MARKET WATCH

	01-07-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,686	0.74
US Dollar	68.94	0.13
Gold	34,140	-0.37
Brent oil	65.04	-2.38

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	413.25	3.05
Asian Paints	1353.85	-4.30
Axis Bank	810.45	1.90
Bajaj Auto	2911.95	84.90
Bajaj Finserv	8521.05	-3.60
Bajaj Finance	3699.00	17.90
Bharti Airtel	348.50	1.85
BPCL	376.20	-16.25
Britannia Ind	2737.55	-6.15
Cipla	555.80	2.35
Coal India	249.25	-4.55
Dr Reddys Lab	2654.85	104.40
Eicher Motors	19625.30	486.50
GAIL (India)	312.70	0.75
Grasim Ind	920.00	5.90
HCL Tech	1049.10	-15.55
HDFC	2245.90	53.80
HDFC Bank	2485.55	41.80
Hero MotoCorp	2616.50	35.00
Hindalco	208.90	1.85
Hind Unilever	1780.20	-7.40
Indiabulls HFL	621.95	14.25
ICICI Bank	439.00	1.90
IndusInd Bank	1433.60	23.10
Bharti Infratel	265.65	-1.40
Infosys	731.30	-0.70
Indian OilCorp	151.65	-4.25
ITC	274.95	1.10
JSW Steel	275.75	-0.85
Kotak Bank	1481.20	4.10
L&T	1556.65	3.45
M&M	660.00	4.65
Maruti Suzuki	6507.85	-26.80
NTPC	142.55	1.20
ONGC	161.00	-6.75
PowerGrid Corp	207.05	0.15
Reliance Ind	1268.85	15.75
State Bank	361.55	0.30
Sun Pharma	405.35	4.40
Tata Motors	168.00	5.45
Tata Steel	506.95	2.55
TCS	2239.55	12.35
Tech Mahindra	704.65	-1.95
Titan	1323.20	-11.50
UltraTech Cement	4526.65	-29.20
UPL	948.20	10.75
Vedanta	174.05	-0.30
Wipro	282.00	1.50
YES Bank	109.15	0.40
Zee Entertainment	358.35	19.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 01

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.75	69.07
Euro	78.02	78.38
British Pound	86.93	87.34
Japanese Yen (100)	63.48	63.78
Chinese Yuan	10.04	10.10
Swiss Franc	70.05	70.38
Singapore Dollar	50.79	51.03
Canadian Dollar	52.48	52.75
Malaysian Ringitt	16.61	16.70

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

July 01 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	40.7	(40.6)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3216	(3254)

Core sector growth slows to 5.1%

For May, refinery sector leads slowdown with 1.5% contraction; steel grows 19.8%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Growth in the core sectors of the economy slowed to 5.1% in May 2019 led by slowing growth in the coal and refinery products sector, according to official data released on Monday.

The Index of Eight Core Industries saw growth slowing in May from the nine-month high of 6.3% registered in April. Nevertheless, the growth in May is the highest since July 2018, not counting April.

Losing steam: The coal sector saw growth slowing to 1.8% from 3.2%. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Coal slows to 1.8%

The slowdown in May was led by the refinery sector, which saw a contraction of 1.5% compared with a growth of 4.3% in the previous month. The coal sector also saw growth slowing to 1.8% from 3.2% over the same period. The crude oil sector witnessed a continued contraction for the eighteenth consecutive month in May, with growth contracting 6.96% in that month compared with a contraction of 6.75% in April.

The natural gas sector remained flat in May, registering zero growth, compared with a contraction of 0.75% in April. The strongest performer of the eight sectors under consideration was the steel sector. The sector grew 19.8% in May, up from a growth of 18.97% in the previous month. The fertilizer sector contracted again in May, by 1.03%, compared with a contraction of 4.4% in April.

> Fertilizers shrunk again in May by 1.03%, compared with a contraction of 4.4% in April

Cement growth subdued

The cement sector continued to witness subdued growth, of 2.75% in May, up marginally from the 2.28% seen in April.

The sector averaged a growth of 13.3% in financial year 2018-19. The electricity sector, further buoyed by increased demand in the summer months, grew 7.23% in May, compared with 5.99% in April.

Lenders discuss DHFL's future

Banks look for early signals, seek to take proactive steps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A group of bankers to cash-strapped mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) met on Monday to discuss the road ahead for the troubled lender defaulted on commercial paper last month and had to delay interest payment to investors in non-convertible debentures, due to a liquidity crunch.

While DHFL has not defaulted on bank loans, banks have been told by the regulator to be alert and identify early-warning signals and take appropriate measures proactively.

The lenders discussed the way forward for the company in line with the June 7 circular of the Reserve Bank of India on resolution of stressed assets. Sources said the possibility of signing an intercreditor agreement (ICA) on the lines of the June 7 circular was discussed.

However, to implement the RBI norms on resolution of stressed assets, a borrower needs to be in default with the bank, which is not the case for DHFL. Sources said DHFL is an SMA 0 category for some banks which means principal or interest payment has not been overdue for more than 30 days but that the account is showing signs of incipient stress.

Banks can still restructure the loan if there is a mutual agreement between the lender and the borrower, a senior official from a public sector bank said. In case of a debt restructuring, the account has to be classified as non-performing. "We have to see if certain dispensations are permitted by RBI," said the official. Bankers will meet again later this week to discuss the contours of the road ahead for the housing finance company (HFC).

Many HFCs have been facing a liquidity crunch since September after the IL&FS debt default, as banks have become reluctant to lend to the sector. Hence, the cost of funds for HFCs has gone up sharply, impacting business growth.

DHFL has been monetising assets to pay its dues in the absence of bank finance. It is also looking for a partner to sell promoters' stake.

Ratings agency ICRA has downgraded the DHFL commercial paper to default grade after the firm delayed interest payment to NCD holders.

ICICI Bank, PNB slash lending rates by 10, 5 bps

Home, auto loan interest rates to fall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Interest rates on home and auto loans are set to come down with leading commercial banks beginning to reduce their MCLR, the benchmark lending rate, in response to the Reserve Bank of India's decision to cut the repo rate last month.

ICICI Bank has reduced its one-year MCLR (marginal cost of funds based lending rate) by 10 basis points (bps) to 8.65%, while Punjab National Bank has reduced it by 5 bps to 8.4%.

The new rate is effective from Monday. Most floating rate loans are linked to one-year MCLR. More banks are expected to follow suit. Last month, the central bank reduced the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.75%. In 2019, the repo rate has been reduced by a cumulative 75 bps.

Slow response

Banks' response to interest rate reduction by RBI has been slow as lending rates have fallen by only 21 bps in response to 50 bps rate cut by RBI between February and April.

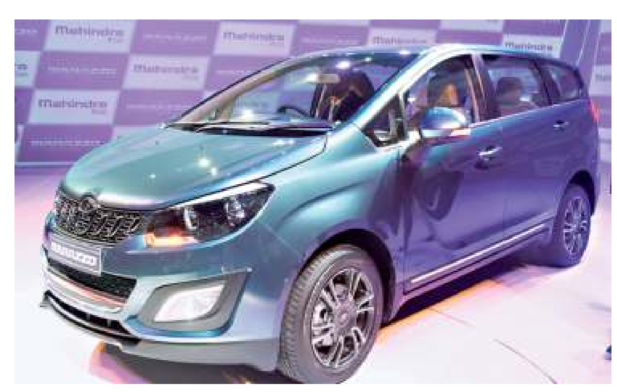
"Transmission of the cumulative reduction of 50 bps in the policy repo rate in February and April 2019 was 21 bps to the weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh rupee loans," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said during the last monetary policy review on June 6.

Automobile sales continue to slump

Poor consumer sentiment drives figures down a spiral in June; only Mahindra's PVs buck trend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Indian auto industry continued to pass through a tough time in June 2019 with declining sales due to the ongoing NBFC crisis, liquidity issues, high interest rates and economic uncertainties in the market.



Against the grain: M&M was spurred by the recently launched XUV 300, Marazzo (in pic) and Alturas G4. ▪ PAUL NORONHA

Maruti Suzuki Ltd. reported an overall sales decline of 14% to 1,24,708 units compared to 1,44,981 units in June 2018, including exports.

While exports were up 5%, the total domestic passenger vehicles sales were down 17.2% at 1,11,014 units.

Hyundai Motor India also reported a dip in sales of 3.2%. The firm posted a domestic sales of 42,007 units as compared to 45,314 in the same period last year and exports stood at 16,800 units against 15,408 units.

However, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) despite reporting overall lower sales volume has become the only automaker to report positive numbers in the passenger vehicles (utility vehicles, cars and vans) segment for the month of June, 2019.

The passenger vehicles segment grew 4% in June 2019 to 18,826 vehicles .Growth was led by its three recent product launches namely XUV 300, Marazzo and Alturas G4.

For June 2019 M&M sold 17,723 utility vehicles, a growth of 8%. Commercial vehicles sales were down 15% at 16,394 units, medium and heavy commercial vehicles sales were down 36% and exports were also down at 11%. The company's overall sales stood at 42,547 vehicles, compared to 45,155 vehicles in June 2018.

Veejay Ram Nakra, chief of sales and marketing, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd. said, "The market sentiment continued to remain subdued, especially in the passenger vehicles segment."

Tata Motors' commercial and passenger vehicles domestic business sales fell 14% to 49,073 units.

Commercial vehicles (CV) domestic sales, at 35,722 units, registered a drop of 7%. PV domestic sales dropped by 27% to 13,351 units.

Funding woes

Girish Wagh, president, CV business unit, Tata Motors said, "Both M&HCV and the SCV segments have been hit by poor consumer sentiment, falling freight rates and difficulty of funding from NBFCs. The progress of the monsoon will be a key factor for the revival of demand in certain segments over the next quarter."

Ashok Leyland Ltd reported a 19% decline in total vehicles sales at 12,810.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor reported a 19% decline in total sales at 11,365 units.

CRI Group invests $5 mn in U.S., Mexico

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

CRI Group, which is into fluid management solutions, has invested ₹35 crore ($5 million), setting up facilities in the U.S. and Mexico. G. Soundararajan, vice chairman, said the plant in the U.S. will take up minor assembly works of units exported from here and supply borewell products, waste water pumps, pressure boosting and industrial pumps in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean countries.

"We have been catering to the U.S. and Mexico markets, supplying through distributors. We wanted to provide after sales service and have facilities to grow there. One of the products launched there is for mining application," he said.

Manufacturing PMI dips to 52.1

'Softer rise in new orders led to slower increase in output'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Manufacturing activity slowed in June due to lesser number of new orders, according to a private sector survey.

The Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index stood at 52.1 in June, down from the three-month high of 52.7 in May. A reading over 50 indicates an expansion, while one below 50 denotes a contraction in activity. "The Indian manufacturing sector lost growth momentum in June, following an acceleration in May," the report said. "A softer increase in new work intakes translated into slower rises in output and employment, while the upturn in quantities of purchases strengthened."

The IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index® (PMI®)

was at 52.1 in June, down from May's three-month high of 52.7, but still signalling an improvement in operating conditions across the sector," the report added.

"That said, the average PMI reading for the opening quarter of FY20 was the lowest recorded since the second quarter of FY18."

According to the report, consumer goods was the key source of growth, with the sector registering robust increases in sales, output, and employment in June.

The intermediate goods sector saw a modest expansion in production and new work, but employment stagnated. Operating conditions in the capital goods sector were broadly unchanged, the report added. "PMI data highlighted a slight setback in the Indian manufacturing sector during June," Pollyanna De Lima, Principal Economist at IHS Markit said.

"Upbeat growth projections continued to underpin job creation and the stockpiling of inputs, but cracks appeared in the form of a softer rise in employment and waning optimism," she added. A continued decline in unfinished business indicates excess capacity among goods producers, which could mean that job creation may come to a halt in the near-term in the event that demand growth fails to revive, Ms. De Lima added.

RBI may get more powers to regulate NBFCs: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government is considering strengthening the Reserve Bank of India's regulatory and supervisory powers over non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The RBI was monitoring the liquidity position of NBFCs and would continue to monitor the activity and performance of the sector with a focus on major entities and their interlinkages with other sectors. The RBI had also informed that to strengthen the NBFCs and maintain stability of the financial system, it has been taking necessary regulatory and supervisory steps, she added.

ICRA CEO Naresh Takkar goes on leave pending probe

Chief financial officer Vipul Agarwal appointed interim CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The managing director and group chief executive officer of ICRA Naresh Takkar has gone on leave amid a regulatory probe into alleged interference by the agency's officials to ensure good rating to troubled IL&FS.

He will remain on leave until the probe into the matter is completed.

In a statement on Monday, the rating major said that while Mr. Takkar had gone on leave, chief financial officer Vipul Agarwal had been appointed the interim chief operating officer.

Naresh Takkar

Anonymous complaint

"The Board of Directors… decided, pending the completion of the examination of the concerns raised in the anonymous representation that was forwarded to the company by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to place Mr. Naresh Takkar on leave, effective immediately, until further notice," the rating agency said in a statement on Monday. "The Board of Directors has also decided to appoint Mr. Vipul Agarwal as interim chief operating officer, ICRA, apart from his role as group chief financial officer, ICRA, effective from today," the statement added.

Adjudication

The latest statement comes nearly two months after the company, without naming IL&FS or any of its subsidiaries, disclosed that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has initiated adjudication proceedings in a matter related to ratings assigned to one of its clients and its subsidiaries.

It further disclosed that the SEBI had also forwarded an anonymous complaint that it received against the company.

Orchid: NCLT rejects dissent from PNB

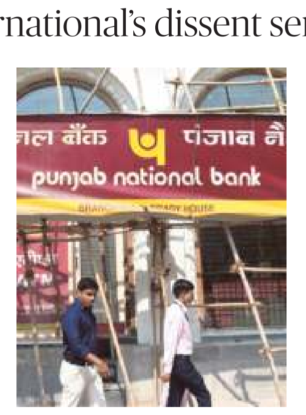
Sets aside PNB International's dissent sent via email after voting in favour of plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Chennai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) rejected the dissent expressed by Punjab National Bank International Ltd., while approving the resolution plan submitted by Dhanuka Laboratories for Orchid Pharma last week.

Punjab National Bank International, one of the financial creditors to Orchid, had initially voted in favour of the plan through e-voting. But before the results were declared, it had sent an email changing its decision from 'assenting' to 'dissenting'. Considering the dissent, the voting for the resolution plan was 65.53% (the requirement was 66%).

"Since the financial creditor has not placed any grievances before this bench except sending an email, we are of the view that simply



sending email against its voting approving the resolution plan need not be taken into consideration against the approval given by this financial creditor at the time of e-voting," NCLT said.

Further, the bench also clarified on the aspect of the resolution plan being lower than the liquidation value.

"It is a fact that this Resolution Plan value i.e. ₹570 crore is lesser than the liquidation value i.e. ₹1,309 crore. Normally, the Resolution Plan value will always remain more than the liquidation value," it added.

NCLT said when the question was put to the resolution professional, he had explained that in addition to ₹570 crore that Dhanuka agreed to pay the creditors, Orchid has cash and bank balance of ₹321.98 crore and the firm has an amount of ₹184.06 crore reversed to it by State Bank of India pursuant to the order by NCLT, according to the resolution professional.

Dhanuka has also proposed to infuse ₹40 crore as equity into Orchid. All these heads together having become ₹1,116. 04 crore, almost equivalent to the liquidation value of the company, the resolution professional said it could not be considered as resolution plan value being considerably less than the liquidation value of ₹1,309 crore. "… Since there is no other plan more feasible and viable than this plan and there being no mandate under this quote saying that the Resolution Plan value shall always be more than the liquidation value of the Corporate Debtor, in order to let this company remain as going concern and to close out this long-drawn process, we hereby approve this Resolution Plan," NCLT said.

In August 2017, the NCLT ordered insolvency proceedings against Orchid in a case filed by Lakshmi Vilas Bank.

Orchid reportedly owed ₹3,200 crore to a consortium of 24 banks, and figured in RBI's second list that had the names of 28 large defaulters. Earlier, a resolution plan by U.S.-based Ingen was scrapped after the company failed to bring the up front payment.

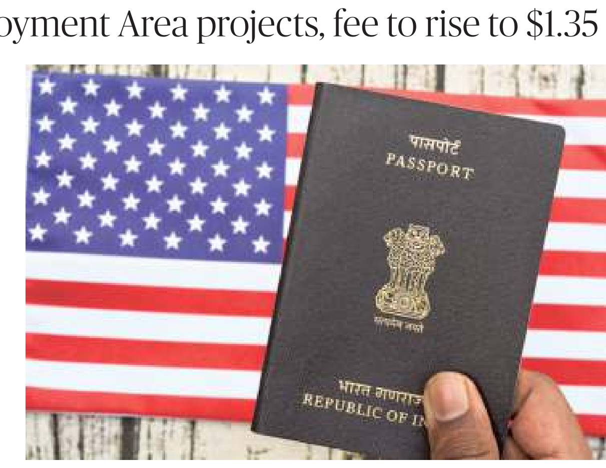
U.S. EB-5 applications to become dearer

For Targeted Employment Area projects, fee to rise to $1.35 mn from $500,000

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

The United States has decided to effect a steep increase in the application fee for its Immigrant Investor Visa Programme, EB-5.

Although a hike was under consideration since January 2017, the U.S. administration kept pushing the decision, at least half a dozen times, until the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) took a final call on June 29, 2019 after it completed its review of the EB-5 modernisation regulations.



EB-5 is probably the quickest legal route for immigrants to get permanent residency in the U.S. ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Under the revised scheme, the application fee for projects under Targeted Employment Areas, will go up to $1.35 million from the current $500,000. The standard minimum investment will also rise to $1.8 million from the existing $1 million.

The date of the new fee implementation and details of the final regulation will be known in the next 60 days through a publication in the Federal Register.

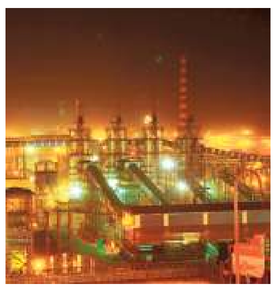
As of now, EB-5 could probably be the quickest legal route available for immigrants to get Green Card and permanent residency in the U.S.

Mark Davies, global chairman, Davies & Associates, said: "Large number of Indians are motivated to apply for EB-5 in order to improve their children's education and employment prospects. Since a whole family could receive green cards from just a single application, the arithmetic of an EB-5 investment might still make sense in the event of a fee hike."

The normal waiting period used to be less than two years, but with India recently reaching retrogression (investors from the country fully utilised the existing cap of 700 EB-5 visas for the October-September fiscal), the waiting period is likely to get longer up to five years or more.

EB-5 investments that go into various sectors in the U.S., including hospitality and realty, are monitored and regulated by the U.S. Immigration Services and Securities Exchange Commission. India has a large number of families and entrepreneurs who are keen to take this route, especially when H-1B visa is under stringent scrutiny. However, the fee hike might cool off the investor interest for EB-5 adoption, opined immigration professionals.

IN BRIEF



SFIO files complaint in Bhushan Steel case

NEW DELHI

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) filed a 70,000-page complaint in the Bhushan Steel case wherein the probe agency has found "extreme misuse" of the corporate structure by the promoters which reduced corporate governance requirements to paper formalities, sources said. Bhushan Steel had defaulted on loans and the banks had to take a haircut of over ₹20,000 crore as part of the resolution process. PTI

SBI, NIIF in pact for funding infra projects

MUMBAI

India's banking behemoth, the State Bank of India (SBI), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) on Monday to boost availability of capital for infrastructure projects, the bank said in a statement. The scope of the agreement includes equity investments, project funding, bond financing, renewable energy support and take-out finance for operating assets.

OMCs reduce aviation turbine fuel, LPG prices

MUMBAI

State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have reduced the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for domestic and international airlines effective July 1. For domestic airlines, the ATF prices were reduced by between ₹3,200 and ₹3,900 per kilolitre in the four metros. They also reduced the price for a non-subsidised LPG 14 kg cylinder by ₹100 and that of a subsidised cylinder by ₹3.

Auditor sees loss understatement, net worth erosion at McLeod

Marks bulk tea producer's net loss at ₹1,826.1 cr. against ₹4.4 cr. reported earlier

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The statutory auditor of bulk tea producer McLeod Russel India Ltd. (MRIL) has made several adverse observations about the company's 2018-19 financial statements, including a ₹1,821.7-crore loss understatement, a negative networth, and a trail of inter-corporate deposits (ICDs) for which no provision had been made.

A regulatory filing by MRIL, which has been on an asset-selling spree for over a year, showed that after adjustment for audit qualifications, MRIL's net loss was ₹1,826.1 crore against the ₹4.4 crore reported earlier, while its net worth was ₹147.7 crore negative against ₹1,763 crore shown earlier. The management of MRIL, which has tea estates in Assam, Africa and Vietnam, however, disagreed with most of the qualifications. It said that its losses were due to the downturn of the tea industry and also operational issues such as increased production costs. The MRIL management said that many of the ICDs extended to group companies have been repaid and it was looking for further refinancing to address its present liquidity issues.

Way uncertain: The auditor felt that recovery of ₹1,744.7 cr. of ICDs given to companies was doubtful. ▪GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The statutory auditor – Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP – said at the end of fiscal 2019, ₹1,744.7 crore of ICDs had been given to promoter group companies and other companies. However, it felt that recovery was doubtful considering the financial conditions of these companies. The company had not made any provision for the outstanding amounts.

Drawing attention to recognition of ₹67.8 crore of sundry income by MRIL, it said that these may have been reflected only by book entries.

Madhu Jayanti in ₹6 cr.-deal for Eveready's tea packet brands

Sees domestic business rising nearly threefold in five years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Kolkata-based Madhu Jayanti International Pvt. Ltd. (MJIPL) said it sees major gains in the acquisition of tea packet brands of Eveready Industries India Ltd., through a national footprint, especially in rural areas where the brands are well-distributed via EIIL's distribution channels.

Wider price range

"We expect this buy to give us a single-shot entry into the rural areas and tier 1 and tier 2 towns in 14 States, where we do not have a big presence now. It will also allow us to offer products at a wider price range," Sumit Shah, executive director, MJIPL, said at a press meet.

> **We expect this buy to give us a single-shot entry into the rural areas and tier 1 and 2 towns**
>
> SUMIT SHAH,
> Executive director, MJIPL

The ₹6-crore acquisition is set to be formalised on July 4.

Mr. Shah said that he did not expect the turn of events at EIIL, where PwC has stepped down as auditor, to cast any shadow on the forthcoming deal.

The 75-year-old MJIPL's business comprises packet teas, tea bags and private labels, with exports at ₹261 crore in 2018-19 accounting for a bulk of its ₹390-crore turnover in 2018-19.

The company sees its ₹129-crore domestic business rising to ₹350 crore in five years.

It hopes to utilise EIIL's distribution channels to sell its tea in rural areas too. MJIPL has tea packaging plant in Kolkata, Guwahati, Coimbatore and Vladivostok in Russia.

In a regulatory filing with exchanges, Eveready Industries India Ltd. said that it would enter into an asset transfer/assignment, licence agreement with Madhu Jayanti International for transfer and/or licence of the relevant trademarks, valued at ₹6 crore and other identified assets relating to packet tea products.

Allow debt-linked savings scheme, says MF association

Seeks tax parity for retirement, pension schemes and NPS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) wants the government to allow introduction of debt linked savings scheme to deepen the bond market and bring parity in terms of tax treatment for pension and retirement schemes of mutual funds and the national pension scheme.

Besides, it also seeks to remove the tax arbitrage between investment products like equity mutual funds and unit linked insurance plans.

As part of its proposals submitted to the government ahead of the Union Budget, the umbrella body of asset management companies of India has stated that a debt linked savings scheme (DLSS) can be introduced on the lines of equity linked savings scheme (ELSS) that will aid in the government's plans of increasing investment in the infrastructure segment.

"It is proposed to introduce 'Debt Linked Savings Scheme' on the lines of Equity Linked Savings Scheme to channelise long-term savings of retail investors into corporate bond market, which would help deepen the Indian bond market," the AMFI paper stated.

"At least 80% of the funds collected under DLSS shall be invested in debentures and bonds of companies as permitted under SEBI Mutual Fund Regulations," it added.

The industry body has further suggested that the government can provide tax benefits for investments up to ₹1.5 lakh in DLSS with a lock-in period of five years, similar to a tax-saving bank fixed deposit.

The association has further requested the government to do away with the levy of capital gains tax in instances where an investor switches within the same scheme like moving from growth option to dividend or vice versa.

Liberty Steel buys Arcelor's Europe assets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Liberty Steel said on Monday it had acquired seven steel making units and five service centres from ArcelorMittal in Europe for €740 million (around ₹5,782 crore), according to a company statement.

Indian-origin metals tycoon Sanjeev Gupta-owned company has acquired the major integrated steel works at Ostrava in the Czech Republic and Galati in Romania as well as rolling mills at Skopje (North Macedonia), Piombino (Italy), Dudelange (Luxembourg) and two plants near Liege in Belgium, it said.

These seven sites employ over 14,000 people.

Reliance Infra plans to lease out Mumbai corporate office building

Company is in talks with PEs to raise about ₹3,000 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Reliance Infrastructure is planning to monetise its corporate office 'Reliance Center' located in Santacruz East, Mumbai, to pare its debt.

"Reliance Infrastructure will continue to own the premises and monetisation will be by way of long-term lease. The company will utilise 100% of the proceeds for debt reduction," the company said in a statement.

The company is in talks with a group of global private equity firms, including Blackstone, to raise about ₹3,000 crore from the asset monetisation plan.

Money spinner: Reliance Center (in pic) is spread across 6.95 lakh square feet area. ▪PRASHANT WAYDANDE

Reliance Center is spread across 6.95 lakh square feet area on a plot of 15,514 sq m.

The office is adjacent to Mumbai's Western Express Highway and is in proximity to Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Terminal, the Bandra-Kurla-Complex business district, and close to the upcoming Santacruz Metro Station. The staff operating from the centre would be relocated to multiple properties owned by the group across Mumbai, including Ballard Estate.