

29 May 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION REGARDING IMPERSONATION OF MERRILL LYNCH / BofA SECURITIES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

It has come to our attention that certain unknown persons are impersonating the brand, name, logo and falsely holding themselves out to be associated with Merrill Lynch / BofA Securities India Private Limited and / or its employees and are otherwise inviting the public to invest in various products (including cryptocurrency) by *inter alia* offering commissions for the same. Such activities are being carried out by the aforementioned unknown persons through operation of fake websites / domain names / applications and by publishing fraudulent messages over instant messaging services (like Whatsapp). These fake websites / domain names / applications / messages contain the proprietary information about Merrill Lynch / BofA Securities India Private Limited as well as photos of our office and our employees, as available in the public domain, in order to mislead and fraudulently take advantage of the trust of the innocent investors in the brand of Merrill Lynch/ BofA Securities India Private Limited.

We would like to clarify that and caution the public at large that Merrill Lynch, BofA Securities India Limited and / or any of its other affiliates or employees are not associated in any manner with such products. We neither operate such fake websites / domain names / applications / messages nor do we offer any such products. Please note that BofA Securities India Limited is a regulated entity and does not deal with retail investors as a general practice. You may also further note that the brand of “Merrill Lynch” is not used in India.

Therefore, please exercise utmost caution while dealing with persons claiming to be employees/officials of Merrill Lynch/ BofA Securities India limited or when such services are solicited to you in the name of Merrill Lynch/ BofA Securities India Limited. Everyone is requested to verify the source of communication and content which is published on behalf of Merrill Lynch/ BofA Securities India Limited and to check the official website and social media handles of the Merrill Lynch / BofA Securities India Private Limited. Merrill Lynch/ BofA Securities India Limited will not be responsible in any manner whatsoever, for any claims or losses caused in this regard.

We are taking appropriate action against these unidentified persons for these unlawful activities, including approaching the relevant law enforcement and regulatory authorities, for them to take necessary action.

Further, as a part of investor awareness and cautioning public at large, BSE Limited (**BSE**) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (**NSE**) are publishing and updating all issued press releases on its website under the heading ‘Media coverage and Press releases issued to caution investors’. The link to view/refer issued press releases on the BSE and NSE website(s) are (1) <https://www.bseindia.com/markets/MarketInfo/MediaRelease.aspx> & https://www.bseindia.com/attention_investors.aspx and (2) <https://www.nseindia.com/invest/advisory-for-investors> respectively.

If you come across any such activity, we urge you to also kindly report the same to the appropriate law enforcement authorities, and also inform us on brokingindia@ml.com.