# India plans IPO rule changes to lure homegrown start-ups

REUTERS, Mumbai

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning rule changes that will make it easier for homegrown startups to list their shares on local bourses, sources involved in the process said, helping domestic investors to bet on the country's booming online economy.

While many of India's largest online players are set to list in the coming year or two as they mature, none is currently expected to make its market debut at home. That could mean a significant loss for local exchanges and investors: marketplace Flipkart has prompted valuations of online firms. as high as \$11 billion.

To remedy this, sources said, the SEBI is considering easing rules on mandatory disclosure for the draft prospectuses of Internet-based firms.

scrapped is the need to detail the use of proceeds from the initial public offering of shares, they said. This is an obstacle particularly for technology start-ups, that don't usually use the cash to invest in plants, factories or mines.

tangible assets," said one of the sources directly involved in the process.

"That creates an issue when declaring the use of proceeds (in the draft prospectus)."

The source said other issues including accounting and financial reporting practices used by the e-commerce firms were also under review to ease pre-IPO disclosure requirements.

An official at SEBI said separately that the regulator's chairman, UK Sinha, has held meetings with startup executives and

bankers to discuss the proposed changes. All the sources declined to be named, as they were not authorised to speak to the media given the new rules are still being finalised. A spokesman for SEBI did not respond to Reuters calls and e-mail

requesting comment. India is seeing a boom in private investments in start-ups and a large number of funds including Temasek Holdings, USbased Accel Partners and Japan's SoftBank Corp have invested billions of dollars in

Most of these private equity investors are expected to exit from their portfolio companies through share listings, putting a spotlight on the sector and the potential IPO candidates.

One of the main items that could be Many Indian start-ups including online marketplaces Flipkart and Snapdeal are expected to be preparing for IPOs, hoping to raise capital and to give some of their early backers an opportunity to cash in on investments worth billions of dollars.

But bankers are expecting them to "A lot of them operate without any explore overseas markets, mainly US exchange operator NASDAQ OMX Group Inc. That is due to regulatory requirements in India as well as the difficulty in finding valuation benchmarks on exchanges on which no comparable rivals trade.

Investment bankers said the SEBI rule changes, if implemented, may encourage some of these companies to consider a listing at home, giving Indian investors the

## Global oil glut set to grow

REUTERS, Singapore

A global oversupply of oil is set to rise as China pauses in the build-up of its strategic reserves and Asian refineries slow crude imports ahead of the spring maintenance season, putting more downward pressure on prices.

China's purchases to fill its strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) had been one of the main drivers of Asian demand since August of last year, with the No.2 oil consumer taking up cheap crude to fill its tanks despite slowing economic growth.

Yet China could pause its reserve purchases soon as tank sites reach their limits and new space only becomes available later this year.

Little is known about China's SPR levels. The government seldom issues data, but its plan is to reach around 600 million barrels, about 90 days' worth of imports. Most estimates put the SPR stocks currently to be 30-40 days' worth.

"I don't think there is much (SPR) space left to fill, " a Chinese storage executive said under the condition of anonymity.

In the Zhoushan area of Zhejiang province - site of two SPR bases and major commercial storage facilities - tanks are brimming, the executive said. "They are so full that one VLCC tanker owned by a state refiner has had to wait for almost 15 days to discharge," he said.

Adding to downward pressure is the expectation that Chinese refiners could process less crude oil in the second quarter as demand is dented by tax hikes and an economy growing at its slowest in 25 years.

Thomson Reuters data also shows that Asian imports overall have fallen 5 percent since peaking in December, when China's purchases hit an all-time high at 7.2 million barrels per day. In India and Japan, crude imports for the most recent month are down 20 percent and 11 percent from a year ago, respectively, mainly due to the approach of the spring refinery maintenance season.

"Asia-Pacific oil ... balances remain in surplus with pressure peaking in April/May from rising crude stocks," consultancy PIRA Energy said in a research note.

Benchmark Brent futures have climbed off of a six-year low hit in January but are still down more than 50 percent from June last year at around \$53.50 a barrel. Oil prices started slumping from mid-June 2014 as US shale oil production soared while demand slowed due to higher energy efficiency and deepening economic trouble in Europe and Asia.



Abdul Monem, chairman of Abdul Monem Ltd, opens the new premises of NCC Bank's Panthapath branch at Monem Business District on Sonargaon Road in the capital yesterday. Md Nurun Newaz Salim, chairman of NCC Bank, and Golam Hafiz Ahmed, managing director, were also present.



Ashique Un Nabi, executive director for marketing and strategic business units at Building Technology and Ideas (BTI), and Sarder Akhter Hamed, head of retail business at United Commercial Bank, pose after signing a deal through which the bank's cardholders can enjoy a host of privileges at BTI concern Home n Décor.



Hasibul Haque, head of product at Grameenphone, and Choon Soo Moon, managing director of the Bangladesh branch of Samsung India Electronics, attend the signing of an agreement in Dhaka recently to introduce Samsung Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge handsets in the country. Grameenphone users can pre-order the handsets from March 23.



Lawmaker Ashequr Rahman and Meghna Bank Managing Director Mohammed Nurul Amin open the relocated head office and principal branch of the bank at Suvastu Imam Square in the capital yesterday.

Hussain Shirazie, managing director for transaction banking at Standard Chartered

Bank, and Kamal Quadir, chief executive of bKash, attend the launch of Straight2Bank Wallet Payments yesterday. The bank's corporate clients can now make instant, cashless payments to individuals via the Straight2Bank channel.

#### Alibaba may not invest in Snapdeal

REUTERS

Alibaba Group Holdings Ltd may scrap plans to invest in online marketplace Snapdeal, technology website Recode reported, citing a person who was familiar with the matter.

Last week, a person informed about the deal had told Reuters that Alibaba was in talks with Snapdeal over a potential cash investment in what could have been the Chinese e-commerce giant's first direct investment in India.

Alibaba has held discussions with Snapdeal about a possible investment, but the Chinese company is leaning away from investing in Snapdeal right now, Recode said. Snapdeal competes in India with bigger rivals Flipkart.com

and Amazon.com, and media reports had said it was seeking \$1 billion in its latest funding round to fuel growth. Alibaba and Snapdeal's talks, however, did not involve a

deal close to the \$1 billion number reported, Recode cited the source as saying.

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সাধারণ বাংলা

সাধারণ ইংরেজী

দেওয়ানী মামলা সংক্রান্ত আইন

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#### **Economists** cut Singapore 2015 growth

REUTERS, Singapore

Economists have cut their forecasts for Singapore's 2015 growth from three months ago and lowered their inflation predictions, a central bank survey showed on Wednesday, amid market expectations of further monetary policy easing in April.

The median forecast of 21 economists surveyed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) was for gross domestic product (GDP) to expand 2.8 percent this year. A December survey projected 3.1 per-

The city-state's economy grew 2.9 percent in 2014. For this year, the government has forecast 2-4 percent.

In the latest survey, economists saw the first quarter growing 2 percent from a year earlier, lower than the 2.5 percent pace seen three months earlier.

A tepid and uneven

global recovery has tempered Singapore's economic growth. Headwinds have also come from the government's push to reduce reliance on foreign workers, which has led to a

tight labour market and raised business costs. Manufacturing is expected to expand 1.8 percent this year, the latest survey showed, sharply lower than the 3.0 percent gain forecast in the previ-

ous survey.

### US rate hike fear keeps Asian firms in check

REUTERS, Shanghai 

Concern over a US interest rate hike kept sentiment in check at some of Asia's biggest firms, as optimism about the outlook for business over the next six months was near steady in the first quarter, a Thomson Reuters/INSEAD survey showed.

The Thomson Reuters/INSEAD Asian Business Sentiment Index was 71 for the March quarter versus 72 three months earlier. A reading above 50 indicates an overall positive view.

Companies in India were the most upbeat for the fourth straight quarter, logging 97 on hopes that low inflation and aggressive interest rate cuts will boost

the domestic economy. Singapore firms registered the least positive outlook for the third consecutive quarter in anticipation of the first US rate hike in almost a decade, which could happen as early as June. Local banks are likely to match the hike, making mortgages expensive and pulling down demand for property.

"There is significant risk as people may have different interpretations of movements in interest rates in a way that can cause dramatic changes in financial markets," said Antonio Fatas, a Singaporebased economics professor at INSEAD.

China's reading rose to 54 from 50, as businesses became more optimistic about their future amid central bank efforts to moderate the economic slowdown with looser monetary policy, including successive interest rate cuts since late last year.

Optimism slid the most in Australia where firms reported a score of 70 from 85 in the fourth quarter, as falling prices of commodities tempered sentiment in the resource-exporting nation.

The poll, by Thomson Reuters with global business and management school INSEAD, was conducted over the first two weeks of March. Of 111 respondents, 45 percent reported a positive outlook, 51 percent were neutral and 4 percent were negative.

Participating firms included Japanese beverage conglomerate Asahi Group Holdings Ltd, South Korean shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy Industries Co Ltd and Australian building materials maker James Hardie Industries PLC.

Strong US jobs data has fanned expectations of a rate hike in the next few months. Low US rates had prompted investors to flood Asia with cheap, speculative funds that could be pulled out as the rates rise.

In developed economies such as Singapore, where a property boom is fuelling lending, the knock-on effect of a rise in local rates could make repayments expensive. "The combination of really rapid lending growth and prospect of rising interest rates is quite worrying," said Daniel Martin, senior Asia economist at Capital Economics.

Fear of a US hike is balanced somewhat by relief afforded by a drop in global oil prices, reducing energy costs across the board. Oversupply and limited storage capacity has left the price of US crude at a six-year low.

"The fall in gasoline and energy prices means households have more money to spend, so it's positive for real income," Martin said.

Overall, the survey showed Asian firms consider global economic uncertainty as the biggest threat to their sixmonth business outlook, followed by rising costs and other risks such as regulatory change and increased competition.

Companies in the property sector were the most positive in the survey with a reading of 88, a one-point increase from the previous poll. Retail and drugs followed with 82 and 81 respectively, from 83 and 70.

Financial institutions, dogged by regulatory uncertainty and a lingering hangover from the global financial crisis, were least positive with a score of 55, though that was an improvement from 50 in the previous two quarters.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ জুডিসিয়াল সার্ভিস কমিশন সচিবালয় পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রকের দপ্তর ১৫, কলেজ রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

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স্মারক নং-জেএসসি/পনিদ/নিয়োগ-৯ম বিজেএস/১/২০১৪/৩৩২

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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দুপুর ২.০০-বিকাল ৫.০০

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বাংলাদেশ জুডিসিয়াল সার্ভিসের প্রবেশ পদ অর্থাৎ সহকারী জজ/জুডিসিয়াল ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে ৯ম বিজেএস পরীক্ষা, ২০১৪ এর লিখিত পরীক্ষা ইডেন মহিলা কলেজ ও বাংলাদেশ জুডিসিয়াল সার্ভিস কমিশন সচিবালয়, ঢাকা কেন্দ্রদ্বয়ে নিমুবর্ণিত তারিখ ও সময়সূচী অনুযায়ী অনুষ্ঠিত হবে ঃ---

আবশ্যিক সাধারণ/আবশ্যিক আইন বিষয়সমূহ তারিখ **मिन** পরীক্ষার স্থান বিষয় সময় দুপুর ২.০০-বিকাল ৫.০০ 20/08/2020 শুক্রবার শনিবার দুপুর ২.০০-বিকাল ৫.০০ পারিবারিক সম্পর্ক বিষয়ক আইন 22/08/2020 20/08/2020 দুপুর ২.০০-বিকাল ৫.০০ সোমবার প্রাথমিক গণিত এবং দৈনন্দিন বিজ্ঞান দুপুর ২.০০-বিকাল ৫.০০ 36/08/2036 বুধবার 24/08/2020 দুপুর ২.০০-বিকাল ৫.০০ শুক্রবার বাংলাদেশ ও আন্তর্জাতিক বিষয়সমূহ

শনিবার

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81	বিকল্প বিরোধ নিম্পত্তির ধারণা ও আইন এবং আইনগত সহায়তা প্রদান সংক্রান্ত আইন	২৫/০৪/২০১৫	শনিবার	দুপুর ২.০০-বিকাল ৫.০০	া কলেজ, ঢাকা	
201	দেওয়ানী আদালত, কোর্ট ফি ও মোকদ্দমার মূল্যমান, তামাদি, স্ট্যাম্প এবং সরকারী পাওনা আদায় সংক্রান্ত আইন	২৬/০৪/২০১৫	রবিবার	দুপুর ২.০০-বিকাল ৫.০০		
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ক্ৰঃ নং	বিষয়	তারিখ	দিন	সময়	পরীক্ষার স্থান
201	স্থাবর, অস্থাবর ও বুদ্ধিবৃত্তিক সম্পত্তি হস্তান্তর, নিবন্ধন ও সংরক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত আইন	20/08/2020	বৃহস্পতিবার	দুপুর ২.০০-বিকাল ৫.০০	বাংলাদেশ জুডিসিয়াল সার্ভিস কমিশন
۱ 8ډ	ভূমি, অর্পিত সম্পত্তি ও স্থাবর সম্পত্তি অধিগ্রহণ সংক্রান্ত আইন				সাচবালয়, ১৫, কলেজ রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা।

পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত নির্দেশাবলী ঃ

পরীক্ষার্থী বরাবর ইতোপূর্বে ইস্যুকৃত প্রবেশপত্র এ পরীক্ষার জন্য কার্যকর থাকবে। প্রবেশপত্রের নির্দেশাবলীসমূহ প্রত্যেক পরীক্ষার্থীকে মনোযোগের সাথে পড়তে হবে।

পরীক্ষার্থীকে নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে পরীক্ষা শুরু হওয়ার অন্ততঃ ১৫ মিনিট পূর্বে উপস্থিত হতে হবে।

পরীক্ষা শুরু হওয়ার ১৫ মিনিট পর কোন পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

প্রত্যেক পরীক্ষার দিন প্রবেশপত্রসহ পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র ছাড়া কোন পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না। প্রবেশপত্রের ছবির সঙ্গে পরিচিতি প্রতিপাদন পত্রের ছবির মিল না থাকলে সংশ্লিষ্ট পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

পরীক্ষা চলাকালে সাধারণ ক্যালকুলেটর ব্যবহার করা যাবে, তবে কোন প্রকার বই, খাতা, ব্যাগ ও মোবাইল সঙ্গে রাখা যাবে না। কোন পরীক্ষার্থী পরীক্ষায় নকল করলে বা অন্য কোনভাবে অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে বা কোন অসদাচরণ করলে তাকে সংশ্লিষ্ট পরীক্ষা ও পরবর্তী

সকল পরীক্ষার জন্য অযোগ্য ঘোষণাসহ তার বিরুদ্ধে যে কোন শান্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। প্রতিদিনের হাজিরা ও উত্তরপত্রসহ সকল কাগজপত্রে পরীক্ষার্থীর স্বাক্ষরের নমুনা একই হতে হবে।

পরীক্ষায় প্রশ্নপত্র বিতরণের পরবর্তী এক ঘন্টার মধ্যে কোন উত্তরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে না। কোন পরীক্ষার্থী জরুরী প্রয়োজনে পরীক্ষা শুরুর প্রথম এক ঘন্টার পর দায়িত্ব পালনকারী পরিদর্শকের অনুমতি নিয়ে স্বল্প সময়ের জন্য হল রুমের বাইরে যেতে পারবে।

পরীক্ষার্থীদের আসন বিন্যাস পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে পরীক্ষার দিন সকাল ১০.০০ টায় প্রদর্শন করা হবে।

এই বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি কমিশনের ওয়েবসাইট www.jscbd.org.bd-তেও দেখা যাবে।

