



MARKET MOVEMENT

Major Indices	December 15, 2017	December 22, 2017	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	33,462.97	33,940.30	1.42	
NSE Nifty	10,333.25	10,493.00	1.54	

INDIAN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE**POLICY WATCH**

- **Infrastructural development schemes in North East gets approval**
- **Center launches DARPAN Scheme**
- **Cabinet approves ‘Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector’**
- **India signs financing agreement with World Bank**
- **Parliament passes companies amendment bill**

Infrastructural development schemes in North East gets approval

North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with 100% funding from the central government to fill the gaps in creation of infrastructure in specified sectors along with a capital investment subsidy amounting to USD 40.7 million has got approval. Also, existing Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme will be continued with an outlay of USD 815 million to enable completion of ongoing projects.

Center launches DARPAN Scheme

Government launched DARPAN – “Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India” Project for un-banked rural population with an outlay of USD 215.4 million to provide a low power technology solution to each Branch Postmaster (BPM) which will enable each of approximately 129,000 Branch Post Offices (BOs) to improve the level of services being offered to rural customers across all the states.

Cabinet approves 'Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector'

Cabinet has given its approval for a new skill development scheme covering the entire value chain of the textile sector excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector - 'Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)' from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with an outlay of USD 200 million. Scheme will have National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) compliant training courses with funding norms as per the Common Norms notified by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

India signs financing agreement with World Bank

India and World Bank has signed a financing agreement for International Development Association (IDA) Credit of USD 125 million (equivalent) for the "Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE) Project. It will help in improving access to quality and market-driven vocational training provided in it is and apprenticeships.

Parliament passes companies amendment bill

Parliament has passed a bill to amend the Companies Act to strengthen corporate governance standards, initiate strict action against defaulting companies and help improve ease of doing business. Major changes include simplification of the private placement process; rationalization of provisions related to loans to directors and replacing the requirement of approval of the central government for managerial remuneration above prescribed limits by approval through special resolution of shareholders.

INDUSTRY WATCH

- USD 400 million package for leather, footwear industry gets clearance
- Indian exports to China rises by over 53% in October
- Sugar output grows 30% in MY 2017-18
- Non-life insurers' gross premium rises 9% in November
- Airlines carry 16.99% more domestic passengers in November

USD 400 million package for leather, footwear industry gets clearance

Special package of USD 400 million involving implementation of central scheme 'Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme' is approved by Government. Scheme would lead to development of infrastructure for the leather sector, address environmental concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments, employment generation and increase in production.

Indian exports to China rises by over 53% in October

India's exports to China has registered 53% increase to USD 1.24 billion in October 2017 compared to USD 0.81 billion in October 2016. Major exported items are natural pearls, precious stones and precious metals, organic chemicals, copper and articles, cotton, including yarn and woven fabric, ores, slag and ash. India-China trade increased by 13.56% year-on-year to reach USD 6.33 billion in October. China's exports to India grew 6.87% to USD 5.09 billion.

Sugar output grows 30% in MY 2017-18

Sugar production rose 30% to 6.9 million tonne (mt) in 2.5 months of Marketing Year (MY) 2017-18 as compared to 5.34 million tonne in the corresponding period of the previous year due to higher cane output. Mills in Maharashtra have produced 2.55 million tonne of sugar against 1.72 million tonne in the year-ago period. Production rose to 2.33 million tonne in Uttar Pradesh as compared to 1.76 million tonne in the corresponding period last year.

Non-life insurers' gross premium rises 9% in November

Non-life insurance companies' gross premium is increased by 9% to USD 1.54 billion in November 2017 against USD 1.41 billion in November 2016. 22 general insurance companies collected 8.5% higher premium to USD 1.41 billion in November compared to year ago period. Gross premium of standalone health insurance companies rose nearly 46% to USD 93.89 million from a year ago period in November 2017-18.

Airlines carry 16.99% more domestic passengers in November

Airlines have carried 16.99% more domestic air passengers to 10.5 million during November 2017. SpiceJet continued to maintain its top position on the load factor front by flying its planes 95.5% full followed by IndiGo which flew its planes with 90.7% and GoAir flew its planes with 90% seats full. In terms of passenger carriage, Indigo carried 39.4% of total passengers followed by Jet Airways with 17.5% of total passengers and Air India with 13.6% of the total passenger flown during November.

CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- Quikr acquires HDFC's digital, realty units in all stock deal
- Adani Capital invests USD 15.38 in infra sector firm BSCPL
- Raymond sets up USD 38.4 million linen manufacturing plant in Maharashtra
- Bain buys Blackstone's sea plane fleet operator in Maldives for USD 500 million
- Andhra Pradesh signs agreements with Alphabet X for Fibergrid project

Quikr acquires HDFC's digital, realty units in all stock deal

HDFC has sold its realty brokerage business **HDFC Realty** and its digital real estate business **HDFC Developers** which owns HDFC Red to online classifieds player Quikr. Deal will value Quikr at little over USD 1.6 billion. Move is a significant step for Quikr towards deepening a transaction-based revenue model offering customers end-to-end real estate buying services from online to offline.

Adani Capital invests USD 15.38 in infra sector firm BSCPL

Adani Capital has made a structured investment of **USD 15.38** into Hyderabad-based **BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd.** BSCPL Infrastructure is an engineering, procurement construction (EPC) and development infrastructure company focused primarily on the road sector. Investment will aid in streamlining company operations and smoothening the execution of under construction projects.

Raymond sets up USD 38.4 million linen manufacturing plant in Maharashtra

Raymond has launched **USD 38.4 million** linen manufacturing plant at Amravati that will cater to the company's own brands, domestic and international markets. Facility is expected to produce 1,200 tonnes of linen yarns and 4.8 million meters of linen and blended fabrics per annum.

Bain buys Blackstone's sea plane fleet operator in Maldives for USD 500 million

Bain Capital has bought the world's largest sea plane fleet operator, **Trans Maldivian Airways (TMA)**, from **Blackstone** for around USD 500 million. Blackstone currently operates 48 aircraft, carrying 960,000 passengers in 120,000 flights annually. Fleet picks up tourists from Male's Velana International Airport and ferries them to 60-plus resorts that are scattered around the nearly 1190 coral islands that together make up the island nation.

Andhra Pradesh signs agreements with Alphabet X for Fibergrid project

Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP) has entered into an agreement with the moonshot factory of **Alphabet (earlier Google) - X** - to bring the breakthrough Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC) technology in order to provide internet through the government Fibergrid project. Association with X labs to implement FSOC in AP is first of its kind in the world to provide wireless internet connection at a higher speed of up to 20 Gbps and to a distance of up to 20 kms.