

## Sensex gyrates nearly 400 points, ends flats; ITC cracks 4%

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/-sensex-gyrates-nearly-400-points-ends-flats-itc-cracks-4/articleshow/55456134.cms>

After rallying as much as 350 points on Wednesday, the domestic equity benchmark ended flat after media reports said the Union Cabinet was mulling a complete ban on FDI in tobacco companies.

Reacting to the news, the headline index fell over 50 points, but rebounded at the closing bell. Demonetisation and a spike in US bond yields also continued to weigh on markets.

The benchmark Sensex, which opened at 26,508 against the previous day's close of 26,304, hit an intraday high of 26,621 and a low of 26,239 before closing 6 points lower at 26,298.

"The cascading effect of the crackdown on black money and possibility of more measures kept risk appetite low. DIIs had also turned net sellers on Tuesday, the first time since early October that both institutional investor segments, domestic and foreign, had pulled out money from the Indian equity market. Global markets were on the back foot ahead of Fed Chairwoman's testimony on Thursday. While a December rate hike would not be surprising, markets would look for clues on the pace of further rate hikes," said Anand James, Chief Market Strategist, Geojit BNP Paribas Financial Services.

Asian Paints (up 5.12 per cent) emerged as the top performer in the Sensex pack whereas FMCG major ITCBSE -0.88 % (down 2.94 per cent) was the top loser. On similar lines, the broader Nifty50 index of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) ended the day flat at 8,111, up 3 per cent.

The top five gainers of BSE included Bajaj FinanceBSE 1.56 % (up 10.20 per cent), Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company (up 8.59 per cent), Bharat Finance (up 8.22 per cent), Max Financial Services (up 7.84 per cent), and OberoiRealtyBSE 4.05 % (up 7.36 per cent) whereas PC Jewellers (down 7.81 per cent), SRF (down 6.02 per cent), GPPL (down 5.37 per cent), BalrampurChiniMillsBSE 0.81 % (down 5.32 per cent) and DLF (down 5.07 per cent) were the top losers.

Among the midcap and smallcap stocks, the S&P BSE Midcap index closed 0.56 per cent higher at 12,044 while the S&P BSE Smallcap index settled the day 0.05 per cent higher at 11,908.

In the sectoral landscape, consumer durables stocks plunged the most dragging the S&P BSE Consumer Durables index 1.97 per cent lower to 10,830, led by a fall in the shares of PC Jewellers, WhirlpoolBSE -1.92 % and TTK PrestigeBSE 1.00 %.

Among other Asian peers, China stocks ended flat on Wednesday. The blue-chip CSI300 index remained unchanged at 3,429, while the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.1 per cent to 3,205.

Hong Kong stocks closed lower with gains erased late in the day as financial shares dropped and real estate shares fell for the fourth straight day on fears of rising interest rates. The benchmark Hang Seng index lost 0.2 per cent to 22,280 points, while the Hong Kong China Enterprises Index dipped 0.4 per cent to 9,368 points.

European stocks opened in the green. At the time of writing of this report, Britain's FTSEE100 was trading 0.16 per cent lower at 6,782 while Germany's DAX was down 0.23 per cent and France's CAC40 down 0.07 per cent.