

**Headline:** IFC to raise Rs 180 cr more through Maharaja bonds for infra investment

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## OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, February 9

International Finance Corporation will raise an additional ₹180 crore (\$ 27 million) through Maharaja bonds for investing in Indian infrastructure. IFC Maharaja bonds are issued under a \$2.5-billion programme.

This is probably the first re-issuance of debt securities by a non-governmental organisation in the domestic rupee markets.

The bonds are listed on the NSE.

Chitra Ramkrishna, Managing Director and CEO, NSE, said: "IFC re-issuing bonds will contribute to efficient secondary markets price discovery as issue size grows. We are committed to

growing corporate bond markets in India as we have equity and currency markets. The NSE-IFC partnership we greatly value and will definitely take us to new heights in the near future."

## Strong interest

Jingdong Hua, IFC Vice-President and Treasurer, said: "We see continued strong interest from investors in rupee-denominated bonds by high quality issuers such as IFC.

"By re-issuing Maharaja Bonds we are making a new contribution to the development of India's debt capital markets, while channelling domestic savings for infrastructure investment in the country."

In September 2014 IFC issued the first Maharaja bonds, setting an international triple-A benchmark for the country's domestic capital markets.

The bonds had raised ₹600

crore (\$100 million) from international and domestic institutional investors.

To attract different types of investors, the bonds offered four tranches with different maturities: a five-year bullet bond of ₹150 crore (\$25 million), a 10-year bullet bond of ₹150 crore, and two separately tradeable redeemable principal part (STRPPs) tranches of ₹300 crore (\$50 million), with maturities ranging from 13-20 years.

At the time, two domestic investors agreed to purchase, over a pre-agreed period of time, up to ₹204 crore of the STRPPs, with tenors ranging from 13-18 years. This unique structure enables IFC to match the timing of its rupee bond issuances with its funding needs for infrastructure projects. The lead arrangers for this reissue are HSBC, ICICI Securities Primary Dealership and SBI Capital Markets.