

IN BRIEF

**MRF unveils 'Ezeeride' range for motorcycles**

CHENNAI
Tyre major MRF Ltd. has introduced 'MRF Nylogrip Ezeeride' range of motorcycle tyres. The tyres come in 10 sizes for bikes ranging from commuter models to the Enfield and Harley-Davidson models. The tyres offer stability during zig-zag movements and efficient water channelling on wet roads, said Koshiy Varghese, executive VP, marketing, MRF Ltd.

AIATSL sale: last date for bid submission extended

NEW DELHI
The Centre extended the last date for submission of bids for the sale of Air India's ground handling subsidiary AIATSL by a month, till May 16. The expression of interest was floated on February 12 and the last date for submission of bids was April 16. In November, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley-led ministerial panel had decided to go ahead with the strategic sale of Air India Air Transport Services Ltd. PTI

Blue Star expands operations in West Asia

CHENNAI
Airconditioning and refrigeration major, Blue Star Ltd., through its subsidiary, has expanded its operations in West Asia with a new office and a showroom in Dubai. Blue Star International FZCO is headquartered in Dubai and manages Blue Star's international business. Blue Star Systems and Solutions is a subsidiary of Blue Star International, and handles the UAE operations of the firm, said a company release.

Public sector enterprises to get 12 months to sell non-core assets

Finance Ministry may curb budgetary allocation to non-compliant firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

State-run companies will have 12 months to monetise non-core assets identified by a ministerial panel headed by the finance minister, failing which the finance ministry may restrict budgetary allocations to the CPSEs.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) on Monday issued guidelines for monetisation of non-core assets of CPSEs and immovable enemy properties, following a Cabinet decision in February.

According to the guidelines, an inter-ministerial group (IMG) chaired by the secretary of DIPAM will iden-



Budgetary support will be considered only after looking at achievement of asset monetisation target. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

tify the non-core assets of the CPSEs on its own, and also on the basis of recommendations of the Niti Aayog. The final call will, however, be taken by the finance minister-headed panel.

Once the Alternative Mechanism, comprising the finance minister, road transport minister and the minister of the administrative ministry concerned approves the assets for moneti-

sation, it should be completed within 12 months from the date of approval.

This will be the target to be achieved by the CPSEs as part of the memorandum of understanding with the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). "The Department of Expenditure and Department of Economic Affairs may consider any proposal from the CPSE/administrative ministry for budgetary support only after looking at the achievement of asset monetisation target by the CPSE. Performance of contract management will be considered before sanctioning any government budgetary support," the guidelines said.

NBFCs, MFIs raise ₹26,200 cr. via securitisation in FY19

Face liquidity challenges post IL&FS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Despite tight liquidity conditions, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and micro finance companies (MFIs) raised about ₹26,200 crore through securitisation in FY19, a growth of 170% over FY18, said a report.

In FY18, NBFCs and MFIs raised ₹9,700 crore through securitisation. The sectors faced tight liquidity conditions in FY19 after a series of defaults by Infrastructure Leasing and Finance Services (IL&FS).

Their reliance on the securitisation route to raise funds increased to help meet their growth targets in FY19, according to a report by rating agency Icria.

"In FY18 and H1FY19, securitisation contributed to only 18-20% of the overall disbursements. However, this number leapfrogged to 37% and an estimated 50% in the third and fourth quarters of FY19, respectively," Icria group head (structured finance ratings), Vibhor Mittal, said in a note.

Nearly half of incremental disbursements in the Q4 is estimated to have been met through securitisation.

Investors were also comfortable buying retail loan portfolios originated by these entities as opposed to taking direct on-balance sheet credit exposure, especially for small and medium sized entities, Mr. Mittal said.

SPIC's holding firm to set up floating solar power plant

AM International to sell surplus power to State utilities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Singapore-based AM International Holdings, the holding company of SPIC and Manali Petro, has announced its foray into renewable energy by setting up a floating solar power plant.

Ashwin Muthiah, founder chairman of AM International Group, laid the foundation stone for the 24 MW floating solar power plant at SPIC's Thoothukudi factory complex. Once completed, the project would take care of SPIC's electricity needs and the surplus would be sold to State power utilities.

The project is owned by



Ashwin Muthiah

Greenam Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of AM International Holdings. "The project is one of its kind and one of India's first floating renewable energy initiative to optimise energy production in industrial plants. It

Pennar to double capacity of hydraulic cylinders in Chennai

Strong, continuous demand drives decision, says official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Value-added engineering products and solutions firm Pennar Industries is doubling the manufacturing capacity of hydraulic cylinders at its facility near Chennai.

From 75,000 cylinders, the capacity of the plant in Periyapalayam, on the outskirts of the city, will be scaled up to 1.5 lakh units with a scope to increase to two lakh.

There is an increase in demand and hence the capacity is being doubled, the company said on Monday. Pennar Industries has more than 25 domestic and global customers for hydraulics. In the past two years, it has



K.M. Sunil

supplied more than 1 lakh units to end users in the U.S.

Hydraulic cylinders find applications in areas including agriculture, forestry, construction equipment, material handling, tippers and trailers, aerospace and

defence. The new 45,000 sq ft plant will be fully equipped with complete infrastructure and best-in-class machinery and testing equipment to design, engineer and manufacture high-quality hydraulic cylinders.

Stating that strong demand for hydraulic cylinders was behind the move to double capacity, vice-president, corporate strategy, K.M. Sunil, said Pennar planned to make investments in technology, production equipment and the design engineering team to emerge as a leading player.

The estimated investment is ₹15 crore and the new plant is likely to get into production by July.

Kolkata restaurant chain plans expansion

Keen to retain 'neighbourhood' profile

INDRANI DUTTA
KOLKATA

A city-based restaurant chain is eyeing markets in west, north and south India, while sticking to its strategy of setting up small neighbourhood, fine-dining outlets and avoiding malls and high-street locations.

Chowman Hospitality Pvt. Ltd., owned by entrepreneur Debatitya Chowdhury, runs Chowman, which is among Kolkata's first small-format, fine-dining Chinese restaurant chains. It has 12 outlets in the city and is eyeing entry into Mumbai, Chandigarh, Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. "We plan to add a few outlets outside Kolkata by 2021 and five more here by

June," Mr. Chowdhury said, adding that though profitable, his bank loans-backed venture had thin margins.

EMI payment

"We make each outlet pay its EMI and we have also prepaid loans," he said, unwilling to share figures. The venture is nine years old now with 500 people on its rolls, a company spokesperson said.

"We have adopted a non-mall, non-high street profile, keeping our food affordable for the common man, while offering a fine dining cuisine and experience. A meal for two people costs about ₹700. Democratizing fine dining is our credo," he said.