

Stock markets rally for 2nd day; Sensex, Nifty climb nearly 1 pc

MUMBAI, MAY 26: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, closing higher by nearly 1 per cent following a rally in metal and auto shares and a positive trend in global markets.

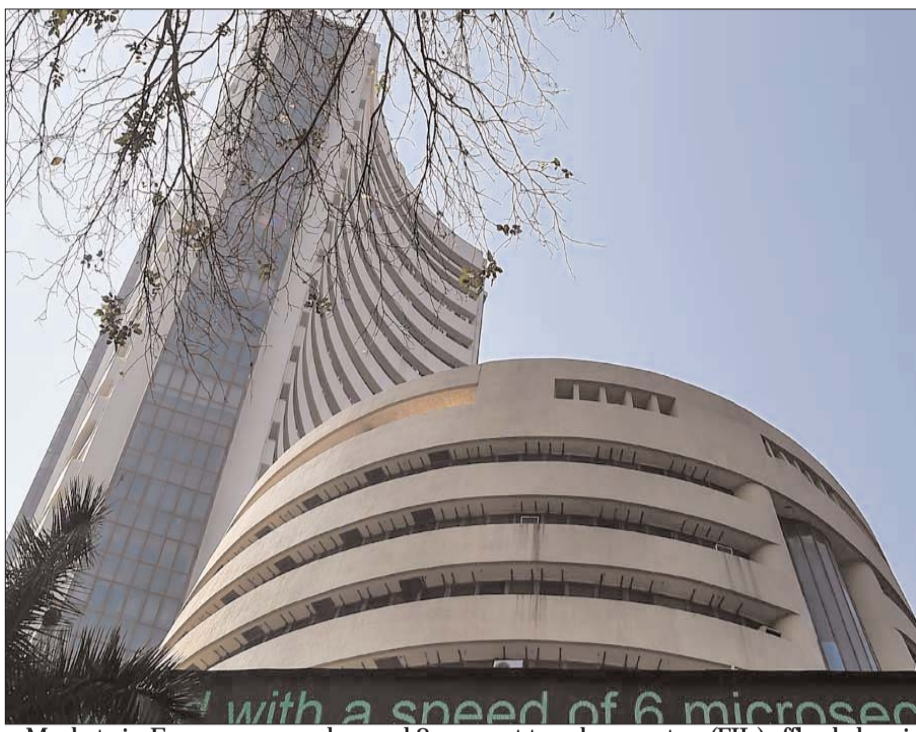
The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 567.99 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 76,070.84. During the day, it surged 801.41 points or 1.06 per cent to 76,304.26.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 172.35 points or 0.74 per cent to end at 23,581.15.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Eternal surged the most by 5.70 per cent. Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharat Electronics, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel and Maruti were also among the major gainers.

Infosys, Bajaj Finance, ITC, Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Tech were among the biggest laggards.

In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi jumped 1.63 per cent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended marginally higher. Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled lower.



Markets in Europe were trading higher. The US market ended higher on Monday.

"Indian equities extended their recovery for a second consecutive session, supported by easing volatility and selective sectoral strength, although underlying caution continues to shape market behaviour. A key positive was the sharp decline in India VIX, which

dropped 8 per cent to sub-20 levels," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. Sectorally, the rebound was led by the automobile space, with the Nifty Auto index gaining 2 per cent, he added.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 2.44 per cent to USD 102.7 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional In-

vestors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 9,365.52 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth Rs 12,593.36 crore.

On Monday, the Sensex jumped 938.93 points or 1.26 per cent to settle at 75,502.85. The Nifty climbed 257.70 points or 1.11 per cent to end at 23,408.80. (PTI)

Gold Futures Rise To Rs 1.56 Lakh/10g; Ends 3-Day Decline Amid Tensions In West Asia

NEW DELHI, MAY 26: Gold prices rebounded in futures trade on Tuesday, gaining Rs 922 to Rs 1.56 lakh per 10 grams, snapping a three-day losing streak amid persistent geopolitical tensions in West Asia. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, the yellow metal for April delivery increased by Rs 922, or 0.59 per cent, to Rs 1,56,658 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 7,761 lots.

Gold prices saw a modest uptick on Tuesday, driven primarily by ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and the implications of US Federal Reserve rate cut expectations, Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

He added that rising crude oil prices have heightened concerns about inflation and its broader impact on the global economy.

"As fears over crude supply eased slightly, investor sentiment shifted, allowing for gains in precious metals, though the overall market re-



mains cautious," Garg said.

In the international market, gold prices recovered after four days of decline. The yellow metal futures for the April contract gained USD 14.46, or 0.29 per cent, to USD 5,016.66 per ounce.

US President Donald Trump has warned of potential strikes on Iran's oil infrastructure, adding market uncertainty. Jigar Trivedi,

Senior Research Analyst at IndusInd Securities, said major central banks, including the Fed, are widely expected to keep the interest rates unchanged in the near term, with traders closely tracking the policy signals for further cues. Apart from the Fed, investors are also closely watching policy meetings of the European Central Bank, Bank of England, and Bank

of Japan.

Renisha Chainani, Head of Research at Augmont, said gold briefly broke the key USD 5,000 per ounce level but failed to sustain lower levels, indicating a near-term consolidation.

However, short-term bias remains bearish with strong support seen around USD 4,850 per ounce in the global markets, she added. (PTI)

Stainless steel players say rising energy cost hits operation expenses

NEW DELHI, MAY 26: India's stainless steel industry has raised concerns over rising global energy costs amid the West Asia crisis, saying the situation is impacting the overall operating expenses of their units.

Supplies of critical industrial gases such as propane/LPG and LNG have been impacted due to ongoing military tensions involving the US, Israel and Iran in the Gulf of Persia, Rajamani Krishnamurti, President of Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA), said.

Geopolitical uncertainties typically influence global energy markets, freight costs, and trade flows, he said, responding to a query about the impact of the West Asia crisis on the Indian stainless steel sector. "Since stainless steel production is energy-intensive and integrated with global raw material supply chains, prolonged instability



could create cost pressures and supply uncertainties," Krishnamurti told PTI.

Global energy price movements can indirectly influence production economics, freight rates, and overall operating costs, he said. The ISSDA chief also said that exports of stainless steel from India to the Middle East have been affected due to the situation

in the Persian Gulf.

Jindal Stainless, on Friday, said that the supply crunch of industrial gases has adversely impacted operations at its plants in Haryana and Odisha.

The company's MD Abhyuday Jindal said that "due to the heavy dependence of stainless steel manufacturing on industrial gases such as

propane/LPG and natural gas, several processes across our plants have been adversely impacted."

As per official data, India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG consumption, and out of these imports, about 90 per cent come through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been impacted due to current tensions in West Asia. (PTI)

IndiGo, Adani Airports partner to offer IndiGo BluChips on duty-free shopping

AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT), MAY 26: IndiGo and Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) have announced a strategic partnership enabling IndiGo BluChip members to earn on duty-free shopping across AAHL-managed airports.

Under the partnership, members can earn five IndiGo BluChips for every Rs 100 spent on duty-free products pre-booked through the Adani platform.

Travellers can browse, reserve and pay for products online before departure and collect their purchases conveniently at the airport.

Neetan Chopra, Chief Digital and Information Officer, IndiGo, said, "At IndiGo, we are continuously striving to enhance the value proposition of our loyalty program. This partnership with Adani Duty Free strengthens our commitment to offering meaningful rewards beyond flights, making every step of the journey more beneficial for our customers."

"By combining IndiGo's



extensive network with Adani's premium duty-free experience, we are delighted to bring greater convenience, choice, and value to millions of travelers across India."

Suchit Bansal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) - Non-Aero, AAHL, said, "We are transforming how travellers' shop at airports by integrating digital discovery, pre-order convenience and seamless collection through the Adani platform. Our partnership with IndiGo brings together India's largest airline and the country's largest private airport operator to deliver a more con-

Customers can log in through a dedicated portal,

link their IndiGo BluChip membership ID and receive their earnings within 24-48 hours of completing their purchase basis their spends.

The initiative aims to deliver a smoother travel experience by combining digital convenience, loyalty benefits and airport retail; elevating the travel experience.

Duty-free stores under the programme are currently available at airports in Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Mangaluru and Lucknow, with expansion planned at Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport (LGBIA) in Guwahati and the newly operational Navi

Mumbai International Airport (NMIA).

IndiGo operates more than 2,000 daily flights connecting over 140 destinations worldwide, including over 95 domestic and over 40 international destinations, making it India's largest airline by fleet size and passenger traffic.

AAHL operates eight airports across India, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram, along with Navi Mumbai, one of India's largest greenfield airports, which began commercial operations on December 25, 2025.

Together, these airports handle hundreds of millions of passengers annually, positioning AAHL as India's largest private airport infrastructure platform. The partnership reflects a broader effort by both companies to strengthen digital travel ecosystems, offering passengers a more integrated journey across booking, travel and airport services.

Sunkonnect aims to eliminate up to 200 million tonnes of CO2 emissions in India by 2030

NEW DELHI, MAY 26: Sunkonnect, a renewable energy management consulting firm, on Tuesday said it aims to eliminate up to 200 million tonnes of CO2 emissions in India by 2030.

The initiative aligns with and contributes to 20 per cent of the government's target, making Sunkonnect a significant private sector partner in the country's national mission for a low-carbon future, the Singapore-based company said in a statement.

"As the Government of India charts a bold course to reduce the nation's carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030, a core pillar of its commitment under the Paris Agreement, premier renewable energy advisory firm Sunkonnect has announced an ambitious plan to help eliminate up to 200 million tonnes of CO2, in India within the same timeframe," it said.

Sunkonnect founder Avishek Kumar said, "Infrastructure development in our country's fast-growing cities presents both a challenge and an opportunity. At Sunkonnect, we believe the road to net zero must be paved with actionable insights, robust technology, and real partnerships." "By aligning our work with



the government's vision and focusing on the regions and sectors where progress is just beginning, we hope to help India achieve not only its climate goals, but a resilient and prosperous future for all."

Sunkonnect supports facility owners, real estate developers, MSMEs, and academic institutions with greenhouse gas accounting and reporting, climate consulting, and net zero roadmaps tailored to India's regulatory frameworks and global best practices.

By enabling clients to achieve IGBC, WELL, LEED, and other top certifications, and deploying AI-powered building management and IoT-driven energy optimisation, Sunkonnect is helping Indian businesses deliver up to 25 per cent energy savings and reduce operational costs by as much as 40

per cent, directly advancing national priorities for efficiency and carbon reduction.

Rohit Kumar Sikkeval, Sustainability and Climate Change Solution Expert at Sunkonnect, stated that the company recently acted as a carbon-neutral partner for the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) at the 9th PMO Awards, calculating and offsetting all event-related emissions through credible carbon credits.

This approach exemplifies how public and private sector collaboration can mainstream climate action, foster responsible growth, and strengthen India's leadership on the global sustainability stage, he added.

Sunkonnect's vision extends beyond consultancy to knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.

Through proprietary re-

search, on-ground surveys, and continuous engagement with industry leaders and policymakers, the company is helping to raise awareness and build consensus around environmental challenges in key sectors, such as steel, infrastructure, and hospitality, identified by the government as critical to meeting India's climate goals.

With multiple projects underway across commercial buildings, academic institutions, and MSME clusters, and new initiatives on the horizon, Sunkonnect is poised to help accelerate India's national sustainability mission.

The company's plans to expand its climate and sustainability solutions into a dedicated entity further underscore its commitment to measurable, sector-wide impact. (PTI)

LPG consumption slumps 17% in March on war-related shortages

NEW DELHI, MAY 26: Cooking gas LPG consumption in India fell by a steep 17.7 per cent in the first half of March on the back of supply disruptions due to war in West Asia, preliminary industry data showed.

LPG consumption fell to 1.147 million tonne during the first fortnight of March, 17.3 per cent lower than 1.387 million tonne consumed in the same period last year and 26.3 per cent lower than 1.557 million tonne demand in the first half of February.

India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG requirements, much of it via the Strait of Hormuz, which has been effectively shut following US and Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliation.

With supplies from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab



Emirates disrupted, the government has cut LPG supplies to commercial establishments like hotels, and industries to safeguard household cooking gas availability.

Preliminary sales data of three state-owned fuel retailers, who control roughly 90

per cent of the market, showed LPG consumption during March 1 to March 15 was 16 per cent lower than the demand in the same period of 2024 and 10.6 per cent lower than March 1-15, 2023. LPG consumption has grown at a steady 3.6 per cent annually in recent years,

per cent of the market, showed LPG consumption during March 1 to March 15 was 16 per cent lower than the demand in the same period of 2024 and 10.6 per cent lower than March 1-15, 2023. LPG consumption has grown at a steady 3.6 per cent annually in recent years,

driven by government efforts to replace firewood and other polluting fuels.

With the war leading to airspace closure in many Gulf countries and suspension of flights, jet fuel or ATF consumption fell 4 per cent to 327,900 tonne in the first fortnight of March when compared with the same period last year. It was down 12.3 per cent month-on-month.

Other than the two war-impacted fuels, petrol and diesel sales posted a handsome rise in demand. Petrol sales were up 13.2 per cent to almost 1.5 million tonne while diesel consumption rose 8.2 per cent to 3.384 million tonne.

Month-on-month, petrol consumption was up 11.2 per cent and diesel sales rose 7.7 per cent. (PTI)

India working with global bodies to develop regulations for nutraceutical industry: Paswan

NEW DELHI, MAY 26: India is working with global regulatory bodies, like Codex Alimentarius Commission, to formulate regulations for the nutraceutical industry, which has huge growth potential, Food Processing Industries Minister Chirag

Paswan said on Tuesday.

"Nutraceuticals are again one of the fastest-growing industries. When it comes to this particular sector, we need to have regulations in place," Paswan told reporters on the sidelines of an ASSOCHAM event.

"We are working closely with international regulatory bodies like Codex to have formal regulations so that the industry can grow."

The scope of this industry is massive, and since it is new, numerous reforms and policies need to be implemented,

for which the government is currently in the process, he added.

Paswan, addressing the event, noted that the government is ready to address the gaps in the sector and urged stakeholders to suggest policy reforms.