

Malls Roast Eateries Over Coals Amid the Hygiene Crackdown

Operators send out fresh alerts to food outlets in a bid to protect malls' image

Ratna Bhushan & Faizan Haider

New Delhi: India's leading malls have upped the scrutiny on restaurants and cafes in their premises, by sending out fresh alerts to their food & beverage (F&B) tenants on hygiene and food safety protocols amid widening crackdowns by regulators, citing that violations by restaurants impact the entire mall's image. The reinforced guidelines by various malls have been sent over emails to hundreds of restaurants, cafes and bars over the past 10 days, executives said. DLF Malls, Phoenix Group and Prestige are among the mall operators that have escalated hygiene and safety guidelines and sent out fresh alerts to food & beverage outlets, executives in knowledge of the developments said.

While the crackdowns so far have been led by Maharashtra Food and



Drug Administration (FDA) and Karnataka Food Safety and Drug Administration, mall operators across India specially in tier-1 and 2 cities have reiterated hygiene and safety protocols, they added.

Mall operators said while they closely follow crucial protocols such as food hygiene and fire safety as an ongoing process, the recent crackdowns have brought violations and lapses in public domain, directly risking reputations of the malls. One of the emails sent to a prominent QSR chain by a leading mall operator, which ET has reviewed, said: "We are very concerned about recent hygiene and food safety pro-

protocols being breached. While checks by mall management are in place, all tenant partners may note that lapses that come to light risk reviewing contract terms and strict penalties as it amounts to reputational damage of mall premises." The mail further noted "zero tolerance" on food safety lapses.

"It's not just about the reputation of the restaurant. The mall's credibility is at stake too. There are times when we had to take a hard call, and we continue to do so," Dalip Sehgal, chief executive at private equity firm Blackstone-backed Nexus Malls, which operates 19 malls across 15 cities, said. "We do

routine audits and take them very seriously. Such protocols can't be treated as one-time developments. It's critical that standards are maintained and be part of the DNA of any F&B business," he added.

Nexus Select Trust, the entity under which Nexus Malls operate, has a footprint count of 135 million plus annual visitors, according to its data. "Following safety guidelines is part of agreements we have with food outlets. From time-to-time, we check whether they are following the protocols. Food quality is something we can't check, but we make sure cleanliness is maintained and it is part of our responsibility as well," said Muhammad Ali, chief executive, retail, at Prestige Group, which operates five malls in South India.

Recent days have seen regulators either suspend or seal licenses of KFC's godown in Mangaluru's City Center Mall, and Punjab Grill in Seawood Mall and Domino's in R-City mall in Mumbai. Revenue contribution of F&B at leading malls has surged anywhere between 30-40% over the past year; compared to retail sales contributed by fashion and entertainment, with restaurants and cafes becoming anchor tenants in various top-tier malls.

BETTING ON STRUCTURED APPROACH

Blue Dart Sets Sights on a Larger Slice of Ecomm Market with Int'l Service

Forum Gandhi

Mumbai: Blue Dart Express plans to launch a dedicated international cross-border e-commerce delivery product as early as next month, seeking to capture a larger share of India's fast-growing but fragmented global e-commerce trade, managing director Balfour Manuel said. The company sees potential in major e-commerce corridors including the US, Europe and the UK, though Manuel did not specify the countries it will initially serve.

Blue Dart plans to focus first on markets with strong existing trade flows rather than spread its network too thin. "We will go slow, but sure. We want to be the most reliable player in this space," Manuel said. The company is targeting lanes where demand is already high and expects to expand its reach over time.

Blue Dart could leverage parent DHL's global last-mile delivery



REGIMENTED FLOW

Current industry is not only fragmented, it has no shape at all. So we will have a regimented flow

BALFOUR MANUEL, MD, Blue Dart

network, commercial airlines and its own ground and air infrastructure to connect Indian sellers with overseas customers. Manuel said the company's network can provide transit times from locations across India, while the new product would be able to plug into both air and ground services depending on customer requirements.

The company is also betting on a more structured approach to a market Manuel described as highly fragmented. "Current industry is very, not only fragmented, it has no shape at all. So we will have a regimented flow," he

said.

E-commerce is Blue Dart's fastest-growing segment, with Manuel also pointing to strong growth across B2C, direct B2B, MSMEs, manufacturing, healthcare, electronics and automotive. Blue Dart's business is now roughly evenly split between air and ground, with ground growing faster, Manuel said.

The company is currently the third-largest player in the ground segment and wants to move into the No. 1 or No. 2 position in the express ground segment it operates in.

The opportunity is being sup-

ported by regulatory changes. The government removed the ₹10 lakh per-consignment value cap on commercial exports through the courier mode from April 1, following an announcement in the 2026-27 Budget. The move was aimed at making courier exports more viable for e-commerce exporters, particularly smaller businesses.

Manuel said the removal of the cap could facilitate more trade and e-commerce. "The ₹10 lakh limit that has been removed through Express... is a big number for small customers," he said.

The government has also recently eased foreign-investment rules, allowing inventory-based e-commerce models backed by foreign investment exclusively to export goods manufactured or produced in India.

The change is intended to help Indian sellers access global markets, while restrictions on domestic inventory-based e-commerce remain in place.

GST Cut Keeps Carmakers Steady Amid Rising Costs

Shally Seth Mohile

Mumbai: India's move to cut goods and services tax (GST) is emerging as a crucial buffer for carmakers as they counter the impact on margins from sharply higher commodity prices. Unlike previously, companies such as Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, and Hyundai Motor India are deploying various strategies to minimise product price increases and sustain the current demand momentum.

Rajesh Jejurikar, executive director and CEO, auto and farm sectors at Mahindra, said the GST cuts created headroom for the company to endure volatile commodity prices without resorting to steep price increases.

"If we are still at prices which are lower than the GST price of September, in a way, there is a headroom which is helping us tide over the commodity cycle," Jejurikar said. He said Mahindra didn't want to continue raising prices simply because demand is strong. Mahindra raised prices by an average 5.2% in the June quarter across its petrol, diesel, and electric SUV range. The company is also working to further reduce production costs to lessen the impact of price increases in the future.

Under GST 2.0, the Centre cut tax rates on small cars and SUVs measuring less than four metres to 18% from 20% plus cess, while reducing it for large SUVs and luxu-

ry vehicles to about 40% from the peak 50% levy.

Factory dispatches of passenger vehicles in the country breached the 400,000-unit mark in six out of eight months since the GST cut, rebounding from weak sales in the months prior. The top four carmakers have guided for more than 10% increase in FY27 sales, despite a high base kicking in from next month.

While the GST cut has provided some cushion, automakers are continuing to rely on internal cost reductions and selective price increases to absorb the commodity shock emanating from the disruptions caused by the Iran war.

At Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, commodity pressure is more acute. Commodity costs dented profitability at its India business by 4.5% of revenue in the June quarter. Shalish Chandra, MD and CEO, expects another about 3% increase in commodity costs in the September quarter.

"Commodity pressure again in Q2 is going to hit us badly," Chandra said on a post-earnings media call last week. He expects the fiscal first half to be particularly difficult in terms of commodity prices.

Jejurikar highlighted a diver-

gent approach for Mahindra compared to the previous commodity spike. In 2022-23, the automaker had to take price increases of 17-18% as input costs surged, he said. This time, however, it has undertaken several cost reduction measures before correcting prices.

Hyundai Motor India is taking a broader cost optimisation approach. Commodity costs hurt its margins by about 1 percentage point sequentially in the June quarter, mainly due to higher precious metals and copper prices. The company offset part of the impact through calibrated pricing and cost reduction.

Hyundai carried out three price increases totalling around 1 percentage point this calendar year, while pushing localisation and value engineering. Its localisation level has risen to 83% from 77.7% a few years ago, with a target of 90% by 2030.

"We are expecting that from October, industry growth will mute," said Tarun Garg, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India on a post-earnings call. "We'll have a calibrated approach and do what is best in terms of volume and profit put together."

Market leader Maruti Suzuki is relying more on calibrated pricing. Commodity costs adversely affected its operating margin by around 3 percentage points in the June quarter. The company took two calibrated price increases, with most of the benefit expected to flow through in Q2.

Amber to Start Mfg Chinese Phones from March 2027

New Delhi: Electronics manufacturing services firm Amber Enterprises India expects to start manufacturing Chinese smartphones under Oppo, OnePlus and Realme brands from the March 2027 quarter and double output in the second year, a top official said.

Amber Enterprises India executive chairman and CEO and whole-time director Jasbir Singh, said that the firm expects to start with production of Oppo group smartphone brands and scale it twofold to around 16 million units in the second year of operations. "Our group is set to foray into mobile phones through a manufacturing collaboration agreement with Oppo Mobiles India. The scope covers three brands, Oppo, OnePlus and Realme. We are on course to commence trial production by quarter 4 of FY27 and commercial production to begin quarter 1 of FY28," he said.

—PTI

Brands: Creating Desire

PANEL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS CRITICAL ISSUES

In Private Healthcare's Rise, Price Points Are a Big Pain

Better public infra, specialists needed to improve state facilities as pvt hospitals are unaffordable

Alenji K Johny & Vikas Dandekar

Bengaluru | Mumbai: Fix hospital room charges at the average tariffs of three-star hotels in metro cities, a parliamentary committee on health and family welfare recently highlighted as part of its 381-page report on the affordability and accessibility of healthcare in India. The panel, while acknowledging the wide variation in hospital charges across the country, stressed the need for better public health infrastructure, capping fees, and strengthening the cadre of medical specialists.

The report, in short, captures the mood of millions of Indians who often face financial distress for treatment at quality private healthcare, which has emerged as a crucial industry over the decades as the state-aided facilities remained reliable stragglers or inaccessible. Top private-sector hospital chains such as Apollo and Max Healthcare have, however, argued that blanket price caps on beds may stifle growth and investments.

Care First

Investors poured ₹49,000 crore into hospital-linked deals recently

Private healthcare providers conduct nearly 70% of surgeries now

Rising bed revenues reflect hospitals' stronger pricing power

PE investors influence pricing, technology, staffing, expansion decisions

count for nearly 58% of hospitalisations in rural India and 61.6% in urban centres.

The reasons for those views are not hard to find. In about three years, nearly 60 hospital-linked private equity deals have been signed for eye-popping values of ₹49,000 crore. Back in 1983, that would have been unthinkable. That year, Prathap Reddy, founder of Apollo Hospitals chain, came back to India from the US and set up first corporate hospital in Chennai 1983.

PE investors influence pricing, technology, staffing, expansion decisions

THE PIONEER

Reddy broke much more than new ground. Doctors practiced mostly through small clinics or as clusters of specialists. Privately-run hospitals were not unknown as hospitals were not classified as an industry. For Dr Reddy, it was a battle to change the legislation.

His objective was clear - widen access and affordability of quality healthcare. The young cardiologist pushed hard for a multispecialty hospital - all under one roof - to cater to the mounting demand. Apollo's scale-up success saw an avalanche of doctor-led hospitals across large cities and towns. According to latest National Sample Survey data private hospitals ac-

count for nearly 58% of hospitalisations in rural India and 61.6% in urban centres.

"Most healthcare providers have become national providers. Demand supply gap right from the time that Apollo became a corporate hospital chain, and many others came in, was built around the fact that India's public healthcare can only grow at a certain pace," says Vishal Bali, executive chairman of healthcare platform Asia Healthcare Holding (AHH).

For dozens of marquee global investors like AHH, India has turned into an irresistible hunting ground for healthcare enterprises. To name a few, Blackstone, KKR, Carlyle and TPG, have struck deals at valuations to salivate for.

Bhanu Prakash Kalmath SJ, healthcare partner at Grant Thornton says post-Covid, patients are prioritising quality of care and health outcomes. "Private healthcare accounts for nearly 70% of surgeries in the country, while public healthcare has not been able to keep pace with the requirements of the larger population," he adds.

Fuzzy Copyright Law Puts Owners of B&W Films in a Fix

Rajesh N Naidu

Mumbai: Companies, institutions and individuals owning intellectual property (IP) of black-and-white films whose copyright has expired or is about to expire are facing a dead end situation, amidst a lack of clarity in the law over ownership of their colourised versions.

Increasingly, this has become a pressing issue for companies that own film IP, preserve and restore them, as it limits their monetisation opportunities, said legal firms, film IP owners and film processing and

colouring labs in conversations with ET.

In a year, the copyright of 50-100 black-and-white films expires in India, said these companies.

According to the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, the copyright of a film expires 60 years after its release. After the copyright expires, an IP owner loses exclusive rights to the film, which then enters the public domain.

This makes the film's IP vulnerable, as anyone can colourise the film.

"Once the copyright term of a film ends, the original owner loses any exclusive claim to the film. A third party is free to colourise or remaster

the film. What remains legally unsettled, though, is whether colourisation creates a new, independent copyright, and whether moral rights can still be invoked once the underlying copyright has expired," said Priyanka Sinha, co-founder of law firm A&P Partners. India's Copyright Act says that a derivative work of an original film can have copyright protection, provided there is some originality in it. But the Act does not clearly state whether improving the visual and aural experience of a black-and-white film through colourisation can make the derivative work copyrightable.

As Opel turns to Chinese Partners, its Hometown Frets about Future

As Germany's Opel slashes its engineering ranks and partners with China's Leapmotor, anxiety is running high in Rüsselsheim, the city it has long dominated.

Struggling like many other European automakers, Opel is expanding its partnership with Leapmotor to build a new SUV, tapping the Hangzhou-based company's expertise on electric vehicles and low-cost production - while leaving Opel's local engineers to perform mo-

re old-fashioned vehicle design work. Stellantis, Opel's multinational parent company, said in April that it would cut 630 engineering jobs - from a total workforce of 1,650 - at its Rüsselsheim development centre, amid a wave of job cuts across the German auto industry.

Those developments have unleashed concerns in this Rhine River city where Opel was once the mighty engine of prosperity. For their part, the mass market carmaker's executives say

they are trying to adapt to "reality" of stiff global competition.

A NEW REALITY

For Daniel Bremm, a local representative of the IG Metall union, the main risk is technological downgrading, the possibility that the engineering centre would be reduced to a mere "adaptation hub" for vehicles designed elsewhere within the Stellantis group or in China.

—AFP

ASPH

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CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the Financial Results advertisement published on 15 August 2026 in all editions of Economic Times, it is hereby clarified that the figures appearing therein are in ₹ crore, unless otherwise stated. All other contents of the advertisement remain unchanged.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Appeal Surrendra Park Hotels Limited

Sd/-
Vijay Dewani
Managing Director
Date: August 16, 2026
DIN: 00661954

FORM G

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SIMBHAOLI SUGARS LIMITED

MANUFACTURING OF SUGAR & ALLIED PRODUCTS AT SIMBHAOLI, BRUNATHPUR & CHILWARIA IN UP, INDIA (Under Sub Regulation (1) of regulation 26A of the Securities & Exchange Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN/CIN/ LLP No.	SIMBHAOLI SUGARS LIMITED PAN: AAFPS7569A CIN: L15122UP2011PLC044210
2. Address of the registered office	Simbhaoli Mill Complex, Simbhaoli, Uttar Pradesh, India, 245207
3. URL of website	https://simbhaolisugars.com
4. Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located	01. Simbhaoli, District Raebareilly, Uttar Pradesh 245207 02. Bijaypur, District Raebareilly, Uttar Pradesh 245101 03. Chikwaria, District Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh 271801
5. Installed capacity of main products/services	Cane Crushing Capacity - 19500 TCD Distillery Production Capacity - 230 KLPD (Alcohol, RS, ENA, Ethanol) FY: 2025-26 (As Per Audit) Sugar - Rs. 593.53 Crores (14.26 Lakh Quintals) Distillery - Rs. 215.47 Crores (Ethanol/ENA-181 Lakh Ltrs + Country Liquor - 1.93 Lakh Cases)
6. Quantity and value of main products/services sold in last financial year	1192 Employees / Workmen (Including Seasonal Workers but apart from Contractual & retained Workers) May be obtained by sending email at: info@simbhaolisugars.com Also available at: www.simbhaolisugars.com
7. Number of employees/ workmen	1192 Employees / Workmen (Including Seasonal Workers but apart from Contractual & retained Workers) May be obtained by sending email at: info@simbhaolisugars.com Also available at: www.simbhaolisugars.com
8. Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, lists of creditors are available at URL	May be obtained by sending email at: info@simbhaolisugars.com Also available at: www.simbhaolisugars.com
9. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(b) of the Code is available at URL	06/09/2026
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	06/09/2026
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	16/09/2026
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	21/09/2026
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	30/09/2026
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	01/10/2026
15. Last date for submission of resolution plans	05/11/2026
16. Process email id to submit Expression of Interest	info@simbhaolisugars.com
17. Details of the corporate debtor's registration status as MSME	Corporate Debtor is not registered as MSME.

Date: 14/08/2026
Place: New Delhi

ANURAG GOEL
IRP of M/s SIMBHAOLI SUGARS LIMITED
IP Reg Number: EBB/PA/001/PP-00876/2017-2018/11460
Office: Plot No. 6, First Floor, State Bank Nagar, Outer Ring Road, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063
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PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED

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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE BY E-AUCTION

E-auction Sale of Immovable secured assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor and Guarantors that the below described secured assets being immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited, acting in its capacity as Trustee of Pegasus Group Trust -XIII ("Pegasus"), having been assigned the care of the below mentioned Borrower along with underlying securities interest by Industrial Bank Limited vide Assignment Agreement dated 30/03/2015 under the provisions of SARFAESI Act, 2002, are being sold under the provision of SARFAESI Act and Rules thereunder on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis with all known and unknown liabilities on 24/09/2026. The Authorized Officer of Pegasus has received possession of the secured assets mentioned below from Industrial Bank Ltd under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and Rules thereunder.

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor:	1) M/s Aril Pharma Ltd. (Borrower), 2) M/s Aril Drugs and Pharma Ltd. (Guarantor) 3) Mr. Purmandu Sheelamal Jain (Guarantor)
Outstanding Dues for which the secured assets are being sold	Rs. 72,35,51,000/- (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Thirty-Five Lakh Fifty-Nine Thousand Only) as on 23/07/2026 plus further interest w.e.f. 23/07/2026 at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses thereon till the date of payment and realization)
Details of Secured Asset being Immovable Property which is being sold:	Land and building situated in Khewat & Khatoni No. 62/55, Khawar No. 889, 878, 128/971, Kite - 1, Kite - 3, Hadastri No. 190, addressing - 12 Bigna 0 Bigna, and in Khewat & Khatoni No. 175 and 176 in Khawar No. 190/282, Kite - 1, Hadastri No. 190, addressing 24/16, 15th Ave, and in Khewat & Khatoni No. 59/62, Khawar No. 128/1872, 1283/873, Kite - 2, Hadastri No. 190, addressing 4 Bigna 5 Bigna, Total land addressing 19 Bigna 6 Bigna, situated in Village - Mahnu Mahnu, Praga (Dhamprur, Tehsil - Badli, Dist. - Solan (Himachal Pradesh), Pin Code - 173212 owned by Owner: Aril Drug and Pharma Ltd. registered vide sale deed No. 422-423 & 425 all dated 23-04-2016, located at East Aril Pharma, West Aril Land, North Aril Land, South - Other land.
Reserve Price below which the Secured Asset will not be sold (in Rs.):	Rs. 2,21,88,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Twenty One Lakh Eight Thousand Only)
Ernest Money Deposit (10% of Reserve Price)	Rs. 22,18,800/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Only)
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property and any other dues known to Secured creditor and value:	Intending bidder shall do their own due diligence regarding any claim.
Any other information	Not Known
CERSA ID	Security ID-100000403383, Asset ID-100000403383
Inspection of Property	16/09/2026 between 12.00 Noon to 3.30 pm. Contact Person: Mr. Ramakant Pandey (Authorized Officer) - 9677768881, Ramesh Giri - 9543468004
Last date for submission of Bid/Bids	23/09/2026 till 4:30 pm
Time and Venue of Bid Opening	E-Auction/Bidding through website (www.auctechns.co.in) on 24/09/2026 From 11:00 am to 12:00 Noon.

This publication is also Fifteen (30) days notice to the aforementioned Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors under Rule 8 and 9 of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. For the detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to Secured Creditor's website at <http://www.pegasus-arc.com/assets-to-auction.html> or website sales@pegasus-arc.com or in contact service provider Unistar Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. bidder technical support Noe. 987399713, Email: admin@sauctechns.co.in before submitting any bid.

AUTHORISED OFFICER

Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.
(Trustee of Pegasus Group Trust -XIII)

Place: Badli-Solan
Date: 17/08/2026