

**MARKET MOVEMENT**

Major Indices	March 01, 2019	March 08, 2019	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	36,063.81	36,671.43	1.68	↑
NSE Nifty	10,863.50	11,035.40	1.58	↑

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

- Cabinet approves scheme to rebate textile sector
- Cabinet nods 5-year plan for 'phased manufacturing' of EV batteries
- Continuation of Atal Innovation Mission gets approval
- Kerala Government announces e-vehicle policy
- USD 4.78 billion power projects gets approval

**Cabinet approves scheme to rebate textile sector**

Cabinet has approved the Scheme to Rebate State and Central Embedded Taxes to Support the Textile Sector. This will enable the Government to take various measures for making exports of apparel and made-ups zero rated. At present, apparel and made-ups segments are supported under the Scheme for Rebate of State Levies (RoSL). However, certain State as well as Central Taxes continued to be present in the cost of exports.

**Cabinet nods 5-year plan for 'phased manufacturing' of EV batteries**

Government has announced a plan to set up a National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage to "drive clean, connected and shared mobility" initiatives. Mission would draw up a five-year phased manufacturing programme (PMP) till 2024 for a few large-scale, export-competitive integrated batteries and cell-manufacturing Giga plants in India. Programme would also work towards localisation of production across the entire electric vehicle value chain.

**Continuation of Atal Innovation Mission gets approval**

USD 142.9 million for continuance of Atal Innovation Mission till 2019-20 and expanding Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) are approved by Government. It encourages innovative thinking among young students, to 10,000 schools. ATLs are play-workspaces fitted with state-of-the-art technologies like 3D

printers, robotics, sensor technology kits, Internet of things (IoT), miniaturised electronics to stimulate innovation among students of class 6-12th.

### **Kerala Government announces e-vehicle policy**

Government of Kerala has finalised an electric vehicle (EV) policy for the state. **6,000 Electric Buses will be** procured for the state road transport corporation by 2025. In the first phase, EV buses will ply in Thiruvananthapuram. Other vehicles powered by electricity are to be progressively phased in. Charging stations will be set up. Use of e-rickshaws is to be expanded through state-owned Kerala Automobiles. Subsidies and other incentives would be given, from both central and state governments.

### **USD 4.78 billion power projects gets approval**

Cabinet has approved power projects worth **USD 4.78 billion to support stressed projects by facilitating coal supply** to the fuel-starved plants. Government has lifted restrictions on coal allotment to merchant power plants that supply electricity to short term markets, including power exchanges, after almost a decade. This is expected to help them clear their debts. Restrictions on coal supply were lifted last year for plants with medium-term power purchase agreements.

## **INDUSTRY WATCH**

- **Coffee exports rise 13.3% in first 2-months of 2019**
- **Measures to promote Hydro Power Sector**
- **Localisation norms for Electric Vehicles (EVs) tightened**
- **Number of women taking loans rises by 48%**
- **Services sector activity grows in February**

### **Coffee exports rise 13.3% in first 2-months of 2019**

Coffee shipments from India rose **13.3% to 48,330 tonnes during the first two months of this calendar year compared** to 42,670 tonnes during same period last year. Shipment of Robusta coffee jumped 28.42% to 34,090 tonnes during January-February 2019, from 26,545 tonnes in the same period last year. Export of Arabica coffee increased by 14.39% to 11,156 tonnes, from 9,752 tonnes in the said period.

### **Measures to promote Hydro Power Sector**

To promote Hydro Power Sector, large Hydropower Projects (HPO) are announced as part of **non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO)**. Measures also includes budgetary support for funding flood moderation component of hydropower projects on case to case basis and improving

infrastructure. It will provide indirect employment/ entrepreneurial opportunities in the field of transportation, tourism and other small scale businesses.

### **Localisation norms for Electric Vehicles (EVs) tightened**

**Government has placed stiff localisation riders for the automotive industry to avail of incentives**

**upfront under the FAME** (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of hybrid and Electric Vehicles) II

Initiative. Vehicle makers have to ensure minimum localisation content of 40% on ex-factory price of the vehicle in case of buses and 50% for all other categories of vehicles (electric two wheelers, electric three-wheelers, electric four-wheelers and e-rickshaws) to qualify for benefits under the scheme.

### **Number of women taking loans rises by 48%**

**Loan disbursements to women borrowers across different segments have witnessed a 48% growth between 2015 and 2018** against a slower 35% rise in advances to male consumers. West Bengal led with a 23.42% share of MSMEs with female owners followed by Tamil Nadu with 10.37% , Telangana stood at 7.85% and Karnataka at 7.56%.

### **Services sector activity grows in February**

**services sector activity gathered momentum in February, driven by a quicker expansion in new work orders that supported** a faster increase in output and job creation. Manufacturing new export orders rose at a sharp rate and Indian goods producing industry outperformed those in Brazil, Russia and China by a considerable margin.

## **CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Adani Power's USD 2 billion Jharkhand SEZ project gets approval**
- **NMDC signs MoA with Geological Survey of India**
- **Zoho acquires hiring automation startup ePoise**
- **NCLT clears USD 715 million plan of RIL-JM Fin ARC for Alok Industries**
- **VA Tech WABAG bags USD 82 million project under Ganga Scheme**

### **Adani Power's USD 2 billion Jharkhand SEZ project gets approval**

**USD 2 billion Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project of Adani Power in Jharkhand, which will export entire power generated** to Bangladesh is approved by Government. Two supercritical units of

800 MW each would be set up and it would include setting up of a water pipeline and power evacuation system. It will be ready by the end of 2022.

### **NMDC signs MoA with Geological Survey of India**

**NMDC has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Geological Survey of India (GSI) for sharing of Aero-Geophysical Data (Magnetic) for Mineral Exploration in Madhya Pradesh.** MoA pertains to sharing of data in part of Obvious Geological Potential (OGP Block-2) in the state. Data would be processed jointly by NMDC-Centre of Exploration Geophysics for obtaining more diamondiferous areas/targets in the 18 diamondiferous blocks allocated to NMDC.

### **Zoho acquires hiring automation startup ePoise**

**Zoho Corporation has announced that it is buying out ePoise Systems, a hiring automation product start-up, for an undisclosed amount.** ePoise automates multiple screening steps for each role including a set of assessments leading to a video interview, thus bringing significant efficiency to the hiring process for high volume recruiters.

### **NCLT clears USD 715 million plan of RIL-JM Fin ARC for Alok Industries**

**National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Friday approved a USD 715 million resolution plan of Reliance Industries-JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Co to acquire Alok Industries.** With this development, Reliance Industries-JM Financial is set to acquire four manufacturing facilities in Silvassa, Vapi, Navi Mumbai and Bhiwandi, which can manufacture 68,000 tonnes of cotton yarn a year and 170,000 tonnes of polyester per year.

### **VA Tech WABAG bags USD 82 million project under Ganga Scheme**

**VA Tech WABAG has received a project worth USD 82 million, under the National Mission for Clean Ganga Scheme in West Bengal.** Scope of the project includes design, build, rehabilitate and operate sewage treatment facilities and associated infrastructure in Kolkata.