

## Indian markets extend losses amid FII selling, elevated crude oil prices; Sensex falls 443 points

**MUMBAI, JUNE 5:** June 4 (ANI): Indian equity markets extended their losing streak on Thursday as persistent foreign fund outflows, elevated crude oil prices, and weak global cues weighed on investor sentiment.

The BSE Sensex settled lower by 443.15 points, or 0.60 per cent, at 73,903.02, while the NSE Nifty 50 declined 121 points, or 0.52 per cent, to close at 23,284.60.

Market analysts suggest to remain cautious amid continued foreign institutional investor (FII) selling and concerns over the impact of higher crude oil prices on the domestic economy.

"Indian markets are opening with a gap down as the FPI outflows continue to cloud the outlook," said Ajay Bagga, Banking and Market Expert.

Bagga also highlighted key policy speculations circulating within the trading community.

"There are market rumours that tax treatment for FIIs for bond markets and maybe stock markets too could be made more favourable via an ordinance. This led to a sharp recovery yesterday, it could play out today as well, though there has been no official confirmation of this so far," Bagga said.

Analysing the international macroeconomic landscape, Bagga said, "It's a global down day following through from a small fall in the US markets on the back of strong private payroll numbers, lack of progress on the US Iran peace deal and some profit booking from the AI momentum



trade." At the time of filing, Dow Jones Futures stood at 50,702.49, up marginally by 15.42 points or 0.03 per cent. However, the S&P 500 declined by 56.10 points, or 0.74 per cent, to 7,553.68, while the Nasdaq dropped 239.93 points, or 0.89 per cent, to 26,853.98.

Bagga also highlighted that regional sentiment remained weak across Asia. Asian markets are down this morning. The Nikkei 225 fell 1,132.13 points, or 1.66 per cent, to 67,270.00, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 406.21 points, or 1.58 per cent, to 25,227.00. Singapore's Straits Times Index also slipped 69.83 points, or 1.36 per cent, to 5,068.41.

On the commodities front, Brent crude continued to hover near the high-USD 90 per barrel range, a development closely tracked by investors given its implications for the Indian economy.

Commenting on the en-

ergy market, Bagga said, "Oil is steady as a fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, holds out hope of a US Iran deal."

At the time of filing this report, Brent Crude traded at USD 97.15 per barrel, down USD 0.66 or 0.67 per cent, while WTI crude stood at USD 95.51, down USD 0.51 or 0.53 per cent. Gold, meanwhile, rose USD 26.11, or 0.59 per cent, to USD 4,460.96.

Analysts noted that higher crude prices are negative for India as they put pressure on inflation, widen the fiscal deficit, and exert stress on the rupee due to the country's heavy dependence on imported energy.

Rajesh Palviya, Head of Research at Axis Direct, said the trajectory of crude oil prices remains a key monitorable for domestic markets.

"For domestic markets, crude oil remains the key monitorable. Sustained strength in Brent crude could keep pressure on in-

flation expectations and India's import bill, while investors also await further clarity on both geopolitical developments and domestic policy triggers," Palviya said.

He added that in the absence of any meaningful positive announcement from either the global geopolitical front or domestic economic developments, market sentiment is likely to remain range-bound and selective.

Palviya explained that the undertone remains cautious as long as the Nifty trades below the crucial 23,500-23,600 resistance zone.

"On the downside, the 23,200-23,150 zone continues to act as an important support area, while a breach could open the door for further weakness towards the 23,000 mark. Until a clear breakout emerges or a positive catalyst revives risk appetite, traders are likely to maintain a stock-specific approach with a cautious bias," he noted. (ANI)

## Sitharaman inaugurates groundnut-processing facility run by women in Karnataka's Yadgir dist

**YADGIR (KARNATAKA), JUNE 4:** Union Finance Minister Nirjala Sitharaman on Thursday inaugurated a NABARD-supported groundnut-processing facility entirely run by women in Yadgir district.

The district produces around 22,500 metric tonne of groundnuts annually and has significant potential for value addition, she said.

"We have now established a unit that can roast groundnuts, extract oil, and manufacture products such as peanut butter," the union minister said.

She lauded the Peddapalli Women Farmers Producer Company Limited for running the facility and pointed out that among the seven similar value-addition units established across the Kalyana Karnataka region, the Yadgir unit was the only one being operated entirely by women.

Sitharaman said she had been informed that women operating the facility were facing difficulties in purchasing groundnuts directly from farmers.

Women are trying to buy from markets and mandis, and NABARD has even appointed a dedicated officer for this purpose. Yet there appears to be some kind of intermediary preventing them from purchasing directly, she said.

Seeking accountability from the local administration, she asked why there should be difficulties in procuring raw materials.

She further said that one unit alone would not be enough to fully utilise Yadgir's groundnut production and noted that many more such facilities would be required.

She urged local representatives, district officials and the Agriculture Secretary to pay special attention to the initiative and emphasised that development could not be achieved by governments alone.

If Yadgir is to move forward, it is not enough for the Central and state governments alone to work. The people and the local administration must also make



greater efforts, she said.

The finance minister also sought greater market access for products manufactured at the facility and requested NABARD to help the producer company expand through e-commerce and quick-commerce platforms.

Drawing a comparison with Andhra Pradesh's famed mango-producing district, she said Chittoor is renowned for its mangoes. "I hope Yadgir becomes famous for its groundnuts," Sitharaman pointed out.

She further said successful operation of the NABARD-supported unit could encourage private investment in the district.

Assuring continued support for the district, Sitharaman said significant work remained to be done in areas such as education and healthcare.

Yadgir's low female literacy, last-place ranking in the state's Human Development Index, high levels of multidimensional poverty and among the lowest per-capita incomes were matters of concern, she said.

The Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka insisted that Yadgir required urgent, focused intervention by the Centre, the state government and local administration. Sitharaman said Yadgir, along with neighbouring Raichur, was designated an 'aspirational district' because developmental benefits had not reached it at the same pace as other regions and that all levels of government must work together to

bridge the gap.

"In Karnataka's Human Development Index rankings, where does Yadgir stand? It brings tears to my eyes. It is not first, second, third or fourth. It is at the very bottom. Yadgir is ranked last in Karnataka on the Human Development Index. I say this with deep sadness," she said.

The union minister said there was no fault of the people of Yadgir and the district's present condition was the result of development not reaching the region adequately over the years.

Sitharaman noted that while girls across the country were becoming engineers, civil servants and senior corporate executives, Yadgir lagged significantly behind.

In Yadgir, only 41 out of every 100 women are literate, attending school or college, she pointed out.

Referring to infrastructure, she said there are schools but no teachers, no toilets and inadequate classrooms.

The finance minister also highlighted poverty indicators in the district, saying that despite the country's success in lifting millions out of poverty, Yadgir continued to remain among the worst affected regions.

After Prime Minister Modi assumed office, poverty was measured across multiple dimensions, district by district. Through targeted interventions, around 250 million people have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty across

the country. "Yet, despite all these efforts, Yadgir remains one of the districts with the highest levels of poverty," Sitharaman said.

Drawing a contrast with Bengaluru, she said the state capital enjoyed the highest per-capita income in Karnataka while Yadgir ranked among the lowest.

Sitharaman said Yadgir's economy remained overwhelmingly dependent on agriculture, with nearly 75 per cent of the district's land under cultivation.

The union minister also inaugurated the Farmers' Training and Common Facility Centre at Badepalli village in Yadgir.

"Funded under the MPLAD Scheme by the Finance Minister in collaboration with NABARD, the Farmers' Training and Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Yadgir serves as a hub for processing Groundnuts into multiple high-demand value-added products," the minister's office said in a post on X.

"The anchor FPC, Badepalli Women Farmers Producer Company Ltd., will manage the unit, integrating processing, training, and marketing under one roof. Farmers' Training & Common Facility Centre in Yadgir will help in modernising post-harvest infrastructure, implement quality control, and improve direct farm-to-market linkage. This Centre will empower farmers, reduce post-harvest losses, and create branded products for domestic and global markets," the post added. (PTI)

## Haryana govt working on scheme to install solar systems for domestic consumers

**CHANDIGARH, JUN 5:** The Haryana government is working on a scheme under which domestic electricity consumers with up to 1kw of connected load will be provided solar systems on their rooftops, Energy Minister Anil Vij said on Thursday.

Beneficiaries of this scheme would not have to visit banks for loans or guarantees, he said, adding that the department officials would visit their homes, complete the necessary formalities, and facilitate the installation of solar power systems on their rooftops.

As a result, the electricity bills of such consumers would become nearly zero, the minister said.

More than 7 lakh consumers in Haryana have electricity connections with loads of up to 1kW and could benefit from this initiative, Vij said.

He further said that a similar arrangement is being proposed for consumers with loads of up to 5 kW who regularly pay their electricity bills.

Under this scheme, apart from the government subsidy, the remaining cost would be recovered from consumers through easy instalments, and no bank loan would be required.



Vij said that he has recently put a proposal before Union Power Minister Manohar Lal, under which farmers whose land remains vacant and whose family members live outside the village will be allowed to install solar plants on their land at their own expense.

The government would then purchase the electricity generated at predetermined rates. This would provide farmers with an additional source of income while also promoting clean energy gen-

eration in the state, Vij said.

He said that the central government has identified Haryana as one of the leading states in the field of solar energy, and the state government would intensify its efforts and continue working towards making Haryana completely self-reliant in solar energy.

He informed that Haryana has received the highest number of applications under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The state government has set a target of

installing 2,20,000 rooftop solar systems during the current fiscal year and is striving to achieve the target ahead of schedule.

Vij said that the Haryana government is continuously working to make the state a national leader in solar energy. As conventional energy resources such as coal, gas, and petroleum are limited, the government is focusing on maximising the use of renewable resources to meet the state's growing energy needs, he said. (PTI)

## India crosses 41 lakh household-mark under rooftop solar scheme, to touch 75 lakh in Dec: Joshi

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 5:** New & Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi on Thursday exuded confidence that India will achieve 75 lakh rooftop solar power households under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana by December, up from 41 lakh at present.

he government had rolled out the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in February 2024 with an outlay of Rs 75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar installations and providing free electricity of up to 300 units every month for one crore households.

The scheme provides a central financial assistance (CFA) of 60 per cent of the cost for 2 kW systems and 40 per cent of additional cost for systems between 2 and 3 kW capacity.

The CFA is capped at 3



kW. Beneficiaries under the scheme get Rs 30,000 subsidy for 1 kW system, Rs 60,000 for 2 kW systems, and Rs 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher.

"PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is transforming India's energy landscape at an unprecedented pace. In two years, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has crossed the milestone of 40 lakh solar-powered households. With

over 65 lakh applications already in the pipeline and a target of 75 lakh homes in the next 7 months, the pace of adoption is truly unprecedented," Joshi said on social media platform X.

He stated that the biggest beneficiaries under the utility-led aggregation (ULA) implementation model will be poor and middle-income households, especially fami-

lies consuming 1-3 kW of electricity.

The overwhelming response from citizens reflects the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making solar energy accessible to every household.

Earlier, the minister chaired a meeting with officials from several ministries and institutions to take stock of the progress of rooftop solar installations on government buildings.

"Happy to note that around 80 per cent of the installation target has been achieved. So far, 53,874 government buildings have been solarised, with a cumulative installed capacity of 855 MW," he said on X.

He has directed to ensure that the ministry and department shall designate a nodal officer to fast-track the implementation.

## Govt exempts foreign investments in G-secs from capital gains tax, issues Ordinance

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 5:** In a bid to attract dollar inflow, the government has scrapped long-term capital gains tax on investments made by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) in government securities through an Ordinance issued on Friday.

The Ordinance has brought changes in the Income Tax Act to provide the exemption.

The government has decided to remove the capital gains tax on G-secs to attract long-term, patient capital because these instruments have a longer tenure.

The decision comes at a time when foreign investors have pulled out a massive Rs 2.6 lakh crore from equities so far this year, which is way higher than Rs 1.66 lakh crore withdrawn in the entire 2025 because of geopolitical tension.

In the first three days of June alone, foreign investors pulled out about Rs 34,000 crore from

equities putting additional pressure on the rupee.

However, foreign investors have invested over Rs 17,000 crore in the debt market through Fully Accessible Route (FAR). However, they withdrew about Rs 4,000 crore under the general debt limit and Rs 340 crore through the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) route so far this year.

As present FIIs have to pay Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax of 12.5 per cent on their gains from investment in equity and debt investments.

In the Union Budget presented in July 2024, the Finance Minister raised the LTCG tax rate on most assets to 12.5 per cent from 10 per cent. Meanwhile, short-term capital gains (STCG) tax on listed shares in India is taxed at 15 per cent, as per Section 111A of the Income Tax Act.

The rupee's slide to record lows has prompted



authorities to step up efforts to stem its decline, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month appealing to people to conserve foreign exchange amid a surge in oil import costs due to the West Asia crisis.

The domestic currency has been depreciating by several factors, including US trade tariffs,

record foreign fund outflows, and rising import bill putting pressure on the country's fisc. RBI usually uses its forex reserve to check undue volatility in value of rupee against dollar.

The rupee settled at a record closing low of 96.86 against the USD on May 20, 2026, dropping 33 paise from its previous close.

Once considered among Asia's more stable currencies, the rupee has now become one of the worst-performing emerging market currencies this year, pressured by a toxic mix of expensive oil, capital outflows, widening trade deficits and a surging US dollar.

It has depreciated about 7 per cent so far in 2026 and is down roughly 6 per cent since the outbreak of the Iran conflict on February 28.

The value of rupee against the dollar was 89.94 at the opening trade and closed at 89.98 on the first day of the calendar year.

India's forex reserves dropped USD 7.51 billion to USD 681.384 billion during the week ended May 22.

The kitty had expanded to an all-time high of USD 728.494 billion during the week ended February 27 this year before the onset of the Middle East conflict that led to several weeks of a drop as the rupee came under pressure and the RBI had to intervene in the forex market through dollar sales.

India's forex reserve stood at USD 686.801 billion in the week to January 2, 2026.

Separately, the Reserve Bank of India permitted some long-tenor sovereign notes as fully accessible, allowing overseas investors to buy them without limits. The previous tweak to the list of Government securities available under this route was in 2024, when the central bank removed 14-year and 30-year bonds. (PTI)