

Sensex tumbles 558 points on sell-off in IT shares

MUMBAI, FEB 12: Benchmark BSE Sensex fell 558 points on Thursday amid heavy selling in IT shares, as concerns over AI-led disruptions and waning hopes of a Fed rate cut after firm US economic data weighed on investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 558.72 points, or 0.66 per cent, to settle at 83,674.92. During the day, it tacked 716.97 points, or 0.85 per cent, to hit an intraday low of 83,516.67.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 146.65 points, or 0.57 per cent, to end at 25,807.20.

Technology stocks led the slide, with Tech Mahindra, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tumbling nearly 6 per cent each to emerge as major laggards on the Sensex.

HCL Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Eternal, HDFC Bank, IndiGo, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Adani Ports also ended in the red.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Trent, Bharat Electronics Ltd, State Bank of India, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel and Tata Steel were among the gainers.

BSE MidCap Select Index fell 0.48 per cent, while

Rupee rises 17 paise to close at 90.61 against US dollar

MUMBAI, FEB 12: The rupee appreciated 17 paise to settle for the day at 90.61 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as foreign fund investments lifted investor sentiments.

Forex traders said foreign fund inflows, while not massive, provided a psychological anchor. Moreover, the RBI has been quietly ensuring that liquidity remains abundant in the banking system, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.55 against the US dollar, and touched an intraday high of 90.40 and a low of 90.65 during the day.

At the end of the trading session on Thursday, the domestic unit was quoted at 90.61 (provisional), higher by 17 paise over its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee

Commerce ministry likely to roll out 8 components of export promotion mission next week

MUMBAI, FEB 12: The commerce ministry is likely to roll out eight components of the Rs 25,060-crore Export Promotion Mission, including e-commerce, factoring services and warehousing, a senior government official said.

In November last year, two schemes were approved by the Union Cabinet with a combined outlay of over Rs 45,000 crore — Export Promotion Mission (Rs 25,060 crore) and the Credit Guarantee Scheme (Rs 20,000 crore).

The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) operates through two integrated sub-schemes — Niryat Protsahan (Financial Enablers); and Niryat Disha (Non-Financial Enablers) that together address finance and non-financial enablers.

The Niryat Protsahan focuses on improving access to affordable trade finance for MSME exporters through instruments such as interest subvention on pre- and post-shipment credit, export-factoring and deep-tier financing, credit cards for e-commerce exporters, collateral support for export credit and credit-enhancement for new or high-risk markets.

On the other hand, the Niryat Disha sub-scheme

aims to raise market readiness and competitiveness through support for export quality and compliance (testing, certification, audits), international branding and packaging assistance, participation in trade fairs and buyer-seller meets, export warehousing and logistics, inland transport reimbursement for remote-district exporters, and capacity-building at clusters, associations and district-level facilitation cells. In December 2025, the government rolled out the Rs 4,531-crore Market Access

"In India, this technology shift is likely to structurally transform IT services by accelerating delivery timelines and automating volume-driven tasks, thereby challenging the traditional headcount-based outsourcing model."

"A weak sentiment in the IT sector, along with lingering geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran, may influence investors to take a cautious approach in the near term," Nair said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi closed over 3 per cent higher. Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index also ended on a positive note, while Hong Kong's Hang

Seng benchmark finished in the negative territory.

European markets are trading higher in mid-session deals. US equities ended lower on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Foreign institutional investors bought equities worth Rs 943.81 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors were the net sellers of stocks worth Rs 125.36 crore, according to exchange data.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.27 per cent to USD 69.21 per barrel.

On Wednesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex slipped 40.28 points to close at 84,233.64, while the NSE Nifty inched up 18.70 points to settle at 25,953.85. (PTI)

He also said that both teams are working to convert the joint statement into a legal agreement, which is expected to be finalised and signed before the end of March.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.04 per cent lower at 96.79. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.29 per cent lower at USD 69.20 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex tumbled 558.72 points to settle at 83,674.92, while the Nifty dropped 146.65 points to 25,807.20.

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On Wednesday, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said India has always negotiated with a "clear mindset" on sectors that are "very" sensitive for the country in trade pacts, and has protected all those key segments under the interim trade agreement with the US.

The fact sheet highlights key terms of the agreement, including that India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on



depreciated 22 paise to close at 90.78 against the US dollar.

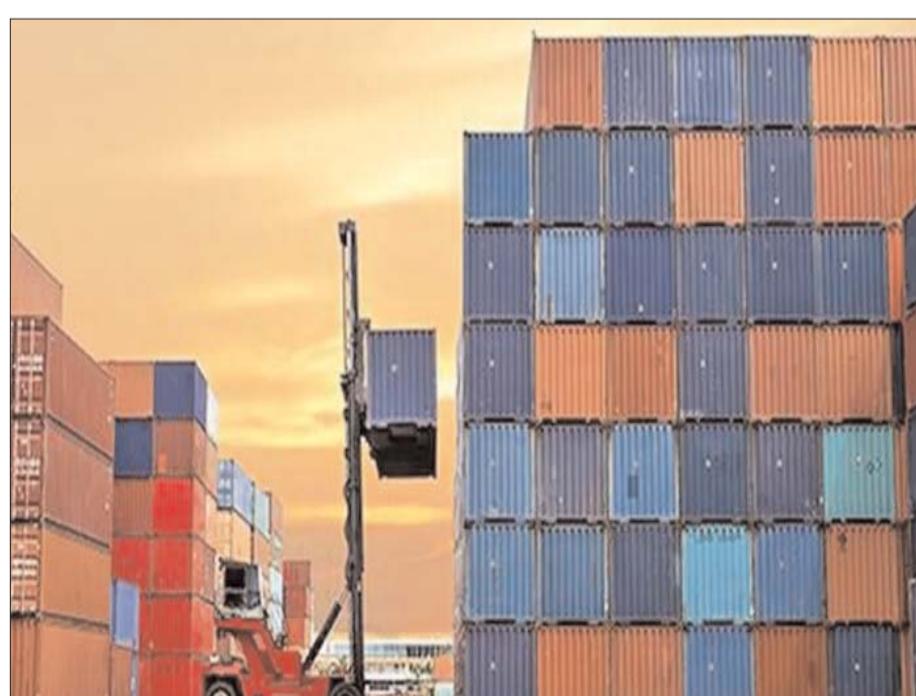
Forex traders said that while markets initially welcomed the India-US trade deal, fresh concerns have emerged after the White House released its fact sheet.

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commerce ministry official said, adding the components will be on issues like e-commerce, warehousing and factoring services.

Export factoring services, a widely used financing instrument globally, have low adoption in India due to high factoring costs involving higher rates of interest, higher risk premiums and lack of parity with subvention schemes.

These measures will be rolled out over a period of six years (2025-31). "Now we are working to roll out eight components of the EPM. It has been finalised. We will announce the rollout next week," the

commerce ministry official said, adding the components will be on issues like e-commerce, warehousing and factoring services.

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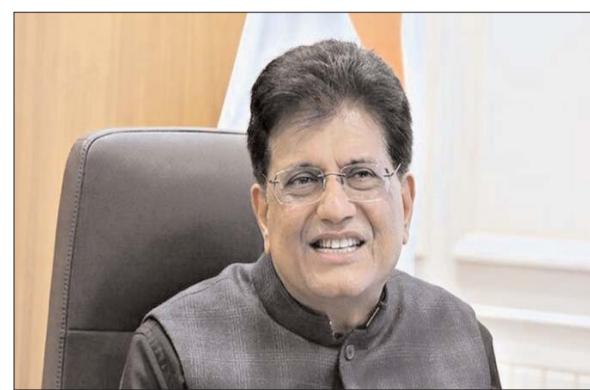
The global cross-border factoring is estimated at USD 758 billion, but in India, it is only USD 1 billion.

India to receive same garment benefits as Bangladesh under US trade pact: Goyal

MUMBAI, FEB 12: NEW DELHI, Feb 12: India will get concessional duty access for garments made using American yarn and cotton under its trade agreement with the US, similar to the benefits currently provided to Bangladesh, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

The United States will reduce reciprocal tariffs on Bangladeshi goods to 19 per cent, but garments attract zero duty only if made with US cotton and man-made fibres. A Bangladeshi garment now faces a 31 per cent levy (12 per cent for most favoured nation plus 19 per cent reciprocal), and if it uses US fibres, then duty falls to 12 per cent.

"Bangladesh ko jo Mila hai, wo Bharat ko bhi milne wala hai final agreement me (Whatever Bangladesh has got, India will also get the same in the final agreement)," Goyal told reporters here.



If an Indian company procures yarn forward and cotton forward from the US, manufactures garments, and re-exports to the US, those garments will also receive duty-free access in America, just like Bangladeshi firms, he pointed out.

That is there in that US-Bangladesh agreement, and "it will be in our agreement also", he said, adding that it will not have any impact on Indian cotton farmers.

The US has limited cotton production, its exports are only USD 5 million, and for

India, the target is USD 50 billion, the minister said.

India and the US have finalised a framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement. It is likely to be implemented in March.

These remarks are important, as Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday, alleged that the India-US interim trade deal was a "wholesale surrender", with India's energy security handed over to America and farmers' interests compromised.

Meanwhile, addressing a

Medtech, innovation and startup event here, Goyal said the free trade agreements finalised by India will provide huge market access at concessional duties to the domestic medical devices industry.

In some free trade agreements (FTAs), certain Indian medical devices would also get duty concessions, he added.

"We are opening developed markets through the nine FTAs, which cover 38 countries with rich people and high per capita incomes," the minister said.

He suggested looking for a site to set up in states like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to establish a medtech zone just like AMTZ in Andhra Pradesh.

Goyal added that the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) can look at reserving 50-100 acres for medical device units in the country. (PTI)

Free trade agreement lifts hopes of India-EU organic food players

NUREMBERG, FEB 12:

Organic food traders from India and the European Union are bullish on the recently announced free trade agreement, saying it will expand market access on both sides and create significant opportunities for the sector.

About 2,200 players from the sustainable food sector, including over 100 from India, are exhibiting their products at the four-day BIOFACH 2026, which is the world's leading trade fair for organic food, at the Exhibition Centre Nuremberg.

The fair comes at an opportune time, with India and the 27-nation European Union announcing the conclusion of negotiations for a free trade agreement on January 27 after nearly two decades of talks. It is likely to be signed and implemented in about a year.

According to experts from the organic food sector, the agreement opens up USD 60 billion worth of opportunities for Indian organic product exporters in the EU. The agreement also provides a market of 140 crore consumers to the EU countries.

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India marked a significant presence as the "Country of the Year" at the BIOFACH. The APEDA, under the commerce ministry, is organising India's participation at the fair, highlighting the country's rich agricultural heritage and its growing stature as a reliable global supplier of organic products.

Trade visitors are being provided insights into Indian organic products, value creation models and partnership opportunities, he said. India's organic food exports in 2024-25 was USD 667 million.

The India Country Pavilion was inaugurated by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, in the presence of Manipur's Additional Chief Secretary Vivek Dewangan; Minister (Personnel), Embassy of India, Berlin, Mandeep Singh Tuli; and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Raman Kumar.

Companies participating in the fair, ranging from organic juice and snack makers to grain producers and non-alcoholic beverage firms, said in one voice that the pact will help boost trade in the segment.

Several firms from regions like France are aggressively looking for local partners in India to sell their goods.

"The sector has huge opportunities for both sides," Chairman of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Abhishek Dev said.

However, both the regions have to work on the certification issues which are creat-

ing a problem at present in exporting goods, Nagendra Kumar H, CEO and Co-Founder Rajamudi, said. The Karnataka-based firm is engaged in the business of organic sites, herbs and grains.

"The FTA will help in increasing exports to the EU, but the government has to work on resolving the compliance burden issues of exporters in the EU. We can cater to the demand of the Indian diaspora in the EU," Kumar said, adding his company is exporting to Ireland, Germany and Netherlands.

Maharashtra-based organic fruits juice maker RUS Organic Founder Ujwala said there is a huge demand in Europe for such products.

"At present, we are exporting to Israel and Dubai. We are looking to raise Rs 3 crore for further expansion. I have already spent about Rs 20 crore so far. We want to double our capacity from the current four lakh bottles per month," Ujwala said. The startup firm, which started operations in 2019, is sourcing fruits from different states of India.

She added that the fast growing demand in the global markets will help the company boost its turnover.

Rejai MD KS Singh, who is working in the organic food sector, said the pact will help increase reach of Indian goods in the EU.

Firms from Europe too are optimistic that the 140 crore consumer base in India of-

fers huge business opportunities for them.

Moldova-based lavender oil makers Floral Remedy founder Stela Melnic said they are keen to export to India.

"The oil is used in the cosmetic industry. We are planning to export to India. Easy certification processes can help us a lot," she said.

Austria-based organic beverages maker firm Hollinger MD Axel Fila said he has had "good" meetings with some Indian companies and his firm is exploring opportunities to start exports to India by taking benefits of this agreement.

"There are certain issues at the certification front. EU certificates are not accepted in India. Both sides need to work on this," he said.

The APEDA chairman said the Indian government is taking steps to strengthen organic certification and testing laboratories.

Companies from other nations such as from south east Asia and Africa too want to increase their organic products exports to India.

South Africa-based essential oil makers Rosehip Farm said that their product is used in both cosmetics and medicines industry and they are looking at the Indian market.

"At present we are not exporting to India, but we definitely look at entering India," Rosehip Farm owner Celeste Gericke said. (PTI)

British giant Rolls-Royce to expand footprint across India's air, land, sea domains

NEW DELHI, FEB 12:

British defence giant Rolls-Royce on Thursday announced a mega plan to scale-up its business in India across vital sectors of defence and energy, including co-development of a next-generation combat jet engine.

The announcement came a day after the company's CEO Tufan Erginbilic met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Under the ambitious initiative, Rolls Royce is looking at more than doubling the size of its workforce to approximately 10,000 people in India and a 10-fold increase in local supply chain sourcing with a long-term goal to build on its decades-old presence in the country.

"As we grow our participation in programmes across India's defence, aviation and energy sectors, we will expand our ecosystem in India, as we have done successfully in other countries," Erginbilic said.

"We are determined to partner India on its 'Atmanirbhar' journey, by developing indigenous propulsion capabilities, providing sustained power to critical infrastructure and industry, and expanding local manufacturing for global supply chains," he said.

Among the major defence projects, Rolls-Royce has already been eyeing to develop a next-generation aero engine in India as a priority to power the combat jets that New Delhi will produce under the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) pro-

gramme.

More than 1,400 Rolls-Royce engines are currently powering various defence platforms such as the Jaguar combat aircraft and Hawk trainers of the Indian Air Force and Navy, the Arjun Main