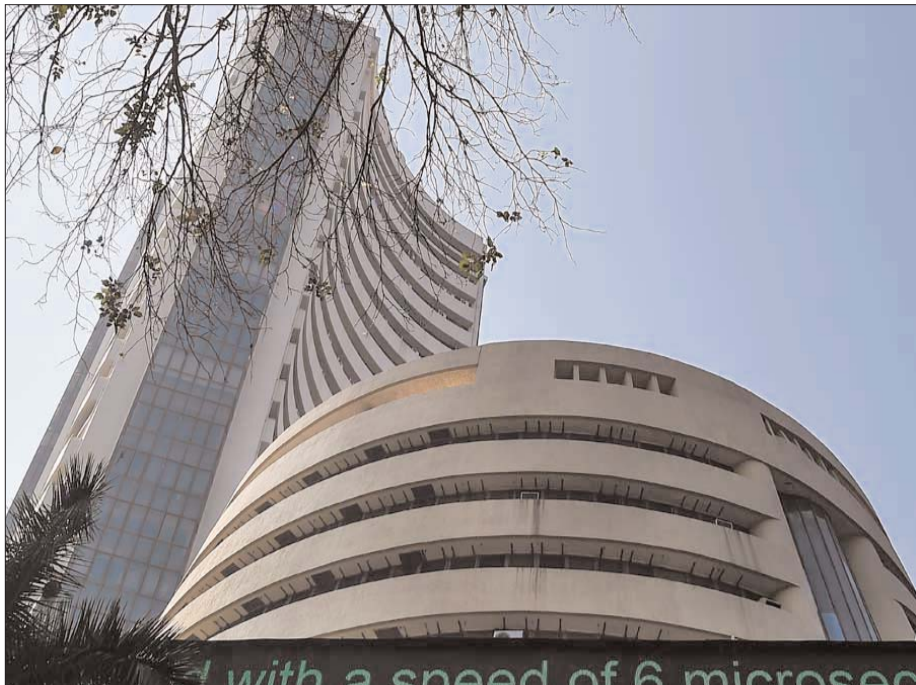


Stock markets decline as renewed geopolitical tensions unnerve investors



1.51 per cent to USD 73.09 per barrel.

"Geopolitical tensions escalated sharply over the weekend as the US and Iran exchanged attacks over the Strait of Hormuz before agreeing to halt hostilities and renew talks, keeping losses in check, but raising serious questions over the deal's durability and heightening the risk of a breakdown, leaving headline risk and volatility deeply

embedded in market reactions," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

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

Markets in Europe were trading lower in mid-session deals. US markets

ended marginally lower on Friday.

Stock markets were closed on Friday for Muharram.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 383.76 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

On Thursday, the Sensex settled 109.25 points, or 0.14 per cent, higher at 77,100.47. The Nifty rose by 34.35 points, or 0.14 per cent, to end at 24,056

MUMBAI, JUNE 29: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Monday as renewed hostilities between the US and Iran and rising oil prices unnerved investors.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 372.10 points, or 0.48 per cent, to settle at 76,728.37. During the day, it tanked 478.72 points, or 0.62 per cent, to 76,621.75.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 109.75 points, or 0.46 per cent, to end at 23,946.25.

From the Sensex pack, Kotak Mahindra Bank declined 3.24 per cent after the firm said its MD and CEO, Ashok Vaswani, will quit upon completion of his three-year tenure and will not seek re-appointment when his current term ends on December 31, 2026.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, InterGlobe Aviation, UltraTech Cement and Larsen & Toubro were also among the laggards.

In contrast, Eternal, Trent, Bharat Electronics and NTPC were among the gainers.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped

KEI Industries Limited welcomes Rashmika Mandanna as its Brand Ambassador

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29:

Strengthening its connection with consumers through a dynamic new association and an upcoming nationwide campaign, KEI Industries Limited, one of India's leading manufacturers of Wires & Cables is pleased to announce the on-boarding of celebrated actor and youth icon Rashmika Mandanna as its new Brand Ambassador. This strategic association marks an exciting new chapter in KEI's brand journey as the company continues to strengthen its presence and deepen its engagement with consumers across the country.

Recognized for her authenticity, versatility, and immense popularity across geographies and generations, Rashmika Mandanna embodies values that resonate strongly with KEI's vision of excellence, trust, innovation, and customer-centricity. Her vibrant personality and wide-



spread appeal make her a natural fit for the brand, which has consistently focused on delivering world-class products and building enduring relationships with customers.

Welcoming Rashmika Mandanna to the KEI family, Mr. Anil Gupta, Chairman cum Managing Director said:

"We are delighted to wel-

come Rashmika Mandanna to KEI Family. Like Rashmika is famous for her movies and brilliant performances, KEI is famous for its quality products and services all over the world. We thank Rashmika, for associating with KEI as Brand Ambassador"

Sharing her thoughts on the association, Mrs. Archana Gupta, Director

said:

"At KEI, we deeply admire and salute the strength, resilience, and achievements of women who continue to inspire progress and positive change in society. Rashmika represents the spirit of today's empowered woman—confident, determined, and fearless in pursuing her dreams. Her journey resonates with millions of women across the country, and we hope this association encourages more women to believe in their potential and break barriers with confidence, world-class quality work & high performance, just like KEI Wires & Cables- Har Tension Sahe Chalti Rahe."

"Rashmika's authenticity, energy and connect with audiences across India perfectly complement KEI's core values and our commitment to excellence. As a brand that has built its reputation on trust, quality, and innovation.

From Local Roots to the World: Leap Ahead Founder Divya Multani is Building India's Global Business Gateway

JAIPUR, JUNE 29:

Leap Ahead founder Divya Multani is redefining international growth by enabling businesses, investors and innovation ecosystems to expand across borders—not just from India to the world, but from the world to India and beyond.

In a startup ecosystem often dominated by metropolitan cities, a young entrepreneur from Jodhpur is proving that global ambitions can emerge from anywhere.

Founded in April 2026 by Divya Multani, Leap Ahead has rapidly established itself as a platform dedicated to helping Indian startups, MSMEs, exporters, and growth-stage businesses access international markets, investors, strategic partners, and innovation ecosystems. In a remarkable achievement, the company secured strategic investment from prominent investors and industrialists within just one month of its launch.

The company's journey reflects a larger story of India's evolving entrepreneurial landscape, where founders from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities are increasingly building ventures with global aspirations from day one.

Since its inception, Leap Ahead has already facilitated and participated in business delegations and strategic engagements across India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Russia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, China, and London, enabling Indian businesses to promote exports and merger and acquisitions and explore international expansion opportunities, global

partnerships, investment avenues, and new markets.

The organization is also working closely with influential global and industry institutions including the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI), SCO Business Incubator, and the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), helping Indian businesses connect with international ecosystems and cross-border opportunities.

A Founder's Journey from Local to Global Business Networks

A dropout post graduate from Jodhpur, Divya Multani was drawn to the startup ecosystem while interacting with entrepreneurs, founders, and business leaders.

Through these experiences, she observed a recurring challenge: while businesses from smaller cities possessed immense potential, they often lacked access to international markets, global networks, and strategic opportunities available to larger companies in metropolitan regions.

To bridge this gap, she founded Leap Ahead with a mission to ensure that geography never limits ambition and that Indian businesses from every corner of the country can confidently participate in the global economy.

Building Global Bridges in Record Time

Within just a few months of its launch, Leap Ahead has built relationships across multiple international markets and created opportunities for startups, MSMEs,

and business leaders to engage with global innovation ecosystems.

Its international engagements have included participation in major business and innovation platforms, meetings with industry leaders, investors, trade organizations, and ecosystem stakeholders across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. The company's recent participation in London's technology and innovation ecosystem further strengthened its international network and reinforced its commitment to creating global opportunities for Indian businesses.

The confidence shown by strategic investors and industry leaders at such an early stage has been one of the defining milestones in Leap Ahead's journey. The company's ability to attract investment before generating revenue reflects strong belief in both the market opportunity and the team's capability to execute its vision.

Speaking about the journey, Divya Multani Jain, Founder, Leap Ahead, said, "Coming from Jodhpur, I understood that ambition exists everywhere, but access doesn't. Leap Ahead is building a global platform that connects businesses with international markets, strategic partners, investors, and new opportunities—regardless of where their journey begins."

Khurshed Dordi, Independent Director- State Bank of India, ex-MD Deutsche Bank, Advisor- Leap Ahead, says, "The future belongs to businesses that can build trusted global connections.

India's industrial output records 5.1% growth in May, driven by manufacturing expansion

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29:

India's industrial output rose to 5.1 per cent in May, up from 4.9 per cent in April, driven by higher electricity generation and widespread manufacturing expansion.

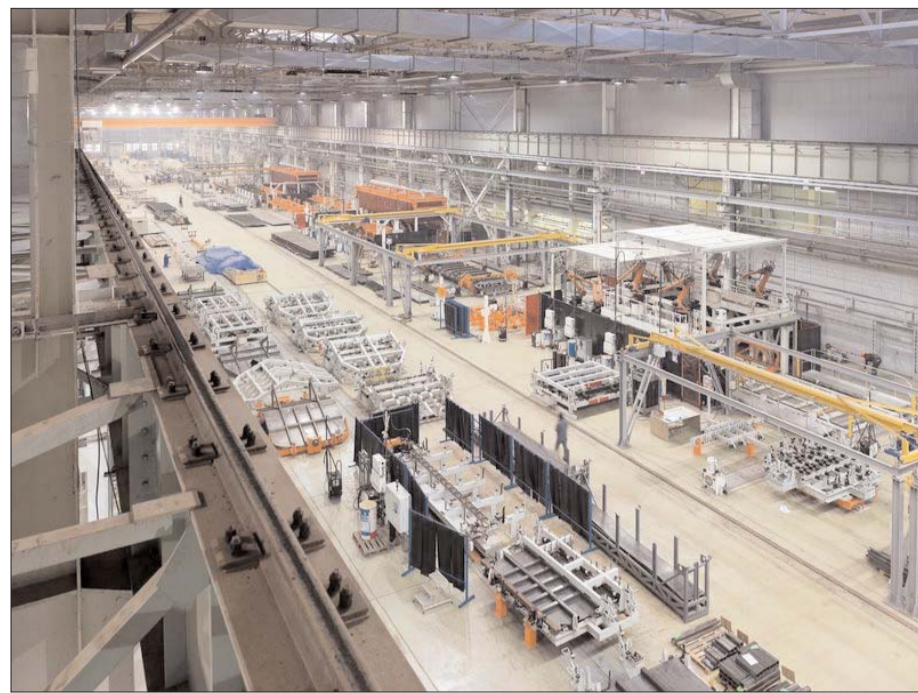
The rise indicates that factory activity has improved, suggesting that domestic demand has persevered in the face of global uncertainties.

Manufacturing, which has the largest weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) basket (76 per cent), rose 5.5 per cent in May, which was slightly less than the growth in April. This suggests that industrial activity is continuing to gain momentum. Automobiles, electronics, manufactured metals, and electrical equipment drove growth.

Among the main manufacturing categories, electrical equipment saw the most growth, increasing 20.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in May.

Motor vehicles increased by 14.5 per cent, other transportation equipment by 14.3 per cent, and manufactured metal products by 15.5 per cent. Products related to computers and electronics also saw a strong increase of 11.4 per cent.

Furthermore, capital-intensive industries continued



to perform well, which is indicative of ongoing investment demand and infrastructure-driven spending.

The largest contributor to headline growth was the supply of gas and electricity, which increased by 9.9 per cent in May. The 11.1 per cent increase in electricity output alone is likely due to the increased demand for power throughout the summer.

However, mining and quarrying continued to be a hindrance to total production. Weaker output of crude

oil, gas, and non-metallic minerals caused the industry to fall 1.6 per cent in May after contracting 3.7 per cent in April.

A number of industries that deal with consumers were weak. Production of refined petroleum products decreased by 4.7 per cent, printing fell by 10.3 per cent, and wearing apparel dropped by 8.8 per cent. Chemicals saw a 1.3 per cent decline and continued to be under pressure.

Investment-linked output

continued to be the most robust growth pillar, according to use-based data. The demand for machinery and equipment is still strong, as seen by the 12.9 per cent increase in capital goods output in May compared to 12 per cent in April and a 9.5 per cent rise in the previous year.

Consumer durables increased by 7.2 per cent, while infrastructure and building items climbed by 5.8 per cent, indicating that urban discretionary demand remained strong.

12 lakh gig workers, 20 aggregators registered on e-Shram portal so far: Labour ministry

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29:

Around 12 lakh gig workers and 20 online aggregators have so far registered themselves on the e-Shram portal of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which is in the process of creating a national database of the unorganised workforce in the country.

"The on-boarding exercise on the e-Shram portal is under way. Around 10 to 12 lakh unorganised workers have been on-boarded, while 20 aggregators, including Zomato, Swiggy, and Uber, have also registered themselves.

However, the aggregators are yet to register their entire workforce on the portal," a ministry official said.

With e-Shram, the government is looking at rolling out social security benefits for gig and platform workers, including accident insurance, health coverage, maternity support, and old-age protection.

The provision is part of the framework being developed under the Code on Social Security, 2020, which seeks to give social-security benefits to people working in this app-driven segment.

The Social Security Rules, 2026, notified on May 8, require aggregators to submit details of gig and platform workers through APIs or other electronic systems within 45 days of the rules taking effect.

The Delhi government on Monday approved the Delhi EV Policy 2026, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announcing that the policy has received the Centre's support and will now be sent to the Lieutenant Governor for final approval before its proposed rollout from July 1, 2026.

The policy, which will remain in force until March 31, 2030, places a strong emphasis on scrappage incentives alongside purchase subsidies to speed up the replacement of older, polluting vehicles with zero-emission alternatives.

The policy aims to transform the national capital into a clean, pollution-free transport hub by promoting Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs). The government estimates that more than Rs 7,000 crore will be invested directly over the next four years, while the overall benefit to citizens, including tax exemptions and EV infrastructure, is expected to exceed Rs 15,000 crore.

A key highlight of the policy is its scrap-



The ministry had noted that 18 days of the compliance period have already elapsed and asked platforms to complete the remaining formalities within the prescribed timeline to ensure uninterrupted data flow.

The aggregators had recently approached the ministry to extend the June 21 on-boarding deadline due to a lack of clarity on the exact benefits offered to the workforce. The deadline, however, was not extended.

The official said once the national database of the workers is ready, the ministry will consult fund managers on the framework for the delivery of social benefits.

Joint Secretary Ashutosh

Pednekar had said policy-makers are trying to balance workers' demand for social security with industry concerns over maintaining flexibility in a fast-growing and technology-driven sector.

"There are increasing demands for various kinds of social security measures, which have to be taken so that adequate protection is given to them," he said.

A major part of the government's strategy is integrating aggregator databases with the e-Shram portal to enable seamless access to welfare benefits.

"You have the databases of the aggregators as well as e-Shram, which will communicate with each other," Pednekar said, adding that the

system would allow real-time tracking of benefits availed by workers.

He added that workers would be able to digitally access details of their entitlements and usage through an app-based system.

Drawing a comparison with India's digital public infrastructure, Pednekar said e-Shram has the potential to transform benefit delivery and improve the portability of welfare schemes for workers across platforms.

He said the gig and platform economy has emerged as a major source of employment, especially for India's youth, and is expected to play a bigger role in the labour market in the coming years.

Delhi Cabinet gives nod to EV Policy 2026, rolls out scrappage incentives for BS-IV and older vehicles

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page incentive framework. Owners replacing BS-IV or older two-wheelers with electric vehicles will receive an additional Rs 10,000 scrappage incentive, while three-wheeler owners will get Rs 25,000 and N1 commercial truck owners up to Rs 50,000. Owners of BS-IV or older four-wheelers shifting to electric cars will be eligible for a scrappage incentive of Rs 1 lakh. These benefits will be available over and above the purchase incentives announced under the policy. The government has also announced 100% exemption from road tax and registration fees for all pure electric vehicles. For four-wheelers, the exemption will apply to vehicles with an ex-showroom price of up to Rs 30 lakh. Addressing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Rekha Gupta said the policy was prepared after extensive consultations with stakeholders and multiple rounds of discussions. "After discussions at every level, we were able to prepare this draft, and today it has been approved by the Cabinet. Once im-

plemented from July 1, every person purchasing a vehicle in Delhi will be able to benefit from this policy," she said.

Highlighting the Centre's role, Rekha Gupta thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union government for extending support to the initiative. She said pollution in Delhi is a challenge that requires coordinated action across the National Capital Region. "No state in the country has provided this level of support for EV adoption. Delhi EV Policy 2026 will be a transformative and revolutionary policy that will make Delhi eco-sustainable, affordable and future-ready," she said.

The policy also sets ambitious implementation targets, including the creation of 32,000 public EV charging points and phased mandates for electric commercial vehicles, two-wheelers and institutional fleets, reinforcing the government's strategy to reduce vehicular emissions and improve air quality in the capital. (ANI)