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For a status report on the debt market

India's primary corporate bond market appears buoyant, but the secondary market remains relatively inactive, which precludes an active debt market, and affects transparent arm's length finance for investments and projects. The funds garnered via debt securities added up to Rs6.4 lakh crore in 2016-17, as per SEBI data. And during April-November, Rs4.2 lakh crore has been similarly raised. Yet the impressive amounts have been overwhelmingly tapped by way of private placement.

Last August, the Reserve Bank of India working group on development of the corporate bond market made several recommendations related to market structure, instrument design and regulation. An action taken report now seems warranted.

Shaskumar Bind, TYBCOM -B

Thinking of making big bucks off bitcoin? It could be a risky investment.

The frenzy over the incredible rally in bitcoin prices (up 18-fold this year) has made many regret not investing in the virtual currency. Some are curious about getting in on the action at least now, hoping that bitcoin will surge further. Madhur Todi, an Ahmedabad-based certified financial planner and bitcoin investor, has this to say to them: "It's a very risky and volatile asset class. I would say to not get into it to make a quick buck. There are no benchmarks because the ecosystem is new."

Todi believes an investor should not put away more than 1-2% of his net worth in bitcoin. "You should be prepared to lose it." Todi first bought the currency at around Rs 20,000 per bitcoin in 2015; now it is around Rs 11 lakh, and he is bullish about its future. Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency which does not fall under the purview of a central authority. It works on a technology called blockchain, which is a record of all transactions on a decentralised network of computers across the world.

But this is all speculation and that is how it should be treated. Investments in bitcoin are not like investments in a listed company (in India, shareholding of more than 1% has to be disclosed) or in a startup at a certain valuation. It is hard to gauge who has how many bitcoins or any other cryptocurrency.

Besides, there are serious questions being raised about the future of cryptocurrency. India's Finance Ministry and central bank have.

Rahul Rajbar SYBCOM-A

Can Nokia beat Samsung, Xiaomi to regain its clout in entry-level smartphones segment?

Laxman Purohit is experiencing a deja vu with brand Nokia. Back in 2000, Purohit, a cutlery dealer, started a shop for forks, knives and spoons in one of the older buildings of southern Mumbai's Fort area — Kamanwala Chambers. In 2002, he started a small counter for cellphone maker Nokia at the front of the outlet. Soon, the company asked for more space; first half the shop and then the entire shop was taken over by the Finnish phone maker. It did well; the cutlery business was closed down, and Cut to 2010. Nokia floundered in the onslaught of

Android, BlackBerry and iPhone, and Purohit's shop became a multibrand handset store. Many mobile phone shops sprang up nearby. Nokia too went through ups and downs — it was sold to Microsoft in 2013 and then sold again in 2016 to Foxconn and HMD Global, a new firm controlled by former executives of Nokia and Microsoft. So when Nokia was re-launched by the new licensee HMD Global in India in 2017, the company found Purohit and asked him to sell Nokia phones, again. He readily agreed and had some early success. The brand pull was still alive, and the commission was good, often three times that of other brands. Last Wednesday, Akshay Purohit was overhauling his shop. He was giving Nokia phones the largest display. "You should have visited us tomorrow. We are doubling the space allotted to Nokia, just as we did 15 years ago," he said.

RenuParjapati TYBMS

Are You Using Your Credit Card, Right? Tips & Tricks to Get Maximum Returns on Your Credit Card

Credit cards have been extensively used by millions of salaried employees as well as business persons. They are surely the new way of life. The ease of using a credit card for everyday spends are simply undeniable. Whether it is shopping at the swipe of a card, dining at the trendiest restaurants or booking flight tickets within minutes, the benefits of credit cards are endless. According to an online survey conducted by TransUnion Cibil, 57% of the urban Indian consumers use credit cards more beneficial for the consumers. From hefty discounts, exclusive offers and rewards points to serving as a tool to track our expenses, a co-brand credit card serves many purposes and gives plenty of added benefits, such as travel benefits like complimentary air tickets, dedicated check-in, lounge access, extra baggage allowance, and so forth. In this plethora of credit cards, it is important that you choose a travel and lifestyle centric card that best meets all your requirement. The most important aspect of using a credit card optimally is by making sure that you know the credit card you opted for. Analyze the discounts, benefits and reward options that come with your card and check if they serve your purpose. One of the best reward systems that work for many is a mile's card that makes travelling easier and hassle free. We know that majority of the credit card users in India hails from the urban areas and travels either for. Now that we know how to gain the rewards, it is important to know if the rewards make sense. Whether the annual fee is Rs 500 or Rs.5000, if the reward is more than what you pay, it can be established that the credit card is right for you. Let us take the example of the Jet Airways / JetPrivilege credit cards. The rewards on these cards range from special access to lounges and golf courses to extra baggage allowances, and many more. Another important thing to look for in a credit card is if your card has a good sign up bonus. When it comes to credit cards, there are hundreds of options to choose from. But the best options have to be the ones with hefty sign up bonus. Imagine opting for a card that gives you a complimentary watch or a bag when there are competitors like Jet Airways / JetPrivilege co-brand cards, giving out free flight tickets, discount vouchers and extra JPMiles (reward points), which option do you thin.

Lalita Nandoskar TYBCOM-A

No proposal to make Aadhaar linkage mandatory for property deals.

There was no proposal to make Aadhaar linkage mandatory for property transactions, Parliament was informed today. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, however, said the rural development ministry had advised the states and union territories to explore the possibilities of using consent-based Aadhaar authentication for registration of properties under the provisions of the Reg. Act, 1908. The comments assume significance in the backdrop of Puri reportedly stating last month that seeding Aadhaar to property transactions was a great idea and as the government was linking Aadhaar with bank accounts, it might take some additional steps for the property market also. To a query on the issue, the minister said, "At present, there is no proposal to make Aadhaar linkage mandatory in property transactions." To questions, including one on whether the government had set any time-frame for linking the unique identification number for property dealings, he said, "(The questions) do not arise." Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hinted at a crackdown on "benami" properties and thus, there was a speculation that linking Aadhaar with property transactions could be a step in that direction.

Shivani Salekar SYBCOM- C

