Stock markets end marginally higher on spike in crude oil prices

MUMBAI, AUG 10: Market benchmark indices ended marginally higher on Monday, with the Sensex climbing over 43 points and the Nifty ending flat, amid a spike in crude oil prices due to geopolitical uncertainties.

The 30-share BSE Sensex was up 43.27 points, or 0.06 per cent, to settle at 78,542.44. During the day, it hit a high of 78,676.98 and a low of 78,298.92, gyrating 378.06 points.

The 50-share NSE Nifty went up marginally by 13.15 points, or 0.05 per cent, to end at 24,583.80.

From the Sensex pack, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, Asian Paints, and Infosys were among the major winners.

State Bank of India, Eternal, NTPC, ITC, and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.Geographic Reference

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.10 per cent to USD 84.47 per barrel. "Markets remained on a tight leash as uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz continued to temper risk appetite, even as encouraging corporate earnings lent support to broader sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Globally, softer-than-expected US jobs data weakened the case for Fed tightening, shifting investor focus to upcoming US inflation readings for fresh direction on rates and bond yields, he added.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 480.24 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

"Indian equity markets ended largely unchanged on Monday as rising crude oil prices and lingering uncertainty over developments in the Middle East offset optimism stemming from weaker-than-expected US jobs data, which reinforced expectations of a less restrictive Federal Reserve policy stance," Ponmudi R, CEO - Enrich Money, said.

With key inflation readings due in both India and the United States later this week, investors largely remained on the sidelines, awaiting fresh macroeconomic cues, he added.

In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended higher.

Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note.

US markets ended in positive territory on Friday.

On Friday, the Sensex dropped 455.59 points, or 0.58 per cent, to settle at 78,499.17. The Nifty dipped 65.35 points, or 0.27 per cent, to end at 24,570.65. (PTI)

CNH's India posts 42 pc jump in H1 tractor sales, eyes capacity boost as US tariff strain eases

NEW DELHI, AUG 10: Italian-American agriculture equipment firm CNH's India unit sold 30,248 tractors in the domestic market in the first half of the 2026 calendar year, a 42 per cent jump from a year earlier, posting its highest-ever market share in the country, its India head said on Monday.

In an interview to PTI, Narinder Mittal, President and Managing Director of CNH India, said exports rose about 20 per cent to 6,666 units in the same six-month period, outpacing the prior year despite headwinds from US tariffs earlier in 2026.

The New Delhi-based subsidiary, which operates the New Holland and Case IH brands in India, said the overall domestic tractor industry grew 25 per cent in the first half, meaning CNH significantly outgrew the market as a whole.

"We did quite well in H1, achieving our highest-ever market share in India. The industry grew 25 per cent, we grew 42 per cent, selling more than 30,000 tractors domestically," Mittal said.

"On exports, we sold 6,666 tractors in H1 this year, and growth this year has been close to 20 per cent."

Mittal said a cut in the goods and services tax (GST) and favourable monsoon conditions had driven a bumper first quarter, though he flagged softer sentiment that could weigh on sales in the second half.

"Now with the sentiment getting a little negative, we might see some drop in the industry in H2," he said.

"But overall put together for the entire calendar year, I believe still the demand should be good."

He credited last year's outperformance to the company's technology-driven products and expanding dealer network, as well as support from its financial services arm, CNH Capital.

CNH's expansion plans remain on track, with a fourth manufacturing facility planned near its existing Greater Noida plant, Mittal said.

"We've been allotted 100 acres by the Yamuna Expressway Authority. The new plant will be very close to the existing plant and will serve both the domestic and export markets," he said.

The facility, expected to be commissioned in early 2028, would roughly double CNH's annual tractor production capacity in India to about 1,20,000 units from around 70,000 currently. The existing plant produced 59,000 units in 2025.

Separately, CNH plans to launch a new compact tractor in the 25-30 HP range in the second half of 2028 for both domestic and export markets, including the US and Europe.

CNH's exports were briefly disrupted by US tariffs, Mittal said, but shipments have since resumed as the situation "eased out".

The United States accounts for about 30 per cent of the company's export mix, but Mittal said CNH has no plans to diversify away from its existing markets, adding that overall demand across the US, Europe and other regions "remains the same," with only local shifts in product mix.

"The overall market pool remains the same across the US, Europe, and other markets worldwide," he said, explaining that CNH manufactures one type of tractor tailored to each market.

CNH India's market share remains around 4.5 per cent, well behind sector leader Mahindra & Mahindra. Mittal attributed the company's historically modest scale to its longstanding focus on higher-horsepower tractors -- the 45-50 HP segment and above -- and said CNH has since moved to broaden its portfolio into lower horsepower categories.

"We came up with a smart series of tractors and compact tractors that we've been supplying to Indian farmers. Now we have the complete range available in the Indian market, and growing our network will help us grow market share further," he said.

About the feasibility of reaching double-digit market share within five to six years, Mittal expressed confidence. "Our product is getting better and better technologically, and we're providing affordable technology to farmers.

Mittal described India as central to CNH's global strategy, built on four pillars -- the domestic market, exports, the India Technology Center in Gurgaon, and sourcing components from India's supplier base for plants worldwide.

Beyond finished tractors, CNH exports components such as power take-offs (PTOs) and axles from India, he said.

Mittal said the Indian tractor market is gradually shifting towards the 45 HP-and-above segment, a trend he expects to continue, even as farmers at the lower end increasingly seek technology that delivers clear value.

Mittal pointed to low mechanisation levels in several segments as a growth opportunity. Sugarcane mechanisation stands at just 4 per cent, despite India being the world's second-largest sugarcane producer, while biomass and baling mechanisation is around 2 per cent, and cotton-picking mechanisation is almost non-existent.

"Industry and government should work together to improve mechanisation in these areas," he said, cautioning against focusing solely on tractor penetration given that average Indian landholdings are close to one hectare or smaller.

He noted that government focus on biomass for power generation and compressed biogas has created new demand for balers and equipment CNH already manufactures. "We have a full range of equipment for this -- small square balers, round balers, large balers -- along with tractors from 160 HP to 300 HP," he said.

On why specialised equipment such as sugarcane harvesters and balers have performed relatively well for CNH, Mittal said the company views its business holistically. "We have the largest portfolio in India because we see ourselves as a global technology player," he said.

On product gaps, Mittal said, "I can proudly say there's hardly any gap," noting that the range spans compact tractors up to 300 HP alongside harvesters,

Asian shares track Wall Street gains, while oil prices bounce higher

BANGKOK, AUG 10: Shares were mostly higher Monday in Asia, with Japan's Nikkei 225 leading advances after stocks rose on Wall Street.

Oil prices rose and US futures were little changed.

In Tokyo, the benchmark Nikkei 225 jumped 2.1% to 66,970.22, pulled higher by strong gains for technology companies.

Computer chip equipment maker Tokyo Electron climbed 4.1%, while chip testing device maker Advantest rose 6.4%.

In South Korea, the gains were more modest, as the Kospi added 0.7% to 6,299.66 as shares in major chipmakers slipped. Samsung Electronics lost 0.4%, while its smaller rival, memory chipmaker SK Hynix, lost 0.1%.

Analysts said foreign investors were selling shares in the Big Tech companies to lock in profits from recent gains and rebalance holdings into other industries, such as defense contractors.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.9% to 25,904.94, while the Shanghai Composite index picked up 0.7% to 3,966.59.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.3% to 9,232.60.

Taiwan's Taiex surged 1.6% and the Sensex in India was up 0.2%.

Oil prices rose after Israel rejected a deal announced by US President Donald Trump for Gaza. Details emerged on the potential deal between Iran and Oman on managing the Strait of Hormuz as Tehran suggested that vessels linked to "hostile countries" would be barred.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels struck a government-held port on the country's Red Sea coast, deepening fears over threats to strategic shipping routes and a potential return to civil war.

Brent crude, the international standard, gained 0.6% to $84.01 per barrel. US benchmark crude advanced 0.3% to $78.46 per barrel.

"Negotiators said that a deal to establish a safe shipping route was close, but Iran may now be exploring just how much it can extract from the US in return," Bas van Geffen, senior macro strategist for Rabobank, said in a commentary.

On Friday, US stocks rose and Treasury yields fell after the government reported that employers unexpectedly cut 23,000 jobs last month.

A weaker jobs market raised hopes the Federal Reserve might wait longer before raising interest rates to fight inflation. That buoyed share prices, pushing every major index to a second straight week of gains and several fresh records.

The S&P 500 rose 0.6% to 7,757.64, topping an all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.3% to 54,036.93, just short of the record it set on Wednesday. The Nasdaq composite rose 1.3% to 26,690.62.

Overall, the jobs report dimmed one of the brighter areas of the economy, adding to worries about household spending at a time of high inflation. It included a revision to the figures for June and May that involved slashing a combined 103,000 jobs from payrolls for those months.

Slowing employment complicates the Fed's effort to balance job growth with fighting inflation. Higher interest rates can help tame inflation by slowing economic growth, but businesses will find it more difficult to expand under increased borrowing rates.

As usual, technology stocks did much of the heavy lifting for the broader market. Nvidia jumped 2.3% and Broadcom rose 1.7%.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.64% from 4.67% just before the jobs update. It was as low as 4.60% before recovering a bit. The yield on the two-year Treasury, which more closely tracks expectations for Fed action on interest rates, fell to 4.20% from 4.22% before the report's release.

Loan book to cross Rs 2 lakh cr milestone in FY27: HUDCO CMD

NEW DELHI, AUG 10: State-owned infrastructure financing institution Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) expects its loan book to cross the Rs 2 lakh crore mark during the ongoing financial year on firm demand. To fund asset expansion, the company plans to borrow Rs 75,000 crore from both domestic and overseas markets during the current fiscal.

Of this, the company has already raised Rs 20,000 crore in the first quarter and the remaining Rs 55,000 crore would be mobilised in the three quarters of FY27, HUDCO Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Sanjay Kulshrestha told PTI. As far as domestic market fund raising is concerned, the company plans to raise up to Rs 1,000 crore through Capital Gain Bonds in addition to non-convertible debentures and other means.

The government authorised the company to issue 54 EC Capital Gain Bonds last year and it mobilised about Rs 120 crore during FY26.

Capital Gains Bonds are a type of investment instrument, authorised by the Income Tax Act, 1961. These bonds provide an opportunity for individuals to save on long-term capital gains taxes incurred from the sale of property or assets. By investing in these bonds, an investor can defer the payment of capital gains tax and enjoy the potential benefits of a reliable investment option.

Talking about disbursement, Kulshreshtha said the company intends to disburse Rs 65,000 crore during the entire financial year. During the April-June period, the company reported its highest-ever quarterly loan disbursements of Rs 16,377 crore, registering a growth of 28 per cent over Rs 12,812 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Asked about the loan book target, he said it should exceed Rs 2 lakh crore during the fiscal as against Rs 1.62 lakh crore recorded in FY26. On External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), Kulshreshtha said the company plans to raise further USD 1.3 billion under the RBI concessional swap window available up to December 31, 2026.

Bharat Forge reports Q1 net loss of Rs 89.89 cr

NEW DELHI, AUG 10: Auto components major Bharat Forge Ltd on Monday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 89.89 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, primarily on account of a restructuring provision at one of its German subsidiaries.

The company, which had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 283.87 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal, said its board has approved raising up to Rs 2,500 crore subject to shareholders' approval.

Consolidated revenue from operations in the first quarter stood at Rs 4,639.94 crore, up from Rs 3,908.75 crore in the year-ago period, Bharat Forge Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

The group has recorded a restructuring provision of Rs 330.42 crore in the consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30 in relation to its German subsidiary Bharat Forge CDP GmbH (BF CDP), which is facing market challenges and associated cost disadvantages, the filing said.

Total expenses in the first quarter were at Rs 4,283.48 crore. It was at Rs 3,544.17 crore in the year-ago period, the company said.

The company's management said in an investor presentation that its Indian manufacturing business portfolio new sectors such as defence, aerospace, data centers and semiconductors are

starting to contribute to the revenue mix.Geographic Reference

Subsequently, the company is in the process of setting up dedicated forging and machining capabilities with an investment outlay of around Rs 1,800 crore over 12-18 months for various sunrise sectors including the energetics plant in Andhra Pradesh. These investments are expected to generate incremental revenues in the coming years post commissioning, it added.

"The board has approved subject to Shareholder approval, fund raise of up to Rs 2,500 crore through issuance of equity shares, convertible securities or any other securities via qualified institutional placement, preferential allotment or any other method as approved under the shareholder approval in accordance with applicable law," the company said. For FY27, it said,"We continue to maintain our growth outlook of 20-25 per cent for the Indian manufacturing business which will be more pronounced in the second half of this fiscal." Bharat Forge further said,"With the recent restructuring action on our EV business and the German Forging business, we continue to re-evaluate our current global manufacturing footprint for the other parts of the business where the medium-term focus of achieving profitability may continue to be challenging." (PTI)