

**SURAJEET DAS GUPTA** New Delhi. 11 June

hen Qatar Airways announced a few months ago that it was not interested in buying the beleaguered Air India, which the government tried and failed to privatise, many read it as a sign of the Gulf carrier's lack of interest in the country's domestic aviation business.

But last week, Qatar Airways Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker quelled any doubts about his ambitions with the announcement that the airline will launch a full-service carrier in India and file its application with the government soon. Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the International Air Transport Association in Sydney, Baker gave out some more details: the board of the airline would be headed by Indians and the carrier will be funded by the Qatar Investment Authority, the sovereign wealth fund of the state.

India had invited Qatar Airways some years ago to take advantage of its liberal foreign direct investment (FDI) regime and invest in the country. India allows 100 per cent FDI in aviation, but restricts the stake of a foreign carrier to 49 per cent. The rules, however, allow a sovereign investment arm to invest in the remaining equity. Both Air Asia and the Singapore Airlines have

been granted permission under this policy.

So why is Qatar Airways so keen to enter the hypercompetitive domestic aviation business now? The answer lies in the international arena where the three big carriers, Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways, are fighting to dominate the West

Asian skies. Emirates, which controls the largest international hub in the region in Dubai for passengers to and from Asia, south east Asia and Australia en route to the US, Europe and Africa, is now being challenged by both Etihad (via its gateway in Abu Dhabi) and Qatar Airways (via Doha).

The battle is getting intense even though many West Asian states have blocked the entry of Qatar Airways into their air space due to sanctions against the state. With a fleet of 200 aircraft, Qatar Airways flies to over 150 destinations worldwide and is closing in on Emirates which flies to 155 destinations but has a much larger fleet of 250 (it has more wide-bodied aircraft). Etihad, despite its various bad investments in airlines that have gone bust, is also giving a tough fight. It currently flies to 115 destinations with a fleet that is half that of Qatar Airways.

In this three-way battle, India is seen as a

# **SEATING ARRANGEMENT**

Allocation of seats to India and foreign countries (each side)

0man	27.405	
Qatar	24,292	(+2%)
UAE Abu Dhabi	50,000	(+2%)
UAE Dubai	65,200	(+2%)

agreements.

cent stake in Jet Airways, the largest international carrier in India) are far ahead of Oatar Airways. This is because the Indian government has not been as liberal to Doha as it has been to Dubai and Abu Dhabi in allowing seats to fly to and from India as part of the bilateral

Europe and Africa.

high-growth market to feed

their hubs; already 40-50 per

cent of the passengers to and

from India use the three West

Asian hubs to fly to the US,

Etihad (which has a 24 per

In this game, Emirates and

So, Qatar Airways is the smallest amongst the big three, in fact even smaller than Air Oman and Air Arabia in terms of its share of the international passenger market to and from India. Between January and March this year, Qatar Airways was fifth in the pecking order amongst West Asian carriers in terms of market share (3.1 per cent), well behind Emirates (8.9 per cent), Oman Air (3.3 per cent), Etihad and Air Arabia (3.2 per cent each).

By passenger share (to and from India), though, Qatar is the fourth largest with a 5.5 per share, bigger than Saudi Arabia or Oman. But compared with the Emirates, which has a 30.2 per cent share (which include passengers who fly on Emirates and its subsidiaries like Air Dubai as well as on Etihad and Indian carriers) it is still

The bilateral agreements appear skewed in favour of the United Arab Emirates. Based on data till last year, the weekly entitlement of Oatar at 24,292 a week (plus additional 2 per cent) is half that of Abu Dhabi, lower than Oman and smaller than Dubai, which has 66,504 seats a week. Qatar has exhausted its entitlements long ago and has been negotiating for more, but so far without avail. It flies only 102 services a week to India compared to 204 by Dubai and 194 by Abu Dhabi carriers.

Qatar has asked the Indian government to increase its quota to 66,374 (it has not got an increase after 2009) and permission to fly into seven new cities from 14 currently. Yet the request, which was made in 2016, is still being considered by the government.

The problem, say aviation experts, is that Indian carriers have only exhausted 63 per cent of the seat quota to Qatar, but have nearly exhausted the enhanced quota to Dubai. "There is a justification to increase seats to Dubai because both Indian carriers as well as Emirates need more, but that is not the case with Qatar. Similarly, with the increase in seats to Abu Dhabi, there is high unused capacity from the Indian side," says an aviation analyst.

For Qatar Airways, setting up a domestic carrier mitigates the need to depend on long and arduous negotiations for bilateral quotas and gives the airline a shot at closing the gap with Emirates and Etihad in the Indian market. Qatar Airways can utilise the over 40 per cent seat capacity that is lying unused under the bilateral from India and press in more flights. Even if it was to get permission for more seats as Qatar has demanded, having a domestic operation will ensure that its business plans are not tied to Indian carriers exhausting their quotas. At the same time, a domestic carrier will give them the flexibility to quickly start operations to fly from any city in the country to Doha and respond to competition from Emirates and Etihad (which has Jet Airways) quickly rather than wait for permission under the bilateral negotiations.

Many feel Qatar Airways' entry into the country is well-timed. Both Jet Airways and Air India are dealing with financial stress and that gives the new airline an opportunity to make a dent in the market if they can offer a superior service model.

If Baker's initial statements are anything to go by, he is planning a big bang entry into the country. The airline's deep pockets and the financial muscle have already managed to rattle some domestic carriers. "As most of these airlines will lease aircraft from their own group, there is hardly any major investment which will come India's way. They will also spend nothing on maintenance in India," says a senior executive of a leading domestic airlines. "Also, why should we allow them to create a hub in their country at the expense of the ones in India?" Which means the Indian airline market can count on one thing: the airline representing one of the world's richest kingdoms will have its work cut out in the world's largest democracy.

# Women confront Microsoft's worker-friendly image

BLOOMBERG 11 June

Microsoft counts itself as a leader with policies promoting gender equality and balancing work and life. But whatever progress the tech giant has made with equal-pay and family-friendly initiatives, it's still fighting a lawsuit by women engineers and information technology specialists who claim they were treated for years like second-class citizens.

The women allege the company paid them less than men, stalled career advancement and froze them out following maternity leave. While Microsoft has denied any discrimination, the women assert that the effects of systemic practices are continuing. A federal judge in Seattle will hear arguments Monday on whether the women can band together as a group of more than 8,630 high-level technical specialists to pursue their bias suit. Class-action status is considered crucial to the success of the lawsuit



Microsoft faces a class action suit involving 8,630 high-level technical specialists

allowing the women to pool resources and giving them leverage to force a settlement.

Microsoft has made "significant progress" in recent years in ensuring a diverse and inclusive workplace, the company said in an emailed statement. "But even as we work on these broader issues, it is clear we don't discriminate on pay and promotions."

Weighing heavily over the class action argument will be the 2011 decision by the US Supreme Court in a gender-bias case against Walmart. The high court said the plaintiffs failed to show their experiences were similar enough or that the company had a corporate policy that led to gender discrimination at thousands of Walmart and Sam's Club stores nationally.

Like nearly all defendants facing class action certification, Microsoft cites the Walmart decision as a reason to deny it. "Plaintiffs' claims are simply not the stuff of which class actions are made," Microsoft lawyers said in court papers, criticising what it called the "extraordinary breadth" of the proposed class.

# Xsidbi

SIDBI invites sealed tenders from eligible bidders for Implementation of SD-WAN based MPLS VPN

For detailed tender documents please visit our website at www.sidbi.in or Central Public Procurement (CPP) portal

Addendum/Corrigendum if any will be published in the above mentioned websites only.

Road Infrastructure Development Company of Rajasthan Ltd. First Floor, LIC Jeevan Nidhi Building, Ambedkar Circle, Bhawani Singh Marg, Jaipur – 302005 Tel.: +91 141 2747001, Facsimile: +91 141 2747010, E-mail: office@ridcor.in, Website: www.ridcor.ir CIN: U45203RJ2004PLC019850

**Short Term NIT** RIDCOR/PRJ/ADM/NEW-519/2018/308 RIDCOR invites sealed quotations from the contractors/firms for finalizing the rate contractors for maintenance works on various Mega Highways Project roads. Quotation document for the work can be purchased by a Demand Draft of Rs. 5,600/- (non-refundable) including GST in favour of 'RIDCOR Ltd.' payable at Jaipur from 12.6.2018 to 21.6.2018. Any informatio regarding this can be sought from RIDCOR office. Interested eligible contractors/agencie can submit their quotations by 3.00 p.m. on 22.6.2018 at RIDCOR Ltd, 1st Floor, LIC Jeevar Nidhi Building, Bhawani Singh Marg, Jaipur, Tel.: 0141-2747001, Fax: 0141-2747010 Quotations will be opened on same day at 3.30 p.m. RIDCOR reserves the right to accept reject any quotation without assigning any reason thereof.

# **AURUS** Labs

#### **Laurus Labs Limited**

Regd.Office: Plot No.21, Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City, Parawada, Visakhapatnam - 531 021, Andhra Pradesh, India. Corporate Office: 2nd Floor, Serene Chambers, Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034, Telangana, India. Tel: +91 40 3980 4333; Fax: +91 40 3980 4320; E-mail: secretarial@lauruslabs.com; Website: www.lauruslabs.com

(CIN: L24239AP2005PLC047518)

#### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting ("AGM" or "Meeting") of the Members of M/s. Laurus Labs Limited ("The Company") will be held on Thursday, July 5, 2018 at 03.00 pm in Oyster Hall, Waltair Club, Opp. Government Circuit House, Siripuram

Notice of the Meeting setting out the ordinary and special business to be transacted at the Meeting together with the Annual Report of the Company for the Financial Year 2017-18 which inter-alia comprises Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2018, Auditors' and Directors' Reports thereon, Corporate Governance Report etc. have been sent to the members, whose names appear in the Register of members/depositories as at closing hours of business on Friday, June 1, 2018. The said Notice and Annual Report have been sent by e-mail to those members who have registered email address with the Company/Depository Participant(s) and by courier to those members who have not registered their e-mail address with Company / Depository Participant(s).

The Notice and Annual Report can also be downloaded from our website; www.lauruslabs.com, All the documents pertaining to the items of business to be transacted at the AGM are available for inspection at the Corporate Office of the Company during business hours on any

A member entitled to attend and vote at the AGM is entitled to appoint a Proxy to attend and vote on a poll instead of himself and the Proxy need not be a member of the Company. The instrument of Proxy in order to be effective must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company, duly completed and signed, not less than 48 hours before the commencement of the meeting. Proxies submitted on behalf of Companies, Societies etc., must be supported by an appropriate resolution/authority as applicable.

In compliance with the provisions of Sec.108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended, and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is pleased to provide its members the facility to exercise their right to vote through electronic voting system on the items of business set out in the Notice of the 13th AGM to be held on July 5, 2018. The members may cast their votes using an electronic voting system from a place other than the venue of the Meeting (remote e-voting). The remote e voting will commence at 09.00 am on July 2, 2018 and will end at 05.00 pm on July 4, 2018. The remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond the aforesaid time and date and the remote e-voting module after 5 pm on July 4 2018 will be disabled by Karvy Computershare Private Limited ("Karvy"), the agency engaged by the Company to provide e-voting facility to the members. A person, whose name appears in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as on the cut-off date i.e. Friday, June 29, 2018, only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote evoting/voting at the meeting. The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from July 2, 2018 to July 5, 2018 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of payment of dividend.

Any person who becomes member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice of the Meeting and holding shares as of the cut-off date may obtain User ID and password inter alia sending a request at einward.ris@karvy.com or may call Karvy's toll free number 18003454001. The detailed procedure for obtaining User ID and password is also provided in the Notice of the meeting which is available on Company's website and Karvy's website. If the member is already registered with Karvy for e-voting, he can use his existing User ID and password for casting the vote through remote e-voting.

The communication relating to remote e-voting inter alia containing User ID and password has been sent to the members along with Notice of the Meeting.

The members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the meeting but not be entitled to cast their vote again. The facility for voting through polling paper shall be made available at the meeting and members attending the Meeting who have not cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting will be able to exercise their right to vote at the Meeting.

The contact details for addressing e-voting queries/grievances are as follows:

Place: Hyderabad

Date: 12.06.2018

Shri KS Reddy, Asst. General Manager, Karvy Computershare Private Limited, Karvy Selenium Tower B, Plot No.31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032; Phone No. +91-40-67161700; Toll-free No. 1800-3454-001; E-mail:einward.ris@ karvy.com

> By Order of the Board For Laurus Labs Limited

Sd/- G. Venkateswar Reddv Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

### **TENDER CARE**

#### Safety Exhibition at DSP

Asafety exhibition was organized inside the plant premises at the Merchant Mill during June 4-8, 2018. The concluding program was held on 08.06.2018. Mr. A K Rath, CEO, DSP along with the senior officials of the plant visited the exhibition pavilion. While speaking on the occasion, Mr. A K Rath, CEO, DSP said, "Along with creating continuous awareness, the efforts in DSP are being continued to integrate safety in the behaviour and habits of the employees. The exhibition highlights innovative safety related activities and also creates better safety awareness".



The exhibition displayed various innovations introduced for improved safety of both equipment and people working on it. A safety skit was also presented by the employees, which drew huge applause. Mr. A K Rath, CEO, DSP, Mr. T B Singh, Executive Director (Works), DSP and other senior officials distributed prizes to the winners of safety slogan and poster competitions organized for the employees and their family members.

#### United Bank of India, Head Office, Kolkata awarded



Inited Bank Of India, Head Office, Kolkata was awarded with the 1st Prize for FY 2015-16 & 2nd prize for FY 2016-17 by Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Bank) Kolkata for outstanding performance in implementation of Rajbhasha Hindi in official work. Sri . R.K.Takkar, MD & CEO of UCO Bank & Chairman of TOLIC(Bank), Kolkata handed over the certificates & shield to Md. Abdul Wahid, General Manager in-charge of Rajbhasha of the Bank during the 65th TOLIC meeting held at Kolkata on 28.05.2018.

#### Blast Furnace - 5 of SAIL, RSP sets new production benchmark in single day Hot Metal production

The Blast Furnace-5 'Durga' of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has set a new benchmark in Hot Metal production by making 9320 Tonnes on 25th May 2018, which is its best-ever performance since inception. With this the furnace has surpassed its previous Best Production of 9010 Tonnes recorded on 26th March 2016. The cumulative Hot Metal production from all the furnaces on 25th May was 12514 Tonnes, which was again the highest. The previous record was of 12,344 Tonnes clocked on 17th May 2018. Mr. Ashwini Kumar, CEO, RSP along with Mr. Subhendra Das, ED (Works) visited Blast Furnace-5 and congratulated the Blast Furnace-5 collective for the record performance.

## **Commercial Feature**

#### **South Indian Bank bags National Payments Excellence Award**



Reghunathan K N, EVP (Treasury), South Indian Bank receiving National Payments Excellence Award for RuPay instituted by NPCI from B. P. Kanungo, Deputy Governor RBI, in the presence of Biswamohan Mahapatra, Chairman NPCI, V.G. Kannan, Chief Executive, IBA and A.S. Ramasastri, Director, IDRBT.

#### Indian Bank revises interest rate on Term Deposits

Indian Bank announced upward revision in its interest rates on Domestic/NRE Term deposits by 25 bps for amount less than Rs.1 crore in Above 1 year to less than 3 years buckets and by 50 bps in the corresponding buckets under Rs.1 crore to Rs. 5 crore category. Consequently, Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rates (MCLRs) has been revised upward by 5 bps for overnight tenor and 10 bps for other tenors. The above revisions are effective from 11th June, 2018.

#### **New Executive Director (Works) at ISP**



**S**ri Wakil Singh has taken over as Executive Director (Works) of IISCO Steel Plant. A BTech in Metallurgical Engineering from REC, Rourkela, Sri Singh began his career from the vital Cold Rolling Mill of Bokaro Steel Limited. He took charge as the Executive Director (Projects) of IISCO Steel Plant in the year 2017 where he headed the modernization and expansion project of IISCO Steel Plant at a very crucial

#### Talcher Kaniha celebrated its 30th Foundation Day

NTPC Talcher Super Thermal Power Station, Kaniha celebrated its 30th Foundation Day on June 2,2018. On this occasion, Chief Guest Shri Ram Kuber, Executive Director, Talcher Kaniha hoisted the NTPC flag at the administrative building of the power station. On the occasion Shri Kuber conveyed good wishes to the employees for completion of 30 years of power station. Speaking on the plants' performance, NTPC Talcher Kaniha station has achieved a plant load factor (PLF) of more than 90 % with generation of more than 3600 Million Units during the current fiscal year. The station ranked 6th best power station among the NTPC power stations during last fiscal year. The station has complied as Zero Liquid Discharge station on 28.03.2018. The station has achieved highest solar power generation since inception with 14.178 Million Units. The station has planted 52780 saplings in 2017-18. In addition during the last financial year, the station has been bestowed with NTPC Excellence Model for 2016-17(Winner) . The station has been awarded Kalinga SAFETY Aawrd (Gold) for 2016. TSTPS has been awarded Best SAFETY award (in the category of occupational health care ) from Odisha STATE Govt. for 2016-17 & NTPC Kaniha hospital awarded as the Best Hospital among NTPC Power stations hospitals.NTPC Talcher Kaniha commissioned 60 kWp Rooftop Solar PV plant at its Administrative Building in April 2018 under Sustainable Development initiative.