

Bears rule the show; IT and Banking stocks come under pressure..

- 1) Indian benchmark indices continued to be under tremendous pressure today led by selling in select index heavyweights and valuation concerns after significant run up.
- 2) The BSE Sensex fell by whopping 677.77 points to end lower at levels of 59,306.93. Tech Mahindra, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Infosys and HDFC were the major losers among the Sensex 30 stocks, down around 2-3 per cent each. On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, Dr. Reddy's, Maruti, Tata Steel and Titan were up.
- 3) On the other hand, Nifty fell by 185.60 points to end the day at levels of 17,671.65.
- 4) The BSE Sensex has registered a fall of 5 per cent (2,938 points) from its recent peak of 62,245. The Nifty has declined 3.8 per cent (677 points) in the last two weeks.
- 5) In terms of sectoral performance, the BSE Energy index was down by 1.9 per cent, and the IT index fell by 1.6 per cent. The Bankex was down over a per cent. The Auto, Healthcare and Realty indices ended marginally in the positive zone.
- 6) The BSE Midcap index was up marginally by 0.2 per cent while the BSE Smallcap index was down by 0.4 per cent.

Index	Today's Close	Prev. close	Change	% change	Open	High	Low
Sensex	59,306.93	59,984.70	677.77	1.13	59,857.33	60,132.81	59,089.37
Nifty	17,671.65	17,857.25	185.60	1.04	17,833.05	17,915.85	17,613.10

Sectors and stocks

- 1) Shares of Canara Bank hit a 21-month high of Rs. 214.50 after they rallied 10 per cent on the BSE in Friday's intra-day trade on the back of heavy volumes. The stock of the state-owned bank was trading at its highest level since January 2020. The lender's non-interest income was up 37.54 per cent YoY to Rs. 4,268 crore in Q2FY22 from Rs. 3,103 crore a year ago. Its asset quality profile was broadly stable though. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) rose to 8.42 per cent this September from 8.23 per cent a year ago. Net NPAs reduced to 3.21 per cent in September 2021 from 3.42 per cent a year ago. Its provision coverage ratio improved to 82.44 per cent at end of Q2FY22 from 81.48 per cent at end of Q2FY21. In its presentation, the management of Canara Bank had said that it is working to reduce GNPA's to 7.9 per cent and net NPAs to 2.8 per cent by March 2022. It has also guided for improvement in PCR to 83.95 per cent by end of FY22.

In the past one month, it has rallied by 28 per cent, as against a 0.89 per cent gain in the benchmark index. For July-September quarter (Q2FY22), Canara Bank had posted a 200 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 1,333 crore on robust growth in non-interest income including revenue from trading and recoveries. It posted a net profit of Rs 444 crore in the year-ago quarter.

- 2) Shares of CarTrade Tech fell by 7 per cent and registered a new low at Rs. 1,153 on the BSE in Friday's intra-day trade after the company reported a net loss for the second straight quarter of current fiscal. CarTrade Tech operates online platforms for buying and selling of vehicles. This is the first quarterly results announcement by the company which recently concluded its initial public offer (IPO). The stock was quoting at its lowest level since its listing on Friday, August 20, 2021. With today's fall, the market price of CarTrade Tech has declined 29 per cent from its issue price of Rs 1,618 per share. For July-September quarter (Q2FY22), CarTrade Tech reported consolidated net loss of Rs. 35.35 crore against profit after tax of Rs. 10.87 crore in a year ago quarter (Q2FY22). In April-June quarter (Q1FY22), of the current financial year 2021-22 (FY22), the company had posted loss of Rs 46.12 crore. For April-September period (H1FY22), CarTrade Tech posted net loss of Rs. 81.47 crore against a net profit of Rs. 63.57 crore during the same period of FY21. In entire previous fiscal FY21, the company had posted net profit of Rs 103.40 crore. An exceptional and non-recurring, non-cash adjustment of Rs. 93 crore for Employee stock options granted in

FY21 has been accounted for, resulting in a net loss after tax for H1FY22 of Rs. 81 crore (net loss before tax of Rs. 75 crore) for H1 FY22 as compared to a net profit after tax of Rs. 64 crore (net profit before tax of Rs 0.75 crore) for H1FY21, CarTrade Tech said.

In H1FY22, the company's total revenue including other income grew 46 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 150.75 crore, from Rs 103.26 crore in H1FY21. Adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (ebitda) has more-than-doubled to Rs 33 crore from Rs 16.18 crore.

The company said it witnessed highest ever average monthly unique visitors at 34 million this quarter; out of which over 87 per cent was organic. The company also reported the highest ever number of vehicles listed for auction in this quarter at 300,671, which helped breach the 1.2 million vehicle mark, based on the Q2FY22 annualised numbers, it said.

- 3) Shares of RBL Bank fell by 15 per cent to Rs. 172.10 on the BSE in Friday's intra-day trade after the private sector lender reported a disappointing set of numbers, with profit after tax (PAT) down as much as 95 per cent year-on-year (YoY) at Rs. 31 crore in September quarter (Q2FY22), led by higher provisioning and weak net interest income (NII). With today's fall, the stock has corrected 37 per cent from its 52-week high level of Rs 274 touched on January 8, 2021. It had hit a 52-week low of Rs 155.65 on August 24, 2021.

Global markets

- 1) Globally, most of the Asian equity indices ended in a negative terrain led by US-China tensions. On Thursday, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen confirmed the presence of the US troops in the country even as China warned Taiwan that American support poses huge risks. Going ahead, investors will keep an eye on US GDP data and the outcome of the Fed meeting scheduled for next week.
- 2) Most of the European indices too started in a subdued note. There are concerns over increase in COVID-19 cases in China, Russia, UK and European countries. Rising crude oil prices and increasing US bond yields would also affect investor sentiments.
- 3) China's economy hit its slowest pace of growth in a year in the third quarter, hurt by power shortages, supply chain bottlenecks and major wobbles in the property market and raising pressure on policymakers to do more to prop up the faltering recovery. Data released on Monday showed gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.9% in July-September from a earlier, the weakest clip since the third quarter of 2020 and missing forecasts. The world's second-largest economy is facing several major challenges, including the China Evergrande Group debt crisis, ongoing supply chain delays and a critical electricity crunch, which sent factory output to its weakest since early 2020, when heavy COVID-19 curbs were in place. "The domestic economic recovery is still unstable and uneven," said National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) spokesperson Fu Linghui at a briefing in Beijing on Monday.
- 4) China is facing power crisis which is triggering blackouts for households and forcing factories to cut production, threatening to slow the country's vast economy and place even more strain on global supply chains. Earlier, 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.
- 5) Inflation in the euro area accelerated more than expected to the highest level in 13 years. Consumer prices rose 3.4 percent in September, compared with an estimate for a 3.3 percent gain, according to figures released by Eurostat on Friday. A measure stripping out volatile components such as food and energy climbed to 1.9 percent, a rate not seen since 2008. Price growth is driven mainly by effects related to the pandemic and the reopening of economies after long stretches of virus shutdowns. The European Central Bank expects a peak only later this year, before a slowdown in 2022.

Key recent major domestic developments..

- 1) The Union cabinet on last Thursday cleared the PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity to economic zones. "The PM GatiShakti NMP is intended to break Departmental Silos and bring in more holistic and integrated planning and execution of projects with a view to address the issues of Multi Modal connectivity and last mile connectivity," the cabinet said in a statement. "This will help in bringing down the logistics cost. This will translate into enormous economic gains to consumers, farmers, youth as well as those engaged in businesses," it added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on October 13 launched the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for

multi-modal connectivity to expedite and bring infrastructure development on a common path. The Rs 100 lakh-crore Gati Shakti plan envisages a centralised portal comprising all existing and planned infrastructure initiatives of as many as 16 central ministries and departments for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infra connectivity projects.

- 2) Domestic air passenger traffic witnessed a growth of 5.45 percent in September on month on month basis with the easing of lockdown restrictions following the decline in Covid-19 cases. The total passenger load in September stood at 70.66 lakh compared to 67.01 lakh in August, 50.07 lakh in July and 31.13 lakh in June. The passenger traffic in September 2021 was 79 percent higher when compared to the same month in the past year, the aviation sector regulator said. In September last year, the number of passengers carried by domestic airlines stood at 39.43 lakhs. Domestic airlines were allowed to operate at 60 percent capacity utilization in September 2020 compared to the 85 percent capacity utilization allowed in September 2021.
- 3) Passenger vehicle wholesales in India witnessed a decline of 41 per cent year-on year in September as automobile manufacturers struggled to produce adequate units owing to semiconductor shortage, auto industry body SIAM said on Thursday. Passenger vehicle sales last month stood at 1,60,070 units as compared with 2,72,027 units in the year-ago period. As per the latest data by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), two-wheeler dispatches to dealers also witnessed a dip of 17 per cent at 15,28,472 units, compared to 18,49,546 in September 2020. Motorcycle dispatches declined 22 per cent last month to 9,48,161 units as against 12,24,117 in the year-ago period. Scooter sales were also down 7 per cent at 5,17,239 units from 5,56,205 units a year ago. Vehicle sales across categories last month declined year-on-year by 20 per cent to 17,17,728 units from 21,40,549 units. Indian automobile industry continues to face new challenges. While on one hand, we are seeing a revival in vehicle demand, on the other hand, shortage of semiconductor chips is causing a major concern for the industry. Many members have curtailed their production plans," SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa said. Coupled with the festive season demand, this has led to long waiting time for the customers on popular models of some segments, he added. "High raw material prices also continue to be a challenge. The industry is taking all possible measures to mitigate the impact of such supply chain issues and optimise production," Ayukawa noted.
- 4) India's industrial production in India continued to stabilise in August, expanded by 11.9 percent year-on-year (YoY) in August, rising slightly from 11.4 percent in July. The growth was due to a low-base effect and good performance by manufacturing, mining and power sectors that surpassed the pre-COVID level. The manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 percent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 9.7 percent in August, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Tuesday. The mining sector output rose 23.6 percent in August, while power generation increased 16 percent.
- 5) India's retail inflation eased again in September, falling to a five-month low led by moderating food prices that offset a surge in the cost of crude oil and fuel, government data showed on Tuesday. Consumer price inflation fell sharply to 4.35% in September from 5.3% in August. This marks the third consecutive month within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of 2%-6%. The Consumer Price Index-based (CPI) inflation was at 7.27% in September 2020.

As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the inflation in food basket eased to 0.68% in September 2021, significantly down from 3.11% in the preceding month. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which mainly factors in CPI-based inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy, has been tasked by the government to keep it at 4%, with a tolerance band of 2% on either side.

- 6) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has retained its projection for India's economic growth in the current financial year at 9.5 per cent, even as it has moderately scaled down its forecast for the world economy during 2021 by 10 basis points to 5.9 per cent in view of worsening Covid dynamics and supply disruptions. In its World Economic Outlook (WEO), the IMF has maintained India's gross domestic product (GDP) estimates for next financial year at 8.5 per cent, unchanged from its July projections. The WEO, titled 'Recovery During a Pandemic Health Concerns, Supply Disruptions, and Price Pressures', has forecast world economic growth at 4.9 per cent for 2022, the same as earlier.

Meanwhile, the IMF has cut its China GDP growth projections for 2021 and 2022 by 10 basis points each – to eight and 5.6 per cent, respectively. With this, India will again get the tag of the fastest-growing large economy in the world, both in FY22 and FY23. In 2020, China's was the only major economy that had registered growth. While it had grown 2.3 per cent last year, India's had contracted by 7.3 per cent.

- 7) Earlier, RBI kept repo and reverse repo rates unchanged at 4 per cent and 3.35 per cent, respectively. The central bank also retained the GDP growth forecast at 9.5 per cent for the on-going fiscal year and revised

CPI inflation projection downward to 5.3 per cent for the whole fiscal (from 5.7 per cent). The RBI Governor said "With the worst of the second wave behind us and substantial pick-up in COVID19 vaccination giving greater confidence to open up and normalise economic activity, the recovery of the Indian economy is gaining traction. While vaccine reach is the real fault line in the current global recovery, India is in a much better place today than at the time of the last MPC meeting. Growth impulses seem to be strengthening and we derive comfort from the fact that the inflation trajectory is turning out to be more favourable than anticipated. In spite of global headwinds, we hope to emerge from the storm and sail towards normal times, steered by the underlying resilience of the macro-economic fundamentals of the Indian economy. Core inflation, however, remains sticky. Elevated global crude oil and other commodity prices, combined with acute shortage of key industrial components and high logistics costs, are adding to input cost pressures. Pass-through to output prices has, however, been restrained by weak demand conditions. The evolving situation requires close vigilance."

He added "Overall, aggregate demand is improving but slack still remains; output is still below pre-pandemic level and the recovery remains uneven and dependent upon continued policy support. Contact intensive services, which contribute about 40 percent of economic activity in India, are still lagging. Supply side and cost push pressures are impinging upon inflation and these are expected to ameliorate with the ongoing normalisation of supply chains. Efforts to contain cost-push pressures through a calibrated reversal of the indirect taxes on fuel could contribute to a more sustained lowering of inflation and an anchoring of inflation expectations."

He further said "Recovery in aggregate demand gathered pace in August-September. This is reflected in high-frequency indicators – railway freight traffic; port cargo; cement production; electricity demand; e-way bills; GST and toll collections. The ebbing of infections, together with improving consumer confidence, has been supporting private consumption. The pent-up demand and the festival season should give further fillip to urban demand in the second half of the financial year. Rural demand is expected to get impetus from continued resilience of the agricultural sector and record production of kharif foodgrains in 2021-22 as per the first advance estimates. The improved level in reservoirs and early announcement of the minimum support prices for rabi crops boost the prospects for rabi production. The support to aggregate demand from government consumption is also gathering pace."

- 8) The gross GST revenue collected in the month of September 2021 stood at Rs. 1,17,010 crore, which is 23 percent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. During the month, revenues from import of goods was 30 percent higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 20 percent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. The revenue for September 2020 was, in itself at a growth of 4 percent over the revenue of September 2019 of Rs. 91,916 crore. For this September, CGST collections were Rs. 20,578 crore, SGST Rs. 26,767 crore, IGST Rs. 60,911 crore (including Rs. 29,555 crore collected on import of goods) and cess Rs. 8,754 crore (including Rs. 623 crore collected on import of goods). The average monthly gross GST collection for the second quarter of the current year has been Rs. 1.15 lakh crore, which is 5 percent higher than the average monthly collection of Rs. 1.10 lakh crore in the first quarter of the year. "This 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. It is expected that the positive trend in the revenues will continue and the second half of the year will post higher revenues," the government said.
- 9) The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, rose to 53.7 in September from 52.3 in August, staying above the 50-level separating growth from contraction for the third straight month. "Indian manufacturers lifted production to a greater extent in September as they geared up for improvements in demand and the replenishment of stocks," noted Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit. "There was a substantial pick-up in intakes of new work, with some contribution from international markets." Improvements in both domestic and overseas demand saw new orders expand at a quicker pace in September and factories raised output at a significantly faster rate compared to August. However, that failed to encourage factories to hire more workers - a much needed step to boost weak labour market conditions - and instead they reduced their workforce at the sharpest pace in four months. "Companies continued to purchase extra inputs in September, but jobs were little changed over the month. In some instances, survey participants indicated that government guidelines surrounding shift work prevented hiring," added De Lima.

Ajcon Global's observations and view

- 1) Bears were in charge today as Indian equities came under tremendous pressure led by selling in index heavy weights and recent RBI measures to gradually reduce liquidity.
- 2) Before significant correction, the sentiments have been strong led by good start to Q2FY22 earnings season, good IIP data and IMF's forecast of India's GDP growth at 9.5 per cent in 2021 and at 8.5 per cent in 2022. RBI's dovish

stance good, faster economic recovery witnessed, strong demand outlook in the ongoing festive season. However, rising crude oil prices, increasing US Bond yields may act as headwinds. Bulls will have an edge led by strong vaccination drive, good economic activity, Production Linked Incentive Schemes announced in various sectors, good GST collection in September 2021. The big bang reforms in Telecom sector has already uplifted investor sentiments for telecom related companies. 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. In addition, the country has geared up and taking all the measures to prepare itself in case of a third COVID-19 wave.

- 3) Going ahead, investors will continue take cues from the ongoing Q2FY22 earnings season and management commentary, economic activity in the festive season of Diwali, eye on COVID-19 cases especially in the Metros and vaccination drive, movement in crude oil prices and metals. Globally, investors will keep a watch on US Treasury yields and developments in China.
- 4) There is a strong line up of IPOs which reminds of IPO pipeline in the month of August 2021. We suggest investors to be careful about the forthcoming IPOs and understand the fundamentals before riding the boom based on risk reward profile. Subdued listing of IPOs in August 2021 suggested irrational exuberance earlier. However, IPOs of sectors in limelight like E-Commerce, Digital, Speciality chemicals, Companies business model suited to new age, companies having business model which caters to the demands of Electric Vehicles would always gain maximum attention. However, investors have to be careful with expensive IPOs.
- 5) It is advisable to stay away from companies which have ran ahead of fundamentals and valued beyond logic. It would be prudent to stay with quality names at decent valuations and not get carried away. It is advisable for investors to look out for stock specific opportunities at decent valuations considering growth outlook and management pedigree. Always remember, corrections in a bull market will keep markets healthy.



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