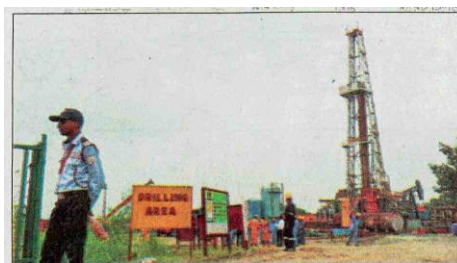




ONGC News as on 30 August 2026 (Print & Online)

Publication : AajKal (Bengali)	Editions : Kolkata
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 3, 8

Headline: 15,000–20,000 liters of oil will be extracted daily



অশোকনগরে ওএনজিসির প্রকল্প এলাকা থেকে তোলা
হচ্ছে অপরিশোধিত তেল। ছবি: প্রতিবেদক

রোজ উঠবে ১৫-২০ হাজার লিটার তেল

নিরুপম সাহা

উত্তর ২৪ পরগনার অশোকনগরে আনুষ্ঠানিক ভাবে শুরু হল খনিজ তেলের বাণিজ্যিক উত্তোলন। মাটির প্রায় ২,৩৯৬ মিটার (প্রায় আড়াই কিলোমিটার) গভীর থেকে উত্তোলিত হচ্ছে এই অপরিশোধিত খনিজ তেল, যা বিশেষ ট্যাঙ্কারের মাধ্যমে সরাসরি পৌঁছে যাচ্ছে হলদিয়ার তেল শোধনাগারে। ভারতের রাষ্ট্রীয় তেল ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস নিগম (ওএনজিসি)-এর এই সাফল্য দেশের জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সুনিশ্চিত করার পাশাপাশি রাজ্যকে আন্তর্জাতিক শিল্প মানচিত্রে এক নতুন উচ্চতায় পৌঁছে দিল। পাশাপাশি, অর্থনৈতিক ভাবে বদলে

যেতে চলেছে অশোকনগর। বিশেষজ্ঞরা জানিয়েছেন, বাইগাছির খনিজ তেলের 'এপিআই গ্র্যাভিটি' প্রায় ৪০ থেকে ৪১। গুণমানের দিক থেকে এই তেল আন্তর্জাতিক মানের এবং ভারতের সবচেয়ে লাভজনক ও সমৃদ্ধ তেলক্ষেত্র 'বন্ডে হাই'-এর তেলের সঙ্গে পূর্ণমাত্রায় তুলনীয়।

অশোকনগরের বাইগাছি ওএনজিসি কেন্দ্রে আত্মাধুনিক 'পাম্পজ্যাক' প্রযুক্তির সাহায্যে বিভিন্ন শিফটে ২৪ ঘণ্টা নিরবচ্ছিন্ন ভাবে তেল উত্তোলনের কাজ শুরু হয়েছে। প্রাথমিক পর্যায়ে এই কেন্দ্র থেকে প্রতিদিন গড়ে ১৫ থেকে ২০ কিউবিক মিটার, অর্থাৎ প্রায় ১৫ থেকে ২০ হাজার লিটার অপরিশোধিত তেল উত্তোলনের লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে।

● এরপর ৮ পাতায়

Publication : AajKal (Bengali)	Editions : Kolkata
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Headline: 15,000–20,000 liters of oil will be extracted daily

১৫-২০ হাজার লিটার তেল

● ৩ পাতার পর

অশোকনগর প্রকল্প এলাকায় বর্তমানে মোট ছটি সক্রিয় কূপ রয়েছে। এর মধ্যে চারটি কূপ ব্যবহার করা হবে অপরিশোধিত খনিজ তেলের জন্য এবং বাকি দুটি নির্দিষ্ট রাখা হয়েছে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস উত্তোলনের জন্য। উল্লেখ্য, এর আগে বিভিন্ন অনুষ্ঠানে বক্তব্য পেশ করতে গিয়ে বিজেপির রাজ্য সভাপতি শমীক ভট্টাচার্য এ রাজ্যের বিপুল প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদের ভাণ্ডারের কথা বলেছেন। অশোকনগরে বাণিজ্যিকভাবে তেল উৎপাদন শুরু হলে প্রতিবছর ৮ হাজার কোটি টাকা শুদ্ধ আসবে বলেও জানিয়েছিলেন তিনি। শুক্রবার বাইগাছি কেন্দ্রে ওএনজিসি-র ডিরেক্টর (এক্সপ্লোরেশন) ওপি সিন্হা এবং অশোকনগরের বিধায়ক ডাঃ সুময় হীরা বৌধ ভাবে এই বাণিজ্যিক উৎপাদনের আনুষ্ঠানিক সূচনা করেন। এ যাবৎ এই মেগা প্রকল্পে ওএনজিসি-র পক্ষ থেকে প্রায় এক হাজার কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগ করা হয়েছে। ওএনজিসি-র ডিরেক্টর (এক্সপ্লোরেশন) ওপি সিন্হা জানিয়েছেন, মাটির তলদেশ থেকে যে অপরিশোধিত তেল উঠে আসে, তাতে স্বাভাবিক ভাবেই নির্দিষ্ট পরিমাণে জল মিশে থাকে। বাইগাছির কেন্দ্রে আধুনিক প্রক্রিয়াকরণের মাধ্যমে তেল থেকে জল পৃথক করা হচ্ছে। সংগৃহীত মূল তেল হলদিয়া শোধনাগারে পাঠানোর পর তা প্রক্রিয়াজাত করে পেট্রোল, ডিজেল, কেরোসিন-সহ বিভিন্ন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ জ্বালানি পণ্য তৈরি করা হবে। তিনি আরও জানান, ওএনজিসি তাদের অনুসন্ধান কাজ কেবল বাইগাছিতেই সীমিত রাখছে না। অশোকনগরের পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকা যেমন ভুবনেশ্বর, দৌলতপুর-সহ একাধিক জায়গায় নতুন করে সার্ভে ও বোরিংয়ের কাজ দ্রুতগতিতে চলেছে। আগামী দিনে ওই এলাকাগুলি থেকেও বাণিজ্যিক ভাবে তেল ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস উত্তোলনের জোরালো সম্ভাবনা রয়েছে। পাশাপাশি, নদিয়ার রানাঘাট-সহ বেশ কিছু নতুন এলাকায় তেল পাওয়ার সম্ভাবনা রয়েছে বলে তিনি জানান। স্থানীয় বিধায়ক ডাঃ সুময় হীরা জানান, তেল উত্তোলন, পরিবহণ ও আনুষঙ্গিক শিল্প গড়ে ওঠার ফলে স্থানীয় যুবকদের বড় মাপের কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ তৈরি হচ্ছে। ওএনজিসি কর্তারা মনে করছেন, উত্তোলনের পরিমাণ বাড়লে অশোকনগর কেবল রাজ্যের অর্থনীতিতেই জোয়ার আনবে।

Publication : Amar Ujala (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 12

Headline: Production begins at North 24 Parganas oil reserves

उत्तर 24 परगना के तेल भंडार में उत्पादन शुरू

कोलकाता। बंगाल के उत्तर 24 परगना जिले के अशोकनगर तेल क्षेत्र से तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम ने व्यावसायिक स्तर पर कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन शुरू कर दिया। लंबे समय से इस परियोजना के वाणिज्यिक उत्पादन शुरू होने का इंतजार किया जा रहा था। शुक्रवार को औपचारिक रूप से उत्पादन प्रक्रिया शुरू होने के साथ अशोकनगर का तेल क्षेत्र पश्चिम बंगाल के ऊर्जा मानचित्र पर स्थापित हो गया। इससे पश्चिम बंगाल में तेल उत्पादन की संभावनाओं को नई दिशा मिलेगी। व्यूरो

Publication : Deccan Chronicle	Editions : Chennai
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 12

ALL INDIA BASKETBALL

REST OF TAMIL NADU TO TAKE ON ONGC IN FINAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, AUG. 29

Rest of Tamil Nadu will take on ONGC in the final of the PSG Trophy All India basketball tournament on Sunday. Tamil Nadu defeated KSEB 76-67 in the semifinal with Rishikesh and Vizak Manoj scoring 20 and 18 points respectively.

Results (SF): Men: Rest Of Tamil Nadu 76 (Rishikesh 20, Vizak K Manoj 18, Vishwak 13) bt KSEB 67 (Sejin Mathew 16, Jerom Prince 14, Nandhu A Kumar 12). ONGC 73 (Aaron 18, M D Ishaan 18, Tajinder Singh 17, Sumanth S 12) bt Indian Bank 71 (J Karan 14, H Muinbek 13, Gineeb Benny 11).

Women: SWR 62 (Sathya K 21 Bhandavya M 15 Mohana Bala 10) bt CDBA 34 (Subhiksha R 15). SCR 68 (Viha Reddy 24, Priyanka 19, Subhashini 11) bt SHC 46 (Aleena Jaison 12, Liya Shony 10).



Action during the semifinal between Rest of Tamil Nadu and KSEB in the PSG Trophy basketball tournament.

Publication : The New Indian Express	Editions : Chennai
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 15

Rest of Tamil Nadu cagers enter All-India meet final

ENS @ Chennai

REST of Tamil Nadu defeated KSEB 76-67 in the men's semifinals of the PSG Sports Club 60th All-India basketball tournament played in Coimbatore.

Results: Semis: Men: Rest of Tamil Nadu 76 (Rishikesh 20, Vizak K Manoj 18, Vishwak 13) **bt** KSEB 67 (Sejin Mathew 16, Jerom Prince 14, Nandhu A Kumar 12). **ONGC** 73 (Aaron 18, MD Ishaan 18, Tajinder Singh 17, Sumanth S 12) **bt** Indian Bank 71 (J Karan 14, H Muinbek 13, Gineeb Benny 11). **Women:** SWR 62 (Sathya K 21, Bhandavya M 15, Mohana Bala 10) **bt** CDBA 34 (Subhiksha R 15, Sephora T 6, Haritha V 5, Angeline Victoria V 5). SCR 68 (Viha Reddy 24, Priyanka 19, Subhashini 11) **bt** SHC 46 (Aleena Jaison 12, Liya Shony 10, Helan Joy 9).

Madras Gymkhana Club win

Madras Gymkhana Club defeated Ransa Sports Club 41-26 in the 3rd RWD Open Chennai City Club league cum knock-out tennis championship organised by TNTA.

Results: Group C: Madras Gymkhana Club **bt** Ransa Sports Club 41-26: **30-plus:** Jim Rakesh/P Balaji lost to Anush Rajasekar/Sriram Venkatavardan 5-9; **35-plus:** Rajeev Mohan SB/Bharathi Das **bt** Nakhul Nagesh/Amrose Pradeep 9-7; **45-plus:** Giri Raghavan/Ganesh Amarnath **bt** Venkat Kaushik Balachandran/Subramaniam Hariharan 9-6; Vignesh Bhasker/Niranjan Kumar **bt** Saranath Prasanna/Tamilselvan T 9-2; **55-plus:** Murali Badmanabhan/MP Shankar **bt** MDK Kumaraswamy / Aravindan Rajagopalan 9-2).

'Biggest in world history': Trump unveils 65 billion barrel oil deal with Venezuela

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

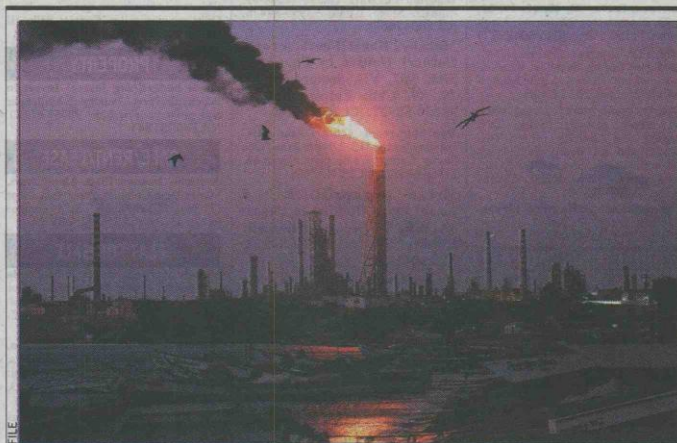
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

US President Donald Trump on Friday announced a crude oil deal with Venezuela, claiming it was the "biggest oil deal in world history". The agreement gives the US majority control over more than 65 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves in the South American country.

According to Trump, the deal will "more than double" US oil reserves and drive down domestic petrol prices in the long term, while putting Venezuela's economy on a path to recovery. Trump said Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth had worked closely with Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodriguez on the deal, as well as with private businesses.

The announcement comes nearly nine months after the US military, at Trump's direction, carried out an operation to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and take him to the US to face federal charges of narcoterrorism and drug trafficking.

For India, the deal could smoothen crude oil supplies. Less than two weeks ago, on August 16, the Oil and Natur-



WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIA

More crude: India could increase imports from Venezuela as oil flows recover	ONGC returns: ONGC secures US approval to restart operations in Venezuela	Production boost: ONGC to invest \$200 million to revive output at San Cristobal oilfield	Higher output: Production at the field could rise from 4,000-5,000 bpd to 50,000 bpd	Money due: India is seeking access to more than \$500 mn in outstanding dividends
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al Gas Corporation (ONGC) secured a licence from the US Office of Foreign Assets Control to return to Venezuela and restart existing oil extraction operations. ONGC, India's largest oil and gas company, holds a 40 per cent stake in the San Cristobal oil project and an 11 per cent

stake in the Carabobo project. However, US sanctions on Venezuela had halted work at the projects.

India imports between 4.5 million and 5 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil, with imports from Venezuela touching almost 3,83,000 bpd in August, up from zero in March.

With the US securing a major share of Venezuela's oil, India could look to ramp up imports further, as the South American country's medium and heavy crude varieties are suitable for Indian refineries.

ONGC is gearing up to invest about \$200 million to

revive production at the San Cristobal oilfield in Venezuela, which it operates with Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) holds a 40 per cent interest in the San Cristobal oilfield, while PDVSA owns the remaining 60 per cent.

The oilfield currently produces around 4,000-5,000 bpd of crude oil. ONGC aims to restore output to its previous peak of up to 50,000 bpd. India is also in talks with Venezuela to gain access to more than \$500 million in outstanding dividends from its stakes in the two oil projects.

Venezuela holds an estimated 303 billion barrels of crude oil reserves, or about 17 per cent of the world's total, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). Trump said in a social media post on Friday: "The US will have majority control of more than 65 billion barrels of proven oil reserves in Venezuela, at no cost to the American taxpayer."

Following the West Asia crisis, India, the world's third-largest crude oil importer, expanded its purchases from Africa and South America while continuing to buy oil from Russia.

Publication : Virat Vaibhav (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 9

Headline: ONGC's first commercial discovery nears production: Hardeep Puri

ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक खोज उत्पादन के करीब पहुंची: हरदीप पुरी

वैभव न्यूज ■ नई दिल्ली

केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा है कि पश्चिम बंगाल के अशोकनगर क्षेत्र में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज अब उत्पादन और व्यावसायिक दोहन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण तक पहुंच गई है। उन्होंने इसे भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और घरेलू तेल एवं गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में बड़ी उपलब्धि बताया। सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर शेयर किए गए पोस्ट में केंद्रीय मंत्री पुरी ने कहा कि 30 मई 2026 को विकास कुएं एस-1 जेड की ड्रिलिंग शुरू होने के तीन महीने से भी कम समय में ओएनजीसी ने इस क्षेत्र से हल्के और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले कच्चे तेल के प्रवाह की क्षमता सफलतापूर्वक स्थापित कर दी है। उन्होंने कहा, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और घरेलू हाइड्रोकार्बन उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में चल रही अभूतपूर्व यात्रा के तहत बंगाल बेसिन के अशोकनगर में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज अब



व्यावसायिकरण के एक निर्णायक चरण के करीब पहुंच गई है। पुरी ने बताया कि अशोकनगर क्षेत्र से निकाले गए कच्चे तेल की पहली खेप को इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन की हल्दिया रिफाइनरी भेजे जाने के लिए रवाना किया गया। इस अवसर पर अशोकनगर के विधायक डॉ. सुमय हीरा और ओएनजीसी के अन्वेषण निदेशक भी मौजूद रहे। केंद्रीय मंत्री के अनुसार, यह उपलब्धि लंबे समय से चल रहे अन्वेषण कार्यों और निरंतर प्रयासों को वास्तविक उत्पादन क्षमता में बदलने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव का प्रतीक है। इससे पश्चिम बंगाल का नाम भारत के हाइड्रोकार्बन मानचित्र पर और अधिक मजबूती से दर्ज होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि अशोकनगर की यह खोज न केवल पश्चिम बंगाल के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 10

BPRL in Brazil has a new corporate identity

Bharat Petro Resources Limited (BPRL), the upstream arm of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Fortune Global 500 company and a Maharatna PSU, had recently completed the successful acquisition of Videocon's entire shareholding in IBV Brasil Petroleo Limitada (IBV), its erstwhile Brazilian joint venture company. Following the acquisition, IBV became a wholly owned step-down subsidiary of BPRL and was renamed BPRL Brasil Limitada. The name change was approved and registered by relevant Brazilian authorities on August 19, 2026. BPRL Brasil Limitada holds participating interests in oil & gas Concessions in Brazil including BM-SEAL-11 and BM-C-30 Concessions. In BM-SEAL-11, the consortium of Petrobras and BPRL Brasil Limitada is progressing with development activities.

Publication : Deccan Chronicle

Editions : Chennai

Date :30 August 2026

Page : 1, 5

SC to hear plea on ethanol details in petrol tomorrow

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 29

The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Monday a petition seeking a directive to the Union government and others to ensure mandatory and uniform labelling on every dispensing nozzle at petrol pumps, disclosing the exact percentage of ethanol in petrol.

The plea would come up for hearing before a two-judge bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale.

The petitioner Narendra

Kumar Goswami has sought a direction that every fuel invoice should specifically and legibly state the percentage of ethanol in the petrol sold.

"Direct the respondents (centre and others) to prepare and publish within a stipulated time an official, public, vehicle-wise compatibility database searchable by manufacturer, model, engine type and year of manufacture, indicating the suitability or otherwise of various ethanol blends for each vehicle," the plea said.

■ P5

Publication : Deccan Chronicle	Editions : Chennai
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 1, 5

SC TO HEAR ON PLEA SEEKING DISCLOSURE OF E20 MONDAY

FROM PG1

The plea also sought directions to the concerned authorities to place before the apex court all policy files, technical studies, compatibility reports, safety standards, consumer advisories and records of public consultation that support the compulsory roll-out of E20.

It has also sought the constitution of an independent expert committee to examine and submit a public report on real-world vehicle compatibility of E20 across the existing fleet.

comprising representatives from the ministries of petroleum and natural gas, road transport and highways, the Bureau of Indian Standards and others, including independent automobile engineers, to examine and submit a public report on real-world vehicle compatibility of E20 across the existing fleet.

The plea said the committee should also submit a report on the impact on fuel efficiency, engine longevity and maintenance costs, warranty and insurance implications, the net environmental footprint, including tail-pipe emissions and water consumption associated with ethanol production, and food-security and feed-diversion concerns allegedly arising from the blending programme.

Delhi CNG price rises ₹3.89/kg



CNG prices in Delhi-NCR rose by ₹3.89/kg on Saturday, the fifth increase this year, amid the West Asia crisis. ■ **PAGE 3**

CNG prices up ₹3.89/kg in Delhi amid West Asia crisis

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, August 29

CNG PRICES IN Delhi-NCR rose by ₹3.89 per kg on Saturday, the fifth increase this year, as the renewed West Asia crisis disrupts LNG cargo movements through the Strait of Hormuz and forces city gas distributors to absorb sharply higher imported gas costs.

Indraprastha Gas (IGL) said the revised price will take effect from 6 am on August 29, raising cost of CNG in Delhi to ₹86.98 per kg. Prices will increase to ₹95.59 per kg in Noida and Ghaziabad, ₹95.47 per kg in Meerut and ₹92.01 per kg in Gurugram, respectively.

The latest revision is the first since May, when IGL raised CNG prices by a cumulative ₹6 per kg in four phases over ten days as global energy prices surged following the West Asia conflict.

"With international LNG prices remaining elevated and the cost impact becoming increasingly significant, a cali-

INCREASED VOLATILITY



■ Prices will rise to **₹95.59 per kg** in Noida and Ghaziabad, **₹95.47 per kg** in Meerut and **₹92.01 per kg** in Gurugram

■ The price revision is the first since May

■ The move comes as IGL relies on imported spot LNG for a large portion of gas to meet rising CNG demand

brated revision of ₹3.89 per kg has now become necessary to partially offset the increase in input gas cost," IGL said.

The price increase comes as IGL relies on imported spot LNG for a significant portion of

gas required to meet rising CNG demand. Since July, re-escalation of the West Asia crisis has affected LNG cargo movements through Hormuz, while European demand has strengthened as countries increase gas storage ahead of winter.

The impact is visible in global benchmarks. The Asian JKM LNG benchmark jumped around 113%, from about \$10.99 per MMBtu in late February to \$23.41 by August 27. Europe's TTF gas benchmark surged roughly 105%, from \$11.36 per MMBtu to \$23.35 during the same period.

In comparison, Delhi's CNG retail price had risen only around 7.8% to ₹83.09 per kg from ₹77.09 per kg between late February and August 27, before the latest revision, according to IGL.

The company said consumers, including private-car owners, auto and taxi operators and public transport users, had largely been insulated from the full impact of volatile imported LNG prices.

Trump: US to take control of most of Venezuela's oil

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said Friday that his administration has entered a sweeping agreement with Venezuela that, if realized, could give the US access to vast amounts of the South American country's untapped oil reserves, at cost.

Trump in a social media post announcing the agreement said it was negotiated by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez.

"The United States of America has just entered into an Agreement with the Country of Venezuela on, THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY!" Trump wrote.

Rodríguez's government in a statement said the deal involves the development of 17 fields with a proven potential of 65 billion barrels. It said the agreement could draw \$100 billion in investment into Venezuela's oil industry and yield over \$209 billion in taxes for Caracas. Rodríguez in a posting on Telegram predicted the deal "will have a significant impact on our nation's revival."

The agreement allows for the US to partner with an unnamed private operator in Venezuela to create a new private company to take hold of the reserves, according to a US official familiar with the contours of the deal.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity, added that Rodríguez granted the company 100-year rights to develop the oil fields. The deal gives the US 55% effective output of the new private company — including an



Donald Trump also announced the formation of a Space Academy to train the next generation of civilian and military aerospace experts to advance US interests in outer space. (Above) Trump honoured the Artemis 2 crew for their Moon mission. AFP

ownership stake and rights to buy oil at cost. The company would be the second largest corporate holder of proven reserves after Saudi Aramco, according to the official.

The announcement comes nearly nine months after the U.S. military at Trump's direction carried out an operation to capture Venezuela's then-President Nicolás Maduro and spirit him to the United States to face federal narcoterrorism and drug trafficking charges.

Trump faces mounting pressure to address high gas prices as the war in Iran on Friday reached a six-month milestone with no conclusion in sight. The US has tapped its strategic petroleum reserves, which in early August fell below 300 million

barrels, down by more than 100 million barrels since the start of 2026. The US-Israel war against Iran has led to a dramatic slowdown of Gulf oil moving through the Strait of Hormuz, which about 20% of the world petroleum passed through prior to the conflict. The average price of gas in the US stood at about \$4.09 a gallon on Friday, according to AAA. The average price was \$3.21 at the same time last year.

A significant drop in US gas prices tied to the agreement should not be expected immediately. Experts have repeatedly warned that a substantial boost in Venezuelan oil production will not happen quickly as repairing and expanding infrastructure takes years and requires billions of dollars.

Publication : Jansatta (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 8

Headline: Hearing tomorrow on a petition seeking information regarding ethanol content in petrol

पेट्रोल में एथेनाल मात्रा की जानकारी देने संबंधी याचिका पर सुनवाई कल

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 29 अगस्त।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट 31 अगस्त को उस याचिका पर सुनवाई करेगा जिसमें केंद्र और अन्य संबंधित पक्षों को यह निर्देश देने का अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे पेट्रोल पंपों पर पेट्रोल में एथेनाल की सटीक मात्रा बताने की प्रणाली सुनिश्चित करें। शीर्ष अदालत की 31 अगस्त के मामलों की सूची के अनुसार, यह याचिका न्यायमूर्ति एमएम सुंदरेश और न्यायमूर्ति

याचिका में
'ई20' के
इस्तेमाल की
स्थिति की पड़ताल
करने पर जोर।

प्रसन्ना बी वराले की पीठ के समक्ष सुनवाई के लिए प्रस्तुत की जाएगी। नरेंद्र कुमार गोस्वामी की ओर से दायर याचिका में यह निर्देश दिए जाने का भी अनुरोध किया गया है कि ईंधन

संबंधी हर बिल में बेचे गए पेट्रोल में एथेनाल का फीसद साफ-साफ और आसानी से पढ़े जा सकने वाले तरीके से लिखा होना चाहिए। याचिका के अनुसार, प्रतिवादियों (केंद्र और अन्य) को निर्देश दिया जाए कि वे एक तय समय के भीतर वाहनों के लिए एथेनाल के अलग-अलग मिश्रण की उपयुक्तता बताने वाला आधिकारिक और सार्वजनिक डेटाबेस तैयार करें और उसे प्रकाशित करें।

इस डेटाबेस में वाहन के हिसाब से जानकारी हो और इसे निर्माता, माडल, इंजन के प्रकार और निर्माण के वर्ष के आधार पर खोजा जा सके। इसमें एक स्वतंत्र विशेषज्ञ समिति बनाने का भी अनुरोध किया गया है, जिसमें पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय, सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय, भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो और अन्य (जैसे स्वतंत्र आटोमोबाइल इंजीनियर) के प्रतिनिधि शामिल हों।

Publication : Punjab Kesri (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 9

Headline: CNG prices rise; auto-taxi unions demand fare hike.

सीएनजी महंगी, ऑटो-टैक्सी यूनियन ने की किराया वृद्धि की मांग

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी:दिल्ली-एनसीआर के लोगों को आने वाले दिनों में परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। ईंधन की कीमतों में लगातार बढ़ोतरी के आधार पर किराया बढ़ोतरी समेत अन्य मांगों को लेकर विभिन्न ऑटो-टैक्सी चालक संगठनों ने नौ सितंबर तक हड़ताल की चेतावनी दी है।

इंद्रप्रस्थ गैस लिमिटेड (आईजीएल) के अनुसार शनिवार से दिल्ली और आसपास के शहरों में सीएनजी की कीमत 3.89 रुपए प्रति किलोग्राम बढ़ गई है। सीएनजी के लिए जरूरी गैस का एक बड़ा हिस्सा आयातित एलएनजी से पूरा किया जा रहा था, जिसकी कीमतें पश्चिम एशिया में संघर्ष शुरू होने के बाद से तेजी से बढ़ी हैं। ऑटो रिक्शा एसोसिएशन और दिल्ली प्रदेश टैक्सी यूनियन के महासचिव राजेंद्र सोनी ने कहा कि

दिल्ली सरकार को एक हफ्ते के अंदर तत्काल प्रभाव से ऑटो और टैक्सी का किराया बढ़ाना चाहिए, क्योंकि सीएनजी की कीमतों में 3.89 रुपए की बढ़ोतरी हुई है, जिससे गरीब चालकों पर अचानक आर्थिक बोझ बढ़ गया है। पिछले दो-तीन महीनों में सीएनजी की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं और इनमें कुल मिलाकर लगभग 10-11 रुपए की बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

सोनी ने कहा कि सरकार को जल्द से जल्द किराया बढ़ाना चाहिए या सीएनजी की कीमतों पर सब्सिडी देनी चाहिए। ऑल इंडिया मोटर एंड गुड्स ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन ने भी सीएनजी की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी का मुद्दा उठाया। ऑल इंडिया मोटर एंड गुड्स ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष राजेंद्र कपूर ने कहा कि दिल्ली-एनसीआर में सीएनजी की कीमतों में अचानक 3.89 प्रति किलोग्राम की बढ़ोतरी केवल ईंधन की ज्यादा लागत का मामला नहीं है।

**मांग
पूरी न होने पर
यूनियन ने दी नौ
सितंबर को हड़ताल
की चेतावनी**

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 1, 3

Fuel & Vehicle Costs Reshape Gig Worker Hiring



Rising fuel and vehicle operating costs are making gig workers more selective about jobs, with many opting for roles that offer predictable earnings or lower costs. This is prompting firms to expand incentives, EV-linked opportunities and fixed-pay jobs, recruitment experts said. **Neil Ghai & Prachi Verma** report. [» 3](#)

Surging Fuel and Vehicle Costs Reshape Gig Hiring as Workers Chase Better Economics

Delivery workers seek predictable earnings while employers step up incentive plans

Neil Ghai & Prachi Verma

New Delhi: Rising fuel and vehicle operating costs are making India's gig workers more selective about the jobs they take, with many opting for roles that offer predictable earnings or lower running costs. This is prompting employers to expand incentives, EV-linked opportunities and fixed-pay jobs to attract and retain delivery workers, recruitment experts said.

The available talent pool for delivery-based gig roles has contracted by 5-10% over the past four months, said Deepesh Gupta, head of business, general staffing, at Adecco India. This does not mean workers are becoming unemployed. Instead, they are moving into manufacturing, warehousing, retail and sales jobs that offer more predictable earnings or lower work-related costs, he said. "Gig workers are highly mobile and typically trans-



ition across frontline sectors based on overall income potential and job viability," Gupta said.

Apna.co's data show that job postings in delivery, driver and logistics roles rose 60% year-on-year in the first quarter of FY27, while vacancies offering lower operating costs or greater income certainty saw much stronger growth. Electric vehicle-related job postings

surged 593% year-on-year; warehouse jobs grew 91% and fixed-pay opportunities expanded 205%.

More significantly, these jobs attracted much greater interest from candidates. EV postings received 62.5% more candidates per opening than the overall delivery segment, fixed-pay roles 244% more, and warehouse jobs 350% more, Apna data showed. "For workers-

...the distinction between headline earning potential and guaranteed income is becoming increasingly important," Kartik Narayan, chief executive of jobs marketplace at Apna.co, said.

Petrol prices have risen by around ₹7.5 a litre since the Iran-US conflict began in February, increasing operating expenses on home delivery services, which delivery partners bear themselves in most cases.

Putting further pressure on such workers, union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari told parliament last month that ethanol blending in petrol can reduce fuel efficiency by 2-6%, depending on the vehicle and its age.

For employers, this is raising the cost of keeping delivery workers on the road. Employers of gig workers, including Flipkart, Eternal, Swiggy and Uber India, had not responded to ET's email queries until press time on Saturday.

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 1, 3

CNG Prices Hiked by ₹3.89 in Delhi amid W Asia Crisis



Indraprastha Gas Ltd has raised the CNG price by ₹3.89 per kg in Delhi and its nearly 20 other licensed areas from Sunday. The move is aimed at offsetting higher gas procurement costs after the Iran war caused global gas benchmarks to double. In Delhi, CNG is being retailed at ₹86.98 per kg. ➡ 3

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 1, 3

IGL Raises CNG Prices in Delhi By Nearly ₹4

New Delhi: Indraprastha Gas (IGL) has raised the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) by ₹3.89 per kg in Delhi and its nearly 20 other licensed areas from Sunday. The move is aimed at offsetting higher gas procurement costs after the Iran war caused global gas benchmarks to double. In Delhi, CNG is being retailed at ₹86.98 per kg. Since the beginning of the Iran war six months ago, CNG prices in Delhi are up by a cumulative ₹9.89, including ₹6 rai-

sed previously.

Taxi and autorickshaws, which are largely CNG-powered in the national capital region, have already passed on the previous CNG cost increase to end-customers. The fresh increase may further raise fares. The Iran war has cut off liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies from Qatar, one of the world's largest suppliers, resulting in a sharp spike in global prices.—**Our Bureau**



Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 6

NEW DELHI

CNG prices hiked in Delhi by ₹3.89 per kg

Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) raised Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) prices in Delhi by Rs3.89 per kg on Saturday, bringing the retail rate to Rs86.98 per kg. Prices were also revised upward in neighboring cities, including Noida, Ghaziabad, and Gurugram. IGL attributed the hike to soaring global LNG costs driven by the West Asia crisis and supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. Piped cooking gas prices remain unchanged.

Unfair to middle class: Delhi-NCR residents react to CNG price hike

NEW DELHI

WITH CNG prices increasing by Rs 3.89 per kg across Delhi-NCR, residents on Saturday expressed concern over the impact of the hike, calling it an additional burden on the middle class amid rising inflation.

A local said the repeated increase in CNG prices was making it increasingly difficult for vehicle owners to manage their expenses.

"The CNG price has been increased by around Rs 4, and it had gone up a few days ago as well. When I bought my car, CNG cost around Rs 56 per kg. It has now increased to Rs 96,

which is almost at par with petrol prices. This is unfair to the middle class," the resident said. Another local said he came to know about the latest hike while visiting a CNG station on Saturday morning.

"When I came to fill CNG this morning, I found out that the prices had increased again. Inflation is rising day by day. A week ago, sugar prices also went up, chicken and egg prices are up and now gas has become more expensive. Our driver brothers who operate taxis do not get adequate fares and are already struggling to earn. With the increase in CNG prices, they will be affected

significantly," he said.

A third resident also raised concerns over the repeated increase in fuel prices and its impact on household budgets.

"If the CNG prices keep increasing this way, it will put pressure on all transport systems that deliver goods and food produce and will ultimately raise the price for consumers. Also, people travelling by public transport like Bike taxis, Radio cabs and autorickshaws will end up paying more, putting more pressure on household budgets," she said.

An autorickshaw driver said the hike would create difficulties for drivers, who



are already facing financial pressure.

"What can we say about this? It is a problem for the entire public. We are not happy with the way the government is handling things. Earlier, we used to

pay around Rs 16 per kg for CNG, and now, after the hike, it will be Rs 86.98 per kg. What can we do about it?" he said. He added that higher CNG prices would directly affect autorickshaw drivers and other commer-

cial vehicle operators, while passenger fares had largely remained unchanged.

"It creates problems for auto-rickshaw drivers and people who operate other vehicles as well. But our passengers continue to pay the same fare. Whether they book online or otherwise, the fares remain almost the same," he said.

The residents said the increase in CNG prices could further raise transportation costs and put additional pressure on people already dealing with higher household expenses.

CNG prices have been increased by Rs 3.89 per kg across Delhi-NCR, with the

revised rates coming into effect from 6 a.m. on Saturday. The hike has been announced by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), the primary city gas distributor in the National Capital Region.

Following the latest increase, the price of CNG in Delhi has risen from Rs 83.09 per kg to Rs 86.98 per kg. The revised rates will also apply in several adjoining cities, including Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram. In Noida and Ghaziabad, CNG will now cost Rs 95.59 per kg, while the new price in Gurugram has been fixed at Rs 92.01 per kg.

The latest increase is expected to put additional

pressure on motorists and commercial vehicle operators who rely heavily on CNG. Autorickshaws, taxis, app-based cab services and other commercial transport operators are likely to face higher fuel expenses following the revision. Private car owners using CNG will also have to spend more on fuel.

The latest hike comes after a series of increases in CNG prices in recent months. In May 2026, IGL had announced another increase of Rs 2 per kg in Delhi. That revision followed a Rs 1 per kg increase announced just a few days earlier, from May 26, as CNG prices continued to move upward.

Publication : The Hindu	Editions : New Delhi
Date :30 August 2026	Page : 1, 3

Delhi auto, taxi unions threaten stir over CNG rate

NEW DELHI

Transport unions in the national capital have demanded an immediate increase in autorickshaw and taxi fares after Indraprastha Gas Limited raised the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) by ₹3.89 per kg from 6 a.m. on Saturday in Delhi-NCR. The unions have warned that drivers will go on strike on September 9 if the government fails to revise fares within a week. » [Page 3](#)

Auto, taxi unions demand fare hike, threaten strike over CNG price rise

CNG now costs ₹86.98 per kg in Delhi; drivers call for CM's intervention, say they will stage a strike on September 9 if demand not met; IGL cites sharp increase in global LNG prices, says revision of ₹3.89 per kg necessary to offset hike in input gas cost

Jaideep Deo Bhanj
Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI

Transport unions in the national capital have demanded an immediate increase in autorickshaw and taxi fares after Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) raised the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) by ₹3.89 per kg from 6 a.m. on Saturday in Delhi-NCR. The unions have warned that drivers will go on strike on September 9 if the government fails to revise fares within a week.

CNG now costs ₹86.98 per kg in Delhi, ₹95.59 in Noida, ₹95.59 in Ghaziabad, and ₹92.01 in Gurugram. The latest hike takes the cumulative increase in Delhi CNG prices this year to nearly ₹10 per kg. It was priced at ₹77.09 per kg at the beginning of the year. The price was raised by ₹6 per kg in four instalments



Autorickshaws at an IGL fuel station in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

in the second half of May. There has been no increase in the price of piped natural gas supplied to homes for cooking.

"CNG prices have been rising over the past two to three months. However, fares have not been revised proportionately. If the fares are not increased, we will hold a strike on September 9," Auto Rickshaw Association and Delhi Pradesh

Taxi Union general secretary Rajendra Soni told reporters.

Seeking Delhi government's intervention, he urged Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to either hike fares or provide them with subsidy. "Other States like Maharashtra and Gujarat have already revised fares," Mr. Soni added.

Rajendra Kapoor, president, All India Motor and

Goods Transport Association, said the hike will not only cause a rise in food costs but prices of essential commodities as well. "Small vehicles used to transport vegetables and other commodities use CNG. This will lead to a rise in transportation costs, kicking up prices of essential commodities," he said.

Baljinder Singh, a taxi service owner, said, "We have contracts with schools and companies at fixed rates, and the government knows that we cannot change those contractual obligations. We are expected to absorb the entire hike in operating costs," he said.

Delhi Taxi, Tourist Transporters and Tour Operators Association president Sanjay Samrat said transporters would stage a demonstration at Jantar Mantra after September 15. "We have approached the police

ice seeking permission for a protest, but have been told it could be held only after the BRICS meeting. We will demand the resignation of Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari (Road Transport & Highways) and Hardeep Puri (Petroleum & Natural Gas)," he said.

West Asia crisis

IGL, in a statement, attributed the hike to a sharp rise in global liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices following a renewed West Asia crisis and disruptions to gas cargo movements through the Strait of Hormuz. It added that with global LNG prices remaining elevated and the cost impact becoming increasingly significant, a calibrated revision of ₹3.89 per kg has now become necessary to partially offset the increase in input gas cost while ensuring continuity and reliability of CNG supplies.

No clear trajectory

CRUDE CHECK. Refrain from fresh positions

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Oil prices saw a considerable drop over the last week. Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (\$88.10/barrel) and crude oil futures in the domestic market (₹7,984/barrel) fell 6.7 per cent and 4.5 per cent, respectively.

BRENT FUTURES (\$88.10)

Brent crude futures dropped during the first half of last week. But the contract bounced off \$85 and rose in the second half, cutting the losses for the week.

That said, the chart shows a lack of clarity in trend. Given the prevailing price action, the Brent crude futures is likely to stay within \$84 and \$93. Only a clear breach of this price region will give us clarity about the next leg of trend.

A breakout of \$93 can trigger a rally to \$100. But if the contract breaches the support at \$84, it can decline to \$78.

MCX CRUDE OIL (₹7,984)

Crude oil futures (Sep) fell last week and made an intra-week



low of ₹7,602 before recovering to end the week at ₹7,984. Although there was a recovery in the latter half of last week, the bulls lacked conviction and could not build a rally.

The chart shows that the contract has support levels at ₹7,600 and ₹7,480. Until these levels hold true, the likelihood of a fall is low. However, there are also barriers ahead at ₹8,400 and ₹8,600.

So long as ₹8,600 and ₹7,480 remain true, the path of the next trend will remain uncertain. A breakout of ₹8,600 can lead to a rally to ₹10,000. On the other hand, if crude oil futures breach the support at ₹7,480, the outlook can turn weak where the price can decline to ₹7,000.

Trade strategy: Stay out.

Publication : The Indian Express

Editions : New Delhi

Date :30 August 2026

Page : 11

Delhi CNG price rises Rs 3.89/kg amid renewed West Asia crisis

New Delhi: Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) on Saturday raised the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) in Delhi by Rs 3.89 per kg, citing a sharp rise in international liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices following a renewed West Asia crisis and disruptions to gas cargo movements through the Strait of Hormuz. The hike, effective from 6 am on August 29, takes the CNG price in Delhi to Rs 86.98 per kg, from Rs 83.09 per kg earlier.

The increase takes the cumulative increase in Delhi CNG prices this year to nearly Rs 10 per kg. Delhi CNG was priced at Rs 77.09 per kg at the beginning of the year. It was raised by Rs 6 per kg in four installments in second half of May, taking the price to Rs 83.09 per kg before Saturday's hike.

Prices have also been increased in adjoining cities like Noida and Ghaziabad. CNG now costs Rs 95.59 per kg in Noida, Rs 95.59 in Ghaziabad and Rs 92.01 per kg in Gurugram. Rates differ from state to state depending on local taxes like VAT. PTI

Venezuela oil deal will lower energy prices: Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Friday said the US has entered an agreement with Venezuela to take control of 65 billion barrels of the South American country's oil reserves.

The announcement comes as Trump faces mounting pressure to address high gas prices as the war in Iran on Friday reached a six-month milestone with no conclusion in sight. The US has tapped its strategic petroleum reserves, which in early August fell below 300 million barrels.

He claimed the deal will serve to "substantially lower" gas prices for Americans "long into the future."

The US-Israel war against Iran has led to a dramatic slowdown of Gulf oil moving through the Strait of Hormuz, which about 20% of the world petroleum passed through prior to the conflict.

The average price of gas in the US stood at about \$4.09 a gallon on Friday, according to

AAA. The average price was \$3.21 at the same time last year. A significant drop in US gas prices tied to the agreement should not be expected immediately. Experts have repeatedly warned that a substantial boost in Venezuelan oil production will not happen quickly as repairing and expanding infra-

structure takes years and requires billions of dollars.

Persuading big American oil companies to return the region could face headwinds given the political uncertainty and decades of badly damaged infrastructure.

Days after the ouster of Maduro, Trump gathered oil executives at the White House and called on them to rush back into Venezuela. Executives expressed interest in the opportunity but there was also a measure of caution. Darren Woods, CEO of ExxonMobil, the largest US oil company, said the country was "un-investable." But Trump insisted his administration has brought a measure of stability to Venezuela. *AP*

THE WORLD'S LARGEST RESERVE, BUT...

303 billion barrels of crude oil in the ground.

That's about **17%** of the world's supply, according to the US Energy Information Administration

Unlike other parts of the world, where geologists have to search for untapped oil, the reserves under Venezuela's soil are largely mapped and known, experts say



Because of dilapidated infrastructure, the country only produces about 1% of the world's oil

The dense and sticky Venezuelan crude is high in sulfur, making it harder to extract and refine

Online

Headline	ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production		
Publication	Assam Tribune	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production

<https://assamtribune.com/business/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-production-1616276>

New Delhi, Aug 29 : Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said ONGC's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in

the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation, marking a significant development in India's efforts to strengthen energy security and boost domestic hydrocarbon production.

In a post on social media platform X, Puri said that less than three months after the development well AS-1Z was spudded on May 30, 2026, ONGC successfully established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil from the field.

"In a significant step towards further strengthening India's unprecedented journey towards energy security and boosting domestic production of hydrocarbons under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the first commercial hydrocarbon discovery by ONGC in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation," the minister said.

"In less than three months since the spudding of development well AS-1Z on 30 May 2026, ONGC successfully established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil," he added.

He said the maiden consignment of crude oil from the Ashoknagar field was flagged off for transportation to Indian Oil Corporation's Haldia Refinery in the presence of Ashoknagar MLA Dr Sumay Hira and ONGC's Director of Exploration.

According to Puri, the development marks an important transition from years of exploration and perseverance to actual production potential, bringing West Bengal more firmly onto India's hydrocarbon map.

The minister described the development as a significant step towards strengthening India's energy security and increasing domestic production of hydrocarbons under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Ashoknagar discovery is expected to add momentum to exploration and production activities in the Bengal Basin, as India seeks to reduce its dependence on imported hydrocarbons and expand the contribution of domestic resources to its energy requirements.

Puri also said the development reflects the progress being made in West Bengal's hydrocarbon sector, while crediting the state's leadership and ongoing efforts to advance its energy potential.

Headline	ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Bollywood Country	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production: Hardeep Puri

<https://bollywoodcountry.com/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-production-hardeep-puri--20260829123609>

New Delhi, Aug 29 (IANS) Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said ONGC's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery

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Headline	ओएनजीसी को बंगाल बेसिन में बड़ी कामयाबी, पहली व्यावसायिक खोज उत्पादन के करीब: हरदीप पुरी		
Publication	DD News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ओएनजीसी को बंगाल बेसिन में बड़ी कामयाबी, पहली व्यावसायिक खोज उत्पादन के करीब: हरदीप पुरी

<https://ddnews.gov.in/major-success-for-ongc-in-bengal-basin-first-commercial-discovery-nearing-production-hardeep-puri/>

केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा है कि पश्चिम बंगाल के अशोकनगर क्षेत्र में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन

खोज अब उत्पादन और व्यावसायिक दोहन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण तक पहुंच गई है। उन्होंने इसे भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और घरेलू तेल एवं गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में बड़ी उपलब्धि बताया।

सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर शेयर किए गए पोस्ट में केंद्रीय मंत्री पुरी ने कहा कि 30 मई 2026 को विकास कुएं एस-1जेड की ड्रिलिंग शुरू होने के तीन महीने से भी कम समय में ओएनजीसी ने इस क्षेत्र से हल्के और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले कच्चे तेल के प्रवाह की क्षमता सफलतापूर्वक स्थापित कर दी है।

उन्होंने कहा, “प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और घरेलू हाइड्रोकार्बन उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में चल रही अभूतपूर्व यात्रा के तहत बंगाल बेसिन के अशोकनगर में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज अब व्यावसायीकरण के एक निर्णायक चरण के करीब पहुंच गई है।”

पुरी ने बताया कि अशोकनगर क्षेत्र से निकाले गए कच्चे तेल की पहली खेप को इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन की हल्दिया रिफाइनरी भेजे जाने के लिए रवाना किया गया। इस अवसर पर अशोकनगर के विधायक डॉ. सुमय हीरा और ओएनजीसी के अन्वेषण निदेशक भी मौजूद रहे।

केंद्रीय मंत्री के अनुसार, यह उपलब्धि लंबे समय से चल रहे अन्वेषण कार्यों और निरंतर प्रयासों को वास्तविक उत्पादन क्षमता में बदलने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव का प्रतीक है। इससे पश्चिम बंगाल का नाम भारत के हाइड्रोकार्बन मानचित्र पर और अधिक मजबूती से दर्ज होगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि अशोकनगर की यह खोज न केवल पश्चिम बंगाल के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, बल्कि इससे पूरे बंगाल बेसिन में तेल और गैस की खोज तथा उत्पादन गतिविधियों को भी नई गति मिलने की उम्मीद है। भारत वर्तमान में अपनी ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं का बड़ा हिस्सा आयातित कच्चे तेल और गैस से पूरा करता है। ऐसे में अशोकनगर जैसी घरेलू खोजें देश की आयात निर्भरता कम करने और ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता को मजबूत बनाने में अहम भूमिका निभा सकती हैं।

पुरी ने यह भी कहा कि यह उपलब्धि पश्चिम बंगाल में ऊर्जा क्षेत्र की बढ़ती संभावनाओं को दर्शाती है। उन्होंने राज्य में हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधनों के विकास के लिए किए जा रहे प्रयासों की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि आने वाले समय में इस क्षेत्र में और निवेश तथा अन्वेषण गतिविधियां बढ़ सकती हैं।

Headline	'Biggest in world history': Trump unveils 65 billion barrel oil deal with Venezuela		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Aug 2026		

'Biggest in world history': Trump unveils 65 billion barrel oil deal with Venezuela

<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/the+tribune-epaper-the+tribt/biggest+in+world+history+trump+unveils+65+billion+barrel+oil+deal+with+venezuela-news+id-n725041073>

U S President Donald Trump on Friday announced a crude oil deal with Venezuela, claiming it was the "biggest oil deal in world history".

The agreement gives the US majority control over more than 65 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves in the South American country.

According to Trump, the deal will "more than double" US oil reserves and drive down domestic petrol prices in the long term, while putting Venezuela's economy on a path to recovery. Trump said Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth had worked closely with Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodriguez on the deal, as well as with private businesses.

The announcement comes nearly nine months after the US military, at Trump's direction, carried out an operation to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and take him to the US to face federal charges of narcoterrorism and drug trafficking.

For India, the deal could smoothen crude oil supplies. Less than two weeks ago, on August 16, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) secured a licence from the US Office of Foreign Assets Control to return to Venezuela and restart existing oil extraction operations. ONGC, India's largest oil and gas company, holds a 40 per cent stake in the San Cristobal oil project and an 11 per cent stake in the Carabobo project. However, US sanctions on Venezuela had halted work at the projects.

India imports between 4.5 million and 5 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil, with imports from Venezuela touching almost 3,83,000 bpd in August, up from zero in March.

With the US securing a major share of Venezuela's oil, India could look to ramp up imports further, as the South American country's medium and heavy crude varieties are suitable for Indian refineries.

ONGC is gearing up to invest about \$200 million to revive production at the San Cristobal oilfield in Venezuela, which it operates with Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) holds a 40 per cent interest in the San Cristobal oilfield, while PDVSA owns the remaining 60 per cent.

The oilfield currently produces around 4,000-5,000 bpd of crude oil. ONGC aims to restore output to its previous peak of up to 50,000 bpd. India is also in talks with Venezuela to gain access to more than \$500 million in outstanding dividends from its stakes in the two oil projects.

Venezuela holds an estimated 303 billion barrels of crude oil reserves, or about 17 per cent of the world's total, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). Trump said in a social media post on Friday: "The US will have majority control of more than 65 billion barrels of proven oil reserves in Venezuela, at no cost to the American taxpayer."

Following the West Asia crisis, India, the world's third-largest crude oil importer, expanded its purchases from Africa and South America while continuing to buy oil from Russia.

Headline	बंगाल बेसिन में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक खोज उत्पादन के करीब पहुंची: हरदीप पुरी		
Publication	Desh Bandhu	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

बंगाल बेसिन में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक खोज उत्पादन के करीब पहुंची: हरदीप पुरी

<https://deshbandhump.com/post/bangala-besina-mem-oenajisi-ki-pahali-vyavasayika-khoja-utpadana-ke-kariba-pahunci-haradipa-puri>

नई दिल्ली, 29 अगस्त (आईएनएस)। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा है कि पश्चिम बंगाल के अशोकनगर क्षेत्र में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज अब उत्पादन और व्यावसायिक दोहन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण तक पहुंच गई है। उन्होंने इसे भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और घरेलू तेल एवं गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में बड़ी उपलब्धि बताया।

नई दिल्ली, 29 अगस्त (आईएनएस)। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा है कि पश्चिम बंगाल के अशोकनगर क्षेत्र में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज अब उत्पादन और व्यावसायिक दोहन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण तक पहुंच गई है। उन्होंने इसे भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और घरेलू तेल एवं गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में बड़ी उपलब्धि बताया।

सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर शेयर किए गए पोस्ट में केंद्रीय मंत्री पुरी ने कहा कि 30 मई 2026 को विकास कुएं एस-1जेड की ड्रिलिंग शुरू होने के तीन महीने से भी कम समय में ओएनजीसी ने इस क्षेत्र से हल्के और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले कच्चे तेल के प्रवाह की क्षमता सफलतापूर्वक स्थापित कर दी है।

उन्होंने कहा, "प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और घरेलू हाइड्रोकार्बन उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में चल रही अभूतपूर्व यात्रा के तहत बंगाल बेसिन के अशोकनगर में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज अब व्यावसायीकरण के एक निर्णायक चरण के करीब पहुंच गई है।"

पुरी ने बताया कि अशोकनगर क्षेत्र से निकाले गए कच्चे तेल की पहली खेप को इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन की हल्दिया रिफाइनरी भेजे जाने के लिए रवाना किया गया। इस अवसर पर अशोकनगर के विधायक डॉ. सुमय हीरा और ओएनजीसी के अन्वेषण निदेशक भी मौजूद रहे।

केंद्रीय मंत्री के अनुसार, यह उपलब्धि लंबे समय से चल रहे अन्वेषण कार्यों और निरंतर प्रयासों को वास्तविक उत्पादन क्षमता में बदलने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव का प्रतीक है। इससे पश्चिम बंगाल का नाम भारत के हाइड्रोकार्बन मानचित्र पर और अधिक मजबूती से दर्ज होगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि अशोकनगर की यह खोज न केवल पश्चिम बंगाल के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, बल्कि इससे पूरे बंगाल बेसिन में तेल और गैस की खोज तथा उत्पादन गतिविधियों को भी नई गति मिलने की उम्मीद है।

भारत वर्तमान में अपनी ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं का बड़ा हिस्सा आयातित कच्चे तेल और गैस से पूरा करता है। ऐसे में अशोकनगर जैसी घरेलू खोजें देश की आयात निर्भरता कम करने और ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता को मजबूत बनाने में अहम भूमिका निभा सकती हैं।

पुरी ने यह भी कहा कि यह उपलब्धि पश्चिम बंगाल में ऊर्जा क्षेत्र की बढ़ती संभावनाओं को दर्शाती है। उन्होंने राज्य में हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधनों के विकास के लिए किए जा रहे प्रयासों की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि आने वाले समय में इस क्षेत्र में और निवेश तथा अन्वेषण गतिविधियां बढ़ सकती हैं।

Headline	ONGC Begins Commercial Crude Oil Production From West Bengal's Ashoknagar Field		
Publication	Dharmakshethra	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Aug 2026		

ONGC Begins Commercial Crude Oil Production From West Bengal's Ashoknagar Field

<https://dharmakshethra.com/ongc-begins-commercial-crude-oil-production-from-west-bengals-ashoknagar-field/>

The development centres on the Baigachhi area of Ashoknagar, around 48 kilometres from Kolkata, where ONGC discovered commercially significant hydrocarbons after decades of exploration across the Bengal Basin. Local reporting describes the latest milestone as the commencement of commercial crude production, while ONGC itself has said that its first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the basin has taken a decisive step towards monetisation.

By

Kautilya

August 29, 2026

West Bengal has taken an important step onto India's hydrocarbon production map as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) begins moving crude oil from its Ashoknagar discovery in North 24 Parganas towards commercial monetisation. The first consignment of crude from the field was flagged off on August 28, 2026 for transportation to Indian Oil Corporation's Haldia Refinery , marking a major milestone after years of exploration, testing and development in the Bengal Basin.

The development centres on the Baigachhi area of Ashoknagar , around 48 kilometres from Kolkata, where ONGC discovered commercially significant hydrocarbons after decades of exploration across the Bengal Basin. Local reporting describes the latest milestone as the commencement of commercial crude production, while ONGC itself has said that its first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the basin has taken a decisive step towards monetisation.

The significance extends beyond the relatively modest initial production volumes. Successful development at Ashoknagar demonstrates that the Bengal Basin can support commercially recoverable hydrocarbons and could encourage substantially wider exploration across eastern India.

Development Well AS-1Z Establishes Fresh Crude Flow

The immediate breakthrough came from ONGC's AS-1Z development well , which was spudded on May 30, 2026. In less than three months, ONGC successfully established the flow potential of what the company describes as light, high-quality crude oil

The rapid progress of AS-1Z is particularly significant because it represents the transition from earlier exploration and appraisal towards development of a field capable of supplying crude to a commercial refinery.

On August 28, ONGC Director (Exploration) Om Prakash Sinha flagged off the maiden crude consignment in the presence of Ashoknagar MLA Dr Sumay Hira and senior company officials. The crude was sent by road tanker to Indian Oil's Haldia Refinery for processing.

ONGC said the development demonstrated how years of exploration and perseverance in the Bengal Basin were now translating into production potential.

Two Wells Currently Operational

According to reports from the field, two wells are presently operational at Ashoknagar , with combined crude production estimated at around 20 cubic metres per day , equivalent to approximately 20,000 litres.

The crude emerging from the wells is mixed with formation water. It is therefore passed through separation equipment and an effluent-treatment system at the production site before the recovered oil is transported onwards to the refinery.

ONGC is also preparing to drill another five or six wells in the area as it seeks to expand production and establish the extent of the hydrocarbon accumulation.

The company's exploration leadership has indicated that the amount of oil encountered in the Ashoknagar area has been encouraging and that production could increase further as additional wells are drilled and brought into operation.

A Long Journey From Discovery to Production

Ashoknagar's emergence as an oil-producing area follows a long exploration campaign.

Oil and gas deposits were encountered at Baigachhi in , providing the first strong indication that the Bengal Basin could contain commercially recoverable petroleum resources.

ONGC subsequently completed the Ashoknagar-1 well as an oil producer under an Early Monetisation Plan. In November 2020, crude produced during testing was transported to Indian Oil's Haldia Refinery, demonstrating the quality and recoverability of the hydrocarbon discovery.

On December 20, 2020, the Union government formally dedicated the Bengal Basin to the nation as India's eighth producing sedimentary basin . The development was regarded as a historic exploration achievement because commercial hydrocarbon production had remained elusive in the region despite decades of geological investigation.

Experimental production from the earlier well reportedly yielded hundreds of barrels of crude, and assessments at the time indicated that the oil was of comparatively good quality.

Progress towards sustained commercial production was subsequently affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, land-related issues and technical difficulties at some wells. After addressing these constraints, ONGC resumed exploration and development activity and encountered further encouraging hydrocarbon indications.

The successful AS-1Z development well in 2026 has now given the project renewed momentum.

Why the Bengal Basin Matters

India possesses more than two dozen sedimentary basins, but only a relatively small number have historically accounted for the overwhelming majority of domestic oil and natural-gas output.

The Bengal Basin is geologically extensive, covering substantial areas of eastern India and extending into neighbouring Bangladesh and offshore regions of the Bay of Bengal. Its potential has long interested petroleum geologists, but converting geological indications into commercially viable discoveries on the Indian side proved difficult.

Ashoknagar changed that assessment.

When the field was dedicated in 2020, the government noted that ONGC had succeeded in establishing production in seven of India's eight producing basins at the time. The Ashoknagar discovery therefore represented more than one additional oil well; it established the commercial hydrocarbon potential of an entire sedimentary basin.

The latest development strengthens that conclusion by moving the discovery further from exploratory testing towards sustained production and refinery supply.

Light Crude Offers Refining Advantages

ONGC's description of the AS-1Z output as light, high-quality crude oil is another encouraging aspect of the development.

Crude oils vary significantly in density, sulphur content and chemical composition. Light crude generally contains a larger proportion of valuable lighter hydrocarbons that can be converted into products such as petrol, diesel and aviation fuels. Depending on its sulphur content and other characteristics, it can also be easier and more economical for refiners to process than very heavy crude.

Detailed assay data for the newly produced Ashoknagar crude have not been publicly released, so its precise refinery characteristics should not yet be assumed. Nevertheless, ONGC's description of the oil as light and high-quality is positive from a commercial perspective.

Haldia Refinery Provides a Natural Processing Destination

The location of Indian Oil's Haldia Refinery provides Ashoknagar with a major downstream advantage.

Rather than requiring crude to travel across India to a distant processing centre, the field lies within West Bengal and can supply an established refinery in the same state by tanker during the early production phase.

This simplifies initial monetisation while production volumes remain comparatively small.

If Ashoknagar eventually develops into a larger producing cluster, transportation infrastructure could evolve accordingly. For the moment, road movement allows ONGC to begin delivering crude without waiting for the construction of dedicated pipeline infrastructure.

The relationship between an upstream ONGC field and an existing Indian Oil refinery also demonstrates how established public-sector energy infrastructure can support the development of smaller emerging domestic discoveries.

More Wells Will Determine the Field's True Potential

The most important stage for Ashoknagar now lies ahead.

Two producing wells can demonstrate that recoverable oil is present, but additional drilling is required to determine the size, continuity and commercial productivity of the reservoir.

ONGC's plan to drill another five or six wells will therefore be crucial.

Development wells allow petroleum engineers and geologists to obtain a clearer picture of reservoir pressure, oil-water contacts, geological continuity and sustainable production rates across different portions of a field.

If additional wells reproduce or improve upon the encouraging flow seen from AS-1Z, ONGC could progressively increase production and justify larger investments in permanent field infrastructure.

If reservoir characteristics vary substantially across the area, development plans would have to be adjusted accordingly.

For this reason, the current production milestone should be regarded as the beginning of Ashoknagar's commercial development rather than the final measure of its potential.

Exploration Could Expand Across West Bengal

Successful monetisation could also encourage ONGC to intensify exploration elsewhere within the Bengal Basin.

Hydrocarbon discoveries often acquire significance beyond the individual field because geological information obtained from one successful well helps explorers refine their understanding of similar structures elsewhere in the basin.

Seismic data, reservoir samples, pressure measurements and crude characteristics from Ashoknagar can all contribute to better exploration models.

A producing field can therefore reduce geological uncertainty around neighbouring prospects and potentially lead to additional discoveries.

This multiplier effect could ultimately prove more important than Ashoknagar's initial daily production.

Domestic Oil Production Remains Strategically Important

The development comes at a time when India continues to import the overwhelming majority of the crude oil required by its economy.

India is one of the world's largest oil consumers, and crude imports constitute a major component of the country's merchandise import bill. The government has consequently been encouraging greater domestic exploration through licensing reforms, expanded seismic surveys, offshore exploration and greater participation by both public and private companies.

No individual field of Ashoknagar's present scale can materially transform India's national import dependence by itself.

Its significance instead lies in demonstrating that new producing areas can still be opened within India

A series of small and medium discoveries across underexplored basins can collectively contribute to domestic supply while creating geological knowledge that may eventually lead to larger discoveries.

The government's broader hydrocarbon policy has increasingly emphasised exactly this approach: expanding exploration into frontier and previously underdeveloped sedimentary basins rather than relying solely on mature producing regions.

Potential Economic Benefits for West Bengal

The expansion of oil and gas activity at Ashoknagar could also have a local economic impact.

Development drilling requires civil construction, transport, equipment maintenance, logistics, security and a range of supporting services. A larger field could therefore create direct and indirect employment opportunities in North 24 Parganas while generating demand for local businesses.

Longer-term development could also strengthen West Bengal's position within India's energy economy, which already includes major downstream infrastructure centred on Haldia.

However, the extent of these benefits will depend on the scale at which production ultimately develops. It would be premature to describe Ashoknagar as a major oil-producing centre until additional wells establish the recoverable reserves and sustainable field production rate.

From Exploration Success to Commercial Monetisation

The August 2026 milestone marks an important transition in ONGC's long effort to establish commercial hydrocarbons in the Bengal Basin.

The initial Ashoknagar discovery demonstrated that oil existed in recoverable quantities. Experimental production established that crude could be brought to the surface and supplied to a refinery. The latest development well has now demonstrated fresh flow potential and enabled another crude consignment to move towards Haldia.

ONGC's own description is appropriately measured: the field has taken a decisive step closer to monetisation

For India, the immediate volumes may be modest compared with production from mature offshore and northeastern fields. Strategically, however, the significance is considerably larger.

After decades of exploration, crude oil from the soil of West Bengal is once again moving to a refinery, and ONGC now has an opportunity to determine whether Ashoknagar can become the foundation for a much broader hydrocarbon industry in the Bengal Basin.

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Indian Masterminds, ONGC Begins Commercial Crude Oil Production at Ashoknagar, Marking Major Milestone for Bengal Basin, August 29, 2026.

Headline	Mizoram in talks with IOCL to set up oil depot, plans to resume gas exploration		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

Mizoram in talks with IOCL to set up oil depot, plans to resume gas exploration

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/mizoram-in-talks-with-iocl-to-set-up-oil-depot-plans-to-resume-gas-exploration/133605046>

The state is exploring sites for an IOCL depot and plans drilling at Hortoki to assess gas reserves in Kolasib district.

Mizoram plans to resume oil and natural gas exploration, including proposed drilling at Hortoki in Kolasib district. The Mizoram government is holding discussions with IOCL to set up an oil depot in the state and planning to resume natural gas exploration , officials said on Friday.

Several locations have been explored for setting up the depot, but the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd is yet to take a final decision, they said.

The state government also plans to resume oil and natural gas exploration activities, particularly in the Meidum area in northern Mizoram's Kolasib district, where an assessment is underway to determine whether commercially viable quantities of natural gas can be extracted, the officials said.

Advt Exploratory drilling has been proposed at Hortoki near Meidum, and several preparatory steps have already been completed, the officials said.

A bridge over the Chhimluang river, connecting Meidum with Hortoki, was completed by the state public works department in 2025, facilitating access to the proposed drilling site, they said.

The ONGC has sought an extension of the validity of the exploration block from the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to enable well drilling, the officials said.

To expedite the process, Chief Minister Lalduhoma has already written a letter to the central government, urging it to allow the drilling work to commence at the earliest, they said.

Headline	Mizoram in talks with IOCL to set up oil depot, plans to resume gas exploration		
Publication	ET Government	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

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<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/psu/mizoram-in-talks-with-iocl-to-set-up-oil-depot-plans-to-resume-gas-exploration/133605127>

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Headline	पश्चिम बंगाल के कुएं से निकलने लगा बेहतरीन कच्चा तेल, ट्रकों के जरिए हल्दिया भेजी गई पहली कमर्शियल खेप		
Publication	ETV Bharat	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

पश्चिम बंगाल के कुएं से निकलने लगा बेहतरीन कच्चा तेल, ट्रकों के जरिए हल्दिया भेजी गई पहली कमर्शियल खेप

<https://www.etvbharat.com/hi/business/ongc-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-commercial-production-in-2026-hin26082903263>

हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने शनिवार को एलान किया कि ओएनजीसी ने बंगाल के अशोकनगर में रिकॉर्ड समय में व्यावसायिक तेल उत्पादन शुरू कर दिया है।

नई दिल्ली: देश के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के लिए पश्चिम बंगाल से एक बड़ी और ऐतिहासिक कामयाबी की खबर सामने आई है। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने शनिवार, 29 अगस्त 2026 को घोषणा की कि ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ONGC) ने बंगाल बेसिन के अशोकनगर में अपनी पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज को उत्पादन के अंतिम चरण में पहुंचा दिया है। इसके साथ ही, इस क्षेत्र से कच्चे तेल की पहली खेप को हल्दिया रिफाइनरी भेजने का काम भी आधिकारिक तौर पर शुरू हो गया है।

वैश्विक तनाव के बीच भारत के लिए राहत

यह वैश्विक और रणनीतिक मोर्चे पर भारत के लिए एक बड़ी राहत वाली खबर है। वर्तमान में अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच बढ़ते संघर्ष के कारण कच्चे तेल की वैश्विक आपूर्ति और ऊर्जा बाजारों पर अनिश्चितता का संकट मंडरा रहा है। ऐसे संवेदनशील समय में घरेलू स्तर पर तेल उत्पादन का यह विस्तार भारत के लिए सकारात्मक संकेत है, जो देश को कच्चे तेल के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ाएगा।

सिर्फ तीन महीने में मिली बड़ी सफलता

केंद्रीय मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी के अनुसार, अशोकनगर फील्ड में विकास कुएं 'AS-1Z' की खुदाई इसी वर्ष 30 मई 2026 को शुरू की गई थी। ओएनजीसी के इंजीनियरों और तकनीकी विशेषज्ञों ने तीन महीने से भी कम समय के भीतर इस कुएं से हल्के और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले कच्चे तेल (Light and High-Quality Crude Oil) का सफल और निरंतर प्रवाह स्थापित करने में असाधारण सफलता हासिल की है। सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म 'एक्स' पर यह जानकारी साझा करते हुए मंत्री ने कहा कि लंबे समय की खोज और विकास गतिविधियों के बाद अब यह परियोजना वास्तविक उत्पादन की ओर बढ़ चुकी है, जो देश की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करेगी।

हल्दिया रिफाइनरी भेजी गई पहली खेप

इस ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि के अवसर पर अशोकनगर तेल क्षेत्र से उत्पादित कच्चे तेल के पहले कमर्शियल कंसाइनमेंट को इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (IOCL) की हल्दिया रिफाइनरी के लिए रवाना किया गया। इस गौरवपूर्ण क्षण पर स्थानीय विधायक डॉ. सुमाय हीरा और ओएनजीसी के निदेशक (अन्वेषण) भी विशेष रूप से उपस्थित रहे, जिन्होंने इस पहली खेप को हरी झंडी दिखाई।

बंगाल बेसिन में बढ़ेगी व्यावसायिक गतिविधियां

अशोकनगर की इस सफलता ने पश्चिम बंगाल को भारत के हाइड्रोकार्बन उत्पादन मानचित्र पर मजबूती से स्थापित कर दिया है। माना जा रहा है कि इस व्यावसायिक सफलता के बाद अब पूरे बंगाल बेसिन में तेल और गैस की खोज तथा उत्पादन गतिविधियों में काफी तेजी आएगी। भारत अपनी ऊर्जा जरूरतों के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर कच्चे तेल के आयात पर निर्भर रहता है, ऐसे में घरेलू संसाधनों का यह विकास विदेशी तेल पर निर्भरता और वित्तीय बोझ को कम करने में सहायक सिद्ध होगा।

Headline	ONGC Seeks Tamil Nadu Nod For Oil Exploration And Gas Operation In Ramanathapuram		
Publication	ETV Bharat	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC Seeks Tamil Nadu Nod For Oil Exploration And Gas Operation In Ramanathapuram

<https://www.etvbharat.com/en/state/ongc-seeks-tamil-nadu-nod-for-oil-exploration-and-gas-operation-in-ramanathapuram-enn26082903853>

Ramanathapuram could play a greater role in meeting the state's energy requirements as the district doesn't fall under the Protected Agricultural Zone, says top official.

Thanjavur: State-owned explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has sought the Tamil Nadu government's permission to expand its oil and gas exploration and production activities in Ramanathapuram, with the company's Cauvery Asset Manager K V Ilango claiming that increased production from the district could help the state meet a substantial share of its gas requirement.

Ilango made the remarks while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of the 8th Thanthai Periyar Memorial State-level Volleyball Tournament, organised by ONGC Cauvery Assets at the Kumbakonam City Higher Secondary School ground.

Ilango said ONGC, established in 1956, currently operates in India and 15 other countries. The company entered Tamil Nadu in 1980 and began operations in the Cauvery Delta region in 1987. Its activities in Ramanathapuram began in 2002.

The company's Tamil Nadu operations are headquartered in Karaikal and currently extend across nine districts Karaikal, Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Ariyalur, Pudukkottai, Cuddalore and Ramanathapuram, he said.

400 Oil Wells Returned To Farmers

Ilango said ONGC had drilled around 760 oil wells in Tamil Nadu, of which nearly 400 had been extracted and the land returned to the respective farmers. Apart from crude oil and natural gas production, he said ONGC was also involved in sectors including petrochemicals, green energy and refining.

He said the Tamil Nadu government had granted permission for oil exploration over an area of 4,220 sq km, but ONGC had utilised only about 0.03%, or approximately 17 sq km, of the area.

The company currently holds around 2,500 acres of land on lease from about 4,500 farmers, he said.

Gas Production Falls After Drilling Restrictions

Ilango said oil and gas production in Tamil Nadu had declined following the state's decision in 2020 to declare the Cauvery Delta a Protected Agricultural Zone, after which drilling of new wells in the region was stopped.

Crude oil produced from ONGC wells is transported to the Chennai Manali refinery, while the company supplies a major portion of the gas requirement of the SPIC plant (Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. in Tuticorin produces urea), he said.

We supply 75% of the gas required by the SPIC plant, Ilango said.

He also referred to the Tamil Nadu government's 2023 policy decision to facilitate piped gas supply to households. A pipeline network has already been established to transport gas from Thoothukudi to Chennai through 18 districts, he said.

According to Ilango, the restrictions on new drilling have contributed to a decline in ONGC's production in Tamil Nadu. Gas production has fallen from 34 lakh to 26 lakh standard cubic metres, while crude oil production has declined from 1,090 tonnes to 550 tonnes, he said.

Ramanathapuram Can Meet State's Natural Gas Needs'

Ilango said Tamil Nadu consumed around 1.5 billion standard cubic metres of gas in 2025-26, of which only about 0.8 billion standard cubic metres was produced domestically.

He argued that Ramanathapuram could play a greater role in meeting the state's energy requirements as the district does not fall under the Protected Agricultural Zone.

Since Ramanathapuram district does not fall under the Protected Agricultural Zone, if the Tamil Nadu government grants permission to expand ONGC's operations there, ONGC itself could meet the majority of Tamil Nadu's requirements, he said.

The remarks come amid the state's continuing efforts to balance energy requirements with environmental and agricultural concerns, particularly in the Cauvery Delta, where hydrocarbon exploration has faced restrictions.

ONGC officials H R Giriraj Thimman, Gogay, Saravanan and Gunasekaran were also present during the interaction.

Headline	ONGC's Bengal Basin Oil Discovery at Ashoknagar Moves Closer to Production		
Publication	Education Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC's Bengal Basin Oil Discovery at Ashoknagar Moves Closer to Production

<https://educationpost.in/news/technology/ongcs-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-at-ashoknagar-moves-closer-to-production>

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri says ONGC's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved closer to monetisation after successful crude oil flow testing.

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said ONGC's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation, marking a significant development in India's efforts to strengthen energy security and boost domestic hydrocarbon production. In a post on social media platform X, Puri said that less than three months after the development well AS-1Z was spudded on May 30, 2026, ONGC successfully established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil from the field.

"In a significant step towards further strengthening India's unprecedented journey towards energy security and boosting domestic production of hydrocarbons under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the first commercial hydrocarbon discovery by ONGC in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation," the minister said. "In less than three months since the spudding of development well AS-1Z on 30 May 2026, ONGC successfully established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil," he added.

He said the maiden consignment of crude oil from the Ashoknagar field was flagged off for transportation to Indian Oil Corporation's Haldia Refinery in the presence of Ashoknagar MLA Dr Sumay Hira and ONGC's Director of Exploration. According to Puri, the development marks an important transition from years of exploration and perseverance to actual production potential, bringing West Bengal more firmly onto India's hydrocarbon map.

The minister described the development as a significant step towards strengthening India's energy security and increasing domestic production of hydrocarbons under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Ashoknagar discovery is expected to add momentum to exploration and production activities in the Bengal Basin, as India seeks to reduce its dependence on imported hydrocarbons and expand the contribution of domestic resources to its energy requirements. Puri also said the development reflects the progress being made in West Bengal's hydrocarbon sector, while crediting the state's leadership and ongoing efforts to advance its energy potential.

Headline	ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Hi India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production: Hardeep Puri

<https://hiindia.com/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-production-hardeep-puri/>

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said ONGC's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation, marking a significant development in India's efforts to strengthen energy security and boost domestic hydrocarbon production. In a post on social media platform X, Puri said that less than three months after the development well AS-1Z was spudded on May 30, 2026, ONGC successfully established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil from the field. In a significant step towards further strengthening India's unprecedented journey towards energy security and boosting domestic production of hydrocarbons under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the first commercial hydrocarbon discovery by ONGC in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation, the minister said. In less than three months since the spudding of development well AS-1Z on 30 May 2026, ONGC successfully established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil, he added. He said the maiden consignment of crude oil from the Ashoknagar field was flagged off for transportation to Indian Oil Corporation's Haldia Refinery in the presence of Ashoknagar MLA Dr Sumay Hira and ONGC's Director of Exploration. According to Puri, the development marks an important transition from years of exploration and perseverance to actual production potential, bringing West Bengal more firmly onto India's hydrocarbon map. The minister described the development as a significant step towards strengthening India's energy security and increasing domestic production of hydrocarbons under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Ashoknagar discovery is expected to add momentum to exploration and production activities in the Bengal Basin, as India seeks to reduce its dependence on imported hydrocarbons and expand the contribution of domestic resources to its energy requirements. Puri also said the development reflects the progress being made in West Bengal's hydrocarbon sector, while crediting the state's leadership and ongoing efforts to advance its energy potential. IANSpk

Headline	ONGC Begins Commercial Crude Oil Production at Ashoknagar, Marking Major Milestone for Bengal Basin		
Publication	Indian Master Minds	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC Begins Commercial Crude Oil Production at Ashoknagar, Marking Major Milestone for Bengal Basin

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/ongc-commercial-crude-oil-production-ashoknagar-west-bengal-228523/>

Kolkata: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has commenced commercial production of crude oil from its Ashoknagar field at Baigachhi in

North 24 Parganas, West Bengal , marking a significant milestone for the company's exploration activities in the Bengal Basin.

The first commercial consignment of crude oil was flagged off on August 28, 2026, in the presence of Ashoknagar MLA Dr. Sumay Hira and ONGC Director (Exploration) Om Prakash Sinha, along with other senior officials of the company.

Around 12,000 litres of crude oil were transported from the oilfield to the Haldia refinery in a tanker following the flag-off ceremony.

The commencement of commercial production follows years of exploration and efforts to overcome operational and technical challenges at the field.

ONGC officials said the Ashoknagar field is currently producing around 20 cubic metres of crude oil per day.

The crude produced from the well is mixed with water and undergoes processing before transportation to the refinery.

The production process includes:

At present, two wells are operational at the Ashoknagar field.

Read also: ONGC Videsh Plans \$200 Million Investment to Revive Venezuela's San Cristobal Oilfield

ONGC is preparing to expand production from the Ashoknagar field by drilling additional wells.

The company plans to drill another five or six wells and has set a target of transporting around 20,000 litres of crude oil to the Haldia refinery every day.

ONGC Director (Exploration) Om Prakash Sinha said the company has found indications of more oil in the Ashoknagar area than initially anticipated. He said the production response has been encouraging and is expected to increase further in the coming days.

The latest development follows the successful drilling of development well AS-1Z, which was spudded on May 30, 2026.

Within less than three months, ONGC established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil from the field, bringing the discovery closer to full-scale monetisation.

The development represents an important step in translating years of exploration and perseverance into commercial production and strengthening West Bengal's position on India's hydrocarbon map.

Oil and gas deposits were first discovered at Baigachhi in 2018.

In December 2020, then Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited the site and flagged off the first consignment of crude oil produced on an experimental basis.

However, subsequent operations faced several challenges, including:

After resolving these issues, ONGC resumed production and exploration activities and subsequently identified indications of additional hydrocarbon reserves in the area.

During experimental extraction in 2020, one of the wells reportedly produced around 375 barrels of crude oil. Experts had also indicated that the quality of the crude was comparable to oil produced from the Mumbai High offshore field.

The expansion of commercial oil production is also expected to create economic opportunities in the region.

Ashoknagar MLA Dr. Sumay Hira said the expansion of the oilfield could generate employment opportunities for local residents and provide a boost to the regional economy. He also noted that several land-related complications that had previously affected ONGC's operations have been substantially resolved.

The start of commercial production has generated renewed optimism in Ashoknagar after years of exploration, delays and operational interruptions.

Located around 48 km from central Kolkata, the Ashoknagar field represents an important development for hydrocarbon exploration in West Bengal.

With two wells currently operational and additional wells planned, ONGC is looking to increase production and establish a more consistent supply of crude oil to the Haldia refinery. The development also marks a significant step in bringing the company's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the Bengal Basin closer to its full production potential.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It is India's leading exploration and production company and is engaged in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas both onshore and offshore.

Headline	बंगाल बेसिन में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक खोज उत्पादन के करीब पहुंची: हरदीप पुरी		
Publication	Indias	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

बंगाल बेसिन में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक खोज उत्पादन के करीब पहुंची: हरदीप पुरी

<https://indias.news/%e0%a4%ac%e0%a4%82%e0%a4%97%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b2-%e0%a4%ac%e0%a5%87%e0%a4%b8%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%a8-%e0%a4%ae%e0%a5%87%e0%a4%82-%e0%a4%93%e0%a4%8f%e0%a4%a8%e0%a4%9c%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%b8%e0%a5%80-%e0%a4%95/>

New Delhi, 29 अगस्त . केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा है कि पश्चिम बंगाल के अशोकनगर क्षेत्र में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज अब उत्पादन और व्यावसायिक दोहन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण तक पहुंच गई है. उन्होंने इसे India की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और घरेलू तेल एवं गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में बड़ी उपलब्धि बताया.

social media प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर शेयर किए गए पोस्ट में Union Minister पुरी ने कहा कि 30 मई 2026 को विकास कुएं एस-1जेड की ड्रिलिंग शुरू होने के तीन महीने से भी कम समय में ओएनजीसी ने इस क्षेत्र से हल्के और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले कच्चे तेल के प्रवाह की क्षमता सफलतापूर्वक स्थापित कर दी है.

उन्होंने कहा, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi के नेतृत्व में India की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और घरेलू हाइड्रोकार्बन उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में चल रही अभूतपूर्व यात्रा के तहत बंगाल बेसिन के अशोकनगर में ओएनजीसी की पहली व्यावसायिक हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज अब व्यावसायीकरण के एक निर्णायक चरण के करीब पहुंच गई है."

पुरी ने बताया कि अशोकनगर क्षेत्र से निकाले गए कच्चे तेल की पहली खेप को इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन की हल्दिया रिफाइनरी भेजे जाने के लिए रवाना किया गया. इस अवसर पर अशोकनगर के विधायक डॉ. सुमय हीरा और ओएनजीसी के अन्वेषण निदेशक भी मौजूद रहे.

Union Minister के अनुसार, यह उपलब्धि लंबे समय से चल रहे अन्वेषण कार्यों और निरंतर प्रयासों को वास्तविक उत्पादन क्षमता में बदलने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव का प्रतीक है. इससे पश्चिम बंगाल का नाम India के हाइड्रोकार्बन मानचित्र पर और अधिक मजबूती से दर्ज होगा.

उन्होंने कहा कि अशोकनगर की यह खोज न केवल पश्चिम बंगाल के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, बल्कि इससे पूरे बंगाल बेसिन में तेल और गैस की खोज तथा उत्पादन गतिविधियों को भी नई गति मिलने की उम्मीद है.

India वर्तमान में अपनी ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं का बड़ा हिस्सा आयातित कच्चे तेल और गैस से पूरा करता है. ऐसे में अशोकनगर जैसी घरेलू खोजें देश की आयात निर्भरता कम करने और ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता को मजबूत बनाने में अहम भूमिका निभा सकती हैं.

पुरी ने यह भी कहा कि यह उपलब्धि पश्चिम बंगाल में ऊर्जा क्षेत्र की बढ़ती संभावनाओं को दर्शाती है. उन्होंने राज्य में हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधनों के विकास के लिए किए जा रहे प्रयासों की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि आने वाले समय में इस क्षेत्र में और निवेश तथा अन्वेषण गतिविधियां बढ़ सकती हैं.

Headline	ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Lokmat Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production: Hardeep Puri

<https://www.lokmatimes.com/business/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-production-hardeep-puri/>

New Delhi, Aug 29 Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said ONGC's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the

Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation, marking a significant development in India's efforts to strengthen energy security and boost domestic hydrocarbon production.

In a post on social media platform X, Puri said that less than three months after the development well AS-1Z was spudded on May 30, 2026, ONGC successfully established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil from the field.

"In a significant step towards further strengthening India's unprecedented journey towards energy security and boosting domestic production of hydrocarbons under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the first commercial hydrocarbon discovery by ONGC in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation," the minister said.

"In less than three months since the spudding of development well AS-1Z on 30 May 2026, ONGC successfully established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil," he added.

He said the maiden consignment of crude oil from the Ashoknagar field was flagged off for transportation to Indian Oil Corporation's Haldia Refinery in the presence of Ashoknagar MLA Dr Sumay Hira and ONGC's Director of Exploration.

According to Puri, the development marks an important transition from years of exploration and perseverance to actual production potential, bringing West Bengal more firmly onto India's hydrocarbon map.

The minister described the development as a significant step towards strengthening India's energy security and increasing domestic production of hydrocarbons under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Ashoknagar discovery is expected to add momentum to exploration and production activities in the Bengal Basin, as India seeks to reduce its dependence on imported hydrocarbons and expand the contribution of domestic resources to its energy requirements.

Puri also said the development reflects the progress being made in West Bengal's hydrocarbon sector, while crediting the state's leadership and ongoing efforts to advance its energy potential.

Headline	ONGC's Bengal Basin oil find at Ashoknagar nears production milestone		
Publication	Nation Press	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC's Bengal Basin oil find at Ashoknagar nears production milestone

<https://www.nationpress.com/business/ongcs-ashoknagar-oil-find-nears-production>

ONGC's long-pursued Bengal Basin oil find at Ashoknagar has crossed a critical threshold with development well AS-1Z establishing flow potential of light crude in under three months, and the first consignment already en route to Haldia Refinery. For a basin that has sat on the margins of India's upstream map, this is a genuine turning point.

ONGC 's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved closer to full monetisation as of 29 August 2025 .

Development well AS-1Z , spudded on 30 May 2026 , successfully established flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil in under three months.

The maiden crude consignment from Ashoknagar has been dispatched to Indian Oil Corporation 's Haldia Refinery .

The dispatch was witnessed by Ashoknagar MLA Dr Sumay Hira and ONGC's Director of Exploration .

The discovery is expected to accelerate exploration and production activity across the broader Bengal Basin , reducing India's dependence on imported crude.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) 's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar West Bengal , has moved decisively closer to monetisation, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced on 29 August 2025 . The development marks a pivotal shift from years of exploration to actual production potential, bringing West Bengal firmly onto India's hydrocarbon map.

Key Developments

Less than three months after development well AS-1Z was spudded on 30 May 2026 , ONGC successfully established the flow potential of light, high-quality crude oil from the Ashoknagar field. The milestone signals that the discovery long in the making is now transitioning from a geological find to a commercially viable asset.

In a post on social media platform X, Puri said: 'In a significant step towards further strengthening India's unprecedented journey towards energy security and boosting domestic production of hydrocarbons under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the first commercial hydrocarbon discovery by ONGC in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation.'

First Crude Consignment Flagged Off

The maiden consignment of crude oil from the Ashoknagar field was flagged off for transportation to Indian Oil Corporation 's Haldia Refinery . The dispatch ceremony was held in the presence of Ashoknagar MLA Dr Sumay Hira and ONGC's Director of Exploration , marking a ceremonially significant moment for the region's energy sector.

What This Means for India's Energy Security

India remains heavily dependent on imported crude oil to meet its energy needs, making domestic discoveries of this nature strategically important. The Ashoknagar find is expected to add momentum to exploration and production activities across the Bengal Basin, a sedimentary province that has historically attracted limited upstream investment compared to established basins such as Krishna-Godavari or Bombay High.

Notably, the crude established at Ashoknagar is described as light and high-quality characteristics that typically command better refinery yields and reduce processing costs, strengthening the commercial case for accelerated development.

West Bengal's Growing Hydrocarbon Profile

Puri credited the state's leadership and ongoing efforts for advancing its energy potential, noting that the development reflects tangible progress in West Bengal's hydrocarbon sector. The Ashoknagar discovery, if scaled, could position the state as a meaningful contributor to domestic oil output a role it has not historically played.

As India pushes to reduce its import dependence and expand the share of domestic resources in its energy mix, the Bengal Basin's development trajectory will be closely watched by the upstream industry and policymakers alike.

But the real test lies in scale and speed. A single development well establishing flow potential is an early-stage marker not a production ramp. India's upstream sector has a long history of discoveries that took years to translate into meaningful output volumes, and the Bengal Basin's infrastructure deficit, particularly pipeline connectivity, remains an unresolved constraint. The dispatch of a maiden consignment to Haldia Refinery is symbolically important, but investors and policymakers should watch for a field development plan and reserve certification before treating this as a material addition to domestic supply. The political framing around energy security is understandable, but the numbers that matter barrels per day, reserve size, breakeven cost have not yet been disclosed.

What is ONGC's Ashoknagar oil discovery in the Bengal Basin?

Where is the Ashoknagar crude oil being sent?

Why is the Bengal Basin discovery important for India?

What type of crude oil was found at Ashoknagar?

Who was present at the flagging off of the first crude consignment?

Headline	ONGC's Bengal Basin oil discovery closer to production: Puri		
Publication	New Kerala	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC's Bengal Basin oil discovery closer to production: Puri

<https://www.newkerala.com/news/a/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-499.htm>

New Delhi, Aug 29 Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said ONGC's first commercial hydrocarbon discovery

in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation, marking a significant development in India's efforts to strengthen energy security and boost domestic hydrocarbon production.

"In a significant step towards further strengthening India's unprecedented journey towards energy security and boosting domestic production of hydrocarbons under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the first commercial hydrocarbon discovery by ONGC in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation. - Hardeep Singh Puri"

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The Ashoknagar discovery is expected to add momentum to exploration and production activities in the Bengal Basin, as India seeks to reduce its dependence on imported hydrocarbons and expand the contribution of domestic resources to its energy requirements.

Puri also said the development reflects the progress being made in West Bengal's hydrocarbon sector, while crediting the state's leadership and ongoing efforts to advance its energy potential.

Headline	बंगाल की धरती से निकला 'काला सोना', ONGC ने 3 महीने में कर दिखाया कमाल		
Publication	News 18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

बंगाल की धरती से निकला 'काला सोना', ONGC ने 3 महीने में कर दिखाया कमाल

<https://hindi.news18.com/news/business/latest-ongc-starts-crude-oil-production-within-3-months-of-drilling-in-bengal-10791229.html>

Crude Oil Production : ओएनजीसी ने बंगाल में 30 मई 2026 को एस-1जेड कुएं की ड्रिलिंग शुरू की थी. तीन महीने से भी कम समय में कंपनी ने यहां से कच्चा तेल निकाल लिया है. भारत कच्चे तेल की अधिकतर जरूरत आयात से पूरा करता है, इसलिए बंगाल में तेल मिलना एक बहुत बड़ी राहत भरी खबर है.

नई दिल्ली. भारत के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र से एक ऐसी खबर आई है, जिसे सुनकर हर देशवासी खुश हो जाएगा. पश्चिम बंगाल की धरती ने अब 'काला सोना' यानी कच्चा तेल उगलना शुरू कर दिया है. तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ONGC) को बंगाल बेसिन में ऐतिहासिक सफलता हाथ लगी है. केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने बताया कि अशोकनगर क्षेत्र में विकास कुएं 'एस-1जेड' (AS-1Z) की ड्रिलिंग शुरू होने के तीन महीने से भी कम समय के भीतर ओएनजीसी ने यहां से हल्के और बेहद उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले कूड ऑयल को निकालना शुरू कर दिया है.

अशोकनगर क्षेत्र से निकले कच्चे तेल की पहली खेप को इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन (IOCL) की हल्दिया रिफाइनरी भेज भी दिया गया है. इस मौके पर आयोजित समारोह में स्थानीय विधायक डॉ. सुमय हीरा और ओएनजीसी के रिसर्च निदेशक समेत कई वरिष्ठ अधिकारी मौजूद रहे. बंगाल बेसिन में कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन शुरू होने से बंगाल अब देश के प्रमुख हाइड्रोकार्बन उत्पादक राज्यों की कतार में खड़ा हो गया है. पुरी ने कहा कि अशोकनगर की यह खोज न केवल पश्चिम बंगाल के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, बल्कि इससे पूरे बंगाल बेसिन में तेल और गैस की खोज तथा उत्पादन गतिविधियों को भी नई गति मिलने की उम्मीद है.

In a significant step towards further strengthening India's unprecedented journey towards energy security and boosting domestic production of hydrocarbons under the dynamic leadership of PM Sh @narendramodi Ji, the first commercial hydrocarbon discovery by @ONGC_ in the Bengal... pic.twitter.com/lynMajRQYG

भारत फिलहाल अपनी ऊर्जा जरूरतों का एक बड़ा हिस्सा विदेशों से भारी-भरकम रकम चुकाकर आयात करता है. ऐसे में बंगाल बेसिन में मिला यह तेल का भंडार देश की आयात निर्भरता को घटाने में गेमचेंजर साबित होगा. केंद्रीय मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी के मुताबिक, अशोकनगर की इस सफलता से पूरे बंगाल बेसिन में तेल और गैस खोज के नए रास्ते खुलेंगे, जिससे राज्य में भारी निवेश आएगा और स्थानीय स्तर पर रोजगार के नए अवसर पैदा होंगे.

Headline	ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

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<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/trending/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-production-hardeep-puri-ianslive/articleshow/1450482087c37a1741cad908eae82c7b41015196>

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Publication	Ommcom News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

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<https://ommcomnews.com/india-news/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-production-hardeep-puri/>

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In a significant step towards further strengthening India's unprecedented journey towards energy security and boosting domestic production of hydrocarbons under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the first commercial hydrocarbon discovery by ONGC in the Bengal Basin at Ashoknagar has moved a decisive step closer to monetisation, the minister said.

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Headline	Mizoram Partners with IOCL for New Oil Depot, Moves to Resume Hydrocarbon Exploration in Kolasib		
Publication	PSU India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

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<https://www.psuindia.com/government/energy/mizoram-partners-with-iocl-for-new-oil-depot-moves-to-resume-hydrocarbon-exploration-in-kolasib-556170>

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The state administration and technical teams have inspected multiple candidate sites for the proposed petroleum depot, with IOCL currently evaluating feasibility before finalizing the project location.

Andhra Pradesh Targets 50,000 Crore Rare Earth Manufacturing Push

Key Highlights of the Hydrocarbon Expansion

Exploratory Drilling Plan: Exploration efforts will focus on the Meidum area within Kolasib district, where an exploratory well has been proposed at nearby Hortoki to assess the commercial viability of local natural gas reserves.

Infrastructure Readiness: Substantial site preparation has already been completed, including a PWD-constructed bridge over the Chhimluang River (finished in 2025) linking Meidum and Hortoki to provide heavy transport access for heavy drilling rigs.

Regulatory & Ministerial Push: State-owned explorer ONGC has applied to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for an extension of the exploration block's validity.

Chief Minister's Intervention: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma has written directly to the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas requesting expedited clearance so exploratory drilling can commence without delay.

Headline	ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Pro Kerala	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

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<https://www.prokerala.com/news/articles/a1806036.html>

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Publication	Punjab Kesari	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

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<https://english.punjabkesari.com/business/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-production-hardeep-puri/>

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Publication	Punjab News Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

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Why India, why now': FM Sitharaman pitches India as global investment and manufacturing hub

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Publication	Social News XYZ	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

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<https://www.socialnews.xyz/2026/08/29/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-production-hardeep-puri/>

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Publication	The Hawk	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	29 Aug 2026		

ONGC's first Bengal Basin oil discovery moves closer to production: Hardeep Puri

<https://www.thehawk.in/news/science/ongcs-first-bengal-basin-oil-discovery-moves-closer-to-production-hardeep-puri>

ONGC's Ashoknagar Field Marks Significant Milestone in India's Hydrocarbon Exploration

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Headline	'Biggest in world history': Trump unveils 65 billion barrel oil deal with Venezuela		
Publication	The Tribune	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Aug 2026		

'Biggest in world history': Trump unveils 65 billion barrel oil deal with Venezuela

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/biggest-in-world-history-trump-unveils-65-billion-barrel-oil-deal-with-venezuela/>

US President Donald Trump on Friday announced a crude oil deal with Venezuela, claiming it was the biggest oil deal in world history. The agreement

gives the US majority control over more than 65 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves in the South American country.

According to Trump, the deal will more than double US oil reserves and drive down domestic petrol prices in the long term, while putting Venezuela's economy on a path to recovery. Trump said Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth had worked closely with Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodriguez on the deal, as well as with private businesses.

The announcement comes nearly nine months after the US military, at Trump's direction, carried out an operation to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and take him to the US to face federal charges of narcoterrorism and drug trafficking.

For India, the deal could smoothen crude oil supplies. Less than two weeks ago, on August 16, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) secured a licence from the US Office of Foreign Assets Control to return to Venezuela and restart existing oil extraction operations. ONGC, India's largest oil and gas company, holds a 40 per cent stake in the San Cristobal oil project and an 11 per cent stake in the Carabobo project. However, US sanctions on Venezuela had halted work at the projects.

India imports between 4.5 million and 5 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil, with imports from Venezuela touching almost 3,83,000 bpd in August, up from zero in March.

With the US securing a major share of Venezuela's oil, India could look to ramp up imports further, as the South American country's medium and heavy crude varieties are suitable for Indian refineries.

ONGC is gearing up to invest about \$200 million to revive production at the San Cristobal oilfield in Venezuela, which it operates with Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) holds a 40 per cent interest in the San Cristobal oilfield, while PDVSA owns the remaining 60 per cent.

The oilfield currently produces around 4,000-5,000 bpd of crude oil. ONGC aims to restore output to its previous peak of up to 50,000 bpd. India is also in talks with Venezuela to gain access to more than \$500 million in outstanding dividends from its stakes in the two oil projects.

Venezuela holds an estimated 303 billion barrels of crude oil reserves, or about 17 per cent of the world's total, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). Trump said in a social media post on Friday: The US will have majority control of more than 65 billion barrels of proven oil reserves in Venezuela, at no cost to the American taxpayer.