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“Ethical aspects of Harshad Mehta Case”

By: Mridula Sharma

Harshad Mehta was a very famous Indian Stockbroker, but he was famous in an infamous way. He was well-known face known for his wealth and for having been charged with various financial matters which took place back in 1992 securities scam. Out of the twenty-seven criminal charges raised against him he was only convicted for four, before his demise in 2001, aged 47.

The 1992 stock market scandal shook the nation, Harshad Mehta single-handedly manipulated the stock market by fraudulently drawing out funds from the banks. While it is believed by some finance experts that he didn't commit any fraud he simply exploited loopholes in the system.

Ashwin is the sibling of Big Bull Harshad Mehta — the mastermind behind scandalous securities scam — which shook the country, rocked the business sectors, and set off a progression of changes in the financial exchange. He had spilled his guts that day in the Special Court, set up to rebuff the blameworthy, and guarantee fast recuperation of cash cheated by Harshad Mehta and a couple of other brokers.

A lot of Ashwin's anger was aimed at the custodian the court had designated to recuperate and attach assets, properties, and "recoverable" of all aggrieved parties named in the scam.

Time had driven a wedge, yet Ashwin figured out how to hold the family together. He has additionally done well to keep banks under control. "No one realizes the case better than Ashwin," says the legal counselor of one of the invested individuals in the Harshad Mehta case.

Ashwin Mehta's tryst with legal executive started over two decades back, following his quick-talking High roller sibling Harshad got captured - first in an apparently little installment emergency, and afterward in the mammoth trick including a wrap of banks, high-flying brokers and market wizards.

In the underlying long stretches of the case, Harshad and his siblings — inured to costly vehicles and stylish condo squares — employed the most costly legal counselors in the nation. No not as much as Ram Jethmalani was locked into foothold the 70-odd criminal bodies of evidence held up against the Mehta family.

"The Harshad Mehta Case shot the status of Mumbai-based legal advisors," thinks back veteran legal advisor Rohit Kapadia, who showed up for National Housing Bank in the Harshad Mehta scam case.

"This was the first time when Rs1 lakh was charged for every appearance. That sort of cash was not charged by even the best of Supreme Court attorneys."

The extended fight in court, be that as it may, called for changes. Gone was the flashiness, to be supplanted by realism.

One explanation could be the passing of Harshad Mehta 15 years prior. All through the main decade of the thousand years, the Mehta family named lesser-known attorneys, who might not connect 'individual brand worth' to their expenses. Meanwhile, Ashwin Mehta figured out how to get a lawyer.

The CBI documented charges against different representatives to be specific AD Narottam, Bhupen Dalal, Hiten Dalal, and Naresh Aggarwal, among others, for participating in the scam, though for a lot littler entireties of cash.

A portion of these cases is as yet being sought after by the parties concerned. The Harshad Mehta case stands apart absolutely by virtue of its extent — the whole of cash and the profile of the denounced.

The court-designated overseer i.e. custodian has been at its particular employment for more than 24 years now. Intermittently, the overseer records a secret report esteeming the property under its guardianship and liabilities to be paid off.

As indicated by the overseer's report (number 26), discharged on January 8, 2016, the Harshad Mehta family has resources worth Rs 1,723.84 crore and absolute liabilities of around Rs 16,044 crore. The family needs to pay 4662 crores to different banks and about Rs 11,174 crore to IT Department (mostly premium accumulated and punishments).

As in September 2015, the banks were announced (by Court) to get Rs 1,688 crore, out of which Rs 1,074 crore has just been paid on condition that aggregate (or some portion of the entirety) would be returned if court request that they do as such. The banks' extraordinary case of Rs 4662 crore is generally premium charged throughout the years.

The bone of dispute, on the off chance that one passes by Ashwin Mehta's court entries, is the "piercing cases" made by the IT Department in its appraisal reports. As per Mehta, the IT division

has determined duty obligation simply considering the incomes of Harshad Mehta (and his partner organizations) — and not his salary.

Harshad Mehta was a broker with critical customers during the 90s. At the point when the trick emitted, the valuers apparently neglected to isolate Harshad Mehta's customer exchanges and individual dealings. All exchanges done somewhere in the range of 1991 and 1992 were clubbed as Harshad's own exchanges – and burdened in like manner, at higher expense chunks pervasive during the 90s.

All things considered, the valuers can't be accused as Harshad Mehta didn't keep a slick book of records. There was no decipherable route for valuers to recognize Harshad's own and customer exchanges.

The books were in such a wreck, that even court reactions (for Harshad's guard) must be recorded examining the recollections of Mehta and his partners.

"The Custodian had taken the records. We would plan applications for documenting in the Special Court from the memory of our customers – names and points of interest of banks, protections, volumes, and exchange dates," says Anand Desai, overseeing accomplice of DSK Legal, who spoke to the Mehta family.

What's the securities scam?

India had two altogether different yet equal markets inactivity. One market was for corporate securities for example the stock exchange. Here the necessary profit for funds was a lot higher. Additionally, there were a generally enormous number of brokers that were available in the market. Indeed, even in 1992, in any event, 50 representatives worked in the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Contrasted with that, the market for government securities had not exactly twelve intermediaries that worked. These representatives must be authorized by the Reserve Bank of India. This is on the grounds that the market for government protections was an interbank showcase for example the purchasers and dealers in this market were normally banks. Likewise, the turnover in this market was near \$1 billion every day which was 3 to multiple times bigger than the stock trade, and simultaneously the expense of assets here was half of that on the stock trade!

The presence of these two equal markets made overflowing open doors for exchange. It wouldn't have been long until somebody dared to break the glass parcel between the two markets and that somebody was Harshad Mehta.

The securities scam of 1991-1992 alludes to a division of bank funds worth Rs 3500 crore to a grip of stockbrokers - the Kingpin being Bombay based broker Harshad Mehta. The funds which were drawn were further piped into the stock market. Mostly this caused the market (Sensex) to flood

to more than 4500 points. It is said that stocks like ACC flooded from about Rs 200 for every offer to about Rs 9000 each during this period.

Edginess by the Banks

Banks in India were battling to make generous benefits in the 1990s. This is on the grounds that there were other contending items like the currency showcase assets and the portfolio the executive's administrations which were offering better come back to the financial specialists, hence pushing business away from the banks. There was along these lines a gigantic rivalry among banks for the extra money that was held by the Indian corporate segment especially the oil and gas open part units. This opposition and the craving to increase a bit of leeway over contenders drove the banks into the plans of clever intermediaries like Harshad Mehta.

The Massive Diversion

Harshad Mehta's plan was extremely basic basically. He would furtively steal immense aggregates of cash from the administration protections advertise for a brief term. He would then put this cash in a couple of chosen protections and drive their costs madly high. At the point when individuals would get amped up for a specific security, Harshad Mehta would gradually sell his possessions, take care of the stole cash and pocket the enormous contrast brought about by rising costs. The scale at which Harshad Mehta was doing this was incredible. In one year, he had driven the Sensex for example the record of the Bombay Stock Exchange from 1000 to 4500! It was a remarkable bull run, never found throughout the entire existence of a moderate Indian market.

How the scam was carried out?

Harshad Mehta along with his associates and a couple of other different brokers redirected funds from interbank exchanges and purchased shares across segments, bringing about a breathtaking surge in Sensex. Here's a way they did it is as follows-

- A. The fundamental "instrument" in the possession of wily specialists those days was striking prepared forward arrangements (RFD) between banks. An RFD is a made sure about transient 15-day-advance starting with one bank then onto the next. The lending is done against government protections. The borrowing bank really offers the securities to the lending bank and repurchases them at the residency, at a somewhat more significant expense.
- B. The typical settlement process in G-Secs is that the transacting banks make installments to one another and effective delivery of securities. In the trick, the delivery of securities and payments was carried out through a set of intermediaries' i.e. brokers. Here, the identity of both parties on either side were only known to the broker.
- C. The agents culminated in the strategy and began exchanging for their own. They professed to embrace the exchanges for the benefit of a bank to keep up a veneer of lawfulness.

- D. The agents likewise utilized bank receipts (BRs) in lieu of securities that were exchanged. So in genuine terms, securities didn't change hands, yet just BRs did. A BR is additionally rewarded as a receipt for cash got from the purchaser of securities.
- E. The dealers plotted with two or three banks which gave counterfeit BRs – ones with no security backing. Mehta gathered phony BRs from these banks and gave to different banks which paid him cash under suspicion that they were lending against securities. This money was then diverted to stocks. The shares were sold at profits (thanks to pumped up markets) and the BR retired when it was time to return money to the bank. Mehta struck such arrangements across banks and rolled the cash at each payout-level.

What happened to Harshad Mehta?

Harshad Mehta was taken into custody by investigation agencies in November 1992. He was being held for over seventy criminal cases (for the most part identifying with bribery, cheating, fabrication, criminal connivance and adulteration of records) and more than 600 civil action suits. In 1993, Mehta worked up a tempest when he freely reported that he had paid Rs 1 crore to Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. On 31-December 2001, at 48 years old, Mehta died with 27 bodies of evidence as yet pending against him.

What happened to the cases?

All criminal cases against Harshad Mehta got wiped off a couple of years back, except for several civil cases still kept for final closure. Every single criminal body of evidence against Harshad Mehta got arranged off a couple of years back, yet there are a few common cases anticipating the last conclusion. The common cases relate to monies Mehta owes to various foundations. The Mehta family – drove by Ashwin Mehta, who likewise speaks to the family in court – is battling the case at different levels – directly from diminishing their net liabilities to defending family resources from recuperation and liquidation.

What's the custodian's role in the Harshad Mehta case?

The court selected an overseer to join properties and receivables of Harshad Mehta and redistribute the equivalent to the respected creditors and other court-declared parties. The overseer has been dealing with the connected resources of Mehta throughout the previous 24 years.

The Aftermath

The Harshad Mehta trick was found when consideration was paid to the cash missing from the government securities market. As the trick loosened up, the valuations in the Bombay Stock Exchange crumbled. The uber development that had been seen by the trade-in one year came slamming down very quickly. Individuals lost their life reserve funds in the trick. A few speculators were vigorously utilized and therefore ended it all because of the aftermath.

The issue rose to national unmistakable quality. Foundations like Reserve Bank of India, Central Bureau of Investigation, and Parliamentary Committees must be included. The issue turned out to be much progressively tangled as Harshad Mehta hacked up the name of Prime Minister of India, Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao similar to a recipient from the debasement and took steps to uncover a lot more names.

At long last, the board of trustees discovered Harshad Mehta legitimately liable for stealing worth Rs 1439 crores (\$3 billion) and causing a trick that prompted the loss of riches as much as (\$7 billion). Right up 'til the present time, the Harshad Mehta trick raises recollections of extraordinary blast and bust which was never seen before by the Bombay Stock Exchange.

The Harshad Mehta case has delayed for a really long time. For nearly everyone, aside from those associated with it for monetary reasons, this case has lost its significance.

The driving force is long dead. Witnesses, reports, and proof have gotten immaterial. This is one situation where time has overwhelmed justice by a mile.

