

MARKET DASHBOARD

SENSEX	TOP GAINERS / BSE	TOP LOSERS / BSE	TOP GAINERS / NSE	TOP LOSERS / NSE	COMMODITIES
74,207.24 ▼ -2496.89 (-3.25%)	JP Power 16.75, 1.75 Adani Gas 556.15, 40.50 ACME Solar Holdings 262.03, 13.30 ITI Ltd 274.55, 10.20 Triveni Engg 342.75, 7.31	M&M Financial 311.50, -1,974 Petronet LNG 270.85, -20.75 Shriram Finance 949.80, -71.81 HPCL 324.80, -24.56 Aegis Vopak Terminal 176.24, -13.04	Praj Ind. 310.25, 3.86 NTPC Green Energy 98.88, 1.04 Gillette India 7,985, 54.00 PTC Industries 17,456, 110.00 Ather Energy 754.30, 4.10	Hindustan Zinc 506.15, -31.46 Latent View Analytics 269.35, -16.75 BPCL 286.00, -17.70 Five-Star Business Finance 355.20, -21.61 Eternal 228.74, -13.80	GOLD (MCDX 10 GRM) 13,7500.00 ↓ (6550.00) SILVER (MCDX 1 KG) 2,60,000.00 ↓ (5000.00) USD (\$) / INR(₹) 92.10 ↓ (-0.10)

Stock market crash erases Rs 11 lakh crore investors' wealth

NEW DELHI: Nifty50 and BSE Sensex crashed in trade on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve kept policy rates unchanged and oil prices rose above \$110 per barrel. The Sensex dropped by over 2,500 points, while the Nifty 50 slipped below the 23,000 mark intraday after logging gains for three straight sessions. Nifty50 ended the session at 23,002.15, down 776 points or 3.26%. BSE Sensex closed at 74,207.24, down 2,497 points or 3.26%. Higher crude oil prices and a hawkish stance from the US Federal Reserve weighed heavily on investor sentiment. The sharp decline erased over Rs 11 lakh crore from the total market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms, bringing it down to Rs 428 lakh crore. Selling pressure was visible across sectors, with all NSE indices opening lower.



Nifty Realty was the worst performer, declining by more than 3 per cent, followed by Nifty Auto and Nifty Private Bank, both of which slipped close to 3 per cent. Crude oil prices climbed back above the \$110 mark after a brief

pause in their sharp rally, driven by escalating tensions in the oil-rich Middle East and the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Qatar's state-owned energy firm, QatarEnergy, reported that Iranian missile strikes on Ras Laffan — a key hub for LNG processing — caused "extensive damage."

At the same time, the UAE shut down certain gas facilities after intercepting missiles early Thursday. At 9:15 AM, Nifty50 was trading at 23,222.95, down 555 points or 2.33%. BSE Sensex was at 74,880.71, down 1,823 points or 2.38%. US President Donald Trump warned Iran against targeting Qatari LNG assets

GDP growth and corporate earnings in FY27, too, will be impacted. But this scenario need not play out in the fast changing scenario. A prolonged war is no one's interest. Therefore, a sudden end to the war bringing crude prices sharply down cannot be ruled out. The market has been exceedingly volatile in response to developments on the war front and crude prices. Last three days of recovery in the market is likely to be wiped out if the war escalation continues."

US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said the central bank has opted to hold interest rates steady, citing inflation that has not eased as much as anticipated. He pointed to ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and policy uncertainty linked to President Donald Trump's shifting tariff stance as contributing factors. The Federal Reserve kept its benchmark policy rate unchanged at 3.50-3.75 per cent, while indicating expectations of firmer inflation, stable unemployment levels, and only one rate cut during the year.

Star Informatic introduces 'ElectroSense' to foster safety in electrical works

NEW DELHI: In a major push to industrial safety innovation, Star Informatic Pvt. Ltd. has launched 'ElectroSense', an advanced wearable technology designed to detect live electrical hazards before human contact, aiming to reduce fatal accidents across multiple sectors, a company statement said here. Positioned as a first-of-its-kind predictive safety system, ElectroSense goes beyond conventional protective gear by converting industrial helmets into intelligent safety platforms.

The technology enables technicians to receive real-time alerts about nearby electrical risks, offering critical seconds to respond and avoid potential exposure.

Managing Director Anurag Saxena said the innovation reflects a shift from passive protection to predictive intelligence. He noted that the integration of sensing technology, hazard detection, and instant alerts is intended to establish a new global category in electrical safety systems. Developed with a strong focus on real-world field conditions, the system is tailored for sectors such as telecom, utilities, and infrastructure maintenance.

Crude hits \$114, gas jumps 35% after Iran targets Gulf fuel sites

MUMBAI: Global oil and natural gas prices surged sharply on Thursday after Iran launched fresh strikes on key energy infrastructure across the Gulf, including Qatar's main liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility, raising concerns over prolonged supply disruptions. Brent crude, the international benchmark, climbed close to \$114 per barrel, up from below \$73 on the eve of the conflict. US benchmark crude rose 1.1% to \$96.45 per barrel, while US natural gas prices, tracked by the Henry Hub contract, gained 3.3%. European natural gas markets saw the sharpest reaction, with the Dutch TTF benchmark, the region's key gas contract, surging as much as 35% to around 74 euros before trimming gains.

It was still trading about 24% higher on the day, according to AP. The spike followed two waves of Iranian strikes that caused "extensive damage" at Ras Laffan in Qatar, the world's largest LNG hub. The facility, which handles roughly one-fifth of global LNG supply, was forced to shut after a

drone attack. The disruption has been compounded by the near closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping route for oil and gas.

With tanker traffic severely restricted, LNG shipments from Qatar have been halted, tightening global supply.

The latest escalation comes as Iran intensifies attacks on energy infrastructure in Gulf countries following earlier strikes on its own gas facilities in South Pars. In addition to Qatar, two oil refineries in Kuwait were also targeted, reported AP. The disruption to the Persian Gulf's energy network, a key supplier to global markets, has heightened fears that the current energy shock could be prolonged, with lasting damage to production capacity. Analysts warn that sustained high oil and gas prices could trigger a fresh wave of global inflation, complicating economic recovery and monetary policy.

Financial markets reacted negatively to the surge in energy prices. Asian equities declined sharply, tracking losses on Wall Street.

'TVS King Ka Vaada 3.0' launched

CHENNAI: Two and three-wheeler makers TVS Motor Company on Thursday launched 'TVS King Ka Vaada 3.0', an enhanced customer-value support initiative for the TVS King three-wheeler family.

It builds on the success of its earlier editions while significantly expanding the scope of customer benefits.

With Vaada 3.0, the company extends its commitment beyond vehicle ownership, introducing added support that also prioritises the safety and well-being of customers and their families.

The 'TVS King Ka Vaada 3.0' offers a comprehensive ownership package designed to deliver peace of mind, reduced downtime, and enhanced financial security for customers and their families. Along with extended warranty, free maintenance services, and roadside assistance, the scheme introduces personal and family protection benefits, reinforcing the company's commitment to supporting customers beyond mobility.

ACROSS THE GLOBE

China welcomes temporary ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan

BEIJING: China on Thursday welcomed a temporary pause in fighting between Afghanistan and Pakistan while downplaying reports of its failure to enforce a ceasefire between the two neighbours.

China welcomes the temporary ceasefire agreement reached by Pakistan and Afghanistan during the Eid al-Fitr holiday, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing here.

China appreciates the efforts made by relevant Islamic countries, Lin said, downplaying reports of Beijing's failure to enforce a ceasefire between the two neighbours.

Pakistan and Afghanistan on Wednesday announced a "temporary pause" in fighting in view of Eid-ul-Fitr and at the request of Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Qatar. There

was no mention of China's mediation efforts by both sides.

Earlier, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar and his Afghan counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi, urging them to work out a ceasefire and hold direct talks.

China's special envoy Yue Xiaoyong shuttled between Islamabad and Kabul to press for a ceasefire. China also had a trilateral dialogue mechanism with Pakistan and Afghanistan for years. Pakistan, in apparent defiance of Chinese diplomacy, conducted a massive airstrike on a drug rehabilitation centre in Kabul in which over 400 patients were killed, according to Afghanistan.

While China was tight-lipped about Pakistan's airstrikes, Foreign Office



spokesperson Tahir Andrabi termed reports of Islamabad's defiance to carry out the airstrikes in the midst of China's mediation as unnecessary

speculation. "Pakistan and China remain trusted partners and close friends. We maintain regular and close communication on all issues of mutual concern and shared interest.

Therefore, any unnecessary speculation or fabrication of facts in this regard is unwarranted," he said on Monday.

US expands visa bond program to 50 countries, imposes USD15000 requirement for some visitors

WASHINGTON: The United States has expanded its visa bond program, requiring nationals from 12 additional countries to post a refundable bond of up to USD 5,000 when applying for short-term business or tourist visas.

According to a statement from the US Department of State, the expanded policy will take effect on April 2 and will apply to B1 (business) and B2 (tourism) visa applicants. With the latest addition, the program now covers a total of 50 countries.

The newly included countries are Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Grenada, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, and Tunisia.

Under the scheme, consular officers may require applicants to pay a bond of \$5,000, \$10,000, or \$15,000, depending on individual risk assessments. The bond is refundable if



the visa holder complies with all visa conditions and departs the United States on time.

The State Department said the programme is aimed at reducing visa overstays, noting that it has already shown results in earlier phases. Officials cited internal data indicating high compliance rates among bonded travelers.

The expansion builds on an earlier rollout that included 38 countries, primarily in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Authorities say the policy targets countries with historically higher overstay rates and is part of

broader efforts to strengthen immigration enforcement.

Supporters of the program argue it helps reduce costs associated with deportations, which the department estimates at more than USD18,000 per case on average. Officials also claim the policy could save hundreds of millions of dollars annually in enforcement expenses.

Critics, however, have raised concerns that the high upfront bond amounts could discourage legitimate travel and disproportionately impact applicants from lower-income countries.

Finland named World's happiest country for 9th consecutive year

HELSINKI: Finland has once again been ranked the happiest country in the world, maintaining its position at the top for the ninth year in a row.

The country has also improved its standing in the world brand index, moving up from 7th place to 5th.

President Alexander Stubb commented on the achievement, saying there is no "magic formula" behind Finland's consistent performance in global happiness rankings. Instead, he pointed to the country's strong social foundations.

According to Stubb,

Finland's success is built on a combination of key societal pillars, including a welfare-based system, a strong and accessible education framework, a high sense of security, and a close connection to nature. He also emphasized values such as freedom, equality, and justice as central to Finnish society.

"There is no such thing as a perfectly happy society," Stubb noted, adding that the goal is to create conditions that allow people to live meaningful lives, support others, and move toward greater well-being over time.

US envoy in sea lanes, ports security talks with Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: The US Special Representative for South and Central Asia Sergio Gor and Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Thursday discussed strengthening of bilateral relations and the island nation's position on the West Asia crisis.

The US Special envoys' visit to Sri Lanka comes at a time when Sri Lanka came to be embroiled in the joint US-Israeli war against Iran since February 28.

Gor met with Dissanayake at the Presidential Secretariat as part of "US efforts to safeguard vital

sea lanes and secure ports, reinforce mutually beneficial trade and commercial ties, and advance a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific for the benefit of both our peoples," a release from the US Pacific Command said.

Gor and Dissanayake's "discussions focused on strengthening bilateral ties and Sri Lanka's position on the Middle East conflict and its challenges," the President's Media Division (PMD) said in a post on X.

The US Special Envoy will also travel to Maldives after Sri Lanka in the 5-day

visit for high-level engagements focused on advancing cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

On March 4, the US torpedoed the Iranian frigate Iris Dena killing 84 sailors while 32 escaped. Two days later, a second Iranian vessel, Iris Bushehr, sought entry to Colombo port with 219 sailors. Sri Lanka asked the vessel to be diverted to the eastern port of Trincomalee from its anchor outside the port here. A total of 204 of the sailors are now accommodated at the Naval facility near Colombo.

Former prez Rajapaksa given cash bribe in airbus deal, Sri Lankan court told

COLOMBO: Former president Mahinda Rajapaksa was given a bribe of LKR 60 million rupees, Kapila Chandrasena, chief accused in the 2017 Airbus case, told a court in Sri Lanka on Thursday.

Chandrasena, the former CEO of the national carrier between 2011-15, was produced in the magistrate's court here after he was arrested last week in the case.

Rajapaksa was given Sri Lankan rupees (LKR) 20 million each at three different occasions at his country homes in the rural south in 2015 when he was the president, the former airline CEO alleged.

Former Aviation Minister Priyankara Jayarathna during Rajapaksa's time, was also mentioned as having received a share of the bribe, he said.

Chandrasena himself had received a kick back from Airbus and monies had



been credited to his wife's account. Both were arrested and extended on bail in 2019.

The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) revived the Airbus case after the new anti-corruption laws were enacted in the island nation in 2024.