

13 Indian banks lost out about Pound 40m in Force India sale: Bidder

LONDON, SEPT 30 /--/ One of the two main bidders, keen to acquire embattled Indian businessman Vijay Malliya's Force India Formula One racing team after it went into administration, has claimed that a consortium of 13 Indian banks lost out on estimated 40 million pounds as a result of an "unfair" sales process concluded last month. Russian fertiliser group Uralkali said that by turning down its higher bid for the company, the administrators had denied the extra funds that would have accrued to the shareholder of Force India Malliya's Orange India Holdings Sarl which is subject to a freezing order issued by the UK's High Court in favour of his 13 creditor Indian banks, led by the State Bank of India.

Uralkali launched legal proceedings against administrators FRP Advisory in the High Court in London on Thursday to claim "tens of millions of dollars" in damages over the alleged "prejudicial and unequal treatment" in the bidding process.

The administrators, however, insist they oversaw a "fair and transparent bidding process" which led to the sale of Force India to

the Racing Point consortium, led by Canadian billionaire Lawrence Stroll, after it went into administration in July. "We submitted by far the winning bid for the assets and business, which would have meant most money to the stakeholders and qualitatively recapitalised the team... We have serious concerns as to why the administrators did not use the opportunity to maximise the amounts that could have been paid to creditors and shareholders," said Paul James Ostling, Senior Independent Director of Uralkali, who led the firm's offer for Force India.

"Had he [administrator] taken our bid, because of the freezing order, there would have been millions and millions more available for the ultimate stakeholders, which according to the freezing order are the Indian banks," he said. Malliya, through Orange India Holdings set up in 2007, owned a 42.5 per cent stake in the Silverstone-based racing team alongside a similar shareholding in the hands of India's Sahara Group.

Describing the 62-year-old UK-based businessman fighting his extradition to India on fraud and money laundering charges



amounting to nearly Rs 9,000 crores as a "unique character". Ostling said it had been made clear to Uralkali that the administrator Mercedes would not accept any deal in which either Malliya or Sahara had any "share or interest or participation". "Malliya's legal entanglements made it impossible for anyone to do a normal business deal with him to acquire Force India. When you are trying to do a deal with a man who is

facing extradition and other charges, it made it extraordinarily difficult," said Ostling, who indicated that Uralkali is still interested in acquiring Force India because it is a good racing team which "punches above its weight". "It's very sad what's going on with Mr Malliya and Sahara and all their problems. But the team is a wonderful group of people: the drivers, mechanics, business people are an extraordinary group of 400 people who we adore. We

DoT likely to approach Cabinet for 4G spectrum to BSNL, MTNL in November

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30 /--/ The Department of Telecom plans to seek the Cabinet's approval in the next two months for the allocation of spectrum to state-run telecom firms BSNL and MTNL for 4G services, an official source said. "The draft Cabinet note is expected to be ready in mid-October after which it will be floated for inter-ministerial consultation. Thereafter the DoT will approach the Cabinet with a revised draft note in November," the source told PTI. BSNL has submitted a detailed project report to the government seeking spectrum for 4G services in lieu of equity.

BSNL has sought Rs 6,652 crore as equity infusion from the government to fund its spectrum purchase worth about Rs 13,985 crore, according to information shared by telecom minister Manoj Sinha in Parliament. BSNL chairman and managing director Anupam Shrivastava had earlier told PTI that the corporation is seeking spectrum in the 2100 MHz band for all circles, except Rajasthan, where the company is looking for spectrum in the 800 MHz band. MTNL Chairman and Managing Director P K Purwar requested the government to grant it 4G spectrum in



lieu of equity worth around Rs 6,500-7,000 crore and extend its mobile licence which is expiring in 2019 till 2021. Sinha in mid-September had said that survival of BSNL and MTNL without 4G spectrum is tough and the government is working on a strategy to settle issues that have emerged due to some decisions of the apex court.

"I will try by end of this year, it should not be in 2019 but in 2018, the government should decide on the allocation of 4G spectrum," Sinha had said. BSNL has pan-India operations except in Delhi and Mumbai, while MTNL provides services in Delhi and Mumbai circles.

Govt owes AI over Rs 1146.86 cr for VVIP charter flights

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30 /--/ The total outstanding of cash-strapped Air India towards government for VVIP charter flights stands at Rs 1146.86 crore, according to the latest response from the national carrier to an RTI application. According to the details furnished by the Air India on September 26 to applicant Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd), the Defence Ministry has outstanding bills of Rs 211.17 crore, Cabinet Secretariat and PMO Rs 543.18 crore and External Affairs Ministry Rs 392.33 crore. Some of the oldest pending bills for the visits of the president, the vice president and the evacuation flights are nearly 10-year-old, the data furnished by Air India says.

In a previous reply furnished in March this year, the total outstanding bills were at Rs 325 crore on January 31 which have now risen to Rs 1146.86 crore, it shows. Chartered aircraft for VVIPs - president, vice president and prime minister - for their visits abroad are provided by Air India, which modifies its commercial jets to suit the needs of the travelling dignitaries. The bills for these aircraft are paid from the exchequer by the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Cabinet Secretariat (PTI)

Tesla CEO Elon Musk, co settle fraud suit for \$40m



SAN FRANCISCO, SEPT 30 /--/ Tesla CEO Elon Musk and the electric car company have agreed to pay a total of USD 40 million and make a series of concessions to settle a government lawsuit alleging Musk duped investors with misleading statements about a proposed buyout of the company.

The Securities and Exchange Commission announced the settlement Saturday, just two days after filing a case seeking to oust Musk as CEO.

The settlement will require Musk to relinquish his role as chairman for at least three years, but he will be able to remain as CEO. (AP)

Tata Steel for higher capacity utilisation in Bhushan Steel

KOLKATA, SEPT 30 /--/ After acquiring debt-laden Bhushan Steel through the insolvency and bankruptcy process, Tata Steel is now aiming to raise its production to 4 million tonne (MT) by the end of the current fiscal, an official said. Bhushan Steel's Odisha plant is presently operating at 3.5 MT against a capacity of 5 MT, the official said. "The Bhushan plant in Odisha has a capacity of 5 MT but is currently operating at 3.5 MT. We are working to raise the production at least to a level of 4 MT a year by March 2019 as demand remains robust," the official, who is part of the new team installed by Tata Steel in the company, told PTI. The Bhushan Steel plant is located close to Tata Steel's Kalinganagar facility where it has a 3 MT capacity. The official said the Kalinganagar plant expansion is on track despite Bhushan's takeover at Rs 36,000 crore. "Safety and environment aspects need to be strengthened in Bhushan Steel as they are not up to our (Tata Steel's) internal standards," he said. The new plant will follow Tata Steel's strategy of not just being a steel producer but a service company with extensive use of technology. Though Bhushan Steel will continue to be operated as a standalone outfit for the time being, a change of name is imminent to make it resemble a Tata company. The new management will be leveraging and complementing marketing strengths of Tata Steel, the official said. Tata Steel had earlier said they would see a lot of synergies in taking over Bhushan Steel. Tata Steel took almost a decade to build 3 MT plant at Kalinganagar while the takeover of Bhushan Steel offered the steel major a readily available 5 MT plant, boosting its flat products. (PTI)



News in Brief

Mankind Pharma eyes \$1b topline

MUMBAI, SEPT 30 /--/ Drugmaker Mankind Pharma is looking at achieving a turnover of \$1 billion by 2021 from the present Rs 52 crore, a top company official has said. The company is also looking at increasing its exports substantially to \$100-150 million in the next three years from the present \$10 million.

Nisus Finance to invest Rs 500 cr

MUMBAI, SEPT 30 /--/ Real estate-focused private equity fund Nisus Finance is planning to raise around Rs 700 crore from domestic investors, and invest Rs 500 crore out of that in stressed realty assets over the next three years, a top executive said. The company has also identified projects across Mumbai, Noida, Bengaluru and Pune to begin with. (PTI)



Sudarshan Venu, Joint Managing Director, TVS Motor Company and, K N Radhakrishnan, President, Chief Executive Officer, TVS Motor Company at the launch of new motorcycle TVS Radeon, in Chennai

Consistent tax policy needed for long-term biz plan in India: Lamborghini

PUNE, SEPT 30 /--/ High taxes on luxury cars in India are understandable but there must be consistency in tax structures and policy as frequent changes hamper market sentiment and business plans, according to a top official of Italian super sports car maker Automobili Lamborghini.

While some reduction in taxes could help grow the overall luxury car market in India, a consistent policy is needed to help companies make long-term plans and chart out their strategies, Automobili Lamborghini CEO Asia Pacific Matteo Ortenzi told PTI here. "We understand that we are in the luxury segment and taxation can be very high but... we would like to have consistency... I see a big challenge in the lack of consistency in taxation," he said.

Ortenzi further said frequent changes create disruption which in turn disturb the market, adding "then you have to set again your own way to process the things".

"What is very important to us is the consistency of the policy that the government can apply in things, to



have a long-term plan and strategy in order to be sure that we are able to set our strategy for delivery to the country and our pricing in the right way for the consumers here," he said. Last year, when GST was implemented in July, luxury vehicles attracted base rate of 28 per cent with 15 per cent cess. Later on, in September, cess on large cars was hiked by 5 per cent, taking the total GST incidence to 48 per cent while that of SUVs by 7 per cent to 50 per

cent. Ortenzi said such quick changes in tax structure disturbed the buying process of consumers.

"When they hear about increase, the first reaction is to stop and wait and see what is happening and thus postpone the buying," he said.

According to Lamborghini India Head Sharad Agarwal, the super sports car segment in India, comprising 2-door models priced upwards of Rs 2.2 crore with power of 400 ps, could end up with a marginal growth to around 76-77 units as compared to around 70 units in 2017. The segment, which stood at around 100 units a year in 2011-12, declined consistently with growth returning only in 2015-16.

"This year there will still be growth but it would have been much faster growth if we didn't have these tax changes in the last two years. It disrupted the entire market," he added.

The super sports car segment in India has the potential to go to three digits if the government policies and taxes remain consistent, Agarwal said.

Weather Report

	MinTemp.	MaxTemp.	Weather
Gangtok			
01-Oct, 2018	17.0	23.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	17.0	22.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	17.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Rain or Thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Gyalsingh			
01-Oct, 2018	18.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	17.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	17.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	17.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	16.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	16.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Mangan			
01-Oct, 2018	20.0	30.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	19.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	19.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Namchi			
01-Oct, 2018	19.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	18.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	18.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	18.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	18.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	18.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Tadong			
01-Oct, 2018	20.0	30.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	19.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	19.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	18.0	28.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	18.0	28.0	Rain or Thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	18.0	28.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Darjeeling			
01-Oct, 2018	14.0	20.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or Thundersorm
02-Oct, 2018	15.0	21.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or Thundersorm
03-Oct, 2018	14.0	20.0	Generally cloudy sky with Light rain
04-Oct, 2018	14.0	20.0	Generally cloudy sky with Light rain
05-Oct, 2018	14.0	19.0	Partly cloudy sky
06-Oct, 2018	13.0	19.0	Partly cloudy sky

Source: IMD