

Buoyancy witnessed in smallcaps and midcaps space; Q3FY21 earnings season has been above expectations..

- 1) Benchmark indices were lacklustre on Thursday amidst stock-specific action in midcaps and smallcaps space.
- 2) The rally in Reliance Industries by 4 percent, and over 1 per cent gain each in HUL, Bajaj Finance, and Bharti Airtel, the benchmark S&P BSE Sensex advanced 222 points, or 0.43 per cent, at close to settle at 51,531.5 level on the BSE. RIL, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India, and Power Grid ended the day as top gainers on the Sensex while Titan (down 2.45 per cent), L&T, HDFC Bank, ITC, and ONGC were the top laggards.
- 3) Around 18 of the 30 constituents ended the day in the green on the Sensex. Overall, 1,725 stocks advanced on the BSE, 1,261 declined, and 140 remained unchanged.
- 4) NSE's Nifty50, on the other hand, ended the day at 15,173-mark, up 67 points or 0.44 per cent.
- 5) In the broader markets, smallcap stocks were leading from the front. The S&P BSE SmallCap index outperformed today with 1.06 per cent gain on the BSE while the S&P BSE MidCap index settled 0.45 per cent higher.
- 6) On the sectoral front, Nifty PSU Bank index declined over 1 per cent on the NSE, followed by losses in the Nifty Auto index (down 0.4 per cent), and the Nifty Realty index (down 0.24 per cent). On the upside, the Nifty FMCG index and the Nifty Metal index closed 0.85 per cent higher each.
- 7) Volatility index, India VIX, eased around 4 per cent to end at 23 levels.

Index	Today's Close	Prev. close	Change	% change	Open	High	Low
Sensex	51,531.52	51,309.39	222.13	0.43	51,165.84	51,592.45	51,157.31
Nifty	15,173.30	15,106.50	66.80	0.44	15,073.25	15,188.50	15,065.40

Sectors and stocks

- 1) Shares of JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, on Thursday, rallied by 12 per cent intra-day to Rs. 1,213 on the BSE after reporting more-than-doubled net profit at Rs. 154.30 for the December quarter (Q3FY21), on the back of strong operational performance. The company had profit of Rs. 66.40 crore in the year-ago quarter. The stock surpassed its previous high of Rs. 1,150, touched on September 21, 2020. EBITDA grew 90.8 per cent year on year (YoY) at Rs. 171 crore, margin improved 1030 basis points (bps) to 31.2 per cent during the quarter, driven by growth and operating leverage. Revenue from operations rose 27.9 per cent YoY at Rs. 548.2 crore. The reported topline in the quarter also includes revenues deferred from the September quarter (Q2FY21). The management said that the India business continues to witness a positive trend in the chronic segment and the company is among the fastest growing companies in Indian pharmaceuticals market (IPM). The operational and revenue momentum continues – with strong contributions from domestic formulations and international business. The domestic Formulations maintain secular outperformance compared to IPM growth rates, driven by strength in chronic segments and expanding prescriber coverage. With improved doctor/prescriber coverage trends and anticipated revival in acute, expect the healthy domestic trend to continue, the company said. Meanwhile, the company's board of directors has declared interim dividend of Rs 8.50 per equity share of face value of. Rs 2 (425 per cent) for the financial year 2020-21. The dividend will be remitted/ dividend warrants will be dispatched on March 5, 2021, it said.
- 2) Shares of Route Mobile and Affle India, on Thursday, hit their respective record highs and were frozen in their respective upper limits on the BSE in an otherwise range-bound market. Route Mobile was locked in 20 per cent upper circuit at Rs 1,527 on the back of heavy volumes. In the past one week, the stock has rallied 35 per cent after Route Mobile won 2 Gold Awards across categories at the 2021 Juniper Awards for Telco Innovation. The award honours leading players in the Enterprise Telecommunications, Network Security, and Anti-Fraud Markets. Route Mobile is a leading Cloud Communication Platform provider, catering to enterprises, over-the-top (OTT) players and mobile network operators (MNO). The company's range of enterprise communication services includes



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smart solutions in A2P messaging, voice, email, and SMS filtering, analytics & monetization. The pandemic has led to accelerated adoption of next generation messaging channels, including enterprise voice solutions; IP based messaging and unified communication solutions, amongst others, by enterprises. The management said the next generation products in the pipeline and to be launched soon include MIDaaS (Mobile Identity as a Service), GBM (Google Business Messaging) amongst others. Meanwhile, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have increased their stake in the company by 540 basis points (bps) during the October-December quarter (Q3FY1). FPIs held 15.74 per cent stake in Route Mobile as on December 31, 2020, as against 10.34 per cent at the end of September 2020 quarter, according to the data filed by the company. They held 4.32 per cent stake in Route Mobile on listing date. Mutual funds, however, reduced their stake in Route Mobile to 4.48 per cent from 8.44 per cent in the previous quarter.

- 3) Shares of Affle India locked in 10 per cent upper circuit at Rs. 5,095, surging 34 per cent in one week, after the company reported a strong performance for the quarter ended December 2020 (Q3FY21) with consolidated revenue from operations grew 59 per cent year-on-year (YoY) at Rs. 150.50 crore. The company's profit after tax (PAT) increased by 42.9 per cent YoY to Rs 30.60 crore. Ebitda grew 40.5 per cent YoY to Rs. 38.40 crore; however, margin contracted 360 basis points (bps) to 25.3 per cent, mainly led by higher employee expenses. The management believes the company is in a multi-year technology transformation period of accelerated consumer adoption of mobile and connected devices globally. The consumer trends offer a tremendous opportunity for further scale, ensuring the digital ad spends will continue to increase towards ROI and data focused mobile marketing platforms, it said.

Key recent major developments..

- 1) Global rating agency Moody's on Thursday said that India's economic recovery reduces the risk of a sharp deterioration in public sector banks' (PSBs) mildly improving asset quality. However, the capital shortfalls will remain despite a likely government equity infusion and this makes banks vulnerable to unexpected shocks and restricting credit growth.
- 2) According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA), the automobile registrations declined by 9.66 percent in January 2021 on YoY basis after showing a year-on-year (YoY) growth in December, 2020. Registration data compiled from the Centre's VAHAN portal reflect retail sales of automobiles. All categories except tractors were in the red, it said, adding that YoY, two-wheeler (2W), three-wheeler (3W), commercial vehicle (CV) and passenger vehicle (PV) registrations fell 8.78 per cent, 51.31 per cent, 25 per cent and 4.46 per cent, respectively. Tractors continued to see strong momentum with a YoY growth of 11.14 per cent, FADA said. The association added that non-availability of vehicles due to scarcity of semiconductors, fading pent-up demand and recent price hikes coupled with no festivities and auspicious days landed January registrations in the negative zone. While dealer inventory for PVs continued to fall and come in the range of 10-15 days, 2W inventory stayed put at 30-35 days, it said. PV retail sales in January were recorded at 2,81,666 units, as a semiconductor shortage impacted the segment, compared with 2,94,817 units in January 2020. Similarly, 2W sales declined to 11,63,322 units (12,75,308 units).
- 3) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday announced its plan to buy bonds worth Rs. 20,000 crore under Open Market Operations (OMO) to support the government's borrowing programme. "On a review of current liquidity and financial conditions, therefore, the Reserve Bank has decided to conduct purchase of government securities under OMO for an aggregate amount of Rs 20,000 crore on February 10, 2021," the central bank said in a press release.
- 4) The RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent and maintained the policy stance as 'accommodative' in its bi-monthly monetary policy meeting. Besides, it projected the GDP growth of 10.5 per cent in FY22 for India while projection for CPI-based inflation was revised to 5.2 per cent for Q4FY21. RBI governor Shaktikanta Das also announced normalisation of CRR which, he said, would open up space for a variety of market operations to inject additional liquidity. Furthermore, absence of any concrete measures as expected by a set of bond traders weighed on the yields with 10-yr Gsec yields jumping 8bps from 6.07 per cent to 6.15 per cent. In another development, Das announced direct online participation by retail investors in Government securities in both primary and secondary market is a big initiative which will broaden the investor base.
- 5) Activity in India's services sector expanded for the fourth straight month in January as the Covid-19 vaccination roll-out drove business optimism, a private survey showed on Wednesday. The IHS India Services Business Activity Index rose to 52.8 in January from 52.3 in December, suggesting the pace of growth was moderate. The 50-point mark separates expansion from contraction. But it should be noted that the PMI is a month-over-month indicator, showing improvement over the previous month, and not over the previous year. "The Indian services sector enjoyed good levels of activity in January, with new business volumes rising for the fourth successive month and growth rates for both measures picking up from December," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS

Markit. "The service sector looks set to sustain growth and confidence towards hiring may improve as COVID-19 concerns diminish," De Lima added.

- 6) In the Union Budget 2021-22, the FM announced capital expenditure of Rs. 5.54 trillion for FY22 (sharp increase of 34.5%) over last year's Rs. 4.39 trillion for FY21. Further, she announced the FY22 disinvestment target at Rs 1.75 trillion. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will go for an initial public offering (IPO) in FY22 as well. Further, allocation of Rs. 20,000 crore toward setting up a development financial institution (DFI) to have lending portfolio of Rs. 5 trillion over the next three year with the aim to mobilise funding required fulfilling National Infrastructure Plan (NIP).
- 7) FY21 fiscal deficit was pegged at 9.5 per cent of GDP. The optimism despite higher borrowing and a wider fiscal deficit, was on account of the positive measures to revive the Covid-19 hit economy. That said, while the fiscal deficit number and the gross borrowing estimates are a tad higher-than-expected, the money is being put to good use. The government plans to borrow around Rs. 12 trillion in FY22 and has pegged fiscal deficit at 6.8 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Sitharaman said the government will be borrowing an additional Rs. 80,000 crore in this fiscal to meet its deficit for 2020-21, pegged at 9.5 per cent of the GDP. Therefore, the total gross borrowing this fiscal would be Rs. 14 trillion.
- 8) As per the budget proposals, the government plans to start the process of privatisation for two more public sector banks, other than IDBI Bank, and two insurance companies in fiscal 2021-22 which is a bold move. Remember, privatisation of banks has been promised long by successive governments but there has not been much of a progress. PSU stocks have rallied post the announcements as investors cheered the proposal. Privatisation of PSBs has not been taken by governments also because this is a politically sensitive decision.
- 9) Stressed Asset Resolution: Asset Reconstruction Company Limited and Asset Management Company to be set up. This entity, called as a 'bad bank', will give a big reprieve to NPA-ridden banks by absorbing the toxic assets and freeing them to pursue fresh lending. A bad bank will act as an aggregator of all stressed assets in the system. It is set up to buy the bad loans and other illiquid holdings of another financial institution. Once toxic assets are transferred to this entity, attempts for an early resolution by experts begins while originating banks can focus on their business. The bad bank idea has been supported by senior bankers and other financial sector experts citing that the idea will help for quicker bad asset resolution. The recovery through debt recovery tribunals and Insolvency and bankruptcy code (IBC) mechanism has been limited to only a few large cases. A bad bank could help in better bad loan resolution through an ARC model. In May 2020, when the IBA submitted its proposal to a government but the concept didn't take off at that point.
- 10) The extension of tax exemption schemes in Affordable Housing will have a strong positive effect on various sectors related to it.
- 11) The Government provided benefits to sectors which focus "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" or a self-reliant India in difficult times of COVID-19. The Budget would encourage industries to be 'vocal for local' for a future-ready India.
- 12) To make India future ready for any pandemic crisis in future, Healthcare sector got benefits with increased allocation and more specific allocation of Rs. 35,000 crores towards COVID-19 vaccination drive.
- 13) GST collections surged to an all-time high of about Rs. 1.20 lakh crore in January, 2021 as economic activities picked up after the withdrawal of stringent lockdown restrictions. Mop-up from the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which is levied when a consumable item is sold or a service such as travel booking rendered, in January was 8 per cent higher than such receipts in the same month of 2020. In a statement, the Finance Ministry said the January collections were the highest ever since the implementation of the nationwide tax in July 2017. The previous best was in December 2020 when Rs 1,15,174 crore was collected. This is the fourth straight month of over Rs 1 lakh crore tax collections, a sign of strong recovery.
- 14) India forecast robust economic growth of 11% for the fiscal year beginning on April 1 in its annual economic survey, on the back of the beginning of a nationwide coronavirus vaccination drive and a rebound in consumer demand. The Indian economy, which the International Monetary Fund singled out as a global bright spot only a few years ago, is set to contract 7.7% in this fiscal year, to March 31, the deepest contraction in four decades, the government said in the survey. But the government predicts the rollout of vaccines against COVID-19 will re-energise Asia's third-largest economy with 11% growth next year, putting it on track to post the strongest growth since India liberalised its economy in 1991. "With the economy's returning to normalcy brought closer by the initiation of a mega vaccination drive, hopes of a robust recovery in services sector, consumption, and investment have been rekindled," said the survey.



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- 15) India has given the first dose of covid antidote to 70,017,114 beneficiaries in the nation-wide vaccination drive. India became the fastest country in the world to reach the 5 million Covid-19 vaccination mark.
- 16) Earlier, The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways approved a proposal to levy 'Green Tax' on old vehicles which are polluting the environment. It is estimated that commercial vehicles, which constitute about 5% of the total vehicle fleet, contribute about 65-70% of total vehicular pollution. The older fleet, typically manufactured before the year 2000 constitute less than 1 % of the total fleet but contributes around 15% of total vehicular pollution. These older vehicles pollute 10-25 times more than modern vehicles, the ministry added. The proposal will now go to the states for consultation before it is formally notified, said Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri. Nitin Gadkari. Along with that, the minister also approved the policy of deregistration and scrapping of vehicles owned by government department and PSU, which are above 15 years in age. Prasad also said that it would come into effect from 1st April, 2022. The main principles to be followed while levying the Green Tax are:
 - a) Transport vehicles older than 8 years could be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of fitness certificate, at the rate of 10 to 25 % of road tax;
 - b) Personal vehicles to be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of Registration Certification after 15 years;
 - c) Public transport vehicles, such as city buses, to be charged lower Green tax;
 - d) Higher Green tax (50% of Road Tax) for vehicles being registered in highly polluted cities
 - e) Differential tax, depending on fuel (petrol/diesel) and type of vehicle;
 - f) Vehicles like strong hybrids, electric vehicles and alternate fuels like CNG, ethanol,LPG etc to be exempted;
 - g) Vehicles used in farming, such as tractor, harvester, tiller etc to be exempted;
 - h) Revenue collected from the Green Tax to be kept in a separate account and used for tackling pollution, and for States to set up state-of-art facilities for emission monitoring
- 16) India's non-banking finance companies (NBFC) need tighter regulation through creation of a multilayer model, said a discussion paper by the Reserve Bank of India on Friday. The paper proposed a structure to categorise NBFCs, or shadow banks, depending on their size and interconnectedness with the system. NBFCs in the lower layer will be known as NBFC-Base Layer (NBFC-BL). NBFCs in the middle layer will be known as NBFC-Middle Layer (NBFC-ML). An NBFC in the Upper Layer will be known as NBFC-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) and will invite a new regulatory superstructure. It proposed a NBFC non-performing classification norm of 180 days be "harmonised" to 90 days. "In view of the recent stress in the sector, it has become imperative to reexamine the suitability of this regulatory approach, especially when failure of an extremely large NBFC can precipitate systemic risks," said the paper.
- 17) State-owned telecom companies BSNL and MTNL turned EBITDA positive in the first half of financial year 2020-21, DoT. The Department of Telecom (DoT) also said that the process for spectrum allocation for 4G services to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) on pan-India basis, including Delhi and Mumbai, has been initiated and funds have been provisioned in FY2020-21. Summing up the developments in the sector in its year-end review for 2020, the DoT in a release said that overall 92,956 employees of both the public sector companies (PSUs) who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) have retired on January 31, 2020. "The salary expenditure in BSNL and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd) has reduced by around 50 per cent (about Rs. 600 crore per month) and 75 per cent (about Rs 140 crore per month), respectively. EBIDTA (Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation) have become positive in first half of FY 2020-21 in both BSNL and MTNL," it said.

Global markets

- 1) Equity markets in China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan were all on holiday. Asian equities have settled at record highs on Thursday by the promise of endless free money after a benign reading on U.S. inflation and a dovish Federal Reserve outlook.
- 2) MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan added 0.1 per cent. Japan's Nikkei was shut after ending at a 30-year peak on Wednesday, while Australia's main index held near an 11-month top.

Ajcon Global's view

- 1) Domestic bourses were lacklustre today. However, midcaps and smallcaps continued to rally on good earnings show in Q3FY21 and likely to improve further. Last 2 days underperformance can be attributed to profit booking, FADA report that showed automobile registrations declined in January 2021 auto sales. Benchmark indices took a pause after stellar rally of around 10 percent in Sensex and Nifty after one of its kind of Budget presented with significant outlay for investment led spending across infrastructure building like roads, power, railways, airports, ports, shipping, waterways etc. and with no changes in capital gains taxes or securities transaction tax (STT) or any form of Covid-19 pandemic-related tax which brought happiness at Dalal Street. Various PSUs have been re-rated as Privatisation agenda of the Government has made investors happy as its a bold move. With robust rally of around 10 percent in benchmark indices which reflects upsurge in Largecaps in just a week's time; naturally its turn of



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midcaps and smallcaps to join the party too which was reflected in today's trading session . Jan. 2018 levels may soon approach fast considering the intensity of the euphoria post the Budget proposals. Sentiments were buoyant post Budget as Government chose to revive growth which is the need of the hour owing to unprecedented crisis of COVID-19 and let fiscal prudence take a backseat (allowed fiscal deficit to remain high). Overall, the FM presented a reformist budget and good measures for the banking sector in 2021 especially with respect to the privatisation agenda. We rate this Union Budget as 8.5/10 and will be remembered for a long time.

- 2) FPIs too cheered Budget announcements and have re-rated various sectors. They were on a significant buying spree after the Budget for continuous 6 trading days after selling heavily in the previous week of the Union Budget 2021-22 presentation.
- 3) The Nifty valuations are trading around 35x which looks expensive but with recent budget proposals one will need to watch out the effect on corporate earnings. Q3FY21 earnings season has been good for majority of the players till date and re-rating has already happened in infrastructure, Banks, NBFCs, auto and overall PSUs sector.
- 4) Domestically, all eyes would be on ongoing Q3FY21 earnings season after strong result by Companies like TCS, Hindustan Unilever, Maruti, Tata Motors, Colgate, SBI, Central Bank, Bank of India, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Shriram Transport Finance, IIFL Finance, Ajanta Pharma, Avenue Supermarts (Dmart), Tata Elxsi, Bajaj Auto, Ceat, JK Tyre, Bajaj Auto, Bajaj Electricals, Polycab, NMDC, BEML, Amber Enterprises, Route Mobile, J.B. Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, Balaji Amines, Neuland Laboratories etc.
- 5) With Union Budget 2021-22 presented and RBI's Monetary Policy keeping rates unchanged, all eyes would be now on ongoing Q3FY21 earnings season which has been robust and FPI liquidity after stellar run. The Budget proposals are long term in nature. The implementation of all these budget provisions may take some time. Hence, short term investors are advised to book partial profits.



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