

MARKET WATCH

	20-03-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,387	0.06
US Dollar	68.83	0.18
Gold	39,000	0.10
Brent oil	68.25	1.20

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	360.60	-5.15
Asian Paints	1456.15	2.25
Axis Bank	755.75	-5.15
Bajaj Auto	2949.65	-25.05
Bajaj Finserv	6953.50	-22.15
Bajaj Finance	2868.60	-52.30
Bharti Airtel	334.00	-2.75
BPCL	389.15	-18.65
Cipla	533.25	-0.40
Coal India	237.00	-5.90
Dr Reddys Lab	2751.65	42.95
Eicher Motors	21338.00	-421.10
GAIL (India)	354.70	-7.35
Grasim Ind	817.65	-4.65
HCL Tech	1037.95	1.75
HDFC	1987.55	19.70
HDFC Bank	2299.00	31.25
Hero MotoCorp	2609.15	-4.90
Hindalco	207.15	4.80
HPCL	275.10	-15.65
Hind Unilever	1687.55	-12.10
Indiabulls HFL	732.60	34.65
ICICI Bank	392.90	-5.50
IndusInd Bank	1713.40	-11.80
Bharti Infratel	325.05	-2.55
Infosys	738.95	16.70
Indian OilCorp	159.00	-3.70
ITC	288.90	-0.55
JSW Steel	282.30	-6.20
Kotak Bank	1351.60	3.85
L&T	1370.90	12.95
M&M	678.60	-10.80
Mauriti Suzuki	6673.55	-151.65
NTPC	129.25	-5.65
ONGC	151.85	-5.15
PowerGrid Corp	197.40	-1.60
Reliance Ind	1375.45	-1.10
State Bank	303.80	0.75
Sun Pharma	474.75	5.80
Tata Motors	180.20	-2.65
Tata Steel	513.60	-13.90
TCS	2015.05	-7.75
Tech Mahindra	789.85	-4.80
Titan	1102.35	-6.70
UltraTech Cement	3922.30	-55.70
UPL	935.40	4.10
Vedanta	174.55	1.85
Wipro	261.55	4.10
YES Bank	252.15	3.35
Zee Entertainment	443.20	-22.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 20

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.62	68.94
Euro	77.85	78.32
British Pound	90.65	91.08
Japanese Yen (100)	61.54	61.93
Chinese Yuan	10.25	10.30
Swiss Franc	68.72	69.05
Singapore Dollar	50.82	51.06
Canadian Dollar	51.47	51.71
Malaysian Ringgit	16.87	16.97

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

March 20 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	40.8	(41)
22 ct gold (1g)	3039	(3050)

IN BRIEF

PFC to acquire 52.63% gov. shares in REC

MUMBAI State-owned Power Finance Corporation on Wednesday said it will acquire the entire 52.63% stake of the Centre in REC for ₹14,500 crore by this month-end, a move that will help the government meet its disinvestment target. PTI

'Statutory dues of firms are operational debt'

Authorities to be operational creditors

NEW DELHI The NCLAT on Wednesday held that statutory liability, including income tax and value-added tax dues of debt-ridden companies are 'operational debt', which would now allow the departments concerned to be treated as operational creditors.

IBC definition

A two-member NCLAT bench headed by Chairman Justice S.J. Mukhopadhaya held that Central or State Tax Departments such as Income Tax Department, Sales Tax Departments and

Bankruptcy last option on Jet: SBI

Rescue almost ready, Etihad has not 'conclusively' decided to exit airline: Kumar

REUTERS

NEW DELHI Bankruptcy is the 'last option' for Jet Airways, State Bank of India's (SBI) chairman said on Wednesday, adding that it might still be possible to draft in a new investor to keep the airline flying.

"We believe it is in everybody's interest that Jet Airways continues to fly," SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar told reporters after meeting government officials, adding that placing Jet into bankruptcy would mean grounding the airline.

'No bailout'

The SBI chief said that a resolution plan is "almost" ready and that it would not involve a bailout for any individual, including the airline's founder and chairman Naresh Goyal.

Jet has more than \$1 billion in debt, and owes mil-



Lending a parachute: It is in everybody's interest that Jet Airways continues to fly, says Rajnish Kumar. •PTI

lions to banks, suppliers, pilots and lessors - some of whom have started terminating leases with the carrier. The government has asked State-run banks, led by SBI, to rescue Jet without pushing it into bankruptcy, two people within the admin-

istration have told Reuters as Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks to avert thousands of job losses weeks before a general election.

Talks with Etihad Airways, Jet's largest shareholder, to secure a rescue deal are also ongoing, the SBI

chief said, adding that the Abu Dhabi-based airline has not "conclusively" decided to exit the venture.

"There are certain conditions they want fulfilled and that is that the airline should be professionally managed and without interference," Mr. Kumar said.

Etihad had earlier said that if it were to invest more money then the Jet's founder Goyal must step down and take a less prominent role.

Changing management

A senior Finance Ministry source, who was at the meeting, said lenders to Jet are trying to revive the airline by changing the management, which includes Mr. Goyal.

Mr. Goyal had agreed to step down as chairman of Jet Airways and reduce his stake from 51%, sources told Reuters, to secure a rescue deal for the airline he established 25 years ago.

Mindtree: no decision yet on buy-back

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Mindtree's board on Wednesday did not take a decision at a meeting on the proposed buyback of equity shares, amid Larsen and Toubro's bid to acquire a majority stake in the Bengaluru-based IT firm.

"The board considered the proposed buyback of equity shares of the Company at its meeting held on March 20, 2019. Following detailed discussions, the meeting has been adjourned to a future date. No decision has been taken in relation to the proposed buyback of equity shares," the company informed the stock exchanges.

On Monday, L&T had announced acquisition of 20.32% stake in Mindtree from V.G. Siddhartha and related entities at a price of ₹980 per share, aggregating to about ₹3,269 crore.



Pillar to post: If CBDT authenticates digital signatures, it can hasten the process, says a DPIIT official. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Angel tax: CBDT, DPIIT trade blame for delay in resolving issue

Can't use data in PDF form, says CBDT

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

NEW DELHI In an escalating back-and-forth between the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade over the infrastructural roadblocks to finding a solution to the angel tax issue, both bodies have passed the buck to the other in order to resolve the problem.

Last month, the DPIIT had issued a notification stating that registered start-ups would be exempt from the angel tax if they met certain conditions.

The Department was to send the names of such start-ups to the CBDT, which was to then incorporate them into its systems, so that such companies would be exempt from angel tax proceedings at the outset.

Last week, *The Hindu* had reported that the CBDT had not yet set up the infrastructure needed to automatically remove registered start-ups from angel tax scrutiny, about a month after a notification was issued to this effect.

It is now learnt, from officials in the Finance Ministry, that the CBDT has passed the buck for this lapse onto the DPIIT, complaining that the Department was sending the names of the exempted start-ups in PDF form.

Tech shortcomings

The CBDT does not have a method to extract the required information from PDF files and so, it is being done manually, the officials said, adding that their sys-

tem was ready to extract the data if sent in 'digital' form.

The DPIIT, for its part, has said that its own technological shortcomings, especially to do with digital signatures, is the reason why it is sending PDFs. The Department does not have the facility for the start-ups to provide a digital signature, except in PDF form. It would take months and a certain expense to get this facility, an official in the DPIIT said.

The DPIIT official added that an expedited solution for this would be for the digital signature authentication process be done by the CBDT itself, which already has the facility.

In such a scenario, a start-up registers with the DPIIT, which then sends this data in a digital, easily accessible form to the CBDT, which would then send the start-up a link to sign digitally and authenticate itself.

Once this is done, the CBDT would be able to mark such firms as exempt from angel tax scrutiny, at the source itself, the official said.

Another issue raised by start-ups is the acknowledgement mail sent by the CBDT confirming the angel tax exemption of that start-up being a single-line email, which was not enough proof of exemption to show the assessing officer when he came for scrutiny.

Sachin Taparia, founder and chairman, LocalCircles, which is representing the start-up community in this regard, said. "CBDT has agreed to enhance the acknowledgement."

Toyota, Suzuki expand scope of collaboration to Africa, Europe

Auto majors even plan joint development of model

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI Japan's Toyota Motor Corporation and Suzuki Motor Corporation on Wednesday announced the strengthening of their collaboration, including manufacturing of Suzuki-developed compact SUV Vitara Brezza at Toyota's plant in India from 2022.

The two partners have agreed to extend their collaboration to Europe and Africa over and above their partnership in India.

Supplying Ciaz, Ertiga

As part of "considering a concrete collaboration in new fields," Suzuki would supply Ciaz sedan and Ertiga multi-purpose vehicle to Toyota in India in addition to the already agreed supplies of premium hatchback Baleno and compact SUV Vitara Brezza.

Moreover, Suzuki will supply its India-produced



Auto connect: The pact includes the manufacture of Suzuki's Vitara Brezza at Toyota's plant in India from 2022.

vehicles - Baleno, Vitara Brezza, Ciaz, Ertiga - to Toyota for the African market as well, the two companies said in a joint statement.

Toyota on the other hand, will provide Suzuki its hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) technologies in India through local procurement of HEV systems, engines, and batteries, while also supplying THS (Toyota Hybrid System) to Suzuki in the global markets.

Commenting on the India-specific collaboration, the two companies said the partnership would focus on the fields of technological development and production leveraging on each other's strengths. Moreover, drawing upon Suzuki's expertise in developing vehicles in India, Toyota and Suzuki plan joint development of a Toyota C-segment MPV and OEM (original equipment manufacturer) supply (of the same) to Suzuki.



Earlier this month, RBI changed the categorisation of IDBI Bank to a private sector lender from public sector lender following acquisition of the majority stake by LIC.

Following the stake transfer, the government holding came down to 46.46% from nearly 86% in September 2018, while LIC's stake increased from about 8% to 51% earlier this year.

The insurance behemoth's acquisition of the bank marked LIC's entry into the banking space.

Thyssenkrupp, Tata Steel get EU extension

REUTERS

FRANKFURT Thyssenkrupp and Tata Steel have agreed with the European Commission (EC) to extend a deadline to submit remedies in exchange for regulatory approval for a planned European steel joint venture, Thyssenkrupp said.

The deadline, which sources said was due to expire later on Wednesday, will be extended by eight working days, Thyssenkrupp said.

This will move the overall deadline for a decision to May 13 from April 29, the European Commission said on its website.

Passenger growth story hits air pocket, dips to 53-month low

February sees 5.6% increase as carriers trimmed schedules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI Domestic air passenger growth has lost the high double-digit momentum seen till recently, with a growth of 5.62% in February - a 53-month low - with airlines flying 11.34 million passengers compared to 10.74 million, according to DGCA data released on Wednesday.

The last time such a low growth was reported was in July 2014 when incremental traffic grew 7.19%, while in August 2014, the same was at 8%. Since September 2014, the market has been clip-



ping at double-digits which lasted till December 2018. In January 2019, the growth rate slipped to 9.1%.

Significantly, almost all major carriers operated a truncated schedule, mostly led by the crippled Jet Air-

ways and budget carrier Indigo which had to cancel hundreds of flights in the month due to a host of reasons. These include cash-crunch, pilot shortages, notices to airmen at various airports and a reduced capacity due to grounding of some planes, among others.

Indigo retained its top position with a market share of 43.4%, carrying 4.93 million passengers in February, while Jet, along with subsidiary Jetlite, slipped to a distant fourth position carrying 1.28 million passengers and had a combined market share of 11.4%.

Tea exports may touch 240 mn kg in FY19

Between April 2018 and January 2019, India exported 209.9 million kg

INDRANI DUTTA

KOLKATA Tea exports may end at a level of over 240 million kg in 2018-19, as per available trends. Between April 2018 and January 2019, India exported 209.9 million kg of tea against 215.2 million kg a year ago.

"These are provisional figures and are subject to revision," Tea Board Deputy Chairman Arun Kumar Ray told *The Hindu*. Industry, too, was optimistic about export prospects during the current fiscal.

Countries where Indian exports are already on an upward trend include Iran, Bangladesh and China. Exports to the high-value Iran market stood at 29.2 million



Flavour of the season: Exports to countries such as Iran, Bangladesh and China show an upward trend. •K.K.MUSTAFAH

kg in the period under review against 26.7 million kgs. Officials at the Indian Tea Association (ITA) are hopeful of reaching record levels of exports to this market which likes orthodox teas. Against an average value of \$ 3.1, tea

exports to Iran fetched higher value with a unit price realisation of \$3.7 per kg, according to official statistics. During the 10 months of this fiscal, total export value stood at ₹4,478.9 crore against ₹4,288.4 crore a year

ago. Sources said that it is expected that the marginal shortfall in exports to the Russian Federation and total CIS exports would be made up in the remaining two months of fiscal 2019. Confederation of Independent States (CIS) region include Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan and is the single largest importer at over 50 million kg.

Exports have maintained a 'commendable' level of around 250 million kg for the last two years and "the rapidly increasing production and the need for higher prices demand an increase in export volumes," Vivek Goenka, ITA chairman, said adding the industry is targeting 300 million kg by 2020.