Stocks	Close	Change
BSE Sensex	17145.52	Closed
S&P CNX Nifty	5220.45	Closed
Nifty Futures (Mar 12)	5258.70	Closed
Nifty Futures (May 12)	5323.25	Closed

Global Indices	Close	Change
Nasdaq	2935.69	25.37 ↑
Dow (DJIA)	12837.33	78.18 ↑
FTSE 100	5791.41	25.61 ↑
Nikkei 225	9768.96	192.90 ↑

DNA Money
DAILY NEWS & ANALYSIS MUMBAI | FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012

Money & Forex	Rate/yield	Change
8.79% 2021 g-sec	8.24	Closed
Inter-bank call	8.85	Closed
US $	50.29	Closed
Euro	66.06	Closed

Commodities	Close	Change
Gold (₹/10gm)	27680.00	Closed
Silver (₹/1 kg)	57520.00	Closed
Brent crude ($/bbl)	124.11	1.36 ↑
LME copper ($/tn)	8295.00	5.50 ↑

Copies of patented cancer drugs ahead?

Patent office decision on compulsory licence for generic Nexavar likely soon

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Most Greek bondholders agree to debt swap

India Infoline to shut Singapore unit

Satyam, Fuelquest ally for oil & gas play

ECB keeps rates unchanged

After UK, JLR lines up engine plant in India

Dr Reddy's keeps Geodon date, but gains seen capped

Private ports are running away with the loads

Aggressive strategies leading to a double-digit growth, major ports simply languish

Tata Chemicals grounds 2 unviable pilot projects

Promit Mukherjee ● MUMBAI

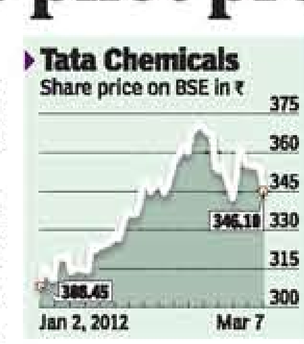
Salt and soda ash maker Tata Chemicals might see two of its pilot projects bite the dust as they have proved unviable.

The company had diversified into biofuels and farm produce distribution last year as a forward and backward integration of its core activities, respectively.

However, it has not been able to take the initiatives forward because of cost implications and now needs to write off the investments.

Among the projects was a 30,000 litre per day bioethanol plant at Nanded at an investment of ₹50 crore, which was to use sweet sorghum as feedstock and sweet sorghum bagasse as fuel for generating power. But ensuring smooth flow of feedstock was a problem.

"We have taken a write-off on the civil structure and may move it to where feedstock is not a constraint," said R Mukundan, managing director, TCL.



Though the company has not decided what to do with the plant, it is looking at options such as leasing it out, selling or relocating it outside the country, said Mukundan.

Analysts feel this won't be a major hit for the company.

"TCL has been quite a successful company in terms of diversification and has presence in four continents the world over," a director of a leading rating agency pointed out.

The other failed project is the diversification into farm produce distribution — the company wanted to use its robust retail network to source farm produce directly from the farmers and sell them in the market under the brand 'Khet Se'. In fact, in February 2007, it had set up a joint venture with Europe's leading fresh produce company, Total Produce, to set up a state-of-the-art distribution network for fresh fruits and vegetables.

However, at a recent press conference, PK Ghose, chief financial officer, said the company has made a "provision for impairment of investment in Khet-Se of ₹12 crore, post suspension of operations."

Sageraj Bariya, managing partner of Equitorials, an independent research firm, said the company decided to stop making further investments in the project as the idea did not find favour in the market. "However, that doesn't put a question mark on the company or its execution skills."

700 MHz auction to spur 4G rollout, bring down tariffs

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