

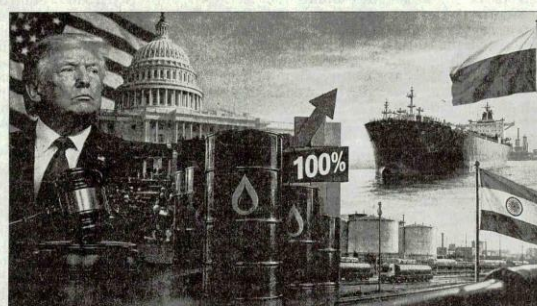


ONGC News as on 27 September 2026 (Print & Online)

American Sanctions, Indian Oil And The Rising Conflict Over BRICS

JITENDER PANDEY

The new American sanctions law against Russia and Iran has highlighted a fundamental contradiction of international diplomacy. It's not just a commercial question of where India should buy its crude oil, but a broader question of whether sovereign nations can exercise independent judgment on energy security without inviting punitive economic consequences from powerful trading partners. The implications go far beyond petroleum, touching the future of BRICS, the architecture of global commerce, and India's increasingly consequential quest for strategic autonomy. Trump signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 that extends Washington's ability to slap tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries that buy up large chunks of Russian oil. That means Russia's biggest customers, India and China, are more susceptible to U.S. economic pressure. The threshold provisions and exemptions contained in the legislation also raise questions as to the consistency with which Washington applies its geopolitical principles. The dilemma is especially significant for India. For a country of 1.4 billion people with industrial ambitions that require reliable, competitively priced supplies, energy security is inseparable from economic stability. New Delhi has said its procurement decisions are made in national interest, and it will continue to diversify its sources of energy. This is a matter of commercial necessity and not a matter of ideological commitment to any particular international bloc. India's dependence on imported petroleum leaves little room for diplomatic theatrics. The country imported around 100.7 million metric tons of crude oil from April to August 2026. Disruptions to shipments from Iraq reportedly helped raise Russia's share in Indian supplies to some 45 per cent by August, up from 30 per cent during the period. It's a big sourcing change, and it shows how quickly geopolitical disruptions can change the economics of energy procurement. To assume that swapping out Russian crude for American supplies would come at no cost would be commercially naive. The end price of imported petroleum depends on the distance it is transported, the freight charges, the quality of the crude and the configuration of the refinery. Indian refineries have reconfigured to process particular grades of Russian and Middle Eastern crude. A switch to different types could be quick but might involve operational changes and extra costs. Ultimately, these costs would ripple through the economy, hitting perhaps manufacturing, transportation, and household budgets. But Washington's position needs to be understood in the



wider context of its confrontation with Moscow. Sanctions are a well-established tool of American foreign policy aimed at constraining the economic resources of hostile governments. But the extension of the sanctions to third countries gives the question another dimension. Commercial dealings between sovereign countries can serve as possible sparks for severe tariffs, the effects of which can reach beyond the intended target and diminish confidence in the predictability of international trade. Therefore, the BRICS grouping has gained new importance. It stressed multilateralism, reform of international institutions and opposition to unilateral coercive measures at its September 2026 summit in New Delhi. Its statement also mentioned cooperation in the financial infrastructure and the expansion of the trade settlement in national currencies. These ambitions do not amount to a military alliance or a common economic policy, but they are indicative of a common interest of the countries concerned to increase their room for manoeuvre within the existing international order. But BRICS cannot be an alibi for India to change one form of dependence for another. The grouping consists of countries with different political systems, economic priorities and strategic calculations. The US remains a key partner for India in trade, technology, defence and investment. And the relationship with Russia continues to have significant historical and commercial importance. The diplomatic challenge is to maintain these relationships and to avoid any one partnership from dictating its entire foreign policy. Likewise, the aspiration for increased trade in national currencies requires to be supported with practical institutional arrangements. Reliable payment mechanisms, transparent financial regulations and confidence in currency convertibility are essential for alternative settlement systems to achieve meaningful scale. However eloquently monetary inde-

pendence is declared, it will not by itself overturn the entrenched benefits enjoyed by the dollar in world trade. To turn its ambitions into lasting institutional influence, BRICS will need sustained cooperation and demonstrable economic benefits. There is also a strong domestic imperative. India's energy strategy should be based on diversification, investment in refining capacity and better storage infrastructure and a slow expansion of renewable energy. Any country that is overly dependent on one supplier, be it Russian, American or otherwise, is susceptible to external shocks and political blackmail. A wider pool of suppliers and greater efficiency in domestic energy consumption would create a more durable foundation for economic resilience. The controversy also gives New Delhi the opportunity to develop a more meaningful notion of strategic autonomy. Real independence is not simply a matter of resisting pressure from Washington or building closer ties with Moscow and Beijing. This must be demonstrated by the ability to make informed decisions, negotiate fair commercial arrangements and protect national interests while considering the legitimate concerns of other countries. The new contest over Indian oil is thus about far more than tariffs and trade balances. It is about principles of economic interdependence in a more fragmented international system. U.S. sanctions could cause immediate commercial problems, but the broader effect will depend on how the targeted countries respond. If BRICS is to be a credible voice for the Global South, it must deliver on economic cooperation, not merely rhetorical opposition to Western influence. India, for its part, should not be lured into making strategic autonomy a slogan. The real test will be the country's ability to secure affordable energy, sustain productive international partnerships and defend its sovereign economic choices without compromising its long term developmental ambitions.

IndianOil flags off maiden rake of Xtreme Weather Grade HSD for Indian Army's Eastern Command

EOI CORRESPONDENT

PANIPAT, SEPT 26: Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IndianOil) marked another significant milestone in its long-standing association with the Indian Army with the flag-off of the maiden rake of Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) High Speed Diesel (HSD) from Panipat Marketing Complex for the Army's Eastern Command. The rake was flagged off by Lt Gen Mukesh Chadha, AVSM, SM, VSM, Director General Supplies & Transport and Senior Colonel Commandant, IHQ of MoD (Army), in the presence of K John Prasad, Country Head (Institutional Business), IOC M L Dahriya, Executive Director & Refinery Head, Panipat Refinery, IOC.

IndianOil XWG HSD, launched in July 2026 by Chief of Army Staff (COAS), is specially developed to meet the demanding operational requirements of the Indian Army in extreme cold and high-altitude conditions. It enhances low-temperature performance and ensures reliable operation of Army vehicles and equipment in some of the country's most challenging terrains. With its maiden dispatch to the Eastern Command, the supply footprint of XWG HSD now extends across both the northern and eastern frontiers of the country. IndianOil has become the first PSU to position XWG diesel in the eastern region, enabling the requirements of the Indian Army in the region to be supported through a dedicated supply chain.

The development builds on IndianOil's sustained efforts to indigenously develop specialised fuels suited to the operational requirements of India's Armed Forces.

These include Winter Grade Diesel in 2019, All Weather Grade HSD in 2022, and Low Sulphur Low Aromatic Superior Kerosene Oil in 2022. Each of these products reflects IndianOil's focus on developing fit-for-purpose energy

solutions for deployment in demanding terrain and climatic conditions. Lt Gen Chadha mentioned "XWG as a potential game changer for operational preparedness and readiness in high-altitude and extreme-weather areas. He highlighted that, for the first time, this specialised fuel is being extended beyond Ladakh to support operations in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. He emphasised the need for a predictable, scalable and



responsive supply chain, with the right fuel at the right place and time. He also acknowledged IndianOil's partnership in transforming XWG Diesel from an operational requirement into an operational reality in the Eastern side"

Speaking on the occasion, Prasad said, "The Indian Army operates in some of the most demanding terrains and climatic conditions, where dependable fuel performance is critical to operational mobility. Extending XWG HSD supplies to the Eastern Command strengthens our ability to support the Army across another strategically important geography. In line with its core corporate value of Nation-First, IndianOil remains committed to developing indigenous, fit-for-purpose energy solutions for our Armed Forces and contributing to the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

The maiden rake flag-off further strengthens the enduring partnership between IndianOil and the Indian Army. Through indigenous product development and a dependable nationwide supply network, IndianOil continues to support the energy requirements of the Armed Forces across some of India's most challenging geographies, reinforcing its commitment to the nation's energy security and defence preparedness.

IOC flags off first xtreme weather grade diesel consignment for Army's Eastern Command

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) has flagged off the maiden rake of its Xtreme Weather Grade high-speed diesel for the Indian Army's Eastern Command, expanding supplies of the specialised fuel beyond the northern frontier, the company said on Saturday.

Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) high-speed diesel, launched in July 2026 by the Chief of Army Staff, has been developed to meet the Army's requirements in extreme cold and high-altitude conditions.

The fuel is designed to offer enhanced low-temperature performance and reliable operation of military vehicles and equipment in challenging terrain.

Fuel performance at low temperatures is critical for military operations in high-altitude regions, where conventional diesel can face prob-



lems related to cold-weather operability. Specialised grades such as XWG diesel are designed to address these requirements and improve the reliability of vehicles and equipment deployed in extreme climatic conditions.

The rake was flagged off from IOC's Panipat Marketing Complex by Lt Gen Mukesh Chadha, Director General Supplies & Transport and Senior Colonel Commandant at IHQ of the Ministry of Defence (Army), the company said in a statement. The move makes IOC the first public



sector oil company to position XWG diesel in the eastern region, enabling a dedicated supply chain for the Army's requirements in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

With the latest dispatch, IOC's XWG diesel supply footprint now covers both the northern and eastern frontiers. "XWG is a potential game changer for operational preparedness and readiness in high-altitude and extreme-weather areas," said Lt Gen Mukesh Chadha.

He highlighted that for

the first time, this specialised fuel is being extended beyond Ladakh to support operations in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

He emphasised the need for a predictable, scalable and responsive supply chain, with the right fuel at the right place and time. He also acknowledged IOC's partnership in transforming XWG Diesel from an operational requirement into an operational reality in the Eastern side.

K John Prasad, Country Head (Institutional Business), IOC, said, "The Indian Army operates in some of the most demanding terrains and climatic conditions, where dependable fuel performance is critical to operational mobility. Extending XWG HSD supplies to the Eastern Command strengthens our ability to support the Army across another strategically important geography".

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BPCL Backs Team India as Principal Partner at Asian Games 2026

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Fortune Global 500 company and a Maharatna PSU, is backing Team India as its Principal Partner at the 20th Asian Games, being held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, 2026. The partnership marks another significant step in BPCL's longstanding association with Indian sport and its commitment to supporting athletes who carry the aspirations of a nation on the international stage. For BPCL, the association with Team India goes beyond being a sporting partnership. It represents a shared spirit of performance, perseverance, discipline and the pursuit of excellence. As Indian athletes take on some of Asia's best at the Games, BPCL is supporting their journey and celebrating the sporting talent that continues to put India on the global map. Commenting on the association, a BPCL spokesperson said, "As Principal Partner of Team India at the Asian Games 2026, BPCL is proud to stand alongside our athletes as they represent India on one of Asia's biggest sporting platforms." The BPCL-recruited contingent features some of India's recognised sporting names.

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Manoj Kumar Sharma assumes charge as Director (Projects) of GAIL (India) Limited



Manoj Kumar Sharma today assumed the charge as Director (Projects) of GAIL (India) Limited, India's integrated energy major. Prior to assuming charge as Director (Projects), GAIL (India) Limited, Shri Sharma served as Executive Director and Regional Head, Eastern Region Pipelines, at Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL). He was responsible for operations and maintenance, construction and City Gas Distribution (CGD) businesses across five states, overseeing a pipeline network spanning more than 5,700 km.

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Indian Oil Flags Off Maiden Rake of Xtreme Weather Grade HSD for Indian Army's Eastern Command



Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IndianOil) on 25 September 2026 marked another significant milestone in its long-standing association with the Indian Army with the flag-off of the maiden rake of Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) High Speed Diesel (HSD) from Panipat Marketing Complex for the Army's Eastern Command. XWG Diesel supply footprint expands to both northern and eastern frontiers, strengthening IndianOil's support to India's Armed Forces. The rake was flagged off by Lt Gen Mukesh Chadha, AVSM, SM, VSM, Director General Supplies & Transport and Senior Colonel Commandant, IHQ of MoD (Army).

Headline: 10-year-old diesel and 15-year-old petrol and CNG vehicles will be impounded

एनजीटी और सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेशों का पालन होगा 10 साल पुराने डीजल और 15 साल पुराने पेट्रोल व सीएनजी वाहनों की होगी जब्ती

हरिभूमि न्यूज गाजियाबाद

दिल्ली-एनसीआर में अवधि पूरी कर चुके वाहनों के संचालन पर अब प्रवर्तन विभाग सख्ती से कार्रवाई करेगा। राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी), उच्चतम न्यायालय तथा के निर्देशों के अनुपालन में जनपद गाजियाबाद में अवधि पूर्ण कर चुके वाहनों के विरुद्ध विपंजीकरण एवं जब्ती की कार्रवाई की जाएगी। परिवहन विभाग के अनुसार दिल्ली-एनसीआर में पंजीकृत 10 वर्ष से अधिक पुराने डीजल तथा 15 वर्ष से अधिक पुराने पेट्रोल/सीएनजी वाहनों का संचालन प्रतिबंधित है। इसके अलावा बीएस-1 एवं उससे पूर्व के उत्सर्जन मानक वाले वाहनों के विरुद्ध भी कार्रवाई की जाएगी। ऐसे वाहन सार्वजनिक स्थान अथवा साइड पार्किंग में खड़े पाए जाने पर भी नियमानुसार कार्रवाई के दायरे में आएंगे।

स्वेच्छा से सैफ़ कराने पर मिलेगा लाभ

परिवहन विभाग ने अवधि पूर्ण कर चुके वाहन स्वामियों से अपने वाहनों को शासन द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त संस्था पर स्वेच्छा से जमा कराने की अपील की है। वाहन स्कैप सेंटर पर जमा करने पर वाहन स्वामी को बाजार दर के अनुसार मूल्य प्राप्त होगा। साथ ही सीओडी प्राप्त करने पर नए वाहन की खरीद में नियमानुसार छूट का लाभ भी मिल सकेगा। वहीं, प्रवर्तन अभियान के दौरान वाहन जब्त किए जाने के बाद उसे आरवीएसएफ को सौंपे जाने की स्थिति में वाहन स्वामी को कोई प्रोत्साहन राशि नहीं मिलेगी। ऐसी स्थिति में केवल इस्पात मंत्रालय द्वारा निर्धारित न्यूनतम आरक्षित मूल्य के अनुसार ही निस्तारण होगा। जब्त वाहनों से नियमानुसार टोइंग एवं पार्किंग शुल्क भी वसूला जाएगा।

अलग से नोटिस नहीं दिया जाएगा

परिवहन विभाग ने स्पष्ट किया है कि अवधि पूर्ण एवं विपंजीकृत वाहनों के संबंध में जारी यह प्रेस विज्ञापित ही वाहन स्वामियों के लिए नोटिस के रूप में मान्य होगी। इसके लिए अलग से कोई नोटिस जारी नहीं किया जाएगा। नियमों का उल्लंघन कर वाहन संचालित पाए जाने पर प्रवर्तन अधिकारियों द्वारा नियमानुसार वाहन जब्त किए जाएंगे। सहायक सम्मानीय परिवहन अधिकारी (प्रशासन), गाजियाबाद ने वाहन स्वामियों से अपील की है कि वे अवधि पूर्ण कर चुके वाहनों का संचालन न करें और नियमानुसार अधिकृत संस्था पर अपने वाहन जमा कर उपलब्ध लाभ प्राप्त करें।

From Hormuz to Saudi to US Sanctions, World Feels the Oil Heat

The price of India's crude oil basket climbed from \$70.61 on February 26, on the eve of war, to \$123.67 per barrel now. The spot LNG prices have climbed by 150% during this period.



DP SRIVASTAVA

The seven-month-old war in West Asia has now engulfed Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, adding to the pressure on global oil supplies. The Strait of Hormuz has been closed since February 26, while a drone attack on the East-West pipeline on September 10 closed the western route for Saudi crude exports. The disruptions sent Brent crude oil prices soaring to \$109.4 per barrel; they are at \$104.2 now.

The disruption to supplies could intensify further following the signing of the Lindsey O Graham Sanctio-

ning Russia and Iran Act by President Trump. Trump stated at the UN that Iran has a choice between annihilation or a deal after the US Congressional elections. Within seven days, Iran conveyed that it prefers a deal.

The Strait of Hormuz, before its closure, carried 20% of global oil supplies, including 16 million barrels of crude oil and 5 million barrels of petroleum products. Saudi Arabia could continue to export 4 million barrels of crude oil through the East-West pipeline, while the UAE exported 1.5 million barrels through the Habshan-Fujairah pipeline, allowing both countries to partially circumvent Hormuz. They are operating shuttle services to bring their oil outside Hormuz, where it can be transferred ship-to-ship for onward transportation.

The closure of the East-West pipeline could result in a minimum disruption of 13-14 million barrels per day of crude oil supply. Russia currently exports around 3.5 million barrels per

day. If the Graham Act is invoked and the targeted countries acquiesce, the disruption in global oil supply could rise to 16-17 million barrels per day. There is no alternative source to fill this gap.

The disruption also extends to petroleum products and LNG, which is carried at 363 degrees and cannot be

transferred on the high seas. The Indian government's statement that the Act will have implications "for not just the bilateral relationship but also the international energy market" is fully justified.

The US naval blockade of Iranian ports puts pressure on Tehran, but also affects America's Gulf allies by re-

inforcing Iran's determination to continue blocking the Strait of Hormuz. The impact is also being felt in the US, with petrol prices at the pump reaching \$4.30 per gallon, above the comfort level of \$4 per gallon, while diesel prices have risen to \$6.75 per gallon, affecting the farming sector in an election year.

Invoking the Graham Act could hurt not only the economies of targeted countries but also US consumers, as higher international oil prices would translate into higher prices in the US. The price of WTI, the US benchmark, has already risen from \$67.02 per barrel on February 27 to \$95.41 now.

Meanwhile, Saudi-backed forces have taken a beating in Yemen, with the Houthis capturing Mocha port and occupying Perim Island in the Red Sea. They have also bombed Saudi Arabia's border towns and Riyadh.

President Trump has declined a Saudi request to get directly involved in combat operations. Support from

the US, as well as the UK and France, remains limited to intelligence and logistics. Turkey and Pakistan have also not taken any concrete steps in support of the Saudis despite having signed the Mecca pact, which contains a collective security clause.

Pakistan last year also signed a bilateral Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia. It had refused a Saudi request to intervene against the Houthis in 2015 and also received \$8 billion of Saudi money recently.

While India is the second largest buyer of Russian crude oil, its purchases were made when there was no US ban. The policy of 'price cap' introduced by the Biden Administration allowed the purchase of Russian crude oil, but at a discount. The Trump Administration till quite recently, has given periodic licenses to purchase Russian crude. The Act targets India after it has stepped up purchases of American oil and gas. During April-

December 2025, India imported \$8.2 billion worth of Russian crude oil. The US has also emerged as the largest source of LNG imports in August this year.

The price of India's crude oil basket climbed from \$70.61 on February 26, on the eve of war, to \$123.67 per barrel now. The spot LNG prices have climbed by 150% during this period.

The share of spot LNG in India's purchases has gone up since long-term supplies from Qatar stopped.

Oil prices will remain higher for longer, unless a political solution is found. The US and Iran need to return to the June 17 Memorandum. The US need not insist upon zero enrichment; NPT allows 3.67% enrichment to non-nuclear weapon states. Iran has to show flexibility on free passage through Hormuz in return for lifting the US naval blockade, sanctions, and unfreezing of Iranian assets.

The writer is former Ambassador to Iran.



AI IMAGE

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WISE WORDS.



The only two variables that matter right now are the oil prices and the 10-year yield (US), neither of which are predictable, and both of which move the markets

STEVE EISMAN

One of the 'Big Short' investors

Online

Headline	India's Recent Oil and Gas Discoveries: New Finds, Offshore Frontiers and How Much Crude India Produces at Home		
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India's Recent Oil and Gas Discoveries: New Finds, Offshore Frontiers and How Much Crude India Produces at Home

<https://dharmakshethra.com/indias-recent-oil-and-gas-discoveries-new-finds-offshore-frontiers-and-how-much-crude-india-produces-at-home/>

Assam remains one of India's most important producing regions and continues to generate new discoveries. Oil India reported an oil discovery at Mechaki-6 and a gas discovery at Mechaki-7, while hydrocarbon presence was also established at Kobocho-1. By Kautilya September 26, 2026 India has intensified oil and gas exploration over the past year as the country tries to reduce its dependence on imported crude. The government has confirmed five new hydrocarbon discoveries during FY 2025-26, while seven earlier discoveries were monetised and around 674 wells were drilled during the year. At the same time, exploration has moved deeper into offshore basins such as Mahanadi, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery and the Andaman region. India still imports close to nine out of every ten barrels of crude oil it requires, while domestic crude production remains broadly around 2830 million tonnes a year. That means India currently produces only about 11.2% of its crude requirement domestically, leaving the economy highly exposed to global oil prices, shipping disruptions and geopolitical risks.

Recent Oil and Gas Discoveries in and Around India The most important recent developments include confirmed discoveries, appraisal drilling and frontier wells that have established the presence of active petroleum systems. Not all of these have reached commercial production, so it is important to distinguish between a discovery and a commercially producing field.

Mahanadi Offshore Moves Into Appraisal The Mahanadi offshore basin has emerged as one of India's most important recent hydrocarbon prospects. ONGC has already made gas discoveries in the basin, including in areas that were previously subject to exploration restrictions. In July 2026, drilling began on the appraisal well MN-DWN18-1-HD, the first of four planned deepwater wells intended to determine the size and commercial viability of the discovered resource. Appraisal drilling is a critical stage because it establishes whether a discovery contains enough recoverable hydrocarbons to justify full-scale development. Mahanadi is therefore more advanced than a purely exploratory frontier. The basin has moved from discovery into evaluation, making it one of the strongest candidates for future offshore production growth.

Andaman Basin Confirms an Active Petroleum System The Andaman offshore basin produced one of the most strategically significant exploration results in recent years. The wildcat well ANDW-7 encountered traces of light crude, condensate and heavier hydrocarbons, along with reservoir-quality geological formations. The importance of the result lies in what it proves geologically. The well established the presence of an active thermogenic petroleum system in the Andaman region, meaning hydrocarbons are being generated naturally within the basin. This discovery strengthens the case for continued exploration because the geological system is now proven to be capable of generating hydrocarbons.

Assam Continues to Deliver New Onshore Finds Assam remains one of India's most important producing regions and continues to generate new discoveries. Oil India reported an oil discovery at Mechaki-6 and a gas discovery at Mechaki-7, while hydrocarbon presence was also established at Kobocho-1. Mechaki-6 produced crude during testing at around 32 cubic metres per day, while Mechaki-7 flowed gas at approximately 60,000 standard cubic metres per day from a tested zone. These are not giant discoveries, but they are valuable because they occur in a region with established pipelines, processing facilities and refinery infrastructure. The significance of onshore discoveries such as these lies in their potential for faster monetisation. Deepwater fields can take years to develop, while smaller discoveries in established producing regions can often be connected to existing infrastructure more quickly.

Five New Hydrocarbon Discoveries Were Confirmed in FY 2025-26 The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has confirmed that five new hydrocarbon discoveries were made during FY 2025-26. During the same period, seven discoveries were monetised, indicating that the upstream programme is attempting to convert older finds into actual production while continuing to add new prospects. The official nationwide summary does not publicly identify every one of the five discoveries individually. For that reason, the specific discoveries listed above should be treated separately from the national total rather than assumed to account for all five. The government also reported approximately 674 wells drilled during FY 2025-26, reflecting a broader increase in exploration and development activity across Indian sedimentary basins.

How Much Crude Oil Does India Produce Domestically? India currently produces roughly 2830 million tonnes of crude oil annually from domestic fields. Production comes from a combination of mature onshore fields in Assam, Gujarat and Rajasthan and major offshore assets such as the Mumbai Offshore basin. Domestic production, however, has not kept pace with India's growing oil demand. As a result, crude

import dependence remains close to , meaning domestic sources supply only about 1112% of total crude requirements. The scale of the gap can be understood more clearly in simple terms: India consumes many times more crude than it produces. Even successful discoveries therefore need to be large, numerous and rapidly developed before they can significantly change the country's overall import dependence.

India's Crude Oil Position at a Glance Why India's Domestic Production Has Struggled to Rise One of the biggest challenges is the maturity of India's existing producing fields. Many of the country's most important oilfields have been producing for decades, and output naturally declines unless enhanced recovery techniques, redevelopment or new satellite discoveries are brought into production. At the same time, new exploration is increasingly moving into deepwater and ultra-deepwater environments. These wells are expensive, technically complex and risky, and a single deepwater exploratory well can cost well over US\$100 million. Even after a discovery is made, commercial production can take several years. Operators must appraise the reservoir, calculate recoverable reserves, install subsea infrastructure and develop evacuation systems before oil or gas can enter the national energy system.

Samudra Manthan Pushes Exploration Further Offshore India's new offshore strategy is being driven by the Samudra Manthan National Offshore Exploration Scheme , which significantly expands exploration in frontier waters. The programme is designed to support seismic surveys, exploratory drilling, appraisal activity and offshore infrastructure in areas where geological potential exists but commercial exploration has historically been limited. The government has identified the eastern and western offshore basins as holding substantial hydrocarbon potential. Mahanadi, Andaman, Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery are therefore likely to remain among the most important areas to watch over the next several years. The strategy reflects a change in India's upstream approach. Rather than relying mainly on mature producing regions, the country is increasingly looking towards deeper waters where discoveries may be technically harder to develop but potentially much larger.

Offshore Production Still Matters More Than Many Assume India's domestic crude production does not come mainly from land-based wells. A significant proportion comes from offshore fields, particularly the Mumbai Offshore basin , including the long-producing Mumbai High complex. ONGC remains the country's dominant producer through its offshore and onshore fields, while Oil India continues to produce more than three million tonnes of crude annually from its operations. This makes offshore exploration particularly important. New discoveries capable of offsetting decline in mature fields are essential if India is to prevent domestic production from falling further behind demand.

Why Small Discoveries Still Matter A discovery does not need to transform national production on its own to be strategically useful. Smaller fields can help sustain regional production, use existing infrastructure more efficiently and reduce the rate at which older fields decline. Several modest discoveries brought into production together can also have a cumulative effect. This is especially true in areas such as Assam, where pipelines, gathering systems and refineries already exist. The larger challenge is scale. India needs both a steady flow of smaller discoveries and at least a few large offshore discoveries if it hopes to make a meaningful dent in crude import dependence.

The Real Test Is Turning Discoveries Into Production India's exploration story is becoming more encouraging, but discoveries alone do not improve energy security. What ultimately matters is how quickly commercially viable resources can be converted into producing fields. The fact that seven discoveries were monetised during FY 2025-26 is therefore as important as the five new discoveries reported during the same period. Monetisation means that the resource has moved closer to contributing actual oil or gas to the domestic market. The strongest recent signals are coming from Mahanadi, Andaman and Assam . Mahanadi is undergoing appraisal, Andaman has confirmed an active petroleum system, and Assam continues to add new onshore prospects.

India's Energy Security Challenge Remains Large India is unlikely to achieve crude-oil self-sufficiency in the near future. Domestic production of roughly 2830 million tonnes remains far below national demand, while import dependence continues to hover around 88%. That does not make domestic exploration insignificant. Every additional barrel produced within India reduces exposure to international price volatility, shipping disruptions, foreign-exchange movements and geopolitical risks. The long-term objective is therefore not necessarily complete self-sufficiency, but a stronger domestic production base combined with diversified imports, strategic petroleum reserves and a gradual reduction in oil intensity across the economy. India's recent discoveries underline the growing potential of the country's onshore and offshore basins , with new exploration activity steadily expanding the domestic hydrocarbon resource base. As appraisal and development move forward, more of these finds could progress into commercial production and strengthen India's energy security over the rest of this decade.

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Headline	Mapping, Drilling, Building, Selling, Holding: The Five Tests for Bharat's Offshore Push		
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Mapping, Drilling, Building, Selling, Holding: The Five Tests for Bharat's Offshore Push

<https://hindupost.in/business-economy/mapping-drilling-building-selling-holding-the-five-tests-for-bharats-offshore-push/>

Mapping, Drilling, Building, Selling, Holding: The Five Tests for Bharat's Offshore Push, Swarajya , 24 Sep 2026. India has opened more of its offshore waters to oil and gas exploration in recent years and is spending Rs 84,084 crore to help companies drill there. Broadly until now there were two constraints for oil and gas exploration in the country: permission and capital. Both have now been removed. The National Offshore Exploration Scheme will cost Rs 84,084 crore in its first phase, up to 2030-31, and what it mainly does is pay. The government will cover up to half the cost of drilling a deepwater exploration well. This takes care of the capital aspect. The second constraint was how much offshore area companies were allowed to enter at all. Restrictions imposed for defence reasons have been lifted in stages since 2022, opening up a little over a million square kilometres of India's offshore waters. There is a good example to understand what could happen after a discovery and why we must try to understand oil/gas exploration in more detail than permission and capital support. ONGC spent Rs 34,012 crore developing Cluster-2 of block KG-DWN-98/2, in water up to 3,200 metres deep off Andhra Pradesh. Gas came first, in June 2020, and oil in January 2024. The fields were designed to produce about 80,000 barrels a day. By November 2025 they were producing only 28,000, down from 35,000 the year before. Gas from the same cluster, once expected to reach 15 to 16 million standard cubic metres a day, is now expected to reach about 10.

Headline	ONGC's Tinku Sengupta Nishcal Wins Women Leadership Award – Pipeline & Gas Industry at PIPE-TECH 2026		
Publication	Indian Master Minds	Edition	Online Coverage
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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	India Boosts LPG Output as Festive Demand Rises Amid Middle East Supply Constraints		
Publication	indexbox	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Sep 2026		

India Boosts LPG Output as Festive Demand Rises Amid Middle East Supply Constraints

<https://www.indexbox.io/blog/india-boosts-lpg-output-as-festive-demand-rises-amid-middle-east-supply-constraints/>

Indian state refiners are increasing output of liquefied petroleum gas as seasonal demand rises with the country entering the festive season, while imports from the Middle East remain constrained, according to OilPrice.com.

Local LPG production in September has averaged 44,000 tons per day, Indian media reported, citing Bloomberg data. That level was close to 20% above the August average, even as India diversified imports toward the United States and Africa, The Telegraph reported.

India has also raised imports from the United Arab Emirates in recent months. The UAE has expanded exports of crude oil and products despite the war, managing the Strait of Hormuz through a pipeline bypass to Fujairah for crude and by moving exports on small vessels to the Gulf of Oman, where fuels are loaded onto larger tankers for shipment out of the Middle East.

The Telegraph noted that despite import diversification and the festive season, LPG demand in India was likely to remain below last year's level because of demand destruction in the industrial sector. The UAE remains India's largest supplier of the energy commodity. ADNOC recently confirmed that despite the situation in Hormuz, it will deliver all contracted LPG volumes for Indian buyers in October.

An ADNOC spokesperson told Bloomberg that, as India's largest LPG supplier, the company remains fully committed to meeting customer needs and supporting India's energy security, adding that it continues to provide reliable and secure LPG supplies to Indian customers and works closely with them on their requirements.

About 60% of Indian households rely on liquefied petroleum gas as their primary cooking fuel. The blockage at the Strait of Hormuz, through which 90% of all Indian LPG imports used to pass, was immediately felt by consumers, leading to demand destruction.

Headline	India to Drive Global Energy Demand in Coming Decades: Puri		
Publication	Construction World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Sep 2026		

India to Drive Global Energy Demand in Coming Decades: Puri

<https://www.constructionworld.in/energy-infrastructure/power-and-renewable-energy/india-to-drive-global-energy-demand-in-coming-decades-puri/97782>

India will remain an important driver of global energy demand in the coming decades, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on September 22, 2026. He made the observation while co-chairing the Seventh High-Level Meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)-India Energy Dialogue with OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais in New Delhi. The meeting focused on oil market stability, energy security and the need for adequate and timely investment across the oil industry. The participants also reviewed the short-, medium- and long-term outlooks for the sector, highlighting India's role in global economic expansion and the growth of energy demand. Puri described India's relationship with OPEC and its member countries as complementary and mutually beneficial. He said sustained engagement between producers and consumers was important for supporting investment, strengthening energy resilience and ensuring reliable energy supplies for global growth and development. The minister called for closer cooperation between India and OPEC to advance a balanced, stable and predictable global energy market. He also underlined the importance of stability and transparency in international energy markets, as countries manage changing demand patterns and energy security priorities. Al Ghais said dialogue with India was a priority for OPEC because of the country's importance in the global energy landscape. He noted that India's role was set to increase in the decades ahead and that the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue had completed 11 years since it was launched in New Delhi in 2015. The OPEC secretary general also praised India's balanced, realistic and pragmatic approach to energy challenges. He said many of India's energy priorities were aligned with those of OPEC, providing a basis for continued cooperation between producers and consumers on market stability, investment and reliable supplies.

Headline	US looking to become “Huge Source” of India's energy needs, says Senior State Department Official		
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US looking to become “Huge Source” of India's energy needs, says Senior State Department Official

<https://helloentrepreneurs.com/national/us-looking-to-become-huge-source-of-indias-energy-needs-says-senior-state-department-official-99339/>

On the sidelines of a high-level discussion in New Delhi, the official cited America's position as one of the world's biggest producers of oil and gas and argued that the United States is in a better position than most alternatives to be able to cater to India's rapidly increasing consumption. The comments come in line with similar remarks made by other senior U.S. officials in the recent past, such as Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau who in his remarks at the Raisina Dialogue said India was grappling with the challenge of stable energy supply for its rapidly expanding economy and the U.S. was well capable of doing its part. **Press Release** The comments are set against a backdrop of India importing about 88 per cent of its energy needs and a huge proportion of its crude imports passing through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow passage that connects the Persian Gulf with the global market, carrying almost 40% of the Indian crude oil imports. That route and India's dependence on it has been watched closely in view of the ongoing tensions with Iran, which have driven Indian refiners to consider different crude sources. This year, U.S. officials have emphasized energy as a component of the overall U.S.-China bilateral ties. Washington is on New Delhi's side in its efforts to diversify energy sources and increased cooperation can enhance India's long-term energy security, Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said, while observing that India has long been promoting diversification and the US would love to be a part of that. During the conversation in New Delhi, Rubio added that both nations are strategically aligned on energy and desire a world able to not only generate energy, but supply it to run a modern economy. Politics has not played a major role in the final decision for India, though cost and availability will still largely determine it. Stressing the ideological neutrality of energy choices, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said it is pricing and availability that is driving India's energy acquisition, with the US having been seen as virtually energy importer only few years ago but now being an importer at \$15-20 billion. New Delhi officials believe this is likely to continue the momentum as both countries seek to strengthen the relationship between the energy sectors.

Headline	Tata Steel, Ather & EaseMyTrip: 5 Industry Updates		
Publication	The Industry Outlook	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Sep 2026		

Tata Steel, Ather & EaseMyTrip: 5 Industry Updates

<https://www.theindustryoutlook.com/manufacturing/news/tata-steel-ather-easemytrip-5-industry-updates-nwid-18253.html>

Indian Industry is seeing developments across steel, electric mobility, thermal power and green hydrogen, with Tata Steel, EaseMyTrip and Ather Energy announcing significant moves. Tata Steel has extended its Dutch green-steel agreement to March 2027 as regulatory and investment issues remain under discussion. EaseMyTrip has entered electric-bus manufacturing through EMTeV, targeting annual production of 5,000 buses within five years. Ather Energy is preparing a major production expansion in Maharashtra alongside an overseas push. Meanwhile, India is considering mandatory imported-coal blending at thermal power plants amid supply constraints, while Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has stressed the need for local demand, production and consumption to make green hydrogen commercially viable. What is delaying Tata Steel's Dutch green-steel project? Tata Steel has extended its sustainable steel production agreement with the Province of North Holland by five months to March 1, 2027, giving the parties additional time to resolve outstanding issues before a final investment decision. The Green Steel Project is aimed at cleaner steel production at IJmuiden, alongside the controlled closure of the site's coke and gas plants. The company said basic engineering is nearing completion and that it is working on spending and execution priorities. A key unresolved issue is steel slag, with Dutch regulations covering its production, storage and transportation becoming increasingly complex. The development highlights how regulatory clarity around process by-products and plant operations can influence the timeline for large-scale green-steel manufacturing. How is EaseMyTrip building an electric-bus manufacturing business? EaseMyTrip has launched its electric-bus manufacturing arm, EMTeV, in Bhopal and plans to build capacity for 5,000 electric buses annually within five years. The move takes the company beyond travel services into electric mobility manufacturing and forms part of its Vision 2030 roadmap. The manufacturing challenge now extends beyond vehicle assembly. Reaching the targeted scale will require a broader supplier ecosystem covering batteries, electric drivetrains, power electronics, thermal systems and other vehicle components. For India's electric bus manufacturing segment, the development also points to the importance of building domestic component capabilities alongside vehicle production. What does Ather Energy's Maharashtra expansion mean for exports? Ather Energy is preparing an aggressive overseas expansion while prioritising domestic demand in the near term. Its upcoming Maharashtra facility is planned to add 10 lakh units of annual production capacity, split into two phases of 5 lakh units each. The first phase is expected to begin operations around December and may take four to six months to reach full capacity. The capacity addition could provide the production base for Ather's longer-term export strategy. The company expects overseas markets to make a meaningful contribution to revenue over five to seven years. The immediate manufacturing focus, however, remains scaling domestic supply as demand has outpaced available production. Why is India considering imported-coal blending at power plants? India is considering asking thermal power plants to blend up to 5 percent imported coal with domestic supplies as coal inventories decline and power demand remains elevated. Nearly 40 percent of coal-fired plants reportedly have less than three days of coal stocks, while constrained rail capacity and weather disruptions have affected coal movement. The proposed measure could have implications beyond fuel procurement. Power plants must manage differences in coal quality, calorific value and handling characteristics when blending supplies. Rising international coal and freight prices could also increase the operating cost of thermal generation. Can local demand accelerate India's green-hydrogen manufacturing? Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has argued that green hydrogen will succeed where local demand, local production and local consumption develop together. He said producing hydrogen in one location and transporting it over long distances may not always be practical, strengthening the case for localized hydrogen ecosystems. For India's green-hydrogen manufacturing ecosystem, this approach could link production directly with industrial consumers such as refineries, fertilizer and steel plants. It could also create demand for electrolyzers, compression systems, storage equipment and hydrogen-handling infrastructure. The emphasis on proximity therefore shifts the discussion from production targets alone toward building complete regional hydrogen value chains.