







● TRADE MINISTERS WILL MEET IN JAIPUR NEXT WEEK

# Non-tariff barriers on table at G20 and other forums

To seek transparency on application of trade restrictions

MUKESH JAGOTA  
New Delhi, August 18

INDIA WILL BE utilising all bilateral and multilateral platforms to raise the issue of carbon tax and other non-tariff barriers (NTB) at the trade and investment ministers' meeting of the G20 to seek greater mutual cooperation for increasing transparency in the use of such barriers, commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Friday.

As G20 representatives gather in Jaipur for the trade and investment ministerial meeting on August 24-25, India would also be holding bilateral meetings with leaders and trade ministers of the countries with which free trade agreements are being negotiated.

"Ministers will be coming from the US, UK, Canada and other countries. This G20 ministerial meeting will be useful for us to conduct some of the important bilaterals with respect to our FTAs. The UK is coming with its team. We will be having high-level meetings with the UK team," the secretary said.

With Canada and the Euro-



Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya (right) and WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during the G20 health ministers meeting in Gandhinagar on Friday

pean Union, bilaterals would be focused on the progress achieved so far in negotiations. As the FTA with the UK is in its final stages, the bilateral meeting on the sidelines of G-20 will be immediately followed by other high-level visits where both the countries are expected to wrap up negotiations on remaining issues. So far, negotiators from India and the UK have completed discussions on 19 chapters or policy areas out of 26 that would be part of the trade deal. According to industry sources, the UK has agreed to big tariff cuts in areas of interest to India like textiles, leather and gems & jewellery, while an agreement on

tariffs imposed by India on automobiles and wines and spirits is within reach.

US trade representative Katherine Tai will be in Jaipur, and if a bilateral meeting takes place, stock-taking of the progress made since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US would be done. During the PM's visit, India and the US agreed to end all trade disputes at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and work on other areas to enhance trade ties.

At the G20 trade ministers' meeting, the top priority areas are lowering barriers to services trade, increasing transparency in use of non-trade

barriers, providing aid to least developed countries for capacity building to ensure their participation in world trade, building resilient and sustainable value chains and WTO reform. Participation of micro, small and medium enterprises in the trade and logistics will also be discussed, Barthwal said. India is particularly interested in non-tariff barriers. "Definitely, we are discussing those NTBs and we are also discussing how to find a good solution, how to find a platform where we coordinate on these issues and understand these barriers."

He said NTBs and the issues like carbon tax by the EU which other countries are also considering would be discussed multilaterally as well as bilaterally. "All trade reforms will be used (on NTBs)."

SANDIP DAS  
New Delhi, August 18

AFTER 13% EXCESS precipitation in July, the country may be heading for the driest August in nearly a century and a quarter, according to sources in the India Meteorological Department (IMD). So far in the current month, rains have been 40% below the benchmark long-period average.

Though kharif sowing is nearly complete, and the area covered thus far is marginally above the year-ago level, the current dry spell could hit crop yields. Pulse and oilseed are seen to be more vulnerable to the rain deficit, as these crops are approaching the flowering stage.

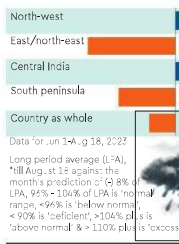
This is especially bad news given the recent spike in retail inflation, mainly driven by high food prices, particularly vegetables, cereals and pulses.

S Divananda Pai, weather forecaster and senior scientist at IMD, said though the agency had predicted below-normal monsoon for the current month, such 'scanty' rainfall was not anticipated. "It would be difficult to bridge such large deficiency by the end of the month," Pai said. August rainfall, he said, is expected to be the lowest since 1901 when the met department started collecting data.

The IMD on Friday predicted heavy rainfall activity in the north, including central India and north eastern

## MONSOON PROGRESS

(% deviation from LPA)



## Performance against benchmark



region in the next three to four days. Pai said as per the current assessment, rains in September are likely to be much better compared to the current month.

The IMD will release its forecast for next month by August 30.

Deficient rainfall is likely to impact pulses and oilseeds sowing in eastern and central parts of the country as a major portion of it is still rain-fed. Kharif crops sowing, which is likely to be completed by next week, is marginally above last year's level so far.

So far 63% of the 717 districts in the country have received normal or excess rainfall. Rest of the 263 districts have received deficient and scanty rainfall.

The IMD has said weak El

Nino conditions are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region and the latest climate forecasts indicate that the El Nino conditions are likely to further intensify and continue up to early next year.

"El Nino conditions would adversely impact monsoon rains in September and thereafter, the overall outlook for the rainfall currently does not look bright," M Rajeev, former secretary, Ministry of earth sciences, said.

In April, the IMD had predicted that the southwest monsoon rainfall during June-September was likely to be in the 'normal' range at 96% of the LPA.

In the first two months of monsoon months, the overall rainfall has been at 'above normal' range of 5% above LPA.

The surplus rainfall of 13% in July had wiped 9% deficiency in rain for June.

According to the Met department, overall monsoon rains have been 'below normal' at 6% below the benchmark till July.

Currently, east and north-east, central India and south peninsula regions have rainfall deficiency of 25%, 3% and 13% respectively of LPA. Northwest has received 8% more rainfall than the benchmark. The IMD classifies 'normal' rainfall between 96% and 104% of LPA. Rainfall between 90% and 95% is considered 'below normal' and precipitation below 90% of LPA is termed 'deficient'.

Rainfall received between 104%-110% of benchmark fall on 'above normal' category while volume of rainfall above 110% of LPA is referred as 'excess'. The LPA is average rainfall received during 1971-2020 at 87 centimetres.

Rains during August-September which has a share of around 40% in total monsoon precipitation is crucial for the vegetative growth of kharif crops - paddy, pulses, oilseeds, cotton and sugarcane.

India's foodgrain production rose by 5% on year to a new record of 330.5 million tonne (MT) for the 2022-23 crop year. A marginally higher target of 332 million tonne (MT) of foodgrains production for the 2023-24 crop year (July-June) has been set by the agriculture ministry.

# Sowing of kharif crops is just above year-ago level

SANDIP DAS  
New Delhi, August 18

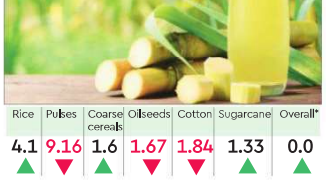
WITH JUST A week left for completion of sowing, the area under kharif crops was just above last year's level on Friday. So far, 102.2 million hectare (MH) has been covered under the kharif crops, which is 94% of the normal sown area, recording a marginal increase of 0.09% on year. Sowing activities are expected to be completed by next week, an agriculture ministry official told FE.

However, after a surplus July, the scanty rainfall so far this month may impact the yield of crops, including paddy, pulses and oilseeds, according to the officials. The yield would be crucial to curb spike in food prices. Thanks to the heavy downpour over northwest, central and southern parts of the country in the last few weeks, paddy transplanting is currently 10 days ahead of year-on-year (y-o-y). The gap was 9.8% at the start of July.

So far, rice has been transplanted on 36.07 MH, 90% of the normal sown area. Sowing will be completed in the next 10 days as it has been delayed in eastern regions because of late arrival of monsoon rains. The harvesting of crops will commence from October 1.

Experts said kharif paddy, which accounts for 80% of the country's rice production, could get affected because of floods in parts of Punjab and delay in arrival of monsoon in eastern India. Anticipating crop production and higher cereal inflation, the Centre banned exports of white rice last month.

## KHARIF SOWING MARGINALLY UP



Source: agriculture ministry, including June & August. Sown area as on August 18: 102.25 million hectare (MH) against average kharif (June-Sep) sown area of 109 MH

Currently, only eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal are reporting deficient rainfall. Rest of the key paddy states - Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rayachoti - received adequate rainfall in the last fortnight.

**Advertisement No. 31/2023**  
Government of India  
**Public Enterprises Selection Board**  
Invites applications for the post of  
**DIRECTOR (PROJECTS)**  
in  
**ENGINEERING PROJECTS (INDIA) LTD.**  
Last date of submission of application by applicants is  
**11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.**  
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is  
**19<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.**  
For details login to website  
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

**NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)  
A-11, Sector-24, Noida-201 301  
Phone: 0120-2412515, 2412524, Fax: 0120-2412397  
NFL/MTLS/14/NDF/PO/2023 Date: 19.08.2023  
**Pre-Qualification of Manufacturers of HDPE Bags**  
National Fertilizers Limited intends to pre-qualify manufacturers of HDPE bags for procurement through E-tendering & Reverse Auctioning.  
For eligibility criteria & other details, please visit website [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com) or [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in). Addendum(s) / Corrigendum(s), if any, shall be published only on above websites.  
Last date for submission of documents is **21.09.2023.**  
**CGM (Materials)**

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE OF E-AUCTION**  
Leasing Division, Central Railway has decided to call for an e-auction for Mumbai division given asset on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) through e-auction leasing module. The interested bidders are required to get registered in e-auction leasing module and all necessary documents to be uploaded prior to the e-auction. For further details the interested bidders are requested to visit the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to know the details of E-Auction mentioned below:  
Sl. No. Category Sub-Category Auction Date  
1 Misc-Static-Services Promotional Kiosk for advertisement/promotion of Banking/Insurance products/services 01/09/2023  
Further Addendum/corrigendum, withdrawal of lot/catalogue, change in date or time of auction, extension, clarification etc., if any, in connection with the subject auctioned in this website. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated.  
DRM(CSMT, Mumbai) VAPL469  
Download UTS APP for tickets

**RITES LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
CIN No. L27999DL197600097227  
**NOTICE OF THE 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND E-VOTING INFORMATION**  
Notice is hereby given that the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held on Friday, September 15, 2023, at 11:00 AM, through Video Conferencing ("VC") & Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact the business as set out in the notice of the AGM. The Company has sent the Notice of AGM on Friday, August 18, 2023, through electronic mode to the members whose email addresses are registered with the Company / depositories in accordance with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, 17/2023 dated 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, 20/2023 dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, 22/2021 dated 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, 21/2021 dated 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, 02/2022 dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 and 10/2022 dated 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 (collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars") and SEBI Circular Nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/MOD/DIR/P/2021/11 dated 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, SEBI/HO/CFD/IR/DIR/2022/4 dated 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, and SEBI/HO/CFD/PD-2/P/DIR/2023/4 dated 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.  
Notice of AGM and the Annual Report are also available on the company's website at [www.rites.com](http://www.rites.com) under the section "INVESTORS-SHAREHOLDERS MEETINGS". Members, who have not received the notice of AGM and the Annual Report, may download it from the company's website. All relevant documents and registers referred to in the Notice will be available for inspection by the members at the registered office of the Company from the date of circulation of this notice upto the date of the AGM i.e., September 15, 2023. Members seeking to inspect such documents are requested to send an email at [corporate@rites.com](mailto:corporate@rites.com). Inspection will be provided within 10 days of the request.  
In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rule, 2014 as amended from time to time and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2012 as per the MCA circulars and the provisions of the company's articles of association, the members of the Company are requested to cast their vote on all resolutions set forth in the notice of the AGM using electronic voting system (remote e-voting and e-voting) provided by Link Intime India Private Limited ("LIPL") and e-voting rights of members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the company as on Friday, September 08, 2023 (cut-off date).  
The remote e-voting period commences on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 9:30 AM (IST) and ends on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 5:00 PM (IST). During this period, members can cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module will be disabled by LIPL, thereafter. Those members who shall be present in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility and had not cast their votes electronically, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting system during the AGM.  
The members who cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend and participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. Any person who acquires shares of the Company and become a member of the company after the notice has been sent electronically and holds shares as on the cut-off date may have the login ID and password by sending a request to [investors@rites.com](mailto:investors@rites.com). In case, if he/she is also registered with LIPL for remote e-voting then he/she can use his/her existing user ID and password for casting the vote.  
In case any member has not registered his email address with the Company (ITA) and/or has not updated his/her bank account mandate for receipt of Dividend, please follow below mentioned instructions:  
a) Register the email id for e-voting (on or before 5 PM, 08<sup>th</sup> September 2023)  
b) Visit the [https://linkintime.com/in/emailling/email\\_register.html](https://linkintime.com/in/emailling/email_register.html)  
c) Select the company name viz. RITES Limited;  
d) Enter the DP ID & Client ID / Physical Folio No. and PAN number. In the event of PAN details are not available for record for Physical Folio, Members to enter one of the Share Certificate numbers;  
e) Upload the self-attested copy of PAN card for authentication. If PAN details are not available in the system, the system will prompt the Member to upload the self-attested copy of the PAN card for updation;  
f) Enter email address and mobile number;  
g) The system will then confirm the email address for receiving the AGM notice.  
d) Receiving dividend directly in the bank accounts through National Automated Clearing House (NACH) and/or by other means (on or before 5 PM, 08<sup>th</sup> September 2023).  
Physical a) Visit the [https://linkintime.com/in/emailling/email\\_register.html](https://linkintime.com/in/emailling/email_register.html)  
b) Under the "update bank details", fill the following details:  
1) Bank Account No.  
2) Bank Name  
3) IFSC Code  
c) Upload a self-attested scanned copy of the PAN card;  
d) Upload a self-attested scanned copy of the Aadhaar card (with document such as AADHAR card, passport) in support of the address of the Member as registered with the Company;  
e) Upload a self-attested scanned copy of cancelled cheque leaf bearing the name of the member or first holder in case of joint holding.  
Demat Holding Members holding shares in DEMAT form are requested to update their Holding E-payment Mandate with their respective DPs.  
In case members have any queries regarding e-voting, they may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and **Investor e-Voting manual** available at <https://investor.rites.com>, under help section or send an email to [investors@rites.com](mailto:investors@rites.com) or in contact on - Tel: 022-4918 6000 or contact Mr. Swapan Kumar Naskar, AIF, North India, Noida, India. E-mail: [swapan@rites.com](mailto:swapan@rites.com), who will also address queries connected with e-voting by electronic means.  
The details of AGM are available on the website of the company at [www.rites.com](http://www.rites.com) and LIPL at <https://investor.rites.com>. In the Annual Report and Notice of the AGM for the Financial Year 2022-23 are also available on the websites of stock exchanges i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com).  
Notice is also hereby given, under section 91 of the act and regulation 42 of the Listing Regulations that the register of members and share transfer books of the company will remain closed between Saturday, 09.09.2023 to 15.09.2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of the AGM. Dividend will be paid to the shareholders holding shares on the record date fixed by the company i.e. 08.09.2023.  
For RITES Limited Sd/-  
Joshi Ranjan Shikhar  
Date: 17.08.2023  
Company Secretary

**Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
CIN: L65911DL1986G0126363  
Regd. Office: US Floor, East Tower, NBCC Place, Bishan Parkam Marg, Pragati Vihar, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, Ph: 011-41063717  
Email: [info@irfc.co.in](mailto:info@irfc.co.in), Website: <https://irfc.co.in/>

**PUBLIC NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS**  
Notice is hereby given that, the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited ("Company") will be held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at 3:00 p.m. (IST) through Video Conferencing ("VC") & Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM"), in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules notified there under and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with all applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") to transact the business as set out in the notice calling the AGM.  
In compliance with the MCA & SEBI Circular(s), the Notice setting out the business to be transacted at the AGM together with the Annual Report of the Company for the financial year 2022-23 will be sent electronically to those members whose email address is registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s) and hard copy of annual report will be provided to those shareholders who will specifically request for the same. The Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report will also be available on the Company's website at <https://irfc.co.in/> and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e., BSE Limited (BSE) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), respectively, and on the website of CDSL at [www.evotingindia.com](http://www.evotingindia.com). Members can attend and participate in the AGM through the VC/OAVM facility only. Members attending the meeting through VC/OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum as per Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013. The instructions for joining the AGM will be provided in the Notice of the AGM.  
The Company is providing remote e-voting facility ("Remote e-voting") to all its members to cast their votes on all resolutions as set out in the Notice of AGM. Additionally, the Company is providing the facility of voting through e-voting system during AGM. Detailed procedure for remote e-voting will be provided in the Notice of AGM.  
Member(s) who have not registered their e-mail addresses with the Company/Depository, are requested to please follow the following instructions to register their e-mail address so as to receive all communications electronically including annual report, notices, circulars, NACH intimation etc. sent by the Company from time to time:  
Physical holding Members, holding shares in physical mode are requested to provide Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self-attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self-attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to [rita.at@beetafinancial.com](mailto:rita.at@beetafinancial.com) or to Company at [investors@irfc.co.in](mailto:investors@irfc.co.in).  
Demat holding Members holding shares in Dematerialized mode can get their E-mail ID registered by contacting their respective Depository Participant.  
Further, pursuant to all applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") the Company has additionally enabled a process for the limited purpose of receiving shareholder communications including annual report and notice of the Annual General Meeting (including remote e-voting instructions) electronically during the financial year 2023-24 and the Members may temporarily update their email address by writing to company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, M/s Beetal Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd at [irfc@beetafinancial.com](mailto:irfc@beetafinancial.com).  
For Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited Sd/-  
Vijay Babul Shikhar  
Company Secretary  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 18.08.2023



