

THUMBNAILS

**Lakshmi Vilas Bank:** Private sector lender Lakshmi Vilas Bank said on Saturday it has raised Rs 459.59 crore through qualified institutions placement (QIP). The Chennai-headquartered lender said it has raised funds at the rate of Rs 72 per share. "This fund raising via QIP will help the bank in strengthening its capital base and will enable bank to further raise tier II capital," Lakshmi Vilas Bank said in a statement. PTI

**Interest rate:** Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) has hiked its marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.05 per cent for six-month tenor and lowered interest on three-year tenor by 0.05 per cent. "Our bank has reviewed the marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) for different tenors," PSB said in a regulatory filing. The bank said these rates are effective from 16 March 2019. PTI

**Lupin:** Drug major Lupin said in a regulatory filing on Saturday it has been cautioned by the US health regulator that its Somerset (New Jersey) facility may be subject to regulatory or administrative action and that it may withhold approval of any pending applications or supplements in which this facility is listed. PTI

**Environmental hazard:** RLG India has partnered with Manufacturers Association for Information Technology (MAIT) to drive the Clean to Green campaign in India, under the aegis of the ministry of electronics and information technology initiative - Awareness on Environmental Hazards of Electronic Waste, says a Press release. SNS

**Designs from Italy:** Carrera is introducing new and authentic designs from Italy. Carrera eyewear is crafted with exquisite details and lightweight materials. The Spring-Summer 2019 collection features brand ambassador Ranveer Singh, says a company release. SNS

# Warburg group to acquire 80% in Avanse Fin Services

DHFL said it will sell its entire stake of 30.63% in Avanse Financial Services to a Warburg affiliate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 16 MARCH

## DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

Wadhawan Global Capital (WGC) announced on Saturday that they have entered into a definitive agreement with an affiliate of the Warburg Pincus Group to sell its entire 49.04 per cent stake in its education finance subsidiary, Avanse Financial Services limited

Ernst & Young LLP (EY) and Prime Research & Advisory Limited were the financial advisors to the company and the sellers on the transaction

The proposed transaction is subject to applicable regulatory and other approvals



and certain other conditions

In a separate filing, DHFL said it is undertaking corporate re-organisation within the company and announced resignation of its company secretary and compliance officer. "Mr Santosh Sharma (currently the CFO) will assume a new role as the Head - Corporate Strategy with effect from 16 March 2019. The accounts and finance function which was currently supervised by the chief financial officer, shall now be supervised by the vice-president (finance) and vice-president (accounts) of the company, respectively," the company added.

In a separate filing, DHFL said it is undertaking corporate re-organisation within the company and announced resignation of its company secretary and compliance officer. "Mr Santosh Sharma (currently the CFO) will assume a new role as the Head - Corporate Strategy with effect from 16 March 2019. The accounts and finance function which was currently supervised by the chief financial officer, shall now be supervised by the vice-president (finance) and vice-president (accounts) of the company, respectively," the company added.

DHFL's company secretary and compliance officer Niti Arya has resigned from the company with effect from 15 March 2019.

Meanwhile, DHFL's independent director VK Chopra had also resigned.

DHFL is under the scanner of various authorities following allegations of siphoning off Rs 31,000 crore out of total bank loans of Rs 97,000 crore through layers of shell companies.

It is an associate enterprise of WGC, a diversified financial services group and housing finance firm DHFL.

Avanse is also backed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which has 20 per cent equity stake in the company.

Commenting on the development, WGC chairman Kapil Wadhawan said: "The transaction with Warburg Pincus will allow the company to

further strengthen their position in the education financing industry. This sale also unlocks the latent value within the WGC Group while reinstating our immediate and long-term focus on our core business."

Ernst & Young LLP (EY) and Prime Research & Advisory Limited were the financial advisors to the company and the sellers on the transaction. Shardul Amarchand

Mangaldas & Co acted as the legal advisors to the sellers and company on this transaction.

DHFL further said that it has entered into a share purchase agreement with the Warburg Pincus Group, Avanse and the other sellers including WGC.

The proposed transaction is subject to applicable regulatory and other approvals and certain other conditions.

# Hiring activity sees 16% growth in February

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 16 MARCH

Hiring activities registered 16 per cent growth this February mainly led by the IT and software industry that clocked a 38 per cent growth, says a report. The Naukri JobSpeak Index for February 2019 stood at 2,415 from 2,087 in February 2018.

"The JobSpeak index continues to sustain the momentum gained and has shown a 16 per cent Y-O-Y growth in February preceded by a 15 per cent growth in January. In the latest hiring outlook survey with over 3,300 recruiters across the country had anticipated increased hiring, wherein 84 per cent recruiters said new jobs would be created," Infoedge India CMO Sumeet Singh said. The Naukri JobSpeak is a

monthly Index, which calculates and records hiring activity based on the job listings on Naukri.com website month-on-month.

The report revealed that the IT and software industry has been on a hiring spree in February 2019, registering a growth of 38 per cent, making it one of the fastest growing industries.

Also, the report said construction and engineering industry saw an increase in hiring with a growth rate of 16 per cent.

Hiring in HR functional area witnessed 20 per cent growth.

Further, it said, an increase in demand of 18 per cent was observed for mid-level candidates with experience between 4 and 7 years.

Hiring activities in the metropolitan cities saw positive growth with Chennai and Mumbai clocking in a rise of 30 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively.

Recruitment activities in Chennai was led by industries including auto/auto ancillary (26 per cent), BPO (13 per cent) while FMCG saw a dip of (14 per cent).

Demand for skills such as IT-Software (38 per cent) and ITES (8 per cent) were maximum among recruiters.

A 25 per cent rise in hiring activity was seen for the experience band of 4 to 7 years, it added.

While in Mumbai, the industries which dominated the hiring space for the city were FMCG (28 per cent) and IT-Software (32 per cent), auto (80 per cent).

However, the accounting functional area saw a decline of 12 per cent.

# Tata Power-DDL ties up with European firms

NEW DELHI, 16 MARCH

Tata Power-DDL has joined hands with European firms Enedis, Schneider Electric, Odit-e and Vaasa EIT to implement a 1-megawatt smart grid demonstration project in the national capital, which would be insulated from any blackout in the main grid.

This microgrid will cater to a specific area which could be connected to main grid or can be at an isolated place. It will help store and supply renewable energy generation in the area and insulate the area from any outage or fluctuation in the main grid.

The project is planned to start in May this year and is expected to be completed by October 2022.

The company said the project would lead to maximisation of local consumption of renewable energy and support demand management. PTI

# No dilution of circular over stressed assets: RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 16 MARCH

The Reserve Bank of India today maintained that there is no dilution in its stand with regard to the 12 February circular on stressed assets recognition and resolution.

"It is reiterated that the Reserve Bank maintains its stand on all aspects of the framework as has been consistently articulated in its communications, including the clarification given during the post-monetary policy Press conference on 7 February 2019," the central bank said in a statement.

The statement comes amid reports that the RBI seems to be toying the government line and considering relaxation of some of the aspects of the Revised Framework

The statement comes amid reports that the RBI seems to be toying the government line and considering relaxation of some of the aspects of the Revised Framework on Resolution of Stressed Assets issued on 12 February 2018

on Resolution of Stressed Assets issued on 12 February 2018.

As the matter is sub-judice and the Supreme Court has reserved its orders on the matter, the Reserve Bank will not comment on the specific details, it said.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das last month had said there would be no changes in the circular.

The circular directed lenders to refer any loan account over Rs 2,000 crore under the Insolvency and

Bankruptcy Code (IBC) if it is not resolved within 180 days of default.

It also underscored IBC's status as the cornerstone of the bad loan resolution framework, scrapping all previous mechanisms. The circular imposed a one-day default rule. Banks have to treat a company as a defaulter even if it misses repayment schedule by a day.

However, these harsh norms have been criticised in various quarters, including by a Parliamentary committee.

# Daimler Buses eyeing sustainable growth in 2019

CHENNAI, 16 MARCH

Daimler Buses India, a subsidiary of Germany-headquartered Daimler AG, is eyeing sustainable growth in revenue as it expects a rise in volumes this year, a top official of the company said.

"We are still in the growth phase. It is sustainable growth, we expect good growth this year," managing director of Daimler Buses India Thomas Fricke said here.

The company recorded a 60 per cent rise in revenue while the sales in the domestic market witnessed a 70 per cent increase and exports grew by 50 per cent in 2018, he said.

Asked about the factors that would contribute to the growth in 2019, he said: "First, we have a wide product range. We cover a lot of different segments. Secondly, we expand our network and have better customer-reach. And thirdly, we expect the overall industry volume to go up this year."

To a query on the financial show of Daimler Buses in 2018, Mr Fricke declined to share the details.

However, he said the company had sold 1,555 units of luxury coaches and chassis in 2018 as against 906 units in 2017. Export contribution increased by more than 50 per cent - 616 units in 2018 as against 405 units in 2017.

"For 2019, Daimler Buses India expects to achieve further significant growth, driven by both domestic and export business," he said.

Mr Fricke said Daimler Buses would focus on upgrading portfolio to BS-VI standard, including the BharatBenz 9-ton buses in school, staff and tourist bus, Mercedes-Benz 15-metre multi-axle coaches and 9.16-ton bus chassis. PTI

# CBRE to hire 3,000 in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 16 MARCH

Global property consultant CBRE will hire 3,000 employees across India this year for business expansion, its country head Anshuman Magazine said.

CBRE's India revenue grew 20 per cent during 2018 and it expects to maintain its growth even in 2019, he said, but did not disclose the turnover figure. The consulting firm has entered into hiring brokerage and now plans to expand this business in a big way, Mr Magazine, chairman and CEO of India, South-East Asia, West Asia and Africa, CBRE said.

"We are a growing service firm and the only asset we have is people. Therefore,

The consulting firm has entered into housing brokerage and now plans to expand this business in a big way, Mr Magazine, chairman and CEO of India, South-East Asia, West Asia and Africa, CBRE said

we have been hiring the best talent available in the market since the last few years, he told reporters while launching its new headquarter at Gurugram.

"In 2019, we expect to hire 3,000 people across India to meet our growth requirement," Mr Magazine said. At present, CBRE India has around 8,300 employees who provide various services in the real estate sector.

These services include that of advisory and transaction capital market, project management, consulting and valuations, facilities and property management.

On housing brokerage, Mr Magazine said, the company is selling flats in major cities of South and West India with sale force of 75 people. "We want to grow this business as there is a huge scope. But, we will be cautious in our approach and market projects of only credible developers," he said.

In housing brokerage business, CBRE will be competing with the likes of

Anarock, PropTiger, JLL India, Quirk, Square Yards, 360 Realtors, Investor Clinic and Wealth Clinic, among others.

Mr Magazine noted that warehousing, co-working, co-living, student housing, healthcare, education and hospitality sectors are the new asset class where one can expect growth going forward.

We expect institutional investment in these sectors apart from regular inflows in housing, office and retail assets, he said, adding that warehousing and logistics sector is already attracting huge investment post GST.

On the property market, Mr Magazine said, the commercial sector is doing well and the housing segment is showing improvement.

# Azerbaijan keen on trade with W Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, 16 MARCH

Azerbaijan, located in the south Caucasus region of Eurasia, is keen to establish trade and investment exchanges with West Bengal.

Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ashraf Shikhaliyev, said the dynamics has shifted all of the sudden to the eastern coast of India starting from West Bengal.

Though a small country, Azerbaijan has huge potential, he said at a session organised by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI) here yesterday.

The envoy said language would not be a hurdle as English was spoken in Azerbaijan to some extent.

Some of the sectors which had good potential for exchanges were information and communication, transport, petrochemical and chemicals, hospitality, tourism, agriculture and food processing.

Mr Shikhaliyev said Azerbaijan would also be a suitable destination for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferencing, Exhibitions) tourism for Indian companies as it had the potential to bring it back to India.

Filming in Azerbaijan was also a feasible area as cost of shooting was much lower than Europe and the country was blessed with mountains, forests and the sea.

Direct flight from Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, to New Delhi would start shortly. Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan said.

# Pvt mfg firms post 24.9% growth in Q3 net profit: Reserve Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 16 MARCH

The private companies in manufacturing sector posted a 24.9 per cent growth in net profit in the October-December quarter of the current fiscal on an annual basis, benefiting from lower tax provisions, the RBI has said.

The analysis is based on the performance of private corporate sector during the third quarter of 2018-19 drawn from abridged financial results of 2,703 listed non-government non-financial (NGNF) companies, it said.

"The manufacturing sector continued to record strong growth in net profits, benefiting from the lower tax provisions in Q3:2018-19," the RBI

## PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS

The analysis is based on the performance of private corporate sector during the third quarter of 2018-19 drawn from abridged financial results of 2,703 listed non-government non-financial (NGNF) companies

The companies posted a net profit of Rs 77,500 crore



in the third quarter of the fiscal compared to Rs 57,800 crore in the year-ago period

said while releasing the latest data on performance of the private corporate business. The companies posted a net profit of Rs 77,500 crore in the third quarter of the fiscal compared to Rs 57,800 crore in the year-ago period. Their profit was Rs 71,900 crore in the

July-September quarter of 2018-19.

However on the sales front, demand conditions in the manufacturing sector weakened on year-on-year basis.

"This moderation was observed mainly in textiles, iron and steel, motor vehicles

However on the sales front, demand conditions in the manufacturing sector weakened on year-on-year basis

In IT sector, the RBI said, sales growth remained broadly unchanged in relation to the previous quarter

The interest expenses incurred by manufacturing

sector also witnessed a dip from a year ago level, reflecting ongoing deleveraging in the corporate sector.

In IT sector, the RBI said, sales growth remained broadly unchanged in relation to the previous quarter, while the services (non-IT) sector maintained the pace of sales growth, riding on the improvement recorded by the transport and storage services industries.

The telecommunications sector continued to experience contraction in sales.

As per the RBI, pricing power in terms of operating profit and net profit margins remained flat in the manufacturing sector.

Net profit margin of the IT sector declined marginally.