ATHARVA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (Approved by AICTE & DTE)

Business News Update 25 February 2025

"Stay Optimistic; Every New Day Offers An Opportunity To Improve."

Sensex crashes over 800 points, Nifty 50 falls below 22,500; 5 reasons why Indian stock market is falling

Falling for the fifth consecutive session, the Indian stock market benchmark—the Sensex—crashed over 800 points in intraday trade on Monday, February 24, amid weak global cues, persisting concerns over a potential trade war between the US and other major economies of the world, and relentless foreign capital outflow. The Sensex opened at 74,893.45 against its previous close of 75,311.06 and dropped 817 points to the level of 74,493.97. The Nifty 50 opened at 22,609.35 against its previous close of 22,795.90 and cracked over 1 per cent to hit the level of 22,548.35. The sell-off was widespread and even deeper in broader markets as the BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices dropped over a percent each during the session. Around 12:20 PM, the Sensex was 787 points, or 1.05 per cent, down at 74,523.83, while the Nifty 50 was 228 points, or 1 per cent, down at 22,568.40.

Source: Livemint, February 24, 2025

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Citigroup upgrades Indian stocks to 'Overwight' despite market crash, sets Nifty's yearend target at THIS

Citigroup Inc. upgraded Indian stocks to overweight from neutral, while turning underweight on equities in Southeast Asia. There is "meaningful upside" in Indian equities amid "less demanding" valuations, Citi said in a note. The benchmark NSE Nifty 50 Index may rise to 26,000 by the end of December, according to strategist Surendra Goyal. That implies about a 15% gain from Monday's trading level. Goyal had flagged limited upside in August last year amid earnings risks for the nation's stocks. The bullish call now comes at a time when the benchmark index has fallen about 14% from its September peak as foreigners net sold \$23 billion of stocks amid concerns over slowing economic growth and disappointing earnings. The selloff has eased high valuations to some extent, with the benchmark gauge now trading at nearly 19 times its one-year forward earnings estimates,

Source: Livemint, February 24, 2025

India Inc revenue to grow 7-8% in Q4 on demand revival, govt spend: ICRA

Domestic rating agency ICRA on Monday said Indian companies are likely to clock 7-8 per cent revenue growth during the March quarter of the current fiscal year, led by revival in rural demand and uptick in government spending. ICRA expects the private capital expenditure (capex) cycle to remain measured in view of the uncertainties around geopolitical developments and relatively subdued outlook on merchandise exports from India. Nonetheless, certain sunrise sectors such as electronics, semiconductors and niche segments within the automotive space like electric vehicles (EVs) will continue to see a scale-up in investments, in line with various production-linked incentive programmes announced by the Government of India, it said. In a statement, ICRA said the recovery in the operating profit margins (OPM) for India Inc witnessed over the past quarter is likely to

Source: Business Standard, February 24, 2025

Ajmera Realty and Infra AVP HR on changing dynamics of performance management

The world order has evolved constantly in the last decade and so has the dynamics of workforce performance management. What used to be driven in a traditional method has now gained a significant uplift with precision and what used to be hinged on the achievement of sales targets and KPIs; with very little in the sense of feedback or adequate development space offered to employees. Shweta Rathore, AVP, HR, Ajmera Realty and Infra India Limited, says fast forward to current times, performance management now correctly features regular one-on-one meetings with team members where the discussion revolves not only on the results, but also on career advancement, challenges, and personal development. On the other hand, adds Shweta, a continuous feedback line must be maintained where any success is recognised, and negatives are combated without delay. "Besides that, it

Source: <u>People Matters, February 24, 2025</u>

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Business News Update

Europe's luxury sector is showing signs of revival — but China weakness and tariff threats loom

Europe's troubled luxury sector is showing signs of revival after an upbeat earnings season. But continued weakness in China — and the prospect of U.S. tariffs — could leave even the most exclusive brands vying for share of pocket. "2024 has been one of the worst years for the sector. We believe there will be a sort of normalization going through 2025, particularly in the second half," Simone Ragazzi, portfolio manager at Algebris Investments, told CNBC via video call last week. Birkin bag maker Hermes posted blowout fourth-quarter sales earlier this month, extending its outperformance at the close of a broadly upbeat earnings season, during which even embattled fashion houses LVMH and Gucci-owner Kering beat quarterly forecasts. The results added weight to earlier forecasts of a long-awaited turnaround for the sector, after Cartier-owner Richemont last month posted its "highest ever" quarterly sales in the three month to December. "The conclusion seems to be the worst is behind us – that

Source: CNBC, February 24, 2025

US demands EU antitrust chief clarify rules reining in Big Tech

U.S. House Judiciary Chair Jim Jordan on Sunday demanded EU antitrust chief Teresa Ribera clarify how she enforces the European Union's rules reining in Big Tech, saying they appear to target U.S. companies. The request came two days after U.S. President Donald Trump signed a memorandum warning that his administration would scrutinise the EU's Digital Markets Act and the Digital Services Act "that dictate how American companies interact with consumers in the European Union". The Digital Markets Act sets out a list of dos and don'ts for Alphabet (GOOGL.O), Amazon (AMZN.O), Apple (AAPL.O), Booking.com (BKNG.O), ByteDance, Meta Platforms (META.O), Microsoft (MSFT.O), aimed at securing a level playing field and giving consumers more choices."We write to express our concerns that the DMA may target American companies," Jordan wrote in a letter

Source: <u>Reuters, February 24, 2025</u>

Euro and German stocks climb after conservatives win election

The euro and German stocks rallied on Monday as investors welcomed Germany's election result that put centrist parties on track to form a coalition, although optimism was tempered by potentially tricky negotiations over economic policy. European shares ticked higher while Wall Street futures also edged up after a sharp U.S. sell-off on Friday. Friedrich Merz was set to become Germany's next chancellor after his opposition conservatives won the national election on Sunday. Merz should be able to form a so-called grand coalition with the ruling centre-left Social Democrats, even though it slumped to third behind the far-right Alternative for Germany. "In the end (it was) a result that was close to the latest exit polls and should be a very market-friendly outcome," said Peter Schaffrik, global macro strategist at RBC Capital Markets.The euro rose to a one-month high of \$1.0528 before dipping to last trade 0.22% higher at \$1.0481. "While Merz seems determined to ease off the so-called debt

Source: <u>Reuters, February 24, 2025</u>

Drugmaker Amgen to invest \$200 million in India site, CEO says

U.S. drugmaker Amgen (AMGN.O), will invest about \$200 million this year in its new technology centre in southern India, with further investments planned, CEO Robert Bradway said at the inauguration of the site on Monday. Amgen announced its plans to open a "technology and innovation" site in India last year that is focused on increasing the use of AI and data science to support development of new medicines. "We have wanted for a long time to expand Amgen's presence in India and that time has come. Amgen is investing an initial \$200 million in this centre in 2025 and plan to make additional significant investments in future years," Bradway said. The site in Hyderabad city is expected to have a workforce of about 2,000 by year-end, with around 300 employees already working there, said Som Chattopadhyay, national executive for India at Amgen. Hyderabad will also host the BioAsia conference this week, where executives from drugmakers including Amgen, Eli Lilly (LLY.N), and Novartis (NOVN.S), as well as several Indian pharmaceutical giants will be speaking.

Source: <u>Reuters, February 24, 2025</u>

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