

Business Standard

How markets performed last week

	Index on Oct 25, '19	*One-week Local currency	% Chg over Dec 31, '18 in US \$
Sensex	39,250	-0.12	8.82
Nifty	11,627	-0.30	7.04
Dow Jones	26,958	0.70	15.56
Nasdaq	8,243	1.90	24.23
Hang Seng	26,667	-0.20	3.18
Nikkei	22,800	1.37	13.91
FTSE	7,324	2.43	8.86
DAX	12,895	2.07	22.12
			18.02

Sensex Nifty Data on Oct 27. *Change (%) over previous week, Source Bloomberg; Compiled by BS Research Bureau



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PAK DENIES USE OF AIRSPACE TO MODI'S FLIGHT

COMPANIES P2
INDIGO'S WIDENING INTERNATIONAL GAMBIT



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NOT SELLING GOLD FROM RESERVES: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hasn't sold any gold recently, nor is it trading in the metal, the monetary authority said in a tweet on Sunday. Newspapers had reported on Friday that the RBI started trading in gold actively since July, buying gold worth \$5.1 billion and selling \$1.15 billion worth. News reports cited data from the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement. "The fluctuation in value depicted in Weekly Statistical Supplement is due to change in frequency of revaluation from monthly to weekly basis and is based on international prices of gold and exchange rates," the RBI said. **PTI**



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Khattar, Chautala take oath in Haryana

Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday took oath as chief minister for the second time and Dushyant Chautala was sworn-in as his deputy as the BJP formed the government with the help of the JJP in Haryana. Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya administered oath to them at a ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan here on Diwali. Other ministers of the Khattar Cabinet are expected to be sworn-in after a few days.

BS ON MONDAY SPECIALS

BUSINESS LAW: Decrypting the intermediary norms

Arguments on data decryption fuelled a debate on primacy of national security over individual privacy **GEETIKA SRIVASTAVA** writes

POLITICS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS: A bit down but not out

How Vasundhara, Chouhan and Raman Singh are placed in the post-defeat scenario **RADHIKA RAMASESHAN** writes

RESULTS RECKONER

Quarter ended Sep 30, 2019; common sample of 382 companies (results available of 431)

SALES	Sep 30, '18	%	₹7.13 trillion
Sep 30, '19	4.2%	₹7.43 trillion	
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	Sep 30, '18	%	₹95,861 crore
Sep 30, '19	18.5%	₹1.13 trillion	
NET PROFIT	Sep 30, '18	%	₹65,238 crore
Sep 30, '19	24.0%	₹80,863 crore	

Companies with zero sales excluded; Given the change in corporate tax rates, to give a fair comparison the profit before tax has been considered; Compiled by BS Research Bureau; Source: Capitaline

Markets start Samvat 2076 on positive note

Sensex gains 192 points; mid- and small-caps outperform benchmarks

SUNDAR SETHURAMAN
Mumbai, 27 October

Samvat 2076 started on a positive note for the equity markets with the benchmark Sensex ending the ceremonial one-hour-long trading session with a gain of nearly 200 points on Sunday. Across-the-board buying was seen with the broader market mid- and small-cap indices outperforming the benchmarks. After gaining as much as 344 points, the Sensex settled at 39,250, or 0.5 per cent, higher at 39,250, while the Nifty 50 index logged gains of 0.38 per cent, or 44 points, to end at 11,628.

A lot of individual stocks witnessed high trading activity, reacting to news flow over the weekend. Shares of Tata Motors rallied 16.5 per cent, the most among Sensex components, buoyed by promoter Tata Sons' decision to infuse ₹6,500 crore into the company by way of rights issue.

YES Bank gained 5 per cent — extending the monthly gain to 70 per cent — to end at ₹55. Shares of Reliance Industries ended with gains of only 0.24 per cent even as the company announced the plan to make its telecom venture Jio debt-free by transferring liabilities of ₹1.08 trillion to a new entity.

The move is seen as a precursor to listing Jio. Shares of Infosys gained nearly 2 per cent as concerns around corporate governance lapses eased. Overall, 23 Sensex stocks ended with gains and only eight ended with losses.

On the BSE, the advance-decline ratio was three-to-one in favour of the gainers.

The Nifty Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 added 0.64 per cent and 1.22 per cent, respectively. The outperformance triggered hopes among investors present at the BSE that the New Year could lead to a reversal in prospects of stocks outside the large-cap universe. In Samvat 2075, the small index had hugely underperformed the Sensex, with the former dropping 10 per cent and the latter gaining 12 per cent. "After tough two years, we will have a much broader-based rally this year," said Ramesh



Actor Rajkumar Rao rings the opening bell for Samvat trading at the BSE on Sunday, along with other officials **PHOTO: KAMLESH PEDNEKAR**

SENSEX INTRA-DAY



Source: Industry

Street thumbs up to RIL's 'debt-free Jio'

The Reliance Industries (RIL) stock gained 0.4 per cent in Mahurat trading, as the Street cheered the company's plans of a new structure that will make its telecom arm Reliance Jio debt-free, which could be followed by its potential listing. Sunday's reaction was the first following Friday's announcement. **Turn to Page 5**



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SEEKING QUALITY IN TOUGH TIMES

The kicker for the market as a whole could come through if the ongoing reforms, tax cuts, further fall in interest rates and likely pick-up in investment/consumption cycle boost GDP growth. This could be a trigger for earnings growth and a market-wide re-rating. **RAM PRASAD SAHU, HAMSINI KARTHIK, LUVJAL JAUHARI and SHREEPAD AUTE** write

Damani, member, BSE. The return expectations remain modest stepping into the new Hindu calendar year. **Turn to Page 5**

EDIT: FAITH IN THE STOCK MARKET

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GVK keeps Adanis out of Mumbai airport

Group sells 79% stake in airport biz to 3 investors

ANEESH PHADNIS
Mumbai, 27 October

The GVK group will raise ₹7,614 crore by selling 79.1 per cent stake in its airport business to three investors to pare debt and stave off the Adani group's proposed acquisition in Mumbai airport. The group on Sunday announced signing off a definitive agreement with the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), PSP Investments of Canada, and the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) for selling stake in its airport business holding company.



The proceeds from the transaction will be used by GVK to retire around ₹5,500-crore debt of its holding companies and fund the purchase of additional shares in Mumbai International Airport (MIAL) from two South African entities — Bidvest and Airports Company South Africa.

PLAN TO SELL

The GVK group owns 50.5% in Mumbai airport and 74% in Navi Mumbai airport, which is being developed

PURPOSE

Money from stake sale will help pare debt and buy 23.5% in Mumbai airport from Bidvest and Airports Company South Africa

LEGAL BATTLE

GVK and Adani are locked in a legal battle for acquisition of Bidvest shares in Mumbai airport

EARLIER EXIT

The GVK group exited Bengaluru International Airport selling 43% to Fairfax in 2 tranches

An arbitration tribunal has given the GVK group time till October 31 to deposit ₹1,248 crore for acquiring Bidvest's 13.5 per cent stake. A GVK spokesperson said funds required for purchasing shares in MIAL will be transferred to an escrow account before October 31.

After the stake sale, the GVK group will continue to have management control of its airport business. GVK Reddy will continue as executive chairman and G V Sanjay Reddy as managing director in both MIAL and Navi Mumbai International Airport, he said. **Turn to Page 5**

New rules on cards to govern OTC medicines



TURNING A NEW LEAF

The government is coming up with a new schedule for over-the-counter (OTC) drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act

CURRENT STATUS

Multiple categories, depending on risk factor and therapeutic value

No clear definition

FUTURE PLANS

Govt plans to govern sale, quality, prices and advertising norms of OTC drugs

To increase availability; make these available at retail stores

Labelling in local languages, with information on safety, how to use, expiry and common side effects

Drug packs could be according to desirable dosages to avoid prolonged use

SOHINI DAS
Mumbai, 27 October

If you have fever, you need to go to a pharmacy to get even a paracetamol, a common drug for fever and pain. But, the government plans to soon make such drugs available at local retail outlets, with their labelling containing important information — preferred dosage and side effects — in local languages.

This is expected to help people in rural and far-flung areas, where pharmacies are rare.

"A new schedule is likely to be created under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for OTC (over-the-counter) drugs so that these commonly used medicines that are not 'prescription only' and are relatively safe to use can be governed," said a senior government official who did not want to be named.

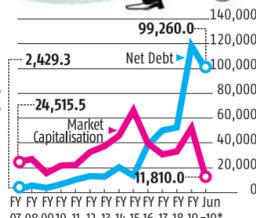
He added: "There is a need to make such drugs available to more people. This will reduce the cost of treatment." The official said many people preferred to self-medicate instead of going to a doctor, which is expensive for them.

Paracetamol is an OTC drug. There are no norms at present to regulate these. **Turn to Page 5**

AGR shocks to Vodafone Idea balance sheet



A BIG GAP BETWEEN DEBT AND EQUITY VALUE
Trend in Vodafone Idea net debt and market capitalisation (₹ crore)



*Market capitalisation as on October 25, 2019 Source: Capitaline, company

Promoters unlikely to fund dues; telecom firm will have to raise funds on its own

KRISHNA KANT & DEV CHATTERJEE
Mumbai, 27 October

The promoters of Vodafone Idea have indicated they are not liable for the ₹28,300-crore dues imposed on the company because of the Supreme Court decision on the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) for mobile operators. This is likely to adversely impact Vodafone Idea balance sheet as the company will have to raise funds on its own books. According to the apex court judgment, telecom operators have three months to pay the AGR dues.

The promoters of Vodafone Idea, Vodafone PLC and the Aditya Birla group entities, are of the opinion that the liability is on the company and the promoters' liability is now limited to the equity exposure.

The pending licence fee dues of combined entity of Vodafone Idea amount to nearly ₹28,300 crore equivalent to more than a third of the company's estimated net worth at the end of June this year. According to analysts estimate, the company had a net

worth of around ₹80,000 crore at the end of Q1FY20, accounting for ₹25,000 crore worth of rights issue and company's net loss during the quarter.

Analysts say that additional borrowings by the company to fund the AGR levy would wipe out the financial gains that accrued to the company after the rights issue. The fund infusion by the promoters post the rights issue led to a sharp fall in the company's leverage ratio and provided it the surplus cash to fund capex for next two years. The company spent around ₹2,840 crore on capex during the first quarter of FY20 and reported a net loss of ₹4,874 crore in the first quarter.

Vodafone Idea net debt declined to around ₹99,000 crore at the end of June this year from ₹1.18 trillion at the end of March this year. In the same period, the company's net debt to equity ratio improved to 1.2 times — the lowest in the past five years, from twice at the end of March this year. The company reported cash and equivalent worth ₹21,180 crore at end of the first quarter.

Emails sent to Vodafone PLC and the Aditya Birla group did not elicit any response.

Analysts said the post the Supreme Court judgment on the AGR, the company will now have to go back to the drawing board regarding its finances.

"Vodafone Idea has indicated that it could also look at filing a review application if there are any technical or procedural grounds to do so. Assuming no relief comes through, the outstanding liability (and another potential large demand for past SUC (spectrum usage charges underpayment) would make the already-stressed situation even tougher for Vodafone Idea. The company may need to resort to another large equity raise round to fund these payouts. This may not be easy, however, given that the amounts we are talking about are a multiple of the company's current market capitalisation," said analysts, Rohit Chordia and Aniket Sethi of Kotak Institutional Equities Research. **Turn to Page 5**