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Market wrap

July 10, 2020

Indian equities decline on weak global cues amidst rapid rise in COVID-19 cases; suggest profit booking for those entered 3 months back..

Indian benchmark indices end in red owing to weak global cues amidst volatility. The rampant increase in Covid-19 cases both in India as well as on the global front weighed on investor sentiment. The S&P BSE Sensex declined by 143 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 36,594 levels while Nifty ended at 10,768, down 45 points or 0.42 per cent.

HDFC, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank contributed the most to the Sensex's fall. Axis Bank ended as the top loser on the index while Reliance Industries (RIL) ended as the biggest gainer-up around 3 per cent. RIL hit a fresh lifetime high of Rs. 1,884.40 during the day before settling at Rs 1,878.50 on the BSE.

On a weekly basis, Sensex was up by 1.6 per cent while Nifty rose 1.5 per cent.

The sectoral trends on the NSE remained mixed. While financials, metals and auto stocks declined in the trade, pharma, FMCG, and realty counters rallied. The Nifty Pharma gained 0.85 per cent to 10,072.25 levels. On the other hand, Nifty Bank slipped over 2 per cent to 22,398.45 points.

In the broader market, the S&P BSE MidCap index fell 0.72 per cent while the S&P BSE SmallCap index declined 0.35 per cent.

India VIX, the volatility index, declined over 5 per cent to 24.75 levels.

Crude oil

Crude oil prices continued to decline on concerns about renewed Covid-19 lockdowns in the United States outweighed signs of a recovery in US gasoline demand.

Sectors and stocks

Shares of PI Industries hit a fresh all-time high of Rs. 1,789, up 3.5 per cent in the intra-day trade, on the BSE on Friday. The stock has surged 8 per cent in the past two days after the company successfully raised Rs. 2,000 crore via qualified institutional placements (QIP). The agro-chemical firm on Wednesday said the company has fixed issue price at Rs 1,470 per share, about 4 per cent lower than the floor rate, for sale of shares to institutional investors. PI Industries has received a strong response from institutional investors for its QIP issue. According to the latest shareholding pattern data filed by the company, mutual funds (MFs) increased their stake by more than four percentage points to 21.19 per cent, while foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) hiked their holdings by nearly two percentage points to 13.82 per cent. At the end of March 2020 quarter, MFs and FPIs held 17.03 per cent and 12.13 per cent stake, respectively. The company proposed to utilize the net proceeds to fund the organic or inorganic growth opportunities in the area of its operations and adjacencies, other long-term capital requirements, investments in subsidiaries, joint venture(s) and affiliate(s) (either through debt or equity or any convertible securities), and pre-payment and / or repayment of outstanding borrowings.

Punjab National Bank was down by 6.7 per cent to Rs. 34.6 on the BSE on Friday after the bank said it has reported loan extended to Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL), worth Rs 3,688.58 crore, as fraud. "The bank is reporting Borrowal Fraud of Rs 3,688.58 crore in NPA account of Dewan Housing Finance Ltd. (DHFL) at large corporate branch at Mumbai, Zonal Office," the bank said in a regulatory filing. The bank, however, had already made provisions for the NPA account amounting to Rs 1,246.58 crore, as per prescribed prudential norms, it added.

Shares of YES Bank were down by 9 per cent to Rs. 24.20 on the BSE on Friday after the bank fixed floor price at Rs. 12 per share and a cap of Rs. 13 per unit for its proposed follow-on public offer (FPO). "A discount of Rs. 1 per equity share will be given to the eligible employees of the bank bidding in employee reservation portion. A minimum bid lot of 1,000 equity shares and in the multiples of 1,000 equity shares thereafter," it said. YES Bank is planning to raise Rs. 15,000-crore through the FPO, which will open on July 15, 2020 and close on July 17, 2020. YES Bank said a meeting of the capital raising committee (CRC) is scheduled to be held on July 14, 2020 for the purposes of allocation of equity shares to the successful anchor investors pursuant to the offer and for determination of the anchor investor allocation price. The fundraising is important for the bank to boost its capital base, especially after it announced last month that it failed to make interest payments on its bonds, after the RBI said its capital adequacy ratio was below regulatory ratio.

Global markets

Global equities were under pressure on Friday as record-setting new coronavirus cases in several US states led to worries that more lockdowns may be necessary, making a quick economic recovery unlikely.



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European stocks declined 0.3 per cent, taking cues from Asia. Shares in China fell 1.8 per cent from a five-year high. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 1.3 per cent. Australian stocks declined by 0.6 per cent as an extension of loan-payment deferrals hit the banking sector. Japanese stocks were down by 1.1 per cent.

Ajcon Global's view

We believe cooling of Indian equities is healthy for investors as whopping rally in last 3 months was led by liquidity through FPIs. FPIs have poured money on Indian equities as global economies have resorted to printing money and were not connected to ground realities. We believe caution is warranted as on economic situation is bleak although there are relaxations in Unlock 2.0. We believe Indian equities will take cues economic activity pickup during relaxations in Lockdown, escalating India – China tensions after banning of Chinese mobile apps, global cues especially the spike in COVID-19 cases in second wave, on ground domestic economic situation. Going ahead, onset and progress of monsoon, Q1FY21 earnings season and newsflow related to COVID-19 will dictate market trend. Although some sectors have rallied in June 2020 quarter, investors will keep an eye as to how far the sectors revive from a standstill scenario. The disappointment of no relief package for middle class who are also affected significantly in COVID-19 crisis will also remain an overhang. We like the agriculture reforms announced; major announcements made in sectors like Coal, Mining, Aviation, Defence and Power sector were also good and long term in nature. However, certain announcements by Finance Ministry were not taken well by street participants with regards to measures like MSME loan not being interest free, ambiguity with regards to MSMEs who do not have an existing credit facility, market sentiments getting affected as the reduction in rate of TDS to increase liquidity in the system were announced as part of stimulus package etc.

Sectors like Pharma and Healthcare, Speciality Chemicals, Insurance, E-Commerce, Companies with innovative business models especially in facility management, housekeeping and digital space would benefit from the COVID-19 crisis while sectors like over leveraged NBFCS including micro finance, real estate, construction, hospitality, tourism and aviation sector would be affected significantly. We advise investors to not lose hope in Indian equities as historically it is proven that market do witness recovery post an epidemic. Historically, Indian equities have always bounced back strongly post a Black swan and key events like Global Recession (1986-88), Gulf War/India Fiscal Crises (1990-91), Harshad Mehta Scam (1992-93), Stock Market fall (1994-96), 97 Market Meltdown (1997-98), Dot-Com Bubble (2000-01), Central Election Results (2004), High Inflation (2006), Global Financial Crisis (2008), European Sovereign Debt Crises (2010-11) in the past ranging from a fall of 11 percent to 65 percent and bouncing back in three years' time frame by ~73 percent to 300 percent in the above events. Globally in the past, during the Great Depression, the US market declined steeply and made record highs later on. Any news of faster discovery and launch of vaccine for COVID-19 may fuel the market. We recommend value buying only in high quality stocks gradually at every decline for building a long term portfolio for 3 – 5 years horizon.

However, those who have entered at the lower levels especially in last week of March 2020 last week and first week of April 2020 may book short term partial profits. We feel that there will be further opportunities to pick up the stocks at lower levels as Q1FY21 results would be a washout for major sectors except FMCG, Agrochemicals, Pharma and Digital/internet.



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