

# Reliance Life buys 3.21% of Dhanlaxmi shares

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**Kochi:** Reliance Life Insurance Co (RLIC), part of the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, is acquiring 3.21% shares of Thrissur-based Dhanlaxmi Bank through the preferential route. The bank is raising Rs 200 crore through the preferential route and, on Saturday, the board of directors approved the preferential issue of over 4.39 crore equity shares of Rs 10 each at a premium of Rs 35.55 per equity share to 25 individuals and companies. While RLIC is acquiring 57 lakh shares at a cost of almost Rs 26 crore, Premier Capital and Securities and Viral Amal Parikh are also acquiring 3.21% shares each.

A Reliance Capital official said that any purchase by its life insurance arm was a pure investment decision by the life insurance company. Existing investors like Ravi Pillai, the Bahrain-based NRI billionaire, B Mohananchandran Nair, owner of Kollam-based Prasanthi Cashews, and Shital Raghu Kataria of Dubai-based Kataria Holdings are increasing their stake in Dhanlaxmi.

While Pillai is acquiring a further 22 lakh shares to increase the holding to 4.99% post-issue, Nair is upping his stake by 10.95 lakh shares. Kataria is buying further 35 lakh shares. Palakkad-based CKG Supermarket and its owners are acquiring 3.91% of the bank's shares. Thrissur-based Girija Anantharaman and Acumen Capital Market India are two other Kerala investors investing in Dhanlaxmi Bank.

Deepa Lakshmi Arun Kumar, Mihir Doshi, Hemant P Kotak, Deepak Vaidya, Pivotal Business Managers, Sunidhi Wealth Advisors, Lavina R Goenka, Hiren Gandhi, Vespera Fund, Mohit Goel, Neha A Mehta, Amit D Dhanaki and Sharad K Shah are the other investors taking the preferential route this time.

"The proceeds of the issue are proposed to be utilized to meet the capital adequacy requirements under Basel II norms and to augment long-term capital for meeting strategic business needs of the bank," said the bank.