

Sensex crashes over 1k points on selling in metal, IT stocks; Nifty sinks 336 pts

MUMBAI, FEB 13: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled more than 1 per cent on Friday due to across-the-board selloff, especially in metal, IT and commodity stocks, tracking sluggish global markets.

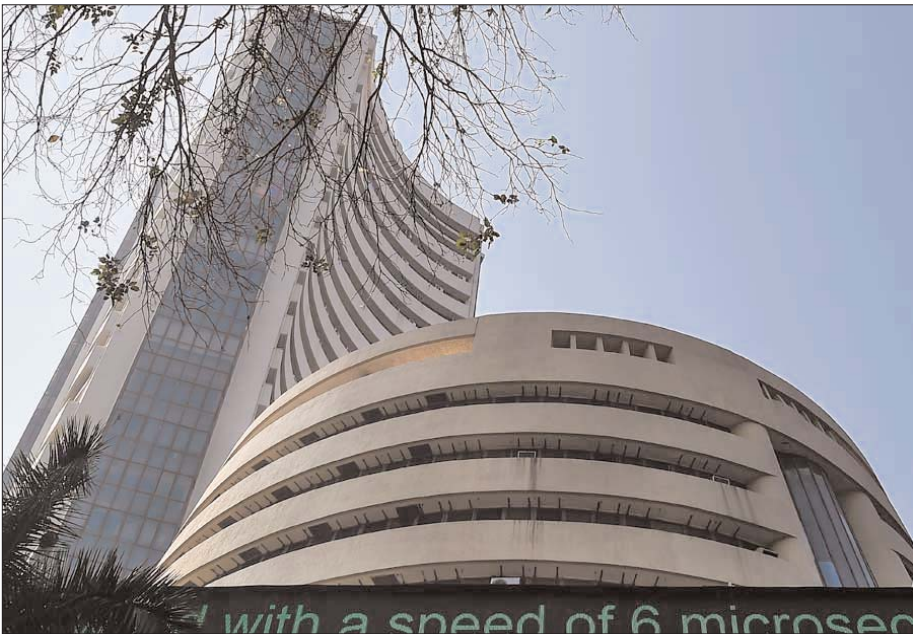
In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,048.16 points, or 1.25 per cent, to close at 82,626.76. During the day, the benchmark tanked 1,140.37 points, or 1.36 per cent, to hit an intraday low of 82,534.55.

The 50-share NSE Nifty plunged 336.10 points, or 1.30 per cent, to settle at 25,471.10. In the intraday trade, it slumped 362.9 points, or 1.4 per cent, to hit a low of 25,444.30.

Among the Sensex constituents, Hindustan Unilever, Eternal, Titan, Tata Steel, Adani Ports, Tata Consultancy Services, Power-Grid, Reliance Industries, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank and HCL Technologies were the major laggards.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance and State Bank of India were the only gainers.

“Domestic equities ended lower following a highly volatile session, weighed



down by weak global cues ahead of the upcoming US inflation data.

“Sentiment gains from the US-India trade deal have faded as renewed AI-driven disruption fears weigh on risk appetite, with markets worrying that Indian IT firms dependent on the labour arbitrage model may face tougher competitive pressure than their Nasdaq peers,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

This cautious tone extended across the broader market, pulling all major indices into negative territory,

with most sectors closing in the red, he added.

“Metal stocks saw profit-taking amid a stronger dollar index, as reports of Russia’s return to the US-dollar settlement system heightened expectations of potential sanctions relief and raised concerns over weaker realisations for metal companies,” Nair said.

In Asian markets, Hong Kong’s Hang Seng benchmark, Shanghai’s SSE Composite index, Japan’s Nikkei 225 index and South Korea’s Kospi ended in the negative territory. European markets are trading on a mixed note

in mid-session deals. The US equities market ended up to 2 per cent lower on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Foreign institutional investors bought equities worth Rs 108.42 crore on Thursday, while domestic institutional investors were also net buyers of stocks worth Rs 276.85 crore, according to exchange data.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.32 per cent to USD 67.81 per barrel.

On Thursday, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 558.72 points to settle at 83,674.92. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 146.65 points to end at 25,807.20. (PTI)

Core inflation falls to 3.4pc under new CPI series: SBI Report

MUMBAI, FEB 13: Core inflation in India declined sharply to 3.4 per cent under the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) 2024 base series, compared to around 4.15 per cent under the 2012 series, even as headline retail inflation edged up to 2.75 per cent in January 2026, according to the latest report released by the State Bank of India.

The report noted that overall CPI inflation under the new 2024 base stood at 2.75 per cent in January 2026, marginally higher than 2.55 per cent calculated under the old 2012 base using the linking factor.

Rural inflation was recorded at 2.73 per cent, while urban inflation stood slightly higher at 2.77 per cent. Food inflation came in at 2.13 per cent.

The sharp moderation in core CPI to 3.4 per cent under the new series is largely attributed to a reduction in the weight of gold, which has been cut to 0.62 per cent in the 2024 series from 1.02 per cent in the 2012 base.

However, personal care inflation surged to 19.02 per cent in January 2026, driven by steep increases in precious metals. Gold inflation stood at 46.77 per cent, while silver recorded an extraordinary 159.67 per cent rise.

Within food items, inflation pressures were concentrated in select commodities.



Tomato prices rose 64.8 per cent, coconut 47.18 per cent and coconut oil 40.4 per cent. In contrast, garlic, onion and potato recorded deflation of 53.05 per cent, 29.27 per cent and 28.98 per cent, respectively.

Among states, Telangana recorded the highest inflation at 4.92 per cent in January 2026, followed by Kerala (3.67 per cent), Tamil Nadu (3.36 per cent), Rajasthan (3.17 per cent) and Karnataka (2.99 per cent).

The report highlighted major methodological revisions in the CPI 2024 base series introduced by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

A key technical change is the adoption of the Jevons short index formula, which compiles the index sequentially rather than calculating

price changes directly from the base period, making the inclusion of new items easier.

The weight structure has also undergone significant changes. Under the 2024 classification, the weight of food and beverages now stands at 36.75 per cent. If mapped under the old 2012 classification framework, the share would have been around 42.62 per cent, compared to 45.86 per cent earlier.

Coverage under the CPI has expanded substantially. The 2024 series includes 565 additional markets compared to the 2012 base – 284 new rural markets and 281 new urban markets, taking the total to 1,465 rural and 1,395 urban markets. The number of towns covered has increased from 310 to 434.

The number of weighted items has also risen from 299

to 358, with goods increasing from 259 to 308 and services from 40 to 50 items.

New additions include rural housing, streaming services, value-added dairy products, barley products, pen drives, babysitter services and exercise equipment, while obsolete items such as VCRs, audio cassettes and tape recorders have been removed.

For the first time, 12 online markets across major cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Surat, Pune, Jaipur, Lucknow and Kanpur have been incorporated to capture weekly price movements on e-commerce platforms.

The report observed that while coverage has widened significantly, the addition of new markets appears skewed, with Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra accounting for 43 per cent of the newly added markets.

Overall, SBI Research noted that the new CPI 2024 series is more broad-based, reflects evolving consumption patterns, and offers a more comprehensive sub-classification framework, which could help policymakers and researchers undertake better trend analysis and informed policy decisions. (UNI)

India’s Q1 vegetable oil imports fall 2pc on lower soybean, sunflower purchases

NEW DELHI, FEB 13: India’s vegetable oil imports fell 2 per cent to 3.96 million tonnes in the first quarter of the 2025-26 oil year (November-October) from a year earlier, as lower soybean and sunflower oil purchases offset a rise in palm oil imports, industry data showed on Friday.

The world’s biggest vegetable oil importer bought 4.05 million tonnes, including edible and non-edible oils, in the same period a year ago, according to the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA).

Palm oil imports rose 18 per cent to 1.91 million tonnes in the November 2025-January 2026 quarter from 1.62 million tonnes a year earlier, the industry



body said in a statement.

Port stocks of palm oil stood at 4.86,000 tonnes on February 1, up 33,000 tonnes from the previous month.

Crude soybean oil imports fell 9 per cent to 1.20 million tonnes from 1.27 million tonnes, while port stocks declined to 1,90,000 tonnes

from 3,00,000 tonnes a month earlier.

Crude sunflower oil imports dropped 15 per cent to 7,59,000 tonnes from 8,94,000 tonnes, with port stocks at 1,85,000 tonnes compared with 2,00,000 tonnes in the previous month.

Nepal exported about 54,000 tonnes of refined oils to India in November 2025, consisting mainly of 47,639 tonnes of refined soya oil, 3,022 tonnes of refined sunflower oil and 2,484 tonnes of RBD palmolein. In December 2025, Nepal shipped about 48,000 tonnes of refined oils, primarily refined soybean oil.

Total edible oil stocks at Indian ports stood at 8,64,000 tonnes on February 1, while pipeline stock considering domestic production and consumption was at 8,85,000 tonnes. Total stock was 1.75 million tonnes, unchanged from January 1, due to higher imports in January.

Indonesia and Malaysia are the major suppliers of palm oil to India.

NEW DELHI, Feb 13: The Indian automobile industry clocked its highest-ever January sales in 2026, with passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers posting double-digit growth, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Friday here.

Total vehicle production, including passenger vehicles, three-wheelers, two-wheelers and quadricycles, stood at 29,27,394 units in January 2026, reflecting strong momentum at the start of the calendar year.

Domestic sales figures showed robust growth across segments. Passenger vehicle sales rose to 4,49,616 units in January 2026, registering a 12.6 per cent increase over 3,99,386 units sold in January 2025.

Three-wheeler sales recorded a sharp 30.2 per cent jump to 75,725 units, compared to 58,167 units in the same month last year. Within the segment, passenger carriers grew 30.4 per cent to 60,881 units, while goods carriers surged 33.4 per cent to 13,374 units. E-cart sales increased 18.5 per cent to 545 units, though e-rickshaw sales dipped 7.9 per cent to 925 units.

Two-wheeler sales witnessed a strong 26.2 per cent growth, rising to 19,25,603 units in January 2026 from



15,26,218 units a year ago. Scooter sales led the surge, climbing 36.9 per cent to 7,50,580 units. Motorcycle sales rose 20.3 per cent to 11,26,416 units, while mopeds grew 16.1 per cent to 48,607 units.

Commenting on the performance, SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said that passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers posted their highest-ever sales for the month of January in 2026.

“4.50 lakh units of passenger vehicles were sold in January 2026, with a growth of

12.6 per cent compared to January 2025. Three-wheelers witnessed strong growth of 30.2 per cent, while two-wheelers grew by 26.2 per cent,” he said.

Menon noted that the new year has begun on a positive note, extending the strong momentum seen in the previous quarter.

He attributed the growth to sustained demand following the GST rate reduction and said that initiatives announced in the union Budget 2026 to strengthen India’s manufacturing base, along with existing policy support,

are expected to deliver long-term benefits and support medium-term growth in the sector.

However, SIAM clarified that sales data of certain luxury carmakers were not included in the passenger vehicle tally, while Tata Motors’ domestic sales were included only in the total passenger vehicle figure without detailed break-up.

With record January sales and broad-based growth across segments, the industry appears poised for a strong performance in the months ahead. (UNI)

Alkem Laboratories Q3 net profit rises 1.9 pc at Rs 653.03 cr, to acquire 55 pc stake in Occlutech

MUMBAI, FEB 13: Alkem Laboratories Ltd on Friday reported a 1.9 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 653.03 crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2025 on account of impact of new labour codes.

The company, which had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 640.79 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal, said it has signed a binding term sheet to acquire a majority stake in Swiss medical devices firm Occlutech Holding AG at a “total equity value” of 180.7 million euros.

Consolidated revenue from operations in the third quarter stood at Rs 3,736.82 crore as against Rs 3,374.28 crore in the year-ago period, Alkem Laboratories Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

Total expenses in the third quarter were higher at Rs 3,045.93 crore as compared to Rs 2,736.2 crore in the



same period last fiscal, the company said.

In the third quarter, Alkem Laboratories said it had an exceptional item outgo of Rs 52.79 crore on account of the impact of the new labour codes.

“In Q3, we delivered a stable performance in a dynamic operating environment, supported by strong fundamentals in our domestic business and consistent execution across our international businesses,” Alkem Laboratories CEO Vikas Gupta said.

In the third quarter, India sales were Rs 2,495.9 crore, up 5.5 per cent, while international sales were at Rs 1,215.7 crore, a growth of 26.6 per cent, the company said.

Commenting on the acquisition of Occlutech, Alkem Laboratories Managing Director, Sandeep Singh said, “Occlutech is the third-largest player globally in the minimally invasive cardiac implants segment. With its significant presence in high-barrier markets, best-in-class R&D and manufacturing, and robust quality systems,

Occlutech provides a strong lever for Alkem MedTech to expand into cardiovascular along with orthopaedics.”

This acquisition holds strategic importance as the company works towards establishing a global footprint in medical devices, he added. “Medtech is a natural extension for Alkem. In the company years, along with Enzene Biosciences, our Biotech arm, we expect Alkem MedTech to become a meaningful growth pillar for the company,” Singh said.

In a regulatory filing, Alkem said the proposed acquisition is up to 55 per cent of the total outstanding equity shares of Occlutech and the “total equity value is 180.7 million euros”.

The company said its board has declared an interim dividend of Rs 43 per equity share of face value of Rs 2 per share for financial year 2025-2026. (PTI)

Apple to open 6th store in India at Borivali on Feb 26

NEW DELHI, FEB 13: iPhone maker Apple has unveiled the barricade for its upcoming Apple Borivali store, which will be its sixth store in India and second in Mumbai, the company said on Friday.

The company opened its first store in Mumbai and second store in Delhi in April, 2023.

It continued expansion with the opening of three



stores in 2025—Apple Hebbal in Bengaluru and Apple

Koregaon Park in Pune, and more recently at Apple Noida.

“Apple Borivali opens Thursday, February 26,” Apple said in a statement.

The company’s barricade at Borivali store features the distinctive

peacock-inspired visual identity first introduced at the opening of Apple Hebbal in Bengaluru followed by Apple Koregaon Park in Pune, and Apple Noida.

“The design signals confidence, detail, and a sense of arrival, seen through Apple’s lens of creativity. Apple Borivali will serve a growing community of startups and businesses,” the statement said. (PTI)

Auto sales hit record high in Jan reflecting strong momentum: SIAM

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Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 90.64 against US dollar

MUMBAI, Feb 13: The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day 3 paise lower at 90.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking the strength of the American currency in the overseas market and a negative trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said rupee traded in a narrow range with a weakening bias as a firm dollar limited the upside for emerging market currencies including the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.69 against the US dollar, and touched an intraday high of 90.60 and a low of 90.79 during the day.

At the end of the trading session, the domestic unit was quoted at 90.64 (provisional), lower by 3 paise over its previous close.



On Thursday, the rupee appreciated 17 paise to settle at 90.61 against the US dollar. “Risk sentiment has been dampened by renewed concerns over the disruptive impact of AI across industries. Safe haven assets rallied,” IFA Global said in a research note.

Meanwhile, the dollar in-

dex, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.10 per cent higher at 97.01.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.04 per cent lower at USD 67.49 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex tum-

bled 1,048.16 points to settle at 82,626.76, while the Nifty dropped 336.10 points to 25,471.10.

On Thursday, foreign institutional Investors purchased equities worth Rs 108.42 crore, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, India on Thursday introduced a new series of its Consumer Price Index (CPI), the benchmark that tracks retail inflation, starting with January data at 2.75 per cent.

The new series covers a higher number of goods and services and re-aligns the weightage of various constituents. Along with data collected from more rural and urban markets, the reading is expected to reflect the quality of data used in formulating monetary and fiscal policies. (PTI)