



ONGC News as on 14 December 2025 (Print & Online)

Publication : Mid Day	Editions : Mumbai
Date : 14 December 2025	Page : 2

Gang caught stealing from petrol pipeline

SHIRISH VAKTANIA
shirish.vaktania@mid-day.com

A CHEMBUR gang that dug into the ground to steal fuel from a pipeline, ended up digging their own grave when the police caught on to their grift and arrested them. The RCF police busted the racket and arrested a total of 13 people.

According to the police, the accused attempted to tap the underground 18-inch-diameter Mumbai-Manmad multiproduct pipeline and steal petrol and diesel around 3.30 am on November 14, near the Pepsi Company gate on Gadkari Road in Chembur. The pipeline runs about 2.5 metres underground, and the gang had planned to cut into it and siphon fuel.

Investigations revealed that the accused are habitual offenders with multiple cases registered against them for pipeline tapping

An officer said, "We first arrested Vinod Devchand Pandit, 48, a resident of Chembur Camp. Further investigation revealed the he was one of the main conspirators in the racket."

Cops seized gas cutters, iron clamps and other equipment used for tapping the pipeline from the accused. Investigations also revealed that the accused are habitual offenders with multiple cases registered against them for pipeline tapping and fuel theft across Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai.

A case has been registered at the RCF Police Station under Sections 303 and 62 of BNS, along with Section 15 of the Petroleum and Mineral Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962. The complaint was lodged by BPCL manager Harshal Shivajirao Bhajipale.

Publication : Mumbai Samachar (Gujarati)	Editions : Ahmedabad
Date : 14 December 2025	Page : 5

Headline: Attempt to steal petrol, diesel from BPCL company pipeline: 13 accused arrested

બીપીસીએલ કંપનીની પાઇપલાઇનમાંથી પેટ્રોલ, ડીઝલ ચોરવાનો પ્રયાસ: ૧૩ આરોપી ઝડપાયા

મુંબઈ: ચેમ્બુરમાં બીપીસીએલ કંપનીની પાઇપલાઇનમાં ટેપિંગ કરી પેટ્રોલ-ડીઝલ ચોરવાનો પ્રયાસ કરવા બદલ આરસીએફ પોલીસે ૧૩ જણની ધરપકડ કરી હતી. આરોપીઓ વિરુદ્ધ મુંબઈ સહિત થાણે, નવી મુંબઈના વિવિધ પોલીસ સ્ટેશનમાં આવા ગુના દાખલ હોય તેમણે ગુનો આચરવા માટે વાપરેલા ગેસ ટેકર, લોખંડના ક્લેમ્પ હસ્તગત કરાયાં હતાં.

આરસીએફ પોલીસે ધરપકડ કરેલા આરોપીઓની ઓળખ રિયાઝ અહમદ મુલ્લા, સલીમ મોહમ્મદ શેખ, વિનોદ દેવચંદ પંડિત, ગોપાલ બ્રાહ્મણલાલ, મોહમ્મદ ઇરફાન પઠાણ શ્રીકાંત લોઢે, વિનાયક મિરાશી, અહમદ ખાન પઠાણ, નિશાન જગજીતસિંહ, મૈનુદીન મોહમ્મદ શેખ, મુસ્તફા મંજુરઅલી ખાન, નાસીર શૌકતઅલી ચૌહાન અને ઇમ્તિયાઝ આરિફ હોહારર તરીકે થયેલી હતી. આરોપી રિયાઝ મુલ્લા, સલીમ શેખ અને વિનોદ પંડિત મુખ્ય સૂત્રધારો છે.

આરસીએફ પોલીસ સ્ટેશનની હદમાં ગડકરી રોડ પર કંપનીના ગેટ નજીક જમીનની નીચે આવેલી ૧૮ ઇંચ વ્યાસની મુંબઈ-મનમાડ મલ્ટિપ્રોડક્ટ પાઇપલાઇનમાંથી ૧૪ નવેમ્બર, ૨૦૨૫ના પેટ્રોલ-ડીઝલ ચોરવાનો પ્રયાસ કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો. આ પ્રકરણે બીપીસીએલ કંપનીના મેનેજરે પોલીસ ફરિયાદ નોંધાવી હતી, જેને આધારે ગુનો દાખલ કરાયો હતો.

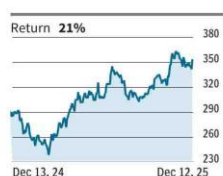
પોલીસે ઘટનાસ્થળે તપાસ આદરી હતી અને ત્યાંથી મળી આવેલા પુરાવાને તથા મળેલી માહિતીને આધારે પ્રથમ ચેમ્બુરમાં રહેતા વિનોદ પંડિતને ઝડપી પાડ્યો હતો. વિનોદ પંડિતની પૂછપરછમાં અન્ય આરોપીઓનાં નામે સામે આવ્યાં હતાં. બાદમાં પોલીસે ગુનામાં સંડોવાયેલા બીજા ૧૨ જણને પણ પકડી પાડી લોકઅપભેગા કરી દીધા હતા. ■

MOVERS & SHAKERS

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU bl. research bureau

BPCL (₹364.80)

Revival of uptrend

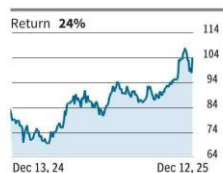


The stock of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), which was trading flat for the past few days, saw a strong rally on Friday. With this, the price action hints at the revival of uptrend after a temporary blip. Going ahead, we expect BPCL's

share price to increase and there is a potential to touch ₹415 in the near term. Hence, we recommend buying shares of BPCL now at ₹364 and accumulate on a dip to ₹352. Place a stop-loss at ₹340. When the price hits ₹380, revise the stop-loss to ₹355. Tighten the stop-loss to ₹390 when the stock rises to ₹400. Liquidate the longs at ₹415.

GMR Airports (₹104.40)

Bounces off a support

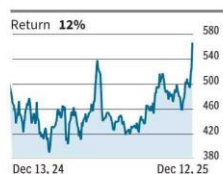


The stock of GMR Airports has been on an uptrend since early October. But recently, it saw some moderation in price. The correction has now been arrested as ₹98 acted as a support following which the price rebounded.

Considering that the broader trend is also bullish, the likelihood of a rally from the current level is high. Therefore, we suggest buying the stock of GMR Airports at ₹104 and accumulate if the price dips to ₹100. Keep a stop-loss at ₹94. When the stock touches ₹112, alter the stop-loss to ₹100. On a rally to ₹118, raise the stop-loss further to ₹112. Book profits at ₹125.

Hindustan Zinc (₹561.35)

Breaks out of a resistance



The stock of Hindustan Zinc, which began the recent leg of rally in the final week of November, extended the upswing last week. It broke out of a resistance at ₹540, opening the door for further appreciation. Note that the price might soften from the

current level of ₹561 to ₹500. However, we expect the scrip to resume the uptrend and rise to ₹775 over the next few months. So, one can buy the stock now at ₹561 and add longs if the price slips to ₹500. Place a stop-loss at ₹440. When the price moves up to ₹650, alter the stop-loss to ₹600. On a rally to ₹725, revise the stop-loss to ₹680. Exit at ₹775.

K2 Infragen Ltd to develop 2 MW solar power plant in Haryana

GURUGRAM: K2 Infragen Ltd has announced plans to develop a 2 MW solar power plant in Haryana through its associate company, Animaus Energy Pvt Ltd, strengthening its renewable energy portfolio. The company recently acquired a 49 per cent stake in Animaus Energy, which has signed a power purchase agreement with the Haryana Power Purchase Centre at a tariff of Rs 2.99 per kWh. K2 Infragen

intends to eventually make Animaus Energy a wholly owned subsidiary.

K2 Infragen will handle the end-to-end development of the solar project and aims to expand its renewable energy assets to generate stable annuity-based revenues. It is also preparing to enter tariff-based competitive bidding projects in FY27 and is exploring growth through mergers and acquisitions in the renewable space.

The company is focused on creating long-term value across renewable energy and TBCB-based infrastructure segments, Vineet Sharma, Vice President – Strategy & Corporate Affairs at K2 Infragen and Executive Director at Animaus Energy, said. He noted that expanding the renewable asset base would drive sustained growth, strengthen regular income and enhance valuation through quality asset creation. **MP05T**

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

INDIAN RAILWAYS JOINS GREEN TECH LEAGUE WITH FIRST HYDROGEN TRAIN

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has marked a major milestone in its journey towards clean and sustainable mobility by completing the manufacturing of its first hydrogen-powered train-set, which will be operated on a pilot basis. Executed in accordance with specifications laid down by the Research, Design and Standards Organization (RDSO), the project is aimed at showcasing the viability, safety and operational performance of hydrogen-powered train

technology across the Indian railway network.

Sharing details in the Lok Sabha earlier last week, Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that the initiative underlines Indian Railways' strong resolve to embrace alternative energy solutions and move decisively towards a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future for rail transportation in the country.

To facilitate the operation of the hydrogen-powered

train, a dedicated hydrogen generation plant has been planned at Jind. At this facility, hydrogen is being produced through the electrolysis process, which is a crucial component of green hydrogen generation, thereby aligning the project closely with India's broader clean energy and decarbonisation objectives.

Entirely designed and developed within the country, the hydrogen train-set highlights Indian Railways' continued emphasis on the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. Currently, it holds the dis-

■ P14

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

INDIAN RAILWAYS JOINS GREEN TECH LEAGUE WITH FIRST HYDROGEN TRAIN

CONTINUED FROM P1

 tion of being the world's longest hydrogen-powered train-set, with a total of 10 coaches, and is also the most powerful hydrogen train operating on a broad gauge platform, delivering an overall power output of 2,400 kW.

The train-set consists of two Driving Power Cars (DPCs), each rated at 1,200 kW, along with eight passenger coaches. Among its key advantages is the fact that it produces zero carbon dioxide emissions, with water vapour being the only emission, representing a significant advancement in the adoption of next-generation fuel technology by Indian Railways.

Officials pointed out that the project involved comprehensive development work, beginning from the initial design stages to prototype manufacturing and the first-ever deployment of hydrogen traction technol-

ogy within the Indian Railways system. Since both the hydrogen train-set and its associated infrastructure have been developed on a pilot basis, the government has clarified that making a direct cost comparison with established conventional traction systems would not be appropriate at this stage.

The hydrogen train project is expected to provide valuable operational and technical insights for Indian Railways, helping assess the long-term viability of hydrogen traction under Indian conditions. Experience from the pilot is likely to shape future expansion of hydrogen-powered trains, particularly on non-electrified routes, while building indigenous expertise in hydrogen technology. In the long run, successful adoption would reinforce Indian Railways' role in promoting sustainable transport and support national goals of clean energy transition and emissions reduction.

'India's Dec crude imports from Russia to remain at Nov highs'

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

The volume of Russian crude oil imports by Indian refiners in December is expected to remain at last month's levels aided by rising discounts on Urals and the recent assurance by President Vladimir Putin to India of uninterrupted supplies.

Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), in its latest commentary on Russia hydrocarbon trade earnings, expects higher crude oil flows to India continuing for the second consecutive month in December.

"In fact, India's purchases may well record another increase in December, as cargoes loaded before the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctions kicked in are delivered through the month," CREA said.

URALS DISCOUNT
India imported crude oil worth €2.6 billion, or roughly \$3 billion last month compared to €2.5

Finland-based CREA sees higher inflows to India continuing for the second consecutive month in December

billion (\$2.93 billion) in October, according to CREA.

Global real time data and analytics provider Kpler places India's imports at around 1.83 million barrels per day (mb/d), up 13 per cent month-on-month and over 4 per cent year-on-year. Moscow accounted for roughly 36.30 per cent of India's cumulative crude oil imports (around 5.05 mb/d).

"While private refiners' imports suffered marginal reduction, state-owned refineries increased their Russian crude volumes by 22 per cent month-on-month in November. This comes as Russian Urals crude is discounted heavily following OFAC sanctions and with the two state

leaders meeting and exchanging guarantees on the uninterrupted flow of oil," CREA explained.

CREA said the discount on Urals increased by 4 per cent m-o-m in November averaging \$6.66 per barrel below Brent, compared to October (\$4.92) and September (\$5.13).

The average Urals price fell 6 per cent to \$55 per barrel, remaining above the new price cap of \$47.6.

Kpler also puts discounts on Urals compared to Oman/Dubai widening to around \$7 a barrel on a DES (Delivered Ex-Ship) basis on India's West Coast.

SHADOW TANKERS
Russia has started offering higher discounts and is bringing in more shadow tankers for supplies as sanctions by the US, the UK and the European Union disrupt its supply lines, analysts and refiners said.

In November, G7+ tankers transported 27 per cent of Russian crude oil exports, while 'shadow' tankers accounted for 7 per cent.

Bearish tilt

CRUDE CHECK. Trader can short on rise

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Crude oil prices slipped last week. Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (\$61.10/barrel) was down 4.1 per cent whereas crude oil futures in the domestic market (₹5,238/barrel) declined 3.4 per cent.

BRENT FUTURES (\$61.10)

Brent crude oil futures fell off a trendline resistance at \$64. The 50-day moving average also coincided at this price point, making it an important level.

Given the recent price action, where the contract has been forming lower lows and lower highs, the chances of further decline are high. The price might drop to \$58.50.

But if the contract recovers, until the barrier at \$64 is breached, the uptick will not be sustainable. In case this level is breached, Brent crude futures can rise to \$70.

MCX-CRUDE OIL (₹5,238)

Crude oil futures (January) moved south through last week as the resistance at ₹5,470 held



intact. Given the bearish tilt in the Brent crude oil futures, the crude oil futures on the MCX too will also trade with a negative bias.

On the back of this, the January crude oil futures can see a decline to ₹5,000, a notable support. A decline below ₹5,000 this week is unlikely.

If the contract moves up, only a decisive breakout of ₹5,470 can lead to a sustainable rally. In such a scenario, crude oil futures can rally to ₹5,800 and then possibly to ₹6,000 quickly.

Trade strategy: Considering the bearish inclination, traders with higher risk appetite can short crude oil futures (January) if the price rises to ₹5,350. Place stop-loss at ₹5,500. Book profits at ₹5,050.

Intensify night patrolling to check solid waste, biomass burning: CAQM to govt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 13 December

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has reviewed sector specific enforcement actions taken by the concerned NCR state governments and the Delhi government to abate air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

The Sub-Committee on Safeguarding and Enforcement of the CAQM held a meeting on 12 December, to ensure strict enforcement of measures to control air pollution in the Delhi-NCR. The 23rd meeting of the Sub-Committee was held to monitor and review the status of sector specific enforcement actions taken by the concerned NCR State Governments and the Delhi government (GNCTD) to abate

air pollution in the NCR, especially during the current period of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in-force. The observations were made and directions were given by the Commission to NCR state Governments and the GNCTD.

For the GNCTD - Observations: GNCTD needs to effectively tackle traffic congestion at various hotspots, road dust, disposal of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and its burning. Directions given by the Commission to the GNCTD (the Delhi Government):

To convene focused monthly meeting(s) on de-congestion of identified hotspots. Vacuuming road dust which contributes to PM2.5 and PM10 in the region. Proper collection and disposal of MSW should be done by the MCD and NDMC. Intensified

night patrolling will be carried out for MSW and Biomass burning. Intensify enforcement through Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at fuel stations.

For NCR Districts of Haryana - Observations: Haryana's performance has not been observed as adequate, in respect of tackling traffic congestion at various hotspots, road dust, and disposal of MSW. Directions given by the Commission for Haryana: Enlist participation of various agencies and departments. They should have dedicated teams for incognito/surprise inspections across various sectors contributing towards air pollution.

MCG should strengthen its mechanism for identifying hotspots and work towards traffic de-congestion across

Gurugram. A more rigorous approach needs to be followed by the agency for tackling vehicular pollution.

Intensified night patrolling shall be carried out for MSW and Biomass burning. Intensify enforcement through installation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at fuel stations. For NCR Districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan: Observations and directions by the Commission for NCR Districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan: NCR Districts of Uttar Pradesh exhibited comparatively satisfactory performance towards abatement of air pollution in the region.

However, it must establish and comply with the timelines committed for focused action(s), especially for the vehicular sector.

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
Date :14 December 2025	Page : 10

Petronet LNG executes ₹12,000 crore term loan agreement:



Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) has secured a Rs. 12,000 crore Term Loan (RTL) facility from a consortium led by State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda, with each bank providing Rs. 6,000 crore. The loan will primarily fund PLL's Petrochemicals Project and other capital expenditures. The agreement was signed in the presence of PLL Chairman Pankaj Jain, SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Bank of Baroda MD & CEO Debadatta Chand, and PLL MD & CEO Akshay Kumar Singh. The facility, arranged via a competitive bidding process with SBI Capital Markets as advisor, reinforces confidence in PLL's financial profile and strengthens its long-term funding framework.

Online

Headline	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Receives ESG Ratings and Climate Change Scores		
Publication	INV	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Receives ESG Ratings and Climate Change Scores

<https://www.investywise.com/ongc-esg-rating-and-climate-change-scores-update/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has received its ESG Rating Report from NSE Sustainability Ratings and Analytics Ltd., along with its Scores on Climate Change' report from CDP.

The ESG rating is an independent assessment based on publicly available information. The CDP climate change scores are based on information provided by ONGC, reflecting their environmental performance and disclosure.

ESG Rating Overview

ONGC's ESG rating from NSE Sustainability Ratings and Analytics Ltd. for FY2025 is , categorized as Adequate'. This rating reflects an assessment across three pillars: Environment, Social, and Governance.

The report highlighted strengths such as a low lost time incident rate for workers and better independent director representation in key committees. Areas for improvement include greenhouse gas emissions from direct operations and renewable energy adoption.

Climate Change Score

CDP assessed ONGC's Scores on Climate Change,' resulting in a B rating. This assessment reflects ONGC's actions to manage climate risks and opportunities.

Headline	ONGC Achieves Higher ESG Score of 61 and CDP 'B' Climate Rating for FY2025, Strengthening Sustainability Leadership		
Publication	Indian Master Minds	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

ONGC Achieves Higher ESG Score of 61 and CDP 'B' Climate Rating for FY2025, Strengthening Sustainability Leadership

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/ongc-esg-score-61-cdp-b-rating-fy2025-168011/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) , India's flagship energy company, has disclosed its ESG (Environmental, Social, and

Governance) ratings for FY2025 as assessed by NSE Sustainability Ratings & Analytics Limited (NSE) and Climate Change scores provided by CDP, in compliance with Regulation 30 of the SEBI Listing Regulations.

Improved ESG Score Highlights Sustainable Practices

ONGC received an overall ESG score of 61 for FY2025 from NSE Sustainability, reflecting an improvement over the 58 scored in FY2024. This places ONGC in the Adequate rating category, indicating steady progress in its sustainability initiatives.

Breaking down the scores across categories:

The assessment was carried out independently by NSE Sustainability based on publicly available data, without any involvement from ONGC, ensuring transparency and credibility in the evaluation.

Read also: ONGC Signs Strategic MoU with Wild Well Control to Enhance Blow-Out and Well-Control Capabilities

CDP Climate Change Score Acknowledges Governance and Risk Management

In addition to the ESG rating, ONGC received a Climate Change score of B' from CDP. The score reflects the company's performance in climate-related governance, policies, and risk management, based on ONGC's responses to CDP's disclosure framework. This rating underscores the company's commitment to addressing climate change and integrating sustainability into its operations.

Strengthening Stakeholder Confidence

According to ONGC, the ESG and climate change ratings provide stakeholders with a comprehensive view of the company's environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and governance framework. These ratings serve as an important tool for investors, customers, and regulators to assess ONGC's sustainability performance and transition strategies.

About ONGC

ONGC, a Maharatna public sector undertaking (PSU) , is India's largest oil and gas exploration and production company. With a strong focus on operational excellence, safety, and sustainable energy practices, ONGC continues to play a crucial role in securing India's energy future and expanding its technological capabilities in challenging environments.

Headline	Today's News » ONGC Signs Strategic MoU with Wild Well Control to Enhance Blow-Out and Well-Control Capabilities		
Publication	Indian Oil and Gas	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

Today's News » ONGC Signs Strategic MoU with Wild Well Control to Enhance Blow-Out and Well-Control Capabilities

<http://www.indianoilandgas.com/viewnews.php?id=63175>

December 13, 2025: Indias Maharatna oil and gas company, ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited), has signed a strategic Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) with Wild Well Control Inc., a global leader in well-control management, to enhance its expertise in handling blow-outs and complex well-control situations. The agreement was executed on December 9, 2025, during a virtual ceremony attended by senior officials from both organizations.

The MoU aims to further strengthen ONGCs Crisis Management Team (CMT), which already possesses robust in-house capabilities to independently manage large-scale onshore blow-outs. Through this collaboration, ONGC will gain access to world-class global expertise, particularly in challenging onshore and offshore environments, including deep-water drilling operations. The partnership is expected to enhance technical knowledge, operational preparedness, and rapid response capabilities in critical well-control scenarios.

Headline	ONGC Receives ESG Rating and Climate Change Scores for FY2025		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

ONGC Receives ESG Rating and Climate Change Scores for FY2025

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-receives-esg-rating-and-climate-change-scores-for-fy2025>

ONGC discloses ESG Rating by NSE Sustainability and Climate Change scores by CDP under SEBI Regulation 30.

New Delhi:

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has received notification regarding receipt of the ESG Rating Report for FY2025 as prepared by NSE Sustainability Ratings & Analytics Limited (NSE) along with a Climate Change Score from CDP as required Under Regulation 30 of the SEBI Listing Regulations.

According to the NSE Sustainability assessment, ONGC received an overall ESG Score of 61 for FY2025, which is an increase from the 58 received during FY2024 and places ONGC into the Adequate rating category. The breakdown of scores into different categories is as follows: Environment - 51; Social - 73; Governance - 63. All of the information contained within these scores has been independently reviewed by NSE Sustainability based on publicly available information with no involvement from ONGC.

Further, ONGC was assigned a Climate Change score of 'B' by CDP for Climate Change based on the Company's responses to the disclosures issued by CDP, which outline the Company's approach towards climate related governance, policies and risk management.

According to ONGC, these ratings provide a clear picture of ONGC's Environmental Stewardship, Social Responsibility and Governance Framework and enable its various stakeholders to gain a better understanding of ONGC's sustainability performance and transition efforts.

Headline	A New Imperial Offensive Against Venezuela		
Publication	Pepole Democracy	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

A New Imperial Offensive Against Venezuela

https://peoplesdemocracy.in/2025/12/14_pd/new-imperial-offensive-against-venezuela

Utkarsh Bhardwaj THE United States has opened yet another dangerous chapter in its long history of interventions in Latin America.

Under the name Operation Southern Spear, Washington has launched a series of lethal strikes in the Caribbean and the eastern Pacific, backed by the largest US naval deployment in the region in decades. More than 80 people have already died in these attacks, most of them on small boats that the US claims were connected to drug trafficking. Needless to say, the claims were made without any evidence. We are seeing the revival of a familiar and deeply destructive imperial playbook and it would be a mistake to read it as another isolated act of military adventurism.

For Venezuela, this is not a new experience. Ever since Hugo Chavez initiated the Bolivarian Revolution more than two decades ago, the country has been subjected to sanctions, sabotage, coup attempts and economic strangulation. The US has pursued regime change with an obsession that cannot be explained by any of its stated reasons. Venezuela's only crime has been to use its vast oil wealth to fund social programmes and challenge US dominance in its own hemisphere.

What has changed now is the level of open military pressure. And this escalation should be understood in the broader geopolitical context. The US ruling class sees its international position weakening. The deepening crisis of neoliberal capitalism, the wars in Ukraine and West Asia, and the rise of China and other developing countries have all shaken the foundations of US hegemony. In such moments, imperial powers have historically always turned to aggression to reassert their authority. Today is no different.

Washington's actions in Venezuela follow a clear pattern: tighten sanctions, delegitimise the elected government, support hardline opposition figures promising wholesale privatisation, and use an invented pretext to justify military action. In this case, the pretext is the drug war, and it is not new. The drug narrative has been deployed across the world; from Plan Colombia to Duterte's Philippines, this narrative has allowed states to carry out extrajudicial killings in the name of security. In Venezuela's case, the claim collapses immediately under scrutiny. There is no significant flow of narcotics from Venezuela to the US. Even US authorities, when pressed for evidence, have failed to provide any credible link. The Drug Enforcement Administration or DEA is a US federal agency tasked with fighting illicit drug trafficking and distribution. It regularly releases a document called the National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA). NDTA 2024 is a 57-page document which doesn't have even a single mention of Venezuela. And in less than a year, Venezuela is suddenly such a grave threat that it requires the largest US military buildup that the region has seen in decades!

The USA has made numerous unsuccessful attempts against Venezuela employing almost all methods of regime change available in its playbook. Trump recently released a National Security Strategy 2025, that talks about 'Predisposition to Non-Interventionism', where a high bar is required for a justified intervention'. In this context, labelling of an elected leader of a sovereign country as a narco-terrorist should only be understood as an attempt to justify the intervention' that the US wishes to make in the region. Nothing can be more ironical when all this is happening at the same time when Trump has issued a pardon for Juan Orlando Hernandez, former Honduran President (and a strong ally of US imperialism in the region) who was serving a 45-year jail term for shipping over 400 tonnes of cocaine to the US.

Why then the sudden urgency? Part of the answer lies in what Venezuela possesses. It has the world's largest proven oil reserves. Its public sector controls strategic industries that US corporations have long coveted. Leaked documents, public statements by opposition leaders, and the detailed investigative work of independent journalists show a striking consistency - the US-backed opposition has promised to sell off nearly every major public asset. One proposal by the Opposition leader and Nobel Laureate(!) Mara Corina Machado outlined the privatisation of more than \$1.7 trillion worth of national wealth. The scale of this planned loot reveals the true agenda behind the current intervention.

But the story does not end with oil. Chavez's and now Maduro's governments represent something more threatening to Washington than resource nationalism alone. They symbolise a political project that rejects neoliberalism, redistributes wealth, strengthens public services, and encourages popular organisation. For Washington, the fear is not that Venezuela

will invade a neighbour; the fear is that its experiment in sovereign development will inspire others. This fear has motivated US policy from Guatemala in 1954 to Chile in 1973, from Nicaragua in the 1980s to Bolivia more recently. Venezuela is part of that long line of countries punished for choosing their own path.

The timing of Operation Southern Spear is also revealing. As Russia, a key ally of Venezuela, is absorbed in the protracted conflict in Ukraine, the US sees an opportunity to reassert dominance in regions it once treated as its exclusive sphere of influence. It speaks volumes about how the stretching of the Ukraine war is serving US imperial interests, precisely because it diverts Russia's attention and resources away from its allies. This has already been visible in events in West Asia, where Washington and its allies have attempted to revive regime-change projects. The case of Syria and the attack on Iran are two examples of the same project. Venezuela is the most recent target in this revived Monroe Doctrine for hemispheric control.

From the standpoint of international law, the US actions cannot be defended. The illegal strikes carried out under Operation Southern Spear fall under the category of extrajudicial executions as they killed individuals who were neither engaged in any hostilities nor were given any chance to surrender. The US government, like always, has acted entirely unilaterally. It yet again demonstrates that its much-repeated phrase rules-based order is nothing more than a convenient fiction.

Venezuela, for its part, has responded with restraint and has called for international solidarity. Despite years of sanctions and economic blockades, the country has shown remarkable resilience, rebuilding its economy through new links with China, Russia, Iran and other Global South partners. This very resilience is what frustrates Washington. The idea that a developing country can survive, and even recover, despite US pressure, is intolerable to an empire that insists on unquestioned obedience. And hence, the empire is trying to tighten its grip through force as developing countries are seeking alternative economic arrangements, exploring dedollarisation, and expanding South-South cooperation. The crisis of US capitalism drives imperialist expansion, and such interventions will only continue as this crisis deepens.

The implications of this intervention extend far beyond Venezuela. What is needed now is a broad, principled stand against this aggression. Imperialist wars ultimately undermine the working people of all countries, whether through rising fuel prices, economic dislocation or the strengthening of reactionary forces. It is essential that Left parties, trade unions, students, and democratic organisations in India add their voices. For countries like India, which have historically maintained a good relationship with Venezuela for over six decades, the destabilisation of the region will contribute to greater global volatility. India has a vital interest in defending Venezuela's sovereignty and supporting a genuinely multipolar world order. India's relationship with Venezuela has long rested on a quiet but firm foundation of South-South solidarity. From Hugo Chavez's landmark visit to New Delhi in 2005 to the regular political consultations that have followed, the relationship has been marked by warmth, respect and the recognition that both countries stand to benefit from cooperation free of hegemonic pressures. The natural complementarity between the two economies gets demonstrated by the active participation of Indian public-sector enterprises like ONGC Videsh in different ventures of the Orinoco Belt. It is noteworthy that even private refiners such as Essar and Reliance have sourced Venezuelan crude oil for years. New Delhi and Caracas have often consistently aligned in defence of sovereignty and against unilateral sanctions, particularly in multilateral forums like the Non-Aligned Movement. For India, respecting Venezuela's sovereignty is not only a matter of historical ties, but it strongly aligns with its foreign policy and energy security interests, as well as with its broader commitment to a world order built on equality, not coercion.

Venezuela's struggle is connected to all peoples resisting imperial dominance. The defence of Venezuelan sovereignty is also the defence of a world in which no country, whether large or small, can be targeted for pursuing an independent path. It is our responsibility to stand with the people of Venezuela who have shown remarkable courage in the face of repeated attempts to subdue them. If the US wants to use Operation Southern Spear as a warning, through our solidarity we must ensure that it becomes an example that imperialism will not just be resisted, but defeated.

Headline	ONGC Receives ESG Rating of 62 and Climate Change Score from Rating Agencies		
Publication	Scanx	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

ONGC Receives ESG Rating of 62 and Climate Change Score from Rating Agencies

<https://scanx.trade/stock-market-news/stocks/ongc-receives-esg-rating-of-62-and-climate-change-score-from-rating-agencies/27167579>

ONGC received an overall ESG rating of 62 from NSE Sustainability Ratings, categorized as 'Adequate'. The company scored 51 in Environment (below industry average), 73 in Social (above industry average), and 63 in Governance (adequate). CDP awarded ONGC a B score for climate change performance. The company also received a Core ESG Rating of 58. Environmental challenges include high GHG emissions and energy intensity, while social and governance aspects showed strengths in employee welfare and board composition.

Headline	Vimal shines in GAIL's victory; HPCL, IOCL also post wins on Day 2 of the 29th PSPB Inter-Unit Senior T20 Cricket tournament		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

Vimal shines in GAIL's victory; HPCL, IOCL also post wins on Day 2 of the 29th PSPB Inter-Unit Senior T20 Cricket tournament

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/vimal-shines-in-gails-victory-hpcl-iocl-also-post-wins-on-day-2-of-the-29th-pspb-inter-unit-senior-t20-cricket-tournament/articleshow/125939074.cms>

GAIL (India) Limited, and registered contrasting wins on the second day of the 29th PSPB Inter-Unit Senior

T20 Cricket tournament at the Jaipuria Cricket Academy ground here on Friday. Organised by the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) and hosted by GAIL (India) Limited, the prestigious tournament continues to showcase exceptional sportsmanship and skill from all participating teams. The day began with an exciting contest where GAIL edged past MRPL by 11 runs. was adjudged man-of-the-match for his all-round performance. The second match turned out to be completely one-sided, with HPCL thrashing EIL by 10 wickets. In the third and last game of the day, NRL won the toss and elected to bat first, but the team bundled out for 87 in 18 overs against IOCL's disciplined bowling attack. Chasing a modest target, IOCL romped home by losing a solitary wicket. MRPL won the toss and elected to bowl first. GAIL's batsmen displayed a composed performance and posted a respectable total of 140/7 in 20 overs. In reply, MRPL started well but could only reach 129/8. Vimal played a crucial role in GAIL's victory and was awarded the Man of the Match. The second match was a one-sided affair, with HPCL defeating EIL by 10 wickets. Winning the toss, EIL chose to bat first and scored 122/5 in 20 overs. Their opener Jaideep played a steady unbeaten knock of 63 runs off 60 balls. Chasing the target, HPCL's openers delivered an outstanding batting performance. S. Rajashekar (69 runs off 43 balls) and Prasad Bole (43 runs off 34 balls) completed the chase comfortably, scoring 126/0 in just 12.4 overs. For his impactful performance, S. Rajashekar was declared the Man of the Match. In the final match of the day, NRL won the toss and elected to bat first, but the team collapsed to 87 all out in 18 overs against IOCL's disciplined bowling attack. Chasing 88, IOCL played confidently and achieved the target by scoring 90/1, registering a convincing win. IOCL's bowlers and top-order batsmen displayed controlled and efficient cricket. Rajesh Pawar was adjudged Man of the Match for his excellent performance. Saturday's matches ONGC vs EIL; Oil India Limited vs NRL; BPCL vs MRPL.

Headline	BPCL will take on IOCL and HPCL will face OIL in the semifinals of the 29th PSPB Inter-Unit Senior T20 Cricket tournament		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

BPCL will take on IOCL and HPCL will face OIL in the semifinals of the 29th PSPB Inter-Unit Senior T20 Cricket tournament

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/bpcl-will-take-on-iocl-and-hpcl-will-face-oil-in-the-semifinals-of-the-29th-pspb-inter-unit-senior-t20-cricket-tournament/articleshow/125950841.cms>

Jaipur: Formidable BPCL will take on IOCL and HPCL will face OIL in the semifinals of the 29th PSPB Inter-Unit Senior Cricket tournament 202526 at the Jaipuria Cricket Academy ground here on Sunday.

On the third day of the tourney, being hosted by GAIL (India) Limited, BPCL, ONGC and OIL notched up easy wins on Saturday. In the morning encounter, EIL won the toss and elected to field. ONGC posted a commanding total of 191/5 in 20 overs. Chasing a target of 192, EIL were restricted to 120/7 in 20 overs, handing ONGC a convincing victory. Despite the loss, Munish Jolly (EIL) delivered a standout all-round performance, claiming one wicket and scoring an impressive 63 runs, including seven fours and two sixes, earning him the man-of-the-match award. The second outing of the day was also a one-sided affair. BPCL opted to bat after calling correctly, a decision that paid rich dividends. BPCL piled up a massive 235/6 in 20 overs, putting MRPL under immense pressure. MRPL, in reply, managed 114/8 in 20 overs, falling short by 121 runs. Sangram Sawant (BPCL) was named man-of-the-match for his impactful contribution. In the last tie of the day, OIL India Limited won the toss and elected to bat first. In 20 overs, they amassed 218 runs losing 2 wickets in 20 overs. In response, NRL were never in the contest and scored merely 94/9 in 20 overs. As the group stage concludes, the tournament heads into its decisive phase, with teams battling for spots in the semi-finals of this prestigious PSPB championship. Semi-final line-up HPCL vs OIL; IOCL vs BPCL.

Headline	Agarwal Confident India Can Produce 50% of Energy Domestically..		
Publication	365 Telugu	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

Agarwal Confident India Can Produce 50% of Energy Domestically..

<https://365telugu.com/agarwal-confident-india-can-produce-50-of-energy-domestically/>

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal has hailed the Government of India's recent reforms to the oil and gas regulatory framework, calling the policy shift

a truly historic development that is set to unlock the nation's long-identified but underutilized hydrocarbon reserves.

Agarwal offered congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, emphasizing that the newly notified rules represent a decisive policy move aimed at accelerating domestic exploration and production (E&P).

The world has always known the scale of India's untapped reserves. These reforms finally create the environment needed to unlock them, he stated.

Democratizing the Energy Ecosystem

The Vedanta Chairman underscored that the liberalized regime would directly benefit consumers, especially the poorest, by significantly reducing import dependency and enhancing supply security, helping India become a producer of globally affordable oil and gas.

Crucially, Agarwal highlighted the reform's potential to democratize India's energy ecosystem. He noted that the sector has now been opened up to a diverse range of participants, including entrepreneurs, start-ups, young innovators, and even university students, who can now take up exploration with minimal investment. He described this shift as a transformational step that could dramatically widen India's exploration base.

Drawing parallels to the U.S. energy revolution, Agarwal pointed out that an inclusive regulatory environment there enabled nearly 20,000 companies and individuals to participate in exploration, transforming the U.S. from a major importer into an energy-surplus economy. India is now poised to follow a similar path, he added.

Agarwal called the regulatory amendment a once-in-a-generation reform, expressing confidence that these changes could lead to a monumental rise in domestic energy production.

Our energy security is both our greatest challenge and an extraordinary opportunity. With these changes, I am confident India can produce at least 50% of its total energy domestically in the coming years.

Industry analysts anticipate that the Government's overhaul will spur fresh investment, widen participation in the upstream sector, and strengthen India's long-term energy resilience amidst ongoing global volatility.

Headline	India's Oil & Gas Potential Set for Breakthrough Under New Exploration Rules, says Vedanta Chairman		
Publication	Business News Week	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

India's Oil & Gas Potential Set for Breakthrough Under New Exploration Rules, says Vedanta Chairman

<https://businessnewsweek.in/business/indias-oil-gas-potential-set-for-breakthrough-under-new-exploration-rules-says-vedanta-chairman/>

Chandigarh, Dec 13th: Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal has welcomed the Government of India's reforms to the oil and gas regulatory framework, calling the move a truly historic development that could unlock India's long-identified but underutilised hydrocarbon reserves.

Agarwal congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, stating that the newly notified rules represent a decisive policy shift aimed at accelerating domestic exploration and production. The world has always known the scale of India's untapped reserves. These reforms finally create the environment needed to unlock them, he said.

Highlighting India's position as one of the producers of globally affordable oil and gas, Agarwal said the liberalised regime will directly benefit consumers especially the poorest by reducing import dependency and improving supply security.

He underscored the reform's potential to democratise India's energy ecosystem, noting that the sector has now been opened to entrepreneurs, start-ups, young innovators, and even university students, who can take up exploration with minimal investment. He termed the shift a transformational step that could widen India's exploration base significantly.

Drawing parallels with the United States' energy revolution, Agarwal said that an inclusive regulatory environment had enabled nearly 20,000 companies and individuals to participate in exploration there, turning the US from a major importer into an energy-surplus economy. India is now poised to follow a similar path, he added.

Agarwal called the amendment a once-in-a-generation reform. Our energy security is both our greatest challenge and an extraordinary opportunity. With these changes, I am confident India can produce at least 50% of its total energy domestically in the coming years.

Industry analysts expect the Government's overhaul to spur fresh investment, widen participation in the upstream sector, and reinforce India's long-term energy resilience, especially as the country seeks to secure stable and affordable energy supplies amid global volatility.

Headline	E20 (Ethanol-Blended) Petrol Benefits Farmers And Environment: Gadkari		
Publication	CarToq	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

E20 (Ethanol-Blended) Petrol Benefits Farmers And Environment: Gadkari

<https://www.cartog.com/car-news/india-e20-ethanol-blending-programme-reaches-target-early/>

What the government claims on savings and blending Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari told the Lok Sabha that ethanol

blended petrol has helped India avoid over Rs 1.40 lakh crore in foreign exchange outflow in the last 11 years. This figure covers the period from Ethanol Supply Year 2014-15 to Ethanol Supply Year 2024-25 up to July 2025.

Over the same period, ethanol blending in petrol supplied by public sector oil marketing companies has risen from about 1.5 percent in 2014 to 20 percent in 2025. The E20 level, which uses 20 percent ethanol mixed with petrol, was originally targeted for 2030 and has been reached five years early, according to the minister.

Gadkari also said around Rs 40,000 crore has been paid to farmers for crops used as ethanol feedstock. Sugarcane is the main source, with molasses from sugar mills converted into ethanol. Maize and damaged food grains are also used, which gives farmers an additional outlet for their produce.

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri added that the ethanol programme has shifted money that would have gone towards crude oil imports into the rural economy. The Rs 1.40 lakh crore figure represents avoided import spending, not a direct cash surplus, since India still imports large volumes of crude oil.

Vehicle impact and older-car concerns

Gadkari told Parliament that extensive testing has found no adverse impact on cars certified for E20 petrol. Most new vehicles sold since 2023 are designed to be E20 compatible, with fuel system components chosen to handle higher ethanol content.

However, a large number of older cars and two-wheelers on Indian roads were developed for lower blends such as E10. For these vehicles, owners still have open questions about long-term durability, fuel pump and injector wear and how manufacturers will treat any failures linked to fuel quality or compatibility. Government statements so far focus mainly on new, E20-ready models rather than the entire existing fleet.

There is also a clear effect on fuel economy. Because ethanol has lower energy content than petrol, mileage typically drops by about 3 to 5 percent with E20. A car that returns 15 kilometres per litre on pure petrol might see that fall to roughly 14.3 to 14.5 kilometres per litre, which means slightly more frequent refuelling for everyday users.

Environmental gains and the fine print

The government presents ethanol blending as a way to cut emissions. Crops used to make ethanol absorb carbon dioxide while growing, which can partly offset tailpipe CO2. Ethanol also tends to burn cleaner than pure petrol, with lower particulate output and some reductions in certain pollutants, which is useful in traffic-heavy cities.

But the overall environmental impact depends on how ethanol is produced. Sugarcane is a water-intensive crop, and some distilleries still rely heavily on fossil-fuel-based power. If irrigation stress rises or plants use inefficient processes, the climate and water benefits can shrink. Large-scale use of agricultural land for fuel rather than food also remains a point of debate in policy circles.

Where E20 leaves car and bike owners

For owners of newer E20-compliant vehicles, the shift has been mostly seamless. Fuel stations have moved to E20, prices are aligned with regular petrol and the main change is a small drop in mileage. For older vehicles, the picture is less clear and will depend on real-world experience, manufacturer support and how long those vehicles remain in use.

The government has spoken about the possibility of higher blends such as E30 and flex-fuel vehicles that can run on a wide range of ethanol content. Whether that happens will depend on feedstock availability, water use, plant efficiency and industry readiness.

For now, ethanol blending delivers a mix of benefits and trade offs: some relief on crude imports, extra income streams for farmers, potential emission gains in certain conditions and a modest efficiency penalty for users, along with unresolved questions around older vehicles and long-term sustainability.

Headline	Govt notifies New Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules to boost investment, ease of doing biz		
Publication	Daily Excelsior	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

Govt notifies New Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules to boost investment, ease of doing biz

<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/govt-notifies-new-petroleum-and-natural-gas-rules-to-boost-investment-ease-of-doing-biz/>

The government has notified the new Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025, bringing into force a modern regulatory framework

aimed at attracting investment and improving ease of doing business in the oil and gas sector.

The rules, issued under the recently approved Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025, replace the earlier system of multiple licences with a single petroleum lease covering exploration, development and production of all hydrocarbons, including shale, according to a gazette notification.

The new framework provides lease tenures of up to 30 years, extendable for the full economic life of a field, with terms protected from adverse changes. Criminal penalties for violations have been removed and replaced with higher financial penalties of Rs 25 lakh, plus Rs 10 lakh per day for continuing breaches. The rules also allow lessees to share infrastructure to improve operational efficiency.

Environmental provisions have mandated time-bound plans for zero gas flaring and reduced greenhouse emissions.

Applications for petroleum leases must now be decided within 180 days, and disputes may be resolved through an expedited mechanism, including a neutral arbitration seat for foreign investors.

The Oil Industry Safety Directorate has been designated as the competent authority for offshore safety, audits and standard-setting in exploration and production operations.

Commenting on the move, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, In a landmark moment today, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025, have been amended to offer ease of business and operations.

With a broader spectrum of rights under one petroleum lease, the lessees will have the right to carry out all types of mineral oil operations under one petroleum lease, he said, adding that they may undertake decarbonisation and comprehensive energy projects at oilfields.

Application for the grant of a petroleum lease will be decided within 180 days. Long-term leases of up to 30 years may be granted and may be extended up to the economic life of the field, allowing the lessee to make a planned investment decision.

Lessees will make an annual declaration to the government of the installed, utilised and excess capacity of the infrastructure facilities owned by it, he said.

The new rules permit lessees to jointly develop or share infrastructure facilities by mutual agreement.

Seat of arbitration of lease and contractual disputes, where all lessees or contractors are companies incorporated in India, will be New Delhi. Where any member is a foreign company as defined in the Companies Act, a neutral seat of arbitration may be opted for.

Rules require NOCs to promptly notify all existing and new discoveries, submit field development plans within prescribed time limits, obtain central government approval for development areas, and regularly report development and production activities.

Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal said, Notifying the landmark reforms to India's oil and gas regulatory framework is a truly historic development.

The world has long recognised India's vast untapped hydrocarbon potential, and these new rules finally create the environment needed to unlock it, he said.

India produces some of the most affordable oil and gas globally. These reforms will directly benefit consumers especially the poorest by enabling greater domestic production and reducing dependence on imports.

He said this is the kind of bold, inclusive policy that transformed the United States from a major importer into an energy surplus nation.

I never imagined I would witness such a reform in my lifetime. Our energy security is both our greatest challenge and our greatest opportunity. With these changes, I am confident that India can produce at least 50 per cent of its energy domestically.

Headline	Government Waves Wand, Transforming Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, Bringing Into Force Modern Regulatory Framework Aimed At Attracting Investment		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

Government Waves Wand, Transforming Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, Bringing Into Force Modern Regulatory Framework Aimed At Attracting Investment

<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/thefreepressjournal-epaper-fpressjr/government+waves+wand+transforming+petroleum+natural+gas+rules+bringing+into+force+modern+regulatory+framework+aimed+at+attracting+investment-newsid-n692850163>

The government has notified the new Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025, bringing into force a modern regulatory framework aimed at attracting investment and improving ease of doing business in the oil and gas sector. The rules, issued under the recently approved Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025, replace the earlier system of multiple licences with a single petroleum lease covering exploration, development and production of all hydrocarbons, including shale, according to a gazette notification.

The new framework provides lease tenures of up to 30 years, extendable for the full economic life of a field, with terms protected from adverse changes. Criminal penalties for violations have been removed and replaced with higher financial penalties of Rs 25 lakh, plus Rs 10 lakh per day for continuing breaches. The rules also allow lessees to share infrastructure to improve operational efficiency.

Environmental provisions have mandated time-bound plans for zero gas flaring and reduced greenhouse emissions. Applications for petroleum leases must now be decided within 180 days, and disputes may be resolved through an expedited mechanism, including a neutral arbitration seat for foreign investors. The Oil Industry Safety Directorate has been designated as the competent authority for offshore safety, audits and standard-setting in exploration and production operations.

Commenting on the move, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, "In a landmark moment today, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025, have been amended to offer ease of business and operations". With a broader spectrum of rights under one petroleum lease, the lessees will have the right to carry out all types of mineral oil operations under one petroleum lease, he said, adding that they may undertake decarbonisation and comprehensive energy projects at oilfields.

Application for the grant of a petroleum lease will be decided within 180 days. Long-term leases of up to 30 years may be granted and may be extended up to the economic life of the field, allowing the lessee to make a planned investment decision. Lessees will make an annual declaration to the government of the installed, utilised and excess capacity of the infrastructure facilities owned by it, he said. The new rules permit lessees to jointly develop or share infrastructure facilities by mutual agreement.

Seat of arbitration of lease and contractual disputes, where all lessees or contractors are companies incorporated in India, will be New Delhi. Where any member is a foreign company as defined in the Companies Act, a neutral seat of arbitration may be opted for. Rules require NOCs to promptly notify all existing and new discoveries, submit field development plans within prescribed time limits, obtain central government approval for development areas, and regularly report development and production activities. Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal said, "Notifying the landmark reforms to India's oil and gas regulatory framework" is "a truly historic development". "The world has long recognised India's vast untapped hydrocarbon potential, and these new rules finally create the environment needed to unlock it," he said. "India produces some of the most affordable oil and gas globally. These reforms will directly benefit consumers - especially the poorest - by enabling greater domestic production and reducing dependence on imports." He said this is the kind of bold, inclusive policy that transformed the United States from a major importer into an energy surplus nation.

"I never imagined I would witness such a reform in my lifetime. Our energy security is both our greatest challenge and our greatest opportunity. With these changes, I am confident that India can produce at least 50 per cent of its energy domestically."

Headline	Today's News » Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 amended for ease of doing biz: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Indian Oil and Gas	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

Today's News » Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 amended for ease of doing biz: Hardeep Puri

<http://www.indianoilandgas.com/viewnews.php?id=63179>

December 13, 2025: Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday that in a landmark move, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025, have been amended to offer ease of business and operations.

In a post on social media platform X, the Union Minister said that India continues to strengthen the infrastructure for domestic exploration and production of hydrocarbons as we move ahead towards achieving energy security under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

With broader spectrum of rights under one petroleum lease, the lessees will have the right to carry out all types of mineral oil operations under one petroleum lease. In addition, they may undertake decarbonisation and comprehensive energy projects at oilfields, the Minister told.

According to amended rules, application for grant of petroleum lease will be decided within 180 days and long-term leases of up to 30 years may be granted and may be extended up to economic life of the field allowing lessee to make planned investment decision.

The Union Minister also informed that Lessees shall make an annual declaration to the Union government of the installed, utilised and excess capacity of the infrastructure facilities owned by it. Permits lessees to jointly develop or share infrastructure facilities by mutual agreement.

As per amended rules, seat of arbitration of lease and contractual disputes where all lessees or Contractors are companies incorporated in India is New Delhi. Where any member is a foreign company as defined in the Companies Act, a neutral seat of arbitration may be opted.

Lease formats have been introduced for uniformity and ease of administration. Rules mandate submission of a reduction plan comprising time-bound reduction targets and milestones to achieve zero gas flaring and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the Minister said in the X post.

Rules require NOCs to promptly notify all existing and new discoveries, submit field development plans within prescribed time limits, obtain Central governments approval for development areas, and regularly report development and production activities.

Also, penalties have been enhanced to Rs 2.5 million and in case of continuation of contravention to Rs 1 million per day, Union Minister Puri said.

Headline	Vedanta Chairman Backs India Oil and Gas Regulatory Reforms		
Publication	SME Street	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Dec 2025		

Vedanta Chairman Backs India Oil and Gas Regulatory Reforms

<https://smestreet.in/infocus/vedanta-chairman-backs-india-oil-and-gas-regulatory-reforms-10906847>

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal welcomes India's oil and gas reforms, saying the policy shift can unlock hydrocarbon reserves and strengthen energy security.

SMESStreet Edit Desk

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal has welcomed the Government of India's reforms to the oil and gas regulatory framework, calling the move a truly historic development that could unlock India's long-identified but underutilised hydrocarbon reserves.

Agarwal congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, stating that the newly notified rules represent a decisive policy shift aimed at accelerating domestic exploration and production. The world has always known the scale of India's untapped reserves. These reforms finally create the environment needed to unlock them, he said.

Highlighting India's position as one of the producers of globally affordable oil and gas, Agarwal said the liberalised regime will directly benefit consumers especially the poorest by reducing import dependency and improving supply security.

He underscored the reform's potential to democratise India's energy ecosystem, noting that the sector has now been opened to entrepreneurs, start-ups, young innovators, and even university students, who can take up exploration with minimal investment. He termed the shift a transformational step that could widen India's exploration base significantly.

Drawing parallels with the United States' energy revolution, Agarwal said that an inclusive regulatory environment had enabled nearly 20,000 companies and individuals to participate in exploration there, turning the US from a major importer into an energy-surplus economy. India is now poised to follow a similar path, he added.

Agarwal called the amendment a once-in-a-generation reform. Our energy security is both our greatest challenge and an extraordinary opportunity. With these changes, I am confident India can produce at least 50% of its total energy domestically in the coming years.

Industry analysts expect the Government's overhaul to spur fresh investment, widen participation in the upstream sector, and reinforce India's long-term energy resilience, especially as the country seeks to secure stable and affordable energy supplies amid global volatility.