

1. Wheat area still down; overall rabi acreage close to normal



Rabi progress card

Crop	2016-17	2017-18
Wheat	311.17	298.57
Rice	15.99	22.32
Pulses	155.76	163.11
Coarse cereals	55.99	54.58
Oilseeds	82.08	79.11
Total	620.99	617.79

(Area under rabi crops till Jan 19, 2018 in lakh ha)

- ❖ Total area under rabi crops this season inched closer to that sown in the previous year, even though there was a four per cent drop in wheat cultivation
- ❖ At 617.79 lakh hectares (lh), the cumulative rabi acreage this year till date was a tad lower than 620.99 lh sown in the corresponding period last year.
- ❖ Acreage under wheat came down by 8.68 lh in Madhya Pradesh, which experienced deficient rains. The total area under wheat was 298.67 lh (311.17 lh).
- ❖ Acreage of oilseeds registered a slight improvement as compared to the previous week

Ministry of Agriculture 19 January 2018

2. Money Market : Reference date : 19 January 2018

Bank rate	6.25	Base rate	8.95-9.45
Repo Rate	6.00	S L R	19.5
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75	Term Deposit Rate	6.00 - 6.75 >1 Yr
C R R	4.00	Call Money (wtd.Avg)	5.90
Marginal Standing Facility	6.25	CBLO (Wtd.Avg)	5.86

Source : Reserve Bank of India

Source: global-rates.com	Date>	19 Jan	1-Week	1-month	6-Month	1-Year
On US \$ (%)	LIBOR>	1.44	1.47	1.56	1.93	2.23

3. Foreign Exchange Rate (Rs) :

Category	15 Jan	16 Jan	17 Jan	18 Jan	19 Jan	% Ch.
US \$	63.41	63.75	63.98	63.88	63.72	0.49
Euro	77.45	78.20	78.35	77.88	78.14	0.89

Source : RBI

4. Stock Exchange Indices :

Category	15 Jan	16 Jan	17 Jan	18 Jan	19 Jan	% Ch.
BSE	34844	34771	35082	35260	35512	1.92
Nifty	10742	10700	10789	10817	10895	1.42

Source : BSE, NSE

5. Gold & Silver Prices (Rs) :

Kolkata Prices	15 Jan	16 Jan	17 Jan	18 Jan	19 Jan	% Ch.
Gold 24 Carrots /10gms	32258	32367	32378	32149	32170	-0.27
Silver / kg	42400	42500	42300	42000	41900	-1.18

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6. Crude Oil Price: US\$/Barrel :

Date>	05 Jan	15 Jan	16 Jan	17 Jan	18 Jan	Weekly
Price>	67.17	67.78	67.54	67.07	67.20	NA

Source: OPEC

7. India's Trade deficit highest in last three years



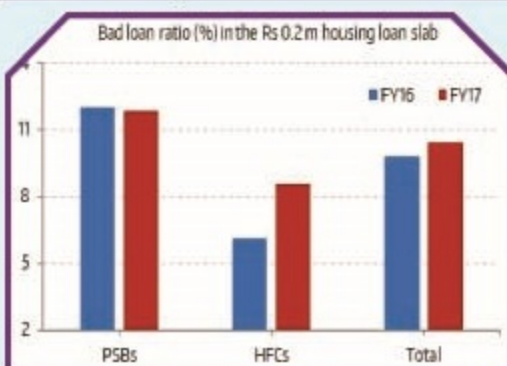
- India's December trade deficit widened to its highest in more than three years as higher import bills for gold and crude oil weighed on rising exports.

- In December, exports increased by 12.3% to US\$27 billion, while imports increased by 21.1% to US\$41.9 billion.

- Trade deficit was US\$14.88 billion, up about 41% YoY. Imports during the first nine months of the current fiscal amounted to US\$338.3 billion as against US\$277.8 billion, a growth of 21.7%. The trade deficit during the period widened to US\$114.8 billion.

Source : CME

8. Asset Quality Pitfalls in Affordable Housing



- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have been adversely impacted by the economic downturn and investment climate.
- Housing finance companies (HFCs), on the other hand, are having a dream run. Backed by government incentives fuelling demand for affordable housing.
- Although the collateral backed housing loans are among the safer asset classes, they are not completely risk free.
- In its monthly report, the Reserve Bank of India has flagged the deteriorating asset quality in the housing loan space.

- As per the report, a majority of the slippages have taken place in the affordable home loan slab of upto Rs 0.2 million. The bad loan ratio in this segment shot up by 0.6% in FY17 to 10.4%. Further, HFCs bore the major brunt with the bad loan ratio jumping by 2.5% to 8.6% by the end of FY17. Surprisingly, state-run banks witnessed an improvement in asset quality with the bad loan ratio falling below 12%.
- According to India Rating and Research, affordable housing finance is estimated to be a Rs 6 trillion business opportunity by 2022 and will be the principal growth driver for home loans. **Source: National Housing Bank**

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