

# Metal, auto stocks shine in lacklustre market

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The benchmark indices concluded a volatile year-end session nearly unchanged on Monday, with the Nifty 50 recording its fourth consecutive decline even as metal and auto stocks provided crucial support amid monthly derivatives expiry.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed at 84,675.08, down 20.46 points or 0.02 per cent, while the Nifty 50 shed 3.25 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 25,938.85.

Metals emerged as the session's star performers, with the Nifty Metal index surging 2 per cent to a fresh all-time high of 11,029. Hindalco led the Nifty 50 gainers, jumping 2.12 per cent to ₹883.30, while Tata Steel advanced 1.96 per cent to ₹175.68. Auto stocks also witnessed strong buying, with Bajaj Auto topping the gainers list, climbing 2.32

per cent to ₹9,298, and M&M rising 1.89 per cent to ₹3,660.

On the losing side, Eternal Technologies tumbled 2.21 per cent to ₹276.60, followed by Eicher Motors which declined 1.92 per cent to ₹7,132.50.

Sectoral performance remained mixed. The Nifty Bank index advanced 0.41 per cent to 59,171.25, while Nifty Financial Services gained 0.07 per cent to 27,382.80. However, broader markets underperformed, with the Nifty Midcap 100 declining 0.15 per cent to 59,914.25 and the Nifty Smallcap 100 falling 0.28 per cent to 17,518.95.

Looking ahead, analysts expect markets to remain range bound. "The market is anticipated to stay sideways, awaiting more pronounced outcomes from US-India trade talks and the Q3 results calendar," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Ltd.