

MARKET MOVEMENT

Major Indices	October 18, 2019	October 25, 2019	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	39,298.38	39,058.06	(0.61)	↓
NSE Nifty	11,661.85	11,583.90	(0.66)	↓

INDIAN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE**POLICY WATCH**

- Cabinet approves proposed MoU between India and St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Cabinet approves MoU between India and Kuwait
- Government approves proposal for cooperation on Science and Technology
- Cabinet approves cooperation arrangement with Europe
- CCI approves acquisition of 4.15% of the shareholding in ABCL by JIL

Cabinet approves proposed MoU between India and St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Cabinet has given ex post-facto approval to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and St. Vincent & the Grenadines on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine. Activities mentioned in the MoU will promote the importance of AYUSH Systems of Medicine in St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Exchange of experts will be supported for training of the practitioners and Scientists undertaking collaborative research.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Kuwait

Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for capacity building and strengthening the accounting, financial and audit knowledge base in Kuwait. Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association (KAAA) will work together for corporate governance, technical research and advice, quality assurance, forensic accounting, issues concerning Small and Medium-sized Practices (SMPs), Islamic Finance, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and other subjects of mutual interest.

Government approves proposal for cooperation on Science and Technology

Government has approved the proposal for Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between India and United States of America. It would provide an opportunity to promote 'high quality'

and 'high impact' research and innovation partnerships as well as broadening and expanding relationships between the extensive scientific and technological communities.

Cabinet approves cooperation arrangement with Europe

Cabinet has approved administrative arrangement on Cooperation in the field of Railways between the Ministry of Railways, India and the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission to strengthen future technical exchanges and cooperation. key focus areas are Rail Reform and Regulations with particular emphasis on impact of EU legislative framework on safety, interoperability, economic governance and financial sustainability of Railways, signalling control system and innovation and digitalisation.

CCI approves acquisition of 4.15% of the shareholding in ABCL by JIL

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of 4.15% of the shareholding in Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) by Jomei Investments Limited (JIL). JIL is a Special Purpose Vehicle, wholly-owned by Advent International GPE IX Limited Partnership. ABCL has presence in non-banking financial sector, asset management, life insurance, housing finance, health insurance, general insurance broking, wealth management, equity, currency and commodity broking, pension fund management and asset reconstruction businesses.

INDUSTRY WATCH

- **ITIs sign partnership with 719 private companies over last 6 months**
- **Office rent rises during July- September**
- **Entry barrier for petrol pump business is relaxed**
- **Two-wheeler exports rise 4% in H1**
- **DRDO signs 30 agreements on Technology Transfer**

ITIs sign partnership with 719 private companies over last 6 months

Dual System of Training (DST) has tied up with 719 corporates and private partners for training programs in last 6 months compared to 136 MoUs signed during the same period three years ago. DST scheme was introduced in 2016 with the objective of enabling industries and establishments to partner with the Government and Private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) for conducting training programmes towards fulfilling skilled manpower requirements.

Office rent rises during July- September

Office rentals in Hyderabad rose 9%, followed by Bangalore 6%, Chennai 4% and Kolkata 3% during July-September period. Rentals for office spaces in Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai, which are IT/ITeS dominated cities have registered growth because of strong demand and low vacancy.

Entry barrier for petrol pump business is relaxed

Entry barriers are relaxed in the state-dominated petrol pump business to encourage competition from Indian and foreign firms. new entrants, domestic or foreign, will have to set up 5% of their pumps in remote areas, and each retail outlet must have facilities for at least one alternative fuel such as compressed natural gas, LPG, biofuel or a charging point for electric vehicles. Several foreign companies have shown interest in the lucrative fuel retail market in the past including Saudi Aramco, BP Plc, Total and Trafigura, which along with Russia's Rosneft has acquired Essar Oil's refinery.

Two-wheeler exports rise 4% in H1

Two-wheeler exports rose by over 4% to 17,93,957 units in the April-September period of the current fiscal against 17,23,280 units in the same period of 2018-19. Motorcycle shipments, however, rose by 6.8% during the period at 15,85,338 units as against 14,84,252 units earlier. Bajaj Auto led the segment by shipping over 1 million units to various markets like Africa and Latin America.

DRDO signs 30 agreements on Technology Transfer

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has signed 30 licensing agreements for Transfer of Technology (ToT) with 16 Indian companies, including three start-ups. Indian Armed Forces are procuring ready-to-eat meals, survival ration and emergency flying ration products from companies which have acquired ToT from DRDO. These technologies are useful for the larger interest of society.

CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Grasim forms JVC with German power engineering company MR**
- **Adani Green commissions 50 MW wind capacity in Gujarat**
- **International Tractors Ltd ties up to enter China**
- **Crediwatch raises USD 3.2 million Series A funding**
- **Asahi forms JV with UK's Tennants Textile Colours**

Grasim forms JVC with German power engineering company MR

Grasim has formed a Joint Venture (JV) in India with Germany-based Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen for manufacturing and selling Composite Hollow Core Insulators (CHCI) that caters to industries like the power transmission and distribution industry globally. JV company will be called Aditya Birla Power

Composites and will hold a 49% stake of MR and 51% stake of Grasim. It will be spending USD 14.1 million in setting up a facility in Halol in Gujarat over the next 3 to 5 years.

Adani Green commissions 50 MW wind capacity in Gujarat

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has commissioned 50 megawatt wind generation capacity at Kutch in Gujarat and signing of power purchase agreement with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for a period of 25 years. Company plans to commission another 225 MW wind capacity in the area by second half of 2020, for which the evacuation infrastructure is already in place.

International Tractors Ltd ties up to enter China

International Tractors Ltd (ITL) has announced a Joint Venture (JV) with Shandong Luyu Heavy Industry Company Ltd to enter into the world's second-largest tractor market. Entity will be named as Luyulika (Laizhou) Agri Machinery Company Ltd. Venture will invest an amount of USD 10 million to set up an assembly plant for tractors and engines with a manufacturing capacity of 50,000 units in the first phase and the expansion will be planned in further time.

Credivatch raises USD 3.2 million Series A funding

Credivatch has raised about USD 3.2 million in Series A funding. Company helps the financial services industry in reducing credit risk by using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) tools. Funds raised will be utilised to increase the research and development (R&D) and commercialisation of AI platform and to get more clients.

Asahi forms JV with UK's Tennants Textile Colours

Asahi Songwon Colors Limited has entered into Joint Venture (JV) agreement with Tennants Textile Colours (TTC) Limited of the United Kingdom in order to set up a state of the art red and yellow pigments plant. Plant will be located at Dahej, Gujarat, for which land has already been acquired and the production will start by March 2021. 51% shares will be held by Aashi and TTC will hold 49% in the JV between the companies.