

MARKET MOVEMENT

Major Indices	March 29, 2019	April 05, 2019	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	38,672.91	38,862.23	0.48	↑
NSE Nifty	11,623.90	11,665.95	0.36	↑

INDIAN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

POLICY WATCH

- Government notifies new accounting standard on leases
- Government extends deadline to impose higher duties on 29 US products
- India levies anti-dumping duty on solar cell component from four nations
- CCI approves L&T's proposed acquisition of 66.15% stake in Mindtree
- NIIF ties up with Roadis for USD 2 billion road investment platform

Government notifies new accounting standard on leases

Government has notified a new accounting standard Ind AS 116 that will bring in more transparency in recognition and disclosures about leases in companies' balance sheets. Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) 116 is expected to have a significant impact on various industries, including aviation where airlines mostly operate planes on lease.

Government extends deadline to impose higher duties on 29 US products

Government has extended the deadline to impose higher customs duties worth USD 235 million on 29 products, including almond, walnut and pulses, originating in the US. With the new tariffs, the import duty on walnut would be hiked to 120% from 30% while that on chickpeas, Bengal gram (chana) and masur dal would become 70% from 30% now. Similarly, the levy on lentils will be hiked to 40% from 30%.

India levies anti-dumping duty on solar cell component from four nations

India has imposed anti-dumping duty of up to USD 1,559 per tonne on imports of Ethylene Vinyl Acetate sheet for solar module used in solar cell making from China, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand for five years to safeguard domestic players against cheap shipments. Imports of the sheets from these

countries increased to 6,367 tonne during the period of investigation (October 2016 to September 2017) from 4,674 tonne in 2016-17.

CCI approves L&T's proposed acquisition of 66.15% stake in Mindtree

Competition Commission of India it has approved diversified group Larsen & Toubro's proposed acquisition of up to 66.15% stake in IT firm Mindtree Ltd .L&T has acquired 20.32% stake in Mindtree and has also placed an order with brokers to pick up another 15% shares from the open market. Besides, an open offer has been made to buy over USD 0.74 million or around 31% stake for USD 726.6 million. Total deal value is estimated to be around USD 1.56 billion.

NIIF ties up with Roadis for USD 2 billion road investment platform

Roadis and the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) have announced the creation of a platform that will invest in road projects in India. Platform will invest up to USD 2 billion of equity to target toll-operate-transfer models, acquisition of existing road concessions and investment opportunities in the road sector

INDUSTRY WATCH

- **India approves new coal projects**
- **NPPA approves increase in prices of coronary stents**
- **Odisha iron ore output rises 13% to 118.5 million tonne in FY19**
- **UK exports to India grow at fastest rate**
- **Core sector grows 2% in February**

Domestic air passenger traffic records 10% growth in February

Domestic air passenger traffic grew 10% in February. Strong economic backdrop, combined with continued growth in the number of airport pairs have all contributed to this sustained growth performance. Domestic air passenger volume which is measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) was the third highest among the major aviation markets.

NPPA approves increase in prices of coronary stents

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has approved hike in prices of cardiac stents by 4.2% in-line with the wholesale price index (WPI) of the previous calendar year. Bare metal stent (BMS) would now cost USD 120 while the drug eluting stent (DES) will cost USD 435. NPPA has also revised ceiling/ retail prices of 871 formulations under Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013.

Odisha iron ore output rises 13% to 118.5 million tonne in FY19

Iron ore production in Odisha which accounts for half of the iron ore output of the whole country rose by 12.8% to 118.5 million tonne in FY 19 compared to 104.98 million tonnes in previous fiscal. Mining revenue collection of Odisha increased by 68% to USD 1.49 billion (provisional) in 2018-19 over the preceding year's collection of USD 885.5 million.

UK exports to India grow at fastest rate

UK's exports to India increased by 19.3% in goods and services trade in 2018 which is fastest among the country's top trading partners outside the European Union (EU). US remains the UK's top destination for exports, increasing by 3.9% to 118.2 billion pounds in 2018. Besides India, Japan grew by 7.9%, China by 4.6%, and Canada 4.2%.

Core sector grows 2% in February

Growth in the eight-industry core sector rose 2% in February from 1.5% in the previous month. Coal production grew 7.3% in February against 1.7% in the previous month. Crude oil production declined to 2.4% in February from 8.1% in the previous month.

CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- Mswipe raises USD 30 million funding
- Cipla signs USD 22 million pact with Pulmatrix Inc for new asthma drug
- L&T launches strategic unit L&T-Nxt to focus on AI, Internet of Things
- Sharp ties up with Eltech to distribute air-conditioners
- Tata Power inks pact with Indraprastha Gas for rooftop solar projects

Mswipe raises USD 30 million funding

Mswipe Technologies, which develops point-of-sale terminals for merchants has raised USD 30 million from existing investors Falcon Edge, B Capital, Epiq Capital and DSG Growth Partners. Mswipe plans to have 1.5 million merchants on its platform by the end of 2019-20 financial year from the current base of over 400,000 merchants.

Cipla signs USD 22 million pact with Pulmatrix Inc for new asthma drug

Cipla has signed a binding agreement with Pulmatrix Inc for co-development and licensing opportunity for a new drug Pulmazole (inhaled Itraconazole) under development for an upfront consideration of USD 22 million. Upon signing the definitive agreement, the co-development cost towards development and the total free cash flow in relation to commercialisation of Pulmazole will be further shared by both the parties in a phased manner.

L&T launches strategic unit L&T-Nxt to focus on AI, Internet of Things

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has announced a five-year strategic initiative L&T-Nxt that will focus on artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), geo-spatial enterprises, and cyber security. L&T through its current construction, EPC (engineering, procurement, construction) and manufacturing businesses, has made one of the largest deployments of IoT, analytics and AI in the industrial sector in areas such as finance, human resources, labour, and plant material among others.

Sharp ties up with Eltech to distribute air-conditioners

Japanese Electronics manufacturer Sharp Corporation has signed a distribution agreement with Chennai-based Eltech Appliances to cater to the Indian market. Air-conditioners will incorporate its proprietary plasmacluster technology, which "eliminates germs and allergens present in polluted air. Indian distributor will make the Sharp inverter units available in the market from April 2019 in all channels across the country.

Tata Power inks pact with Indraprastha Gas for rooftop solar projects

Tata Power has signed a pact with Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) for green energy solutions including rooftop solar projects, various integrated services including setting up of commercial scale EV charging/battery swapping stations. While Tata Power is India's largest integrated power utility, IGL is country's largest CNG distribution company.