

Market wrap February 09, 2021

Benchmark indices take a breather after a stellar run; decline in automobiles registrations played spoilsport..

- 1) Selling was witnessed in auto, pharma, metal, and PSU bank stocks which pulled down benchmark indices from their record peaks to end marginally lower on Tuesday as investors turned to profit booking. Market breadth favoured bears today as 1,658 stocks declined on the BSE as against 1,303 stocks that rose. Around 193 remained unchanged at close. Before the pause today, she strong record rally can be attributed to economic recovery hopes, on the back of growth-driven Budget, positive global cues, and healthy FII buying, and status-quo in the Reserve Bank of India's February monetary policy continued to please investors. Indian equities continued to witnessed stellar rally post an extraordinary Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to meet challenging demands of extraordinary times owing to COVID-19.
- 2) The indices snapped a six-day winning streak with the S&P BSE Sensex closing at 51,329 levels, down 20 points or 0.04 per cent. Asian Paints, ONGC, Titan, L&T, UltraTech Cement, and Nestle India, up in the range of 1 per cent to 4 per cent, were the top gainers today while M&M, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Auto, and ITC, down up to 3 per cent, ended as top laggards. The index edged closer to the 52,000-mark today and hit a new peak of 51,836 on the BSE.
- 3) The broader Nifty50, on the other hand, managed to close above the 15,100-mark, at 15,109.3 levels, down 6.5 points or 0.04 per cent. The index hit an all-time-high of 15,257 during the day.
- 4) Broader markets too ended in the red with the S&P BSE MidCap index down 0.18 per cent at close while the S&P BSE SmallCap index closed 0.26 per cent down.
- 5) On the sectoral front, most of the indices were gripped in profit booking. The Nifty Auto, Metal, and Pharma indices settled over 1 per cent lower each, followed by lossed in the Nifty Realty Index (down 0.7 per cent) and the Nifty FMCG index (down 0.6 per cent).

Index	Today's Close	Prev. close	Change	% change	Open	High	Low
Sensex	51,329.08	51,348.77	-19.69	-0.04	51,484.23	51,835.86	51,193.93
Nifty	15,109.30	15,115.80	-6.5	-0.04	15,164.15	15,257.10	15,064.30

Sectors and stocks

- 1) Shares of IIFL Finance were locked in 10 per cent upper circuit at Rs. 222.50, also its 52-week high, on the BSE on Tuesday. The stock has rallied 82 per cent in the past eight trading days after reporting a strong set of numbers in the October-December quarter (Q3FY21). For Q3F21, IIFL Finance had reported 47 per cent year-on-year (YoY) jump in its consolidated net profit at Rs 268 crore, driven by loan growth, higher net interest margin and lower cost to income ratio. The company engaged in financial services business had posted a profit of Rs. 183 crore in the year-ago quarter. Net interest income of the company grew 57 per cent YoY to Rs. 573 crore. The pre-provision operating profit (PPOP) during the guarter was more-than-doubled at Rs. 615 crore from Rs. 271 crore in previous year quarter. The company recorded its highest ever PPOP during the quarter, driven by mainly volume growth and reduction in cost of funds. Average borrowing costs for the quarter decreased by 10 bps quarter on quarter (QoQ) to 9.0 per cent. Assets quality improved in Q3FY21, with gross non-performing assets (NPA) stood at 1.61 per cent against 1.81 per cent in Q3FY20. Net NPA was unchanged at 0.77 per cent, IIFL Finance said in its performance review. "Not considering Supreme Court deferment order, proforma GNPA was 2.87 per cent and NNPA was 1.46 per cent. Excluding discontinued business of Healthcare Equipment Finance (HCF), the GNPA stands at 1.4 per cent and NNPA at 0.7 per cent." the company said. IIFL Finance had loan assets under management (AUM) of Rs 42,264 crore as of Q3FY21, up 3 per cent sequentially and 17 per cent YoY, driven primarily by core products -- micro & small business loans, gold loans and affordable home loans. The management said it is excited about the opportunities arising from V shaped recovery in the economy with low credit penetration.
- 2) Shares of Amber Enterprises India hit a new high of Rs. 3,000 after it rallied 10 per cent on the BSE in Tuesday's intra-day on the expectation of a strong bounce-back in room air conditioner (RAC) volumes during the current



quarter (Q4FY21). The stock of the consumer durable company surpassed its previous high of Rs 2,793 touched on February 3, 2021. In the October-December quarter (Q3FY21), Amber Enterprises had achieved pre-Covid sales level on the back of renewed consumer sentiments which led to demand acceleration. The management believes there is a structural shift in consumer ecosystem as consumers have identified the need to make their living spaces a better one in order to multi-task and make their lives easier. The company added six new customers for RAC gas filling amid the import ban by the government. The ban on imports with refrigerant filled ACs has opened up new opportunities for the domestic manufacturers and for Amber. RAC contributed 54 per cent of the total revenue of the company. The management remains optimistic about export prospects for both fully built-up units and components that can potentially emerge over the next 3-4 years. The greenfield expansion in Pune and South India is on track and will benefit from the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

- 3) Shares of Balaji Amines rallied by 20 per cent to hit a new high of Rs. 1,514 on the BSE in Tuesday's intra-day trade after its profit more-than-doubled to Rs. 70.16 crore in the October-December quarter (Q3FY21) on the back of healthy revenue. The specialty chemicals company had posted a profit of Rs. 26.73 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total income increased 63.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs. 366.85 crore as sales volume jumped 34 per cent YoY. Ebitda was at Rs. 98.77, up 116 per cent YoY. Ebitda margin improved 647 basis points (bps) to 26.92 per cent from 20.45 per cent in the previous year quarter. The improvement in operating margins was primarily on account of improvement in operating leverage due to increase in volume offtake and better price realisation. The management said the trend of increased demand across the company's product portfolio continues as there is sustained growth of Indian pharma industry on account of 'China Plus One' business strategy being adopted by Western companies. The price realisations have also continued to remain healthy. The prices of Diethyl Formamide (DMF) have risen sharply because of supply-demand mismatch, leading to improved capacity utilization of DMF plant, the management said. Balaji Amines is a leading manufacturer of Aliphatic Amines in India. Broadly, the company is specialized in manufacturing Methyl Amines, Ethyl Amines, Derivatives of Specialty Chemicals and Natural Product and its business is broadly classified into three segments Amines, Specialty Chemicals and Derivatives.
- Shares of Balkrishna Industries declined by 8 per cent to Rs. 1,700 on the BSE in Tuesday's intra-day trade as investors booked profit after the company announced capital expenditure (capex) plan of up to Rs. 1,900 crore, which will be funded by internal accruals and debt, if required. The stock of auto tyres and rubber products has corrected 10 per cent from its record high level of Rs 1,885 touched in intra-day trade today. The board at its meeting held on Tuesday, February 8, 2021, has approved a capex plan of Rs. 1,900 crore, which include Brownfield project at Bhuj to increase tire capacity, increase carbon black capacity including advance carbon black and power plant at Bhuj and modernization, automation and technology upgradation capex at existing facilities. Further, the board has decided to shelve the US Greenfield tire project of 20,000 MTPA capacity with an estimated outlay of \$100 million previously approved by the board at its meeting held on August 10, 2019. The management said post Brownfield capex achievable capacity of tire plant will stand at 335,000 MTPA. Embarking on new capex in Carbon Black on back of the proven quality of product coupled with strong demand for captive consumption and 3rd parties. The modernization capex to lead to better efficiency, it said. Meanwhile, for the October-December quarter (Q3FY21), Balkrishna Industries posted robust results with 46 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in standalone profit after tax at Rs 322 crore. Revenue increased by 27 per cent YoY to Rs 1,497 crore as sales volume jumped 26 per cent YoY. Ebitda margin improved to 31.9 per cent from 31.2 per cent in the previous year quarter. The demand continues to be strong in the agriculture segment across geographies. In the other segments, demand continues to remain stable more or less stable post the recovery in the end markets of industrial, construction and mining segment. With 9MFY21 volumes of approximately 159,130 MT, the management increased guidance for FY21 and expects to end FY21 with a sales volume of 215,000-220,000 MT. The management strongly believes this demand trend to continue in FY22 and years to come.

Key recent major developments...

1) According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA), the automobile registrations declined by 9.66 percent in January 2021 on YoY basis after showing a year-on-year (YoY) growth in December, 2020. Registration data compiled from the Centre's VAHAN portal reflect retail sales of automobiles. All categories except tractors were in the red, it said, adding that YoY, two-wheeler (2W), three-wheeler (3W), commercial vehicle (CV) and passenger vehicle (PV) registrations fell 8.78 per cent, 51.31 per cent, 25 per cent and 4.46 per cent, respectively. Tractors continued to see strong momentum with a YoY growth of 11.14 per cent, FADA said. The association added that non-availability of vehicles due to scarcity of semiconductors, fading pent-up demand and recent price hikes coupled with no festivities and auspicious days landed January registrations in the negative zone. While dealer inventory for PVs continued to fall and come in the range of 10-15 days, 2W inventory stayed put at 30-35 days, it said. PV retail sales in January were recorded at 2,81,666 units, as a semiconductor shortage impacted the segment, compared with 2,94,817 units in January 2020. Similarly, 2W sales declined to 11,63,322 units (12,75,308 units).



- 2) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday announced its plan to buy bonds worth Rs. 20,000 crore under Open Market Operations (OMO) to support the government's borrowing programme. "On a review of current liquidity and financial conditions, therefore, the Reserve Bank has decided to conduct purchase of government securities under OMO for an aggregate amount of Rs 20,000 crore on February 10, 2021," the central bank said in a press release.
- 3) The RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent and maintained the policy stance as 'accomodative' in its bimonthly monetary policy meeting. Besides, it projected the GDP growth of 10.5 per cent in FY22 for India while projection for CPI-based inflation was revised to 5.2 per cent for Q4FY21. RBI governor Shaktikanta Das also announced normalisation of CRR which, he said, would open up space for a variety of market operations to inject additional liquidity. Furthermore, absence of any concrete measures as expected by a set of bond traders weighed on the yields with 10-yr Gsec yields jumping 8bps from 6.07 per cent to 6.15 per cent. In another development, Das announced direct online participation by retail investors in Government securities in both primary and secondary market is a big initiative which will broaden the investor base.
- 4) Activity in India's services sector expanded for the fourth straight month in January as the Covid-19 vaccination roll-out drove business optimism, a private survey showed on Wednesday. The IHS India Services Business Activity Index rose to 52.8 in January from 52.3 in December, suggesting the pace of growth was moderate. The 50-point mark separates expansion from contraction. But it should be noted that the PMI is a month-over-month indicator, showing improvement over the previous month, and not over the previous year. "The Indian services sector enjoyed good levels of activity in January, with new business volumes rising for the fourth successive month and growth rates for both measures picking up from December," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit. "The service sector looks set to sustain growth and confidence towards hiring may improve as COVID-19 concerns diminish," De Lima added.
- 5) In the Union Budget 2021-22, the FM announced capital expenditure of Rs. 5.54 trillion for FY22 (sharp increase of 34.5%) over last year's Rs. 4.39 trillion for FY21. Further, she announced the FY22 disinvestment target at Rs 1.75 trillion. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will go for an initial public offering (IPO) in FY22 as well. Further, allocation of Rs. 20,000 crore toward setting up a development financial institution (DFI) to have lending portfolio of Rs. 5 trillion over the next three year with the aim to mobilise funding required fulfilling National Infrastructure Plan (NIP).
- 6) FY21 fiscal deficit was pegged at 9.5 per cent of GDP. The optimism despite higher borrowing and a wider fiscal deficit, was on account of the positive measures to revive the Covid-19 hit economy. That said, while the fiscal deficit number and the gross borrowing estimates are a tad higher-than-expected, the money is being put to good use. The government plans to borrow around Rs. 12 trillion in FY22 and has pegged fiscal deficit at 6.8 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Sitharaman said the government will be borrowing an additional Rs. 80,000 crore in this fiscal to meet its deficit for 2020-21, pegged at 9.5 per cent of the GDP. Therefore, the total gross borrowing this fiscal would be Rs. 14 trillion.
- 7) As per the budget proposals, the government plans to start the process of privatisation for two more public sector banks, other than IDBI Bank, and two insurance companies in fiscal 2021-22 which is a bold move. Remember, privatisation of banks has been promised long by successive governments but there has not been much of a progress. PSU stocks have rallied post the announcements as investors cheered the proposal. Privatisation of PSBs has not been taken by governments also because this is a politically sensitive decision.
- 8) Stressed Asset Resolution: Asset Reconstruction Company Limited and Asset Management Company to be set up. This entity, called as a 'bad bank', will give a big reprieve to NPA-ridden banks by absorbing the toxic assets and freeing them to pursue fresh lending. A bad bank will act as an aggregator of all stressed assets in the system. It is set up to buy the bad loans and other illiquid holdings of another financial institution. Once toxic assets are transferred to this entity, attempts for an early resolution by experts begins while originating banks can focus on their business. The bad bank idea has been supported by senior bankers and other financial sector experts citing that the idea will help for quicker bad asset resolution. The recovery through debt recovery tribunals and Insolvency and bankruptcy code (IBC) mechanism has been limited to only a few large cases. A bad bank could help in better bad loan resolution through an ARC model. In May 2020, when the IBA submitted its proposal to a government but the concept didn't take off at that point.
- 9) The extension of tax exemption schemes in Affordable Housing will have a strong positive effect on various sectors related to it.
- 10) The Government provided benefits to sectors which focus "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" or a self-reliant India in difficult times of COVID-19. The Budget would encourage industries to be 'vocal for local' for a future-ready India.



- 11) To make India future ready for any pandemic crisis in future, Healthcare sector got benefits with increased allocation and more specific allocation of Rs. 35,000 crores towards COVID-19 vaccination drive.
- 12) GST collections surged to an all-time high of about Rs. 1.20 lakh crore in January,2021 as economic activities picked up after the withdrawal of stringent lockdown restrictions. Mop-up from the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which is levied when a consumable item is sold or a service such as travel booking rendered, in January was 8 per cent higher than such receipts in the same month of 2020. In a statement, the Finance Ministry said the January collections were the highest ever since the implementation of the nationwide tax in July 2017. The previous best was in December 2020 when Rs 1,15,174 crore was collected. This is the fourth straight month of over Rs 1 lakh crore tax collections, a sign of strong recovery.
- 13) India forecast robust economic growth of 11% for the fiscal year beginning on April 1 in its annual economic survey, on the back of the beginning of a nationwide coronavirus vaccination drive and a rebound in consumer demand. The Indian economy, which the International Monetary Fund singled out as a global bright spot only a few years ago, is set to contract 7.7% in this fiscal year, to March 31, the deepest contraction in four decades, the government said in the survey. But the government predicts the rollout of vaccines against COVID-19 will re-energise Asia's third-largest economy with 11% growth next year, putting it on track to post the strongest growth since India liberalised its economy in 1991. "With the economy's returning to normalcy brought closer by the initiation of a mega vaccination drive, hopes of a robust recovery in services sector, consumption, and investment have been rekindled," said the survey.
- 14) India has given the first dose of covid antidote to 58,12,362 beneficiaries in the nation-wide vaccination drive. India became the fastest country in the world to reach the 5 million Covid-19 vaccination mark.
- 15) Earlier, The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways approved a proposal to levy 'Green Tax' on old vehicles which are polluting the environment. It is estimated that commercial vehicles, which constitute about 5% of the total vehicle fleet, contribute about 65-70% of total vehicular pollution. The older fleet, typically manufactured before the year 2000 constitute less than 1 % of the total fleet but contributes around 15% of total vehicular pollution. These older vehicles pollute 10-25 times more than modern vehicles, the ministry added. The proposal will now go to the states for consultation before it is formally notified, said Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri. Nitin Gadkari. Along with that, the minister also approved the policy of deregistration and scrapping of vehicles owned by government department and PSU, which are above 15 years in age. Prasad also said that it would come into effect from 1st April, 2022. The main principles to be followed while levying the Green Tax are:
 - a) Transport vehicles older than 8 years could be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of fitness certificate, at the rate of 10 to 25 % of road tax;
 - b) Personal vehicles to be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of Registration Certification after 15 years;
 - c) Public transport vehicles, such as city buses, to be charged lower Green tax;
 - d) Higher Green tax (50% of Road Tax) for vehicles being registered in highly polluted cities
 - e) Differential tax, depending on fuel (petrol/diesel) and type of vehicle;
 - f) Vehicles like strong hybrids, electric vehicles and alternate fuels like CNG, ethanol, LPG etc to be exempted;
 - g) Vehicles used in farming, such as tractor, harvestor, tiller etc to be exempted;
 - h) Revenue collected from the Green Tax to be kept in a separate account and used for tackling pollution, and for States to set up state of-art facilities for emission monitoring
- 16) India's non-banking finance companies (NBFC) need tighter regulation through creation of a multilayer model, said a discussion paper by the Reserve Bank of India on Friday. The paper proposed a structure to categorise NBFCs, or shadow banks, depending on their size and interconnectedness with the system. NBFCs in the lower layer will be known as NBFC-Base Layer (NBFC-BL). NBFCs in the middle layer will be known as NBFC-Middle Layer (NBFC-ML). An NBFC in the Upper Layer will be known as NBFC-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) and will invite a new regulatory superstructure. It proposed a NBFC non-performing classification norm of 180 days be "harmonised" to 90 days. "In view of the recent stress in the sector, it has become imperative to reexamine the suitability of this regulatory approach, especially when failure of an extremely large NBFC can precipitate systemic risks," said the paper.
- 17) State-owned telecom companies BSNL and MTNL turned EBITDA positive in the first half of financial year 2020-21, DoT. The Department of Telecom (DoT) also said that the process for spectrum allocation for 4G services to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) on pan-India basis, including Delhi and Mumbai, has been initiated and funds have been provisioned in FY2020-21. Summing up the developments in the sector in its year-end review for 2020, the DoT in a release said that overall 92,956 employees of both the public sector companies (PSUs) who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) have retired on January 31, 2020. "The salary expenditure in BSNL and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd) has reduced by around 50 per cent (about Rs. 600 crore per month) and 75 per



cent (about Rs 140 crore per month), respectively. EBIDTA (Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation) have become positive in first half of FY 2020-21 in both BSNL and MTNL," it said.

Global markets

- 1) Global equities rose for the seventh straight day to reach a record high on Tuesday.
- 2) MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan were up 0.3 per cent, led by Chinese blue chips, up 2.2 per cent. Meanwhile, the MSCI All-Country World Index edged up 0.1 per cent to its own record high.
- 3) In Europe, the STOXX 600 index fell 0.1 per cent while Germany's DAX index was down 0.2 per cent.

Ajcon Global's view

- 1) Investors turned to profit booking led by FADA report showed automobile registrations declined in January 2021 auto sales. Benchmark indices took a pause after stellar rally of around 10 percent in benchmark indices after one of its kind of Budget presented with significant outlay for investment led spending across infrastructure building like roads, power, railways, airports, ports, shipping, waterways etc. and with no changes in capital gains taxes or securities transaction tax (STT) or any form of Covid-19 pandemic-related tax which brought happiness at Dalal Street. Various PSUs have been rerated as Privatisation agenda of the Government has made investors happy as its a bold move. With robust rally of around 10 percent in benchmark indices which reflects upsurge in Largecaps in just 6 trading days; we believe its turn of midcaps and smallcaps to join the party too. Jan. 2018 levels may soon approach fast considering the intensity of the euphoria post the Budget proposals. Sentiments were buoyant post Budget as Government chose to revive growth which is the need of the hour owing to unprecedented crisis of COVID-19 and let fiscal prudence take a backseat (allowed fiscal deficit to remain high). Overall, the FM presented a reformist budget and good measures for the banking sector in 2021 especially with respect to the privatisation agenda. We rate this Union Budget as 8.5/10 and will be remembered for a long time.
- 2) FPIs too cheered Budget announcements and have re-rated various sectors. They were on a significant buying spree in last 6 trading days after selling heavily in the previous week of the Union Budget 2021-22 presentation.
- 3) The Nifty valuations are trading around 35x which looks expensive but with recent budget proposals one will need to watch out the effect on corporate earnings. Q3FY21 earnings season has been good for majority of the players till date and re-rating has already happened in infrastructure, Banks, NBFCs, auto and overall PSUs sector.
- 4) Domestically, all eyes would be on ongoing Q3FY21 earnings season after strong result by Companies like TCS, Hindustan Unilever, Maruti, Tata Motors, Colgate, SBI, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Shriram Transport Finance, IIFL Finance, Ajanta Pharma, Avenue Supermarts (Dmart), Tata Elxsi, Bajaj Auto, Ceat, JK Tyre, Bajaj Auto, Bajaj Electricals, Polycab, NMDC, Amber Enterprises, Balaji Amines, Neuland Laboratories etc.
- 5) With Union Budget 2021-22 presented and RBI's Monetary Policy keeping rates unchanged, all eyes would be now on ongoing Q3FY21 earnings season which has been robust and FPI liquidity after stellar run. The Budget proposals are long term in nature. The implementation of all these budget provisions may take some time. Hence, short term investors are advised to book partial profits.



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