

## **Sensex zooms over 600 points; Nifty above 14,700 mark**

The Indian benchmark indices traded over 1% higher in Tuesday's early deals as investors returned to their trading terminals after three days. The stock market was shut on Monday, March 29, 2021, on account of Holi.

At 9:47 AM, the frontline S&P BSE Sensex was trading at 49,645, up 636 points or 1.30%. Market breadth is positive and out of a total of 2,225 shares traded on the Bombay Stock Exchange, 1,537 advanced while 576 declined and 112 remained unchanged. The broader Nifty50 was at 14,702, levels, up 195 points or 1.35%.

Majority of the Nifty sectoral indices were painted green, with the Nifty Metal index, up 3%, leading the gainers. FMCG and Pharma indices added over 1% each.

In the broader markets, the S&P BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices traded 0.9% higher, each.

## **WEEKLY REVIEW – MARCH 22 TO MARCH 26, 2021**

The domestic barometers dropped in the week ended Friday, March 26, 2021 as concerns pertaining to recent rise in Covid-19 cases in various parts of the country continued to weigh on investors' sentiments. Additionally, weak cues from global markets also impacted sentiment. The Nifty index held its key 14,500 level.

In the week ended on Friday, March 26, 2021, the Sensex dropped 849.74 points or 1.70% to settle at 49,008.50. The Nifty50 index lost 236.70 points or 1.61% to settle at 14,507.30. The BSE Midcap index slipped 74.13 or 0.37% to settle at 19,970.37. The BSE Smallcap index skid 191.58 points or 0.94% to settle at 20,278.96.

## **GLOBAL MARKETS**

Asian share markets edged higher on Monday while oil prices slipped as the ship blocking the Suez Canal was re-floated, raising hopes the vital waterway could reopen and ease global shipping backlogs.

The news added to optimism about world growth as markets look to President Joe Biden to outline his infrastructure spending plans this week, which could supercharge an already accelerating US recovery.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan added 0.3%, with activity restrained by the approach of quarter end. Chinese blue chips rose 0.8%.

Japan's Nikkei gained 1%, though there was some nervousness when Nomura reported its US unit could face a \$2 billion loss related to a client.

## **OIL, RUPEE & FIIs**

**Crude Oil:** Crude prices inched up on a report that Russia would back broadly stable oil output when the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies meet this week.

Brent crude was down 15 cents, or 0.2%, at \$64.83 a barrel by 0115 GMT, after gaining 0.6% on Monday. US oil was down 1 cent at \$61.55 a barrel, having fallen 1% in the previous session.

**Indian Rupee:** The Indian rupee has logged over 4% gain so far this fiscal, as sustained foreign fund inflows and the RBI's deft policy manoeuvring ensured a strong year for the Indian currency despite headwinds on the economic front.

**FPIs:** For the current financial year, foreign investors have poured in USD 35.22 billion, the biggest inflows after 2014-15. India has attracted the highest-ever foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows at USD 67.54 billion during the first nine months of the financial year 2020-21.

## **WEEK AHEAD**

Volatility is likely to remain high as this week is a truncated week and market participation to is likely to be muted. The stock market was shut on Monday, March 29, 2021, on account of Holi. Markets will again remain closed on Friday, April 1, 2021, on account of Good Friday.

Global central bank's policy decisions, trend in global stock markets, macro data, movement of rupee against the dollar, Brent crude oil price movement and investments by foreign portfolio investors (FPI) and domestic institutional investors (DII) will be watched.

Global cues will continue to be in focus as resurgence in virus cases around the world, leads to more restrictions and more pressure on economic recovery. Updates related to COVID-19 will be closely watched. Also, on the radar will be news on Covid vaccine development.

India recorded a 51% jump in weekly Covid-19 cases, with the current week's numbers 1.3 lakh higher than the count in the previous seven days, making it the biggest weekly spike in

infections till date. Deaths too saw the sharpest-ever rise of 51%, with 1,875 fatalities during the week, the highest since December 21-27.

With fresh cases hitting a 168-day high of 68,266 on Sunday as Maharashtra reported a record 40,414 infections, India logged over 3.9 lakh cases during the week (March 22-28), the highest since October.

India's infrastructure output data for February will be unveiled on March 31, 2021.

Auto stocks will be in focus as auto companies will start announcing monthly sales numbers for March starting from April 1, 2021.

Overseas, China will announce the Caixin Manufacturing PMI for March on April 1, 2021.

The US Markit Manufacturing PMI for March will also be declared on April 1, 2021.

The Euro Area Markit Manufacturing PMI for March will be too declared on April 1, 2021.

**Source:** Reuters, Capital Market, ET

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