Markets end marginally lower on cooling oil prices, buying in HDFC Bank, IT stocks

MUMBAI, Sept 11: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower on Friday after registering sharp losses during the day following a drop in crude oil prices and buying in blue-chip HDFC Bank and IT stocks.

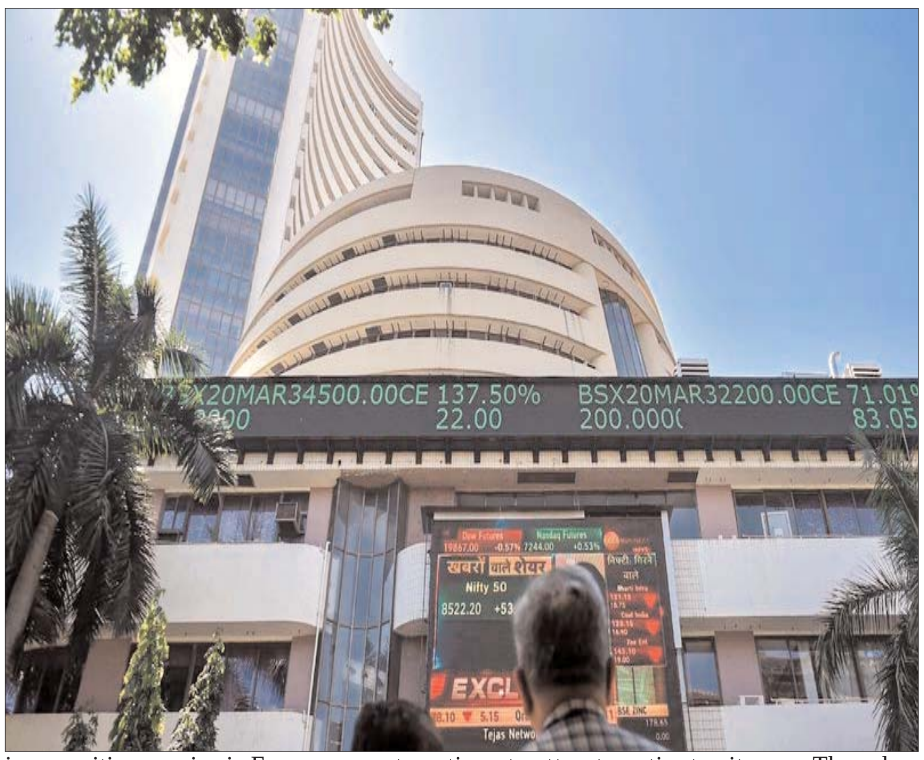
The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 120.83 points, or 0.16 per cent, to settle at 74,781.76. During the day, it fell 742.43 points, or 0.99 per cent, to 74,160.16.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 79.70 points, or 0.34 per cent, to end at 23,398.10. Intraday, the benchmark tanked 246.4 points, or 1.04 per cent, to 23,231.40.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro and Axis Bank were the major laggards.

HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Eternal, and Infosys were among the gainers.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 3.19 per cent to USD 104.2 per barrel.



"The market recovered from intraday lows, aided by value buying in select sectors, particularly IT, following a positive opening in European markets. Despite the rebound, weak market breadth suggests broader consolidation persists," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

While elevated crude prices, foreign outflows, and geopolitical uncertainty may keep volatility high, resilient domestic fundamentals and strong institutional support continue to attract buying at lower levels, limiting downside risks and supporting the medium-term outlook, 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 lower.

Markets in Europe were trading higher.

US markets ended in negative territory on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 438.24 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

On Thursday, the Sensex advanced 138.36 points, or 0.19 per cent, to settle at 74,902.59 on last-minute buying. The Nifty edged higher by 46.30 points, or 0.20 per cent, to end at 23,477.80. (PTI)

Rupee falls 5 paise to close at 95.57 against US dollar

MUMBAI, Sept 11: The rupee pared most of its initial losses and settled at 95.57 (provisional) against the US dollar, down by 5 paise, on Friday, helped by a correction in crude oil prices and suspected RBI intervention.

Forex traders said risk aversion in global markets and elevated crude oil prices are weighing on the rupee, which closed lower for the fifth consecutive session on Friday.

The rupee opened on a negative note but pared some losses on suspected RBI intervention, a slight recovery in domestic stock markets from the day's lows and profit booking in crude oil prices at higher levels, traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.70 against the US dollar and fell further to a low of 95.79. However, the local unit later pared losses to hit the day's high of 95.51 before closing down by 5 paise at 95.57 (provisional) against the American currency.

"The Indian rupee extended its downward spiral... logging its steepest weekly loss since May 15 amid surging crude oil prices and climbing bond yields," said Dilip Parmar â€“ Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Persistent geopolitical tensions and sluggish monsoon rainfall continued to weigh heavily on domestic sentiment, dampening the positive momentum generated by the Reserve Bank of India and government support measures, Parmar said.

In the near term, spot USDINR faces resistance at 95.80, with strong support positioned around 95.15, paving the way for a phase of consolidation following the recent sharp upward surge, he added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.13, higher by 0.09 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 3.28 per cent at USD 104.10 per barrel in futures trade.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk-off sentiments in global markets and inflation concerns over elevated crude oil prices. However, any intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

Choudhary further noted that traders may take cues from US CPI inflation and consumer sentiment data from the US. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 95.45 to 95.90.

On the domestic equities market front, Sensex declined 120.83 points to settle at 74,781.76, while the Nifty fell 79.70 points to close at 23,398.10.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 582 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data. (PTI)

Policy must balance innovation with accountability, resilience: RBI Deputy Guv

MUMBAI, SEPT 9: Policy should provide room for innovation to grow while ensuring that accountability and resilience grow alongside it, RBI Deputy Governor Rohit Jain said on Wednesday.

The objective of policy, therefore, is to create the conditions in which useful innovation can develop responsibly, he said here at the Global Fintech Fest 2026.

"This requires clear guardrails where the risks are understood, room for experimentation where they are still emerging, and the ability to adapt the framework as technology and its uses evolve. Good policy should give innovation room to grow, while ensuring that accountability and resilience grow with it," he said.

He also said that policy has to remain informed by what is happening on the ground.

In a rapidly changing environment, regulators cannot understand emerging technologies through returns and supervisory observations alone, he said, adding, regular engagement with financial institutions, fintechs and technology providers helps identify new use cases and emerging concerns early, while also giving industry greater clarity about regulatory expectations.

Emerging technologies are often understood better through carefully controlled use than through speculation alone, he said.

Regulatory sandboxes can play an important role here by allowing genuinely new applications to be tested within defined boundaries before they are deployed more widely, Jain said.

Speaking about regulations, Jain said "regulate too early, and we risk writing detailed rules for a technology we do not yet fully understand, or for an architecture that may change before the rules take effect."

Regulate too late, and the technology may already be deeply embedded before its risks are fully understood and addressed, he said, adding, there is no perfect point between these two outcomes.

Amid rapid advances in algorithms, tokens, platforms, cloud infrastructure and quantum computing, policymakers should not lose sight of the people at the other end of technology, he said.

"There is always someone at the other end of the technology - there is a saver entrusting an institution with hard-earned money, a borrower seeking an opportunity, a merchant awaiting a payment, or a family depending on the financial system when it matters most," he said.

Jain said this is ultimately where the responsibility of the financial system lies.

Most customers may never know which model made a recommendation, which cloud hosted it or which technology enabled a transaction, but they will experience the outcome, he said.

"Their confidence in technology will ultimately depend not on how sophisticated it is, but on whether it works for them fairly, reliably, and safely," the Deputy Governor said.

He emphasised that purpose, prudence and policy need to move together, cautioning that purpose without prudence could lead to recklessness, while prudence without purpose could result in stagnation.

BRICS Finance Ministers discuss possibility of efficient cross-border payment mechanisms

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of BRICS countries have discussed the possibility of efficient cross-border payment mechanisms.

"We acknowledge the efforts of the BRICS Payment Task Force (BPTF) towards exploring pragmatic solutions for efficient cross-border payment mechanisms, drawing on the guidance provided by our leaders in the Kazan and Rio Declarations, on the BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative," a joint statement of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) said on Friday.

The joint statement comes a day ahead of the two-day BRICS Summit being held in Delhi.

The BPTF also studied cross-border interoperability of payment and messaging channels, and held discussions on promoting trade settlements and investments using local currencies of BRICS countries, it said.

While pursuing these efforts, the task force has been asked to respect national priorities and recognise that there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach.

"We encourage the BPTF to continue discussions, building on the ongoing work, to facilitate practical solutions for cross-border payments among BRICS countries, which are fast, low-cost, more accessible, efficient, transparent, and safe," the statement said.

With the growing share of emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) in global output and growth, reform of global 29 economic governance remains a consistent BRICS priority; it said they will continue to strengthen coordination among BRICS members to make international financial institutions more representative, transparent and accountable.

FMCBG reiterated the urgent need to reform the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWI) to make them more agile, effective, credible, inclusive, fit for purpose, unbiased, accountable, and representative, to enhance their legitimacy.

BWI governance structure should be reformed to reflect the transformation of the global economy since their establishment, it said.

The voice and representation of EMDEs in the BWI must reflect their relative position in the global economy, it said.

It also reiterated a call for improved management procedures, including through a merit-based, inclusive and transparent selection process that would increase regional diversity and representation of EMDEs in the leadership of the IMF and the World Bank.

FMCBG reaffirmed the BRICS Rio de Janeiro Vision for IMF Quota and Governance Reform and the need for a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at the centre of the global financial safety net to effectively support its members, particularly the most vulnerable countries.

It reaffirmed that the 2025 World Bank Shareholding Review is a critical tool to strengthen multilateralism and enhance the legitimacy of the World Bank Group, as a better, bigger, and more effective development finance institution.

With regard to the New Development Bank (NDB), the joint statement said, "As it embarks on its second golden decade of high-quality development, we recognise and support the growing role of the NDB as a robust and strategic agent of development and modernisation in BRICS and the Global South".

The statement encouraged the bank to mobilise resources, expand local currency financing, strengthen project-preparation facilities, diversify funding sources, foster innovation, and support high-impact projects that contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth in member countries.

It reiterated its support for the NDB's efforts to fulfil its mandate in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner and further consolidate its role as a leading multilateral development institution for emerging markets and developing economies.

FMCBG welcomed the progress made in advancing the BRICS Multilateral Guarantees (BMG) initiative in line with the guidance provided by BRICS Leaders in 2025.

It noted the preparatory work undertaken by the NDB for the pilot phase of the initiative under its existing Policy on Guarantees aimed at supporting sustainable development and resilient infrastructure projects. They expressed commitment to curbing tax-related illicit financial flows and encouraging a fair allocation of taxing rights.

FMCBG reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening BRICS Tax Cooperation through resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability, while promoting knowledge sharing and capacity building, constructive engagement in international forums like the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and its protocols in order to support a fair, efficient and future-ready international tax ecosystem. (PTI)

NSE sets IPO price band at Rs 1,700-1,785; issue to open on Sept 17

NEW DELHI, SEPT 11: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Friday fixed a price band of Rs 1,700-1,785 per equity share for its much-awaited initial public offering (IPO), which will open for subscription on September 17.

The Rs 22,569-crore IPO will close on September 21, making it the country's second-largest public issue after Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870-crore offering in 2024.

The IPO comes nearly a decade after NSE's plans to go public were stalled amid regulatory hurdles. With the Sebi clearance now in place, the exchange is set to make its market debut on September 24. Bidding for anchor investors will take place on September 16, according to a public announcement.

The IPO will be entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 12.64 crore equity shares by existing shareholders, compared with 14.9 crore shares planned earlier.

The reduction in the OFS size has brought down the overall issue size from the initial estimate of Rs 30,000 crore. At the lower end of the price band, the issue is estimated at Rs 21,494 crore, while at the higher end, it will be around Rs 22,569 crore, falling short of becoming India's largest-ever public offering.

Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870-crore IPO holds the record of the country's largest public issue. The NSE offering, however, would surpass the Rs 21,000-crore IPO of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched in 2022.

As part of the issue, the company has reserved equity shares worth up to Rs 70 crore for eligible employees. NSE employees will also be offered a discount of Rs 170 per equity share.

The issue will have a reservation of 50 per cent for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), 15 per cent for non-institutional investors (NIIs) and 35 per cent for retail investors.

As per the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP), existing shareholders have also pared down their stake sale. State Bank of India (SBI) has reduced its proposed OFS to around 1.60 crore shares from 2.47 crore shares, while MS Strategic (Mauritius) Ltd has cut its offer to 1.1 crore shares from 1.6 crore shares.

Bank of Baroda, Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd and General Insurance Corporation of India have also reduced their proposed share sale, while SBI Capital Markets Ltd is a new selling shareholder in the RHP.

SML Mahindra expects margin recovery by Q4FY27, plans electric bus launch

KOLKATA, SEPT 11: SML Mahindra Ltd expects its operating margins to recover by the fourth quarter of the current financial year, supported by further price hikes and cost-control measures even as higher input and employee costs weighed on profitability in the June quarter, a company official said.

Speaking to reporters at the launch of the BLAZO i-TRK heavy commercial vehicle range here on Thursday evening, Vinod Sahay, Executive Chairman of SML Mahindra Ltd said the company was facing a cumulative material cost inflation of about 5 to 6 per cent.

"Total material cost pressure is around 5 to 6 per cent, whereas price increases taken in two tranches this year in April and July so far total around 5 per cent. However, implementing these price increases in market operating prices would take another few months. We expect to fully mitigate this cost pressure through further market-driven price hikes and cost-control measures by Q4, bringing margins back to normal levels," Sahay said.

Also a member of the group executive board at Mahindra Group, Sahay said future price increases would remain calibrated and market-driven.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, the company's EBITDA margin declined to around 10.5 per cent from 12.4 per cent a year earlier.

The revenue from operations rose 13.2 per cent to around Rs 958 crore in the first quarter of FY27 from Rs 846 crore in the year-ago period, aided by seasonal bus demand and growth in light commercial vehicle volumes.

The margin pressure was attributed to higher raw material and employee costs, besides transition-related expenses.

On the proposed acquisition of Mahindra & Mahindra's Truck and Bus Division (MTBD), Sahay said there was no plan to physically integrate the existing trucks and buses assembly lines of M&M factories into SML Mahindra.

"Manufacturing of Mahindra-branded trucks and buses will continue to be undertaken by M&M under a contract manufacturing arrangement, ensuring continuity of supply and operational stability," he said.

Sahay said the company would unveil a three-year capital expenditure plan for the consolidated entity (SML and MTBD) sometime next year.

On electric vehicles, he said SML Mahindra was working on an electric bus, which is targeted for launch by the fourth quarter of FY27 or early next fiscal.

The electric bus will primarily cater to the staff and school transportation segments, he said.

The company is also working on an electric truck, though no timeline has been announced for its launch, Sahay said.

In July, Mahindra & Mahindra's board approved the sale of its truck and bus division to its listed subsidiary SML Mahindra on a slump-sale basis for Rs 525 crore. The transaction paves the way for the automotive major to create a unified truck and bus business under SML Mahindra, which it had acquired a year ago from Sumitomo Corp. and Isuzu Motors Ltd for a 58.97 per cent stake.

The integration of MTBD is expected by January. The company aims to build a Rs 12,500 crore revenue business by FY31, raise its combined commercial vehicle market share from around 6 per cent currently to 10-12 per cent by FY31 and over 20 per cent by FY36. (PTI)