### 22-01-2018 % CHANGE US Dollar.

31,075

NIFTY 50		
		CHANGE
Adani Ports		
Ambuja Cements		
Asian Paints		
Aurobindo Pharma		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
Bosch		
BPCL		
Cipla		
Coal India		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors	27649.80	359.65
GAIL (India)	457.40	-11.35
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
Hero MotoCorp	3602.95.	13.20
Hindalco		
HPCL		
Hind Unilever	1355.10	7.35
Indiabulls HFL	1355.15	53.35
ICICI Bank	351.50.	2.10
IndusInd Bank	1683.20	0.80
Bharti Infratel	343.50	-2.55
Infosys	1150.00	6.55
Indian OilCorp	382.50.	-3.45
ITC	273.65	-0.90
Kotak Bank	1074.10	13.55
L&T		
Lupin		
M&M		
Maurti Suzuki		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
Ctate Dank		

Sun Pharma Tata Motors

Tata Steel

YES Bank

Tech Mahindra

UltraTech Cem

<b>EXCHANGE RA</b>	TES			
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 22				
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL		
US Dollar	63.67	63.99		
Euro	78.02	78.42		
British Pound	88.54	88.99		
Japanese Yen (100)	57.52	57.81		
Chinese Yuan	9.94	10.00		
Swiss Franc	66.28	66.62		
Singapore Dollar	48.23	48.52		
Canadian Dollar	51.08	51.34		
Malaysian Ringitt	16.19	16.27		
Source:Indian Bank				

..-2.75 ... 4.05

157.10

. 16.60

30.00

576.15

January 22 rates in rupees with pre-vious rates in parentheses Retail Silver (1g)... .. 42.01....(42.00)

# IMF raises global growth forecast, sees U.S. tax boost

Fund sees world economy expanding by 3.9% in 2018 and 2019, spurred by increased investment in the U.S. and a boost to its trading partners

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

The International Monetary Fund on Monday revised up its forecast for world economic growth in 2018 and 2019, saying sweeping U.S. tax cuts were likely to boost investment in the world's largest economy and help its main trading partners.

However, the IMF, in an update of its World Economic Outlook, also added that U.S. growth would likely start weakening after 2022 as temporary spending incentives brought about by the tax cuts began to expire.

### Strengthen the dollar

The tax cuts would likely widen the U.S. current account deficit, strengthen the U.S. dollar and affect international investment flows, IMF chief economist Maurice

"Political leaders and policymakers must stay mindful that the current economic momentum reflects a confluence of factors that is unlikely to last for long," Mr. Obstfeld told reporters at the World Economic Forum in

### 'Rising federal debt'

He said economic gains from the tax cuts would be partially paid back later in the form of lower growth as temporary spending incentives, notably for investment, expired and as rising federal debt took a toll.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde pointed to a "troubling" increase in debt levels across many countries and warned policymakers against complacency, saying now was the



Temporary gains: Dividends will be partially paid back as growth slows once spending incentives expire, says IMF. • AP

time to address structural deficiencies their

Mr. Obstfeld said a sudden rise in interest rates could

lead to questions about the debt sustainability of some countries and lead to a disruptive correction in "elevated" equity prices.

U.S. President Donald Trump signed Republicans' massive \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul into law in December. cementing the biggest legislative victory of his first year.

The tax package, the largest such overhaul since the 1980s, slashed the corporate rate from 35% to 21% and temporarily reduced the tax burden for most individuals as well.

Pointing to growth in the United States and China, the IMF forecast global growth to accelerate to 3.9% for both 2018 and 2019, a 0.2 percentage point increase from its last update in October.

The U.S. economy has been showing steady but underwhelming annual growth since the last recession in 2007-2009. The IMF now expects it to expand by 2.7% in 2018, much higher than the 2.3% the fund forecast in October. U.S. growth was projected to slow to 2.5% in 2019, it said.

### Euro area, Japan

The IMF also revised up its growth forecasts for the euro area, especially for Germany, Italy and the Netherlands "reflecting the stronger momentum in domestic demand and higher external demand".

However, it cut its forecast for Spain's growth for 2018 by 0.1 percentage point, saying political uncertainty linked to the Catalonia region's independence push was expected to impact busiconfidence demand.

The IMF revised up its growth forecast for Japan to 1.2% this year and 0.9% in 2019. It maintained its pro-

RIL becomes India's first firm to

jection for Britain's growth at 1.5% this year.

The IMF maintained its forecast for growth in emerging markets and developing countries for this year and next. China's economy was expected to expand 6.6% this year and slow to 6.4% in

It said growth in the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan was also expected to pick up in 2018 and 2019 but remain subdued at 3.6% this year.

The IMF revised down its growth estimate for South Africa to 0.9% for this year and next amid concerns over political uncertainty.

In Latin America, it said growth would be weighed down by an economic collapse in Venezuela despite a pick-up in economic activity in Brazil and Mexico.

## Axis Bank profit rises 25% on lower base

Asset quality improves but trading gains slump; says margins have bottomed out

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Private sector lender Axis Bank reported a 25% yearon-year growth in net profit to ₹726.4 crore in the quarter ended December 31, mainly due to a lower base and reduced provisions for bad loans. In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, the lender had reported a whopping 73% decline in net profit to ₹580 crore due to increased provisioning.

While the bank reported 9% growth in net interest income to ₹4,732 crore, non-interest income fell 24% to ₹2,593 crore as trading gains declined to about ₹200 crore from ₹1,595 crore.

"In a declining rate environment you have a lot more ability to book trading



Lower provisioning: The bank's provisions for bad loans fell to ₹2,811 crore, from ₹3,796 crore a year earlier. • REUTERS

gains," Jairam Sridharan, CFO, Axis Bank, told The Hindu. "But in Q3 this time, you saw an environment where the g-sec [government security] yields went up by about 70 basis points. This was anticipated," he added.

The lender reported a bad loan provision of ₹2,811 crore as compared with ₹3,796.

'Slippages to stabilise' Asset quality improved sequentially with fresh slippages falling by about 50%. "We had, for a few quarters, slippages in the ₹4,000 crore range," he said.

Last quarter, because of the RBI report on divergence, slippages went up to ₹8,800 crore. We are back to the ₹4,000 crore to ₹4,500 crore kind of range. I do not expect an increase in that number going forward," Mr. Sridharan said

The gross NPA ratio of the bank at the end of December was 5.28% compared with 5.9% in the previous quarter and 5.22% a year earlier.

The bank's net interest margin also fell 5 basis points last quarter to 3.38%.

"We are starting to believe that margins have bottomed out. Next quarter [Jan-Mar], either you should see stability or improvement," he said.

State of Punjab on EPC mode

(Package-I)

### cross ₹6-lakh crore in market cap HDFC Bank is first lender to cross ₹5-lakh crore mark

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Reliance Industries (RIL) become the first Indian company to cross the ₹6-lakh crore mark in market capitalisation as its shares touched a 52-week high of ₹974.5 following the announcement of robust Q3 profits on Friday. RIL shares rose 4.5% to

₹971.2 valuing the company at ₹6,15,150 crore. RIL is owned 40% by its chairman Mukesh Ambani, making him the richest Indian with personal wealth of \$40.7 billion and the 20th richest globally, according to Bloomberg's billionaire index.

Out of 25 brokerages, 18 have revised their price target for RIL shares with an av-



erage target price of ₹1,031. "Energy projects are driving upside surprises, telecom monetisation is accelerating, and capex intensity continues to fall. Oil in a sweet spot, leveraging counter cyclical downstream investments, and consolida-

tion in telecom set the stage

for surprises in 2018. Stay overweight," said Morgan Stanley in a note to clients.

India's largest software exporter, Tata Consultancv Services follows RIL with market capitalisation of ₹5,95,946 crore. The market cap of BSE listed firms stood at ₹1,55,48,572 crore at close of trade on Monday as the Sensex gained 286 points to close at a record high of 35,798.

HDFC Bank become the first bank to cross market capitalisation of ₹5 lakh crore on Friday.

The shares, touched a 52-week high of ₹1,986 on Monday, closed at ₹1,963.8, valuing the bank at ₹5,08,648 crore.

### + Prabhu urges better India-ASEAN connect

Moots value chains in farm, minerals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu on Monday called for greater trade and investment engagement between India and the ten-member ASEAN bloc, especially in agriculture as well as minerals and ocean resources, and suggested the creation of India-ASEAN regional value chains in these segments.

Speaking at the ASEAN-India Business and Investment Meet and Expo, Mr. Prabhu also pitched for easier movement of professionals and skilled workers between India and ASEAN countries to boost services trade as well as investment. The Minister also sought an improvement in India-ASEAN physical connectivi-



Suresh Prabhu

through infrastructure.

Mr. Prabhu added that India would work closely with ASEAN nations to successfully conclude negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a proposed mega-Free Trade Agreement between ASEAN and six of its FTA partner nations.

## 'Bad loans to rise to ₹9.5 lakh cr. by March'

'Rising NPAs an opportunity for ARCs'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's banking sector will is fairly sizable," said the be saddled with gross nonperforming assets (GNPAs) worth a staggering ₹9.5 lakh crore by March-end, rising from ₹8 lakh crore a year earlier, a report said.

The high level of stressed assets in the banking system, however, provide enormous opportunity for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) which are important stakeholders in the NPA resolution process, said the Assocham-Crisil study.

At the same time, it said, the growth of ARCs was expected to come down significantly owing to capital constraints. "While growth [of ARCs] is expected to fall to around 12% by June 2019, the AUM [assets under man-

agement] are expected to reach ₹1 lakh crore, and that

report. It said GNPAs would increase to "₹9.5 lakh crore as on March 31, 2018, i.e. about 10.5% of total advances, while stressed assets are expected to be at ₹11.5 lakh crore."

Separately, Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla had said in Parliament earlier that GNPAs of banks crossed ₹8.5 lakh crore at the end of September. The report further said that with banks expected to make higher provisioning over and above the provisions made for stressed assets, they may sell the assets at lower discounts, thus increasing the requirement.

### **GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HIGHWAYS PROJECTS INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB), NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING** Short time Tender Notice No.: CW-2/BTI/01 1. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRT&H) Through Executive Engineer Central Works Division, No.2, PWD B&R Br., Bathinda on behalf of CE (NH) Pb.PWD (The Authority) invites bids from eligible bidders/contractors for the following project:

Approximate Period of work (Rs) 4 1 18 Cr to 2 lane with paved shoulder of Mudki-Jawahar Singh Wala section of NH-254 from Design Km 0.00 to Km 38.00 in th

2. Period of availability of Tender on-line/Date & Time of on-line bid submission

and Date & time of opening of Bids are as given below:				
Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time for on-line	Date & Time of Opening of tender	
From To		Submission of Bids	Technical Bid in the O/o CE (NH) Pb., PWD B&R, Civil Secretariat No.2, Sec-9, Chandigarh	Financial Bid
30.01.2018 10.00 hrs.	09.03.2018 17.00 hrs.	09.03.2018 upto 17.00 hrs.	12.03.2018 15.00 hrs.	To be announced later on
i) The complete BID documents can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of				

MoRT&H http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained

iii) Amendments/Corrigendum, if any would be hosted on the website **Executive Engineer** Central Works Division No.2, Pb., PWD B&R Br., Bathinda

NATIONAL AEROSPACE LABORATORIES NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (Karnataka), India invites online bids on two bid system basis from manufacturers Tender No.

 NAL/PUR/FMCD/298/17-Z Wide Angle Projector etc. Laser Micromachining Facility for Ceramic NAL/PUR/SED/385/17-Z

iterested Bidders may obtain detailed information from Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) of Government of India ebsite https://etenders.gov.in Stores & Purchase Officer



(E- Procurement Mode With E-reverse Auction) Tender Ref. No. : HQMM/5001-18/NISP/001 Tenders are invited online through e-procurement mode with e-reverse auction fo supply of Coking Coal on FOR Destination basis to our Steel Plant at Nagarnar Jagdalpur Dist., Chattisgarh State, India.

Last Date & Time for submission Coking Coal 21-02-2018 (2:30 IST) Quantity: 2,00,000 (± 5%) Tonnes

The detailed tender document can be downloaded from our website www.nmdc.co.ir under tender section, http://eprocure.gov.in and www.mstcecommerce.com. Any corrigendum to the above tender notice will be uploaded in tender section on websi www.nmdc.co.in only and will not be published in newspapers. Prospective bidder ay visit the NMDC website from time to time to note the corrigendum

**Executive Director (Materials)** 

Dated: 22/01/2018

## WGC mulls global gold kilobars standard

LME considering accepting the kilobars of the yellow metal as collateral

REUTERS LONDON

The World Gold Council (WGC) is studying the creation of a global standard for gold kilobars so they can be deployed as collateral in futures markets and potentially encourage demand, sources close to the matter said.

Kilobars -1 kg gold bars dominate Asian trade but a lack of transparency about their origin and the absence of a global standard hinders their use on exchanges elsewhere.

Clearing houses, some of which allow bullion to be used as collateral on futures markets, might accept such bars if they all met a set of internationally recognised London Metal Exchange

clearing arm LME Clear cannot accept the kilobars used in Asia because they differ from London Good Delivery standard bars, typically



around 400 ounces, as specified by the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA).

Independent of the WGC initiative, the LME has been looking at accepting kilobars as collateral for all its contracts which include copper, aluminium and zinc, sources familiar with the matter said.

The council and the LME declined to comment. Intercontinental Exchange's ICE Clear Europe and CME Group's U.S.-based clearing house accept bullion as collateral, but only if it conforms with LBMA criteria, which typically would rule out bullion traded in Asia.

"We continuously evaluate new forms of collateral based on client demand and at this time, we haven't heard interest from clients," CME said when asked wheth-

er the exchange was considering accepting kilobars. ICE declined to comment

when asked. WGC talks on creating a global kilobar standard would aim to include companies from the world of gold

refining, banks and brokers

that trade the precious metal

in the futures and physical

markets and the LBMA. The LBMA said it was not currently involved in any specific discussions over the creation of a new standard.

'For global acceptance'

"The plan is to create a standard for kilobars that can be adopted around the world, delivered anywhere, possibly using blockchain to identify the bars, their origins," a physical gold trading source said. "Rigid standards and blockchain would bring in people who are worried they could be getting conflict metal," he said.

Ministry of Road Transport And Highways OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER. **NH Circle, PWD, Lucknow** 

Bid No.: 206/357Yata-NH Circle/18

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Government of India

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through Uttar Pradesh Public Work Department is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavour, it has decided to undertake "Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of Ram Nagar to Siswa Babu (Km. 484.000 to Km. 505.120) and Km. 537.000 to Km. 564.750 (Kaptanganj to Padrauna) of NH-730 to two lane with paved Shoulders under EPC mode in the State of Uttar Pradesh." Superintending Engineer, NH Circle, PWD, Lucknow now

ı	invite	invites online bids from eligible contractors for the following project:-						
	SI. No.	State	NH No.	ICBNo.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Cr.)	Completion period	Maintenance period
	1.	U.P.	NH- 730		Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of NH-730 from Km. 484.000 to Km. 505.120 (Ramnagar to Siswa Babu) to two lane with paved Shoulders (Rural Area) & Two Lane Paved Shoulders with Service Road (Urban Area) under EPC mode in the State of Uttar Pradesh.	110.100.00	1 years [12 months] including rainy season	4 (Four) Years
	2.	U.P.	NH- 730		Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of NH-730 from Km. 537.000 to Km. 564.750 (Kaptanganj to Padrauna) to two lane with paved Shoulders (Rural Area) & Four Lane Divided Carriageway with Service Road (Urban Area) under EPC Mode in the State of Uttar Pradesh.		1.5 years [18 months] including rainy season	4 (Four) Years

2. The complete BID document can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of MoRT&H https://www.morth.nic.in or eprocurement portal of MoRT&H https://eprocure.gov.in from 31.01.2018 to 01.03.2018 upto 17:00 Hrs IST. Bid must be submitted online only at (https://eprocure.gov.in) on or before 05.03.2018 upto 17:00 Hrs IST. Bids received online shall be opened on 08.03.2018 at 15:00 Hrs IST. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, document fee, Power of Attorney and joint bidding

agreement shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 06.03.2018 (up to 17:00 Hrs. IST). Please note that the

Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever. Superintending Engineer NH Circle PWD, Lucknow e-mail: senhpwdlko@gmail.com