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After Bankipur win, Prashant Kishor to bring party to Delhi

Pushkar Banakar
New Delhi, September 25

BARELY TWO months after Jan Suraj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor pulled off a resounding win in the Bankipur Assembly bypoll in Patna, the JSP is set to expand its footprint, looking to make Delhi its first stepping stone outside Bihar.

Kishor, 49, is going to hold a meeting of JSP supporters in Delhi on Sunday, where a party steering committee to oversee its affairs in the national capital would be announced, sources said.

Founded by poll strategist-turned-politician Kishor on October 2, 2024, the JSP had made its Assembly poll debut in the November 2025 Bihar elections, failing to open its account despite contesting 238 of the state's 243 seats. The elections were swept by the BJP-led NDA, which had bagged 202 seats as against the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan's 35.

However, in August this year, Kishor bounced back by winning the high-profile Bankipur seat on his electoral debut. The bypoll in Bankipur was necessitated after its five-term MLA Nitin Nabin vacated it following his elevation as the BJP national president and his

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Prashant Kishor

election to the Rajya Sabha.

"The Jan Suraj Party is now looking to build a presence in Delhi, especially among the city's sizeable Purvanchali population," a source said.

Many Purvanchali supporters of the JSP, who trace their roots to Bihar, are likely to attend the party's Sunday meeting to be held at Lok Kala Manch or Janpath's Western Court.

"The people in Delhi are tired of the BJP and the AAP. Moreover, they have seen Kishor's vision for Bihar and Bankipur. We are hopeful of doing well in the national capital," a party insider said.

The JSP is zeroing in on a site for its Delhi office, with sources saying a couple of locations have been shortlisted and that only formalities relating to lease and rent have yet to be finalised.

The proposed JSP steering committee would be a precursor to the party's Delhi unit. According to sources, those likely to be part of this panel include advocate Tathagath Harshwardhan, son of ex-Buxar MP K K Tiwari, who was the party's Buxar candidate in the 2025 polls; Prof Shantanu Kumar of Deshbandhu College, Delhi University; J P Singh, a former Additional Director General of Police of Himachal Pradesh who contested the Chapra seat on a party ticket.

Other JSP leaders expected to be inducted in the committee include Kunwar Chandresh, the Bihar party unit's intellectual cell head and former IES officer; advocate Abu Affan Farooque, Bihar unit's minority wing chief and ex-AMU Students' Union

president; Priyanka Singh from the party's Bihar Mahila wing; businessman Ajay Singh; and former ONGC director Badi Ud Doja, a prominent Seemanchal figure and son of former Bihar minister B Doja.

The JSP steering committee will be mandated to put in place the structure and office-bearers of the party in Delhi, sources said.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Shantanu Kumar said: "Despite not having a party organisation in place in Delhi, we have been reaching out to people taking Kishor's message and vision to them. The response has been positive."

Kumar said the JSP would contest all the coming elections in Delhi, ranging from the 2027 Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls to the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and the 2030 Assembly polls.

"Ours is an inclusive party, as people have seen in Bihar. We have no special focus on any particular community and will take along people from all economic and social strata of society, including Purvanchalis, which constitute around 25% of the electorate," Kumar said.

He said the JSP's USP would be to provide "out-of-the-box solutions" to the problems plaguing the people of Delhi.

"For instance, take the issue of air pollution and cleaning of Yamuna. There are mechanisms in place to tackle these issues but they are hardly effective. We will try to give innovative solutions to deal with them effectively," he added.

India to step up US LPG buying as risks from Middle East persist

Bloomberg

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India's state-owned refiners are preparing to boost purchases of US liquefied petroleum gas by more than 25% through annual contracts next year, as Persian Gulf disruptions accelerate the country's push to diversify supplies.

Indian Oil Corp., Bharat Petroleum Corp. and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. are seeking as many as five 46,000-tonnes cargoes a month next year from the US, up from four under 2026 contracts, according to people familiar with the tender. Each shipment must contain equal amounts of propane and butane, they added, asking not to be named as the details are not public.

If the agreements are finalized, India's contracted US volumes would rise to about 2.76 million tonnes (MT) from 2.2 MT this year, when the world's second-biggest LPG importer secured its first term deals with



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REUTERS

American suppliers.

The move will help the South Asian nation widen its supply pool while narrowing its trade surplus with the US, as New Delhi pursues a final trade deal with Washington. The government had asked the three refiners to increase India's LPG imports through US term contracts to at least 15% in 2027, from 10% this year.

India's oil ministry, and spokespeople for the three com-

panies didn't immediately reply to emails seeking comments.

Additional US purchases will reduce reliance on the Middle East, which supplied more than 90% of India's LPG imports before the US-Iran war disrupted flows through the Strait of Hormuz and caused acute shortages. The Hormuz impasse persists, with US and Iranian negotiators now exploring a phased deal to reopen the world's most important energy shipping route.

India's urea self-reliance drive draws ₹2 trillion investments

Vijay C Roy

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NEW DELHI: India's push to cut its heavy dependence on imported urea has drawn investment proposals worth as much as ₹2.04 trillion, with 17 of them from companies including state-run Gail (India) Ltd, Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL), Kribhco, Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd and Matix Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd, according to two people in the know.

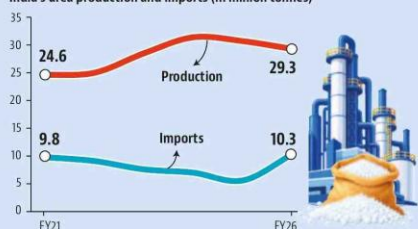
If cleared, the projects could take about three years to come up, said experts.

The proposals, being examined by the department of fertilizers, cover new plants as well as expansions of existing facilities and come under the government's new National Investment Policy for Urea (Nipu)-2026. If they fructify, the projects could add substantially to domestic capacity at a time when India, world's largest urea importer, meets about a quarter of its annual need from overseas, leaving fertilizer and food security exposed to price and

Urea unease

India's current urea import dependence leaves fertilizers and food security exposed to global price and supply shocks.

India's urea production and imports (in million tonnes)



Note: Based on Lok Sabha answers given on 5 August 2022 and on 21 and 31 July 2026.

Source: Department of fertilizers

GRAPHIC: GOPAKUMAR WARRIER/MINT

supply shocks.

The capital expenditure for a plant with a standard capacity of 1.27 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) is seen at ₹10,000-12,000 crore, while brownfield expansion would entail about ₹9,000-10,000 crore, taking the potential total to ₹1.53-2.04 trillion.

"The new investment policy

provides a framework to attract investments in the sector and encouraging setting up of additional capacity. The proposals received by the department are currently at various stages of examination," said the first person cited above.

The Union Cabinet had in July cleared the policy that aims for 10 million tonnes additional

urea production capacity amid a spike in global fertilizer prices triggered by disruptions from the West Asia war.

India's annual urea demand is pegged around 40 million tonnes, which is growing at about 5% annually. While domestic production meets around 30 million tonnes, the balance is met via imports. By expanding domestic output, the government aims to lower urea imports, reduce foreign exchange outgo and insulate India from volatile international markets.

As per experts, every 1 million tonne domestic urea capacity that replaces imports can save about \$500 million annually in forex. Moreover, fertilizer subsidy is one of the top components of government's support to the farm sector.

In response to an email query from *Mint*, Matix Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd said the company, which had commissioned its first 1.27 mtpa ammonia urea plant about five years ago, plans to double its urea production capacity at its existing manufacturing complex at Panagarh in

West Bengal by investing in the second ammonia-urea facility.

"The brownfield project is expected to entail an investment of around ₹9,000 crore and is targeted for commissioning in 2030, subject to approvals from government bodies," the company said.

Similarly, Hindustan Urvarak said, "HURL is planning to set up a brownfield unit at its existing Gorakhpur complex. Proposed capacity would be similar to the existing unit (1.27 million tonnes per annum) and the project cost is estimated at around ₹9,500-10,000 crore.

Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals also confirmed it will set up a new unit under the new policy.

The proposed facility will be located at its existing Gadepan site in Rajasthan's Kota district, where the company currently operates three urea manufacturing plants. The proposed capacity will be 1.27 million tonnes per annum.

Email queries sent to the fertilizers department, Gail (India) Ltd and Kribhco remain unanswered until press time.



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INDIA'S UREA SELF-RELIANCE DRIVE DRAWS ₹2 TN BETS | PAGE 16

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Date :26 September 2026	Page : 1, 13, 16

India's drive for urea self-reliance draws ₹2 tn bets

FROM PAGE 16

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Industry experts said boosting domestic urea output must be complemented by diversified sourcing and stronger global supply partnerships.

"Higher domestic production will help bridge the supply



India is the world's largest importer of urea. MINT

gap. However, alongside boosting domestic capacity, India should also explore joint ventures with countries where it can secure reliable supply chains, particularly for LNG (liquefied natural gas) and other key inputs," said Rudra Prasad Pradhan, professor of international relations, department of humanities and social sciences, BITS Pilani.

"This would help diversify supply sources, reduce vulnerability to disruptions and strengthen bilateral partnerships," he said.

The government's fertilizer subsidy bill had topped ₹2.17 trillion in fiscal year 2026 (FY26).

While it had budgeted for ₹1.77 trillion for this fiscal, the fertilizer department earlier sought a 100% increase to ₹3.5 trillion amid rising prices due to West Asia crisis.

However, these subsidy projections moderated following China's decision to ease export curbs and India's efforts to build adequate inventories to meet near-term demand.

Experts said boosting urea output must be complemented by diversified sourcing, strong supply chains

India's urea self-reliance drive draws ₹2 tn bets

The 17 proposals cover new plants as well as expansions of existing facilities

Vijay C Roy
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NEW DELHI

India's push to cut its heavy dependence on imported urea has drawn investment proposals worth as much as ₹2.04 trillion, with 17 of them from companies including state-run Gail (India) Ltd, Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL), Kribhco, Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd and Matix Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd, according to two people in the know. If cleared, the projects could take about three years to come up, said experts.

The proposals, being examined by the department of fertilizers, cover new plants as well as expansions of existing facilities and come under the government's new National Investment Policy for Urea (Nipu)-2026. If they fructify, the projects could add substantially to domestic capacity at a time when India, world's largest urea importer, meets about a quarter of its annual need from overseas, leaving fertilizer and food security exposed to price and supply shocks.

The capital expenditure for a plant with a standard capacity of 1.27 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) is seen at ₹10,000-12,000 crore, while brownfield expansion would entail about ₹9,000-10,000

UREA UNEASE

India's current urea import dependence leaves fertilizers and food security exposed to global price and supply shocks.

India's urea production and imports (in million tonnes)



DILUTING DEPENDENCE

FIRMS include Gail, HURL, Chambal, Kribhco and Matix

IF cleared, projects may take three years to come onstream

CAPEX for standard capacity plant may be ₹10,000-12,000 cr

GOPAKUMAR WARRIER/MINT

crore, taking the potential total to ₹1.53-2.04 trillion.

"The new investment policy provides a framework to attract investments in the sector and encouraging setting up of additional capacity. The proposals received by the department are currently at various stages of examination," said the first person cited above.

The Union Cabinet had in July cleared the policy that aims for 10 million tonnes additional urea production capacity amid a spike in global fertilizer prices triggered by disruptions from the West Asia war.

India's annual urea demand is pegged around 40 million tonnes, which is growing at about 5% annually. While domestic production

meets around 30 million tonnes, the balance is met via imports. By expanding domestic output, the government aims to lower urea imports, reduce foreign exchange outgo and insulate India from volatile international markets.

As per experts, every 1 million tonne domestic urea capacity that replaces imports can save about \$500 million annually in forex. Moreover, fertilizer subsidy is one of the top components of government's support to the farm sector.

"This is a positive step in the right direction. Once the projects are approved and achieve financial closure, it could take around three years to commission. These projects, along with those already approved under the earlier policy and are under various stages of construction, will help reduce India's dependence on urea imports. They should help meet the country's fertilizer demand over the next 5-10 years, especially as demand continues to grow," said Sachchida Nand, a visiting professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (Icrier).

In response to an email query from *Mint*, Matix Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd said the company, which had commissioned its first

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Cabinet to soon take up easing of investment treaty rules

FROM PAGE 16

The proposal is already with the Cabinet secretariat. "So, a decision will be made very soon," one of the officials said, indicating the template could be cleared in a month or two.

"This template must also be read alongside India's push to sign new FTAs, part of a wider effort to position the country as a destination for global capital," said Aravind Srivatsan, senior partner and India tax leader at professional services firm Nangia Global. "Ultimately, it should give investors confidence to commit patient capital to India, secure in the knowledge that tax is no longer an unknown cost of doing business here."

Foreign investors have been seeking more favourable terms under investment treaties, including under the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism. For the UAE, India trimmed the timeline to exhaust domestic legal remedies before seeking foreign arbitration to three years from five years, signalling a special bilateral relationship.

"So, we've now moved from the five-year timeline for exhausting domestic legal remedies—after the treaty



Foreign investors have been seeking more favourable terms.

BLOOMBERG

with the UAE," said the official quoted earlier.

While making the treaty template more attractive, the government will be driven by certain principles: it won't cede its future sovereign policy-making authority and will curb any scope for "treaty-shopping", a strategy to dodge taxes, the officials said.

While the template will serve as a basis for negotiations, final BITs with countries can differ from one another, depending on strategic, economic and other factors.

Queries emailed to the ministry of finance and the cabinet secretariat early Friday were

not immediately answered.

India grew cautious about getting into fresh investment treaties after an old treaty template led to litigation in several cases. This template was the basis on which dozens of pacts had been signed, especially between 1994 and 2011.

The setbacks in arbitration rulings, especially in the Vodafone and Cairn Energy tax cases, made the government change its treaty template in late 2015 by rolling back certain open-ended relaxations.

The 2015 template, however, turned out to be defensive as the global investment climate changed. It essentially limited the definition of "investment" to enterprises that run businesses from the broad and open-ended "asset-based" definition earlier. It also put for a five-year wait for domestic remedies before an investor could use ISDS.

Separately, the officials cited above said that the next meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, slated for 7 October, will decide on process reforms on the indirect tax regime, building on last year's rationalization of tax rates and slabs.

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

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Govt mulls easier treaty rules to woo foreign investors

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NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet will shortly consider overhauling a decade-old bilateral investment treaty (BIT) template to make it easier for foreign companies to seek international arbitration arising from investment disputes in India, two government officials said.

The plan aims to substantially trim the mandatory five-year timeframe to exhaust domestic legal remedies before pursuing international arbitration to settle disputes.

The template won't include tax concessions that undermine sovereign policy-making authority, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

India is eyeing sustained foreign investments for economic growth and to stabilize its currency amid mounting geopolitical conflicts.

Once approved, the first BIT template overhaul in a decade could expedite India's ongoing negotiations for investment treaties with the UK, the European Union, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman.

Analysts reckon that India's strong growth outlook amid global turmoil will be a major positive for investors scouting



The model will shorten legal remedy timeframe. BLOOMBERG

for markets with high returns prospects. So, now is the right time to present a new template to woo investors, they said.

Total foreign direct investment inflows into India fell from \$84.8 billion in fiscal year 2022 (FY22) to \$71.3 billion in FY24 before recovering to \$80.6 billion in FY25 and a provisional \$94.5 billion in FY26, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data shows.

However, net FDI—the difference between FDI inflows and outflows after accounting for repatriation of capital—fell from a peak of \$44 billion in FY21 to sub-\$1 billion in FY25. It was at about \$4 billion in the first nine months of FY26, per provisional RBI data.

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Refiners step up US LPG buying

Bloomberg

State-owned refiners are preparing to boost purchases of US liquefied petroleum gas by more than 25 per cent through annual contracts next year, as Persian Gulf disruptions accelerate the country's push to diversify supplies.

Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp and Hindustan Petroleum Corp are seeking as

many as five 46,000-tonne cargoes a month next year from the US, up from four under 2026 contracts, according to people familiar with the tender. Each shipment must contain equal amounts of propane and butane, they added, asking not to be named as the details are not public. If the agreements are finalised, India's contracted US volumes would rise to about 2.76 mt from 2.2 mt this year.

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RBI Bulletin: Oil spikes hit FCNR(B) boost for ₹

The Indian rupee's gains earlier this month driven by Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank), or FCNR(B), deposit flows under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) concessional swap window, reversed by the latter half of September due to the spike in crude oil prices, noted an article on the state of the economy in the central bank's monthly bulletin. Commercial banks mobilised \$133 billion in FCNR(B) deposits since the swap scheme was operationalised in June. The scheme was closed one month ahead of its original September 30 deadline. The article, authored by RBI staffers with the guidance of Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta, also noted that headline inflation rose in August and "core inflation excluding precious metals has also increased from ultra-low levels of recent months". It also noted that foreign direct investment (FDI) flows strengthened in July, with net FDI hitting \$7.4 billion, the highest in five years. MANOJIT SAHA reports



Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
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RBI's SEPTEMBER BULLETIN

FCNR(B) boost for ₹ dented by recent crude oil spike

MANOJIT SAHA
Mumbai, 25 September

The Indian rupee's gains earlier this month driven by FCNR(B) deposit flows under the Reserve Bank of India's concessional swap window, reversed by the latter half of September due to the spike in crude oil prices, noted an article on the state of the economy in the central bank's monthly bulletin.

Commercial banks mobilised \$133 billion in FCNR(B) deposits since the swap scheme was operationalised in June.

The scheme was closed one month ahead of its original September 30 deadline. So far in September, the Indian unit has depreciated 0.7 per cent and 5 per cent since the West Asia war which started late February.

"West Asia tensions and high crude oil prices caused the Indian rupee (INR) to depreciate for most of August. Strong FCNR(B) deposits led to brief recoveries in early September, but these gains reversed in the later part of the month on account of higher crude oil prices," said the article, auth-

ored by RBI staffers with the guidance of Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta.

The article is based on the views of its authors and does not represent RBI's perspective.

The strong FCNR(B) flows also resulted in surplus liquidity in August which surged in September, the report noted, while highlighting that system liquidity moderated amidst tax related outflows and RBI's dur-

able liquidity measures during the second half of September. Surplus liquidity, as measured

by banks parking funds in the liquidity adjustment facility window moderated to ₹4.27 trillion on Thursday.

The article also noted that headline inflation inched up to 4.8 per cent in August, driven by the food and beverages group along with a pickup in fuel and core components. "Core infla-

tion excluding precious metals has also increased from ultra-low levels of recent months," the article flagged.

Economic growth on the other hand, remained resilient despite challenging global environment. "The Indian economy recorded a strong GDP growth in Q1FY27. High frequency indicators through August reflected sustained demand with segments of industry and services sectors displaying resilience. Overall, the economy performed strongly despite

external headwinds," it said.

The article also highlighted a strengthening of FDI flows in July, with net FDI hitting \$7.4 billion, the highest in five years. Net FDI in June was \$2.07 billion and just \$79 million in May. Gross FDI inflows, before factoring in outbound investments from India, were \$14.6 billion in July, compared to \$8.8 billion in June, and \$6 billion in May.

Communication, financial and computers services were the major FDI recipient sectors, with over 80 per cent of the equity inflows in July.



US targets India, exempts China on Russian oil buys

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

The US and China have extended the Busan Agreement to January 10, 2027, and this leaves India as the major country targeted under the new US law that can impose up to 100 per cent tariffs on buyers of Russian oil.

China, the largest buyer of Russian crude oil, has effectively secured protection through national security exemptions.

Earlier in July 2025 also China got exempted when Washington imposed a 25 per cent tariff on India for purchasing Russian crude.

China accounts for 50 per cent of Russia's crude oil exports, India around 36 per cent, Turkey 6 per cent and European Union 5 per cent. In 2025, India was singled out with 25 per cent tariffs.

"The persistent exemption of Beijing demonstrates that Russian oil purchases serve merely as a façade for targeting New

TARIFF THREAT LOOMS

WASHINGTON imposed a 25% tariff on India for purchasing Russian crude.

CHINA has effectively secured protection through national security exemptions.

CHINA accounts for 50 % of Russia's crude oil exports.

INDIA accounts 36 %, Turkey 6 % and European Union 5 %.

INDIA was singled out with 25 % tariffs.

THE PERSISTENT exemption of Beijing demonstrates that Russian oil purchases serve merely as a façade for targeting New Delhi. — GTRI

Delhi," said GTRI.

The primary US objective is neither generating revenue nor shielding domestic industry from Indian goods; rather, Washington is leveraging the threat of severe oil tariffs to coerce India into reducing Russian oil imports and signing a deeply unequal Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

The US strategy aims to leverage 100 per cent tariff threats to extract major trade concessions.

"India must not trade its energy security for temporary tariff relief or sign an unequal trade deal. Surrendering to these demands will offer no lasting defense, as history demonstrates that Washington routinely imposes new tariffs even after signing trade agreements with key allies like the EU, Japan, and South Korea. India should refuse to let American tariff threats dictate its national energy policy," said GTRI.

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**Crude oil slides on
US-Iran truce hopes**



London: Crude oil prices fell as markets weighed the possibility of a truce between the US and Iran against concerns that increasing attacks against Saudi Arabia could disrupt supply. Brent was down 40 cents at \$106.20 a barrel by 0821 GMT, while US WTI was \$1.02 lower at \$93.59 a barrel. For the week, Brent so far has gained 2.2 per cent and WTI has dropped 6.8 per cent. REUTERS

Online

Headline	ONGC to drill more wells after Mahanadi gas discovery; India to retain 20% ethanol blending: Puri		
Publication	Bioenergy Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

ONGC to drill more wells after Mahanadi gas discovery; India to retain 20% ethanol blending: Puri

<https://bioenergytimes.com/ongc-to-drill-more-wells-after-mahanadi-gas-discovery-india-to-retain-20-ethanol-blending-puri/>

New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will undertake further drilling following its recent gas discovery in the Mahanadi basin under the Samudra Manthan initiative, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday, ANI reported. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the 13th Annual Forum 2026: India 3.0 Engaging for Growth in a Disrupted World, Puri said the government was pursuing several measures to reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels, including domestic oil and gas exploration, biofuels and green hydrogen. He said offshore exploration involved high costs, and drilling would therefore continue in areas considered commercially viable. We are going to be digging more and more wells, Puri said, adding that he was hopeful about the prospects following the discovery. Puri also highlighted the government's broader offshore exploration programme under the Samudra Manthan initiative, which is expected to support the drilling of 150 wells over three years. The Union Cabinet approved the Samudra Manthan National Offshore Exploration Scheme in July 2026, with an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore for implementation up to FY 2030-31. On biofuels, Puri said India would continue with 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol as part of its efforts to reduce dependence on imported crude oil. So that will remain at 20%, he said when asked about the country's ethanol blending level. India achieved the 20 per cent ethanol blending target in 2025, five years ahead of the original 2030 deadline. The government has also earlier clarified that no decision had been taken to increase nationwide ethanol blending beyond 20 per cent. Puri also stressed the need to bring down the cost of producing green hydrogen to support its wider use across different sectors. Green hydrogen, as I mentioned, we have to bring the cost of green hydrogen down, he said. He pointed to the use of hydrogen in refineries and efforts by the railways to develop hydrogen-powered trains, saying the fuel could also find applications in other sectors. So green hydrogen is the fuel of the future, Puri said. The minister said India needed to pursue domestic oil and gas exploration, biofuels and green hydrogen together to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels, according to ANI.

Headline	ONGC to continue drilling after gas discovery in Mahanadi basin; India to retain 20% ethanol blending: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Calcutta News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

ONGC to continue drilling after gas discovery in Mahanadi basin; India to retain 20% ethanol blending: Hardeep Puri

<http://www.calcuttanews.net/news/279329466/ongc-to-continue-drilling-after-gas-discovery-in-mahanadi-basin-india-to-retain-20-ethanol-blending-hardeep-puri>

New Delhi [India, September 24 (ANI): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will continue drilling more wells following its gas discovery in the Mahanadi basin under the Samudra Manthan initiative, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday, adding that India would maintain ethanol blending at 20 per cent while working to reduce green hydrogen costs. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the 13th Annual Forum 2026: India 3.0 - Engaging for Growth in a Disrupted World, Puri said the government was pursuing multiple avenues to reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels, including domestic oil and gas exploration, biofuels and green hydrogen. Referring to ONGC's gas discovery and plans for further exploration, the minister said, 'This is the beginning, this is the beginning. We are going to be digging more and more wells.' He said offshore exploration was a costly process and that drilling would continue in areas considered commercially viable. 'We are going to be digging more and more wells. So whenever you get a area which is most viable in terms of because you know it's a it's a costly process. But I'm very hopeful, and it's looking very good,' Puri said. The minister also referred to the government's wider offshore exploration programme, saying the Samudra Manthan initiative would enable the drilling of 150 wells over three years. The Union Cabinet had approved the Samudra Manthan National Offshore Exploration Scheme in July 2026, with an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore for implementation up to FY 2030-31. On biofuels, Puri said India would maintain ethanol blending in petrol at 20 per cent as part of its strategy to reduce dependence on imported crude oil. 'So that will remain at 20%,' he said, referring to the country's ethanol blending level. India achieved its 20 per cent ethanol blending target in 2025, five years ahead of the original 2030 deadline. The government had earlier clarified that no decision had been taken to increase nationwide ethanol blending beyond 20 per cent. Speaking about green hydrogen, Puri said reducing production costs would be important for expanding its use across different sectors of the economy. 'Green hydrogen, as I mentioned, we have to bring the cost of green hydrogen down,' he said. He highlighted the use of hydrogen in refineries and the railways' efforts to develop hydrogen-powered trains, adding that the fuel could find applications in other sectors as well. 'So green hydrogen is the fuel of the future,' Puri said. The minister emphasised that India needed to pursue domestic exploration, biofuels and green hydrogen simultaneously to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels. (ANI)

Headline	महानदी बेसिन में गैस खोज के बाद ONGC जारी रखेगी ड्रिलिंग; भारत 20% एथेनॉल मिश्रण पर कायम रहेगा : हरदीप पुरी		
Publication	Chini Mandi	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

महानदी बेसिन में गैस खोज के बाद ONGC जारी रखेगी ड्रिलिंग; भारत 20% एथेनॉल मिश्रण पर कायम रहेगा : हरदीप पुरी

<https://www.chinimandi.com/ongc-to-continue-drilling-after-gas-discovery-in-mahanadi-basin-india-to-stick-to-20-ethanol-blending-hardeep-puri-in-hindi/>

Headline	ONGC Strikes Gas in Mahanadi Deepwater under Samudra Manthan		
Publication	EPC World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

ONGC Strikes Gas in Mahanadi Deepwater under Samudra Manthan

<https://www.epcworld.in/ongc-strikes-gas-in-mahanadi-deepwater-under-samudra-manthan/>

The well is located approximately 43 km off Konark and is the first well in the Mahanadi Basin under the campaign. Its relative proximity to the coast offers potential for early monetisation, subject to further appraisal, and commercial evaluation. The well was spudded on 25 July 2026 by Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri. On 27 August 2026, ONGC Chairman & CEO Arun Kumar Singh, Director (Technology & Field Services) , Vikram Saxena, and Director (Exploration), O P Sinha visited drillship Platinum Explorer and interacted with the team engaged in the drilling campaign. The well is flowing gas with encouraging flow and reservoir pressure for last three days. The discovery strengthens ONGC's deepwater exploration programme and India's efforts to expand its indigenous hydrocarbon resource base. This find, along with other discoveries in the area, can be a candidate for development through shared facilities enabled by the PNG Rules, 2025, bringing deepwater resources onstream.

Headline	ONGC Launches Western Offshore Data Acquisition Campaign Under Samudra Manthan Initiative		
Publication	Indian Master Minds	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

ONGC Launches Western Offshore Data Acquisition Campaign Under Samudra Manthan Initiative

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/ongc-western-offshore-data-acquisition-samudra-manthan-3d-seismic-236734/>

ONGC Launches Western Offshore Data Acquisition Campaign Under Samudra Manthan Initiative New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has commenced a major offshore data acquisition campaign in the Western Offshore using advanced 3D Broadband Seismic technology. The campaign was formally kicked off on September 24, 2026, by ONGC Director (Exploration) O.P. Sinha in the presence of senior officials. The initiative is part of ONGC's efforts to translate the Samudra Manthan initiative into action and deepen the understanding of India's offshore sedimentary basins. By generating high-quality subsurface data, the programme is expected to support future exploration activities and help identify new opportunities for hydrocarbon discoveries. The latest campaign marks an important step in ONGC's ongoing efforts to strengthen exploration across India's offshore frontiers. The Western Offshore is a key area for India's hydrocarbon exploration activities, and improved subsurface information can help in assessing potential resources and planning future exploration programmes. The campaign has been initiated with the objective of acquiring advanced seismic data that can provide a clearer understanding of geological formations beneath the seabed. Key objectives of the campaign include: Read also: ONGC Strikes Gas in Deepwater Mahanadi Basin Off Odisha Coast, Marks Major Exploration Milestone The offshore campaign is being carried out using state-of-the-art 3D Broadband Seismic technology. The technology is designed to generate detailed subsurface information, helping exploration teams better understand geological structures beneath offshore areas. The data acquired through the campaign is expected to strengthen the scientific and technical basis for future exploration decisions. Improved subsurface imaging can assist in identifying prospective areas and evaluating exploration opportunities across offshore sedimentary basins. The campaign is being undertaken as part of the Samudra Manthan initiative, which focuses on advancing exploration activities in India's offshore areas. The commencement of the Western Offshore campaign gives an operational dimension to the initiative by focusing on systematic acquisition of high-quality subsurface data. ONGC is using the campaign to further its understanding of offshore geological formations and explore new possibilities for domestic hydrocarbon resources. ONGC has highlighted the importance of exploring India's offshore sedimentary basins to identify new hydrocarbon opportunities. The company's latest data acquisition programme is expected to contribute to a stronger information base for future exploration and resource development. With advanced seismic technology being deployed, the campaign is aimed at improving the quality and depth of geological understanding in the Western Offshore. The initiative reflects ONGC's continued focus on: The Western Offshore campaign is also linked to ONGC's broader efforts to contribute to India's long-term energy security. By improving the understanding of offshore geological formations and identifying potential hydrocarbon prospects, the programme can provide a stronger foundation for future exploration activities. The availability of better subsurface data is expected to support evidence-based decisions regarding resource development. ONGC continues to explore deeper and expand its technological capabilities as it works towards identifying new opportunities across India's offshore frontiers. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is India's leading exploration and production company in the oil and gas sector. The Maharatna public sector enterprise is engaged in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas and operates across onshore and offshore areas. ONGC plays a significant role in supporting India's domestic energy supply and strengthening the country's energy security. Read also: ONGC Reaffirms Commitment to Cleanliness and Sustainability Under Swachhata Hi Seva 2026

Headline	ONGC's Tinku Sengupta Nishcal Wins Women Leadership Award – Pipeline & Gas Industry at PIPE-TECH 2026		
Publication	Indian Master Minds	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Sep 2026		

ONGC's Tinku Sengupta Nishcal Wins Women Leadership Award – Pipeline & Gas Industry at PIPE-TECH 2026

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/ongc-tinku-sengupta-nishcal-women-leadership-award-pipe-tech-2026-236961/>

ONGC's Tinku Sengupta Nishcal Wins Women Leadership Award Pipeline & Gas Industry at PIPE-TECH 2026 New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has congratulated Tinku Sengupta Nishcal, GGM (Production) & Head Offshore Services, on being conferred the prestigious Women Leadership Award Pipeline & Gas Industry at PIPE-TECH 2026 & India Gas-Tech 2026. The award was presented during the 6th Global Pipeline Technology & Development Conference & Exhibition, recognising her distinguished leadership and significant contributions to the pipeline and gas industry. The recognition highlights her professional and technical excellence, along with her role in strengthening large-scale energy infrastructure and operational capabilities. The Women Leadership Award recognises Tinku Sengupta Nishcal's contributions across several areas of the pipeline and offshore energy sector. Key highlights of the recognition include: Her work reflects the growing importance of technical leadership and professional expertise in managing critical energy infrastructure. Read also: ONGC Launches Western Offshore Data Acquisition Campaign Under Samudra Manthan Initiative As GGM (Production) & Head Offshore Services at ONGC, Tinku Sengupta Nishcal has contributed to areas associated with pipeline and offshore energy infrastructure, asset integrity and operational excellence. The award specifically acknowledges her contribution to large-scale infrastructure and the technical and professional standards required for efficient and reliable energy operations. The recognition at a global industry conference also highlights the role of experienced professionals in advancing technology and operational practices across the pipeline and gas sector. The recognition also acknowledges Nishcal's commitment to capability development and the advancement of women professionals in the energy industry. ONGC said the honour celebrates leadership that combines technical expertise with purpose and serves as an inspiration for more women to contribute to and shape the future of India's energy sector. The recognition therefore highlights not only professional achievements but also the importance of developing talent and creating opportunities for women across the energy industry. ONGC described the recognition as a proud moment for the organisation. The award reflects the contribution of its professionals to critical infrastructure, technical excellence and operational performance. The 6th Global Pipeline Technology & Development Conference & Exhibition provided the platform for the recognition, bringing focus to developments and leadership in the pipeline and gas industry. The award to Tinku Sengupta Nishcal adds to ONGC's recognition of professional excellence while highlighting the importance of women's leadership in India's energy sector. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is India's leading exploration and production company and a major public sector energy enterprise. The company is engaged in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas and contributes significantly to India's energy security through its operations across onshore and offshore assets. Read also: ONGC Appoints Bhaskar Chowdary Nettem as Director (Production) for Three-Year Tenure

Headline	ONGC to drill more wells after Mahanadi gas find: Hardeep Singh Puri		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

ONGC to drill more wells after Mahanadi gas find: Hardeep Singh Puri

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/ongc-to-drill-more-wells-after-mahanadi-gas-find-hardeep-singh-puri/ar-AA2cUhpB>

Asianet News Central Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will continue drilling more wells following its gas discovery in the Mahanadi basin under the Samudra Manthan initiative, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday, adding that India would maintain ethanol blending at 20 per cent while working to reduce green hydrogen costs. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the 13th Annual Forum 2026: India 3.0 Engaging for Growth in a Disrupted World, Puri said the government was pursuing multiple avenues to reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels, including domestic oil and gas exploration, biofuels and green hydrogen.

Mahanadi Gas Discovery and Exploration Push Referring to ONGC's gas discovery and plans for further exploration, the minister said, "This is the beginning, this is the beginning. We are going to be digging more and more wells." He said offshore exploration was a costly process and that drilling would continue in areas considered commercially viable. "We are going to be digging more and more wells. So whenever you get a area which is most viable in terms of because you know it's a it's a costly process. But I'm very hopeful, and it's looking very good," Puri said. The minister also referred to the government's wider offshore exploration programme, saying the Samudra Manthan initiative would enable the drilling of 150 wells over three years. The Union Cabinet had approved the Samudra Manthan National Offshore Exploration Scheme in July 2026, with an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore for implementation up to FY 2030-31.

Ethanol Blending Strategy On biofuels, Puri said India would maintain ethanol blending in petrol at 20 per cent as part of its strategy to reduce dependence on imported crude oil. "So that will remain at 20%," he said, referring to the country's ethanol blending level. India achieved its 20 per cent ethanol blending target in 2025, five years ahead of the original 2030 deadline. The government had earlier clarified that no decision had been taken to increase nationwide ethanol blending beyond 20 per cent.

Green Hydrogen: The Fuel of the Future Speaking about green hydrogen, Puri said reducing production costs would be important for expanding its use across different sectors of the economy. "Green hydrogen, as I mentioned, we have to bring the cost of green hydrogen down," he said. He highlighted the use of hydrogen in refineries and the railways' efforts to develop hydrogen-powered trains, adding that the fuel could find applications in other sectors as well. "So green hydrogen is the fuel of the future," Puri said. The minister emphasised that India needed to pursue domestic exploration, biofuels and green hydrogen simultaneously to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels. (ANI) (Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by Asianetnews Editorial staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)

Headline	40 Kms Off Odisha Coast ONGC's Mahadin Well Struck Gas, What's The Road Ahead?		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

40 Kms Off Odisha Coast ONGC's Mahadin Well Struck Gas, What's The Road Ahead?

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/economy/40-kms-off-odisha-coast-ongc-s-mahadin-well-struck-gas-what-s-the-road-ahead/vi-AA2cT6Gk>

Hello and welcome. You are watching Business Today. We are joining, being joined here by Mr. O.P. Sinha, Director of Exploration at ONGC. Mahanadi Basin has struck gas and it is the need of the hour for India to have its own domestic oil and gas production as well. The Chairman has said that ONGC is transitioning towards a gas and oil sort of, you know, endeavor going forward from here for NGC than just an just a oil and gas company. So gas has been struck at this particular basin. Talk to us of the volumes. What can you say about the prospects of gas from this particular exploration? In Mahanadi basin, if I talk about the recent discovery, yeah, definitely it's a gas discovery. Mahanadi basin has been known for gas potential so far. Although it will be too premature to conclude that it's a gas basin only, but so far we have successfully discovered earlier also and in the recent campaign or current campaign which is ongoing, this find has boosted the prospectivity of gas find from Mahanadi basin. Now coming to gas and oil, you see ONGC's endeavor is finding oil and gas in all frontier areas. We are venturing into, we have already successfully commenced production from KG Offshore. We drilled our campaign in Andaman and this Mahanadi campaign has been the recent one. And here, this well, which was spudded by our honorable Petroleum Minister, Puri It has been successfully drilled and tested and very encouraging result I am happy to share that it is flowing with good amount of rates and good amount of pressure. We have plans to follow it up with more drilling in this area and then only the input about the volumes will be formed up. And I must say that we are in a consolidation phase. And with more activity, more wells, we will be in a position to give some numbers on volume. But as of now, this is a very, very positive find, I will say, for ONGC as well as for our. So just to get a sense, on an average, any particular well which is being explored or developed in that particular phase, once you know it has hit gas or it has hit crude, What is the average in this particular Mahanadi basin? What is the average sort of volume that you may expect or you have seen previously as well? You see, this is a this is a exploration in frontier areas. It's not like Western offshore where we have drilled so many wells and we have a lot many inputs or information available for estimating volumes or subsurface parameters. Here we are venturing in a new area. So every well, every new data, it helps us consolidate the plans which will be formed up in due course of time. So this well is producing close to 2.5 lakhs or 0.25 million cubic meter per day of gas. The good thing is that the reservoir pressures are good. So we hope that this well will be able to give consistent performance in the times to come. This is about this well, but this is not end of the story. We have to take this program forward by drilling more wells, appraising the area, delineating the area and then come out with plan how to produce with how many wells. Those things will come up later. But at this stage, I must say that this is a very, very, very, very promising find. But there is a separate capex that ONGC has also deployed, right? That is what I was referring to. Yes, yes. But when you 13, 14? Yeah, you see, as far as the capex of exploration, I will talk about exploration capex. ONGC has been spending roughly around 10,000 crores on exploration every year, 10,000 crores. It includes both drilling of export rivers, export rivers both in the frontier areas as well as in the PML areas. PML means you are exploring field growth opportunities and surveys, seismic surveys, non-seismic surveys. So entire exploration budget per annum it was around 10,000. Now with Samudra Manthan, we will be able to more aggressively drill more wells. And that is needed because you see the Indian sedimentary basins, especially in deep water, ultra deep water areas, the well density is relatively less than the other global basins. So with this, I think this is the very right time for the oil companies to go much aggressively in deeper areas, frontier areas, where we expect that big find will come. And the big find is the need of the hour for the, for ONGC, for country as well. Sure. The capex and government support has been deployed. 2030, 2031, there is a target that the company has set for themselves in terms of ENP and other projects as well. But so far, is everything on track as planned? And for the next year, both onshore and offshore, what other prospects are we looking at? You see, this Samudra Manthan campaign, I must clarify, this is exclusively for offshore. offshore deepwater exploration, but ONGC as a company, we will balance our portfolio and we will continue to do exploration in on-land exploratory areas as well as shallow water because onshore and shallow water exploratory wells are relatively easier to monetize, easier in the sense in a quick time frame. So we are having a balanced portfolio, both for the on-land, shallow water offshore and deep water also. We will be going more aggressively in deep waters with the help of some other. So what other regions are we looking at? The basins I must say Mahanadi should be priority one basin, but there are other basins like Krishna Godavari basin where we are already producing and we had a campaign in Andaman. So we have to see or study the results of the wells which we have drilled and then make the follow up program. The other relatively new basins are Kerala Konkan where we are still We have not succeeded in getting finds, but the exploration continues in Kerala, Konkan also and in the offshore Saurashtra also. There are both in the So as we head towards 2027, how many more regions would we have explored in terms of gas and oil for ONGC? You see, Mahanadi definitely is on rank number one and we will go in KG also. There is prospects we have already discovered in Kaveri also. We will be definitely

going for delineation of that. And once we get the positive volumes, the follow-up programs will follow. In 2026, India's domestic gas and oil contribution from ONGC, where does it stand at currently? So, uh, if, if I say, uh, ONGC contributes about, uh, around 75% of the, uh, total oil which is produced in the country, 75%, and, uh, gas, it will be around 55% of the domestic gas. But if I compare the, because India is the, I think, third largest consumer of oil and gas. So if I compare, if I say how much ONGC is contributing to India's consumption, the numbers will be around with our JV fields along with OVL also because OVL is our overseas arm, which is bringing the equity oil from overseas fields. So it will be around 11% to 12% of our consumption. And maybe around 30% of our gas consumption. Yeah. Right. Going ahead into- 30 or 33, I think, yeah. Talk to us a little bit about where our strategic reserves stand at this point and what work is going on in the background. I think, uh, presently we are having strategic reserves already about, uh, five and a half million tons of oil, and, uh, there are plans to increase or create new storage, uh, strategic reserves, uh, which ONGC is mandated to do, and, uh, work will start on that, but presently we have about five and a half, uh, million tons of oil strategic reserves available in the country. The work on gas storage for a strategic purpose will also start. Where will that standard? Those things are still to be chopped out. Yeah. Sure. So one final question. BP has been your longstanding technology partner. What other partnerships are you looking at to sort of accelerate India's ENP initiative going forward? Is there something ahead of 2027? when we start the new year, uh, that you may be, uh, looking at? Yeah. You see, in exploration, we are seeking, uh, collaborations or partnerships, uh, for the upcoming, uh, bid rounds, OLP bid rounds. And, uh, we are, uh, we are in talk with several IOCs in this regard. We are in talk with, uh, BP, uh Exxon, Shell, and things will materialize, I hope, soon. BP is already on board as a technical service provider in Mumbai High for enhancing the production from Bombay High being a mature field. So we are engaged BP as a technical service provider to increase production from that. And the next phase is other than Bombay High, covering entire Western Offshore. So this is the engagement with BP as of now. And we have already a block in the Saurashtra Offshore, where ONGC has partnered with BP for exploration. And in the upcoming round, we are having discussions with not only with BP but with other IOCs also and hope things will get better. What are the regions they have shown interest in working on? Mostly it's eastern offshore of country. Eastern offshore, no specific region so far. All right, thank you so much for speaking to us here on Business Today. Thank you, thank you If you like the video, do like, comment, share and subscribe.

Headline	'ONGC to continue Mahanadi drilling after gas find'		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

'ONGC to continue Mahanadi drilling after gas find'

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/ongc-to-continue-mahanadi-drilling-after-gas-find-677324>

New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will continue drilling more wells following its gas discovery in the Mahanadi basin under the Samudra Manthan initiative, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday, adding that India would maintain ethanol blending at 20 per cent while working to reduce green hydrogen costs. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the 13th Annual Forum 2026: India 3.0 Engaging for Growth in a Disrupted World, Puri said the government was pursuing multiple avenues to reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels, including domestic oil and gas exploration, biofuels and green hydrogen.

Headline	ONGC Begins Offshore Data Acquisition Campaign in Western Offshore under Samudra Manthan		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

ONGC Begins Offshore Data Acquisition Campaign in Western Offshore under Samudra Manthan

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-begins-offshore-data-acquisition-campaign-in-western-offshore-under-samudra-manthan>

ONGC has commenced its offshore data acquisition campaign in the Western Offshore using 3D Broadband Seismic technology. The programme was kicked off on 24 September 2026 by Director (Exploration) O.P. Sinha as part of the Samudra Manthan initiative. New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has commenced its offshore data acquisition campaign in the Western Offshore, translating the Samudra Manthan initiative into action. The campaign was formally kicked off on 24 September 2026 by ONGC Director (Exploration) Shri O.P. Sinha along with senior officials. Follow PSU Connect: WhatsApp Using state-of-the-art 3D Broadband Seismic technology , the programme will generate high-quality subsurface insights. These insights are expected to strengthen future exploration efforts and help identify new opportunities for hydrocarbon discoveries across India's offshore sedimentary basins. The initiative forms part of ONGC's efforts to deepen understanding of the country's offshore basins and support long-term energy security. Source: Official update from ONGC Limited. Follow PSU Connect: LinkedIn

Headline	महानदी बेसिन में गैस की खोज के बाद ONGC ड्रिलिंग जारी रखेगी; हरदीप पुरी		
Publication	Prime News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2026		

महानदी बेसिन में गैस की खोज के बाद ONGC ड्रिलिंग जारी रखेगी; हरदीप पुरी

<https://www.primenewsnetwork.in/business/ongc-to-continue-drilling-after-gas-discovery-in-mahanadi-basin-hardeep-puri/239793>

केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि महानदी बेसिन में ONGC ड्रिलिंग जारी रखेगी। Prime News Network Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri | नई दिल्ली (भारत)। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने गुरुवार को कहा कि समुद्र मंथन पहल के तहत महानदी बेसिन में गैस की खोज के बाद तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) और अधिक कुओं की खुदाई जारी रखेगा। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि भारत हरित हाइड्रोजन की लागत को कम करने के लिए काम करते हुए इथेनॉल मिश्रण को 20 प्रतिशत पर बनाए रखेगा। 13वें वार्षिक फोरम 2026: इंडिया 3.0 - एक बाधित दुनिया में विकास के लिए जुड़ाव के अवसर पर मीडिया से बात करते हुए, पुरी ने कहा कि सरकार आयातित जीवाश्म ईंधन पर भारत की निर्भरता को कम करने के लिए घरेलू तेल और गैस अन्वेषण, जैव ईंधन और हरित हाइड्रोजन सहित कई रास्ते अपना रही है। ओएनजीसी की गैस खोज और आगे के अन्वेषण की योजनाओं का जिक्र करते हुए मंत्री ने कहा, "यह तो शुरुआत है। हम और अधिक कुएं खोदने जा रहे हैं।" उन्होंने कहा कि अपतटीय अन्वेषण एक महंगी प्रक्रिया है और व्यावसायिक रूप से व्यवहार्य माने जाने वाले क्षेत्रों में खुदाई जारी रहेगी। पुरी ने कहा, "हम और अधिक से अधिक कुएं खोदने जा रहे हैं। इसलिए जब भी आपको कोई ऐसा क्षेत्र मिले जो सबसे अधिक व्यवहार्य हो, क्योंकि आप जानते हैं कि यह एक महंगी प्रक्रिया है। लेकिन मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है और स्थिति बहुत अच्छी दिख रही है।" मंत्री ने सरकार के व्यापक अपतटीय अन्वेषण कार्यक्रम का भी जिक्र किया और कहा कि समुद्र मंथन पहल से तीन वर्षों में 150 कुओं की खुदाई संभव हो सकेगी। केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने जुलाई 2026 में समुद्र मंथन राष्ट्रीय अपतटीय अन्वेषण योजना को मंजूरी दी थी, जिसके लिए वित्त वर्ष 2030-31 तक कार्यान्वयन हेतु 84,084 करोड़ रुपये का परिव्यय निर्धारित किया गया था। जैव ईंधन के बारे में पुरी ने कहा कि आयातित कच्चे तेल पर निर्भरता कम करने की रणनीति के तहत भारत पेट्रोल में इथेनॉल का मिश्रण 20 प्रतिशत पर बनाए रखेगा। उन्होंने देश में इथेनॉल मिश्रण के स्तर का जिक्र करते हुए कहा, "यह 20% पर ही रहेगा।" भारत ने 2030 की मूल समय सीमा से पांच साल पहले, 2025 में ही 20 प्रतिशत इथेनॉल मिश्रण का अपना लक्ष्य हासिल कर लिया। सरकार ने पहले ही स्पष्ट कर दिया था कि देशव्यापी इथेनॉल मिश्रण को 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक बढ़ाने का कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है। हरित हाइड्रोजन के बारे में बात करते हुए, पुरी ने कहा कि अर्थव्यवस्था के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में इसके उपयोग को बढ़ाने के लिए उत्पादन लागत को कम करना महत्वपूर्ण होगा। उन्होंने कहा, "जैसा कि मैंने उल्लेख किया है, हमें हरित हाइड्रोजन की लागत को कम करना होगा।" उन्होंने रिफाइनरियों में हाइड्रोजन के उपयोग और रेलवे द्वारा हाइड्रोजन-चालित ट्रेनों के विकास के प्रयासों पर प्रकाश डाला और कहा कि इस ईंधन का उपयोग अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी किया जा सकता है। पुरी ने कहा, "इसलिए हरित हाइड्रोजन भविष्य का ईंधन है।" मंत्री ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि भारत को घरेलू स्तर पर हाइड्रोजन की खोज को बढ़ावा देने की आवश्यकता है। आयातित जीवाश्म ईंधनों पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए जैव ईंधन और हरित हाइड्रोजन का एक साथ उपयोग करना। (इनपुट: ANI यह भी पढ़ें: चीन और अमेरिका को संघर्ष और टकराव से दूर रहने की नीति पर कायम रहना चाहिए: शी जिनपिंग चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग ने व्हाइट हाउस में दिए अपने भाषण में चीन-अमेरिका संबंधों के विशाल जहाज को स्थिर मार्ग पर चलाने का आह्वान किया। संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा के 81वें सत्र को संबोधित करते हुए इजरायली प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू ने कहा कि ईरान की सरकार जरूर गिरेगी। अमेरिकी न्यायाधीश द्वारा सीएनएन, एमएस नाउ और पॉलिटिको के प्रसारण की अनुमति बहाल करने के बाद तीनों संस्थान वापस व्हाइट हाउस में लौट आए। ज़ोहरान ममदानी ने नेतन्याहू के यूएनजीए संबोधन का जवाब देते हुए कहा कि नेतन्याहू ने फिलिस्तीनियों के नरसंहार को सही ठहराने के लिए निराधार झूठ दोहराया। पाकिस्तानी प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा के दौरे के दौरान हाफिज सईद और लश्कर-ए-तैबा से जुड़े सवाल के जवाब देने से इनकार कर दिया।

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: ONGC Mahanadi Offshore Basin Samudra Manthan Natural Gas Discovery , deepwater exploration, Odisha, hydrocarbon resources, offshore drilling, PNG Rules 2025, energy security Gas Discovery in Mahanadi Basin **ONGC Expands Deepwater Exploration With Mahanadi Gas Find:** The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has reported a gas discovery in the deepwater Mahanadi Offshore Basin off the coast of Odisha. The find represents the first discovery from a well drilled by ONGC under its Samudra Manthan exploration programme. The discovery was announced on September 18, 2026 , from the well designated MN-DW18-1-H-D . Initial testing indicated encouraging gas flow along with reservoir pressure, making the discovery significant for further appraisal. **Details of the Discovery** The exploration well was drilled to a targeted depth of 1,623 metres . Gas-bearing formations were identified between 1,441 metres and 1,452 metres The well is located approximately 43 km from the Konark coast , or about 23 nautical miles from ONGC's Konark discovery site . Its location highlights the continuing importance of Odisha's offshore region in India's hydrocarbon exploration strategy. **Static GK fact:** The Mahanadi River is one of the major east-flowing rivers of India and drains into the Bay of Bengal . Its basin covers parts of central and eastern India. **Samudra Manthan Programme** The discovery has been linked to Samudra Manthan , a government initiative introduced in July 2026 to accelerate exploration in India's offshore areas. The programme, valued at around 84,000 crore , is aimed at reducing the financial and operational risks associated with offshore drilling while encouraging greater domestic exploration of oil and natural gas resources. The ONGC well was spudded on July 25, 2026 , when Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri remotely launched the exploration activity from New Delhi. **Importance of the Mahanadi Basin** The Mahanadi offshore region has attracted exploration interest following earlier ONGC discoveries such as Utkal and Konark The latest find adds another data point to the basin's hydrocarbon potential. However, the discovery is still undergoing appraisal, and commercial development will depend on the quantity and quality of recoverable resources. According to ONGC, the discovery may be considered for commercial exploitation under the PNG Rules, 2025 , subject to satisfactory evaluation of the resource. **Boost to Domestic Energy Exploration** India remains dependent on imports for a substantial share of its energy requirements. Expanding domestic exploration can therefore contribute to greater availability of indigenous hydrocarbon resources and support long-term energy security. ONGC has been increasing its focus on deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploration , where advanced drilling technologies are required to access potentially significant offshore reserves. **Static GK Tip:** Deepwater exploration involves drilling in offshore areas where water depth requires specialised vessels, subsea equipment and advanced drilling technology. **India's Offshore Hydrocarbon Potential** ONGC estimates that India's eastern and western offshore basins contain more than 5,600 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MMtoe) of hydrocarbons, with geological formations extending to depths of up to 3,000 metres below the seabed These resources represent potential rather than immediately recoverable reserves. Detailed geological assessment, reservoir testing and economic analysis are necessary before development decisions can be taken. **Appraisal Before Commercial Production** The Mahanadi discovery is currently at the appraisal stage . ONGC will need to examine reservoir characteristics, resource volumes, recoverability and commercial viability before determining whether the discovery can move towards development. The find nevertheless strengthens India's offshore exploration programme and demonstrates the potential of deepwater regions in supporting domestic hydrocarbon exploration. **Static Usthadian Current Affairs Table** **ONGC Expands Deepwater Exploration With Mahanadi Gas Find:** **Fact Detail** **Company** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation **Basin** Mahanadi Offshore Basin **Location** Offshore Odisha **Well** MN-DW18-1-H-D **Discovery date** September 18, 2026 **Target depth** 1,623 metres **Gas-bearing interval** 1,441,452 metres **Distance from Konark coast** Approximately 43 km **Programme** Samudra Manthan **Programme value** Around 84,000 crore **Well spudded** July 25, 2026 **Earlier nearby discovery** Konark **Commercial framework** PNG Rules, 2025 **Offshore hydrocarbon potential** Over 5,600 MMtoe **Present status** Under appraisal