

India, UK to hold early on trade pact

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inister of state for commerce Hardeep Singh Puri will hold talks with the UK's minister for international trade Ranil Java wardena with the aim of arriving at an "early harvest" post Brexit, a person familiar with the development said on Friday. Early harvest is the pre cursor agreement to a full-fledged free trade pact between India and the UK.

The talks on Tuesday follow discussions between commerce minister Piyush Goyal and his UK counterpart Liz Truss in November. Tuesday's round will be the fourth between Puri and Jayawar

"The November ministerial $demonstrated\,the\,strength\,of$ the long-standing UK-India relationship, with both parties agreeing to continue to drive forward progress through the Enhanced Trade Partnership, which could lead to a free trade agreement in the future," reports quoted a spokesperson of the UK's department for international trade (DIT) as saying after the November

It was then agreed that "an MoS (minister of state) level meeting will take place in January 2021 to review the progress and work on potential deliverables," the person mentioned above said.

The two ministers would aim to identify issues that could go into an "early harvest" package, a second person familiar with the matter said. Market access was one of the issues on the table, this person

PM flags off first phase of harvest talks on trade part vaccination drive today

Lessons learnt from Co-Win platform may be included in universal immunization plan

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ndia's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) may incorporate software modifications and lessons learnt from the covid-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN) platform.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging off the first phase of the vaccine rollout on Saturday morning via video conferencing, the Co-WIN platform will play a critical role in the inoculation programme by providing realtime information of vaccine stocks, storage temperature and tracking of

The digital platform will help programme managers across national, state and district-levels conduct vaccination sessions. It will help them track beneficiary coverage, dropouts, sessions planned versus sessions held and vaccine utilization.

The Co-WIN platform enables administrators to view and sort data of beneficiaries based on their gender, age and co-morbidity status. They can also view the

metadata of vaccinations and Adverse Event Follow ing Immunization (AEFI) reported across states and Union territories. District administrators can create session sites at any location by entering a PIN code, fol-

lowed by specifying the locality or villages and then assign a vaccina-

The government has set up a Covid Control Room in the health ministry. Minister Harsh Vardhan on Friday reviewed preparations for the launch of the nationwide



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the first phase of the vaccine rollout on Saturday

HEALTH workers,

both in government and private sector,

vaccine in phase 1

vaccinated on Saturday at each of

these session sites. The vaccination drive has been planned in a phased

manner, identifying priority groups. Health workers, both in

government and the private sector, including Integrated Child Devel-

opment Services (ICDS) workers

covid-19 vaccination drive and the working of Co-WIN

"In the beneficiary registration page for all non-prioritized groups on Co-WIN, the software can be pre-populated with beneficiaries

by seeding it with electoral data-

base, in addition to other documents that are authorized for regis-

tration. The lessons learnt and the

software modifications may also be

incorporated in the country's Uni-

versal Immunization Programme,

IT will help track

beneficiary coverage, dropouts and vaccination

The vaccination programme will cover the entire country, with more than 3,000 session sites connected virtually throughout the exercise.

vaccination drive, the virus contin-According to the government, ues to sicken people and claim lives. around 100 beneficiaries will be The number of new cases in the last

24 hours was 15,590. Over 77.56% of the new cases are from seven states and UTs 100 beneficiaries will Kerala continues to report the highest daily new cases be vaccinated on Saturday at each of the 3,000 session at 5,490. It is followed by

> reported 680 new cases, A total of 191 case fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours. Maharashtra saw the most casualties (70). Kerala and West Bengal follow with 19 and 17 deaths.

Maharashtra with 3,579

while West Bengal

The total number of covid-19 cases climbed to 10.53 million, and the death toll mounted to 153,157.

HCjudge recuses from hearing plea against WhatsApp

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essaging app What sApp on Friday apologized and withdrew an \mathbf{m} email it sent to Delhi high court seeking the removal of the judge hearing its privacy policy poised for biggest weekly loss since case, after the judge took strong objection to it on the grounds that she was going to recuse herself anyway.

Counsel for WhatsApp had written to the court that Justice $Prathibha\,M.\,Singh\,should\,not$ hear the petition challenging its privacy policy change because she had appeared as senior counsel against the com pany in the Supreme Court in 2016, also in a case about What sApp's privacy policy. Singh said the e-mail was

completely unwarranted because she was anyway going to recuse herself from hearing the case filed by lawyer Chait-

anya Rohilla, who argues WhatsApp's updated policy "virtually gives a 360-de gree profile into a person's online activity", thus violating the individual's right to pri-

The petition also said that WhatsApp has put a "Damocles sword on its users" to accept its new privacy policy by 8 Febru-

When the matter was listed on Friday, Singh mentioned the e-mail in open court. "The court has received an e-mail. I take strong objection to that. There was no need to send this e-mail. I was myself not going to hear this matter," she said. Senior advocates Kapil Sibal



WhatsApp apologized for the email it sent to Delhi HC saying Justice Prathibha M. Singh hould not hear the plea. ALAM

and Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for WhatsApp, acceded that the email should not have been sent. Advocate Tejas Karia, who sent the e-mail on behalf of WhatsApp, apologized to the court and said he would withdraw it.

The court posted the matter for Monday, when it will be

heard by a differ-**Justice Prathiba** ent bench, subject to the orders of M. Singh said the the chief justice of e-mail sent to her the high court. was unwarranted Rohilla's plea as she was going

said Facebookowned What-App's new norms jeopardize the security of the

nation by allowing user data to be shared, transmitted, and stored in another country.
It alleged that WhatsApp was

to anyway recuse

herself from case

ntegrating people into Face book so that Facebook, What sApp and Instagram (another subsidiary of Facebook) all become part of one package.

The new privacy policy, which was rolled out by WhatsApp on 4 January, includes mandatory sharing of data with

US targets Xiaomi, Cnooc in fresh anti-China push

THE Co-WIN

platform will play a

critical role in the

Bloomberg

e Trump administration blacklisted Chinese smartphone manufacturer Xiaomi Corp. for alleged military links along with the country's third-biggest oil company over its drilling in the South China Sea, part of a final push to ratchet up pressure on Beijing before president-elect Joe Biden takes office.

Xiaomi was one of nine firms added to the defence department's list of Chinese military companies, a move that will restrict US investments in its securities. Other firms include state-owned planemaker Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China Ltd, or Comac, which is central to China's goal of creating a narrow-body plane that can compete with Boeing Co. and Airbus SE.



Xiaomi's inclusion in the US defence department's list of Chinese military companies will restrict US investments in its securities

Meanwhile, the commerce department's move against China National Offshore Oil Corp., the nation's main deepwater explorer, denies it access to US technologies without specific permission. It follows a December decision to blacklist

more than 60 other Chinese

companies. "This measure by the Trump administration once again demonstrates to the public, to the international community, what is unilateralism, double standards and bullying," China

foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a briefing in Beijing on Friday, "The Chinese side will take necessary measures to ensure the legitimate and lawful rights and interests of Chinese compa-nies, and we will stand by our companies, to protect, to uphold their rights and interests in accordance with law."

Spokespeople for Xiaomi Cnooc and Comac had no immediate comment. China National Aviation, named on the Pentagon list, didn't immediately respond to a request for

The new raft of curbs mark a late push by President Donald Trump to ensure his pressure campaign against China stays in place long after he leaves office next week. While Biden and many Democrats say they oppose Trump's tactics on China the restrictions will give the new president increased leverage over Beijing when his team negotiates on trade with leaders of the world's second largest economy

Biden has pledged to work with allies to develop a more coherent strategy against China, though it's not clear whether there'll be any immediate shifts in policy. Under an executive order signed by Trump last year targeting what it calls China's abusive business practices, US investors will need to unwind stakes in designated companies by November.

Xiaomi surpassed Apple Inc. in smartphone sales in the third quarter, according to the International Data Corporation. It joined Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index in September after grab bing market share from Hua wei Technologies Co. as US sanctions on Huawei deep

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Particulars	31 December 2020 (Unaudited)	31 December 2020 (Unaudited)	31 December 2019 (Unaudited)
Total income from operations Net profit for the period before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items	19,302 4,479	55,738 12,486	18,135 3,686
Net profit for the period before tax	4,479	12,486	3,686
Net profit for the period after tax	3,977	10,058	2,944
Net profit for the period after tax and non-controlling interest	3,969	10,043	2,944
Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit for the period after tax and non-controlling interest and other comprehensive income after tax)	4.070	40.000	2 200
	4,370	10,806	3,298
Equity share capital (par value ₹ 2 each) Other equity as at 31 March 2020	543	543	543 50,724
Earnings per equity share (of ₹ 2 /- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (₹)			
Basic (in ₹)	14.63	37.01	10.85
Diluted (in ₹)	14.63	37.01	10.85
Extract of Standalone Financial Results of HCL Technologies Limited a	s per Ind AS:		(₹ in crores
Particulars	Three months ended	Nine months ended	Three months ended
	31 December 2020	31 December 2020	31 December 2019
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited) Refer note 4
Total income from operations	9.404	26.424	8.666
Net profit for the period before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items	3,642	9,951	2,980
Net profit for the period before tax	3,642	9,951	2,980
Net profit for the period after tax	3,397	8,287	2,430
Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit for the period after tax and other comprehensive income after tax)	3,443	8,703	2,380
			543
Equity share capital (par value ₹ 2 each)	543	543	
	543	543	37,003
Equity share capital (par value ₹ 2 each) Other equity as at 31 March 2020 Earnings per equity share (of ₹ 2 /- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (₹)		543	
Other equity as at 31 March 2020 Earnings per equity share (of ₹ 2 /- each) (for continuing and discontinued	12.52	30.54	

- The Board of Directors at its meeting held on 15 January 2021 has declared an interim dividend of ₹4/- per share
- Financial results for all the periods presented have been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards Rules, 2015 (as amended from time to time) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognises. accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable
- accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.

 The Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal of New Delhi and Bengaluru have approved the Scheme of Amalgamation providing for the merger of four direct /step-down wholly-owned subsidiaries engaged in providing IT and IT related services viz. HCL Eagle Limited, HCL Comnet Limited, HCL Technologies Solutions Limited and ConceptSilicion Systems Private Limited (the 'Transferoc companies) with and into HCL Technologies Enimited (the 'Transferoc companies) with and into HCL Technologies Enimited (the 'Transferoc companies) with and into HCL Technologies Limited (the 'Transferoc companies) with and into HCL Technologies date. The scheme has become effective on 13 July 2020 on filling of the certified true copy of the Orders of the Delhi and the Bengaluru NCLT with the Registrar of Companies on 13 March 2020 and 13 July 2020 respectively.

Since the Transferor Companies are the wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Transferee Company, there will be no issue and allotment or shares as consideration. The difference between the amounts recorded as investments of the Company (Transferee Company) and the amount of share capital of the aforesaid amalgamating subsidiaries (Transferor Companies) has been adjusted in the Common Control Transaction Capital Reserve. The comparative results have been restated for all period presented as per guidance under Appendix C of Ind AS 103 ""Business Combinations"".

- . e impact of the scheme is not material on the standalone financial results of the company.
- Tax expense for the three and nine months period ended 31 December 2020 is lower primarily due to reversal of reserve for an uncertain tax position set-up in prior years and reduction in tax liability attributable to change in the method of calculating a tax deduction under stipulated provisions of tax laws, basis evaluation of recent judicial rulings.
- On 21 September 2020, the Group had announced its intent to acquire through a wholly owned subsidiary, 100% stake in DWS Limited. a leading Australian IT, business and management consulting group for ₹ 890 crores (AUD 155.20 million) payable in cash. The acquisition has been consummated on 5 January 2021.
- In view of pandemic relating to COVID-19, the group has considered and taken into account internal and external information on curren estimates in assessing the recoverability of receivables, unbilled receivables, goodwill, intangible assets, other financial assets, impact on revenues and costs, impact on leases and effectiveness of its hedging relationships. However, the actual impact of DU-19 on the Group's financial statements may differ from that estimated and the Group will continue to closely monitor any material changes to find the composition estetistics. future economic conditions
- The Indian Parliament has approved the Code on Social Security, 2020 which would impact the contributions by the group towards Provident Fund and Gratuity. The effective date from which the changes are applicable is yet to be notified and the final rules are yet to be framed. The Group will carry out an evaluation of the impact and record the same in the financial statements in the period in which the Code becomes effective and the related rules are published.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterlylannual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full formats of the quarterlylannual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges, www.nseindia.com, and on the Company's website www.bseindia.com, and on the Company's website www.nseindia.com, and on the website stock and we say the website of the website stock and we say the website stock and we say the webs

By the order of the Board of Directors for HCL Technologies Limited

Shiv Nadar **C. Vijayakumar** President and Chief Executive Officer Chief Strategy Officer Noida (UP), India

HCI

Sebamed cleans up soap ads, offers free pH kits

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erman personal care company Sebamed has tweaked its ads that alleged high acidic content in Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) soaps Dove and Lux, following a restraining order by the Bom-

In their place, it has launched an ad campaign without naming HUL. As before these ads are on the optimal pH levels for sensitive skins but they now offer free pH testing kits to consumer

The high court is expected to passits judgement on 19 Janu-

Without naming HUL, the tweaked ads said high pH levels in soaps can lead to dehydration, irritability and acne. pH is a measure of acidic content in a product-in general, the lower the pH value, the better it is for

the skin.

Besides print ads, Sebamed rolled out its new ads across television, digital, outdoor and radio, with a cheeky tagline filmstars kee nahi, science kee suno" (listen to science, not moviestars). When Sebamed first

released its ad on 8 January on mainstream and social media, it raised a Twitter storm. HUL hit back on 10 January with ads saying dermatologists trust its soan bar Dove, and took its complaint to the high court on 11 January

"We feel that it is our duty to provide the right information to consumers so that they can make informed choices when it comes to personal care through our advertising. Digital platforms have already helped consumers to look deeper into the products they use," Shashi Ranjan, India head, Sebamed,

said in an interview "Moreover, since the onset of



The Bombay high court is expected to pass its verdict in the matter on 19 January.

the pandemic, consumers have started re-evaluating their product choices looking at hygiene, ingredients and efficacy. We feel the timing is right to empower and educate customers so that they can make purchases with their eyes wide open.'

A relatively small player with (around 5%) of their collective premium priced products com-

pared to other beauty soap brands in India, Sebamed said it was looking to expand its reach by launching smaller stockkeeping units and improving its distribution network in India. Currently, it sells its skin, hair and baby care products via 40,000 outlets, besides e-commerce platforms.

Advertising and brand spe cialists said Sebamed will definitely benefit from the aggressive advertising at least in the shortto-medium term.

but it would take more than just ads to gain consumer loyalty. "Their comparative advertis-

Experts said Sebamed will benefit from the aggressive advertising at least in the shortto-medium term

ing naming rival brands has managed to grab the consumer's mind space and attention. The objective behind this campaign is to get a fraction

sales from rival brands, which will still be a huge number for a Sebamed," Karthik Srinivasan. a communications strategy consultant, said, However, he said the real challenge will be to hold on to consumers and convince them to buy its product Naresh Gupta,

co-founder and chief strategy officer, Bang In The Middle said comparative advertising does not help in brand building in the long term Toothpaste

brand Sensodyne, for instance has never pointed out what their competition lacks. They have always highlighted their own core strengths and built a strong brand. People who can shell out more than \$100 for a soap will anyway be using a face wash or body wash.'