

MARKET DASHBOARD

SENSEX

77,550.25
▲ 918.60 (1.19%)

NIFTY

22,346.75
▲ 309.25 (1.40%)

GAINERS & LOSERS

TOP GAINERS / BSE

New India Assurance
155.71, 25.80
Suven Pharma
377.90, 61.10
Ola Electric Mobilit
40.88, 4.57
Blue Jet Healthcare
406.85, 37.00
Allied Blenders
509.40, 42.90

TOP LOSERS / BSE

Coal India Ltd
434.10, -20.00
Sun Pharma
1,655, -62.20
Coforge
1,224, -40.61
Data Patterns (India)
3,270, -99.81
Infosys
1,293, -39.10

TOP GAINERS / NSE

Inox India
1,305, 81.20
Tata Chemicals
689.90, 40.40
HFCL
84.40, 4.80
Sona BLW Precision
554.25, 31.20
Adani Gas
581.05, 31.20

TOP LOSERS / NSE

TCS
2,524, -64.70
Mphasis
2,327, -58.61
Newgen Software
447.95, -9.25
V-Guard
321.65, -6.50
Birlasoft
366.00, -7.36

COMMODITIES

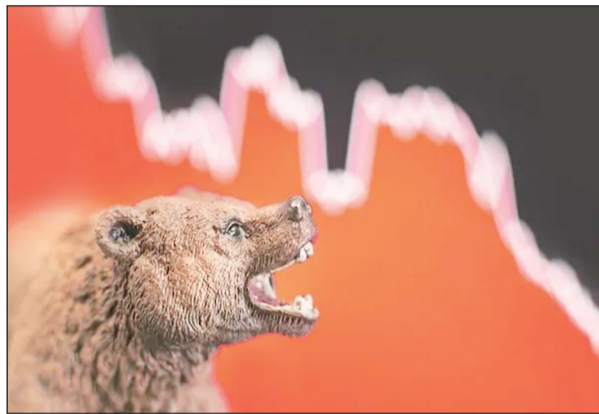
GOLD (MCDX 10 GRM)
15,2350.00
▲ (870.00)
SILVER (MCDX 1 KG)
2,60,000.00
▲ (5000.00)

USD (\$) / INR(₹)

92.59
▲ (0.47)

Sensex surges 919 pts, Nifty ends above 24K; ICICI Bank, M&M jump 3% each

NEW DELHI: The equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded by over 1 percent on Friday, supported by gains in banking shares and positive global cues amid hopes of easing West Asia crisis ahead of US-Iran negotiations. Meanwhile, lower crude prices also supported the investor sentiment.



The Sensex jumped 918.60 points or 1.2 percent to settle at 77,550.25. During the day, it surged 990.85 points or 1.29 percent to 77,622.50. The Nifty climbed 309.25 points or 1.40 percent to end at 22,346.75.

The positive trend was led by buying in banking, auto and financial stocks, while IT counters saw some profit booking after TCS Q4 results.

For the week, the BSE Sensex and Nifty gained nearly 6 percent each, marking their best weekly performance since February 2021, while also snapping a six-week losing streak.

In the broader market, the smallcap and midcap indices rose 7.6 percent and 7.8 percent, respectively, this week, with all 16 major sectors logging gains.

The financials rose 9 percent, while auto stocks index

was the top gainer among major sectors with a 10.6 percent surge for the week. Larsen & Toubro jumped 9.6 percent to log its best week in over five years.

1) US-Iran ceasefire: U.S. and Iran reached a two-week ceasefire on Wednesday, pushing Brent crude prices down 12 percent since then and providing a respite to equity markets globally.

"A more durable improvement in global risk sentiment would require a cessation of hostilities and the full reopening of the Strait of Hormuz," Rita Tahilramani, investment director of Asian equities at Aberdeen Investments told Reuters.

2) Rally in financials: Strong buying in financial stocks supported the market rally. Financials rose more than 2 percent during the session and 9 percent for the week.

The Nifty PSU Bank index and private bank index gained 2 percent and 1.98 percent, respectively.

3) Positive global cues: Asian markets, including South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, China's SSE Composite and Hong Kong's Hang Seng, settled higher.

Major U.S. stock indices rose as the S&P 500 closed above the key 6,800 psychological level, while the Dow Jones turned positive for

the 2026 calendar year. The Nasdaq outperformed other major benchmarks, driven by significant gains in mega-cap technology firms. Amazon shares climbed over 5 percent following internal AI chip developments, while Intel and Alphabet rallied on news of an expanded semiconductor partnership for Google Cloud infrastructure.

"Strength in US markets, along with broadly positive Asian cues, reflects optimism around the fragile US-Iran ceasefire. However, sentiment remains event-driven, and any change in geopolitical developments could impact risk appetite, especially through crude oil prices," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth told PTI.

4) Rupee rises: The rupee appreciated 10 paise to 92.41 against the US dollar. It opened at 92.58 at the interbank foreign exchange market and strengthened to 92.41, marking a gain over its previous close. Forex traders said volatility may persist during the day amid global developments and as the deadline for RBI's directive on banks' overnight positions approaches.

Equity inflows jump 56% to Rs 40,450 crore in March; SIPs hit record high

NEW DELHI: Equity mutual funds saw net inflows surge 56% to Rs 40,450 crore in March, reflecting strong investor participation despite market volatility and geopolitical tensions, PTI reported. The inflow was the highest since July 2025, when equity-oriented funds had attracted Rs 42,702 crore. According to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), this also marked the 61st consecutive month of positive net inflows into equity schemes. "The surge in inflows reflects sustained retail engagement through SIP contributions, year-end portfolio allocations, and investors using recent market corrections as an opportunity to deploy incremental capital into equities," Himanshu Srivastava of Morningstar Investment Research India said. Monthly SIP contributions rose to an all-time high of Rs 32,087 crore in March, up from Rs 29,845 crore in February, indicating continued preference for disciplined investing.

Income tax department disposes 2.22 lakh appeals in FY26; says CBDT chairman

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Department disposed of 2.22 lakh appeals in the last financial year, marking a 29% increase over the previous fiscal as part of efforts to reduce disputes and improve taxpayer services, PTI reported. CBDT chairman Ravi Agrawal, in a letter to officials, said actions in the current fiscal (2026-27) should be "guided" by data, "proportionate" and aligned with the goal of a "fair and efficient" tax system. He said the department has "significantly" strengthened the use of data analytics and intelligence-driven approaches to identify risks and guide enforcement. Agrawal noted that "theme-based" investigations were undertaken to address issues such as incorrect claims of deductions and suppression of business receipts. According to official data, 2,22,540 appeals were disposed of in 2025-26, compared to 1,72,361 in 2024-25, reflecting a growth of 29.11%. Of the 1,51,239 legacy appeals pending at the beginning of the year, 50,654 cases were cleared through a "special drive", reinforcing the department's "commitment" to bringing "certainty" to the tax system. As a result,

carry-forward pendency of legacy appeals declined by 33.49% compared to the previous year.

The department also disposed of 72,933 grievances during the fiscal, with an average resolution time of 47 days. Additionally, 1,32,125 rectification applications were processed and 5,68,621 orders giving effect (OGEs) were issued. Overall, more than 10.26 lakh cases were disposed of across OGEs, rectifications and grievance redressal, leading to a reduction of Rs 12,33,469 crore in outstanding demand, officials said. Agrawal said about 1.56 lakh trusts were granted registrations and re-registrations, with many brought into the digital system from paper records. The department also signed 219 advance pricing agreements (APAs), up 25.86% from 174 in the previous fiscal, aimed at providing certainty in transfer pricing. He said 2026 holds "special significance" with the rollout of the new Income Tax Act, 2025 and Income Tax Rules, 2026, which aim to enhance ease of compliance while strengthening a non-intrusive, data-driven tax administration.

Pantherun, Phoenix ink distribution pact to expand in Israel

BENGALURU: Pantherun Technologies on Friday announced that it has signed a distribution agreement with Phoenix Technologies to expand its presence in the Israeli market. Under the agreement, Phoenix Technologies will represent and sell Pantherun's product portfolio in Israel, enabling wider access to its advanced technology solutions among local customers and partners.

The partnership is aimed at strengthening Pantherun's foothold in Israel, a market known for its strong innovation ecosystem and demand for cutting-edge technologies. The company said the collaboration with an experienced distributor is expected to accelerate the adoption of its solutions across key industries. "We are extremely pleased to establish this partnership with Phoenix Technologies. Israel is a highly innovative market with strong demand for advanced technology solutions. Finding a distributor with the market penetration, experience, and technical expertise of Phoenix gives us great confidence that Pantherun's products will reach the right customers."

ACROSS THE GLOBE

Sri Lanka's provincial elections to be delayed further

COLOMBO: Council elections in Sri Lanka's nine provinces, pending since 2014, are set to be delayed further as a cross-party select committee has asked the legal position to understand the difficulties in holding polls, it was announced Friday.

A statement from the Parliament's press office said the cross-party select committee to recommend the selection of the electoral system to hold the election had met on Tuesday with the Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath in the chair.

The committee has decided to ask the Attorney General's department to prepare a dossier on the legal position to understand the difficulties to hold the election, the statement said. India has been pressing Sri Lanka to implement

the 13th Amendment (13A), which was brought in after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987 and provides for the devolution of power to the Tamil minority dominated regions in the island nation through provincial councils.

The provincial council elections have not been held since 2014 due to the 2017 provincial council elections amendment Act. The delay since 2018 was caused by the need to demarcate electoral division boundaries to make way for the new hybrid system of elections from the original proportional representation, the committee pointed out.

The delimitation commission report relevant to the 2017 amendment has not been handed to the president by the then

prime minister as the law required.

Accordingly, the select committee had decided to ask the Attorney General to scrutinise the legal status, the statement said.

Officials from the independent election commission and the Attorney General's Department were present at the select committee deliberations.

The Indian intervention came in the midst of a bloody armed campaign by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who had run a military campaign for a separate Tamil homeland in the northern and eastern provinces of the island nation for nearly 30 years before its collapse in 2009 after the Sri Lankan Army killed its supreme leader V Prabhakaran. The Indian troops were

deployed in Sri Lanka in July 1987 to oversee the implementation of the Indo-Lanka Accord between the then Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene and the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Ruling party National People's Power's (NPP) dominant partner Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) had then led a bloody rebellion against the Indo-Lanka Accord between the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan president J R Jayewardene.

The issue was also raised during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Colombo in April 2025 and the Indian government, at frequent intervals, has urged the Sri Lankan government to hold the delayed provincial council elections as soon as possible.

Misri, Rubio discuss trade, Quad; US diplomat set to visit India in May

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to visit New Delhi next month, it was announced here after his "productive meeting" with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on a range of issues, including trade and the Quad.

Misri, who is on a three-day visit here, met Rubio at the White House on Thursday. The two leaders reviewed bilateral relationships, especially trade, critical minerals, defence and the Quad.

"Welcome to the White House @VikramMisri! Productive meeting with @SecRubio that focused on our bilateral relationship, especially trade, critical minerals, defence and the Quad," US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, who was also present at the meeting, posted on X.

Secretary Rubio looks forward to visiting India next month, Gor said. "We look forward to

deepening our engagement in these important sectors and much more to strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," the Indian embassy in the US said in a post on X.

Earlier, Misri held separate meetings with US Deputy Secretary Christopher Landau and US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Allison Hooker.

"Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau met with Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri today in Washington. The leaders reaffirmed the close partnership between the two countries and shared news about the situation in the Persian Gulf and other global and regional priorities," Tommy Pigott, Principal Deputy Spokesman for the Department of State, said in a statement.

According to the Indian embassy, Misri and Landau discussed bilateral priori-



ties and also exchanged assessments on regional and global developments of mutual concern.

Hooker said she and Misri discussed how India and the US can work closer together on security, defence, and the economy.

"We are finding practical ways to make both Americans and Indians safer and more prosperous, including through the Quad," she said.

The Indian embassy in the US said Hooker and

Misri took stock of the India-US bilateral agenda since the Foreign Office Consultations held last December.

The two diplomats also shared assessments on recent developments in West Asia, as well as regional issues of mutual interest.

US Vice President J D Vance is leading a delegation to Islamabad for talks with Iranian leaders after the warring sides agreed to a two-week Pakistan-brokered ceasefire.

Pak Min reviews security arrangements ahead of key Iran-US talks in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's interior minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday reviewed the security arrangements in Islamabad ahead of the arrival of the Iranian and US delegations for peace talks aimed to end the conflict in West Asia. The US and Iran agreed to a two-week conditional ceasefire on Wednesday, followed by a face-to-face meeting in Islamabad to settle the differences and convert the ongoing truce into a lasting peace.

According to official sources, delegates from the United States and Iran are expected to arrive by tonight to participate in the talks over the weekend, for which more than 10,000 security personnel have been deployed in Islamabad.

However, no official statement has been issued by the Pakistan authorities on the arrival of the delegates, yet. Naqvi said that "hosting the US-Iran talks in Islamabad after the ceasefire is an honour for Pakistan" and directed that all possible measures be taken for hospitality and security of the incoming delegations.

He was informed that the Red Zone had been sealed and a control room established in the Ministry of Interior to monitor the situation.

As part of security measures, a large-scale grand combing search operation was carried out in different areas of Islamabad at the direction of the Inspector General of Islamabad.

Indian author, journalist Pallavi launches her new book in Beijing

BEIJING: Indian author and journalist Pallavi Aiyar has launched her latest book, *Travels in the Other Place: Pursuing the Self in Eight Acts*, at a get-together here.

Travels in the Other Place is a blend of her memoirs, philosophy, and travel writing.

The book, in her words, is an original and introspective collection of eight essays that explore identity and belonging across shifting geographies—both physical and emotional.

Spanning a life that stretches from a bookish childhood in 1980s India to a shock cancer diagnosis in Spain in 2022, the book offers readers a kaleidoscopic view of the self in motion, she said.

It turns the lens of a for-

eign correspondent inward with insights that are both personal and universal, she said while interacting with Beijing-based journalists and literary personalities on Thursday.

Each essay of the book captures her life at a different stage of life, in a different part of the world, she said.

Over a career spanning more than two decades, Aiyar has reported from China, Belgium, Japan, Indonesia, and Spain, besides India.

She is the author of seven books, among them *Smoke and Mirrors*, a China memoir that won the Vodafone-Crossword Book Award, as well as Chinese Whiskers, *Jakarta Tales*, *Punjabi Parmesan* and *Oriental: An Indian in Japan*.

Hezbollah fires rocket at Israeli forces in Lebanon

BEIRUT: Hezbollah said its forces launched a rocket attack on Israeli soldiers near the southern Lebanese town of Al-Khiyam early Friday, amid continuing exchanges of fire between Israel and the militant group.

The group said the barrage targeted Israeli positions at around 03:50 BST. Israel had no immediate comment.

The overnight fighting comes after Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon on Wednesday killed more than 300 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry.

Israel said it struck Hezbollah rocket launchers, while the armed group said it fired rockets at multiple locations inside Israel, trig-

gering alerts in Tel Aviv and other areas.

The flare-up occurs against the backdrop of tensions over Iran's regional role and the fragile US-Iran ceasefire, ahead of scheduled peace talks in Pakistan on Friday.

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said in a statement on state TV that Tehran reserves the right to retaliate against US-Israeli attacks on its allies, including Hezbollah.

US President Donald Trump criticised Iran's handling of the Strait of Hormuz, warning Tehran against charging fees to tankers, while UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer discussed shipping safety with Trump.

US, Philippines sign agreement to strengthen health cooperation

WASHINGTON: The United States and the Philippines on Thursday signed a Joint Declaration of Intent to enhance bilateral health cooperation, aiming to strengthen the Philippines' health system and improve its ability to respond to global health threats such as HIV and tuberculosis. The agreement, part of the Trump Administration's America First Global Health Strategy, commits both countries to co-funding shared health objectives and establishing a five-year Strategic Objective Agreement to advance the strategy's three pillars.

This initiative builds on prior US support for tuber-

culosis control, maternal health, and disease surveillance, while promoting innovation in program delivery to slow the spread of infectious diseases. So far, the America First Global Health Strategy has facilitated over \$20.6 billion in funding globally, including \$12.8 billion in U.S. assistance and \$7.8 billion in co-investment from partner countries.

The U.S. State Department has signed 30 bilateral health MOUs with countries including Angola, Kenya, Nigeria, and the Philippines, reflecting a broader effort to protect public health and strengthen health system resilience worldwide.