



MARKET MOVEMENT

Major Indices	September 14, 2018	September 21, 2018	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	38,090.64	36,841.60	(3.39)	
NSE Nifty	11,515.20	11,143.10	(3.23)	

INDIAN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE**POLICY WATCH**

- **India signs Air Services Agreement with Morocco**
- **NDB approves USD 525-million loan for infra projects in MP**
- **India signs Financing Loan Agreement with the World Bank for USD 74 million**
- **CCEA approves new rail line connecting Budni and Indore**
- **Cabinet approves incentives for Oil & Gas recovery**

India signs Air Services Agreement with Morocco

India has signed Morocco signed the revised Air Services Agreement between the two countries enabling greater connectivity through a modernized agreement. This will facilitate the airlines of each side to enter into code share with airlines of other party, as well as provide greater freedom in mounting direct flights.

NDB approves USD 525-million loan for infra projects in MP

New Development Bank (NDB) has approved a USD 350 million loan for the major district roads Project II of Madhya Pradesh and USD 175 million for building and upgrading 350 bridges. Project will improve the road conditions and enhance the transport capacity, which will lead to a less travel time, reduced vehicle-operating cost, reduced emissions and improved road safety

India signs Financing Loan Agreement with the World Bank for USD 74 million

India has signed a loan Agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 74 million equivalent for the Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP). Project objective is to improve the quality and relevance of training at priority Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and to increase the number of labor-market-relevant workers through short term training in Uttarakhand. It has three components- improving the quality and relevance of ITI Training; increasing the number of skilled workers certified under National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) - Compliant Short Term Training; and policy and institutional development and project management.

CCEA approves new rail line connecting Budni and Indore

205.5 km new rail line connecting Budni to Indore (Mangaliyagaon) in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs . Main purpose of the project is development of backward areas and reduction in travel time from Indore to Jabalpur as well as from Indore to Mumbai and towards southern side also, as this will reduce distance by 68 km compared to the available route via Bhopal.

Cabinet approves incentives for Oil & Gas recovery

Cabinet has approved fiscal incentives, including lower cess and royalty, for enhanced oil and gas recovery from ageing fields as well as new sources such as shale, hydrates and heavy oil. Move can raise the production of oil by 120 million tonnes and gas by 52 billion cubic metres over the next 20 years, and attract big investments and cutting-edge technology into the sector.

INDUSTRY WATCH

- **DGFT eases process to avail export incentives under MEIS scheme**
- **Textile, apparel exports in August rise 18%**
- **MFI loan portfolio up 47% in FY18 to USD 9.52 billion**
- **Social-media commerce accounts for 79% of online selling in India**
- **Indians visiting US jump 6.5% in 2017 to 1.28 million**

DGFT eases process to avail export incentives under MEIS scheme

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has simplified the procedure for traders to avail export incentives under the MEIS scheme to promote ease of doing business for exporters. Under the new system - E com Module for MEIS, regional authorities will not check the MEIS applications. It will be automatically approved. Process of system driven approval of the MEIS claim applications will be started in respect of exports made through EDI (electronic data interface) shipping bills. Move will enable automatic approval of claims made by exporters to avail incentives under this scheme and the new process is allowed through electronic data interchange ports.

Textile, apparel exports in August rise 18%

Exports of textile and apparel grew 18% in August 2018 to USD 3.03 billion as compared to USD 2.56 billion in August 2017. Similarly, the cumulative figures (April-August 2018) grew 6% to USD 14.08 billion as compared to USD 13.27 billion during April-August 2017. Exports of cotton yarn fabrics, made-ups, handloom products in August 2018 grew 39% to USD 1.03 billion as compared to USD 745 million in August 2017.

MFI loan portfolio up 47% in FY18 to USD 9.52 billion

Microfinance industry has registered 47% growth with a gross loan portfolio of USD 9.52 billion in the financial year ended March 2018 as against USD 6.48 billion in the year-ago period. Sector witnessed 56% increase in loan disbursements in 2017-18 over the previous year. It stood at USD 11.3 billion, the highest since 2015-16.

Social-media commerce accounts for 79% of online selling in India

Sales through social media platforms account for over 79% of the total online selling of goods and services in India. Growing digitisation and increasing internet penetration have promoted commerce to move online. 52% of the total consumer demand on social media commerce comprises cosmetics and beauty products.

Indians visiting US jump 6.5% in 2017 to 1.28 million

Number of Indians visiting the US has increased by 6.5% in 2017 over the previous year. Indians traveled to the US grew 1,285,466 in 2017 from 1,206,771 the year before. In 2016, a total of 1.17 million travellers from India visited the US, contributing USD 13.6 million toward the US economy, which was a 14% increase over the year prior.

CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- **ICICI Bank buys 8.85% stake in Avenues Payment**
- **Syska Group forms JV with two foreign cos to start camera module factory**
- **L&T wins contracts worth USD 283.6 million**
- **KKR-Radiant buys 49.7% stake in Max Health for USD 293 million**
- **Aurobindo Pharma gets nod from SAHPRA for HIV drug**

ICICI Bank buys 8.85% stake in Avenues Payment

ICICI Bank has announced acquisition of 8.85% stake in Avenues Payment India Private Limited (APIPL) to promote adoption of digital cross border remittance platforms for corporate and retail customers. APIPL provides a global remittance platform catering to both Business-to-Consumer (B2C) and Business-to-Business (B2B) market segments.

Syska Group forms JV with two foreign cos to start camera module factory

Syska Group has formed a joint venture with Taiwanese component manufacturer Suyin Optronics and Singapore's Biometric to start India's first camera module factory at an investment of USD 27.7 million to be implemented in a phased manner. Syska Group has 49% stake in the company while Biometric has 41% and Suyin Optronics has 10% in the new entity.

L&T wins contracts worth USD 283.6 million

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) construction arm has received contracts worth USD 283.6 million across two business segments. Power transmission and distribution business has got orders worth USD 226 million for a main plant electrical package of units 3 & 4 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. Eater and effluent treatment business has secured an order worth USD 57.5 million.

KKR-Radiant buys 49.7% stake in Max Health for USD 293 million

Life Healthcare has sold its entire 49.7% stake in Max Health to Mumbai-headquartered Radiant Hospital backed by private equity player KKR for USD 293 million. KKR Radiant will be buying more than 266 million shares in Max Healthcare at USD 1.11/share. Company will initially use the net disposal proceeds to settle debt as well as to invest in growth opportunities in its core markets.

Aurobindo Pharma gets nod from SAHPRA for HIV drug

Aurobindo Pharma has received approval from South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) to market its Dolutegravir, Lamivudine and Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (DLT) tablets, the first-line regimen for HIV patients as per latest WHO guidelines. Approval further strengthens the company's HIV product reach in South Africa, which has the potential to improve the lives of millions of patients