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Mr. Ajmera's column as on October 17, 2015

Firm global cues leads domestic bourses to touch 8 weeks high...

Benchmark share indices rebounded in late trades on Friday to end at their highest levels in eight weeks, amid firm global cues, led by engineering major L&T and renewed buying interest in financials.

The 30-share Sensex ended up 204 points at 27,215 and the 50-share Nifty ended up 59 points at 8,238. On August 21, 2015 the Sensex had ended at 27,366 and the Nifty at 8,299.95.

In the broader market, BSE MidCap index gained 0.4% while SmallCap ended flat with positive bias.

Among the key results later today, Reliance Industries would be keenly watched. Other companies to announce their Q2 results today include NIIT Tech., R. S. Software, Swaraj Engines, Tata Metaliks and Tata Sponge.

Global Markets

US stocks ended higher on Friday, notching a third week of gains, lifted by a jump in General Electric shares and upbeat consumer sentiment data. The S&P 500's three weeks of gains marked its longest winning streak since May and extended a rebound from the market's August selloff. GE shares rose 3.4 percent to USD 29.98, hitting their highest level in seven years, after the company reported better-than-expected earnings. The stock was among the biggest boosts to the S&P 500 and Dow. Mattel jumped 6 percent to USD 23.89 and was the biggest percentage gainer in the S&P 500, even after its sales missed



estimates. Consumer sentiment data helped. The University of Michigan's preliminary index on consumer sentiment rebounded strongly in early October, suggesting that the economic recovery remained on track.

For the week, the Dow rose 0.8 percent and the Nasdaq gained 1.2 percent, both also registering a third week of gains, while the S&P 500 was up 0.9 percent. Forecasts for S&P 500 earnings improved slightly as more companies reported results. Third-quarter earnings are now expected to have fallen 3.9 percent, compared with Monday's forecast for a decline of 4.8 percent, according to Thomson Reuters data. Other domestic data on Friday showed a lackluster industrial production picture, with industrial production in September shrinking for the second month in a row, in line with expectations. The Federal Reserve, which kept rates at near-zero levels at its September meeting, is waiting for signs of stabilizing inflation and sustained economic recovery before it pulls the trigger on a rate hike. Advancing issues outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by 1,829 to 1,225, for a 1.49-to-1 ratio on the upside; on the Nasdaq, 1,428 issues fell and 1,330 advanced for a 1.07-to-1 ratio favoring decliners. The S&P 500 posted 21 new 52-week highs and 4 new lows; the Nasdaq recorded 56 new highs and 25 new lows. About 6.6 billion shares changed hands on US exchanges, compared with the 7.5 billion daily average for the past 20 trading days, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Sectors and Stocks

A host of economic data was released during the week under review. Industrial Production in August 2015 increased by 6.4% compared to 4.2% growth registered in the previous month and 0.5% in August 2014.

Consumer price index-based inflation for September reversed a two-month declining streak and rose 4.41 per cent year-over-year, because of higher food retail prices. Retail inflation for August was 3.74 per cent and for July was 3.69 per cent.

Wholesale Price Inflation eased for the eleventh straight month in September which stood at -4.54 per cent compared with -4.95 per cent in August.

India's merchandise exports fell for the 10th consecutive month in September. Exports declined 24.3 per cent to \$21.84 billion in September 2015 compared with \$28.86 billion in September 2014.

Tata Motors had a stupendous rally for the third straight week. The company said the Group's wholesales in September 2015 including Jaguar Land Rover surged 21% over September 2014.

Other stocks too were in high gear with launch of new models ahead of the festive season. Maruti Suzuki gained 4.1%, M&M rose 1.6% while Hero MotoCorp and Bajaj Auto ended higher.



Reliance Industries continued to gain throught the week ahead of its September quarter earnings. The company after market hours on Friday surprised the street reporting a 12.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 6,720 crore for the quarter ended September amid high refining margins. Gross refining margin (GRMs) for the September quarter stood at \$10.6 a barrel, against \$8.3 a barrel in the same period last year.

Metal stocks continued to sparkle amid rising global commodity prices while strong industrial growth in August led to renewed buying interest in capital goods shares like L&T and BHEL.

Hindustan Unilever slipped 4% after it reported a marginal drop of 2.6% in net profit at Rs 962 crore for the quarter ended September 2015 impacted by price deflation, especially in the soaps and detergents segment as against Rs 988 crore in the same period a year ago.

IT major Infosys and TCS were the top Sensex losers post their earnings announcement.

Infosys ended down 6.3% after it cut its dollar revenue estimated for the current fiscal. The company said that for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016, revenues are likely to rise by 6.4% - 8.4%, down from a previous estimate of 7.2% - 9.2% in dollar terms.

TCS ended down 5.9% after it reported lower-than-expected constant currency revenue growth for the fourth straight quarter. Continued weakness in its Japan-based insurance arm Diligenta and energy business weighed on the IT major's topline. Revenue during the September quarter stood at Rs 27,165 crore as against a consensus Bloomberg estimate of 27,229 crore. Revenue in dollar terms grew sequentially by 3% to \$4,156 million which was lower than the Street's estimate of around 4%.

Week ahead

The upbeat earnings from Reliance Industries will set the tone for the truncated week ahead while developments on the progress of Bihar polls would also be keenly watched.

Some of the major companies that are slated to announce their September quarter earnings include, ACC, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, Wipro, Cairn India, Idea Cellular, HDFC Bank and Asian Paints among others.

A slew of global economic data such as China Q3 GDP, US housing starts and PMI indices for US, Euro zone and Japan is scheduled to be announced during the week.

The stock market will remain closed on Thursday, October 22, on account of Dussehra festival.



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