

MARKET WATCH

	07-05-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,277	-0.84
US Dollar	69.43	-0.04
Gold	32,670	-0.15
Brent oil	70.09	-0.87

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	371.90	-7.90
Asian Paints	1387.80	-25.00
Axis Bank	741.85	-5.60
Bajaj Auto	3033.05	6.85
Bajaj Finserv	7561.95	-106.00
Bajaj Finance	3017.05	-17.25
Bharti Airtel	324.95	-8.50
BPCL	378.85	-11.50
Britannia Ind	2650.55	-15.45
Cipla	557.95	-5.40
Coal India	248.80	-2.55
Dr Reddys Lab	2942.45	-21.50
Eicher Motors	20353.20	3.30
GAIL (India)	340.75	-5.50
Grasim Ind	872.35	-24.20
HCL Tech	1131.75	-4.30
HDFC	1966.30	0.85
HDFC Bank	2322.35	-6.10
Hero MotoCorp	2527.35	-3.95
Hindalco	200.45	1.55
Hind Unilever	1697.50	28.60
Indiabulls HFL	678.60	-7.95
ICICI Bank	386.50	-14.80
IndusInd Bank	1515.80	-12.45
Bharti Infratel	268.00	-3.85
Infosys	724.55	6.15
Indian OilCorp	153.45	-3.25
ITC	301.90	-5.10
JSW Steel	288.10	-8.60
Kotak Bank	1408.15	-2.25
L&T	1366.60	13.90
M&M	636.00	-7.65
Maruti Suzuki	6702.00	-7.65
NTPC	134.10	-0.90
ONGC	171.70	1.55
PowerGrid Corp	191.55	1.10
Reliance Ind.	1343.50	-41.40
State Bank	305.45	-3.30
Sun Pharma	448.20	-4.95
Tata Motors	190.95	-8.85
Tata Steel	530.60	-5.35
TCS	2151.95	-5.90
Tech Mahindra	814.65	-5.50
Titan	1086.50	3.65
UltraTech Cement	4531.25	12.70
UPL	951.15	1.35
Vedanta	163.50	-3.25
Wipro	293.85	3.00
YES Bank	164.75	-1.50
Zee Entertainment	369.15	-18.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.23	69.55
Euro	77.39	77.75
British Pound	90.43	90.85
Japanese Yen (100)	62.58	62.89
Chinese Yuan	10.23	10.28
Swiss Franc	67.83	68.14
Singapore Dollar	50.80	51.03
Canadian Dollar	51.39	51.63
Malaysian Ringitt	16.68	16.76

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

May 07 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	40.2	(40.2)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3022	(3017)

Vedanta Q4 profit falls 46% to ₹2,615 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Vedanta reported a 46% dip in its fourth quarter net profit to ₹2,615 crore on a 15% fall in its net sales to ₹23,092 crore due to lower commodity prices, rupee appreciation and lower volume at aluminium and zinc India business.

Mr. Navin Agarwal, chairman, Vedanta Limited, said, “FY2019 was a year of production ramp-up alongside robust financials.”

For FY19, profit dipped by 15% to ₹6,857 crore on a 1% fall in revenue to ₹90,901 crore mainly due to shutdown of Tuticorin smelter, lower volume at zinc and iron ore businesses and lower metal prices.

‘India has overly restrictive market barriers’

Tariff and non-tariff barriers, multiple regulations putting foreign firms at disadvantage: Ross

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

While the U.S. is India’s largest export destination, India is only the 13th largest for the U.S. due to “overly restrictive market access barriers,” U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said on Tuesday.

Rapid growth

“India is already the world’s third largest economy, and by 2030, it will become the world’s largest consumer market because of the rapid growth of the middle class,” Mr. Ross said, while speaking at the Trade Winds conference organised in the national capital.

“Yet, today, India is only the U.S.’s 13th largest export market, due to overly restrictive market access barriers,” he added. “Meanwhile, the



Too much: India’s average applied tariff rate of 13.8% is highest of any major economy, says Wilbur Ross. *AP

U.S. is India’s largest export market, accounting for something like 20% of the total. There is a real imbalance.”

Mr. Ross went on to say that while American technology and expertise can play

an important role to meet India’s developmental needs, U.S. companies faced significant market access barriers in India.

“These include both tariff and non-tariff barriers, as well as multiple practices

Sensex, Nifty tumble for fifth session in a row

Bank stocks lose ground on the back of Essar Steel challenging ArcelorMittal’s bid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The last hour of the trading session saw the Indian benchmark indices lose ground on Tuesday as weak global cues and the recent rally in the markets saw investors squaring off positions in index heavyweights.

The Sensex, which gained over 230 points intra day, finally settled at 38,276.63, down 323.71 points, or 0.84%. Incidentally, the benchmark traded in a range of nearly 600 points during the day before closing near the day’s low of 38,236.18. The broader Nifty ended the day at 11,497.90, down 100.35 points, or 0.87%. This was also the fifth consecutive day of losses for both the benchmarks. “Weak global



cues and a correction to a sharp rally over the last six weeks saw markets tumbling in the last hour,” said Arun Kejriwal of Kejriwal Research & Investment Services.

“While markets could weaken further, one needs to remember that the mega events –election exit poll and actual results – are still eight trading sessions and 12 trading sessions away.”

Incidentally, sentiment also took a beating on the back of Essar Steel again challenging the bid of ArcelorMittal.

“With Essar Steel once again questioning the validity of the bid of ArcelorMittal, it has raised concerns of a delay in the recovery of money by the banks.

“This led to most banking stocks losing ground in the last leg of the trading session,” Abhimanyu Sofat, head of research, IIFL Securities, said. The Nifty Bank index lost 1.12%. The markets had been witnessing an inherent weakness in the recent past that got accentuated after the escalation of trade war between the U.S. and China. On Tuesday, some of the Asian markets managed to regain ground.

Govt. refutes report on discom debt levels

‘Pre-UDAY level prediction incorrect’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The government has refuted reports that debt levels of power distribution companies (discom) have reached the levels they were at before the Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

The UDAY scheme implemented in 2015 was aimed at reducing discom debt levels and improving their efficiency. CRISIL on Monday released a report saying that discom debt was set to increase to pre-UDAY levels of ₹2.6 lakh crore by the end of this financial year.

“Pre-UDAY debt levels of 16 UDAY states with comprehensive MoUs were to the tune of around ₹3.24 lakh crore,” the Ministry of Pow-

er said in a statement. “Therefore the prediction that discom debt at around ₹2.6 lakh crore would reach pre-UDAY levels is not correct.”

The Ministry added that the CRISIL analysis perhaps did not take into account the fact that almost about ₹85,000 crore of debt was yet to be converted into grants or equity by the participating states as per the UDAY plan.

“A deeper analysis of discom debt would reveal a tighter fiscal management by discoms,” the government added in the statement. “Discoms have managed their finances with around ₹40,000 crore less than what was expected under UDAY.”

Royal Enfield recalls about 7,000 Bullets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Royal Enfield on Tuesday announced the recall of nearly 7,000 units of its Bullet and Bullet Electra models to rectify a faulty brake caliper bolt.

The company said it is undertaking proactive field service action, concerning brake caliper bolt on motorcycles of the two models made between March 20, 2019 and April 30, 2019.

“This is because service investigations revealed that the torque maintained on brake caliper bolts, as supplied by vendor, on a few of these motorcycles were not as per stringent Royal Enfield quality standards,” the company said in a statement.

U.S. market plunges on China trade fight

Tech stocks bore brunt of selling

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEW YORK

Stocks are falling sharply on Wall Street as the U.S. and China move closer to an escalation of their trade fight. At 10.50 p.m. IST, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 506 points or 1.9% to 25,931. The Nasdaq fell 175 points, or 2.2%, to 7,947. Technology firms, which rely heavily on trade with China, bore the brunt of the sell-

ing on Tuesday. Apple lost 2.1% and Microsoft gave back 2.2%

China’s top economic official will travel to Washington this week ahead of a Friday deadline by which the U.S. said it would sharply raise tariffs on Chinese goods. Safe-play sectors like utilities held up better than the rest.

The S&P 500 fell 54 points, or 1.9%, to 2,877.

ECube ropes in Badrinarayanan

He formerly headed MSCI in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

ECube, an ESG (environment, social and governance) platform launched by a group of former Tata executives including Mukund Rajan, Govind Sankaranarayanan and Alan Rosling, announced the appointment of Chandru Badrinarayanan as managing partner. Early this year, ECube had announced a fund raise of \$1 billion jointly with Quantum Advisors.

Mr. Badrinarayanan was till recently executive director and head of MSCI’s India business and has more than 30 years of experience across financial markets, business strategy, risk management, analytics, ratings,

sales and banking, among other segments.

ESG research

He would be involved in institutional investor engagement, ESG research, investee company interactions, investment monitoring, IP management and new business development, ECube said in a statement.

“Chandru is a pioneer of the ESG movement in India, and with his sophisticated understanding of the key drivers of ESG improvement, will add huge value to our agenda of behavioural change in corporate India in favour of better ESG performance,” the statement said, quoting ECube chairman Mukund Rajan.



Wrong claim: Essar’s promoters allege that Mr. Lakshmi Mittal misled courts on business ties with his brothers. *AFP

‘ArcelorMittal hid vital facts to acquire Essar’

Misled CoC, courts: Essar promoters

PIYUSH PANDEY MUMBAI

ArcelorMittal and its promoter Lakshmi Mittal conspired to suppress vital facts to acquire Essar Steel, its promoters have alleged.

In their petition to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), Essar Steel promoters said that Mr. Lakshmi Mittal and his company misled the Committee of Creditors (CoC), the Supreme Court and NCLAT into believing that they ceased to have any business association with brothers Pramod Mittal and Vinod Mittal and their companies.

2018, Mr. Lakshmi Mittal was a co-promoter of one Navoday Consultants Ltd. (Navoday) along with his brothers Mr. Pramod and Mr. Vinod, and that Navoday was a promoter of GPI Textiles, Balasore Alloys and Gontermann Peipers.

These facts made it clear that ArcelorMittal had suppressed and concealed from the CoC and all courts that its promoter Mr. Lakshmi Mittal continued to have business relations with his brothers Mr. Pramod and Mr. Vinod, and was thus ineligible to submit a resolution plan under Section 29A of the IBC, ESAHL stated.

ArcelorMittal denies

When asked for comments, ArcelorMittal said, “This is the latest in a long line of frivolous attempts by the defaulting promoters of Essar Steel to distract from the central fact that Indian lenders have declared ArcelorMittal as the most credible owner of Essar Steel.”

ArcelorMittal had stated on numerous occasions that there was absolutely no business connection between Mr. Lakshmi Mittal and his brothers. The latest allegations of Essar Steel promoters are yet another attempt to subvert the directions of the Supreme Court, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), a critical government legislation, ArcelorMittal said.

Naresh Goyal hopes Jet Airways will fly again

Tells staff he is awaiting outcome of BLRP

LALATENDU MISHRA MUMBAI

Jet Airways founder and promoter Naresh Goyal has expressed the hope the airline will fly again after the completion of the bank-led resolution plan (BLRP).

“At the onset of the 26th anniversary of Jet Airways, the mood was sombre, poignant. Neeta [his wife Anita Goyal] and I were moved beyond words to see ... your continued commitment and confidence in Jet Airways,” he said in a letter to the staff.

“We are unable to reciprocate and respond to each of you individually owing to the prevailing circumstances,” Mr. Goyal said adding “further to my communication of 25th March 2019, since stepping down from our respective positions, Neeta and I have had no role at Jet Airways.”

He said he had made available ₹250 crore from a group company to the banks with the hope for recapitalisation and even had pledged his shareholding in the



airline. Besides, he had stepped down as chairman and Ms. Goyal from the board as per the wish of lenders.

“I hope and pray that the banks will finalise the bidders on the 10th of May and move forward in the interest of all employees,” he said.

Mr. Goyal said, “Neeta and I are anxiously hoping that there will be a positive outcome on the 10th of May 2019 as per the BLRP deadline.

“We both fervently pray that the “joy of flying” (the airline’s tagline) may once more bring cheer and solace to all of you.”

‘U.S. to propose hike in H-1B application fee’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON

The U.S. plans to hike the H-1B visa application fee to increase funding for the expansion of an apprentice programme, Labour Secretary Alexander Acosta has told American lawmakers, a move that would impose additional financial burden on Indian IT companies.

Testifying before a Congressional committee on the annual budget of the Department of Labor for the fiscal year 2020 beginning October 1, 2019, he said that the Labour Department has also made changes to the H-1B application forms to ensure greater transparency and better protect American workers from employers seeking to misuse the programme.

Mr. Acosta, however, did not give details of the proposed increase. But given past experience, Indian IT companies, which account for a large number of H-1B applications, are likely to face additional financial burden because of this.

IN BRIEF



GMR to raise \$350 mn to expand Delhi airport

HYDERABAD
Delhi International Airport Ltd., a GMR Group firm, plans to raise \$350 million through 10-year senior secured bonds for airport expansion. Moody's has assigned a Ba2 rating for the proposed issue. Proceeds would be used to increase the passenger handling capacity of the Indira Gandhi International Airport to up to 100 million passengers a year which may cost up to ₹9,800 crore over a three-year development phase, Moody's said. PTI

Tata, TVS arms to unveil plan for women drivers

CHENNAI
Tata Motors Ltd. along with TVS Auto Assist (TVS AA) will roll out 'Women Assist Program' on June 1 to assist women drivers of Tata Motors' passenger vehicles. The programme would cover 14 locations and provide quick service-related solutions pertaining to accidents, battery-related issues, flat tyres, empty fuel tank issues or a mechanical breakdown, according to a company statement.

TAFE inks pact with PCRA on energy use

CHENNAI
TAFE has signed a pact with Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) to aid efficient utilisation of energy in agriculture. Under the pact, workshops would be held, involving TAFE dealership in making farmers aware on the advantages of better maintenance of tractors, resulting in lower fuel consumption. This would help farmers maximise productivity and profitability.

B2B tech start-ups treble in 5 years: study

Driven by a spurt in the need for digital transformation of enterprises, financial institutions and SMEs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Business-to-business (B2B) technology start-ups have more than trebled in the last five years driven by the spurt in the need for digital transformation of enterprises, financial institutions, hospitals, government and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), among others.

While the number of such ventures has increased from 900 to over 3,200, the investment in such start-ups touched \$3.7 billion in 2018, a rise of 364% from \$797 million in 2014, as per a study jointly done by NetApp and Zinnov.

According to the study, 70% of the B2B start-ups are in the area of enterprise technology, financial technology and health technology.



Pick-up steam: Study says 70% of B2B start-ups are in health, enterprise and financial technology space. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

gy. Some of the other segments that have a significant presence are alternative lending, expense management, medical internet of things and artificial intelligence-enabled predictive platforms.

Incidentally, while the number of B2B technology

were 2,200 such B2C ventures in 2014.

Within the B2B technology segment, 'advanced tech start-ups' have grown at a higher pace when compared to the entire technology start-up segment. Advanced B2B tech start-ups typically deal in 3D printing, blockchain and robotic process automation.

Bengaluru leads
Interestingly, Bengaluru is the top city for B2B technology start-ups followed by Delhi NCR and Mumbai, with the three cities accounting for about 60% of all B2B technology start-ups.

Further, Hyderabad, Pune and Chennai are poised to be the growing start-up hubs on account of flexible economic policies, State government

support and access to various industries.

On a different note, corporate incubators and accelerators are emerging as the backbone of start-up technology, as per the study.

"Currently, there are over 50 corporate accelerators and incubators in the country, focussing on technologies such as AI/ML, Big Data, Cloud, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, among others," according to the study.

"While global accelerators hold a majority with 66% of the share, 34% of the pie comprises Indian companies. Varied in their philosophy, the accelerators have an aim to offer support in the form of market access, mentorship, investor-connect and access to product platforms," added the study.



Packing a punch: The vehicle comes with a 1396 cc DI engine and has a payload capacity of 1,100 kg.

Tata Motors develops compact truck Intra

To aid faster goods transportation

LALATENDU MISHRA
AAMBY VALLEY CITY, MAHARASHTRA

Tata Motors Ltd. has developed a compact truck that will find application in intra city and intercity transportation of goods.

Tata Intra, a small commercial vehicle (SCV) which would be commercially launched towards the end of this month, would compete with Ashok Leyland's Dost as well as some other vehicles in this segment.

The company, for the first time on Monday, previewed a commercial vehicle to highlight its special features as well as to receive feedback from stakeholders.

R.T. Wasan, vice-president, sales and marketing, commercial vehicle business unit, Tata Motors Ltd., said, "This all new vehicle is rugged and powerful. It combines the rising levels of visual richness and sophistication with robustness and reliability.

"With its class-leading performance, comfort and convenience features, the Tata Intra is all set to create and dominate the market," he said.

Mr. Wasan said like the Tata Ace, the Tata Intra would provide livelihood and higher income for the buyers.

Tata Ace sales
Starting from 2005, Tata Motors had sold more than 20 lakh Tata Aces which are manufactured at the company's plant at Pantnagar. Tata Intra would also be manufactured at this facility.

Tata Motors would continue to manufacture Tata Ace, even after the BS VI phase, which has demand from the market.

The company said Intra would provide a more powerful driving experience, transporting goods faster. The vehicle comes with a powerful 1396 cc DI engine with 70 HP and 140 Nm torque for faster trip.

The vehicle has a five-speed gear box and 14-inch radial tubeless tyres for better control. It has a payload capacity of 1100 kg and a maximum speed of 80 km per hour.

Tata Motors hopes that this vehicle would do better in the performance segment which is estimated at two lakh units a year.

(This writer was in Aamby Valley City at the invitation of the company.)

UiPath bets on India for talent, technology

To train more than 1 million students

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

UiPath, the Bucharest-based robotics process automation (RPA) firm that recently raised \$568 million funding at a valuation of \$7 billion, said it would design and develop some of its key products for global markets from India.

The company also has a mandate to train more than a million students and techies around the globe, including five lakh in India, for RPA-related jobs by 2022.

UiPath's India president and CEO Raghunath Subramanian said the company would kick off a year-long campaign to train half a million students in the country

on RPA-related technologies.

"Globally, there is a huge shortage of talent in the RPA space. India, with its large pool of student population, is at a vantage position to play a catalyst's role in bridging the global talent gap. India has the potential to emerge as the RPA epicentre of the world. RPA is the next big opportunity for the technology industry," said Mr. Subramanian.

UiPath's campaign would be aimed at democratising RPA. The company said it would rope in various stakeholders, including government, academic institutions and industry bodies, including CII and the Nasscom.

WS Industries initiates process to settle dues to the lender

To allow Abhishaya Infrastructure to take over subsidiary

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

City-based WS Industries India Ltd. has set in motion the process of diluting its majority holding in its subsidiary WS T&D Ltd. to its lender Abhishaya Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. (AIPL), according to a regulatory filing.

WS T&D is a subsidiary of WS Industries, which makes porcelain insulators for electrical transmission lines. WS Industries wound up its operations on November 29, 2018 following suspension of production and settlement with workers.

To clear its outstanding dues, WS Industries has decided to transfer its immova-

ble property (measuring 6.64 hectares) in the city to its subsidiary WS T&D.

As part consideration for the transfer of the property, WS T&D has decided to take over the outstanding loan owed to AIPL. The loan clause contains an option in favour of the lender to convert the outstanding amount into equity shares of WS T&D.

Further, WS T&D had raised funds from AIPL by issuance of compulsorily convertible debentures and fresh equity shares representing 49% of its equity share capital. On its part, WS Industries had transferred to AIPL all the compulsorily

convertible debentures held by it in the subsidiary, WS Industries said.

All such, compulsorily convertible debentures held by AIPL are convertible into equity shares at the option of the debenture-holder, the note said.

AIPL is likely to acquire majority equity shares in WS T&D as and when it exercise its option to convert the aforesaid loans and the compulsorily convertible debentures, along with the equity shares of the subsidiary already held by it. WS Industries also proposes to transfer, sell or dispose-off immovable property of 47.77 acres of Vizag unit.