

Market wrap Jan. 03, 2020

Indian equities end in red owing to weak global cues especially fresh US – Iran tensions; Brent crude oil price spikes steeply..

Domestic bourses ended in red led by sell off in global equities after US military killed Iran Revolutionary Guards' commander Qasem Soleimani in a surprise air-strike. Iran warned of "severe revenge" and said archenemy the United States bore responsibility for the consequences after killing one of its top commanders, Qasem Soleimani, in a strike Friday outside Baghdad airport.

The middle-east tensions sent Brent Crude Futures soaring, while market sentiment turned sour at D-Street.

The S&P BSE Sensex, which hit an intra-day low of 41,348.68, recovered slightly in the fag-end of the session and settled 162.03 points, or 0.39 per cent, lower at 41,464.61 level. 20 of the 30 constituents ending the day in the red. Oil-linked stocks, such as paints, aviation, oil-marketing companies (OMCs), and financial counters remained under pressure.

In the intra-day trade, Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), for instance, declined 2.9 per cent each on the BSE. Reliance Industries, Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL), and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), too, slumped up to 0.7 per cent.

On the NSE, the Nifty50 lost 55.50 points, or 0.45 per cent, to settle at 12,226.65-mark. Sectorally, Nifty PSU Bank index slipped the most, down 2 per cent at close. Besides, Nifty Bank, Auto, Private Bank indices slipped over 1 per cent. On the upside, Nifty IT index advanced 1.3 per cent on the back of a weaker rupee.

In the broader market, small-caps traded in the green territory, while mid-caps followed benchmarks. The S&P BSE mid-cap index was down 0.44 per cent, while the S&P BSE small-cap index was up 0.01 per cent at close.

Key development

Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani, head of the elite Quds Force, and Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis were killed early on Friday in an air strike on their convoy at Baghdad airport. As a result, shares of information technology (I-T) companies surged on Friday, buoyed by a fall in Indian Rupee against the US dollar after a key Iranian and Iraqi military personnel were killed by a US airstrike that sent the oil prices soaring.

Crude oil

Brent crude futures jumped nearly US\$3 on Friday after a US air strike in Baghdad killed top Iranian and Iraqi military commanders, sparking concerns of disruption to Middle East oil supplies. At 3:10 pm, Brent Crude Futures were at \$68.62 per barrel-mark, up 3.5 per cent.

Sectors and stocks

NIIT Tech and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) gained over 3 per cent each while HCL Technologies and Hexaware Technologies were both up over 2 per cent. Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Tata Elxsi, and Mindtree were all up in the range of 1 per cent to 2 per cent on the NSE. The IT services companies, who make most of their revenues servicing clients in US tend to benefit from a weaker rupee.

Shares of IIFL Securities were locked in 5 per cent upper circuit for the third straight day at Rs 47.15 on the BSE on Friday after ace investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala bought nearly one percentage point stake in the



financial services firm via open market. On Thursday, January 2, 2020, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala's RARE Enterprises purchased 2.78 million equity shares representing 0.87 per cent stake for Rs 11.92 crore in a bulk deal on BSE. The shares were bought at a price of Rs 42.83 per share. Other investor Satpal Khattar had sold 3 million shares at an average price of Rs 42.74 per share, the exchange data shows. As per th September 2019 shareholding pattern, Satpal Khattar held 6.21 million, or 1.95 per cent stake, in IIFL Securities. The retail and institutional broking house was listed on the bourses in September last year, after getting demerged from its parent IIFL Holdings. The stock was trading near its all-time high level of Rs. 47.70, touched on September 25, 2019. In the past four days, the stock has rallied 21 per cent, as compared to an unchanged benchmark S&P BSE Sensex. With today's gain, the company's share price has more than doubled from the level of Rs 19.10, hit on October 15.

Global markets

Asian equities turned negative after fresh geo-political tensions between the US and Iran emerge. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan had touched its highest point since June 15, 2018 in early trade, but fell after reports of the air strike emerged. It was last down 0.16 per cent.

China's CSI300 index, one of the world's best-performing indexes last year, struggled to stay in positive territory but was last down about 0.2 per cent. Australian shares finished up 0.64 per cent, but off earlier highs.

In Europe, the pan-European STOXX 600 index was down 0.6 per cent at 1:30 pm, with all the major country indexes well in the red.



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