



CA (Dr.) Ashok Ajmera's Weekly Column as on December 22, 2023

The broader market witnessed a good fight between the bulls and bears as markets saw profit booking after hitting an all time high.



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The domestic bourse saw a volatile week with profit booking witnessed during the week. Both, the Nifty 50 and the Sensex closed in a negative territory on a weekly basis after 7 consecutive positive closing. We had already given a warning signal last week regarding profit booking and expensive valuations especially in the small and midcap stocks which was also visible in both Nifty Midcap 100 closing with a loss on 1.08% index and the Nifty smallcap 100 index down by 0.27%.

The top gainers in the Nifty 50 index were Britannia (up by 5.03%), Nestle (up by 4.11%), Tata Consumer Product (up by 3.99%), Coal India (up by 3.79%) and Wipro (up by 3.61%). The major losers in in the Nifty 50 index were Adani Enterprises (down by 6.13%), M&M (down by 5.26%), HDFC Life (down by 4.94%), UPL (down by 4.78% and Adani Ports (down by 4.73%).

FII and DII activity

In the week gone by, FII were net sellers at Rs. 6,422.24 Crores and DII were net buyer at Rs. 9,093.99 Crores. In the previous week FII were net buyers at Rs. 18,858.34 Crores and DII were net sellers at Rs. 2,592.35 crores. In the month of November 2023, FIIs had net bought equities worth Rs. 5,795.05 Crore and DIIs had net bought equities worth Rs. 12,762.14 Crore.

Sector Movement

FMCG was the outperforming sector of the week, hitting an all-time high during the week, up by 1.69%. Nifty Pharma and Nifty Oil and Gas were other two sectors which saw good momentum during the week. All other sectorial indices gave a negative or a subdued positive closing.

Global Market and Major Developments

The US market gave a marginally positive closing with NASDAQ 100 index gaining the most. The NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index in the United States edged up to 37 in December 2023 from 34 in November, which was the lowest in nearly a year, and beating forecasts of 36. Housing starts in the US unexpectedly soared 14.8% month-over-month to an annualized 1.56 million in November of 2023, the highest rate in six months, and well above market forecasts of 1.36

Particulars	Close (22/12/2023: Friday)	Open (18/12/2023: Monday)	Previous Close (15/12/2023: Friday)	Change (%)
Nifty 50	21,349.40	21,434.80	21,546.65	-0.50
Sensex	71,106.96	71,437.35	71,483.75	-0.53
Nifty Midcap 100	45,094.80	45,678.60	45,586.55	-1.08
Nifty Smallcap 100	14,846.05	14,940.55	14,885.80	-0.27
		Sectoral Indices		
Nifty Bank	47,491.85	48,068.50	48,143.55	-1.35
Nifty Auto	17,778.90	18,048.45	18,038.25	-1.44
Nifty IT	35,637.80	35,707.30	35,782.45	-0.40
Nifty PSU Bank	5,584.95	5,757.00	5,762.60	-3.08
Nifty Fin Services	21,197.15	21,513.15	21,529.75	-1.54
Nifty Pharma	16394.35	16,196.40	16,179.80	1.33
Nifty FMCG	55101.05	54,070.90	54,186.20	1.69
Nifty Metal	7652.65	7712.10	7,735.35	-1.07
Nifty Realty	763.05	769.25	767.05	-0.52
Nifty Media	2390.50	2425.95	2,437.05	-1.91
Nifty Energy	32810.15	32640.05	32,580.65	0.70
Nifty Private Bank	24485.30	24909.50	24,944.65	-1.84
Nifty Infra	7134.59	7154.20	7,141.30	-0.09
Nifty Commodities	7470.45	7512.75	7,506.75	-0.48
Nifty Consumption	9279.00	9259.35	9,257.05	0.24
Nifty PSE	7611.60	7644.35	7,626.90	-0.20
Nifty Serv. Sector	27341.60	27672.15	27,695.85	-1.28
Nifty Healthcare	10353.15	10296.40	10,283.75	0.67
Nifty Oil & Gas	9287.05	9165.60	9,150.90	1.49
Nifty INDIA MFG	10702.30	10698.15	10,694.80	0.07
		US Indices		
Dow Jones	37,385.98	37,330.14	37,305.17	0.22
S&P 500	4,754.64	4,725.58	4,719.18	0.75
NASDAQ 100	16,777.40	16,631.11 Commodities	16,623.45	0.93
Gold (in Rs./ 10 gram)	62,954	62,193	62,192	1.23
Brent Crude oil	78.87	77.01	76.86	2.62

million, benefiting from a fall in mortgage rates and low inventory. The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits edged higher by 2,000 to 205,000 on the week ending December 16th, holding close to the two-month low of 203,000 hit in the previous week and well below market expectations of 215,000. The American economy expanded an annualized 4.9% in the third quarter of 2023, slightly below 5.2% in the second estimate, but matching the 4.9% initially reported in the advance estimate. It still marks the strongest growth since Q4 2021. Foreign direct investment (FDI) into China declined by 10% year-on-year to CNY 1.04 trillion or \$145.51 billion in the first eleven months of 2023, in a sign foreign investors have not fully returned to the country after Covid, while sentiment about the Chinese recovery remains weak.

Major Developments in Domestic Markets

- 1) Landmark Cars Limited during the week received an approval from Mercedes-Benz India for opening a workshop at Hyderabad.
- 2) KPI Green during the week raised Rs. 3000 crores from QIBs at the issue price of Rs. 1,183.00 per Equity Share.
- 3) Infosys announced the inauguration of a new state-of-the-art development centre (DC) at the Mihan-SEZ in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Spread across 265,000 sq.ft., Infosys has invested over INR 230 crore in the development of this facility, which will provide greater flexibility for



employees to work in a hybrid mode and enable re-skilling and up-skilling of local talent. The new centre will also give employees the opportunity to work on next-gen technologies like cloud, AI, and digital across multiple industries, such as telecommunications, banking, retail, aerospace, automobile, logistics, and manufacturing, among others.

- 4) 3 companies got listed on the domestic bourses- DOMS Industries Limited got listed at ~77% premium, India Shelter Finance Listed at ~25% premium and Inox India got listed at ~43%.
- 5) The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance vide Office Memorandum dated December 20, 2023 has decided in the public interest, to grant one-time exemption to Life Insurance Corporation of India to achieve 25% Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) within 10 years from the date of listing i.e., till May 2032.
- 6) Telecommunication bill was passed this week which cements rules for spectrum allocation and provides for a non-auction route for giving airwaves for satellite-based communication services. It also lays down stringent provisions for phone number spoofing for fraud and moots a "digital-by-design" online grievance redressal mechanism for addressing users' complaints. The Telecommunications Bill, 2023 also seeks to tighten the noose on pesky callers through various means, including by checking misuse of SIM.
- 7) During the week The Ministry of Mines announced that it will call bids for over 100 critical minerals blocks from February. There will also be an auction of 15 offshore minerals.
- 8) Allcargo Logistics announced group restructuring during the week. Shareholders of Allcargo Logistics will get 1:1 share in Allcargo ECU Limited in addition to their holding in Allcargo Logistics. Shareholders of Allcargo Gati (other than Allcargo Logistics itself) will get 63 equity shares of Allcargo Logistics (post ISC demerger) for every 10 equity shares held by them. This factors in 3:1 bonus approved by shareholders of Allcargo recently.
- 9) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) received orders worth Rs. 2,673 Crs from Goa Shipyard Limited (Value: Rs. 1701 Crs) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (Value: Rs. 972 Crs) for supply of 14 types of sensors for use on Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV).
- 10) UPL announced raising funds aggregating up to Rs. 4200 crores by way of issue of equity shares on rights issue basis.
- 11) The Covid cases are again on the rise in the country with active cases standing at 2,997 as on 22nd December, 2023 as per the Health Ministry data.

Events in the Coming Week

In the coming week the following events are scheduled- BOJ Gov. Ueda Speech, Unemployment Rate (Nov), Chicago Fed National Activity Index (Nov), S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price MoM (Oct) and S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price YoY (Oct).

Ajcon Global's observations and view:

Short term view:

- 1) Further action in the domestic market will be guided by the movement in global & domestic bond yields, economic data and crude oil prices. The continuing rally in the domestic market has shifted the market towards the overbought zone and so a cautious stance is recommended. Always remember corrections in a structural bull market will keep markets healthy. We advise partial profit booking in general and full profit booking in some of the small caps in short term & sit on more cash to take advantage of corrections, which is imminent. The next week is Christmas week and so we may see subdued participation from the FII side.
- 2) We suggest investors to remain stock specific and be wary of valuations of companies which are out of comfort zone especially in the smallcaps pack. At the moment, companies in the sectors like FMCG, Auto, Auto ancillaries, Banking, NBFCs, Consumer Durables, Capital Goods, Defence, Engineering, Real Estate, Infrastructure space and Railways which have not yet caught the fancy of the market can be considered.

Long term view

- 1) We have faith in the India story and believe that the domestic economy is strongly placed as compared to the global peers which will attract investors. Domestically, the economy is doing well which is evident from the recent GST collection data, increase in investment led spending and other indicators like passenger air traffic, hotel occupancy, power consumption, auto sales, coal production data etc. Encouraging Q2FY24 results suggest that economy is doing well.
- 2) Structurally, Indian economy is poised to do well after major reforms like thrust on digital economy after demonetisation, implementation of GST, RERA, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, reforms in power sector, investment led spending to drive growth with impetus on Privatisation, thrust on Aatmanirbhar Bharat resulting into Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for various sectors, reforms in Direct Taxes, thrust on renewables sector, Ethanol blending, scrapping policy etc. etc.



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