



*M. L. Dahanukar College Of Commerce*

# THE BAF TIMES

**ATTENTION  
JOB SEEKERS**

AN OPPORTUNITY THAT  
CAN'T BE MISSED  
CHECK IT OUT!

**9.8%**

**Growth in Farm  
Exports!**

**EQUITY  
MUTUAL  
FUNDS**

**INDIAN  
CRYPTO  
COMMUNITY**

# FOREWORD



## *Idea Behind This Weekly Newsletter*

Being a Commerce College, students are expected to know the changes in the business world. This weekly newsletter will help the students get acquainted with a glimpse of what happened in the week gone by. It will also have insights into various business and commerce related updates which will help you gain indepth knowledge. Make it a point to read each and every article in this issue and stay updated so that you don't get outdated.

**~DR. D. M. DOKE  
PRINCIPAL**

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# A CRY TO ALL JOB SEEKERS OF MLDC

**Ms. Manasi Mule**

Placement Coordinator, M.L.Dahanukar College of Commerce

**"O**ppportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."— Thomas Edison. This quote of Thomas Edison who invented electricity suits the committee I manage. You must have guessed it by now- 'Placement Cell'.

MLDC has been delivering academic excellence through all its in-house and visiting faculties and then the placement cell of MLDC takes the opportunity to give you a chance to implement this academic excellence in the form of a job. Every year, December to February is busy for the placement cell as it is busy trying to understand the student's needs and finding recruiters. And sometimes it is busy understanding recruiter's needs and searching students to fill in for the profile. The placement cell has missed, this year, all the students as we could not personally interact.

We take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to everyone. You might wonder what we have been doing in the placement cell as we are active only for three months. Just to give you a glimpse of what we all do:

- All these years we have managed to get recruiters dealing in commerce branches. Asian Paints, Darashaw, Motilal Oswal, TCS, Wipro are some of the names from the industry who have visited in the past.
- Internships have been offered by IIFL, Interstat Consultants, Nivesh etc. We also get internship offers for CA articleship.
- We also have done some amazing sessions on aptitude test, CV writing and Interview Skills.

We believe in giving job seekers a great head start in their career race.

I always believed in the following quote-

"When you leave college, there are thousands of people out there with the same degree you have; when you get a job, there will be thousands of people doing what you want to do for a living. But you are the only person alive who has sole custody of your life." — Anna Quindlen

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**IF YOU WANT YOUR CV TO REACH RECRUITERS PLEASE EMAIL AT [MANSIM@MLDC.EDU.IN](mailto:MANSIM@MLDC.EDU.IN) OR YOU CAN CONTACT AT 9833691223.**

# EQUITY MUTUAL FUNDS SEE OUTFLOWS

**Ms. Aishwarya Durgavale**  
TYBAF

Equity Mutual Fund witnessed outflows for the seventh straight month in January as investors remained cautious ahead of the Union Budget Presentation.

Investors pulled out a net Rs 9253.22 crore from equity and equity linked mutual fund schemes in January compared with an outflow of Rs 10,147.12 crore in the preceding month

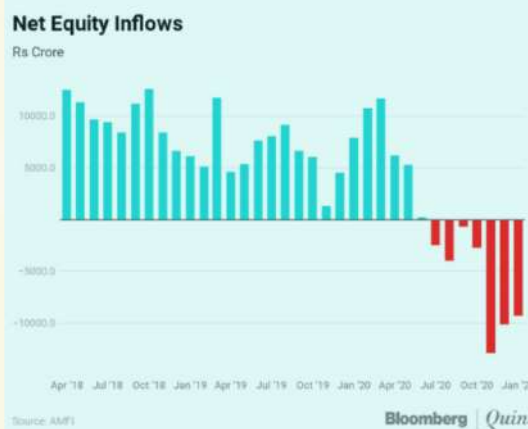
According to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India. The outflow in November was the highest since at least April 2018, when AMFI started collecting data in the current format.

Equity mutual fund schemes have seen consistent outflows even as markets rebounded from last year's pandemic-driven selloff and then rose to new records. The redemption pressure can be partly attributed to investors exiting after recovering losses or needing cash after widespread job losses and salary cuts.

Markets, too, saw the worst start to the year since 2016 falling in the run-up to the budget in January. They recovered after the Finance Minister presented the budget on Feb. 1 to scale new peaks.

Index will keep hitting new highs but

Overall, the mutual fund industry across categories saw a net outflow of Rs 35,586.60 crore compared with a net investment of Rs 2,968 crore in December. That's on account of a Rs 45,316-crore outflow from liquid funds, used by companies to park short-term cash, compared with a Rs 5,102-crore inflow in December. Outflow in liquid funds, according to Venkatesh, might be because people would have taken out money for liquidity management. Credit risk funds saw net investments after at least two years. Such funds saw an inflow of Rs 366 crore compared with Rs 190-crore outflow in December.



existing investors are riding the wave, booking profits at different stages, according to NS Venkatesh, Chief Executive Officer at AMFI. But at every level, there are new entrants who will look to ride the new levels, he said.



# ANY HOPES FOR INDIAN CRYPTO CURRENCY ?

Ms. Gauri Vaidya  
TYBAF



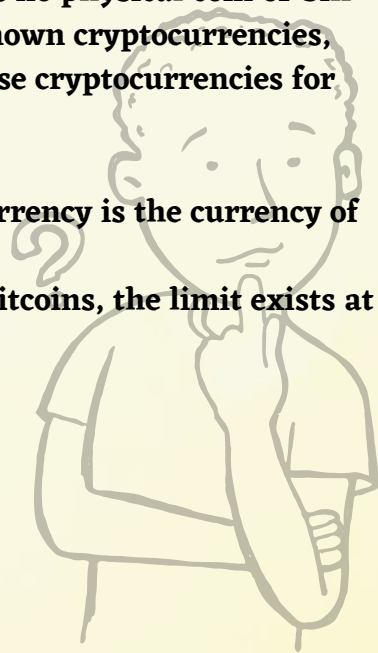
**B**efore we discuss about whether cryptocurrency will be legalized or not in India, let us understand what exactly we mean by Cryptocurrency.

Cryptocurrency is a type of currency which uses digital files as money. Usually, the files are created using the same methods as cryptography (the science of hiding information). Cryptocurrencies use 'decentralized control', which means that they aren't controlled by one person or Government.

Cryptocurrency is nothing but digital money. That means there's no physical coin or bill — it's all online. Bitcoin, Ether, Litecoin and Z- Cash are well-known cryptocurrencies, but new cryptocurrencies continue to be created. People might use cryptocurrencies for quick payments and to avoid transaction fees

Jan Lanksy, a Cryptocurrency researcher, believes that cryptocurrency is the currency of the future.

There's a limit to how many cryptocurrency units can exist. In bitcoins, the limit exists at 21 million. Now after this no more bitcoins will be produced.



Imagine a transaction between two people in the future. One of them has a bitcoin app and there is a notification asking whether they are sure to transfer 5 bitcoins. If they are sure, then the processing takes place. Here, authentication of the users' identity, checking whether they have the required balance to make the transactions and so on is done. Now after that's done the payment is transferred and received, all of this happens in the matter of minutes and is as simple as that. This in turn removes all the problems of modern banking. There is no limit to the funds you can transfer, your accounts cannot be hacked and there is no central point of failure. Bitcoin has always been on the top, maintaining its status in the crypto space as per the Bitcoin India review. But the important question arises here. Is it legalised in India?

Well, Bitcoin, as a medium of payment, has neither been authorized nor been regulated by any central authority in India. The Supreme Court of India has in its ruling pronounced on 25 February 2019 the Government to come up with Cryptocurrency regulation policies.

It was announced in the Budget Speech for 2018-19 that the Government does not consider cryptocurrencies legal tender or coins and will take all measures to eliminate use of these crypto-assets in financing illegitimate activities or as part of the payment system. The Government will explore use of block chain technology proactively for ushering in digital economy, it further said. Regulatory bodies like RBI and SEBI also don't have a legal framework to directly regulate cryptocurrencies as they are neither currencies nor assets or securities or commodities issued by an identifiable user.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that it has plans to bring a digital version of the Indian Rupee. The central bank was exploring the possibility as to whether there was a need for a digital version of fiat currency, and in case there was then how to operationalise it. But on 9th February 2021, Nirmala Sitharaman (The Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of India) announced that the Government committee has suggested to ban all cryptocurrencies, except those issued by state.

Today the world has 17 millionth of 21 million bitcoins.

Bitcoin has been accepted by the US Government in 2013 as a decentralized virtual currency that can be used for performing transactions. With the World's most powerful nation accepting it and using it, it would be interesting to see the future plans and policies India frames about the cryptocurrencies. It will be safe to conclude that there might be a ray of light for the crypto community and its enthusiasts.







# NEW EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Sandesh Ajgekar  
TYBScIT

**E**dtech entered public consciousness over the past year as the COVID-19 pandemic moved learners young and old out of the classroom and into the virtual world of remote education.

Here are three technologies that are changing the way we learn.

## 1. Augmented and Virtual Reality

The key benefits of AR and VR technologies to education are making learning interactive and thereby more engaging – they can even add gaming elements to textbook material.

Curiscope’s ‘Virtuali-tee’ is a pair of t-shirt and app that enables users to learn about the human body. One person puts on the t-shirt while the other uses an AR app on a smartphone to virtually reveal – and explore – the various layers inside the body.

The technology can also have benefits for neurodiverse learners. ‘Floreo’ is a telehealth platform that uses VR headsets to deliver social and behavioral therapy in schools and other settings.





## 2. Artificial Intelligence

AI technology can benefit learners by enabling them to learn outside the classroom with virtual feedback, making learning more engaging and tailoring material to suit the individual. For example, 'Sparx-Maths' uses statistics and machine learning – a simple form of AI – to support teachers in providing personalized math homework. Sparx can also help disadvantaged children progress at the same rate as their more advantaged counterparts, reducing the attainment gap.

Meanwhile, 'KidSense.AI' uses deep learning technology to offer a sophisticated automatic speech recognition system for children. Trained using children's voice samples, KidSense powers the Roybi Robot – an AI-driven smart toy that teaches languages and basic skills in science, technology, engineering and math.

## 3. Wireless Technology

While edtech can prove an invaluable teaching tool, particularly in the virtual classroom, it can be rendered redundant in countries or regions with limited or no internet access. Zaya's 'ClassCloud' is a plug-and-play device that can support up to 40 laptops or tablets in the classroom over Wi-Fi and provides the same standard of user experience whether it is connected to the internet or not. It has been used to improve access to high-quality education in rural locations in India.

Wireless technology can also enable users to download material on to a device in the learning environment and take it home with them, meaning educational providers can loan out devices to people who may not otherwise have access to them.

The offline learning app 'Kolibri', meanwhile, enables content to be seeded onto devices in areas where there is an internet connection – such as a school or a factory – and share it with others over an offline local network.





# MARKETS LIKELY TO CONSOLIDATE

Mr. Advait Gaikwad  
FYBAF

**I**ndian stocks are probably to consolidate on Wednesday while inclination in SGX Nifty suggests a mildly positive opening for benchmark share indices. Asian stocks inched higher in early trade, as upbeat Wall Street earnings and optimism about a global recovery supported sentiment, although concerns about the sustainability of a recent risk rally are likely to cap gains.

Tata Steel Ltd shot past analysts' estimates to blazon a profit of ₹4,010 crore in the December quarter as demand and prices of the metal cascaded in India, although the company's European operations continued to underperform. The fiscal third-quarter earnings are a significant turnaround for India's second-largest steelmaker, which affixed a loss of ₹1,228 crore in the year-ago quarter.

A Bloomberg poll of 15 analysts had estimated a profit of ₹3,227.60 crore for the third quarter. The dollar index fell 0.57% on Tuesday, effectuated by losses against the yen and euro in choppy trade and birching two-week lows. The yield on the benchmark US 10-year Treasury notes was last at 1.16% after rising on Tuesday as high as 1.72% but falling back to the consistent level as on Monday.

Brent oil nuzzled on Tuesday to \$61.06 in the seventh straight session of gains, evocating 13-month highs. Investors are betting that fuel demand will ascend while OPEC and allied producers stow a lid on supply. Spot gold added 0.1% to \$1,838.09 an ounce after rising to a one-week high on Tuesday.

# Agriculture Exports Grow Amidst Pandemic Crisis

Ms Tanisha Singh  
TYBAF

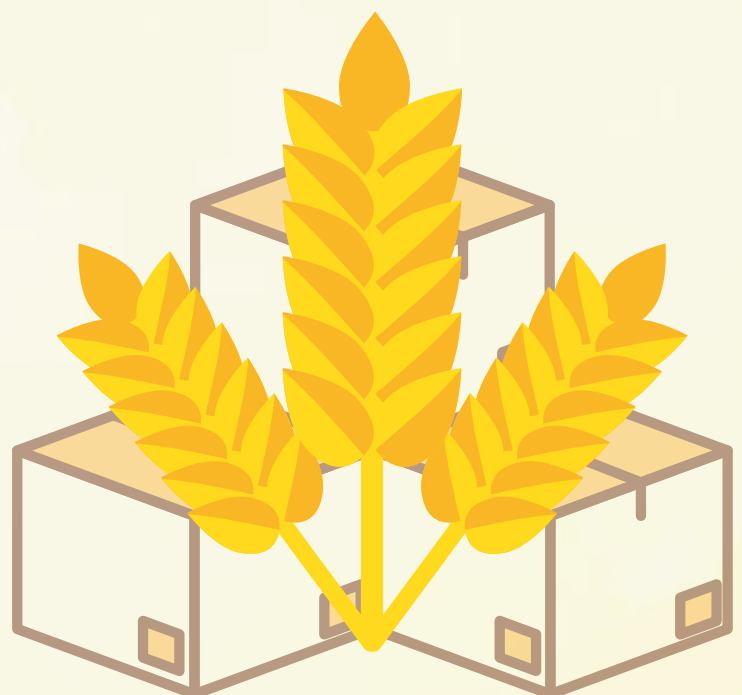
**A**gricultural production has been relatively defying the overall trend of decline and is unaffected by the lockdown instigated by the ongoing Covid-19. It has surged to \$18.12 billion during April –September which was consequently higher than the \$17.32 billion for the first half of 2019–20 by 4.6%.

India's overall merchandise exports have fallen 15.5% year-on-year during April–December. But the same period has seen its farm exports register 9.8% growth. The increase in Agri exports is largely due favourable world prices. The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization, released its latest Food Price Index (FPI) for January. International prices are rising due to increased demand from most countries as they are unlocking their economies after May 2019. Also, restoration of supply chains post-covid is not keeping pace with the demands which consequently has made exports of many farm products from India competitive. That includes non-basmati rice, sugar, oilseed meals, cotton, and even wheat and other cereals (mainly maize).

The star performer has been rice, with the value of shipments increasing by well over a third to \$4.08 billion in April–September. Another Agri-commodity performer that is on course to post all-time-high exports in 2020–21 is sugar. Indian mills shipped out almost \$2 billion worth of the sweetener in 2019–20.

Furthermore, India hasn't faced serious weather issues that will badly impact agricultural produce; both 2019 and 2020 have recorded surplus monsoon rainfall along with the timely onset of winter. Farmers harvested a bumper rabi crop during April-June despite the lockdown restrictions as the Government has exempt the agriculture-related activities from it. That too helped with the increased exports in spite of the ongoing farm protests against the Centre's recent agricultural reform laws.

The country's agricultural sector has the potential to double farmer income and grow exports to \$100 billion by 2022 from the present \$36 billion, according to industry experts.



# SPACE FOR YOUR INSURANCE POLICIES IN DIGILOCKER

**Ms. Isvarya Rajagopalan**  
**FYBAF**

**To promote the adoption of Digilocker, an app launched by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and Government of India under Digital India campaign is set to expand their users by providing facility to store insurance policies in Digilocker. It facilitates storing the documents like PAN CARD, Voter ID, Marksheets, Certificates in an electronic form. This platform has been set up in lieu of minimizing the use of physical documents.**

**Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has announced this provision via Digilocker to ensure cutback in costs, immediate transactions for claims and settlements, reduction in fraud and overall better consumer experience.**

**IRDAI advised the insurers to sanction their IT system to link with Digilocker and also stated that the insurance companies should inform their policyholders about Digilocker and encouraging them to use this forum. Moreover Digilocker team will issue requisite technical guidance and logistic support for the same.**



# MYNTRA: WHATS IN MY LOGO?

Ms. Gauri Naik  
FYBMS

"Kuch toh LOGO kahega  
LOGO ka kaam hai kehna"

Freedom of speech is our fundamental right but don't you think some have taken it too seriously and gone too far? Just two weeks past the outrageous allegation of a women who allegedly accused the brand of having an offensive logo, demeaning women's dignity. As repulsive as it sounds, apparently online fashion retailer Myntra was forced to change its logo after activists claimed its logo was 'obscene', precisely the design of letter 'M' was considered vulgar and represented woman's genitals. Who must have thought of this? A harmless logo was sabotaged and defamed overnight. Branding executives entangled in a crisis they would have never imagined.

You must be wondering what exactly is wrong with these people! To a normal eye the logo would appear just a simple M with a flash of pink and orange shades but now the brand has become a victim of somebody's wild imagination. Social media continues with trolls, labelling the logo as 'indecent and definitely provocative'. You all must have heard of this phrase quite often that "beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder". On the contrary, can a logo really be this offensive or is it the dirt in the minds of the beholder? The answer to this question is open to your perception.

Certainly, everyone has a distinct definition of offence; somebody out there finds something offensive which you might find completely normal. For instance I consume meat and you're against animal cruelty so you could find that upsetting. But in this case you won't allow another person's outlook decide rather affect you're pattern of behaviour because you would not prefer to be lead by their way of perceiving things. The bottom line is No matter what you do, People are going to talk about you.

The prime reason of crisis was consequential as this lockdown has driven people crazy to such an extent that people are losing their minds in something unproductive like this. It's an attempt of not only misleading the brand image but also defaming the company with a queer way of thinking. The ideal state of mind tends to over think and as a result people who lack the ability to put their imagination in the right place, come up with something absurd like this. You get to chose what you want to see, in the end it's all a matter of perception.



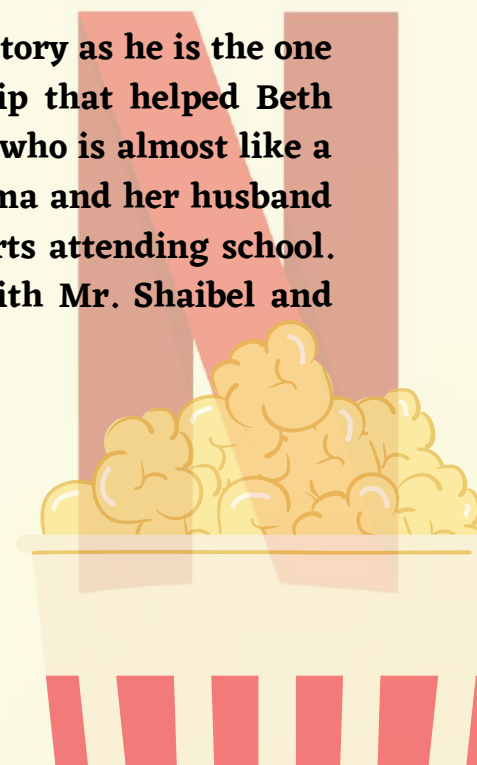
# A Seven-Part Move That Took Over Netflix

Ms. Arundhati Vaidya  
SYBAMMC

**The Queen's Gambit is a seven-part Netflix miniseries that was released in October 2020. It is based on Walter Tevis' book that came out in 1983. Written and directed by Scott Frank, Allan Scott works as the co-creator. The show revolves around a young girl named Elizabeth 'Beth' Harmon and her life as a chess prodigy. The show transitions between the past and the future following Beth until the late 1900s. The story is rife with drama and emotions and also talks about battling addictions while keeping the viewer on the edge of their seat. The title, the Queen's Gambit is a very famous chess opening.**

**The story starts with our protagonist, Beth, when she was nine years old. Her mother, Alice Harmon, dies in a car crash and Beth is left all alone with no family and gets sent to the Methuen Home for Girls where her story actually begins. Here, she meets Jolene who is a fellow orphan and they become friends almost immediately. She helps her navigate the murky waters of orphan life. Here we also see Beth getting into drugs for the first time. It was common back then for orphanages to give tranquilizers to kids to make them easier to handle, according to Anya Taylor-Joy who plays Beth. So she becomes addicted to tranquilizers and sedatives when she's nine.**

**Beth's connection with Mr. Shaibel is very pivotal to the story as he is the one who teaches her how to play chess. Another relationship that helped Beth along the way was the one she had with Alma Wheatley, who is almost like a mother to her. When Beth was 15 she was adopted by Alma and her husband Allston. They take her to their home and there Beth starts attending school. In the process of this Beth pretty much loses contact with Mr. Shaibel and Jolene.**



While attending school she also participated in a chess tournament for the first time: the Kentucky state championship of 1963. As a kid and more importantly a woman she faces sexism almost immediately when she tries to enter the tournament. She's told that 'there's no separate section for women'. Undeterred, she plays in the championship and soon triumphed over much stronger players. She plays Henry Beltik, the highest rated player there and wins, thus making history.

After winning the Kentucky championship goes on to play many more tournaments and finds herself victorious until she goes up against Benny, a competitor first and a friend soon after. He sees her talent and potential. They're both in a way, a reflection of each other. He defeats her and this is the first time she faces defeat which sends her spiralling down.

She truly spirals when she plays against Borgov, her main adversary in the show, for the first time. Along with that, she suffers trauma on a personal note at this point and suffers much worse. Her addiction gets worse too as she starts drinking excessively and starts abusing drugs. She soon goes on to lose her sense of self. As a kid who was introduced to pills at nine and alcohol at fifteen and has a very deeply traumatic childhood, she goes to a very dark place and only bounces back when she reconnects with Jolene. This cements the fact that they're each other's support systems.

Beth Harmon as a character is brilliant but self-destructive. As a child with a unique gift, the show is more about her navigating through life as someone who is very complex. As a woman in the 60s trying to carve her way in a man's world the obstacles of doing that are not something Beth gave a lot of thought to. She assumed herself as their equal and let her brilliance and prowess at chess talk for her. As a result, the show becomes less about the game and more about the 'cost of genius'.

To Beth, the game provides her with an escape. One of the main reasons I think she feels so at home while playing chess is because on the board she's in control. As someone who has faced extreme instability as a kid, she gets a respite from chess because unlike her life she gets to choose how the game is going to play out and whether she wins or not. In the game, the future has a finite set of possibilities when it comes to moves, unlike the unpredictability of life itself. It becomes very clear that she is someone who is obsessed with winning, thus regaining control of her uncontrollable life. She settles for nothing less which ends up making her a tad obsessive at times.

Anya Taylor-Joy holds your attention and is simply brilliant as Beth Harmon. The range she exhibits not just emotionally but also physically is astounding to watch on screen. The show keeps jumping between different stages of her life and Joy does a brilliant job of playing Beth differently at each age. Another thing that is impressive is the elaborate, well crafted and era appropriate sets that were designed by Uli Hanisch. The landscape and characteristics of different countries and cities are so brilliantly recreated that I fell in love with the set designs. The clothes designed by Gabriele Binder also do an excellent job defining where Beth is at in her life and help emphasise her evolution both professionally and personally. The cinematography and lighting perfectly complement the scenes and all these elements together make for a very cinematically appealing show.

After four weeks it had become Netflix's most-watched scripted miniseries. The series received two Golden Globe Awards nominations this year, including Best Limited Series or Television Film and Anya Taylor-Joy received a nomination for Best Actress – Miniseries or Television Film. Shows that hyper focus on a specific person or a thing have particularly captured our attention this year and have proved that we don't need to have an in-depth understanding of something in order to watch a show about it and follow it well.

# Notice Section

**National Webinar on  
Mental Calculation**

**15th February 2021  
5 PM to 6 PM**

**For details, contact  
Mr. Sarvottam Rege  
Ms. Shivani Naik**

**Blood Donation Camp  
organised by  
N.S.S.**

**26th February 2021  
8.30 AM to 2.30 PM**

**For details, contact  
Mr. Nishant (9372455062)  
Mr. Pragyan (7021403911)  
siddhir@mldc.edu.in**

# TERMINOLOGY OF THE WEEK

## Junk Bonds

Junk Bonds are bonds that carry a higher risk of default than most bonds issued by corporations and Governments. It is debt that has been given a low credit rating by a ratings agency, below investment grade. As a result, these bonds are riskier since chances that the issuer will default or experience a credit event are higher.



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