

SENSEX

85,265.32

▲ 158.51 (0.18%)

NIFTY

26,033.75

▲ 47.75 (0.18%)

GAINERS & LOSERS

TOP GAINERS/BSE

IndusInd Bank  
863.00, 16.10

TCS  
3,229, 49.20

Tech Mahindra  
1,562, 20.60

Infosys  
1,598, 18.90

HCL Tech  
1,655, 14.10

TOP LOSERS/BSE

Tata Motors CV  
356.45, -3.95

Eternal  
295.75, -2.00

Maruti Suzuki  
15,994, -88.00

Kotak Bank  
2,135, -10.70

Titan Company  
3,800, -17.41

TOP GAINERS/NSE

India Cements  
412.15, 36.50

Hind Copper  
365.75, 26.60

Vijaya Diagnostic  
1,080, 78.20

Kirloskar Oil  
1,165, 79.90

Caplin Point  
1,976, 87.90

TOP LOSERS/NSE

India Cements  
412.15, 36.50

Hind Copper  
365.75, 26.60

Vijaya Diagnostic  
1,080, 78.20

Kirloskar Oil  
1,165, 79.90

Caplin Point  
1,976, 87.90

COMMODITIES

GOLD (MCDX 10 GRM)

12,2650.85

▲ (+104.04)

SILVER (MCDX 1 KG)

169,714.04

▲ (+5045.93)

USD (\$) / INR(₹)

89.933

▲ (+0.125)

## Nirav Modi’s prison move creates complications for Bank of India trial in UK

**LONDON:** Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, wanted in India to face fraud and money laundering charges, is forced to share a small prison cell with a shared desk with other inmates without access to most of his legal paperwork, the High Court in London was told on Friday.

The 54-year-old accused in the estimated USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan scam was shifted from HMP Thameside in south London to HMP Pentonville in October to facilitate a court appearance in an unrelated debt case.

At a pre-trial review hearing for the USD 8-million unpaid Bank of India debt, Judge Simon Tinkler was informed that the accused sought an adjournment to the trial scheduled in January 2026 to allow more time for him to prepare his defence and witness statement.

“It seems to me that Mr Modi would benefit from having access to his previous handwritten notes,” said Justice Tinkler.

“It seems to me that we are very close to the point at which the absence of papers for Mr Modi would

mean that he is not in a position to prepare for the trial in a way that means he can fairly present his case. This is, in particular, in relation to the disclosure documents, including his annotations, which, on his own evidence, took some six weeks or eight weeks to compile,” he said.

Modi’s shift between the prisons, both Category B men’s prisons for relatively low-risk convicts, was described during the online hearing as a “logistic convenience”.

In his judgment, Justice Tinkler effectively adjourned the adjournment application until another review hearing on December 19. He also issued a court order for HMP Thameside to ensure that all the paperwork from the former prison cell is transferred over to Modi’s new one.

Unlike at a previous in-person hearing in the case in October, when the diamondaire represented himself as a “Litigant in Person”, barrister James Kinman argued on his behalf to stress that his client would be at a “substantial disadvantage” if the trial was not delayed from Jan-

uary 2026.

“This trial will no longer be fair as Mr Modi is facing extremely difficult constraints in a small room with a shared desk and no IT facilities,” said Kinman.

Bank of India’s barrister, Tom Beasley, argued against any further adjournment as he pointed to several delaying tactics by Modi and also to his pending extradition to India.

“There is an opportunity to go ahead with the trial now before he is held in custody in India,” said Beasley.

Modi’s barrister went on to confirm that a hearing to reopen the unrelated extradition case is listed for later this month and stated that there was a “real possibility” that his client would either not be extradited at all or at least not before “very late in 2026”.

Modi, dressed in a grey t-shirt, observed the proceedings from a booth in HMP Pentonville prison and spoke only briefly to assert the lack of access to his legal documents. Bank of India, represented by RWK Goodman, are pursuing the diamondaire’s personal guarantee related

to a loan to Dubai-incorporated Firestar Diamond FZE.

Meanwhile, Modi has been behind bars in London since his extradition-related arrest in March 2019 and has made several bail attempts, which have all been rejected on the grounds of him posing a flight risk – most recently in May this year.

There are three sets of criminal proceedings against him in India – the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case of PNB fraud, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case relating to the alleged laundering of the proceeds of that fraud and a third set of criminal proceedings involving alleged interference with evidence and witnesses in the CBI proceedings.

In April 2021, then UK home secretary Priti Patel ordered his extradition to face these charges in the Indian courts after a prima facie case was established against him. He had since exhausted his legal avenues to contest the order, until recently, when his application to reopen his appeal was accepted in the UK and is set to be heard later this month.

## Revenue officials face action as same pics of damaged crops repeatedly uploaded on portal for relief

**CHANDIGARH:** As many as six revenue officials in Haryana have been suspended in a crackdown against fraudulent crop damage claims through a government portal by repeatedly uploading the same pictures as evidence.

The officials were suspended after Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini took strong cognisance of the misuse of government funds and fraudulent activities on the E-Kshatipurti portal, where the same photos related to crop damage were repeatedly uploaded as evidence.

He has directed strict disciplinary action against all Patwaris (revenue officials) involved in such cases, an official statement said here on Friday.

Following the chief minister’s order, the concerned Patwaris have been identified, and action has been initiated. Patwaris from Jui Khurd (Bhiwani), Boripur (Kurukshetra), Kalawan (Jind), Jandwala (Fatehabad), Pataudi (Gurgaon) and Nimli (Dadri) have been suspended with immediate effect.

A thorough investigation is underway to identify and take action against other erring officials.



The chief minister gave these directives while chairing a review meeting here on the progress of the Revenue Department’s budget announcements.

He said the government’s priority is to ensure that assistance reaches every eligible person without discrimination.

He emphasised that farmers who have suffered actual losses must be assured of timely compensation.

To compensate for crop

losses caused by excessive rainfall during the monsoon this year, the chief minister had issued instructions for the assessment of crop damages in a transparent manner, and prompt submission of reports.

The chief minister expressed concern over delays in the process and instances of fraud, where some Patwaris reported crop damage even in unaffected areas.

Additionally, repeated uploads of the same crop damage photos were found

as an attempt to misuse government funds. Strict disciplinary action has been ordered against all such erring Patwaris, the statement said.

In the review meeting, the chief minister directed the Additional Chief Secretary of the Revenue Department, Sumita Misra, to immediately collect reports from all deputy commissioners and ensure that affected farmers receive compensation within the next week.

## ACROSS THE GLOBE

## Lankan Prez thanks neighbours for Ditwah relief aid; toll rises over 600

**COLOMBO:** President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Friday thanked “the friendly neighbouring countries” -- including India -- for the emergency relief assistance in the aftermath of the Ditwah disaster, which has left over 600 dead.

The island nation has been grappling with widespread flooding, landslides and severe infrastructure collapse following Cyclone Ditwah, which has also left several districts isolated and acutely strained the country’s disaster-response capacity.

India was the first country to respond under its ‘Operation Sagar Bandhu.’

“This is not an easy situation to face. We lack the required equipment capability to face this kind of a grave situation. So I am thankful to our neighbouring countries for their very kind intervention to grant us assistance,” Dissanayake said, making a statement in parliament here.

Sri Lanka received humanitarian assistance from the South Asian neighbours -- India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Maldives.



Earlier on Wednesday, Dissanayake, in a series of posts on his X handle, thanked Indian and other South Asian leaders for their prompt assistance to the island nation.

Dissanayake expressed his sincere appreciation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his message and for India’s steadfast support to Sri Lanka and said, “India’s prompt assistance under the Sagar Bandhu initiative underscores the depth of our partnership and the enduring

goodwill between our nations.”

Meanwhile, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) data showed that at least 607 people have died and 214 are missing as of Friday evening due to the catastrophic floods and landslides caused by extreme weather conditions since November 16.

As many as 1,52,537 persons from 43,715 families are affected and taking shelter across 1,211 safety centres, the DMC data showed.

Speaking in the parliament, Dis-

sanayake said the Ditwah disaster came at a time when Sri Lanka was painfully building up its broken economy.

He fired a broadside at a section of the opposition for trying to make political capital out of the disaster.

Dissanayake said the government would not abandon the budget presented last month. “We presented this budget with several development goals targeted. We will go ahead as planned.”

He rejected calls by former leaders to present an interim budget to cover for the recovery expenditure.

“We will be presenting a 50 billion rupees supplementary estimate. With that we will then have 72.5 billion for the required expenditure,” Dissanayake said.

The island nation is in the process of estimating the cost of Cyclone Ditwah devastation. According to initial estimates, USD 6-7 billion would be required as the loss would be around 3-5 per cent of the GDP.

Dissanayake said the government has asked the IMF for a special 200 million dollar assistance in view of the disaster. “We told the IMF to

delay the release of the sixth tranche and release it with an enhanced amount.”

Sri Lanka is expected to draw its sixth tranche of the nearly USD 3 billion IMF bailout. The 48-month extended fund facility deal with the IMF in March 2023 carried hard reforms to Sri Lanka’s welfare-based governance.

The president’s visit to parliament came as the government and opposition were involved in a heated debate over the government’s efficiency in tackling the crisis.

The opposition charged that the government had ignored early warnings issued by the Department of Meteorology and the Disaster Management Centre.

Refuting the accusations Ananda Wijepala, the Public Security Minister, said the government had moved into action when the warnings were received and people were asked to vacate vulnerable areas well in advance.

Responding to criticism of negligence, Dissanayake challenged the opposition: “Please file a court case. We will answer.”

## Saudi Arabia rolls over USD 3 bn deposits with Pakistan for another year

**ISLAMABAD:** Saudi Arabia has extended the maturity of its USD 3 billion deposit placed with Pakistan’s central bank for another year, continuing a financial lifeline that has helped bolster the country’s foreign exchange reserves amid ongoing liquidity crunch, a media report said Friday.

While some analysts framed Saudi assistance as something that may carry future geopolitical expectations tied to defence co-operation, others argued that the rollover reflects weakness, not success, for Pakistan.

The extension, made through the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), maintains a facility that has been in place since 2021 and rolled over repeatedly in support of Pakistan’s

macroeconomic stability, according to The Express Tribune.

The deposit, originally due to mature on December 8, 2025, will now remain parked with the central bank, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), until December 2026.

Officials said the extension reflects Riyadh’s continued commitment to supporting Pakistan’s economic foundation, helping strengthen reserve buffers and enabling the country to meet key International Monetary Fund (IMF) benchmarks.

“This will help in strengthening the foreign exchange reserves of Pakistan and contribute to the country’s economic growth and development,” the SBP said in its communication.

As of November 28, 2025, Pakistan’s total liquid foreign currency reserves stood at USD 19.59 billion, including USD 14.57 billion held by the central bank and USD 5.01 billion with commercial banks.

Speaking at an event in Karachi on Thursday, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad said the country’s external debt-to-GDP ratio has fallen from 31 per cent to 26 per cent, the first meaningful improvement in years.

“Between 2015 and 2022, external debt increased by USD 6.4 billion annually. Now the direction has changed. We are stabilising instead of continuously accumulating debt,” Ahmad said, adding that Pakistan has not added to external debt stock since 2022.

## Indians among delivery riders detained for working illegally in UK

**LONDON:** Indians are among 171 delivery riders caught working illegally in a UK-wide crackdown and have been detained for deportation from the country, the British government has said.

The UK Home Office Immigration Enforcement teams undertook an ‘Operation Equalise’ over seven days last month, which involved stopping to check the documents of delivery riders operating in villages, towns and cities across Britain.

Those found to be working illegally, which also included Bangladeshi and Chinese nationals, were arrested on the spot and detained for removal to the countries of their origin.

“On 17 November, officers were deployed to the High Street in Newham



(east London). Four riders of Bangladeshi and Indian nationality were arrested for illegal working. All four were detained for removal,” the Home Office said in a statement on Thursday, giving some breakdowns on a total figure of 171 arrests.

“And on 25 November,

officers attended Norwich city centre (eastern England) where they conducted a crime reduction operation. Three riders of Indian nationality were arrested with two detained for removal. The third individual was placed on strict immigration bail,” it stated.

## Field Marshal Asim Munir officially appointed as Pakistan’s first Chief of Defence Forces

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan’s defence ministry on Friday officially notified the appointment of Field Marshal Asim Munir as the first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), a move aimed at the major restructuring of the military command since the 1970s.

The development came a day after President Asif Ali Zardari approved Munir’s appointment.

The “president, on the advice of the prime minister, is pleased to appoint Field Marshal Asim Munir (NI) M as the chief of army staff, concurrently the chief of defence forces for a tenure of five years,” Dawn reported, citing the notification.

Last month, the parliament passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment, creating a new post of CDF with the objective of a unified command and expediting decision-making in critical situations.

The CDF replaced the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), a position now abolished.

The new arrangement consolidates operational, administrative and strategic authority in a single office

## Chinese official media highlights Putin calling India-China close friends of Russia

**BEIJING:** Chinese official media on Friday highlighted President Vladimir Putin’s remarks calling both India and China the closest friends of Russia while emphasising that Moscow has “no right” to interfere in their bilateral ties.

China, a close ally of Russia, is yet to officially comment on Putin’s visit to India, while keeping a close watch on the outcome.

While Putin’s visit to India is largely ignored by the official media, which focused more on French President Emmanuel Macron’s current visit to Beijing, state-run Global Times, however, carried a report on Putin’s remarks on how he viewed Russia’s relations with India and China.

The daily, which is part of the ruling Chinese Communist Party’s official publications, quoted Putin’s remark to India Today stating that “India and China are our closest friends - we treasure that relationship deeply.”

But at the same time, it highlighted Putin’s guarded comment that despite sharing close ties with India and China, Russia has “no right” to interfere in their bilateral ties.

“We know this very well -- India and China are our closest friends. We treasure that relationship deeply, and I do not believe we have the right to interfere in your bilateral relations,” the daily quoted Putin as saying in the interview. Quoting a report by Russian news agency TASS, the daily’s report said Putin expressed confidence that Indian and Chinese leaders are committed to finding solutions to all intergovernmental issues, including the most sensitive ones.