Operator: Ladies and gentlemen, good day and welcome to the Q2 FY27 earnings conference call hosted by National Stock Exchange Of India Ltd. As a reminder, all participant lines will be in listen-only mode, and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions after the presentation concludes. Should you need assistance during the call, please signal an operator by pressing star then zero on your touchtone phone. I now hand the conference over to Mr. Ian De Souza, CFO of NSEIL. Thank you, and over to you, sir.

Ian De Souza - CFO: Thank you, Theo. Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the NSE earnings call to discuss the results for the quarter and half-year ended September 30, 2026. Please note that this conference call is being recorded and a transcript of the same will be available on the BSE exchange website and also on the NSE website. The financial results and investor presentation are also available on our website and the BSE website.

Joining us today on this earnings call is the NSE leadership team, consisting of our MD and CEO, Ashish Kumar Chauhan; Sheetal Modi, Executive Director, Vertical 1; Kirti Ramakrishnan, Chief Operations Officer; Sanjay Shauri, Executive Director, Vertical 2, Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management; Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer; Manoj Bakarti, Human Resources Officer; Piyush Shaurasya, Chief Regulatory Officer; Somasundaram, Chief Enterprise Risk Officer; Mayur Sambar, Chief Technology Officer, Operations; Sampath Manikkan, Chief Technology Officer, Technology Infrastructure; Rajesh Bapna, Chief Information Security Officer; Vikram Kothari, MD and CEO, NSE Clearing Limited; Aniruddha Chatterjee, Managing Director, NSE Indices Limited and NSE Data & Analytics Limited; Mr. Balasubramaniam, Managing Director and CEO, NSE International Exchange; Neeraj Kulshreshtha, Managing Director, NSE IFSC Clearing; Rajesh Krishna, Managing Director, NSE Investments; Nilakshi Pattnayak, Chief Economist; Ambar Gupta, Head, Legal; Virang Patel, Head, Marketing and Corporate Communication; and Prajakta Powle, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer. We also have other colleagues from Finance, Investor Relations, Secretarial and Corporate Communication on the call.

Please note that the statements made on this call may reflect the company's outlook for the future, which may be construed as forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements must be reviewed in conjunction with the risks that the group faces. The actual performance or events may differ from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of various uncertainties and factors that may be beyond the company's control. With that, I would now like to hand over the call to Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD and CEO of NSEIL, for his remarks. Over to you, sir.

Ashish Kumar Chauhan - MD & CEO: Thank you, Ian. Good evening, everyone. I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to our shareholders and investors for the trust they have placed in NSE during our recent initial public offering, in which more than 34 lakh retail investors were allocated shares. I am deeply grateful to the Securities and Exchange Board of India and its Chairman, Madhabi Puri Buch Pandey, for enabling the listing of one of the world's largest and most technologically advanced market infrastructure institutions. I also extend my sincere thanks to the Government of India, NSE board members, employees, investors, issuers, intermediaries, members, stockbrokers, advisors, and all those who have supported NSE on its journey to list.

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Let me begin with an overview of the macroeconomic environment. India remains a bright spot in the global economy. The Reserve Bank of India projects GDP growth of 7.1% for fiscal 2027, supported by domestic consumption, investment and services. The equity markets remain volatile amid geopolitical tensions, fluctuating crude oil prices and tighter financial conditions. Nevertheless, the long-term structural outlook for Indian equity markets remains intact. India remains the world's fourth-largest equity market, with a market capitalization of approximately US$4.9 trillion as of September 30, 2026. Investor accounts crossed 27 crores in September 2026. Unique registered investors reached 13.7 crores. Domestic institutional investors were net buyers for the 22nd consecutive quarter, with investment of 1.7 lakh crore — US$17.6 billion — in the September quarter, providing stability amid global flows.

Business operating highlights: NSE's performance continues to be resilient. I will now cover some key business developments for the first half of fiscal 2027. NSE commenced live trading in Electronic Gold Receipts on May 15, 2026. EGRs are transparent, standardized, exchange-traded instruments backed by physical gold. We also empanelled Muthoot as a strategic partner to promote EGRs and facilitate conversion between physical gold and EGRs. We signed memoranda of understanding with the Steel Users Federation of India and Bharat Metal Exchange to develop steel and non-ferrous metal derivatives. We received a no-objection certificate from SEBI for futures contracts on a corporate bond index, subject to approval from the Reserve Bank of India. These contracts will help participants manage risk in the corporate bond market.

In the area of technology, we remain committed to building market infrastructure that is trusted, resilient and transparent. Under SEBI's regulatory sandbox, we implemented the tokenization of corporate bonds on the NSE electronic bidding platform to enable India's first tokenized bond issuance by REC and L&T, which raised Rs.1,000 crores. We launched Market Pulse, an in-house stock screening and analytics platform covering more than 2,000 stocks on a beta basis. We also launched the NSE EGRs Electronic Gold Receipts mobile app, a first-of-its-kind application for digitalizing investors' journey to convert their physical gold to exchange-traded financial instruments, thereby enhancing liquidity and accessibility for retail investors.

NSE remains focused on strengthening investor protection and market integrity, while continuing to build a capital market framework that is transparent, robust and inclusive. The corpus of the NSE Investor Protection Fund remains adequate at Rs.2,973 crore as of September 30, 2026. During the first half, we also conducted more than 10,500 investor awareness programs, reaching over 5.2 lakh participants. As we commence our next phase as a listed company, NSE, being a first-line regulator, remains highly compliant and committed to playing an enabling role in fund mobilization, capital formation, wealth creation and job creation, as well as empowering every Indian to participate in the nation's growth story with trust and confidence. I now hand over to my colleagues, our Chief Financial Officer, Ian De Souza, and our Chief Business Development Officer, Sriram Krishnan. Over to Ian.

Ian De Souza – CFO: Thank you, sir. I will now take you through NSE's consolidated financial performance for the quarter and six months ended September 30, 2026, and share some perspectives on revenue quality, operating leverage, capital strength and long-term value creation. NSE's performance during the period was supported by continued investor participation, higher trading volumes across asset classes and sustained capital market activity.

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For Q2 FY27, consolidated total income increased by 9% year-on-year to Rs.4,554 crore. Revenue from operations, which constitutes 89% of total income, increased 11% year-on-year to Rs.4,067 crore in Q2 FY27. Profit before tax from continuing operations increased 13% year-on-year to Rs.3,425 crore. Normalized for one-offs in the corresponding period of the previous financial year, profit before tax from continuing operations increased 9% year-on-year. Profit after tax for Q2 FY27 stood at Rs.2,538 crore, a growth of 23% year-on-year, and earnings per share was Rs.10.41 on a non-annualized basis, reflecting the strength of NSE's underlying operating franchise.

In terms of performance in H1 FY27, consolidated total income increased by 9% year-on-year to Rs.9,807 crore, while revenue from operations increased 12% year-on-year to Rs.8,627 crore for H1 FY27. Profit after tax increased 13% year-on-year to Rs.5,698 crore, and earnings per share was Rs.23.02 on a non-annualized basis.

When it comes to revenue quality and diversification, growth in revenue from operations in Q2 FY27 was driven by growth in transaction charges, listing revenues, and data-related segments such as rack charges, data feeds and terminal services charges, index licensing and data subscription fees, clearing and settlement-related revenues, and operating investment income.

Coming to transaction charges, in Q2 FY27, transaction charges increased by 9% year-on-year to Rs.3,035 crore, driven by higher volumes in the cash market and equity options segments. The segment-wise performance in Q2 FY27 was as follows: transaction charges from options increased by 6% year-on-year to Rs.2,216 crore, of which revenue from weekly expiry Nifty index options was Rs.1,699 crores, accounting for 38% of total income in Q2 FY27. The revenue mix within transaction charges is gradually broadening, with other products such as cash equity, futures and mutual funds growing fast.

Transaction charges from the cash market segment increased by 30% year-on-year to Rs.474 crore, led by healthy growth in investor participation. Transaction charges from equity futures were Rs.328 crore, of which the contribution from NSEIX, our global exchange, was Rs.32 crore. The mutual fund segment continued to scale up and reported strong growth of 3.5 times to Rs.13 crore in Q2 FY27, up from Rs.4 crore in Q2 FY26.

While transaction charges constitute 75% of NSE's operating revenue in Q2 FY27, non-transaction revenue streams such as listing, data center connectivity charges, data feed and terminal services, and clearing and settlement-related income continue to strengthen, thereby diversifying NSE's revenue base. These revenue streams complement the core exchange franchise by trading services and continue to build momentum in Q2 FY27.

Listing services revenue increased by 70% year-on-year to Rs.150 crore, largely on account of an increase in book-building fees during the quarter, reflecting a higher number of mainboard listings. There were 62 mainboard listings during the quarter, with various issuance sizes. Total equity raised during the quarter was Rs.2.4 trillion, up 93% year-on-year.

Data-related services contributed close to 18% of operating income and increased 8% year-on-year to Rs.731 crore in Q2 FY27. This comprises data center rack charges, data connectivity charges, data feed and terminal services, and licensing services.

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Revenue from non-transaction businesses benefits from structural trends, including increasing market participation, growth in passive investing, greater demand for market intelligence, growing consumption of data products and increased use of market infrastructure services.

When it comes to operating and investment expenses, consolidated expenditure decreased 51% year-on-year to Rs.1,161 crore in Q2 FY27, largely due to a one-time provision for SEBI settlement fees in the same quarter of the year-ago period. Excluding the impact of the provision towards SEBI settlement fees, consolidated expenditure in Q2 FY27 increased 10% year-on-year, largely driven by continued investment in people, technology, resilience and regulatory capabilities.

Consolidated expenditure decreased 31% year-on-year to Rs.2,333 crore during H1 FY27. In terms of the composition of consolidated expenditure, 18% of the expenses in H1 FY27 was volume-linked expenditure, such as regulatory expenses and clearing and settlement expenses. Technology expenditure [inaudible]

Yatnesh: This has contributed to 30% of total expenditure, followed by employee expenses, which accounted for 20% of total expenditure in H1 FY27. Employee expenses in Q2 FY27 were up 18% year-on-year, driven by usual annual increments, an increase in the employee base, and actuarial assumptions related to the wage board. We have added 104 employees year-on-year, primarily in critical functions related to technology and regulatory functions across the group. For the half year FY27, employee expenses were Rs.466 crores and accounted for 5.4% of revenue from operations.

Technology expenses: NSE continues to operate and enhance one of the most advanced market infrastructure technology platforms. Technology expenses increased by 22% year-on-year in Q2 FY27, driven by investments in resilience, modernization of platforms, and cybersecurity. We continue to make investments across strategic initiatives such as the data warehouse, modernization of regulatory applications, and our testing center of excellence. NSE has also enhanced its mobile application and website for investors to provide them with data analytics capability through Market Lens and the launch of MCP, Multicast Protocol-based connectivity for external AI agents to get market data.

For H1 FY27, technology expenses were Rs.751 crores and represented 8.7% of revenue from operations, demonstrating a stable level of investment despite increasing scale and complexity of operations. When it comes to operating leverage, NSE's operating model continues to demonstrate strong operating leverage with continued investments in its people, technology and infrastructure. This combination of growth, scale and disciplined investment continues to support strong profitability and margin performance, as reflected in H1 FY27's operating EBITDA margin of 37%, normalized profit before tax margin of 76%, and net profit margin of 58%.

Now coming to NSE's balance sheet strength and risk management. NSE maintains one of the strongest balance sheets among market infrastructure institutions. A strong balance sheet supports technology investment, growth initiatives, financial safeguards and shareholder returns. As of September 30, 2026, NSE's net worth stood at Rs.28,970 crores. Total treasury investments stood at Rs.52,614 crores, out of which corporate treasury investments stood at Rs.34,699 crores. Return on equity for H1 FY27 was 19% on a non-annualized basis.

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Risk management remains central to our operating framework. These safeguards, along with our integrated clearing, surveillance and risk management framework, continue to support market integrity and financial stability. As of September 30, 2026, the post-settlement guarantee fund of the group stood at Rs.13,665 crores. The investor protection fund of the group stood at Rs.2,972 crores and our core SGF stood at Rs.4,805 crores.

I will now briefly turn to the performance of our key subsidiaries, which broaden the group's participation across the capital market value chain. NSE Clearing, or NCL, reported total income of Rs.1,152 crores, up 15% year-on-year, driven by an increase in clearing and settlement revenue and higher investment income. NCL's profit after tax also increased 11% year-on-year to Rs.597 crores in H1 FY27.

NSE Data and Analytics reported total income of Rs.278 crores, up 45% year-on-year, largely on account of an increase in online data feed services. Profit after tax increased 61% year-on-year to Rs.123 crores in H1 FY27. NSE Indices, which provides solutions such as the creation and maintenance of all Nifty-branded indices, reported total income of Rs.104 crores in H1 FY27, up 10% year-on-year. Profit after tax for NSE Indices increased 9% year-on-year to Rs.66 crores.

NSE IX, our clearing subsidiary in GIFT City, reported an increase of 17% year-on-year in total income to Rs.79 crores for H1 FY27. Profit after tax increased 4.3 times to Rs.15 crores. Overall, given our market participation, balance sheet strength, technology capabilities and vertically integrated infrastructure, we believe NSE remains well-positioned to participate in the next phase of India's capital market development. With that, I will now hand over to my colleague, Mr. Sriram Krishnan, who will discuss our business and operational performance in greater detail.

Sriram Krishnan: [pause] Thank you, Yatnesh. Good evening, everyone. I will walk you through the key developments across our business segments. NSE continues to strengthen its role as the central engine of capital formation by effectively and efficiently channeling household savings into productive investments and remains the exchange of choice for Indian corporates across equity and debt markets.

During the September quarter, a total of Rs.7.4 lakh crores was raised via equity, debt and business trusts on the NSE platform, which was 64% higher than the funds raised by companies in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, FY26. Equity markets witnessed robust primary market activity in Q2 FY27. A total of {? 15,247 crores ?} was raised, up nearly 12 times on a quarter-on-quarter basis and 35% on a year-on-year basis. Notably, the month of September alone saw a total of 31 listings, marking the highest number of listings in a single month. The average mainboard IPO size increased by over 79% quarter-on-quarter to Rs.1,050 crores in Q2 FY27.

NSE Emerge continues to support capital formation among smaller enterprises, facilitating Rs.1,329 crores in fundraising through the listing of 25 companies in Q2 FY27. The debt market remained robust, with Rs.5 lakh crores mobilized through commercial papers and NCDs in Q2 FY27. This took cumulative mobilization during H1 FY27, which is April to September, to Rs.9.9 lakh crores, marking a 30.8% increase from Rs.7.3 lakh crores in the corresponding period last year.

Our electronic bidding platform facilitated primary market bond issuances worth Rs.1.3 lakh crores in Q2 FY27 across 76 issuers, more than double the amount raised in the same quarter last year.

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During the quarter, NSE's electronic bond bidding platform facilitated India's first tokenized bond issuance by REC Limited and Larsen & Toubro, raising Rs.500 crores each. This marks an important milestone in the adoption of technology-led innovations in India's corporate bond market.

Let me now turn to NSE's domestic rankings and market leadership. Across product segments, NSE continues to retain its leadership position. In Q2 FY27, NSE's market share stood at close to 92% in the equity cash market, 99.8% in equity futures, and 68% in equity options based on premium turnover. In the debt secondary market, NSE maintained strong leadership in Q2 FY27, with a market share of 96% in the RFQ segment, 80% in C-BRICS, and nearly 100% in the tri-party repo segment.

Now turning to trading activity and new product launches. Trading activity in Q2 FY27 across the cash market and equity options segments improved on a year-on-year basis, while commodity derivatives recorded strong growth. Average daily turnover, or ADT, in the equity cash market increased 23.7% year-on-year to Rs.1.18 lakh crores in Q2 FY27. In the equity options segment, ADT based on premium value in Q2 FY27 increased by 3.3% year-on-year. Equity futures ADT declined 11.7% year-on-year to Rs.1.25 lakh crores in Q2 FY27, partly on account of changes in taxation implemented earlier this year.

Activity in the debt segment continued to witness steady traction. The RFQ platform witnessed a 10% year-on-year increase in ADT to Rs.6,508 crores in Q2 FY27. Tri-party repo activity remained strong in Q2 FY27, with ADT rising 5.4% quarter-on-quarter and 152.8% year-on-year to Rs.6,825 crores. July 2026 also recorded the highest-ever monthly turnover value of Rs.1.56 lakh crores on the platform.

Online bond platform providers also gained further traction, registering a record of over 17.18 lakh gross trades in Q2 FY27 and 30.45 lakh gross trades in H1 FY27. The mutual fund segment witnessed strong growth in transactions. Total MF orders increased 155% year-on-year from 2.64 crores in Q2 FY26 to 6.72 crores in Q2 FY27. The market share at the end of Q2 FY27 stood close to 22%, up from 12% in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal year.

We strategically diversified our product suite across multiple segments in the last few years. Activity in commodity derivatives strengthened considerably in Q2 FY27. Commodity futures ADT increased nearly 38% quarter-on-quarter to Rs.137.6 crores, while commodity options average daily premium turnover surged by 116% quarter-on-quarter to Rs.296.8 crores, reaching 8 times its Q2 FY26 level.

Crude oil and electricity contracts remained the principal drivers of commodity futures activity, while crude oil options accounted for the overwhelming majority of commodity options premium turnover. Following the expiry-day revision from 2 to 7 business days prior to the future expiry, crude oil option contracts have continued to gain market traction. Average daily traded quantity rose from about 7.7 million barrels in FY25 to 9.4 million barrels in FY26, and further to about 27.4 million barrels in the first half of FY27. Daily premium turnover increased by over 180 times from the December 2025 expiry, at about Rs.22 crores, to the October 2026 expiry, at about Rs.4,003 crores. On October 8 alone, which was the latest expiry date, volume of over 1,047 million barrels was traded.

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Gold 10-gram futures were launched on March 16, 2026, with a smaller and more affordable lot size to democratize access for retail participants. As of September 30, 2026, the contract recorded a turnover of Rs.988 crores and a trading volume of 65,372 contracts. Since its launch on July 14, 2025, monthly electricity futures have clocked a cumulative turnover of Rs.16,864 crores across 871,988 contracts, representing 43,599 million units of electricity. NSE's market share has been close to 64% for the July 2025 to September 2026 period, underscoring the contract's acceptance as a hedging and price discovery instrument in India's power markets.

The EGR segment, which was launched in May 2026, has seen strong interest from the investor community and other ecosystem players. During the quarter, we continued to focus on strengthening the EGR ecosystem as we empaneled {? Upstox ?} as a key strategic partner. We have also developed an EGR mobile app to digitize the investors' journey from physical gold to EGRs.

NSE continues to strengthen the Social Stock Exchange, or SSE, ecosystem, accounting for 94% of fundraising and 82% of unique projects across exchanges. So far, 209 not-for-profit organizations have been registered on NSE SSE, of which [trails off]

Management: ...98 are active. 18 projects, including 2 listed on both exchanges, have raised over Rs.14.5 crore across sectors such as healthcare, education, water, sanitation, skilling, agriculture and poverty alleviation. The pipeline remains encouraging, with 23 projects targeting mobilization of more than Rs.113 crore.

Further, NSE SSE facilitated its first blended financing project by the National Skill Development Corporation on October 22, 2026, with a total outlay of Rs.11.26 crores. The project combines candidate contributions, zero-coupon, zero-principal funding, and outcome-based financing by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, marking an important step towards outcome-led social financing.

Over the past 3 decades, NSE has played an important role in transforming India's capital markets through technology, transparency and efficiency. Looking ahead, we will continue to work closely with regulators, issuers and market participants to deepen markets, broaden investor participation and facilitate capital formation. With this, let me hand the call back to the operator for the Q&A session.

Operator: [pause] Thank you very much. We will now begin the question-and-answer session. Anyone who wishes to ask a question may press star and 1 on their touchtone telephone. If you wish to remove yourself from the question queue, you may press star and 2. Participants are requested to use handsets while asking questions. Also, a request to participants to please limit their questions to 1 per participant. For follow-up questions, we request you to rejoin the queue. Ladies and gentlemen, we will wait for a moment while the question queue assembles.

The first question is from Sameet Sinha from Macquarie. Please go ahead.

Sameet Sinha - Macquarie: Yes, thank you very much, and congratulations on the first earnings call as a listed company. All the best for this new journey. Since you are restricted to just 1 question, I will ask only 1. I had multiple questions, but obviously this was a pretty tumultuous quarter between CAS and bank guarantees impacting volumes. Can you help us think about what we should expect

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after December 7 when SEBI implements CAS in the way it has been deployed, and whether you have seen any impact from bank guarantees? How should we rethink about it going forward? Thank you.

Management: Thank you for that question. If you look at the cash market average daily turnover between December and June 2026, it was Rs.1,35,949 crores. If you look at what the number was in Q2, it was Rs.1,18,337 crores, which is a drop of 13% quarter-on-quarter. However, when you compare Q2 FY26 with Q2 of the previous fiscal year, we are up 24% on a year-on-year basis.

So what it means is that the cash market and the implementation of the closing option session have both performed in an expected way. If anything, the impact of CAS was more on determination of the settlement price for expiring index options than on cash market activity itself. Therefore, with the changes that are going to go live very soon in December, we think that cash market activity will expand further. There will also be greater clarity in terms of how expiring index options are going to be dealt with. Therefore, market participants have roughly 1 year to understand this system better and, eventually, if there are further changes that may be considered, they will be better prepared for any upcoming changes.

Sameet Sinha – Macquarie: Got it. Have you seen any impact from the bank guarantee regulation by the RBI? Is it starting to have an impact yet?

Management: The Reserve Bank of India circular of February 2026 was initially to go live from April 1, but there was a 3-month extension given by the Reserve Bank of India, which meant that it eventually went live from July 1. So, during those 3 months, we know that a number of market participants, particularly the brokers who were potentially impacted, extended their prevailing bank guarantees by another several months, as much as they could.

Some of them have also raised money through other means, for example, by issuing corporate bonds, etc., in the last few months. So I think market participants have their own ways of coping with any new changes imposed by regulators. That is what is happening here as well. Therefore, there is no striking impact as such that can be attributed to this one particular change that has been brought in during this period. However, there have been a number of reasons that can be pointed out with respect to what has changed in the last many months, including geopolitics and other factors. Therefore, it is very difficult to highlight the specific impact from this particular change as such.

Sameet Sinha – Macquarie: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. Before we take the next question, a reminder to participants to please limit their questions to 1 per participant. The next question is from Swarnaba Mukherjee from 361 Capital. Please go ahead.

Swarnaba Mukherjee – 361 Capital: Thank you for the opportunity, and congratulations on a good set of numbers. I wanted to understand the colocation business. If I look at the last few quarters, I think we are broadly doing about Rs.320-330 crores, taking rack charges and connectivity charges together. I wanted to know your views on how we should see this evolving going forward over the next couple of years. If you could also highlight your plans related to rack additions and optimization

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in that regard. Thank you.

Management: There has been steady demand in terms of the number of racks that market participants require from time to time. Since January 2025, we have added close to 800 full-rack equivalents for members, and the total number of racks now stands at close to 1,870 or so.

We have been adding new racks stage by stage, based on the market demand that we can perceive from time to time. We have a surplus-rack situation right now and also have enough capacity and space to expand the number of racks quickly if need be. As things stand, more and more racks continue to be built and the number of members having colocation racks is nearly 300. We are also contemplating an upgrade of the existing colocation rack infrastructure.

Swarnaba Mukherjee – 361 Capital: Right, and do you have any visibility or color on how we should see the revenue number evolving?

Management: When new racks are taken up by members, typically they take some time to deploy those racks, as the infrastructure also takes a few months to come in. But once they go live, obviously they want to make full use of the rack space and send millions of orders every second. So if the number of messages and number of orders are going to increase, naturally the number of transactions will also increase.

You should look at it not only from the data and connectivity charges line, but also take into consideration the transaction charges that we earn. It is very difficult to attribute the increase in transaction charges to the additional racks that members have consumed. However, it is a good signal if there is demand for additional racks from members, which means that more and more people are constantly looking at coming to India to trade in the products available on the NSE platform.

Swarnaba Mukherjee – 361 Capital: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. Before we take the next question, a reminder to participants to please limit their questions to 1 per participant so that management is able to address questions from all participants in the conference. For follow-up questions, we request you to rejoin the queue. The next question is from Supratim from Jefferies. Please go ahead.

Supratim – Jefferies: Thanks a lot for the opportunity, and congratulations on a great IPO. My first question is on the recent SEBI ruling in which they have eased the EPI margin rules. I wanted to understand how this impacts NSE's clearing business. If you could give us some color on that, it would be very helpful.

Management: The objective of the regulator is to consider a reduction in margins, particularly for the cash market, in order to augment the activity levels seen in the cash market. In fact, if you look at the statements of the SEBI Chairperson, she has consistently said that the focus of SEBI is to simplify business, increase the ease-of-doing-business quotient, and do whatever is possible to bring structural reforms to expand the cash market.

The closing option session was one example of structural reform. There is also a working group that has been looking at the securities lending and borrowing rules, and the EPI margin requirements are

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one more initiative of the regulator. We are quite sure that all these initiatives will deliver very good results and outcomes for market participants.

Supratim – Jefferies: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. The next question is from Devesh Agarwal from IIFL Capital. Please go ahead.

Devesh Agarwal – IIFL Capital: Thank you for the opportunity, and congratulations on this performance. We have seen a very good increase in commodity volumes over the last 6 months, especially. In addition to the change in the expiry date, which was advanced by 7 days, what other changes have helped us gain these volumes and market share? Secondly, can we extrapolate or extend this to other commodities also to have a similar kind of volume increase in other contracts?

Management: Thank you for your kind words. The commodity options premium turnover in January 2026 was roughly Rs.880 crore, and the corresponding number for October 2026 is close to Rs.8,200 crore. So we have grown about 10 times in 9 months, as you rightly pointed out.

The growth has become possible because a large number of market participants are now connected to NSE commodities. As you know, colocation is now allowed even in commodities, and therefore members took some time to build their leased-line connectivity and get ready with their front office, back office, etc. For the last 3.5 years, we have been working to deepen the market and expand the number of members who are able to trade NSE commodities.

I think you are now seeing the result of all that work. Obviously, there has to be some product differentiation as well, which is why, based on market participant feedback, we changed the expiry date in crude oil options first and then also for natural gas subsequently. I think these changes have enabled market participants to participate more than they used to, and that is why you are seeing the increase in volumes. Hopefully, we will see a similar ripple effect in other commodity contracts of NSE that we introduce from time to time. Thank you.

Devesh Agarwal – IIFL Capital: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. The next question is from Uday Kothasetti from Daiwa Capital Management. Please go ahead.

Uday Kothasetti – Daiwa Capital Management: Hi, team. Thank you for the opportunity. I have 1 question. We have a very good market share in the cash market and equity futures. Why do you think we have 68% market share in options? I know it is good, but how do you see it evolving over time? Is there any particular customer segment in which we might have lower market share? Do we plan to make any product feature changes that can help us gain market share?

Management: When you look at the market share, particularly for index options, and conclude that it is 68%, I want to highlight that there has been an impact on account of holidays, particularly when a holiday happens to be an expiry day for NSE. If you normalize the market share based on the impact from these holidays, the effective market share for Q2 FY27 is almost 70%, as per our analysis. Of course, we would be very happy to discuss this with you offline.

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The fact is that options are not only about index options. There are also single-stock options. Within index options, you have weekly expiry and monthly expiry. If you look at NSE's market share in monthly expiry, I think we are close to 100%. If you look at NSE's market share in single-stock options, there also we are at 100%. So it is only in weekly index options that we have lost a bit of market share for various reasons. However, I think market share has stabilized. Market share has stabilized over the last 2-3 quarters, and we see it anywhere between 70% and 72%.

Uday Kothasetti - Daiwa Capital Management: Got it, thank you.

Operator: Thank you. The next question is from Vinod... [cut off]

Vinod...: ...around 42% of revenue from operations, so I wanted to know what share of revenue comes from the expiry date. You mentioned that there is a 1-year window before any further changes are possible. For example, if SEBI moved weekly expiry to fortnightly or monthly after that, I wanted to understand how much of the options revenue you think would be impacted, given that the futures tax change already cut futures ADV by around 12%. That is the only question I have. Thank you.

Management: The revenue attributable just to the expiry date, etc., is an analysis we have to conduct, but we can share it with you offline. The more important question that you have raised has already been answered by the SEBI Chairperson in multiple interviews in the last several months. She has repeatedly reiterated that there are no current plans to bring in any more regulations around equity derivatives with respect to expiry-date frequency. She has stated time and again that the current format will continue and there is no plan to move to fortnightly or monthly expiry, etc.

I think we can definitely have full confidence in her statements because she has always delivered in line with what she has shared in terms of her thoughts from time to time.

Vinod...: Thank you very much for taking my question.

Operator: Thank you. The next question is from Prayesh Jain from Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Please go ahead.

Prayesh Jain - Motilal Oswal Financial Services: Hi. I dropped off in between, so I do not know whether this question has been answered, but my question is on the cost front, both employee and technology costs. How do you see costs panning out in the remainder of this fiscal year? Particularly for technology, how do you see spending going ahead? It has been on a rising trend for us as we have been investing, but are we reaching a level at which we will sustain the current run rate, or how should we think about both employee and technology expenses?

Management: Let me take that question, Prayesh. Thank you for that. From an employee standpoint, from a run-rate perspective, you should see that the first and second quarters have been elevated. Largely, if you are aware, last year in the third quarter we had the new wage code coming in, so the impact was not baked into the year-ago quarter. You are seeing some inflation on account of that.

This quarter, we reported approximately 18% year-on-year growth for the quarter and approximately 21% for the half year. We expect that to moderate. It will not remain at that elevated level once the wage-code impact gets baked into the year-ago period. In terms of technology, we

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are continuously investing in modernization, cybersecurity and building resilience. We could also look at it as a percentage of operating revenue. Currently, it is around 8.7% of operating revenue, and we could look at it remaining at that level going forward. From a growth-rate perspective, it could probably be in the mid-teens.

Operator: Thank you. The next question is from Abhijit Akare from Kotak Securities. Please go ahead.

Abhijit Akare – Kotak Securities: Hi, good evening, everyone, and congratulations on the listing. My question was on data revenues. I wanted to check if there are possibilities to increase prices here. Are there any pricing levers going forward, not immediately, but over the next couple of years?

Management: Thank you for your question. As you might have seen in recent weeks, we have launched, in beta-testing mode, a new feature called Market Lens on the NSE app and the NSE website. This is an attempt to deliver all kinds of data to investors in order to strengthen them, equip them better and help them make the right investment decisions.

It is important for an investor today to understand data, understand the trends and themes that are developing in the market, and also see how efficiently they have been trading. This is NSE's attempt to simplify all this data and make it easily understandable for investors. We are going to welcome feedback from market participants very soon, and we are going to add new and newer data sets to NSE Market Lens in the next few weeks and months.

As you can imagine, the cost of accessing all the data that we have in mind — and we have about 10,000 data sets in mind — for a reasonable investor today, if you look at the other options available in the market, is anywhere between Rs.6,000 per year and Rs.10,000 per year. However, NSE is going to provide all of this free to start with. This could be a space where we might be able to charge a small fee, just to cover the basic costs of making this available and simplifying it for investors. That is one thought.

Other than that, of course, the growth in the number of racks that we have for those professional investors who want to enjoy low latency, and the number of messages that they send, could account for an increase in selective charges and rack rentals and so on. More importantly, we have to start thinking like some of the other exchanges of the world when it comes to data and how to simplify data for investors, for different types of investors, in different ways.

Operator: Thank you. The next question is from Madhukar Ladha from JPM. Please go ahead.

Madhukar Ladha – JPM: Hi, good evening, everyone. Congratulations on the new listing. Do you have any guidance on capex? For the first half, you have done about Rs.490-odd crores. Could you provide guidance for the full year and then for the next couple of years?

Management: We do not typically give guidance, Madhukar, but I think you can estimate that the second half will broadly be in line with the first half. Largely, our capex is on technology. In the first half, some part of our capex was related to the expansion of our colocation and adding racks in our colocation. We spent around Rs.50 crores in the first half, which is included in the capex number you mentioned and related to capex on colocation. That is more episodic. If we plan to do a

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colocation data center expansion in the next quarter, then perhaps you will see some of that repeated. Typically, a range of around Rs.450 crores a quarter is what we can say.

Madhukar Ladha – JPM: Got it, sir. Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. The next question is from Rahul Jain from MFS. Please go ahead.

Rahul Jain – MFS: Hi, good evening. I have 2 sets of questions. One is, based on the current level of activity in the F&O market and the cash market, can you share your thoughts about the next few quarters and how you see them? Number 2, can you also provide an update on the new activities that you have been undertaking, especially the EGR and some of the new initiatives? What is happening there, and when do you think they will start to contribute to revenue? Thank you very much.

Management: Thank you. In terms of cash market activity, we look forward to reforms in ASBA, which are being worked out by the working group of SEBI. That could be exciting for market participants and could help expand the cash market. We are also looking at the new changes that go live in December, the amendment of the cash regime. Obviously, that can also help investors trade more.

We are expecting approval from the Reserve Bank of India to go live and launch the corporate bond index futures product, which has already been approved by SEBI. This could be an exciting product on the fixed-income side for market participants, particularly for specialized investment funds. Obviously, geopolitics will play an important role in the upcoming weeks and months, and therefore that could have an impact on both cash and futures and options market activity.

In terms of electronic gold receipts, on Dhanteras there was a lot of excitement among investors, and we are trying to make EGR very popular by encouraging investors to buy EGR instead of actual physical gold. This resonates well with the Prime Minister's appeal because EGRs are currently created only from recycled domestic supplies of gold and not through any new imported gold as such.

Therefore, we think NSE EGR is the way forward as far as investing in gold is concerned. You do not have the risk of keeping physical gold at home, and whenever you want the physical gold, we can always exchange the EGR and get back the physical gold with the original certificate of authenticity and purity.

We are going to make EGR much easier to access, both in terms of trading and in terms of creation. In the next few weeks, you will see announcements from NSE regarding collection centers, which are the authorized collection points for domestic gold that can then be converted into EGR. There are also other products that we have in mind, which we will announce when we have the regulatory approvals and are about to launch. Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. The next question is from Mehak from MK Global. Please go ahead.

Mehak – MK Global: Hi, thank you. Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity, and congratulations on the listing. I have 1 question on the deployment of AI and how you see AI driving productivity gains going forward. Thank you.

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Management: Thank you, Mehak. We are currently working with generative AI in 4 key areas: compliance, customer support, operational efficiency and software engineering. Since most of the data that we deal with is private in nature, all this work is being done within the exchange data center without using any public LLM models.

There are multiple initiatives underway in each of these areas, and we have noted initial success both in operational efficiency and software engineering. We are continuously using and expanding its usage in those areas. We do see some gains coming out of it at this point in time.

Operator: Thank you. The next question is from Andrew Purushottam from Coeyto Advisors. Please go ahead.

Andrew Purushottam – Coeyto Advisors: Thank you for taking my question. I managed to look at your results very quickly, so please correct me if I have observed something incorrectly. I saw 2 things. One is that your other expenses this year were much lower than last year. Could you give us an indication of what the more typical amount of expense is that you will book under other expenses?

Also, you had the sale of the National Stock Exchange this year, right? If you take out these 2 effects, how would you see the performance of this year vis-à-vis last year? Could you give some indication of what trend we should see going forward?

Management: I will take the first question, Andrew. Other expenses include technology, CSR and a regulatory component. Essentially, in the year-ago period, the same quarter of the previous financial year, there was a one-time impact of SEBI settlement fees amounting to Rs.1,287 crores. If you exclude the impact of that, our total expenses would have gone up year-on-year by 10%. That is how you should look at it: overall expenses, excluding the one-time impact in the previous financial year, would have increased by 10%.

Your investment in the gold exchange will not have any impact on our performance because it is a subsidiary and a nascent exchange. It is yet to be fully set up. It is more about bringing strategic partners into the exchange rather than anything else. There is no impact on this quarter's financials.

Andrew Purushottam – Coeyto Advisors: Okay, so basically, the other expenses that you have recorded this year should be considered the base level of expenses, on which we can apply a certain year-on-year inflation figure?

Management: Yes, correct.

Andrew Purushottam – Coeyto Advisors: Okay. Thank you. Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. We will be able to take 1 last question. We will take the last question from Sameer Sinha from Macquarie. Please go ahead.

Sameer Sinha – Macquarie: Yes, thank you very much for the follow-up. I guess my question was partly answered, but [cut off]

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Sameer Sinha – Macquarie: ...about SEBI, the regulator, talking about how they want to expand the cash market. Can you talk about what other initiatives they are looking at to develop this and other types of market-linked instruments, and what we should expect in the next few months, if you have any insights into that?

Sriven deSouza: The SEBI Chairperson has consistently spoken about the 4 Ts: Trust, Transparency and Technology. She has also spoken time and again about optimal regulation, not excessive regulation. She has spoken about core initiatives such as structural reforms to expand the cash market, and she has spoken about strengthening the investor.

They have run 2 campaigns so far, 1 of which is still in progress. The first campaign was SEBI versus Scam, where SEBI invested considerable time and effort by jointly working in partnership with the market infrastructure institutions to caution investors about the pitfalls they might encounter in the process of investing. SEBI has also recently launched another initiative called Project Jagruk and continues to be very focused on empowering investors and making them more knowledgeable about the risks associated with the investment process.

So I think SEBI's focus has been on strengthening investors and making the ease-of-doing-business quotient better and better. If you look at the ease of doing business for foreign portfolio investors, they have made several announcements, particularly the recent announcement that KYC refresh is required less frequently than earlier. That is a very welcome announcement.

They have also made efforts to meet with FPIs around the world, and they are taking every step possible to incorporate the feedback that is emerging from all these meetings to make life easier for FPIs in particular. Overall, what you can expect is a wave of further focus on strengthening investors, number 1; making it easier to do business, number 2; and core initiatives and structural reforms, as the SEBI Chairperson often puts it, to expand the cash market and lead to other interesting product areas, particularly longer-dated instruments and longer-dated options.

That is one area that they have outlined. The focus of the regulator is very clear. It is time for us to stabilize the entire market. It is time for us to bring fresh thoughts in terms of products and new product ideas.

Sameer Sinha – Macquarie: All right. Thank you very much.

Operator: Thank you. We will take that as the last question. I would now like to hand the conference over to Sriven deSouza for closing comments.

Sriven deSouza: [pause] Thank you, everyone, for attending this call. It was good to have a post-listing first conference call with all of you. If you need any further follow-up, please reach out to us at the IR team, and we will be happy to have further calls with you and provide any additional data that you would like. Thank you very much, and wish you a very good evening.

Operator: Thank you very much. On behalf of National Stock Exchange Of India Ltd., that concludes this conference. Thank you for joining us, ladies and gentlemen. You may now disconnect your lines.

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