

- ❖ **RUPEE DOWN BY 19 PAISE VS DOLLAR** **4/11/2011**

The Indian rupee dropped further by 19 paise to Rs 49.45 per US dollar in early trade today on persistent demand for the American currency from banks and importers on the back of the firming dollar in overseas markets. The rupee resumed lower at Rs 49.40/41 per dollar on the Interbank Foreign Exchange, as against its previous close of Rs 49.26/27 per dollar, and moved down further to Rs 49.45 per dollar before quoting at Rs 49.34/35 per dollar at 1030 hours.

- ❖ **SBI SAYS MAY SERVICE DISRUPTION ON STAFF STRIKE NEXT WEEK** **4/11/2011**

SBI did not specify the reason for the strike called by the All India State Bank Officers Federation, but said ‘conciliatory efforts’ were being made to avert it. A bank officers’ body has served a notice to State Bank of India for a two-day nationwide strike, which could hit customer service at its branches on Tuesday and Wednesday the bank said. “Although the management of the bank is making efforts to extend skeleton services at the branches/offices, in the event it is not possible to do so, our valuable customers may face inconvenience,” it added. A nationwide bank strike had hit India in August as unions rebelled against proposals to allow more private ownership of state banking behemoths that could threaten jobs and benefits.

- ❖ **INSIDER TRADING RULES WILL NOW APPLY TO TRUSTS MANAGING ESOPS** **4/11/2011**

Employee trusts will have to make disclosures when their holding changes, says Sebi. Insider trading norms mandate any person holding less than 5% shares or voting rights to disclose to stock exchanges if there is a change which results in shareholding changing by more or less than 2%. Also, a director or officer has to disclose the holdings and changes if it exceeds. 5 lakh or 25,000 shares or 1% of total shareholding or voting rights. This new guidance in principle enhances transparency even though the result could perhaps be achieved better by amending the regulations. The disclosure aspect of the guidance should have no adverse impact on the bonafide transactions in the market,” said Amit Agrawal, a securities law practitioner.

- ❖ **LEGAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP FOR NETAS** **4/11/2011**

With an aim to make the people's representatives legally aware, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) will organize a one-day workshop for the members of the local self government institutions of Kannur at Thalassery Municipal Town Hall on November 5, Saturday. About 850 panchayat members and municipal councilors from the district would attend the workshop organized in association with Kerala State Legal Services Authority and Thalassery Municipality. This is the third such legal awareness workshop conducted this year in the state and similar workshops would be held at all districts, said Francis. Unlike previous years, new subjects like cyber law, protection of women from domestic violence, protection of the neglected senior citizens are introduced this time in the workshop.

- ❖ **SEBI ASKS FUND HOUSES TO DISPLAY AGENT FEES ON WEBSITES** **3/11/2011**

Market regulator Sebi has asked fund houses to publicly display the commission they pay distributors for selling mutual funds, a move aimed at bringing in transparency in fee structure. The regulator has asked asset management companies to disclose commission paid to distributors between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011, on or before November 10, according to a circular issued to fund houses. "It is principally not right to disclose one's earnings on public websites. Such a move is not going to help investors in any manner," he said. Fund commissions have fallen significantly after ban on entry load in August 2009. Distributors earn 0.75-1.50% as upfront commission and 0.5-0.75% as annual trail fees while selling equity funds.

- ❖ **SEBI IMPOSES Rs 1 CR PENALTY ON SICORP FINLEASE, SIX OTHERS** **1/11/2011**

Market regulator SEBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on six individuals and one company for non-compliance with its earlier order issued with regard to manipulation of share prices of G-Tech Info Ltd. "Considering all the facts and circumstances of the case ... impose a penalty of Rs one crore on the Noticees viz Prasad Tandel, Prakash D' Souza, Prashant Narvekar, Ashok Sonu Bhagat, Sicorp Finlease Ltd, Sandhya Shirish Shah and Pravina Chandrakant Shah jointly and severally," the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in an order.

- ❖ **SEBI IMPOSES FINE OF Rs 5 LAKH ON PSTL PROMOTER SAMINATHAN** **1/11/2011**

SEBI had in an order in December last year directed promoter and managing director of Pyramid Saimira Theatre, PS Saminathan to make a public offer to acquire shares of PSTL from public shareholders within three months from the date of the order. However, Mr. Saminathan had cited this ban for failure to make an open offer to buy the shares.

- ❖ **GOVT PLANS TO BRING CORPORATE GUARANTEES UNDER TAX NET** **31/10/2011**

The government may impose tax on companies giving guarantees for overseas acquisitions, but its efforts to plug a loophole may upset corporate eager to snap up cheap foreign assets. The Income-Tax Department reasons that corporate guarantees are given at a cost. Typically, a charge or fee is payable if a company gives a guarantee to unrelated parties. However, when such guarantees are given to an associated enterprise or a related party for the purpose of an acquisition, the parties involved make adjustments. "We have brought such (corporate) guarantees under the transfer pricing net of the Income-Tax Act," confirmed R N Dash, director-general (Transfer Pricing). "We have identified a number of intangible transactions and corporate guarantees given to associated enterprises for acquiring companies abroad is one of them," he said, adding that the exercise will yield substantial revenue.

- ❖ **KOTAK BANK OFFERS 6 % ON SB ACCOUNT; HIKES BASE RATE BY 25 BPS** **31/10/2011**
Kotak Bank becomes the second lender after another city-based mid-size bank Yes Bank announced 6% interest on savings deposits immediately after the RBI freed interest rates on savings accounts on 25th October. With the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) freeing interest rate on savings deposits, mid-size private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank on Sunday said it will offer 6% interest on savings deposits above Rs1 lakh and 5.5% on those below Rs1 lakh from 1st November, reports PTI. On the base rate increase, Mr. Kotak said "The bank revised its base rate upwards by 25 basis points from 9.75% per annum to 10% in line with the hike announced by the regulator last week and the new rate will be effective 1st November.

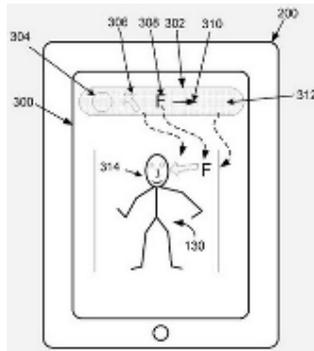
- ❖ **GOVERNMENT FACILITATE PAPERLESS TRANSACTION AND REDUCE OVERALL TRANSACTION COST** **30/10/2011**
The Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has developed a fully secured Government e-payment system for direct credit of dues from the Government of India into the account of beneficiaries using digitally signed electronic advice (e-advice) through the 'Government e-Payment Gateway' (GePG). Government e-Payment Gateway (GePG) is a portal which enables the successful delivery of payment services from Pay & Accounts Offices (PAOs) for online payment into beneficiaries' accounts in a seamless manner under a secured environment. GePG serves as middleware between COMPACT (Computerized Payment and Accounts) application at Pay & Accounts Offices and the Core Banking Solution (CBS) of the agency banks/RBI to facilitate paperless transaction, reducing overall transaction cost and promoting green banking. The digitally signed e-advice uploaded by the PAOs on GePG portal are downloaded by the concerned banks to credit the beneficiaries' accounts through CBS/NEFT/RTGS as applicable. The e-payment system will save time and efforts in effecting payments and will facilitate elimination of physical cheques and their manual processing.

- ❖ **SEBI LOOKING AT NEW INVESTMENT FUND CODE** **28/10/2011**
The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has drafted alternative investment fund guidelines and could release the final code within a few months, an official with the SEBI board said on Friday. "Draft guidelines are there and we have received responses from various players, we are examining the responses and maybe in a few months we will come with the final guidelines," Prashant Saran told Reuters on the sidelines of a financial education conference in Cape Town. "That rules are already there but now how much time it takes basically for people to get business that is a different thing. But it has been allowed, mutual fund investment can be made by non-institutional investors now, the rules allow it," Saran said.

❖ **APPLE PATENTS NEW MULTITOUCH, 3-D GESTURES**

28/10/2011

A new Apple patent reveals the company is looking into ways to integrate more gesturing into the iPad and other devices, a la Tom Cruise's holographic glove-controlled system in *Minority Report*. The patent covers a gesture-based video editing toolbar for the iPad. It suggests a whole new approach to controlling and manipulating media using gestures in the form of everything from shapes to symbols and letters or user-defined patterns.



One of the illustrations included in the patent shows a menu of selected gestures for such actions as making selections, pointing, facial recognition, and creating associations among objects. The patent refers to a master table of gestures that isn't included in the patent documentation, but it seems that users can also create new gestures, raising wide possibilities for use. The patent refers to a master table of gestures that isn't included in the patent documentation, but it seems that users can also create new gestures, raising wide possibilities for use.

Apple's Patent (Source: Patently Apple)

❖ **SEBI ALLOWS SUB-BROKERS TO CARRY OUT IN-PERSON VERIFICATION**

25/10/2011

Market watchdog the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) today allowed sub-brokers to carry out 'in-person' verification (IPV) of clients. "...The subsidiaries of stock exchanges, acting as stock brokers, may rely upon the 'in-person' verification done by their sub-brokers (who are also registered with Sebi as stock brokers of the parent stock exchange) for their respective clients," the Sebi said in a circular. However, the ultimate responsibility for 'in-person' verification would remain with the subsidiaries and they shall obtain the necessary IPV documents for their records, it added. The subsidiaries of stock exchanges had requested Sebi to consider the 'in-person' verification carried out by their sub-brokers since they are also the stock brokers of the parent stock exchange and the subsidiaries are not permitted to register direct clients.

❖ **RBI'S TODAY MONETARY POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD HELP IN GETTING US BACK TO A MORE COMFORTABLE INFLATION SITUATION SOON: FM**

25/10/2011

The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee was responding to the RBI today's announcement vide which it has increased the policy repo rate by 25 basis points from existing 8.25% to 8.50%. The reverse repo rate has also gone up from 7.25% to 7.50%. The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee said that the RBI Governor has chosen to reinforce his commitment to moderate inflation and check inflationary expectations, in the face of continued stickiness in headline

inflation. Shri Mukherjee said that this has implications for credit costs and investment growth. The Finance Minister said that we are looking at all options for strengthening investment sentiments in the coming months.

- ❖ **YOUR LOANS TO GET COSTLIER; RBI SET TO HIKE RATES** **24/10/2011**

The Reserve Bank of India is expected to raise interest rates in its mid-year monetary policy review on Tuesday the 13th time in 19 months to cool inflation that has remained stubbornly high during the past few months. “We expect the RBI to raise the repo rate by about 0.25 percentage points,” a chief executive of a public sector bank told HT. Last month, the RBI had increased the repo rate by 0.25 percentage points to 8.25%.

- ❖ **DIRECT TAXES CODE WILL COME NEXT YEAR: FINMIN** **20/10/2011**

The government on Wednesday expressed optimism that the Direct Taxes Code (DTC) would come into force from the next financial year. DTC Bill is under examination of Parliament Standing Committee and will be effective from April 1, 2012, Pranab Mukherjee said in his address to Chief Commissioners and Director General of Income Tax. The Act needs to be passed by March 31 for implementation of DTC from the next day, which marks the start of the 2012-13 fiscal.

- ❖ **NSE GETS APPROVAL FOR SME EXCHANGE** **16/10/2011**

The National Stock Exchange on Friday received formal approval from SEBI to set up a new SME platform. NSE has been in touch with leading SME financing institutions, rating agencies, venture firms and a large number of SME entrepreneurs to successfully bring them together on NSE’s new SME platform, the exchange said. MD & CEO Ravi Narain said, “We are committed to provide a credible and efficient market place for growing enterprises to raise capital from informed investors.”

- ❖ **SUPREME COURT SUGGESTS FINE IN CHEQUE BOUNCE CASES** **15/10/2011**

The Supreme Court has suggested that the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, could be amended so that a convict in a cheque bounce case is made to pay a fine from which the complainant can be paid compensation. "One other solution is a further amendment to the act so that in all cases where there is a conviction, there should be a consequential levy of fine of an amount sufficient to cover the cheque amount and interest thereon, at a fixed rate of 9 % pa, followed by award of such sum as compensation from the fine amount," said the apex court bench of Justice R.V. Raveendran (since retired) and Justice R.M. Lodha in a recent judgment.

❖ **SEBI FOR LOWER DUTY ON STOCK TRADE**

14/10/2011

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has put its weight behind market players, demanding lowering of statutory levy on share trading. At present, government tax like STT, stamp duty and SEBI fee, among others, on each transaction, form 55 per cent of the total cost for trading in the equity market. Speaking at a public forum, SEBI chief U K Sinha today said the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) was too high and the “regulator would like the government to look into the matter”. Top officials from the National Stock Exchange (NSE), BSE, MCX-SX and United Stock Exchange too were in favor of such a move