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**Ref: HTML/CS/02/2020**

3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020

**BSE Limited**  
Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers,  
Dalal Street,  
**MUMBAI - 400 001**

**The National Stock Exchange of India Limited**  
Exchange Plaza, C/1, Block G,  
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E)  
**MUMBAI - 400 051**

**Scrip Code: 532662**

**Trading Symbol: HTMEDIA**

Dear Sir(s)/Madam,

**Sub: Newspaper advertisement- Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015**

**Re: 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company via video conferencing/other audio visual means**

Please find enclosed herewith relevant page of “**Hindustan**” (Hindi – Delhi NCR, Patna, Lucknow, Ranchi and Dehradun Editions) and “**Mint**” (English – All Editions) newspapers, published on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020 intimating that 18<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Company will be held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 via Video Conferencing/other audio visual means, along with other related information.

This is for your information and record.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
For **HT MEDIA LIMITED**



**(Dinesh Mittal)**  
**Group General Counsel & Company Secretary**

**Encl: As above**



AI, omnichannel strategy key in a post-covid world

Prioritize gaining consumer trust, say experts at Mint Virtual Workplace 2.0 webinar

Abhijit Ahaskar abhijita@livemint.com NEW DELHI

Covid-19 has changed consumer behaviour drastically, nudging organizations across sectors to tailor their products and services to meet the new expectations.

The transition has been easier for many as India was already on the path of digitization. The goal now is to take it to the next level with an omnichannel approach, better engagement and security strategy to win consumer trust and by using more artificial intelligence (AI) to predict customer behaviour, industry leaders said at the Mint Virtual Workplace 2.0 webinar on Wednesday.

"During covid-19, digital transactions for us increased by 17%, which is a big number for a bank of our size. What customers want is a dynamic, paperless, contactless and customized experience," said Ravindra Pandey, deputy managing director (strategy) & chief digital officer, State Bank of India.

"Customized experience leads to customer intimacy and will make them stick to you," said Rajarshi Purkayastha, head, pre-sales, India, MECAA (Middle East, Central Asia and Africa), Tata Communications. However, adopting an omnichannel approach is also very important.

"Covid has taught us that an omnichannel strategy is important. You can't limit yourself to population in tier-1 and 2 cities or those with smartphones. Apps are there, but you also need to do something



(From left) Alok Nath De, corporate VP and CTO, Samsung Electronics; Venkat Neelakantan, VP and head, corporate real estate services, India and APAC, Capgemini; Rajarshi Purkayastha, head, pre sales, India, MECAA, Tata Communications; Ravindra Pandey, deputy MD, SBI and Ananth Subramanian, VP, IT, Kotak Mutual Fund.



on SMS for people in rural areas," said Purkayastha. The sudden shift to online mode of communication and transaction has also exposed users to new cyber risks. Organizations need to convince users that their data is secure, in addition to improving grievance redressal systems, experts said. "At the end of the day, the consumer needs to know he can reach out to us in whatever way possible. All systems need to get integrated so complaints can be addressed. You also need to ensure information is going to the right person with the necessary level of authentication," said Ananth Subramanian, vice-president, information technology, Kotak Mutual Fund.

of transformation and they are the ones who are more at risk, said Alok Nath De, corporate vice president and chief technology officer, Samsung Electronics.

"There is a need for a grievance redressal system where a mentor can teach and guide them. People also need a sense of security that their data is secure. Companies need to build a mechanism that will protect, guide and alert them," De said.

Pandey added, "Instead of a rule-based risk management system, we need a real-time risk management system." Another focus area for organizations, especially in the banking, financial services and insurance sector, is data analytics and use of artificial intelligence to predict consumer behaviour.

"As far as consumers are concerned, big data tools are definitely going to help us by assessing buying behaviour and customer emotions. Many of them have already

addressed that in a short time," said Venkat Neelakantan, vice-president and head, corporate real estate services, India and APAC, Capgemini.

However, the big challenge they face is how to make sense of that data and then relate it back to realities on the ground.

"Having an AI engine that can churn some insights out of the data is very easy. However, mapping it back to consumer requirements is difficult. Execution after you have some insights is very important," said Purkayastha.

Neelakantan also drew attention to that fact that organizations have two problems to solve. When they talk about consumers, they also need to talk about their employees as they are the key.

"While transforming them from a work environment to one that is remotely managed, you need to engage with them and make them feel they are part of the system, even if its distributed," he said.

RBI'S TRIPLE CHALLENGE IN AN UNCONVENTIONAL WORLD



EXPERT VIEW PRANJUL BHANDARI

Respond to this column at feedback@livemint.com

India's central bank faces a triple challenge. First, inflation is running high and beyond its 6% tolerance level over the past seven months. Second, government borrowing is set to reach a record high this year. The third and biggest challenge is that capital inflows remain strong.

While a surge in overseas cash may sound like a positive, it's actually a problem for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as it needs to intervene in the currency markets—otherwise the rupee will appreciate and hurt export competitiveness—but such intervention to mop surplus dollars would add to surplus domestic liquidity, threatening to stoke an already high inflation rate.

So the question is, when will these large foreign capital inflows stop? To get a handle on this, it is important to look at what's happening overseas.

Fiscal and monetary policies around the world have become far more adventurous and unconventional. The last few months have witnessed a dramatic rise in the use of terms such as Modern Monetary Theory (MMT), QE-infinity and yield curve control.

The MMT view of the world suggests that, as long as inflation is not a problem, governments can keep spending and central banks can keep printing money. Some believe that the exit from expansionary fiscal policy in advanced economies has previously been too abrupt. This time, they say, the loose fiscal stance should stay for longer.

And to ensure all this extra government borrowing doesn't overwhelm the bond markets, several advanced central banks have used tools like quantitative easing—where they buy government bonds—and this time without any limits. Or they use yield curve control, which sets upper limits on government bond yields.

But what does this all mean for emerging markets like India?

Advanced economies might have earned the right to be more adventurous. However, India is still in the early years of implementing more

basic reforms like inflation targeting. Building up its credibility takes time and it's too soon to tackle more complex strategies.

But even if EMs do not pursue unconventional policy, they would still find themselves at the receiving end of loose policy in advanced economies. And that could turn out to be a double-edged sword.

The good news is that advanced economies would do a lot of the easing for the EMs. Loose financial conditions and related economic recovery globally could help EMs both directly (via lower rates and growth enhancing inflows) and indirectly (via recovery in export demand).

But in some cases, the large quantum of easing could become a policy headache; for instance, loose policy abroad resulting in continued inflows into India, stoking domestic worries such as inflation.

Given this backdrop, what should RBI do at its upcoming policy meeting on 4 December?

It could perhaps strike a balance among its objectives on inflation, bond yields and the rupee by doing a bit for each but not going overboard on any.

We believe it shouldn't make many changes. Keeping its benchmark repo rate unchanged at 4% while maintaining an accommodative stance may be the most prudent strategy.

Still, RBI will likely have to update some of its macro forecasts, for instance marking up its inflation forecast for the current year, now at 5.8%. Or perhaps lowering its estimate of how much the economy will shrink this year on average, now at 9.5%.

It may also want to share its insights on some matters that continue to confound the market. Why is inflation so high at a time of weak demand?

Is the liquidity glut at the short end of the yield curve expected to linger long? What is the central bank's strategy for this? And for how long will the recovery need the crutch of excess domestic liquidity?

On the last question, we believe monitoring bank credit growth and core inflation is key. If the former picks up, or the latter holds steady, RBI may want to recalibrate its strategy.

Pranjul Bhandari is chief India economist at HSBC Research.

India to position IIFCL like China Development Bank

Gireesh Chandra Prasad & Shreya Nandi

NEW DELHI



India plans to reshape the Indian Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) in a new avatar and position it as a development finance institution on the lines of China Development Bank (CDB), a finance behemoth powering Beijing's growth strategy.

IIFCL plans to tap around 10% of gov't's ₹111 tn infrastructure investment opportunity.

A Bill to be tabled in the budget session of Parliament will seek to expand the financial muscle and scope of investment of state-owned IIFCL, said a person aware of the discussions in the government. The changes planned will convert the non-bank lender into a development finance institution that will lower its cost of finance and give access to a wider set of infrastructure projects, which is expected to include premium housing.

discussions within the finance ministry, the person quoted above said.

IIFCL plans to tap about 10% of the ₹111 trillion infrastructure investment opportunity

To achieve the ₹111 trillion investment, two critical success factors will be important, a shelf of investible projects and right financial instruments with long-term tenor and competitive cost of capital, said Abhaya K. Agarwal, partner, strategy and transaction, infrastructure and government and public sector, EY India. "Needless to say, the two go hand in hand. Giving flexibility to IIFCL to raise competitive capital from the market will go long way in achieving this plan envisaged by the government," said Agarwal.

IIFCL lends to projects at rates starting from 9%. With the flexibility to raise short-term debt, the lender's cost of borrowing could come down to 6-6.5% from close to 9% now. At present, it cannot raise debt of less than 10 years except to refinance high-cost debt in a falling interest rate regime. The other institution the government is looking at for cues for remodelling IIFCL is the Brazilian Development Bank or BNDES.

A new Bill likely to be tabled in the budget session will expand the non-bank lender's scope of investment

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on condition of anonymity. One of the key changes expected is to let IIFCL lend to all projects defined by the department of economic affairs as infrastructure, going beyond the 'Scheme for Financing Viable Infrastructure Projects' that IIFCL operates now. IIFCL is also likely to get flexibility to issue tax free bonds, raise cheaper short-term borrowing and invest in infrastructure investment trusts (InvTs), a tax efficient investment vehicle in the sector, according to

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Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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