

## WANT LOWER GST RATES FOR SOME APPLIANCES

## Consumer durable firms seek tax-related changes

SHUBHRA TANDON  
New Delhi, January 13

THE CONSUMER DURABLES industry hopes the government will bring in specific initiatives in the upcoming Budget that will spur demand, such as change in tax slabs for individuals and some direction on reduction in the existing GST rates applicable on appliances.

With refrigerators, air-conditioners, televisions and other kitchen and home appliances becoming more of a necessity than luxury, consumer goods companies are looking at more sops at an individual level, which will lead to more disposable income in the hands of consumers, and in turn will drive sales for these products.

In the past 10-12 years, while the gross domestic product per capita has increased by 9.2% CAGR, the average selling price of key consumer durable products such as ACs, refrigerators and washing machines has increased by a moderate 4-5% CAGR, making these appliances far more affordable for consumers, according to a recent report by a domestic brokerage.

While the AC, refrigerator and washing machine industry grew at a CAGR of 12.9%, 13.6% and 11.7%, respectively between the fiscal 2009-2010 and 2019-2020, it was among the worst hit during the two years of Covid, as demand plummeted and supply chains remained impacted. Since summer of 2022, the industry has seen some good growth numbers in the premium categories,



## Business leaders see more PLI schemes in future: Deloitte

A VAST MAJORITY of the business leaders believe that the production linked incentive (PLI) schemes have been beneficial and expect an extension to other sectors in the coming years, a Deloitte survey said on Friday. An overwhelming number of survey respondents hope the budget will fuel growth across industries by building

strong domestic demand and focussing on capital expenditure and believe that it would define the 'Amrit Kaal'. "Critical to this growth will be the pace of capital expenditure, infrastructure development, and the need to boost infrastructure financing through private partnership.

—PTI

but the mass segment continues to remain impacted due to high inflation.

"Though consumer sentiments are improving, these are yet to translate into a full momentum in demand," Ficci said in a pre-Budget note submitted to the government. A broad-based slowdown was witnessed across the segments, with key sectors including manufacturing, mining and quarrying and consumer goods noting a contraction,

it said. The industry now hopes that the government will bring in measures in the upcoming Budget which will support demand on a wider scale.

"Large appliances industry suffers from continued low penetration levels in India despite the positive impact on the quality of life and productivity. Further, last year saw stagnation in the high-volume mass segments due to prevailing economic conditions and low con-

## NDTV sees fresh round of resignations

RAJESH KURUP  
Mumbai, January 13

IN ANOTHER WAVE of resignations, three more senior executives of New Delhi Television (NDTV) — including its president Suparna Singh — have quit the media firm. The development follows the acquisition of a majority stake in NDTV by the Adani Group. The other executives who quit were chief strategy officer Arijit Chatterjee and chief technology and product officer Kawaljit Singh Bedi.

"The company is in the process of putting up a new leadership team which will set a fresh strategic direction and goals for the company," NDTV said in a regulatory update. In an internal mail, NDTV's newly appointed CEO and editor Sanjay Gulia also informed the staff about the exit and terming "they have been the pillars of strength for the group and have played important roles in getting the company back to profitability".

"They will be here for the next few weeks to enable a smooth transition of responsibilities," the letter added. In August last year, in an attempt to strengthen media foray, Adani Group had made a bid to acquire a controlling stake in NDTV, a move that

## MORE EXITS

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was termed as a hostile attempt by the media firm which said it was not aware of the development. The media firm had also alleged that the notice was issued without any discussions with NDTV or its founder-promoters. The group, helmed by Asia's richest man Gautam Adani, was making its media foray through a group firm AMG Media Networks (AMNL).

NDTV had said that it was served a notice by the Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt Ltd, an Adani Group company, stating the latter had exercised its rights to acquire the 99.50% control of RRRPR Holding Pvt Ltd.

## Rapido shuts ops in Maharashtra after HC order

SALMAN SH  
Bengaluru, January 13

THE BOMBAY HIGH Court on Friday directed bike taxi platform Rapido to suspend its operations after it was found to be functioning without a licence in the state. The court directed to cease all its operations including bike and rickshaw hailing until January 20, 2023.

The high court was hearing a petition filed by Rapido which challenged the Maharashtra government's refusal to provide licences to online taxis and autorickshaw aggregators.

A division bench headed by Justices GS Patel and Justice SG Dige told Rapido's lawyers that the court will be forced to would immediately dismiss the petition with costs if the app refused to shut down in the state. According to a report by LiveLaw, the bench, however, allowed Rapido to complete all pending rides till Friday, 1 pm.

During the hearing, Maharashtra state's advocate general Dr Birendra Saraf informed that a regulatory committee has already been created to formulate new guidelines for bike taxis in the



state. The AG also added that the state is also in the process of prosecuting other operators such as Ola and Uber as well. Rapido's lawyers further argued in the court that the state has been discriminating against it since other competitors such as Uber continue to offer bike and auto rickshaw hailing via online apps while it is being prosecuted.

However, the LiveLaw report also pointed out that the Bombay High Court bench also pulled up the state for being stuck in limbo when it comes to regulating online ride-hailing apps. The bench also asked the state to provide the exact provisions required for a bike tax licence.

## Grover's Third Unicorn to be a B2C startup; seven employees hired

TUSHAR GOENKA  
Bengaluru, January 13

THIRD UNICORN, A new venture to be soon floated by former BharatPe co-founder and MD Ashneer Grover and his wife Madhuri Jain, will be in the B2C space, Aseem Ghavri who has joined hands with the Grovers for the venture, told FE.

Ghavri said a formal announcement regarding the launch of the venture will be made late next month or early March. "While we're not currently revealing the space we're going to be present in, I can tell you it's going to be a B2C startup," Ghavri said.

"We've already hired seven employees but Third Unicorn will have absolutely no designations or titles — it will be a flat hierarchy. Similar to what



Aseem Ghavri (left) with Ashneer Grover

WhatsApp had in its initial days," he added.

Ghavri said each employee would be expected to wear multiple hats, displaying skills across all verticals and not limited to a single profile. "At Third Unicorn, we want the people to play a 360 degree role. So, if required, a

tech guy can go out and do marketing and vice-versa. People should be open to challenges," he said.

The company plans to hire not more than 50 employees in total and as an incentive for them to stick around for longer, Grover, in a LinkedIn post, said all the employees

who complete five years at the company would be gifted a Mercedes car.

On funding, Ghavri said, "At this point in time angel investors can come to the captable but before that there will be a vetting process. We're not looking for venture capitalists at this point in time, only angel investors...rest, we'll see how things turn out in the future".

Ghavri had founded Code Brew Labs in 2013, an enterprise application development company, which had provided tech to BharatPe. A message sent to Grover seeking details on the new venture did not elicit a reply, but resharing Ghavri's post on LinkedIn, Grover has said he was "excited to work with Aseem (Ghavri) at The Third Unicorn as a co-founder".

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE

## Sovereign gold bonds lose sheen, demand at three-year low

Gold bond investors have decided to stay for the entire tenure of 8 years. Investors can also have the option of selling these bonds on the stock exchanges, but there hasn't been much activity there as well.

The government had launched SGBs to wean people away from buying physical gold and thus reduce imports of the metal. But annual gold imports have not seen any meaningful decline and the current account deficit, of which gold is the second largest component after oil, is currently hovering close to a decadal high of 3% of the gross domestic product

## Jet ownership: NCLT clears runway for Jalan-Kalrock

The NCLT on Monday set November 16, 2022, as the new effective date. The previous effective date was May 20, 2022. JKC had missed multiple deadlines of putting Jet Airways back on the runway with the last hope being October-end. It got the air operator's permit in May from the DGCA. Jet 2.0 had committed to start operations with a fleet of six narrow body Boeing B737 aircraft and eventually ramping it up to 111 aircraft in the fifth year.

By 2027, the airline's fleet was slated to have 86 narrow body planes and 25 wide body planes. The first of the wide bodies were to be inducted in the second year of operations. The business plan submitted by JKC to the lenders included revenue generation totalling \$3.4 billion by the fifth year of operation from passenger and cargo verticals and other revenue streams, documents submitted to the lenders show.

## Sebi pitches for PE firms as MF sponsors

The consultant paper prescribes that the eligibility criteria for PEs should include

## PM tells India Inc to think out of the box

MODI ALSO HIGHLIGHTED the need to promote millets in view of their potential to transform the rural and agriculture sectors, with attributes like carbon-neutral, conducive to natural farming and affordable source of nutrition. Participants in the meeting offered practical measures on ways in which India could prudently sustain its development momentum, according to an official statement. Ideas and suggestions were shared with the prime minister on diverse topics ranging from agriculture to manufacturing, it added.

Recognising that the underlying global headwinds are likely to continue, strategic recommendations were also shared for further strengthening India's resilience. There was agreement that due to its

resilience, India has emerged as a bright spot on the turbulent global stage. It was suggested that new growth impulses would need to build upon this foundation through holistic development across all sectors. The deliberations were based on the theme "India's Growth & Resilience Amidst Global Headwinds". As many as 19 economists, including Shamika Ravi, Ashok Gulati and Chetan Ghate, among others, attended the meeting. "They are looking for solutions to reduce health costs. The solutions are either in the form of health HR, health IT or looking to buy, whether it is products, devices, drugs, vaccines, etc, from countries like India," Ravi said.

The government deserves credit for increasing the transparency of the

Budget numbers and improving the quality of government spending even amidst the shock delivered by the pandemic to the Centre's finances. Capital expenditure increases outpaced the growth of the overall Budget size in recent years. Revenue deficits have in recent years been declining as a fraction of the fiscal deficits.

These trends are most likely to continue in FY24 too. Also, the government seems to stick to the medium-term fiscal consolidation target of reducing the fiscal deficit to below 4.5% GDP by 2025-26, from the sharply elevated levels caused by the pandemic. Inflation management would also continue to be a priority area for the government to insulate people from the price rise

five years of experience in investment management and in the financial sector. It should also have managed committed and drawn-down capital of not less than ₹5,000 crore as on the date of the application.

Other conditions include no-off market transaction between the schemes of the mutual fund and PE sponsor or schemes managed by manager of the sponsor or investee companies of schemes/funds managed by sponsor PE where it holds more than 10% stake. Also, the mutual fund sponsored by the PE cannot be anchor investor in a public issue of an investee company where the PE has investment of 10% or more. In addition, a lock-in of five years would apply to PE funds as well.

The Working Group argued that PEs already act as sponsors to real estate investment trusts and asset reconstruction companies. In addition, even the insurance regulator, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority in India, has given more flexibility to PE funds to invest in the insurance sector by allowing promoters to dilute their stake down to 26% from the existing 50% on condition that the insurer has a satisfactory solvency record for five years.

Dhirendra Kumar, founder & CEO, Value Research, said,

"This is a good proposal as there is no doubt that there should be varied/wider ownership in the mutual fund industry." In its other proposals, the market regulator's working group said that there should be alternate eligibility criteria for sponsor of MF. That is, the sponsors should adequately capitalise the AMC such that the positive liquid net worth of AMC should be at least ₹150 crore with a lock-in period of five years and the minimum stake of 40% should also be locked-in for the same time.

However, after the completion of five years (which the working committee considers as mature), the committee proposes that the sponsor can reduce the stake voluntarily to reduce sponsor-related conflicts. Self-sponsored AMCs will have to fulfil certain conditions. This includes these AMC being carrying on business in financial services for a period of at least five years, should have a net profit of ₹10 crore in each of the immediately preceding five years and should not launch any new guaranteed returns scheme.

Sponsor(s) proposing to disassociate should have been a sponsor of the concerned mutual fund for at least five years before the proposed date of disassociation.

## IT companies staring at a weak fourth quarter

Similarly, Infosys posted a constant currency revenue growth of 13.7% year-on-year and 2.4% sequentially for the December quarter. The third quarter is considered seasonally weak due to furloughs or lesser number of working days because of the holiday season.

HCL Tech won 17 large deals during the quarter, with new deal wins at \$2.35 billion, up 10% y-o-y. Infosys won large deals worth a total contract value (TCV) of \$3.3 billion, the highest in the last 8 quarters. "At Infosys hiring has been lower which suggests that there could be some moderation on revenues in the medium term," analysts at ICICI Securities said.

TCS saw its headcount decline on a q-o-q basis, as it saw a reduction of 2,197 employees amid a cautious demand environment. This is the first time the net addition has declined in 10 quarters. Wipro also saw a headcount reduction of 435 employees during the third quarter. HCL Tech's net hiring more than halved as it made a net addition of 2,945 employees in the December, down from 8,359.

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## EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

Particulars	₹ in Crore		
	Quarter ended	Nine months ended	Quarter ended
	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
1 Total income from operations	3,491.01	9,884.17	3,099.12
2 Net profit for the period/year (before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	605.88	1,468.21	369.10
3 Net profit for the period/year before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	(2,081.29)	(1,218.96)	369.10
4 Net profit for the period/year after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items) attributable to owners of the Company	453.64	1,122.17	325.99
5 Total comprehensive income for the period/year attributable to owners of the Company	584.57	1,167.31	388.04
6 Paid up equity share capital (face value of ₹10 each)	2,478.06	2,478.06	2,473.90
7 Other equity			
8 Earnings per share (for continuing and discontinued operations) (*not annualised)			
(a) Basic (₹)	*1.83	*4.53	*1.32
(b) Diluted (₹)	*1.83	*4.52	*1.32

## Notes:

1. The Company reports quarterly financial results of the group on a consolidated basis, pursuant to Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") as amended read with circular dated July 5, 2016. The standalone financial results are available on the website of the Company at www.lts.com, the website of BSE Limited ("BSE") at www.bseindia.com and on the website of National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") at www.nseindia.com. The specified items of the standalone financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2022 and quarter ended December 31, 2021 are given below.

Particulars	₹ in Crore		
	Quarter ended	Nine months ended	Quarter ended
	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Total income	92.73	229.69	21.61
Profit/(loss) before tax (including exceptional item)	2,636.64	3,029.40	(1.85)
Profit/(loss) after tax	2,136.29	2,468.50	(9.53)
Total comprehensive income	2,245.83	2,466.24	(0.05)

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited consolidated financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the Listing Regulations.

3. These consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles of Indian Accounting Standard ("Ind AS") prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act 2013 (the "Act") read with relevant rules issued thereunder and the other accounting principles generally accepted in India.

4. These consolidated financials results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on January 13, 2023. The Statutory Auditor of the Company has carried out a limited review of the aforesaid results.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
L&T Finance Holdings Limited

Sd/-  
Dinanath Dubhashi  
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer  
(DIN: 03545900)

Place: Mumbai  
Date: January 13, 2023

