

# Stock markets end higher for 5th day in a row on lower crude prices, optimism over US-Iran deal

**MUMBAI, JUNE 18:** Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended in positive territory on Thursday, rallying for the fifth straight session, supported by encouraging developments on the geopolitical front and easing crude oil prices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 254.36 points, or 0.33 per cent, to settle at 77,409.98. During the day, the benchmark hit a high of 77,492.33 and a low of 76,953, gyrating 539.33 points.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged higher by 82.30 points, or 0.34 per cent, to end at 24,168.

From the 30-Sensex firms, InterGlobe Aviation, Trent, Bharat Electronics, NTPC, State Bank of India, and HDFC Bank were among the biggest winners.

Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 2.23 per cent to USD 77.78 per barrel.

US President Donald Trump signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Iran during a dinner at the Palace of Versailles in France on Wednesday to end the over three-month war.

"The domestic equities traded within a range, maintaining a positive bias as the initial optimism surrounding the US-Iran peace deal was tempered by hawkish remarks from the US Fed. Energy-driven



inflationary pressures may prompt central banks to consider rate hikes in the latter half of the year, leading investors to adopt a cautious stance," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

However, the sustained decline in crude oil prices and moderation in Indian bond yields could offset inflationary concerns in the second half of FY27, with market participants awaiting further clarity on the peace agreement, he added.

"The combination of easing geopolitical uncertainty and lower energy costs continued to underpin investor confidence, outweighing concerns stemming from the Federal Reserve's cautious policy outlook. The

Nifty opened flat and remained largely range-bound through the session before late buying interest lifted the index higher, allowing it to close in positive territory and extend its recent winning streak," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei 225 index ended significantly higher, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled lower.

The BSE SmallCap Select index went up 0.43 per cent and MidCap Select index climbed 0.33 per cent.

Sectorally, utilities went up 1.76 per cent, hospitals (1.62 per cent), services (1.45 per cent), power (1.32

per cent), telecommunication (1.12 per cent) and healthcare (0.92 per cent).

However, BSE IT dropped 1.12 per cent, focused IT (0.92 per cent) and energy (0.16 per cent).

A total of 2,419 stocks advanced while 1,814 declined and 186 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended in negative territory on Wednesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 101.59 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

On Wednesday, the Sensex climbed 347.14 points, or 0.45 per cent, to settle at 77,155.62. The Nifty rallied 96.55 points, or 0.40 per cent, to end at 24,085.70.

# Crude prices easing; govt to take fuel price decisions in line with evolving global situation: Petroleum Ministry

**NEW DELHI [INDIA], JUNE 18:** The Petroleum Ministry said retail fuel price decisions will continue to be taken in line with the evolving global crude oil situation, as international oil prices have started easing after surging to as high as USD 120 per barrel during the recent West Asia crisis.

Addressing an inter-ministerial media briefing on Thursday, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Sujata Sharma said crude oil prices, which had surged during the West Asia crisis, are now showing signs of moderation.

"As you know, the price of crude went up to USD 120 per barrel. Now it is coming down," Sharma said.

She added that the government is closely monitoring developments in the global energy market.

"The government is seized of the matter and appropriate decisions regarding retail prices will continue to be taken in line with the evolu-



ing international situation," Sharma said.

Her comments came amid questions on whether easing crude prices could improve the profitability of oil marketing companies and potentially influence domestic fuel pricing.

Sharma reiterated that India's crude procurement strategy remains driven by commercial and operational considerations rather than dependence on any particular source country.

"As I mentioned earlier, we purchase crude from

more than 40 countries," she said.

Explaining the criteria used by oil marketing companies while sourcing crude, Sharma said the decision is based on "techno-commercial viability."

"The crude can be refined in our refineries, its price should be acceptable, and it should have reliability of supply. These are certain important things for the oil marketing companies to consider when they go for the purchase," she said.

The Petroleum Ministry

also shared operational updates, highlighting continued stability in domestic fuel and gas supplies despite disruptions witnessed during the West Asia crisis.

According to the ministry, 1.47 crore LPG cylinder deliveries were made over the last three days against 1.36 crore bookings. During the same period, 22,945 tonnes of commercial LPG and 1.98 lakh five-kilogram cylinders were sold.

The ministry further said that from March till now, 10.02 lakh PNG connections have been gasified, while 9.94 lakh new PNG customers have been registered. Around 99,100 PNG consumers have surrendered their LPG connections as piped gas adoption expands.

The update comes as authorities continue to monitor the normalisation of shipping movements and energy supplies in the Gulf region following recent geopolitical developments. (ANI)

# Modi, Macron attend VivaTech 2026; PM showcases India's AI & innovation prowess

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 18:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday jointly participated in VivaTech 2026, Europe's largest technology and start-up event, with the Indian leader outlining New Delhi's vision for human-centric artificial intelligence and highlighting the expanding India-France partnership in emerging technologies.

Addressing an audience comprising entrepreneurs, start-ups, investors and business leaders in Paris, Modi underlined how technology had driven transformative changes in India, ranging from digital payments and AI-enabled agricultural solutions to cutting-edge space applications.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of ensuring that advances in artificial intelligence and frontier technologies remain human-centric and inclusive, while pointing to the growing scope of cooperation between India and France in critical and emerging technologies.

Advertisement Following the keynote address, Modi and Macron interacted with Indian start-



ups and innovators exhibiting advanced technologies and practical solutions in sectors such as healthcare, mobility, sustainability and industry.

India is the AI Country Partner for VivaTech 2026 and has mounted its largest ever presence at the annual event, with pavilions showcasing the country's innovation ecosystem across artificial intelligence, digital

infrastructure, health-tech, clean technologies, mobility and advanced

computing. More than 80 Indian deep-tech companies and start-ups are participating in the event.

The Prime Minister's Office said Modi's participation is expected to further strengthen collaboration between the Indian and French technology ecosystems.

India's engagement with VivaTech has steadily expanded over the years. Modi had delivered the keynote address at the event in 2021,

while India became the first "Country of the Year" at VivaTech in 2022. The organisers have also recently formalised cooperation with the Bengaluru Tech Summit.

This year's participation assumes added significance as India and France are celebrating 2026 as the India-France Year of Innovation, reflecting the growing strategic convergence between the two countries in the field of technology and innovation.

# Kosmoderma Opens New Premium Clinic in Adyar, Chennai--Bringing Clinical-Grade Skin, Hair & Body Care to South Chennai

**CHENNAI, JUNE 18:** Kosmoderma Skin, Hair & Body Clinics has opened its new premium clinic at No. 69, 3rd Floor, Kamaraj Avenue, II Street, Adyar, Chennai - 600020. The clinic is open Monday through Sunday, 10 AM to 7 PM. Walk-ins are welcome. Appointments can be booked at [www.kosmoderma.com](http://www.kosmoderma.com) or by calling +91 76767 57575.

The Adyar clinic is Kosmoderma latest expansion in Chennai and its most accessible location yet for residents in the southern parts of the city. It offers over 600 customized aesthetic treatments. All performed by certified dermatologists using US FDA-approved technologies and medical-grade products.

Kosmoderma is the first aesthetic brand in India to receive NABH accreditation. The accreditation reflects the brand's focus on safety protocols, treatment standards, hygiene, and patient care. The brand has delivered this standard of care to more than 2.26 lakh clients over 20 years.

The clinic treats a full range of skin, hair, and body concerns that Adyar residents commonly seek care for—including pigmentation, acne scars, hair fall, and anti-aging. Treatments available include:

- Acne and acne scar treatments
  - Pigmentation correction treatments
  - Laser hair reduction
  - Anti-ageing and skin rejuvenation therapies (Botox, Dermal Fillers, etc.)
  - Hair fall and scalp treatments (GFC, QR678, Exosomes, etc.)
  - Skin tightening and lifting treatments (MNRF, HIFU, Ultherapy®, etc.)
  - Body contouring and non-surgical fat reduction procedures (CoolSculpting®, HIFU Body, etc.)
- Every treatment is performed by a certified dermatologist—not a technician—no shortcuts on that.



Leadership Voices Vanakkam, Chennai!

So many people from Adyar and across South Chennai have already been a part of the Kosmoderma family for years, and the love and trust you have given us mean everything to us.

Today, with our new Adyar clinic, we are simply extending our hands to serve you closer to home with the same care, expertise, and trust that Kosmoderma is known for.

We are truly happy to welcome Adyar even more closely into the Kosmoderma family. Thank you, Chennai, for always being a part of our journey."

-- Dr. Chytra V Anand, Founder & CEO, Kosmoderma Franchise Partner

The Adyar clinic is led by Ms. Anitha Koti, a passionate entrepreneur who brings both business acumen and a deep belief in accessible, quality healthcare to this venture. Her decision to partner with Kosmoderma reflects a shared commitment that the people of South Chennai deserve world-class aesthetic care, right in their own neighborhood.

Partnering with Kosmoderma was a clear choice for me. This is a brand built on trust, clinical excellence, and genuine care for its clients. Bringing that to Adyar is something I am truly proud of, and I look forward

to welcoming this community into the Kosmoderma family.

-- Ms. Anitha Koti, Franchise Owner, Kosmoderma Adyar

For us, the Adyar launch reflects one clear priority: bringing the Kosmoderma standard of care closer to more people without ever diluting the quality of the experience.

Every Kosmoderma clinic is built on the same foundation -- strong systems, dermatologist-led consultations, hospital-grade processes, and a patient journey designed around safety, consistency, and comfort. That is what allows us to deliver the same level of trust whether a patient visits us in Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, or Chennai.

Our responsibility is not only to expand but also to expand responsibly. Adyar gives South Chennai access to premium aesthetic care that is structured, reliable, and designed to meet the expectations of today's informed patients.

-- [Tanuushka K Lal], COO, Kosmoderma Chennai has consistently emerged as one of India's most aware and quality-conscious markets in aesthetic dermatology, with patients placing increasing importance on medically guided treatments, safety standards, and trusted clinical expertise.

What makes the Adyar

expansion especially meaningful for us is the strong relationship Kosmoderma has already built with patients and families across South Chennai. Many of them have travelled considerable distances to seek our care, and this clinic allows us to bring the Kosmoderma experience significantly closer to their everyday lives.

Today's consumers are more informed than ever before. They are no longer influenced by exaggerated promises alone; they want transparency, expertise, personalized guidance, and confidence in the medical credibility behind every treatment they choose. That shift strongly reflects the values Kosmoderma has stood for since its inception."

-- Dr. Soumitra Das, National Head - Marketing & Sales, Kosmoderma

"In aesthetic dermatology, meaningful and safe outcomes are determined long before a procedure begins. They come from accurate diagnosis, clinical judgment, ethical decision-making, and choosing the right treatment plan for the right patient.

At Kosmoderma, every treatment recommendation begins with a detailed dermatologist-led assessment because we strongly believe no two individuals should ever be approached with the same treatment strategy.

# Hyderabad-Based ShootOrder Earns Meta Business Partner's Highest Tier Recognition

**HYDERABAD, JUNE 18:** ShootOrder, one of India's leading digital marketing agencies, proudly announced that it has been recognized as a Meta Business Partner at the highest tier, earning Meta's prestigious partner badge for excellence in digital advertising and business growth solutions.

This recognition places ShootOrder among an elite group of agencies globally that have demonstrated exceptional expertise, consistent client success, and a proven ability to drive measurable business outcomes using Meta's advertising platforms.

Founded in Hyderabad, ShootOrder has spent over 13 years helping brands scale through performance marketing, SEO, content marketing, marketing automation, analytics, and digital transformation initiatives. The agency has served more than 400 brands across healthcare, automotive, real estate, education, retail, and technology sectors. Commenting on this achievement, Rajat Jain, Founder and CEO of ShootOrder, said:

"Becoming a Meta Business Partner at the highest



tier is a proud milestone for our entire team. This recognition validates our relentless focus on delivering performance, innovation, and measurable business impact for our clients. We thank our clients and team members who have been instrumental in this journey, and we remain committed to helping businesses unlock growth in the digital-first era."

The Meta Business Partner badge signifies that ShootOrder has met Meta's rigorous standards for campaign performance, ad spend

management, platform expertise, and client success. As a highest-tier partner, the agency will gain access to advanced resources, strategic insights, and exclusive support from Meta, further strengthening its ability to deliver cutting-edge digital marketing solutions.

This latest milestone adds to ShootOrder's growing list of industry recognitions, including its position as a Google Premier Partner and its reputation as one of India's fastest-growing performance marketing agencies.

Founded in 2013 and headquartered in Hyderabad, ShootOrder is a full-service digital marketing agency specializing in Performance Marketing, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Social Media Marketing, Marketing Automation, Analytics, Content Marketing, and Digital Transformation solutions. The agency has partnered with over 400 brands across India and global markets, helping businesses accelerate growth through data-driven digital strategies.