

MARKET WATCH		
	20-12-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	41,682	0.02
US Dollar	71.12	-0.13
Gold	38,894	0.28
Brent oil	66.35	-0.03

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	372.30	2.65
Asian Paints	1799.25	-3.85
Axis Bank	739.85	-2.70
Bajaj Auto	3203.75	-14.65
Bajaj Finserv	9280.05	9.30
Bajaj Finance	4135.60	43.75
Bharti Airtel	453.80	4.35
BPCL	487.80	-2.15
Britannia Ind	3122.25	9.50
Cipla	465.75	-1.85
Coal India	200.80	3.90
Dr Reddys Lab	2863.35	-6.20
Eicher Motors	22221.15	-206.00
GAIL (India)	119.55	1.85
Grasim Ind	745.60	2.65
HCL Tech	569.90	0.40
HDFC	2404.10	-7.80
HDFC Bank	1296.70	7.90
Hero MotoCorp	2393.20	29.50
Hindalco	215.50	-0.80
Hind Unilever	1943.10	-8.00
ICICI Bank	546.10	5.90
IndusInd Bank	1487.95	-1.95
Bharti Infratel	253.25	1.45
Infosys	731.55	0.70
Indian OilCorp	127.40	0.00
ITC	241.15	-3.20
JSW Steel	264.70	-0.15
Kotak Bank	1692.70	-36.80
L&T	1311.55	-0.20
M&M	530.60	-4.80
Maruti Suzuki	7261.50	20.85
Nestle India Ltd.	14858.25	572.85
NTPC	114.70	0.65
ONGC	125.15	-0.55
PowerGrid Corp	186.10	-0.30
Reliance Ind	1599.10	-10.85
State Bank	337.85	9.70
Sun Pharma	430.30	-3.30
Tata Motors	175.95	-3.20
Tata Steel	461.00	14.25
TCS	2222.90	-6.15
Tech Mahindra	783.35	0.60
Titan	1201.90	42.85
UltraTech Cement	4120.45	82.60
UPL	578.15	15.40
Vedanta	144.25	-5.10
Wipro	251.80	2.60
YES Bank	51.40	1.50
Zee Entertainment	284.05	4.30

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 20		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.92	71.24
Euro	78.68	79.04
British Pound	92.40	92.82
Japanese Yen (100)	64.85	65.15
Chinese Yuan	10.12	10.17
Swiss Franc	72.29	72.63
Singapore Dollar	52.32	52.57
Canadian Dollar	53.97	54.22
Malaysian Ringgit	17.12	17.21
Source:Indian Bank		

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
December 20 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	47.9	(47.5)
22 ct gold (1g)	3636	(3629)

## RIL, Shell to hand over oil fields to ONGC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and BGEPIL, part of Royal Dutch Shell Group, will transfer their stakes in the Panna-Mukta oil and gas fields to ONGC, the Government of India's (GoI) nominee, on December 21, 2019.

ONGC, RIL and BG Exploration & Production India Ltd. (BGEPIL) each hold 40%, 30% and 30% participating interest, respectively.

The production sharing contracts for the Panna-Mukta and Tapti fields, executed by the PMT JV with the government in 1994, will expire on December 21. The Tapti field had ceased production in 2016.

The Panna-Mukta fields had produced 211 million barrels of oil and 1.25 TCF (trillion cubic feet) of natural gas since December 1994.

## Import cover rises to 10 months: RBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

With foreign exchange reserves rising to \$429.84 billion as at end June 2019 from \$412.47 billion as at end March 2019, the import cover rose to 10 months compared with 9.6 months, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a report.

According to latest data, India's foreign reserves stood at \$554 billion as on December 13.

As at end-September, 2019, the RBI held 618.17 tonnes of gold with 325.87 tonnes being held in safe custody of Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements. The balance is held domestically.

# Panel okays spectrum auction plan

Over 8,300 MHz, including for 5G services, will be put up in 2020; reserve price fixed at ₹5.22 lakh crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) on Friday approved plans to auction over 8,300 MHz of spectrum, including airwaves to be used for offering 5G services, with a reserve price of ₹5.22 lakh crore.

However, in a setback to the telecom service providers (TSPs), there has been no reduction in the reserve price, as demanded by them, for the airwaves that will be put to bid in March/April 2020.

"The DCC has today approved the recommendation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). We are hopeful that auction should be conducted sometime in March-April," Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said.



**Dissenting note:** High reserve prices may make it difficult for telcos to bid, says COAI's Rajan Mathews. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The Secretary said that the entire available spectrum – a little over 8,300 MHz across 22 telecom circles with a reserve price of ₹5,22,850 crore – will be put up for bidding. Out of the

8,300 MHz of airwaves, 6,050 MHz are allocated for 5G services.

Mr. Prakash added that an 'important change' in the payment process for the bought spectrum has been

made. In the auctions, the telcos will need to pay lower upfront amount in case the spectrum won by them is not be available with the DoT in the next 30-day period.

### Upfront payment

As per the earlier rules, successful bidders had to pay upfront 25% of the charges for sub-1 Ghz band and 50% of charges for higher frequency bands. Now, "in case the spectrum won is available later... say after six months, after eight months, the upfront payment will be 10% for sub-1 Ghz and 20% for higher frequency bands. This is so that we know that the bidder is a serious player," he said.

The spectrum which is being put on auction includes airwaves that may get vacat-

ed up to December 2021.

The proposal will now be sent to the Cabinet for approval. "The DCC's decision to proceed with spectrum auctions in the near future may be fraught with challenges. With spectrum reserve prices 4 to 6 times higher than that of similar spectrum sold recently in several countries, high levels of debt and prevailing financial stress in the sector, telecom service providers will find it very difficult to raise funds to participate in the auctions," Rajan S. Mathews, DG at operators' body COAI said.

He added that the quantum of spectrum in the 5G band being put up for auction will be only 175 MHz, 'woefully inadequate' for operators to roll out robust 5G networks and services.

## Anand Mahindra to step down as M&M executive chairman

Anish Shah to join board, take over as MD & CEO in 2021

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Automotive major Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) has announced major changes in key leadership roles effective April 1, 2020, as a number of its top executives are retiring over the next fifteen months.

Mahindra Group president (Strategy) Anish Shah, who joined the group nearly five years ago from GE Capital, gets the pivotal role to pilot the auto major in future.

Chairman Anand Mahindra will transition to the role of non-executive chairman of the board of M&M with effect from April 1, 2020.

As non-executive chairman, Mr. Mahindra will serve as a mentor and



Anand Mahindra

sounding board for the MD on issues to be presented to the board, especially in the areas of strategic planning, risk mitigation and external interface. He will also provide feedback and counsel to the MD on key issues facing the firm.

Dr. Pawan Goenka, the current MD, will be re-designated as MD and CEO effective April 1, 2020.

There will be no change in any reporting relationships as a result of this redesignation. He will retire on April 1, 2021 and continue to retain direct responsibility of SsangYong Motor as chairman of its board till his retirement date.

Dr. Shah will transition to becoming MD and CEO in 2021, and with full oversight of all group businesses, in two phases.

On April 1, 2020, he will join the M&M board as deputy MD and group CFO, with responsibility for the Group Corporate Office and oversight of all of the group's businesses other than auto and farm sectors.

## Bharat Bond ETF subscribed 1.7 times

Fund garners about ₹12,000 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), the country's first corporate bond exchange-traded fund aimed at retail investors, saw a strong response, with the issue getting subscribed around 1.7 times.

"India's first corporate bond ETF, Bharat Bond ETF, has received a great response from investors across different segments. The issue was oversubscribed approximately 1.7 times, collecting about ₹12,000 crore. Information is subject to further updates," stated a tweet by Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

The ETF offer, which closed on Friday, had a base issue size of ₹7,000 crore.

According to Edelweiss Asset Management Company, which is managing the



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ETF, the issue saw wide participation across categories including individuals, non-resident Indians, high net-worth individuals, top tier corporates and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

Through the ETF, Edelweiss Mutual Fund had proposed to raise an initial amount of ₹3,000 crore, with a green shoe option of ₹2,000 crore in the three-year maturity period (2023) and ₹4,000 crore with a green shoe option of ₹6,000 crore in the 10-year maturity bucket (2030), the fund house had said in a release.

The exchange traded fund will invest only in AAA-rated bonds of public sector companies.

## Tata Chem. buys balance stake in TCSAP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Tata Chemicals, through its wholly owned subsidiary Valley Holdings Inc., has acquired the remaining 25% partnership interest in Tata Chemicals Soda Ash Partners Holdings (TCSAP) from The Andover Group, Inc., a subsidiary of Owens-Illinois Inc., for \$195 million, or ₹1,386 crore.

With this acquisition, Tata Chemicals has increased its ownership in Tata Chemicals (Soda Ash) Partners to 100%.

R. Mukundan, Tata Chemicals Ltd.'s MD and CEO, said, "The acquisition is expected to be EPS accretive. We will continue to invest in our Green River facility to meet market demand."

For the year ended March 2019, TCSAP had a turnover of \$465.5 million and an EBITDA of \$100.7 million.

## Accenture reaches global headcount landmark of 5 lakh

Tech major's India operations employ 150,000 people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Accenture Plc, the Dublin-based digital technology and consulting major, seems to have emerged as the single largest tech employer in the world.

In its first quarter earnings call, the company said its employee strength had surpassed 500,000, a significant people milestone, as on November 30, 2019.

TCS is the second largest tech employer with 450,738 people, followed by IBM at 350,600, Cognizant 256,000, Infosys 228,123 and Wipro at 171,425.

Julie Sweet, CEO, said the company has a chunky lea-



Julie Sweet

dership team, comprising more than 8,000 MDs across the globe. "Earlier in December, we promoted 787 new Managing Directors and Senior Managing Directors, including a record 260 new women Managing Directors, accounting for 36% of the

promotions to this level," she said in the earnings call.

India is the single largest geography for Accenture in terms of people, with a headcount of 150,000. The firm employs over 50,000 in the Philippines and about 17,000 in China.

Digital, cloud, and security projects were core for Accenture, accounting for 65% of total revenue. KC McClure, CFO, said, the company had invested \$110 million in acquisitions in Q1 to bolster capabilities in high growth areas.

"We expect to invest up to \$1.6 billion in acquisitions this fiscal year (September-August)," she said.

## No action on genuine corporate decisions, PM assures industry

'India will recover from slowdown'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Stating that he was aware of the current discussions around the state of the country's economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India had seen such ups and downs in the past as well and had the ability to emerge stronger from the current state of affairs. "Such up and downs have come in the country's economy before as well. But the country has the ability that every time it has come out of such a situation and come out stronger than before. Therefore, India will definitely come out from the present situation," the Prime Minister said.

Speaking at an Assocham event, Mr. Modi said, "I am well aware of the discussions that are taking place today about the economy, but in the midst of those discussions, we must also remember that during the earlier government, the GDP growth rate had touched 3.5% in a quarter."

He added that under the previous government, headline CPI was hovering at 9.4%, core inflation at 7.3%, and wholesale inflation at 5.2%, while the fiscal deficit had widened to 5.6% of the GDP. "I don't want to get into why some people were silent at that time," he said.

Under the NDA government, the gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the July-September quarter hit a 25-quarter low of 4.5%.

Mr. Modi said in the past five years, the country had made itself so strong that it could not only set for itself a target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy, but also make efforts in that direction.



Narendra Modi

"Five years before, the economy was heading for disaster. Our government not only stopped this, but also brought in a discipline in the economy. We brought in fundamental changes in India's economy so that it could run with set rules in a disciplined manner. We have met with the decades' old demands of the industrial sector and have built a strong foundation for a \$5 trillion economy," he said.

Mr. Modi highlighted his government's decisions such as decriminalisation of corporate offences, and promised that "no inappropriate action will be taken on genuine corporate decisions." He said ₹100 lakh crore would be spent in the coming years on building infrastructure and another ₹25 lakh crore on the rural economy and this, in turn, would help nearly double the size of the Indian economy to \$5 trillion by 2024.

Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma took exception to Mr. Modi's comments, saying, "We know five years ago, the economy was strong when you look at the rate of investment, industrial output or capital formation or job creation. But now [we] are staring at a deepening economic crisis, not just slowdown."