

## IN BRIEF

**L&T buys TIDCO's stake in shipbuilding arm**

CHENNAI  
L&T has purchased 3% stake of Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) in its subsidiary L&T Shipbuilding for ₹32.74 crore. With the acquisition of TIDCO's 1.33 crore shares on April 10, L&T Shipbuilding now becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of L&T. L&T Shipbuilding was incorporated in 2007 and operates a modern shipyard from Kattupalli in Chennai carrying out shipbuilding and ship related activities.

**Maruti Celerio crosses one lakh sales in FY19**

NEW DELHI  
Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Friday said its compact car Celerio sold 1,03,734 units in 2018-19, joining the club of company's models with sales of more than one lakh units in a year. The model has cumulatively sold 4.7 lakh units since its launch in 2014. The sales grew by 10% in 2018-19. The other Maruti cars with over one lakh annual sales include Vitara Brezza, Dzire, Baleno, Swift, WagonR and Alto. PTI

**Axiata skips Vodafone Idea rights issue**

NEW DELHI  
Malaysia-based Axiata Group has "renounced" its right to entitlement of Vodafone Idea shares under the ₹25,000-crore rights issue, sources said. Axiata Group, which held 8.1% (valued at ₹3,771 crore) stake in the telecom major, was entitled to receive 87 equity shares for every 38 shares held by eligible shareholders of the company on the record date, April 2, 2019. The rights issue was opened on April 10. PTI

# Apex court halts ArcelorMittal's payment to lenders of Essar Steel

Parties asked to maintain status quo with respect to March 8 order, says lawyer

REUTERS  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered ArcelorMittal SA to stop a payment to lenders to buy Essar Steel, a lawyer involved in the case said, delaying the Lakshmi Mittal-led company's entry into India.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had approved ArcelorMittal's \$6-billion bid for the debt-ridden Essar on March 8, potentially ending months of court battles and opening the sector to outsiders.

On Friday, the Supreme Court halted ArcelorMittal's payment while the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) rules on va-



The National Company Law Tribunal approved ArcelorMittal's \$6-billion bid for Essar Steel on March 8. •REUTERS

rious appeals in the case. "[The court] asked the parties to maintain status quo with respect to the

March 8 order," said a lawyer working on the case, referring to an NCLT order. The lawyer did not wish to

be named as he is not authorised to speak to the media.

ArcelorMittal did not have any immediate comment. Essar Steel declined to comment. Essar Steel was among the twelve large steel and other infrastructure companies which defaulted and referred to the National Company Law Tribunal in 2017.

The firm became synonymous with the tardy pace of debt resolution by banks saddled with billions of dollars of bad loans.

JSW Steel Ltd., Vedanta Ltd., Russian bank VTB and the erstwhile owners of Essar Steel have all tried to win the 10-million-tonne steel asset over the last two years.

# Banks must upgrade PoS devices as 2G is phased out

Lending institutions may face challenges till then: official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Banks need to upgrade their Point of Sale (PoS) devices to run on 3G and 4G in the backdrop of the impending phase-out of 2G technology to which they are mated now, a senior telecom department official said.

"The PoS the banking sector uses is right now 2G-enabled. In a couple of years, there will be no 2G in the country. [There will only be] 3G and 4G and beyond. Are we getting the PoS ready for the 2G moving out?" Joint Secretary Amit Yadav said.

Unless such upgrade happens, banks would face challenges. "I think we need to see to it that [more ad-

vanced] technology is there," the official said, inaugurating the 5G Use Cases Lab for the Banking and Financial Sector, set up at the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT). Stating that 5G had arrived, Mr. Yadav said it was time for all those concerned to discuss the areas where the technology could be applied once it is rolled out in the country by developing use cases.

The infrastructure in the country had also improved, Mr. Yadav said, adding that in three years, the number of mobile towers had increased from less than two lakh to five lakh, while the Base Tower Stations (BTS)

numbers had gone up from 5-6 lakh to over 20 lakh. The number of mobile phone users is 1.2 billion, he said.

IDRBT Director A.S. Ramasastri said: "The time is right to start working on 5G so that India is a thought leader in this new technology, rather than being a follower as in the case of some earlier technologies."

The objectives of 5G Lab include developing and demonstrating 5G use cases for banking and financial services, setting up a 5G R&D experience platform, and provide state-of-the-art experimental test bed solutions for mobile, wireless technologies, IoT and security services for BFSI.

## CERC nod for higher tariff for Adani's Mundra plant

Firm incurs heavy cost in coal imports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) on Friday approved higher tariff for Adani Power's 2,000 megawatt (MW) capacities at its Mundra power plant. The plant was facing hardships after compensatory tariff was disallowed by Supreme Court in April 2017. Adani Power has been seeking to pass through higher cost of imported coal to run this plant. The cost of fuel rose after Indonesia changed its regulations. The Mundra plant is an imported coal-based plant.

Last year, power distribution firm Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd. (GUVNL) had sought CERC approval to

amend terms of the power purchase agreements for 2,000 MW capacities with Adani's 4,620-MW Mundra power plant.

In its plea to the CERC last year, GUVNL had proposed amendments to the two PPAs signed on February 6, 2007, and February 2, 2007, with Adani Power (Mundra) Ltd., for the supply of contracted capacity of 1,000 MW each from units 1 to 4 and units 5 and 6 of Mundra plant respectively.

Disposing of the petition, the power regulator said these projects were efficient, on super-critical technology and are base-load plants and therefore, it makes economic sense to keep them operationalised.

## Mohan named CUB part-time chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The board of City Union Bank Ltd. on Friday recommended its independent director R. Mohan to be the next part-time chairman with effect from May 4.

The board also forwarded an application to this effect to the Reserve Bank of India as the present incumbent S. Mahalingam's tenure ends on May 3.

Mr. Mohan, who has been associated with the bank since 1975, was promoted as the chief general manager in 2011 and in 2014 he was inducted on to the board. He is also part of various board committees. Currently, he holds 1.45 lakh shares, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

## Tea Board to discuss industry road map

Enhancing quality, manufacture of FSSAI-compliant tea on conference agenda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

The Tea Board is planning to hold a conference to discuss the roadmap for increasing exports and domestic consumption, and improving Indian tea quality. A 12-point agenda has been drawn up for the conclave, according to Tea Board sources.

The meeting will discuss ways to enhance the quality of Indian tea, restrict marketing of low quality products, and the steps needed to be taken to bring good tea to the market.

**Organic tea manufacture**  
The Tea Board wants the industry to take steps to increase manufacture of more organic tea.

It is also calling for a paradigm shift to move the indus-



**Special aroma:** Tea Board will discuss ways to drive the branding of India's specialty tea. •M. SATHYAMOORTHY

try from bulk tea production to value-added tea, while exploring ways to increase sales, export and marketing of good quality tea.

The Union Commerce Ministry is keen that India brands its specialty tea well,

and the meeting will discuss the manner in which the Tea Board could support such an initiative.

It will also try to gauge the support expected by the industry at the farm and manufacturing levels.

A significant agenda of the meeting would be discussing steps needed to manufacture tea compliant with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulations and well in conformity with international standards.

Industry sources welcomed the initiative saying that this would pave the way for drawing the contours of the industry through a broad-based consultative process.

Large and small tea growers, as well as tea traders are likely to participate in the symposium due to be held here later this month.

Indian Tea Association chairman Vivek Goenka felt that the initiative should provide a good forum for discussing disruptive ideas.