

May 01, 2020

The Secretary
Bombay Stock Exchange Limited
Corporate Relationship Department
1st Floor, New Trading Ring,
Rotunda Building
Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers, Dalal Street,
Mumbai-400 001
Scrip Code: BSE – 532541

The Secretary
National Stock Exchange of India Ltd
Exchange Plaza
5th Floor, Plot no C/1, G Block
Bandra Kurla Complex
Bandra (East)
Mumbai 400 051.
NSE - NIITTECH

Subject: Newspaper advertisement for Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

We wish to inform you that pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company has published the "Notice for transfer of Equity shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority" in the following newspapers:

- a) Business Standard (Hindi)
- b) Business Standard (English)

Copy of newspaper clippings are attached.

Kindly take this on record and acknowledge receipt.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

For **NIIT Technologies Limited**

LALIT KUMAR SHARMA
Digitally signed by
LALIT KUMAR SHARMA
Date: 2020.05.01
16:58:33 +05'30'

Lalit Kumar Sharma
Company Secretary & Legal Counsel

Encl: as above

NIIT Technologies Ltd.

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Business Standard

Insight Out

NIIT Technologies Limited

CIN : L65993DL1992PLC048753
 Regd. Office : 8, Balaji Estate, Third Floor, Guru Ravi Das Marg, Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110019.
 Ph: 91 (11) 41029297, Fax: 91 (11) 26414900
 Website: http://www.niit-tech.com; Email: investors@niit-tech.com

Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education Protection Fund

Members of the Company are hereby informed that pursuant to the provisions of Investor Education Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules") the final dividend declared during FY 2012-13 which has remained unpaid/unclaimed for 7 years shall be credited to the Investor Education Protection Fund (IEPF). The corresponding shares on which the dividend is unpaid/unclaimed for 7 years shall also be transferred to the IEPF Suspende Account as per the procedure set out in the Rules.

In view of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Company is unable to send individual notices to the shareholders. The Company shall dispatch the notices to the shareholders once the normalcy resumes after the lifting of the lockdown by providing them the details of their unclaimed dividend and giving them an opportunity to claim their unclaimed dividend by July 20, 2020 after which the Company shall proceed to transfer the dividend and the corresponding shares to the IEPF.

The concerned shareholders may also visit our website https://www.niit-tech.com/investors/statutory-disclosures to verify the details of the unclaimed/unpaid dividend and the shares liable to be transferred to IEPF.

The members may note that subsequent to the transfer of shares to IEPF Suspende Account, the original share certificate(s) registered in the name of the members will be deemed cancelled and non-negotiable. In case the shares are held by members in Physical Form then the Company shall issue duplicate share certificate(s) for the purpose of transfer of Shares to IEPF Suspende Account as per the Rules. Once these equity shares are transferred to IEPF Suspende Account by the Company, such shares may be claimed by the concerned Shareholders only from the IEPF Authority by following the procedure prescribed under the aforementioned IEPF Rules 2016.

In view of the above, the members are requested to claim the final dividend for FY 2012-13 before the same is transferred to the IEPF. The members are further advised to approach the Investor Service Department of the Company on or before July 20, 2020 to enable us to process the claim request before the due date of transfer.

The members may further note that the details made available by the Company on its website shall be deemed as adequate notice in respect of issue of duplicate share certificate(s) by the Company for transfer of shares to IEPF. Please note that no claim shall lie against the Company in respect of unclaimed dividend amount and shares transferred to IEPF Authority pursuant to the said Rules.

For any queries on the above matter, the members are requested to contact the Investor Service Department of the Company at 8, Balaji Estate, Third Floor, Guru Ravi Das Marg, Kalkaji, New Delhi-1100019, Tel no.: 011-41029297; Email: investors@niit-tech.com.

For NIIT Technologies Limited
 Sd/-
 Lalit Kumar Sharma
 Company Secretary & Legal Counsel

Dated : April 30, 2020
 Place : New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
 Re-issue of 7.75% Tamil Nadu State Development Loan 2030 and 5.76% Tamil Nadu State Development Loan 2024 sell by auction

- Government of Tamil Nadu has offered to sell by auction the Re-issue of 7.75% Tamil Nadu State Development Loan 2030 for Rs.1000.00 crore and 5.76% Tamil Nadu State Development Loan 2024 for Rs.1000.00 crore in the form of Stock to the Public by auction for an aggregate amount of Rs.2000.00 crore. Securities will be issued for a minimum nominal amount of Rs.10,000/- and multiples of Rs.10,000/- thereafter. Auction which will be price-based under multiple price format will be conducted by Reserve Bank of India at Mumbai Office (Fort) on May 05, 2020.
- The Government Stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions subject to a maximum limit of 1% of its notified amount for a single bid as per the Revised Scheme for Non-competitive Bidding facility in the Auctions of State Government Securities of the General Notification (Annexure II). Under the scheme, an investor can submit a single bid only through a bank or a Primary Dealer.
- Interested persons may submit bids in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) System as stated below on May 05, 2020.
 - The competitive bids shall be submitted electronically on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) System between 10.30 A.M. and 11.30 A.M.
 - The non-competitive bids shall be submitted electronically on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) System between 10.30 A.M. and 11.00 A.M.
- The price expected by the bidder should be expressed up to two decimal points. An investor can submit more than one competitive bid at different rates in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) System. However, the aggregate amount of bids submitted by a person should not exceed the notified amount.
- The result of auction will be displayed by Reserve Bank of India on its website on May 05, 2020. Successful bidders should deposit the price amount of Stock covered by their bids by means of a Bankers' Cheque or Demand Draft payable at Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai (Fort) or Chennai on May 06, 2020 before the close of banking hours.
- The Government Stock will bear interest at the rate of 7.75% per annum paid half yearly on October 08 and April 08 and 5.76% per annum paid half yearly on October 22 and April 22. The Stock will be governed by the provisions of the Government Securities Act, 2006 and Government Securities Regulations, 2007.
- The stocks will qualify for ready forward facility.
- For other details please see the notifications of Government of Tamil Nadu Specific Notification No. 474(L)/W&M-II/2020 and 475(L)/W&M-II/2020 dated April 30, 2020.

S. KRISHNAN
 Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
 Finance Department, Chennai-9.

DIPR/454/DISPLAY/2020

TENDERS & NOTICES

EAST COAST RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORK

E-Tender Notice No. ETCPMBS2020025, Dated: 27.04.2020

Name of Work: PREPARATION OF DETAILED DESIGN, DRAWINGS, ESTIMATE, SCHEDULE OF EXECUTION OF TUNNEL WORK, DETAILS OF INSTRUMENTATION TO BE PROVIDED FOR MONITOR DURING EXECUTION AND DETAILS OF MANPOWER TO BE DEPLOYED FOR SUPERVISION OF TUNNEL WORK BETWEEN GOSPALLI TO BUGUDA I.e. FROM KM 10.6.9.40 - 107.440 (0.6 KM) & FROM KM. 108.420-109.900 (1.48 KM), BETWEEN BUGUDA TO BANIGUCHHA I.e. FROM KM 126.710 - 127.600 (0.89 KM) & FROM KM128.110 - 129.100 (0.99 KM) AND BETWEEN CHARICHAK TO PURUNAKATAK I.e. KM. 168.540 - 170.110 (1.57 KM) INCLUDING OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF KHURDA ROAD - BOLANGIR NEW BROAD GAUGE RAIL LINK PROJECT.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 352.84 Lakhs , EMD : ₹ 3,26,400.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 11,800.00, Completion Period of the work : 06(Six) Months

Date and time of closing of tenders : At 1200 hrs of 22.05.2020

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website http://www.iirps.gov.in.

NOTE: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/ PR-04/CD/20-21 Bhubaneswar

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that We, (i) Mrs. Jyoti Nitin Shankar nee Ms. Jyoti Vijay Jolgekar (ii) Mrs. Revati Manish Thusay nee Ms. Neela Vijay Jolgekar and (iii) Mrs. Rujuta Raviraj Paradkar nee Ms. Pournima Vijay Jolgekar, jointly as co-owners/lessee of and are seized and possessed of leasehold immovable property being a piece of land with a ground plus two storey building constructed thereon and bearing Plot No. 119 (C.S. No. 1829 of Mahim Division) situate at Shivaji Park Road No. 3, Opp. Shiv Sena Bhavan, Dadar, Mumbai - 400 028 lying within the Municipal Limits of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (hereinafter referred to as 'the said property').

The public at large are hereby CAUTIONED that we have not consented/agreed for sell/transfer of the said property and further cautioned that the said property cannot be sold/transferred/conveyed without our consent. If any person/s is negotiating or dealing with or transacting in any manner with any person other than us in respect of our undivided share in the said property then he/she/they shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk and costs and any such transaction with respect to the said property through or by any person purporting to representing us in any manner shall neither be valid nor binding upon us.

Dated this 30th day of April 2020.
 (i) Mrs. Jyoti Nitin Shankar
 (ii) Mrs. Revati Manish Thusay and
 (iii) Mrs. Rujuta Raviraj Paradkar

HINDUSTAN कॉपर लिमिटेड HINDUSTAN COPPER LIMITED www.hindustancopper.com

निविदा सं./Tender No.: HCL/HO/MKTG/CONCENTRATE SALE/2019-20 दिनांक/Dated: 01.05.2020

एक्स-एमसीपी/एफओबी, विशाखापटनम के आधार पर मलान्जखंड कॉपर प्रोजेक्ट के 11,000 डब्ल्यूएमटी +/-10% कॉपर कॉन्सट्रेंट की विक्री हेतु निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं

Tenders are invited for SALE of 11,000 WMT +/- 10% Copper Concentrate of Malanjhand Copper Project on Ex-MCP/FOB, Visakhapatnam basis

निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि/ Last date of Bid submission: 07.05.2020 (up to 3.00 PM IST)

विस्तृत निविदा कागजात एक्सप्लिक की वेबसाइट पर निःशुल्क डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है/ Detailed tender document free of cost can be downloaded from HCL website & https://tenders.gov.in/eprocure/app

Regd. Office: Tamra Bhavan, 1, Ashutosh Chowdhury Avenue, Kolkata - 700019, Tel: 91 33 2283 2226, Tele Fax: 91 33 2283 2476, E-mail: sanjeev_k@hindustancopper.com, CIN: L27201WB1967G0128825

EAST COAST RAILWAY ENGINEERING WORK

(1) Tender Notice No. eT-West-WAT-01-2020, Date: 23.04.2020

Name of the work: P-WAY WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH SANCTIONED WORKS :- (1) COMPLETE TRACK RENEWAL OF WALTAIR DIVISION 90R/52 KG RAILS LAID ON PSC-14 SLEEPERS WITH SH 60 KG 90 UTS RAILS AND SH PSC-14 SLEEPERS INCLUDING DEEP SCREENING AND RAISING OF WALTAIR DIVISION TO STANDARD FOR A LENGTH OF 34.537 KM IN AMAGURA, NAKTISEMRA, JAGDALPUR, KUMHAR MARENGA, TOKOPAL, BODEPUR, DILMILI, SILAKHORI, KUMARSODRA, KUKLUR, KAWARGAON, DARPAL, GIDAM, DANTEWARA, KAMALUR, BHANSI, BACHELI AND KIRANDUL STATIONS ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION. (2) CASUAL RENEWAL OF EXISTING 60KG 90 UTS RAILS LAID ON PSC-14 SLEEPERS FOR A LENGTH OF 1,000 KM. FROM KM. 304.00 TO KM.305.00 BETWEEN JAGDALPUR AND TOKOPAL STATIONS OF KK LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION. (3) CASUAL RENEWAL OF EXISTING 60KG 90 UTS RAILS LAID ON PSC-14 SLEEPERS WITH NEW 60KG 90 UTS RAILS FOR A LENGTH OF 0.868 KM. FROM KM. 408.219 TO KM. 434.940 (IN PATCHES) BETWEEN DANTEWARA-BACHELI STATIONS ON KK LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 4,27,76,788.17, EMD : ₹ 3,63,960.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 11,800.00, Completion Period of the work : 12 (Twelve) Months

(2) Tender Notice No. eT-West-WAT-02-2020, Date: 23.04.2020

Name of the work: CIVIL WORK LIKE RETIRING ROOM, VIP LOUNGE AND LADIES WAITING HALL IN CONNECTION WITH ADARSH STATION AT JAGDALPUR RAILWAY STATION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / JAGDALPUR ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 22,25,784.96, EMD : ₹ 44,500.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 3,540.00, Completion Period of the work : 03 (Three) Months

(3) Tender Notice No. eT-West-WAT-03-2020, Date: 23.04.2020

Name of the work: DEVELOPMENT OF CIRCULATING AREA, APPROACH ROAD, DRAINAGE FACILITIES ETC., AT GOODS SHED AT JEYPORE UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER, JAGDALPUR OF KK-II LINE.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 3,36,95,564.35, EMD : ₹ 3,18,500.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 11,800.00, Completion Period of the work : 10(Ten) Months

(4) Tender Notice No. eT-West-WAT-04-2020, Date: 23.04.2020

Name of the work: BALANCE CIVIL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH HANDING OVER TO OPEN LINE BETWEEN SILAKHORI TO KUMARSODRA STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / WEST ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 2,61,75,175.80, EMD : ₹ 2,80,900.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 11,800.00, Completion Period of the work : 11 (Eleven) Months

(5) Tender Notice No. eT-West-WAT-05-2020, Date: 23.04.2020

Name of the work: REPAIRS TO COLONY ROADS AND LEVEL CROSSING APPROACH ROAD WORKS BETWEEN CHATTRIPUT TO DILMILI UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER, JAGDALPUR ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 1,99,75,960.00, EMD : ₹ 2,49,900.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 5,900.00, Completion Period of the work : 10 (Ten) Months

(6) Tender Notice No. eT-West-WAT-06-2020, Date: 23.04.2020

Name of the work: BALANCE CIVIL WORKS OF CONVERSION OF OLD BRIDGE NO.1160 (2x1.22 MTR) HP AT KM.422/16 - 423/0 BETWEEN STATION KAMALUR - BHANSI BY BOX PUSHING TECHNIQUE ON KK-II LINE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/WEST/WALTAIR.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 27,36,723.86, EMD : ₹ 54,700.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 3,540.00, Completion Period of the work : 04 (Four) Months

(7) Tender Notice No. eT-Central-WAT-04-2020, Date: 27.04.2020

Name of the work: REPAIRS TO MAJOR AND MINOR BRIDGES FROM BRIDGE NO.568 TO BRIDGE NO. 677 & MAJOR BRIDGES (580, 590, 610, 650, 669) AND REPAIRS TO SIDE DRAINS BETWEEN KORAPUT TO MALIGURA STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISION ENGINEER / KORAPUT ON KK LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 1,07,97,316.71, EMD : ₹ 2,04,000.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 5,900.00, Completion Period of the work : 12 (Twelve) Months

(8) Tender Notice No. eT-Central-WAT-05-2020, Date: 27.04.2020

Name of the work: MISCELLANEOUS TRACK WORKS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF TRACK LIKE GAUGE FACE RENEWAL, LIFTING OF TRACK, SHALLOW SCREENING, DEEP SCREENING, DESTRESSING, WELDING TO JOINTS ETC., FROM KM. 107.00 TO KM. 218.00 BETWEEN ARAKU - MALIGURA SECTIONS UNDER JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / KORAPUT ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 1,12,32,053.48, EMD : ₹ 2,06,200.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 5,900.00, Completion Period of the work : 12 (Twelve) Months

(9) Tender Notice No. eT-Central-WAT-06-2020, Date: 27.04.2020

Name of the work: ATTENTION TO TRACK BY PULLING BACK OF RAILS, PACKING OF POINT AND CROSSINGS, RENEWAL OF SEIZED / BROKEN SCREW SPIKES OF CHECK RAILS / GUARD RAILS, REALIGNMENT OF CURVES AND OTHER WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS WORKS BETWEEN KOTVALASA TO ARAKU STATIONS ON KK LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 90,17,523.26, EMD : ₹ 1,80,400.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 5,800.00, Completion Period of the work : 12 (Twelve) Months

(10) Tender Notice No. eT-Central-WAT-07-2020, Date: 27.04.2020

Name of the work: REPAIRS TO OFFICERS REST HOUSE SUIT NOS. 3 TO 6 AT ARAKU ON KK LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 14,15,588.98, EMD : ₹ 28,300.00, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 5,800.00, Completion Period of the work : 12 (Twelve) Months

Date and time of closing of tender : At 1330 hrs of 21.05.2020 (For Sl. No. 1 to 6), At 1330 hrs of 26.05.2020 (For Sl. No. 7 to 10).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website http://www.iirps.gov.in.

NOTE: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), PR-12/L/20-21 Waltair

Redrawing the customer engagement maps

On-demand consumption of online videos with increased watch-time is changing the way brands interact with customers, but do they really know their audience?

ARUNDHUTI DASGUPTA
 Mumbai, 30 April

The power of the video as a communication tool has never been more potent. With people spending more time with their digital devices and digital media emerging as the only channel of engagement for many brands, the lock down is pushing advertisers to rethink the pitch and also the way they target their audiences.

According to a number of research reports, the online video has steadily become to advertising what visuals (think Marlboro and the man with a cowboy hat) or an iconic mascot (think Amul and the girl in a polka dotted dress) once were. Done well, it could become a lasting mnemonic for the brand, otherwise it disappears in a flash. It is therefore critical that advertisers know the audience well to leverage both the medium and the moment for their brands.

To do that companies must read between the numbers. A report by Google India and Kantar (April 2020) finds that people are not only spending more time watching videos, but they have also expanded the scope of their viewing and the frequency with which they access videos. "The most fundamental shift that has come about is in on-demand consumption," says Abhishek Saigal, head of Consumer and Market Insights, Google India.

According to him and reports that came out earlier this year (App Annie and the State of the Mobile 2020, Nielsen reports on the impact



KNOW THE VIEWER

A survey by Google India shows just how diverse the audience for online videos is:

- A 44-year-old female user from Varanasi learns gardening online. She said, "There are so many videos of how to grow plants well. They play some nice music and in 5 steps, they show you how to weed a plant. So it's really fun to watch!" She wants to learn a new skill
- A 31-year-old head mason from Udaipur without any formal education learnt how to make blueprints of homes and has found the confidence to go up against civil engineers and architects with the skills he picked up online. For him going online is all about professional growth
- A young mother in Delhi said that she had picked up some essential grooming tips online that gave her the confidence to interact with other parents in her children's school. She watches videos to feel good about herself

of Covid-19) the online video is fast becoming a way of life. People watch to learn, to be entertained and also to stay informed. The point that most researchers are making is that videos serve many purposes and brands must be able to

integrate it into their entire communication framework, at different stages and formats, rather than using it as a single-point engagement tool.

Saigal illustrates the role that videos play with an example. He says his team met a young

man who worked as a mason in Udaipur. He had sent over 10 years on the job, learning as he went along, but felt disadvantaged because he had never had any formal education. He recently went on YouTube

to learn how to make blueprints for constructing houses. Since he was unfamiliar with the technology, he asked his young neighbours for help. Having learnt it well, both how to use the internet and how to make blueprints, the man has been able to move up within his business circles and take his business up a notch further too.

The story busts several myths—of videos being a young people's choice, or that learning is mostly among children or those pursuing their hobbies, among others. "The implication for brands is that they can access audiences across ages through the medium of online video, where choice, variety and the flexibility of ubiquitous access are driving deep engagement of 67 minutes average daily watch-time," says Saigal. Also, just as videos help in the pursuit of a passion or a desire for learning, it can also jump-start action. According to a Google report that was released last year, more than 80 per cent of online video viewers take action after watching a video (with a call to action) on YouTube.

Saigal says that their research shows that online videos are watched across age groups, by men and women. Also Indians watch anytime, anywhere and most prefer local languages with Hindi being the favoured choice for 54 per cent of those surveyed and English second, with 16 per cent

FROM PAGE 1

RIL announces...

With the rights offer, RIL's net debt will reduce by almost a third, while the overall debt will decline by 16 per cent. The outstanding debt as on March 31, 2020, was ₹3.36 trillion (\$4.4 billion), and cash and cash equivalents stood at ₹1.75 trillion (\$2.3 billion).

The rights issue, coupled with Facebook's investment (₹43,574) and the previous deal by BP, will help RIL lower debt by ₹1.04 trillion by June this year. RIL also said due diligence on the Saudi Aramco deal was on track. Jio Platforms has received an interest from other global investors for similar-sized additional stakes, it said. These may help revive hopes of the Aramco deal happening, even though at revised valuations, say analysts.

March-quarter PBT...

Consolidated net sales for the quarter under review were ₹1.36 trillion, 2.4 per cent lower than the ₹1.39 trillion reported in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

RIL's net profit and net sales, as well as the petrochemicals segment, missed analysts' estimates. In a Bloomberg poll, two analysts estimated a pre-tax profit of ₹7,761 crore, and 12 analysts estimated net income (adjusted post tax profit) at ₹10,406 crore. Eleven analysts estimated revenue at ₹1.38 trillion. RIL reported a gross refining margin

(GRM) of \$8.9 a barrel for Q4, higher than analyst expectations, which were below \$8 per barrel. This compares to \$8.2 a barrel reported in the same period a year ago. The company said revenue from the refining and marketing segment declined by 3.4 per cent during the quarter over last year to ₹84,854 crore, while earnings before interest and tax increased by 28.2 per cent year-on-year to ₹5,706 crore with higher throughput and better GRMs.

Core sector...

Even as the sector has showed a volatile trend in FY20, senior officials had claimed that a solid recovery in production was underway as key refining units pushed out more. But the sudden drop in global demand, as the pandemic stifled economic activity everywhere, led to a contraction in the sector, experts said.

In tandem, crude oil production continued its downward spiral for the 18th straight month. However, production saw a smaller hit in March, when output reduced by 5.5 per cent after the 6.4 per cent fall in the previous month. Experts believe production is linked to oil prices and a higher global value tends to make production more remunerative. As prices crash to historic lows, the sector is now expected to see contraction in the near term.

Natural gas production also contracted for the 12th straight month, reducing by 15.2 per cent in March, after February's 9.6 per cent contraction. The overall electricity generation shrank by 7.2 per cent, down from February's 11 per cent. The beginning of the year saw growth in generation after heavy contraction for 5 months, as sluggishness in manufacturing was understood to have led to a steep fall in power demand.

The latest data, however, shows that the infrastructure segment saw the biggest hit.

HUL Q4...

On Thursday, Mehta said the company had improved manufacturing capacity to about 70-75 per cent now and was looking at enhancing its digital footprint even as the company continued to engage with offline trade to improve last-mile distribution. Mehta also maintained a positive outlook for the FMCG sector, saying the scenario would improve in the medium to long term.

"We cannot estimate the time of recovery, but we are ramping up capacity for hygiene products and more product launches in the health and hygiene space will be there from us," Srivinas Phatak, chief financial officer, HUL, said.

States face...

"Movement of such large numbers was possible only by trains with proper screening at the time of departure," he said, asking the PM to have the railways "arrange for

point-to-point special trains". A Bihar minister put the logistical challenge that confronts his state in perspective. "If we follow social distancing norms, about 170,000 buses will be required to bring 2.5 million registered labourers of Bihar stranded in different states," Bihar minister Ashok Chaudhary said. He said conditions were not suitable for his government to bring migrant workers back.

(Inputs from Virendra Singh Rawat, Samreen Ahmed, Aneesh Phadnis, Avishek Rakshit, TE Narasimhan, Vinay Umarji & Archis Mohan)

More on business-standard.com

In race...

"We are evaluating other antivirals that are being potentially considered for Covid-19. However, we would not be able to share names at this stage," said a Strides spokesperson. According to reports, the company has also looked at Remdesivir as a part of its antiretroviral therapy programme. Industry experts say it usually takes 11-12 months for a drug to be approved and rolled out in the market. "However, since this is a special case of Covid-19, the process has been expedited and the drug might be available in the market in the next two-three months," said pharma analyst Amey Chalke.

Cadila is gearing up to start clinical trials of Interferon alfa-2b, a biosimilar used to treat Hepatitis C, and the company already makes it commercially. The trials will start in May, informed a senior company executive.

Zydus has approached the Department of Biotechnology to investigate the role of Pegylated Interferon alfa-2b for Covid-19. A study by the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, demonstrated around 10,000-fold reduction in-vitro titer in cells that were pre-treated with Interferon alfa-2b 48 hours earlier. Studies suggest that given in early stages of the infection, Interferon alfa-2b patient can have significant benefit by reducing the viral load. Interferons are the first line of defence of the human body against a viral attack.

Another drug in focus now globally is Remdesivir. On Wednesday, innovator Gilead said the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) trial had shown that its repurposed drug Remdesivir, originally developed for Ebola, helped patients recover quicker than standard care. US government's top infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci, head of NIAID, said the early results of this trial offered 'good news'. Reports suggest that Gilead's Chief Executive Officer Daniel O'Day has said the company will ensure access is not an issue with this medicine. This is positive news for countries like India, as Remdesivir is patent protected till 2035. Multiple industry sources

