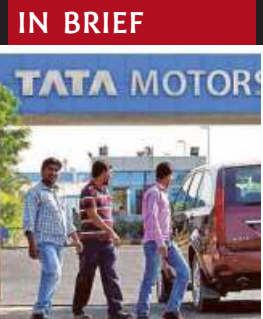


MARKET WATCH		
	04-10-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,673	-1.14
US Dollar	70.88	-0.01
Gold	39,075	0.54
Brent oil	58.01	0.97

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	394.60	-9.30
Asian Paints	1724.40	-24.55
Axis Bank	656.40	-12.00
Bajaj Auto	2863.55	-34.35
Bajaj Finserv	8300.75	-145.70
Bajaj Finance	3903.95	-55.85
Bharti Airtel	339.50	-5.40
BPCL	515.55	-16.05
Britannia Ind	2845.15	-57.80
Cipla	418.35	0.25
Coal India	185.80	-0.95
Dr Reddys Lab	2617.70	-59.45
Eicher Motors	17999.00	-285.65
GAIL (India)	132.15	0.45
Grasim Ind	654.40	-25.25
HCL Tech	1079.10	2.30
HDFC	1978.30	3.75
HDFC Bank	1189.70	-33.85
Hero MotoCorp	2668.30	0.85
Hindalco	182.10	-0.50
Hind Unilever	1944.20	-17.85
ICICI Bank	413.90	-13.40
IndusInd Bank	1265.30	9.80
Bharti Infratel	245.70	-2.55
Infosys	793.45	7.85
Indian OilCorp	151.05	-0.70
ITC	257.25	-4.40
JSW Steel	214.65	-6.90
Kotak Bank	1563.15	-52.60
L&T	1424.90	-33.15
M&M	564.25	1.55
Maruti Suzuki	6649.60	-104.45
Nestle India Ltd.	13441.00	-268.85
NTPC	117.40	0.65
ONGC	129.55	1.45
PowerGrid Corp	196.55	-2.55
Reliance Ind	1308.10	-2.95
State Bank	249.95	-4.20
Sun Pharma	386.05	-2.10
Tata Motors	119.65	-2.75
Tata Steel	333.10	-6.50
TCS	2079.35	19.10
Tech Mahindra	708.15	5.65
Titan	1250.90	-44.60
UltraTech Cement	3979.55	-167.25
UPL	582.55	-11.85
Vedanta	143.30	-1.10
Wipro	237.70	1.85
YES Bank	42.15	-0.35
Zee Entertainment	236.85	-14.70

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 04		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.68	71.00
Euro	77.60	77.95
British Pound	87.13	87.53
Japanese Yen (100)	66.20	66.50
Chinese Yuan	9.89	9.93
Swiss Franc	71.11	71.43
Singapore Dollar	51.26	51.49
Canadian Dollar	53.09	53.34
Malaysian Ringgit	16.87	16.97
Source: Indian Bank		

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
October 04 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	49.1	(49.3)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3644	(3630)



Tata Motors bags order to supply 300 e-buses
MUMBAI
Tata Motors has bagged a contract for 300 e-buses from Ahmedabad Janmarg Ltd. (AJL). "This mandate to Tata Motors is the largest in the country so far, making Tata Motors the only Indian OEM to bag the biggest order supporting the government's e-mobility drive in the country," the company said. Tata Motors would supply Urban 9/9 electric model buses which will run in Ahmedabad's BRTS corridor.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank shares hit a new low
CHENNAI
Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) shares hit the 5% lower circuit on Friday at ₹29.85 on the NSE, which was similar to the level seen in March 2009. The bank's shares, which touched ₹28.05 on March 6, 2009, rose to a high of ₹188.35 on July 7, 2017 before starting to decline. LVB shares have been on the decline over the last few weeks and this worsened when the Reserve Bank initiated Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) on the bank last week.

Services sector activity contracts in September
NEW DELHI
India's services sector activity contracted in September and fell to its lowest level since February 2018, amid weak demand, competitive pressures and challenging market conditions, a monthly survey, released on Friday, showed. The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index fell to 48.7 in September from 52.4 in August on lacklustre demand. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction. PTI

INTERVIEW | SHAKTIKANTA DAS

'No reason to doubt government's commitment to fiscal deficit'

I am not aware of any demand from the government for payment of interim dividend, says the RBI Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das discussed a wide range issues during the post-policy interaction with the media. Edited excerpts:

Did the MPC deliberate on the impact of corporate tax rate cut on fiscal deficit and if yes, what was the outcome?

■ The government has made a statement that they will adhere to the fiscal deficit target of the current year. So, we have no reason to doubt the commitment of the government to maintain fiscal deficit number as given in the Budget. [The] government has several sources of revenue. So, whatever shortfall is expected because of the announcement of the corporate tax rate cut, the government has the option of making it up through oth-

er sources.

Are the open market operations of the RBI only to ensure adequate liquidity or are they used to enable further transmission ?

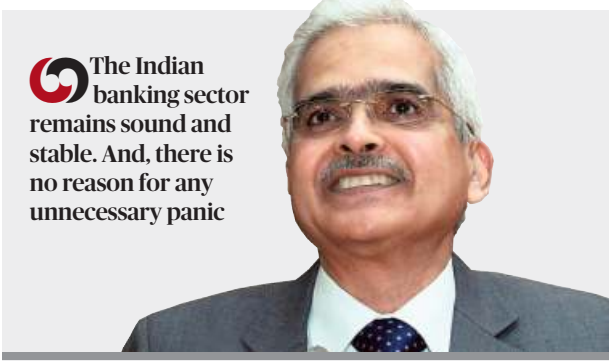
■ OMO [open market operations] is basically a liquidity instrument. In our internal working group report, it has been stated that the RBI has several instruments to infuse liquidity. OMO remains in our toolkit. Then, we have forex swaps which we had introduced last year. Term repo is also something which has been added. So far as the RBI is concerned, OMO will be done to deal with the li-

quidity situation, either to infuse or suck out liquidity. [The] RBI does not manage yields. Yields are market driven.

Is there a lower bound for policy rates?

■ We have not said anything on the lower bound of policy rates. What we have said is that as long as the growth momentum remains as it is, and till the growth is revived, the RBI will continue to remain in an accommodative mode. At this point, it is not possible to comment where the RBI will take a pause.

There are reports that the government is asking for ₹30,000 crore in interim dividend. But the Bimal Jalan Committee report suggested that there will be no interim dividend. Can



you please clarify?

■ I also saw it in the media. I am not aware of any such demand from the government for payment of interim dividend.

Was there a discussion in the MPC about the ongoing crisis in the PMC Bank?

■ This is not within the pur-

view of the MPC. But I would like to say that so far as the RBI is concerned, we would like to make it very clear that the Indian banking sector remains sound and stable. And there is no reason for any unnecessary panic. As soon as this issue came to our notice, the RBI acted very swiftly and promptly. One incident should not be used as generalised health of the coopera-

tive banking sector.

Do you think imposing prompt corrective action (PCA) would have been a better option?

■ Where PCA is appropriate, the RBI will use that framework. We have placed a private sector bank under PCA recently.

Imposing PCA is nothing new. In the past also, the RBI has put banks under PCA. This is to ensure timely steps are taken to bring the bank [back on track].

The RBI has reduced GDP forecast for FY20 sharply, by 80 bps. But why did you cut the rate only by 25 bps?

■ You have to see it at the back of 110 bps rate [cut] which has been done. It is 135 bps rate cut now between

February to October.

PMC Bank was hiding NPAs for the last eight years. Why was the RBI unable to spot that?

■ The RBI is looking into all aspects of this particular bank. The matter is under investigation by the Economic Offences Wing.

So, at this point in time, I would not like to go into further details.

Will the RBI prefer cooperative banks to be completely regulated by it?

■ Every such incident is an experience. Based on that experience, we will obviously give a fresh look at the regulatory framework that is in existence. And, if any changes are required, we will take it up with the government.

Income threshold to avail microfinance increased

Lending limit per borrower also raised from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

In a move that will enable more borrowers to avail loans from microfinance institutions (MFI), the Reserve Bank of India has decided to raise the household income limit of borrowers to ₹2 lakh for urban and semi urban areas from ₹1.6 lakh.

For rural areas, the limit has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh. Loans by MFIs to such borrowers are uncollateralised.

The lending limit per borrower has also been hiked from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh.



play their assigned role in a growing economy. "This is a good move reflecting the change in household income since 2015 and allows clients to avail higher loan amounts from RBI-regulated... institutions," said Manoj Nambiar, chairperson, Microfinance Institutions Network.

"This change will provide more room to NBFC-MFIs to lend and allow more households access to credit. Microfinance lenders will use this increased limit to continue to lend to the over 50 million borrowers," Mr. Nambiar added.

The RBI said the decision was taken after taking into consideration the important role played by MFIs in delivering credit to those at the bottom of the economic pyramid and enable them to

India's e-commerce war of sales and claims

Both Amazon and Flipkart say their sales for the season are the highest-ever in India's e-com history

MINI TEJASWI YUTHIKA BHARGAVA BENGALURU NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Amazon and its arch rival, Walmart-owned Flipkart, have independently claimed that their sales for this season – Great India Festival and The Big Billion Days, respectively – were the highest-ever in India's e-commerce history.

Flipkart on Friday said it had clocked 70 billion views in six days of The Big Billion Days (TBBDs). It also said there was almost 50% growth in the number of new customers, as compared to last year. Also, more than 50% of Flipkart Plus shoppers were from tier 2 cities while units from tier 3 cities grew by 100% over last year, it said.

Interestingly, September 30, 2019, was the single largest day for e-commerce in the country. This year's festive seasons sales begun with



Amazon says 62% of users who placed orders for appliances had them delivered and installed in 36 hours. ■ AFP

a big bang with both e-tailers claiming record sales and overwhelming responses.

Amazon, too, on Friday said that in its Great Indian Festival celebration, sellers witnessed record sales across popular categories in Wave 1 of the fest that ran between September 29 and

October 4, preceded by a 12-hour Prime Early Access. OnePlus reported 80% growth over last year, with sales crossing ₹700 crore.

As per research agency Nielsen, Amazon.in witnessed the highest share of transacting customers and purchases across all online

shopping platforms in the first five days of the Great Indian Festival 2019.

As per data from Amazon India, customers from 99.4% of India's postal codes placed an order during the Great Indian Festival. Some 62% of customers who placed orders for appliances had them delivered and installed within 36 hours. On the busiest day, there were more than 600 flights delivering packages to its customers, said Amazon.

Big sales in a slowdown?

"There is also postponing of discretionary (or not-urgent) buying and hence it is not a surprise that the big online/e-commerce sales are still where bargain seekers are active. It is very difficult with these trends to gauge whether there is a slowdown or not. We need to look at other economic and consumption markers which are more

long term," commented Pawan Kumar S, partner and leader – Technology, Media and Telecom sector and Technology Consulting at PwC India.

Phones rule the roost

Smart phones seem to have led the sales, in terms of value and volumes, followed by discounted products such as laptops, home appliances, electronic items including TVs, fashion accessories, beauty products, travel and even groceries.

This has been the biggest festive season for mobiles till date, with brands achieving more than twofold growth over last year. More than 20 models sold over 100,000 units each this year, which was a first for any event, said Flipkart.

Amazon reported a 15-fold sales growth among brands such as Samsung, OnePlus, Apple, Xiaomi and Vivo. New

MTNL shares surge on talks of revival plan

PMO asks panel to weigh turnaround

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Shares of loss-making Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) hit their upper circuit of 20% to touch ₹7.87 on reports of the government planning to revive the telecom company.

MTNL shares closed 16.46% higher at ₹7.64 as the counter saw a jump in volume by 8.4 times in a weak Mumbai market on Friday, valuing the company at ₹481.32 crore.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is learnt to have asked a panel, looking into the revival of MTNL and BSNL, to explain if the two telecom PSUs can be turned around.

This was after the Finance Ministry raised objections to a proposal moved by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for reviving the two PSUs.



The Finance Ministry had objected to reviving BSNL and MTNL.

DoT had proposed a ₹74,000-crore revival package for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and MTNL as closure of BSNL alone would cost over ₹95,000 crore to the exchequer. The plan includes proposed merger of MTNL with BSNL, voluntary retirement scheme (VRS), allotment of 4G spectrum and capital expenditure needs.

Adani Green Energy arms to issue bonds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Adani Green Energy on Friday said its arms have approved issuance of bonds worth \$362.5 million.

The notes will be listed on Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited, the company said.

"The respective board of directors of Adani Renewable Energy (RJ) Ltd. (ARERJL), Wardha Solar (Maharashtra) Private Ltd. (WSMPL) and Kodangal Solar Parks Private Ltd. (KSPL) and collectively with ARERJL and WSMPL the issuers), being wholly owned subsidiaries of Adani Green Energy, have approved the issuance of senior secured green bonds (notes) aggregating to \$362.5 million," it said.

Charging infra guidelines for electric vehicles get nod

One charging station in 3x3 km grid in all cities mandated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Under the new guidelines for the electric vehicle charging infrastructure approved by Power Minister R.K. Singh on Friday, there must be at least one charging station in a grid of 3 x 3 km in all megacities and one charging station every 25 km on both sides of highways.

"In order to address the range of issues of electric vehicle owners, a phase-wise installation of an appropriate network of charging infrastructure throughout the country has been envisaged in the guidelines, ensuring that at least one charging station should be available in a grid of 3 km X 3



km in the cities and one charging station at every 25 km on both sides of highways/roads," the government said in a release.

First phase is 1-3 years

The first phase of the plan (1-3 years) will cover all megacities with a population of

more than four million as per the 2011 Census, and all expressways and highways connected to these megacities. The second phase (3-5 years) will cover other big cities such as State capitals.

"To address concerns in inter-city travel and long range and heavy duty EVs, fast-charging stations for [vehicles] like buses/trucks shall be installed every 100 km," the release said.

"Assuming that most of the charging of EVs would take place at homes or offices where the decision of using fast or slow chargers would rest with consumers, private charging at residences/offices shall be permitted."