

BUSINESS ACUITIES

MARCH 2021

STUDENTS
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

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Market Highlights

In March 2021, the global stock markets experienced significant volatility and various factors influenced their performance. Here's an elaboration on the share market:



COVID-19 Pandemic: The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the markets in March 2021. Investors closely monitored the progress of vaccine rollouts, infection rates, and government responses to the pandemic. Market sentiment often fluctuated in response to news related to the pandemic.

Economic Recovery: Many countries were in the process of gradually reopening their economies after lockdowns and restrictions implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19. Optimism surrounding the economic recovery and the potential for increased consumer spending influenced market movements.

Stimulus Measures: Governments and central banks around the world implemented substantial monetary and fiscal stimulus measures to support economies affected by the pandemic. Investors paid close attention to stimulus announcements, as they could impact market sentiment and liquidity conditions.

Tech Stocks: Technology stocks, which had performed strongly in the preceding months, experienced increased volatility in March 2021. Concerns about rising interest rates and potential regulatory changes in the tech sector led to a rotation out of high-growth stocks and into value stocks.

Inflation Concerns: Rising inflation expectations were a focal point for investors in March 2021. As

economies reopened and stimulus measures were implemented, concerns arose regarding the potential for inflationary pressures. This led to increased market volatility, particularly in sectors sensitive to interest rate changes, such as technology and growth stocks.

Bond Yields: Bond yields rose during this period, partly driven by the inflation concerns mentioned above. Higher yields on government bonds made them relatively more attractive compared to stocks, leading to some rotation out of equities and into fixed-income investments.

Sector Performance:



The performance of various sectors varied in March 2021. Sectors like

energy, financials, and industrials benefited from the anticipation of an economic recovery and higher inflation, while technology, communication services, and consumer discretionary sectors faced more volatility.

Global Markets:



Stock markets worldwide experienced mixed performance in March 2021. While some markets reached new highs, others experienced pullbacks due to concerns over inflation, interest rates, and the pace of economic recovery. Geopolitical events and regional factors also influenced market performance in different countries.

It's important to note that the share market can be highly dynamic and

subject to various factors, so the above information provides a general overview of the market during March 2021. The specific performance of individual stocks and indices can vary significantly.

Indian Business

March 2021 was a significant time for Indian businesses as they continued to navigate the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some notable events and developments related to Indian business:

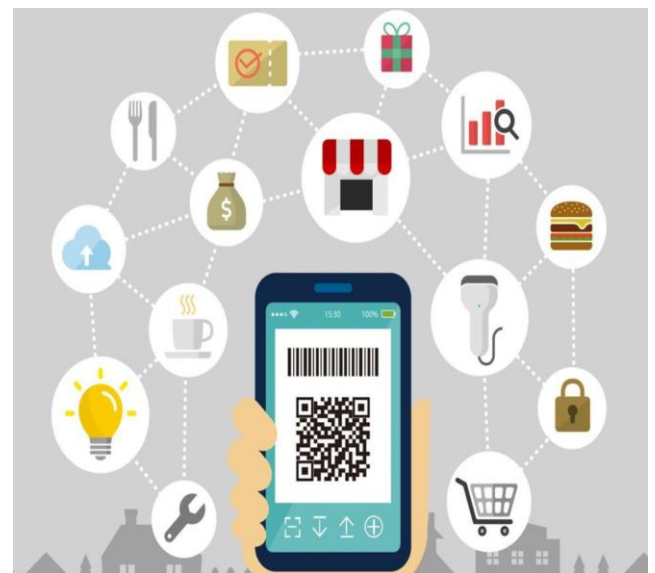
Economic Recovery: India's economy showed signs of recovery in March 2021 after a period of contraction. Various sectors, including manufacturing and services, experienced a rebound in activity, supported by government stimulus measures and easing of restrictions.

Budget 2021-22: The Indian government presented the Union Budget for the fiscal year 2021-22 in February 2021. The budget focused on economic revival, infrastructure development, healthcare, and increasing foreign direct investment

(FDI). It introduced policies to boost manufacturing, promote digitalization, and support startups and small businesses.

E-commerce Boom: The e-commerce sector in India continued to witness significant growth. Companies like Flipkart, Amazon, and Reliance Retail's JioMart expanded their operations and invested in supply chain infrastructure to meet the increasing demand for online shopping.

Digital Payments:



The adoption of digital payments continued to rise in India. Mobile payment platforms like Paytm, Google Pay, and PhonePe saw increased usage as people preferred contactless transactions. The

government also encouraged digital payments to promote financial inclusion and reduce the use of cash.

IPOs and Investments: Several Indian companies announced initial public offerings (IPOs) during March 2021. Firms like Nazara Technologies, Kalyan Jewellers, and Easy Trip Planners went public, attracting investor interest. Additionally, foreign investments in Indian startups and technology companies remained robust, with significant funding rounds taking place.

Cryptocurrency Regulations: The Indian government proposed a bill in March 2021 to ban all private cryptocurrencies while allowing the creation of a digital currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The bill aimed to create a regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies in the country.

Agriculture Reforms: The government implemented agricultural reforms to liberalize the sector. The introduction of new laws aimed to provide farmers with more marketing choices and increase private investment in agriculture.

However, these reforms faced protests from farmer unions and led to discussions about their potential impact.

Renewable Energy Focus:



India continued to prioritize renewable energy initiatives. The government announced plans to establish large-scale solar power projects and increase the share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix. These efforts aimed to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and promote sustainable development.

It's important to note that the information provided represents a general overview and may not

encompass all events and developments during

Tata Motors

In March 2021, Tata Motors, the Indian multinational automotive manufacturing company, was

actively engaged in various business activities and initiatives. Here are some notable events and developments related to Tata Motors:

Launch of New Models:



Tata Motors introduced several new vehicles in March 2021. One of the significant launches was the Tata Safari, which marked the comeback of the iconic Safari brand in a new avatar. The Safari is a premium SUV built on the company's OMEGARC

platform, offering spacious interiors and modern features.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Initiatives:



Tata Motors continued its focus on electric mobility. In March 2021, they announced the launch of the Tata Tigor EV, an electric sedan aimed at the commercial segment. The company has been actively working towards expanding its EV portfolio and promoting the adoption of electric vehicles in India.

Financial Performance: Tata Motors released its financial results for the quarter and fiscal year ended March 31, 2021. The company reported a consolidated revenue growth of 42% year-on-year in Q4 FY2020-21,

driven by strong demand for its vehicles. However, the financial performance of Tata Motors was also impacted by various factors like the global semiconductor shortage and supply chain challenges.

Strategic Partnerships: Tata Motors forged partnerships and collaborations to strengthen its position in the automotive industry. In March 2021, the company entered into a strategic agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to jointly work on technological advancements in areas like electric mobility, energy storage systems, and connected vehicles.

Export Expansion: Tata Motors expanded its global presence by increasing its focus on export markets. In March 2021, the company announced plans to enter new markets in Africa and the Middle East. This move was part of Tata Motors' strategy to enhance its international sales and explore untapped opportunities.

Export Initiatives: Tata Motors had been focusing on increasing its exports to international markets. In March 2021, the company

announced plans to expand its presence in the Latin American market. Tata Motors aimed to strengthen its position in countries like Argentina, Chile, and Peru by introducing new products and enhancing its distribution network.

COVID-19 Precautions:



Like many other companies, Tata Motors continued to implement strict safety measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The company followed guidelines from health authorities to ensure the well-being of its employees and customers, while also ramping up production and operations gradually.

Science & Technology

In March 2021, several notable advancements and events took place in the field of science and technology. Here are some highlights:

COVID-19 Vaccines:



Vaccination efforts against COVID-19 continued to make progress worldwide. Multiple vaccines, including those developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson, were being administered to combat the pandemic.

Mars Missions: The month saw several milestones in Mars exploration. The United Arab

Emirates' Hope Probe successfully entered Mars orbit, becoming the first Arab mission to reach the Red Planet. NASA's Mars Perseverance rover also made its historic landing in the Jezero Crater, beginning its mission to search for signs of ancient microbial life and collect samples for future return to Earth.

Quantum Computing: Google announced a breakthrough in quantum computing known as "quantum supremacy." Their quantum computer, called Sycamore, performed a calculation in 200 seconds that would have taken a classical supercomputer thousands of years to complete. This milestone demonstrated the potential of quantum computers to solve complex problems.

SpaceX Starship Test Flights: SpaceX conducted several high-altitude test flights of its Starship prototype rocket. These tests aimed to assess the rocket's launch and landing capabilities, representing a significant step toward SpaceX's goal of developing a fully reusable, next-generation spacecraft for crewed missions to the Moon and Mars.

Perseverance Rover's First Science Results: NASA's Perseverance rover began transmitting its first scientific findings from Mars. It provided high-resolution images, recorded sounds, and collected data on the planet's geology and atmosphere. The rover's instruments, including the Ingenuity helicopter, continued to operate successfully.

Cybersecurity Breaches: In March 2021, multiple high-profile cybersecurity breaches were reported. One such incident involved the compromise of thousands of Microsoft Exchange email servers worldwide. These breaches highlighted the ongoing challenges in maintaining digital security and the importance of robust cybersecurity measures.

Microsoft Mesh:



Microsoft unveiled Mesh, a mixed-reality platform that enables people to collaborate and interact in virtual environments. Mesh utilizes technologies like augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to create shared experiences across different devices and locations.

Renewable Energy Advancements:



Efforts to transition to clean energy sources continued to gain momentum. The world's largest floating offshore wind farm, Kincardine, began operations off the coast of Scotland. Additionally, various countries and companies announced plans for increased investment in renewable energy infrastructure and research.