

MARKET WATCH

	27-02-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	39746	-0.36
US Dollar	71.59	0.08
Gold	43513	0.18
Brent oil	51.11	-6.65

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	353.70	-4.70
Asian Paints	1843.80	17.15
Axis Bank	735.85	6.45
Bajaj Auto	2936.60	-10.00
Bajaj Finserv	9408.00	21.00
Bajaj Finance	4759.80	-50.20
Bharti Airtel	531.65	-4.30
BPCL	444.05	-4.75
Britannia Ind.	3026.05	-15.30
Cipla	421.20	-1.00
Coal India	174.10	0.30
Dr Reddys Lab	3067.05	-8.30
Eicher Motors	17053.40	-103.55
GAIL (India)	107.35	-0.70
Grasim Ind.	712.85	10.05
HCL Tech	573.05	-10.55
HDFC	2272.20	-9.25
HDFC Bank	1199.45	0.20
Hero MotoCorp	2110.25	-32.30
Hindalco	168.35	-1.55
Hind Unilever	2254.95	18.75
ICICI Bank	511.55	-1.00
IndusInd Bank	1115.55	-19.45
Bharti Infratel	223.10	4.35
Infosys	777.85	-4.90
IndianOilCorp	105.65	-2.70
ITC	197.55	-1.05
JSW Steel	252.10	-8.70
Kotak Bank	1682.75	16.25
L&T	1210.35	-0.80
M&M	493.50	-9.50
Maruti Suzuki	6289.80	54.95
Nestle India Ltd.	16263.75	23.60
NTPC	109.05	-0.05
ONGC	93.35	-2.45
PowerGrid Corp	186.45	0.60
Reliance Ind.	1386.25	-5.75
State Bank	321.95	-6.25
Sun Pharma	388.50	13.80
Tata Motors	145.25	0.70
Tata Steel	412.80	-3.50
TCS	2105.50	-18.10
Tech Mahindra	809.15	-2.30
Titan	1277.90	22.80
UltraTech Cement	4321.65	-19.85
UPL	550.85	-12.15
Vedanta	130.55	0.30
Wipro	231.60	-8.30
YES Bank	36.80	0.25
Zee Entertainment	244.35	-7.05

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except Yen at 4 p.m. on February 27, 2020

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.35	71.67
Euro	78.08	78.43
British Pound	91.85	92.27
Japanese Yen (100)	64.85	65.15
Chinese Yuan	10.18	10.23
Swiss Franc	73.47	73.81
Singapore Dollar	51.14	51.37
Canadian Dollar	53.49	53.73
Malaysian Ringgit	16.94	17.03

Source: Indian Bank

Sugar output set to beat estimate: ISMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE

The Indian Sugar Mills' Association (ISMA) has revised its sugar production estimate for the current season (2019-2020) following a study of satellite images of cane areas in the last week of January.

According to ISMA, the production in this season is expected to be 26.5 million tonnes (MT). The initial estimate in 2019 was 26 MT.

The details were discussed at an ISMA meeting where "there was an agreement that sugar production during 2019-2020 sugar season would be slightly more than what was estimated in November 2019... this after considering reduction of sugar due to more production of ethanol and sugarcane juice," said a statement.

INTERVIEW | BRIAN HUMPHRIES

'We are focusing on faster growth categories'

Digital business, which is multiple billions, continues to grow in double digits: Cognizant CEO

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR

Cognizant has witnessed a slew of changes in terms of its strategy, spearheaded by Brian Humphries who took charge as CEO on 1 April, 2019. Mr. Humphries talks about the company's strategy and hiring plans. Edited excerpts:

2019 was a mixed bag for Cognizant with a lot of changes in terms of strategy. How do you see 2020 shaping up?

[The year] 2019 was the year of change for Cognizant, with a new CEO coming in. The new CEO who had inherited the company which might have been little distracted in the last few years. So, it was an important year of analysis and I tried to rally the organisation together behind the promise of returning to growth, a promise of once again being a bellwether in the IT services industry.

Through a transformation office, we have assessed where we stood at various levels in terms of our culture, our delivery organisation, commercial teams etc. We now have our so-called fit-for-growth strategy in order to scale Cognizant from

Telcos seek help on 'priority basis'

Seek adjustment of GST credit in AGR dues, doing away with bank guarantees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Reeling under pressure to clear their adjusted gross revenue-related dues, telecom companies have sent an SOS to the government seeking measures on a 'priority basis' to facilitate reduction of financial stress in the industry.

In a letter to various government departments, including the Prime Minister's Office, industry body COAI highlighted that banks were currently unwilling to take any risk with regard to the telecom sector and there was a need to give a clear message to banks that the government was there to support the sector.

"The banks are constantly asking telcos to reduce their exposures by refusing to issue new bank guarantees or even to renew the bank guarantees," COAI Director Gen-



Distress call: COAI has sought that payment of the balance AGR amount be allowed in a staggered manner. *M. PERIASAMY

eral Rajan Mathews said, adding that the requirement for financial bank guarantees (FBGs) to secure payment of licence fee should be done away with.

"However, if DoT is still of the opinion that FBGs are still required, then it should at least be reduced to one

quarter's license fee."

On AGR dues, Mr. Mathews requested that as individual firms were stretching to make as much payment possible in a stressed financial situation, the government could adjust the GST credit due to the telcos from the government. Following this,

the payment of the balance amount may be allowed in a staggered manner. "It is requested that a moratorium of 3 years be provided, as we expect that it will take at least that much time to recover the health of the sector, followed by a payment tenure of 15 years at a simple interest of 6%," the industry body said.

As an alternative, Mr. Mathews said the government may consider granting loan equal to the AGR amount at 6% rate of interest so that the AGR liability may be discharged immediately.

COAI also reiterated its demand for reduction in licence fee, spectrum usage charges as well as rationalisation of universal service levy.

The industry body has also pitched for implementation of floor price for telecom tariffs April 1, 2020 onwards.

Bank credit growth slips to 6.4%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Banks' credit growth slipped to 6.4% on year-on-year basis till the fortnight ended February 14, latest data released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed.

Loan growth failed to maintain the momentum of the previous fortnight when it grew by ₹98,926 crore (for the fortnight ended January 31).

There was a contraction of ₹64,490 crore during the fortnight ended February 14.

Year-on-year loan growth till the previous fortnight was 7.1%.

Year-on-year growth in deposits also moderated for the reporting fortnight to 9.2% as compared to 9.9% recorded at the end of the previous fortnight, according to the data.

Fund houses should build buffer, says SEBI

'Stress scenario requires cushioning'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has suggested that asset management companies (AMCs) should keep a buffer of liquidity, especially for overnight funds and liquid funds, to deal with stress situations.

Speaking at a mutual fund conference, SEBI whole-time member G. Mahalingam said that while the regulator had nudged the industry to maintain a minimum buffer, fund houses should gauge the liquidity pressure in a stress situation and build a buffer across maturities.

"What I would wish is that the industry itself is going to operate on a cycle where it actually is able to gauge what is going to be the liquidity demands on stress scenario, and it is able to build up the liquidity buffer by building up a ladder of liquidity maturities," Mr. Mahalingam said at the CII Mutual Fund Summit.

Past instances

This assumes significance as there have been a few instances in the past wherein corporates defaulted on their payment obligations and fund houses had to take a hit and were inundated with redemption requests.

In September 2019, the capital markets watchdog had made it mandatory for liquid funds to invest 20% in liquid assets.

The SEBI member also highlighted the nature of credit funds and said that investors needed to be told that there was an inherent risk involved in the product.

"I think it is the duty of the industry and the distrib-



G. Mahalingam

utors to bring forth clearly this risk into perspective so that the retail investor does take a calculated call," Mr. Mahalingam said.

Mr. Mahalingam, who was earlier with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), also made it clear that the capital markets regulator did not prefer fund houses to invest in structured products.

"It is better for the industry to keep a distance away from structured obligations, which really don't make things very clear," he said.

"I think it is for the industry to take a clear call on what kind of investment products that they would get in, which would actually give them a reasonable return, a good liquidity, and at the same time as safe risk proposition," he added.

On a different note, he said that fund houses who are an important category of institutional investors should play a more proactive role in terms of enhancing the corporate governance levels in companies where they held stake.

He highlighted that mutual funds abstained on about 12% of the company resolutions and said that over a period of time this number should be brought down as much as possible.

'RBI lifted curbs in recognition of our effort'

We have a strategy to comply with promoter holding norm: Bandhan Bank MD

MANOJIT SAHA MUMBAI

With the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) removing restrictions on Bandhan Bank on opening branches, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, its managing director and chief executive officer, said the development indicated the bank's effort to comply with regulatory guidelines.

In September 2018, the RBI barred the Kolkata-based lender from opening new branches without prior approval and froze the remuneration of its CEO.

The restrictions were imposed as the bank failed to bring down promoters' shareholding in the bank to 40%



Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

within three years of operations as mandated by it while granting the bank licence.

'Merger helped'

The removal of restrictions on branch expansion came after Bandhan Bank reduced

its promoter stake to 61% by merging with Gruh Finance in October 2019.

"The first message that comes from the regulator is that they have recognised our effort to compliance. That can inspire us to further emphasise the importance on compliance," Mr. Ghosh told *The Hindu*.

He said branch expansion during the restriction period was not totally stopped, but was taking time since the bank had to take the RBI's approval before opening a new branch.

"Now, whatever my board approves, automatically the branches will be opened. The plan was to open 250

banking outlets by March 2020," he said.

"We are making the plan now for the next financial year for branch opening. We will disclose the figures once my board approves," he said.

Mr. Ghosh said the move would help in growth of the business and motivate the staff. He said he expected that full benefit from the merger of Gruh Finance would be achieved from the next quarter once the team settled down.

On bringing down promoter stake to 40% from 61% which is required for complying with RBI norms, Mr. Ghosh said the bank had a plan but cannot disclose it.

Oil slumps over 4% on virus fears

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON

World oil prices tumbled by more than 4% on Thursday, as traders fretted about the impact of spreading coronavirus on crude demand, particularly from key consumer China. Brent oil for April delivery tanked almost 4.2% to \$51.20 per barrel, while New York's WTI crude for the same month dived nearly 5.0% to \$46.31.

Investors are growing increasingly fearful about the economic impact of the new coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak.

Apollo Tyres capex to skid on slowdown

Firm to cut expenditure by ₹300-400 cr.

N. ANAND CHENNAI

Apollo Tyres Ltd. (ATL) has decided to scale down its capital expenditure (capex) for FY21 by ₹300-400 crore due to prolonged economic slowdown.

"We started the year with an estimated capex of ₹2,700 crore and that has been scaled back to ₹2,400 crore. In the last nine months, we had invested ₹2,000 crore," said Gaurav Kumar, chief financial officer, ATL, in an earnings call.

"For the next year, the number should be in the

range of ₹1,400-₹1,500 crore, from the earlier plan of ₹1,700-1800 crore," he said.

He said major players, including ATL, were surprised at the drop in original equipment manufacturers' business, adding almost every company had cut capex. The board of Apollo Tyres Ltd., meanwhile, approved an issuance of compulsorily convertible preference shares worth ₹1,080 crore to Warburg Pincus.

The investment represents a primary capital infusion into Apollo Tyres.

Honda recalls certain units of BS-VI Activa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) is recalling certain units of BS-VI compliant Activa 125 scooter to replace cooling fan cover and oil gauge.

"In line with Honda's commitment towards enhancing product quality and customer experience with the product, we would like to replace cooling fan cover and oil gauge in your vehicle as well as update your vehicle owner's manual," Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India said on its website.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY

Procurement & Consultancy Services Division of HLL INFRA TECH SERVICES LTD. (A Govt. of India Enterprise under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) for and on behalf of Vivekananda Kendra NRL Hospital, Numaligarh, Assam invites e-tenders from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply of medical equipments as brought below:

Sl. No.	NIT reference	Item / Dept.	Pre-bid Meeting Date & time	Last Date and Time for online submission
1	HITES/PCD/VKNRL/ TED01/19-20 dated 28-02-2020	Procurement of Medical	13-03-2020, 10.30 AM	01-04-2020, 01:00 PM
2	HITES/PCD/VKNRL/ TED02/19-20 dated 28-02-2020	Equipments for VKNRL Hospital	13-03-2020, 03:00 PM	01-04-2020, 01:00 PM

• Interested bidders are advised to download the complete Tender Enquiry document from the websites <https://etenders.gov.in/procure/app>, <http://hllhites.com/tenders> or <http://www.lifecarehll.com/tender> for complete details.

• Prospective bidders are advised to browse the above websites regularly before submission of their bids as any further amendments will be published in these websites only. CEO (HITES)

सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबोरेटरी / Semi-Conductor Laboratory
अंतरिक्ष विभाग, भारत सरकार / Department of Space, Government of India, सेक्टर-72, का.अ.सि.नगर(मोहाली) -160071, चंडीगढ़ के समीप(पंजाब) भारत
Sector -72, S.A.S. Nagar-160 071, Near Chandigarh (Punjab) India
कोल / Phone : +91-172-2296166/6168/6169/6173 फेक्स / Fax +91-172-2237410
ईमेल / Email: hps@sc.gov.in website: www.scl.gov.in

निविदा सूचना संख्या. एएससीएल/सीटी/178 / TENDER NOTICE No. SCL/PT/178 दिनांक / Dated: 26.02.2020
निदेशक, एएससीएल के लिए एवं उनकी ओर से सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबोरेटरी के प्रमुख क्रम एवं मण्डार, निम्न के लिए ऑन लाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित करते हैं।
For and on behalf of The Director, Head-Purchase & Stores, Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) invites Online Tender for the following:

क्र.सं./Sr.No.	निविदा संख्या / Tender Number	विवरण / Description
1	SCL/PS4/2020E0170101 (दो भाग निविदा / Two Part Tender)	एपॉक्सि प्रोब कार्ड्स की असेंबली के लिए दर संधिदा (तीन वर्षों) Rate Contract for Assembly of Epoxy Probe Cards (3 Years) विस्तृत जानकारी निविदा दस्तावेज अनुसार / Details as per Tender Document

नोट / Note: निविदा दस्तावेज को ई-निविदा पोर्टल <https://procure.isro.gov.in> एएससीएल की वेबसाइट (www.scl.gov.in)/इसरो की वेबसाइट (www.isro.gov.in) / सीपीपी पोर्टल (<http://cpp.gov.in>) से देख / डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। / Tender Documents can be accessed/downloaded from e-tender portal <https://procure.isro.gov.in> SCL website (www.scl.gov.in) / ISRO website (www.isro.gov.in) / CPP Portal (<http://cpp.gov.in>).

प्रमुख, क्रम एवं मंडार / Head, Purchase & Stores