

## Stock markets snap 3-day rally; Sensex tumbles 504 points

**MUMBAI, FEB 5:** Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Thursday, snapping a three-day rally, amid a weak trend in global stock markets.

After starting the trade on a bearish note, the 30-share BSE Sensex further dropped 503.76 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 83,313.93. During the day, it tanked 666.07 points or 0.79 per cent to 83,151.62.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 133.20 points or 0.52 per cent to end at 25,642.80.

From the Sensex firms, Eterna, Bharti Airtel, Bharat Electronics, ITC, Infosys, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Asian Paints were among the major laggards.

Trent, Tata Steel, State Bank of India and Bajaj Finance were the gainers.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi ended nearly 4 per cent lower. Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index also ended in the negative territory, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled higher.

European markets were trading lower.

"Indian equities saw consolidation, as weakness was followed by a sharp rally in recent sessions driven by optimism around the

meeting, Nair added.

"Global cues added further pressure, with concerns over a broad-based tech sell-off in international markets and heightened US-Iran tensions leading to risk-off sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

US markets ended mostly lower on Wednesday. The Nasdaq Composite index tumbled 1.51 per cent and S&P 500 declined by 0.51 per cent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended 0.53 per cent higher.

Market participants are now turning their attention to the upcoming RBI policy

meeting, Nair added.

"Indian equity markets traded in a tight range, signalling a wait-and-watch phase as investors remained cautious in the absence of fresh domestic triggers. While overall sentiment remained stable, the benchmarks struggled to sustain momentum at higher levels, reflecting a lack of follow-through buying despite earlier positives," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Market participants remain on the sidelines, awaiting clearer signals from global macro developments, trends in foreign institutional flows, and further clarity on the progress

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 1.32 per cent to USD 68.54 per barrel.

On Wednesday, the Sensex ended 78.56 points or 0.09 per cent higher at 83,817.69. The Nifty went up by 48.45 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 25,776. (PTI)

**NEW DELHI, FEB 5:** Digital and artificial intelligence tools are emerging as key drivers of social impact, enabling targeted interventions in education and local governance, Ajay Piramal, chairman of the Piramal Group, said on Thursday.

While fundraising has largely remained offline, technology is being deployed to address systemic gaps in the delivery of public welfare schemes, including unutilised education scholarships and limited access to information at the grassroots level, he said at an event organised by India Leaders for Social Sector (ILSS) here.

Piramal cited education as a key example, noting that although girls receive free education up to the age of eight

and are eligible for scholarships thereafter, nearly 40 per cent of government-allocated scholarship funds remain unutilised each year because benefits fail to reach intended recipients. He said digital solutions are being

used to bridge this gap.

The well-known industrialist and philanthropist also highlighted local governance, saying panchayats despite being central to implementation often lack timely information on the multiple

Piramal said there was no real separation between a business mindset and a compassionate one, arguing that purpose must guide both business and philanthropy.

The group's philosophy of "doing well and doing good," he said, requires measuring impact in philanthropy as rigorously as returns in business, including outcomes such as improved learning levels and long-term social change. (PTI)

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