

MARKET WATCH

	13-09-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,385	0.76
US Dollar	70.92	0.30
Gold	38,695	0.18
Brent oil	60.43	0.68

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	374.20	1.75
Asian Paints	1548.20	7.90
Axis Bank	674.25	11.35
Bajaj Auto	2878.20	26.00
Bajaj Finserv	7388.75	96.80
Bajaj Finance	3427.55	45.00
Bharti Airtel	343.05	-4.50
BPCCL	408.55	24.35
Britannia Ind	2674.60	-2.40
Cipla	469.00	1.20
Coal India	198.20	0.50
Dr Reddys Lab	2731.55	-35.50
Eicher Motors	16689.40	8.85
GAIL (India)	129.25	3.50
Grasim Ind	717.55	0.00
HCL Tech	1068.50	13.60
HDFC	2083.85	1.10
HDFC Bank	2257.45	-13.40
Hero MotoCorp	2776.60	35.85
Hindalco	200.35	3.25
Hind Unilever	1805.55	0.15
Indiabulls HFL	442.25	-7.15
ICICI Bank	413.40	10.70
Indusind Bank	1398.60	8.35
Infratel	254.40	3.65
Infosys	829.30	12.90
Indian Oil Corp	130.10	5.70
ITC	239.90	-0.85
JSW Steel	226.20	4.15
Kotak Bank	1484.25	26.70
L&T	1363.45	1.05
M&M	551.25	7.65
Maruti Suzuki	6450.30	58.25
NTPC	124.05	1.80
ONGC	128.85	2.95
PowerGrid Corp	202.65	3.00
Reliance Ind	1225.60	15.25
State Bank	291.70	4.65
Sun Pharma	422.85	-4.95
Tata Motors	129.55	1.60
Tata Steel	367.35	2.30
TCS	2141.95	8.35
Tech Mahindra	709.50	3.95
Titan	1123.40	37.30
UltraTech Cement	4031.15	29.10
UPL	578.15	10.85
Vedanta	149.30	3.85
Wipro	245.35	0.80
YES Bank	68.55	0.60
Zee Entertainment	350.50	4.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.72	71.04
Euro	78.54	78.90
British Pound	88.07	88.47
Japanese Yen (100)	65.49	65.79
Chinese Yuan	9.99	10.04
Swiss Franc	71.75	72.08
Singapore Dollar	51.53	51.76
Canadian Dollar	53.45	53.71
Malaysian Ringgit	16.97	17.07

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

September 13 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	50.9	(51.3)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3612	(3659)

No production days at M&M go up to 17

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI
Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Ltd. has announced an increase in the number of 'no production days' to up to 17 in the July to September quarter due to slow off-take of automobiles in the market. "We wish to inform you that the company, as part of aligning its production with sales requirements, would be observing 'no production days' during the second quarter of the financial year 2019-2020, ranging between eight and 17 days in the automotive sector, and between one and 3 days in the farm equipment sector," the company said in a filing. "The management does not envisage any adverse impact on the availability of vehicles," it added.

Exports contract 6%, trade deficit widens marginally

Imports also witness contraction; iron ore exports grow by a whopping 357%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India's exports contracted 6.05% in August to \$26.13 billion, official data released on Friday showed. The trade deficit widened marginally to \$13.45 billion. "Exports in August 2019 were \$26.13 billion, as compared to \$27.81 billion in August 2018, exhibiting a negative growth of 6.05%," the government said in a release. "In rupee terms, exports were ₹1,85,881.11 crore in August 2019, as compared to ₹1,93,397.12 crore in August 2018, registering a negative growth of 3.89%." The sectors that saw notable contraction in their exports include rice (-23.95%), other

Little cheer on trade front

Month	Exports*	Imports*	Trade deficit, \$ bn
April	0.64	4.48	15.33
May	3.93	4.31	15.36
June	(9.71)	(9.06)	15.28
July	2.25	(10.43)	13.43
August	(6.05)	(13.45)	13.45

* YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE, %

cereals (-41.8%), oil meals (-44.4%), and oil seeds (-31.8%). Iron ore exports, notably, grew by a whopping 357%. "Imports in August 2019 were \$39.58 billion

(₹2,81,606.41 crore), which was 13.45% lower in dollar terms and 11.46% lower in rupee terms over imports of \$45.73 billion (₹3,18,043.86 crore) in August 2018." The major commodity groups that saw a contraction in imports in August include coal, coke and briquettes (-23.75%), organic and inorganic chemicals (-14.95%), petroleum, crude and products (-8.9%), electrical and non-electrical machinery (-8.8%), and electronic goods (-4.12%). The contraction in both exports and imports has meant that the trade deficit has widened only marginally in August from the \$13.43 billion in the previous month.

Unfair to single me out, says sacked ICRA CEO

'Held responsible for collective failure'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI
Naresh Takkar, the former chief executive officer and managing director of rating agency ICRA, who was sacked in August, has written to the board of the company stating that it is unfair and illegal to single him out for any kind of collective failure.

Regulatory probe
Amid a regulatory probe into alleged interference by its officials to ensure 'good' rating to troubled infrastructure financing company IL&FS, the rating agency had first sent Mr. Takkar on compulsory leave in July before terminating his services

in August. "It would be grossly incorrect and unfair, indeed illegal, if I am singled out and solely held responsible for any collective failure," Mr. Takkar said in the letter filed under Section 169 of the Companies Act, 2013, which entitles him to make a representation to all the shareholders of the company. He further highlighted that the rating agency, since inception, had institutionalised checks and balances and that all its rating decisions were assigned by rating committees, where each member of the committee had an equal vote, with a right to record dissent and without any veto right.

Pharma exports grew 11% in first quarter

Poised to touch \$22 billion this fiscal, over 14% higher than in FY19: Pharmexcil

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Pharma exports bucked the recessionary trend, to clock 11% growth in the first quarter this fiscal and followed it up with a robust, over 21% growth in July. Coming at a time when "most commodities are not moving in a positive direction, pharma exports are a silver lining," Ravi Uday Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), said on Friday. If the pace of growth is maintained, exports may close the fiscal at a new high of \$22 billion. That would be a more than 14% growth compared to the \$19.2 billion achieved in 2018-19, he said during a



Ravi Uday Bhaskar

media interaction here on Friday. The growth in the first four months — exports were around \$6.7 billion — came on the back of better tidings in the key U.S. market, especially driven by stability in prices. "Of late, the U.S. market has stabilised. The volumes

are increasing but price erosion and formation of cartels are [slowing us down]," he added. The improved showing in the four months was also aided by a good show in China, the UAE and Iran. **Focus on China, Japan**
The Pharmexcil, which is a body under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is keen on pharma companies sharpening their focus on China and Japan as the two countries are the biggest markets for the industry after the U.S. On the challenges faced by companies in tapping the export potential, he said the registration process of drugs in China was time consuming, while in Japan, the level of acceptance of generics re-

mained low. Towards providing a forum for interaction between regulators and the industry, the council is organising the international regulators meet in Hyderabad on September 19-20. Health regulators from about 25 countries will attend the conference. Pharmexcil is also ready with the report of a study commissioned by the Minister to suggest strategies to reduce import dependence in APIs, KSMs and intermediates. The report suggests a road map for making the country self-reliant in manufacturing these raw materials, a good chunk of which is being sourced from China and is valued at around \$2.5 billion.

Veterans' 'time out,' Titan set for new chimes

Within the Tata group, the company is now second largest in market capitalisation, at ₹95,000 crore

MINI TEJASWI BENGALURU

There's something that makes Tata Group's Titan tick! Titan was born when HMT (Hindustan Machine Tools) used to be the time keeper of the nation. Set up in 1986, the firm, so far, has seen only two CEOs — Xerxes Desai, the founding MD who served until 2002 and Bhaskar Bhat who took over the reigns of the company in that year. Mr. Desai was at the helm for 16 years and Mr. Bhat would have put in more than 17 years with the company and 34 years with the Tata Group, when he retires on September 30. Tata Group already has a succession plan in place. C.K. Venkataraman, earlier CEO of Titan's jewellery business, will take over as the third MD of Titan Company in October this year.



Sands of time: Watches are coming back to millennials as a fashion statement, says Bhaskar Bhat. •ASHOKE CHAKRABARTY

The MD-designate comes with 14.5 years of experience in watches and a similar period of exposure to jewellery business within Titan. Mr. Venkataraman has six years left to retire. So, the longevity records set by his predecessors will possibly remain untouched for the foreseeable future. Titan has been a great va-

luation was about ₹220 crore and today, it is the second-largest listed entity in the Tata stable after TCS in market capitalisation. When Mr. Bhat took over, Titan's annual production was six million watches, having now grown to over 18 million. Under his management, the company has also diversified into jewellery, eyewear, accessories, perfumes and sarees, converting Titan into a complete lifestyle accessories brand. **'Titans' set to retire**
Ravi Kant, CEO, watches and accessories at Titan is retiring and Suparna Mitra, chief sales and marketing officer, will take over as the new CEO from April, 2020. Ajay Chawla, senior VP - strategy and business incubation, will take over as CEO-jewellery from October. Saumen Bhaumik, chief

sales and marketing officer, eyewear will take over as CEO of the division from January 2020 as incumbent Ronnie Talati, is retiring. "Five out of eight top leaders who have been serving the company right from its inception are retiring. We have enough people internally to fill in these positions. "Also, we have built a leadership [pipeline] to ready the next generation of leaders," said Mr. Bhat. He said he was leaving his company at a time when smart watches were increasingly becoming popular. "I am so happy to see watches are coming back to the wrists of millennials as style statements, fashion accessories and smart bands. We should have entered the smart watch segment a few years ago; we were late by two years, and that's the only regret I carry," he said.

Andhra Bank board okays merger with UBI

Debt instruments under credit watch

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

The proposed merger of Andhra Bank with Union Bank of India (UBI) on Friday received a crucial approval from the board of directors of the former. A regulatory filing by the bank said the board of directors "considered and accorded its in-principle approval for the amalgamation of Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank with Union Bank of India as the anchor bank." The approval of the board, subject to statutory/regulatory approvals, came close on the heels of a protest by a union of Andhra Bank employees against the merger. As a last-ditch attempt, the employees had demanded that the over nine-decade-old Andhra Bank's

The board of Corporation Bank will meet on Sept. 16 to consider its amalgamation with Union Bank of India

identity be retained by making it the anchor bank. The board of Corporation Bank is scheduled to meet on September 16 to consider its amalgamation with Union Bank of India. Meanwhile, Care Ratings on Friday placed the credit rating of certain debt instruments of both Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank under 'credit watch with developing implications'. The rating action is based on the proposed amalgamation, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank said in separate filings with the exchange.

Equitas bank to take immediate steps for IPO

Bank eyes public offer by March 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd. (ESFBL) will take steps to get listed through an initial public offering (IPO) by March 2020, said a top official. "We will soon start the exercise of filing red herring prospectus," said P.N. Vasudevan, MD and CEO, ESFBL. "The shares will be listed by March 2020 under normal circumstances," he said. Mr. Vasudevan added the bank is planning for an IPO since the draft scheme of arrangement between Equitas Holdings Limited (EHL) and ESFBL was rejected by the Securities and Exchange Board of India. While granting an in-principle approval for the bank licence, the RBI had asked ESFBL to get the entity list-

ed within three years i.e. by September 4, 2019 and lower promoters' stake to 40%. As EHL is a listed company and ESFBL is its wholly owned subsidiary, the group approached the SEBI with a reverse merger proposal. Since the regulator did not approve the proposal, EHL and ESFBL boards had approved a scheme of arrangement wherein ESFBL would capitalise its free reserves and issue shares to the shareholders of EHL without cash consideration. As the deadline for listing was nearing, ESFBL sought an extension of the same. On September 4, the RBI declined to extend the same. "Since, SEBI had rejected the scheme of arrangement, we will be taking immediate steps for an IPO," the MD said.

Indian Bank to work on cardless cash withdrawal system

Public sector lender may offer the facility by June 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Public sector lender Indian Bank will start working on system under which customers can withdraw cash without using a debit card, according to a top official. Indian Bank would start working on the system, with interoperability facility, soon after the National Payments Corporation of India comes out with a specifications. "In all probability, it would happen by June 2020," said S. Rengarajan, general manager (digital banking) Indian Bank. "When we offer this service, it should be interoperable. Customers of any bank can use our system for cash withdrawal and vice versa. Currently, the system is li-



imited only to cash deposits." "Right now, two banks are offering this facility," said M.K. Bhattacharya, executive director, Indian Bank. "State Bank is offering this facility through its Yono website and Bank of India, via QR code for their own ATMs, in a limited manner," he said. On Friday, the bank in as-

sociation with Loyty Rewards Mngt Pvt. Ltd., launched a loyalty programme called 'Ind Advantage,' wherein Indian Bank customers would earn rewards for using debit card, internet and mobile banking facilities. The rewards can be redeemed for merchandise tickets, recharge coupons etc. on the programme's website www.indadvantage.com or at stores. To a question, Mr. Bhattacharya said the new programme, which carried multiple benefits, would be extended to credit card customers too. He also said that the bank was adding one lakh customers to its debit card portfolio every month and it was set to rise by 10% due to the new initiative.

Tata firm launches India's first maritime broadband

Service for vessels in Indian waters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

VSAT solutions provider Nelco, a Tata enterprise, on Friday announced the launch of maritime communication services, becoming India's first company to provide broadband services to the maritime sector. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, and Anshu Prakash, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, inaugurated the services here on Friday. Nelco, through global partnerships and infrastructure, including transponder capacity on the satellite of ISRO and service portfolio, will help energy, cargo and cruise vessels by enhancing operational efficiency.

The in-flight and maritime communications (IFMC) licence has not only enabled connectivity for on-board users on ships but also brings operational efficiencies for shipping companies which were less evolved until now. P.J. Nath, MD & CEO of NELCO, said, "Nelco is proud to announce the launch of its maritime communication services, enabling any maritime vessel sailing in Indian waters to have high quality, uninterrupted access to broadband Internet. We will also be offering a bouquet of digital services to cater to the needs of various maritime vessels. Going forward, we believe that we will be able to fully meet the communication needs of the maritime industry."

Biocon signs pact to sell 3 drugs in China

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Biopharmaceuticals company Biocon has signed a license and supply agreement with a subsidiary of China Medical System Holdings (CMS) for three different generic formulation products. Under this 10-year agreement, Biocon would be responsible for the development, manufacturing and supply of the products, while CMS would take care of registration and commercialisation of these products in Greater China, said a Biocon statement. Arun Chandavarkar, CEO and joint MD, Biocon, said: "This collaboration will allow us to take our U.S.-approved generic formulations to patients in China."