

Support at 10,250 critical

THE market ended flat with the Sensex closing 21.04 points, or 0.06 per cent, lower at 33,835.74 and the Nifty ending 15.95 points, or 0.15 per cent, down to settle at 10,410.90. The sentiments were hit after the RBI banned letters of undertaking (LoUs) for seeking overseas loans. The BSE Mid-Cap Index rose 0.28 per cent and Small-Cap advanced 0.06 per cent, outperforming the Sensex.

Among the sectoral indices, BSE IT, Bankex and Consumer Durables were up 0.25 per cent, 0.56 per cent and 0.32 per cent, respectively. The BSE Oil & Gas (-0.94 per cent) and

Telecom (0.92%) were down.

Among state-run banks, IDBI Bank (10.22 per cent), Union Bank (4.72), BoB (3.01), PNB (1.38) and BoI (0.88) gained.

Technical view

Vikas Jain, senior research analyst, Reliance Securities, said, "The Nifty will consolidate in a range of 10,300-10,500 levels over the next few days as we have seen a good pullback from the 200-day average. Individual mid-caps and small-caps should see some up move from sectors like pri-



vate banks, consumer and pharma from current levels. On the downside if 10,250 is broken we could expect sharp profit-booking across sectors and stocks.

Sameet Chavan, chief analyst-technical & Derivatives, Angel Broking, said: "On Wednesday, we had a

gap-down opening below the 10,400-mark. This was followed by some follow through selling during the first half; however, post mid-session, we saw good buying interest at lower levels.

"Wednesday's move clearly indicates that although we are in a 'sell on rise' kind of market; this market is not willing to give up so easily. For the time being, the index is clearly consolidating in a range of 10,480-10,300 and within this, one should ideally avoid trading the index aggressively and should rather focus on individual stocks.

Market view

Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said: "The market traded in a range-bound manner due to the mixed trend in the global market, but recouped the losses, as banking stocks outperformed due to improvement in financial market liquidity. Ease in February WPI inflation to 2.48 per cent will further provide support to the market while any escalation in global risk may lead investors to stay cautious."

—Ashwin Punnen