

MARKET WATCH

	27-12-2017	% CHANGE
Sensex	33,912	-0.29
US Dollar	64.15	-0.11
Gold	30,075	0.33
Brent oil	66.67	-0.07

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	404.20	-0.35
Ambuja Cements	271.30	-2.00
Asian Paints	1149.05	-1.70
Aurobindo Pharma	690.75	7.05
Axis Bank	554.60	-0.40
Bajaj Auto	3339.05	-29.95
Bajaj Finance	1770.95	-18.55
Bharti Airtel	534.65	-8.30
Bosch	20092.75	-197.95
BPCL	533.40	-5.50
Cipla	612.65	0.90
Coal India	262.55	-1.20
Dr Reddys Lab	2400.30	40.00
Eicher Motors	30190.65	-60.50
GAIL (India)	508.10	-1.55
HCL Tech	883.65	-4.80
HDFC	1707.90	-5.30
HDFC Bank	1856.75	-11.60
Hero MotoCorp	3786.65	-27.15
Hindalco	265.75	-2.90
HPCL	425.85	-4.65
Hind Unilever	1352.45	4.35
Indiabulls HFL	1192.65	-6.95
ICICI Bank	312.80	-5.35
IndusInd Bank	1651.10	-13.10
Bharti Infratel	367.50	-2.10
Infosys	1034.25	-1.35
Indian OilCorp	401.50	-8.45
ITC	262.15	-2.00
Kotak Bank	1014.05	-2.20
L&T	1257.85	-11.85
Lupin	875.10	2.90
M&M	746.75	5.20
Mauriti Suzuki	9644.10	-34.90
NTPC	177.50	-0.95
ONGC	192.60	-1.10
PowerGrid Corp	201.20	-1.25
Reliance Ind	923.75	-6.05
State Bank	314.85	-2.30
Sun Pharma	576.30	35.00
Tata Motors	422.45	-1.75
Tata Steel	723.45	1.80
TCS	2619.90	-29.55
Tech Mahindra	503.00	9.60
UltraTech Cement	4277.70	-62.65
UPL	740.35	4.80
Vedanta	326.20	4.25
Wipro	306.60	3.70
YES Bank	315.15	-0.35
Zee Entertainment	587.35	5.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	63.95	64.27
Euro	76.07	76.45
British Pound	85.80	86.23
Japanese Yen (100)	56.47	56.76
Chinese Yuan	9.75	9.81
Swiss Franc	64.66	64.99
Singapore Dollar	47.72	47.96
Canadian Dollar	50.59	50.84
Malaysian Ringgit	15.65	15.80

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

December 27 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	41.10	(40.70)
22 ct gold (1g)	2,781	(2,765)

Govt. to borrow more; fiscal deficit may widen

Centre plans to raise additional ₹50,000 cr. via bond sales in the fourth quarter, to trim collections via T-bills to ₹25,006 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has decided to borrow an additional ₹50,000 crore in the last three months of this financial year, a move that some economists said could result in the government missing its budgeted fiscal deficit target of 3.2% of GDP.

Announcing the borrowing calendar for the fourth quarter, the Finance Ministry on Wednesday said that the additional borrowing, which would be done through government bonds, would, however, be offset by trimming T-Bills (treasury bills) from ₹86,203 crore to ₹25,006 crore.

"The borrowing programme of the Government of India has been reviewed, with RBI, and following deci-

sions taken: (i) The Government will trim down the T-Bills from present collections of ₹86,203 crore to ₹25,006 crore by March end, 2018. (ii) The Government will raise additional market borrowings of ₹50,000 crore only in fiscal FY18 through dated government securities. (iii) The Government will thus, between now and March 2018, not be raising any net additional borrowing (T-Bills will be run down by ₹61,203 crore and additional G-Sec borrowing will be ₹50,000 crore)."

In the Union Budget, the government had factored gross and net market borrowing at ₹5,80,000 crore and ₹4,23,226 crore respectively, with ₹3,48,226 crore proposed to be raised (net) from bonds and ₹2,002 crore



Balancing act: Centre says it will not be raising any net additional borrowing over the last quarter.

from T-bills.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, State Bank of India said, "In my estimates, fiscal

3.5% fiscal deficit looks imminent. That is the impact we are getting due to the increased borrowing numbers."

'Could hit consolidation'
Any slippage from the fiscal deficit target this year, could have a knock-on effect on the overall fiscal consolidation efforts, according to Mr. Ghosh.

"Most importantly, this should also alter the fiscal consolidation path," Mr. Ghosh said. "So, if this year's fiscal deficit is 3.5% or higher, next year's deficit should also stay close to that. Because, the government may not want to go for an aggressive consolidation in an election year since it needs to spend more to push growth, which is still picking up."

The Finance Ministry said borrowings had so far been "in line", suggesting the government doesn't apprehend significant fiscal slippage.

"Borrowings in FY 18 till date (December 26, 2017) have been conducted in line with the borrowing calendar for FY18. Gross and net market borrowings in FY18 till December 26, 2017, are ₹5,21,000 crore and ₹3,81,281 crore, excluding buyback/switches, respectively. As against the budgeted net T-bills receipt of ₹2,002 crore in FY18, net collections till December 26, 2017, are ₹86,203 crore."

Another factor that would come into play next year, Mr. Ghosh said, was that the deficit would be on the basis of a larger GDP number.

Small savings interest rate cut by 20 bps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday slashed interest rates on small savings schemes, including NSC and PPF, by 0.2 percentage point for the January-March period from the rates applicable in the previous quarter, a move that will prompt banks to lower deposit rates.

At the same time, investments in the five-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been retained at 8.3%. The interest rate on the senior citizens' scheme is paid quarterly.

A Finance Ministry notification said rates have been reduced across the board for schemes such as the National Savings Certificate (NSC).

SBI gets board nod to raise ₹8,000 crore

To comply with Basel III norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The country's largest lender SBI on Wednesday said its board had approved raising ₹8,000 crore through various sources, including masala bonds, to meet Basel III capital norms.

"The central board, at its meeting held today [Wednesday], accorded approval to raise additional tier 1 (AT1) capital by way of issuance of Basel III compliant debt instruments in USD and/or INR to the tune of ₹8,000 crore from domestic/international markets including masala bonds," the bank said in a regulatory filing.

Masala bonds are rupee-denominated specialised debt instruments that can be floated in overseas mar-



kets only to raise capital.

State Bank of India (SBI) said it had time till March 2018 to raise the funds.

Banks in India have to comply with the global capital norms under Basel III by March 2019, three months later than the internationally-agreed time frame, by January 2019.

SEBI directs Axis Bank to probe data leak

Bank's financial results were available on a WhatsApp group before announcement on bourses

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed Axis Bank to conduct an internal inquiry to ascertain how key financial information was leaked on a WhatsApp group before it was officially announced on the stock exchange platform.

'First such order'

The directive is significant since it is the first order by the capital markets regulator in the matter relating to alleged leak of unpublished price-sensitive information on the social media platform.

SEBI directed the bank to complete the inquiry within three months and also strengthen its processes to ensure such leaks did not recur. "Axis Bank shall conduct an internal inquiry into the



Axis of doubt: SEBI ordered the private lender to strengthen its processes to ensure such instances did not recur. ■ REUTERS

leakage of unpublished price-sensitive information relating to its financial results and take appropriate action against those responsible for the same, in accordance with

law," stated the four-page order by G. Mahalingam, whole-time member, SEBI. "Axis Bank shall strengthen its processes/systems/controls forthwith to ensure

that such instances of leakage of unpublished price-sensitive information do not recur in future," SEBI said in its order.

"The bank will work with SEBI and the best experts in the field to investigate the matter and will take action as appropriate," Rajesh Dahiya, Executive Director, Corporate Centre at Axis Bank, said in an e-mailed statement.

According to SEBI, its preliminary probe revealed that the messages circulated in WhatsApp groups almost matched with the quarterly financial results of Axis Bank for June 2017. The actual results were announced on the stock exchanges on July 25, 2017, at 4.23 p.m. but as per media reports the numbers were in circulation on July 25 since 9.12 a.m., it noted.

"... prima facie (it) ap-

pears that the financial results of Axis Bank for quarter ended June 2017 were finalised by July 24, 2017, which was before circulation of WhatsApp message on July 25, 2017," according to the SEBI order.

The same could not have been possible without leakage of information from the persons, who were privy to the information relating to financials prior to its official announcement, it said. According to the regulator, such leakage was prima facie attributable to the inadequacy of the systems that the bank had put in place.

SEBI's order comes about a week after it conducted raids at 34 locations linked to members of the particular WhatsApp group on which the financial information was alleged to have been shared.

LS nod for cess hike on luxury cars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday approved a bill to hike cess on luxury vehicles from 15% to 25% with a view to enhance funds to compensate States for revenue loss following the rollout of GST.

The GST (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017, was passed by the Lower House amid uproar by the opposition over controversial comments made by Union Minister Anant Kumar Hegde on secularism and the Constitution.

The Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance which was promulgated in September to give effect to the decision of the GST Council. The Ordinance provided for a hike in the GST cess on a range of cars to 25%.

Rabobank-backed fund picks up 40% in Olive Bar for ₹100 cr.

Becomes significant investor in the restaurant chain

MANOJIT SAHA
MUMBAI

India Agri Business Fund II, a private equity fund sponsored by Rabobank, has picked up 40% stake in Olive Bar & Kitchen Private Ltd. (OBKPL) from other PE investors for about ₹100 crore.

The fund bought the entire stake held by Aditya Birla Private Equity along with a few other shareholders to become a significant investor in the company.

'No fine dining'

Rajesh Srivastava, chairman, Rabo Equity Advisors said they want OBKPL to remain in the casual, mid-market segment and not in fine dining segment which is more risky.

"Agri food sector is grow-



Rajesh Srivastava

ing big time, all sub sectors are growing in double digits and so is food service," said Mr. Srivastava. "Food service has different formats - casual dining, fine dining, mass market etc. We were waiting for the right deal

where the format has been tried and tested," Mr. Srivastava told *The Hindu*.

"We want to ensure that they are not in the fine dining segment which, I think, is a little bit risky because per store cost is higher.

"So, if one outlet does not do well, then the cost of closure and relocation becomes very high," he added.

He said while the restaurant chain is present in three cities - Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi - plans are on to expand to other cities and in overseas geographies in the times to come. OBKPL owns various brands, including Olive, Fatty Bao, Toast and Tonic, Sodabottle Opener-wala, Guppy by Ai and Lady Baga. The food service company has 33 outlets.

India to pip China as top LPG importer

Dec. shipments to reach 2.4 mn tonnes amid drive to boost fuel's use in cooking

REUTERS
SINGAPORE

India is set to surpass China as the biggest importer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) this month as a drive to replace wood and animal dung fires for cooking boosts consumption.

Shipping data in Thomson Reuters Eikon shows LPG shipments to India will reach 2.4 million tonnes in December, pushing it ahead of top importer China, on 2.3 million tonnes, for the first time.

'Amazing growth'

India's LPG purchases have surged from just 1 million tonnes a month in early 2015 on the back of a government programme to bring energy to millions of poor households relying on open fires.

"The growth in India is amazing. The fact that they have grown from 140 million



More kitchens: India's LPG purchases have surged on the back of a scheme to supply the gas to poor households. ■ REUTERS

subsidized household connections in 2015 to 181 million now is very impressive," Ted Young, CFO at Dorian LPG, told Reuters. With a fleet of 22 tankers, U.S.-based Dorian is one of the world's biggest LPG shippers.

LPG, a mixture of propane and butane, is used for cooking and transport, as well as in the petrochemical

industry. India's average monthly imports in 2017 of about 1.7 million tonnes are well still behind China's 2.2 million tonnes, but it has jumped ahead of third-placed Japan on about 1 million tonnes.

Automobile fuel

Dorian LPG expects "plenty of upside for Indian LPG" imports due to rising use in

cars following an Indian tax on gasoline, the company said in a presentation.

China, India and Japan together make up about 45% of global LPG purchases.

India's biggest supplier by a large margin is the Middle East, which has so far enjoyed a virtual supply monopoly.

However, a surge in U.S. shale drilling, which yields LPG as a byproduct of crude oil and natural gas output, means American LPG exports have started to appear in India. Eikon data shows the first regular U.S. LPG shipments to India began at the start of 2017 at around 50,000 tonnes to 100,000 tonnes a month, rising to more than 200,000 tonnes in December.

While that is just a tenth of Middle Eastern shipments, U.S. LPG is becoming increasingly price competitive.

BUSINESS CONNECT

NEW YEAR SPECIAL OFFER AT CHENNAI DIAMONDS



Chennai Diamonds, the premier Diamond Jewellery showroom in Chennai, is renowned for its fine quality diamonds, exotic design, and exquisite collections. As a part of their special New Year offer, customers can avail Rs. 7500 on diamonds. Chennai Diamonds pioneers in many like offering 100 percent buy-back on Diamonds, best value purchase, launching unique collections and affordable diamond jewellery. Iskara, a light weight jewellery brand from Chennai Diamonds offers affordable range of diamond jewellery ranging from Rs. 3,999 to Rs. 39,999. Visit their showrooms at Anna Nagar and Cathedral Road. Call 044 42104050/26252099 for more details.

FOR NON-SURGICAL LIPO AND SLIMMING TREATMENTS



Rishithaa Slim & Caere is renowned for its non-surgical lipo and slimming treatments. Headed by Rishithaa, it has a customized approach to clients and uses a combination of modern technology tapping, toning and vacuum therapy and traditional systems like yoga, breathing exercises and mud therapy. They are also specialised in face lifting treatments, double chins, wrinkle reduction, firming and toning of sagging. Brands Academy felicitated Rishithaa's Slim & Caere with the prestigious Business and Service Excellence award for the year 2014, considering its best slimming centre in Chennai. Rishithaa Slim & Caere was also honoured in the grand International Quality Awards (IQA) in 2016. For more details, visit their clinic in Venkatanarayana Road, T.Nagar, or call 044 24335506/9444413224.

OLYMPIA GROUP TIES UP WITH LEADING SCHOOLS



Olympia group, South India's leading real estate developer ties up with Velammal New Gen CBSE School and KC High International School. The Velammal New Gen CBSE School is being constructed at Opaline Sequel, Navalur and KC High School will be set up at a new, bigger school campus at Panache, OMR. The Velammal New Gen CBSE School is spread across 54,000 sq. ft. and will accommodate 1000 students from Kindergarten to XII. Velammal New Gen School (VNGS) is a progressive initiative of the Velammal Educational Network delivering with an aim to deliver CBSE with internationally followed educational practices. KC High School is spread across 3.5 acres with accommodate 1,200 students from Kindergarten to class XII. The KC High school, presently located in Kotturpuram will soon shift to Navalur from January 2018.

A Business Initiative

SERVICE AT HOME FACILITY LAUNCHED BY MYTVS



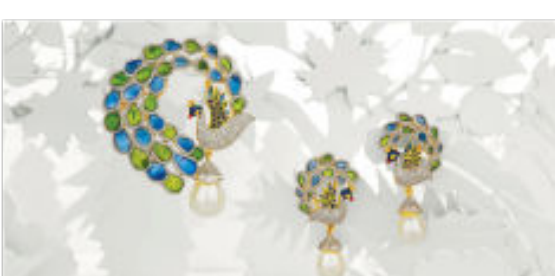
MyTVS, India's largest integrated multi-brand car service provider, has launched a first-of-its-kind facility - 'Service at home' for car users effective from December 1, 2017. Service at home is a unique facility that is enabled by its own IoT (Internet of Things) platform - Car Talk. Car Talk is a diagnostic application tool that combines, Mobility, IoT, Telematics and CRM to predict repairs before it occurs. Car Talk can diagnose and identify over 8400 potential issues with the car of which over 500 types of service repairs that occur frequently can be attended at home/office thereby connecting the physical service centre with the Service at Home solution. Customers can avail these services through MyTVS app from Google Play / iOS App store or by logging on to www.mytvs.in or by calling toll-free number 1800 266 0301

AFFORDABLE DIAGNOSIS AT AARTHI SCANS



Aarthi Scans began its journey from a small town in Kovilpatti in Southern Tamil Nadu. Today, they have 20 diagnostic centres in different parts of the state including small district towns like Tenkasi, Rajapalayam and Kovilpatti. They are also the only diagnostic centre to have both NABL and NABL accreditation's in Tamil Nadu. Services offered at Aarthi Scans are very cost-effective. For instance, if an MRI scan costs Rs. 8000 outside, Aarthi Scans offers it at just Rs. 4000. They also went a step ahead and offered the same facility for Rs. 2500 for all those who came to them in the night. The centre functions by its vision of making cost of diagnosis affordable so that treatment does not become unaffordable.

NAC LAUNCHES ITS LATEST COLLECTION - MAYURA



NAC Jewellers has unveiled an exclusive limited edition collection of jewellery, Mayura, this month. An enchanting collection themed around the beauty of a peacock, Mayura pays a tribute to beauty enriched by vibrant colours, flawless gemstones and intricate craftsmanship. Each piece of jewellery in this collection is handmade and meticulously designed to capture the splendour of a peacock's beauty. Intricately fashioned with enamel artwork with subtle hues of pastel blue and green and contrasted by the brilliance of the diamonds, Mayura is indeed a unique collection. Studded with the exquisite diamonds, Mayura is a limited edition collection available at NAC's flagship store in T. Nagar.