Letter No. FFL/SEC/2024-25/SE-117 **Date: 19.11.2024**

The Manager Listing Department National Stock Exchange of India Limited Exchange Plaza, Plot No. C/1, G Block Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051	The Manager Listing Department BSE Limited Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers Dalal Street, Mumbai - 400 001
Scrip Code: FUSION	Scrip Code: 543652

Sub: Clarification on News Article - Intimation under Regulation 30(11) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI Listing Regulations").

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

In reference to Regulation 30(11) of the SEBI Listing Regulations and the news article published in the today's print edition of "The Economic Times" dated November 19, 2024, titled "Fusion Fin may cease to be a Going Concern", a copy of which is enclosed herewith.

At the outset, the Company would like to inform that the aforesaid news article is factually incorrect and misleading. A clarification on the factual position is enclosed herewith, the content of which is self-explanatory.

Request you to take the same on records.

Thanking you,
Sincerely,

For **Fusion Finance Limited**
(Formerly Fusion Micro Finance Limited)

DEEPAK MADAAN
Digitally signed by DEEPAK MADAAN
Date: 2024.11.19 18:34:38 +05'30'

Deepak Madaan
Company Secretary & Chief Compliance Officer
Membership No. A24811
Place: Gurugram

Statement from Fusion Finance Limited

There has been a news report today published by The Economic Times titled – “Fusion Fin may Cease to be a Going Concern” which mentions that the Company has asked for moratorium from the lenders. **We would like to clarify that Fusion has not asked for any moratorium from any of the lenders.**

In this context, we would also like to share some details to ensure clearer understanding. The microfinance sector has been facing headwinds since past few months leading to stress on asset quality in few states. As part of an early recognition of portfolio stress and to ensure that we have adequate coverage, we had made an upfront provisioning in Q1 FY25. Due to observed rapid deterioration in the on-ground collections, we have made higher provisioning in Q2 FY25 as well. Looking at our portfolio performance and challenges faced by the sector, our auditor wanted to bring to the attention that there are covenant breaches that will require waivers. We are already in discussion with our lenders regarding the waivers required. In fact, the Company has received all the waivers for Q1 and believes that similar waivers will be granted further too.

Importantly, we believe that these technical breaches are temporary in nature, and we have already planned additional remedial measure, including a rights issue of up to INR 550 crore.

It is important to note that our balance sheet remains strong with a capital adequacy of 24.39% as of Sep’24 with a robust liquidity position of INR 1793 crore as of Q2 FY25.

STOCK SLUMPS 5%

'Fusion Fin may Cease to be a Going Concern'

Our Bureau

Kolkata: Microfinance company Fusion Finance may cease to be a "going concern" if lenders do not agree to its request for a moratorium on loans for at least a year or if it fails to raise resources, independent auditor Deloitte Haskins & Sells said.

"The company's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent on obtaining waivers from demand by lenders for immediate repayment of borrowings for a period of at least 12 months from the balance sheet and/or securing sufficient funds from other resources such as a successful sale of loans, rights issue and refinancing of borrowings," the audit firm said in a note.

Shares of the company ended 5% lower at ₹169 on the BSE Monday.

Fusion is in talks with lenders for a waiver on their right to demand immediate repayment

Fusion has breached various financial covenants in respect of borrowings of ₹5,618 crore. This means banks can demand immediate repayment of the loans.

The microfinance institution is negotiating with lenders for a waiver on their right to demand immediate repayment of the loans but has not yet received any favourable response.

"This condition results in material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern, and therefore the company may not be able to realise the assets and discharge its liabilities in its normal course of business," Deloitte said.

Fusion posted a net loss of ₹305 crore for the quarter ended September against a net profit of ₹126 crore in the year-earlier period amid a surge in credit cost to 6.6% from 3.3%. Its asset quality deteriorated with gross non-performing assets jumping to 9.4% from 2.7%.

"During Q2 FY25, we continued to experience the impact of delinquency trends seen industrywide, making this a tough quarter:... We have also curtailed our growth, resulting in muted AUM (assets under management) numbers QoQ basis," Fusion managing director Devesh Sachdev said Friday after announcing its quarterly results. "Our expected credit loss provisioning for this quarter is higher, thus impacting our overall profitability."

Its operating profit, however, rose 17.4% to ₹284 crore, while its capital adequacy ratio stood at 24.4%. AUM fell 5.1% to ₹11,571 crore.

₹10,000-CR IPO OPENS Strong parentage and AAA rating to help co raise low-cost funds; but the business is at high capex stage, which makes the issue suitable for those with high risk appetite

NTPC Green Energy Offer: The Light Seems to be at a Distance

Ranjit Shinde

ET Intelligence Group: NTPC Green Energy (NGEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of state-run NTPC focusing on renewable energy generation, plans to raise ₹10,000 crore through fresh equity to partly prepay debt. NTPC's stake will fall to 89% after the IPO from 100%.

The company operates at the sector-best Ebitda margin level of around 90%. The IPO valuation looks aggressive since the company is approaching the primary market in the initial stage of operations where capital expenditure need (capex) is higher for building capacities. In contrast, the benefits of higher cash flows and profit will flow in subsequent years.

Given these factors, the issue looks more suitable for long-term investors with a high risk appetite.

Business: The company was carved out from NTPC in April 2022. As of September, the company's portfolio consisted of 3.3 gigawatts (GW) of operating projects across six states and 13.6 GW of contracted and awarded projects in solar and wind energy.

Expanding Portfolio

NTPC Green Energy: Business Snapshot

Indicator	FY24	FY23	YoY Chg (%)
Installed Capacity (MW)	2,925.0	2,611.0	12.0
Revenue from Operations*	1,962.6	1,449.7	35.4
EBITDA*	1,746.4	1,309.6	33.4
EBITDA Margin (%)	89.0	89.2	-20 bps
Net Profit*	344.7	456.5	-24.5
Net Debt/Equity (x)	2.0	1.1	–
Interest Coverage Ratio (x)	2.6	2.8	–

*(in ₹ crore)

Source: Company RHP

CALL FOR BIDS

Dates: Nov 19-22
Issue size: ₹10,000 cr
Price Band: ₹102-108
Lot Size: 138 shares
Face Value: ₹10
Implied M-cap: Up to ₹91,000 cr
Retail Portion: 10%

IPO WATCH

This has improved from 1.5 GW of operating capacity and 4.8 GW of awarded projects in FY22 based on the carved-out data from the parent NTPC. The company has 9.2 GW of capacity in the pipeline as of September 2024.

NGEL has 17 off-takers with whom it has either signed pre-purchase agreements or received letters of acceptance (LoA) across 41 solar and 11 wind projects. Given its strong parentage, NGEL enjoys the highest AAA credit rating, allowing the company to raise debt at 150-200 basis points lower interest rates than peers.

Financials: Between FY22 (carved out data) and FY24, revenue doubled to ₹1,962.6 crore and operating profit before depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) too doubled to ₹1,746.4 crore, implying an Ebitda margin of 89%. NGEL's largest peer Adani Green Energy operated at 82% margin in FY24. The company's net profit more than tripled to ₹344.7 crore in FY24 from ₹94.7 crore in FY22. The net debt-equity ratio was two in FY24 and the interest coverage was 2.6 in FY24. For Adani Green, the net debt-equity ratio was 5.5, while interest coverage was 1.7 in FY24.

Valuation: Given that the company is in the growth phase with intensive capex, NGEL's demanded valuation looks skewed. The price-earnings multiple (P/E) after annualising the profit in the first six months of FY25 is 260 compared with 100 for Adani Green. The enterprise value (EV) relative to Ebitda is 52 for NGEL and 32 for Adani Green.

RAISES ₹3,960 CR FROM ANCHORS

NTPC Green Energy on Monday raised ₹3,960 crore from 107 anchor investors ahead of the opening of its IPO. The company allotted 366 million shares at the upper price band of ₹108 apiece to these institutional investors.

New World Fund, Government of Singapore, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, SBI Life Insurance, HDFC Life Insurance, ICICI Prudential, Nippon Life India and Kotak Mutual Fund were some of the investors in the company.

SBI Raises $500 m in Five-Year Dollar Bonds

Our Bureau

Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) concluded the issuance of $500 million in senior unsecured fixed-rate notes, maturing in five years with a 5.125% coupon payable semi-annually.

Issued under Regulation-S, the bonds will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange and the India International Exchange at GIFT City, with settlement scheduled for November 25, the lender said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

The issuance, executed through SBI's London branch, will help the lender to support funding requirements for its international branches and operations, a person said. Proceeds of the issuance will also be used for general corporate purposes.

BNP Paribas, HSBC, MUFG, and Standard Chartered were bookrunners for the offering.

This marks SBI's third international bond issuance in 2024. In January, the bank raised $600 million in five-year bonds at a 5.1% coupon, followed by $100 million in three-year floating rate notes in June, priced at SOFR + 95 basis points.

The Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) has become a key benchmark for dollar-denominated loans and bonds.

Bharti Telecom's Debt Up

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Currently, Singtel and the Mittal family effectively own 29.44% and 23.7%, respectively, in Bharti Airtel through a mix of direct and indirect holdings.

The indirect holdings are routed through Bharti Telecom Ltd (BTL) — the main controlling company that owns 40.33% in Airtel. Singtel's 29.44% effective holding in Airtel comprises a 9.5% direct stake via Pastel and a 19.94% indirect stake through BTL. Likewise, the Mittal family's 23.7% overall holding in Airtel comprises a 3.31% direct stake via ICIL and a 20.39% indirect stake through BTL.

The Mittal family-controlled Bharti Group and Singtel own 50.56% and 49.44% in BTL, respectively.

If the direct stakes of both partners equalise at about 6% each and the shareholding structure of BTL and its 40.33% stake in Airtel remains unchanged, the Mittal family could potentially end up with a higher effective shareholding than Singtel in the New Delhi-based telco.

At Airtel's current market cap of about ₹8,75,619 crore, an additional 1% stake in the company would cost ₹8,756.2 crore. Shares of Airtel closed 0.83% lower at ₹1,537.70 apiece on the BSE on Monday.

In September 2022, Singtel had sold a 3.33% direct stake in Airtel via multiple block deals to BTL for about ₹14,500 crore. Earlier this year, Singtel sold another 0.8% in Airtel, through its unit Pastel, to US investment firm GQG Partners for about ₹5,885 crore.

Both Singtel and the Mittal family have been shifting their direct holdings in Airtel to BTL, which has been funding such deals via debt. Consequently, BTL's debt levels have risen in recent years, totalling ₹24,290 crore as of September 30, 2024, mainly due to its rising stake in Bharti Airtel.

Last month, BTL further increased its stake in Airtel to 40.33% by acquiring 1.2% from Airtel promoter group entity, ICIL, through an off-market transaction. BTL is also reckoned to have raised around ₹11,150 crore through an issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDs).

Singtel has been a long-term investor and a shareholder in Airtel since 2000. But going forward, it is counting on higher dividend payouts by associate, Bharti Airtel, to enable the latter's controlling company, BTL, to service its mounting debt.

REGULATORY LENS RBI's observations on risks in the segment have led to lenders looking at amortisation schedules and repayment capacities

Gold Loans may Soon Come with Monthly Payment Plans

Saloni Shukla

Mumbai: After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) pointed out deficiencies in gold loan disbursals by banks and gold loan companies, the industry is now planning to introduce monthly amortisation plans. Under this, regulated entities could ask consumers to begin paying interest and principal in equated monthly instalments as soon as the loan resumes. Lenders are also exploring the term loan route to give loans against gold.

"The regulator's diktat is clear, it wants lenders to examine the payment capacity of borrowers and not solely rely on the collateral," said a senior banking official. "It is also unhappy with allowing rollover of such loans with part payment, which could lead to some delinquencies when repayments come up. We are now structuring monthly payment options for gold loans."

In a circular on September 30, the regulator pointed out irregularities in granting loans against gold ornaments and jewellery. This was after the central bank found issues in the sourcing of gold loans, valuation, due diligence, end-use monitoring, auction transparency, loan-to-value (LTV) ratio monitoring, and the application of risk weights.

The regulator also found that rolling over gold loans with only part payment was a deficient practice.

As a practice, gold loan lenders offer a bullet repayment gold loan option, where the borrower can repay the entire amount at the end of the loan tenure. They need not make repayments as per any EMI schedule. Another option is to make partial repayments as and when funds are available with the borrower. Here, the borrower pays off the entire principal and interest amount before the end of the loan tenure.

The circular comes against the backdrop of high growth in the gold loan portfolio of both banks and NBFCs over the past few quarters. As per Crisil, retail loans against gold jewellery increased by 37% for banks between April and August even as gold prices rose. For gold-loan-focused NBFCs, growth in assets under management in the first quarter of FY25 was 11%.

"The sector faces underlying challenges as the continuous build-up of leverage raises concerns about borrowers' ability to service debt, especially given limited visibility into their cash flows or for that matter the end use of funds," said Prakash Agarwal, partner at consulting firm Gefion Capital. "A potential correction in gold prices could pose significant risks, as declining collateral values might create refinancing challenges and strain repayment capacity. Lenders must remain vigilant, balancing growth with prudent risk management to mitigate potential vulnerabilities."

As of September 30, banks had disbursed ₹1.4 lakh crore as jewellery loans, a 51% rise, up from 14.6% reported in the year-ago period.

Gold loans have witnessed robust growth in recent quarters, supported by a significant rise in gold prices as it enabled additional top-ups on existing collateral. The challenges around the availability of unsecured and microfinance loans also pushed borrowers to avail of gold loans. However, RBI's strictures on inconsistencies identified during a recent review and comments on strengthening the controls could throttle growth to some extent.

Ujjivan Bank to Sell ₹270 cr of Soured Microloans

Our Bureau

Kolkata: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank is planning to sell bad loans to the tune of ₹270 crore to asset reconstruction companies in a balance sheet cleansing exercise.

The bank's board approved the plan last Friday.

The bad loans were from the bank's microfinance portfolio. Out of this, ₹208 crore was classified as non-performing assets and the remaining ₹62 crore was written off. The bank said it carries an overall provision of 85.61% on the above pool.

Ujjivan's asset quality worsened in Q2 in line with the stress in the microfinance sector

Ujjivan's asset quality worsened during the second quarter in line with the stress witnessed in the microfinance sector, which contributed about 65% of its gross loan portfolio of ₹30,344 crore as of September 30.

The gross non-performing assets ratio rose to 2.52% from 2.35% a year back, while the net NPA ratio stood at 0.56% against 0.09% by similar comparison.

About 80% of the fresh slippages had come from the microfinance sector in the second quarter, managing director Sanjeev Nautiyal said last month.

Health Risks

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As residents gasped for air, there was a surge in demand for items such as face masks, air purifiers and even indoor plants.

Delhi chief minister Atishi said the region is faced with a health crisis. "All of north India has been plunged into a medical emergency as stubble burning continues unchecked. All cities– Delhi and in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh–are reeling under severe levels of pollution," she said.

Hospital queues are elongating in what has now become an annual three-month purgatory for NCR and the northern states.

In the first line of defence, doctors are sounding the alarm. "We are seeing an increased number of patients admitted with heart attacks, heart failure and increased risk of asthmatic attacks," said Dr Nishith Chandra, director for interventional cardiology at Fortis Escorts Heart Institute. "The level of AQI is 50 times the permissible limits, exposing our lungs and heart to these toxic levels of pollution."

Deloitte, Coca-Cola, KPMG, Acer and others have asked employees to work from home.

Companies says the high AQI will force people to stay indoors, worsening the consumption story further this quarter. "Certainly, people are scared to even come out, with unusually bad air quality now in the north," said Devarajan Iyer, chief executive of Lifestyle International chain. "We expect an impact on sales, which was anyway affected in urban areas. The situation has worsened. We really hope the government will take some action."

The declining air quality took a toll on shopping and eating out over the weekend. "The food services industry is anyway hit by steep food inflation," said Anjan Chatterjee, chairman of Speciality Restaurants, which operates the Mainland China and Oh! Calcutta chains. "The pollution-linked decline in demand is a double whammy. October-December is generally the biggest quarter for the sector. But now, those who can afford to, are going away to the hills. Others are staying indoors."

While usually, pollution increases this time of the year, this year is particularly severe, said Anshu Tandon, president of the Khan Market Welfare Association, citing a footfall decline of 20-25% on weekends.

"Our weekend business is impacted by 30-40% in what is usually party season and a very important quarter for the food services industry," said Saurabh Khanijo, managing director of Asian cuisine chain Kylin, which also operates outdoor dining and bar Kylin Skybar. "A lot of our weekend bookings are being cancelled, specially for our outdoor events. Seeing the AQI levels, people are naturally being very hesitant to step out."

Large dine-out chains in India had been pinning their hopes for a pickup in footfalls on the October-December festive season after two back-to-back quarters of sluggish sales.

Malls are feeling the pollution pangs as well.

"There's a dip in footfall, as people are preferring to stay indoors in deteriorating air quality," said Harsh Vardhan Bansal, cofounder of Unity Group, which operates half a dozen malls in Delhi and Punjab. He pointed to a silver lining. "Serious shoppers, though, have moved to malls from the high street, as they know malls maintain a certain level of air quality and it's safer indoors than outdoors," he said.

'Mahindra in Position of Strength'

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The VW group has been looking to offload equity to share costs and risks in a market where its presence is marginal compared with rivals from Japan and South Korea besides local automakers. The scope of the joint venture, if it comes about, is likely to be confined to the Skoda and VW brands and will help the German giant tap into M&M's frugal development costs and its sourcing.

A joint venture will yield synergies at the back end and help both capture almost a fifth of the domestic passenger vehicle market, said the people cited. But M&M may not be keen to pursue a potential collaboration if it has to compromise in the areas of development cost and sourcing.

"Unlike in the past, they (Mahindra) are now in a position of strength. Moreover, they have learnt their lessons from the joint venture discussions with others in the past," said the person, referring to the previous association with Ford Motor Co.

INCREMENTAL CAPACITY

M&M, which was the SUV market leader in terms of revenue in the September quarter and has been second largest in volume for nine consecutive quarters, is keen to forge a partnership to strengthen its hold in the Indian market.

A potential partnership with Europe's largest carmaker will also help the manufacturer of XUV7OO, Scorpio N and Thar models gain access to newer technologies from VW Group. Additionally, the deal would give M&M much-needed incremental capacity. Skoda-VW India has local manufacturing capacity of over 200,000 units per year, in addition to a land parcel that can be used for further expansion at its site in Chakan, Pune. The VW Group sold about 145,713 cars in India in 2023, up 8% over 2022.

M&M had cash of over ₹19,000 crore on its balance sheet at the end of September. India is a "strategic market" for the Volkswagen Group, Piyush Arora, managing director and CEO of Skoda Auto Volkswagen India told ET recently.

"There is always an opportunity where you can partner with somebody, but that is always with a very clear focus to further strengthen your position in the market," he said. "And I think the approach in India is not going to be different."

Meanwhile, the Indian subsidiary, which is steered by Skoda in India, is also in talks with its parent for additional capital infusion and expects a decision in the next few months, said a person familiar with the discussions.

Much in Demand

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"Multiple investors have held talks for stitching up this round," said a person aware of developments. The omnichannel eyewear retailer got $200 million from Fidelity and Temasek at a $5 billion valuation in the previous secondary fundraise.

ET reported on November 5 that Fidelity has marked up Lenskart's valuation to $5.6 billion—a 12% increase of the fair value in the company's books. Over the last year, Lenskart has recorded secondary deals of up to $650 million—the most by a privately-held startup since revival of such late-stage deals in the ecosystem.

"There are conversions underway and there is demand even at $6 billion (valuation) from existing investors. The key is to find the right sellers. One of the top investors has also been approached for a secondary," said one of the people cited. "This may take some time to reach fruition as demand is higher than available sellers."

In a secondary share sale, new investors buy shares from existing investors and the capital doesn't go to company coffers.

Even during the funding drought of 2022-23, Lenskart had bagged investment from the likes of KKR and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), with a slew of big-ticket deals.

"Lenskart more than doubled its growth in FY23. In FY24, it grew revenue over 40% while nearly hitting profits—emerging as a fast-growing firm where growth is sustainable. This has led to the interest and a potential IPO in about two years," a person aware of the ongoing discussions told ET.

In total, Lenskart has closed $1.08-billion rounds since inception in 2010.

Lenskart chief executive Peyush Bansal, Fidelity and Kedaara did not respond to ET's email query on the latest developments.

Lenskart won the prestigious Economic Times Startup of the Year Award this year. The retailer narrowed its losses to ₹10 crore in FY24 and is on track to remain Ebitda positive in FY25. ET reported in October that the SoftBank-backed firm is on a $1 billion revenue run-rate for the ongoing fiscal year, and is setting up its largest manufacturing plant.

SoftBank with a 16.5% stake, Temasek with 7.7%, Kedaara with 7.2%, and Premji Invest with 5.6%, are among those with more than a 5% stake in the Gurgaon-based firm. Alpha Wave Global, entrepreneur Ronnie Screwvala's Unilazer Ventures, Steadview Capital are among other investors in the company.

Online Bond Platforms

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As per rules, private placements can be offered to a limited and preidentified set of investors, not exceeding two hundred in a financial year.

"These platforms appear to have structured their offerings in a manner to avoid regulatory scrutiny," Sebi whole-time member Ashwani Bhatia said in his order.

Sebi's examination prima facie revealed that the modus operandi adopted by these platforms involved making available unlisted NCDs issued via private placements on their platform for sale to the general public.

In most of the instances, it was noted that the operators of the platforms were allotted securities directly by the issuers. The securities, so allotted, were warehoused by the operators and sold to general public, the regulator said.

"In the present matter, where the demarcation between public and private securities has been consciously blurred, and given the scale of operation of these platforms, the need for regulatory intervention cannot be disputed," Bhatia said.

"The distinction between public issues and private placements is not merely procedural but a fundamental safeguard, ensuring that public investments are protected through rigorous oversight. Allowing such unauthorised platforms to mushroom and operate unchecked would undermine this critical framework and expose the public to significant risk," Bhatia said.

As of November 18, altGraaf has onboarded 75 companies and over ₹4,400 crore has been raised through the platform. While Tap Invest has onboarded above 100 companies and over ₹400 crore has been raised through the platform.

HNIs Stay Away from IPOs

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"An overall correction in the Indian equity market on the back of local and global concerns has led to softness in non-institutional demand in recent IPOs," said Ranvir Davda, co-head of investment banking at HSBC India. "This shift in sentiment can be mainly attributed to Indian corporate earnings being under pressure in Q2, a sharp spike in the inflation print in October coupled with geopolitical issues, volatility in the run-up to US elections and uncertainty around the timing of a Fed rate cut."

The 13 IPOs launched in September recorded an average HNI subscription of 180 times, while the 10 IPOs in August saw an average HNI subscription of 128 times. Manba Finance led with an HNI subscription of 512 times, followed by KRN Heat Exchanger and Gala Precision, both exceeding 400 times. Even the ₹6,560 crore IPO of Bajaj Housing Finance saw robust HNI interest, with the category subscribed 44 times.

According to investment banker Ravi Sardana, recent IPOs were aggressively priced amid a buoyant market. However, with the secondary market correction and rising funding costs, HNIs found little value left on the table. Bankers remain optimistic that HNIs will return to the primary markets once volatility in the secondary market subsides.

"Once there is more visibility and predictability around these issues and markets witness a few IPOs with a strong after-market, one can then expect non-institutional demand to come back healthily," said Davda of HSBC India.

Rates Have to be Affordable: FM

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Sitharaman said digital financial inclusion is an important goal so that cost-effective, digital means can reach everybody. She pointed out that between 2011 and 2021, the number of adults doubled from 35% to 77% of the population even as the problem was recognised in 2008.

She encouraged banks and National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) to work together. NARCL has acquired 18 non-performing accounts with a loan exposure of around ₹92,000 crore, while offers on assets worth ₹1.25 lakh crore are at different stages of acquisition, she said.

She urged public sector banks to give collateral-free loans to the MSME segment and transition towards alternative credit risk assessment models such as cash-flow-based lending.

The banking sector has relied heavily on the collateral-based lending model, which she pointed out does not always align with the unique needs and financial structures of MSMEs.

DFS Secretary M Nagaraju Cautions Against Cryptocurrencies

MUMBAI: M Nagaraju, secretary, department of financial services (DFS), expressed strong doubts about cryptocurrencies, urging caution over the asset class. Speaking at the SBI Banking & Economics Conclave, Nagaraju expressed personal and professional doubts about the legitimacy and safety of digital currencies. "I am very sceptical of cryptocurrency. Not now, not after becoming the financial secretary. Even as an individual also, I am very doubtful of the entire scheme of cryptocurrency," Nagaraju said. – **Our Bureau**

₹552-cr Block Deal in MedPlus Health

Mumbai: PI Opportunities Fund- I and SBI Mutual Fund sold shares of MedPlus Health Services worth ₹552.55 crore in a block deal on NSE on Monday. Both funds sold 78.93 lakh shares at ₹700 apiece. As on September 30, PI Opportunities Fund-I held a 5.77% stake in the company while SBI MF owned 4.88% through SBI Long Term Equity Fund. Franklin Templeton MF, Invesco MF, Kotak Mahindra MF and Morgan Stanley Asia Singapore Pte were among buyers in the deal.

Shares of Medplus Health Services rose 2.1% to close at ₹719 on Monday. In last one month, the company's shares have moved up 5.46% while the BSE 500 Index fell 6.58%. – **Our Bureau**