

Market wrap July 08, 2021

Indian benchmark indices face pressure on weak global cues; Metal, PSU Banks and IT stocks fall..

- 1) Indian equities came under pressure led by global sell off. The S&P BSE Sensex declined by 486 points or 0.92 percent to end at levels of 52,569 levels while the broader Nifty50 declined by 152 points to end at levels of 15,728. In the broader markets, the BSE MidCap and BSE SmallCap indices slipped 0.37 per cent and 0.09 per cent, respectively.
- 2) Sectorally, IT index closed in the red with the Nifty Metal and PSU Bank indices fell by over 2 per cent each, followed by the Nifty Bank index, down 1.4 per cent. The Nifty IT index was up 0.05 per cent.

Index	Today's Close	Prev. close	Change	% change	Open	High	Low
Sensex	52,568.94	53,054.76	485.82	0.92	53,065.69	53,103.03	52,428.84
Nifty	15,727.90	15,879.65	151.75	0.96	15,855.40	15,885.75	15,682.90
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Sectors and stocks

- 1) Shares of KPR Mill rallied 10 per cent to hit a new high of Rs. 1,868 on the BSE in intra-day trade on Thursday after the company said it will consider stock split in the forthcoming board meeting on July 27, 2021. The stock of the textiles company surpassed its previous high of Rs. 1,780 touched on July 6, 2021. In the last three months, the scrip has rallied 74 per cent as compared to a 7 per cent rise in the S&P BSE Sensex. "A meeting of the board of directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on July 27, 2021, to consider the proposal for sub-division of the face value of the equity shares of the Company, subject to the approval of shareholders," KPR Mill said in an exchange filing. The board will also consider the un-audited financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2021 (Q1FY22). The company will sub-divide the face value of equity shares from Rs. 5 each to a lower denomination to make the stock more affordable for the small retail investors and increase liquidity.
- 2) Shares of Equitas Holdings touched a fresh 52-week high of Rs. 124.7 after they rallied 12 per cent on the BSE in the intra-day trade on Thursday. The stock has surged 33 per cent in two days after Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) released its business update for June quarter (Q1FY22) on Wednesday. Equitas Holdings held 81.98 per cent stake in Equitas SFB as on March 31, 2021. or Q1FY22, Equitas SFB reported 14.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth (broadly flat quarter on quarter (QoQ)) in gross advances to Rs. 17,800 crore. The muted trends were primarily attributable to lockdowns in core states/territories, which resulted in subdued disbursements of Rs. 1,270 crore (nearly 50 per cent QoQ decline). However, on a YoY basis, it reported a 125 per cent increase. On the asset quality front, collection efficiency trends declined sharply to 77.8 per cent in May'21, relative to 108.5 per cent in Mar'21 and 105.2 per cent in Apr'21. However, they showed some recovery to 83.5 per cent in June'21.
- 3) Shares of Bajaj Healthcare rallied by 11 per cent to Rs. 1,009.80 on the BSE in intra-day trade on Thursday after the company received a licence from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to manufacture and market "2-Deoxy-D-Glucose" (2-DG) as approved medication for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. "2-DG helps in the faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence. The drug works by selectively accumulating in the virus-infected cells and prevents virus growth by stopping viral synthesis and energy production. It can be administered only upon prescription and under the supervision of a qualified physician to hospitalised moderate to severe COVID-19 patients as an adjunct therapy to the existing standard of care," Bajaj Healthcare said in a release. Bajaj Healthcare is a leading manufacturer of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), intermediates, and formulations. In the past three months, it has rallied by120 per cent as compared to a 7 per cent rise in the S&P BSE Sensex.



Key recent major developments..

- 1) Fitch Ratings on Wednesday cut India's growth forecast to 10 per cent for the current fiscal, from 12.8 per cent estimated earlier, due to slowing recovery post second wave of COVID-19, and said rapid vaccination could support a sustainable revival in business and consumer confidence. In a report, the global rating agency said the challenges for banking sector posed by the coronavirus pandemic have increased due to a virulent second wave in the first quarter of the financial year ending March 2022 (FY22). "Fitch Ratings revised down India's real GDP for FY22 by 280bp to 10 per cent, underlining our belief that renewed restrictions have slowed recovery efforts and left banks with a moderately worse outlook for business and revenue generation in FY22," it said. Fitch believes that rapid vaccination could support a sustainable revival in business and consumer confidence; however, without it, economic recovery would remain vulnerable to further waves and lockdowns.
- 2) Goods and services tax collections fell below the Rs. 1-trillion mark for the first time in nine month in June, 2021 to a 10-month low, as economic activity got disrupted due to the second Covid-19 wave, official data showed. However, the collections are better than expected and will provide a cushion to the government to ramp up spending, going forward. GST collection stood at Rs. 92,849 crore in June compared with Rs 1.02 trillion the previous month and a record high of Rs. 1.41 trillion in April, data released by the ministry of finance showed on Tuesday. These figures pertain to transactions done in May, but collected in June. The collections in May are 2.1 per cent higher than the corresponding month of last year when the national unlocking process began after two months of intense movement curbs due to the pandemic. Meanwhile, May 2021 saw localised lockdowns across the country due to the devastating second wave. The collections in June are on expected lines as e-way bill generation, which indicates supply in the economy, declining to a one year low level average of 1.2 million per day in May.
- 3) Indian bond yields moved up on Tuesday as a rally in global crude oil prices raised worries about higher imported inflation, while a selection of papers for this week's bond buyback by the central bank also disappointed investors. The most-traded 6.64% 2035 bond was up 6 basis points at 6.79%, while the second-highest traded 5.63% 2026 paper rose 7 bps to 5.83%. Both bonds were trading at levels last seen in mid-March. The 10-year bond, which is likely to be soon replaced as the benchmark paper, was up 6 bps at 6.15%, its highest since April 16.
- 4) India's economic damage due to the second wave of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns will remain restricted to the April to June quarter, Moody's Investors Service said in a new macroeconomic outlook. "We currently expect India's real GDP to grow at 9.6 per cent in 2021 and 7 per cent in 2022," it said. "With states now easing restrictions, economic activity in May is likely to signify the trough." It assessed the overall economic effect of the second wave to be softer than that during the first wave of pandemic last year, although delivery of and access to vaccines will determine the durability of recovery."We expect the current lockdowns to have less of an adverse impact on economic activity than the nationwide lockdown in April 2020 because the latest restrictions have been more targeted, localised and less stringent," said Moody's.
- 5) India's domestic factory orders and production contracted to an 11-month low in June as measures to contain the coronavirus put manufacturing into "reverse gear". The IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slipped to 48.1 in June from 50.8 in May and 55.5 in April. This was, for the first time since July 2020, below the critical no-change mark of 50. "The intensification of the Covid-19 crisis in India had a detrimental impact on the manufacturing economy. Growth of new orders, production, exports and input purchasing was interrupted in June as containment measures aimed at bringing the pandemic under control restrained demand. In all cases, however, rates of contraction were softer than during the first lockdown," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit.
- 6) S&P Global cut its growth forecasts for some of Asia's top economies including India, the Philippines and Malaysia on Monday, offsetting upgrades to China and South Africa and much of Latin America. The estimates, which feed into S&P's closely-followed sovereign ratings, saw India's growth projection chopped to 9.5% from 11% due to its Covid-19 outbreak, the Philippines' lowered to 6% from 7.9% and Malaysia's downgraded to 4.1% from 6.2%. In contrast, China's forecast was nudged up to 8.3% from 8%, Brazil's was hoisted to 4.7% from 3.4%, Mexico's to 5.8% from 4.9% while those of South Africa, Poland and Russia were lifted to 4.2%, 4.5% and 3.7%, respectively, from 3.6%, 3.4% and 3.3%. "The top risk facing emerging market economies (EMs) is a slower-than-expected rollout of the vaccines," S&P's economists said in new report, adding that the pandemic would only subside once vaccinations "reach a level consistent with herd immunity". In Asia's emerging economies, vaccines are currently being administered at a rate of 0.2 doses per 100 people per day. At this rate, S&P estimated it would take another 23 months for 70% of EM Asia's population to be fully vaccinated. The second big risk facing emerging economies, it said, was if strong U.S. growth and inflation cause an early tightening of U.S. monetary policy which then pushes up the dollar and makes servicing debt denominated in the U.S. currency more costly.



- 7) The Government on Monday announced 1.1 Lakh crore loan guarantee scheme for COVID affected sectors. This includes Rs. 50,000 crore for ramping up health infrastructure in tier-2 and 3 cities, and Rs. 23,220 crore additional allocation with primary focus on paediatric care. The loan guarantee scheme would provide 75 per cent coverage for new projects and 50 per cent for those in expansion mode. Maximum loan of up to Rs. 100 crore would be given for up to three years at the interest rate capped at 7.95 per cent. "Other than the eight metro cities, health infrastructure in all other areas will be focused. If the focus is on aspirational districts 65 per cent cover will be provided," Finance Minister Sitharaman said. Other measures announced on Monday include:
- a) Additional 1.5 lakh crore for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme
- b) Free tourist visas for 500,000 visitors, which could have a financial impact worth Rs. 100 crores
- c) Incentives for creating new jobs extended to end-March 2022
- d) Facilitate micro-finance loans to 2.5 million persons, with guarantee up to Rs. 7,500 crores
- 5) India Ratings & Research on June 25 cut its forecast for India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2021-22 to 9.6 percent from 10.1 percent earlier due to the outbreak of the second wave of COVID-19. Adding, the growth in India's GDP may further fall to 9.1 percent if the country's vaccination drive is delayed by around three months and the country's entire adult population is not vaccinated by the end of the year. India Ratings in its report said that if the pace of vaccination is maintained close to the 21 June level, then India will be able to vaccinate its entire adult population by the end of the year. The cut in GDP growth estimate is on account of a consumption slowdown due to the outbreak of the second wave of COVID-19, the rating agency said, adding that, unlike the first wave of COVID-19, the second wave of COVID-19 has spread to the rural areas. India Ratings said that it expects the country's private final consumption expenditure growth to come in at 10.8 percent in 2021-22 after it slowed down due to the outbreak of the second wave of COVID-19.
- 6) The direct tax collections for FY22, as on June 15, 2021 show that net collections are at Rs. 1.85 trillion as compared to Rs. 92,762 crore over the corresponding period of the preceding year, representing an increase of 100.4% over the collections of the preceding year. The net direct tax collections include Corporation Tax (CIT) at Rs. 74,356 crore (net of refund) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Security Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs. 1.11 trillion (net of refund), said Ministry of Finance on Wednesday. The gross collection of direct taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for FY22 stands at Rs. 2.16 trillion as compared to Rs. 1.37 trillion in the corresponding period of the preceding year. This includes Corporation Tax (CIT) at Rs. 96,923 crore and Personal Income Tax (PIT), including Security Transaction Tax (STT), at Rs. 1.19 trillion. Minor head wise collection comprises Advance Tax of Rs 28,780 crore, Tax Deducted at Source of Rs 1.56 trillion, Self-Assessment Tax of Rs. 15,343 crore; regular assessment tax of Rs 14,079 crore; dividend distribution tax of Rs 1,086 crore and tax under other minor heads of Rs. 491 crore. "Despite extremely challenging initial months of the new fiscal , the Advance Tax collections for the first quarter of the FY22 stand at Rs. 28,780 crore as against advance tax collections of Rs. 11,714 crore for the corresponding period of the immediately preceding financial year, showing a growth of approximately 146%. This comprises Corporation Tax (CIT) at Rs. 18,358 crore and Personal Income Tax (PIT) at Rs. 10,422 crore. This amount is expected to increase as further information is received from banks," the ministry said.
- 7) Wholesale inflation in the country touched a significant high of 12.94 percent in May, as the constant rise in cost of fuel, including petrol, LPG and high speed diesel percolated down into the economy and a low base effect pushed up figures. Measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), wholesale inflation in India began FY22 with a major rise. It had already spiked in the previous month of April when it reached 10.94 percent, up from March's 7.39 percent, and February's 4.17 per cent. The pace of inflation has now accelerated for the fifth-month in a row.
- 8) India's retail inflation shot up to six-month high of 6.3 per cent in May, after easing to a three-month low of 4.23 per cent in April, according to the government data released on Monday. Inflation, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), has breached the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target range for the first time after five months.
- 9) A Finance Ministry report has said that faster vaccine coverage and frontloading of fiscal measures announced in this year's budget would be the major factors in boosting the investment and consumption cycles and, in turn, reviving the economy. The Monthly Economic Review for May, released by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) on Wednesday, noted that in the fourth quarter of FY21 growth in capex generated positive spillovers for consumption, including in the contact-sensitive sectors, these steps would facilitate recovery post the second wave. Further, a healthy monsoon forecasts bodes well for continued momentum in agricultural growth, it said. With state-level lockdown restrictions being more adaptive to learnings from the first wave, manufacturing and construction are expected to experience a softer economic shock in the current quarter, it said. "As we cautiously recuperate from the second wave, rapid vaccination and frontloading of the fiscal measures planned in the Union Budget hold key to invigorating the investment, and thereby consumption, cycle in the coming quarters," it said. It added that quickening the pace and coverage of vaccination is critical to help India heal and regain the momentum of economic recovery. The DEA noted that provisional GDP estimates available for January-March quarter (Q4) of FY 2020-21



confirm a V-shaped recovery in India's economic prospects in the second half of the year, after an unprecedented Covid-19 induced contraction.

Global markets

- 1) The US Fed has given signs that it will begin to taper its asset purchases programme as soon as this year. Futures on the S&P 500 Index dipped 1 per cent while the Stoxx Europe 600 Index dipped 1.2 per cent. The MSCI Asia Pacific Index fell 1.2 per cent and the MSCI Emerging Market Index sank 1.6 per cent.
- 2) Earlier, US added a solid 850,000 jobs as economy extends its gains. The report from the Labor Department was the latest sign that the reopening of the economy is propelling a powerful rebound from the pandemic recession. Restaurant traffic across the country is nearly back to pre-pandemic levels, and more people are shopping, traveling and attending sports and entertainment events. The number of people flying each day has regained about 80 percent of its pre-COVID-19 levels.
- 3) European Union economies are set to rebound by their highest rates in decades as coronavirus restrictions ease, but still face risks posed by COVID-19 variants and concerns over inflation, the EU's executive branch said Wednesday. The European Commission's 2021 summer forecasts predict that the economies in the 27-nation EU, and among the 19 countries using the euro single currency, are expected to expand by 4.8% this year, around half a percentage point higher than foreseen under the previous forecast. Real gross domestic product is expected to return to its precoronavirus crisis level in the last quarter of this year. Growth in 2022 is predicted to hit 4.5%. The commission puts its increasing optimism down to the fact that economic activity early this year has exceeded expectations, and due to the impact of coronavirus vaccine strategy, which has led to falling numbers of new infections and hospital admissions. The EU economy is set to see its fastest growth in decades this year, fuelled by strong demand both at swifter-than-expected reopening alobally and а of services sectors spring, Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said. But he warned that the EU must redouble our vaccination efforts, building on the impressive progress made in recent months: the spread of the delta variant is a stark reminder that we have not yet emerged from the shadow of the pandemic.
- 4) Earlier, growth in China's factory activity dipped to a four-month low in June, weighed by higher raw material costs, a global shortage of semiconductors and a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the major export province of Guangdong. The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) eased slightly to 50.9 in June versus 51.0 in May, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed on Wednesday. It, however, exceeded analysts' forecast for a slowdown to 50.8. It remained above the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction on a monthly basis. The world's second-largest economy has largely recovered from disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but Chinese manufacturers are grappling with new challenges from higher raw material costs to global supply chain bottlenecks. An outbreak of coronavirus infections in China's major export province of Guangdong has also disrupted shipments. Factory output in South Korea and Japan on Wednesday showed unexpected signs of slowdown, in part due to production disruptions in the auto sector from chip shortages.

Ajcon Global's observations and view

- 1) Indian benchmark were under pressure led by sell off in global equities due to spread of new variants of COVID-19 in many countries, high inflation and rising crude oil prices. However, positive factors like positive US employment data and other positive US economic indicators, rally in commodities, unlock in major states of the country led by significant decline of COVID-19 cases in the second wave with recoveries surpassing new cases by a big margin on a daily basis, vaccination drive going strongly, positive GDP figure, strong Q4FY21 result by majority of the Companies with good management commentary for the future are supporting sentiments. In addition to liquidity provided by FPIs in equities, there is good spike in retail participation from Tier II and Tier III cities as people have become more financial literate in COVID-19 crisis.
- 2) Investors are also hopeful that vaccine shortages will be resolved in some months as vaccine manufacturers' ramp up supplies. The entry of new vaccines is also expected to ease the supply crunch. India has given the first dose of covid antidote to 36.13 crores beneficiaries in the nationwide vaccination till date. According to a government official, two billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines will be made available in the country between August and December, enough to vaccinate the entire population.
- 3) Key domestic factors like positive GDP data, good proposals presented in Union Budget 2021-22 will always keep bulls in the hunt for long term. Improved US GDP data, talks about US\$6 trillion package in US will also support bulls. The Nifty valuations are trading in the range of 35x-40x. Q4FY21 results season has been good so far led by SBI, Asian Paints, Reliance Industries, L&T, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Shriram Transport



Finance, SAIL, Tata Steel, Tata Elxsi, Tata Coffee, UPL, Siemens, Bosch, Borosil Renewables, Orient Electric, Godrej Consumer Products, HDFC Life, SBI Cards, Castrol, Marico, Torrent Pharma, Birla Corp, Container Corporation of India, DCB Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Dr. Lal Path Labs, Lux Industries, Indoco Remedies, Angel Broking, TCI, TCI Express, Shakti Pumps etc. No doubt Q4FY21 results have been strong and encouraging but the second wave of COVID-19 would impact Q1FY22 results to some extent.

4) It is advisable for investors to look out for stock specific opportunities. After strong run up in May and last few weeks; some profit booking is warranted and will make markets healthy. Investors will track global cues, Q1FY22 earnings season, ongoing monsoon, vaccination drive and economic activity and COVID-19 cases in Unlock phase for further direction.



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