dil LIMITED

CIN : L99999MH1951PLC008485
Regd. Office : A-1601, Thane One, DIL Complex, Ghodbunder Road, Majiwada, Thane (West) 400 610, Maharashtra, India
Tel : +91-22-67980888 , • Fax : +91-22-67980899 , • Email : contact@dil.net , • Website: www.dil.net

Ref: DIL:DIL/BSE/2019-20/F.No.:49

August 7, 2019

Corporate Relations
BSE Limited,
Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers,
Dalal Street, Fort,
Mumbai – 400 001

Sir,

Sub: Publication of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2019

Ref: Code No. 506414

Pursuant to Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and in continuation to our intimation given vide our letter bearing Ref: DIL/BSE/2019-20/F.No.:49 dated August 5, 2019 regarding declaration of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2019, we are enclosing herewith photocopy of the newspaper publications for your reference and record.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,
for DIL LIMITED

SRIKANT NATH
SHARMA

Digitally signed by SRIKANT NATH SHARMA
DN: c=IN, o=Personal, postalCode=400610, st=Maharashtra,
2.5.4.20=2ab07dc675b7405348b9f50416c712c738a3c6f165ca6
b8e70474cfdc158e5cb,
serialNumber=c7cd7ec99adaae2c3bd286ac4378ffadd7148c27ff
6647d896904fb3e2d0942e, cn=SRIKANT NATH SHARMA
Date: 2019.08.07 17:54:56 +05'30'

SRIKANT N SHARMA
COMPANY SECRETARY

CS Membership No: F3617

A-1601, Thane One, DIL Complex, Ghodbunder Road, Majiwade, Thane (W) 400610
Encl: as above

Early Worries Deloitte quits after doubts over grant, rollover of inter-company deposits; questions DHFL at board meet too

'ICD Anomalies, Lack of Transparency at DHFL'

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Deloitte Haskins & Sells, an affiliate firm of Deloitte India, which resigned as auditor of the cash strapped DHFL on Monday, alleged lack of transparency and significant deficiencies in the grant and rollover of inter-company deposits (ICDs) at the last board meeting of the housing finance company.

Sources told ET that Deloitte may have cited this as reason for resigning. DHFL has still not informed the BSE about the resignation, but is required to do so upon receiving Deloitte's letter.

The auditor wrote to the DHFL directors, "There are significant deficiencies in the grant and rollover of ICD, inter-alia, non-availability of evaluation of credit worthiness of the borrowers, commercial rationale forming basis of granting of the ICD. The note also states that the company is working towards remediating these deficiencies and that no adjustment is required to the carrying value thereof. We have not been provided sufficient appropriate audit evidence to support the management's assessment and, hence, are unable to evaluate on recoverability of ICD and the consequential effect on the (financial) statement."

DHFL submitted this letter to BSE on July 22.

Chaturvedi & Shah are joint auditors of DHFL and will continue in their role, albeit as sole auditors.

A DHFL spokesperson told ET: "The management on unaudited financial results announced on July 13... clearly explained various aspects related to the financial position of the company. Notes clearly mentioned certain deficiencies and steps the company has taken to resolve them... Audited results and the notes to accounts released on July 22 observed the same points of deficiencies. So, to mention that the management has not been transparent is incorrect."

"We have not received sufficient information and explanations to enquiries," Deloitte stated in its note to the DHFL board, "on credit, legal and technical evaluation, and evidence for end-use monitoring as stated in the loan agreement and specified by the Finance Committee, wherever applicable, for project and mortgage loans aggregating ₹24,07,772 lakh (includes loans aggregating ₹13,11,283 lakh."

The auditor had sent its resignation to DHFL last week, but this was delivered only on Monday, said a person close to the development. ET could not verify this from DHFL.

DHFL stock fell 10.08% on Monday to close at ₹41.95 on the BSE, after receiving news of Deloitte's resignation.

Partnership Is Name of the Game in Burgeoning Video Streaming Segment

Several business models being built and tested in growing India market

Gaurav.Laghate@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A highly competitive video streaming space, with over 35 broadcasters, has made India a peculiar market for over-the-top players.

As everyone tries to grab eyeballs, interesting partnerships are being forged or explored. Times Internet-owned MX Player already has content tie-ups with Sony Liv, Arré and Hoichoi, while Disney India-owned Hotstar has an in-app partnership with Reliance Jio Infocomm and a content tie-up with Hooq.

Similarly, telecom operators Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea are aggressively seeking tie-ups, offering live television channels as well as free or discounted subscriptions of OTT services, such as Amazon Prime Video.

The latest to jump on the bandwagon is ZEE5, the video streaming service by Zee Entertainment Enterprises and Balaji Telefilms' Alt Balaji. The two are partnering for content syndication as well as coproduction.

However, the larger question is — are these partnerships good business strategy or just a survival tactic?

Many in the industry feel multiple business models are evolving and being tested in India, which is ahead of some developed countries in terms of number of consumers as well as players. "A majority of Indian broadcasters have their own OTT service today, something which US-based broadcasters are following now. However, this has led to a situation of multiple services, which is confusing the consumer," said a top executive of a leading OTT service. "For many players, it is very costly as you can't acquire too many customers on your own. Content cost is already high and if subscriber acquisition costs also jump up, it will become unviable for many."

Many media experts say India is witnessing new distribution alliances for OTT content. "The logic is very clear; it is to manage profitability. But will it last in the long term? I don't know," said a partner at a big consulting firm.

2017 saw the first burst of big money deployed behind Indian content on OTT. In fact, since the launch of Jio, the number of players has also gone up exponentially. From 2012, when there were just nine OTT players in India, the number today is over 35, with broadcasters, telcos, international and regional players, as well as independent content companies.

Large Indian broadcasters are already following a unique hybrid model of ad-supported catch-up content, premium content and live sports behind pay walls. Global OTTs such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, which are investing heavily in Indian content, have also started looking at partnerships and India-only plans. Netflix just announced a cheaper, mobile-only monthly plan.

But the most interesting play is from telcos. While Airtel and Vodafone Idea tried their hand at original content, they quickly realised they didn't have to; it was better to follow the aggregator model. Today, these telcos are aggregating content across multiple platforms and providing a payment interface.

They are also leveraging access to other OTTs as a differentiating factor to drive consumer retention and acquisition.

Ashish Pherwani, partner, media and entertainment, at EY India said today over 200 million Indians consume content through telco bundles. "I expect that to grow to over 375 million by 2021. The telcos will be the new multisystem operators and provide content at wholesale rates to end consumers," Pherwani said.

IND AS 116 COMPLIANT

IHCL PAT at ₹5 Crore for April-June

New Delhi: Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) reported a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹4.86 crore in its consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30, compared ₹9.10 crore in the previous corresponding period. The company said results reported were in line with the new accounting lease standards (Ind AS 116) effective April 1. IHCL reported revenue from operations of ₹1,020 crore, up from ₹979 crore.

Puneet Chhatwal, chief executive, said IHCL stayed on track in Aspiration 2022 strategy despite macro-economic headwinds. "Topline growth was 6% and Ebitda growth 32%. Margin expansion stood at 304 bps. Absolute Ebitda of ₹166 crore as well as Ebitda margin of 15.68% are highest for Q1 in the last 10 years (like-to-like comparison pre-IND AS 116)."

Under IND AS 116, operating lease expense changed from lease rent to depreciation on right of use asset, and finance cost for interest accrued on lease liability. OUR BUREAU

Radio Mirchi Q1 Operating Revenue Up 10% to ₹129.7 Cr

Solutions business shows 42% growth in revenue with 'higher margins'

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Entertainment Network (India) Ltd, a Times Group company and operator of India's leading FM radio channel Radio Mirchi, has posted a 10% jump in its standalone operating revenues in the quarter ended June 30, despite an overall sluggish economy.

ENIL's revenue from operations stood at ₹129.7 crore, as against ₹117.96 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Including other operating income and other income, total revenue was at ₹134.68 crore.

The jump in revenue was despite the fact that the consumer economy was sluggish, adversely affecting advertising spend. "Despite strong revenues from political parties during the general elections, radio revenues were under pressure," said Prashant Panday, MD and chief executive, ENIL.

ENIL reported operating profit (Ebitda) of ₹24.4 crore and a profit after tax of ₹4.81 crore, both lower than the previous corresponding period.

However, Panday said that while Radio Mirchi's core radio revenues grew only 1%, its solutions business reported strong revenue growth of 42%, with "higher margins."

"We have confidence our solutions business will provide momentum through turbulent times expected this year," he added.

ENIL operates FM stations in 63 cities. It is owned by Bennett, Coleman & Co Ltd, which also owns The Economic Times. Shares of ENIL ended at ₹190 apiece, up 0.53% on BSE on Monday.

EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

(₹ in Lakhs except per share data)

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2018 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	8,408.98	9,283.49	8,344.89	41,703.56
Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	1,303.62	3,722.88	1,526.16	11,035.67
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	1,303.62	3,722.88	1,526.16	11,035.67
Equity Share Capital	458.64	458.64	229.32	458.64
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year) *	22,791.92 (As on 31/03/2019)	*12,215.50 (As on 31/03/2018)	*12,215.50 (As on 31/03/2018)	*12,215.50 (As on 31/03/2018)
Earnings per share (EPS) (before Extraordinary items) (of Rs. 5/- each) #				
- Basic (Rs.)	14.21	40.59	16.64	120.31
- Diluted (Rs.)	14.21	40.59	16.64	120.31
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- Basic (Rs.)	14.21	40.59	16.64	120.31
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# EPS for the quarter are not annualised				

* Restated

During the year ended 31st March, 2019, the Company has split the face value of equity shares of the Company from face value of Rs. 10/- per share to face value of Rs. 5/- per share and thereafter has also allotted bonus equity shares in the ratio of one fully paid up equity share of Rs. 5/- each for every one existing fully paid up equity share of Rs. 5/- each held by the members, which has been approved by the shareholders through postal ballot. The record date for implementation of above corporate events was fixed on 9th August, 2018. In view of the above, the Company's revised paid up share capital as at 31st March, 2019 is Rs. 458.64 Lakhs consisting of 91,72,792 equity shares of Rs. 5/- each as against paid up share capital of Rs. 229.32 Lakhs consisting of 22,93,198 equity shares of Rs. 10/- each pertaining to previous year.

The earnings per share have been adjusted for previous year presented in accordance with Ind AS 33 "Earnings per Share" prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder.

STANDALONE FINANCIALS SUMMARY

(₹ in Lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)	Year Ended 30.06.2018 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	540.78	518.31	462.72	1,987.67
Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	(223.14)	1,898.84	(441.98)	(267.07)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	(223.14)	1,898.84	(441.98)	(267.07)

Note :
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website, www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website, www.dil.net.

For DIL Limited
Krishna Datla
Managing Director
DIN No : 00003247

Place : Thane
Date : 5th August, 2019

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The India Market

Consumers: Over 300 million

OTT players: Over 35

PARTNERSHIPS

MX Player: Sony LIV, Hoichoi, Arre

Jio: Hotstar (app in app), ZEE5, Disney

Hotstar: Hooq

Sony Liv: Lionsgate

ZEE5: Alt Balaji (co-production)

Airtel: Amazon Prime (in tales)

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Solutions business shows 42% growth in revenue with 'higher margins'

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PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS, Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd. ... REGISTERED OFFICE ... TIMES OF INDIA BUILDING ... RNI REGN NO. ...

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(₹ In Lakhs except per share data)

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For DIL Limited

Krishna Datla
Managing Director
DIN No : 00003247

Place : Thane
Date : 5th August, 2019

'No Transparency in Grant & Rollover of ICDs at DHFL'

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Deloitte Haskins & Sells, an affiliate firm of Deloitte India, that resigned as the auditor of the cash-strapped DHFL on Monday, alleged a lack of transparency and significant deficiencies in the grant and rollover of inter-company deposits (ICDs) in the last board meeting of the housing finance company.

Sources told ET that Deloitte may have given the same reasons for resigning as the auditor of the company. DHFL has still not informed the BSE about the resignation, but is required to do so once they receive the resignation letter.

"There are significant deficiencies in the grant and rollover of ICD, inter-alia, non-availability of evaluation of credit worthiness of the borrowers, commercial rationale forming basis of granting of the ICD. The note also states that the company is working towards remediating these deficiencies and that no adjustment is required to the carrying value thereof. We have not been provided sufficient appropriate audit evidence to support the management's assessment and hence are unable to evaluate on the recoverability of the ICD and the consequential effect on the statement (financial statement)," the auditor told the board of directors of DHFL.

DHFL submitted the letter to BSE on July 22. Chaturvedi & Shah are the joint auditors of DHFL who would continue in their role. Chaturvedi & Shah would now be required to carry on as the sole auditors of the company.

"The management position with regard to the unaudited financial results announced on July 13, 2019 of March 19' clearly explained various aspects related to the financial position of the Company. The notes clearly mentioned certain deficiencies and the steps the Company has taken to resolve the same. It may be observed that the audited results and the notes to accounts released on July 22, 2019 observed the same points of deficiencies. So to mention that the management has not been transparent is incorrect," a DHFL spokesperson told ET.

Auditor Deloitte may have given the same reasons for resigning as the auditor of the company

DHFL stock fell 10.08% on Monday to close at ₹41.95 on the news of Deloitte's resignation.

Radio Mirchi Q1 Standalone Operating Revenue Up 10%

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Entertainment Network (India) (ENIL), a Times Group company and operator of India's leading FM radio channel Radio Mirchi, posted a 10% rise in its June-quarter standalone operating revenue despite a sluggish broader economy. ENIL's revenue from operations stood at ₹129.7 crore for the June quarter, up from ₹118 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Including other operating income, total revenue was at ₹134.7 crore.

Revenue growth at India's leading FM station bucked the sluggish trend in consumer spending, which adversely affects advertising expenditure.

"Despite strong revenues from political parties during the general elections, radio revenues were under pressure," said Prashant Panday, CEO, ENIL.

The company reported operating profit (EBITDA) of ₹24.4 crore and profit after tax of ₹4.8 crore for the first quarter of FY20. Both EBITDA and PAT were lower in comparison with the year-ago quarter.

Panday added that although Radio Mirchi's core radio revenue expanded only 1%, the company's solutions business reported revenue expansion of 42% —and at "higher margins". "We have confidence that our solutions business will provide momentum through turbulent times expected this year," he added.

ENIL operates FM stations in 63 Indian cities. It is owned by Bennett, Coleman & Co. Limited (BCCL), which also owns The Economic Times. Shares of ENIL climbed 0.53% to end at ₹390 apiece on the BSE on Monday.

French Firm Mazars Plans Consulting, Advisory Business

Sachin.Dave@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: French accounting major Mazars is revving up its investments in the country by launching a consulting and advisory business, possibly drawn by the success of Grant Thornton and BDO in challenging the Big Four that are under fire from Indian regulators.

Mazars, which is led by Kartik Radia who has joined the firm from rival BDO, is on a hiring spree, and plans to appoint 30-35 partners and around 500 professionals by the end of the current financial year, a top official said.

"India is a very much on the top agenda within the firm," said Rudi Lang, group executive board member at Mazars. "We will handhold the business till the time it can support itself."

CUT TO FOCUS ON AUDIT PRACTICE

Mazars already has a presence in the country's auditing space through two affiliate firms — New Delhi based SN Dhawan and Mumbai-headquartered Kalyaniwala & Mistry. The consulting and advisory partners of both these firms will now be subsumed in Mazars, as the French firm looks to focus on audit practice in India, along with the consultancy one.

"We have a diversified global client base. So, we are looking at both outbound and inbound opportunities," Lang said. "We follow our clients across the globe."

Mazars' foray comes at a time when the Big Four firms — Deloitte, PwC, EY and KPMG — are under fire from Indian regulators for their association with companies that have gone into bankruptcy proceedings or have seen some corporate governance issues.

Vishesh Chandiok-led Grant Thornton and Milind Kothari-led BDO, which are not as large as the Big Four in India, are now trying to leverage the situation. Mazars will join rival global networks RSM, Nexia and Baker Tilly in pushing for a big presence in India by capitalising on this opportunity.

In the past few years, the Big Four have been trying to cut down on their audit practice in India.

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(₹ in Lakhs except per share data)

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Earnings per share (EPS) (before Extraordinary items) (of Rs. 5/- each) #				
- Basic (Rs.)	14.21	40.59	16.64	120.31
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The earnings per share have been adjusted for previous year presented in accordance with Ind AS 33 "Earnings per Share" prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued hereunder.

STANDALONE FINANCIALS SUMMARY

(₹ in Lakhs)

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For DIL Limited
Krishna Datla
Managing Director
DIN No : 00003247

Place : Thane
Date : 5th August, 2019

Sale of three units: SAIL extends deadline for submission of EoIs

SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, August 5

STEEL AUTHORITY OF India (SAIL) has extended the deadline to August 20 for submission of expressions of interest (EoIs) from potential bidders for outright sale of its three loss-making units — Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Salem Steel Plant (SSP) and Visvesaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP).

Sources said the extension had been granted, from August 1 earlier, due to investors' apathy towards buying out those three units which had incurred a cumulative loss of ₹2,300 crore in the past five years. SAIL had attempted outright sales of these units even in 2017, but that did not fructify for want of buyers.

ASP, SSP and VSP are located in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, respectively. These three units have a total of 2,100 permanent employees.

SAIL had proposed to transfer these units to winning bidders, to be chosen through a competitive bidding process, on a going concern basis by way of slump sale through business transfer agreement. The proceeds may not contribute much to the government's ₹1.05-lakh crore disinvestment target for the current fiscal.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had on October 27, 2016, approved "in-principle" strategic disinvestment of these units on recommendations of the Niti Aayog. The board of SAIL gave its in-principle approval for the same on February 9, 2017, though the final approval for divestment of 100% stake came in its different sittings. For VISP and ASP, the final approval came on August 11, 2017; while for SSP, it came on June 28, 2019.

ASP was commissioned in January 1965 as a unit under erstwhile Hindustan Steel (HSL). In 1978, HSL was dissolved and its assets were transferred to SAIL, resulting in ASP becoming one of the operating units of SAIL. Through multiple expansions, the capacity of the plant has been increased to 1.84 lakh tonne (saleable steel). ASP has a total of 758 employees. Of ASP's total area of 1,154 acre under possession, 600 acre is proposed to be divested as part of the transaction.

VISP was founded in 1923 as a small pig iron unit. In 1989, SAIL purchased the shares and made the company its subsidiary. VISP pioneers production of high quality alloy and special steels. At present, VISP has an installed capacity of 2.2 lakh tonne of hot metal and 0.98 lakh tonne of saleable steel.

VISP has 333 permanent employees and 1,661 acre under possession, of which 847 acre will be divested as part of the transaction. SAIL will keep the remaining land itself. Since January 2017, production had been stopped in the unit for want of orders.

SSP had in 2018-19 utilised 82% of its 2.87 lakh tonne per annum hot-rolled coil making capacity. The unit sells its products to railway coach factories, mints and public sector units like BHEL and NTPC. SSP has 941 employees. Of the total 3,973 acre in possession, 1,708 acre would be divested as part of the disinvestment plan. SAIL has appointed SBI Capital Markets as the transaction advisor.

Shipping fuel norms to push up Indian Oil's refinery margins

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New Delhi, August 5

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According to ICICI Securities, the IMO-mandated change in sulphur in marine fuel is estimated to boost diesel demand by 9 lakh bpd in calendar year 2020.

Axis Capital estimates the benefit from higher demand for middle distillates to start from Q3 FY20 and last until FY21-end. While ICICI Securities expects IOCL's FY20 GRM to be $5.7/barrel, Axis Capital's forecast is $6.5/barrel.

In spite of the Lok Sabha elections in May and global crude prices suppressing marketing margins earlier in the quarter, IOCL managed to keep an auto fuel marketing margin of ₹1.75 per litre in Q1 (compared with the ₹0.97-1.06 per litre range in FY15-FY18).

"The re-election of a strong government, during whose last tenure margin was strong, augurs well for marketing margin outlook," ICICI Securities said, raising its estimate for the same by 25% to ₹1.25 per litre in FY20. Axis Capital expects IOCL's auto fuel margin to be ₹2.5 per litre in the ongoing fiscal.

Dearth in AI talent makes Daikin create own programme

TETSUSHI KAJIMOTO
Osaka, August 5

THERE'S A SENSE of panic within Japan and the government — the world's No. 3 economy doesn't have enough experts in artificial intelligence and it's time to do something about it.

SoftBank Group Corp CEO Masayoshi Son last month bemoaned the state of play, calling Japan a 'developing country' in the most important current tech revolution. Tech heavyweights like Sony Corp are hiking pay for the right hires and boosting recruitment of foreign engineers.

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"We have a sense of crisis as we don't have experts well-versed in information technology when AI and data analysis are in great demand," Yuji Yoneda, executive officer at Daikin's Technology and Innovation Center, REUTERS

Oiled by bond yield fall, share buyback juggernaut to roll on

SUJATA RAO
London, August 5

RELENTLESSLY FALLING BORROWING costs worldwide may be setting the stage for a further squeeze in global equity supply, with signs that more companies, especially in Japan and Europe, will exploit the cheap money wave to buy back shares.

Rock-bottom borrowing costs in the decade after the global financial crisis have already played a role in draining the world of investable equity through share buybacks, mergers and acquisitions and de-listings.

With not enough shares issued to offset those withdrawn from circulation, equity supply has shrunk steadily, one reason for record share gains in recent years — especially in the US, where 80% of firms are estimated to conduct buybacks.

The result is that net global equity supply should be around zero this year, the same as in 2017 and 2018, JPMorgan predicts. Net supply was negative in 2016 for the first time ever.

The buyback boom is one side-effect of rock-bottom interest rates. And with central banks again in rate-cutting mode, the trend could get a fresh lease of life.

"If you look at the cost of equity versus the cost of debt, the incentive to issue debt and buy back equity has never been higher," said Supriya Menon, senior multi-asset strategist at Pictet Asset Management.

Cost of equity is what shareholders demand as returns, while cost of debt is what a company pays to borrow. To source capital where it is cheapest, companies tend to arbitrage between equity and debt — and these days the collapse in bond yields makes it far more alluring to borrow than to list equity.

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Goldman Sachs meanwhile predicted Wall Street would enjoy its best year since 2013, even as it cut earnings estimates.

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Benelli plans to launch new sub-300 cc bikes by year-end

BV MAHALAKSHMI
Hyderabad, August 5

ITALIAN SUPERBIKE BRAND Benelli is planning to launch two to three bikes, including one customised for the Indian market, in the sub-300cc capacity by the end of this year. The company currently has six brands in the Indian market and the proposed launch is part of its plan to offer 12-13 bikes by 2020.

Besides, the company, which made a fresh foray into the Indian market last year, is also closely monitoring to launch electric bikes.

In 2005, Benelli became part of China-based Qjian Jiang group and is the second largest motorcycle manufacturer in China. Hyderabad-based Mahavir group through Adishwar Auto Ride India is the exclusive partner to Benelli's premium product range in the country. It has set up an assembly plant for Benelli in Hyderabad having a capacity of 40,000 units per year. It manufactures and imports a range of Benelli bikes from Italy and South East Asia regions.

"With the Indian motorcycle market gearing up for new segments and superbikes witnessing a progressive growth in the last few years, we have taken a strategic decision to bring in some of the globally renowned Benelli products into the Indian market. We are building a customer base and network across the country. We hope to register a positive growth in the coming years," Vikas Jhabakh, MD, Benelli India, said after launching of Leoncino 500 superbike.

Further, Adishwar Auto Ride India is planning to set up a second assembly plant in Telangana. "We are planning for a second unit given our plans to launch 12-13 bikes by 2020 which would be in the lower range of 250cc category besides cruise category," he said. Currently, the brand portfolio is 300-600 cc and going forward, the plan is to look at lesser range, he added.

While there is pricing pressure and slump in the auto sector, the company is still bullish for the demand for premium bikes which is expected to grow steadily with the increasing localisation aspect. It claims to have a market share of 25% and competes with bikes of BMW, Harley Davidson and Triumph among others. It has also reduced service cost and spare parts by 33% and has increased warranty for 500cc bikes to five years.

The company has also increased its dealers from seven to 19 dealers across 18 cities and 15 more are in the pipeline. It has a customer base of 6,000 across the country and has sold 1,000 units during January to July 2019.

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EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

(₹ in Lakhs except per share data)

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Total income from operations (net)	8,408.96	9,283.49	8,344.89	41,703.58
Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	1,303.62	3,722.88	1,526.16	11,035.67
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For DIL Limited
Krishna Datla
Managing Director
DIN No : 00003247

Place : Thane
Date : 5th August, 2019

WAR FOREVER?

Trump deepens trade battle with China

SHAWN DONNAN
Washington, August 5

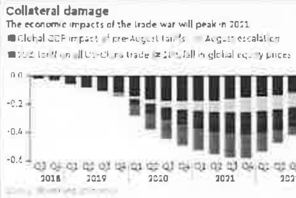
DONALD TRUMP'S TRADE battle with China is starting to look like the forever war — a quagmire with no end in sight, no clear path to a resolution and more potential land mines for an already weakening global economy.

With his move last week to announce his biggest tariff hike yet on imports from China, the president made clear he was exasperated with counterpart Xi Jinping and a perceived lack of Chinese urgency. Trump portrayed the threat as a move to pressure Beijing to cut a deal.

Yet by doubling down on a negotiating tactic that has yet to deliver any meaningful results and is damaging the US and Chinese economies, Trump appears to have made any deal less, rather than more, likely. Moreover, it increasingly looks like he and his team may not have any other ideas on where to go next or how to bring an end to the fight.

"We did not enter this particular trade war with China with a clear plan for how to get out," said Philip Levy, a member of President George W Bush's Council of Economic Advisors, who is now chief economist for freight forwarder Flexport. "The plan for how to get out seems to have been 'We'll threaten them, they'll succumb and then we'll be happy.' So far we haven't seen anyone talk about what if they don't succumb?"

Rather than bend, Chinese officials responded on Monday by letting the yuan depreciate and cutting off purchases of American soybeans. They're pledging to retaliate further if Trump goes ahead with his threat to impose tariffs starting September 1 on Chinese imports. Those include consumer goods like smartphones, kids' clothes and toys, and together are worth some $300 billion in annual trade, or more than the entire $250 billion already hit with import taxes by Trump.



Investors are starting to grasp the potential for a protracted conflict. US equities last week had their worst week of the year and were tumbling again on Monday along with emerging-market currencies. Treasuries rallied with the yen as traders bid up haven assets.

Morgan Stanley economists said in a research note on Monday if the higher US tariffs and China's retaliation last for four to six months, the global economy will be in a recession in nine months.

The Chinese have sent plenty of signals that they are confident they can weather Trump's assault. Since May, Xi has called for a new "Long March." Among the issues mulled at a politburo meeting on the economy before last week's tariff threat, analysts say, was how to navigate a US escalation.

Chris Johnson, a former CIA analyst who has spent years examining the behaviour of the Chinese leadership, said the politburo meeting appeared to finish with a decision that China could survive an economic slowdown related to trade.

Trump's gambit also comes just as the Chinese leadership heads off for its annual summer retreat. Xi's enthusiasm to sell a possible deal and the reforms demanded by the US at the retreat, he says, is likely to be diminished after Trump's tariff threat. "It also gives fodder to those opposed to making concessions in the first place," Johnson says.

Even before US trade representative Robert Lighthizer and treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin headed to Shanghai for talks last week, people close to the talks said it was unclear whether a deal was even possible.

After the pair returned and briefed Trump that Chinese officials had offered nothing new, he decided to go ahead with the tariffs on Thursday. Adding to the decision, Trump said in announcing it, was a failure by China to deliver on a promise to step up agricultural purchases and thus at least partly reverse what has been a damaging and politically targeted retaliation against a Trump-friendly constituency.

In a pair of weekend tweets Trump insisted he was on the cusp of great successes. "Things are going along very well with China," he said in one. "Countries are coming to us wanting to negotiate REAL trade deals, not the one sided horror show deals made by past administrations," he offered in the other.

Whether Trump or those around him ever wanted a deal with China is, of course, still open to debate.

Hawks in the US see tariffs as an essential tool in forcing a relocation of supply chains. The president continues to insist China is bearing the cost of tariffs despite evidence from businesses to the contrary.

Trump blames the slowdown in the US economy on what he has labelled policy missteps by the Federal Reserve that have caused an appreciation in the dollar among other things. The Fed last week attributed a decision to cut borrowing costs for the first time in a decade in large part to US trade policy. —BLOOMBERG

'Battle mode' Huawei sees surge of China smartphone sales

REUTERS
Shanghai/Hong Kong, August 5

WHEN 23-YEAR-OLD Chinese student Aaron Huang started his hunt for an Android replacement for his Apple iPhone in April this year, it was clear which brand was trying hardest to win him over.

Promotional campaigns by Huawei and from local retailers supporting the brand were everywhere, said Huang, adding he was influenced by domestic media coverage that portrayed the US as unfairly targeting the Chinese tech giant in its trade war. "I felt like I should choose Huawei," he said.

The advertising blitz and grassroots patriotism have proven to be a potent mix, amplifying the brand's existing broad appeal in its home market — a market it is increasingly dependent on as Washington's ban on sales of US components and software to Huawei hammers overseas demand. Second-quarter China smartphone shipments for Huawei surged by a nearly a third from the same period a year earlier, with its market share rocketing 10.6 percentage points to a record 38%, according to research firm Canalys. Shipments for domestic rivals and Apple plummeted.

Huawei has lifted its China sales target for its consumer business group, said a company source, who was not authorised to speak on the matter and declined to be identified.

Within Huawei, employees refer to current strategies as "Battle Mode" and it has stepped up the opening of new stores including "experience centres" in the style of Apple shops, other company sources said. One experience centre near its South China headquarters opened last month while a bigger one in Shenzhen's tech district of Nanshan will open next month.

Analysts say Huawei has also been transferring unsold smartphone stock from other regions to China.

Amazon squeezing sellers that offer better prices on Walmart

SPENCER SOPER
Seattle, August 5


Merchants have long complained that Amazon wields outsize influence over their businesses

Amazon's determination to offer shoppers the best deals is prompting merchants selling products on its marketplace to raise their prices on competing websites, a testament to the company's growing influence over the e-commerce market.

Amazon constantly scans rivals' prices to see if they're lower. When it discovers a product is cheaper on, say, Walmart, Amazon alerts the company selling the item and then makes the product harder to find and buy on its own marketplace — effectively penalising the merchant. In many cases, the merchant opts to raise the price on the rival site rather than risk losing sales on Amazon.

Pricing alerts reviewed by *Bloomberg* show Amazon doesn't explicitly tell sellers to raise prices on other sites, and the goal may be to push them to lower their prices on Amazon. But in interviews, merchants say they're so hemmed in by rising costs levied by Amazon and reliant on sales on its marketplace, that they're more likely to raise their prices elsewhere.

Antitrust experts say the Amazon policy is likely to attract scrutiny from Congress and the Federal Trade Commission, which recently took over jurisdiction of the Seattle-based company. So far, criticism of Amazon's market power has centred on whether it mines merchants' sales data to launch competing products and then uses its dominance to make the original product harder to find on its marketplace.

Harming consumers by prompting merchants to raise prices on other sites more neatly fits the traditional definition of antitrust behaviour in the US.

"Monopolisation charges are always about business conduct that causes harm in a market," said Jennifer Rie, an analyst at *Bloomberg Intelligence* who specialises in antitrust litigation. "It could end up being considered illegal conduct because people who prefer to shop on Walmart end up having to pay a higher price." In an emailed statement, an Amazon spokesperson said: "Sellers have full control of their own prices both on and off Amazon, and we help them maximise their sales in our store by providing them insights on how to be the featured offer." Walmart declined to comment.

Online merchants typically sell their products on multiple websites, including Amazon, Walmart and EBay. But many generate most of their revenue on Amazon, which now accounts for almost 40% of online sales in the US, says EMarketer.

Merchants have long complained that Amazon wields outsize influence over their businesses. Besides paying higher fees, many now have to buy ads to stand out on the increasingly cluttered site. Some report giving Amazon 40% or more of each transaction, up from 20% a few years ago.

Some merchants are keen to increase their sales on Walmart, where it costs less to do business since advertising costs less than it does on Amazon. But sellers say the price alerts are forcing them to maintain allegiance to Amazon and making it harder to diversify their businesses.

Walmart routinely fields requests from merchants to raise prices on its marketplace because they worry a lower price on Walmart will jeopardise their sales on Amazon, says a Walmart manager, who requested anonymity to speak freely about an internal matter.

Amazon began sending the price alerts in 2017, and merchants say they have increased in frequency amid an intensifying price war between Amazon and Walmart. Merchants receive the alerts via a web platform they use to manage their Amazon businesses.

The alerts show the product, the price on Amazon and the price found elsewhere on the web. —BLOOMBERG

Moon Jae-in calls for 'peace economy' with N Korea, slams Japan

SEOUL, AUGUST 5

SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT on Monday described the country's escalating trade war with Japan as a wake-up call to revamp its economy and also issued a nationalistic call for economic cooperation with North Korea, which he said would allow the Koreas to erase Japan's economic superiority in "one burst".

President Moon Jae-in made the comments during a meeting with senior aides to discuss Japan's move to downgrade South Korea's trade status and tighten controls on exports to South Korean manufacturers.

Moon has described Japan's moves as a deliberate attempt to damage South Korea's export-dependent economy and accused Tokyo of weaponising trade to retaliate over political disputes surrounding the countries' bitter wartime history.

Earlier on Monday, South Korea said it plans to spend 7.8 trillion won ($6.5 billion) over the next seven years to develop technologies for industrial materials and parts as it moves to reduce its dependence.

The government will also financially support South Korean companies in mergers and acquisitions of foreign companies and expand tax benefits to lure more international investment, while easing labour and environmental regulations so that local companies could boost their production, the country's trade ministry said.

South Korea's plans are aimed at stabilising the supply of 100 key materials and parts in semiconductors, display screens, automobiles and other major export sectors, where its companies have heavily relied on Japanese imports to produce finished products.

"We need to do more than just overcome Japan's trade retaliations and arm ourselves with broader sight and extraordinary determination to surpass Japan's economy," Moon said during the meeting at Seoul's presidential Blue House.

"We should invest efforts to significantly enhance the competitiveness of (South Korea's) parts and materials industry and also apply economic policies to revive vitality across all areas of our economy," he said. —AP

AI used to detect fast radio bursts

SCIENTISTS HAVE DEVELOPED an automated system that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to detect and capture fast radio bursts (FRBs) in real-time.

FRBs are mysterious and powerful flashes of radio waves from space, thought to originate billions of light years from the Earth, said researchers from Swinburne University of Technology in Australia.

They last for only a few milliseconds or a thousandth of a second and their cause is one of astronomy's biggest puzzles. The system, described in the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, has already identified five bursts, including one of the most energetic ever detected, as well as the broadest.

Wael Farah from Swinburne University of Technology trained the on-site computer at the Molonglo Radio Observatory in Australia to recognise the signs and signatures of FRBs, and trigger an immediate capture of the finest details seen to date. The bursts were detected within seconds of arrival at the Molonglo Radio Telescope, producing high quality data that allowed the researchers to study and gather clues about their origin. —PTI

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SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, August 5

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SAIL had proposed to transfer these units to winning bidders, to be chosen through a competitive bidding process, on a going concern basis by way of slump sale through business transfer agreement. The proceeds may not contribute much to the government's ₹1.05-lakh crore disinvestment target for the current fiscal.

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Shipping fuel norms to push up Indian Oil's refinery margins

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New Delhi, August 5

THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME Organisation's (IMO) new norms is seen to benefit the gross refining margins (GRM) for the state-run Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) as it would boost demand for diesel—the strong point of IOCL refineries.

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According to ICICI Securities, the IMO-mandated change in sulphur in marine fuel is estimated to boost diesel demand by 9 lakh bpd in calendar year 2020.

Axis Capital estimates the benefit from higher demand for middle distillates to start from Q3 FY20 and last until FY21-end. While ICICI Securities expects IOCL's FY20 GRM to be $5.7/barrel, Axis Capital's forecast is $6.5/barrel.

In spite of the Lok Sabha elections in May and global crude prices suppressing marketing margins earlier in the quarter, IOCL managed to keep an auto fuel marketing margin of ₹1.75 per litre in Q1 (compared with the ₹0.97-1.06 per litre range in FY15-FY18).

"The re-election of a strong government, during whose last tenure margin was strong, augurs well for marketing margin outlook," ICICI Securities said, raising its estimate for the same by 25% to ₹1.25 per litre in FY20. Axis Capital expects IOCL's auto fuel margin to be ₹2.5 per litre in the ongoing fiscal.

Dearth in AI talent makes Daikin create own programme

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Osaka, August 5

THERE'S A SENSE of panic within Japan and the government — the world's No. 3 economy doesn't have enough experts in artificial intelligence and it's time to do something about it.

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Oiled by bond yield fall, share buyback juggernaut to roll on

SUJATA RAO
London, August 5

RELENTLESSLY FALLING BORROWING costs world wide may be setting the stage for a further squeeze in global equity supply, with signs that more companies, especially in Japan and Europe, will exploit the cheap money wave to buy back shares.

Rock-bottom borrowing costs in the decade after the global financial crisis have already played a role in draining the world of investable equity through share buybacks, mergers and acquisitions and de-listings.

With not enough shares issued to offset those withdrawn from circulation, equity supply has shrunk steadily, one reason for record share gains in recent years — especially in the US, where 80% of firms are estimated to conduct buybacks.

The result is that net global equity supply should be around zero this year, the same as in 2017 and 2018, JPMorgan predicts. Net supply was negative in 2016 for the first time ever.

The buyback boom is one side-effect of rock-bottom interest rates. And with central banks again in rate-cutting mode, the trend could get a fresh lease of life.

"If you look at the cost of equity versus the cost of debt, the incentive to issue debt and buyback equity has never been higher," said Supriya Menon, senior multi-asset strategist at Pictet Asset Management.

Cost of equity is what shareholders demand as returns, while cost of debt is what a company pays to borrow. To source capital where it is cheapest, companies tend to arbitrage between equity and debt — and these days the collapse in bond yields makes it far more alluring to borrow than to list equity.

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Benelli plans to launch new sub-300 cc bikes by year-end

BV MAHALAKSHMI
Hyderabad, August 5

ITALIAN SUPERBIKE BRAND Benelli is planning to launch two to three bikes, including one customised for the Indian market, in the sub-300cc capacity by the end of this year. The company currently has six brands in the Indian market and the proposed launch is part of its plan to offer 12-13 bikes by 2020.

Besides, the company, which made a fresh foray into the Indian market last year, is also closely monitoring to launch electric bikes.

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"With the Indian motorcycle market gearing up for new segments and superbikes witnessing a progressive growth in the last few years, we have taken a strategic decision to bring in some of the globally renowned Benelli products into the Indian market. We are building a customer base and network across the country. We hope to register a positive growth in the coming years," Vikas Jhabakh, MD, Benelli India, said after launching of Leoncino 500 superbike.

Further, Adishwar Auto Ride India is planning to set up a second assembly plant in Telangana. "We are planning for a second unit given our plans to launch 12-13 bikes by 2020 which would be in the lower range of 250cc category besides cruise category," he said. Currently, the brand portfolio is 300-600 cc and going forward, the plan is to look at lesser range, he added.

While there is pricing pressure and slump in the auto sector, the company is still bullish for the demand for premium bikes which is expected to grow steadily with the increasing localisation aspect. It claims to have a market share of 25% and competes with bikes of BMW, Harley Davidson and Triumph among others. It has also reduced service cost and spare parts by 33% and has increased warranty for 500cc bikes to five years.

The company has also increased its dealers from seven to 19 dealers across 18 cities and 15 more are in the pipeline. It has a customer base of 6,000 across the country and has sold 1,000 units during January to July 2019.

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Shipping fuel norms to push up Indian Oil's refinery margins

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, August 5

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The company has prepared its 2.74 lakh barrels per day (bpd) Koyali and the 1.5 lakh bpd Haldia refineries to produce 1 MT and 0.5 MT, respectively, of IMO-compliant fuel oil to tap this new market. IOCL's existing 3 bpd Paradip refinery already specialises in diesel production.

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"The re-election of a strong government, during whose last tenure margin was strong, augurs well for marketing margin outlook," ICICI Securities said, raising its estimate for the same by 35% to ₹1.35 per litre in FY20. Axis Capital expects IOCL's auto fuel margin to be ₹2.5 per litre in the ongoing fiscal.

Dearth in AI talent makes Daikin create own programme

TETSUSHI KAJIMOTO
Osaka, August 5

THERE'S A SENSE of panic within Japan and the government — the world's No. 3 economy doesn't have enough experts in artificial intelligence and it's time to do something about it.

SoftBank Group Corp CEO Masayoshi Son last month bemoaned the state of play, calling Japan a 'developing country' in the most important current tech revolution. Tech heavyweights like Sony Corp are hiking pay for the right hires and boosting recruitment of foreign engineers.

But Daikin Industries is taking a more unusual route to AI expertise. It has created an in-house programme that takes new graduates and current employees - almost all with no AI background - and trains them up. It aims to make 1,000 employees AI-savvy by 2022, in what Daikin says is one of the most ambitious AI-specific training programmes by a Japanese company.

"We have a sense of crisis as we don't have experts well-versed in information technology when AI and data analysis are in great demand," Yuji Yoneda, executive officer at Daikin's Technology and Innovation Center. REUTERS

Oiled by bond yield fall, share buyback juggernaut to roll on

SUJATA RAO
London, August 5

RELENTLESSLY FALLING BORROWING costs world wide may be setting the stage for a further squeeze in global equity supply, with signs that more companies, especially in Japan and Europe, will exploit the cheap money wave to buy back shares.

Rock-bottom borrowing costs in the decade after the global financial crisis have already played a role in draining the world of investable equity through share buybacks, mergers and acquisitions and de-listings.

With not enough shares issued to offset those withdrawn from circulation, equity supply has shrunk steadily, one reason for record share gains in recent years — especially in the US, where 80% of firms are estimated to conduct buybacks.

The result is that net global equity supply should be around zero this year, the same as in 2017 and 2018, JP-Morgan predicts. Net supply was negative in 2016 for the first time ever.

The buyback boom is one side-effect of rock-bottom interest rates. And with central banks again in rate-cutting mode, the trend could get a fresh lease of life.

"If you look at the cost of equity versus the cost of debt, the incentive to issue debt and buy back equity has never been higher," said Supriya Menon, senior multi-asset strategist at Pictet Asset Management.

Cost of equity is what shareholders demand as returns, while cost of debt is what a company pays to borrow. To source capital where it is cheapest, companies tend to arbitrage between equity and debt — and these days the collapse in bond yields makes it far more alluring to borrow than to list equity.

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Menon highlighted an "exceptionally wide" gap between the yield on investment grade European and US companies' 12-month forward earnings and the average yield on their bonds.

Analysis of Europe's biggest companies shows the extent to which equity costs outstrip the cost of debt.

JPMorgan says a flurry of high-profile stock market debuts this year from the likes of Uber and Pinterest will not materially change the net supply picture; its data shows listings worldwide are down 20-30% year-to-date while buybacks should clock in around \$1 trillion over the course of 2019.

"Buybacks are still tracking record levels and you don't have that many IPOs, so you get negative net equity issuance. That's been a major driver of equity performance and I don't see any let-up," Pictet's Menon said.

Goldman Sachs meanwhile predicted Wall Street would enjoy its best year since 2013, even as it cut earnings estimates.

US buybacks have lost some momentum, perhaps as the impact of massive tax cuts fades. New stock buybacks averaged just \$2.8 billion daily in the last three weeks, according to Trim Tabs Research, the second-lowest volume in the past eight earnings seasons. The number of announcements stood at 3.1, the lowest in the past eight earnings seasons.

Instead, it's Europe that's ripe for a buyback wave, analysts say. Nikolaos Panigirtzoglou, market strategist at JPMorgan notes European share buybacks last year equated to just 1% of market capitalisation versus around 4% in the US. REUTERS

Benelli plans to launch new sub-300 cc bikes by year-end

BV MAHALAKSHMI
Hyderabad, August 5

ITALIAN SUPERBIKE BRAND Benelli is planning to launch two to three bikes, including one customised for the Indian market, in the sub-300cc capacity by the end of this year. The company currently has six brands in the Indian market and the proposed launch is part of its plan to offer 12-13 bikes by 2020.

Besides, the company, which made a fresh foray into the Indian market last year, is also closely monitoring to launch electric bikes.

In 2005, Benelli became part of China-based Qjian Jiang group and is the second largest motorcycle manufacturer in China. Hyderabad-based Mahavir group through Adishwar Auto Ride India is the exclusive partner to Benelli's premium product range in the country. It has set up an assembly plant for Benelli in Hyderabad having a capacity of 40,000 units per year. It manufactures and imports a range of Benelli bikes from Italy and South East Asia regions.

"With the Indian motorcycle market gearing up for new segments and superbikes witnessing a progressive growth in the last few years, we have taken a strategic decision to bring in some of the globally renowned Benelli products into the Indian market. We are building a customer base and network across the country. We hope to register a positive growth in the coming years," Vikas Jhabakh, MD, Benelli India, said after launching of Leoncino 500 superbike.

Further, Adishwar Auto Ride India is planning to set up a second assembly plant in Telangana. "We are planning for a second unit given our plans to launch 12-13 bikes by 2020 which would be in the lower range of 250cc category besides cruise category," he said. Currently, the brand portfolio is 300-600 cc and going forward, the plan is to look at lesser range, he added.

While there is pricing pressure and slump in the auto sector, the company is still bullish for the demand for premium bikes which is expected to grow steadily with the increasing localisation aspect. It claims to have a market share of 25% and competes with bikes of BMW, Harley Davidson and Triumph among others. It has also reduced service cost and spare parts by 33% and has increased warranty for 500cc bikes to five years.

The company has also increased its dealers from seven to 19 dealers across 18 cities and 15 more are in the pipeline. It has a customer base of 6,000 across the country and has sold 1,000 units during January to July 2019.

"Our plan is to sell over 2,000 units by the end of this year. We want to scale up in the domestic market in the next one to two years and then look at exports as well," he added.

SAIL extends deadline for submission of EoIs for sale of 3 loss-making units

SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, August 5

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'New shipping fuel guidelines to improve IOC refinery margins'

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, August 5

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The company's GRM in Q1 FY20 was $4.7/barrel—recording a 54% fall year-on-year—one of the reasons why net profit in the period fell 50% to ₹3,623.7 crore.

In spite of the Lok Sabha elections in May and global crude prices suppressing marketing margins earlier in the quarter, IOCL managed to keep an auto fuel marketing margin of ₹1.75 per litre in Q1 (compared with the ₹0.97-1.06 per litre range in FY15-FY18).

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WAR FOREVER?

Trump deepens trade battle with China

SHAWN DONNAN
Washington, August 5

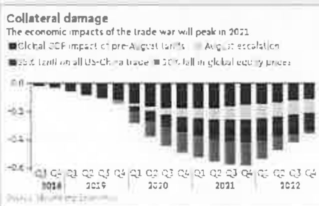
DONALD TRUMP'S TRADE battle with China is starting to look like the forever war — a quagmire with no end in sight, no clear path to a resolution and more potential land mines for an already weakening global economy.

With his move last week to announce his biggest tariff hike yet on imports from China, the president made clear he was exasperated with counterpart Xi Jinping and a perceived lack of Chinese urgency. Trump portrayed the threat as a move to pressure Beijing to cut a deal.

Yet by doubling down on a negotiating tactic that has yet to deliver any meaningful results and is damaging the US and Chinese economies, Trump appears to have made any deal less, rather than more, likely. Moreover, it increasingly looks like he and his team may not have any other ideas on where to go next or how to bring an end to the fight.

"We did not enter this particular trade war with China with a clear plan for how to get out," said Philip Levy, a member of President George W Bush's Council of Economic Advisors, who is now chief economist for freight forwarder Flexport. "The plan for how to get out seems to have been 'We'll threaten them, they'll succumb and then we'll be happy.' So far we haven't seen anyone talk about what if they don't succumb?"

Rather than bend, Chinese officials responded on Monday by letting the yuan depreciate and cutting off purchases of American soybeans. They're pledging to retaliate further if Trump goes ahead with his threat to impose tariffs starting September 1 on Chinese imports. Those include consumer goods like smartphones, kids' clothes and toys, and together are worth some $300 billion in annual trade, or more than the entire $250 billion already hit with import taxes by Trump.



Investors are starting to grasp the potential for a protracted conflict. US equities last week had their worst week of the year and were tumbling again on Monday along with emerging-market currencies. Treasuries rallied with the yen as traders bid up haven assets.

Morgan Stanley economists said in a research note on Monday if the higher US tariffs and China's retaliation last for four to six months, the global economy will be in a recession in nine months.

The Chinese have sent plenty of signals that they are confident they can weather Trump's assault. Since May, Xi has called for a new "Long March." Among the issues mulled at a politburo meeting on the economy before last week's tariff threat, analysts say, was how to navigate a US escalation.

Chris Johnson, a former CIA analyst who has spent years examining the behaviour of the Chinese leadership, said the politburo meeting appeared to finish with a decision that China could survive an economic slowdown related to trade.

Trump's gambit also comes just as the Chinese leadership heads off for its annual summer retreat. Xi's enthusiasm to sell a possible deal and the reforms demanded by the US at the retreat, he says, is likely to be diminished after Trump's tariff threat. "It also gives fodder to those opposed to making concessions in the first place," Johnson says.

Even before US trade representative Robert Lighthizer and treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin headed to Shanghai for talks last week, people close to the talks said it was unclear whether a deal was even possible.

After the pair returned and briefed Trump that Chinese officials had offered nothing new, he decided to go ahead with the tariffs on Thursday. Adding to the decision, Trump said in announcing it, was a failure by China to deliver on a promise to step up agricultural purchases and thus at least partly reverse what has been a damaging and politically targeted retaliation against a Trump-friendly constituency.

In a pair of weekend tweets Trump insisted he was on the cusp of great successes. "Things are going along very well with China," he said in one. "Countries are coming to us wanting to negotiate REAL trade deals, not the one sided horror show deals made by past administrations," he offered in the other.

Whether Trump or those around him ever wanted a deal with China is, of course, still open to debate.

Hawks in the US see tariffs as an essential tool in forcing a relocation of supply chains. The president continues to insist China is bearing the cost of tariffs despite evidence from businesses to the contrary.

Trump blames the slowdown in the US economy on what he has labelled policy missteps by the Federal Reserve that have caused an appreciation in the dollar among other things. The Fed last week attributed a decision to cut borrowing costs for the first time in a decade in large part to US trade policy.
—BLOOMBERG

'Battle mode' Huawei sees surge of China smartphone sales

REUTERS
Shanghai/Hong Kong,
August 5

WHEN 23-YEAR-OLD Chinese student Aaron Huang started his hunt for an Android replacement for his Apple iPhone in April this year, it was clear which brand was trying hardest to win him over.

Promotional campaigns by Huawei and from local retailers supporting the brand were everywhere, said Huang, adding he was influenced by domestic media coverage that portrayed the US as unfairly targeting the Chinese tech giant in its trade war. "I felt like I should choose Huawei," he said.

The advertising blitz and grassroots patriotism have proven to be a potent mix, amplifying the brand's existing broad appeal in its home market — a market it is increasingly dependent on as Washington's ban on sales of US components and software to Huawei hammers overseas demand. Second-quarter China smartphone shipments for Huawei surged by a nearly a third from the same period a year earlier, with its market share rocketing 10.6 percentage points to a record 38%, according to research firm Canalys. Shipments for domestic rivals and Apple plummeted.

Huawei has lifted its China sales target for its consumer business group, said a company source, who was not authorised to speak on the matter and declined to be identified.

Within Huawei, employees refer to current strategies as "Battle Mode" and it has stepped up the opening of new stores including "experience centres" in the style of Apple shops, other company sources said. One experience centre near its South China headquarters opened last month while a bigger one in Shenzhen's tech district of Nanshan will open next month.

Analysts say Huawei has also been transferring unsold smartphone stock from other regions to China.

Amazon squeezing sellers that offer better prices on Walmart

SPENCER SOPER
Seattle, August 5


Merchants have long complained that Amazon wields outsize influence over their businesses

Amazon's determination to offer shoppers the best deals is prompting merchants selling products on its marketplace to raise their prices on competing websites, a testament to the company's growing influence over the e-commerce market.

Amazon constantly scans rivals' prices to see if they're lower. When it discovers a product is cheaper on, say, Walmart, Amazon alerts the company selling the item and then makes the product harder to find and buy on its own marketplace — effectively penalising the merchant. In many cases, the merchant opts to raise the price on the rival site rather than risk losing sales on Amazon.

Pricing alerts reviewed by *Bloomberg* show Amazon doesn't explicitly tell sellers to raise prices on other sites, and the goal may be to push them to lower their prices on Amazon. But in interviews, merchants say they're so hemmed in by rising costs levied by Amazon and reliant on sales on its marketplace, that they're more likely to raise their prices elsewhere.

Antitrust experts say the Amazon policy is likely to attract scrutiny from Congress and the Federal Trade Commission, which recently took over jurisdiction of the Seattle-based company. So far, criticism of Amazon's market power has centred on whether it mines merchants' sales data to launch competing products and then uses its dominance to make the original product harder to find on its marketplace.

Harming consumers by prompting merchants to raise prices on other sites more neatly fits the traditional definition of antitrust behaviour in the US.

"Monopolisation charges are always about business conduct that causes harm in a market," said Jennifer Rie, an analyst at *Bloomberg Intelligence* who specialises in antitrust litigation. "It could end up being considered illegal conduct because people who prefer to shop on Walmart end up having to pay a higher price." In an emailed statement, an Amazon spokesperson said: "Sellers have full control of their own prices both on and off Amazon, and we help them maximise their sales in our store by providing them insights on how to be the featured offer." Walmart declined to comment.

Online merchants typically sell their products on multiple websites, including Amazon, Walmart and EBay. But many generate most of their revenue on Amazon, which now accounts for almost 40% of online sales in the US, says EMarketer.

Merchants have long complained that Amazon wields outsize influence over their businesses. Besides paying higher fees, many now have to buy ads to stand out on the increasingly cluttered site. Some report giving Amazon 40% or more of each transaction, up from 20% a few years ago.

Some merchants are keen to increase their sales on Walmart, where it costs less to do business since advertising costs less than it does on Amazon. But sellers say the price alerts are forcing them to maintain allegiance to Amazon and making it harder to diversify their businesses.

Walmart routinely fields requests from merchants to raise prices on its marketplace because they worry a lower price on Walmart will jeopardise their sales on Amazon, says a Walmart manager, who requested anonymity to speak freely about an internal matter.

Amazon began sending the price alerts in 2017, and merchants say they have increased in frequency amid an intensifying price war between Amazon and Walmart. Merchants receive the alerts via a web platform they use to manage their Amazon businesses.

The alerts show the product, the price on Amazon and the price found elsewhere on the web. —BLOOMBERG

Moon Jae-in calls for 'peace economy' with N Korea, slams Japan

SEOUL, AUGUST 5

SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT on Monday described the country's escalating trade war with Japan as a wake-up call to revamp its economy and also issued a nationalistic call for economic cooperation with North Korea, which he said would allow the Koreas to erase Japan's economic superiority in "one burst".

President Moon Jae-in made the comments during a meeting with senior aides to discuss Japan's move to downgrade South Korea's trade status and tighten controls on exports to South Korean manufacturers.

Moon has described Japan's moves as a deliberate attempt to damage South Korea's export-dependent economy and accused Tokyo of weaponising trade to retaliate over political disputes surrounding the countries' bitter wartime history.

Earlier on Monday, South Korea said it plans to spend 7.8 trillion won ($6.5 billion) over the next seven years to develop technologies for industrial materials and parts as it moves to reduce its dependence.

The government will also financially support South Korean companies in mergers and acquisitions of foreign companies and expand tax benefits to lure more international investment, while easing labour and environmental regulations so that local companies could boost their production, the country's trade ministry said.

South Korea's plans are aimed at stabilising the supply of 100 key materials and parts in semiconductors, display screens, automobiles and other major export sectors, where its companies have heavily relied on Japanese imports to produce finished products.

"We need to do more than just overcome Japan's trade retaliations and arm ourselves with broader sight and extraordinary determination to surpass Japan's economy," Moon said during the meeting at Seoul's presidential Blue House.

"We should invest efforts to significantly enhance the competitiveness of (South Korea's) parts and materials industry and also apply economic policies to revive vitality across all areas of our economy," he said. —AP

AI used to detect fast radio bursts

SCIENTISTS HAVE DEVELOPED an automated system that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to detect and capture fast radio bursts (FRBs) in real-time.

FRBs are mysterious and powerful flashes of radio waves from space, thought to originate billions of light years from the Earth, said researchers from Swinburne University of Technology in Australia.

They last for only a few milliseconds or a thousandth of a second and their cause is one of astronomy's biggest puzzles. The system, described in the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, has already identified five bursts, including one of the most energetic ever detected, as well as the broadest.

Wael Farah from Swinburne University of Technology trained the on-site computer at the Molonglo Radio Observatory in Australia to recognise the signs and signatures of FRBs, and trigger an immediate capture of the finest details seen to date. The bursts were detected within seconds of arrival at the Molonglo Radio Telescope, producing high quality data that allowed the researchers to study and gather clues about their origin. —PTI

Sale of three units: SAIL extends deadline for submission of EoIs

SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, August 5

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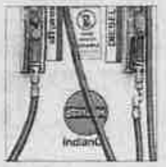
Shipping fuel norms to push up Indian Oil's refinery margins

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, August 5



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Dearth in AI talent makes Daikin create own programme

TETSUSHI KAJIMOTO
Osaka, August 5

THERE'S A SENSE of panic within Japan and the government — the world's No. 3 economy doesn't have enough experts in artificial intelligence and it's time to do something about it.

SoftBank Group Corp CEO Masayoshi Son last month bemoaned the state of play, calling Japan a 'developing country' in the most important current tech revolution. Tech heavyweights like Sony Corp are hiking pay for the right hires and boosting recruitment of foreign engineers.

But Daikin Industries is taking a more unusual route to AI expertise. It has created an in-house programme that takes new graduates and current employees - almost all with no AI background - and trains them up. It aims to make 1,000 employees AI-savvy by 2022, in what Daikin says is one of the most ambitious AI-specific training programmes by a Japanese company.

"We have a sense of crisis as we don't have experts well versed in information technology when AI and data analysis are in great demand," Yuji Yoneda, executive officer at Daikin's Technology and Innovation Center, REUTERS

Oiled by bond yield fall, share buyback juggernaut to roll on

SUJATA RAO
London, August 5

RELENTLESSLY FALLING BORROWING costs worldwide may be setting the stage for a further squeeze in global equity supply, with signs that more companies, especially in Japan and Europe, will exploit the cheap money wave to buy back shares.

Rock-bottom borrowing costs in the decade after the global financial crisis have already played a role in draining the world of investable equity through share buybacks, mergers and acquisitions and de-listings.

With not enough shares issued to offset those withdrawn from circulation, equity supply has shrunk steadily, one reason for record share gains in recent years - especially in the US, where 80% of firms are estimated to conduct buybacks.

The result is that net global equity supply should be around zero this year, the same as in 2017 and 2018, JPMorgan predicts. Net supply was negative in 2016 for the first time ever.

The buyback boom is one side-effect of rock-bottom interest rates. And with central banks again in rate-cutting mode, the trend could get a fresh lease of life.

"If you look at the cost of equity versus the cost of debt, the incentive to issue debt and buy back equity has never been higher," said Supriya Menon, senior multi-asset strategist at Pictet Asset Management.

Cost of equity is what shareholders demand as returns, while cost of debt is what a company pays to borrow. To source capital where it is cheapest, companies tend to arbitrage between equity and debt -- and these days the collapse in bond yields makes it far more alluring to borrow than to list equity.

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Menon highlighted an "exceptionally wide" gap between the yield on investment grade European and US companies' 12-month forward earnings and the average yield on their bonds.

Analysis of Europe's biggest companies shows the extent to which equity costs outstrip the cost of debt.

JPMorgan says a flurry of high-profile stock market debuts this year from the likes of Uber and Pinterest will not materially change the net supply picture; its data shows listings worldwide are down 20-30% year-to-date while buybacks should clock in around \$1 trillion over the course of 2019.

"Buybacks are still tracking record levels and you don't have that many IPOs, so you get negative net equity issuance. That's been a major driver of equity performance and I don't see any let-up," Pictet's Menon said.

Goldman Sachs meanwhile predicted Wall Street would enjoy its best year since 2013, even as it cut earnings estimates.

US buybacks have lost some momentum, perhaps as the impact of massive tax cuts fades. New stock buybacks averaged just \$2.8 billion daily in the last three weeks, according to Trim Tabs Research, the second-lowest volume in the past eight earnings seasons. The number of announcements stood at 3.1, the lowest in the past eight earnings seasons.

Instead, it's Europe that's ripe for a buyback wave, analysts say. Nikolaos Panigirtzoglou, market strategist at JPMorgan notes European share buybacks last year equated to just 1% of market capitalisation versus around 4% in the US. REUTERS

Benelli plans to launch new sub-300 cc bikes by year-end

BV MAHALAKSHMI
Hyderabad, August 5

ITALIAN SUPERBIKE BRAND Benelli is planning to launch two to three bikes, including one customised for the Indian market, in the sub-300cc capacity by the end of this year. The company currently has six brands in the Indian market and the proposed launch is part of its plan to offer 12-13 bikes by 2020.

Besides, the company, which made a fresh foray into the Indian market last year, is also closely monitoring to launch electric bikes.

In 2005, Benelli became part of China-based Qjian Jiang group and is the second largest motorcycle manufacturer in China. Hyderabad-based Mahavir group through Adishwar Auto Ride India is the exclusive partner to Benelli's premium product range in the country. It has set up an assembly plant for Benelli in Hyderabad having a capacity of 40,000 units per year. It manufactures and imports a range of Benelli bikes from Italy and South East Asia regions.

"With the Indian motorcycle market gearing up for new segments and superbikes witnessing a progressive growth in the last few years, we have taken a strategic decision to bring in some of the globally renowned Benelli products into the Indian market. We are building a customer base and network across the country. We hope to register a positive growth in the coming years," Vikas Jhabakh, MD, Benelli India, said after launching of Leoncino 500 superbike.

Further, Adishwar Auto Ride India is planning to set up a second assembly plant in Telangana. "We are planning for a second unit given our plans to launch 12-13 bikes by 2020 which would be in the lower range of 250cc category besides cruise category," he said. Currently, the brand portfolio is 300-600 cc and going forward, the plan is to look at lesser range, he added.

While there is pricing pressure and slump in the auto sector, the company is still bullish for the demand for premium bikes which is expected to grow steadily with the increasing localisation aspect. It claims to have a market share of 25% and competes with bikes of BMW, Harley Davidson and Triumph among others. It has also reduced service cost and spare parts by 33% and has increased warranty for 500cc bikes to five years.

The company has also increased its dealers from seven to 19 dealers across 18 cities and 15 more are in the pipeline. It has a customer base of 6,000 across the country and has sold 1,000 units during January to July 2019.

"Our plan is to sell over 2,000 units by the end of this year. We want to scale up in the domestic market in the next one to two years and then look at exports as well," he added.

WAR FOREVER?

Trump deepens trade battle with China

SHAWN DONNAN
Washington, August 5

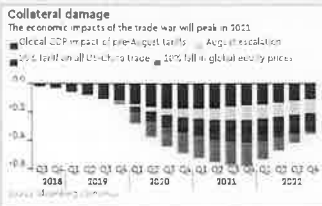
DONALD TRUMP'S TRADE battle with China is starting to look like the forever war — a quagmire with no end in sight, no clear path to a resolution and more potential land mines for an already weakening global economy.

With his move last week to announce his biggest tariff hike yet on imports from China, the president made clear he was exasperated with counterpart Xi Jinping and a perceived lack of Chinese urgency. Trump portrayed the threat as a move to pressure Beijing to cut a deal.

Yet by doubling down on a negotiating tactic that has yet to deliver any meaningful results and is damaging the US and Chinese economies, Trump appears to have made any deal less, rather than more, likely. Moreover, it increasingly looks like he and his team may not have any other ideas on where to go next or how to bring an end to the fight.

"We did not enter this particular trade war with China with a clear plan for how to get out," said Philip Levy, a member of President George W Bush's Council of Economic Advisors, who is now chief economist for freight forwarder Flexport. "The plan for how to get out seems to have been 'We'll threaten them, they'll succumb and then we'll be happy.' So far we haven't seen anyone talk about what if they don't succumb?"

Rather than bend, Chinese officials responded on Monday by letting the yuan depreciate and cutting off purchases of American soybeans. They're pledging to retaliate further if Trump goes ahead with his threat to impose tariffs starting September 1 on Chinese imports. Those include consumer goods like smartphones, kids' clothes and toys, and together are worth some $300 billion in annual trade, or more than the entire $250 billion already hit with import taxes by Trump.



Investors are starting to grasp the potential for a protracted conflict. US equities last week had their worst week of the year and were tumbling again on Monday along with emerging-market currencies. Treasuries rallied with the yen as traders bid up haven assets.

Morgan Stanley economists said in a research note on Monday if the higher US tariffs and China's retaliation last for four to six months, the global economy will be in a recession in nine months.

The Chinese have sent plenty of signals that they are confident they can weather Trump's assault. Since May, Xi has called for a new "Long March." Among the issues mulled at a politburo meeting on the economy before last week's tariff threat, analysts say, was how to navigate a US escalation.

Chris Johnson, a former CIA analyst who has spent years examining the behaviour of the Chinese leadership, said the politburo meeting appeared to finish with a decision that China could survive an economic slowdown related to trade.

Trump's gambit also comes just as the Chinese leadership heads off for its annual summer retreat. Xi's enthusiasm to sell a possible deal and the reforms demanded by the US at the retreat, he says, is likely to be diminished after Trump's tariff threat. "It also gives fodder to those opposed to making concessions in the first place," Johnson says.

Even before US trade representative Robert Lighthizer and treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin headed to Shanghai for talks last week, people close to the talks said it was unclear whether a deal was even possible.

After the pair returned and briefed Trump that Chinese officials had offered nothing new, he decided to go ahead with the tariffs on Thursday. Adding to the decision, Trump said in announcing it, was a failure by China to deliver on a promise to step up agricultural purchases and thus at least partly reverse what has been a damaging and politically targeted retaliation against a Trump-friendly constituency.

In a pair of weekend tweets Trump insisted he was on the cusp of great successes. "Things are going along very well with China," he said in one. "Countries are coming to us wanting to negotiate REAL trade deals, not the one sided horror show deals made by past administrations," he offered in the other.

Whether Trump or those around him ever wanted a deal with China is, of course, still open to debate.

Hawks in the US see tariffs as an essential tool in forcing a relocation of supply chains. The president continues to insist China is bearing the cost of tariffs despite evidence from businesses to the contrary.

Trump blames the slowdown in the US economy on what he has labelled policy missteps by the Federal Reserve that have caused an appreciation in the dollar among other things. The Fed last week attributed a decision to cut borrowing costs for the first time in a decade in large part to US trade policy.
—BLOOMBERG

'Battle mode' Huawei sees surge of China smartphone sales

REUTERS
Shanghai/Hong Kong, August 5

WHEN 23-YEAR-OLD Chinese student Aaron Huang started his hunt for an Android replacement for his Apple iPhone in April this year, it was clear which brand was trying hardest to win him over.

Promotional campaigns by Huawei and from local retailers supporting the brand were everywhere, said Huang, adding he was influenced by domestic media coverage that portrayed the US as unfairly targeting the Chinese tech giant in its trade war. "I felt like I should choose Huawei," he said.

The advertising blitz and grassroots patriotism have proven to be a potent mix, amplifying the brand's existing broad appeal in its home market — a market it is increasingly dependent on as Washington's ban on sales of US components and software to Huawei hammers overseas demand. Second-quarter China smartphone shipments for Huawei surged by a nearly a third from the same period a year earlier, with its market share rocketing 10.6 percentage points to a record 38%, according to research firm Canalys. Shipments for domestic rivals and Apple plummeted.

Huawei has lifted its China sales target for its consumer business group, said a company source, who was not authorised to speak on the matter and declined to be identified.

Within Huawei, employees refer to current strategies as "Battle Mode" and it has stepped up the opening of new stores including "experience centres" in the style of Apple shops, other company sources said. One experience centre near its South China headquarters opened last month while a bigger one in Shenzhen's tech district of Nanshan will open next month.

Analysts say Huawei has also been transferring unsold smartphone stock from other regions to China.

Amazon squeezing sellers that offer better prices on Walmart

SPENCER SOPER
Seattle, August 5

AMAZON'S DETERMINATION to offer shoppers the best deals is prompting merchants selling products on its marketplace to raise their prices on competing websites, a testament to the company's growing influence over the e-commerce market.

Amazon constantly scans rivals' prices to see if they're lower. When it discovers a product is cheaper on, say, Walmart, Amazon alerts the company selling the item and then makes the product harder to find and buy on its own marketplace — effectively penalising the merchant. In many cases, the merchant opts to raise the price on the rival site rather than risk losing sales on Amazon.

Merchants have long complained that Amazon wields outsize influence over their businesses

Pricing alerts reviewed by *Bloomberg* show Amazon doesn't explicitly tell sellers to raise prices on other sites, and the goal may be to push them to lower their prices on Amazon. But in interviews, merchants say they're so hemmed in by rising costs levied by Amazon and reliant on sales on its marketplace, that they're more likely to raise their prices elsewhere.

Antitrust experts say the Amazon policy is likely to attract scrutiny from Congress and the Federal Trade Commission, which recently took over jurisdiction of the Seattle-based company. So far, criticism of Amazon's market power has centred on whether it mines merchants' sales data to launch competing products and then uses its dominance to make the original product harder to find on its marketplace.

Harming consumers by prompting merchants to raise prices on other sites more neatly fits the traditional definition of antitrust behaviour in the US.

"Monopolisation charges are always about business conduct that causes harm in a market," said Jennifer Rie, an analyst at *Bloomberg Intelligence* who specialises in antitrust litigation. "It could end up being considered illegal conduct because people who prefer to shop on Walmart end up having to pay a higher price." In an emailed statement, an Amazon spokesperson said: "Sellers have full control of their own prices both on and off Amazon, and we help them maximise their sales in our store by providing them insights on how to be the featured offer." Walmart declined to comment.

Online merchants typically sell their products on multiple websites, including Amazon, Walmart and EBay. But many generate most of their revenue on Amazon, which now accounts for almost 40% of online sales in the US, says EMarketer.

Merchants have long complained that Amazon wields outsize influence over their businesses. Besides paying higher fees, many now have to buy ads to stand out on the increasingly cluttered site. Some report giving Amazon 40% or more of each transaction, up from 20% a few years ago.

Some merchants are keen to increase their sales on Walmart, where it costs less to do business since advertising costs less than it does on Amazon. But sellers say the price alerts are forcing them to maintain allegiance to Amazon and making it harder to diversify their businesses.

Walmart routinely fields requests from merchants to raise prices on its marketplace because they worry a lower price on Walmart will jeopardise their sales on Amazon, says a Walmart manager, who requested anonymity to speak freely about an internal matter.

Amazon began sending the price alerts in 2017, and merchants say they have increased in frequency amid an intensifying price war between Amazon and Walmart. Merchants receive the alerts via a web platform they use to manage their Amazon businesses.

The alerts show the product, the price on Amazon and the price found elsewhere on the web. —BLOOMBERG

Moon Jae-in calls for 'peace economy' with N Korea, slams Japan

SEOUL, AUGUST 5

SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT on Monday described the country's escalating trade war with Japan as a wake-up call to revamp its economy and also issued a nationalistic call for economic cooperation with North Korea, which he said would allow the Koreas to erase Japan's economic superiority in "one burst".

President Moon Jae-in made the comments during a meeting with senior aides to discuss Japan's move to downgrade South Korea's trade status and tighten controls on exports to South Korean manufacturers.

Moon has described Japan's moves as a deliberate attempt to damage South Korea's export-dependent economy and accused Tokyo of weaponising trade to retaliate over political disputes surrounding the countries' bitter wartime history.

Earlier on Monday, South Korea said it plans to spend 7.8 trillion won ($6.5 billion) over the next seven years to develop technologies for industrial materials and parts as it moves to reduce its dependence.

The government will also financially support South Korean companies in mergers and acquisitions of foreign companies and expand tax benefits to lure more international investment, while easing labour and environmental regulations so that local companies could boost their production, the country's trade ministry said.

South Korea's plans are aimed at stabilising the supply of 100 key materials and parts in semiconductors, display screens, automobiles and other major export sectors, where its companies have heavily relied on Japanese imports to produce finished products.

"We need to do more than just overcome Japan's trade retaliations and arm ourselves with broader sight and extraordinary determination to surpass Japan's economy," Moon said during the meeting at Seoul's presidential Blue House.

"We should invest efforts to significantly enhance the competitiveness of (South Korea's) parts and materials industry and also apply economic policies to revive vitality across all areas of our economy," he said. —AP

AI used to detect fast radio bursts

SCIENTISTS HAVE DEVELOPED an automated system that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to detect and capture fast radio bursts (FRBs) in real-time.

FRBs are mysterious and powerful flashes of radio waves from space, thought to originate billions of light years from the Earth, said researchers from Swinburne University of Technology in Australia.

They last for only a few milliseconds or a thousandth of a second and their cause is one of astronomy's biggest puzzles.

The system, described in the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, has already identified five bursts, including one of the most energetic ever detected, as well as the broadest.

Wael Farah from Swinburne University of Technology trained the on-site computer at the Molonglo Radio Observatory in Australia to recognise the signs and signatures of FRBs, and trigger an immediate capture of the finest details seen to date. The bursts were detected within seconds of arrival at the Molonglo Radio Telescope, producing high quality data that allowed the researchers to study and gather clues about their origin. —PTI

Sale of three units: SAIL extends deadline for submission of EoIs

SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, August 5

STEEL AUTHORITY OF India (SAIL) has extended the deadline to August 20 for submission of expressions of interest (EoIs) from potential bidders for outright sale of its three loss-making units — Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Salem Steel Plant (SSP) and Visvesaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP).

Sources said the extension had been granted, from August 1 earlier, due to investors' apathy towards buying out those three units which had incurred a cumulative loss of ₹2,300 crore in the past five years. SAIL had attempted outright sales of these units even in 2017, but that did not fructify for want of buyers.

ASP, SSP and VSP are located in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, respectively. These three units have a total of 2,100 permanent employees.

SAIL had proposed to transfer these units to winning bidders, to be chosen through a competitive bidding process, on a going concern basis by way of slump sale through business transfer agreement. The proceeds may not contribute much to the government's ₹1,05-lakh crore disinvestment target for the current fiscal.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had on October 27, 2016, approved "in-principle" strategic disinvestment of these units on recommendations of the Niti Aayog. The board of SAIL gave its in-principle approval for the same on February 9, 2017, though the final approval for divestment of 100% stake came in its different sittings. For VISP and ASP, the final approval came on August 11, 2017; while for SSP, it came on June 28, 2019.

ASP was commissioned in January 1965 as a unit under erstwhile Hindustan Steel (HSL). In 1978, HSL was dissolved and its assets were transferred to SAIL, resulting in ASP becoming one of the operating units of SAIL. Through multiple expansions, the capacity of the plant has been increased to 1.84 lakh tonne (saleable steel). ASP has a total of 758 employees. Of ASP's total area of 1,154 acre under possession, 600 acre is proposed to be divested as part of the transaction.

VISP was founded in 1923 as a small pig iron unit. In 1989, SAIL purchased the shares and made the company its subsidiary. VISP pioneers production of high quality alloy and special steels. At present, VISP has an installed capacity of 2.2 lakh tonne of hot metal and 0.98 lakh tonne of saleable steel.

VISP has 333 permanent employees and 1,661 acre under possession, of which 847 acre will be divested as part of the transaction. SAIL will keep the remaining land itself. Since January 2017, production had been stopped in the unit for want of orders.

SSP had in 2018-19 utilised 82% of its 2.87 lakh tonne per annum hot-rolled coil making capacity. The unit sells its products to railway coach factories, mints and public sector units like BHEL and NTPC. SSP has 941 employees. Of the total 3,973 acre in possession, 1,708 acre would be divested as part of the disinvestment plan. SAIL has appointed SBI Capital Markets as the transaction advisor.

Shipping fuel norms to push up Indian Oil's refinery margins

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, August 5

THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME Organisation's (IMO) new norms is seen to benefit the gross refining margins (GRM) for the state-run Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) as it would boost demand for diesel—the strong point of IOCL refineries.

The company has prepared its 2.74 lakh barrels per day (bpd) Koyali and the 1.5 lakh bpd Haldia refineries to produce 1 MT and 0.5 MT, respectively, of IMO-compliant fuel oil to tap this new market. IOCL's existing 3 bpd Paradip refinery already specialises in diesel production.

According to ICICI Securities, the IMO-mandated change in sulphur in marine fuel is estimated to boost diesel demand by 9 lakh bpd in calendar year 2020.

Axis Capital estimates the benefit from higher demand for middle distillates to start from Q3 FY20 and last until FY21-end. While ICICI Securities expects IOCL's FY20 GRM to be $5.7/barrel, Axis Capital's forecast is $6.5/barrel.

In spite of the Lok Sabha elections in May and global crude prices suppressing marketing margins earlier in the quarter, IOCL managed to keep an auto fuel marketing margin of ₹1.75 per litre in Q1 (compared with the ₹0.97-1.06 per litre range in FY15-FY18).

"The re-election of a strong government, during whose last tenure margin was strong, augurs well for marketing margin outlook," ICICI Securities said, raising its estimate for the same by 25% to ₹1.25 per litre in FY20. Axis Capital expects IOCL's auto fuel margin to be ₹2.5 per litre in the ongoing fiscal.

Dearth in AI talent makes Daikin create own programme

TETSUSHI KAJIMOTO
Osaka, August 5

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BY MAHALAKSHMI
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THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL
www.freepressjournal.in MUMBAI | TUESDAY | AUGUST 6, 2019

Tsitsipas climbs into the top five of the latest ATP rankings

PARIS: Washington Open semi-finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas has for the first time climbed into the top five of the latest ATP rankings released Monday. The 20-year-old Greek, who has already won tournaments in Marseille and Estoril as well as reaching the final of the Masters 1000 in Madrid, is the youngest player in the top 20. He has leapfrogged Alexander Zverev who dropped two places to seventh. It may be a brief visit to the top five for Tsitsipas with lots of points on offer at this week's Montreal Masters and Kei Nishikori just five points behind him in sixth.

LYON'S ROAR SCARES OFF ENGLAND

Australia come back hard to bury England for 146 on the final day; win by 251 runs and go 1-0 up

AGENCIES
Birmingham

Nathan Lyon took six wickets as Australia thrashed England by 251 runs at their Edgbaston 'fortress' to win the first Ashes Test on Monday. England, set a daunting 398 for victory, lost four wickets for 12 runs either side of lunch on the last day as they collapsed to 97-7. They were eventually dismissed for 146 in their second innings, with off-spinner Lyon taking 6-49 – a haul that included his 350th Test wicket – and fast bowler Pat Cummins 4-32.

Victory gave Australia their first win at Edgbaston in any format since 2001 – the last time they won an Ashes series in England – and ended England's run of 11 successive wins at the Birmingham ground.

England resumed on 13 without loss after Australia star Steve Smith's second hundred of his comeback Test following a ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal had allowed the tourists to declare late on Sunday's fourth day.

Rory Burns, whose first-innings 133 was his first century at this level, became just the 10th cricketer to have batted on all five days of a Test.

But he had added just four runs to his overnight seven when he was undone by an excellent seaming and rising Cummins delivery that lobbed off his gloves to Lyon in the gully.

Number three Root, on four, was given out leg before to James Pattinson by umpire Joel Wilson.

But in a match full of overturned decisions, Root successfully challenged the verdict.

Root had made eight when he nearly played on to Cummins before Jason Roy, who made a superb 85 in eventual champions England's World Cup semi-final win over Australia at Edgbaston last month, drove him through extra cover for four.

Root had moved on to nine when he was again given out leg before by Wilson, this time off the bowling of paceman Peter Siddle.

But the batsman's immediate review revealed an inside edge.

That meant umpire Wilson had equalled an unwanted record with an eighth overturned decision in a Test match.

Roy swept Lyon for four but then, in a shot more appropriate for a one-day match than a side trying to save a Test, charged down the pitch and was clean bowled for 28.

Lyon remained a threat on a wearing pitch offering turn and bounce and he had Joe Denly (11) caught off bat and pad by Cameron Bancroft at short leg to leave England 60-3.

England collapse

And the Australia pair combined again to dismiss Root for 28. England's 85-4 at lunch soon became 85-5 when Jos Buttler (one) was bowled by a Cummins delivery that kept low.

Cummins then had his 100th Test wicket when Jonny Bairstow (six) gloved a rising ball to Bancroft in the slips. England's collapse continued apace when Ben Stokes was also out for six, well caught by wicketkeeper Tim Paine off a sharply spun Lyon delivery.

Moeen Ali, who in the first innings had succumbed to Lyon when he was bowled for a duck playing no shot, fell to the bowler for the ninth time in 11 Ashes knocks when caught in the slips for four to leave England 136-8.

It marked the end of a miserable match for England off-spinner Moeen comprehensively out bowled by Lyon. Lyon had Stuart Broad caught in the slips next ball before James Anderson survived the hat trick after not bowling at all in Australia's second innings because of a calf injury. Chris Woakes, who played several fine shots, was dropped in the slips by Smith.

But former Australia captain Smith had the last word, catching Woakes (37) in the slips off Cummins, with England all out inside 53 overs.

SCORES: Australia 284 (Smith 144, Broad 5-86) and 487 for 7 dec (Smith 142, Wade 110, Head 51) beat England 374 (Burns 133, Root 57, Stokes 50) and 146 (Lyon 6-49, Cummins 4-32) by 251 runs

MUMBAI RADAR

BADMINTON: Pranav and Kamya clinch U-15 crowns

FPJ SPORTS DESK
Mumbai

Pranav Kamble (GMBA) and Kamya Ravi (MSDBA) emerged champions by winning the Boys' under-15 and Girls' under-15 singles crowns respectively in the Bombay Gymkhana-IndusInd Bank Sub-Junior Badminton Tournament 2019, organised by Bombay Gymkhana under the aegis of the Greater Mumbai Badminton Association and played at the Bombay Gymkhana badminton courts.

In the boys' summit clash, the taller Pranav had to bring his best to blunt the challenge from Lionel Monteiro (MSDBA) before going on to record a 15-11, 5-15 and 15-6 victory in about 27 minutes.

Later, second seed Kamya Ravi (MSDBA) played with plenty of grit and determination to topple top seed Nirmitee Gajbhiye (MSDBA) by winning in three tough games. Kamya lost the opening game, but she bounced back by putting up a strong fight and comfortably won the next two games to clinch a deserving 10-15, 15-8 and 15-9 success in 22 minutes. Kamya in the process dashed Nirmitee's hopes of claiming a grand double.

Earlier, Nirmitee lifted the Girls' under-13 title. The top seed Nirmitee brushed aside second seed Riya Vinherkar (GMBA) by coasting to a straight games 15-9 and 15-8 win.

Pranit Somani (MSDBA) scored a stunning victory in two quick games against second seed Shashwat Kumar (GMBA) in the Boys' under-13 finals. The unseeded Pranit was in good nick and eased to 15-8, 15-6 victory.

The Girls' under-11 crown was won by second seed Evanna Tyagi (MSDBA) who overcame top seed Riya Vinherkar (GMBA) 15-13, 15-10 in two well-contested games. Meanwhile, top seed Harshit Mahimkar (GMBA) had quite a fight on hand from Vedant Sawant (MSDBA) but managed to pull through by charging to a 15-7, 11-15, 15-5 to win the boys' under-11 title.

RESULTS: Girls' U-11 singles (finals): 2-Evanna Tyagi (MSDBA) beat 1-Riya Vinherkar (GMBA) 15-13, 15-10. Boys' U-11 singles (semi-finals): 1-Harshit Mahimkar (GMBA) beat Vedant Sawant (MSDBA) 15-7, 11-15, 15-5. Girls' U-13 singles (semi-finals): 1-Nirmitee Gajbhiye (MSDBA) beat 2-Riya Vinherkar (GMBA) 15-8, 15-8. Boys' U-13 singles (semi-finals): Pranit Somani (MSDBA) beat 2-Shashwat Kumar (GMBA) 15-8, 15-6. Girls' U-15 singles (finals): 2-Kamya Ravi (MSDBA) beat 1-Nirmitee Gajbhiye (MSDBA) 10-15, 15-8, 15-9. Boys' U-15 singles (finals): Pranav Kamble (GMBA) beat Lionel Monteiro (MSDBA) 15-11, 5-15, 15-6


Champions of Bombay Gymkhana Sub Junior badminton championship

Goans SA concede 2 vital points

MDFA

FPJ SPORTS DESK
Mumbai

Goans Sports Association (GSA) dropped two valuable points as they conceded an own goal and were forced to share honours with Juhu Beach United in a First Division match of the Rustomjee-MDFA League 2019-2020 and played at the Neville D'Souza ground, Bandra on Monday.

The Goan outfit called the shot from the outset and took an early lead through Subhjit's Singh's goal and went into the break with a slender 1-0 advantage. However, after changing ends defender Yash Swamy deflected the ball into his own net to allow the Juhu side draw level.

Earlier, Jay Bagade's 39th minute goal helped Tata Power record a 1-0 win against Miners FC in another First Division encounter.

RESULTS – First Div: Goans SA 1 (Subhjit Singh) drew with Juhu Beach United 1 (OG-Yash Swamy); Tata Power 1 (Jay Bagade) beat Miners SC 0.

SQUASH

Shaan Dalal stuns higher ranked Kushagra Singh

FPJ SPORTS DESK
Mumbai

Maharashtra's Shaan Dalal showed impressive touch to shock higher-ranked opponent Kushagra Singh and advance to the men's second round of the Otters Club Squash Open here on Monday. Unseeded Dalal caught Kushagra Singh (17/32) by surprise with his aggressive play and drop shots to carve out a facile 11-4, 11-0, 11-3 victory in round one.

In another first round match, unseeded Shanay Dharod of Maharashtra upset Abhishek Sonthalia, who is seeded in the [17/32] bracket, 11-9, 11-5, 11-4 to advance to the second round. Second seed Ranjit Singh of Services got off to a solid start in the tournament as he defeated unseeded Ajay Deshmukh 11-5, 11-5, 11-5 to move into the second round. Top seed Abhishek Pradhan was awarded a walkover in round one.

MSSA: St. Paul's in finals

FPJ SPORTS DESK
Mumbai

A combined effort from the players ensured St. Paul's High School (Dadar) a spot in the finals as they defeat St. Anne's High School (Malad) 4-1 via tiebreaker in the semi-finals of the Mumbai School Sports Association (MSSA) Boys Under-16 Div II Inter School Football Tournament played at Neville D'Souza Football Turf, Bandra, here on Monday.

Both sides showed a positive approach and went on the offensive from the start. The match witnessed some neat build-up towards goals, but St. Pauls managed to keep the ball in their possession early in the game and were pushing St Anne's boys into an uncomfortable situation.

In another semi-final, St Joseph's, Malad, beat AVM, Juhu, 2-0 to secure their place in the finals. Yash Sankhe gave St. Joseph a lead just before the first half, scoring in the 24th minute. Adityan AP doubled the lead in the 27th minute and the defence ensured the opposition could not open their account. St. Joseph's will face St. Paul's in the Boys Div II finals on Wednesday, 7th August 2019.

HISTORICAL TRAVEL

500 years on, how Ferdinand Magellan's epoch-making voyage changed the world

His voyage has transformed humans' own conception of their place in the world

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
Lisbon, August 1

Ferdinand Magellan set off from Spain 500 years ago on an epoch-making voyage to sail all the way around the globe for the first time.

The Portuguese explorer was killed by islanders in the Philippines two years into the adventure, leaving Spaniard Juan Sebastian Elcano to complete the three-year trip. But it is Magellan's name that is forever associated with the voyage.

"Magellan is still an inspiration 500 years on," said Fabien Cousteau, a French filmmaker and underwater explorer like his grandfather Jacques-Yves Cousteau.

"He was a pioneer at a time when explorers who went off into the unknown had a strong habit of not coming back."

Here are five ways in which Magellan's voyage marked human history and continues to inspire scientists and explorers today.

Historical: Magellan's voyage was a turning point in history, as unique as the first manned journey into outer space and the later moon landings, said NASA scientist Alan Stern, leader of its New Horizons interplanetary space probe. "When the first one circled the planet, (that) sort of meant that we now had our arms around the planet for the first time," he said.

"That just transformed humanity in my view. I would call it the first planetary event, in the same way that Yuri Gagarin was the first off-planetary event" when the Soviet cosmonaut went into outer space.

Geographical: Magellan's voyage rewrote the maps and geography books. He was the first to discover the strait, which now bears his name, linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans at the tip of South America.

"Perhaps his greatest feat, and still considered today one of the greatest feats of the history of navigation, was negotiating this strait, of which there were no maps and whose existence was vaguely rumoured," said US historian Laurence Bergreen, author of a biography of Magellan.

In this file photo taken on October 12, 2004, a replica of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan's 16th century carrack Victoria leaves Sevilla AFP

Philosophical: The voyage transformed humans' own conception of their place in the world. "It wasn't just geographic and anthropology, it showed something philosophical: that it's all one world," said Bergreen.

"Before Magellan people didn't really know that. They didn't know how the world was connected or how big it was."

Astronomical: The voyage contributed to Europeans' knowledge of the universe and has marked the worlds of space exploration and astronomy to this date.

While crossing the Magellan Strait, the explorer and his crew observed two galaxies visible to the naked eye from the southern hemisphere, now known as the Magellanic Clouds.

Some recently-designated areas of the surface of Mars have been given the same names that Magellan gave to parts of South America, with Bergreen's help. A giant telescope being developed in Chile will also bear the explorer's name.

Inspirational: Magellan's achievement was a landmark in the history of exploration still hailed by his modern-day successors.

"In the space programme, to prepare for these long duration missions, we say 'the lessons for the future are written in the past'," said Dafydd Williams, a former NASA astronaut, now 65, who went on two space missions.

HEALTH BONUS

At Petroleos, skinnier the waist, larger the pay packet

Mexican oil company incentivises workers who meet certain body standards

BLOOMBERG
August 5

At Mexico's state-run oil company, skinnier waists mean bigger bonuses.

Under Petroleos Mexicanos' new collective bargaining contract with its union, workers who meet certain body weight standards will receive a health incentive of 5,545.40 pesos ($287) a year. To qualify, they must have a body mass index (BMI) of not more than 25 — or a maximum waist circumference of 90 cm for men and 80 cm for women. The so-called health bonus is a 4.5 per cent increase from the last union contract.

The policy runs counter to recommendations by health experts, who warn that BMI and other biometric markers are influenced by genetics and environmental factors, and aren't easy to control. "Employers mandating differential treatment of individuals based on BMI serve to institutionalise the already pervasive stigmatisation of obese people," according to one report from The Obesity Society in Maryland.

Pemex and its union did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"This is an uninformed policy," said Scott Kahan, Director of the National Center for Weight and Wellness in Washington. "It's inconsistent with the science of what we know about body weight regulation and its tone-deaf to progress being made in societal perceptions around obesity. On top of all of that, we have very strong scientific data now that weight shaming causes more weight gain."

Pemex workers who are overweight or obese and decrease their weight by 10 per cent annually will also get the bonus, and there are metrics for blood glucose levels, blood pressure and cholesterol, according to the contract seen by Bloomberg. Details of the contract, including a bonus for productivity equivalent to 30.45 per cent of workers' salaries, were first reported in national newspaper Reforma.

"A more productive method of encouraging wellness among employees is to incentivise healthy behaviours," said Kahan. These can include giving workers' insurance rebates for trips to the gym, or encouraging participation in lectures on healthy eating and living. Also, companies can reduce sweets and provide healthier snacks in the office, or give employees more time during their lunch break to buy wholesome food or exercise.

HANDICRAFTS

How technology is weaving a better future for Pathamadai mat makers

An electronic loom is helping makers of this iconic mat earn more while raising productivity

TT RAJA [illegible]
Chennai, August 5

It is a standard item of the bridal trousseau at Tamil weddings, with the names of the bride and the groom inscribed on it. Indeed, the fine, handmade Pathamadai mat, which is made of Korai grass, is a symbol of pride for Tamil Nadu. It has even been granted Geographical Indication (GI) status by the trademarks and GI authorities.

And yet, this century-old traditional craft has been fading due to outdated handicraft methods and the next generation's lack of interest.

The good news is that technology is helping revive this craft by simplifying the weaving, thanks to the efforts of a number of individuals and organisations, including IIT-Madras and the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (TNHDC).

A file photo of mats on display at a shop in Chennai [illegible]

Stagnating craft

The mats derive the name from Pathamadai in Tirunelveli district. The 20,000-plus population in the Panchayat, predominantly women from the Muslim Lebbai community, normally produce about 500 of the mats, priced between ₹3,500 and 2,750, in a month.

However, the mat makers have been facing a series of challenges, particularly because of primitive processes, which kept their output stagnant and incomes low and discouraged the younger members of the community from taking up the craft.

"The trigger to revive the craft began when a [illegible]-year-old weaver from Pathamadai met me, pleading to help the industry," says Santosh Babu, former CMD, TNHDC, and IT Secretary of the State. He roped in Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG), IIT Madras, to transform the craft. TNHDC also sanctioned ₹47 lakh for the project.

RuTAG developed a software-driven, IBB-hook Electronic Jacquard Handloom (EJH), which uses electricity to select hooks according to the design fed into the jacquard (a jacquard is an apparatus fitted to a loom to facilitate weaving). The software package developed along with the loom enables the loading of any animal or floral theme from the Internet and customised designs such as portraits, names or motifs after conversion to a woven textile design format.

Traditional looms require women to be seated on the floor with legs placed at an inclined position to facilitate basic weaving operations. "The new EJH provides comfortable seating, making it ergonomically superior," says Abhijit P Deshpande, Professor In-Charge, RuTAG, IIT Madras.

"Through EJH, productivity has increased up to 300 per cent. The time required to weave a full mat has been reduced to 10-12 hours from 30-36 hours," says Deshpande.

"Mat weaving has become simple and our income has risen," said Syed Ali Fathima, a weaver.

NASA INSIGHTS

Moon, Mercury may contain more water ice than thought

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Washington, August 5

The Moon and Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun, may contain significantly more water ice than previously thought, according to a new analysis of data from NASA spacecraft.

The potential ice deposits are found in craters near the poles of both worlds, according to the study published in the journal Nature Geoscience.

In the Moon, "we found shallow craters tend to be located in areas where surface ice was previously detected near the south pole of the Moon, and inferred this shallowing is most likely due to the presence of buried thick ice deposits," said Lior Rubanenko of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the US.

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The research may not only help resolve the question regarding the Moon's apparent low ice abundance relative to Mercury but also have practical applications. "If confirmed, this potential reservoir of frozen water on the Moon may be sufficiently massive to sustain long-term lunar exploration," said Noah Petro, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) Project Scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in the US.

The poles of Mercury and the Moon are among the coldest places in our solar system. Unlike Earth, the spin axes of Mercury and the Moon are oriented such that, in their polar regions, the Sun never rises high above the horizon.

Consequently, polar topographic depressions, such as impact craters, never see the Sun. For decades, it has been postulated these so-called permanently shadowed regions are so cold that any ice trapped within them can potentially survive for billions of years.

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BLOOMBERG

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HANDICRAFTS

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TE RAJA SIMHAN
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HEALTH BONUS

At Petroleos, skinnier the waist, larger the pay packet

Mexican oil company incentivises workers who meet certain body standards

BLOOMBERG
August 5

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The policy runs counter to recommendations by health experts, who warn that BMI and other biometric markers are influenced by genetics and environmental factors, and aren't easy to control. "Employers mandating differential treatment of individuals based on BMI serve to institutionalise the already pervasive stigmatisation of obese people," according to one report from The Obesity Society in Maryland.

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HANDICRAFTS

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Stagnating craft

The mats derive the name from Pathamadai in Tirunelveli district. The 10,000-plus population in the Panchayat, predominantly women from the Muslim Lebbai community, normally produce about 500 of the mats, priced between ₹2,500 and 2,750, in a month.

However, the mat makers have been facing a series of challenges, particularly because of primitive processes, which kept their output stagnant and returns low, and discouraged the younger members of the community from taking up the craft.

"The trigger to revive the craft began when a 90-year-old weaver from Pathamadai met me, pleading to help the industry," says Santosh Babu, former CMD, TNHDC, and IT Secretary of the State. He roped in Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG), IIT Madras, to transform the craft. TNHDC also sanctioned ₹47 lakh for the project.

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A file photo of mats on display at a shop in Chennai BIJOY GHOSH

NASA INSIGHTS

Moon, Mercury may contain more water ice than thought

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
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On the Moon, "we found shallow craters tend to be located in areas where surface ice was previously detected near the south pole of the Moon, and inferred this shallowing is most likely due to the presence of buried thick ice deposits," said Lior Rubanenko of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the US.

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Here are five ways in which Magellan's voyage marked human history and continues to inspire scientists and explorers today.

Historical: Magellan's voyage was a turning point in history, as unique as the first manned journey into outer space and the later moon landings, said NASA scientist Alan Stern, leader of its New Horizons interplanetary space probe. "When the first one circled the planet, [that] sort of meant that we now had our arms around the planet for the first time," he said.

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BusinessLine

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ऑस्ट्रेलियाचा इंग्लंडवर दणदणीत विजय

वृत्तसंस्था

अॅशेस कसोटी स्पर्धा

भारताची विंडीजवर २२ धावांनी मात

वृत्तसंस्था

फ्लोरिडा, दि. ५ - दुसऱ्या टी-२० सामन्यात भारतीय संघाने विंडीजवर २२ धावांनी मात करत मालिकेत विजयी आघाडी घेतली आहे.

रविवारी झालेल्या सामन्यात भारताने प्रथम फलंदाजी करताना रोहित शर्माच्या अर्धशतकाच्या जोरावर १६७ धावांपर्यंत मजल मारली. या लक्ष्याचा पाठलाग करणारा वेस्ट इंडिजचा संघाने ९८ धावांपर्यंत मजल मारली. पावसाने व्यत्यय आल्यामुळे डकवर्थ लुईस नियमाच्या आधारावर ... मात्र विंडीजने १५.३ षटकात ९८ धावा केल्या. या विजयासह भारताने ३ सामन्यांच्या मालिकेत २-० अशी विजयी आघाडी घेतली आहे.

नाणेफेकीचा कौल जिंकून भारताने प्रथम फलंदाजी करण्याचा निर्णय घेतला. सलामीवीर रोहित शर्माच्या ६७ धावांच्या जोरावर भारताने २० षटकात पाच फलंदाज गमावत १६७ धावांपर्यंत मजल मारली. शिखर धवनने २३ धावा, कर्णधार विराट कोहलीने २८ धावा आणि कृणाल पंड्याने नाबाद २० धावा केल्या. अन्य भारतीय फलंदाजांनी या सामन्यात निराशा केली. विंडीजसमोर विजयासाठी १६८ ...

मालिकेत विजयी आघाडी

आज विंडीजविरुद्ध शेवटचा टी-२० सामना
नवख्या खेळाडूंना संधी मिळणार?

वृत्तसंस्था

एबी डिव्हिलियर्सची तुफानी फलंदाजी

महेंद्रसिंग धोनी खेळला जवानांसोबत व्हॉलीबॉल

वृत्तसंस्था

सेन्होरा, पार्थव यांची जेतेपदाला गवसणी

वृत्तसंस्था

मलबार हिल क्लब ऑल स्टार मुंबई शहर जिल्हा टेबल टेनिस स्पर्धा