



**MARKETS:-**

The key benchmark indices registered small gains in what was a highly volatile trading session. The market attained its highest closing level in more than 25 months. The barometer index BSE Sensex fell below the psychological 18,000 level after racing above that level in early afternoon trade. The Sensex rose 28.65 points or 0.16%, up close to 95 points from the day's low and off close to 75 points from the day's high

Volatility was immense. The Sensex surged past the psychosocial 18,000 mark at the onset of the trading session on firm Asian stocks. It soon fell below that level. The market moved in a narrow range in mid-morning trade. A bout of volatility was witnessed in early afternoon trade as the market came off the higher level soon after hitting a fresh 25-month high. The market slipped into the red in afternoon trade. It regained positive zone later. The market once again slipped into the red in mid-afternoon trade. Fresh selling pulled the market to the day's low in late trade. The market staged a rebound from lower level later with the Sensex regaining positive zone.

NSE's volatility index, India VIX, rose 0.7% to 17.32. The lower level at which the index is currently trading indicates investors' desire to take risk. India VIX is a measure of the market's expectation of volatility over the next 30 calendar days. The index is calculated based on the S&P CNX Nifty options prices.

The market breadth though positive was not as strong as it was earlier in the day. Index heavyweight Reliance industries (RIL) cut early gains. Banking and housing finance firms declined on fears of interest rate hike in the forthcoming Reserve bank of India's review of monetary policy on 20 April 2010. Bharat Heavy Electricals struck a 52-week high of Rs 2559.50 in intra-day trade today, 7 April 2010. Telecom pivots gained on fresh buying ahead of the auction to provide super fast third generation (3G) service which begins on 9 April 2010. But, FMCG shares declined on profit taking. IT stocks recovered from the day's lows.

While the Greek debt crisis is still sending shivers through the global economy, India's central bank looks set to raise interest rates for the second time in as many months on 20 April 2010, and the speedy recovery of Asia's third-largest economy has raised concerns of a possible surge in capital inflows.

European stocks slipped in the red on Wednesday, following strong gains made over the past two sessions, as investors awaited euro zone GDP data for more insight on the region's economic health. The key benchmark indices in France, Germany and UK fell by between 0.1% to 0.32%.

Private-sector activity across the 16-nation euro zone expanded at the fastest rate since August 2007, according to the final Markit composite purchasing managers



index for the region released Wednesday. The index rose to 55.9 from 53.7 in February, topping a preliminary estimate of a rise to 55.5. A reading of more than 50 indicates an expansion, while a figure of less than 50 signals contraction.

Asian stocks rose on Wednesday as investors bet the Federal Reserve will keep the benchmark US interest rate at a record low. The key benchmark indices in Hong Kong, Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore rose by between 0.03% to 1.82%. However, China's Shanghai Composite index slipped 0.33%.

In US market action, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite rose modestly on Tuesday as the banking sector got a lift from positive analysts' comments, while minutes from the Federal Reserve's last meeting eased concern over rising interest rates. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 3.56 points, or 0.03%, to 10,969.99. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index gained 2 points, or 0.17%, to 1,189.44 and the Nasdaq Composite index rose 7.28 points, or 0.30%, to 2,436.81

The BSE 30-share Sensex rose 28.65 points or 0.16% to 17,970.02, its highest closing level since 19 February 2008. The index rose 106.49 points at the day's high of 18,047.86 in early afternoon trade. The Sensex lost 63.06 points at the day's low of 17,878.31 in mid-afternoon trade.

The S&P CNX Nifty gained 8.65 points or 0.16% to 5,374.65, its highest since 5 February 2008. Nifty hit a high of 5,399.65.

BSE clocked turnover of Rs 5863 crore, higher than Rs 5653.09 crore on Tuesday, 7 March 2010.

The BSE Mid-Cap index rose 0.52% and the BSE Small-Cap index rose 0.7%. Both the indices outperformed the Sensex.

The BSE Auto index (up 1.1%), the BSE Oil & Gas index (up 0.76%), the BSE Realty index (up 0.7%), the BSE Power index (up 0.64%), the BSE PSU index (up 0.42%), the BSE FMCG index (up 0.39%), the BSE Teck index (up 0.24%), outperformed the Sensex.

The BSE Bankex (down 0.4%), the BSE Metal index (down 0.13%), the BSE Consumer Durables index (down 0.11%), the BSE IT index (down 0.07%), the BSE Capital Goods index (down 0.01%), the BSE HealthCare index (up 0.09%), underperformed the Sensex.

The market breadth, indicating the overall health of the market, was strong. On BSE, 1666 shares advanced as compared with 1219 that declined. A total of 88 shares remained unchanged. The breadth was much stronger in afternoon trade.

Among the 30-member Sensex pack, 19 advanced while the rest of them slipped





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