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Headline: Oil companies warn against LPG delivery scam

तेल कंपनियों की एलपीजी डिलीवरी स्कैम को लेकर चेतावनी

नई दिल्ली। सरकारी तेल कंपनियों ने देश में बढ़ रहे एलपीजी डिलीवरी स्कैम को लेकर चेतावनी जारी की है और कहा है कि जालसाज गैस डिलीवर करने वाले वैडर बनकर ओटीपी और डिलीवरी ऑथेंटिकेशन कोड के जरिए फ्रॉड कर रहे हैं। हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल), इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन और भारत पेट्रोलियम ने सोशल मीडिया पर साइबर घोखावड़ी के बारे में उपभोक्ताओं को आग्रह करते हुए कहा कि इस घोखावड़ी में घरेलू एलपीजी उपभोक्ताओं को फर्जी एसएमएस और व्हाट्सएप मैसेज के जरिए निशाना बनाया जा रहा है, जो डिलीवरी नोटिफिकेशन की नकल करते हैं। इस मैसेज में ग्राहकों को वन-टाइम पासवर्ड (ओटीपी) या डिलीवरी ऑथेंटिकेशन कोड (डीएससी) साझा करने के लिए कहा जाता है। कई मामलों में, कॉल करने वालों ने गैस एजेंसी के अधिकारियों के रूप में खुद को पेश किया और गैस कनेक्शन "काटने" से बचने के लिए केवाईसी अपडेट या आधार लिंक करने का अनुरोध किया, और फिर अनुरोधों को "संस्थापित" करने के लिए ओटीपी की मांग की है। एचपीसीएल ने ग्राहकों को सूचित किया कि "आधिकारिक डिलीवरी मैसेज 'वीएम-एचपीजीएससी-एस' नाम से आएगा, जिसमें चार अंकों का ओटीपी होगा और इसका उपयोग केवल सिलेंडर डिलीवरी के समय किया जाएगा। पोस्ट में कहा गया, "एचपी गैस के प्रतिनिधि कभी भी फोन कॉल, व्हाट्सएप संदेश या सदिग्ध लिंक के माध्यम से ओटीपी नहीं मांगेंगे।" साथ ही कहा, "यदि संदेश अत्यावश्यक, अपरिचित या आधिकारिक प्रारूप से अलग दिखता है, तो उस पर भरोसा न करें।" इसी तरह, इंडियन ऑयल ने ग्राहकों से आग्रह किया कि वे अपना 6 अंकों का डीएससी केवल इंडेन डिलीवरी कर्मियों के दरवाजे पर पहुंचने के बाद ही साझा करें। बीपीसीएल ने उपभोक्ताओं को कहा, "केवल डिलीवरी के समय ओटीपी साझा करना" ही उनकी सुरक्षा का एकमात्र नियम है। इसके अलावा, तेल कंपनियों ने उपभोक्ताओं से आग्रह किया है कि वे केवल इंडियन ऑयल वन, एचपी गैस या हेले बीपीसीएल जैसे अपने आधिकारिक एजेंट के माध्यम से ही सिलेंडर बुक करें या विवरण अपडेट करें।

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Headline: Petrol and diesel prices could rise by up to five rupees

पांच रुपये तक बढ़ सकते हैं पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम

सरकार पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों को हर दिन हो रहे करीब 1,000 करोड़ रुपये के नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम पांच रुपये प्रति लीटर तक बढ़ा सकती है। ब्लूमबर्ग ने सूत्रों के हवाले से कहा, चुनावी तपिश कम होने के बाद सरकार अब यह कड़वा घुंटा पिलाने की तैयारी में है। हालांकि, कंपनियों को हो रहे नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए यह बढ़ोतरी मामूली है।

दरअसल, तीनों सरकारी कंपनियां इंडियन ऑयल, भारत पेट्रोलियम और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन बीते 10 सप्ताह से पेट्रोल, डीजल व रसोई गैस पुरानी कीमत पर बेच रही हैं। इससे अंडर रिकवरी यानी लागत से कम मूल्य पर

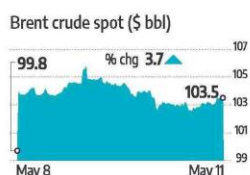
ब्लूमबर्ग का दावा...कंपनियों को हो रहे नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए यह बढ़ोतरी मामूली

बिक्री से दो लाख करोड़ से अधिक हो चुकी है। कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में 50% वृद्धि के बावजूद पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम दो साल पुराने स्तर पर बने हुए हैं, जबकि कई अन्य देशों में राशनिंग लागू की गई है या कीमतों में भारी वृद्धि की गई है। कंपनियां पेट्रोल पर 14, डीजल पर 42 प्रति लीटर व रसोई गैस पर 674 रुपये प्रति सिलिंडर घाटा उठा रही हैं। इक्रा के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष प्रशांत वशिष्ठ का कहना है कि किसी न किसी मोड़ पर दाम बढ़ाने का फैसला लेना ही होगा।

■ टीम अमर उजाला/वोनस डेस्क

Crude prices rise, mkts fall over 1.5%

Renewed tension



Source: Bloomberg

SAMIE MODAK
Mumbai, 11 May

Domestic stocks tumbled on Monday as rising tensions in West Asia kept the prices of crude oil firmly above \$100 a barrel while Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for fuel conservation and lower imports added to concerns over the economy's ability to weather a prolonged energy shock.

The benchmark Nifty 50 fell 1.5 per cent, or 360 points, to close at 23,816, while the BSE Sensex dropped 1.7 per cent, or 1,313 points, to end at 76,015.

The decline marked the indices' steepest single-day fall since March 30 and wiped out ₹6.2 trillion in investor wealth.

The rupee also came under sharp pressure, ending at a record closing low of 95.31 against the dollar after declining 0.9 per cent — its biggest single-day fall since March 27.

Investor sentiment deteriorated after Brent crude surged nearly 3 per cent to around \$104 a barrel.

The spike followed comments by United States President Donald Trump, who termed Iran's response to Washington's proposal for peace talks as "unacceptable".

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Markets log biggest drop since March 30

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also said the conflict with Iran was "not over". Analysts said the market was reacting to fears of persistently high oil prices and their impact on India's inflation, current account deficit, and fiscal position.

Stocks in the travel and jewellery sectors were among the worst-hit after Modi urged restraint in fuel consumption, imports and gold purchases to ease pressure on foreign-exchange reserves, strained by high energy prices.

Shares of InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo) and Titan Company emerged as the top laggards on the Sensex and Nifty. Among index heavyweights, Reliance Industries fell 3.3 per cent while HDFC Bank declined 2.1 per cent.

Defensive sectors offered some support, with Sun Pharmaceutical Industries rising 1.4 per cent and Hindustan Unilever gaining 0.9 per cent.

The broader markets were relatively resilient. The Nifty Smallcap 100 and Nifty Midcap 100 indices declined a little over 1 per cent each. The India VIX, a measure of market volatility, rose 10 per cent to 18.6.

On Monday, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out ₹8,438 crore from domestic equities, the most since April 24.

Domestic institutional

Analysts said the trajectory of prices of crude oil and developments around Trump's pro-

investors (DIIs) injected ₹5,940 crore. So far this year, FPIs have pulled out over ₹2.1 trillion.

"In the near term, the markets are expected to respond primarily to external cues — most notably swings in prices of crude oil, evolving geopolitical developments, and shifts in global capital flows," Axis Mutual Fund said in a note.

The fund house added that sectors such as aviation, logistics and transportation faced immediate cost pressures from elevated fuel prices, while consumer-facing companies could be hit through higher inflation.

Puneet Singhania, director at Master Capital Services, said India was more vulnerable to the oil shock than some other Asian markets that benefited from the artificial intelligence and semiconductor boom.

"More than 85 per cent of the crude oil India consumes is imported and with Brent above \$100, the second-order effects on inflation and the current account are unfavourable," he said.

"Rupee depreciation also remains a key overhang in attracting global investors as it effectively erodes gains even when underlying equities perform."

Market breadth remained weak, with 3,000 stocks declining against 1,358 advancing on the BSE.

posed visit to China later this week would be key triggers for the market in the near term.

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A delivery worker carries domestic LPG cylinders for distribution in the city. DH FILE PHOTO

Oil firms' LPG subsidy warning sparks confusion among consumers

BENGALURU, DHNS

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have begun issuing warning messages to LPG consumers, stating that cooking gas subsidies could be discontinued for households where the annual taxable income of either the consumer or any family member exceeds Rs 10 lakh.

The push comes as OMCs officially begin verifying LPG subsidies based on income-tax records. Consumers outside the income-tax bracket who have their Aadhaar linked to their bank accounts receive a subsidy of Rs 24.5 per cylinder booked.

Hindustan Petroleum, Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum are among the OMCs sharing the message.

"Dear LPG consumer, as per available income tax records, your (or a linked family member's) gross taxable income exceeds the prescribed limit of Rs 10 lakh. If you wish to dispute this, please contact the toll-free number 1800-2333-555 or register your grievance on the portal of your respective Oil Marketing Company within seven days of receipt of this message. If no response is received within the stipulated period, your LPG subsidy may be discontinued thereafter," the message reads.

The verification process is linked to income-tax records, with oil companies cross-checking consumer details against government databases to streamline subsidy disbursement.

The move has received a mixed response from citizens.

"The message annoyed me as it was a reminder that it was

"Dear LPG consumer, as per available income tax records, your (or a linked family member's) gross taxable income exceeds the prescribed limit of Rs 10 lakh. If you wish to dispute this, please contact the toll-free number 1800-2333-555 or register your grievance on the portal of your respective Oil Marketing Company within seven days of receipt of this message. If no response is received within the stipulated period, your LPG subsidy may be discontinued thereafter," the message reads.

(Hindustan Petroleum, Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum are among the OMCs sharing the message.)

regarding a measly sum of Rs 24.5. Before the Covid pandemic, the subsidy used to be much higher. It was reduced during the lockdowns and has not been revised. What is the point of giving such a low subsidy to those who really need it?" said Nivedha B, a Malleswaram resident.

The message also confused many consumers, leading them to reach out to their authorised cooking gas providers.

"I was worried if this was a scam of some type or a data privacy breach," said Saria Syeda, an RT Nagar resident.

The OMCs have also introduced a Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) system to prevent unauthorised deliveries and improve transparency in the distribution network. Consumers have been cautioned against fraudulent messages and phone calls seeking OTPs or authentication codes under the guise of LPG delivery verification.

PSU fuel retailers staring at Q1 losses large enough to wipe out profitability for full fiscal

Despite a 50% rise in input crude oil prices, petrol & diesel continue to be priced at two-year-old rate of Rs 94.77 a litre and Rs 87.67 per litre respectively

NEW DELHI: India's state-run fuel retailers are staring at first-quarter losses large enough to wipe out profitability for the full fiscal year, as soaring crude prices and a government-led freeze on pump prices squeeze marketing margins. Agencies according to a top government source.

Since the war broke out in the Middle East 10 weeks ago, state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have ensured uninterrupted supplies of petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG at rates that are way below cost, unlike many global energy systems that imposed rationing

or passed through steep price increases.

This has resulted in the three OMCs - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) - running record high under-recoveries (the difference between cost and retail selling price), the source, who wished not to be named, said.

The combined under-recovery on petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG is Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 1,200 crore daily, he said.

Despite a 50 per cent surge in input crude oil prices, petrol and diesel continue to be

priced at a two-year-old rate of Rs 94.77 a litre and Rs 87.67 per litre respectively. Domestic cooking gas LPG prices were raised in March by Rs 60 per cylinder, but they are still way lower than the actual cost.

"At current oil prices, the losses in the current quarter (April-June) will wipe out the company's entire year's profit of about Rs 76,000 crore," he said, adding that after considering losses in March - the first month of the crisis - the cumulative losses come to about Rs 1 lakh crore. The oil companies are currently losing Rs 14 per litre on petrol, Rs 42 a litre

CLOSER LOOK

» LPG prices were raised in March by Rs 60 per cylinder, but they are still way lower than the actual cost

» The oil cos are currently losing Rs 14/litre on petrol, Rs 42/litre on diesel & Rs 67.4 a litre on cooking gas LPG

» For 10 weeks, the OMCs have managed to insulate the Indian market but now the cost is visible, the source said

on diesel and Rs 67.4 a litre on cooking gas LPG.

Commenting on rising losses faced by oil marketing companies, Prashant Vashisht, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA Ltd, said, "The oil

marketing companies are incurring substantial losses on the sale of auto fuels and domestic LPG owing to high international crude oil and product prices. "ICRA estimates that at crude prices of USD 120-125 per barrel, and considering

the past 10-year average crack spreads for auto fuels, oil marketing companies incur losses of around Rs 1,000 crore per day on the sale of auto fuels and domestic LPG. This level of losses is unsustainable and would need to be addressed if elevated crude oil and product prices persist over an extended period."

The revenues that OMCs earn from selling fuel are the only source that is used by them to buy crude oil (raw material), build infrastructure to process it into fuel and lay a network to take the product to consumers.

For 10 weeks, the OMCs

have managed to insulate the Indian market but now the cost is visible, the source said, adding they may have to borrow more to meet the working capital requirement (buying of crude oil).

"If elevated crude prices persist for an extended period, OMCs may require higher working capital borrowings and calibrated reprioritisation of some capex timelines," he said. "However, strategic investments in refining expansion, energy security infrastructure, ethanol blending, biofuels, and transition fuels continue to remain national priorities and

are expected to proceed with Government support."

While countries from Japan to the United Kingdom have raised petrol and diesel prices by up to 30 per cent since the start of the West Asia conflict, fuel prices in India continue at two-year-old levels.

This despite the war disrupting India's import of 40 per cent of crude oil (raw material for making petrol and diesel), 90 per cent cooking gas LPG and 65 per cent natural gas (used to generate electricity, make fertiliser, turned into CNG and piped to household kitchens for cooking).

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Gas woes

Centre's funds allocation and utilization under domestic LPG subsidy schemes.

(₹ crore)

Direct benefit transfer for LPG			Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana		
	Budget estimate	Actual outgo		Budget estimate	Actual outgo
FY21	35,681	23,765	FY21	1,118	9,235
FY22	12,545	419	FY22	0	1,568
FY23	4,064	212	FY23	800	5,663
FY24	232	1,544	FY24	0.01	8,500
FY25	1,500	375	FY25	9,094	12,691

Source: Petroleum ministry's written reply in Rajya Sabha, Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell

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GOPAKUMAR WARRIER/MINT

OMCs scan tax data of gas subsidy users

Rituraj Baruah &
Subhash Narayan

NEW DELHI

After halting new cooking gas connections and extending refill booking periods, oil marketing companies (OMCs) are turning to tax data to weed out ineligible beneficiaries of the direct benefit transfer scheme for LPG (DBTL), even as high energy prices raise the possibility of a fuel price hike.

Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd have started sending text messages to users in this respect, three officials aware of the development said. The messages, which cite the users' income tax data showing annual income of ₹10 lakh and

above, state that the subsidy may be discontinued since they are ineligible.

An SMS from Indian Oil Corp. received by several LPG customers said: "Dear LPG consumer, as per available income-tax records, your (or a linked family member's) gross taxable income exceeds the prescribed limit of ₹10 lakh. If you wish to dispute this, please contact the toll-free number 1800-2333-555 or register your grievance on the portal of your respective oil marketing company within seven days of receipt of this message. If no response is received within the stipulated period, the LPG sub-

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OMCs scan tax data of gas subsidy users

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sidy may be discontinued thereafter."

On Monday, *Bloomberg* reported that India is considering emergency steps to shore up foreign exchange reserves, including curbing non-essential imports like gold and electronic goods, and hiking fuel prices. Officials in the Prime Minister's Office and the finance ministry held discussions with the Reserve Bank of India on several measures, the report said.

However, there is no proposal to provide a bailout package or fiscal support to OMCs despite mounting losses on fuel sales, said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum and natural gas ministry, while acknowledging that these companies are facing steep losses. The ministry is working on austerity measures to conserve energy, *Hindustan Times* reported, suggesting that an increase in fuel prices may be in the offing. Meanwhile, economists and farmer groups have said agriculture was a prime sector that could scale back diesel consumption. Apart from private, public and commercial transport, diesel is used in agriculture and industries.

Though DBTL is meant for persons or households with incomes below ₹10 lakh, the rule was rarely enforced. The subsidy per cylinder is around ₹30.

The government has been encouraging citizens to shift to piped gas and electric cooking, apart from curtailing commercial LPG supplies, and raising commercial cylinder prices by a record ₹993. The move to



The government has been encouraging citizens to shift to piped natural gas and electric cooking. REUTERS

plug subsidy leakages is the latest attempt, at a time when the Iran war has hit gas supply.

According to a ministry official, the income cap already existed. "Such an exercise was carried out around 2016-17 also. It is a fresh attempt to ensure that the economically under-privileged people are able to avail of the benefits and those who are out of the criteria are removed," the official said.

To be sure, DBTL is different from the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), a flagship welfare scheme. DBTL beneficiaries, numbering 333 million, buy cylinders at the regular uniform retail selling price, and the government subsequently reimburses the subsidy to their bank accounts. Similarly, the incentive under PMUY is provided through the bank account,

wherein the government pays ₹300 subsidy to 100 million beneficiaries.

The DBTL subsidy goes directly to the consumers, and dealers have nothing to do with it, said Jagdish Raj, president of Uttar Pradesh Circle of the All India LPG Distribution Federation.

"It generally varies around ₹25, ₹28 may be ₹30 per cylinder. This must be a way to tighten the scheme and support only the required beneficiaries. This was also done about 10 years back when the government had launched the initiative of 'Give It Up' to encourage economically well-positioned consumers to give up their subsidy and contribute to the economy," Raj said.

Queries mailed to the union ministries of petroleum & natural gas and finance, IOCL, BPCL and HPCL went unan-

swered.

The official mentioned above said that the subsidy support is not uniform, and varies between ₹25 and ₹30. "In case a consumer is in a remote location, he would receive a higher amount compared to one in an urban area. The exercise is being undertaken by all the OMCs," the official added.

Meanwhile, the Centre's subsidy outgo under the DBTL scheme has declined over the years. In FY25, the actual outgo was ₹375.28 crore under DBTL, way lower than the budget estimate of ₹1,500 crore. It has come down significantly from the budget estimate of ₹35,681 crore in FY21, and the actual outgo of ₹23,765.25 crore. On the other hand, outgo under PMUY has increased ₹9,235.42 crore in FY21 to ₹12,691 crore in FY25.

Prashant Vasisht, senior vice president and co-group head, Iclra Ltd said: "The oil marketing companies are incurring substantial losses on the sale of auto fuels and domestic LPG owing to high international crude oil and product prices. Iclra estimates that at crude price of \$120-125/barrel and considering the past 10-year average crack spreads of auto fuels, oil marketing companies incur a loss of about ₹1,000 crore daily on the sale of auto fuels and domestic LPG. This high level of loss is unsustainable and would need to be addressed if the scenario of elevated crude oil and product prices persists for an extended period."

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Street slides as austerity call sparks fresh worries

Investors interpret PM's call for voluntary curbs as indication of coming measures

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Markets slumped on Monday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged Indians to cut fuel consumption, avoid gold purchases for a year and limit foreign travel, amid rising pressure on the rupee and on India's import bill due to supply constraints triggered by the West Asia conflict.

Investors interpreted the remarks as a signal that the government may be preparing for tougher measures, including possible fuel price hikes or steps to curb imports.

On Monday, the Nifty 50 and the Sensex marked their steepest single-day fall since 30 March, slumping 1.49% and 1.7%, respectively.

The Prime Minister's remarks triggered a broad selloff across sectors seen as vulnerable to potential curbs or price increases, with shares of oil marketing companies (OMCs), jewellers, airlines and hotels falling sharply.

Nifty 50's biggest losers included jewellery maker Titan and airline operator IndiGo, which fell 6.85% and 5.73%,

SHAKY GROUND

The Prime Minister's remarks triggered a broad selloff across sectors seen as vulnerable to potential curbs or price increases



Source: Bloomberg

mint

MARKET MOODS

NIFTY saw its steepest single-day fall since 30 March

SENSEX and Nifty fell 1.7% and 1.49%, respectively

NIFTY's biggest losers included Titan and IndiGo

SATISH KUMAR/MINT

respectively. Indian Oil Corp., Bharat Petroleum Corp. and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. also declined sharply.

Reliance Industries Ltd — India's biggest private refiner and the heaviest-weighted stock on the Nifty 50—fell 3.48%. Other index heavyweights also dragged the benchmarks lower, with

Bharti Airtel's stock falling 3.79% and State Bank of India, 4.36%.

According to Prashant Vashisht, senior vice-president and co-group head for corporate ratings at Icra Ltd, OMCs are already incurring substantial losses on the sale of auto fuels and domestic LPG. At \$120-125 per barrel, and considering the past

10-year average crack spreads for auto fuels, OMCs are incurring losses of around ₹1,000 crore per day on the sale of auto fuels and LPG, said Vashisht.

Brent crude prices rose 3% to touch \$103, after US President Donald Trump rejected Iran's response to the West Asia peace proposal, while the rupee tanked 79 paise to settle at a record low of 95.28 against the dollar. Later in the day, Trump said the ceasefire with Iran was "on life support," leaving the Strait of Hormuz largely closed with no clear end in sight to the war.

Investors were worried that a possible hike in petrol and diesel prices could worsen inflationary pressures.

Rajesh Palviya, head of research at Axis Direct, said the markets could see another knee-jerk reaction if fuel prices are hiked, which could add to inflationary pressures at a time when monsoon uncertainty and ongoing heatwave conditions are already fuelling concerns over food prices.

The El Nino and temperature channel can add 0.5 percentage points to inflation over a year, said Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC Ltd. "Along

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Street slides on PM's call for austerity

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with energy shocks, we expect headline inflation to average 5.6% in FY27," Bhandari added. India's headline inflation averaged 2.06% in FY26.

George Thomas, fund manager at Quantum Mutual Fund said, "Most companies managed the current quarter (Q1FY27) using existing inventories, limiting the immediate impact. However, higher input costs will likely start reflecting in earnings from the next quarter."

In the past 12 trading sessions, the Nifty 50 has hovered between 24,482 and 23,796. On Monday, it closed towards the lower end of the range at 23,815.85, indicating increased selling pressure. The selloff was broad-based, with the Nifty Midcap and Nifty Smallcap indices falling 1% and 1.06%, respectively. Except for defensive sectors such as Nifty Pharma (0.25% rise) and Nifty FMCG (0.08% rise) all major sectoral indices closed in the red. The BSE market capitalization fell by



The BSE market capitalization fell by ₹6.1 trillion. REUTERS

₹6.1 trillion to ₹467 trillion.

HDFC Mutual Fund's April review said the medium-term outlook for the economy seems optimistic. "This optimism is driven by policy continuity, opportunities arising from shift in the global supply chain, and the likely boost to private consumption due to income tax relief and lower borrowing cost. However, the flare up in geo-political tensions remains a key risk to growth this year as supply shock risks lowering growth and increasing inflation," it said.

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Processors anticipate a hike of about ₹5 per litre for diesel and petrol. REUTERS

State refiners eye fuel price hike

Indian state refiners are expecting a modest increase in retail fuel prices within days, as the government seeks to balance the impact of the 10-week war in the Persian Gulf and the needs of consumers.

Processors anticipate a hike of about ₹5 per litre for diesel and petrol, to help mitigate an estimated loss of ₹1,000 crore a day on fuel sales, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified due to the sensitivity of the issue.

While such a move would be well below the ₹15-20 rise needed to meaningfully curb the losses, it is acknowledged that a sharper hike could strain the economy and prove to be politically difficult, the people said.

"This situation can't be sustained for long," said Prashant Vasishth, senior vice president at ratings agency Icria. "At some point, oil-marketing companies and government have to take a call on raising fuel prices." Requests for comment from Indian Oil Corp., Bharat Petroleum Corp. and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. did not get an immediate reply. The oil ministry, too, declined to comment. BLOOMBERG

India has sufficient stocks of fuel, commodities: govt.

Centre says no reason for panic buying, conservation efforts are only aimed at boosting long-term preparedness; Rajnath asks Ministries, States to implement PM's appeal on responsible use of fuels

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

India faces no shortage of petroleum products and commodities despite the escalating conflict in West Asia, the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Kartavya Bhavan in New Delhi, was informed on Monday.

According to the Ministry of Defence, India currently has 60 days of crude oil reserves, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock, ensuring uninterrupted supply across the country.

India's foreign exchange reserves remain strong at \$703 billion, while the country continues to meet domestic fuel demand in full despite global disruption.



Taking stock: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others at the meeting of Informal Group of Ministers in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

tions. The Centre highlighted that India was among the few nations where petroleum prices have remained stable even after more than 70 days of conflict-driven international volatility.

In contrast, many coun-

tries have witnessed fuel price hikes ranging from 30% to 70%. However, Indian oil marketing companies are reportedly absorbing losses of nearly ₹1,000 crore daily, with under-recoveries touching almost ₹2 lakh crore in the first

quarter of 2026, to protect citizens from rising international crude prices.

Supply chain stable

They were told that there was sufficient availability of essential commodities with no reason for public anxiety or panic buying. Supply chains remain stable, and conservation efforts were aimed at strengthening long-term preparedness if the crisis prolongs further, it added.

Mr. Singh directed Ministries and State governments to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for responsible fuel consumption and public participation.

CONTINUED ON

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India has sufficient stocks of fuel: govt.

Citizens have been encouraged to use public transport, opt for carpooling, reduce unnecessary foreign travel, promote domestic tourism and avoid non-essential gold purchases for a year to help conserve foreign exchange reserves.

The Prime Minister also appealed to farmers to reduce chemical fertilizer use by 50%, adopt natural farming practices and expand the use of solar-powered irrigation pumps to cut diesel consumption in agriculture.

The Defence Minister stressed that India's priority was to ensure uninterrupted energy flows, maintain economic stability and secure maritime trade routes. He also called for faster expansion of renewable energy, diversification of fuel supplies and stronger investment in energy-efficient technologies.

IOC's ₹611-cr Hyderabad terminal to boost energy security

G Naga Sridhar
Hyderabad

The new Malkapur Terminal of India Oil Corporation (IOC) in Hyderabad will enhance product availability and operational reliability through a cross-country pipeline.

The IOC established an additional ₹611-crore pipeline terminal at Malkapur for receipt of petroleum products through the

Paradip-Hyderabad Pipeline to support the growing energy demand of Telangana. The terminal was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Sunday.

WIDE COVERAGE

The existing Cherlapally (Hyderabad) Terminal is situated on approximately 19 acres and has limited scope for further expansion. Due to space constraints, it is not feasible to augment facilities



or tankage capacities to meet future energy demand or efficiently handle the pipeline

parcel size from the Paradip-Hyderabad Pipeline, IOC said.

The projected throughput of the Terminal by FY30 is 1,891 tmtpa (thousand metric tonnes per annum; about 7,964 kilolitres per day) to supply 23 districts out of the total 33 districts of Telangana.

This supply point at Malkapur terminal significantly improves energy security for the state capital region, IOC said.

Conversion of the location from rail-fed to pipeline-fed Terminal of Products (ToP) has resulted in fuel savings of approximately 10,000 KL of HSD and a corresponding reduction of around 27,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

During construction, 250,000 man-days per annum of direct and indirect jobs was provided. After operations started direct and indirect regular employment of about 30,000 man-days per annum was created.

DAILY LOSSES ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT RS 1,000 CRORE TO RS 1,200 CRORE

No price hike yet, OMCs' Q1 loss can wipe out last year's profits

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, May 11

PUBLIC SECTOR oil marketing companies (OMCs) are incurring heavy losses on fuel sales amid the global price surge due to the West Asia war, but the government's endeavour continues to be to keep prices stable for the common consumer, according to a top government source. It is also not considering any proposal to ration fuels like petrol and diesel as there is no shortage of these fuels in the country, the source added.

The OMCs' combined losses in April-June quarter could wipe out their cumulative profits for the entire 2025-26 financial year (FY26) if the global prices continue to remain high, the source said.

"We have not increased prices in four years. Everyone wants prices to be stable. The government by default doesn't want the prices to change," said the source, but declined to comment on how long the OMCs can continue to hold prices as there is no end in sight to the Strait of Hormuz crisis.

"A primary function of the OMCs is to maintain price and supply stability. It is a sovereign function that they perform," said the source, who didn't want to be identified.

On whether fuel rationing may be considered, the source said that there is "no rationing in the play" as it is done when



Despite a Rs 10 per litre excise duty cut on petrol and diesel in late March, OMC fuel sale losses persist.

REUTERS

there is shortage of fuel, which is not the case in India as it is a net exporter of major fuels such as diesel and petrol.

The crisis led to retail fuel price surges in many countries, with some forced to ration fuel supplies. There has been no rationing of petrol and diesel in India, although it was done for commercial and industrial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to prioritise cooking gas supplies.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had appealed for conservation of petroleum products among other measures aimed at conserving the country's valuable forex reserves amid the ongoing crisis. India depends on imports to meet close to 90% of its crude oil requirement, making the economy and forex reserves vulnerable to oil price shocks.

The three OMCs — Indian

Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum — have not hiked regular petrol and diesel prices despite the global oil and fuel price surge. In fact, their prices have not been hiked for over four years, since April 2022. For LPG sold to households as a cooking fuel, the last price hike in early March reflected only a fraction of the actual price escalation in the global market.

The OMCs are estimated to be incurring daily losses worth about Rs 1,000-Rs 1,200 crore, the source said, which means that if the status quo on prices persists, they could be staring at combined losses of over Rs 90,000 crore for Q1 FY27. While the OMCs have not announced their FY26 earnings yet, the source said their cumulative profit for the year could be about Rs 76,000 crore.

According to the sources,

the OMCs are losing Rs 14 per litre on sale of petrol, Rs 42 per litre on diesel, and Rs 674 per 14.2-kg cylinder on LPG. They are also seeing losses on sale of jet fuel for domestic flights as only a partial pass-through of global prices was effected.

Talks around potential fuel price hikes have picked up pace within the government recently, it is learnt. The government has no plan to compensate the OMCs for losses on sale of petrol, diesel and jet fuel below market prices, which was seen as an indication of a possible price hike. In the case of LPG, the Centre had stepped

in to cushion the impact, and it cannot be ruled out even this time around, sources indicated.

While the Centre had cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre late March to blunt the impact of high global prices on the OMCs, they continue to bleed heavily on sales. It resulted in the Centre foregoing revenue of about Rs 14,000 crore a month, Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma had said Friday. Had the Centre not intervened with the excise duty reduction, this loss would also have been borne by the three OMCs.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Government, oil companies can't absorb energy shock indefinitely

FOR DECADES, the global energy economy has functioned on the tacit assumption that the Strait of Hormuz would always remain open. That assumption has been fundamentally shaken this year.

The disruption has been without precedent. The 1973 Arab oil embargo endured for five months but never resulted in the closure of the strait. During the tanker war phase of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq conflict, shipping traffic was constrained, though not completely interrupted. Likewise, the 2019 drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq facility caused only a temporary disruption before supplies stabilised. In all these earlier episodes, the shock to global energy markets lasted only a short time. The present crisis, however, has extended well beyond two months and increasingly appears to be a disruption with no immediate resolution.

For India, the exposure has been severe, with a significant share of crude oil imports and LPG and LNG volumes transiting through the strait. Within eight days of the disruption, the government issued the LPG Control Order. Refineries were directed to maximise LPG yields to meet domestic demand, despite such production being uneconomical under normal circumstances. LPG production was increased from 36,000 MT to 54,000 MT per day. On the demand side, priority was accorded to protecting supplies for domestic consumers. Similarly, in the natural gas sector, domestic PNG and transportation CNG were prioritised. Export duties were imposed to protect supplies to the domestic market.

Over the past two months, global crude

oil prices have risen by 80-100 per cent, topping \$120 at times, with product prices also increasing sharply. Yet on petrol and diesel sold through retail outlets, these increases have not, so far, been passed on to domestic consumers. Instead, the exchequer has absorbed the burden through reductions in duties and through oil marketing companies (OMCs) bearing losses. The depreciation in the rupee-dollar exchange rate has only aggravated the challenge.

The crisis could have been far more crippling had India not significantly expanded its energy infrastructure over the past decade. LPG import terminals have increased from 11 to 22, LPG pipeline infrastructure from 2,311 km to 6,242 km, strategic crude reserves from zero to 5.33 MMT, and refining capacity from 215 MMT to 258 MMT. Ethanol blending, too, has risen from 1.53 per cent to 20 per cent, reportedly saving the exchequer more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore. In addition, the refineries are operating above 100 per cent capacity utilisation to meet the increased demand.

The surge in energy prices has affected consumers worldwide. Most European and East Asian economies have increased retail fuel prices by 25-35 per cent. Several countries in India's neighbourhood have resorted to fuel rationing, reduced work weeks, austerity measures, or have faced severe shortages. In contrast, Indian consumers have, by and large, been shielded from steep price increases, while supplies have been largely uninterrupted and free from major restrictions.



B ASHOK

If the conflict persists, difficult decisions may become unavoidable, with every stakeholder required to bear a part of the burden until the crisis passes: The GoI, state governments, and consumers

This protection for consumers has been real, but it has not come without a cost. The obvious question is whether such a model is sustainable. The answer is clearly no. Neither the government nor the oil companies can indefinitely absorb such financial stress.

Fifteen major oil and gas companies together contribute approximately Rs 7,40,765 crore to the government by way of taxes, duties, and other levies. Of this, Rs 3,25,504 crore accrues to state governments, largely through VAT on petrol, diesel and ATF. Based on excise duty reductions alone, the government is estimated to lose nearly Rs 460 crore per day — translating to almost Rs 1,68,000 crore annually.

There is also a widespread perception that oil companies make windfall profits whenever crude prices decline, while retail fuel prices remain unchanged. However, data published by PPAC shows that the three major OMCs together earned a post-tax profit of Rs 33,602 crore on revenues of Rs 18,20,477 crore in 2024-25 — a return of only 1.85 per cent, when the Indian basket of crude averaged \$78.6 per barrel. By comparison, returns during 2022-23 (average crude price of \$93.2 per barrel) and 2023-24 (\$82.6 per barrel) were 0.06 per cent and 4.4 per cent respectively, the latter being an exceptional year. Even in 2019-20, prior to the pandemic, when crude averaged \$60.5 per barrel, returns stood at just 0.56 per cent.

The capital expenditure of the three OMCs stood at Rs 72,000 crore in 2024-25, compared to Rs 68,350 crore and Rs 63,491 crore in the preceding two years. The indus-

try operates on the principle of creating and enhancing supply infrastructure ahead of demand. This approach has largely ensured the uninterrupted availability of petroleum products even during periods of severe disruption, including times of natural calamities. LPG supplies during Covid are a recent example. The trend has to continue if the energy needs of a growing economy are to be met in the years ahead. These investments also extend to emerging energy options in the ongoing energy transition, besides planned expansion of storage capacities in view of evolving geopolitical realities.

Between March 16 and April 30, the total loss suffered due to prices being maintained is estimated at around Rs 62,000 crore. Of this, the GoI has suffered a loss of around Rs 30,000 crore due to excise duty reduction and the OMCs have borne the rest.

Given the strategic importance of this sector, the companies must continue to function efficiently and generate adequate resources. The sector cannot afford to bleed indefinitely or with companies ending up with weak balance sheets. If the conflict persists, difficult decisions may become unavoidable, with every stakeholder required to bear a part of the burden until the crisis passes: The GoI through duty reductions, state governments through rationalisation of VAT on fuels, and consumers through higher prices at the pump.

It is undoubtedly a difficult proposition, but perhaps the only viable path to endure a prolonged crisis.

The writer is former chairman, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd

PM frames severity of energy challenge

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's appeal to the people, to cut back on the consumption of petroleum products and conserve foreign exchange, underlines the severity of the energy supply shock for the Indian economy. India is now far removed from its recent Goldilocks phase, buffeted by high energy prices and continuing disruptions in supplies, the exit of foreign portfolio investors and a falling currency. PM Modi's plea, asking people to use public transport and electric vehicles, avoid purchasing gold, and postpone travel abroad, is directed towards curbing the demand for energy, gold and forex. To put this in perspective — in 2025-26, India's imports of petroleum, crude and products stood at \$173 billion and gold imports were at \$71.9 billion, while the rupee is now around 95.2 against the dollar. Alongside, the invocation of Covid-era measures such as work from home and virtual meetings — to prevent the spread of the virus then, to reduce fuel consumption now — underscores the gravity of the situation.

The Iran war has disrupted energy supplies the world over. Countries have responded by raising energy prices and a combination of measures designed to limit demand. For instance, Asian economies like South Korea, Indonesia and Bangladesh have imposed fuel restrictions in order to curtail domestic consumption. In the US, gas prices are inching upwards, touching \$4.52 a gallon, up from \$3.135 a year ago. In Europe, the average price (Euro-super 95) is reported to have increased from €1.64 to €1.83 per litre between February 23 and April 20, with a marked variation across countries. Fuel prices have also been raised in countries like the UAE.

Over the last few months, the Indian government has taken steps to shield consumers. For instance, it prioritised gas supply to domestic consumers, while cutting back supply to commercial and industrial users. It raised export levies on diesel and aviation fuel to ensure supplies in the domestic market. Indian refiners have also raised their LPG production — in March, LPG production was up 30.8 per cent as per S&P Global. However, till now retail prices of petrol and diesel have remained unchanged, with oil companies and the government absorbing the shock. But there are limits to their ability to soak up the losses — the under-recoveries of Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petrol are estimated to be Rs 30,000 crore per month on petrol, diesel and cooking oil. The process of internal price adjustments must begin. Prices at the pump should reflect the global reality.

Behind PM's call, dipping foreign exchange reserves, rising gold imports

Gold import bill doubles in two years to \$72 billion, foreign travel spend under LRS \$15 billion in Apr-Feb 2026

George Mathew & Aanchal Magazine
Mumbai, New Delhi, May 11

RISING PRESSURE on India's external sector with forex reserves plummeting by \$38 billion in just two months since the onset of the West Asia conflict, and crude oil prices continuing to hover over \$100 a barrel, have started to worry policy makers.

Behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity measures by citizens are substantial foreign exchange outflows linked to higher gold imports and spending on overseas travel under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). While the gold import bill has almost doubled to \$72 billion in 2025-26 in two years, outflow under LRS

for foreign travel accounted for \$15 billion or 57 per cent of the total \$26.34 billion LRS in the first 11 months of 2025-26.

The fall in reserves to \$691 billion has also been driven by sustained capital outflows from foreign institutional investors (FIIs) amid heightened global uncertainty. FII outflows in January-May period were Rs 1.97 lakh crore as foreign investors continued their sell-off in the stock markets. The rupee also dropped below the 95 level to 95.21 against the US dollar.

Unlock value through Gold Monetisation Scheme

Gold imports rose 24 per cent to a record \$71.98 billion in

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Forex, gold

2025-26. In two years, the gold import bill has almost doubled from \$35 billion in 2022-23. The import bill stood at \$45.54 billion in 2023-24, indicating a consistent upward trend in value term over the last two years.

Rajesh Rokde, Chairman of All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) has proposed a monetisation scheme to unlock value in gold. India already possesses thousands of tonnes of idle household gold. "The solution may not lie only in reducing demand, but also in unlocking the immense value of existing gold through a transparent and regulated Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS)," he said.

Instead of idle gold remaining locked in households and lockers, GMS can channel it into the formal economy — reducing imports, easing current account deficit (CAD) pressure and strengthening India's financial ecosystem. The answer lies not only in consuming less gold, but in utilising existing gold more efficiently, transparently and productively, Avinash Gupta of the Council said.

According to an AngelOne report, India is the world's sec-

ond-largest gold consumer after China, with imports largely meeting jewellery sector demand. Higher gold imports have implications for the current account deficit, which rose to \$13.2 billion, or 1.3 per cent of GDP, in the December quarter, according to RBI data released on March 2, 2026. Switzerland remained the largest source of India's gold imports, accounting for around 40 per cent of the total, followed by the UAE with over 16 per cent and South Africa with nearly 10 per cent. Imports from Switzerland increased by 11.36 per cent to \$24.27 billion in 2025-26.

Outward remittances remain high

Under LRS, outward remittances were at \$29.56 billion in FY25. Of this, travel accounted for more than 50 per cent outgo at \$16.96 billion. In the first 11 months of FY26, the LRS remittances stood at \$24.68 billion; January and February outward LRS were \$2.68 billion and \$2.33 billion, respectively.

Crude impact high

Crude oil is likely to remain elevated and volatile, even with a temporary ceasefire. The geopolitical risk premium—particularly around the Strait of

Hormuz—is unlikely to dissipate quickly. "For India, this is a critical vulnerability. Sustained high crude prices would widen the current account deficit and feed directly into inflation," former RBI Governor D Subbarao said.

Even without an actual supply disruption, uncertainty alone can keep prices elevated. The more realistic scenario is one of moderately high and volatile oil prices, rather than a return to earlier benign levels. State-owned oil marketing companies — Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum — are estimated to be piling up under-recoveries, which is the difference between the retail price and the import price, of about Rs 30,000 crore a month on petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

The ongoing conflict in West Asia could drive up diesel and petrol prices in India, which may, in turn, add to inflationary pressures. In its latest monthly economic review released April, the Ministry of Finance had said while some countries are yet to pass on higher prices of energy products and other commodities to households and businesses, it is "inevitable" they will have to do so. The Prime Minister has encouraged citizens to

adopt electric vehicles, use carpooling, and rely more on public transport.

Foreign travel, overseas weddings

Foreign travel by Indians has surged post-pandemic even as tourist arrivals into India from other countries have lagged behind. As per the Ministry of Tourism data, India saw a record departure of 32.71 million nationals during 2025, a 5.9 per cent growth over the previous year. In 2024, the departure of Indian nationals was recorded at 30.89 million. Except for the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, which saw a sharp dip, Indians have increasingly opted to travel abroad.

Meanwhile, foreign tourist arrivals in India in 2025 were 9.02 million, 9.4 per cent lower than the previous year. Foreign exchange earnings during 2025 stood at Rs 2.74 lakh crore, down 6.6 per cent from the previous year. Tourism plays an important role in the country's GDP and is as well an employment-providing sector. In 2023-24, tourism is estimated to have contributed 5.22 per cent to the country's GDP, while 3.69 crore people were employed directly in tourism, the Ministry data showed.

Why India needs rules to manage oil shocks



GOURAV VALLABH

The headlines from West Asia and Eastern Europe carry the same uncomfortable subtext: the price of crude oil is no longer determined solely by supply and demand. It is shaped by sanctions, shipping disruptions, fragile ceasefires, and the calculations of producer cartels that often find higher prices congenial. Brent crude has held close to USD 95 a barrel for several months, and experience from 2008 and 2022 suggests that such geopolitical premia tend to persist.

For India, which imports more than 85 per cent of the crude oil it consumes, this is not an abstract concern. Every USD 10-per-barrel increase in crude prices typically raises pump prices by about ₹4.5 per litre, placing pressure on household budgets. Yet retail fuel prices have remained largely unchanged since May 2022, despite considerable volatility in global markets. This apparent calm reflects a form of managed stability. Oil marketing companies — Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum — have absorbed a significant portion of the volatility. Estimates suggest that this entails substantial under-recoveries on both petrol and diesel, with corresponding effects on profitability and investment capacity.

Such arrangements, while providing short-term predictability, carry broader economic implications. The first is investment: resources absorbed at the retail level are resources not deployed towards refinery modernisation, green hydrogen, and the wider energy transition that India will inevitably navigate. The second is expectations: even without engaging deeply with petroleum economics, citizens recognise patterns, including the likelihood of deferred adjustments over time.

The third implication is more subtle but equally important: the attenuation of the price signal itself. When fuel prices remain static, consumption patterns adjust less dynamically. Households do not recalibrate commuting choices, and logistics operators have limited incentives to optimise routes. Over time, the economy forgoes the incremental adjustments that cumulatively build resilience to external shocks.

The argument for moving to a rule-based system is rooted in practicality, not ideology. What is needed is a simple, transparent framework that replaces discretion with predictability. One way to do this is to define a normal price band for crude oil, say USD 65 to 90 per barrel, within which retail fuel prices adjust freely in line



with global markets. When prices move beyond this band, an automatic sharing mechanism can come into play: part of the increase is absorbed through calibrated reductions in central excise, while the rest is passed on to consumers.

Crucially, the system should work both ways. When global prices fall, a portion of the gains can be set aside into a stabilisation fund, with the remainder passed through to consumers. Over time, this creates a self-correcting buffer: good years finance the difficult ones. The result is a system that is predictable, even-handed, and less reliant on ad hoc interventions, while still protecting both consumers and fiscal stability.

India is well-positioned to operationalise such an approach. The digital public infrastructure developed over the past decade — from Aadhaar to UPI and direct benefit transfers — offers a robust foundation for targeted support in exceptional circumstances. In periods of sharp price increases, vulnerable groups such as farmers, transport operators, and low-income households could receive calibrated assistance without distorting price signals across the board.

Importantly, the broader reform orientation of the Narendra Modi government, particularly its emphasis on transparency, digitisation, and institutional capacity-building, provides a strong enabling context for advancing such rule-based frameworks in energy pricing. A durable framework would also require alignment across stakeholders. Oil marketing companies would benefit from greater predictability in pass-through mechanisms. State governments could play a complementary role by ensuring that tax adjustments remain consistent with broader stabilisation objectives. Consumers, in turn, would gradually adapt to modest and regular price movements as a normal feature of a responsive system.

India has successfully implemented far more complex reforms. The Goods and Services Tax required sustained coordination across jurisdictions, and the Aadhaar ecosystem evolved through iterative refinement before achieving scale. Compared to these, a rule-based fuel stabilisation mechanism is technically modest. The necessary data and policy instruments already exist; what remains is their systematic integration.

In an increasingly uncertain global energy environment, the objective is not to eliminate volatility but to manage it with clarity and consistency. A framework that combines market signals with institutional safeguards can strengthen both economic resilience and policy credibility. As geopolitical uncertainties persist, such an approach would position India to navigate external shocks with greater confidence and stability.

The writer is a Professor of Finance and PF Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

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Indian Oil down Western Rly, clinch B Division title

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Indian Oil Corporation Ltd SC clinched the Times Shield B Division title and secured promotion to the A Division after edging Western Railway on first-innings lead in a drawn final at MCA, BKC last week. Put in to bat, Western Railway rode almost entirely on Nihar Vaghela's resolute 115 to post 236.

Facing 179 balls, Vaghela held the innings together while Varun Jojode's unbeaten 44 provided late support. The rest struggled to convert starts.

Indian Oil's bowlers laid the foundation through control. Aamir Gani's persistent spell earned him a five-wicket haul, while Siddhesh Lad struck key blows to prevent partnerships from building.

In reply, Indian Oil were boosted by Ricky Bhui's commanding 133. He was well-supported by Ankush Bains and Ravi Kant Shukla, with Lad finishing unbeaten as Indian Oil reached 265 for 5.

That 29-run lead proved decisive in the drawn contest, handing Indian Oil the title to earn their place in the A Division.

Brief Scores: Western Railway 236 in 85 overs (NV Vaghela 115, VS Jojode 44*; A Gani 5/62, S Lad 3/59) drew with **Indian Oil 265 for 5 in 53 overs** (R Bhui 133, RK Shukla 38; H Kadam 3/70). Indian Oil won by first innings lead of 29 runs.

India should treble clean energy target by 2030, says Kant

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 11 May

India should sharply raise its clean energy ambition from the current target of 500 Gw to 1,500 Gw by 2030 to secure energy independence and emerge as a global green energy hub, former G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Monday.

Speaking at a panel discussion on "Crafting the Future Energy Landscape: The Here & Now on Energy Transition", organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Kant said India's energy transition was no longer merely a climate objective but a strategic and geopolitical necessity amid rising global uncertainties and supply disruptions.

"This is not a climate necessity. This is a geopolitical and strategic necessity for India," Kant said, highlighting the country's dependence on imports for 85 per cent of its fossil fuel requirement and nearly 50 per cent of its gas demand.

Kant argued that India's current clean energy goals lacked ambition and said the country must rapidly scale up renewable capacity, battery storage, transmission infrastructure, and electrification to support long-term economic growth. He also proposed aggressive timelines for phasing out internal combustion engine vehicles, suggesting that India should stop registering fossil fuel-powered two- and three-wheelers beyond 2027, buses and trucks beyond 2030, and four-wheelers beyond 2032. "India needs to move from becoming a petrol state to an electric state," he said.

Kant warned that inadequate transmission infrastructure was becoming a major bottleneck in the country's energy transition, claiming that nearly 31 Gw of renewable power capacity was currently stranded due to evacuation constraints.

He said the central government must work with distribution companies to build transmission lines, grids and digitised infrastructure ahead of demand growth.

Renewable energy developer ReNew's Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sumant Sinha, who was also participating in the discussion, said that the industry had moved beyond "vanilla solar and wind," with the next phase of growth centred on round-the-clock renewable energy backed by battery



“THIS IS NOT A CLIMATE NECESSITY. THIS IS A GEOPOLITICAL AND STRATEGIC NECESSITY FOR INDIA... WE NEED TO MOVE FROM BECOMING A PETROL STATE TO AN ELECTRIC STATE”

Amitabh Kant
Former G20 Sherpa

storage systems.

"We are seeing daytime prices crashing too close to zero," Sinha said, adding that utilities and industries were increasingly demanding firm and dispatchable renewable energy solutions instead of intermittent supply.

Kant also pushed for rapid deployment of battery storage systems, arguing that round-the-clock renewable energy would not be possible without large-scale storage integration.

On nuclear energy, Kant called for quicker operationalisation of reforms following the passage of Shanti Bill. He urged the government to notify rules quickly and enable private sector participation in small modular reactor (SMR) projects.

Speaking at the same event, former ambassador to the UAE Sanjay Sudhir said recent geopolitical tensions had exposed India's energy vulnerability, noting that the country currently held only 9.5 days of strategic petroleum reserves compared with the International Energy Agency's 90-day benchmark. "We have really woken up to how vulnerable we are," he said, while also calling for diversification of crude sourcing and greater investments in energy resilience.

Trump rejects Iran offer, Hormuz still shut

➤ US Prez calls Tehran's response 'piece of garbage', says ceasefire is on life support

➤ Iran demands compensation, end of blockade, sovereignty over Hormuz

REUTERS & BLOOMBERG
Dubai/Washington, 11 May

President Donald Trump's swift rejection of Iran's response to a US peace proposal has fuelled concerns that the 10-week-old conflict will drag on and continue to paralyse shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, pushing oil prices higher on Monday. Days after Washington floated a proposal aimed at reopening negotiations, Iran on Sunday released a response focused on ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon, where US ally Israel is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah militants.

Tehran also demanded compensation for war damage, emphasised its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, and called on the United States to end its naval blockade, guarantee no further attacks, lift sanctions and remove a ban on Iranian oil sales. Within hours, Trump dismissed Tehran's offer in a social media post.

"I don't like it - TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE," Trump wrote on Truth Social, without giving further detail. The US had proposed an end to fighting before starting talks on more contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear programme. Tehran responded on Monday by defending its stance. "Our demand is legitimate: demanding an end to the war, lifting the (US) blockade and piracy, and releasing Iranian assets that have been unjustly frozen in banks due to US pressure," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said.

On Monday, Trump said that the ceasefire with Iran was "on life support," after dismissing Tehran's response to a US peace proposal as "stupid." "I would call it the weakest right now, after reading that piece of garbage they sent us, I didn't even finish reading



An anti-US billboard depicting American President Donald Trump and the Strait of Hormuz, in Tehran

PHOTO: REUTERS

it," Trump said of the ceasefire. "It's on life support."

"Safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and establishing security in the region and Lebanon were other demands of Iran, which are considered a generous and responsible offer."

Brent crude oil futures lost some strong early gains on Monday to trade nearly 2 per cent higher at around \$103 a barrel, as the deadlock left the Strait of Hormuz largely closed.

Before the war began on February 28, the narrow waterway carried one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas, and has since become a central pressure point in the conflict.

Disruption caused by the near-closure of the strait has forced oil producers to cut exports, and OPEC oil output dropped further in April to the lowest in

more than two decades, a Reuters survey showed on Monday.

Meanwhile, over 40 nations will meet Monday to outline their military contributions to a European-led mission to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz once there's a stable ceasefire. The countries are expected to offer demining, escorting and air policing capabilities as part of a defensive naval mission led by the UK and France.

"We are turning diplomatic agreement into practical military plans to restore confidence for shipping through the Strait of Hormuz," said UK Defence Secretary John Healey, who will co-chair Monday's gathering alongside his French counterpart Catherine Vautrin.

Iran's deputy foreign minister responded that any such plans would be considered an escalation of the US-Israeli

raeli war on Iran and would be met with a military response.

A second Qatari LNG tanker was attempting to transit the strait, the data showed, days after the first such cargo crossed under an arrangement involving Iran and Pakistan. Sporadic flare-ups around the strait in recent days have tested a ceasefire that has paused all-out warfare since it took effect in early April.

In the US, surveys show the war is unpopular with voters facing sharply higher gasoline prices less than six months before nationwide elections that will determine whether Trump's Republican Party retains control of Congress. Washington has also struggled to build international support, with NATO allies refusing to send ships to reopen the waterway without a full peace deal and an internationally mandated mission.

Hakan Fidan, the foreign minister of Turkey, which has been liaising closely with the US, Iran and mediator Pakistan, will hold talks in Qatar on Tuesday, a Turkish diplomatic source said.

The next diplomatic or military steps remain unclear. Trump is expected to arrive in Beijing on Wednesday, where Iran is set to be among the topics discussed with President Xi Jinping. Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Baghaei suggested China could instead use the visit to push back against US objectives in the Gulf. "Our Chinese friends know very well how to use these opportunities to warn about the consequences of the US' illegal and bullying actions on regional peace and security," he said.

Addressing whether combat operations against Iran were over, Trump said in remarks aired on Sunday: "They are defeated, but that doesn't mean they're done."

India needs China-like super grid plan for RE integration: MNRE secretary

NANDINI KESHARI
New Delhi, 11 May

India requires China-like super grid planning to achieve NITI Aayog's projection of 1,800 Giga-watt (Gw) renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2050, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi said at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026 on Monday.

Addressing the industry representatives, Sarangi highlighted the issue of regional concentration of renewable energy capacity. "The country has plans of spending about \$574 billion till 2030 to create a super grid where high voltage DC lines, HVAC lines are being built to evacuate power from RE rich zones to the load sector," he said.

"Perovskite solar cells are pro-



Santosh Kumar Sarangi,
secretary, Ministry of New
and Renewable Energy

viding a pathway through which solar energy tariffs can come down to about ₹1 per unit level. Similarly, with research in energy storage, there is a possibility for India to find solutions

which are even cheaper than lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries," Sarangi said. A flexible and nimble approach towards policy making is essential to assure investors, developers and manufacturers of policy stability in the country, he said. The central and state governments will have to work together to that extent, he added.

The secretary also highlighted the issue of RE curtailments in the country and said that MNRE is working with the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority and the Central Transmission Utility of India Limited to address these issues. The renewable energy ministry is also proposing a substantially bigger outlay for green energy corridor scheme, to ensure that states have the right kind of equipment, storage sys-

tems and evacuation infrastructure under the intrastate network to handle RE evacuation, he said. "More deployment of battery energy storage systems, grid forming inverters, synchronous condensers and grid modernisation will provide the pathway for better RE integration", Sarangi said.

While the concentration of RE in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat is decentralised to some extent through schemes like PM Kusum and PM Surya Ghar, the government is planning to introduce incentive mechanisms for agri-photovoltaic or floating solar projects to ensure decentralisation, he said. "We are also planning to bring a demand creation mechanism to promote ingot-wafer and an incentive mechanism to promote polysilicon manufacturing," he said.

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 12 May 2026	Page : 4

India maintains 60-day crude stock; no fuel rationing planned: Oil secy

Despite disruptions in energy supplies, India has maintained adequate reserves, including 60 days' worth of crude oil and petroleum products and 45 days' supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), said Neeraj Mittal, secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), on Monday.

India has increased energy purchases from existing suppliers, while also procuring

from other countries to ensure fuel availability, Mittal said at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII's) annual business summit. The official said the government does not plan to introduce fuel rationing in the country despite energy prices soaring in the global market. India has maintained stable prices of petrol and diesel in the country, said Mittal.

SHUBHANGI MATHUR

RE industry calls for state-specific bids

NANDINI KESHARI
New Delhi, 11 May

The renewable energy (RE) industry called for state-specific RE bids to diversify generation beyond the five states accounting for nearly 70 per cent of capacity, while also advocating direct benefit transfers to consumers in place of subsidised electricity tariffs to reduce discom losses.

At the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Annual Business Summit today, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, managing director, Apraava Energy said that the renewable generation and transmission has to be an all India affair instead of a state affair otherwise transmission will always take longer to build.

He said the waiver for interstate transmission system (ISTS) charges has resulted in developers inevitably opting for states with high irradiance and wind potential.

"Since all the renewables

are going in specific states, all the transmission infrastructure is going there, exacerbating the issues of right of way, land price and lack of law and order to support the infrastructure," he said.

Mishra also said state-specific bids will protect the grid from getting overwhelmed by minimising the irradiance and wind benefit.

"The problem is that we have not been looking at the entire system cost and just looking at the marginal generation cost," he said.

He said that the governments have been unable to depoliticise power tariffs and impose cost reflective tariffs without cross subsidies. "State governments can give as much subsidy as they want but they shouldn't involve a private generator or distribution companies and instead transfer the amount directly to the bank account of consumers," he added.

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Date : 12 May 2026	Page : 8

Beyond symbolism

Citizens must tighten belts, but our real resilience hinges on long-delayed structural reforms by the state itself

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi's appeal for austerity and self-reliance amid the deepening West Asia crisis is neither unusual nor unreasonable. Nations facing wars, oil shocks, and external disruptions have often turned to citizens for collective discipline. During periods of economic stress, governments across the world have urged people to conserve fuel, avoid non-essential imports, and moderate consumption. India itself has seen such moments before. In that context, the Prime Minister's call to reduce fuel consumption, postpone discretionary gold purchases, and avoid unnecessary foreign travel reflects a legitimate concern over the country's external vulnerabilities. The broader message is also timely. The global economy is entering a more fragmented and uncertain era where supply chains are increasingly shaped by geopolitics rather than efficiency alone, energy markets remain volatile, and protectionism is rising. India's recent growth story has been driven more by structural strengths than cyclical momentum, but sustaining that trajectory in a turbulent world will require deeper resilience. Citizens contributing through restraint and responsible consumption can create both psychological solidarity and a modest economic cushion during periods of turbulence. Yet austerity led mainly by households can only ever be a temporary response. No country has built durable economic strength merely by asking citizens to consume less.

Self-reliance cannot become a moral appeal directed at consumers while the state postpones deeper structural reforms. If India is serious about strategic autonomy, the more meaningful austerity must begin within the government itself. India still carries a large administrative apparatus marked by duplication, leakages, and inefficient expenditure. Governments continue to spend heavily on politically convenient giveaways and optics-driven programmes even as they ask citizens to tighten their belts. Fiscal prudence cannot be episodic; it must become institutional through better targeting of subsidies, rationalisation of non-essential expenditure, sharper procurement practices, and greater accountability in the use of taxpayer money. Economic nationalism gains credibility only when political leadership demonstrates visible restraint itself.

Second, self-reliance cannot be reduced to old-style import-substitution rhetoric. India experimented with that model for decades after Independence, often at the cost of competitiveness and innovation. Strategic autonomy today comes not from insulating the economy but from building globally competitive capabilities. Citizens may temporarily support domestic products out of patriotism, but lasting economic strength emerges only when Indian goods and services succeed on quality, cost, and scale. That requires reforms in logistics, power reliability, judicial efficiency, contract enforcement, skilling, and research ecosystems. India's reform process has too often followed a selective or "potted plant" approach—isolated improvements without broader institutional transformation. The challenge becomes even sharper because the government itself remains heavily dependent on imports in critical sectors such as electronics, semiconductors, defence systems, and energy equipment. Production-linked incentives may attract investment, but incentives alone cannot substitute for long-term ecosystem creation and industrial depth.

The energy question underlines the urgency of this challenge. The current crisis once again exposes India's vulnerability to imported crude oil. Asking citizens to conserve fuel may help at the margins, but the lasting answer lies elsewhere—faster investment in renewable energy, expansion of strategic petroleum reserves, diversification of oil suppliers, and accelerated development of green hydrogen infrastructure. The Prime Minister is therefore correct in reminding the country that difficult times require collective effort. But collective effort cannot mean transferring the burden disproportionately onto citizens while governments postpone harder reforms. Austerity may help India weather a storm. Only structural reform will ensure the country emerges stronger after it passes.

BRENT NEARS \$105 A BARREL AFTER US PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Trump says US-Iran truce on 'massive life support'



Oil tankers navigate the sea near Qeshm Island, Iran in the Strait of Hormuz

BLOOMBERG

DONALD TRUMP,
PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES

I have just read the response from Iran's so-called representatives. I don't like it — totally unacceptable!



BLOOMBERG
May 11

THE CEASEFIRE BETWEEN the US and Iran reached a particularly precarious moment Monday as President Donald Trump said the agreement was on "massive life support" after he rejected Tehran's latest peace offer.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump called Iran's response to his proposal a "piece of garbage" and that he

"didn't even finish reading it."

Iran responded to last week's US peace proposal by demanding a lifting of Washington's naval blockade and sanctions relief, while maintaining a degree of control over traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, according to a person familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing sensitive information.

Trump didn't indicate whether the US would resume military attacks on Iran as he

previously has threatened if the Islamic Republic's leadership didn't agree to his terms. Trump told Fox News earlier on Monday that he's looking at reviving a plan to escort ships through the vital waterway.

Still, when asked about reaching a diplomatic solution, Trump said it was "very possible." The US leader also repeated his claim, without evidence, that Iranian leaders "intend to give us the nuclear dust."

There's been no such public

indication during the war to date that Tehran is about to back down, including on its insistence on maintaining a nuclear programme.

Oil prices rose, with Brent crude nearing \$105 a barrel by 1:14 p.m. in New York as Trump said the ceasefire with Iran was on life support.

The administration is also mulling pulling the final levers it had to ease the pain for consumers from rising energy costs.

OMCs face ₹2L-cr under-recoveries in Q1, says Puri

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, May 11

HOURS AFTER PRIME Minister Narendra Modi exhorted citizens to reduce energy consumption, limit gold purchases and stop travelling abroad to conserve foreign exchange in the wake of a spike in energy costs after the West Asia war, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said state-run oil marketing companies' (OMCs) losses from retail fuel sales are expected to hit a massive ₹1 lakh crore in the April-June quarter, with "under-recoveries" being twice as much.

"India is among very few countries which have not raised energy prices and has maintained steady supplies to the citizens even as we see crises unfold in many parts of the world. Our energy sector is absorbing the brunt of

the impact," Puri wrote on X.

The statement is believed to signal an imminent hike in retail prices of auto fuels. The prices have been on hold since the onset of the war in late February, though the disruption of the Strait of Hormuz led to a sudden spike in crude prices.

Under-recoveries are notional losses incurred by oil companies when selling fuel below the cost required to import or produce it. They are

computed via the formula of Trade Parity Price which is weighted average of 80% import parity and 20% export parity.

Analysts have pointed out that for OMCs, the refining segment remains stable, supported by adequate margins due to healthy product cracks. The outlook on the fuel retailing segment, however, is negative driven by the steeply negative marketing margins.

HARDEEP SINGH PURI,
PETROLEUM MINISTER

India is among very few countries which have not raised energy prices...Our energy sector is absorbing the brunt



Continued on Page 7

OMCs face ₹2L-cr under-recoveries

EMKAY GLOBAL HAS estimated a ₹37,000-38,000 crore hit for the three PSU OMCs in Q1FY27, driven by a combination of negative marketing margins, volatile refining spreads, and continued LPG under-recoveries.

The government had reduced excise duties on retail fuel to shield OMCs, incurring revenue losses of ₹14,000 crore in a month.

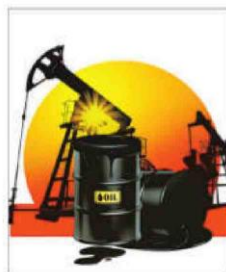
Daily marketing losses of OMCs are learnt to be up to ₹1,600-1,700 crore at present as crude oil prices remain above \$100 per barrel.

At current levels, OMCs are estimated to be losing around ₹18 per litre on diesel and ₹14 per litre on petrol, while domestic LPG sales are resulting in loss of nearly ₹400 per cylinder.

Retail fuel prices remained largely frozen despite the sharp rise in global crude and product prices since late February.

According to Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) data, the Indian crude basket averaged \$113.49 per barrel in March and \$114.48 per barrel in April. The May average so far stands at \$104.68 per barrel, while the Indian basket was priced at \$102.52 per barrel on May 8.

"Icra estimates that at crude price of \$120-125/barrel and considering past 10-year average crack spreads of auto fuels, oil marketing companies incur a loss of about



₹1,000 crore daily on the sale of auto fuels and domestic LPG. This high level of loss is unsustainable and would need to be addressed if the scenario of elevated crude oil and product prices persists for an elongated period," said Prashant Vasisht, senior vice-president and co-group head at Icra.

Grant Thornton Bharat estimated that cumulative under-recoveries of state-run OMCs have already crossed ₹1 lakh crore in around 10 weeks since the conflict escalated. According to its estimates, negative marketing margins have widened to around ₹13-15 per litre on petrol and ₹17-19 per litre on diesel, while LPG under-recoveries could touch ₹80,000 crore during the current fiscal if elevated crude prices persist. "At the current run rate, losses imply an annualised impact of more than ₹4-5 lakh crore, which is incompatible with OMC balance sheets and capital requirements," Mitra said.

Crude shock cuts FMCG margins amid Iran war

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO
Mumbai, May 11

A BOTTLE OF shampoo, a packet of biscuits and a carbonated drink may occupy different aisles in a supermarket, but India's consumer goods companies are grappling with the same problem across all three: they are becoming costlier to produce as geopolitical tensions ripple through global supply chains, pushing up crude-linked raw material prices, disrupting shipping routes and increasing freight costs.

Executives across the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector said crude-linked derivatives such as polymers (like polyethylene and polypropylene used in packaging material) and specialty resins, have jumped 60-70% since the start of the Iran war, forcing companies to reassess sourcing, production and pricing strategies. The sharp spike has unsettled firms, with many considering calibrated price hikes and grammage cuts to mitigate inflationary pressures in the June quarter of FY27.

"We are seeing inflation of 10% hitting us across all our portfolios, barring home and personal care and healthcare. We have announced a 4% price increase across different parts of the business to mitigate this impact," Mohit Malhotra, global CEO, Dabur, said.

"Selective price hikes will

PRICE PRESSURE



■ Iran war disruptions are squeezing India's FMCG supply chains

■ Crude-linked packaging inputs have jumped

60-70%

■ Dabur, Britannia and Godrej are weighing price hikes and grammage cuts

■ Dabur has implemented **4%** price hikes across parts of its portfolio

■ Britannia plans selective hikes on packs priced above **₹10**

have to be taken in the June quarter. Pricing action will include both grammage adjustments and some price increase on packs above ₹10," Rakshit Hargave, MD & CEO, Britannia Industries, said. Britannia is also shifting export manufacturing from Oman to India to reduce dependence on the Strait of Hormuz, where the war has disrupted shipments, he added.

Godrej Consumer Products (GCPL) MD & CEO Sudhir Sitapati said unlike palm oil, where inflation hits mainly one category (soaps), crude-linked inflation impacts all segments. "The inflation is more spread out and easier to pass through over a few months. Between pricing, some cost actions, and portfolio mix, we should be able to recover most of it," he told analysts in a post Q4-results call last week.

In April, GCPL increased

prices of soaps by 5%. In detergents, it took up prices by 6-7%, and in household insecticides, it hiked prices by 4-5%. Despite these efforts, the company acknowledged margins could face pressure over the next two quarters if elevated oil prices persist, impacting gross margins by an estimated 100-250 basis points in certain segments.

Experts said packaging costs have emerged as a major concern because of their close linkage with crude prices. The exhaustion of packaging buffers has pushed companies into a high-cost procurement cycle, where daily price revisions from suppliers have replaced stable long-term contracts. With packaging accounting for 15-20% of total manufacturing expenses, these "fresh purchases" are eroding profit margins.

India-linked LPG tanker sails along Tehran-approved route

Bloomberg

letters@hindustantimes.com

DUBAI: A liquefied petroleum gas carrier which has previously ferried Iranian cargoes is moving through the Strait of Hormuz while declaring that its crew and owners are Indian, according to ship-tracking data.

The Tara Gas was seen moving northeast from waters off Dubai on Monday morning, the data show. It is currently heading past Iran's Larak Island in the strait, a sign that it's sailing along a Tehran-approved route. Draft readings indicate that the vessel is fully laden with LPG, primarily used as cooking fuel, though tracking platforms did not identify where its cargo was from.

Vessels stuck in the Persian Gulf have resorted to different methods to ensure a safe exit. Several governments — including India, Thailand and Malaysia — have negotiated with Tehran to secure energy cargoes are released and some carriers have taken to broadcasting their affiliations.

Ships with a history of lifting Iranian cargoes also need to consider that passing the first blockade is only the start — they then need to navigate around a US blockade of Iranian shipping, awaiting in the Gulf of Oman.

Tara Gas has carried Iranian cargoes previously, according to data from platforms Vortexa and Kpler, most recently an LPG shipment that was taken from Iran in January and delivered to a Chinese port in late February. The vessel entered the Persian Gulf through Hormuz on May 2, according to Vortexa.

Meanwhile, a tanker loaded with liquefied natural gas from Qatar appeared to have turned back from the Strait of Hormuz after initially approaching the waterway, reflecting continued uncertainty over regional energy flows.

The Mihzem has changed its direction away from Hormuz, though it continues to signal Pakistan as its next destination, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. Earlier Monday, the vessel — which loaded a shipment from Qatar's Ras Laffan plant in late February — headed to an area in the strait that Iran claims to control, following the country's negotiations with Pakistan.



People walk near a mural featuring an image of the late supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in Tehran, Iran, on Monday. REUTERS

The moves show that Persian Gulf countries are still unable to export energy supplies through Hormuz as Iran and the US remain far apart on a framework to end their war and reopen the vital route. If successful, the Mihzem's voyage would have marked only the second Qatari LNG shipment to pass through the waterway since the Iran war began in late February. Some vessels have u-turned before completing their transits, while others have been attacked as they were making their way out into the Gulf of Oman.

Qatar sent its first LNG shipment through Hormuz since the war began over the weekend. That vessel is currently nearing Pakistan. Two other tankers laden with Qatari LNG in the gulf are also signalling Pakistan as their destination.

Oil tanker that exited Hormuz comes to halt

An oil supertanker that exited the Persian Gulf on Sunday hauling a cargo of Iraqi crude has come to a halt as it was about to exit the Gulf of Oman for the Arabian Sea.

The very large crude carrier

Agios Fanourios I crossed the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend, having loaded a cargo of crude from the Basra Oil Terminal last month, tracking data compiled by Bloomberg show.

The vessel was heading for the Nghi Son refinery in Vietnam at a speed of about 13 knots before it paused its journey, according to the tracking data it was broadcasting as it cleared the coast of Oman.

Shortly after, its signals show

the ship turning to the north and then back toward Hormuz, while slowing to a near halt.

The reason for the pause is unclear, although it happened around a point where the US has a blockade of its own in place — although that applies to Iranian shipping, not barrels from Iraq. The ship's manager, Athens-based Eastern Mediterranean Maritime, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Deployed mini subs to control Hormuz: Iran

Iran says it has deployed small submarines to act as an "invisible guardian" of the Strait of Hormuz amid a series of rejected peace deals between Tehran and the US.

The Islamic Republic has at least 16 of the Ghadir-class midget submarines, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Each has a crew of fewer than 10 people and can carry either two torpedoes or two Chinese-designed C-704 anti-ship cruise missiles.

Tehran has been able to exert control over Hormuz largely through the use, or simply the threat, of missiles and cheap drones, and the so-called midget submarines would likely serve a similar purpose.

According to Tasnim news agency, which is affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Ghadir is "specifically designed" for the waterway and its shallow depths. None of Iran's submarines have made an appearance in combat during the war, and its only operational full-size sub — a Soviet-era Kilo-class boat — was sunk at the pier where it was moored.

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Centre allows private testing of fuel pumps to cut delays

Dhirendra Kumar

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NEW DELHI: The Centre has amended rules to allow private, government-approved testing centres (GATCs) to inspect and certify petrol, diesel, and gaseous fuel dispensing machines, as it aims to reduce delays, ease compliance, and protect consumers, according to an official order reviewed by Mint.

The calibration and verifica-

tion certificate, which must be obtained every year, has become a massive exercise. As a result, government inspectors are often unable to complete the process on time, leading to operational bottlenecks for fuel retailers.

Permitting government-approved private facilities will expand testing infrastructure and ease compliance burdens, while ensuring that the dispensers are accurate and don't cheat consumers, a senior gov-

ernment official closely involved in the process said, requesting not to be named.

The Department of Consumer Affairs, under the ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution, has amended the Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013 to add petrol and diesel dispensers, CNG dispensers, LPG dispensers, LNG dispensers and hydrogen dispensers to the list of weights and measures that can

be verified by government-approved test centres. Till now, such verification activities were carried out only through government testing facilities under the state legal metrology departments across different states.

Queries sent to the Department of Consumer Affairs remained unanswered till press time.

Expanding the GATC framework to such equipment would help augment verification capac-

ity beyond the existing government system, the official cited earlier said.

"Given that India is moving towards becoming a developed country, initiatives aimed at improving ease of doing business play a crucial role in that journey. The changes in the norms will help in faster verification and certification processes, reduce delays for businesses, and improve operational efficiency," the official added.

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Centre allows pvt testing of fuel pumps

Dhirendra Kumar
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 NEW DELHI

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For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com

'No bailout proposal for fuel retailers despite costly crude'

Rituraj Baruah & Vijay C. Roy
NEW DELHI

There is no proposal to provide a bailout package or fiscal support to oil marketing companies (OMCs) despite mounting losses on fuel sales, said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary, petroleum and natural gas ministry, on Monday. She said OMCs are facing losses from rising global energy prices, while addressing the media on the domestic fuel stocks situation amid the West Asia crisis.

"There is no proposal for any support to the OMCs right now. Also, even now, the price of petrol and diesel at the pumps is stable," Sharma said.

She added that the Strait of Hormuz blockade is likely the largest supply disruption. "About 20% of the global energy was carried out through that channel. Several countries have been affected because of the blockade, and we have also been affected by it. But, the Government of India has taken several effective steps and ensured energy supplies with the least possible impact on domestic consumers."



Sujata Sharma, joint secretary, petroleum and natural gas ministry. PTI

The government has, in recent years, provided fiscal support to OMCs for losses incurred on sale of domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal on Sunday, the official said: "Let's come together and jointly work towards saving energy in our daily usage, so that the financial impact on the country can be reduced."

While noting that the government has taken a number of steps to insulate consumers from the impact of the global

energy price rise, she said domestic firms continue to procure expensive crude oil from the global market and sell products at lower prices in the domestic market, which puts their finances under pressure.

Meanwhile, the informal group of ministers on the West Asia crisis met on Monday to take stock of the domestic fuel situation and explore ways to ensure unhindered supplies.

An official statement post the meeting said there is no shortage of any petroleum product. It said India has 60 days of crude and natural gas, and 45 days of LPG rolling stock.

In a tweet on Sunday, petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that OMCs were incurring losses of up to ₹1,000 crore per day. "Even after this decision, estimated OMC under-recoveries during this quarter itself are expected to surge to ₹2,00,000 crore and losses are expected to be around ₹1,00,000 crore," he wrote on X.

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For an extended version of this story go to livemint.com.

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US, Iran clash over terms to end war, reopen Strait of Hormuz

The US and Iran remain far apart on a framework to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, with President Trump calling Iran's reply to his proposed peace plan unworkable. Tehran demanded a lifting of the US naval blockade and sanctions relief. >P8

US, Iran clash over terms to end war, reopen strait

Tehran seeks lifting of blockade and sanctions relief, degree of control over Hormuz traffic

Bloomberg
feedback@livemint.com

The US and Iran remain far apart on a framework to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, with President Donald Trump calling the Islamic Republic's reply to his proposed peace plan unworkable.

Tehran demanded a lifting of the US naval blockade and sanctions relief, while maintaining a degree of control over traffic through Hormuz, according to a person familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing sensitive information.

Iran also insisted that any agreement must result in an immediate end to fighting, including in Lebanon, where Israel is waging a parallel war against militant group Hezbollah, the person said.

"Everything we proposed in the text was reasonable and generous," Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Esmail Baghaei, said at a press conference on Monday.

Trump rejected Iran's response, but stopped short of declaring a resumption of fighting, which began when the US and Israel started a bombing campaign on 28 February. The conflict has killed thousands of people across the Middle East and upended oil and gas markets.

"I have just read the response from Iran's so-called 'Representatives,'" Trump said in a social media post on Sunday. "I don't like it — TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE."

The impasse means Hormuz remains largely blocked, with Iran and other Persian Gulf countries unable to export energy supplies through the waterway—a conduit for a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) before the war. A ceasefire that took hold just over a month ago remains fragile, as Arab states and ships across the Gulf come under intermittent attacks from the Islamic Republic.

Failed attempts to reach a basic framework for further discussions between Washington and Tehran jeopardize the prospects for successful negotiations over future curbs on Iran's



The impasse means the Strait of Hormuz remains largely blocked, with Iran and other Persian Gulf countries unable to export energy supplies through the waterway. REUTERS

nuclear program—a key aim of the US-Israeli military campaign.

Iran offered to transfer some of its stockpile of highly enriched uranium to a third country, while rejecting the idea of dismantling its nuclear facilities, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Sunday. Iran's semi-official news agency *Tasnim* disputed the report, and the person familiar with the discussions said Tehran's counter-proposal didn't mention the nuclear programme.

Iran's other demands include the release of its frozen assets and the lifting of US sanctions on its oil sales, the person said. Iran's state-run *IRIB News* described Trump's plan, conveyed last week, as tantamount to surrender and said the US must also pay war damages.

Trump had proposed that Iran permit shipping to pass through Hormuz while Washington ends its blockade of Iranian ports, with month-long nuclear

talks to follow.

Oil rose on Monday following Trump's social media posts, with global benchmark Brent gaining 3% to almost \$105 a barrel. Higher oil prices, which stoke inflation concerns, weighed on bonds, with the 10-year Treasury yield climbing four basis points to 4.39%.

The conflict with Iran will be on Trump's agenda when he meets Chinese President Xi Jinping later this week. Revenue that China provides to Iran as well as potential weapons exports would be among the topics discussed at the summit, according to a US official who briefed reporters on a conference call over the weekend. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the preparations.

The US has sanctioned multiple Chinese firms for purchasing Iranian oil or providing satellite imagery to the Islamic Republic, as the Trump administration

comes under increasing pressure to address the unfolding energy crisis.

Iran wants any resolution to end the war between its proxy Hezbollah and Israel. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told CBS on Sunday that the two should be handled separately.

Trump and his advisers have repeatedly suggested the war is all but over, even as they threatened to escalate attacks if Tehran doesn't agree to a peace deal.

The president has said that Iran mustn't be allowed to have an atomic weapon and claimed as recently as last week that the country had already agreed to give up its nuclear ambitions. Tehran has always said its nuclear activities are for peaceful purposes.

In recent weeks, Trump has appeared eager to draw a line under the conflict as he faces rising political pressure to bring down gasoline prices across the US ahead of the November midterm elections, when his fellow Republicans hope to hold on to control of Congress.

Iran also insisted that any agreement must result in an immediate end to fighting, including in Lebanon

3 Crude Oil Tankers Exit Hormuz with Trackers Switched Off, Data Shows

Singapore: Three crude oil tankers exited the Strait of Hormuz over the past week with their tracking systems switched off to avoid potential Iranian attacks, shipping data from Kpler and LSEG showed Monday, highlighting growing efforts to maintain Middle East oil exports amid regional tensions.

Two very large crude carriers (VLCCs) — Agios Fanourios I and Kiara M — each carrying around 2 million barrels of Iraqi crude, passed through the strait on Sunday, according to the data.

The Agios Fanourios I is bound for Vietnam's Nghi Son Refinery and Petrochemical facility, where it is expected to unload on May 26. The vessel had previously failed in at least two attempts to transit the strait after loading Basrah Medi-



Agios Fanourios I

um crude on April 17.

The tanker is managed by Eastern Mediterranean Maritime, which did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Kiara M also exited the Gulf on Sunday with its transponder switched off, Kpler data showed. The San Marino-flagged vessel is carrying 2 million barrels of Bas-

rah crude, though its destination remains unclear. The tanker is managed by a Shanghai-based company and owned by a Marshall Islands-registered entity.

Separately, the VLCC Basrah Energy loaded 2 million barrels of Upper Zakum crude from Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's Zirkut terminal on May 1 and exited the Strait of Hormuz on May 6, according to Kpler.

The Panama-flagged vessel later discharged its cargo at the Fujairah Oil Tanker Terminals on May 8. The tanker is owned and operated by shipping company Sinokor Merchant Marine.

ADNOC and its buyers have increasingly relied on stealth tanker movements through the Strait of Hormuz to move crude stranded by the Middle East conflict. **Reuters**

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :12 May 2026	Page : 14

**'NO OIL LEAK NEAR
KHARG ISLAND'**

Iran has denied reports of an oil leak near Kharg Island after satellite imagery this week appeared to show a large slick near Kharg Island, the country's main oil export hub in the Gulf. Iran's Oil Terminals Company said inspections had found no evidence of leaks from storage tanks, pipelines, loading facilities or tankers operating near the island.

UAE and OPEC

The UAE's long-term strategy is to diversify away from hydrocarbons, investing in sectors such as finance, tourism, and technology. However, achieving that transition requires significant capital, much of which still comes from oil revenues. In that sense, producing more oil now is not a contradiction but a necessity. OPEC's restrictions, therefore, clash directly with the country's broader economic ambitions

The decision by the United Arab Emirates to step away from OPEC marks more than a routine policy shift: it reflects a deeper fracture in the logic that has governed global oil politics for decades. For much of its history, OPEC represented a rare example of sustained cooperation among resource-rich states, enabling them to collectively influence prices and project geopolitical power. The UAE's departure signals that this model - once seen as indispensable - is increasingly being questioned by its own members, not just for economic reasons but for strategic and political ones as well.

At its core, the move is about control. The UAE has spent years investing heavily in expanding its oil production capacity, positioning itself as a technologically advanced and efficient producer. Yet, under OPEC's quota system, it has been required to hold back output to support global prices. This arrangement may have made sense when collective discipline ensured stable and predictable revenues, but in today's environment it is beginning to look like a constraint. For a country trying to maximize returns from its existing oil wealth while simultaneously preparing for a post-oil future, limiting production is no longer an attractive bargain.

There is an inherent irony here. The UAE's long-term strategy is to diversify away from hydrocarbons, investing in sectors such as finance, tourism, and technology. However, achieving that transition requires significant capital, much of which still comes from oil revenues. In that sense, producing more oil now is not a contradiction but a necessity. OPEC's restrictions, therefore, clash directly with the country's broader economic ambitions. What once functioned as a stabilizing mechanism is now perceived as an obstacle to national development.

But economics alone does not explain the timing or the tone of this decision. The geopolitical context is equally important.



The Gulf region has been under strain, particularly with tensions involving Iran and disruptions around critical maritime routes like the Strait of Hormuz. For the UAE, these developments have underscored the risks of relying on a consensus-driven organization where responses to crises are often slow and diluted by competing interests. In a volatile environment, agility matters more than coordination, and OPEC's structure is not designed for speed.

Frustrations have also been building within the Gulf Cooperation Council. The UAE has increasingly sought a more assertive regional stance, particularly in relation to Iran, and has been dissatisfied with what it sees as a lack of unified action. This divergence in strategic outlook has contributed to a sense that traditional alliances are no longer delivering the desired outcomes. In such a scenario, breaking away from a Saudi Arabia-dominated framework like OPEC becomes not just an economic choice, but a political signal.

For Saudi Arabia, the implications are significant. As OPEC's de facto leader, its influence has always depended on both its own production capacity and the willingness of others to align with its policies. The UAE's exit weakens that alignment. It removes a key partner with substantial spare capacity, making it harder for the group to manage supply effectively. More importantly, it exposes underlying dissatisfaction with Saudi leadership, raising questions about how cohesive the organization really is.

This comes at a particularly challenging time for Saudi Arabia. Its ambitious economic transformation plans require sustained high oil revenues, which in turn depend on carefully managed supply levels. If fewer countries are willing to participate in coordinated cuts, the burden falls disproportionately on Saudi Arabia itself. Cutting production to support prices becomes more costly and less effective when others are free to increase output. The result is a strategic dilemma: maintain discipline and sacrifice market share, or abandon restraint and risk price declines.

The UAE's departure also highlights a

broader issue that has long plagued OPEC: uneven compliance. Several members have frequently exceeded their production quotas, undermining the credibility of the system. For countries that adhere to the rules, this creates resentment and erodes trust. The perception that the system is neither fair nor enforceable weakens the incentive to remain within it. In that sense, the UAE's exit is not an isolated event but part of a larger pattern of dissatisfaction.

Looking ahead, the question is whether this move will trigger a wider unravelling. Other producers with growing capacity or shifting economic priorities may begin to reassess the value of membership. If more countries choose autonomy over coordination, OPEC's ability to function as a cohesive bloc will diminish. Its influence on global oil markets - once formidable - could gradually erode, replaced by a more fragmented and competitive landscape.

In the short term, the impact on oil prices may be limited. Geopolitical disruptions and existing supply constraints continue to shape market dynamics, and a single country's policy shift is unlikely to cause immediate upheaval. Over the longer term, however, the implications are more profound. If the UAE increases production significantly outside the constraints of OPEC, it could contribute to downward pressure on prices.

At the same time, the loss of a strong coordinating mechanism increases the likelihood of volatility. Prices may swing more sharply in response to geopolitical events, demand fluctuations, or shifts in production strategies.

For oil-importing countries, this presents a mixed picture. On one hand, increased supply and potential price declines offer clear benefits, easing inflationary pressures and improving trade balances. On the other hand, greater volatility complicates economic

planning and energy security. The absence of a stabilizing force like a cohesive OPEC makes the market less predictable, introducing new risks even as it creates new opportunities.

What is perhaps most striking about the UAE's decision is what it reveals about the changing nature of global energy politics. The traditional model of cartel-based cooperation is being challenged by a combination of technological change, shifting demand patterns, and evolving geopolitical realities. Countries are increasingly prioritizing flexibility and national interest over collective discipline. Energy is no longer just an economic commodity; it is a strategic tool, used to navigate a complex and multipolar world.

This shift does not necessarily mean that OPEC will become irrelevant overnight. The organization has shown resilience in the past, adapting to crises and maintaining a degree of influence even in the face of internal disagreements. It may continue to play a role, particularly if key members remain committed to coordination. However, its authority is no longer unquestioned, and its future will depend on its ability to adapt to a changing environment.

In many ways, the UAE's exit is less about leaving OPEC and more about redefining what participation in the global energy system looks like. It reflects a willingness to break from established norms in pursuit of greater autonomy and strategic flexibility. Whether this approach proves successful will depend on how effectively the UAE can navigate the risks of a more competitive and less predictable market.

What is clear, however, is that the balance between cooperation and competition in the oil market is shifting. The assumptions that once underpinned global energy governance are being re-examined, and the outcomes are far from certain.

The UAE has chosen to prioritize independence over alignment, betting that the benefits of flexibility outweigh the costs of leaving a collective framework. Others may soon face similar choices, and the decisions they make will shape the future of the global energy order in ways that are only beginning to unfold.



ANAND KUMAR

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Iran ceasefire on life support, says Trump

Dubai: US President Donald Trump on Monday said the Iran ceasefire is on "life support" after rejecting Tehran's latest proposal, which officials said included some nuclear concessions.

Trump also proposed suspending the federal gas tax to help with higher fuel prices caused by the war.

The stalled diplomacy and recent exchanges of fire could tip West Asia back into open warfare and prolong the worldwide energy crisis sparked by the conflict. Iran still has a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global oil and gas shipments, and America is blockading Iranian ports.

Asked at the White House if the ceasefire was still in effect, Trump said it's on "life support."

"I would call it the weakest right now after reading that piece of garbage they sent us," Trump added. "I didn't even finish reading it."

Trump also said he supported a suspension of the federal tax on gasoline — just over 18 cents per gallon and



Donald Trump. (AP file picture)

24 cents for diesel. Congress, which is controlled by Republicans, would have to approve. The tax brings in more than \$23 billion each year.

His pledge came after fuel prices surged past \$4.50 a gallon last week. Trump predicted that the price of oil and gas would drop "like a rock" as soon as hostilities are over.

Far apart

Trump has demanded a major rollback of Iran's nuclear activities, while Iran is pushing for a more limited agreement that would reopen the strait and lift the blockade ahead of further negotiations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►

Publication : The Telegraph

Editions : Kolkata

Date : 12 May 2026

Page : 1, 2

Truce rejected

► FROM PAGE 1

On Monday, Trump claimed that Iran had said it would allow the US to come in and help extract its highly enriched uranium but went back on that in its latest ceasefire proposal. "They changed their mind because they didn't put it in the paper," he said.

Iran has not publicly agreed to give up its uranium, saying it has a right to enrich and that its nuclear program is entirely peaceful.

Two regional officials told The Associated Press that Iran has offered to dilute part of its highly enriched uranium and transport the rest to a third country. Russia has previously offered to take it. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive diplomacy.

Trump is expected to use a trip this week to China to urge President Xi Jinping to pressure Iran. Beijing is the biggest buyer of Iran's sanctioned crude oil, giving it leverage.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who launched the war with Trump on February 28, has also demanded that all of Iran's highly enriched uranium be removed from the country.

He told CBS's "60 Minutes" in an interview that aired on Sunday that if that can't be accomplished with negotiations, Israel and the US agree "we can reengage them militarily."

Tehran's proposal

Iran's proposal asked that the US recognise its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, for-

malising its control over the international waterway.

Iran has effectively closed the strait since the start of the war, allowing only a small number of ships to pass and charging tolls.

But experts say such an arrangement would likely violate international law that provides for freedom of navigation. That proposal is also likely to be widely rejected by the international community. The strait was open to international traffic before the war.

Iran is also demanding war reparations from the US, the lifting of international sanctions, the unfreezing of Iranian assets held abroad and an end to the war between Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah, according to Iranian state TV.

Israel and Hezbollah have continued to exchange blows, mainly in southern Lebanon, since a nominal ceasefire took hold last month.

"We did not demand any concessions — the only thing we demanded was Iran's legitimate rights," Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on Monday. "The American side still insists on its one-sided views and unreasonable demands."

Executions

Iran executed another man it accused of spying for both the CIA and Israel's Mossad intelligence service. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency said Erfan Shakourzadeh had worked on satellite communications and relayed classified information to those intelligence services. AP

Publication : The Times of India	Editions : Mumbai
Date : 12 May 2026	Page : 4

Petrol, diesel pumps see rush, govt says there's no shortage

Mumbai: Mumbai saw an unusual rush at petrol and diesel pumps for two days from Sunday afternoon. Pump owners across parts of the city said vehicle queues began building up on Sunday evening and continued at many outlets on Monday. The surge followed growing public concern over the impact of the West Asia conflict on fuel supplies and prices.

A few motorists said the rush intensified on Sunday after PM Modi appealed to citizens to reduce petrol consumption. "Many consumers appeared to have interpreted it as a sign of imminent rationing or an increase in rates," said a pump owner. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Monday assured citizens crude oil inventories remain stable, refineries are operating at optimum levels, and there are no fuel shortages across the country.

A senior official said govt has taken effective measures to ensure uninterrupted fuel supplies for consumers. "Govt has taken several measures and strived to ensure fuel supplies are maintained for the common consumer with minimal inconvenience," the official said. A petrol pump owner in Central Mumbai said, "Our normal Sunday sale is around 8,000 litres, but on May 10 we sold nearly 12,000," he said. There is no official announcement on rationing or immediate price revision, said a source from oil marketing company.

—Somit Sen

Publication : The Times of India	Editions : Kolkata
Date : 12 May 2026	Page : 1

Oil rises as Trump rejects Iran plan, Strait still shut

Oil prices rose after US President Trump rejected Iran's response to his latest peace proposal, prolonging the effective closure of the crucial Strait of Hormuz ahead of his trip to China from May 13.

Brent crude futures advanced as much as 4.6%, before paring gains to trade near \$103 a barrel.

ENERGY WARS

Trump said he plans to suspend a federal gasoline tax as consumers deal with surging energy prices.

In a social media post, Trump said Iran's response was "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE", and added that the ceasefire with Iran was "at its weakest" and on "life support".

The US and Israel's war on Iran started on Feb 28, and attacks have been paused since April 8 in a truce deal.

Online

Headline	Congress takes dig at PM Modi over appeal to reduce oil consumption		
Publication	Andhra Pradesh Mirror	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

Congress takes dig at PM Modi over appeal to reduce oil consumption

<https://www.andhrapradeshmirror.com/news/congress-takes-dig-at-pm-modi-over-appeal-to-reduce-oil-consumption20260512001734/>

New Delhi [India, May 12 : Congress on Monday took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his appeal to people to reduce consumption of petroleum

products in view of the rising cost of crude due to the West Asia crisis and alleged that the BJP-led government has "actively enabled" India's record dependence on crude oil and natural gas imports.

"After presiding over and actively enabling India's record dependence on crude oil and natural gas imports, now the PM pleads and begs India's consumers to take the onus of minimising consumption. He should first explain to the nation what happened to the thousands of crores of fraudulent investments made by GSPC - which he then covered up through its merger into ONGC," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

PM Modi, who was speaking at an event in Vadodra, referred to the global energy supply disruptions caused by West Asia conflict.

"From the Corona crisis through global economic disruptions to West Asia tensions, the world faces unprecedented instability that affects every nation, yet just as we collectively overcame Corona, we will certainly overcome this crisis through persistent government effort," he said.

"The country desperately needs power of public participation, as a very large portion of India's imports constitutes crude oil sourced from regions today embroiled in conflict, creating dual crises of scarcity and price escalation," he added.

Prescribing collective action through small individual pledges while detailing petrol-diesel reduction strategies, the Prime Minister advocated for public transport prioritization alongside car-pooling initiatives.

"Wherever possible, reduce consumption of petrol and diesel by using metro, electric buses, and public transport more; both government and private offices must prioritize virtual meetings and work-from-home arrangements to significantly reduce unnecessary fuel consumption," he said.

The Prime Minister appealed for reduced cooking oil consumption which also has health benefits and called for postponing gold purchases during crisis periods.

"The nation spends significant foreign currency on cooking oil and gold imports while destination weddings consume reserves that could strengthen national resilience, making restraint essential during this period of global uncertainty," he said.

Headline	ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups		
Publication	Askwiki	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups

<http://askwiki.blogspot.com/2026/05/ongc-mulls-new-200-cr-fund-to-back.html>

State-run oil and gas company Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to launch a new 200 Cr fund to back startups operating in energy and artificial intelligence/ machine learning (AI/ML) sectors.

ONGC shall be launching another AIF of Rs. 200 Cr to nurture and incubate new ideas related to (the) energy sector & AI/ML, said the company.

As part of this, the ONGC has sought applications for appointing two advisors to formalise the operations of the new startup fund. According to the application form, the advisors will be hired on a contractual basis for 12 months, with the option to extend the term by another year.

ONGC said the new advisors will help the company in evaluating startups, carrying out due diligence, negotiating valuations, monitoring portfolio firms, and advising on investments and exits.

This is not the first time that ONGC has sought to incubate startups. The state-backed company has earlier launched a 100 Cr fund in 2016 to back startups in the oil and gas sector. At the time, the company said the initiative would offer seed capital, mentoring, market linkages, and operational support.

The fund was later registered with SEBI as a Category-I alternative investment fund (AIF) in 2019.

The company noted that the existing fund has a corpus of 101 Cr, of which nearly 88 Cr has already been invested or committed to startups. Over the years, ONGCs startup fund has backed a number of emerging ventures in the cleantech segment.

For instance in 2021, the fund invested 2 Cr in Delhi-based cleantech startup Chakr Innovation, which develops technology to capture soot emissions from diesel generators and convert them into printable ink.

ONGCs renewed startup push comes at a time when energy companies and public sector organisations are increasing their focus on clean energy, industrial innovation, and AI-led technologies.

Over the past few years, state-owned organisations such as Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have launched startup programmes, innovation challenges, and venture funds targeting sectors such as energy, spacetechnology, manufacturing, AI, and industrial technology.

At the heart of all this is Indias growing cleantech economy, which is projected to cross \$41 by 2040.

The post ONGC Mulls New 200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups appeared first on

Headline	ONGC Startup Fund Gets Bigger – 5 Major Updates on the ₹200 Crore AI and Energy Push		
Publication	Bharat Fast	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

ONGC Startup Fund Gets Bigger – 5 Major Updates on the ₹200 Crore AI and Energy Push

<https://bharatfast.com/english/start-up/ongc-startup-fund-2026/32592/>

India's state-run energy company ONGC is preparing to launch a new 200 crore startup fund to support businesses working in the energy and artificial intelligence sectors.

The company is planning this expansion after successfully using nearly 88 crore from its earlier startup fund, which was launched in 2016 during ONGC's 60th anniversary year. The new move highlights ONGC's growing focus on innovation and future technologies in India's energy sector.

The upcoming fund is expected to support startups working in clean energy, deep-tech, renewable energy, robotics, hydrogen solutions, smart grids, energy storage, and AI/ML technologies. With India rapidly moving towards sustainable energy and digital transformation, ONGC wants to encourage startups that can bring modern solutions to the industry.

The original ONGC Startup Fund was launched under the Government of India's Startup India initiative to encourage innovation in oil, gas, and energy-related businesses. The fund currently operates as a SEBI-registered Category-I Alternative Investment Fund with a corpus of around 101 crore. Over the years, it has become one of the important public sector-backed startup funding initiatives in the country.

ONGC Expanding Its Focus on Innovation

As part of the expansion, ONGC is also hiring two senior venture capital advisors to strengthen its startup investment operations. These advisors will help the company evaluate startup ideas, conduct due diligence, negotiate investment terms, and guide exit strategies. The positions are temporary for 12 months and can be extended further if required.

According to reports, candidates applying for these advisory roles must be below 63 years of age and should have more than 20 years of professional experience. They must also have at least five years of experience in venture capital fund management. The last date to apply for the positions is reportedly 15 May 2026.

Industry experts believe the new startup fund could play an important role in supporting India's growing clean-tech and AI startup ecosystem. Startups working in energy innovation often face funding challenges in the early stages because of high research and development costs. Support from large public sector companies like ONGC can help these businesses grow faster and commercialise their technologies.

The company has also been actively participating in startup events and innovation programmes. During Startup Mahakumbh 2025, ONGC showcased its startup framework and highlighted its efforts to support entrepreneurship and advanced technologies in the energy sector.

Startup Fund Has Seen Strong Growth

Since its launch in 2016, the ONGC Startup Fund has reportedly achieved around 450% growth in valuation over five years. The company mainly supports early-stage startups and can invest up to 5 crore in individual ventures through milestone-based funding.

The startup selection process includes application screening, detailed evaluations, and pitching sessions before a steering committee. Startups are judged based on the quality of their team, innovation, business plan, market traction, and future growth potential. ONGC also provides incubation support, mentoring, market connections, and technical guidance to selected startups.

The company has partnered with well-known institutions such as IIT Bombay's SINE and IIM Lucknow to provide professional incubation support. The fund is open to Indian entrepreneurs, startup teams, NRIs willing to work in India, and incubatees from government-approved academic institutions. However, startups based only on bought-out technologies are not considered eligible.

Several ONGC-Backed Startups Have Gained Attention

Many startups supported by ONGC have already built strong reputations in India's clean-tech and energy sectors. One of the notable names is Bengaluru-based String Bio, which developed technology that converts methane gas into protein for poultry and aqua feed. ONGC invested 4.5 crore in the startup during its seed funding round in 2019.

Another well-known startup is Chakr Innovation, which works on reducing diesel pollution by converting harmful exhaust emissions into usable ink. Chennai-based Planys Technologies, which develops underwater robotic inspection systems, is also among the startups backed by ONGC.

Apart from external startup investments, ONGC also runs innovation challenges and internal entrepreneurship programmes to encourage problem-solving and technology development in the energy industry. Experts believe the upcoming 200 crore startup fund could further strengthen India's startup ecosystem while helping the country move towards cleaner, smarter, and technology-driven energy solutions in the coming years.

Headline	A surprise government move may boost fortunes of ONGC, Oil India, CLSA says		
Publication	CNBC TV18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

A surprise government move may boost fortunes of ONGC, Oil India, CLSA says

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/market/ongc-oil-india-shares-government-cut-royalty-rates-crude-oil-natural-gas-surprise-move-may-boost-fortunes-clsa-ws-el-19903554.htm>

Royalty on offshore crude production has also been reduced to 8% from 9.09%, while the royalty rate on natural gas has been cut to 8% from 10% following the introduction of a new flat deduction formula.

2 Min Read

The government has reduced effective royalty rates on crude oil and natural gas production in a move aimed at improving the economics of India's upstream energy sector. As on undefined NaN, NaN Invalid Date

The revised structure is expected to benefit state-run producers Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India , with royalty on onshore crude oil production lowered to 10% from 16.66%.

Royalty on offshore crude production has also been reduced to 8% from 9.09%, while the royalty rate on natural gas has been cut to 8% from 10% following the introduction of a new flat deduction formula.

In addition, producers may see further gains from GST-linked savings, which could improve project economics by another 18%.

Brokerage firm CLSA, which maintains a 'High Conviction Outperform' rating on ONGC with a target price of 405, said the government's decision came as a surprise and could increase the fair value of ONGC by 7%-9% and Oil India by 9%-11%.

CLSA added that the move is significant as it may ease concerns around higher upstream taxation, including the possibility of a windfall tax similar to the one imposed in 2022.

According to the brokerage, such fears had weighed heavily on the performance of ONGC and Oil India, making them among the weakest-performing upstream energy stocks globally.

The brokerage also said that at Brent crude prices of \$80 per barrel, ONGC could deliver a total return of over 50%, as the stock currently factors in Brent prices of nearly \$65 per barrel.

ONGC shares ended Monday's session 0.45% higher at 280.45, while Oil India shares settled 0.20% higher at 455.10.

Headline	ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/inc42-epaper-inc/ongc+mulls+new+200+cr+fund+to+back+energy+ai+startups-newsid-n711890107>

State-run oil and gas company Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to launch a new 200 Cr fund to back startups operating in energy and artificial intelligence/ machine learning (AI/ML) sectors.

"ONGC shall be launching another AIF of Rs. 200 Cr to nurture and incubate new ideas related to (the) energy sector & AI/ML," said the company.

As part of this, the ONGC has sought applications for appointing two advisors to formalise the operations of the new startup fund. According to the application form, the advisors will be hired on a contractual basis for 12 months, with the option to extend the term by another year.

ONGC said the new advisors will help the company in evaluating startups, carrying out due diligence, negotiating valuations, monitoring portfolio firms, and advising on investments and exits.

This is not the first time that ONGC has sought to incubate startups. The state-backed company has earlier launched a 100 Cr fund in 2016 to back startups in the oil and gas sector. At the time, the company said the initiative would offer seed capital, mentoring, market linkages, and operational support.

The fund was later registered with SEBI as a Category-I alternative investment fund (AIF) in 2019.

The company noted that the existing fund has a corpus of 101 Cr, of which nearly 88 Cr has already been invested or committed to startups. Over the years, ONGC's startup fund has backed a number of emerging ventures in the cleantech segment.

For instance in 2021, the fund invested 2 Cr in Delhi-based cleantech startup Chakr Innovation, which develops technology to capture soot emissions from diesel generators and convert them into printable ink.

ONGC's renewed startup push comes at a time when energy companies and public sector organisations are increasing their focus on clean energy, industrial innovation, and AI-led technologies.

Over the past few years, state-owned organisations such as Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have launched startup programmes, innovation challenges, and venture funds targeting sectors such as energy, spacetech, manufacturing, AI, and industrial technology.

At the heart of all this is India's growing cleantech economy, which is projected to cross \$41 by 2040.

Headline	Oil & gas sector outlook 2026: Higher brent prices seen boosting upstream firms, hurting OMC margins		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

Oil & gas sector outlook 2026: Higher brent prices seen boosting upstream firms, hurting OMC margins

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/oil-gas-sector-outlook-2026-higher-brent-prices-seen-boosting-upstream-firms-hurting-omc-margins/131008282>

High oil prices are impacting demand. Upstream companies benefit, while downstream oil marketing companies face margin pressure. Natural gas recovery is expected to be slower.

The global oil market narrative has changed dramatically since the start of 2026. In January, the dominant concern was a potential supply glut. Global inventories looked comfortable, and Brent crude prices were expected to stay subdued for much of the year.

Against this backdrop, the investment case especially in India was clearly skewed in favour of downstream companies such as oil marketing companies (OMCs) and refiners. Lower crude prices generally ease pressure on fuel marketing margins, while upstream producers were bracing for weaker realisations and earnings pressure.

That view changed decisively from March. A sharp escalation in geopolitical tensions triggered by the United States and Israel's intensifying conflict against Iran upended expectations of stable supplies and exposed vulnerabilities in global oil logistics. Markets quickly shifted from surplus anxiety to supply fear.

Brent, trading around \$60 per barrel in January, surged sharply through March and April. Prices briefly touched \$126.4 a barrel in April-end the highest level in nearly four years. Although a temporary ceasefire pushed prices back below \$100 a barrel for parts of April, the absence of meaningful progress towards a durable resolution has triggered another upswing in prices.

The speed of this reversal is striking. During the first two months of this year, i.e. before the conflict escalated, Brent averaged just \$67 per barrel. The surge that followed underscores how quickly oil markets can swing when geopolitical risks override traditional supply-demand fundamentals. As of the first week of May, prices continue to remain volatile

Outlook: Tight supply, soft demand The main reason oil prices have been elevated is the deterioration in global supply conditions. Attacks on energy infrastructure, coupled with continued restrictions and risks to tanker movements through the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz, have disrupted the smooth flow of oil to international markets.

The International Energy Agency (IEA), in the April 2026 edition of its Oil Market Report, acknowledged the severity of the disruption. For 2026, it expects global oil supply to decline by about 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) on-year. This represents a meaningful shift from earlier expectations of ample supply and underscores the scale of the geopolitical shock. At the same time, high oil prices are beginning to weigh on demand. According to the IEA, global oil demand is projected to fall by around 80,000 bpd in 2026. If this forecast holds, it will mark the first on-year contraction in oil demand since 2020.

Market participants broadly agree that prices would ease if the Strait of Hormuz were fully reopened and geopolitical tensions reduced meaningfully. However, few expect a return to pre-conflict price levels.

Swarnendu Bhushan, Research Analyst at PL Capital, expects prices to correct sharply if tensions ease, driven by weaker demand and inventory build-up in West Asia. In such a scenario, he sees Brent trading in the \$70-80 per barrel range in the near term.

Others are slightly more cautious. Hitesh Jain, Lead Analyst at YES Securities, believes that even in the event of conflict resolution, prices will continue to carry a material risk premium of \$10-15 per barrel. He expects oil to average around \$85 per barrel over 2026, with the risk of prices spiking closer to \$95 if tensions worsen.

A report by Equirus reinforces this view. The market is grappling not with a temporary supply shock, but a deep inventory deficit. As a result, stock rebuilding, higher logistics costs, and repair expenses for damaged infrastructure are likely to

keep oil prices structurally supported. As per the report, the near-term equilibrium price for Brent is likely to remain above \$80 a barrel.

Gas markets: Slow normalcy Unlike crude, which could normalise relatively quickly if geopolitical risks ease, the recovery in natural gas supply is expected to be slower. The delay is largely due to the technical complexity involved in restarting and stabilising large gas-processing facilities, especially in Qatar, a key exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG). As a result, gas prices are expected to remain elevated for longer even if oil prices retreat from current highs.

Brent breaks out

The escalation of the US-Iran conflict triggered a sharp spike in oil prices. Refiners ride the spike

Supply disruptions led to a sharp rise in product cracks and refining margins. OMCs feel the heat

Higher crude prices and unchanged retail fuel prices are weighing on OMCs' marketing margins. Sectoral impact High oil prices don't affect all segments of the oil and gas industry equally. The impact varies sharply across upstream, downstream, and city gas distribution (CGD) companies.

Upstream: Clear beneficiaries Upstream oil and gas companies, engaged in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas, benefit directly from higher oil prices. Rising prices improve realisations, boosting revenues and profits.

According to Bhushan, every \$5 per barrel rise in oil prices can lift the earnings per share of upstream companies by 810%. This leverage is already reflecting in stock prices. ONGC and Oil India have gained 20.6% and 12.2%, respectively, on a year-to-date basis, significantly outpacing the Nifty 50, which has fallen around 8% over the same period.

Analysts expect upstream companies to report strong results for the March 2026 quarter, supported by higher realisations. However, after the sharp rally, any meaningful de-escalation in West Asian tensions could pose near-term downside risks if oil prices cool.

Downstream: Marketing pain For downstream OMCs, the picture is more mixed. The immediate challenge is the widening disconnect between crude and retail fuel. Despite global crude prices rising sharply, petrol and diesel prices in India have been stagnant, squeezing marketing margins.

Marketing margin (i.e. difference between procurement cost and the price at which fuel is sold to dealers) moves by about '0.50.55 per litre for every \$1 change in crude prices, notes Bhushan. At current levels, OMCs are estimated to be losing around Rs.12 per litre on diesel and Rs.10 per litre on petrol, a drag on profitability if sustained.

Refining, however, offers partial relief. Product cracks—the price spread between refined products such as petrol or diesel and crude—rose sharply on a sequential basis in the March 2026 quarter amid supply disruptions. Reflecting this, Singapore benchmark gross refining margins improved to \$7.8 per barrel from \$4.9 per barrel in the December 2025 quarter.

While stronger refining margins can cushion weak marketing profitability, LPG under-recoveries remain a concern. Analysts expect operating and net profits of OMCs to decline on a quarter-on-quarter basis in the March 2026 quarter. Also, earnings are likely to remain volatile in the June 2026 quarter, with subsequent performance dependent on crude prices and geopolitical developments.

CGD: Cost pressures persist CGD companies are also facing margin pressures, especially those reliant on imported LNG. They source gas through a mix of domestic supplies priced under the government-administered pricing mechanism (APM) and international LNG.

While APM gas prices are regulated and relatively stable, spot LNG prices are volatile and much more expensive. Disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz have tightened LNG availability, pushing spot LNG prices up by 21.3% quarter-on-quarter in the March 2026 quarter. Looking ahead, rating agency ICRA expects margins in the domestic piped natural gas segment to remain stable, aided by preferential allocation of APM gas. However, margins in the CNG segment are likely to face headwinds. Higher gas costs and rupee depreciation may not be fully passed on to consumers, putting profitability under pressure.

Headline	ONGC plans new Rs 200 Cr startup fund, opens advisor roles		
Publication	Entrackr	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

ONGC plans new Rs 200 Cr startup fund, opens advisor roles

<https://entrackr.com/news/ongc-plans-new-rs-200-cr-startup-fund-opens-advisor-roles-11823158>

State-run oil and gas major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has opened applications for advisor roles for its startup fund as the company looks to strengthen its startup investment operations. According to a document published by the company, the ONGC Startup Fund is hiring two Advisors on a contractual basis for 12 months, with the option to extend for another year.

ONGC had launched its Rs 100 crore startup fund in 2016 under the governments Startup India initiative to support startups working in the energy and technology sectors. In 2019, the fund was registered with SEBI as a Category-I Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

The company said the fund currently has a corpus of Rs 101 crore, out of which nearly Rs 88 crore has already been invested or committed to selected startups. ONGC also plans to launch another Rs 200 crore fund focused on startups working in energy and AI/ML.

As per the document, the advisors will help the company in evaluating startups, conducting due diligence, negotiating valuations, monitoring portfolio companies, and advising on investments and exits.

The company is looking for professionals with over 20 years of experience and at least five years of venture capital fund management experience. Candidates with expertise in startup investments, SEBI regulations, and the energy sector will be preferred.

ONGCs latest move comes at a time when several PSUs and government-backed organisations are increasing their focus on startups and innovation-led businesses. Over the past few years, companies and institutions such as Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have launched startup programmes, innovation challenges, and venture funds to support startups working in sectors such as energy, manufacturing, spacetech, AI, and industrial technology.

Headline	United Drilling Tools Ltd receives order from ONGC		
Publication	Equity Bulls	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

United Drilling Tools Ltd receives order from ONGC

<https://equitybulls.com/category.php?id=370642>

United Drilling Tools Limited has received a domestic order by M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited ('ONGC') for the supply of Large OD casing pipe with multi start connector in the ordinary course of business.

The Estimated Contract Value is INR 10,35,50,000/- (Rupees Ten Crore Thirty Five Lakh Fifty Thousand only)

Shares of United Drilling Tools Limited was last trading in BSE at Rs. 203.90 as compared to the previous close of Rs. 204.90. The total number of shares traded during the day was 458 in over 30 trades.

The stock hit an intraday high of Rs. 208.00 and intraday low of 199.65. The net turnover during the day was Rs. 92647.00.

Headline	IGX gas trade jumps to 215 million MMSCM in April; prices surge to \$16.9/mmBtu		
Publication	Financial Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

IGX gas trade jumps to 215 million MMSCM in April; prices surge to \$16.9/mmBtu

<https://www.financialexpress.com/market/igx-gas-trade-jumps-to-215-million-mmscm-in-april-prices-surge-to-16-9-mmbtu-4237968/>

Trading volumes on the Indian Gas Exchange surged nearly 79% in April to over 215 million MMSCM as rising electricity demand and tighter domestic gas supply boosted spot gas procurement. Benchmark gas prices climbed to \$16.9 per mmBtu during the month.

Trading volumes on the surged nearly 79% month-on-month in April while benchmark gas prices jumped 58%, as rising summer electricity demand, tighter domestic supply and elevated prices triggered sharp increase in spot gas procurement by power producers and city gas distributors.

IGX recorded monthly traded gas volumes of 8.54 million MMBtu, equivalent to around 215.16 million metric standard cubic metres (MMSCM), in April 2026, up 78.97% over the previous month.

At the same time, the exchange's benchmark gas price index GIXI climbed to 1,577 per MMBtu, or around \$16.9 per MMBtu, registering a steep rise of 57.99% month-on-month and 49.10% year-on-year.

Sharp increase in trading activity The sharp increase in trading activity and prices comes amid heightened volatility in domestic and global gas markets following supply disruptions, elevated LNG prices and rising power sector demand during the early summer season.

Exchange-traded gas deliveries stood at 8.13 million MMBtu during the month, equivalent to around 6.83 million metric standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD).

According to IGX, the increase in traded volumes was primarily driven by higher power demand.

The power sector has increasingly turned to spot gas procurement in recent weeks as electricity demand surged sharply during heatwave conditions and thermal power plants faced rising stress during non-solar evening hours.

More than half of the traded gas volumes during April consisted of domestic high pressure high temperature (HPHT) gas sold at the ceiling price.

According to the exchange, around 53.08% of traded volumes comprised domestic HPHT gas procured largely by city gas distribution (CGD) companies to meet domestic piped natural gas (D-PNG) and transport CNG (T-CNG) demand.

The remaining 46.92% of traded volumes consisted of free market gas.

Nearly 17.52 MMSCM of domestically produced gas with pricing freedom was traded by producers at Bokaro (CBM), Jaya, Suvali and ONGC's Hazira delivery points during the month.

Regional gas prices also witnessed sharp increases during April.

GIXI-West stood at 1,572 per MMBtu, broadly in line with the all-India benchmark price, while GIXI-East and GIXI-South were higher by 59.04% and 45.24%, respectively, reflecting regional supply-demand imbalances and transmission limitations.

The GIXI-Dahej benchmark for April stood at 1,522 per MMBtu, or around \$16.3 per MMBtu, up 56.09% compared to the previous month.

IGX said GIXI-Dahej traded at around 5.58% discount compared with the WIM-Ex Dahej settled price for April 2026. The surge in gas prices comes amid continuing disruptions in global LNG trade flows and tighter domestic gas availability. India's gas-based power generation has risen sharply in recent weeks amid record electricity demand and growing after-sunset supply stress, increasing reliance on spot gas procurement despite elevated prices.

Headline	India has adequate fuel, LPG, and fertiliser stocks despite West Asia crisis: Govt		
Publication	Fortune India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

India has adequate fuel, LPG, and fertiliser stocks despite West Asia crisis: Govt

<https://www.fortuneindia.com/business-news/india-has-adequate-fuel-lpg-and-fertiliser-stocks-despite-west-asia-crisis-govt/137045>

The briefing came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to reduce fuel consumption, postpone foreign travel and destination weddings abroad, and limit gold purchases amid economic pressures arising from the West Asia conflict.

The Centre on Monday assured citizens that India has sufficient stocks of petrol, diesel, LPG, and fertilisers despite the prolonged conflict in West Asia while ministries across sectors said contingency measures were in place to manage supply disruptions and ensure citizen safety.

Speaking at an inter-ministerial briefing, Sujata Sharma said the country's fuel supply chain remained stable and there were no reports of shortages at retail outlets. Our refineries are operating at optimal levels. No dry-out has been reported at any retail outlet. LPG distributorships are also functioning smoothly, Sharma said.

She added that adequate stocks of petrol and diesel were available across the country and LPG supplies for domestic cooking needs remained uninterrupted.

According to the ministry, 1.14 crore LPG cylinders were delivered over the last three days against bookings of 1.26 crore cylinders. In the same period, over 17,000 tonnes of commercial LPG and more than 762 tonnes of auto LPG were sold.

The government also said over 1.4 lakh 5-kg LPG cylinders were sold during the period while oil marketing companies organised 93 special camps that facilitated the sale of more than 2,100 cylinders.

The briefing came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to reduce fuel consumption, postpone foreign travel and destination weddings abroad, and limit gold purchases amid economic pressures arising from the West Asia conflict.

The Prime Minister had said global supply chains were already strained following the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis, and the ongoing conflict in West Asia had further intensified challenges for economies worldwide.

Fertiliser stock position remained comfortable

Meanwhile, Aparna S. Sharma said India's fertiliser stock position remained comfortable ahead of the kharif season. For the Kharif season 2026, current fertiliser stocks are more than 51% of assessed requirements, significantly higher than the usual benchmark of 33%, she said.

The official added that the maximum retail prices of major fertilisers remained unchanged despite global disruptions.

According to the Department of Fertilisers, domestic production and imports together have added around 97 lakh metric tonnes of fertilisers to overall availability after the onset of the crisis. Domestic production stood at 76.78 lakh metric tonnes, while imports reached 19.94 lakh metric tonnes.

Safety of Indian nationals in the Gulf region

On the diplomatic front, Aseem R. Mahajan said the government was closely monitoring developments in the Gulf and West Asia region, with a focus on ensuring the safety of Indian nationals. The Ministry of External Affairs continues to closely monitor developments in the Gulf and West Asia region. Our embassies and consulates are operating round-the-clock helplines and proactively assisting Indian citizens, Mahajan said.

He added that the Centre was in constant coordination with state governments and Union Territories to facilitate information sharing and emergency response efforts.

Separately, Opesh Kumar Sharma said all Indian seafarers in the region were safe and maritime operations remained uninterrupted. There has been no incident involving Indian-flagged merchant vessels or Indian seafarers on foreign-flagged ships in the past three days, he added.

India has adequate stocks of petrol, diesel, and LPG, with stable supply chains and no reported shortages at retail outlets despite the West Asia crisis. Refineries are operating optimally.

How are India's fertiliser stocks positioned for the upcoming season?

India's fertiliser stock position is comfortable for Kharif season 2026, with current stocks over 51% of requirements, exceeding the usual 33% benchmark. Prices remain unchanged.

What measures has the government taken regarding Indian nationals in West Asia?

The government is closely monitoring the Gulf and West Asia, ensuring Indian nationals' safety. Embassies operate round-the-clock helplines, assisting citizens and coordinating with states.

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Headline	ONGC Mulls New Rs.200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups		
Publication	HT Syndication	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

ONGC Mulls New Rs.200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups

<https://htsyndication.com/inc-42/article/ongc-mulls-new-rs.200-cr-fund-to-back-energy-and-ai-startups/100227966>

India, May 12 -- State-run oil and gas company Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to launch a new Rs.200 Cr fund to back startups operating in energy and artificial intelligence/ machine learning (AI/ML) sectors.

"ONGC shall be launching another AIF of Rs. 200 Cr to nurture and incubate new ideas related to (the) energy sector & AI/ML," said the company.

As part of this, the ONGC has sought applications for appointing two advisors to formalise the operations of the new startup fund. According to the application form, the advisors will be hired on a contractual basis for 12 months, with the option to extend the term by another year.

ONGC said the new advisors will help the company in evaluating startups, carrying out due...

Headline	BPCL-Linked Mozambique LNG Project Reaches 42% Completion After Restart		
Publication	INDIAN PSU	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

BPCL-Linked Mozambique LNG Project Reaches 42% Completion After Restart

<https://indianpsu.com/bpcl-mozambique-lng-project-42-percent-completion/>

The Mozambique LNG project, in which Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) holds a stake, has reached 42% completion following the resumption of work in November 2025. The project is being operated by TotalEnergies , with an estimated investment of \$20 billion

Located in Mozambique's Offshore Area 1 , the LNG project is one of the largest energy developments globally. BPCL, through its subsidiary Bharat PetroResources Limited , holds a 10% participating interest . Other Indian stakeholders include ONGC Videsh Limited with and Oil India Limited with

The project had been suspended in April 2021 due to terrorist attacks in northern Mozambique. Work resumed toward the end of 2025 after the force majeure condition was lifted, marking a crucial restart for the mega LNG venture.

The Mozambique LNG project is expected to significantly enhance global LNG supply while strengthening India's energy security , especially at a time when geopolitical tensions continue to disrupt energy supply chains.

India's natural gas consumption stood at 69.7 billion cubic meters in FY 202526 , with more than 50% dependent on imports , underlining the importance of overseas energy assets.

Currently, over 6,000 workers are deployed at the site, developing vast reserves estimated at over 75 trillion cubic feet of natural gas

The achievement of 42% completion marks a significant milestone in the project's progress, reinforcing its role in boosting global LNG capacity and supporting India's long-term energy strategy.

Headline	ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups		
Publication	Inc 42	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups

<https://inc42.com/buzz/ongc-mulls-new-%e2%82%b9200-cr-fund-to-back-energy-ai-startups/>

As part of this, the ONGC has sought applications for appointing two advisors, who will help the company in evaluating startups, carrying out due diligence and negotiating valuations

The state-backed company has earlier launched a 100 Cr fund in 2016 to back startups in the oil and gas sector

At the heart of all this is India's growing cleantech economy, which is projected to become a \$41 opportunity by 2040

State-run oil and gas company Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to launch a new 200 Cr fund to back startups operating in energy and artificial intelligence/ machine learning (AI/ML) sectors.

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ONGC said the new advisors will help the company in evaluating startups, carrying out due diligence, negotiating valuations, monitoring portfolio firms, and advising on investments and exits.

This is not the first time that ONGC has sought to incubate startups. The state-backed company has earlier launched a 100 Cr fund in 2016 to back startups in the oil and gas sector. At the time, the company said the initiative would offer seed capital, mentoring, market linkages, and operational support.

The fund was later registered with SEBI as a Category-I alternative investment fund (AIF) in 2019.

The company noted that the existing fund has a corpus of 101 Cr, of which nearly 88 Cr has already been invested or committed to startups. Over the years, ONGC's startup fund has backed a number of emerging ventures in the cleantech segment.

For instance in 2021, the fund invested 2 Cr in Delhi-based cleantech startup Chakr Innovation , which develops technology to capture soot emissions from diesel generators and convert them into printable ink.

ONGC's renewed startup push comes at a time when energy companies and public sector organisations are increasing their focus on clean energy, industrial innovation, and AI-led technologies.

Over the past few years, state-owned organisations such as Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have launched startup programmes, innovation challenges, and venture funds targeting sectors such as energy, spacetechnology, manufacturing, AI, and industrial technology.

Headline	ONGC moves toward an AI-driven digital era with CIPL		
Publication	Indian Oil and Gas	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

ONGC moves toward an AI-driven digital era with CIPL

<http://www.indianoilandgas.com/viewnews.php?id=64561>

Regulation Alternative Energy / Fuel May 11, 2026: The biggest oil and gas company, ONGC, is starting a major project to modernize its technology.

They have teamed up with a Noida-based tech company called CIPL in a deal worth 125 crore. This partnership will last for three years and focus on bringing Artificial Intelligence (AI) into ONGCs daily operations.

Instead of just fixing old computers, this project is about a total digital makeover. The goal is to make ONGCs massive computer networks faster, smarter, and much more secure. By using AI, the company wants to change the way it handles everything from data management to cybersecurity, ensuring its digital heartbeat stays strong and protected for the future.

Across 450 locations nationwide, the project will see the deployment of advanced artificial intelligence to oversee infrastructure maintenance and cybersecurity. By moving away from traditional reactive models, the new system will utilize predictive maintenance and intelligent automation. These tools are designed to anticipate technical issues before they occur and streamline complex operations, ensuring that the mission-critical systems supporting Indias oil and gas exploration remain resilient and reliable around the clock.

To bring this vision to life, a dedicated force of over 450 skilled IT professionals will be stationed at ONGC offices to provide constant monitoring and support. Their goal is to build a future-ready ecosystem that is as secure as it is efficient. By integrating cloud-first strategies and AI-powered governance, the collaboration aims to set a new standard for how large-scale government enterprises handle digital evolution in an increasingly complex cyber landscape.

Headline	ONGC mulls new ₹200 cr fund to back energy & AI startups		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

ONGC mulls new ₹200 cr fund to back energy & AI startups

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/markets/ongc-mulls-new-200-cr-fund-to-back-energy-ai-startups/ar-AA22WATT>

State-run oil and gas company Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to launch a new 200 Cr fund to back startups operating in energy and artificial intelligence/ machine learning (AI/ML) sectors. ONGC shall be launching another AIF of Rs. 200 Cr to nurture and incubate new ideas related to (the) energy sector & AI/ML, said the company. As part of this, the ONGC has sought applications for appointing two advisors to formalise the operations of the new startup fund. According to the application form, the advisors will be hired on a contractual basis for 12 months, with the option to extend the term by another year. ONGC said the new advisors will help the company in evaluating startups, carrying out due diligence, negotiating valuations, monitoring portfolio firms, and advising on investments and exits. This is not the first time that ONGC has sought to incubate startups. The state-backed company has earlier launched a 100 Cr fund in 2016 to back startups in the oil and gas sector. At the time, the company said the initiative would offer seed capital, mentoring, market linkages, and operational support. The fund was later registered with SEBI as a Category-I alternative investment fund (AIF) in 2019. The company noted that the existing fund has a corpus of 101 Cr, of which nearly 88 Cr has already been invested or committed to startups. Over the years, ONGC's startup fund has backed a number of emerging ventures in the cleantech segment. For instance in 2021, the fund invested 2 Cr in Delhi-based cleantech startup Chakr Innovation, which develops technology to capture soot emissions from diesel generators and convert them into printable ink. ONGC's renewed startup push comes at a time when energy companies and public sector organisations are increasing their focus on clean energy, industrial innovation, and AI-led technologies. Over the past few years, state-owned organisations such as Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have launched startup programmes, innovation challenges, and venture funds targeting sectors such as energy, spacetech, manufacturing, AI, and industrial technology. At the heart of all this is India's growing cleantech economy, which is projected to cross \$41 by 2040. The post ONGC Mulls New 200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups appeared first on Inc42 Media.

Headline	ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups

<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/trending/ongc-mulls-new-200-cr-fund-to-back-energy-ai-startups-inc42/articleshow/1450482038235a33c2ed7d0bf5547a62169ab79f>

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Headline	India fuel price freeze 2026: How IOC, BPCL, HPCL are losing ₹30,000 crore a month and what happens		
Publication	Tezzbuzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

India fuel price freeze 2026: How IOC, BPCL, HPCL are losing ₹30,000 crore a month and what happens

<https://tezzbuzz.com/india-fuel-price-freeze-2026-how-ioc-bpcl-hpcl-are-losing-%e2%82%b930000-crore-a-month-and-what-happens/>

Somewhere between the political optics of stable petrol prices and the economic reality of \$126-per-barrel crude oil, three of India's most important public sector companies are quietly being hollowed out.

Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation the triumvirate that fuels India's 1.4 billion people are together losing approximately 30,000 crore every single month. That is 1,000 crore a day. 41 crore every hour. A haemorrhage so severe that Fitch Ratings has warned their financial defences have become very brittle, and that the longer the price freeze continues, the more the problem perpetuates and erodes the economy's competitiveness.

This is the story of how India's fuel price freeze now in its fourth year has transformed three profitable, strategically vital PSUs into entities absorbing losses that rival the annual budgets of mid-sized Indian states.

How did we get here? The four-year price freeze explained

Petrol and diesel prices in India have been frozen since April 2022 nearly four years without a single revision, even as the global crude oil landscape transformed beyond recognition. Retail petrol and diesel prices in India have been frozen since April 2022, nearly four years, even as Brent crude has crossed \$108 per barrel and is hovering well above Fitch's own adverse scenario threshold of \$100 per barrel.

The decision to hold prices was initially defensible. In early 2022, India was emerging from the pandemic, inflation was running hot globally, and state elections in Uttar Pradesh and other large states made a fuel price hike politically unthinkable. The government cut excise duties sharply in May 2022 to create fiscal headroom and asked OMCs to absorb the remainder. The implicit promise was that relief would come when crude prices normalised.

Crude prices did moderate through 2023 and into 2024, giving the OMCs a period of recovery. But the Middle East war changed everything. The ongoing conflict in West Asia and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz have pushed global crude oil prices sharply higher, with crude rising from nearly \$70 per barrel to around \$126 per barrel, while petrol and diesel prices in India have remained largely unchanged.

The result is an under-recovery the gap between what it costs to produce and supply fuel and what consumers pay at the pump that has now reached levels not seen since the worst years of the UPA subsidy era.

The numbers: How bad is 30,000 crore a month?

OMC under-recoveries have swelled to 30,000 crore per month on the sale of petrol, diesel, and LPG combined. To understand what that means in human terms, consider some comparisons. India's entire annual budget for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana housing scheme is approximately 30,000 crore the OMCs are losing that amount every single month. The combined annual profit of all three OMCs in their best recent year FY24, when crude was lower was approximately 60,000-70,000 crore. At current loss rates, they are wiping out an entire year of peak profitability every two months.

State-run oil marketing companies are currently losing approximately 18 per litre on petrol and 35 per litre on diesel, according to market estimates. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri publicly acknowledged in March 2026 that OMCs were losing around 24 a litre on petrol and 30 a litre on diesel. The discrepancy between the two figures reflects the rapidly worsening situation as crude climbed further above \$120 per barrel. The government has earlier said that OMCs are incurring losses of around 20 per litre on petrol and nearly 100 per litre on diesel in its most recent official acknowledgement a figure that, if accurate, would imply total losses significantly exceeding even the 30,000 crore monthly estimate.

A company-by-company breakdown of the damage

Indian Oil Corporation is India's largest company by revenue a Fortune Global 500 entity that refines more oil than any other Indian company, operates the country's largest pipeline network, and runs over 35,000 petrol stations. It is the backbone of India's downstream energy infrastructure. PL Capital has maintained an Accumulate' rating on IOC with a revised target price of 163, while MOFSL has kept the stock at Neutral' a marked deterioration from analyst sentiment just 18 months ago when IOC was widely rated a Buy.' In the past one month alone through early April 2026, IOC's stock declined approximately 27% against an 11% fall in the benchmark Sensex, a staggering underperformance that reflects the market's assessment of the earnings destruction underway.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation is India's second-largest OMC by market share, with a 21% share of the petroleum marketing segment. It operates three major refineries Mumbai, Kochi, and Bina and has been one of the more aggressively expanding PSUs in recent years, having signed joint ventures for green hydrogen and renewable energy. BPCL's stock fell approximately 28% in a single month through early April 2026, hitting close to its 52-week low of 262.95. PL Capital has a target price of 332 on BPCL, while MOFSL assigns a Neutral' with a target of 306 both significantly below where the stock was trading just a year ago.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation is the smallest of the three but arguably carries the highest financial risk at this juncture. HPCL has historically operated with the thinnest margins and the highest leverage among the three OMCs, making it most vulnerable to a sustained under-recovery cycle. HPCL's stock slipped 5% in a single session in early April to 318.10, trading close to its 52-week low of 316.20 touched on March 23, 2026, with a one-month decline of approximately 25%. MOFSL has flagged HPCL as a truce play meaning a stock that recovers primarily if the Middle East conflict de-escalates and crude prices fall rather than a fundamental buy at current prices.

What Fitch's warning actually means

Credit rating agencies do not use words like brittle casually. Fitch noted that New Delhi had previously intervened through excise duty cuts, retail price adjustments, and direct compensation, with the Centre reportedly considering a 30,00035,000 crore subsidy payout to OMCs for LPG losses alone. Fitch had not factored any of these government support measures into its statement, meaning policy relief could offset the credit warning.

The implicit message from Fitch is that the OMCs' financial profile is now entirely dependent on government action their standalone creditworthiness, stripped of the sovereign support assumption, would be significantly lower than their current ratings suggest. This matters because all three OMCs raise large amounts of debt in domestic and international capital markets to fund their working capital and capex programmes. If their standalone credit profiles deteriorate further, the cost of this borrowing rises, compounding the financial damage from under-recoveries.

OMCs' LPG under-recoveries alone have risen to 53,700 crore, whereas the government has announced LPG compensation of 30,000 crore to be disbursed leaving a gap of over 23,000 crore uncompensated even on the LPG line alone, before accounting for petrol and diesel losses.

The historical context: India has been here before

This is not the first time India's OMCs have been pushed to the financial edge by a combination of high crude prices and political reluctance to raise pump prices. The 2011-2013 period under the UPA government saw similar and in some ways worse dynamics play out. IOC posted its largest-ever quarterly loss of 7,486 crore for Q2 FY12, while BPCL and HPCL together posted combined losses exceeding 12,000 crore for the first half of that fiscal year. The three companies were collectively losing over 211 crore per day at the peak of that crisis.

The resolution then came through a combination of excise duty cuts, upstream sharing of under-recoveries by ONGC and Oil India, and eventually fuel price deregulation petrol was deregulated in 2010, diesel in 2014. The current crisis is structurally different in one important respect: petrol and diesel are technically already deregulated, yet the government has chosen not to revise prices, effectively re-introducing the subsidy regime it officially abandoned a decade ago.

What comes next: The 4-5/litre question

Given current crude oil prices and the losses companies are enduring, an increase of 20% in petrol and diesel prices could be a comfortable level of hike, though such a steep increase seems unlikely. Kotak Institutional Equities said in a report that retail fuel prices may be hiked by 25-28 per litre after state elections in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, based on an Indian crude basket of \$120 per barrel. The oil ministry termed that report fake news, but the elections are now over West Bengal results were declared, the Tamil Nadu election has concluded with TVK chief Vijay taking oath as Chief Minister on May 10 and the political cover for continued price suppression has correspondingly narrowed.

Sources told Business Today that petrol and diesel prices could be hiked before May 15 as public sector OMCs continue to suffer heavy under-recoveries estimated at nearly 30,000 crore per month. The most likely scenario being discussed a 4-5/litre hike on petrol and diesel, and 40-50 on LPG cylinders would reduce but not eliminate the under-recovery. At \$126/barrel crude, even a 5/litre hike would still leave the OMCs absorbing meaningful losses per litre, but it would slow the balance sheet deterioration and signal to markets that the price freeze era is ending.

What a continued freeze would mean

If the government chooses not to act or acts too slowly and too modestly the consequences compound. The OMCs' capex plans, already under pressure, would be the first casualty. All three companies have ambitious expansion programmes: IOC is building new refining capacity, BPCL has committed to green energy investments, and HPCL is expanding its Rajasthan refinery. Sustained losses redirect management attention and financial resources from growth to survival, delaying India's energy infrastructure build-out at precisely the moment the country needs it most.

The second casualty would be the dividend stream to the government. The three OMCs together contribute thousands of crores annually in dividends to the central exchequer, which in turn partly funds social schemes. A prolonged loss cycle disrupts this revenue flow, creating a secondary fiscal problem on top of the primary one of rising energy costs.

The third and most systemic risk is what Fitch flagged a deterioration in the OMCs' ability to raise market borrowings at reasonable cost. If the market begins to price in a standalone credit risk premium on IOC, BPCL, and HPCL debt, their borrowing costs rise, their interest burden increases, and the financial hole they are trying to climb out of gets deeper with every passing month.

India has navigated this crisis before. But the longer the freeze continues at \$126/barrel crude, the more expensive the eventual correction becomes for the companies, for the government, and ultimately for the consumer who will pay not just the delayed price hike but the accumulated cost of deferral.

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice. Investors are advised to consult a registered financial advisor before making any investment decisions. Business Upturn does not hold any position in the securities mentioned.

Headline	ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups		
Publication	Tezzbuzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

ONGC Mulls New ₹200 Cr Fund To Back Energy & AI Startups

<https://tezzbuzz.com/ongc-mulls-new-%e2%82%b9200-cr-fund-to-back-energy-ai-startups/>

As part of this, the ONGC has sought applications for appointing two advisors, who will help the company in evaluating startups, carrying out due diligence and negotiating valuations

The state-backed company has earlier launched a 100 Cr fund in 2016 to back startups in the oil and gas sector

At the heart of all this is India's growing cleantech economy, which is projected to become a \$41 opportunity by 2040

State-run oil and gas company Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to launch a new 200 Cr (\$20 Mn) fund to back startups operating in energy and artificial intelligence/ machine learning (AI/ML) sectors.

ONGC shall be launching another AIF of 200 Cr to nurture and incubate new ideas related to (the) energy sector and AI/ML, said the company.

As part of this, the ONGC has sought applications for appointing two advisors to formalise the operations of the new startup fund. According to the application form, the advisors will be hired on a contractual basis for 12 months, with the option to extend the term by another year.

ONGC said the new advisors will help the company in evaluating startups, carrying out due diligence, negotiating valuations, monitoring portfolio firms, and advising on investments and exits.

This is not the first time that ONGC has sought to incubate startups. The state-backed company has earlier launched a 100 Cr fund in 2016 to back startups in the oil and gas sector. At the time, the company said the initiative would offer seed capital, mentoring, market linkages, and operational support.

The fund was later registered with SEBI as a Category-I alternative investment fund (AIF) in 2019.

The company noted that the existing fund has a corpus of 101 Cr, of which nearly 88 Cr has already been invested or committed to startups. Over the years, ONGC's startup fund has backed a number of emerging ventures in the cleantech segment.

For instance in 2021, the fund invested 2 Cr in Delhi-based cleantech startup Chakr Innovation, which develops technology to capture soot emissions from diesel generators and convert them into printable ink.

ONGC's renewed startup push comes at a time when energy companies and public sector organisations are increasing their focus on clean energy, industrial innovation, and AI-led technologies.

Over the past few years, state-owned organisations such as Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have launched startup programmes, innovation challenges, and venture funds targeting sectors such as energy, spacetechnology, manufacturing, AI, and industrial technology.

At the heart of all this is India's growing cleantech economy, which is projected to cross \$41 by 2040.

Headline	Congress takes dig at PM Modi over appeal to reduce oil consumption		
Publication	The Asia News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

Congress takes dig at PM Modi over appeal to reduce oil consumption

<https://www.theasianews.net/news/279044944/congress-takes-dig-at-pm-modi-over-appeal-to-reduce-oil-consumption>

New Delhi [India, May 12 (ANI): Congress on Monday took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his appeal to people to reduce consumption of

petroleum products in view of the rising cost of crude due to the West Asia crisis and alleged that the BJP-led government has 'actively enabled' India's record dependence on crude oil and natural gas imports.

'After presiding over and actively enabling India's record dependence on crude oil and natural gas imports, now the PM pleads and begs India's consumers to take the onus of minimising consumption. He should first explain to the nation what happened to the thousands of crores of fraudulent investments made by GSPC - which he then covered up through its merger into ONGC,' Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

PM Modi, who was speaking at an event in Vadodra, referred to the global energy supply disruptions caused by West Asia conflict.

'From the Corona crisis through global economic disruptions to West Asia tensions, the world faces unprecedented instability that affects every nation, yet just as we collectively overcame Corona, we will certainly overcome this crisis through persistent government effort,' he said.

'The country desperately needs power of public participation, as a very large portion of India's imports constitutes crude oil sourced from regions today embroiled in conflict, creating dual crises of scarcity and price escalation,' he added.

Prescribing collective action through small individual pledges while detailing petrol-diesel reduction strategies, the Prime Minister advocated for public transport prioritization alongside car-pooling initiatives.

'Wherever possible, reduce consumption of petrol and diesel by using metro, electric buses, and public transport more; both government and private offices must prioritize virtual meetings and work-from-home arrangements to significantly reduce unnecessary fuel consumption,' he said.

The Prime Minister appealed for reduced cooking oil consumption which also has health benefits and called for postponing gold purchases during crisis periods.

'The nation spends significant foreign currency on cooking oil and gold imports while destination weddings consume reserves that could strengthen national resilience, making restraint essential during this period of global uncertainty,' he said.

Headline	Oil & gas sector outlook 2026: Higher brent prices seen boosting upstream firms, hurting OMC margins		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

Oil & gas sector outlook 2026: Higher brent prices seen boosting upstream firms, hurting OMC margins

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/invest/oil-gas-sector-outlook-2026-higher-brent-prices-seen-boosting-upstream-firms-hurting-omc-margins/articleshow/130969638.cms>

Global oil markets have shifted dramatically. Geopolitical tensions have caused a surge in Brent crude prices. Supply disruptions are a major concern. High oil prices are impacting demand. Upstream companies benefit, while downstream oil marketing companies face margin pressure. Natural gas recovery is expected to be slower.

The global oil market narrative has changed dramatically since the start of 2026. In January, the dominant concern was a potential supply glut. Global inventories looked comfortable, and Brent crude prices were expected to stay subdued for much of the year.

Against this backdrop, the investment case especially in India was clearly skewed in favour of downstream companies such as oil marketing companies (OMCs) and refiners. Lower crude prices generally ease pressure on fuel marketing margins, while upstream producers were bracing for weaker realisations and earnings pressure.

That view changed decisively from March. A sharp escalation in geopolitical tensions triggered by the United States and Israel's intensifying conflict against Iran upended expectations of stable supplies and exposed vulnerabilities in global oil logistics. Markets quickly shifted from surplus anxiety to supply fear.

Brent, trading around \$60 per barrel in January, surged sharply through March and April. Prices briefly touched \$126.4 a barrel in April-end the highest level in nearly four years. Although a temporary ceasefire pushed prices back below \$100 a barrel for parts of April, the absence of meaningful progress towards a durable resolution has triggered another upswing in prices.

The speed of this reversal is striking. During the first two months of this year, i.e. before the conflict escalated, Brent averaged just \$67 per barrel. The surge that followed underscores how quickly oil markets can swing when geopolitical risks override traditional supply-demand fundamentals. As of the first week of May, prices continue to remain volatile

Outlook: Tight supply, soft demand The main reason oil prices have been elevated is the deterioration in global supply conditions. Attacks on energy infrastructure, coupled with continued restrictions and risks to tanker movements through the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz, have disrupted the smooth flow of oil to international markets.

The International Energy Agency (IEA), in the April 2026 edition of its Oil Market Report, acknowledged the severity of the disruption. For 2026, it expects global oil supply to decline by about 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) on-year. This represents a meaningful shift from earlier expectations of ample supply and underscores the scale of the geopolitical shock. At the same time, high oil prices are beginning to weigh on demand. According to the IEA, global oil demand is projected to fall by around 80,000 bpd in 2026. If this forecast holds, it will mark the first on-year contraction in oil demand since 2020.

Market participants broadly agree that prices would ease if the Strait of Hormuz were fully reopened and geopolitical tensions reduced meaningfully. However, few expect a return to pre-conflict price levels.

Swarnendu Bhushan, Research Analyst at PL Capital, expects prices to correct sharply if tensions ease, driven by weaker demand and inventory build-up in West Asia. In such a scenario, he sees Brent trading in the \$70-80 per barrel range in the near term.

Others are slightly more cautious. Hitesh Jain, Lead Analyst at YES Securities, believes that even in the event of conflict resolution, prices will continue to carry a material risk premium of \$10-15 per barrel. He expects oil to average around \$85 per barrel over 2026, with the risk of prices spiking closer to \$95 if tensions worsen.

A report by Equirus reinforces this view. The market is grappling not with a temporary supply shock, but a deep inventory deficit. As a result, stock rebuilding, higher logistics costs, and repair expenses for damaged infrastructure are likely to

keep oil prices structurally supported. As per the report, the near-term equilibrium price for Brent is likely to remain above \$80 a barrel.

Gas markets: Slow normalcy Unlike crude, which could normalise relatively quickly if geopolitical risks ease, the recovery in natural gas supply is expected to be slower. The delay is largely due to the technical complexity involved in restarting and stabilising large gas-processing facilities, especially in Qatar, a key exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG). As a result, gas prices are expected to remain elevated for longer even if oil prices retreat from current highs.

Brent breaks out

The escalation of the US-Iran conflict triggered a sharp spike in oil prices.

Refiners ride the spike

Supply disruptions led to a sharp rise in product cracks and refining margins.

OMCs feel the heat

Higher crude prices and unchanged retail fuel prices are weighing on OMCs' marketing margins.

Sectoral impact High oil prices don't affect all segments of the oil and gas industry equally. The impact varies sharply across upstream, downstream, and city gas distribution (CGD) companies.

Upstream: Clear beneficiaries Upstream oil and gas companies, engaged in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas, benefit directly from higher oil prices. Rising prices improve realisations, boosting revenues and profits.

According to Bhushan, every \$5 per barrel rise in oil prices can lift the earnings per share of upstream companies by 810%. This leverage is already reflecting in stock prices. ONGC and Oil India have gained 20.6% and 12.2%, respectively, on a year-to-date basis, significantly outpacing the Nifty 50, which has fallen around 8% over the same period.

Analysts expect upstream companies to report strong results for the March 2026 quarter, supported by higher realisations. However, after the sharp rally, any meaningful de-escalation in West Asian tensions could pose near-term downside risks if oil prices cool.

Downstream: Marketing pain For downstream OMCs, the picture is more mixed. The immediate challenge is the widening disconnect between crude and retail fuel. Despite global crude prices rising sharply, petrol and diesel prices in India have been stagnant, squeezing marketing margins.

Marketing margin (i.e. difference between procurement cost and the price at which fuel is sold to dealers) moves by about ' 0.50.55 per litre for every \$1 change in crude prices, notes Bhushan. At current levels, OMCs are estimated to be losing around Rs.12 per litre on diesel and Rs.10 per litre on petrol, a drag on profitability if sustained.

Refining, however, offers partial relief. Product cracks the price spread between refined products such as petrol or diesel and crude rose sharply on a sequential basis in the March 2026 quarter amid supply disruptions. Reflecting this, Singapore benchmark gross refining margins improved to \$7.8 per barrel from \$4.9 per barrel in the December 2025 quarter. While stronger refining margins can cushion weak marketing profitability, LPG under-recoveries remain a concern. Analysts expect operating and net profits of OMCs to decline on a quarter-on-quarter basis in the March 2026 quarter. Also, earnings are likely to remain volatile in the June 2026 quarter, with subsequent performance dependent on crude prices and geopolitical developments.

CGD: Cost pressures persist CGD companies are also facing margin pressures, especially those reliant on imported LNG. They source gas through a mix of domestic supplies priced under the government-administered pricing mechanism (APM) and international LNG. While APM gas prices are regulated and relatively stable, spot LNG prices are volatile and much more expensive. Disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz have tightened LNG availability, pushing spot LNG prices up by 21.3% quarter-on-quarter in the March 2026 quarter. Looking ahead, rating agency ICRA expects margins in the domestic piped natural gas segment to remain stable, aided by preferential allocation of APM gas. However, margins in the CNG segment are likely to face headwinds. Higher gas costs and rupee depreciation may not be fully passed on to consumers, putting profitability under pressure.

Headline	Breaking News Live Updates: ONGC, Oil India set to benefit as Centre lowers royalty rates on crude oil, gas		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

Breaking News Live Updates: ONGC, Oil India set to benefit as Centre lowers royalty rates on crude oil, gas

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/newsblogs/breaking-news-live-updates-india-politics-weather-geopolitics-ukraine-russia-war-malaysia-boat-capsize-may-12/liveblog/131026888.cms>

Breaking News Live Updates: The Centre has reduced royalty rates on the production of crude oil and natural gas from several categories of fields, including deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks. Under the revised framework, effective royalty on onshore crude oil production has been reduced to 10%, while royalty on offshore crude production has been lowered to 8%.

The Centre has reduced royalty rates on the production of crude oil and natural gas from several categories of fields, including deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks, in a move aimed at boosting domestic exploration and production.

Under the revised framework, effective royalty on onshore crude oil production has been reduced to 10%, while royalty on offshore crude production has been lowered to 8%, according to the new calculation mechanism.

For natural gas, the effective royalty rate has been reduced to 8% after the government introduced a new flat deduction formula for calculating the well head price used to determine royalty payments.

08:10:44 AM IST, 12 May 2026

California county sues Meta over scam ads

California's Santa Clara County has sued Meta Platforms, alleging it has profited from Facebook and Instagram ads promoting scams in violation of California's false advertising and unfair business practices laws.

The lawsuit filed Monday in Santa Clara County Superior Court on behalf of all California residents accuses the social media giant of tolerating fraudulent advertising on a global basis. The suit seeks restitution, civil damages and an order prohibiting Meta from engaging in unfair business practices.

08:08:00 AM IST, 12 May 2026

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor arrives in Guwahati to attend the Swearing-in Ceremony of Himanta Biswa Sarma-led Assam government

08:06:44 AM IST, 12 May 2026

Cannes Film Festival opens, grappling with AI and Hollywood

Cannes Film Festival rolls out the red carpets on Tuesday for its annual showcase in France, grappling with the dizzying speed of AI-powered disruption and the absence of major Hollywood studios.

In its main competition, a total of 22 films are vying for the prestigious Palme d'Or prize for best film, which was won last year by the highly political Iranian movie "It Was Just an Accident" by Jafar Panahi.

08:05:32 AM IST, 12 May 2026

Donald Trump to undergo dental and medical exams on May 26

US President Donald Trump is slated to have his annual dental and medical evaluations on May 26 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the White House said Monday.

"This will include the President's routine annual dental and medical assessments as part of his regular preventive health care," the White House statement said.

08:04:48 AM IST, 12 May 2026

OpenAI, Microsoft agree to cap revenue-sharing at \$38 billion: Report

OpenAI and Microsoft agreed to cap total revenue-sharing payments at \$38 billion, U.S. digital news outlet The Information reported on Monday, citing a person with knowledge of the arrangement.

The development comes as OpenAI and Microsoft renegotiated a contract last month, making room for OpenAI to forge new partnerships with companies such as Amazon and Google.

08:04:12 AM IST, 12 May 2026

India cuts royalty burden on oil and gas producers

The Centre has reduced royalty rates on the production of crude oil and natural gas from several categories of fields, including deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks, in a move aimed at boosting domestic exploration and production. Under the revised framework, effective royalty on onshore crude oil production has been reduced to 10%, while royalty on offshore crude production has been lowered to 8%.

Headline	ONGC to launch second startup fund of Rs 200 crore, seeks investment advisors		
Publication	The Head And Tale	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

ONGC to launch second startup fund of Rs 200 crore, seeks investment advisors

<https://theheadandtale.com/ai-emerging-tech/ongc-to-launch-second-startup-fund-of-rs-200-crore-seeks-investment-advisors/>

11 May 2026, 05:53 PM The fund will seek to invest in energy and AI/ML startups.

State-owned energy company ONGC is preparing to expand its startup investment efforts with plans to launch a second fund that will have a corpus of Rs 200 crore.

The fund will seek to invest in energy and AI/ML startups, a notification on its website showed.

As part of this move, the company has invited applications for two advisor positions on a one-year contract, extendable by another year.

The selected advisors will support startup evaluation, due diligence, investment decisions, portfolio monitoring, and exit planning. ONGC is seeking candidates with over two decades of experience, including at least five years in venture capital fund management.

ONGC had launched its first startup fund worth Rs 100 crore in 2016 under the Startup India programme and later registered it as a Category-I AIF with SEBI. The fund currently manages a corpus of around Rs 101 crore, with nearly Rs 88 crore already invested or committed to startups.

The startups invested by ONGC's first fund include String Bio, Chakr Innovation and StrautX Technologies.

The development reflects a wider trend of PSUs and government-backed institutions increasing support for startups across sectors such as energy, AI, spacetechnology, and manufacturing. Other PSUs like Oil India, BPCL, HPCL and GAIL have also supported startups through their schemes and initiatives.

Headline	Congress criticises PM Modi over appeal to reduce oil consumption amid crisis		
Publication	The News Mill	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

Congress criticises PM Modi over appeal to reduce oil consumption amid crisis

<https://thenewsmill.com/2026/05/congress-criticises-pm-modi-over-appeal-to-reduce-oil-consumption-amid-crisis/>

The Congress party has criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi following his appeal for the public to reduce petroleum product consumption due to rising crude oil prices linked to the West Asia crisis. The party alleged that the BJP-led government has actively enabled India's increasing dependence on crude oil and natural gas imports.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh stated in a post on X: After presiding over and actively enabling India's record dependence on crude oil and natural gas imports, now the PM pleads and begs India's consumers to take the onus of minimising consumption. He should first explain to the nation what happened to the thousands of crores of fraudulent investments made by GSPC which he then covered up through its merger into ONGC.

During an event in Vadodara, PM Modi referred to global energy supply disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict. He said, From the Corona crisis through global economic disruptions to West Asia tensions, the world faces unprecedented instability that affects every nation, yet just as we collectively overcame Corona, we will certainly overcome this crisis through persistent government effort.

He emphasised the importance of public participation, explaining that a significant portion of India's crude oil imports originates from conflict-affected regions, creating challenges of scarcity and rising prices. The Prime Minister prescribed collective action through small individual commitments and discussed strategies to reduce petrol and diesel consumption.

Advocating for the prioritisation of public transport and car-pooling, PM Modi said, Wherever possible, reduce consumption of petrol and diesel by using metro, electric buses, and public transport more; both government and private offices must prioritise virtual meetings and work-from-home arrangements to significantly reduce unnecessary fuel consumption.

He also appealed for reduced cooking oil consumption, citing associated health benefits, and suggested postponing gold purchases during crisis periods. The nation spends significant foreign currency on cooking oil and gold imports while destination weddings consume reserves that could strengthen national resilience, making restraint essential during this period of global uncertainty, he added.

Headline	BPCL-Linked Mozambique LNG Project Reaches 42% Completion After Restart – Indian PSU		
Publication	infralog	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

BPCL-Linked Mozambique LNG Project Reaches 42% Completion After Restart – Indian PSU

<https://www.infralog.in/bpcl-linked-mozambique-lng-project-reaches-42-completion-after-restart-indian-psu/>

The Mozambique LNG project, in which Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) holds a stake, has reached 42% completion following the resumption of work in November 2025.

The project is being operated by TotalEnergies , with an estimated investment of \$20 billion

Located in Mozambique's Offshore Area 1 , the LNG project is one of the largest energy developments globally. BPCL, through its subsidiary Bharat PetroResources Limited , holds a 10% participating interest . Other Indian stakeholders include ONGC Videsh Limited with and Oil India Limited with

The project had been suspended in April 2021 due to terrorist attacks in northern Mozambique. Work resumed toward the end of 2025 after the force majeure condition was lifted, marking a crucial restart for the mega LNG venture.

The Mozambique LNG project is expected to significantly enhance global LNG supply while strengthening India's energy security , especially at a time when geopolitical tensions continue to disrupt energy supply chains.

India's natural gas consumption stood at 69.7 billion cubic meters in FY 202526 , with more than 50% dependent on imports , underlining the importance of overseas energy assets.

Currently, over 6,000 workers are deployed at the site, developing vast reserves estimated at over 75 trillion cubic feet of natural gas

The achievement of 42% completion marks a significant milestone in the project's progress, reinforcing its role in boosting global LNG capacity and supporting India's long-term energy strategy.

Headline	India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of Natural Gas & 45 days of LPG rolling stock: Centre		
Publication	ANI News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of Natural Gas & 45 days of LPG rolling stock: Centre

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/india-has-60-days-of-crude-oil-60-days-of-natural-gas-amp-45-days-of-lpg-rolling-stock-centre20260511182704>

New Delhi [India, May 11 (ANI): As global energy markets reel from the prolonged conflict in West Asia, the Indian government and private sector

leaders have issued a clarion call for a "national mission" to conserve fuel and protect the economy. Chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the 5th Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) met on Monday to finalise a strategy that blends military-grade strategic planning with a public appeal for mass participation, echoing the collective spirit of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite international volatility, the IGoM confirmed that India's immediate energy security is robust. The government revealed a significant "rolling stock" of reserves to prevent any domestic panic. "The IGoM was informed that the country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, even as most other nations have taken emergency measures to dramatically reduce domestic consumption. India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of Natural Gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. The foreign exchange reserves stand at a comfortable \$703 billion. India is the world's third largest oil refiner and fourth largest exporter of petroleum products, exporting to over 150 countries and is meeting domestic demand in full," as per the Ministry of Defence press release. The financial stakes of this "collective effort" are immense. While the government has successfully shielded the Indian consumer from the immediate sticker shock at the petrol pump, the underlying economic math highlighted why Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the people for collective participation to help the country deal with global economic disruptions, supply chain challenges and rising prices caused by international conflicts. "There is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels. Fuel conservation can ease this burden. PM Modi emphasised prudence in the usage of petroleum products and reducing wasteful consumption, so that the fiscal burden on the nation is reduced in the present and into the future," read the release. Moreover, India currently finds itself in a unique position where domestic fuel prices remain steady despite a 70-day global conflict. However, this stability is not "free," it is being financed by massive under-recoveries. 1,000 crore daily loss, the amount Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are absorbing every single day to prevent inflation from hitting households. 2 Lakh Crore fiscal burden, the estimated total loss for the first quarter of 2026 alone. To put this in perspective, this is a significant portion of the national budget that would otherwise go toward infrastructure, education, or healthcare. "India is among the few countries where petroleum prices have held steady through this period of global volatility even after more than 70 days since the conflict started. In many nations, prices have increased by 30 to 70 per cent. However, India's oil marketing companies have absorbed losses of close to Rs 1,000 crore a day, with under-recoveries running to nearly Rs 2 lakh crore in Q1 '26 so that the burden of global astronomical prices is not passed to the Indian citizens. There is no reason for anxiety, and no reason for any citizens to rush to retail outlets," said the release. The Prime Minister's appeal for "collective participation" is effectively a call to reduce the National Import Bill. Every liter of petrol or diesel saved by a citizen through carpooling or public transport translates directly into keeping more of the \$703 billion reserves intact, lowering the subsidy or "under-recovery" burden on the state and lower demand for dollars to buy crude helps keep the Rupee stable. The Prime Minister, on May 11, 2026, exhorted the people to reduce petrol and diesel consumption by using metros & public transport, opting for car pooling; help conserve foreign exchange reserves by refraining from unnecessary foreign travel, choosing domestic tourism & celebrations within India, and avoiding non-essential gold purchases for a year. He had urged the farmers to reduce chemical fertiliser usage by 50 per cent, move towards natural farming practices, help protect soil health & reduce import dependence, and encourage wider adoption of solar-powered irrigation pumps instead of diesel pumps in agriculture. "Ministries and States must identify, in a coordinated manner, measures to institutionalise fuel efficiency, public awareness, and responsible consumption behaviour," said Rajnath Singh Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Jagat Prakash Nadda; Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri; Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw; Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju; Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal; and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh attended the meeting. They were informed that there is a surplus amount of essential commodities for the people, and the present conservation is intended towards long-run capacity building if the crisis prolongs. The supply management has been good, and the people need not panic or resort to over-purchasing of fuel & other products. The IGoM clarified that the

current conservation drive isn't because the tanks are empty, it's because the cost of refilling them is historically high. By reducing "wasteful consumption" now, India can stretch its 60-day crude and gas reserves further without having to buy more oil at "astronomical" peak prices. The request for farmers to cut chemical fertiliser use by 50% is a masterstroke in reducing import dependency. Fertilisers are highly energy-intensive to produce and import; moving toward natural farming and solar pumps (like the PM-KUSUM initiative) decouples Indian food security from West Asian oil volatility. In a post on X after the meeting, Rajnath Singh commended the work being done by the Government towards ensuring supplies of all essential commodities. He urged the people to remain calm and avoid any kind of panic as all concrete steps are being taken to prevent shortages or disruptions in supply chains. Defence Minister emphasised that the primary focus for India during the current phase is to ensure that energy flows remain uninterrupted, economic stability is maintained, and maritime trade routes remain secure. He directed all stakeholders to remain vigilant to deal with every situation. Singh underlined the urgent need for India to accelerate the process of transforming its energy mix, rapidly expanding renewable-based alternative energy sources, identifying more reliable & diversified energy supplies, and increasing investment in energy efficiency technologies. He called for re-evaluation of strategic reserve requirements to tackle issues arising out of supply chain disruptions, with future energy security in mind. He asserted that the West Asia situation should not be viewed merely as a stand-alone event, as any form of international crisis directly or indirectly affects all nations in today's interconnected global environment. He stressed the need to focus on strategic crisis anticipation, early warning assessment, scenario planning, and timely whole-of-government preparedness. The government is treating this crisis as an opportunity to "institutionalise responsible consumption." Rather than a temporary belt-tightening, the push for Metros, carpooling, and domestic tourism is intended to create a more resilient, self-reliant economy that is no longer at the mercy of global supply chain disruptions. In short, the message from both the Government and the tech industry is clear: Individual conservation is now a form of economic patriotism. The IGoM was informed about the recent policy measures undertaken specifically to support industry, including MSMEs. To provide liquidity support to the industry, including MSMEs, the Union Cabinet on May 05 approved the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0 with a total additional credit flow target of Rs 2,55,000 crore to provide credit guarantee coverage of 100% for MSMEs and 90% for non-MSMEs, as well as the airline sector. Moreover, taking cognisance of the Industry demand for advisory related to 'force-majeure-like' risks in public procurement contracts, the Ministry of Finance has also enabled force majeure-related relief measures, including a circular by the Department of Expenditure clarifying that the ongoing crisis should be treated as war for consideration of Force Majeure whereby the performance deadlines can be extended by 2-4 months from February 28. The Ministry said, "India's fertiliser stock position remains robust, with total availability reaching 199.65 lakh tons as of May 11, 2026, a significant increase from 178.58 lakh tons on the same date last year. The Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) was briefed that supplies continue to exceed national requirements, highlighted by substantial year-on-year growth in DAP (from 14.87 to 22.52 lakh tons) and NPKs (from 48.32 to 60.42 lakh tons), ensuring a stable agricultural outlook. For Kharif 2026, the fertiliser requirement has been assessed by DA&FW at 390.54 LMT, against this stock as on today is around 199.65 LMT (more than 51%), significantly higher than the usual level of about 33%.

Headline	Govt assures adequate fuel stock amid PM Modi's energy conservation push		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

Govt assures adequate fuel stock amid PM Modi's energy conservation push

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-assures-adequate-fuel-stock-amid-pm-modi-s-energy-conservation-push-126051101298_1.html

The government said India has adequate fuel supplies and stable prices despite rising global energy costs and mounting losses for oil marketing companies

Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Photo: PTI)

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The government has assured adequate stocks of crude oil, petrol, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in the country, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged citizens to conserve energy.

Prime Minister's message reflects his foresightedness. The country has adequate fuel stocks, and there is no need for panic buying, said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), on Monday at an inter-ministerial briefing.

The official added that stable prices of petrol and diesel have been maintained in the country so far, despite state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) incurring heavy losses due to elevated energy prices. The estimated under-recovery of OMCs during the June quarter is expected to surge to Rs 2 lakh crore and losses are likely to be around Rs 1 lakh crore, said Hardeep Singh Puri, Union minister of petroleum and natural gas, in a post on X.

India is among very few countries that have not raised energy prices and have maintained steady supplies to citizens even as we see crises unfold in many parts of the world. Our energy sector is absorbing the brunt of the impact, said Puri.

Reiterating Modi's appeal, the minister also urged citizens to curtail use of petrol and diesel, use public transport where possible, and carpool as much as possible. Amid surging energy prices, Modi has appealed for austerity measures such as using less fuel, prioritising public transport, reducing unnecessary foreign travel, holding weddings within India and avoiding gold purchases for one year.

The government has been pushing for higher use of natural gas amid an acute shortage of LPG supplies. About 6.79 lakh piped natural gas (PNG) connections have been gasified since March, while infrastructure has been created for an additional 2.68 lakh connections, taking the total to 9.47 lakh connections. Nearly 7.29 lakh customers have been registered for new connections. More than 52,300 PNG consumers had surrendered their LPG connections till May 10.

Headline	Got SMS from LPG company on income details? Here's why your subsidy can be stopped		
Publication	CNBC TV18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

Got SMS from LPG company on income details? Here's why your subsidy can be stopped

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/india/got-sms-from-lpg-company-on-income-details-heres-why-your-subsidy-can-be-stopped-19903287.htm>

OMCs send SMS alerts to LPG users whose taxable income may exceed 10 lakh, warning subsidy may stop. Govt cites better targeting amid the ongoing West Asia crisis.

State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) have begun sending SMS alerts to domestic LPG consumers regarding their income details, triggering confusion among households over possible discontinuation of cooking gas subsidies.

The exercise is aimed at identifying consumers whose annual taxable income exceeds the prescribed limit for availing LPG subsidy benefits, CNBC-TV18 has learnt.

As per a report by The Hindu , the message being circulated states: "Dear LPG Consumer, as per available income tax records, your (or a linked family member's) gross taxable income exceeds the prescribed limit of 10 lakh. If you wish to dispute this, please contact the toll-free number 1800-2333-555 or register your grievance on the portal of your respective oil marketing company within seven days of receipt of this message. If no response is received within the stipulated period, the LPG subsidy may be discontinued thereafter."

Under the PAHAL (DBTL) scheme, LPG cylinders are sold at market price and eligible consumers receive the subsidy amount directly in their bank accounts.

As per the government's policy, households with annual taxable income above 10 lakh are not entitled to the subsidy.

India reaches out to countries to secure oil supplies amid West Asia tensions

The Centre is now carrying out stricter verification using PAN-linked tax records, Aadhaar-linked family details and LPG consumer databases to identify ineligible beneficiaries, as per a report by News18 Hindi.

Consumers receiving such notices have been advised to update their KYC details and linked records through distributors or official OMC portals.

The LPG subsidy framework traces back to the Centre's 2015 'Give It Up' campaign, which encouraged financially stable households to voluntarily surrender subsidies so that benefits could be redirected to economically weaker families.

The move comes amid the energy insecurity that the country is witnessing due to the ongoing West Asia conflict between Iran, Israel and the US.

However, the government had undertaken the measures earlier as well. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on August 5, 2025, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the government intensified Aadhaar authentication and de-duplication drives to improve transparency in LPG subsidy transfers.

Rajnath Singh chairs ministerial meeting on West Asia crisis, reviews energy supply chains

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas stated that over 4.08 crore duplicate, fake or inactive LPG connections had been blocked, suspended or deactivated as of July 1, 2025. The ministry also said 92.44% of active LPG consumers had Aadhaar seeded in OMC databases.

CNBC-TV18 has learnt that the 2015 policy is for perpetuity. Hence, the subsidy can be stopped for an individual if the income simply crosses the threshold mark.

Several consumers have expressed frustration over scrutiny linked to what they described as a negligible subsidy amount.

"It is better that they stop giving this paltry amount as subsidy," consumer activist T Sadagopan told The Hindu.

"During the lockdown, the amount was reduced to 24.50 and was not increased thereafter. Data pertaining to the number of persons who have given up LPG subsidy as well as those who still get subsidy are not available," he said, while calling the oil companies using the income tax records of people as an "invasion of privacy."

Headline	India declines Russian LNG under sanctions, talks continue on permitted cargoes, says report		
Publication	CNBC TV18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

India declines Russian LNG under sanctions, talks continue on permitted cargoes, says report

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/india/india-declines-russian-lng-under-sanctions-talks-continue-on-permitted-cargoes-wsj-19903453.htm>

India refuses US sanctioned Russian LNG despite supply shortfall, leaving the Kunpeng tanker stranded near Singapore, while continuing Russian crude imports under a temporary US waiver.

India has declined Russia's offer to sell it liquefied natural gas subject to US sanctions despite a shortfall driven by Middle East tensions, said two sources with direct knowledge of the matter, leaving a tanker bound for India in limbo as talks continue on permitted cargoes.

The stance highlights the fine balance the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer is seeking to strike between securing energy supplies and avoiding LNG cargoes on which the US has placed sanctions, which are harder to disguise and carry greater compliance risk. It also underscores the limits of Moscow's ability to pivot its LNG exports to new markets.

India's reluctance has left an LNG cargo from Russia's US-sanctioned Portovaya plant in the Baltic Sea unable to discharge, despite indicating India as its destination in mid-April, one of the sources said. The vessel was tracked despite documentation suggesting the cargo was non-Russian, the source added.

Reuters had reported in mid-April, citing LSEG shipping data, that the 138,200-cubic-metre tanker Kunpeng was heading to the Dahej LNG import terminal in western India. The vessel is now near Singaporean waters with no destination broadcast, according to LSEG.

India, the biggest buyer of Russian seaborne crude, conveyed its decision not to buy LNG that was under sanction to Russia's Deputy Energy Minister Pavel Sorokin during his April 30 visit, when he met Indian officials including Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, one of the sources said. It was their second meeting in as many months, and Sorokin could return in June for further talks, said the source.

India's Oil and Gas Ministry and Russia's embassy in Delhi did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

India's purchases of Russian crude have meanwhile continued unabated, aided by a temporary waiver of US sanctions introduced to help countries cope with an energy crisis resulting from the US-Israeli war on Iran, which began on February 28.

Arctic LNG 2 is Russia's other export plant subject to US sanctions. Washington stepped up sanctions on the LNG plants in early 2025 over Russia's war on Ukraine.

While crude oil cargoes can be hidden through ship-to-ship transfers at sea, LNG shipments are far harder to conceal from satellite tracking, one of the sources said.

India is open to buying authorised Russian LNG, but most of those volumes are committed to Europe, the source said. The source said China remains a major buyer of both sanctioned and unsanctioned Russian LNG.

Moscow is also seeking long-term deals to supply India with LNG and fertilisers such as potash, phosphorus and urea, the source added.

Before the Iran conflict disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, India was meeting half of its gas consumption through imports, about 60% of which had come through the waterway. More than half of its crude supplies came the same way.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to conserve fuel and foreign exchange by working from home, limiting foreign travel and reducing imports of gold and edible oil.

Headline	No fuel shortage, but OMCs absorbing ₹1,000 cr daily losses: Govt explains PM Modi's appeal		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

No fuel shortage, but OMCs absorbing ₹1,000 cr daily losses: Govt explains PM Modi's appeal

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/upstox-epaper-upstox/no+fuel+shortage+but+omcs+absorbing+1000+cr+daily+losses+govt+explains+pm+modis+appeal-newsid-n711886066>

India has ample stocks of crude oil, natural gas and cooking gas and there is no shortage of any petroleum product despite the ongoing conflict in West Asia, the government said on Monday, urging people to remain calm and avoid panic buying.

Chairing the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) on West Asia, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the government's primary focus is to ensure uninterrupted energy supplies, maintain economic stability and keep maritime trade routes secure.

"The country is secure and there is no shortage of any petroleum product," an official statement said after the meeting.

According to the government, India currently has 60 days of crude oil stocks, 60 days of natural gas supplies and 45 days of LPG rolling stock.

The meeting was attended by Union ministers J. P. Nadda, Hardeep Singh Puri, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Kiren Rijiju, K. Rammohan Naidu, Sarbananda Sonowal and Jitendra Singh.

The government said India's foreign exchange reserves stood at a comfortable USD 703 billion and that the country, the world's third-largest oil refiner and fourth-largest exporter of petroleum products, continues to fully meet domestic fuel demand.

"But there is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels. Fuel conservation can ease this burden," the statement said, reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to adopt fuel saving measures.

State-owned oil marketing companies have absorbed losses of nearly 1,000 crore per day to keep retail fuel prices unchanged, with under-recoveries estimated at around 2 lakh crore in the first quarter of 2026-27, the statement said.

"There is no reason for anxiety and no reason for citizens to rush to retail outlets," it added.

The ministers were also informed that essential commodities and fertilisers are available in surplus and that the current conservation measures are aimed at strengthening long-term resilience in case the geopolitical crisis persists.

The IGoM was informed that fertiliser stocks stood at 199.65 lakh tonnes as of May 11, significantly higher than the usual level for this time of year and sufficient to meet more than half of the estimated Kharif 2026 requirement of 390.54 lakh tonnes.

On Sunday, PM Modi urged citizens to reduce petrol and diesel consumption by using public transport and carpooling, avoid non-essential foreign travel, postpone overseas vacations and destination weddings, and defer non-essential gold purchases for one year to conserve foreign exchange.

He also called on farmers to cut chemical fertiliser use by half, adopt natural farming and switch to solar-powered irrigation pumps.

In a post on X after the meeting, Rajnath Singh said all concrete steps were being taken to prevent shortages and supply chain disruptions and urged citizens to remain calm.

The defence minister also stressed the need to diversify energy sources, expand renewable energy, reassess strategic reserve requirements and strengthen preparedness through early warning systems and scenario planning.

Headline	India has 60 days of crude, gas stocks; no shortage fears: Govt		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

India has 60 days of crude, gas stocks; no shortage fears: Govt

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/daily+excelsior-epaper-dlyeclsr/india+has+60+days+of+crude+gas+stocks+no+shortage+fears+govt-newsid-n711897750>

The union government today sought to reassure citizens amid rising concerns over the escalating West Asia conflict, asserting that India has sufficient reserves of key petroleum products and that there is no reason for panic buying or fear of shortages.

Chairing the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) on West Asia at Kartavya Bhawan in the national capital, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the evolving regional situation and directed ministries to ensure that global disruptions do not impact Indian citizens.

The meeting was attended by union ministers including J. P. Nadda, Hardeep Singh Puri, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Kiren Rijiju, Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Sarbananda Sonowal and Jitendra Singh.

Officials informed the ministers that India currently holds 60 days of crude oil reserves, 60 days of natural gas stocks and 45 days of LPG rolling stock, ensuring that domestic demand remains fully met despite turbulence in global energy markets.

"The country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product," officials told the meeting, while noting that India continues to maintain stable fuel supplies even as many countries have introduced emergency consumption controls.

India currently has foreign exchange reserves of nearly USD \$703 billion, while its refining capacity continues to remain robust. Officials said India is now the world's third-largest oil refiner and the fourth-largest exporter of petroleum products, supplying fuel to more than 150 countries.

Despite the strong supply position, the government acknowledged the financial strain caused by rising international crude prices.

Officials said public sector oil marketing companies are currently absorbing losses of nearly Rs 1,000 crore per day, while under-recoveries have touched nearly Rs 2 lakh crore in the first quarter of 2026, ensuring that the burden is not passed on to consumers.

There is "no reason for anxiety, and no reason for any citizens to rush to retail outlets," officials emphasised during the meeting.

Rajnath Singh directed ministries and state governments to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for responsible fuel usage.

"Ministries and States must identify, in a coordinated manner, measures to institutionalise fuel efficiency, public awareness, and responsible consumption behaviour," Singh said.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi had urged citizens to reduce fuel consumption by increasing the use of public transport, opting for carpooling, avoiding unnecessary foreign travel and limiting non-essential purchases.

The Prime Minister also called on farmers to reduce chemical fertiliser usage by 50 per cent, adopt natural farming methods and increase the use of solar-powered irrigation systems.

Following the meeting, Singh reiterated that the government was fully prepared to deal with any disruption arising out of the West Asia conflict.

In a post on X, he said, "All concrete steps are being taken to prevent shortages or disruptions in supply chains. People must remain calm."

The Defence Minister stressed that India's immediate priority was to protect its economic and energy interests amid global uncertainty.

"Government's primary focus is to ensure that energy flows remain uninterrupted, economic stability is maintained and maritime trade routes remain secure," he said.

He also called for long-term structural reforms in India's energy sector, including faster expansion of renewable energy sources, diversification of imports and strengthening strategic reserves.

Warning that global crises now have far-reaching consequences, Singh said, "We need to focus on strategic crisis anticipation, early warning assessment, scenario planning and timely whole-of-government preparedness."

The ministers were also briefed on recent economic support measures for industries impacted by the crisis, particularly MSMEs.

Officials said the union Cabinet recently approved the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0, aimed at providing an additional credit flow of Rs 2.55 lakh crore to businesses, including full credit guarantee support for MSMEs.

The Finance Ministry has also issued force majeure relief measures for companies facing contractual delays due to disruptions caused by the ongoing crisis.

Headline	Why PM Modi asked Indians to put off buying gold for a year?		
Publication	Deccan Herald	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

Why PM Modi asked Indians to put off buying gold for a year?

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/why-pm-modi-asked-indians-to-put-off-buying-gold-for-a-year-3998445>

India is one of the world's largest importers of gold, and over 90 per cent of its annual requirement is met through imports. Higher demand increases dollar outflow and widens the country's import bill.

Emphasising that the Centre is trying to shield people from the adverse impact of the ongoing West Asia conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for judicious use of fuel, postponement of gold purchases and foreign travel, among other measures, to strengthen the economy.

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

Addressing a rally in Hyderabad on Sunday, he suggested reducing petrol and diesel consumption, using metro rail services in cities, carpooling, increased use of electric vehicles, utilising railway services for parcel movement, and working from home to conserve foreign exchange amid the crisis in West Asia.

Stressing the need to save foreign exchange in view of the crisis, Modi called for postponing the purchase of gold and foreign travel for one year.

"Gold purchases are another area where foreign exchange is used extensively... In the national interest, we must resolve not to purchase gold for a year, no matter how many functions we have scheduled at home," he said.

Gold and crude oil account for the majority of India's import costs, leading to a massive outflow of foreign currency.

India is one of the world's largest importers of gold, and over 90 per cent of its annual requirement is met through imports. While its annual demand ranges between 700 and 800 tonnes, domestic production is negligible at only 12 tonnes a year. Gold purchases in the country rise significantly during festivals and wedding season.

Since gold is largely imported, higher demand increases dollar outflow and widens the country's import bill. India's gold imports surged to \$72 billion in financial year 2025-26, marking a 24% jump compared with \$58 billion in the financial year 2024-25.

According to the Commerce Ministry data, the country's gold imports rose 28.73% to \$69 billion during April-February 2025-26 on account of high prices of the precious metal. The rise in gold imports pushed the country's trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) to \$310.6 billion during the 11-months of the last fiscal as compared with \$261.8 billion during April-February 2024-25, the data showed.

India's forex reserves dropped by \$7.794 billion to \$690.693 billion during the week ended May 1, the Reserve Bank of India said last week. In the previous reporting week ended April 24, the overall reserves declined by \$4.82 billion to \$698.487 billion.

Rupee value weakens; crude oil price up

The rupee has also weakened sharply against the US dollar in recent weeks. On May 11, the rupee crashed 139 paise to 94.9 against the US dollar in early trade after US President Donald Trump rejected Iran's response to the US' peace proposal. Following this, crude oil prices surged rapidly to above \$105 a barrel, intensifying concerns over inflation and energy security worldwide.

India's fuel import burden has surged sharply since the West Asia conflict escalated earlier this year. Officials have warned that continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz could keep oil prices high for months.

As of early 2026, India imports roughly 8889% of its crude oil requirements, up from 87.8% in FY24, highlighting high dependency on foreign energy sources.

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on May 1, 2026, that India had maintained stable energy supplies and shielded consumers from global price shocks despite a prolonged disruption caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz amid the West Asia crisis.

During his speech on Sunday, Modi said that when there is pressure on the supply chain, difficulties increase despite various government measures to address the situation. "That's why, during a global crisis, keeping the country above all else, we have to take resolutions," he said.

"We got into work from home, virtual meetings, video conferencing, and many other methods during Covid-19. We got used to them. The need of the hour is to resume those methods," Modi said.

Headline	'OMCs stare at Rs 2 lakh crore under-recoveries in Q1,' says Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Financial Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

'OMCs stare at Rs 2 lakh crore under-recoveries in Q1,' says Hardeep Puri

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/omcs-stare-at-rs-2-lakh-crore-under-recoveries-in-q1-says-hardeep-puri/4237942/>

State-run oil marketing companies may suffer retail fuel losses of nearly Rs 1 lakh crore in the April-June quarter as crude prices remain elevated amid the West Asia conflict, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said. Analysts warn sustained under-recoveries could force fuel price hikes.

Hours after exhorted citizens to reduce energy consumption, limit gold purchases and stop travelling abroad to conserve foreign exchange in the wake of a spike in energy costs after the West Asia war, said state-run oil marketing companies' () losses from retail fuel sales are expected to hit a massive Rs 1 lakh crore in the April-June quarter, with under-recoveries being twice as much.

India is among very few countries which have not raised energy prices and has maintained steady supplies to the citizens even as we see crises unfold in many parts of the world. Our energy sector is absorbing the brunt of the impact, Puri wrote on X.

The statement is believed to signal an imminent hike in retail prices of auto fuels. The prices have been on hold since the onset of the war in late February, though the disruption of the Strait of Hormuz led to a sudden spike in crude prices.

Under-recoveries are notional losses incurred by oil companies when selling fuel below the cost required to import or produce it. They are computed via the formula of Trade Parity Price which is weighted average of 80% import parity and 20% export parity.

What do analysts say? Analysts have pointed out that for OMCs, the refining segment remains stable, supported by adequate margins due to healthy product cracks. The outlook on the fuel retailing segment, however, is negative driven by the steeply negative marketing margins.

Emkay Global has estimated a Rs 37,000-38,000 crore hit for the three PSU OMCs in Q1FY27 driven by a combination of negative marketing margins, volatile refining spreads, and continued LPG under-recoveries.

The government had reduced excise duties on retail fuel to shield OMCs, incurring revenue losses of Rs 14,000 crore in a month. Daily marketing losses of OMCs are learnt to be up to Rs 1,600-1,700 crore at present as crude oil prices remain above \$100 per barrel. At current levels, OMCs are estimated to be losing around 18 per litre on diesel and 14 per litre on petrol, while domestic LPG sales are resulting in loss of nearly 400 per cylinder.

Retail fuel prices remained largely frozen despite the sharp rise in global crude and product prices since late February.

According to Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) data, the Indian crude basket averaged \$113.49 per barrel in March and \$114.48 per barrel in April. The May average so far stands at \$104.68 per barrel, while the Indian basket was priced at \$102.52 per barrel on May 8. Icria estimates that at crude price of \$120-125/barrel and considering past 10-year average crack spreads of auto fuels, oil marketing companies incur a loss of about 1,000 crore daily on the sale of auto fuels and domestic LPG. This high level of loss is unsustainable and would need to be addressed if the scenario of elevated crude oil and product prices persists for an elongated period, said Prashant Vasisht, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head at Icria Ltd. Grant Thornton Bharat estimated that cumulative under-recoveries of state-run OMCs have already crossed 1 lakh crore in around 10 weeks since the conflict escalated. According to its estimates, negative marketing margins have widened to around 13-15 per litre on petrol and 17-19 per litre on diesel, while LPG under-recoveries could touch 80,000 crore during the current fiscal if elevated crude prices persist. At the current run-rate, losses imply an annualised impact of more than 4-5 lakh crore, which is incompatible with OMC balance sheets and capital requirements, Mitra said.

Headline	'Cut fuel use, gold buys': PM Modi urges people as Iran war bites		
Publication	Hindustan Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

'Cut fuel use, gold buys': PM Modi urges people as Iran war bites

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cut-fuel-use-gold-buys-pm-modi-urges-people-as-iran-war-bites-reminds-of-measures-during-covid-19-101778460725714-amp.html>

PM Modi repeatedly stressed the need to conserve foreign exchange as India faces mounting import costs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged Indians to adopt austerity measures ranging from cutting fuel consumption and postponing foreign travel to reducing edible oil use and avoiding gold purchases, as the government grapples with the economic fallout of the ongoing global energy crisis and surging crude prices.

PM Modi urged people to maximise the use of electric vehicles, shift freight movement towards railways and revive work-from-home arrangements that became common during the Covid-19 pandemic.(PTI)

Speaking in Hyderabad , where he inaugurated multiple projects, Modi framed the appeal as a national duty at a time when India imports more than 88% of the crude oil it processes and supply chains remain under strain amid the conflict in West Asia.

In this time of global crisis, we have to make a resolution keeping duty paramount and fulfil it with complete dedication, Modi said. A big resolution is to use petrol and diesel sparingly. We must curb our use of petrol and diesel. In cities with Metro lines, we should decide to travel by Metro only. If we must use a car, then we should try to carpool, he said.

The prime minister also urged people to maximise the use of electric vehicles, shift freight movement towards railways and revive work-from-home arrangements that became common during the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the Corona period, we developed many systems of work from home, online meetings, and video conferences, and we even became accustomed to them. Today, the demands of the times are such that if we restart these systems, it will be in the national interest, he said.

Modi repeatedly stressed the need to conserve foreign exchange as India faces mounting import costs.

We must also place a strong emphasis on saving foreign exchange, as petrol and diesel have become so expensive globally, he said. It is our responsibility to save the foreign currency spent on purchasing petrol and diesel.

Crude oil prices have surged sharply since the outbreak of the war in West Asia on February 28, with average import prices rising from around \$70 a barrel to nearly \$120. The pressure has also weighed on the rupee, which weakened from around 91 against the dollar before the conflict to nearly

To be sure, the rupee's depreciation has mirrored pressure on several major Asian currencies during the broader global crisis.

High oil prices have also sharply increased India's import bill. India imported crude oil worth \$121.8 billion in 2025-26, and officials expect the burden to rise further if the conflict continues and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remains disrupted.

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that while the Centre had so far shielded consumers from the full impact of the global energy crisis by holding petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices largely steady, the situation remained fragile.

There is no certainty on when the Strait of Hormuz returns to normal commercial operation, and no settled view on where post-conflict prices stabilise even after the conflict itself ends. Most credible projections see elevated prices persisting for at least four months after a permanent ceasefire is achieved, on account of the time required for shipping, insurance, and inventory regimes to normalize, he said.

The official added that fuel retailers may not be able to hold prices at current levels for much longer.

Modi also urged people to avoid non-essential foreign travel, overseas weddings and vacations for at least a year to reduce pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

The growing culture of weddings abroad, travelling abroad, and vacationing abroad is becoming prevalent among the middle class. We must decide that during this time of crisis, we should postpone travelling abroad for at least a year, he said.

Modi also appealed to citizens to avoid gold purchases for a year, arguing that gold imports place additional pressure on foreign exchange reserves. Gold purchases are another area where foreign exchange is used extensively... In the national interest, we must resolve not to purchase gold for a year, no matter how many functions we have scheduled at home, he said.

The prime minister additionally called for lower edible oil consumption and reduced dependence on imported chemical fertilisers. The same is true for edible oil. We have to spend foreign currency on its import. If every household reduces the use of edible oil, it is a huge contribution to patriotism, Modi said.

We should reduce our consumption of chemical fertilisers by half and move towards natural farming. This way, we can save foreign currency and our farms and Mother Earth.

At an inter-ministerial briefing on Friday, petroleum ministry joint secretary Sujata Sharma said the combined monthly under-recovery on petrol, diesel and cooking gas stood at around 30,000 crore.

State-run fuel retailers have kept petrol and diesel prices in Delhi at 94.77 and 87.67 per litre respectively for the past two years, despite mounting global pressure on fuel prices.

The government had on March 27 reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by 10 per litre each, while also imposing levies on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel to prevent domestic supplies from being diverted overseas.

An energy sector expert, who requested anonymity, said Modi's remarks should be seen as preparation for possible fuel price increases and broader austerity measures.

PM's Sunday speech should be taken in all seriousness and fuel conservation must be implemented by individuals, corporations and state governments immediately, the expert said. People must be prepared to share the partial burden of this crisis in terms of a price hike, which is imminent.

Union home minister Amit Shah backed Modi's appeal in a post on X, describing it as a visionary road map towards making India self-reliant and energy-secure.

His call for moderation in the use of petrol-diesel, promoting work from home, and abandoning chemical fertilisers to adopt natural farming is a clear roadmap for making India a self-reliant and energy-secure nation, Shah wrote.

Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri also urged citizens to conserve fuel and said India's energy sector was absorbing the impact of the global crisis to shield consumers. India is among very few countries which have not raised energy prices and has maintained steady supplies to the citizens even as we see crises unfold in many parts of the world, Puri posted on X.

He said oil marketing companies were purchasing crude oil, gas and LPG at elevated rates while continuing to sell fuels domestically at lower prices, leading to massive mounting losses.

According to Puri, oil marketing companies are facing losses of up to 1,000 crore a day, while estimated under-recoveries during the current quarter could rise to 2 lakh crore.

Let us turn PM Modi ji's empathetic appeal into a Jan Andolan to save and conserve energy, he said.

The Opposition, however, accused the government of failing to prepare adequately for the crisis. Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said Modi was still clueless about ensuring India's energy security even three months into the Iran-US war. It is shameless, reckless and downright immoral that the PM is pushing the common citizen into inconvenience, instead of building contingencies to ensure our economy is unaffected by this global crisis, Venugopal said in a post on X. The PM and his government must make all necessary arrangements to ensure we have ample fuel reserves and no citizen faces any hardship as a result of their lack of planning, he added.

Headline	Why PM Modi asked Indians to avoid buying gold for a year		
Publication	Hindustan Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

Why PM Modi asked Indians to avoid buying gold for a year

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/why-pm-modi-asked-indians-to-avoid-buying-gold-for-a-year-wfh-not-use-petrol-diesel-101778469931511-amp.html>

India, which imports more than 88% of its crude oil requirements, has been hit hard from the spike in global oil prices amid the ongoing US-Iran war. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged Indians to adopt cost-cutting measures including avoiding gold purchases, postponing foreign travel and working from home as the country grapples with the economic fallout of the ongoing Iran-US war and surging crude oil prices.

PM Modi urged people to travel only when necessary and conserve fuel.(X/@PMO)

Addressing a BJP rally in Hyderabad, PM Modi said India must conserve foreign exchange reserves and reduce fuel consumption as global supply chains remain under pressure due to the prolonged conflict in West Asia.

The war has kept the Strait of Hormuz one of the world's most critical oil shipping routes partially disrupted for weeks, triggering fears of prolonged supply shortages. PM Modi's appeal came after US President Donald Trump rejected Iran's latest peace proposals, pushing global crude oil prices above \$105 a barrel and intensifying concerns over inflation and energy security worldwide. Iran had proposed transferring part of its enriched uranium stockpile to another country while refusing to dismantle its nuclear facilities - a key US demand.

India, which imports more than 88% of its crude oil requirements, has been hit hard from the spike in global oil prices. The rupee has also weakened sharply against the US dollar in recent weeks.

Why Modi urged people to work from home

Modi said the country must revive habits adopted during the Covid-19 pandemic to reduce fuel consumption and save foreign exchange. We developed work from home, virtual meetings, video conferencing and many other methods during Corona. We got habituated to them. The need of the hour is to resume those methods, Modi said.

He urged citizens to use petrol and diesel sparingly by opting for metro rail services, carpooling and electric vehicles wherever possible.

The prime minister also called for shifting freight transportation to railways to reduce dependence on fuel-intensive road transport.

According to government estimates, India's fuel import burden has surged sharply since the West Asia conflict escalated earlier this year. Officials warned that continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz could keep oil prices elevated for months.

Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said state-run oil companies are currently absorbing massive losses to shield consumers from fuel price hikes.

PM Modi's appeal on Gold

Modi also appealed to Indians to avoid buying gold for at least one year, saying gold imports put additional pressure on India's foreign exchange reserves during a global crisis.

Gold purchases are another area where foreign exchange is used extensively. In the national interest, we must resolve not to purchase gold for a year, he said.

India is one of the world's largest importers of gold, and purchases rise significantly during weddings and festive seasons. Since gold is largely imported, higher demand increases dollar outflow and widens the country's import bill.

The PM also asked citizens to postpone non-essential foreign travel, overseas vacations and destination weddings for a year to conserve foreign currency.

The growing culture of weddings abroad, travelling abroad and vacationing abroad is becoming prevalent among the middle class. During this crisis, we should postpone travelling abroad for at least a year, Modi said.

How the US-Iran war is impacting gold prices

The ongoing US-Iran war has created volatility in global gold prices, with bullion markets reacting sharply to every escalation and ceasefire setback in West Asia.

Typically, gold is considered a safe haven asset during geopolitical crises, meaning investors rush to buy it during wars or global uncertainty. However, the current conflict has created a more complicated situation because soaring crude oil prices are also stoking fears of prolonged inflation and higher interest rates globally.

After US President Donald Trump rejected Iran's latest peace proposal, oil prices surged again as concerns grew over disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz a key global oil shipping route. Rising oil prices increase inflation risks worldwide, prompting central banks like the US Federal Reserve to keep interest rates elevated for longer.

This US Navy handout photo released on May 8, 2026 by US Central Command Public Affairs, shows the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115) implementing a maritime blockade against the Iran-flagged crude oil tanker vessel Herby while the latter was attempting to sail toward an Iranian port.

That, in turn, affects gold negatively because gold does not offer interest or yield. When interest rates remain high, investors often prefer interest-bearing assets such as bonds and fixed-income instruments over bullion.

As a result, despite the war-driven uncertainty, spot gold prices slipped on Monday after crude prices jumped and the US dollar strengthened. Reuters reported that spot gold fell around 0.6% after hopes of an imminent peace deal faded.

Analysts say gold is currently being pulled in two directions:

For India, rising global gold prices create an additional economic burden because the country imports most of its gold using foreign currency. Higher imports during a period of elevated crude prices widen the trade deficit and increase pressure on India's forex reserves and the rupee.

That is one of the key reasons Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to avoid buying gold for a year and reduce non-essential imports amid the ongoing global crisis.

Push for austerity and self-reliance

Apart from fuel conservation and reduced imports, Modi also called for lower edible oil consumption, reduced use of chemical fertilisers and greater adoption of natural farming and swadeshi products.

We have to save foreign exchange by any means, he said, adding that citizens should contribute towards making India self-reliant during the global crisis.

The Centre has so far kept petrol and diesel prices largely unchanged despite mounting pressure from global markets. However, officials indicated that fuel retailers may not be able to absorb losses indefinitely if crude prices remain elevated.

Congress attacks Modi over remarks

The Congress criticised Modi's appeal, accusing the Centre of failing to prepare adequately for the energy crisis.

Congress leader KC Venugopal said the government was pushing the burden onto ordinary citizens instead of ensuring India's energy security.

Three months into the Iran-US war and PM Modi is still clueless about ensuring India's energy security. It is shameless, reckless and downright immoral that the PM is pushing the common citizen into inconvenience, Venugopal said.

Despite the criticism, Union home minister Amit Shah backed Modi's appeal, calling it a visionary roadmap to make India energy-secure and self-reliant.

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Headline	No shortage, but ₹ 1,000-cr/day loss keeping fuel prices in check, says govt a day after PM Modi's 7 appeals		
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No shortage, but ₹ 1,000-cr/day loss keeping fuel prices in check, says govt a day after PM Modi's 7 appeals

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/no-shortage-but-rs-1-000-cr-day-loss-keeping-petrol-prices-in-check-govt-clarifies-day-after-pm-modis-7-appeals-101778510002825-amp.html>

Defence minister Rajnath Singh chaired the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) on West Asia on Monday

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged Indians to save fuel, avoid gold purchases and work from home, the government held a formal ministerial meeting on the West Asia crisis and stated that there is no shortage of any petroleum product in the country. It noted, however, that the public-sector oil marketing companies are absorbing losses of nearly 1,000 crore a day to keep pump prices from rising even as crude prices spike.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh chairs the fifth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group of Ministers to review risks to energy supply chains and availability of essential commodities, in New Delhi. Union ministers JP Nadda, Hardeep Singh Puri, K Rammohan Naidu, Kiren Rijiju, and others, are seen as well. (Photo: @rajnathsingh/X via PTI)

Defence minister Rajnath Singh chaired the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) on West Asia on Monday, attended by the ministers of petroleum, railways, civil aviation, fertilisers, ports and science. The meeting's key message, as per a government press release, was that India has 60 days of crude oil and natural gas stocks, and 45 days of LPG rolling stock.

There is no reason for anxiety, and no reason for any citizens to rush to retail outlets, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) release stated.

Foreign exchange reserves stand at a \$703 billion, which was also seen as comfortable.

But there is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels, the ministers were informed by officials, said the release.

Fuel conservation can ease this burden. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's appeal to the people for collective participation to help the country deal with global economic disruptions, supply chain challenges and rising prices caused by international conflicts has, thus, emphasised prudence in usage of petroleum products and reducing wasteful consumption, so that the fiscal burden on the nation is reduced in the present and into the future, the release read.

Oil companies' losses amid war

The group noted that India is among the few countries where petroleum prices have held steady through a period of global volatility even after more than 70 days since the conflict started.

It noted, In many nations, prices have increased by 30 to 70 per cent. However, India's oil marketing companies have absorbed losses of close to 1,000 crore a day, with under-recoveries running to nearly 2 lakh crore in [the first quarter of the current fiscal year, so that the burden of global astronomical prices is not passed to the Indian citizens.

The opposition has for long been saying the government is not reducing taxes and will, at some point, pass on the crude-price burden onto the consumers.

Atmosphere being created' for price rise: Oppn

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, writing on X on Sunday, called PM Modi's seven austerity appeals proofs of failure.

"In 12 years, he's brought the country to such a pass that the public has to be told what to buy, what not to buy, where to go, where not to go," he wrote, describing Modi as a "compromised PM" no longer capable of running the country.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh read the PM's Hyderabad speech as preparation for something harder.

A phase of stringent cost-cutting measures, including a hike in fuel prices, may be on the horizon, and an atmosphere is being created to make them more acceptable, he said.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav questioned why the crisis had surfaced only after the recent elections in four states and a UT.

"During the elections, BJP leaders took thousands of chartered flights. Were those planes flying on water?" he asked.

RJD's Tejashwi Yadav drew a contrast with Modi's 2024 Lok Sabha campaign, in which the PM had accused the Congress-led Opposition of planning to "snatch the mangalsutra" from married Hindu women widely read as a defence of gold ownership and was now asking those same citizens to stop buying the metal for a year.

The markets have been spooked by the austerity call already. The BSE Sensex tumbled 1,312 points its steepest fall since March to close at 76,015, with the Nifty settling at 23,815, on Monday. Titan, India's largest jewellery company, was the single biggest Sensex loser, down nearly 7%.

The rupee closed at an all-time low of 95.31 against the US dollar.

PM Modi has also come under criticism for his roadshows even after calling for saving fuel. His foreign visits he is scheduled to depart on a seven-day overseas visit to the UAE, Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway and Italy on Friday also became the subject of some comments on X and elsewhere.

BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya has pushed back against the criticism, arguing that PM Modi had not demanded sacrifice but called for conscious choices in the national interest. He drew a comparison to India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru, the Congress leader whom BJP often derides, for his similar appeals during the Korean War.

The US-Iran war is currently stuck in a precarious ceasefire but the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for oil, remains in place by both Iran and the US.

Read More Aarish Chhabra is an Associate Editor with the Hindustan Times online team, writing news reports and explanatory articles, besides overseeing coverage for the website. His career spans nearly two decades across India's most respected newsrooms in print, digital, and broadcast. He has reported, written, and edited across formats from breaking news and live election coverage, to analytical long-reads and cultural commentary building a body of work that reflects both editorial rigour and a deep curiosity about the society he writes for.

Aarish studied English literature, sociology and history, besides journalism, at Panjab University, Chandigarh, and started his career in that city, eventually moving to Delhi.

He is also the author of 'The Big Small Town: How Life Looks from Chandigarh', a collection of critical essays originally serialised as a weekly column in the Hindustan Times, examining the culture and politics of a city that is far more than its famous architecture and, in doing so, holding up a mirror to modern India.

In stints at the BBC, The Indian Express, NDTV, and Jagran New Media, he worked across formats and languages; mainly English, also Hindi and Punjabi. He was part of the crack team for the BBC Explainer project replicated across the world by the broadcaster. At Jagran, he developed editorial guides and trained journalists on integrity and content quality.

He has also worked at the intersection of journalism and education. At the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, he developed a website that simplified academic research in management. At Bennett University's Times School of Media in Noida, he taught students the craft of digital journalism: from newsgathering and writing, to social media strategy and video storytelling.

Having moved from a small town to a bigger town to a mega city for education and work, his intellectual passions lie at the intersection of society, politics, and popular culture a perspective that informs both his writing and his view of the world. When not working, he is constantly reading long-form journalism or watching brainrot content, sometimes both at the same time. **Read Less**

Headline	No bailout package for OMCs amid high energy prices: official		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

No bailout package for OMCs amid high energy prices: official

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/technology/no-bailout-package-for-omcs-amid-high-energy-prices-official/ar-AA22Vu7P>

There is no proposal to provide a bailout package or fiscal support to oil marketing companies (OMCs) despite mounting losses on fuel sales, said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary, petroleum and natural gas ministry, on Monday. She noted that OMCs are facing losses due to elevated global energy prices while addressing the media on the domestic fuel stock situation amid the West Asia crisis. "There is no proposal for any support to the OMC s right now. Also, even now, the price of petrol and diesel at the pumps is stable," Sharma said. She added that the Strait of Hormuz blockade is likely the largest supply disruption. "About 20% of the global energy was carried out through that channel. Several countries have been affected because of the blockade, and we have also been affected by it. But, the Government of India has taken several effective steps and ensured energy supplies with the least possible impact on domestic consumers. The government has, in recent years, provided fiscal support to OMCs for losses incurred on the sale of domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal on Sunday, the official said: "Let's come together and jointly work towards saving energy in our daily usage, so that the financial impact on the country can be reduced." While noting that the government has taken a number of steps to insulate consumers from the impact of the global energy price rise, she said domestic firms continue to procure expensive crude oil from the global market and sell products at lower prices in the domestic market, which puts their finances under pressure. Meanwhile, the informal group of ministers (IGoM) on the West Asia crisis met on Monday to take stock of the domestic fuel situation and explore ways to ensure uninterrupted supplies. An official statement post the meeting said there is no shortage of any petroleum product. It said that India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. Swelling subsidy bill In a tweet on Sunday, petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that OMCs were incurring losses of up to 1,000 crore per day. Even after this decision, estimated OMC under-recoveries during this quarter itself are expected to surge to 2,00,000 crore and losses are expected to be around 1,00,000 crore, he tweeted. Further, Neeraj Mittal, secretary, petroleum and natural gas ministry, on Monday said that India has maintained nearly 60 days of crude oil and petroleum product stocks along with over one-and-a-half months of LPG reserves amid prolonged disruptions caused by the West Asia war. We have maintained almost 60 days of stock for crude, for products, and a month and a half of LPG. Over the last 67 days, we have kept this stock forward, which means we have procured from other sources, Mittal said during CII's Annual Business Summit 2026. Another official said that the Centre may bear an additional fertilizer subsidy burden of around 10,000- 15,000 crore per month due to rising global prices of urea and other fertilizers. The projected fertilizer subsidy bill for the current fiscal year is 1.77 trillion. Mint reported on 5 May that the subsidy bill is expected to rise by a fifth due to the Strait of Hormuz blockade. "Following a recent crisis period, domestic production and imports have scaled up rapidly, adding approximately 9.7 million tonnes to the total availability. Domestic production alone contributed 7.67mt, while imports reaching Indian ports accounted for 1.9mt," said Aparna S. Sharma, additional secretary, department of fertilizers . The government also confirmed that approximately 700,000 tonnes of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) have been secured and are expected to arrive at Indian ports through May and June. Meanwhile, the country's fertilizer stocks as of 11 May stood at 19.96mt, substantially higher than the 17.85mt recorded a year ago. According to official data, the total fertilizer requirement for Kharif 2026 is around 39.05mt.

Headline	Oil prices rise amid fragile ceasefire, supply worries; Brent trades near \$105/bbl		
Publication	Mint	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

Oil prices rise amid fragile ceasefire, supply worries; Brent trades near \$105/bbl

<https://www.livemint.com/economy/oil-prices-brent-crude-wti-us-iran-ceasefire-strait-of-hormuz-donald-trump-mohammad-ghalibaf-narendra-modi-11778549872677.html>

Crude prices rose as US-Iran ceasefire strains revived supply concerns, even as Washington moved to release oil from reserves. India braces for impact amid mounting OMC losses.

Global oil prices traded higher on Tuesday morning as supply worries persisted amid a fragile US-Iran ceasefire and concerns of renewed hostilities in West Asia.

US president Donald Trump on Monday told reporters that the ceasefire is on massive life support and is "unbelievably weak". Following his comments, Iranian parliamentary speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf said Iran's armed forces were ready to respond to any aggression.

In a tweet in Persian on Monday evening, Ghalibaf said:

"Our armed forces are ready to deliver a harsh and instructive response to any aggression; misguided strategies and erroneous decisions will always yield erroneous outcomes, and the entire world has already grasped this truth. We are prepared for all options; they shall be taken aback."

Price check At 6:55 AM, the July contract of Brent on the Intercontinental Exchange was at \$104.82, higher by 0.44% from its previous close, while the June contract of West Texas Intermediate on the New York Mercantile Exchange rose 0.60% to \$98.66 a barrel.

However, gains were capped after the US government decided to release around 53 million barrels of crude from its strategic petroleum reserve

The Trump administration on Monday announced it would loan energy companies 53.3 million barrels of crude from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve as part of a global agreement to calm oil markets.

A prolonged conflict and any blockade of the Strait of Hormuz could further squeeze global oil supplies, as the strait handles roughly one-fifth of international oil trade.

India impact India has been significantly impacted by the war as it imports nearly 90% of its oil requirement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already appealed to citizens to use more public transport, work from home and rationalize petrol and diesel consumption to conserve foreign exchange, given India's status as a net crude importer.

India currently has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock, according to an official statement released on Monday after a meeting of the informal group of ministers (IGoM) on the West Asia crisis.

With retail prices of petrol, diesel and LPG largely unchanged despite elevated crude prices, oil marketing companies (OMCs) are facing mounting revenue losses.

In a tweet on Sunday, petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said OMCs were incurring losses of up to 1,000 crore per day.

Even after this decision, estimated OMC under-recoveries during this quarter itself are expected to surge to 2,00,000 crore and losses are expected to be around 1,00,000 crore, he tweeted.

Headline	Government may hike fuel prices as OMCs stare at loss of Rs 1 lakh crore		
Publication	Moneycontrol	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

Government may hike fuel prices as OMCs stare at loss of Rs 1 lakh crore

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/government-may-hike-fuel-prices-as-omcs-stare-at-loss-of-rs-1-lakh-crore-13915074.html>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday appealed to the citizens to curtail use of petrol and diesel, use public transport and car pool to conserve energy and forex

Prime Minister Narendra Modis weekend appeal to citizens to reduce energy consumption could be a precursor to a long-delayed fuel price hike, as crude surges amid US-Iran deadlock, sources said on May 11.

With discussions ongoing between the finance and petroleum ministries and oil marketing companies (OMCs), the timing and extent of the hike will depend on global crude trends and the governments approach to balancing inflation, fiscal pressures and energy pricing, sources said.

OMCs are under mounting pressure as under-recoveries are projected to expected to Rs 2 lakh crore this quarter, with losses estimated at around Rs 1 lakh crore, petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri wrote in a LinkedIn post on May 10 a few hours after Modis appeal to citizens.

State-run oil marketing companies are buying crude, gas and LPG at higher cost in the light of the West Asia crisis, but to protect consumers, they are selling final products at lower cost, leading to losses of up to Rs 1,000 crore a day, Puri said.

The US-Iran war is in its third month and the latest peace effort was dealt a blow after American President Donald Trump on May 10 slammed as totally unacceptable Irans response to a proposed agreement to end hostilities.

The average price at which refiners import oil has increased to \$104.68 in May against \$69.01 in February before the war broke out, data from Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell showed.

OnFebruary 28, when US and Israel hit Iran, the benchmark Brent was trading at around \$72.50. On May 11, prices climbed to \$105after a brief respite. While a fragile ceasefire holds, the conflict which engulfed oil-rich West saw crude jump even above \$120 dollar when attacks intensified.

We have managed to protect the more than 60 million consumers who visit the retail stations everyday. Still further, the Modi government reduced excise duties on retail fuel and saw revenue losses of Rs 14,000 crore in a month, the minister noted.

Official sources earlier told Moneycontrol that state-run fuel retailers may raise petrol and diesel prices in the coming days to offset mounting losses.

OMCs are incurring under-recoveries on sales of petrol, diesel and LPG and are in regular touch with the petroleum ministry and the finance ministry, where discussions on price hikes are taking place, a senior government official said.

With crude prices well above the comfortable \$6570/bbl range, this situation is financially unsustainable, and a price hike appears increasingly inevitable if elevated prices persist, said Sourav Mitra, Partner-Oil and Gas, Grant Thornton Bharat.

The Prime Minister has urged citizens to curtail use of petrol and diesel, use public transport where possible, and car pool as much as possible.

Measures such these will help the nation conserve energy, save on the energy import bill and overcome the challenges arising out of the serious military conflict involving many energy producing nations, Puri said.

Retail petrol and diesel prices in India have largely remained unchanged since early April 2022, compressing marketing margins and increasing pressure on OMC balance sheets.

While India has avoided any immediate supply disruption by to diversifying sourcing, its high import dependence and reliance on the Strait of Hormuz, which has virtually remained shut since February 28, exposes it to risks if the conflict escalates further, analysts say.

Mitra said Indias oil stock (including strategic & commercial) capacity is around 74 days, which covers almost 60 days of oil supply, with strategic reserves capacity of around 9.5 days.

In this backdrop, the Prime Ministers call to reduce fuel consumption is aimed at moderating demand pressures, however, diesel consumption is structurally harder to cut given its critical role in goods transportation, he said.

Headline	India declines Russian LNG under sanctions, talks continue on permitted cargoes: Sources		
Publication	Moneycontrol	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

India declines Russian LNG under sanctions, talks continue on permitted cargoes: Sources

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/india-declines-russian-lng-under-sanctions-talks-continue-on-permitted-cargoes-sources-13915567.html>

India declines Russian LNG under sanctions, talks continue on permitted cargoes: Sources

India has declined Russias offer to sell it liquefied natural gas subject to U.S. sanctions despite a shortfall driven by Middle East tensions, said two sources with direct knowledge of the matter, leaving a tanker bound for India in limbo as talks continue on permitted cargoes.

The stance highlights the fine balance the worlds third-biggest oil importer and consumer is seeking to strike between securing energy supplies and avoiding LNG cargoes on which the U.S. has placed sanctions, which are harder to disguise and carry greater compliance risk. It also underscores the limits of Moscows ability to pivot its LNG exports to new markets.

India's reluctance has left an LNG cargo from Russia's U.S.-sanctioned Portovaya plant in the Baltic Sea unable to discharge, despite indicating India as its destination in mid-April, one of the sources said. The vessel was tracked despite documentation suggesting the cargo was non-Russian, the source added.

Reuters had reported in mid-April, citing LSEG shipping data, that the 138,200-cubic-metre tanker Kunpeng was heading to the Dahej LNG import terminal in western India. The vessel is now near Singaporean waters with no destination broadcast, according to LSEG.

India, the biggest buyer of Russian seaborne crude, conveyed its decision not to buy LNG that was under sanction to Russias Deputy Energy Minister Pavel Sorokin during his April 30 visit, when he met Indian officials including Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, one of the sources said. It was their second meeting in as many months, and Sorokin could return in June for further talks, said the source.

Indias Oil and Gas Ministry and Russias embassy in Delhi did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Indias purchases of Russian crude have meanwhile continued unabated, aided by a temporary waiver of U.S. sanctions introduced to help countries cope with an energy crisis resulting from the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, which began on February 28.

Arctic LNG 2 is Russia's other export plant subject to U.S. sanctions. Washington stepped up sanctions on the LNG plants in early 2025 over Russia's war on Ukraine.

While crude oil cargoes can be hidden through ship-to-ship transfers at sea, LNG shipments are far harder to conceal from satellite tracking, one of the sources said.

India is open to buying authorised Russian LNG, but most of those volumes are committed to Europe, the source said. The source said China remains a major buyer of both sanctioned and unsanctioned Russian LNG.

Moscow is also seeking long-term deals to supply India with LNG and fertilisers such as potash, phosphorus and urea, the source added.

Before the Iran conflict disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, India was meeting half of its gas consumption through imports, about 60% of which had come through the waterway. More than half of its crude supplies came the same way.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to conserve fuel and foreign exchange by working from home, limiting foreign travel and reducing imports of gold and edible oil.

Headline	Centre rationalises royalty rates for crude oil, natural gas		
Publication	Moneycontrol	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

Centre rationalises royalty rates for crude oil, natural gas

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/centre-rationalises-royalty-rates-for-crude-oil-natural-gas-13916020.html>

Centre rationalises royalty rates for crude oil, natural gas The Centre has rationalised royalty rates and methodologies for crude oil, natural gas, and casing head condensate.

In a post on X, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said in a big boost for the countrys upstream sector, rationalization of royalty under the ORD Act marks a new era for our oil and gas regimes by eliminating inconsistencies and driving growth in the upstream sector. This landmark decision will be a major step toward regulatory clarity, he said.

In a big boost for the countrys Upstream Sector, rationalization of royalty under the ORD Act marks a new era for our Oil & Gas regimes by eliminating inconsistencies and driving growth in the upstream sector under the leadership of PM Sh @narendramodi Ji.

This landmark pic.twitter.com/xb60UNyalH

Hardeep Singh Puri (@HardeepSPuri) May 11, 2026 "Following the historic 2025 amendments to the ORD Act & PNG Rules, the government has rationalized royalty rates & methodologies for Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Casing Head Condensate. The revised schedule removes long-standing inconsistencies across regimes to ensure a stable, predictable, and investor-aligned framework for Indias upstream sector," said Puri.

"This decision is a culmination of a decade-long effort to modernize our regulatory landscape by replacing complexity with consistency to fuel India's energy future," said the Union Minister.

In simpler terms, the Centre has changed the rules for how companies pay the government for extracting natural resources such as crude oil, natural gas and casing head condensate that is a light liquid hydrocarbon that separates from natural gas during production.

Headline	Exclusive: India declines Russian LNG under sanctions, talks continue on permitted cargoes, sources say		
Publication	Reuters	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

Exclusive: India declines Russian LNG under sanctions, talks continue on permitted cargoes, sources say

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/india-declines-russian-lng-under-sanctions-talks-continue-permitted-cargoes-2026-05-11/>

India has declined Russias offer to sell it liquefied natural gas subject to U.S. sanctions despite a shortfall driven by Middle East tensions, said two sources with direct knowledge of the matter, leaving a tanker bound for India in limbo as talks continue on permitted cargoes.

The stance highlights the fine balance the worlds third-biggest oil importer and consumer is seeking to strike between securing energy supplies and avoiding LNG cargoes on which the U.S. has placed sanctions, which are harder to disguise and carry greater compliance risk. It also underscores the limits of Moscows ability to pivot its LNG exports to new markets.

India's reluctance has left an LNG cargo from Russia's U.S.-sanctioned Portovaya plant in the Baltic Sea unable to discharge, despite indicating India as its destination in mid-April, one of the sources said. The vessel was tracked despite documentation suggesting the cargo was non-Russian, the source added.

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Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of Natural Gas & 45 days of LPG rolling stock: Centre

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-has-60-days-of-crude-oil-60-days-of-natural-gas-45-days-of-lpg-rolling-stock-centre/articleshow/131015341.cms>

India is launching a national mission to conserve fuel amid global energy market turmoil. The government assures citizens of robust energy security and ample reserves. This collective effort aims to ease the nation's financial burden from high international crude prices. Prime Minister Modi urges public participation to reduce consumption and protect foreign exchange reserves.

As global energy markets reel from the prolonged conflict in West Asia, the Indian government and private sector leaders have issued a clarion call for a "national mission" to conserve fuel and protect the economy.

Chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the 5th Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) met on Monday to finalise a strategy that blends military-grade strategic planning with a public appeal for mass participation, echoing the collective spirit of the COVID-19 pandemic.

You may follow our live coverage of the West Asia war here

Undo Despite international volatility, the IGoM confirmed that India's immediate energy security is robust. The government revealed a significant "rolling stock" of reserves to prevent any domestic panic.

"The IGoM was informed that the country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, even as most other nations have taken emergency measures to dramatically reduce domestic consumption. India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of Natural Gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. The foreign exchange reserves stand at a comfortable \$703 billion. India is the world's third largest oil refiner and fourth largest exporter of petroleum products, exporting to over 150 countries and is meeting domestic demand in full," as per the Ministry of Defence press release.

Live Events The financial stakes of this "collective effort" are immense. While the government has successfully shielded the Indian consumer from the immediate sticker shock at the petrol pump, the underlying economic math highlighted why Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the people for collective participation to help the country deal with global economic disruptions, supply chain challenges and rising prices caused by international conflicts.

"There is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels. Fuel conservation can ease this burden. PM Modi emphasised prudence in the usage of petroleum products and reducing wasteful consumption, so that the fiscal burden on the nation is reduced in the present and into the future," read the release.

Moreover, India currently finds itself in a unique position where domestic fuel prices remain steady despite a 70-day global conflict. However, this stability is not "free," it is being financed by massive under-recoveries. 1,000 crore daily loss, the amount Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are absorbing every single day to prevent inflation from hitting households.

2 Lakh Crore fiscal burden, the estimated total loss for the first quarter of 2026 alone. To put this in perspective, this is a significant portion of the national budget that would otherwise go toward infrastructure, education, or healthcare.

"India is among the few countries where petroleum prices have held steady through this period of global volatility even after more than 70 days since the conflict started. In many nations, prices have increased by 30 to 70 per cent. However, India's oil marketing companies have absorbed losses of close to Rs 1,000 crore a day, with under-recoveries running to nearly Rs 2 lakh crore in Q1 '26 so that the burden of global astronomical prices is not passed to the Indian citizens. There is no reason for anxiety, and no reason for any citizens to rush to retail outlets," said the release.

The Prime Minister's appeal for "collective participation" is effectively a call to reduce the National Import Bill. Every liter of petrol or diesel saved by a citizen through carpooling or public transport translates directly into keeping more of the \$703 billion reserves intact, lowering the subsidy or "under-recovery" burden on the state and lower demand for dollars to buy crude helps keep the Rupee stable.

The Prime Minister, on May 11, 2026, exhorted the people to reduce petrol and diesel consumption by using metros & public transport, opting for car pooling; help conserve foreign exchange reserves by refraining from unnecessary foreign travel, choosing domestic tourism & celebrations within India, and avoiding non-essential gold purchases for a year.

He had urged the farmers to reduce chemical fertiliser usage by 50 per cent, move towards natural farming practices, help protect soil health & reduce import dependence, and encourage wider adoption of solar-powered irrigation pumps instead of diesel pumps in agriculture.

"Ministries and States must identify, in a coordinated manner, measures to institutionalise fuel efficiency, public awareness, and responsible consumption behaviour," said Rajnath Singh.

Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Jagat Prakash Nadda; Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri; Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw; Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju; Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal; and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh attended the meeting.

They were informed that there is a surplus amount of essential commodities for the people, and the present conservation is intended towards long-run capacity building if the crisis prolongs. The supply management has been good, and the people need not panic or resort to over-purchasing of fuel & other products.

The IGoM clarified that the current conservation drive isn't because the tanks are empty, it's because the cost of refilling them is historically high. By reducing "wasteful consumption" now, India can stretch its 60-day crude and gas reserves further without having to buy more oil at "astronomical" peak prices.

The request for farmers to cut chemical fertiliser use by 50% is a masterstroke in reducing import dependency. Fertilisers are highly energy-intensive to produce and import; moving toward natural farming and solar pumps (like the PM-KUSUM initiative) decouples Indian food security from West Asian oil volatility.

In a post on X after the meeting, Rajnath Singh commended the work being done by the Government towards ensuring supplies of all essential commodities. He urged the people to remain calm and avoid any kind of panic as all concrete steps are being taken to prevent shortages or disruptions in supply chains.

Defence Minister emphasised that the primary focus for India during the current phase is to ensure that energy flows remain uninterrupted, economic stability is maintained, and maritime trade routes remain secure. He directed all stakeholders to remain vigilant to deal with every situation.

Singh underlined the urgent need for India to accelerate the process of transforming its energy mix, rapidly expanding renewable-based alternative energy sources, identifying more reliable & diversified energy supplies, and increasing investment in energy efficiency technologies. He called for re-evaluation of strategic reserve requirements to tackle issues arising out of supply chain disruptions, with future energy security in mind.

He asserted that the West Asia situation should not be viewed merely as a stand-alone event, as any form of international crisis directly or indirectly affects all nations in today's interconnected global environment. He stressed the need to focus on strategic crisis anticipation, early warning assessment, scenario planning, and timely whole-of-government preparedness.

The government is treating this crisis as an opportunity to "institutionalise responsible consumption." Rather than a temporary belt-tightening, the push for Metros, carpooling, and domestic tourism is intended to create a more resilient, self-reliant economy that is no longer at the mercy of global supply chain disruptions.

In short, the message from both the Government and the tech industry is clear: Individual conservation is now a form of economic patriotism.

The IGoM was informed about the recent policy measures undertaken specifically to support industry, including MSMEs. To provide liquidity support to the industry, including MSMEs, the Union Cabinet on May 05 approved the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0 with a total additional credit flow target of Rs 2,55,000 crore to provide credit guarantee coverage of 100% for MSMEs and 90% for non-MSMEs, as well as the airline sector.

Moreover, taking cognisance of the Industry demand for advisory related to 'force-majeure-like' risks in public procurement contracts, the Ministry of Finance has also enabled force majeure-related relief measures, including a

circular by the Department of Expenditure clarifying that the ongoing crisis should be treated as war for consideration of Force Majeure whereby the performance deadlines can be extended by 2-4 months from February 28.

The Ministry said, "India's fertiliser stock position remains robust, with total availability reaching 199.65 lakh tons as of May 11, 2026, a significant increase from 178.58 lakh tons on the same date last year.

The Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) was briefed that supplies continue to exceed national requirements, highlighted by substantial year-on-year growth in DAP (from 14.87 to 22.52 lakh tons) and NPKs (from 48.32 to 60.42 lakh tons), ensuring a stable agricultural outlook.

For Kharif 2026, the fertiliser requirement has been assessed by DA&FW at 390.54 LMT, against this stock as on today is around 199.65 LMT (more than 51%), significantly higher than the usual level of about 33%.

Headline	India taking concrete measures to shield supply chains amid West Asia crisis: Rajnath Singh		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

India taking concrete measures to shield supply chains amid West Asia crisis: Rajnath Singh

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-taking-concrete-measures-to-shield-supply-chains-amid-west-asia-crisis-rajnath-singh/articleshow/131016963.cms>

Amidst the turmoil in West Asia, India is stepping up its efforts to secure vital supply chains and ensure a steady energy supply for its citizens. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently convened a meeting dedicated to maritime security and economic resilience. With robust petroleum reserves in place, the government is also promoting fuel conservation to ease financial strain.

New Delhi: India has implemented concrete measures to shield supply chains and ensure uninterrupted energy flows amid the escalating West Asia crisis, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Monday.

Singh, while chairing a high-level meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) set-up to monitor the situation in West Asia, emphasised that the government is prioritising maritime security and economic stability to offset global volatility.

The defence minister directed officials to take concrete steps to implement the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal that included cutting fuel consumption as part of efforts to help conserve India's foreign exchange reserves.

The meeting was attended by Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Railways and Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, and Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, among others.

The IGoM was informed that the country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, even as most other nations have taken emergency measures to dramatically reduce domestic fuel consumption, the defence ministry said.

"India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. The foreign exchange reserves stand at a comfortable USD 703 billion," it said.

"India is the world's third largest oil refiner and fourth largest exporter of petroleum products, exporting to over 150 countries and is meeting domestic demand in full. But there is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels," it said.

The ministry said fuel conservation can ease this "burden".

It said PM Modi's appeal to the people to help the country deal with global economic disruptions, supply chain challenges and rising prices emphasised prudence in usage of petroleum products and reducing wasteful consumption so that the fiscal burden is reduced.

The defence minister directed the officials to take concrete steps to implement the prime minister's appeal.

"Ministries and states must identify, in a coordinated manner, measures to institutionalise fuel efficiency, public awareness, and responsible consumption behaviour," said Singh.

He urged the people to remain calm and avoid any kind of panic as all concrete steps are being taken to prevent shortages or disruptions in supply chains.

The defence minister emphasised that the primary focus for India during the current phase is to ensure that energy flows remain uninterrupted, economic stability is maintained, and maritime trade routes remain secure.

He also directed all stakeholders to remain vigilant to deal with every situation.

Singh underlined the need for India to accelerate the process of transforming its energy mix, rapidly expanding renewable-based alternative energy sources, identifying more reliable and diversified energy supplies, and increasing investment in energy efficiency technologies.

He called for re-evaluation of strategic reserve requirements to tackle issues arising from supply chain disruptions, keeping future energy security in mind.

The defence minister asserted that the West Asia situation should not be viewed merely as a stand-alone event as any form of international crisis directly or indirectly affects all nations in today's interconnected global environment, the official readout said.

He stressed the need to focus on strategic crisis anticipation, early warning assessment, scenario planning, and timely whole-of-government preparedness, it said.

Headline	India declines Russian LNG under sanctions, talks continue on permitted cargoes, sources say		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

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India has refused Russian liquefied natural gas shipments under United States sanctions. This decision comes amid energy supply concerns due to Middle East tensions. A Russian LNG tanker bound for India remains in limbo. India prioritizes avoiding sanctioned cargoes due to compliance risks. Russia seeks new markets for its LNG exports.

India has declined Russia's offer to sell it liquefied natural gas subject to U.S. sanctions despite a shortfall driven by Middle East tensions, said two sources with direct knowledge of the matter, leaving a tanker bound for India in limbo as talks continue on permitted cargoes.

The stance highlights the fine balance the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer is seeking to strike between securing energy supplies and avoiding LNG cargoes on which the U.S. has placed sanctions, which are harder to disguise and carry greater compliance risk. It also underscores the limits of Moscow's ability to pivot its LNG exports to new markets.

Quote of the day by John Neff: "Inflection points occur in the market, and around them performance can suffer, but you have to stick to your guns."

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Reuters had reported in mid-April, citing LSEG shipping data, that the 138,200-cubic-metre tanker Kunpeng was heading to the Dahej LNG import terminal in western India. The vessel is now near Singaporean waters with no destination broadcast, according to LSEG.

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India's Oil and Gas Ministry and Russia's embassy in Delhi did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

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<https://www.freepressjournal.in/india/india-has-60-days-of-crude-oil-60-days-of-natural-gas-45-days-of-lpg-rolling-stock-centre>

Amid West Asia tensions and soaring crude prices, the Centre urged citizens to cut fuel use through metros, carpooling and domestic travel.

The Rajnath Singh-led IGoM said India has 60 days of crude and gas reserves, while oil firms are absorbing 1,000 crore daily losses to keep retail prices stable. PM Narendra Modi called conservation economic patriotism.

New Delhi: As global energy markets reel from the prolonged conflict in West Asia, the Indian government and private sector leaders have issued a clarion call for a "national mission" to conserve fuel and protect the economy.

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Publication	The Hindu	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

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<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/no-bailout-package-for-omcs-in-sight-as-under-recoveries-mount/article70965920.ece>

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri had mentioned that OMCs were staring at under-recoveries of about 2 lakh crore in the ongoing quarter.

As of date, the government has no proposal to accord a bailout package to oil-marketing companies, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Union Petroleum Ministry, reiterated at the daily inter-ministerial briefing about the situation in West Asia on Monday (May 11, 2026).

There is no proposal for any support [package to oil-marketing companies right now, she stated.

Concerns over under-recoveries, that is, the difference between the cost of manufacturing a retail fuel (as petrol, diesel and LPG) and its sale price, have escalated since the supply glut induced by the West Asia crisis.

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri wrote on his social media on Sunday (May 10, 2026) that India's oil-marketing companies are staring at under-recoveries of 2 lakh crore, with losses of up to 1 lakh crore in the ongoing quarter.

OMCs are buying crude, gas and LPG at a higher cost, but to protect consumers, they are selling final products at a lower cost, leading to massive mounting losses of up to 1,000 crore per day, he stated, adding, However, the OMCs have ensured uninterrupted energy imports and supply.

Separately, addressing a public rally in Hyderabad on Sunday (May 10, 2026), Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for reducing consumption of petrol and diesel , increasing the use of public transport, car-pooling and wider adoption of electric vehicles. He called for collective action to help weather the supply uncertainties and related pressures induced by the West Asia crisis.

Ms. Sharma assured that the country had adequate stocks of the retail fuels.

Speaking to reporters at the same briefing, C. Senthil Rajan, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), held that Mr. Modi's address was not seeking to highlight any stock-related issues.

The idea [of the speech is for optimum and efficient utilisation of available resources, he stated, adding, It is not as if there is a shortage; there are adequate stocks, and arrangements are in place. The Prime Minister made the appeal to efficiently utilise whatever is available.

In fact, a readout from the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) during the day informed the country has sixty days of crude oil stocks, sixty days of natural gas and forty-five days of LPG rolling stock.

Headline	Petroleum Secy steers clear of speculating on petrol, diesel price hike; endorses PM Modi's appeal		
Publication	The Print	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

Petroleum Secy steers clear of speculating on petrol, diesel price hike; endorses PM Modi's appeal

<https://theprint.in/economy/petroleum-secy-steers-clear-of-speculating-on-petrol-diesel-price-hike-endorses-pm-modis-appeal/2928340/>

Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal says India has maintained fuel stocks despite global disruptions, as the Centre pushes for exploration reforms and new energy security measures.

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New Delhi: Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal Monday refused to speculate on any possibility of a hike in petrol and diesel prices, even as crude oil prices continue to hover around \$100 a barrel amid the deepening West Asia crisis and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Mittal's comments came on the sidelines of the Annual Business Summit 2026 organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), where he was a speaker at a session Monday on Imperatives of Energy Security in a Fragmented World.

Mittal said the government's immediate focus was on ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies and insulating consumers from global price shocks.

His remarks come a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to citizens at a public gathering in Hyderabad to voluntarily reduce fuel consumption and avoid unnecessary foreign expenditure to conserve India's foreign exchange reserves. The Prime Minister urged people to use public transport, adopt car-pooling and reconsider discretionary spending such as destination weddings abroad and excessive gold purchases for a year.

On Sunday, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri also flagged the rising stress on oil marketing companies (OMCs), saying public sector OMCs could incur losses of up to Rs 1 lakh crore due to the West Asia conflict.

PM Sh Ji appeals to the citizens to curtail use of petrol and diesel, use public transport where possible, and car pool as much as possible.

Measures such these will help the nation conserve energy, save on the energy import bill and overcome the challenges arising

Hardeep Singh Puri (@HardeepSPuri)

On the Prime Minister's appeal to citizens, Mittal said Modi's remarks were aimed at encouraging responsible consumption at a time when imported fuel costs are exerting pressure on the economy.

If we can save even a dollar, that money saved can go into some development programme. I think that is the spirit in which this reminder from Prime Minister should be received by all of us, Mittal said, urging citizens and industry to follow the advice to the extent possible, to the extent practicable.

At the summit, Mittal repeatedly stressed that India had managed the crisis without resorting to any panic measures despite severe supply side disruptions over the past two months.

We have maintained almost 60 days of stock for our products and a month-and-a-half of energy, Mittal said, describing the government's response as a combination of diplomatic outreach, diversified sourcing and stock management.

He also said that supply constraints continue to remain unchanged since the conflict in West Asia began and have gotten worse. Supply constraint has not changed at all, in fact, it is a little worse than what it was, he said.

However, he credited the government's diplomatic engagement under Modi for helping India secure alternative supplies at short notice.

Over the last 60-70 days, every day we have kept this stock forward, which means we have procured from other sources, procured from other countries, increased procurement from existing countries and that is what kept us going, he said.

Creative ways' of building reserves

Another major focus of the secretary's remarks was the government's evolving strategy on strategic petroleum reserves (SPR).

Responding to questions on whether India would expand its reserves, Mittal said comparisons with economies such as Japan and South Korea are misleading because of India's much larger daily crude consumption of around 5 million barrels.

For a country like India which consumes 5 million barrels a day, to have a 90-day reserve would mean putting a lot of money in a box without using it at all, he said.

Instead, the government is exploring creative ways of building reserves while ensuring the crude inventory generates returns rather than remaining idle. We are looking at many ways of doing it, Mittal said, hinting at possible partnerships and trading arrangements linked to strategic storage.

On the longer-term energy security front, Mittal spoke about exploration and production roadmap aimed at reducing India's import dependence.

He said the government was pushing ahead with Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) rounds 10 and 11 while simultaneously expanding geological data acquisition for unexplored sedimentary basins.

Open Acreage Licensing Policy is a government of India initiative to accelerate exploration of domestic oil and gas. As we speak, OALP 10 and 11 are out, he said, adding that new 2D and 3D seismic data acquisition programmes had been initiated for areas previously not permitted for exploration.

The secretary said the Centre had introduced a slew of reforms to improve ease of doing business in the upstream oil and gas sector and mitigate investment risk in exploration. We are seeing early signs of renewed participation, he said, pointing to growing investor interest in exploration blocks. Mittal also indicated that the government is looking into high-risk exploration activities based on international models where states absorb part of the exploratory risk to encourage private investment.

Headline	India rejects sanctioned Russian LNG, continues discussions on permitted cargoes		
Publication	The Telegraph	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	11 May 2026		

India rejects sanctioned Russian LNG, continues discussions on permitted cargoes

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/world/india-rejects-sanctioned-russian-lng-continues-discussions-on-permitted-cargoes/cid/2160060>

The stance highlights the fine balance the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer is seeking to strike between securing energy supplies

and avoiding LNG cargoes on which the US has placed sanctions, which are harder to disguise and carry greater compliance risk

India has declined Russia's offer to sell it liquefied natural gas subject to US sanctions despite a shortfall driven by Middle East tensions, said two sources with direct knowledge of the matter, leaving a tanker bound for India in limbo as talks continue on permitted cargoes.

The stance highlights the fine balance the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer is seeking to strike between securing energy supplies and avoiding LNG cargoes on which the US has placed sanctions, which are harder to disguise and carry greater compliance risk. It also underscores the limits of Moscow's ability to pivot its LNG exports to new markets.

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India's reluctance has left an LNG cargo from Russia's US-sanctioned Portovaya plant in the Baltic Sea unable to discharge, despite indicating India as its destination in mid-April, one of the sources said. The vessel was tracked despite documentation suggesting the cargo was non-Russian, the source added.

Reuters had reported in mid-April, citing LSEG shipping data, that the 138,200-cubic-metre tanker Kunpeng was heading to the Dahej LNG import terminal in western India. The vessel is now near Singaporean waters with no destination broadcast, according to LSEG.

India, the biggest buyer of Russian seaborne crude, conveyed its decision not to buy LNG that was under sanction to Russia's Deputy Energy Minister Pavel Sorokin during his April 30 visit, when he met Indian officials including Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, one of the sources said. It was their second meeting in as many months, and Sorokin could return in June for further talks, said the source.

India's Oil and Gas Ministry and Russia's embassy in Delhi did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

'Russia keen to sell, Indian companies cautious'

India's purchases of Russian crude have meanwhile continued unabated, aided by a temporary waiver of US sanctions introduced to help countries cope with an energy crisis resulting from the US-Israeli war on Iran, which began on February 28.

Arctic LNG 2 is Russia's other export plant subject to U.S. sanctions. Washington stepped up sanctions on the LNG plants in early 2025 over Russia's war on Ukraine.

While crude oil cargoes can be hidden through ship-to-ship transfers at sea, LNG shipments are far harder to conceal from satellite tracking, one of the sources said.

India is open to buying authorised Russian LNG, but most of those volumes are committed to Europe, the source said. The source said China remains a major buyer of both sanctioned and unsanctioned Russian LNG.

Moscow is also seeking long-term deals to supply India with LNG and fertilisers such as potash, phosphorus and urea, the source added.

Before the Iran conflict disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, India was meeting half of its gas consumption through imports, about 60 per cent of which had come through the waterway. More than half of its crude supplies came the same way.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to conserve fuel and foreign exchange by working from home, limiting foreign travel and reducing imports of gold and edible oil.

Headline	No shortage of petro products, avoid panic but follow PM's save-fuel advice: Rajnath at iGoM meet		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

No shortage of petro products, avoid panic but follow PM's save-fuel advice: Rajnath at iGoM meet

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/no-shortage-of-petro-products-avoid-panic-but-follow-pms-save-fuel-advice-rajnath-at-igom-meet/articleshow/131026201.cms>

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday urged people to remain calm and avoid any kind of panic as all concrete steps are being taken to prevent shortages or disruptions in supply chains. The minister, who chaired the 5th meeting of the informal group of ministers (IGoM) on the West Asia developments, said his govt's primary focus is to ensure that energy flows remain uninterrupted, economic stability is maintained and maritime trade routes remain secure. He, however, urged people to rationalise use of fuel. The IGoM, attended by several ministers, including Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hardeep Singh Puri, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Kiren Rijiju, K R Rammohan Naidu, S Sonowal and Jitendra Singh, was informed that the country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, even as most other nations have taken emergency measures to dramatically reduce domestic consumption. The ministers were also informed that there is a surplus amount of essential commodities for the people and the present conservation is intended towards long-run capacity building if the crisis prolongs. The supply management has been good, and the people need not panic or resort to over purchase of fuel and other products. India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. The foreign exchange reserves stand at a comfortable \$703 billion. India is the world's third largest oil refiner and fourth largest exporter of petroleum products, exporting to over 150 countries and is meeting domestic demand in full. But there is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels. Fuel conservation can ease this burden, a govt release said after the meeting. Rajnath, however, directed officials to take concrete steps to implement the PM's appeal (to rationalise use of fuel) at the ground level. Ministries and states must identify, in a coordinated manner, measures to institutionalise fuel efficiency, public awareness, and responsible consumption behaviour, he said, adding, we need to focus on strategic crisis anticipation, early warning assessment, scenario planning and timely whole-of-govt preparedness. On Sunday, PM Modi appealed to the people for collective participation to help the country deal with global economic disruptions, supply chain challenges and rising prices caused by international conflicts by prudently using petroleum products and by reducing wasteful consumption so that the fiscal burden on the nation is reduced. India is among a few countries where petroleum prices have held steady through this period of global volatility even after more than 70 days since the conflict started. In many countries, prices have increased by 30 to 70%. However, India's oil marketing companies have absorbed losses of close to Rs 1,000 crore a day, with under-recoveries running to nearly Rs 2 lakh crore in Q1 '26 so that the burden of global astronomical prices is not passed to the Indian citizens.

Headline	India has 60 days of oil stock – So why is govt asking people to save fuel?		
Publication	Zee News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 May 2026		

India has 60 days of oil stock – So why is govt asking people to save fuel?

<https://zeenews.india.com/india/india-has-60-days-of-oil-stock-so-why-is-govt-asking-people-to-save-fuel-3046626.html>

According to the Ministry of Defence, India presently has enough reserves to handle immediate demand. The country has 60 days of crude oil stock, 60 days of natural gas reserves and 45 days of LPG rolling stock.

New Delhi: Even as the conflict in West Asia continues to shake international energy markets, India has assured citizens that there is no shortage of fuel or essential supplies. At the same time, the Centre has launched a broad conservation push, asking people, industries and farmers to reduce unnecessary fuel use to protect the economy from rising crude oil prices.

The message came after the 5th meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi. The meeting discussed energy security, supply chains and ways to reduce the financial pressure caused by high international crude prices.

According to the Ministry of Defence (MoD), India presently has enough reserves to handle immediate demand. Officials told the meeting that the country has 60 days of crude oil stock, 60 days of natural gas reserves and 45 days of LPG rolling stock.

The IGoM was informed that the country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, the ministry said in a statement.

The government also pointed out that India's foreign exchange reserves stand at \$703 billion. It added that the country is now the world's third-largest oil refiner and the fourth-largest exporter of petroleum products. It supplies fuel to more than 150 countries while fully meeting domestic demand.

Even though petrol and diesel prices have not risen in the country during the ongoing crisis in West Asia, the government said maintaining stable prices is coming at a heavy cost.

According to the official statement, Indian oil marketing companies are presently absorbing losses of nearly Rs 1,000 crore every day to shield consumers from the impact of rising international crude prices. The estimated under-recovery for the first quarter of 2026 alone is close to Rs 2 lakh crore.

There is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels, the release said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to citizens to use fuel carefully and avoid wasteful consumption. The government believes reducing petrol and diesel use can lower pressure on the economy, reduce imports and help preserve India's foreign exchange reserves.

The prime minister urged people to use metros and public transport more often, opt for carpooling and avoid unnecessary foreign travel. He also encouraged domestic tourism and asked citizens to avoid non-essential gold purchases for one year.

The government has also asked farmers to reduce chemical fertiliser use by 50 percent and move towards natural farming methods. The peasants were encouraged to adopt solar-powered irrigation pumps instead of diesel pumps to lower fuel dependence in agriculture.

Officials at the meeting said these measures are being taken not because India is facing shortages, but because buying fresh crude oil at present international prices has become extremely expensive.

The government stressed that people should not panic or rush to fuel stations for extra purchases. It said supply management is stable and stocks of essential goods are sufficient.

Several Union ministers attended the meeting, including Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hardeep Singh Puri, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Kiren Rijiju, Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Sarbananda Sonowal and Jitendra Singh.

Rajnath Singh said ministries and state governments must work together to build long-term habits around fuel efficiency and responsible consumption.

He also asked departments to stay alert and ensure uninterrupted energy supply, economic stability and secure maritime trade routes during the ongoing crisis.

The defence minister called for faster expansion of renewable energy, diversification of energy imports and larger investments in energy-efficient technologies. He also stressed the need for stronger strategic reserves and better preparedness for future supply disruptions.

The government said India's fertiliser stock position is also comfortable. Its total availability stood at 199.65 lakh tonnes as of May 11, 2026, compared to 178.58 lakh tonnes during the same period last year.

Officials said DAP stock increased from 14.87 lakh tonnes to 22.52 lakh tonnes, while NPK stock rose from 48.32 lakh tonnes to 60.42 lakh tonnes.

The total fertiliser requirement for the Kharif 2026 season has been estimated at 390.54 lakh metric tonnes. Present stock levels are above 51 percent of the projected requirement, which officials said is much higher than the usual level of around 33 percent.