INBRIEF

State Bank of India raises ₹7,500 crore via tier 2 bonds

State Bank of India said it raised ₹7,500 crore at a coupon of 7.42% via its first Basel III-compliant tier 2 bond issue for FY25. The bonds are issued for a 15-year tenor, with call option after 10 years and each anniversary dates thereafter. “The issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids in excess of ₹8,800 crore against the base issue size of ₹5,000 crore. The bank has decided to accept ₹7,500 crore at a coupon rate of 7.42% payable annually.

Avesthagen, Apollo AyurVAID partner for medical foods

Lifesciences company Avesthagen Ltd. and Apollo AyurVAID, an Ayurveda chain of hospitals, announced a strategic partnership to design, validate, make and market scientifically-validated medical foods and dietary supplements. They will be marketed under AvestaAyurVAID brand, said the Apollo Hospitals Group Company. While Avesthagen’s Avesta Nordic Research Pvt. Ltd. and Avesta Good Earth Foods Pvt. Ltd. will make the products, Apollo AyurVAID will market them.

HUL receives Income Tax demand notice for ₹962.75 cr.

FMCG maker HUL said it has received a demand notice of ₹962.75 crore from the Income Tax Department and will go in for an appeal against the order. The notice relates to non-deduction of Tax Deducted at Source on payment of ₹3,045 crore to GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare for the acquisition of Intellectual Property Rights of the Health Foods Drinks (HFD) business consisting of brands as Horlicks, Boost, Maltova, and Viva, according to an exchange filing. PTI

SEBI flags ‘pattern’ in some SME founders rigging stocks

Post listing, some SMEs and/or promoters resort to means of projecting an unrealistic picture of the companies’ operations, affording an opportunity for them to offload stocks at elevated prices

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has cautioned investors against a specific pattern deployed [illegible]y promoters of certain [illegible]ms listed on the Small [illegible] Medium Enterprise [illegible] platforms of stock e[illegible]es to induce investors [illegible]gh positive portraya[illegible] corporate actions b[illegible]ffloading the stocks a[illegible]ed prices.

“Post li[illegible]ome SME firms and/[illegible]omoters have been seen to make public announcements that create a positive picture of operations,” it said.

“These announcements are typically followed up with various corporate actions such as bonus issues, stock splits and preferential allotments. The actions induce them [investors] into purchasing such securities,” SEBI added.

“This presents an easy opportunity to the promoters to offload the holdings at elevated prices.”

SEBI said in the recent past it passed orders against such entities. In the last decade, more than ₹14,000 crore was raised via the platforms of which about ₹6,000 crore was collected in FY24. The regulator asked investors to be cautious while investing.

Small firms, huge concern

SEBI cautions investors about the template some SME founders use to lift share prices before selling at elevated levels

- Post listing, promoters announce stock splits/bonus issues
- This induces investors to buy the securities
- Promoters then offload the holdings at higher prices
- Investors urged to not rely on unverified social-media posts/rumours

NCAER [illegible]es ‘softer’ economi[illegible]utlook

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The outlook for the Indian economy seems softer this month, with a few economic indicators weakening even as core inflation witnessed a slight uptick amid cooler headline inflation, the National Council of Applied Economic[illegible]search (NCAER) sai[illegible] Wednesday.

The Council said in its August review that high-frequency indicators reveal the domestic economy has remained resilient, but the outlook remains softer. The NCAER flagged the moderation in industh[illegible]put and core sectors[illegible]rmance in June, and [illegible] deceleration in credit [illegible] for the industrial [illegible]rvices sectors’ as we[illegible] personal loans. While [illegible]ne year-on-year infla[illegible]lowed for both cons[illegible] and wholesale prices [illegible]ly 2024, the NCAER o[illegible] there was some caus[illegible] [illegible] in the farm se[illegible] [illegible]econd half of th[illegible] sou[illegible]nsoon projected to [illegible]rmal.

“The progr[illegible] sowing until the mi[illegible] August shows that the pr[illegible]portion of area sown was higher at 94.1% compared to 93.7% last year,” it said.

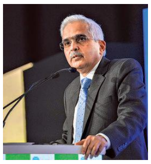
‘AI will revolutionise financial services’

The [illegible]u Bureau
MU[illegible]

Arti[illegible] Intelligence and Mac[illegible] Learning (AI/ML) “is p[illegible] to revolutionise finan[illegible]ervices in unprecede[illegible] ways,” Reserve Bank [illegible]dia (RBI) governor [illegible]ikanta Das said on W[illegible]sday addressing the G[illegible] FinTech Fest, a three-[illegible]vent in the city.

“A[illegible]ithms are already b[illegible] deployed for [illegible]ction. ML mo[illegible]g employed in [illegible]ng, leveraging [illegible]nalytics to as[illegible]orthiness,” Mr. Das sa[illegible]ng AI-driven virtual a[illegible]nts were enhancing customer experiences by providing bespoke recommendations and resolving queries.

He said, as AI/ML capabilities evolve, their application in regulatory compliance, could redefine the financial landscape.



Shaktikanta Das

CCI clears merger of Disney–RIL media assets

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Wednesday provisionally approved the ₹70,350 crore combination involving Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and its units Viacom18 Media Pvt. Limited (Viacom18), Digital18 Media Ltd. with The Walt Disney Co.’s (TWDC) Star India Pvt. Ltd. (SIPL) and Star Television Productions Ltd. (STPL), “subject to the compliance of voluntary modifications,” the watchdog said in a press release.

A detailed order has not yet been released, and it is not clear what the modifications are, though Reuters reported that RIL offered concessions like a commitment to avoid “unreasonable” rate increases for advertisements during cricket matches.

“As a result of the transaction, SIPL, currently a wholly owned entity of TWDC through its subsidiaries, shall become a joint venture (JV) which will be jointly held by RIL, Viacom18 and existing TWDC subsidiaries,” the CCI said.

The combination would result in a consolidation of television and streaming in India, with the Jefferies Group estimating that the venture would control about 40% of the streaming and TV advertising market. The merger would also lead to consolidation of cricket broadcasting – currently, Indian Premier League rights are split between Star and Viacom18 for TV and streaming.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,786	0.09
US Dollar	83.97	-0.05
Gold	74,350	0.00
Brent oil	78.97	-1.16

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3028.00	-39.10
Adani Ports	1469.80	-8.55
Apollo Hosp	6776.45	-5.00
Asian Paints	3125.50	-40.70
Axis Bank	1170.95	-10.30
Bajaj Auto	10656.75	155.15
Bajaj Finserv	1713.50	-5.50
Bajaj Finance	6900.00	36.40
Bharti Airtel	1556.35	33.60
BPCL	348.15	-0.90
Britannia Ind	5703.35	-60.95
Cipla	1618.20	20.15
Coal India	526.35	-5.05
Divis Lab	5030.70	128.20
Dr Reddys Lab	6999.30	36.35
Eicher Motors	4946.85	78.00
Grasim Ind	2715.55	15.65
HCL Tech	1719.45	7.85
HDFC Bank	1637.10	-0.65
HDFC Life	742.10	2.55
Hero MotoCorp	5311.40	-45.15
Hindalco	705.05	1.55
Hind Unilever	2764.35	-2.55
ICICI Bank	1223.85	-2.50
IndusInd Bank	1415.75	32.55
Infosys	1939.10	39.00
ITC	497.30	-3.30
JSW Steel	949.25	5.25
Kotak Bank	1791.30	-12.05
L&T	3689.05	-13.65
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6127.55	376.00
M&M	2798.00	17.20
Maruti Suzuki	12357.50	-139.40
NestleIndia	2492.50	-28.95
NTPC	409.05	-0.60
ONGC	327.80	-1.05
PowerGrid Corp	334.45	-0.90
Reliance Ind	2996.60	-4.30
SBI Life	1843.70	4.75
State Bank	809.40	-6.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3201.85	-27.60
Sun Pharma	1811.85	22.45
TataConsumerProduct	1201.15	-8.45
Tata Motors	1074.55	-2.70
Tata Steel	153.70	-1.00
TCS	4506.05	8.90
Tech Mahindra	1627.35	2.75
Titan	3527.50	-23.75
UltraTech Cement	11234.80	-65.55
Wipro	534.60	17.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.75	84.07
Euro	93.16	93.52
British Pound	110.68	111.11
Japanese Yen (100)	57.99	58.22
Chinese Yuan	11.75	11.80
Swiss Franc	99.32	99.71
Singapore Dollar	64.24	64.50
Canadian Dollar	62.20	62.44
Malaysian Ringitt	19.27	19.36
Australian Dollar	56.84	57.05

Source:Indian Bank

C.S. Setty succeeds Khara at SBI’s helm

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty on Wednesday assumed charge as Chairman of the country’s largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI).

He succeeds Dinesh Khara, who superannuated from services at the close of business hours on Tuesday, SBI said in a regulatory filing.

Prior to becoming Chairman, Mr. Setty, who was the senior-most managing director, headed various task forces/committees formed by the Union Government and had prior to that overseen the lender’s retail and digital banking portfolio.

CCEA clears 12 industrial parks across 10 States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday cleared an outlay of ₹28,602 crore to set up 12 industrial parks across 10 States and along six major industrial corridors, in line with an announcement in the Union Budget.

The government said these greenfield industrial “smart cities” can attract potential investments of ₹1.5 lakh crore, creating a potential 1 million direct and up to 3 million indirect jobs. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal signalled these were ‘conservative estimates’ and said these projects, that will offer investors a ‘plug and play’ alternative to set up shop, will be completed in three years, with land acquisition and environmental clearances already in place.

While one location was not named due to the model code of conduct for assembly polls, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh will host two parks each, and one would come up in Gaya, Bihar. Dighi in Maharashtra will host one of two new facilities proposed along the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

The CCEA nod covers the development of one industrial park each along the corridors coming up between Vizag and Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Nagpur, and Chennai and Bengaluru.

These are the first set of about 100 investment-ready “plug and play” industrial parks with complete infrastructure in or near cities, in partnership with the States and private sector, by better using town planning schemes, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in this year’s Budget.

Piyush Goyal

De Beers, Tanishq ally to boost natural diamond jewellery use

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Leading diamond company De Beers Group and jewellery retail brand Tanishq announced long-term collaboration to promote the sale and consumption of natural diamonds and grow the Indian market for the precious stone.

The demand for natural diamond jewellery from Indian clients had surged and now represented 11% of the global demand.

This has seen India replace China as the second-largest market in the world for the jewellery, they said.

With diamond acquisition rates in India well below those in mature markets such as the U.S., this provides a significant opportunity to catalyse further growth for natural diamond jewellery in India, they added.

Chawla (L) with Conseiller

Doubling customers

Tanishq expects consumer base for natural diamond studded jewellery to double from the current 1 million in the coming years.

The collaboration will focus on building extensive consumer outreach and deepening capabilities of Tanishq staff to communicate on the diamonds.

“Combining our expertise with their deep understanding of the Indian market, we will work together to create something special to connect more Indian consumers to the natural treasures,” said Sandrine Conseiller, CEO, De Beers Brands.

“The opportunity in India for diamonds is massive, given the very low penetration of studded jewellery and the rising per capita incomes in the world’s most populous country,” said Ajoy Chawla, CEO, Jewellery Division, Titan Company Ltd.

Shriram Capital names JMD Subhasri as MD & CEO

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Shriram Capital Private Ltd., announced the appointment of Subhasri as its MD and CEO, effective September 1.

Subhasri, who has been serving as the Joint Managing Director, will take over the new role with a vision to drive the company toward greater success, the holding company of the Shriram Group said in a press statement.

In her earlier roles, she was the Executive Director and CFO of Shriram City Union Finance (now Shriram Finance) and joint MD of Shriram Capital.