



MARKET MOVEMENT

Major Indices	February 3, 2017	February 10, 2017	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	28,240.52	28,334.25	0.33	
NSE Nifty	8,740.95	8,793.55	0.60	

INDIAN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE**POLICY WATCH**

- Lok Sabha passes wages amendment bill
- India and Italy sign MOU for technical cooperation in railways
- India signs financing agreement with World Bank for USD 201.50 million
- MoU signed between India and France in the field of science, technology and innovation
- Cabinet approves MoU between India and Senegal in health and medicine

Lok Sabha passes wages amendment bill

The Lok Sabha passed the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2017 which allows for digital payment of salaries or through cheque. The move will enable employers to pay wages of less than USD 265 a month by cheque or digitally to bank accounts, besides in cash, by doing away with the requirement of employees' written consent for the same.

India and Italy sign MOU for technical cooperation in railways

Indian Ministry of Railways and Ferrovie Dello Stato Italiane Group, an Italian government company managing the railway sector have signed an MoU for technical cooperation in rail sector especially in the areas safety in train operations. The cooperation areas identified in this MoU includes safety audit of Indian Railways and measures required for enhancing safety in train operation, assessment and certification of advanced technology based safety products and systems to safety integrity level, training and competency development with focus of safety, modern trends in maintenance and diagnostics etc.

India signs financing agreement with World Bank for USD 201.50 million

A financing agreement for IDA credit of USD 201.50 million (equivalent) for the “Third Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP III)” was signed with the World Bank. The objective of the program is to enhance quality and equity in participating engineering education institutes and improve

the efficiency of the engineering education system in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, 8 north eastern states and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The project has been designed as a disbursement linked one, that is, the World Bank loan will be disbursed on achievement of specific outcomes.

MoU signed between India and France in the field of science, technology and innovation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of Cooperation has been signed between Technology Development Board, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and Bpifrance, a Public Investment Bank, France. The agreement will ensure exchange of best practices and setting up of coordinated measures to foster technological exchanges in the field of science, technology and innovation through collaboration between companies, organizations and institutions of France and India.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Senegal in the field of health and medicine

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Senegal in the field of health and medicine. The main areas of cooperation between the parties will include Integrated Disease Surveillance, Medical Research, Emergency Relief, Hospital Management, Drugs and Pharmaceutical products/hospital equipment's, Traditional Medicine, AIDS Control, and any other areas of mutual interest.

INDUSTRY WATCH

- **Foreign direct investment zooms 60 per cent to USD 4.7 billion in November**
- **Exports from SEZs touch USD 38.7 billion during April-September**
- **Tea production up by 2.51 per cent to 1239.15 million kg in 2016**
- **Car sales up 11 per cent; passenger vehicles up 14 per cent in January**
- **Export of soybean meal increases by 446 per cent**

Foreign direct investment zooms 60 per cent to USD 4.7 billion in November

With the government taking steps to improve ease of doing business and relax regulations, foreign direct investment into the country surged by 60 per cent to USD 4.68 billion in November 2016. The FDI stood at USD 2.93 billion in November 2015. During the period, India received maximum FDI from Singapore, Mauritius, the UK, the US, the Netherlands and Japan.

Exports from SEZs touch USD 38.7 billion during April-September

Exports from special economic zones (SEZs) have touched USD 38.67 billion during April-September period of the current financial year. States which have contributed maximum in the exports include Gujarat,

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telengana and Uttar Pradesh. During this period, 1.688 million jobs were generated and USD 59.07 million was invested.

Tea production up by 2.51 per cent to 1239.15 million kg in 2016

Indian tea production for calendar 2016 is marginally up by 2.51 per cent to 1239.15 million kg in 2016 as compare to 1208.66 million kg in 2015. In 2016, Assam has produced 642.18 million kg in comparison to 631.22 million kg in 2015. In West Bengal too, production has gone up to 357.47 million kg in comparison to 324.5 million kg in 2015. South Indian tea production is also up from 212.21 million kg in 2015 to 227.57 million kg in 2016.

Car sales up 11 per cent; passenger vehicles up 14 per cent in January

Signaling a drive towards recovery with the impact of demonetisation waning off, passenger vehicle (PV) sales in India rose by 14 per cent in January reviving hopes of the automobile industry to achieve double digit growth this fiscal. The overall sales across categories registered a decline of 4.71 per cent to 1,620,045 units from 1,700,141 units in January 2016.

Export of soybean meal increases by 446 per cent

The export of soybean meal and its other value added products during January 2017 is 155,164 tons compared to 28,398 tons in January 2016 showing an increase of 446.38% over the same period of last year. On a financial year basis, the export during April 2016 to January 2017 is 601,294 tons as compared to 330,702 tons in the same period of previous year showing an increase of 81.82 per cent.

CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- **ASK Group's realty fund exits three housing projects**
- **Voonik raises funds from Sequoia, RB Investments**
- **Axis Bank to sell entire stake in Experian Credit for USD 9.5 million**
- **Stellaris raises USD 50 million for tech-focused fund**
- **Jain Irrigation acquires Australian agri-tech firm Observant**

ASK Group's realty fund exits three housing projects

ASK Property Investment Advisors, the real estate private equity arm of financial services firm ASK Group has exited three housing projects located in Noida, Bengaluru and Thane. The PE firm exited ATS Infrastructure Ltd's project ATS Le Grandiose in Noida for USD 17.79 million. ASK had invested USD

9.70 million in the project in 2014. The exit fetched the PE firm an internal rate of return of 27 per cent and a multiple of 1.85.

Voonik raises funds from Sequoia, RB Investments

Start-up Voonik Technologies Pvt. Ltd, owner of the Voonik fashion app, has raised USD 6 million from Singapore-based RB Investments and existing investor Sequoia Capital. The latest round is a follow-on to its Series B round of USD 20 million in July, led by Sequoia Capital. The funds will be utilized to scale up its men's and premium segments, which were launched last year.

Axis Bank to sell entire stake in Experian Credit for USD 9.5 million

Private-sector lender Axis Bank Ltd has signed an agreement to sell its entire 10 per cent stake in Experian Credit Information Co of India for USD 9.5 million. The bank will sell 14 million shares of Experian India at USD 0.67 apiece. Experian India is a joint venture among Experian Plc, Axis Bank, Union Bank of India, Indian Bank, Federal Bank, Punjab National Bank, Sundaram Finance Ltd and Magma Fincorp Ltd.

Stellaris raises USD 50 million for tech-focused fund

Stellaris Venture Partners, an early-stage venture-capital firm founded by former executives of Helion Venture Partners, has raised about USD 50 million as part of the first closing for its new USD 100 million fund. Stellaris, which was founded in 2016, plans to close the rest of the technology venture-focused fund by the end of 2017.

Jain Irrigation acquires Australian agri-tech firm Observant

Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd (JISL), the country's largest micro-irrigation firm, has acquired Australian agri-tech firm Observant Pty Ltd, marking its fourth reported acquisition in the overseas market. The deal will enable Jain Irrigation to benefit farmers with Observant's broad field monitoring and control technology. Observant is known globally for its in-field hardware and cloud based applications for precision farm water management.