



**MARKET MOVEMENT**

Major Indices	March 16, 2018	March 23, 2018	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	33,176.00	32,596.54	(1.74)	
NSE Nifty	10,195.15	9,998.05	(1.93)	

**INDIAN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE****POLICY WATCH**

- Cabinet approves National Health Protection Mission
- Government approves setting up of Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand
- Environment ministry eases rules for construction companies
- Cabinet clears India-Qatar double taxation avoidance treaty
- Centre announces scheme for Northeast India industrialisation

**Cabinet approves National Health Protection Mission**

Cabinet has approved the launch of the Ayushman Bharat — National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM). Scheme will provide a cover of USD 7,690 per family per year. Benefit cover will include pre and post-hospitalisation expenses. All pre-existing conditions will be covered from day one of the policy. A defined transport allowance per hospitalisation will also be paid to the beneficiary.

**Government approves setting up of Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand**

Government has approved setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand. Project would be set up at a cost of USD 18.5 million in an area of 150 acres. Range of polymer products that would be manufactured includes woven sacks, moulded furniture, water tanks, bottles, pipes mosquito nets, etc.

**Environment ministry eases rules for construction companies**

Environment ministry has eased environmental clearances for buildings and construction sector by increasing threshold required construction projects clearances from the Centre to 50,000 square

metres of built-up area from 20,000 sq metres. Developers of an average sized mall with three floors or an apartment complex with 300 three-bedroom flats would be able to start construction with online submission of a self-certification that all environmental obligations would be met.

### **Cabinet clears India-Qatar double taxation avoidance treaty**

**Cabinet has approved revision of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Qatar.** Revised DTAA updates the provisions for exchange of information to latest standard, includes Limitation of Benefits provision to prevent treaty shopping and aligns other provisions with India's recent treaties.

### **Centre announces scheme for Northeast India industrialisation**

**Centre approved the North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017 with financial outlay of USD 461.5 million** upto March, 2020. Under the Scheme, Central Capital Investment Incentive for Access to Credit 30% of the investment in Plant & Machinery with an upper limit of USD 769,000 on the incentive amount per unit, Central Interest Incentive (CII) 3% on working capital credit advanced by eligible Banks/ Financial institutions for first 5 years from the date of commencement of commercial production by the unit will provided.

## **INDUSTRY WATCH**

- **CSR spending of Indian companies rises 14%**
- **Capacity utilisation increases in major sectors**
- **11 mines allotted to Coal India to increase annual output**
- **Extension in duty benefit for export of Bengal gram**
- **Domestic air passenger traffic rises 24% in February**

### **CSR spending of Indian companies rises 14%**

**Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending has risen 14% over the last two fiscals. 74% of eligible companies, including** two-thirds of the small ones, used implementing agencies- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) last fiscal. Almost two-third of companies had less than five dedicated personnel for CSR activities.

### Capacity utilisation increases in major sectors

Capacity utilisation rises in cement, automobile ancillaries, engineering, casting and sheet metals. Due to rising trend of capacity utilisation rates, working capital loans grew 6.4% during July-September 2017-18 compared to 4.8% in the preceding quarter. Order intake has risen 20 to 25% in 2017-18.

### 11 mines allotted to Coal India to increase annual output

Coal ministry has allocated 11 mines to Coal India Ltd (CIL) arms - Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL) and Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL). Allocation will increase its annual output by 225 million tonnes (mt) to support thermal power generation companies. CIL is planning on setting coal gasification plants as well as further processing into downstream chemicals.

### Extension in duty benefit for export of Bengal gram

Government has extended the duty benefit of 7% for export of Bengal gram for three months under a scheme known as Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS). Rewards under the scheme are payable as percentage of realised free-on-board value and MEIS duty credit scrip can be transferred or used for payment of a number of duties including the basic customs duty.

### Domestic air passenger traffic rises 24% in February

Domestic air passenger traffic rose 24% to 10.7 million in February 2018 from 8.65 million in the corresponding month of 2017. Total domestic air passenger traffic had risen to 11.4 million in January. Passenger traffic by domestic airlines during January-February 2018 grew 21.8% to 22.2 million against 18.23 million during the corresponding period of previous year.

## CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- Mahindra signs MoU with Ford Motors to jointly develop SUVs, EV
- Infosys invests USD 1.5 million in Waterline
- Bhel commissions first unit of Kishanganga hydro project in J&K
- Adient forms JV with Arvind ltd for automotive fabrics
- Sterlite Power acquires Goa-Tamnar

### **Mahindra signs MoU with Ford Motors to jointly develop SUVs, EV**

**Mahindra Group and Ford Motor signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) to co-develop mid-size and compact SUVs, and a small electric vehicle.** It will be sold independently by both companies as separate brands. Mahindra and Ford are also planning to develop a variety of connected car solutions for consumers.

### **Infosys invests USD 1.5 million in Waterline**

**Infosys has made a follow-on investment of USD 1.5 million in Waterline Data Science. Company will make the investment** through its corporate venture fund - Infosys Innovation Fund. With this investment, Infosys will hold a share not exceeding 20% of the outstanding capital of Waterline.

### **Bhel commissions first unit of Kishanganga hydro project in J&K**

**Bhel has commissioned first unit of 110 MW of the Kishanganga hydro-electric project (HEP) of NHPC in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).** Other two units are also in advanced stages of commissioning. All the three units of the 340 MW project will generate 1,350 million units (mu) of clean electricity annually.

### **Adient forms JV with Arvind ltd for automotive fabrics**

**Adient and Arvind has announced the formation of Adient Arvind Automotive Fabrics, a Joint Venture (JV) that will** develop, manufacture and sell automotive fabrics in India. JV Company will be based out of Ahmedabad where it will manufacture high-end performance fabrics for automotive seating systems. Adient is the majority stakeholder in the new company with a 50.5%.

### **Sterlite Power acquires Goa-Tamnar**

**Sterlite Power has acquired the USD 230.7 million Goa-Tamnar Transmission Project. Project will deliver an incremental 400kV** feed to Goa and scale up the transmission network for power evacuation from generation projects pooled at Raigarh (Chhattisgarh). Project will help address the quality of power transfer from generating stations connected to the Raigarh pool.