 0.25 per cent point from April 20. Kotak Mahindra Bank trimmed its base rate by 0.25 per cent point from 10 per cent to 9.75 per cent from April 26. All categories of loans other than the expectations permitted by the RBI would, henceforth, be priced with reference to the revised base rate. Kotak Mahindra Bank said. Our Kolkata Correspondent writes that United Bank of India and Allahabad Bank are the latest to join the rate reduction race. UBI, announced a reduction in its base rate by 15 basis points bps from 10.6 per cent to 10.45 per cent and its benchmark prime lending rate from

14.38 per cent to 14.6 per cent. The bank also reduced its deposit rates ranging between 10 bps and 35 bps. The bank's asset Liability Management Committee took these decisions which will take with immediate effect. Allahabad bank reduced both base rate and benchmark prime lending rate BPLR by 25 basis points. Consequently, the revised base rate will be 10.50 per cent while the revised benchmark prime lending rate BPLR will be 14.75 per cent. These will be effective from May. Corporation Bank has revised its base rate for lending from 10.65 per cent to 10.50 per cent per annum with effect from May 1. The bank has reduced the rate of interest on term deposits by 25-200 basis points across different maturities with effect from April last week.

FinMin may cut capital gains tax on PE investments

New Delhi, In order to attract foreign capital, the Finance Ministry may cut long term capital gain tax from 20 per cent to 10 per cent on investments made by private equity funds into shares of unlisted companies. Several PE investors have appealed to the ministry to bring them at par with the Foreign Institutional Investors as far as tax treatment is concerned. For PEs investing in unlisted securities currently they are charged higher rate of tax than FII. So they have requested to

being them at par with FII. Let us see, finance secretary RS Gajral told. As per the provisions of the Finance Bill 2012, while FII pay a long term capital gain tax of ten per cent for investments in unlisted securities, private equity investors pay 20 per cent. For listed securities, however, there is no tax on long term capital gains. Experts however, said if the tax structure, of the PEs is relaxed that would help them exit their investments in India without worrying much on the tax payout.

Shasun Pharma turnover crosses Rs 1000 crore

Chennai, Shasun Pharmaceuticals, formerly Shasun Chemicals and Drugs, plans to double its turnover to Rs 2000 crore by 2015. The company, which had completed 35 years of operations, has crossed Rs 1000 crore turnovers in the year ended March 31, 2012. Addressing a press conference, S Abhaya Kumar, Managing Director, said that our plan is to become a billion dollar company in 2020. We have crossed the milestone of Rs 1000 crore turnovers and we would double it in the next three years. Mr. Kumar hoped that nearly 50 per cent of Shashun's contract research and manufacturing services business along with the active pharmaceutical ingredients business would contribute to

the growth rate to achieve the Rs 2000 crore target. The balance would come from formulation and biotechnology. Similarly, considerable revenue would also come from a large number of products, which were going off patent in 2013 for which the company has a first to file advantage to manufacture, he added. He said the company had invested Rs 83 crore in the last fiscal and would invest another Rs 250 crore during 2012-13. This would include upgrading its existing facilities and for setting up a multi product facility at Vizag facility, with an investment of Rs 50 crore, was expected to commence operations by end 2012. Shashun UK outfit had marked a net profit of around 6.2 million pound sterling last year, said Mr. Kumar.

Rao takes charge at Coal India

Kolkata, S Narsing Rao, former chairman of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. SCCL took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India Ltd. In a brief interaction with the media, he said that getting environmental clearances was one of the biggest challenges before a CIL. We will seek involvement of the Centre and the state to resolve issues. On the issue of liquidation of the huge stocks of over seventy two million tonnes that CIL now holds, he said that the possibility was being explored whether the stocks could be offered to consumers who could adopt a multi

modal system of transportation. He said that, this had already been tried out successfully in SCCL where a road cum rail transport system was used. He said that infrastructural bottlenecks were proving to be a hurdle as last mile connectivity was a critical issue. Mr. Rao took over a day after the memorandum of understanding, finalizing the 2012-13 production and offtake targets were set in New Delhi. CILs targeted production and coal offtake have been fixed at 468.74 million tonnes and 474.70 million tonnes. To attain the targeted offtake, CIL has sought 193.3 rakes

day for 2012-13 against the average availability of 161.9 rakes day in 2010-11 and about 168 rakes day during 2011-12. Average growth of coal movement through rail was only around 3 per cent during the last three years whereas CIL has envisaged a growth of around 12.6 per cent through rail for achieving above target. The MoU was signed by the Additional Secretary, who was holding charges as Chairman. Mr. Rao noted that it would be a challenge to attain this output level which would need a 7.5 per cent growth over the 434 million tonnes output in 2011-12.

Sony to increase headcount in India

New Delhi, while conceding that the company was witnessing pressure in the global markets, Sony said, it was witnessing strong growth and healthy profits in India and indicated that it would hire nearly 500 people in the current financial year. Talking after the launch of new range of digital cameras, Sony India Managing Director Masaru Tamagawa said things were different in the Indian markets where Sony was registering a strong and healthy growth. He said the company planned to ramp up its manpower strength in the near future. Considering both permanent and contract workers, we are at present employing a total of 3300 people in India. This number will go up to

3,800 by March 2013, Mr. Tamagawa added. This is in contrast to the recent announcement by its parent company Sony Corporation which is learnt to have decided to cut nearly 10,000 jobs to reduce losses. Currently, the Indian market is contributing 5 per cent of the global revenue and it may rise up to 6 per cent in the next year. Sony India had revenue of Rs 5,400 crore in 2010-11, he said. He said the Indian operations were the fifth largest for Sony globally after Japan, the US, China and Brazil. We are closer to Brazil than the other three markets, which are very large. In the next two years, we may overtake the Brazilian market, he said. In a bid to push its

growth further, Sony India launched a series of thirty four new digital cameras in the country, priced between Rs 5,490 and Rs 27,990. With 45 per cent growth last fiscal, we outperformed the digital camera markets' rate of 40 per cent. We are targeting to increase our shares to forty five per cent this fiscal from forty two per cent this fiscal from 45 per cent this fiscal from 42 per cent last fiscal, Mr. Tamagawa said. According to Sony India, the digital still camera market in the country stood at thirty three lakh units in 2011-13. The company is aiming to sell 14 lakh units of these cameras in 2012-13 as compared to last fiscal's 11 lakh units.

Suguna Poultry to diversify

Chennai, Suguna Poultry Farm Ltd. a major maker of poultry and poultry based products and the flagship company of the Coimbatore based Suguna Group plans to diversify into ready to eat and ready to cook products. It is also planning to produce feeds for aqua, catel and pets. The company will soon launch ready to eat and ready to cook products under the brand name Suguna Hombites and Suguna Anytime. These branded items will be available at all leading retail outlets. The company also planned to open 95 Suguna Daily Fresh retail outlets across Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Bangalore, according to B Soundararajan, Chairman, Suguna Group. Mr. Soundararajan said Suguna Poultry Farm had 24 feed mills, which at present, where producing seventeen lakh tonnes of poultry feed per annum. The company would be investing additional funds into these feeding mills to expand its capacity to produce other feeds for aqua, cattle and pets. The Group would be investing Rs 1000 crore in the next five years for the proposed

expansion plans and Suguna Poultry Farm would rechristen its name to Suguna Foods Limited, he added. On the existing businesses, Mr. Soundararajan said the company had already been producing and marketing 50,000 tonnes of soyabean oil per annum in Nagpur under the brand name Mother's Delight. It had so far invested Rs 110 crore in this venture and recorded a turnover of Rs 300 crore in this venture and recorded a turnover of Rs 300 crore per annum. Now, it planned to expand this business, he added. The group's flagship Suguna Poultry Farm, had invested Rs 10 crore each in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to set up feed mills and Rs 85 crore in a vaccine manufacturing facility for poultry in Hyderabad. With these growth plans, Mr. Soundararajan hoped the Suguna Group would become a Rs 20,000 crore company in the next five years from the current Rs 4200 crore. He said as per audited report for the fiscal 2010-11, the turnovers of the group was Rs 3719.41 crore. For 2011-12, the turnovers has reached to Rs 4,206.88 crore (unaudited).

RIL-BP integrated plan for KG-D6 gas block rejected

New Delhi, The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry has rejected the Integrated development plan submitted by Reliance Industries Limited RIL and its partner British Petroleum BP PLC for development and production of 16 gas discoveries and instead asked it to restrict pre development expenses only to fields that have proved commercial viability. The Managing Committee led by the Director General of Hydrocarbons chief, rejected the proposal for undertaking concept validation and front end engineering design for all the sixteen discoveries around the present productive Dhirubhai I and three fields in the KG-D6 block. It said pre development investments could only be done in fields, which had either been proved to be a commercial viable or whose field development plan had been accepted by the authorities, Petroleum Ministry sources said. The MC approved RIL-BP making the investment in the four satellite fields whose \$1,529 billion field development plan was approved in January, and on D-34 or R-Series field whose commerciality had been approved in February. The MC is of the view that any unfruitful invest-

ments will restrict government profit which is not acceptable, officials said. All investments in pre development activities are deducted from revenue earned from gas sales before profits are split between the operator and the government. In all, 18 gas and one oil discovery have been made in the KG-D6 block in the Bay of Bengal. Of course, two gas finds, D1 and D3 and one oil D-26 or MA, have been put on production. Of the remaining 16 gas discoveries commerciality of only five has been approval. The DGH maintained that FEED and concept validation could not be undertaken on D29, 30 and 31, whose commerciality was rejected a few weeks ago, RIL BP were of the view that a comprehensive survey on the entire block would save cost and aid in drawing an integrated development plan for all the eighteen finds by October. The integrated plan, they felt would help in checking flagging out fro the block, a view not shared by the oil regulator or other government nominees on the MC. RIL began production from Dhirubhai I and 3 fields in April 2009, but output has fallen from a peak of 54 million metric standard cubic meters a day in March 2010 to 27.64 mmscmd this month. RIL-BP are understood to have projected first gas from R-Series, the third largest gas find in KG-D6 block by 2015 and production from satellite fields by 2016, subject to timely regulatory approvals R-series and four satellite fields alone have potential to add 30 mmscmd of output.

OIL in talks with US Cos to buy more assets

New Delhi, Seeking to expand its footprint across the globe, Oil India Ltd. is learnt to be in talks with Fortune 500 company Chesapeake Energy and Finely Resources Inc. of the US for acquisition and formation of Joint venture in oil and shale gas exploration and production assets. A team of OIL, officials is now visiting the US to hold talks with Chesapeake Energy CEO Aubrey McClendon for a particular divestment opportunity in the unconventional liquid rich carbonate play being targeted by the company. Chesapeake Energy with a market capitalization of \$37 billion is listed in the NYSE. It is the second largest producer of natural gas and 12th largest producer of liquids in the United States. OIL has also evaluated

some of the opportunities forwarded by FRI. It appears that the idea of jointly evaluating and pursuing acquisition opportunities along with FRI will allow OIL with some leverage in entering the US through its already existing network and capability in evaluating the right kind of asset, the official said. The OIL team is led by BN Talukdar, Director Exploration and Director along with S Rath, Director Operations, as Member. The delegation will visit Oklahoma and Dallas for the purpose. The team will also hold discussions on the commercial and financial aspects of the oil and gas acquisition, commercial terms, discussion on oil and gas structure, fundamentals on the US energy market, and technological matters.

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TCS Q4 net up 23% at Rs 2932 cr

Mumbai, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported a net profit of Rs 2932 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2012, a growth of 22.6 per cent over the same quarter of the previous year. Revenues were up 30.5 per cent at Rs 13259 crore. For the year 2011-12, the company has announced a total dividend at Rs 25 per cent share of Re 1 each, including proposed Rs 8 final and Rs 8 as special dividend. The total dividend includes an interim of Rs 9 per share declared earlier. We have grown 31 per cent for the full year 2011-12 and our profits crossed Rs 10,000 crore mark, said N Chandrasekaran, CEO and MD while addressing a press conference

quarter, said Mr. Chandrasekaran, adding, TCS is well prepared to achieve balanced growth across the industries and markets it operates in, given its holistic portfolio of services which are now achieving significant scale across markets. S Mahalingam CFO and Executive director said, we have grown well during 2011-12 and also been able to exit the year at the right margin levels, despite the marked increase in volatility during the past 12 months. There are secular growth across markets and industries during the last financial year. North America grew by 29.6 per cent to cross \$5 billion while Europe, including the UK grew 33.8 per cent. All industry verticals grew in double digits during 2011-12.

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Monday Montage

Lopez, Iglesias preparing surprise for fans

Singer Jennifer Lopez and Enrique Iglesias have prepared a new song to surprise their fans at an upcoming gig. "We plan on doing some special things for the fans. We're actually working on this really good song, a new song right now," aceshowbiz.com quoted Lopez as saying.

"You have to train. Talking about going on six months of (touring), it's daunting, it's like whoa. It's exciting but it's still scary. Also, I've never done it before, so this will be my first time I've been on a world (tour)," she added.

The singer, who is busy preparing for musical festival, said: "There's a lot of dance rehearsal. We're re-vamping all the numbers so they feel fresh and new. We're doing all new arrangements for the songs - but not going too far away from the originals, because people go to see what they love so you don't want to change it too much."

For the choreography, Lopez is getting help from her dancer boyfriend Casper Smart.

"He's supervising choreographer and we're just working together to make the best show that we can make," she said.

The tour will be opened by Wisin and Yandel, who already have a duet song called "Follow the leader" with JLo.

Together with Enrique, they will kick off the music tour July 14 in Montreal and then travel to cities in North America till August.

'Fatso' sweet, tangy, tender romantic comedy

Film: "Fatso"; Cast: Ranvir Shorey, Gul Panag, Purab Kohli and Neil Bhoopalam; Director: Rajat Kapoor; Rating:***
Some fine actors, who know how to look at home even when

earth with a soft thud. There are no sharp curves or twists in the plot. Even when Purab Kohli goes to a place close to heaven, his dialogues with his hosts up there (Brijendra Kala and

will ensure a comfortable ending for all.

One can see that the narration comes to a dead-end, no pun intended. Left with no precise way to conclude the love triangle, the film simply asks Ranvir to take over. He delivers a discernibly improvised I-love-life monologue which ends with a cute kiss with Gul. That's how you shut all protest up when life threatens to get complicated.

You simply shoo away all the misgivings and the dark patches that present themselves in the course of life and cinema. And you simply celebrate the magic of the here-and-now.

That's what "Fatso" does with the least amount of fuss. It is not a film that pushes far enough in any direction, dark or light. But manages to make sufficient space in its range of vision to ensure that the characters don't appear contrived.

There are no laugh-out-loud or sob-out-hard moments in the film. The tragedy of the girl losing her lover on the eve of their marriage is drowned in a pool of mock, surreal situations created more from a sense of mischief than profundity. But the film is fun to watch. It makes the right moves and no one speaks out of turn. And you don't come away from the film offended in any detail.

Technically, the presentation and packaging are reasonably neat. The film is shot in apartments rather than on sets. That helps to make you believe these are real people. Not actors who have just mugged their lines on the sets. "Fatso" is a natural, sweet, tangy and tender rom-com about a near-dead lover and a pretender. A just-right ensemble cast makes the proceedings look larger than laugh.

Don't go looking for "It's A Wonderful Life" and you may come away quite happy with this film.



placed in outlandish circumstances, carry this quaint tale of love, death, separation, resurrection and reparation to the level of a fairly engaging comedy.

Films about near-death and after-life have a tendency to be flippant in tone while showing a world beyond the one that we know. It's the same fear of the unknown that makes us laugh loudly when we are in a pitch-dark room looking for an exit.

This romcom makes its way out of the comfort zone of a love triangle (actually, quadrangle, and then one more angle added somewhere down the line), gets sassy about laughing all the way to after-life and then comes down to

gang) resemble a high-school debate on how to fill up the admission form rather than an existential discourse.

"Fatso" is at best a sweet harmless comedy about Purab Kohli's character almost dying and returning to earth to assume his obese friend Ranvir Shorey's body. Yup, that's it.

The main challenge in the narration is to convince the grieving girlfriend (Gul Panag, sweet and restrained) that Purab is not who he looks like though he now looks like Ranvir Shorey, 40 kilos fatter than usual. The complications are kept at a bare minimum. The love quadrangle is played out at a manageable octave, which you know,

Habib Faisal says stint as cameraman inspires his films

Writer-director Habib Faisal, who is ready with his second directorial venture "Ishaqzaade", says whatever he observed and experienced as a cameraman with a news channel served as an inspiration for his films.

"Whatever there is in my films, a lot of it is what I have observed during my days as a cameraman; whatever I have seen, the people I used to meet, the food I ate and the struggle that it involved, all that comes out in my films," Habib told reporters here Wednesday.

Habib has co-scripted the film along with producer Aditya Chopra and first time actor Arjun Kapoor and one-film-old Parineeti Chopra. When asked about casting new faces in "Ishaqzaade", Habib said: "After I wrote the story and when Aditya Chopra and I were thinking about the casting, we were sure that we needed new faces because if we would have taken established stars, we may not have been able to create this fictitious town, Almor."

Jolie wants different ethnic traditions at wedding

Actress Angelina Jolie reportedly wants to incorporate different ethnic traditions when she weds Brad Pitt.

She wants the ceremony reflect the different ways people celebrate marriage, in particular, the home countries of their adopted children - Cambodian Maddox, 10, Ethiopian Zahara, 7, and Vietnam-born nine-year-old Pax. "She wants to incorporate different ethnic wedding traditions from around the world into one alternative ceremony and event," contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying. Pitt is said to be more keen on their wedding being more traditional, and held at their French chateau. "They both agree on the essentials, like the fact they want it to be a big celebration with their family and friends. Brad is traditional, whereas Angelina can be alternative. Brad envisioned a traditional ceremony, followed by dinner, speeches and a party," said the source.



Movie Snippets

'3 Idiots' team praises Aamir's show

Director of "3 Idiots" Rajkumar Hirani and producer Vidhu Vinod Chopra have given the thumbs up to Aamir Khan's first television show "Satyamev Jayate" that aims at bringing social reform in the country.

Hirani feels the show could be a trendsetter.

"The show might change the face of television. This is not a fiction programme, it's a documentary. More programmes like these should come," said Hirani on the sidelines of an event here.

In the first episode of "Satyamev Jayate", which was telecast Sunday, Aamir chose to discuss the issues around female foeticide.

Like several viewers across the nation, Chopra also loved the programme.

"I really liked the show. I even went to Aamir's house and praised him. We see rubbish and think this is what works... So many people watched the show that their (the show website's) server crashed," said Chopra, who is all for quality content on TV.

"If you do good work, people will see for sure," he added.

Pravesh Rana tries hand at choreography

After modelling and anchoring, it seems Pravesh Rana is in the mood to turn choreographer.

At least it seems so, given Pravesh's inclination towards dance on the sets of Bindass "Live Out Loud", which he is currently hosting.

The show uses the caliber of a Bindass Dance Squad to help an individual communicate with his or her loved one, and Pravesh was seen bonding quite well with Uma and Gaiti, the choreographers of the squad.

The choreographers, who have earlier directed dance sequences for Ranbir Kapoor-starrer "Rockstar", were surprised to see Pravesh trying his hand at instructing the dance squad and suggesting innovative and creative dance steps.

Asin learns to waltz!

Actress Asin Thottumkal, a trained Bharatnatyam dancer, especially learnt waltz for an advertise-

ment shoot.

A sequence in the ad of a soap brand endorsed by Asin required her to perform the ballroom dance of the style 'Viennese waltz' and she picked up the steps in a short while.

Asin, who was shooting in Wai for "Bol Bachchan" at the same time, had to juggle between both these professional commitments.

After the film shooting when everyone would call it a day, Asin would learn waltz during the nights.

According to a source close to Asin, the actress is mesmerised by this western dance form and is planning to pursue it further as and when she wraps up the shooting of her movies.

Shaan's love recipe - stick to one person at all times



Singer Shaan, who has been happily married to wife Radhika for more than 11 years, says his love recipe is to bond with his partner.

"I follow a balanced diet in my love recipe... I believe that you should keep the same thing (same person) in love recipe because like wine, relationships only get better with time and I believe in this love recipe," he said at the music launch here Wednesday of the forthcoming film "Love Recipe".

Directed by Amol Shetge, "Love Recipe" stars newcomers Suhail Karim and Rani Agarwal and is slated for a May 25 release.

The 39-year-old, who has two sons - Soham and Shubh - still looks young.

So what is the secret behind your young looks?

"See, you can't control the things around you. For instance, where the songs will come from? Whether you'll get work or not? There is no use thinking about such things," said Shaan.

Gulzar mentors producer of an anti-war movie

Veteran lyricist Gulzar is mentoring "Bhindi Baazaar" producer Karan Arora for his new film "Kya Dilli Kya Lahore", which talks about a unique bond between an Indian and a Pakistani soldier stationed at the Indo-Pakistani border.

"I heard the narration before the film went on floors. What I loved about it is the fact that it is an anti-war film and talks about peace but in a very light-hearted manner. It doesn't have bloodshed and is not political in nature at all, yet makes such a beautiful point of peace between two neighbouring countries," Gulzar said in a statement.

"Finally, after the film was shot, producer Karan Arora came to me and showed it to me. The way it has turned out is commendable. I would do everything in my capacity to help it. I am, in fact, going to talk to people associated with 'Aman Ki Asha' (campaign) since this is a film that has to be shown in both countries," he added.

The film features Vijay Raaz, Raj Zutshi and Manu Rishi.

"Since the film's inception, Gulzar saab has been very kind to us. He had really liked the story, saying people have forgotten how to make such films. He suggested that we meet him once the film is shot," Arora said.

"We showed him the rough cut as it is still in post production. He was very happy with the way we have treated it, and ever since, he has been our patron. Be it the background, recording or post-production of the film, we are taking an approval from Gulzar saab on everything. He is our guiding force," he added.

The veteran lyricist also helped the producer finalise the title of film. The working title of the film was "Padosi", then it was changed to "Do Bhootni Ke", but finally they zeroed in on "Kya Dilli Kya Lahore".

"In my opinion, a film's title should be able to tell you all about it. You can't separate the title from the subject of the film, which is why I told them to make sure that the title they decide upon should convey the essence of the film," said Gulzar.

'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' leads IIFA nominations

Zoya Akhtar's road movie "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" is leading the nomination pack of the 13th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards with 14 nods, while Vidya Balan's

nations include technical categories.

Milan Luthria's "The Dirty Picture" has bagged 13 nominations including best actress for Vidya for playing southern sex

Ghoshal has bagged two nominations for her songs "Teri Meri" and "Ooh la la".

In best performance in the leading role male category, Hrithik will be competing along

with Amitabh Bachchan for "Aarakshan", Salman Khan for "Bodyguard", Shah Rukh Khan for "Don 2", Ranbir Kapoor for "Rockstar" and Ajay Devgn for "Singham".

The nominations of best performance in a leading role female include Priyanka Chopra for "7 Khoon Maaf", Kareena Kapoor for "Bodyguard", Mahie Gill for "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster" and Kangna Ranaut for "Tanu Weds Manu".

Those competing in best performance in supporting role female are Parineeti Chopra for "Ladies Vs Ricky Bahl", Swara Bhaskar for "Tanu Weds Manu", Sonali Kulkarni for "Singham" and Divya Dutta for "Stanley Ka Dabba".

The nominations for best performance in a negative role include Irrfan Khan for "7 Khoon Maaf", Boman Irani for "Don 2", Vidut Jamwal for "Force" and Prakash Raj for "Singham".

"We at IIFA take pride in announcing the nominees for IIFA Awards 2012 which celebrate the best work done by the Indian Film Industry over the last year," Sabbas Joseph, director, Wizcraft International Entertainment said in a statement.

"We are thoroughly pleased with the nominees a result of the film industry's secret ballot; and we hope the audience will make a worthy choice in deciding the winners of this year's IIFA accolades," he added.



"The Dirty Picture" follows closely behind with 13.

"Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" has bagged nominations including best picture, best direction for Zoya Akhtar, best actor in a leading role for Hrithik Roshan. Abhay Deol and Farhan Akhtar have been nominated in best performance in a supporting role, male, while Kalki Koechlin has been nominated in best actress in supporting role, female.

Musical trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy have been nominated for music direction, while Javed Akhtar for best lyrics for "Khaabon ke Parindey". The film has also been nominated in the best story category. Other nomi-

symbol Silk Smitha.

Other nominations include best picture, best direction, best performance in supporting role male for Emraan Hashmi and Naseeruddin Shah. Naseer has also been nominated in the best actor in a negative role category.

"The Dirty Picture" has also bagged nomination for best story, best lyrics and best playback singer male for Kamaal Khan for "Ishq Sufiyana".

Kamaal Khan will vie for the winner's trophy with Ash King for "I love you", Rahat Fateh Ali Khan for "Teri meri", Mika Singh for "Subha hone na de" and Mohit Chauhan for "Nadaan parindey". Singer Shreya

Power-full Gujarat manage more

Ahmedabad, At a time when several States in the country are reeling under severe power crisis, Gujarat presents a shining example in contrast.

Combining hydro power, thermal power and utilizing the immense potential of solar energy, Gujarat now boasts of being a power surplus State. So much so that all its 18,000 villages have access to round the clock uninterrupted three phase power and still there is 2000 MW for sale.

Struggling with power deficit for better part of the 1990s, Gujarat has made tremendous strides in the sector by adding additional power capacity to its dried ever year.

Total electricity generation capacity has gone up from 8000 MW ten years ago to nearly 18,000 MW now, Principal Secretary, Power & Petrochemicals, DJ Pandian told. We can provide power to the agriculture sector for

full eight hours and still have 2000 MW surplus that can be sold to other States which are in need and ready to pay, said Pandian.

Though bulk of the generation capacity is in the thermal sector 13,500 MW the turnaround in the power scenario has been brought about by laying stress on other non conventional sources too.

Taking advantage of the constant breeze in the coastal areas of the State, as much as 2,800 MW capacity has come up in wind energy sector, which was virtually non-existent ten years ago.

The king on the cake in the power sector is the addition of the 605 MW solar power plants, dedicated to the nation by Chief Minister Narendra Modi.

Authorities in the State are optimistic that the increased demand of power from the agriculture sector can be fully met, in the case of deficient mon-

soon, as their is surplus generation capacity of 2000 MW. All the 18,000 villages in Gujarat already get 24 hours uninterrupted three phase power supply under the Jyoti Gram Yojana.

Failure of monsoon does not affect Gujarat's power generation as only about five per cent capacity is hydel based while nearly one fourth generation is gas based.

As yet another feather in Gujarat's power scenarios cap, Naredra Modi has mooted the idea of rooftop solar power generation, a clean and green technologies, which has been successfully experimented in the State capital Gandhinagar.

Called the Photovoltaic Rooftop Programme, the solar energy initiatives would be replicated in other major cities too, said Pandian. Rooftop solar installations had huge market potential in India and Gujarat is now looking at tapping it, he added.

New Blackberry from RIM

New Delhi, Canada's Research in Motion (RIM) introduced a new smartphone Curve 9220 aimed at further consolidating its position in the Indian smartphone markets.

Priced at Rs 10,990 the Curve 9220 comes with upgraded Blackberry 7.1 operating system and offer all the messaging and social centric features RIM claims that the new model offers the longest lasting battery life yet in a Curve model, giving users up to seven hours of talk time or up to 28 hours of music playback or FM radio listening on headphones. The new BlackBerry Curve 9220 offers a unique mobile experience that young Indi-

ans will love, thanks to its affordable pricing and unmatched messaging and social connectivity features, RIM Managing Director India Sunil Dutt told. The company is also offering many free applications with the phone such as pencil camera, photo studio pro and horoscope oracle worth Rs 2,500 for free till June 30, 2012.

Commenting on the Indian market where the Canadian firm's sales are going up, RIM's Senior Vice President Smartphone Business Carlo Chiarello said India is an important market for RIM, we are extremely proud to officially launch, the new BlackBerry Curve 9220 for the first time here in India.

Maruti's Manesar unit workers demand 5-fold rise in basic pay

New Delhi,

Emboldened by the recognitions of their union, workers at Maruti Suzuki India's Manesar plant are understood to have demanded a hike in their basic salaries, as high as five times in some cases, ahead of the scheduled wage negotiations with the management. According to sources close to the development, the newly formed body, Maruti Suzuki Workers' Union has submitted a list of about twenty demands to the management for consideration while finalizing the three years wage settlement agreement.

The Union submitted their list to the management last week. Among the major ones the work-

ers are demanding raise in basic salaries that can be as high as five times more in some cases, a source said. The workers have also asked for linking of dearness allowance DA to basic pay instead of a fixed amount being given currently, the sources added. When contacted, MSWU General Secretary Sarabjeet Singh said, we have submitted our demand list to the company management in April, it has about 20-22 different points. He, however, refused to disclose anything about the demands, saying MSWU is yet to start negotiations with the management. Maruti Suzuki India Managing Executive Officer Administration SY Siddiqui declined to comment. Among other demands, it is understood that the workers have also asked for increasing the number of privilege and casual leaves, offer conveyance services within 100 km distance from the plant and help the employees in getting affordable accommodation. According to an employee at the Manesar plant, a permanent worker with a designation of Junior Associate I draws a total salary of about Rs 15000-17000 a month. Out of this total amount, basic pay is Rs 5000, travelling allowance

is Rs 1,600, HRA is around Rs 1,400 and an amount of Rs 200 for washing our clothes. The major component is a variable performance linked allowance of Rs 7000-9000, he added. Besides these, the workers get a fixed DA of Rs 150 every month, he claimed.

A worker is made permanent after three years of serving as a trainee at the factory and offered a designation of JA I. All the employees, who had joined the plant, are JA-I. There is only one worker at JA-2 level and he was transferred from the Gurgaon Plant, the workers said. A trainee's monthly remuneration varies between about Rs 7000 and Rs 11,500 depending upon seniority. Also, a contractual worker gets Rs 6000-7000 every month, he added.

The worker further said that various levels of hikes have been demanded in the list keeping in mind all types of workers at the plant. On April 12, MSI had said it is likely to finalize the wage negotiation agreement with Gurgaon and Manesar plants by the end of May and it will be implemented with retrospective effect from this month.

Diesel supply hit in South

Chennai,

Diesel availability across various locations in the south, particular Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, remains under strain following shutdown of the MRPL refinery in Mangalore earlier this month. The shutdown, necessitated due to water shortage has forced the state owned oil marketing companies to rework their sourcing arrangements to meet the demand for diesel, which is galloping. Lot of product is moving from one locations to another, an official of India Oil Corporation said, the power crisis was fuelling the demand for diesel, he said, adding that the growth registered this month was in the range of 35-40 per cent. The problem, sources in the oil industry said, surfaced when retail outlets of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in many parts of Tamil Nadu ran out of diesel stock for the past few days. There is shortage of Euro III diesel, which is supplied in non

metro cities, the IOC said.

Confirming this, as an official of HPCL said that the company was assured to 1500 kilo liters of diesel supply, but that was not enough to last beyond a day. Ever since the MRPL shutdown much of the product from Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. refineries was being taken by IOC, he said, adding an industry meeting was shield here to take stock of the situation, CPCL is a group company of IOC.

The products from MRPL refinery, marketed by HPCL, used to feed entire Karnataka, some parts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Sources in IOC said as a result of the shutdown, the hospitality arrangement for product sharing had been hit. IOC, sources added had to move products from CPCL to avoid a stock out situation at its retail outlets in Karnataka. We are also facing problem, in Andhra Pradesh, IOC said.

Bharat Petroleum,

Corporation Ltd. according to industry sources was managing with products from the refinery in Kochi. The situation is expected to improve as IOC has placed orders for diesel from Singapore. We are expecting the vessel in the next few days and the supply is expected to improve diesel availability, an official said, adding that once the south west monsoon arrived, the water flow in Nethravathi river, from which MRPL draws, would improve. CPCL, Managing Director incharge, S Venkataramana said production at the Manali refinery was as usual despite a quality issue with the vacuum column of one of three refinery units.

To address that GPCL was going for a planned shutdown for three days later this month, which would only impact the daily production to an extent of twenty thousand metric tonnes. The refinery produces around 320TMT of all products daily.

BEL net drops 16% to Rs 725 crore

Bangalore,

Bharat Electricals Limited reported revenues of Rs 5710 crore in 2011-12, 3 per cent higher than that in the previous year, Chairman and Managing Director Anil Kumar attributed the below par performance mainly to the fact that the company could supply components for only 15 out of the 96 sets of the Akash missile system that were to be supplied to the armed forces during 2011-12. He blamed the failure on a public sector consortium partner, but refused to name the company.

BEL's post tax profit declined from Rs 861 crore in 2010-11 to Rs 725 crore in 2011-12, a drop of 16 per cent, Mr. Kumar attributed the pressures on the company to the challenging environment. The proportion of earnings from supplies made to the defence forces declined from 80 per cent in 2010-

11 to 73 per cent in 2011-12, which also affected profitability, he added.

We do not have a monopoly in the defence sector, Mr. Kumar said. The company plans capital expenditure of Rs 400 crore in 2012-13, against Rs 230 crore invested in the previous year.

BEL's exports also declined from \$41.53 million in 2010-11 to \$38.45 million in 2011-12, HN Ramakrishna, Director, Marketing said the decline was mainly because the government disallowed \$6.5 million worth of supplies made to the Indian subsidiary of Thales, a French electronics systems company, to be categorized as exports. He explained that a significant portion of the orders in the pipeline was clogged because the government had to wait for evaluations by the defence forces and the government. The company's order book

was Rs 25,748 crore in April 2012, as compared to Rs 23,600 crore in April 2011

Mr. Ramakrishna said the company was vigorously pursuing offset opportunities that will arise from the deal for the Indian Air Force's acquisition of Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft.

To a question whether it was fair for the government the dominant shareholders, to indulge in dividend stripping of the company at a time when it needed to plough back profits for investments in new technologies, markets and for capital expenditure, Mr. Kumar told that Shareholders of the company who had invested need to be suitably rewarded. It may be recalled that BHEL had declared a dividend of 216 per cent in 2010-11 an interim dividend of 100 per cent amounting to its Rs 68 crore in 2011-12.

House panel for IRDA probe into ONGC share buying by LIC

New Delhi,

Regretting that the government is utilizing state-owned enterprises as milk cows to bridge deficits, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance has recommended that the insurance regulator, IRDA, should look into the purchase of ONGC shares by the Life Insurance Corporation LIC at the recent equity auction to see if the country's largest insurer had breathed any investment norms.

In its report tabled in Parliament the panel, headed by former Finance Minister and senior BJP leader Yashwanth Sinha, said the committee recommends that the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority IRDA should enquire into this issues and investigate as to whether the LIC has violated any prudent investments norms and exceeded the limit stipulated by them.

It may be recalled that the government mopped

up Rs 12,767 crore last month by putting sharp of oil major ONGC on sale through the auction route. Although the disinvestment exercise was subscribed to the extent of 98.3 per cent, it is significant that the response of institutional and retail investors was lukewarm and the LIC ended up subscribing to a major chunk of the shares on offer.

Official data showed that LICs purchase accounted for more than 84 per cent of the ONGC shares up on auction while only the balance was picked up by trial and institutional investors. Post auction, LICs shareholding in ONGC stands pegged at 9.48 per cent which as per IRDA norms for insurers, just within the ten per cent cap on stake holding in any company.

Expressing its disapproval over the mop up exercise and the adverse impact that it may have on insurance policy holders, the standing panel said

that the manner of ONGC disinvestment was nothing but more financial engineering to shift money from one pocket of the exchequer to the other. Owing to riskfactors associated with the recent acquisition of shares of ONGC by Life Insurance Corporation 29 crore policy holders of LIC are likely to be adversely affected.

With the government managing to garner only about Rs 14,000 crore through disinvestment in public sector undertakings PSUs last fiscal as compared to the Rs 40,000 crore budgeted for the year and setting a mop up target of Rs 30,000 crore for 2012-13, the committee has suggested formulation of a coherent and effective disinvestment policy.

The government should formulate a coherent and effective disinvestment policy without diluting the objectives for which the CPSEs Central Public Sector Enterprises have been set up, it said.

Plan panel asks PowerMin to hike 12th Plan generation target

New Delhi,

Calling the report of 76,000 mw of electricity to be generated in the 12th Five year Plan speculative, the Power Ministry has said that it is yet to set the fresh target, even as the Planning Commission has advised it to keep the capacity generation target to at least 1,00,000 MW to meet the requirement of the economy. A Power Ministry told that the likely target figure of 76,000 MW is only a propose done and a final call on the capacity addition will be taken only in an officials meeting which may happen next week, it is only a proposed figure, the final call will be taken only in the officials plan meeting, informed the officials, about the formal meeting to discuss the capacity addition in the 12th Five Year Plan period.

In fact, general perception within the ministry is that 76,000 MW generation target figure has borne out of speculations fuelled by media reports. Interestingly, though even as the Power Ministry terms the figure as speculative and a proposed one, the Minister of State for Power KC Venugopal last month had gone on record in a function, saying that the country is projected to see a capacity addition of 76,000 MW during the next Five Year Plan period ending a March 2017. Looking ahead, it has been estimated that a capacity addition of about 76,000 MW is required during the 12th Plan. Capacity addition envisaged during the 13th Plan is about 93,000 MW,

he said. The Planning Commission to seems to disagree with the proposed figure. According to its approach paper for the 12th Five year Plan, the Commission is eyeing a power capacity creation of about 1,60,000 MW in the coming five years (2012-2017). If there is a shortfall, let there be a shortfall but we cannot keep the targets in a manner that we do not meet the requirements of the economy, Planning Commission Member Energy BK Chaturvedi said.

According to the Commission's estimates, the country's energy supply needs to grow at 6.5 per cent annually if the nation wants to achieve annual economic growth of 9 per cent during the Plan period. After having downwardly revised its generation target to 62,000 MW in the 11th Five Year Plan, the Power Ministry wants to tread the cautious path this time around and come up with an achievable capacity addition target due to the scarcity of coal to meet the needs of thermal power plants which are the major sources of electricity.

The Power Ministry had earlier set a goal for adding 78,577 MW of electricity capacity during the 11th Five Year Plan, which was scaled down to 62,000 MW by the Planning Commission in its mid term review, citing environmental and land acquisition hurdles. Finally, 53,000 MW generation capacity was added by the end of the Plan period. Presently, the country has an installed power generation capacity of nearly 1,70,0-00 MW. Power

projects being executed by State-owned hydropower generation company NHPC, which were scheduled for commissioning during the 11th Plan, would now start electricity generation in the 12th Plan, period.

NHPCs 2000 MW Subsiri Project in Assam and 3000 MW dibang project in Arunachal Pradesh are still awaiting environment clearances. The country's largest power producer, NTPC, which had set itself a mammoth target of becoming a 75,000 MW company by 2017, is also believed to have brought down this target to 70,000 MW because of scarcity of gas.

VCs face catch-22 situation in India

Global Financial markets are in a whirlpool. While interest rates, inflation, subsidies and deficits are on a high, accountability, confidence, investment, savings profit and credit are at a low in India. The Government is wary to disinvest while funds are wary to invest. Consumers want to spend and banks want to lend.

At the epicenter of this whirlpool is the four letter word RISK. This drew my attention to those whose business is to be on it - Venture Capitalists VCs. They thrive best on four letter words starting with risk and ending with exit they typically drool over fund, cash, flow, loan, slow, plan, debt and grow. Distancing from debt, they take the unprotected route of buying equity. They win

few and lose many. That is fine, as long they win big and lose small and total take-ins from winnings exceeds the take outs from the losses enabling a doubling of the invested capital every 4-5 years.

The volatile investment titles the VC as volatility capitalist Immense risk often makes him an Adventure capitalist, successes means they gain and bargain hard and are then called vulture capitalists. Several failures in early stage investing makes them vulnerable capitalists. When these players do not limit themselves to minority stakes, start ups and technology companies and include debt in their funding they get classified as private equity or PE players.

RISKS to me is an ac-

ronym for Research Innovation Services Knowledge Start-ups. Each word defines the risk. Research is never enough and thereby not fool proof. Innovation is great till it fails the test. Services have led to India's growth contributing to half of Indias' GDP, but absence of tangible assets makes banks reluctant. Knowledge is something which is dynamic, ever evolving and therefore, becomes a tricky wager. With most funded companies being start-ups in nature, absence of a past means you bet on the unknown. Often intuition and intention become the invisible benchmark of investment. Given the success of India in IT and Steve Jobs definition of Indians having intuitive intelligence one would

have expected Venture Capitalist to thrive. Interestingly they just mangle, to survive.

50 billion dollars through 3000 odd deals have been invested. Mostly in the ICT space and now gradually move to infrastructure, healthcare, banking and consumer product investments are usually for minority stakes of below 25 per cent. There has been a shift from promoter fund manger relationship and price to value creation. Intense competition in nervous times leaves many good funds chasing few good opportunities. Business investment is now auctioned to the best bidder fund, India recorded the largest increase in deal activity in Asia Pacific region in 2010.

Low cotton stocks likely this season

Coimbatore,

The current cotton season is expected to end with just about 25 lakh bales of stock as against thirty nine lakh bales last year.

This is a risky carry over stock. In the normal course, cotton prices should go up by the end of the season as availability will come down. But, we are unable to say so this year because of the low demand in the domestic and global markets, says KN Viswanth, Vice President of the Indian Cotton Federation.

During the last two months, the market had remained steady at about Rs 34,000 a candy Shankar 6 variety of cotton, he said.

A closing stock that will meet two and a half months' consumption needs of the industry about fifty lakh bales will ensure that there is no shortage of cotton at the beginning of the new season. Mills have not bought large quantities of cotton so far this sea-

son because may of them did not have the purchasing capacity.

However, cotton consumption by the mills is expected to go up soon when the power situation improves in States such as Tamil Nadu. The industry expects shortage of quality cotton availability by the end of the season and mills may have to go in for imports, according to the Southern India Mills' Association and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

The Cotton Advisory Board estimated at a meeting in Mumbai that total cotton exports this seasons would be 115 lakh bales, as against the earlier estimate of 84 lakh bales and last year's exports of 78 lakh bales. Total consumption by textile mills would be 232 lakh bales, nearly eight lakh bales less than the estimate made by the Board in January this year.

Total cotton production is expected to be 347 lakh bales.