

# Loans against securities business gains traction

NESIL STANEY  
Mumbai, August 11

THE LOANS AGAINST securities (LAS) business, which typically involves disbursal of huge amount of money by banks and shadow lenders against shares, mutual funds and bonds, has seen a rising interest from brokerages, wealth managers, fintech aggregators and specialists.

The increased pledging volume by India's rising urban investors (HNIs) and corporate honchos is leading the trend, said market experts. New types of securities, including exchange-traded-funds and ESOPs, are also driving up volumes.

This helped Rurah Financials, a nascent Mumbai-based LAS firm, to clock revenue of Rs 25 crore in 2025, from Rs 7 crore in 2023. It is now "planning an initial public offering (IPO) valued between Rs 500 crore and Rs 1,000 crore," said MD and CEO Ranjith Jha. IPO advisors – Pantomath and HEM Securities – are being consulted for the issue.

The firm's success story reflects the vastly expanding client base of the LAS industry. Equirus Group, a financial ser-

## FINTECHS AHEAD OF TRADITIONAL LENDERS

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■ Product comes handy when funds are urgently required

vices firm that last week received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to launch shadow bank Equirus Finance, targets HNIs in LAS.

Digital players such as M2P Fintech and Quicklend also offer the crisp product.

Fintech firms and specialists have begun facilitating LAS deals of up to ₹100 crore to HNIs and business houses by acting as aggregators across multiple lenders. Digital onboarding and a larger list of eligible securities are their forte versus traditional lenders.

"The product is popular for

unlocking liquidity while retaining asset ownership in a transparent and methodical way," said the head of a brokerage, whose LAS business has significantly expanded. The processing speed and lower risk-adjusted rates are boosting the product.

Traditional players have large market share. According to State Bank website, the interest on loan against mutual funds is 11.3%. Tata Capital charges 8% to 20% for LAS, Axis Bank 11% to 13.75% and Kotak charges 8% to 11%. ICICI Bank quotes

8% to 11%. ICICI Bank quotes

loan processing charge of up to 2% of the amount, ₹2,500 plus GST for renewal and ₹5,000 plus taxes to sell securities. All these charges are non-refundable.

"You may add more securities to the same loan to increase drawing power of your account, provided they are eligible," said aggregator Paisabazaar.com.

LAS disbursals are typically 50% to 95% of the collateral value. The risk is the loss of securities on default. While traditional business loans are based on income or cash flow, LAS comes handy during urgent requirements. Another main feature of LAS is HNIs who pledge shares short term to bank for IPOs or to trade.

The Securities and Exchanges Board of India periodically reviews and refines rules with regard to reporting, margin and end-use to mitigate systemic risks from LAS.

Conventionally a brokerage, Sharekhan, is now a major LAS player, offering high-value loans and flexible tenures. Mirae Asset Sharekhan Financial Services specialises in loans and credit facilities under ESOP funding.

continues to grow well in all areas... Its subsidiary, Hinduj Housing Finance, is now the fourth-largest affordable housing finance company and is also delivering good numbers," Dheeraj Hinduj, executive chairman, Ashok Leyland, said in the Q4FY25 earnings call.

"Although there has been slight delay in the listing of Hinduj Leyland Finance, it

# RBI sells \$5 billion to boost rupee

PRATIKA VAJPEYI & BHASKAR DUTTA  
August 11



THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) sold US dollars across both onshore and offshore currency markets this month to prop up the rupee in following a prolonged weakness, according to sources.

The RBI sold at least \$5 billion worth of the US currency, one of sources said. If the trend persists, it could become RBI's largest month of net dollar sales since January.

The rupee has depreciated more than 2% so far this year, making it among Asia's worst-performing currencies. Roughly half of that drop came in the past two weeks after it became evident Trump was planning to increase the tariffs.

"The recent RBI intervention seems to have more to do with their dislike of the volatility in the exchange rate," said Dhiraj Nirmal, currency strategist

at Australia and New Zealand Banking Group. The rupee traded steady at 87.62 per dollar on Monday.

On multiple occasions last week, the central bank was seen stepping into the offshore market just before the Indian trading hours, according to two sources.

Relying on so-called non-deliverable forwards allows the RBI to guide the rupee's trajectory without having to sell large volumes of dollars outright. The central bank heavily relied on this strategy last year.

The rupee fell to 87.89 per dollar last week, just shy of its all-time low, as US President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods on August 6 to 50% as a penalty for its purchases of Russian oil. A weaker rupee could fuel imported inflation and strain an already fragile economic recovery.

The RBI intervention suggests a potential shift from the

Rupee falls 17 paise to close at 87.75

THE RUPEE PARED initial gains and settled for the day on a negative note, lower by 17 paise at 87.75 against the US dollar on Monday, as it came under pressure due to continued dollar demand by importers and a rebound in crude oil prices.

Foreign traders said the rupee pared initial gains on positive crude oil prices, dollar demand from importers and foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 87.56 and moved in a range of 87.48 to 87.75 during the day before settling at 87.75, lower by 17 paise from its previous close.

—PTI

## STREET SIGNALS

### JSW Cement IPO booked 7.77 times

THE INITIAL PUBLIC offering of JSW Cement garnered 7.77 times subscription on the closing day of share sale on Monday. The IPO received bids for 1,40,91,39,588 shares, against 18,12,94,964 shares on offer, according to NSE data. The QIBs portion fetched 15.80 times subscription while the category for non institutional investors got subscribed 10.97 times. The RILs part received 1.81 times subscription. JSW Cement on Wednesday mobilised Rs 1,080 crore from anchor investors. —PTI

### Day 1: BlueStone Jewellery IPO subscribed 39%

THE IPO OF BlueStone Jewellery and Lifestyle got subscribed 39% on the first day of subscription on Monday. The three-day IPO received bids for 63,89,570 shares against 1,65,14,421 shares on offer, according to NSE data. BlueStone Jewellery on Friday raised over ₹693 crore from anchor investors. The issue, with a price band of ₹492 to ₹517, will conclude on August 13. The IPO involves a fresh issue of ₹820 crore. —PTI

### Shreeji Shipping fixes IPO price band at ₹240-252

SHIPPING AND LOGISTICS solutions provider Shreeji Shipping Global, which on Monday fixed the price band at ₹240-252 per share for its ₹411-crore IPO, said the firm may look at more overseas ports to expand its marine assets business. The firm also said it has received a Letter of Intent for setting up floating crane facilities for cargo, container topping up at Diamond Harbour and other deep-draft locations under Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, for 15 years. —PTI

## Hinduja Leyland Finance-NDL merger cleared

FE BUREAU  
Chennai, August 11

ASHOK LEYLAND ON Monday said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cleared the merger scheme of its subsidiary Hinduj Leyland Finance with NDL Venture.

"We are in receipt of a no-

objection certificate from the RBI for the proposed scheme of merger of Hinduj Leyland Finance with NDL Ventures," the commercial vehicle maker said in a regulatory filing.

The company said it will now move ahead with the next steps for the merger, including

regulatory, shareholder and other approvals.

Earlier, Ashok Leyland had said it was awaiting final regulatory clearance to proceed with the public listing of the NDFC.

"Although there has been slight delay in the listing of Hinduj Leyland Finance, it

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE

## PMO moves to tackle Trump tariffs

REPRESENTATIVES FROM INDUSTRY bodies such as CII, Assocham, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and key export promotion councils and consultancy firms will be special invitees to the committee.

According to the office memorandum directing the constitution of the committee dated August 5, which has been reviewed by FE, the panel's mandate is to identify bottlenecks in customs, duties and export incentives and clearance procedures and their impact on the manufacturing sector's competitiveness and to recommend targeted reforms aimed at improving export performance.

The panel will examine the current export-related tax regime, assess its impact on the manufacturing sector's competitiveness and suggest refine-



ments or alternatives. It will also identify sector-specific challenges in high-potential areas such as engineering, pharmaceuticals, electronics, chemicals, agri and processed food, textiles, leather and gems & jewellery. In addition, the panel has been tasked with studying the global best practices in export taxation and customs facilitation and recommending policy measures to streamline procedures.

When contacted by FE, industry executives and trade

analysts welcomed the move, but also expressed certain reservations. According to them, the committee comprises director-level officers from the ministries and departments concerned, which would delay any final action. According to them, ideally such a committee should comprise secretaries or at least joint secretary level officers so that decision-making could be fast. The reason being that any recommendations from the panel will need clearance from departmental secretaries, followed by inter-ministerial consultations, before reaching the Cabinet for final approval.

The industry is also not enthused by the two-month deadline for the committee to submit its report as it feels that it's too long a period for something which needs to be tackled on an urgent basis. "By the

time recommendations filter through the layers of approval, the opportunity to respond decisively could be lost," an industry executive said.

The real problem that India will face post these tariffs is competitiveness as all Asian countries and competing manufacturing destinations for India's exports to the US face much lower tariffs – in the range of 19-30%. While officials are exploring long-term policy measures to improve competitiveness, industry executives maintain that immediate support, especially in the form of subsidies, is crucial to protect sectors already under pressure.

Industry leaders are therefore urging the government to go beyond policy brainstorming and engage directly with companies most affected by the tariffs.

## Markets stage a comeback ahead of US-Russia talks

THIS TIME, HOWEVER, markets appear to have digested recent tariff-related concerns and are focusing more on earnings cues as the results season nears its end. Oversold positions in heavyweights are also providing support. "Still, only a decisive close above the 24,600 mark could extend this recovery towards the 24,800-25,000 zone," he said.

After four sessions of weakness, the market breadth turned positive on Monday, with 2,252 gainers against 1,912 losers on the BSE. The broader indices, the BSE Midcap and the BSE Smallcap, gained 0.79% and 0.35%, respectively, but still underperformed the benchmarks. Barring consumer durables, all major sectoral indices ended in the green, led by the PSU Bank index, which rose over 2%. Realty, auto, and healthcare were the other top sectoral gainers.

Investor wealth surged by ₹3.5 lakh crore to ₹444.13 lakh crore. Domestic institutional investors continued their buying spree, purchasing shares worth ₹5,972.36 crore, while foreign portfolio investors sold shares worth ₹1,202.65 crore, according to provisional BSE data.

## Centre plans 10-15% credit guarantees for small firms

THE COUNTRY'S SMALL businesses still struggle with limited access to timely and adequate formal credit. The government will allocate about ₹4,000 crore for providing guarantees to banks, both sources said.

The scheme is designed for firms that are stressed due to external factors "beyond their control", and the eligibility criteria are being firmed up, according to the sources.

The criteria will cover small exporters who are currently facing uncertainties due to higher tariffs imposed by the US, a key market for Indian exports, the second source said. The finance ministry did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Separately, the government is preparing a scheme to provide term loans for small exporters that would be backed by a government guarantee of a maximum 70%-75%, the second source said. The scheme was announced by finance minister in the Budget for fiscal 2026.

Small and medium-sized enterprises in the textile and jewellery sectors are expected to face the most impact, a banker said.

While the pharmaceutical segment is currently exempt from tariffs, lenders are exercising caution given that sectors with large exposure to the US market are expected to face the maximum brunt, they added.

Banks are also expecting disruptions to supply chains

linked to US trade, which may hamper some of the smaller businesses' ability to repay loans on time in the short run, a second banker cited above said.

The direct impact of tariffs on the banking sector is expected to be limited, but the delay in spending stemming from the uncertainty of how and when these levies will be imposed can be damaging, CS Setty, chairman of State Bank of India, said on Friday in its post-earnings press conference.

"There are only five-six sectors that may be directly impacted, and their exposure to the Indian banking system is limited, but the sooner the issue gets resolved, the better."

—REUTERS

three bankers aware of the matter said. The assessments are internal and are not done on the directives of the RBI, they added. All three sources requested anonymity as they are not authorised to speak with the media.

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## Embassy Developments Limited

(Formerly Equinox India Developments Limited and earlier Indiabulls Real Estate Limited)

Statement of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2025

Sl. No.	Particulars	3 months ended	Preceding 3 months ended	Corresponding 3 months ended	Previous year ended
		30 June 2025	31 March 2025	30 June 2024	31 March 2025
1	Total income from operations	6,809.19	6,893.10	4,898.57	21,799.25
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the year/period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,647.58)	1,572.64	(730.06)	553.19
3	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period before Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,647.58)	1,292.64	(730.06)	273.19
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period after Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,656.00)	1,230.41	1,252.34	2,029.32
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the year/period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the year/period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(1,656.43)	1,410.24</td		