

# Auto stocks soar; NSE at 4-month high

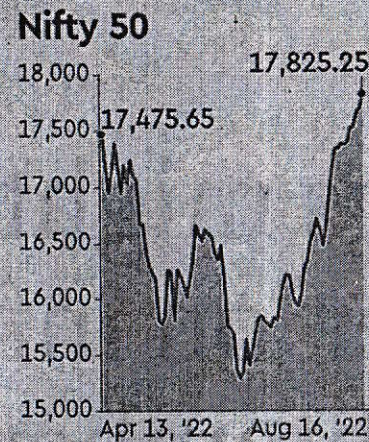
**AGENCIES**  
Bengaluru, August 16

**SHARES ENDED HIGHER** on Tuesday, boosted by auto stocks, with the NSE Nifty 50 index posting its highest level since April 5 at close. The index gained 0.7% to end at 17,825.25 points. The BSE Sensex closed up 0.6% at 59,842.21 points.

The Nifty Auto index hit a record high with its 2.6% gain.

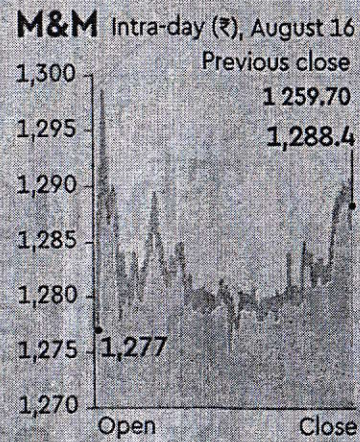
Mahindra and Mahindra gained, a day after the automaker and Volkswagen AG announced the expansion of their MEB alliance to accelerate electrification of the Indian auto market.

In the Sensex pack, Maruti gained 2.19%, Asian Paints by 2.09%, and Hindustan Unilever by 1.9%. UltraTech Cement, HDFC and HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra and Reliance Industries were among the lead gain-



ers. On the other hand, State Bank of India fell the most by 0.9%. Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services and NTPC were the laggards.

Refinitiv Eikon data showed 22 of the 43 companies listed on the Nifty 50 index beat analysts' expectations for results in the June-quarter. Nearly all Indian



companies had reported their results by Friday. Strong June-quarter results drove shares of Hero MotoCorp and Life Insurance Corporation of India, which ended up 2% and 2.3%, respectively.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone was the top percentage gainer on the Nifty 50,

after its unit agreed to buy inland container depot in from Navkar Corp.

Cooling consumer inflation print lifted the sentiment in financial markets alongside expectations the central bank is likely to rein in the pace of its policy rate hikes from next month. "Moderating domestic inflation level has raised expectations that interest rate hike by the central bank may slow down going ahead. While strong FII fund infusion has certainly bolstered the sentiment of investors," said Shrikant Chouhan, head of equity research (retail), Kotak Securities.

In the broader market, both the BSE midcap and smallcap indices climbed 1.03%. Sectorally, BSE auto jumped 2.57%, followed by realty (2.03%), oil & gas (1.76%), consumer discretionary goods & services (1.58%)

and power (1.48%). Telecom and metal were the laggards.

Analysts expect the second half of the year to improve for Indian firms, led by softening commodity prices that are expected to ease the pressure on margins. India's currency and debt markets remained closed on Tuesday for a holiday. In Asia, the markets in Seoul and Shanghai ended higher, while Tokyo and Hong Kong settled lower. Equities in Europe were trading higher in mid-session deals. Markets on the Wall Street had ended higher on Monday.

The stock markets were closed on Monday on account of Independence Day. Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.86% to \$94.28 per barrel. The forex and money markets were closed on Tuesday on account of 'Parsi New Year'.