



MARKET MOVEMENT

Major Indices	March 15, 2019	March 22, 2019	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	38,024.32	38,386.75	0.95	
NSE Nifty	11,426.85	11,456.90	0.26	

INDIAN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

POLICY WATCH

- GST Council approves transition plan for new tax rate for housing sector
- NCLAT gives conditional nod to ArcelorMittal's USD 6.12 billion plan for Essar Steel
- Companies allowed to transfer volume benefit to consumers for GST cut
- MNCs not require to file CbC report in India
- Government announced new policy to revive stalled highway projects

GST Council approves transition plan for new tax rate for housing sector

GST Council has approved a transition plan for the implementation of new tax structure for housing projects. Developers of residential projects which are incomplete as on March 31, will have option either to choose the old structure with Input Tax Credit (ITC) or to shift to new 5% and 1% rates without ITC.

NCLAT gives conditional nod to ArcelorMittal's USD 6.12 billion plan for Essar Steel

National company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) gave a conditional approval to USD 6.12 billion resolution plan of ArcelorMittal for debt-ridden Essar Steel that will be subject to its final order in the appeal filed by the promoters. Ratio of distribution of funds between financial and operational creditors needs to be submitted to Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Companies allowed to transfer volume benefit to consumers for GST cut

National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAA) has allowed companies to offer volume benefit or price reduction to consumers, in the wake of rationalisation of GST rates. To evaluate cases of GST benefits, the NAA has decided to look into three yardsticks - proportionate grammage increase (volume) in products, timeline of the passing on the benefit, and additional benefits offered by a firm. Allowing

volume benefit will have a dual advantage to companies. This will help achieve higher turnover and profits.

MNCs not require to file CbC report in India

Indian arms of US MNCs will not have to file country by country or CbC report here. India has finalized bilateral competent authority arrangement for exchange of CbC reports with US. They will now need to merely intimate them of such CbC reports having been filed by their respective parent entities in the USA. This would enable both the countries to exchange CbC Reports filed by the ultimate parent entities of International Groups in the respective jurisdictions.

Government announced new policy to revive stalled highway projects

Government has announced a policy for resolving stalled highway projects worth nearly USD 4.37 billion, including those where proceedings have been initiated against the companies before the bankruptcy tribunal. Move is focused at unlocking money of both lenders and private players, including crisis-hit IL&FS, which is caught in about 28-30 projects as work has come to a standstill due to shortage of funds.

INDUSTRY WATCH

- **Automakers invest around USD 491 million in Indian start-ups in 2018**
- **India registers highest growth in patent applications in 2018**
- **Sugar output rises 6% at 27.34 million tonne**
- **Coal production rises 638 mt during April - February**
- **Telecom subscriber base crosses 1.2 billion**

Automakers invest around USD 491 million in Indian start-ups in 2018

Automobile manufacturers have invested around USD 491 million in 2018 in Indian automobile industry start-ups. Investments are led by Essel Green Mobility's investment of USD 300 million into Bengaluru-based on-demand AC bus service provider Zipgo. Kwang Yang Motor has invested USD 65 million in Twenty Two Motors, while Mahindra and Mahindra invested USD 40 million in self-drive car company Zoomcar.

India registers highest growth in patent applications in 2018

India registered 27% growth with 2,013 international patent applications in 2018 compared to 1,583 patent applications filed previous year with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Innovators from China filed 53,345 international patent applications last year compared with 48,905 in 2017.

Sugar output rises 6% at 27.34 million tonne

Sugar production rose by 6% to 27.34 million tonne till March 15 compared to 25.82 million tonne sugar produced in the year-ago period. During 2018-19 sugar season, 527 sugar mills were in operational. Highest sugar produced in Maharashtra was 10.08 million tonne as against 9.38 million tonne in the year-ago period.

Coal production rises 638 mt during April - February

Coal output grew 8% to 638.46 million tonne (mt) in the April-February period of the current financial year against 591.42 mt during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Coal production from captive mines during the period rose by 31.6% to 44.41 mt as against 33.76 mt a year ago. Coal India Ltd (CIL) produced 6.6% higher coal to 527.70 mt during April-February 2018-19 compared to 495.08 mt in same period last year.

Telecom subscriber base crosses 1.2 billion

Number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,197.87 million at the end of December 2018 to 1,203.77 million at the end of January 2019. Broadband connections grew 4.15% to 540 million in January from 518 million in December. Mobile devices-based broadband connections accounted for over 96% of total base with over 521 million subscribers while wireline connections reached 18.2 million.

CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ola raises USD 300 million from Hyundai, Kia**
- **Unichem Labs gets USFDA nod to market Allopurinol tablets**
- **US-based online learning marketplace Udemy enters India**
- **Agritech startup DeHaat raises USD 4.4 million led by Omnivore**
- **Kotak Realty Fund ties up with DivyaSree Developers**

Ola raises USD 300 million from Hyundai, Kia

Hyundai Motor Group and Kia Motors together invested USD 300 million in India's ride-hailing giant Ola. Round is part of a strategic partnership under which the companies will jointly work toward creating mobility solutions for global markets. Partnership with Hyundai and Kia will see the three companies extensively collaborate on developing fleet and mobility solutions; building India-specific electric vehicles and infrastructure, among others.

Unichem Labs gets USFDA nod to market Allopurinol tablets

Unichem Laboratories has received approval from the US health regulator to market its Allopurinol tablets in the strengths of 100 mg and 300 mg. tablets are indicated for management of

patients with signs and symptoms of primary or secondary gout and those with leukemia, lymphoma and malignancies who are receiving cancer therapy which causes elevations of serum and urinary uric acid levels among others.

US-based online learning marketplace Udemy enters India

Udemy, an online learning and teaching marketplace, has announced it is entering India with an employee hub at Gurugram, Haryana. A local presence will enable Udemy to continue enhancing and localising the student and instructor experience. Platform allows experts to develop courses on thousands of topics and share their knowledge.

Agritech startup DeHaat raises USD 4.4 million led by Omnivore

DeHaat, an online marketplace for farm products and services has raised USD 4.4 million in a funding round led by impact investor Omnivore. It plans to continue to focus on the same area, and intends to reach out to over 250,000 farmers over the next 12 months with the fresh capital and set up 14 regional warehouses to store inventory.

Kotak Realty Fund ties up with DivyaSree Developers

Kotak Realty Fund has launched a USD 400 million fund which will partner with Bengaluru-based DivyaSree Developers to develop and acquire commercial office assets across India. Fund's strategy is to develop greenfield projects as well as acquire under-construction and completed assets across key office markets like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Mumbai.