

	Index Value	Index	P/E	AUTO	CAPITAL GOODS	CONSTRUCTION	Financial	FMCG	Info Tech	LOGISTICS	Metals	Oil & Gas	Pharma	POWER	Telecom
INDIA	2794.70	1.35	9.48	0.99	3.47	8.44	2.28	(1.28)	0.52	N.A	3.43	1.77	0.49	1.55	0.39
NIKKEI	7972.17	0.29	24.75	N.A	N.A	0.71	1.90	(0.04)	(1.70)	N.A	0.67	0.74	(0.21)	2.76	N.A
KOSPI	1169.95	0.52	14.08	N.A	0.62	2.69	0.61	(0.22)	N.A	0.62	(1.14)	(2.41)	1.52	1.05	(0.28)
SHANGHAI	2223.73	0.24	17.60	N.A	0.96	N.A	(0.61)	(0.00)	1.24	N.A	1.76	1.35	0.79	0.41	1.12
TAIWAN	5047.54	0.12	14.34	(0.84)	N.A	(0.27)	0.01	(1.33)	(0.70)	(1.48)	(1.46)	0.75	1.28	(0.02)	N.A
HANGSENG	13117.17	1.86	10.22	N.A	2.50	1.25	2.62	1.34	0.06	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	(0.11)	1.21
CAC	2784.50	0.62	9.15	N.A	1.16	N.A	0.62	(1.73)	0.32	N.A	(6.48)	(0.85)	0.04	(0.85)	0.31
FTSE	3855.13	(0.05)	16.23	7.57	(1.74)	(0.37)	(0.95)	0.20	(0.65)	0.96	0.13	(0.33)	0.29	(0.71)	0.59
DAX	4033.07	1.14	19.80	(1.11)	0.55	1.50	1.52	(1.28)	0.92	1.02	0.55	1.16	(0.46)	1.16	0.08
US	7395.70	2.48	9.00	4.00	3.21	8.36	5.76	3.91	4.04	3.00	(3.97)	3.47	1.79	1.86	4.09
AUSTRALIA	2846.60	(0.20)	14.61	N.A	3.49	(0.99)	0.86	(1.14)	1.00	1.64	(0.69)	(0.61)	(1.33)	N.A	0.41
BRAZIL	39510.72	2.34	9.25	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	1.85	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	2.71
MEXICO	19325.05	(0.58)	12.32	N.A	(1.02)	(2.24)	0.58	N.A	N.A	N.A	(3.32)	N.A	N.A	N.A	(1.52)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS...

U.K. Unemployment Rises Most Since at Least 1971 ... U.K. unemployment rose at the fastest pace since at least 1971 in February, deepening the plight of Prime Minister Gordon Brown as national elections loom. The number of people receiving unemployment benefits increased 138,400 to 1.39 million. The rise exceeded the median forecast of 84,800.
European Stocks Erase Earlier Gains After U.K. Jobless Report... European stocks erased gains after a report showed U.K. unemployment rose at the fastest pace since at least 1971 in February.
Bank of England Votes Unanimously to Print Money... Bank of England policy makers voted unanimously to start printing as much as 75 billion pounds (\$105 billion) in money to fight the recession as they made their final cut in the benchmark interest rate.
Sun Microsystems Surges on IBM Acquisition Report... Sun Microsystems Inc. surged the most ever in German trading after the Wall Street Journal reported International Business Machines Corp. is in talks to buy the company for at least \$6.5 billion.
Honda's Credit Rating Cut by Moody's on Decline in Car Demand... Honda Motor Co., Japan's second-largest carmaker, had the credit rating on about \$26 billion in debt cut by Moody's Investors Service as car demand collapses. Honda's unsecured long-term debt rating was cut one level to A1, the fifth-highest rating, from Aa3, Moody's said today.
UniCredit Net Slides; Bank May Seek EU4 Billion in State Aid... UniCredit SpA, Italy's biggest bank, reported a 57 percent decline in fourth-quarter profit and said the company may seek as much as 4 billion euros (\$5.2 billion) in government aid.
Sony Cuts Planned Dividend by 15% as Earnings Slump... Sony Corp., the world's second-largest maker of consumer electronics, reduced its planned dividend payment by 15 percent after the global recession forced the company to forecast a record operating loss.

SECTOR...

➤ Telecom secy says 3G spectrum auction unlikely before elections.

DOMESTIC...

➤ India's economic growth is likely to slow down to a seven-year low of 5.3% in the financial year beginning April from an estimated 6.3% this year. IMF prepares report on member countries every year based on bilateral discussions. This will be the lowest GDP growth since 3.8% in 2002-03.

➤ Govt extends duty-free pulses import, ban on exports by 1 yr.

COMPANY...

➤ **Ashok Leyland Ltd's** captive finance company will begin operations by mid-2009-10 (Apr-Mar). The captive finance arm will focus on areas where other financiers are not there. The company plans an initial capital base of 1.0-1.5 bln rupees for its non-banking finance company, which will be part-owned by various firms of the Hinduja group.

➤ **RIL** to directly sell petrol products in US; scouts storage facilities.

➤ **PNB** to merge PNB Gilts with self in 2009-10.

➤ **RComm** starts trials for post-paid GSM services in 200 towns.

➤ **Suzlon** nearing PE pact for funds to buy REpower stake.

➤ **Titagarh Wagons** head denies GE selling stake in co.

➤ **Ashok Leyland** cut working capital 6-8 bln rupees in FY09.

➤ **Glenmark** postpones acquisition plans on "funding issues".

➤ **Reliance Communications** has initiated trials of post-paid services for Global System for Mobile communication in 200 towns across India, and plans to roll it out in more circles in four to five weeks. The company aims to add 4 mln post-paid GSM subscribers every quarter, and is targeting a total subscriber base of 100 mln within one year, including CDMA and GSM subscribers.

➤ **Krishnapatnam Port Ltd** has achieved 35 bln rupees financial closure for its phase-II expansion. The total project cost for phase-II of port is 40 bln rupees.

➤ **Punjab National Bank** has executed an agreement with The Life Insurance Corporation of India for bancassurance life insurance under the provisions of IRDA's "Referral Arrangement".

PRECIOUS METALS (SPOT PRICES)			
Name	Last Trade	% CHG 1D	% CHG 5D
GOLD	911.50	(1.08)	1.08
SILVER	12.64	(2.17)	(0.86)
PLATINUM	1050.00	(0.26)	(0.10)

ENERGY			
Name	Last Trade	% CHG 1D	% CHG 5D
CRUDE OIL	48.92	(0.55)	15.50
NATURAL GAS	3.83	0.42	0.79

BASE METALS			
Name	Last Trade	% CHG 1D	% CHG 5D
Copper	3785	(0.40)	5.46
Aluminum	1383	0.73	3.29
Nickel	9900	(1.98)	1.02
Lead	1335	(1.08)	4.91
Zinc	1234	(0.08)	(0.40)

LME INVENTORY (metric tonnes)			
Name	Inventory	% CHG 1D	% CHG 5D
Copper	495150	0.13	(1.34)
Aluminum	3440700	1.95	4.71
Nickel	101298	0.87	1.31
Lead	60350	2.25	1.43
Zinc	345225	(0.19)	(0.91)

CURRENCY			
Name	Last Trade	% CHG 1D	% CHG 5D
RS/\$	51.35	0.07	0.98
\$/€	1.30	(0.23)	(2.44)
DOLLER INDEX	86.82	(0.12)	(1.18)
¥/\$	98.59	0.05	(0.18)

Today's Major Economic Events			
IST	Data	Expected	Prior
16:30	MBA Mortgage Applications	--	11.30%
18:00	Consumer Price Index (MoM)	0.30%	0.30%
18:00	Current Account Balance	-\$137.1B	-\$174.1B
23:45	FOMC Rate Decision	0.25%	0.25%
20:00	U.S. Crude Oil Inventories	1500K	749K
20:00	U.S. Gasoline Inventories	-1500K	-2993K

COMMODITY & CURRENCY...

- **Oil** fell from a three-month high after U.S. inventories posted a larger-than-expected gain and Japanese refiners processed less crude. U.S. oil stockpiles increased 4.66 million barrels to **349.9 million barrels** last week, the most in almost two years, the Washington-based **American Petroleum Institute** said in a report. Japanese refiners operated plants at 78.4 percent of capacity last week, down 3.8 percentage points from the previous week, according to data released today by the **Petroleum Association of Japan**. An Energy Department report today is forecast to show that U.S. crude oil inventories gained 1.5 million barrels last week, according to the median of 14 analyst estimates in a Bloomberg News survey.
- **Gold** declined for a third day in Asia as rising equities eroded demand for haven investments. Gold has fallen 2.2 percent this week as a 4.6 percent gain in the benchmark **MSCI Asia Pacific Index** curbed interest in haven assets. Stocks rose after the **Bank of Japan** said it will buy more government bonds from banks to spur lending and U.S. housing starts unexpectedly surged. **Assets in the SPDR Gold Trust**, the biggest such fund backed by bullion, stood unchanged at 1,069.05 metric tons yesterday, after climbing for four straight days, according to figures on the company's Web site. **Platinum** gained in New York on speculation that demand for the metal may increase as U.S. housing starts unexpectedly surged in February and wholesale prices rose. Palladium fell. Platinum also gained after President Barack Obama's advisers signaled that more aid may be available to automakers.
- **Copper** purchases by **China** to boost stockpiles may flip the global market from surplus into deficit this year, boosting prices already underpinned by stimulus spending, according to **China International Capital Corp. China's State Reserve Bureau** may raise purchases to 1 million metric tons from 600,000 tons, analysts led by Luo Wei wrote. The purchases "would easily turn a global surplus of between 350,000 tons and 400,000 tons this year" into a deficit, they wrote. GFMS Metals Consulting forecast in a report earlier this month that the global copper surplus may reach 622,000 tons this year. Goldman Sachs JBWere Pty said in February that it expected "all of the base metals to record surpluses in 2009." Copper futures on the Shanghai Futures Exchange settled higher for a fourth consecutive session Wednesday, boosted by a strong equities market and continued hopes that the government's stimulus package will help the metal market through the economic downturn. The benchmark June contract climbed 0.5% to settle at CNY30,630/ton. Shanghai copper will likely keep its upward momentum in the near term as market participants expect to see more government-sponsored projects kick off and lend support to the red metal, analysts said. China may export 80 percent less steel products this year because of the global recession, leading to rising inventories in the world's largest producer of the material, the **China Iron and Steel Association said. Kagara Ltd.**, an Australian zinc producer, cut its full-year year production forecast for the metal by 6 percent after heavy rains closed roads at its Queensland operations last month. Zinc production is expected to fall to 30,000 metric tons in the 12 months ending June 30, Perth-based Kagara said. That compares with its earlier forecast of 32,000 tons.
- The **yen** traded near the weakest level against the **euro** this year after the Bank of Japan said it will step up purchases of government debt, encouraging investors to seek higher-yielding assets overseas. The dollar was near a one-month low against the euro as Asian stocks extended a rally in global equities, damping demand for the U.S. currency as a refuge from the financial turmoil. **South Korea's won** had the biggest decline against the dollar of the 16 most-traded currencies on speculation domestic companies took advantage of its recent gains to pay import bills. The yen is heading for an 8.9 percent loss versus the dollar in the three months to March 31, the end of the nation's fiscal year, as demand waned for the currency as a shelter from the financial crisis. The **Dollar Index** declined for a seventh day, the longest losing streak in a year, on speculation the Federal Reserve will say at the end of a two-day policy meeting today that it is shifting toward more aggressive monetary expansion. The index, which the ICE uses to track the U.S. currency's performance against the euro, yen, British pound, Canadian dollar, Swiss franc and Swedish krona, declined to 86.887 from 86.933.
- **India's rupee** may strengthen as gains in global stocks and commodities prices damp risk aversion, spurring demand for emerging-market assets. The currency has rebounded 1.4 percent from an all-time low reached on March 3 as stock exchange data showed purchases of Indian equities by foreign funds exceeded sales last week for the first time in a month. The MSCI Asia-Pacific Index of regional shares rose for a fourth day, while the **UBS Bloomberg Constant Maturity Commodity Index** of 26 raw materials climbed 2.6 percent this week. Offshore contracts indicate traders bet the rupee will trade at 51.76 to the dollar in a month, compared with expectations for a rate of 51.75 yesterday.
- **Taiwan's dollar** led gains among Asian currencies as a pickup in U.S. homebuilding helped drive global stocks higher, encouraging fund managers to add to their holdings of emerging-market assets. The currency climbed to a one-month high versus the greenback as overseas investors bought more of the island's equities than they sold for a sixth straight day. India's rupee advanced on optimism fund inflows into local shares will be sustained. **South Korea's won**, the world's best-performing currency this month, fell on speculation importers were taking advantage of recent gains to pay bills.

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