Summary

- February was a challenging month for the S&P BSE SENSEX; the imposition of a capital gains tax on equity investments tested the Indian equity benchmark at the start of the month, before a U.S.-led global equity market sell-off dragged the index down further. Despite recovering slightly, India’s bellwether equity market finished the month with a 4.89% loss.

- There were few bright spots to be found in a month of broad-based global equity declines; every S&P BSE sector, every S&P BSE cap range and nearly every S&P BSE equity strategy fell in February. Excluding inverse strategies, the S&P BSE IPO index offered the only exception to the rule; it rose 2.84%.

- Indian fixed income markets also largely suffered from the rout in risk assets, as the S&P BSE India 10 Year Sovereign Bond Index declined 1.43%. Indian corporate bond indices bucked the trend to eke out a small gain for February.

- Finance was the worst-performing S&P BSE sector and Financials proved to be the biggest drag on the S&P BSE SENSEX’s monthly total return.

- The S&P Russia BMI was the lone gainer among regional equity indices; it rose 2.65%. Elsewhere, the S&P Frontier BMI (which fell 1.72%) beat its Emerging and Developed counterparts.

- A global market sell-off at the start of the month contributed to an increase in volatility measures around the world; the CBOE Volatility/VIX Index rose 5.05 points in February, its largest monthly increase in fifteen months.

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and/or its affiliates. Data as of the close February 28, 2018 except as of February 27. Index performance based on total return. Global Equity index returns are in USD, otherwise returns for indices are in local currency and/or USD for multi-currency regions. Charts and graphs are provided for illustrative purposes. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. For more information, please visit our website at www.spdji.com
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