Mcap of nine of top-10 most valued firms jumps Rs 2.51 lakh crore; Bajaj Finance biggest winner

NEW DELHI, AUG 02: The combined market valuation of nine of the top-10 most-valued firms jumped Rs 2.51 lakh crore last week, with Bajaj Finance emerging as the biggest winner, in tandem with a positive trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 2,034.87 points, or 2.67 per cent, and the NSE Nifty surged 616.15 points, or 2.59 per cent.

"Markets staged a strong rebound during the week, snapping their recent losing streak as easing crude oil prices, improving geopolitical sentiment, encouraging Q1 FY27 earnings, and renewed foreign institutional investor (FII) buying lifted risk appetite," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

While Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the gainers from the top-10 pack, Hindustan Unilever emerged as the only laggard.

The market valuation of Bajaj Finance surged Rs 80,345.97 crore to Rs 7,10,817.51 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. Shares of NBFC Bajaj Finance on Friday ended over 8 per cent higher after the firm reported a 28 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) for the June quarter of FY27.

Bharti Airtel's valuation soared Rs 44,959.5 crore to reach Rs 12,30,005.63 crore.

The market valuation of TCS jumped Rs 40,414.03 crore to Rs 8,55,894.78 crore and that of Reliance Industries climbed Rs 39,447.35 crore to Rs 17,69,108.79 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Larsen & Toubro rallied Rs 21,096.8 crore to Rs 5,41,844.69 crore and that of State Bank of India edged higher by Rs 10,845.97 crore to Rs 9,47,799.81 crore.

HDFC Bank's mcap advanced Rs 8,164.73 crore to Rs 11,52,150.63 crore.

The valuation of LIC went up Rs 4,427.49 crore to Rs 5,37,435.05 crore and that of ICICI Bank climbed Rs 1,660.37 crore to Rs 10,29,878.30 crore.

However, the mcap of Hindustan Unilever declined Rs 10,326.46 crore to Rs 4,93,602.13 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, TCS, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, LIC, and Hindustan Unilever.

CBI files FIR against Reliance Capital, Anil Ambani over alleged Rs 1,800 crore EPFO fraud

MUMBAI, AUG 02: The CBI has registered an FIR on the basis of a written complaint received from Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The FIR has been filed against Reliance Capital Limited (RCL), its former chairman Anil D Ambani, unknown public servants, and other persons for allegedly causing a wrongful loss of Rs 1,007.55 crore, along with an interest liability of Rs 808.67 crore. The accused have been booked for offences including criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust, and criminal misconduct.

As per the complaint, during 2013 and 2014, RCL issued secured Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs). EPFO invested Rs 2,500 crore in these NCDs through four portfolio managers, including Reliance Capital Asset Management Limited. The NCDs were due to mature during 2023 and 2024. It is further alleged that the accused indulged in fraudulent transactions and diversion of funds. This resulted in a default in the redemption of the NCDs by Reliance Capital Limited, causing a total alleged loss of Rs 1,816.22 crore to EPFO.

CBI has taken up the investigation to identify the role of all persons involved, including public servants and private individuals. It will also examine the alleged criminal conspiracy and trace the end use of the invested funds.

It may be recalled that CBI had earlier registered seven FIRs against Reliance Communications Limited (RCom), Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL), Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL), and Reliance Telecom Limited (RTL). Those cases were filed on the basis of complaints received from various Public Sector Banks and LIC.

So far, CBI has filed four chargesheets and arrested seven accused persons in the Reliance ADA Group cases. These cases are under investigation and are being monitored by the Supreme Court. CBI has reiterated its commitment to conducting an expeditious and comprehensive probe.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by Anil Ambani's spokesperson said, "The FIR registered by the CBI pertains to Reliance Capital Limited. Mr Ambani served as a Non-Executive Director/Chairman of the Board of Reliance Capital Limited from 2005 until November 2021, when the Reserve Bank of India superseded the Board of Directors of the company and appointed an administrator."

It further stated, "Mr Ambani denies any wrongdoing, whatsoever, and reserves all rights available to him in law."

FSSAI acts against liquor makers over flavour, labelling violations

NEW DELHI [INDIA], AUGUST 2 : The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has initiated enforcement action against several alcoholic beverage manufacturers over alleged violations related to flavour usage, misleading labelling and age claims, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Sunday.

In an official statement, the Ministry said the action was taken after FSSAI found certain manufacturers were adding external flavours that mimic the inherent aroma and taste of standard alcoholic beverages and selling them as regular rum or whisky, contrary to existing food safety regulations. GeographicReference

According to the Ministry, such products are "not only sub-standard but are also misrepresented by using the names of standard categories" and should instead be identified as "Rum-flavoured Spirit" or "Whisky-flavoured Spirit", while clearly disclosing their true nature on the front of the pack.

The Ministry said laboratory testing of rum and whisky samples from multiple manufacturers found the presence of external artificial or nature-identical flavours. It quoted laboratory findings as saying that "the addition of artificial flavours is masking its natural flavour and making the product substandard", adding that failure to describe such products as "flavoured/premix rum" on the label could mislead consumers.

Clarifying the regulatory position, the Ministry said the issue is not with the use of flavouring substances in general, which are permitted under food safety regulations where supported by a legitimate technological justification. Rather, it concerns the practice of adding the flavour of the standardised alcoholic beverage itself, such as rum flavour in rum or whisky flavour in whisky.

"The present matter... concerns the practice adopted by certain manufacturers of adding the flavour of the standardised alcoholic beverage itself, for instance, the addition of rum flavour in rum or whisky flavour in whisky," the statement said. GeographicReference

The Ministry also said the "7 years old blended" claim on a brand's rum variant was found to be misleading. It said FSSAI's investigation found the product primarily contained neutral, unaged spirit, while matured rum spirit accounted for less than 5 per cent of the blend. Under the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018, the age claim of a blended spirit should be based on the youngest spirit in the blend, it added.

NSE, NCAER hold investor awareness seminar under SEBI initiative to promote financial literacy

MUMBAI , AUGUST 2: The National Stock Exchange (NSE), in collaboration with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) under SEBI's investor awareness initiative, organised an investor awareness seminar aimed at promoting financial literacy, informed investing and investor protection.

According to the post shared by NSE on X, the seminar brought together "students and faculty members for an engaging session on financial literacy, investor awareness protection and market development."

NSE said Dr C S Mohapatra, IEPF Chair Professor at NCAER, who attended the event as the chief guest, "shared valuable insights on awareness and protection measures [and] the importance of informed investing."

The exchange said NCAER Senior Research Analyst Depannita Ghosh highlighted "the breadth, depth and inclusiveness of the markets and the way forward."

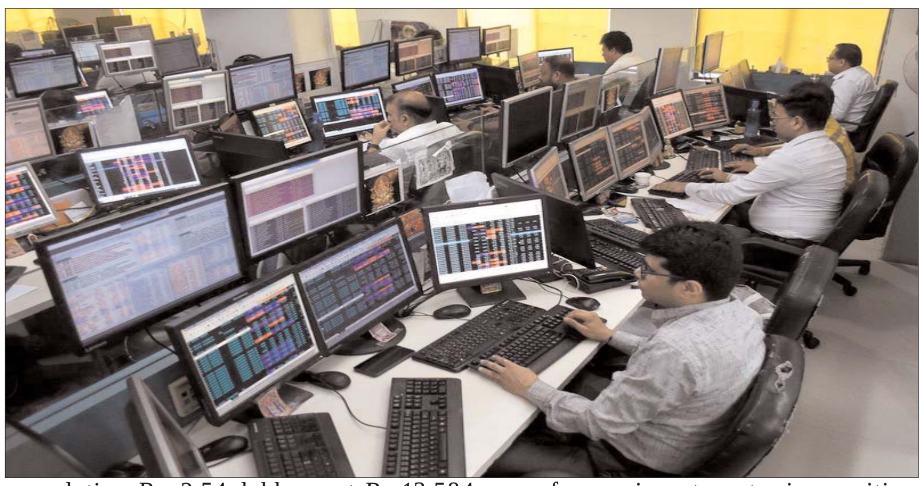
Gaurav Motwani, Assistant Vice President at NSE, addressed participants on investing in capital markets, investor protection initiatives and "fraud and scam prevention," the exchange said.

According to NSE, the seminar also featured an interactive quiz that witnessed enthusiastic participation, while the programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Vivek Dua, Chief Manager, NSE.

Under SEBI's Investor Education and Awareness Programme, recognised stock exchanges regularly organise awareness programmes to improve financial literacy, educate investors about their rights and responsibilities, and promote informed participation in the securities market. NSE conducts such programmes for students, professionals, self-help groups and the general public across the country.

Concluding the update, NSE said, "Together, we continue our commitment to creating an informed and financially empowered investor community." (ANI)

Foreign investors return to Indian equities in July, buy shares worth Rs 20,200 cr



MUMBAI, AUGUST 2: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) turned net buyers of Indian equities in July, ending a four-month selling streak, while continuing to invest heavily in the debt market, according to data from the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL).

NSDL data showed FPIs made a net investment of Rs 20,200 crore in Indian equities during July, reversing net outflows of Rs 49,340 crore in June, Rs 32,963 crore in May, Rs 60,847 crore in April and Rs 1.18 lakh crore in March. The last month of net equity buying was February, when FPIs invested Rs 22,615 crore.

Despite the rebound in July, overseas investors remain net sellers in Indian equities for the calendar year, having withdrawn a cumulative Rs 2.54 lakh crore between January and July. Foreign investors also continued to show strong appetite for Indian debt. Under the general debt route, FPIs invested Rs 29,212 crore in July. They also invested Rs 3,033 crore through the debt-VRR route, although they pulled out Rs 13,584 crore from debt instruments under the VRR category during the month.

Overall, net foreign portfolio investment across asset classes stood at Rs 40,031 crore in July, making it the strongest monthly inflow of the calendar year so far. The figure includes investments in equities, debt, hybrid instruments, mutual funds and alternative investment funds.

According to NSDL, the data is compiled on the basis of reports submitted by custodians to SEBI and depositories and reflects trades executed by FPIs up to July 31, 2026.

Corporate lending and personal loans dominate bank credit growth in Q1: SBI Research

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) [INDIA], AUGUST 2 : Corporate lending and personal loans together accounted for nearly two-thirds of incremental bank credit growth in the April-June quarter of FY27, with sectors such as petroleum, infrastructure, engineering and chemicals leading corporate borrowing, according to an SBI Research pre-Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) report.

The report said corporate lending and personal loans contributed around 63 per cent of incremental bank credit growth during the quarter.

\"The sectoral incremental credit growth data during Apr-June, 2026 indicates that 'industry and personal loans' has contributed Rs 63% of the incremental credit growth," SBI Research said in the report.

According to the report, lending to companies rose by Rs 1.87 lakh crore during the April-June period, with nearly half of the incremental corporate credit flowing to four sectors.

"Among industry, 'Petroleum, Coal Products and Nuclear Fuels', 'Infrastructure (especially Power)', 'Chemicals', and 'All Engineering' are contributing Rs 50% of the incremental industry credit," the report said.

The report showed that petroleum, coal products and nuclear fuels received the highest incremental credit of Rs 255 billion, followed by engineering (Rs 249 billion), infrastructure (Rs 217 billion) and chemicals (Rs 208 billion). Food processing, basic metals, transport equipment, construction and electronics also recorded notable growth in bank lending. GeographicReference On the retail side, loans against gold jewellery emerged as the single largest contributor to personal loan growth.

"Among personal loans, 42% (Rs 742 bn out of Rs 1,738 bn) is contributed by 'loans against gold jewellery' alone," the report said.

The report further showed that overall gross bank credit increased by Rs 5.67 lakh crore during the April-June quarter. On an annual basis, credit to corporates classified under the industry segment grew 19.2 per cent, while personal loans rose 15.8 per cent, indicating sustained demand from both businesses and households.

SBI Research said the sectoral credit trends indicate that business investment and retail borrowing remained the principal drivers of bank lending growth in the first quarter of FY27. (ANI)

SEBI bars ZEEL for 2 months, Subhash Chandra, Punit Goenka for 1 year in Hyderabad land pledge case

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: SEBI has prohibited Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) from the securities market for two months and its Chairman Emeritus Subhash Chandra and MD & CEO Punit Goenka for one year over unauthorised pledge of the company's Hyderabad land to secure loans availed by promoter-linked Essel Group entities.

Additionally, the regulator imposed a total penalty of Rs 1.48 crore on them, according to a 150-page final order passed late on Friday.

Individually, the regulator imposed penalties of Rs 30 lakh on ZEEL, Rs 60 lakh on Chandra, and Rs 58 lakh on Goenka.

The case relates to the execution of a Deposit and Declaration Agreement (D&A) on December 27, 2018, under which the original title deeds of ZEEL's Hyderabad property were handed over to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IHFL) as security for loans taken by Essel Home and other borrowing entities linked to the Essel Group.

SEBI noted that the deployment of ZEEL's property constituted a related-party transaction and the company failed to obtain prior approval from its audit committee, thereby violating LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) regulations.