Mrugank Paranjape set to run MCX



RAJESH BHAYANI
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Mrugank Paranjape (*pictured*), 49, is taking charge as managing director and chief executive of the country's largest commodity derivatives bourse, the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), from Monday.

MCX gets a fulltime MD after two years. One incumbent quit in October 2013 and another quite in April 2014, three months into the job, on health grounds. Since then, P K Singhal was steering the exchange, as the seniormost, through a troubled phase.

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Mrugank has spent over a quarter of a century in financial services. A large part of his career was with Deutsche Bank, handling custodian business in Asia and much more. He is an IIT and IIM graduate, and has dealt with the regulators of several countries.

"After over a quarter century of experience in managing and developing businesses, one would want to be part of public infrastructure and MCX suits all that is needed, being an exchange with a front-end regulator, it is listed and has to take care of shareholders' interests, while growing with those who are dealing with the exchange, that is market participants," he said.

Even in troubled times, he said, the exchange had protected its market share and he is taking up this challenge as industry veterans like Singhal and other subject experts are there in the exchange to guide him. Now, regulatory integration is happening and opportunities and competition are both set to grow in the exchanges' space. "This is the best time, I thought, for me to join MCX," he said.

In the three years since a transaction tax was imposed, the commodity derivatives market is in a consolidation phase. Two exchanges have suspended trading and a third is struggling to stay afloat. MCX and the National Commmodities and Derivatives Exchange are trying to protect their business and adjusting to a new regulatory environment. Both have seen exits of their promoters or anchor investors.