

MARKET WATCH

	21-11-2017	% CHANGE
Sensex	33,478	0.36
US Dollar	64.89	0.33
Gold	30,450	-0.81
Brent oil	62.45	1.01

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	400.80	2.20
Ambuja Cements	261.65	-3.05
Asian Paints	1160.30	-6.05
Aurobindo Pharma	708.85	2.40
Axis Bank	546.80	1.65
Bajaj Auto	3300.25	58.25
Bajaj Finance	1809.75	4.50
Bharti Airtel	503.25	10.60
Bosch	19237.50	-139.00
BPLCL	511.50	7.05
Cipla	616.10	11.85
Coal India	273.80	-4.55
Dr Reddys Lab	2394.15	119.70
Eicher Motors	30420.55	-219.15
GAIL (India)	459.95	-0.40
HCL Tech	837.70	-4.45
HDFC	1694.50	5.30
HDFC Bank	1846.25	8.10
Hero MotoCorp	3678.75	20.15
Hindalco	261.45	0.00
HPCL	418.70	3.15
Hind Unilever	1271.55	2.85
Indiabulls HFL	1178.00	-21.50
ICICI Bank	319.90	1.35
IndusInd Bank	1648.60	-0.70
Bharti Infratel	383.55	-0.15
Infosys	966.25	5.70
Indian Oil Corp	396.15	3.20
ITC	255.80	-3.40
Kotak Bank	1029.85	-10.70
L&T	1222.65	-7.15
Lupin	837.45	11.30
M&M	1416.00	8.00
Mauriti Suzuki	8424.80	-0.85
NTPC	182.95	2.50
ONGC	180.90	0.90
PowerGrid Corp	206.60	-2.20
Reliance Ind	932.55	11.70
State Bank	330.65	-2.35
Sun Pharma	538.05	20.90
Tata Motors	424.25	1.25
Tata Steel	711.35	9.20
TCS	2672.95	-30.50
Tech Mahindra	493.85	17.05
UltraTech Cement	4163.40	-17.90
UPL	754.50	25.60
Vedanta	312.90	-1.00
Wipro	294.00	-0.35
YES Bank	312.30	-1.05
Zee Entertainment	540.25	7.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	64.69	65.01
Euro	75.83	76.20
British Pound	85.62	86.05
Japanese Yen (100)	57.47	57.76
Chinese Yuan	9.75	9.80
Swiss Franc	65.05	65.37
Singapore Dollar	47.72	47.96
Canadian Dollar	50.51	50.76
Malaysian Ringgit	15.62	15.72

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

November 21 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	42.60	(43.10)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2,809	(2,830)

WTO: India resolute on food security

Will push back on 'severe' curbs on right to give price subsidies at Ministerial Conference next month

ARUN S
NEW DELHI

At the upcoming meeting of the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) highest decision-making body, India will not agree to severe restrictions on its right to give price subsidies to farmers through the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to procure grains from them for food security purposes, according to highly-placed official sources.

The WTO's Ministerial Conference is slated to take place at Buenos Aires in Argentina next month.

"Food security and protection of low-income and resource-poor farmers are top priority items for India [at the WTO meet], and we will hold our ground to protect our interests to the maximum extent possible," an official privy to the



Burden of negotiation: Prospects for a permanent solution on subsidies are not that bright, says Prof. Abhijit Das of the IIFT.

developments said. Currently, an interim mechanism called the 'Peace Clause' is in place, per which WTO members had agreed not to challenge developing nations at the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism if they breached the cap of the product-specific domestic

support (which is 10% of the value of production).

Peace clause
The 'Peace Clause' is available to developing nations, including India, till a permanent solution is found to public stockholding for food security purposes. Official

sources said India would fight to ensure that at least the 'Peace Clause' is made the permanent solution, and will not accept any 'terribly stringent or onerous' conditions. However, the 'Peace Clause' is learnt to be difficult to invoke even in its current form because prior to using it, the country concerned will have to first admit that it 'is breaching' or 'is about to breach' the ceiling entitlement to give product-specific domestic support.

Difficult to invoke
Also, the 'Peace Clause' can be used only for public stockholding programmes that have been in existence on the date at which it was agreed upon at the Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013, and not for new programmes on public stockholding for food security

purposes.
According to Abhijit Das, head and professor, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, the prospects of an agreement on a permanent solution are not that bright due to three roadblocks. "First, the U.S. has not been engaging actively on the matter till recently, and if the U.S. does not give its nod, it will be difficult to arrive at a decision. "Second, the European Union has tried to link the permanent solution with outcomes including stringent disciplines on domestic support given by developing nations," he said.
Lastly, most WTO members are of the opinion that there should be a commitment on prohibition of exports from public stockholding saying such exports would be trade-distorting.



Import heavy: India imports half of its annual consumption of 27 mn tonnes of petcoke, says the Oil Minister.

'Boost gas supply to petcoke ban-hit States'

Pradhan urges state oil firms to assist

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India's Oil Minister on Tuesday asked state oil firms to boost the supply of gas and alternative fuels in States where petroleum coke and furnace oil are banned due to high emissions.
India imports about half of its annual consumption of

27 million tonnes of petcoke, Dharmendra Pradhan said, on popular social media site Twitter.

The country has banned use of petcoke and furnace oil in States around New Delhi and in the capital city to rein in pollution. Demand for petcoke has doubled in the past four years.

GSTR-3B filings are increasing, says GSTN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

About 43.67 lakh taxpayers have filed their October GSTR-3B returns, according to the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), which said the number of returns being filed was increasing every month.

The GSTR-3B filings for August and September stood at 28.46 lakh and 39.33 lakh, respectively.

"The number of taxpayers filing their GSTR 3B returns is showing marked improvement month after month with about 43.67 lakh of them filing their GSTR-3B returns for October till November 20, 2017, the highest so far," the GSTN said in a release. "Around 56% of registered taxpayers had filed their GSTR-3B returns for October by Novem-

ber 20," the release added.

"The trend of taxpayers filing their returns on the last day continues, though. Taxpayers are urged to file their returns early to avoid last-minute hassles," said Prakash Kumar, CEO, GSTN.

This was happening due to "two major reasons," according to Pratik Jain, leader, indirect tax, PwC India. "One is greater awareness and the fact that GSTR-3B is a simpler form; the second is that the GSTN portal has been performing much better, especially [for] GSTR-3B and GSTR-1," Mr. Jain said.

Separately, PTI reported that the Centre had set up a 10-member panel under GSTN Chairman Ajay Bhushan Pandey to look into the requirements of filing returns this fiscal.

Low tariffs slowing new bids for wind, solar energy projects: ICRA

'Capacity addition hit due to migration from feed-in tariff to bid tariff route'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The renewable energy sector is in the midst of a lull after the storm, as bidding for wind and solar energy projects is seeing a short-term slowdown, said rating agency ICRA on Tuesday.

"With very limited progress on the firm bidding plans by the State-owned distribution utilities to award the wind energy projects, this particular sector is facing near term headwinds and the capacity addition in the near term remains adversely impacted due to migration from feed-in tariff to bid tariff route," ICRA said in a note.
"The wind energy sector



Winding down: State utilities prefer the bid tariff as it is significantly lower than the feed-in tariffs for wind projects.

is now following a bid based regime since February 2017, given the success of a reverse auction under two rounds of 1GW each by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) with a bid tariff discovery at

₹3.46/kwh in February 2017 & ₹2.64/kwh in October 2017," said Sabyasachi Majumdar, senior vice-president & group head at ICRA Ratings.
This option is being pre-

ferred by the State utilities since the bid tariff level is significantly lower than the approved feed-in tariffs by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) for wind power projects. "The recent increase by about 15% (i.e. 6-7 cents/watt) in imported PV module prices, if sustained, could have an adverse impact on the viability of solar power projects with tariffs lower than ₹3.5 per unit," the note added.

"The bidding activity for award of solar projects has slowed down in calendar year 2017 (till Oct.) as reflected in awarded project capacity of 3.75 GW as against 7.2 GW in the corresponding period of CY 2016."

TRAI moots cap removal for spectrum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator TRAI on Tuesday recommended doing away with caps on spectrum holding in individual bands, and also mooted relaxing the overall ceiling.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, in its recommendation to the government, said the current limit allowing an operator to hold up to 50% of the total spectrum available within a band in a zone should be removed. It has also suggested raising the limit for overall holding across all bands to 35% from 25%. The proposals, if accepted, would provide major relief for the soon-to-be-merged Idea Cellular and Vodafone.

RIL sells 10-year bond at 3.66%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries has raised \$800 million by selling 10-year bonds in the global markets to refinance its debt, the first such offering since Moody's raised India's sovereign ratings.

The bonds were priced at 3.66%, the lowest coupon ever achieved by an Indian corporate for a 10-year issuance, Reliance said in statement, adding that the proceeds would be used to redeem its existing \$800 million 5.875% senior perpetual fixed rate unsecured notes.

RIL has borrowed heavily in the last two years to fund its telecommunications roll-out.

"This refinancing transaction... helped us achieve substantial savings in interest cost over the life of the notes," said V. Srikanth, joint CFO, RIL.

Air India sets up 5 project teams for disinvestment

Tasks SBI Caps to chalk out plans for subsidiary companies

ADITYA ANAND
MUMBAI

Air India has set the ball rolling for its eventual strategic disinvestment by setting up five internal project teams to work towards ensuring that the timelines set by the government are met and the objective is achieved in a time-bound manner.

Fortnightly reviews
SBI Capital Markets is being appointed to hand-hold the airline during the entire disinvestment process and the progress will be reviewed on a fortnightly basis.

In an order issued on November 18, Air India chairman and managing director (CMD) Rajiv Bansal said the five teams headed by senior AI officials would deal with the aspects of Finance, HR, P&F (properties &



Rajiv Bansal

facilities) department, secretarial and procedural matters, including formalisation of relationship with subsidiary companies and preparing a future business plan for the subsidiary companies and bilateral slots, besides other commercial arrangements and issues.

According to the order, SBI Caps is being assigned

the responsibility of preparing three and five-year business plans for subsidiary companies to be divested, obtaining approvals and no-objection certificates from the consortium of banks for the transfer of real estate properties and other security, apart from assisting and guiding Air India on other disinvestment matters.

The five teams would work under Director (Finance) V. Hejmadi and finance advisor S. Venkat, who would be responsible for managing the progress on disinvestment from time to time and coordinating with the transaction advisor, legal advisor and asset valuer - all of whom are in the process of being appointed. Mr. Hejmadi and Mr. Venkat would apprise the CMD on the fortnightly progress.

Messaging probe: SEBI seeks trading data

Regulator enquiring into prescient WhatsApp messages on company earnings

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India's market regulator has asked for trading data on companies mentioned in a Reuters story last week about prescient messages on company earnings in social media chatrooms, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters on Tuesday.

The Reuters investigation documented at least 12 cases of prescient messages about major Indian companies being posted in WhatsApp groups limited largely to traders and market insiders.

Before and after results

"The regulator has asked the exchange to track the trading data for the companies mentioned in the Reuters report before and after their results were made public," said an official at one of the bourses, who asked not to be identified, as he is not authorised to publicly discuss the matter.



Under the lens: SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi had last week said that the regulator would investigate the matter. •REUTERS

Earlier on Tuesday, Economic Times, citing an unnamed official, reported that the regulator has asked the exchanges for this data.

Indian markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the National Stock Exchange and rival bourse BSE Ltd. all did not respond to requests for comment.

Ajay Tyagi, Chairman of SEBI, told Reuters last week that the regulator would investigate the matter.

Messages on financials

The messages about the 12 companies with prescient information obtained by Reuters involved mostly what were characterised as being upcoming quarterly results,

including specific metrics such as net profits, revenues and operating margins.

They also included messages about upcoming bonus share issues or revenue guidance.

Seven of the companies are part of the benchmark NSE index: Dr. Reddy's, the drugmaker Cipla, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Steel, IT services firm Wipro and Bajaj Finance.

The other five were Mahindra Holidays and Resorts, Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd., IT services providers Mindtree Ltd. and Mastek Ltd., and India Glycols, a petrochemicals company.

India beefed up insider trading rules in early 2015, and it expanded what material constitutes "unpublished price-sensitive information" to include "any information" that is not "generally available" and that could have a market impact.

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