

Mr. Ashok Ajmera, CMD & CEO

Mr. Aimera's column as on 6th Feb. 2016

Domestic bourses end on a dismal note; macroeconomic data to drive market direction..

In the absence of any immediate positive triggers, benchmark indices ended the week on a dismal note as weakness in global equities weighed on the domestic markets. The fluctuations in oil prices coupled with concerns of a slowdown in China dented the sentiments across the globe.

For the week ended February 05, 2016, the S&P BSE Sensex ended 254 points or 1.02% lower at 24,617. The Nifty50 settled at 7,489.10, down by 74.45 points or 0.98%.

The broader markets also followed suit. BSE Midcap index fell 0.7% or 82 points to end at 10,335 while BSE Small cap index closed at 10,569, down by 300 points or 2.76%.

The Reserve Bank of India in its sixth bi-monthly monetary policy review maintained status quo on interest rates with repo rate unchanged at 6.75% and the cash reserve ratio (CRR) was also unaltered at 4% The apex bank stated that further rate cuts will depend on the reform measures announced in the Union Budget 2016.

On macro-economic front, India's manufacturing data for the month of January expanded to a four month high while Services PMI stood at 19 month high thus showing revival in the sector, seasonally adjusted Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index and Nikkei India services purchasing managers' index showed.

After witnessing a roller coaster ride, the crude oil prices ended the week lower, snapping two weeks of gains, ahead of the crucial meet between the OPEC and non- OPEC countries to tackle the supply glut issue.

Sectors and stocks

Lupin soared 5.3% for the week mainly on the back of a robust December quarter results. The drug company's consolidated net profit climbed 29.6% to Rs 529.80 crore on 7.1% growth in revenue from operations (net) to Rs 3555.80 crore in third quarter over second quarter of the same year. The stock registered almost 10% rise on Friday alone.

L&T gained 3.4%. The company's consolidated net profit increased by 19% to Rs 1035 crore on 8.4% growth in gross revenue to Rs 26058 crore in Q3 when compared year on year.

Tata Steel reported consolidated net loss of Rs 2127 crore in Q3 December 2015 compared with net profit of Rs 157 crore year-on-year. The stock slumped 6.4%.

Maruti Suzuki tanked 9.13% after the company reported a 2.6% decline in total sales in January 2015 at 113,606 units, due to lower export sales. However, the company announced new lauches at the Auto Expo 2016 including Vitara Breeza, a compact SUV.

Bharti Airtel emerged as the top gainer from the Sensex pack registering a 6% gain while NTPC slumped 12% to emerge as the top loser amongst the top 30 Sensex companies.

Week ahead

The government is all set to announce the December quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data on February 8, 2016.

Along with the crucial GDP data, the consumer price index (CPI) for January 2016 will also be unveiled next week on 12 February 2016.

The last leg of corporate earnings season will be announced next week. Among the prominent companies unveiling their financial numbers are Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hindalco Industries, and GAIL (India), Cipla, Coal India, State Bank of India, ONGC, Hero MotoCorp, Tata Motors, and Bharat Heavy Electricals, NMDC, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) and BPCL.

Chinese markets will be closed next week on account of Lunar New Year.

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