NEW DELHI: The benchmark BSE Sensex

got off to a lower start today, tracking a sell-off in global markets amid escalating trade war worries.

The 30-share index, which had lost 114.94 points in the previous session, was down 53 points at 35,379.65 at 10.07 am. Capital goods, realty, infrastructure, power, healthcare and metal stocks showed weakness, falling by up to 0.35 per cent.

The NSE Nifty

also was quoting lower by 20 points at 10,721.30.

Major losers included Coal India, <u>Reliance Industries</u>, Asian Paints, SBI, Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, Yes Bank, PowerGrid, <u>Bajaj Auto</u>, <u>Maruti Suzuki</u> and HDFC Bank, declining up to 1.40 per cent.

According to traders, sustained selling by participants in line with a weak trend at other Asian markets following overnight losses at the Wall Street amid investor concerns about the trade dispute between the US and China dampened trading sentiments here.

Meanwhile, India will raise customs duty on 29 products, including almond, walnut and pulses, imported from the US as a retaliatory action against the tariff hike by Washington.

The duty hike would come into effect from August 4, the Finance Ministry said in a notification.

In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 0.15 per cent and Shanghai Composite shed 0.70 per cent in early trade today. Japan's Nikkei too fell 0.74 per cent. The US Dow Jones Industrial Average ended 0.80 per cent lower yesterday.