

MARKET WATCH

	13-03-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	34,103	4.04
US Dollar	73.80	0.59
Gold	42,600	-2.51
Brent oil	34.22	2.52

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	292.75	5.10
Asian Paints	1797.70	-45.65
Axis Bank	568.80	25.55
Bajaj Auto	2357.10	18.20
Bajaj Finserv	7742.00	303.95
Bajaj Finance	3952.55	218.20
Bharti Airtel	491.85	26.90
BPCL	376.05	31.75
Britannia Ind	2763.60	-47.05
Cipla	425.55	30.80
Coal India	154.10	-0.45
Dr Reddys Lab	2885.10	34.70
Eicher Motors	17672.15	794.40
GAIL (India)	84.55	4.60
Grasim Ind	604.95	45.10
HCL Tech	492.90	-0.45
HDFC	2066.80	191.10
HDFC Bank	1069.80	48.50
Hero MotoCorp	1883.95	-23.25
Hindalco	127.45	7.25
Hind Unilever	2033.20	-22.75
ICICI Bank	447.20	21.55
IndusInd Bank	803.75	19.10
Bharti Infratel	227.25	5.95
Infosys	642.35	11.15
Indian OilCorp	92.25	4.35
ITC	162.25	6.45
JSW Steel	214.90	11.70
Kotak Bank	1470.05	5.00
L&T	1051.45	34.90
M&M	428.85	5.90
Maruti Suzuki	5838.60	195.45
Nestle India Ltd.	14991.80	-573.75
NTPC	98.05	3.70
ONGC	65.90	45.10
PowerGrid Corp	167.90	1.80
Reliance Ind	1105.30	42.30
State Bank	242.00	29.40
Sun Pharma	384.20	29.40
Tata Motors	89.75	1.75
Tata Steel	326.70	39.25
TCS	1806.30	36.45
Tech Mahindra	655.95	6.10
Titan	1084.35	7.60
UltraTech Cement	3788.90	125.40
UPL	410.85	-32.75
Vedanta	84.05	4.20
Wipro	197.40	-1.70
YES Bank	25.55	0.50
Zee Entertainment	182.80	-7.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.72	74.04
Euro	81.95	82.30
British Pound	91.83	92.25
Japanese Yen (100)	68.84	69.14
Chinese Yuan	10.54	10.59
Swiss Franc	77.27	77.61
Singapore Dollar	52.20	52.43
Canadian Dollar	53.19	53.42
Malaysian Ringgit	17.22	17.31

Source: Indian Bank



Exports post first rise in seven months

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NEW DELHI

India's exports rose for the first time in seven months in February growing by 2.91% to \$27.65 billion, according to Commerce Ministry data released on Friday.

Imports, too, grew by 2.48% to \$37.5 billion, leaving a trade deficit of \$9.85 billion against \$9.72 billion in February 2019.

Oil imports jumped by 14.26% to \$10.76 billion in February compared with \$9.41 billion in the year-ago month. Exports during April-February this fiscal dipped by 1.5% to \$292.91 billion. Imports during the period declined by 7.3% to \$436 billion, leaving a trade deficit of \$143.12 billion.

Auto wholesales plunge in Feb.

19% drop stems from slowdown, transition to BS-VI: SIAM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Wholesale vehicle sales in the country declined by a little more than 19% in February 2020, as consumer sentiment remained subdued amid economic slowdown and upcoming transition to BS-VI norms, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said on Friday.

"The automobile industry continues to face hardships due to a steeper decline in production and wholesale dispatches in all segments in February 2020," said Rajesh Menon, director general, SIAM.

Vehicle sales across categories stood at more than 16.46 lakh units in February 2020 versus more than 20.34 lakh units in February 2019, according to SIAM data. Rajan Wadhwa, president, SIAM, added, "The decline in wholesale

Bulls quarantine bears

LIC-led domestic buying stems carnage, foreign investors on binge sale

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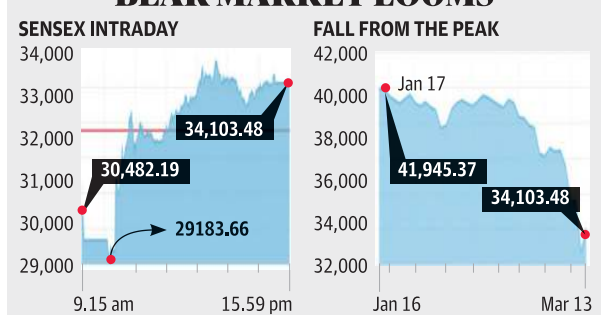
Investors thought it would be a Black Friday as the barometer Sensex yo-yoed 5,400 points and the Nifty hit the lower circuit breaker of 10% as trading ground to a halt, albeit temporarily. But the markets sprang a surprise, ending in the green.

The Sensex, which had touched a low of 29,388.97 during the morning session, rebounded to a high of 34,769.48 before closing at 34,103.48, up 1,325.34 points or 4.04%. The broader Nifty settled at 9,955.20, gaining 365.05 points, or 3.81%.

In fact, minutes after start of the trading session, the Nifty's plunge to a low of 8,555.15 led to suspension of trading in both exchanges for 45 minutes.

Sector heavyweights and bluechips such as TCS and State Bank of India were all trading more than 10% lower as the markets hit their lower circuit for the first time in 12

BEAR MARKET LOOMS



Top gainers	% change*	Closing price in ₹	Top losers	% change*	Closing price in ₹
SBI	13.87	242.25	Nestle	-4.12	14,975.80
Tata Steel	13.48	325.45	Asian Paints	-2.46	1,797.60
HDFC	10.33	2,068.50	HUL	-1.27	2,033.20
Sun Pharma	8.34	384.45	HeroMotor	-0.83	1,888.60
Bajaj Finance	5.92	3,955.35	HCL Tech	-0.05	492.65

*FROM PREVIOUS CLOSE ON THE BSE

years. The resumption of trading, however, saw buying support for stocks, most of which are currently trading at their 52-week lows on account of growing concerns over the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Incidentally, the India VIX index, which had more than doubled in the recent past, surged by another 25% on Friday. The recovery in the markets was primarily led by strong buying by domestic institutional investors led by

Four private lenders join Yes Bank rescue

ICICI Bank, HDFC to invest ₹1,000 crore each in troubled bank

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Private sector lenders, including ICICI Bank and HDFC, will pick up stake in the troubled private sector lender Yes Bank.

While ICICI Bank and HDFC said they would invest ₹1,000 crore each in Yes Bank for about 5% stake each, Axis Bank pegged its investment at ₹600 crore and Kotak Mahindra Bank at ₹500 crore.

The board of State Bank of India's (SBI) had cleared an investment of ₹7,250 crore to pick up up to 49% stake in Yes Bank.

In a notification to the stock exchanges, ICICI Bank

said its board had approved an investment of up to ₹1,000 crore, comprising up to 100 crore equity shares at a price of ₹10 per share, under the proposed Scheme of Reconstruction of Yes Bank.

"This investment is likely to result in ICICI Bank holding in excess of 5% shareholding in Yes Bank, with the final shareholding to be determined based on the final scheme of reconstruction and share issuance," ICICI Bank said. Similarly, HDFC also announced an investment of ₹1,000 crore for over 5%, while adding that the investment would be completed by March 31, 2020.

Axis Bank said it would ac-



Amitabh Chaudhry

quire 60 crore equity shares of Yes Bank for a total cash investment of ₹600 crore for less than 5% stake.

Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, said, "The overall banking and financial system in India continues to

LIC as the net buying by such entities was pegged at almost ₹5,900 crore on Friday as per BSE data.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) continued selling shares in huge numbers with the day's off-loading totalling ₹6,027.58 crore. On Thursday, they were net sellers at almost ₹3,500 crore.

COVID-19 fears

"Concerns on the spread of COVID-19, especially in the EU and the resultant impact on travel, tourism and business has impacted sentiment leading to high FII selling in Indian equity markets," said Chandraprakash Padiyar, senior fund manager, Tata Asset Management. He added the markets seemed to be closer to the bottom of the current correction phase. Elsewhere in Asia, Japan's Nikkei lost over 6%, or 1,128 points, while the benchmarks of Malaysia, South Korea and Taiwan lost between 2% and 6% each.

Scheme for Yes Bank gets Cabinet nod

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NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved a reconstruction scheme for Yes Bank, as proposed by the Reserve Bank of India, under which the State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire 49% stake in the ailing bank.

"The Cabinet has approved the reconstruction scheme for Yes Bank as proposed by the RBI. The decision to provide a reconstruction scheme keeps at its core the protection of depositors' interest, keeps at its core providing stability to Yes Bank, and also keeps at its core keeping a stable financial environment, banking system," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at a press conference after the Cabinet meeting.

Sharing key features of the restructuring plan, the Finance Minister said SBI would invest up to 49% of the equity in the crisis-ridden bank. "Other investors are also being invited, and quite a lot of engagement by the RBI is happening to bring in other investors."

Ms. Sitharaman said there would be a three-year lock-in period for SBI, but only for up to 26% of investment by them. For other players too, the lock-in will remain at three years. However, it will be for 75% of their investments.

Additionally, "The authorised capital itself has been raised from ₹1,100 crore to ₹6,200 crore, so that we can accommodate immediate and also subsequent raising of capital requirements," she said.

The Minister added that further details of the plan would be available in the notification, which would happen as soon as possible. The new board would have at least two directors from SBI as its members.

Blue-chips gain colour as bourses turn course

Banking majors among top gainers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

While Friday turned out to be the most volatile day for Indian stock markets with the benchmark Sensex trading in a range of nearly 5,400 points and the Nifty hitting the lower circuit of 10% before closing with a gain of nearly 4%, stock-specific action saw many blue-chips gaining over 20% compared to the day's lows.

Banking majors such as IndusInd Bank, Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank were among the top gainers in the BSE 100 index, comprising top 100 companies as per market capitalisation.

While IndusInd Bank gained a little over 46% compared to its day's low, SBI, PNB and BoB gained between 30% and 39%.

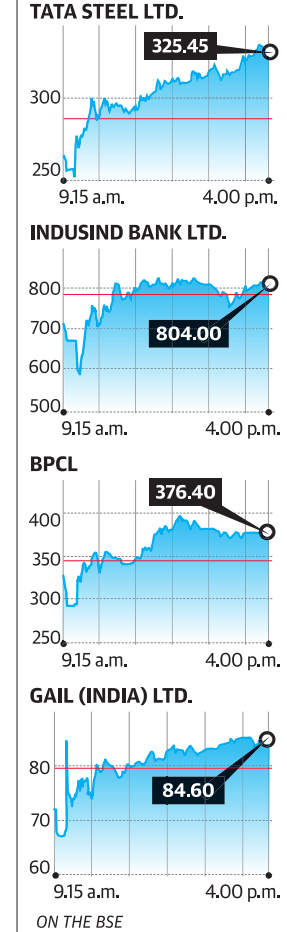
IndusInd Bank touched a low of ₹550.05 before closing at ₹804. Similarly, SBI, which enjoys a high weightage in the Sensex as well, closed at ₹242.25 after touching an intraday low of ₹184.25, a gain of over 31%.

Meanwhile, the Sensex, which had touched a low of 29,388.97 during the morning session, touched a high of 34,769.48 before closing at 34,103.48, up 1,325.34 points or 4.04%.

The broader Nifty settled at 9,955.20, gaining 365.05 points or 3.81%. Interestingly, the market was abuzz with talks that Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) was among the major buyers in the market as most of the banking stocks were currently available at 52-week low levels.

Roller-coaster ride

From the depths of an abyss to high ground, stocks rose like a Phoenix giving investors some breathing space after days of battering



investors were net buyers at almost ₹5,900 crore.

Apart from banking majors, stocks like Tata Steel, LIC Housing Finance, BPCL, HPCL and GAIL India also gained between 26% and 29% in intraday trading.

The intraday reversal in price movement could be further gauged from the fact that all the stocks in the BSE 100 index, which were significantly down during the morning session, ended with gains.

Rupee rebounds after RBI intervenes

Central bank assures adequate liquidity support

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The rupee made a sharp recovery after touching a record low of 74.50 a dollar in early trade following intervention and assurance of liquidity by the Reserve Bank of India.

The rupee opened weak at 74.39 a dollar compared with the previous close of 74.24 and then touched the day's low of 74.50. The previous record low was on October 9, 2018 when the rupee closed the day at 74.39 a dollar.

On Friday, the rupee closed the day at 73.80 a dollar, up 44 paise from its previous close.

The turbulence in the financial market steered the central bank into making a statement, saying it would take steps to ensure adeq-



Trouble shooting: RBI said it would ensure money, debt and forex markets continue to function normally. ■ P. V. SIVAKUMAR

uate liquidity and that the situation was being monitored closely.

Markets around the globe are facing volatility due to risk aversion; investors are holding liquidity even as COVID-19 keeps spreading. Trading was halted in the domestic equities market after hitting their lower cir-

cuits on Friday.

"The Reserve Bank of India is closely and continuously monitoring the rapidly evolving global situation and will take all necessary measures to ensure that money, debt and forex markets remain adequately liquid and stable, and continue to function normally," the RBI said.

On Thursday, the RBI announced that it would open a six-month dollar sell-buy swap window to pump in liquidity in the foreign exchange market. The central bank will conduct U.S. dollar-rupee sell-buy swaps worth \$2 billion on March 16, to 'begin with,' in its effort to fight market volatility.

The central bank observed mismatches in the U.S. dollar liquidity had become accentuated across the world but added that the level of foreign exchange reserves remained at comfortable levels to meet any exigency. Latest data released by the RBI showed the country's foreign exchange surged \$5.69 billion to reach an all-time high of \$487.23 billion in the week to March 6 due to an increase in foreign currency assets.

'Centre monitoring virus situation along with RBI'

Serious repercussions felt globally, says Finance Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid intense volatility in the financial markets due to concerns over the impact of COVID-19, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that the government, along with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was conscious of the developments and was monitoring the situation almost on a daily basis.

The statement came at a time when the stock markets plunged over 10% in the opening session on Friday as the virus-led recession fears triggered panic selling.

"The Government of India is in touch with various departments concerned, and also State governments, and has been continuously



Nirmala Sitharaman

monitoring the coronavirus [situation] and making sure that effective, timely steps are taken to take care of Indian interests and also ensuring that Indians who travelled abroad are tested, monitored," the Finance Minister said.

Replying to a query at a press conference, Ms. Sitha-

raman said, "As it is, global markets have all had severe volatility. And we are also consciously monitoring all of them. It's no consolation to say that stock markets elsewhere have also suffered. I'm conscious of that. But globally, there is [such] serious repercussion felt; we are conscious of the developments and together with RBI we are monitoring."

The Minister added that she had already held meetings with all the industries concerned to address challenges that are arising due to the outbreak of COVID-19, and the government departments are now spending a lot of time to see how best they could get relief from the challenges.

Centre reimburse tax to exporters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday approved a scheme for reimbursement of taxes and duties, which were not refunded previously, to exporters with a view to give boost to the country's dwindling outbound shipments.

A decision to approve the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

The reimbursement of taxes such as duty on power charges and VAT on fuel in transportation and farm sector would make Indian products competitive in global markets, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters.

Flight services plunged on COVID-19, says Boeing official

'In China, there are only 3,000 flights a day against 15,000'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

A top level executive of Boeing on Friday said there has been a steep reduction in flight operations by airlines in the Asia Pacific region following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is pattern that is likely to be seen in the Europe and the U.S. under the impact of COVID-19, Darren Hulst, vice-president, commercial marketing, The Boeing Company, said here.

Wither away He, however, was hopeful of the COVID-19 impact on the aviation industry withering away towards the end of the year.

Mr. Hulst, during a media interaction at Wings India 2020, said there had been a

50% reduction in daily flights in the Asia Pacific region. "In mainland China market in normal times, there are 15,000 departures a day and at the peak of the virus, they were operating 3,000 flights a day," he said.

"If you exclude China, rest of Asia Pacific, probably, 5,000 flights are operated a day. At one point, we saw 2,500," he said, pointing out that these were rough estimates.

As the virus spreads to other markets, "we see airlines in Europe and the U.S. taking action in terms of cutting capacity. It is demand driven and policy driven," he said. Speaking on the Boeing operations in India, Salil Gupte, president, Boeing India, said the company spent

Deadline to submit AI bids is April 30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday extended the deadline for submitting bids for buying 100% stake in Air India, till April 30. The deadline was originally set for March 17.

The government had allowed access to the virtual data room of Air India to interested bidders late in February and allowed them further time till March 6 for queries.

A Ministerial panel led by Home Minister Amit Shah decided on extending the deadline for submission of expression of interest till April 30. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management said the changes were in view of requests by interested bidders and the situation arising out of the spread of COVID-19.