



Sensex, Nifty fall 15% from Jan peak

Fear of dollar liquidity squeeze by US Fed pulls down market

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 12

Fears of dollar liquidity being sucked out by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) through aggressive interest rate hikes is pushing stock markets down.

Despite a more than two per cent fall in Sensex and Nifty on Thursday, and a nearly 15 per cent crash in both the indices from their lifetime highs in January this year, experts believe the markets are set for further downside. On Thursday, Sensex fell 1,158 points to close at 52,930 and Nifty was down 359 points at 15,808. Still, the bad news around the world was that the cryptocurrency crash had erased more than \$200 billion



in a single day on Thursday.

The low-interest rate regime by the Fed and global central banks was a key theme, which was driving one of the longest and most historic bull runs over the past two years. But the hot-

ter-than-expected inflation figures in the US and elsewhere around the world have put stock markets in a spot. Inflation in the US was recorded at a 40-year high on Wednesday at 8.3 per cent. In India, the inflation rose to an eight-year high of 7.9 per cent.

FPI exit, DILs support

As per exchange data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold stocks worth ₹ 2,555 crore on Thursday in the equity cash segment, taking the total selling for the month in the segment to nearly ₹ 29,000 crore. Domestic institutional investors (DILs) were net purchasers of stock worth ₹ 4,815 crore.

"Lot of positions seem to be out of the system. Most new-age stocks are just one-fourth of their peak value. Better quality, old-economy stocks too are down by 30-60 per cent. But nothing in earnings suggests

there should be a major revision to valuation of these stocks. So far, markets seem to have factored in the Fed hike. I would be surprised to see Nifty break 15,500. Earnings have not disappointed," said Rahul Arora, CEO, Institutional Equities, Nirmal Bang Equities.

Wall Street meltdown

In the US, the tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 index was down 27 per cent for the year, while the Dow Jones and S&P 500 indices fell around 15 per cent from their peak.

"Significant decline in Chinese Covid cases and US bond trading below 3 per cent may give some relief to global equities. Technically, Nifty is trying to defend and hold 15,800. There is support also at 15,697. Any short covering and a close above 16,000 for Nifty could take the index to 16,600," said Prashanth Tapse, Vice-President (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Rupee slumps to 77.625

Closes at 77.415 on RBI intervention

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 12

The rupee is facing testing times in the face of a strong dollar. The Indian unit touched an all-time intra-day low of 77.6250 per dollar on Thursday before recouping some of the losses on Reserve Bank of India's strong intervention.

With the US inflation hitting 8.30 per cent in April, the likelihood of the US Fed ramping up interest rates more aggressively has increased, pushing foreign portfolio investors to sell their holdings in emerging-economy financial markets, including India.

This, coupled with higher global commodity prices weakened Indian currency. The rupee closed at 77.4150 a

dollar, about 18 paise lower versus previous close of 77.24.

"That the rupee closed at 77.4150 after touching an all-time intra-day low of 77.6250 is only due to RBI intervention. They sold dollars continuously," said a Chief Foreign Dealer of a private sector bank. "Now one needs to see how big an interest rate hike the RBI effects following the April CPI inflation reading of 7.79 per cent. If our interest rate lags that of advanced economies, it will be negative for our currency, as there will be further FPI outflows," he added.

Asian peers slump more

Chinese Yuan (CNY) has lost about 5.50 per cent after PBOC's failed attempt to prop economy via rate cuts. Taiwan Dollar and the Won are about 7.30 per cent and 7.50 per cent weaker against the dollar.

Apex Court refuses to stay LIC IPO share allotment

SC seeks response from Centre, insurance major

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 12

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to grant any interim relief and stay the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) IPO share allotment on a batch of pleas filed by some policyholders.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and PS Narasimha said the court should be reluctant to grant any interim relief in matters of commercial investments and IPOs.

"We are not inclined to grant any interim relief," the bench said, as it issued notice to the Centre and LIC on the batch of pleas seeking

their response within eight weeks.

The Bench said that on the aspect of interim relief, the court must be guided by the well-settled principle of *prima facie* case, balance of convenience and whether there is any irreparable injury.

Transfers Bombay HC writ

The Bench noted that one of the pleas has challenged the interim order passed by the Bombay High Court and disposed it, saying the writ petition before the high court will be transferred to the apex court.

The top court tagged the batch of pleas with a pending matter referred to a Constitution bench on the issue of passage of the Finance Act, 2021, as a money bill.

Venus Pipes: Short operational history, high valuation erode appeal

Peers are on better footing with higher scale of operations

SAI PRABHAKAR YADAVALLI

BL Research Bureau

Venus Pipes & Tubes (Venus) is a Gujarat-based company manufacturing stainless steel pipes. The company is raising ₹ 165 crore through fresh issue (no offer-for-sale), valuing it at ₹ 662 crore.

The company will trade at 21 times 9MFY22 earnings (annualised) based on the post-issue shareholding. But this seems to be on the higher side compared with most peers, though it is lower than Ratnamani Metals which is trading at 37 times the earnings.

Lack of long track-record

Also, the company has a short operational history. We recommend investors avoid the issue, which is coming at the peak of

steel price cycle. The company was incorporated in 2015 and can present only seven years of operational history. However, to its credit, the company has added 55 per cent to the installed capacity since 2019. The company has an installed capacity of 10,800 MTPA and operates from Kutch, Gujarat. But the scale of operations is significantly lower than listed peers like Ratnamani, Man Industries and Welspun Corp, whose sales are 6-14 times more.

The lack of scale will deter reliable B2B sales which derives close to half of the sales from stockists and traders. The larger institutional orders, on the other hand, will want a strong track record.

The credit history of the company is also shaky with discon-

IPO RATING

Venus Pipes & Tubes

Business ★★★★☆

Financials ★★★★☆

Management ★★★★☆

Valuation ★★★★☆

Overall ★★★★☆

Rankings 1 to 5, 1 denoting lowest and 5 highest

Offer period May 11-13, 2022

Price band ₹ 310 - 326

Market cap ₹ 629 - 662 cr

How they compare

9MFY22 financials	Revenue (₹ cr)	EBITDA margin (%)	Trailing PE*
Welspun Corp	3,904	14.8	13.5
Ratnamani Metals & Tubes	2,165	15.1	36.5
Man Industries	1,525	9.2	4.5
Venus Pipes & Tubes	277	12.8	21.03*

*Based on annualised 9MFY22 earnings # Based on post-issue shareholding

tions and welded pipes for petro-chemical applications. The fresh issue proceeds will be utilised for capital expansion of the seamless segment from 3,600 MTPA in 2021 to 9,600 MTPA and welded segment from 7,200 MTPA to 14,400 MTPA.

Also, Venus will be investing in a piercing line for manufacturing hollow pipes for backward integration. While the proposed plan for capacity building looks to more than double the installed capacity, the extent of realisation on successful completion in two-three years will be dependent on steel prices prevalent then, which are already correcting from the peak. In case of declining steel prices, operating leverage, which helped Venus increase its EBITDA margins from 7 per cent in FY20 to 12.8 per cent in 9MFY22, will reverse to an extent and on a higher fixed cost base

Capacity expansion Venus manufactures two types of stainless-steel pipes — seamless for higher pressure applica-

of the added plants.

Venus' capital expansion and higher realisations aided a revenue growth of 74 per cent in FY21, of which 35 per cent was from capacity expansion. Annualised 9MFY22 would indicate a 20-per cent YoY growth without significant volume growth contribution. Similarly, the margins also gained as gross and EBITDA margins improved from 14.4 and 7 per cent in FY19 to 18 and 12.8 per cent in 9MFY22.

But in the period, Venus' working capital cycle moved up from 88 days in March 2019 to 108 days in December 2021, as receivables and inventory holding period increased.

Venus' interest coverage ratio at eight times for its ₹ 50-crore debt (December 2021) indicates a manageable level of debt, but a sharp correction in margins in the period of increasing interest rates would be a key factor to watch.

Growth stocks drag Wall Street lower on rate hike worries

REUTERS

May 12

Wall Street's main indexes fell on Thursday, with growth stocks leading declines for a second straight session as investors worried that aggressive interest rate increases to curb decades-high inflation could tip the economy into recession.

Megacap stocks Meta Platforms, Microsoft Corp, Alphabet Inc, Apple Inc, Amazon.com and Tesla Inc slipped between 2 per cent and 5.9 per cent.

The Dow Jones Industrial was down 294.57 points, or 0.93 per cent, at 31,539.54, the S&P 500 was down 53.09 points, or 1.35 per cent, at 3,882.09, and the Nasdaq 193.70 points, or 1.70 per cent, at 11,170.53.

BROKER'S CALL

TODAY'S PICK

Sunteck Realty (₹400.3):SELL

GURUMURTHY K

BL Research Bureau

The outlook for the stock of Sunteck Realty is bearish. The price action since September 2021 indicates a head and shoulder pattern formation. The 4.85 per cent on Thursday has taken the stock below the neckline support of this pattern. The neckline is at ₹ 415. It will act as a good resistance. Any intermediate bounce will be capped at ₹ 415. The 21-day moving average (DMA) is on the verge of crossing below the ₹ 410 crore. It plans to file 10-12 products in FY23. We anticipate a 14-per cent CAGR over FY22-24 supported by the launches.

Its gross margin slid 531 bps to 72.5 per cent y-o-y due to higher raw material prices and a one-time impact (1.5 per cent of sales due to fuel-related products written back and 1.5 per cent more due to price erosion in the US). Adjusting for this, the gross margin contracted 280 bps y-o-y to 75 per cent.

Higher other expenses squeezed the EBITDA margin 1,053 bps to 23.7 per cent. PAT fell 5.1 per cent to ₹ 150 crore. With launches, continuing momentum in India, other branded markets and a pick-up in the US, Ajanta would deliver 12 per cent revenue/PAT growth each over FY22-24.

Risks: Currency fluctuations, ramping-up delays, pricing risk in India.

AUM CAPITAL

Pitt Engineering (Buy)

Target: ₹ 312

CMP: ₹ 241

Headquartered in Hyderabad, it is engaged in the manufacturing of electrical steel laminations, motor cores, sub-assemblies, die cast rotors and press tools with an installed capacity of 41,000 tpa as of December 2021. PEL is currently undergoing capacity expansion from 41,000 tpa to 72,000 tpa by FY24 at a cost of ₹ 270 cr. The increased capacity would help the company to serve the incremental demand which would drive the business growth. The company enjoys a competitive advantage by developing more than 5,000 different varieties of products for its clients. Any new entrant would take considerable time to match the quality of PEL and hence, PEL enjoys the advantage of 'Barriers to Entry'.

Over a period of time, PEL has established a very solid client base through its diversified product offerings, which include renowned names as BHEL, Cummins, Toshiba, ABB, Wabtec, L&T, etc. With the Government of India laying stress on the infrastructure development of the country by allocating about ₹ 75.00 Lakh crore for development projects, growth for industries such as cement, steel and power is expected to be strong, going forward. This, in turn, creates demand for PEL, which supplies critical components to these industries. We recommend a 'Buy' on the stock with a target price of ₹ 312, in the next 9-12 months.

15825 • Nifty 50 Futures

S1 15680 S2 15900 R1 16000 R2 COMMENT

May get a corrective bounce. So go short with a stop-loss at 15810 only on a break below 15750.

₹1303 • HDFC Bank

S1 1240 S2 1330 R1 1350 R2 COMMENT

Support ahead. Wait for a dip and go long on a bounce from 1285. Keep the stop-loss at 1270.

₹1509 • Infosys

S1 1495 S2 1535 R1 1565 R2 COMMENT

Initiate fresh short positions with a stop-loss at 1510 only if the stock breaks below 1495.

₹253 • ITC

S1 249 S2 244 R1 257 R2 COMMENT

Resistance ahead. Go short now and on a rise at 256. Stop-loss can be placed at 259.

₹156 • ONGC</

