

Bulls rule the show on US Fed meet outcome; Realty and Housing Finance companies rally..

- 1) Bulls were roaring hard on positive global cues. The Federal Reserve on Wednesday said that the U.S. central bank could begin scaling back asset purchases in November and complete the process by mid-2022. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said it didn't expect the Fed to begin rate increases until after completing the taper process, which would wrap up "sometime around the middle of next year." Jerome Powell said during the press conference that the debt issues facing embattled Chinese property developer Evergrande should not be viewed as a preview of what could happen with other corporations around the world which lifted investor sentiments.
- 2) Buoyancy was witnessed on Thursday too as the benchmark indices once again ended at record closing high levels with the benchmark Sensex nearing the 60,000-mark. The Sensex rallied by 958 points to end at levels of 59,885. The Nifty was up 276.30 points or 1.57 per cent to end at levels of 17,823.
- 3) Bajaj Finserv, Hindalco Industries, Tata Motors, Larsen and Toubro and Coal India were among major gainers on the Nifty, while losers included HDFC Life, Dr Reddy's Labs, Nestle India, ITC and Tata Consumer Products.
- 4) The broader market outperformed the benchmarks, as BSE midcap and smallcap indices rose 1 percent each. On the sectoral front, realty index gained nearly 9 percent, while IT, metal, bank, capital goods, oil & gas indices rose 1 percent each.

Index	Today's Close	Prev. close	Change	% change	Open	High	Low
Sensex	59,885.36	58,927.33	958.03	1.63	59,358.18	59,957.25	59,243.15
Nifty	17,822.95	17,546.65	276.30	1.57	17,670.85	17,843.90	17,646.55

Sectors and stocks

- 1) Shares of real estate companies were upbeat on expectations of a strong demand this festive season. In addition, several lenders have already announced a rate cut on home loans. Shares of Oberoi Realty, Godrej Properties, DLF and Sobha Developers were up in the range of 8 - 13.5 percent
- 2) Shares of housing finance companies (HFCs) outperformed on the bourses on Thursday with stocks such as Can Fin Homes and Repco Home Finance rallying up to 6 per cent on the BSE in the intra-day trade. Investor sentiments were upbeat as pick up in real estate demand will result in higher earnings growth for these companies this festive season. Besides, several lenders have already announced interest rate cut on home loans, which added to the buoyancy. Individually, Repco Home Finance, Aavas Financiers, Can Fin Homes, Indiabulls Housing Finance, LIC Housing Finance and PNB Housing Finance were up between 2 and 8 per cent on the BSE.
- 3) Can Fin Homes hit a record high of Rs. 687.55 after it rallied by 5 per cent on the BSE in the intra-day trade. The stock surpassed its previous high of Rs. 666.60, touched on June 22, 2017. HFCs have been an important part of the economy and have helped customers to buy a home at a reasonable interest rate, for their own consumption and for building wealth over a period of time. "Business growth for HFCs has remained good with many large HFCs showing strong disbursements even during FY21. Early indications from the current financial year suggest that growth for FY22 would also be robust for the Housing Financiers. HFCs are looking at a growth of around 8 per cent-12 per cent in housing finance portfolios," CARE Rating said in a sector report. However, the agency expects that the second wave of Covid-19 would cause the NPAs in the near term to increase further. The deterioration would be higher in H1 of FY22, it says. "That said, we expect that collections and asset quality for HFCs would improve in the second half as the economy improves. While a large portion of deterioration would come from developer loan book, we expect that retail prime loans would also witness stress as retail borrowers have also been impacted economically during the pandemic," the rating agency said. "Overall view on HFCs remains stable as HFCs continue to remain one of the most resilient asset classes. While we expect that the impact of the pandemic on GS3 assets would be higher than what was earlier estimated, stronger balance sheets of large HFCs, and higher equity capital buffers provide good comfort. Also, improvement in fund-raising abilities of HFCs by tapping retail deposits augurs well for the longer-term credit outlook of HFCs," it added.

- 4) Shares of Coal India hit a 52-week high of Rs. 170, up 5 per cent on the BSE in Thursday's intra-day trade on improved outlook. The stock of the country's largest coal producer surpassed its previous high of Rs. 164.90 touched on June 11, 2021. In the past one month, the stock has rallied 27 per cent, as compared to a 7 per cent rise in the S&P BSE Sensex. India's coal mining sector is dominated by Coal India and the scenario is unlikely to change in the immediate future. Even after the opening up of the coal sector to private commercial mining by the government of India, the proportion of coal supply from Coal India is likely to dominate the Indian market. Based on the demand projection in 'Vision 2024' for the coal sector in the country and subsequent demand projection on Coal India, a roadmap has been prepared to project production plan in the medium-term wherein Coal India has envisaged 1 billion tonne (Bt) coal production in the year 2023-24 to meet the coal demand of the country. To achieve this target, Coal India has identified major projects and assessed their related issues, the company said in the financial year 2020-21 annual report.

Key recent major developments..

- 1) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who chaired the first in-person GST Council meet held last week since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, said: "The issue of petrol and diesel was discussed. Several states said they do not want to bring these under GST. The Council also felt it was not time to bring petrol and diesel under GST. In addition, GST Council on Friday decided to charge food delivery platforms such as Swiggy and Zomato a tax even as it extended concessional tax rates on certain COVID-19 drugs by three months till December 31.
- 2) Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a formal government guarantee on the securities receipts that the planned 'bad bank' will issue to banks as it takes on non-performing assets from their books. The government guarantee will be Rs. 30,600 crore, she said. The Union Cabinet on Wednesday cleared a proposal to provide government guarantee to security receipts issued by the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) as part of resolution of bad loans, Sitharaman said at a press briefing in New Delhi. NARCL proposes to acquire stressed assets of about Rs 2. trillion in phases within extant regulations of RBI. NARCL will pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85 per cent would be government-guaranteed security receipts. "Substantial amount of NPAs continue on balance sheets of banks primarily because the stock of bad loans as revealed by the Asset Quality Review is not only large but fragmented across various lenders. High levels of provisioning by banks against legacy NPAs has presented a unique opportunity for faster resolution," said Ministry of Finance on the rationale for setting up the bad bank. The Finance Minister in Budget 2021-22 announced that the high level of provisioning by public sector banks of their stressed assets calls for measures to clean up the bank books. The guarantee will be valid for 5 years. "15% cash payment will be made to banks for NPAs based on some valuation, 85% will be given as Security Receipts. For Security Receipts to have their value intact, Govt has to give a backstop arrangement, hence the govt guarantee of Rs. 30,600cr cleared by Union Cabinet," said Sitharaman.
- 3) In big bang reforms for Telecom Sector (Structural and Procedural Reforms), the Union Cabinet approved a relief package for the telecom sector that includes a four-year moratorium on payment of statutory dues by telecom companies as well as allowing 100% foreign investment through the automatic route. Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said nine structural reforms for the telecom sector were approved. The definition of AGR, which had been a major reason for the stress in the sector, has been rationalised by excluding non-telecom revenue of telecom companies. AGR refers to revenues that are considered for payment of statutory dues. "PM Modi took a bold decision over AGR (adjusted gross revenue) today. A decision has been taken to rationalise the definition of AGR. All non-telecom revenue will be taken out of AGR. There was a regime of heavy interest, penalty & interest on penalty on payment of license fees, spectrum user charges and all kinds of charges. It has been rationalised today. Annual compounding (of interest) will be done instead of monthly compounding. A reasonable interest rate of MCLR + 2% interest rate has been offered and the penalty has been completely scrapped. This will pave way for large-scale investments in the telecom sector. Investment means employment - more the investment, more the employment," said Vaishnaw at a press briefing in New Delhi. "For future auctions, duration of spectrum will be 30 years instead of 20 years. Also if someone takes spectrum & business conditions/technology changes then after a lock-in period of 10 years it can be surrendered by paying spectrum charge. Spectrum sharing is also being completely allowed, it has been made completely free," added Vaishnaw. Mr. Vaishnaw said the reforms are applicable from October 1 and none of them are with retrospective effect. "There will be further reforms when 5G spectrum is auctioned," he added.
- 4) The Union Cabinet approved a Rs. 26,058 crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto, auto components and drone industries to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said on Wednesday. The PLI scheme will incentivize the emergence of advanced automotive technologies' global supply chain in India. It is estimated that over a period of five years, the PLI scheme for the automobile and auto components industry will lead to fresh investment of over Rs. 42,500 crore, incremental production of over Rs. 2.3 lakh crore and will create additional employment opportunities of over 7.5 lakh jobs, Thakur said. The PLI



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scheme for automobile and drone industries is part of the overall announcement of PLI schemes for 13 sectors made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore. The scheme for the auto sector envisages overcoming the cost disabilities to the industry for the manufacture of advanced automotive technology products in India. The incentive structure will encourage industry to make fresh investments for the indigenous global supply chain of Advanced Automotive Technology products, Thakur said. The scheme for the auto sector is open to existing automotive companies as well as new investors who are currently not in automobile or auto component manufacturing business. The scheme has two components - Champion OEM Incentive Scheme and Component Champion Incentive Scheme. The Champion OEM Incentive scheme is a sales value linked' scheme, applicable on Battery Electric Vehicles and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles of all segments, the minister said. The Component Champion Incentive scheme is a sales value linked' scheme, applicable on Advanced Automotive Technology components of vehicles, Completely Knocked Down (CKD)/ Semi Knocked Down (SKD) kits, vehicle aggregates of 2-Wheelers, 3-Wheelers, passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and tractors. This PLI scheme for automotive sector along with the already launched PLI scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (Rs. 18,100 crore) and Faster Adaption of Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (Rs. 10,000 crore) will enable India to leapfrog from traditional fossil fuel-based automobile transportation system to environmentally cleaner, sustainable, advanced and more efficient Electric Vehicles (EV) based system.

- 5) India's wholesale inflation rose to 11.39 per cent in August, data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry showed. The wholesale price index (WPI) grew 11.16 per cent during the month of July, while the WPI for June was 12.07 per cent, the data showed. "The high rate of inflation in August 2021 is primarily due to rise in prices of non-food articles, mineral oils; crude petroleum & natural gas; manufactured products like basic metals; food products; textiles; chemicals and chemical products etc as compared the corresponding month of the previous year," the ministry statement said.
- 6) India's retail inflation in August marginally eased to 5.3 percent, staying within Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone for a second month, government data showed on Monday. The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 5.59 percent in July and 6.69 percent in August 2020. As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), inflation in the food basket was 3.11 percent in August compared to 3.96 percent in the preceding month.
- 7) Industrial production was up by 11.5 percent in July mainly due to a low-base effect and good performance by manufacturing, mining and power sectors but the output remained slightly below the pre-pandemic level. The manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 10.5% in July, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- 8) India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has maintained a stable outlook on the overall banking sector for the rest of FY22, supported by the continuing systemic support. This support has helped manage the system-wide Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic linked stress. The rating agency has kept its FY22 credit growth estimates unchanged at 8.9 per cent for FY22, supported by a pick-up in economic activity post Q1FY22, higher government spending, especially on infrastructure and a revival in demand for retail loans. The agency estimates Gross Non-performing Assets (GNPAs) at 8.6 per cent for FY22, up from 7.7 per cent in FY21. The stressed assets at 10.3 per cent for FY22 from 8.6 per cent in FY21. The agency in a statement said banks also continue to strengthen financials by raising capital and adding to provision buffers which have already seen a sharp increase in the last three to four years. The agency expects provisioning cost to increase to 1.9 per cent from its earlier estimate of 1.5 per cent for FY22. The sector's profitability is expected to improve in FY22 driven by enhancement in the financial profile of public sector banks.
- 9) Services PMI data came above expectation. Remember, services sector forms major part of India's economy. The sector grew for the first time in four months to a one and a half- year high in August as vaccine access improved and consumer footfall rose following reopening of several establishments, showed IHS Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey. However, companies continued to reduce their workforce, though at a slower pace than earlier. The index rose to 56.7 in August from 45.4 in the previous month. A reading above 50 shows expansion and one below that means contraction. Apart from re-opening of many establishments and increase in footfall, companies also attributed the rise in activities to successful advertising. If the trend persists in September, it may give further boost to services growth in the country in Q2FY22. Services grew 11.4 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year in the gross domestic product (GDP) data on a low base of 21.5 per cent contraction in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. However, there is a difference in the methodology of GDP computation and PMI survey. PMI gauges month-on-month activities, while GDP calculates year-on-year.
- 10) GST revenue remained above Rs. 1 trillion-mark for the second straight month in August at over Rs 1.12 trillion, 30 per cent higher than the collection in the year-ago period, the finance ministry said on Wednesday. However, GST collections of August 2021 is lower than Rs. 1.16 trillion collected in July 2021. "The gross GST revenue collected in the month of August 2021 is Rs 1,12,020 crore of which Central GST is Rs 20,522 crore, State GST is Rs. 26,605



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crore, Integrated GST is Rs. 56,247 crore (including Rs 26,884 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs. 8,646 crore (including Rs. 646 crore collected on import of goods)," the finance ministry said in a statement. "GST collection, after posting above Rs. 1 lakh crore mark for nine months in a row, dropped below Rs. 1 trillion in June 2021 due to the second wave of covid. With the easing out of Covid restrictions, GST collection for July and August 2021 have again crossed Rs. 1 trillion, which clearly indicates that the economy is recovering at a fast pace. Coupled with economic growth, anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers, have also been contributing to the enhanced GST collections. The robust GST revenues are likely to continue in the coming months too," said the ministry.

- 11) India's GDP growth touched a record high on low base in Q1FY22 led by a rebound in consumer spending, and improved manufacturing in spite of a devastating COVID-19 second wave, government data showed on Tuesday. Gross domestic product rose 20.1% in the three-month period, compared with a record contraction of 24.4% in the same quarter a year earlier. "GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 of 2021-22 is estimated at Rs. 32.38 lakh crore, as against Rs. 26.95 lakh crore in Q1 of 2020-21, showing a growth of 20.1 percent as compared to contraction of 24.4% in Q1 2020-21. Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at Constant (2011-12) Prices for Q1 of 2021-22 is estimated at Rs. 30.48 lakh crore, as against Rs. 25.66 lakh crore in Q1 of 2020-21, showing a growth of 18.8%," said Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation in a statement. Manufacturing, which fell 36 percent in April-June last year, bounced back to grow by 49.6 percent. Trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting, which tanked 48.1 percent in April-June last year, grew by 34.3 percent in Q1FY22, indicating that touch services sectors like hotels, hospitality and tourism continue to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and will take time to recover. Agriculture, the only sector which showed growth in Q1FY21 at 3.5 percent, grew by 4.5 percent in the first quarter of FY 22.
- 12) India's fiscal deficit in April-July, the first four months of the fiscal year, stood at Rs 3.21 trillion (\$43.98 billion), or 21.3% of the budgeted target for the whole year, government data showed on Tuesday. Net tax receipts were Rs 5.21 trillion while total expenditure was Rs 10.04 trillion, the data showed.
- 13) The foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country rose more than two folds to \$17.57 billion during April-June this fiscal on account of measures such as policy reforms and ease of doing business, an official statement said on August 28. Total FDI inflow rose to \$22.53 billion during the first three months of 2021-22 as against \$11.84 billion in the same period last year, it said. Total FDI comprises equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital. FDI equity inflow grew by 168 per cent in the first three months of 2021-22 (\$17.57 billion) compared to the year-ago period (\$6.56 billion), it said.

Global markets

- 1) Globally, Asian equities were upbeat today and European equities started on a good note. US markets too had witnessed a strong run yesterday. The Federal Reserve said it may soon begin the process of slowing its asset purchases. The Chinese real estate developer Evergrande (loaded with heavy debt) said it would make some interest payments. Jerome Powell said the Evergrande situation seems very particular to China, which has very high debt for an emerging market economy," adding that the company's distress does not appear to pose a risk to major U.S. or Chinese banks.
- 2) Remember, earlier during the week, there was global sell off earlier led by China's Evergrande's debt woes and fall in commodity prices.
- 3) Ratings agency Fitch on Thursday cut its growth forecast for China's economy this year citing a slowdown in the country's colossal property sector, which is also facing headwinds over faltering real estate giant Evergrande. Fitch Ratings said it expected growth to come in at 8.1 percent this year, compared with a previous 8.4 percent estimate, saying the "main factor weighing on the outlook is the slowdown in the property sector".
- 4) Rampant spread of COVID-19 Delta variant in various countries, concerns of likely reduction in asset purchases in US, regulatory crackdown in China and tensions in Afghanistan and its side effects would act as an overhang.
- 5) China's economic data is not encouraging owing to the impact of localised lockdowns following COVID-19 outbreaks resulting into high raw material costs and disruption in supply chain. Retail sales grew at the slowest pace since August 2020, while industrial output also rose at a weaker pace from July which affected investor sentiments. Earlier, China's factory activity expanded at a slower pace in August, while the services sector slumped into contraction, as coronavirus-related restrictions and high raw material prices pressure businesses in the world's second largest economy. The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) was 50.1 in August from 50.4 in July, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on Tuesday. China staged an impressive recovery from a coronavirus-battered slump, but growth has recently shown signs of losing steam due to domestic COVID-19



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outbreaks, slowing exports, tighter measures to tame hot property prices and a campaign to reduce carbon emissions. Earlier, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. downgraded its economic growth forecast for China as measures to contain the fast-expanding Covid-19 resurgence curb spending. The economists cut their projection for quarter-on-quarter growth of gross domestic product in the third quarter and also lowered their full-year GDP growth forecast to 8.3% from 8.6%.

- 6) Factory-gate price inflation in China remained high in August, rising to the highest level in 13 years, data released on Thursday showed. The producer price index (PPI), which reflects the prices that factories charge wholesalers for their products, rose by 9.5 per cent in August from a year earlier, from a gain of 9 per cent in July, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.
- 7) The US witnessed economy recovery faster than expected in the second quarter, lifting the level of gross domestic product above its pre-pandemic peak, as massive fiscal stimulus and vaccinations against COVID-19 boosted spending. Gross domestic product increased at a 6.6% annualized rate, the Commerce Department said on Thursday in its second estimate of GDP growth for the April-June quarter. That was revised up from the 6.5% pace of expansion reported in July. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the US economy, also got a lift from vaccinations, which fueled demand for services like air travel, hotel accommodation, dining out as well as entertainment. But momentum appears to have slowed early in the third quarter amid a resurgence new COVID-19 infections driven by the Delta variant of the coronavirus. US consumer price inflation stood at 5.4% YoY in July, taking so. UK GDP grew by 4.8% QoQ in Q2 as activity and demand rebounded with the easing of covid restrictions. Eurozone inflation in July rose to 2.2% YoY above European Central Bank's target.

Ajcon Global's observations and view

- 1) Indian domestic bourses were buoyant led by positive global cues. Good action was witnessed in Real Estate and Housing Finance companies. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's comments on Evergrande situation lifted investor sentiments significantly.
- 2) Before Monday's correction, bulls have been in command led by strong vaccination drive, good economic activity, Production Linked Incentive Schemes announced in various sectors, recent Services PMI data was also good, strong Q1FY22 GDP numbers and GST collection in August 2021 continued to be robust. The big bang reforms in Telecom sector will uplift investor sentiments for telecom related companies.
- 3) The contest between bulls and bears is going to remain strong. However, bulls will have an edge owing to factors like good Q1FY22 earnings season so far with most of the Companies reporting good performance, strong management commentary in Q1FY22 by majority of the Companies, growth in Industrial production and ease in retail inflation expansion in Services PMI in July on a monthly basis, better than expected China's economic data, positive US employment data and other positive US economic indicators, rally in commodities, economic activity picking up at fast pace after unlock in major states, significant decline of COVID-19 cases in the second wave with decent vaccination drive are supporting sentiments. In addition, the country gearing up and taking all the measures to prepare itself for likely third COVID-19 wave. 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.
- 4) We suggest investors to be careful about the forthcoming IPOs too and understand the fundamentals before riding the boom. Subdued listing of IPOs in August 2021 suggest irrational exuberance. However, IPOs of sectors in limelight like Speciality chemicals, Companies business model suited to demands of Electric Vehicles would always gain maximum attention. It is advisable for investors to look out for stock specific opportunities. We believe corrections like today will keep markets healthy. Investors will keep an eye on COVID-19 cases especially in the Metros, movement in crude oil prices and metals, vaccination drive and economic activity in the festive season.



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