

MARKET WATCH

	05-03-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	33,747	-0.88
US Dollar	65.12	0.08
Gold	31,450	-0.16
Brent oil	64.60	0.99

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	403.95	-2.15
Ambuja Cements	246.10	-7.05
Asian Paints	1105.95	-12.95
Aurobindo Pharma	600.75	-23.35
Axis Bank	524.55	-1.20
Bajaj Auto	2943.55	-77.35
Bajaj Finance	1636.95	-22.40
Bharti Airtel	421.45	-6.30
Bosch	18348.00	-359.50
BPCL	434.30	-7.60
Cipla	579.25	-2.45
Coal India	305.80	-7.10
Dr Reddys Lab	2180.80	-50.70
Eicher Motors	27548.35	-194.00
GAIL (India)	443.60	-10.65
HCL Tech	932.10	-10.70
HDFC	1789.60	-24.55
HDFC Bank	1869.95	-4.40
Hero MotoCorp	3556.45	-20.45
Hindalco	229.60	-11.20
HPCL	366.75	-10.00
Hind Unilever	1299.75	-24.50
Indiabulls HFL	1238.25	-18.05
ICICI Bank	303.35	-1.60
IndusInd Bank	1689.20	-11.15
Bharti Infratel	339.15	-6.05
Infosys	1155.90	-4.85
IndianOil Corp	379.25	-2.25
ITC	260.25	-3.75
Kotak Bank	1100.00	4.30
L&T	1300.70	-14.50
Lupin	790.15	-13.75
M&M	739.60	7.05
Mauriti Suzuki	8795.10	-78.35
NTPC	163.30	0.30
ONGC	185.55	-4.15
PowerGrid Corp	196.95	-0.45
Reliance Ind	924.10	-24.30
State Bank	263.50	1.35
Sun Pharma	548.55	13.15
Tata Motors	352.05	-18.70
Tata Steel	655.90	-19.15
TCS	3105.85	68.15
Tech Mahindra	630.85	18.95
UltraTech Cement	4095.40	-57.90
UPL	720.90	6.65
Vedanta	315.90	-7.35
Wipro	290.95	-1.55
YES Bank	312.95	-8.10
Zee Entertainment	551.85	-3.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 05

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	64.91	65.23
Euro	79.79	80.20
British Pound	89.65	90.10
Japanese Yen (100)	61.42	61.73
Chinese Yuan	10.24	10.29
Swiss Franc	69.14	69.50
Singapore Dollar	49.18	49.43
Canadian Dollar	50.19	50.46
Malaysian Ringgit	16.61	16.70

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

March 05 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	41.7	(41.6)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2918	(2922)

'Services PMI contracts to 47.8'

Activity in Feb. lowest since August due to decline in new orders: Nikkei report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Business activity in the services sector contracted in February due primarily to a decline in new orders, according to a survey.

The Nikkei India Services Business Activity Index came in at 47.8 in February compared with 51.7 in January. A reading above 50 implies an expansion while one below 50 denotes a contraction.

"Business conditions in India's service sector deteriorated modestly in February," the report said. "Activity and new work declined for the first time since November, with rates of contraction the fastest since August."

"The seasonally-adjusted Nikkei India Services Business Activity Index fell from



Steep decline: The fall in the services index outweighed the upturn seen in manufacturing, says the report. -REUTERS

51.7 in January to 47.8 in February, its lowest level since August," the report added. "The headline figure signalled the first fall in output for three months, but one that was modest. Panellists commented that poor underlying demand conditions had weighed on activity."

The fall in the services in-

dex outweighed the upturn seen in the manufacturing index, according to the report, which meant that the seasonally adjusted Nikkei India Composite PMI Output Index fell from 52.5 in January to 49.7 in February.

"Service providers remained optimistic towards the 12-month outlook for

output," the report said. "Business confidence was underpinned by expected improvements in demand, according to anecdotal evidence. Nonetheless, the level of positive sentiment fell slightly in February and was below the series average."

'Decline transitory'
"Both activity and new work declined for the first time since November, with rates of contraction the strongest since August," Aashna Dodia, economist at IHS Markit, and author of the report, said.

"However, firms seem to believe that the decline is transitory as they raised their staffing levels at the joint-fastest pace since June 2011, in line with positive projections of activity growth," Ms Dodia added.

6,000 staff unpaid: Aircel

'No money for water, electricity either; IRP needed quickly'

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

Salaries for more than 6,000 employees of Aircel have remained unpaid since the beginning of February. The telecom operator does not have funds to pay its employees, or water and electricity bills.

The debt-laden firm has approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), seeking to appoint an interim resolution professional (IRP) at the earliest to 'ascertain economic safeguards'.

'Serious urgency'
Janak Dwarkadas, senior counsel appearing for Aircel told *The Hindu*, "There is serious urgency to hear the matter as the company wants to continue essential services. We need certain



economic safeguards as the company's employees [have been] unpaid since February. One [also] needs to pay electricity and water bills to continue services."

Aircel Ltd., along with Aircel Cellular Ltd. and Dishnet Wireless Ltd. had filed for bankruptcy at the NCLT on February 28, citing high unsustainable debt, price wars, and legal and regulatory challenges.

Justice M.K. Sawant ad-

joined the matter to March 8, for further hearing. Loss of subscribers resulting in an operating loss for the company has come in the wake of Reliance Jio entering the market in 2016 with an aggressive pricing strategy.

Aircel has outstanding debt of ₹50,000 crore, of which ₹15,000 crore is due to financial creditors, while ₹35,000 crore is to be paid to operational creditors including tower companies, system integrators, IT firms and telecom equipment makers. The telco also owes dues to vendors such as the security agency, housekeeping staff and distributors.

Aircel, majority owned by Malaysia's Maxis Communications, had earlier planned to merge with Reliance Communications but the merger fell through.

Committee to regulate fintech sector set up

Aim is to 'enhance entrepreneurship'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has set up a steering committee under the chairmanship of the Economic Affairs Secretary to look into the development and regulation of the fintech sector in India, it said on Monday.

The move follows an announcement by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the Budget.

The objective of the panel is "to consider various issues relating to development of fintech space in India with a view to make fintech-related regulations more flexible and generate enhanced entrepreneurship in an area where India has distinctive comparative

strengths vis-à-vis other emerging economies".

MSME focus
The panel will also focus on how fintech can be leveraged to enhance financial inclusion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

The panel will also include among its members the Electronics and Information Technology Secretary, the Financial Services Secretary, the MSME Secretary, the Chairperson of the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India, a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and a Joint Secretary Department of Economic Affairs.

Reliance Infra slaps ₹5,440 cr. notice on Pipavav founders

Firm claims breach of warranties under purchase pact

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

Reliance Infrastructure has served an arbitration notice on founder-promoters of Pipavav Defence and Engineering Limited (PDEL), seeking indemnity of ₹5,440 crore for breach of warranties under a purchase agreement.

"Notice is issued for breach of warranties under purchase agreement by founder-promoters for acquisition of Pipavav Defence shares," said a Reliance Infrastructure statement.

To claim loss
"The company has discovered that there have been serious breaches of warran-



Ties gone sour: Nikhil Gandhi, left, and Anil Ambani in happier times.

ties and representations made by the founder-promoters.

As per the share purchase agreement, we are entitled to claim the loss caused, in an arbitration," a source in the legal fraternity told *The*

Hindu. On March 4, 2015, Reliance Infrastructure, its subsidiary Reliance Defence Systems (RDSPL) and the founder promoters of Pipavav Defence and Engineering (Nikhil Gandhi and Bhavesh Gandhi) entered into an agreement for acquisition of shares of Pipavav Defence and Engineering, which was being named as Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd (RNEL).

Mr. Nikhil Gandhi, also a promoter of SKIL Infrastructure Limited, could not be reached for his comment.

A spokesperson of Reliance Infrastructure, however, declined to share more details about the arbitration notice.

COAI seeks apology from Reliance Jio

Says telco making 'false imputations'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) has hit back at the Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio, demanding an apology for "attacking, belittling and making false imputations" against it, while also threatening of "legal action."

This follows a similar warning issued by Reliance Jio, which demanded a public apology and threatened to pursue defamation proceedings against the COAI, for "calous and defamatory statements."

Within rights
As an industry body, the association was "well within its rights" to voice its views

or flag concerns over regulatory decisions that were "detrimental to the growth and development of the telecom sector," said Rajan Mathews, director general, COAI, in a letter to Jio.

COAI argued that mere voicing of its views "does not form and cannot form a case of defamation" as alleged by Reliance Jio in its recent defamation notice.

"Merely because Reliance Jio (RJIL) happens to disagree with the position that the COAI has taken in the press release, does not and cannot imply, as your captioned notice has sought to, that the COAI harbours any malicious intentions against RJIL," COAI said in a letter dated February 28.

Global concerns pull down Sensex, Nifty

Metal scrips drop after U.S. tariff threat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The benchmark equity indices lost ground for the fourth consecutive session on Monday amidst a weak global trend following concerns around trade barriers as the U.S. mulls import tariffs on steel and aluminium to protect its local industry.

The 30-share Sensex declined 300.16 points or 0.88% to 33,746.78. In the last four sessions, the benchmark has lost almost 700 points. The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) fell 99.5 points or 0.95% to 10,358.85.

The market breadth was negative as more than 2,000 stocks on BSE ended in the red as against only 701 gainers. Most sectoral indices lost ground with the BSE Metal index ending the day

as the worst performer shedding 3.3% or 496 points.

Trade war
"It was the fear of possible trade war, as the U.S. President plans to impose new tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, [which] rattled global markets including ours," said Jayant Manglik, president, Religare Broking.

Though Indian metal majors do not have a significant exposure to the U.S., overall bearish sentiment saw stocks such as National Aluminium Company, Hindalco, Jindal Steel and JSW Steel all losing more than 4%. Among Sensex stocks, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Bajaj Auto, Reliance Industries, Coal India, Yes Bank and ONGC all lost more than 2% each.

RBI to inject extra liquidity of ₹1 lakh cr.

Repo rate operation to damp volatility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Monday said it would inject additional liquidity of ₹1 lakh crore in banks through longer tenor instruments to enable flexibility towards meeting their fund needs.

The RBI said in order to address additional demand for liquidity and with a view to providing flexibility to the banking system in its liquidity management towards March-end, it was "prepared to inject adequate additional liquidity using a combination of appropriate instruments."

This will be in addition to normal Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) operations. "After reviewing the current and evolving liquidity conditions in the banking system, it has been decided



to conduct additional variable rate repo operations for longer tenors to provide additional liquidity support to banks in March 2018," it said. The RBI will conduct four variable rate term repo auctions of ₹25,000 crore each in March 2018.

Karthik Srinivasan, ICRA, said the proposed injection of additional liquidity "should help cap the short-term rates and also aid in lowering the rate volatilities" for the rest of the month.

Go digital 'hype' pushing firms to become efficient, responsive

Technology dislodging traditional players: Infosys report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Companies are facing an "ever-increasing" pressure to be more open, responsive and efficient with more 'hype' and emphasis being placed on becoming digital, according to a report on digitalisation by India's second largest software exporter, Infosys.

"The rules of the game are changing and traditional players are being dislodged from positions of comfort and familiarity," the report, titled 'How digital enterprises are steering through digital disruption,' stated.

Industries are increasingly being disrupted by new entrants with digital technology at the heart of their business. With digital tech-



• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

nology becoming more commonplace in organisations, and "more hype and emphasis being placed on 'becoming digital,' there is an ever-increasing pressure on organisations to be more responsive, more open, and more efficient." Infosys commissioned Vanson Bourne, a firm specialising in technol-

Difficult for many
"For many, the journey will prove difficult, but for those that can adapt, the benefits will be significant," it stated.

Rapid advancements in digital technologies are allowing corporations to collect and analyse data and new ways of improving flexibility and efficiency are emerging within the firms.

Infosys CEO, top team get stock units

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Top managerial personnel of Infosys, including the CEO, have been granted stock incentives.

In a filing with stock exchanges, the information technology major said the stocks had been given under the 2015 stock incentive compensation plan approved by the board and the nomination and remuneration committee of the company.

Infosys chief executive officer (CEO) Salil Parekh, who succeeded Vishal Sikka, will get 1,13,024 restricted stock units.

The personnel had been granted these stocks on February 27, 2018.

"The exercise price will be the par value of shares," Infosys said.

We called her Mother Courage. She asked after our safety but refused to take threats issued against her seriously when speaking about the nexus of fake news and intolerance. She was shot dead from point-blank range outside her home. There are no arrests till date. The quest for justice continues in her unsolved murder.

For news that refused to be silenced.

RedInk Awards 2018. Entries now open.

Last date for entries extended to March 15, 2018.

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