

September 18, 2019

The General Manager

Department of Corporate Services,
BSE Limited,
1st Floor, New Trading Ring,
Rotunda Building, PJ Towers, Dalal
Street,
Mumbai – 400 001
Security Code – 539978

The Manager

Department of Corporate Services,
**National Stock Exchange of India
Limited**
Exchange Plaza,
Bandra- Kundra Complex,
Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 001
NSE Symbol – QUESS

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Sub: Intimation under Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (the “Listing Regulations”)

Pursuant to Regulation 47(3) of the Listing Regulations, (as amended from time to time), we are enclosing herewith copies of advertisement of the Notice of Meeting of the Equity Shareholders published in newspapers viz. Business Standard (English) and Hosadigantha (Kannada) today, i.e. September 18, 2019, to consider and approve the Scheme of Amalgamation between Aravon Services Private Limited (“Transferor Company-1”), CentreQ Business Services Private Limited (“Transferor Company-2”), Coachieve Solutions Private Limited (“Transferor Company-3”), Master Staffing Solutions Private Limited (“Transferor Company-4”) with Quess Corp Limited (“Transferee Company”) and their respective Shareholders and Creditors.

The same advertisement is also available on the website of the Company:
www.quesscorp.com.

Request you to kindly take the same on record.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully

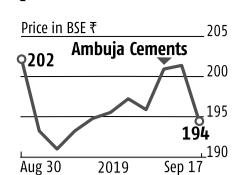
For Quess Corp Limited


Kundan K Lal

Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
M. No.: F8393



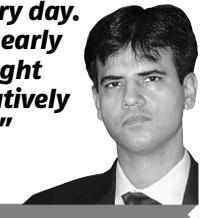
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Shares of Ambuja Cement fell 3.5 per cent on fears of slowing demand growth. Analysts at Credit Suisse have downgraded earnings for cement companies as they expect earnings to come under pressure on weak demand and lack of pricing discipline

"On an average, foreign investors have been selling ₹800-1,000 crore every day. (There was a brief respite in early Sept. Who would have thought India would be seen so negatively after such a huge mandate?"

SANDIP SABHARWAL
Investment advisor



Broader market pricey on historical basis

Analysts cite record valuation of top index stocks despite correction as reason

KRISHNA KANT
Mumbai, 17 September

The broader equity market remains richly valued despite recent correction in stock prices, ruling out a pause in selling by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

A broader basket of 864 stocks — either part of the BSE500, BSE MidCap, or BSE SmallCap — are currently trading at 29.5x their trailing 12-month earnings, against the 10-year average earnings multiple of 19.5x. The valuations are down marginally from all-time high earnings multiple of 31.2x at the end of March this year.

In comparison, these stocks were trading at 15.6x their trailing 12-month earnings at the end of March 2014. The valuation gap is most elevated in the NBFC space, followed by the non-financial sector (see chart).

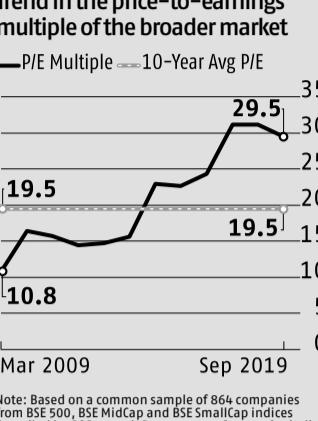
Analysts attribute this to record valuation of the top index stocks, even though price has corrected significantly



in the broader market. "If you exclude the top 15 stocks that are part of the Nifty50, most of the smaller stocks (in terms of market capitalisation, or m-cap) look reasonably valued, based on historical averages," says G Chokkalingam, founder and managing director of Equinomics Research & Advisory Services.

This, he says, rules out an across-the-board selling by FPIs. It could be restricted to stocks in the sector, where

RICH VALUATIONS



valuations remain on the higher side and is over-owned by foreign investors.

However, even selective selling in the top stocks would bring down the overall market, as the top 10 stocks now account for little over a third of the combined m-cap of all listed stocks, while the top 23 listed firms now bring in half of the m-cap.

Valuations remain elevated in most segments of the market, including non-financial firms and non-bank lenders.

On price-to-book basis, NBFCs are trading at 2.7x right now, against the historical average of around 2x.

The current valuation in the banking space is in line with the historical average, but analysts attribute this to record low m-cap of loss-making public sector banks rather than a general derating of the sector. Banking stocks are currently trading at 1.6x their book value (or net worth per share) in 2018-19, similar to their average valuation in the last 10 years.

Analysts say that this could be because 15 of the 34 listed banks have reported net loss on trailing 12-months — one the worst showing by the industry in recent memory.

Nearly 59 per cent of the industry's combined m-cap is accounted for by the top three private banks — HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and ICICI Bank — which remain expensive on a historical basis. Others say the historical valuation is no guide to the future as India Inc stares at an earnings downgrade. "We see earnings pressure, especially in the banking space, as interest rate rise is leading to lower margins for lenders. This could bring down the earnings per share for the broader market, putting pressure on stock prices," says Dhananjay Sinha, chief economist, IDFC Securities.

TOP MFs BULK UP ON CASH

Five of the top 10 mutual funds by equity value are holding cash in the range of 8-11 per cent, a reasonably high number. Equity funds typically hold cash amounting to 1-5 per cent of the scheme's assets, and raise their cash exposure when they expect the market to fall, or when the risk-reward situation is not favourable. It might go against the fundamental tenet of staying invested at all times, but is a strategy employed by fund managers to either protect the downside in the event of a market fall or to avoid paying a high price for a stock. This means that if stocks are not available at reasonable valuations, fund managers may decide to raise their cash holdings. This number can also fluctuate, depending upon the scheme mandate. It has become tougher to stay fully invested in the current market environment, with money chasing select names and pushing up valuations. Holding a high percentage of assets in cash, however, can backfire in a rising market.

ASHLEY COUTINHO



SAFETY FIRST

Average cash holding at top 10 MFs is nearly 7%

	Assets (₹ crore)	Cash holding (%)
SBI MF	160,400	8.3
HDFC MF	142,800	5.1
ICICI Pru MF	126,100	10.7
Reliance MF	96,300	3.4
Aditya Birla Sun Life MF	77,600	6.0
UTI MF	67,200	3.3
Kotak MF	58,600	8.7
Axis MF	47,600	9.7
Franklin Templeton MF	45,400	8.3
L&T MF	34,700	5.4

Source: Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Sebi chairman to woo FPIs amid bearish sentiment

SHRIMI CHOURHARY
New Delhi, 17 September

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairman Ajay Tyagi is planning to meet top foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in the US this month. He will meet other investors too.

The meeting comes at a time when FPIs have pulled out \$5 billion from the domestic markets this quarter.

"A full-fledged event is being planned in the US and the Indian Embassy is coordinating it. The purpose of the visit is to have first-hand interaction with FPIs to understand their point of view on emerging

markets (EMs) and India. Further, the regulator will address concerns of overseas investors over various issues, including know-your-customer (KYC) norms and taxation," said a person in the know.

Sebi recently made changes to the FPI framework to ease the investment process for overseas investors. A direct meeting between FPIs and Sebi is to help gather feedback on recent changes and iron out irritants, said sources.

"Such an exercise is necessary to understand the ground reality and issues faced by FPIs. The meeting will give an opportunity to Sebi to

explain the policy changes to global investors," a source said.

The regulator will apprise foreign investors of the steps it took in areas such as electronic trading, enhancing the accuracy as well as the reliability of the market and reference data, and a comprehensive risk management framework.

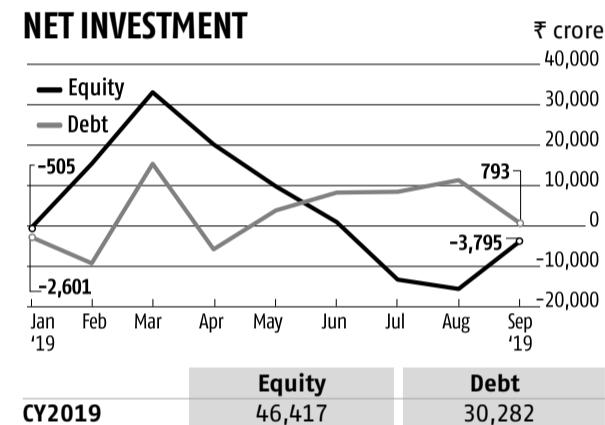
Sebi had last month simplified the framework for FPIs by easing compliance and regulatory constraints. It did away with the broad-based eligibility criteria for FPIs.

The escalation of the US-China trade war and domestic concerns over slowdown have prompted foreign funds to trim

their India exposure.

These developments come at a time when India is perceived as highly regulated and one with the steepest taxes. FPIs have been requesting the government to do away with the long-term capital gains tax.

Experts say the latest outflows have more to do with global factors. "The stress between China and the US is making investors nervous and most of them want to sit on cash. Further, the stimulus packages announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman do not seem to be sufficient," said Bhavin Shah, partner, PwC.



Data up to September 16
Compiled by BS Research Bureau



WeWork delays IPO after frosty response

JOSHUA FRANKLIN & ANIRBAN SEN
New York/Bengaluru, 17 September

WeWork owner The We Company has postponed its initial public offering (IPO), walking away from preparations to launch it this month following lacklustre response from investors to its plans.

The US office-sharing start-up was getting ready to launch an investor road show for its IPO this week, before making the last-minute decision on Monday to stand down, people familiar with the matter said. The company has been under pressure to proceed with the stock market flotation to secure funding for its operations.

In the run-up to the IPO launch, We Company has faced concerns over its

corporate governance standards, as well as the sustainability of its business model, which relies on a mix of long-term liabilities and short-term revenue, and how such a model would weather an economic downturn.

Reuters reported last week that We Company might seek a valuation of \$10-12 billion, a dramatic discount to the \$47-billion valuation it

achieved in January.

"The We Company is looking forward to our upcoming IPO, which we expect to be completed by the end of the year. We want to thank all of our employees, members and partners for their ongoing commitment," the company said in a short statement.

Had the firm proceeded with the IPO at such a low valuation, it would have represented a major turning point in the growth of the venture capital industry over the last decade. The VC universe has led to the rise of start-ups such as Uber, Snap, and Airbnb.

It would have meant that We Company would be valued at below the \$12.8 billion in equity that it had raised since it was founded in 2010, according to data provider REUTERS

SAIL: Open market iron ore sale gives breather

Merchant sales not seen as a game changer; gains likely to be temporary

UJJVAL JAUHARI

The Steel Authority of India (SAIL) stock received a major boost on Tuesday, jumping over 8 per cent in intra-day trade. This followed reports that the government has given its nod to the firm for selling a fourth of its iron ore produce from captive mines to third parties (open market).

The initial reaction isn't surprising, given that the development comes at a time when domestic steel demand and realisations remain under pressure, thereby weighing on SAIL's profitability and share price.

SAIL has seen its market value nearly halve in the past five months; the stock hit its 15-year low last month. Global trade war concerns, too, have kept the Street cautious.

Hence, the firm being allowed merchant iron ore sales for part of its produce — even if for just two years — can help revenues and earnings in the interim. The move also comes at a time when global iron ore prices remain firm on the back of supply constraints.

However, the stock gave up most of its intra-day gains and closed only 0.15 per cent up. While some of it could be attributed to the fall in Sensex and the BSE Metal indices — which were down 1.7 per cent and 2.7 per cent, respectively — the rest can be attributed

to the Street's inability to quantify the gains for SAIL.

Although analysts look at the development in a positive light, they are not sure of the exact gains for SAIL. Consider this: the decision allowing merchant sales by SAIL is looked at addressing any potential iron ore supply situation in the country.

Most of the Odisha-based merchant miners will see their mining licences expire, therefore, the move is aimed at taking care of any ore shortage for domestic steel producers, in case of a delay in the bidding process.

In case of the bidding process facing a delay, analysts estimate an annual shortfall of 30-35 million tonnes. If SAIL manages to ramp up production, it could end up gaining more than what is estimated by analysts at present.

However, for larger gains to materialise, there is need for requisite infrastructure for evacuation and sales, which analysts are not sure about given there could be beneficiation issues (process to enhance economic value of low-grade iron ore). Therefore, analysts at Edelweiss say net gains could be fairly limited for SAIL.

Even though they see some relief for the stock, they don't expect merchant ore sales to be a game changer for the public sector steelmaker.

