

SEBI eases norms for FPIs, investment trusts

PTI, MUMBAI: Seeking to deepen capital markets, regulator SEBI today offered direct entry to well-regulated foreign investors for investing in corporate bonds and relaxed the norms for raising funds through infrastructure and real estate investment trusts.

At the same time, SEBI also unveiled a number of steps to check misuse of private equity agreements for grant of share price-based remuneration and proposed to ban use of bulk SMSes, emails and new-emerging techniques like games, competitions and trading leagues for luring the gullible investors into fraudulent activities.

SEBI also allowed foreign investors to own up to 15 per cent stake in domestic stock and commodity exchanges, a move that is expected to help attract more overseas funds. Currently, foreign entities can hold only up to 5 per cent stake in an exchange. The move will also help the two leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE in their proposed IPOs.

Goa chapter of IIM to increase research focus, technological activities in State: Kulkarni

Prof D M Kulkarni is chairman, Goa Chapter of Indian Institute of Metals (IIM) and Dean, Administration and Faculty, Mechanical Engineering Dept, BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus. **VIKANT SAHAY** met him to learn about Indian Institute of Metals and its activities

HERALD: Can you briefly introduce Indian Institute of Metals?

D M KULKARNI: The idea of formation of an Indian Institute for Metallurgists (IIM) was conceived as early as in 1945 and formed in Kolkata in 1946. This was possible by the efforts of a few metallurgists, who realised the need for an adequate body for professional metallurgists in India. During that time many of the technical information was not easily available in India. Communication with other countries was difficult because of the war. The ordinance factories and many other industries involved in manufacture of various

products for the war efforts were greatly handicapped because of the non-availability of technical information on metallurgy.

HERALD: What is the scope and what are the general activities of IIM?

DMK: The scope of the institute's activities includes mineral beneficiation, extraction, fabrication, heat treatment, finishing as well as practical and theoretical aspects of metallurgy of all ferrous and non-ferrous metals and alloys. Ceramics and other disciplines and technologies allied to metallurgical problems also come under the scope of the institute. The activities of the institute include organising national and international conferences, workshops, short term courses, projects, technical exhibitions and National Metallurgists Day celebrations - annual technical meetings.

HERALD: What about the Goa Chapter?

DMK: The IIM had chapters in almost all important



BOARD ROOM

With Prof D M Kulkarni, Chairman, Goa Chapter, Indian Institute of Metals

towns and cities of India except Goa. Though, at BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus, we do not have a separate Department of Metallurgy, 23 faculty members across Engineering and Science Departments who are associated with metals for their research came forward to form the Goa Chapter of IIM. We formed the Goa Chapter in July-2016 which we have now planned to inaugurate

on Sunday, 25-September, 2016. The Chapter will be inaugurated by Professor Indranil Manna, president of Indian Institute of Metals and Director, IIT Kanpur along with Dr Biswajit Basu, vice president, IIM and head, Aditya Birla Science and Technology Co Ltd.

HERALD: What would be the relevance to Goa?

DMK: Mining has been a very important element in the economic history of modern Goa. However, apart from mining which is a major sector in Goa, we are looking for partnering with professionals dealing in metals, raw materials, minerals, mining, metal processing, plant machinery and equipment for metallurgical Industries, testing equipment and services and environmental management. I am sure this platform will enhance the university-industry linkage and increase the research focus and technological activities in Goa.

BITS Pilani as a university is very well-known for its

university-industry linkage through its practice school and work integrated learning programs. We have almost 40+ industries across Goa which are associated with BITS Pilani as our practice school stations. In BITS Pilani, UG students go to industry at the end of 2nd year and for one full semester during 4th year (total 7 and 1/2 months) which is a part of our curriculum.

HERALD: Is there any activity planned by Goa chapter on the National Metallurgist Day?

DMK: National Metallurgist Day is celebrated every year on November 14. This is a 4-day event in which apart from NMD, annual technical meetings (ATM) are arranged. The 54th NMD celebration and the 70th ATM will be held at IIT Kanpur from November 11 to 14, 2016. The theme of the conference is "Metals, Materials and Manufacturing for a Self-Reliant India". The Goa Chapter of IIM is aspiring to host 55th NMD and 71st ATM celebration in 2017.

ne in its birth rate, with data showing started to reverse, statisticians said Friday. Europe's biggest economy had a 55 years fall in birth rate, which reached a low of 1.1 children per woman born in each woman born in the year 1968, said the United Nations Population Research. But women in the subsequent years are having more children. The birth rate rose to 1.56 for mothers born in 197

Russia jails space engineer for treason

MOSCOW: Russia has sentenced an elite space engineer and university instructor to 7 years in prison for state treason, an official said Friday. The engineer, Pyotr Yuryevich Lopygin, was sentenced to seven years in prison for state treason, a spokesman for Moscow City Court said without giving details. "The verdict was pronounced on September 6," he said, adding that the engineer is "a traitor." Russian agencies said Lopygin was a former student of the Moscow State Technical Institute. Information on the university's page suggested he advised the mechanical engineering depart

Morocco asks to rejoin Union after 32 years

ADDIS ABABA: Morocco on Friday requested to return to the African Union, after quitting the bloc in protest at its de facto inclusion of Western Sahara as a member. "The Kingdom has officially submitted a request to the African Union (AU) Constitutive Act, and the AU is a Member of the Union," the AU said. "The AU first announced its intention to rejoin the Union with King Mohammed VI saying his country would 'take up its natural place within its

Turkish man attacks bus with umbrella, causes pile-up

ISTANBUL: Turkish police have said a man caused a mass pile-up and traffic jam on a busy highway on Friday when he attacked a bus driver with an umbrella. The local transport authorities reported that the man was injured when the metrobus lost control and