

MARKET DASHBOARD

TOP GAINERS / BSE		TOP LOSERS / BSE		TOP GAINERS / NSE		TOP LOSERS / NSE		COMMODITIES	
SENSEX ▼ 77,155.79 -422.59 (-0.54%)	NIFTY ▼ 23,349.90 -168.60 (-0.72%)	Power Grid	Adani Ports SEZ	Vijaya Diagnostic	Adani Ent.	GOLD (MCDX 10 GRM)	₹ 70,795	↑ (330.00)	SILVER (MCDX 1 KG)
		UltraTech Cem.	NTPC	VIP Ind.	Adani Transmission	₹ 92,000	↑ (2100.00)		
		10,955, 1.73%	356.15, -2.88%	493.40, 7.24%	Adani Green	USD (\$) / INR(₹)	84.50	↓ (-0.02)	
		HCL Tech	SBI	Ratnamani Metal	Adani Ports SEZ				
		1,836, 0.87%	780.75, -2.78%	3,639, 6.90%	Ambuja Cements				
TCS	Asian Paints	NLC India							
4,073, 0.83%	2,428, -2.24%	253.00, 6.76%							
Kotak Bank	ITC	Crisil							
1,737, 0.55%	457.15, -2.19%	5,590, 6.09%							

Sensex dips 420 pts, Nifty ends below 23,350; Adani, PSU bank shares tank

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices ended the Thursday's trading session in the negative territory. The BSE Sensex plunged 421.80 points or 0.54 per cent to 77,155.79. The index traded within a range of 76,802.73-77,711.11. Similarly, the NSE Nifty50 dropped 168.80 points or 0.72 per cent to 23,349.90, after trading between 23,263.15-23,507.30 levels. Notably, Adani Group stocks faced the worst hit, plummeting over 23 per cent following news that Gautam Adani, along with other executives, were charged by US prosecutors for allegedly bribing Indian officials to the tune of \$250 million. 37 of the Nifty50's 50 constituent stocks ended in the red, led by Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, SBI Life, State Bank of India, and NTPC, with losses of up to 23.44 per cent. On the other hand, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, Hindalco, Apol-



lo Hospitals, and Grasim were among 13 constituent stocks of Nifty50 that ended in the green, with gains extending up to 3.25 per cent. Among broader markets, Nifty Smallcap 100 and Nifty Midcap 100 indices fell 0.30 per cent and 0.46 per cent, respectively. Meanwhile, India VIX, which gauges market volatility, settled 2.09 per cent higher at 15.99 points. All sectoral indices ended in red, except Nifty IT, Realty, and Private Bank. Nifty PSU Bank, Media, and Metal were the top laggards, falling over 2 per cent each. Following a weak start, Nifty traded within a narrow range throughout the day. The index remained below the 200-DMA, indicating persistent weak sentiment in the market. The RSI indicator has re-entered a bearish cross-over, further supporting the negative sentiment. In the short term, sentiment remains weak, with support placed at 23,200. A fall below this level could trigger a correction in the market. On the upside, resistance is placed at 23,550; a decisive move above this level might induce a rally in the market. The domestic market faced renewed pressure due to escalating tensions in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and heightened nuclear concerns. Additionally, the fresh Adani case with the US DoJ added to the market's woes. Although there were signs of a slowdown in FII selling, it surged again, adversely affecting market sentiment particularly financials sector. We expect an improvement in the trend when global & domestic political issues stabilise.

Rupee hits a new low at 84.50 against US dollar

NEW DELHI: The rupee fell by 8 paise on Thursday to settle at an all-time low of 84.50 against the US dollar, primarily due to a massive sell-off in domestic equity markets, ongoing foreign investment outflows, and surging crude oil prices due to geopolitical instability. According to forex traders, the dollar is witnessing safe and robust growth because of its reputation as a haven amidst rising tensions between Russia and Ukraine. In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 84.41 and fell to an all-time low of 84.51 against the US dollar during the day. It ended the session at 84.50 (provisional), surpassing its previous all-time low closing level of 84.46 recorded on November 14. On Tuesday, the rupee had settled flat at 84.42 against the US dollar. The foreign exchange market remained closed on Wednesday due to assembly elections in Maharashtra. Jateen Trivedi, VP of Research Analysis for Commodities and Currency at LKP Securities, said the rupee weakened due to pressure from the dollar rising above 106.65. Global uncertainties, driven by geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine, contributed to increased risk aversion worldwide. Simultaneously, the sell-off in domestic equity markets peaked following the bribery and fraud charges faced by the Adani Group in the US. "This has further fueled FII outflows, continuing the trend of capital flight from Indian markets," Trivedi said. He added that the rupee's trading range is expected to be between 84.35 and 84.65, with continued weakness likely in the near term. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which compares the dollar's strength against a group of six currencies, was up by 0.04 percent, trading at 106.66. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, surged by 1.35 percent to \$73.93 per barrel in futures trade. In the domestic stock market, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 422.59 points, or 0.54 percent, ending at 77,155.79 points, while the Nifty fell by 168.60 points, or 0.72 percent, closing at 23,349.90 points.

Delhi pollution crisis fuels demand for CNG, BS-6 vehicles during wedding Season

NEW DELHI: The enforcement of Stage IV of GRAP, which bans BS-3 and BS-4 diesel vehicles, has disrupted travel and transportation, particularly for those engaged in the wedding business. The Central Pollution Control Board imposed GRAP-IV measures after Delhi's air quality index (AQI) entered the 'severe' category on Sunday. The restrictions, which came into effect at 8 AM Monday, aim to curb pollution caused by older diesel vehicles. However, the measure has had unintended consequences. Travel agencies report a sharp rise in demand for BS-6 and CNG vehicles, including cars like Ertiga, Innova, and traveller buses, as they scramble to meet commitments made before the ban. "The wedding season has added to the pressure. Many vehicles were pre-booked months in advance, and with this sudden ban, we had to scramble to adjust," said Sewak Tuar, a travel agency owner. "We are struggling to arrange new vehicles, the petrol, CNG, and BS-6 compliant ones, as weddings and transportation needs are being heavily affected," he added. Aryan Sinha, another travel agency owner, highlighted the growing challenges. "We have vehicles available for nearby trips like Amritsar, but families booking vehicles for destinations such as Manali, Mussoorie, and Rishikesh, as well as for weddings, are facing difficulties," he said. According to Sinha, wedding bookings often require 10 to 15 vehicles for multiple days. Managing this demand is challenging because they now have to ensure vehicles meet the required standards, he said. "For large groups, CNG buses, traveller buses, and BS-6 compliant vehicles, especially newer models from 2020 onward, are in high demand," he told PTI. The restrictions have also impacted routine tourism as pollution prompts many families to plan trips to hill stations. Rajesh Kumar, another travel agency owner, said, "This is the peak wedding season, and many families plan destination weddings or large gatherings requiring bulk bookings."

ACROSS THE GLOBE

Bangladesh's ex-PM Khaleda Zia makes first public appearance in six years



DHAKA: Bangladesh's former prime minister and opposition leader Khaleda Zia, who has battling various ailments, made her first public appearance in six years on Thursday, following her release from house arrest after the departure of her long-time adversary Sheikh Hasina. The intense political conflict between these two former prime ministers has been a defining feature of the nation's politics for decades, AFP news agency reported. Zia, who was imprisoned in 2018 on corruption charges, gained freedom in August when Hasina sought refuge in India amidst a student-led uprising that ended her 15-year authoritarian governance. Her attendance at the Armed Forces Day reception on Thursday marked her first public engagement since her conviction. At the event, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, who leads the interim government tasked with democratic restoration, welcomed her warmly. The two were seen engaged in cordial conversation. "We are particularly lucky and honored today that Begum Khaleda Zia... has graced us with her presence," Yunus said. "We are all delighted that she joined us today." The 79-year-old Zia, who uses a wheelchair due to rheumatoid arthritis, also battles diabetes and liver cirrhosis. Since her release, she had remained private, only appearing briefly in a video message from hospital. Her party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), confirmed that over 25 of its leaders attended the event. According to Prothom Alo newspaper, party secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir became emotional upon seeing Zia at the function. During the pandemic, Zia served most of her sentence under house arrest after being moved from prison, but authorities rejected multiple requests for overseas medical treatment. At a Wednesday rally in Feni, Alamgir stated that Zia was "very ill, having been kept in jail on false charges in a small, damp cell". In October, Bangladeshi media reported that Zia might soon travel abroad for medical treatment, though no specific date was mentioned.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy reacts to Russia's use of ICBM

MOSCOW: Calling Russia an "insane neighbour," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reacted after Moscow launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and said that Vladimir Putin is terrified of normal life next to him. In a self-recorded video, Zelenskyy said that the word "dignity" defines Ukraine but it will never again be spoken about Russia. Taking to his account on X, the Ukrainian president said, "Today, our insane neighbor has once again revealed its true nature—its disdain for dignity, freedom, and human life itself. And, most of all, its fear. Fear so overwhelming that it unleashes missile after missile, scouring the globe for more weapons—whether from Iran or North Korea."



Today, it was a new Russian missile. Its speed and altitude suggest intercontinental ballistic capabilities. Investigations are ongoing. It's clear that Putin is using Ukraine as a testing ground. It's also clear that he is terrified of normal life next to him. A life where people live with dignity. A country that wants to be free and has the right to be independent," he added. He also stated that Putin will do anything to keep his neighbor from slipping out of his grasp. He thanked Ukrainian—men and women alike—who defend Ukraine from this evil with resilience, bravery, and strength. With dignity. "Dignity. It's one of the defining words for Ukraine. And it's a word that will likely never again be spoken about Russia," he said. Russia launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on Thursday morning against Ukraine, marking the first use of a weapon in war. The strike targeted enterprises and critical infrastructure in Dnipro, a central-eastern Ukrainian city. It is unclear whether the missile caused significant damage.

Ukraine's air force stated, "An intercontinental ballistic missile was launched from the Astrakhan region of the Russian Federation." Security experts said it would be the first military use of an intercontinental ballistic missile, Reuters reported. The statement did not specify the missile type but identified that six Kh-101 cruise missiles were also launched, all of which except one were intercepted by Ukrainian air defences, reported CNN. In the 33-month long war, which doesn't seem to end soon, the war escalated after Ukraine used US-made ATACMS and British-French Storm Shadow missiles to strike targets deep within Russian territory. However, Russian defence ministry shot down two British-made Storm Shadow missiles, six HIMARS rockets and 67 drones. The Kremlin had previously warned that Ukraine's use of Western long-range missiles would be seen as a major escalation. Ukrainian forces used these advanced weapons to hit Russian military installations earlier this week. Moscow responded with threats of "massive" retaliatory strikes, including the deployment of more advanced missile systems. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to comment on the ICBM deployment. "That's a question for our military," he said.

Former UK deputy prime minister John Prescott dies at 86

LONDON: John Prescott, the former deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom (UK) under Tony Blair's Labour government, has died aged 86, his family announced on Thursday. Prescott, who had been living with Alzheimer's, passed away peacefully at his care home surrounded by family and the jazz music of Marian Montgomery. Born in Prestatyn, Wales, on 31 May 1938, Prescott began his career as a steward in the Merchant Navy before entering politics. He represented Kingston upon Hull East in Parliament for four decades, serving as an MP from 1970 to 2010. Prescott was a key figure in Blair's New Labour project, bridging the gap between the party's traditional left-wing and modernisers. As per BBC, he was known for his plain-spoken



nature and was a loyal ally to Blair. He often acted as a mediator between Blair and then-Chancellor Gordon Brown during their turbulent partnership. During his tenure as deputy prime minister from 1997 to 2007, Prescott played a significant role in international climate negotiations, including the Kyoto Protocol. His commitment to environmental protection and social justice earned him widespread respect. "John dearly loved his home of Hull, and representing its people was his greatest honour," his family said in a statement. Despite his contributions, Prescott had a fiery persona, famously punching a protester who threw an egg at him in 2001. In later years, he defended Jeremy Corbyn's leadership and criticised Britain's involvement in the Iraq war. Prescott was ennobled in 2010, becoming Lord Prescott of Kingston upon Hull. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer paid tribute, calling Prescott a "true giant of the Labour movement." Tony Blair described him as "one of the most talented and loyal people" in British politics, whose "passion and pride in his working-class roots" left an enduring legacy.

Star Health pays Rs 2,650 crore in claims during last 5 years

KOCHI: Star Health Insurance, India's largest standalone retail health insurance company, has solidified its position in Kerala with 60 branches, a strong network of 531 hospitals, a robust network of 53,000 agents covering 21 lakh lives and 72 percent market share. The company has impressively paid out Rs 2,650 crore in claims in the last 5 years in Kerala, demonstrating its mission of delivering comprehensive and accessible healthcare solutions to its diverse population, a release said. Commenting on Star Health's continued focus in the state, Sanath Kumar, Executive President of Star Health Insurance, said, "Kerala is a cornerstone of our business operations at Star Health Insurance. Its diverse population and advanced healthcare ecosystem provide an ideal platform for us to deliver comprehensive insurance solutions. We have introduced innovative solutions including the Home Healthcare Service, a Braille policy for visually impaired individuals, free telemedicine, and a comprehensive vaccination campaign. These initiatives reflect Star Health's commitment to flexible, inclusive insurance solutions tailored to Kerala's diverse healthcare needs." Star Health Insurance's commitment to the state is also reflected in the Rs 740 crore worth claims paid in FY24, and Rs 2,650 crore settled claims in the last 5 years. Star Health Insurance has paid out over 1.1 crore claims amounting to a total of Rs 52,000 crore since its inception. The company processes Rs 25 crore worth of claims daily, approving 4 claims every minute. Innovative Solutions in Kerala Star Health Insurance launched its Home Healthcare Service in Kochi, currently available in Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Thrissur, and Calicut. This service allows customers to access affordable, high-quality healthcare from the comfort of their homes, ensuring seamless claims. Star Health Insurance has launched the "Special Care Gold" policy in Braille, designed specifically for individuals with 40% or more disability, ensuring that visually impaired individuals can independently access vital information about their health insurance.