Stock markets advance for 2nd day on buying in L&T; Sensex gains 144 points

NEW DELHI, JULY 30: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Wednesday driven by heavy buying in infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro.

Rising for the second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 143.91 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at 81,481.86. During the day, the barometer moved in a narrow range and rose by 281.01 points or 0.34 per cent to hit a high of 81,618.96.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 33.95 points or 0.14 per cent to close at 24,855.05.

US trade deal uncertainty and foreign fund outflows restricted the gains to a large extent, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro jumped 4.87 per cent after the infrastructure major reported a 29.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,617.19 crore during the June quarter, driven by strong overseas order growth.

Sun Pharma, NTPC, Maruti, Bharti Airtel, Trent and Axis Bank were also among the gainers.

Tata Motors was the biggest loser among Sensex stocks, dropping by 3.47 per cent amid reports that the auto maker was in advanced talks to acquire the truck division of an Italian company in a USD 4.5 billion deal.

Stock exchanges have sought clarification from the company related to the reports.

"Tata Motors is down amid concerns linked to its acquisition of an Italian company," Gaurav Garg, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

However, Tata Motors, Power Grid, Eternal, Bajaj Finserv and Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards.

"The domestic market ended the session marginally positive after a range-bound trade, despite ongoing uncertainty around the delayed India-US trade agreement and mixed earnings.

"The investors turned more stock/sector specific based on the Q1 results; the industrial segment gained momentum after robust earnings from L&T. The auto sector underperformed, largely due to tariff-related pressures. Investors are now focusing on the US Fed's policy meeting, as its stance on rates and inflation could shape global sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,636.60 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

US President Donald Trump has said the trade deal with India is not finalised, as he stressed that India imposes more tariffs than almost any other country. Trump spoke to reporters on Tuesday on Air Force One on his way back to Washington from Scotland and was asked about the trade deal with India.

"No, it's not," Trump said when asked if the deal with India is finalised. He was also asked about reports that India is preparing to face higher US tariffs between 20-25 per cent, to which he replied, "I think so."

"Markets traded in a tight range and ended marginally higher amid mixed cues. After a flat start, the Nifty oscillated within a narrow band throughout the session and finally settled at 24,855.05.

"Sentiment remained subdued due to lingering uncertainty over the trade deal, following the latest statement from the US President about potential tariffs on India, amid delays in finalizing the agreement ahead of the August 1 deadline," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices climbed 0.17 per cent each.

Among BSE sectoral indices, industrials jumped 1.31 per cent, followed by teck (0.35 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.31 per cent), IT (0.30 per cent), capital goods (0.27 per cent) and commodities (0.26 per cent).

Realty dropped 0.99 per cent, services declined 0.75 per cent, metal (0.16 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.14 per cent).

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled lower while South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended in positive territory.

European markets were quoting on a mixed note. The US markets ended lower on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.44 per cent to USD 72.19 a barrel.

On Tuesday, the Sensex jumped 446.93 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 81,337.95. The Nifty climbed 140.20 points or 0.57 per cent to 24,821.10.

India emerges as top smartphone supplier to US, pips China: Canalys

NEW DELHI, JULY 30: India has emerged as the largest manufacturing hub for smartphones shipped into the US for the first time in Q2, 2025, as China's share shrunk amid tariff negotiations, according to Canalys.

The research from Canalys (now part of Omdia) revealed that United States smartphone shipments grew 1 per cent in the second quarter of the current calendar year as vendors continued to frontload device inventories amid tariff concerns.

The uncertain outcome of negotiations with China has accelerated supply chain reorientation, it said.

The share of US smartphone shipments assembled in China fell to 25 per cent in the April-June period, from 61 per cent a year earlier.

"Most of this decline has been picked up by India; the total volume of 'Made-in-India' smartphones grew 240 per cent year-on-year and now accounts for 44 per cent of smartphones imported into the US, up from only 13 per cent of smartphone shipments in Q2 2024," it said.

In Q2, iPhone shipments declined 11 per cent year-on-year to 13.3 million units, a correction from the 25 per cent growth in Q1, 2025, as per Canalys.

Samsung's shipments grew 38 per cent year-on-year to 8.3 million units.

Motorola continued its expansion in the US, growing two per cent to 3.2 million units. Google and TCL rounded off the top five, with Google growing 13 per cent to 0.8 million while TCL declined 23 per cent, shipping 0.7 million units.

"India became the leading manufacturing hub for smartphones sold in the US for the very first time in Q2 2025, largely driven by Apple's accelerated supply chain shift to India amid an uncertain trade landscape between the US and China," Sanyam Chaurasia, Principal Analyst at Canalys, said.

TCS faces labour ministry scrutiny amidst 12,000 job cuts, hiring delays

NEW DELHI, JULY 30: The chief labour commissioner (CLC), under the Union labour ministry, has summoned senior executives of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Friday, August 1, to discuss matters linked to mass layoffs and delays in getting new hires on board.

"There is a meeting on Friday to discuss the matter... Can't comment on any outcome," a ministry official told Moneycontrol.

On Sunday, Moneycontrol reported that TCS would trim its workforce by 2 percent, affecting 12,000 jobs, over FY26. "This is not because of AI giving some 20 percent productivity gains. We are not doing that. This is driven by where there is a skill mismatch or where we think that we have not been able to deploy someone," CEO K Krithivasan told Moneycontrol.

The Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) has written two letters to the office of the CLC in recent days, seeking the ministry's intervention in the matter.

In its July 28 letter, NITES termed the layoffs at TCS "inhumane", "unethical" and "outright illegal", and sought an immediate halt to all terminations and the reinstatement of affected employees.

"Most of those affected are mid- and senior-level professionals who have served the company loyally for 10 to 20 years. The email was callously sent on a Sunday evening, without prior notice or any formal communication process in place. This mass layoff is not only unethical and inhumane; it is outright illegal. TCS has planned to terminate thousands of employees without giving them due notice or any prior intimation to the government, all of which are mandatory under existing Indian labour laws," Harpreet Singh Saluja, president of NITES, said in the letter.

"The IT sector in India employs lakhs of professionals and has been a pillar of our economy. If a company of TCS' scale is allowed to carry out mass layoffs without following due process and without consequences, it will set a dangerous precedent for other companies. It will normalise job insecurity, erode employee rights and severely damage trust in India's employment ecosystem," he added.

A week earlier, on July 22, NITES had asked the ministry to direct TCS to provide an official and time-bound commitment regarding the onboarding of about 600 lateral hires.

IndiGo registers 20% decline in Q1-FY26 net profits, passengers increase 12%

NEW DELHI, JULY 30: InterGlobe Aviation Limited, which operates airline IndiGo, on Wednesday announced a consolidated net profit of Rs 2,176 crore during the first quarter of 2025-26, despite a turbulent operating environment influenced by geopolitical tensions, airspace restrictions, and a tragic aviation accident in Ahmedabad.

The carrier registered about 12 per cent year-on-year growth in passenger volumes, carrying 3.1 crore passengers during the April-June 2025 quarter, showcasing resilient demand even as yields declined by 5 per cent to Rs 4.98 per km and load factor dipped by 2.1 points to 84.6 per cent.

Revenue from operations rose 4.7 per cent to Rs 20,496 crore. However, the airline's profit after tax dropped 20.2 per cent from Rs 2,729 crore in Q1 2024-25.

Pieter Elbers, CEO, said, "The June quarter was shaped by significant external challenges that created headwinds for the entire aviation sector. Despite these industry-wide disruptions, we reported a net profit of Rs 21,763 million with a net profit margin of around 11 per cent for the quarter ended June 2025."

"While the revenue environment saw moderation, demand for air travel held strong as we served more than 31 million passengers during the quarter, reflecting a growth of around 12 per cent on a year-over-year basis," Elbers added.

Looking forward, Elbers said they remain optimistic about the growth of air travel going ahead.

"Looking forward, we remain optimistic about the growth of air travel and with our scale, network and fit for purpose fleet, we remain committed to serve the growing demand," the IndiGo CEO added.

As of June 30, 2025, IndiGo had a fleet of 416 aircraft including 28 A320 CEOs (2 damp lease), 187 A320 NEOs, 141 A321 NEOs, 48 ATRs, 3 A321 freighters, 2 B777 (damp lease), 6 B737 (damp lease) and 1 B787 (damp lease); a net decrease of 18 passenger aircraft during the quarter.

IndiGo operated at a peak of 2,269 daily flights during the quarter, including non-scheduled flights. During the quarter, the airline provided scheduled services to 91 domestic destinations and 41 international destinations.

Laxmi India Finance IPO subscribed 88% on Day 2, GMP declines

NEW DELHI, JULY 30: The initial public offer of Laxmi India Finance had ben subscribed 88 percent on its second day of public bidding (July 30). Retail investors took the lead, fully booking the portion reserved for them.

The Rs 254 crore maiden public issue of the company received bids for nearly 1 crore shares, as against the offer size of 1.13 crore shares, according to data on Investorgain. Non Institutional Investors (NII) have booked 52 percent of their reserved portion, while that kept for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) has been subscribed 45 percent.

The grey market premium (GMP) continued to decline on the second day of public bidding. The unlisted shares of the company were trading with a GMP of nearly 2 percent over the IPO price at Rs 161 apiece, according to data in Investorgain. This is lower than the 11 percent GMP cited by the site earlier last week.

Laxmi India Finance on July 28 said it has mopped up a little over Rs 75 crore from anchor investors.

Laxmi India Finance, a non-deposit-taking NBFC, offers a diverse product portfolio, including MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) loans, vehicle loans, construction loans, and other lending solutions to customers.

Bajaj Broking said the investors should look at the IPO from a long-term perspective.

Bajaj Broking said the NBFC's strengths are strong access to a diverse range of capital sources, enabling the company to maintain an efficient and competitive cost of funds and robust credit assessment, underwriting, and risk management frameworks that ensure sound lending decisions and mitigate credit risks effectively.

However, Bajaj Broking sees concentration risk and asset quality risk for the NBFC.

"About 81% of Laxmi India Finance's revenue comes from its MSME loan portfolio. While this focus is a strength, it exposes the company to risks if the MSME sector faces downturns, adverse policies, or increased competition, potentially impacting financial performance disproportionately," said Bajaj Broking.

"Laxmi India Finance primarily lends against collateral (98.81%), but the MSME and certain vehicle loan segments have shown market stress. Rising delinquencies in unsecured MSME loans and two- and three-wheeler loans by competitors highlight potential vulnerabilities. Economic downturns or localized distress could affect borrower repayment and collateral value," added Bajaj Broking.

The Jaipur-based company's IPO is a combination of fresh issue of 1.84 crore equity shares and an offer for sale of 56.38 lakh shares by promoters. Overall, the IPO size is pegged at Rs 254.26 crore at the upper end of the price band.

Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used to shore up its capital base to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending and for general corporate purposes.

As of March 2025, the company's assets under management (AUM) increased to Rs 1,277 crore from Rs 687 crore as of March 2023, representing a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of over 36%, primarily driven by an increase in volume of its loans and strengthened branch network.

Its operational network spans across 158 branches in rural, semi-urban and urban areas in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh as of March 2025.

The NBFC player's revenue from operations increased 42% to Rs 246 crore in FY25 against Rs 173 crore in the preceding fiscal year, while its profit after tax rose 60% to Rs 36 crore compared to Rs 22.5 crore during the period.

Samsung and Startup India ink MoU to boost India's next generation of innovators

NEW DELHI, JULY 30: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Startup India, a flagship initiative of the Government of India, to empower young innovators from remote corners of India and strengthen the country's startup ecosystem with Samsung Solve for Tomorrow.

The MoU was signed in New Delhi and brings together Samsung's flagship nationwide innovation contest, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, and Startup India's robust national ecosystem of incubation, mentorship, and policy support. The collaboration aims to identify and nurture high-potential talent, especially from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, by providing access to infrastructure, expert guidance, market linkages, and funding opportunities.

"At Samsung, we believe innovation thrives when young minds are empowered with the right platforms and support systems. Our partnership with Startup India is a significant step in that direction. By bringing together Samsung Solve for Tomorrow's vision and Startup India's expansive ecosystem and network, we aim to nurture the next generation of the change makers from the remote corners of India to become the problem solvers of tomorrow. This collaboration is aligned with Skill India and Digital India initiatives and aims to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in the country," said SP Chun, Corporate Vice President, Samsung Southwest Asia.

"Innovation is the key to growth, unlocking new possibilities, driving progress, and enabling solutions that shape a better future. And, empowering young innovators is central to India's growth story. Through this collaboration between Startup India and Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, we are strengthening our commitment to building an inclusive, innovation-led ecosystem. This partnership will not only encourage youth from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities to ideate and innovate, but also aligns closely with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. We are happy to see Samsung stepping forward to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit across the country," said Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India.

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is a flagship innovation and education initiative designed to foster problem-solving, creativity, and social impact among India's youth. Through this programme, young students are encouraged to identify real-world issues in their communities and work toward building scalable solutions using design thinking, technology and entrepreneurial skills. The initiative provides mentorship, workshops, prototype development support, and opportunities to pitch ideas to experts and investors.

The new partnership will see Startup India leveraging its extensive network of incubators and accelerators, while Samsung drives on-ground engagement with students and young innovators through hands-on learning and innovation challenges. This integrated approach, designed to scale grassroots innovation, will place innovation at the core of India's education and entrepreneurship ecosystems.

This model public-private partnership between Samsung India and Startup India reinforces the shared commitment to the Make in India, Digital India, and Skill India missions—putting young, local innovators at the centre of India's technology and manufacturing-led future.

First launched in the US in 2010, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is currently operational in 68 countries and has seen over 3 million young people participate worldwide. The 2025 edition offers an incubation programme for the Top 4 winning teams that will receive a grant of INR 1 crore.

Additionally, the Top 20 teams will be awarded Rs 20 lakh, while the Top 40 teams will receive Rs 8 lakh.