

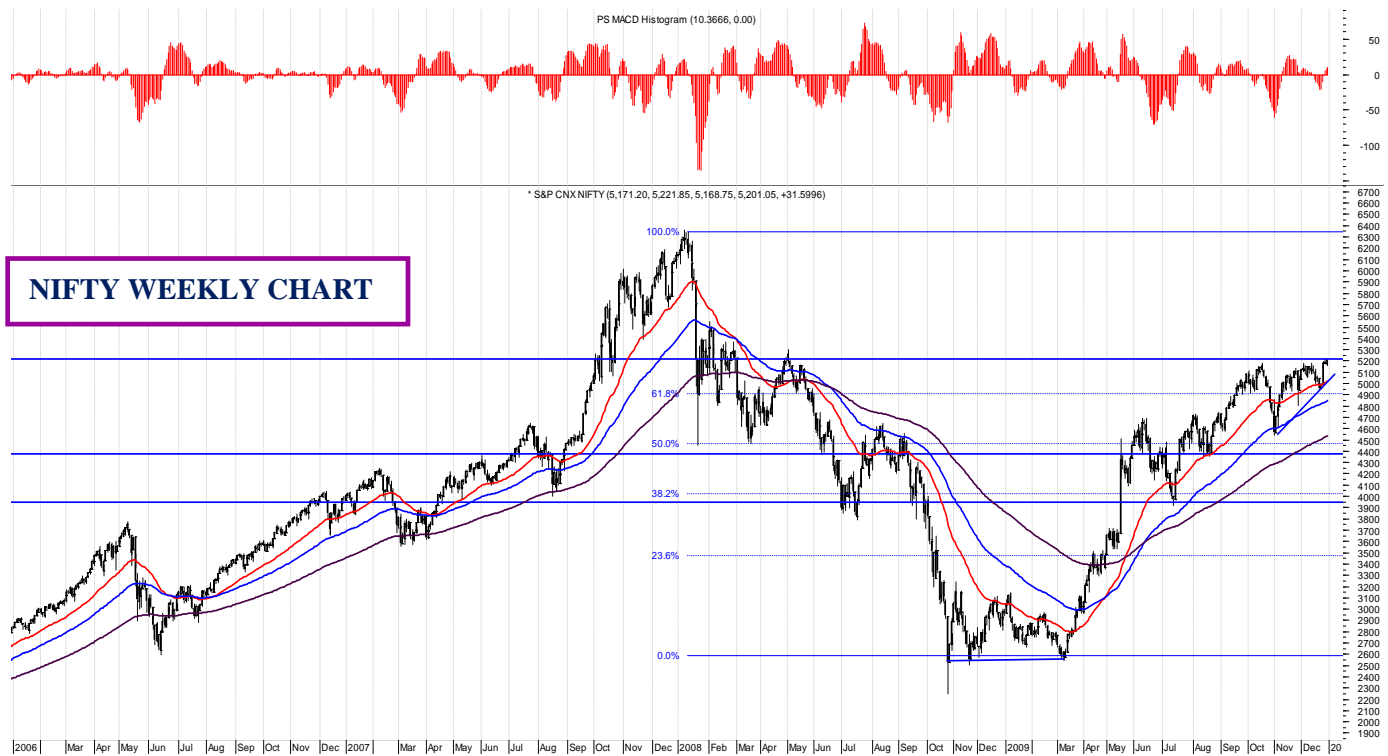


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MARKET THIS WEEK

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Stock and sector-specific activity may dominate trade on the domestic bourses in the near term as Q3 December 2009 results start trickling in. IT major Infosys and two-wheeler major Bajaj Auto, kick-start the reporting season on 12 January 2010. The BSE Sensex jumped 81% in calendar 2009, its biggest yearly gain since 1991, when it jumped a record 82.1%. Markets in Asia and elsewhere next year will be influenced by the pace of economic recovery, the expected timing of US interest rate hikes and policymakers' strategies for unwinding emergency stimulus plans introduced during the global financial crisis. Auto, cement and steel stocks, will be focus in the first trading week of 2010 as companies unveil their sales data for December 2009. Steel shares may get a boost from a likely hike in steel prices in the New Year. A likely record fund raising by Indian firms in 2010 could suck liquidity from the secondary market. As per one report, Indian companies have lined up equity raising plans of Rs 150000 crore in calendar 2010, close to two-and-a-half times of what they raised through share sales in calendar 2009.

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