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Headline: India is now preparing to import natural gas from Russia

एनर्जी प्लान • वेनेजुएला के तेल कुओं पर करार रूस से अब प्राकृतिक गैस लाने की तैयारी में है भारत

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

भास्कर एनालिसिस

भारत ने अपनी ऊर्जा सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने की रणनीति और तेज कर दी है। खाड़ी देशों से ईंधन आपूर्ति बाधित होने के जोखिम को देखते हुए भारत एक तरफ रूस के 'आर्कटिक इलाके' से एलएनजी मंगाने और दूसरी तरफ वेनेजुएला के दो बड़े तेल ब्लॉकों का परिचालन अपने हाथ में लेने की तैयारी कर रहा है।

रूस के उप-विदेश मंत्री आंद्रेई रुडेंको ने हाल ही में बताया है कि भारत आर्कटिक क्षेत्र में तेल-गैस विकास और नॉर्डन सी रूट में सहयोग बढ़ाने में गहरी रुचि दिखा रहा है। भारत और रूस के बीच 2029 तक सहयोग का कार्यक्रम तय है। दूसरी ओर, वेनेजुएला के नए कानून के तहत ओएनजीसी सैन क्रिस्टोबल और कारोबो-1 तेल ब्लॉकों के परिचालन नियंत्रण का समझौता करने जा रही है। अब तक वेनेजुएला से भारत को सीमित और सिर्फ पुराना फंसा लाभांश वसूलने के लिए ही कच्चा तेल मिल पा रहा था। नए प्रावधानों से ओएनजीसी को अमेरिकी पाबंदियों के कानूनी जोखिम के बिना सीधे कुओं के संचालन और नियमित तेल उत्पादन की पूरी छूट मिल गई है।

आर्कटिक डील: 16 दिन कम लगेंगे, ईंधन बचेगा

- पारंपरिक स्वेज मार्ग के मुकाबले चेन्नई-व्लादिवोस्तोक रूट 5,600 किमी छोटा है। यात्रा में 16 दिन कम लगेंगे और 35% ईंधन बचेगा।
- स्वेज नहर से न गुजरने के कारण 4.2 करोड़ रु. तक टोल बचेगा।
- युद्ध क्षेत्र से बाहर रहने के कारण अतिरिक्त बीमा भी नहीं देना पड़ेगा।
- आर्कटिक के 20 नए बंदरगाहों के प्रबंधन का अवसर मिलेगा।

वेनेजुएला डील से ये लाभ

- यह रास्ता होर्मुज जैसे युद्ध प्रभावित संकरे समुद्री रास्तों से 100% सुरक्षित है।
- बाजार से महंगा तेल खरीदने के बजाय कुओं से सीधे तेल निकालने पर 5 से 10 डॉलर प्रति बैरल बचत होगी।

अमेरिका: LPG आयात बढ़ा

पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि अमेरिका देश का सबसे बड़ा एलपीजी आपूर्तिकर्ता बन गया है। अब अपने लक्ष्य 10% से बढ़कर लगभग 67% हो गया है।

L&T's offshore business arm bags Major project orders from ONGC

NEW DELHI: L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore, the offshore business arm of Larsen & Toubro, secured a batch of major orders from the ONGC for offshore engineering, procurement, construction, installation, and commissioning (EPCIC) projects off west coast.

According to project classification details, the orders fall under the "Major" classification, which encompasses contracts valued between Rs 5,000 crore and Rs 10,000 crore. Other project tiers include "Significant" (Rs 1,000 to 2,500 Cr), "Large" (Rs 2,500 to 5,000 Cr), "Mega" (Rs 10,000 to 15,000 Cr), and "Ultra-Mega" carrying a total value exceeding Rs 15,000 crore.



The awarded projects include the Pipeline Replacement Project (PRP-X) and the Well Head Platforms Project. Under the scope of PRP-X, the business will handle the EPCIC of multiple subsea pipeline segments. The assignment also entails associated modification works across the offshore fields owned by ONGC. Meanwhile, the Well Head Platforms Project requires the EPCIC of four

distinct Well Head Platforms off the west coast.

Commenting on the order win, Parthasarathi Chatterjee, Senior Vice President & Head - L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore, said, "These orders reaffirm LTEH Offshore's position as a trusted partner in the development of India's offshore energy infrastructure." "They reflect the confidence customers place in our integrated EPCIC capabilities, extensive project execution experience and unwavering commitment to safety & operational excellence," Chatterjee added. "We look forward to delivering these projects to ONGC & contributing to the nation's energy aspirations." ANI

‘OMCs began testing for E20 fuel contamination at pumps from mid-July’

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Allaying fears of contamination of E20 fuel, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said that oil marketing companies (OMCs) started rigorous testing at retail outlets (ROs) from mid-July, collecting 2,000 samples per day.

Addressing CII's International Energy Conference and Exhibition (IECE), the Minister revealed that only 4 cases of contamination of E20 fuel had been found.

Without naming SIAM's July 28 letter to the government in which the industry body flagged concerns over high chloride and moisture contamination in E20 fuel, Puri said, "Some organisation wrote a letter. That letter, I think, was July 28. Two weeks before that we had started rigorous testing. They (OMCs) used to collect 2,000 samples from 2,000 ROs a day. They formed crack teams. Overall, they would have covered a very large number of pumps. They found 4 cases (of contamination) out of the 1,07,000 ROs."

He said some people were trying to create controversy around the E20 fuel.

India has around 1,07,000 retail outlets, which serve around 7 crore customers everyday, and only four contamination cases were



Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas

found. "Someone out there is trying to place something out of context," he added.

SAMUDRA MANTHAN

Speaking about the Samudra Manthan, or the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, Puri said the intent is to encourage private players to enter the domestic E&P sector. "We have two (drilling) rigs operating just now and we are getting a third one with ONGC Chairman telling me that one rig costs \$3,00,000 per day or whereabouts. There are not too many rigs available in the world," he added.

He stressed that deepwater exploration & production (E&P) requires heavy expenditure, financial support and a lot of perseverance. India is committed to explore its offshore deepwater and ultra deepwaters to search for hydrocarbons.

On the West Asia conflict, he said India maintained uninterrupted fuel supplies despite disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, the most critical energy chokepoint.

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Contamination in just 4 of 2K E20 samples: Puri

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday dismissed attempts to stir up controversy around E20 petrol, saying only four contamination cases have been found from 2,000 fuel samples tested daily across the country's 107,000 petrol pumps. "Our biofuel blending programme is doing exceptionally well," he said at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. SHUBHANGI MATHUR reports 4 ▶

हरदीप सिंह पुरी ► पृष्ठ 4

‘अच्छा चल रहा
जैव ईंधन मिश्रण’



भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ के कार्यक्रम में वर्तमान और भविष्य के कार्यक्रमों का खुलासा

बढ़िया चल रहा जैव ईंधन मिश्रण

शुभांगी माथुर
नई दिल्ली, 7 अगस्त

केन्द्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि भारत का जैव-ईंधन मिश्रण कार्यक्रम बहुत अच्छा प्रदर्शन कर रहा है और देशभर में ईंधन की गुणवत्ता खराब होने के मामले बेहद कम सामने आए हैं। पुरी ने भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ (सीआईआई) के एक कार्यक्रम में बताया कि योजना लिए जाने वाले 2,000 ईंधन नमूनों में अब तक केवल 4 मामलों में मिलावट या गुणवत्ता संबंधी समस्या मिली है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकारी तेल कंपनियां (ओएमसी) देश के 1.07 लाख पेट्रोल पंपों पर ईंधन की गुणवत्ता की लगातार जांच कर रही हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि 1.07 लाख पेट्रोल पंपों और योजना 6 से 7 करोड़ों ग्राहकों के बीच अब तक केवल चार मामले सामने आए हैं। इससे साफ है कि कुछ लोग इस मुद्दे को गलत संदर्भ में पेश करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

पेट्रोल में 20 फीसदी एथनॉल मिश्रण (ई-20) को लेकर कुछ ग्राहकों ने चिंता जताई है। उनका कहना है कि पुराने वाहनों में ई-20 के इस्तेमाल से पुर्जा के जल्दी खराब होने, माइलेज घटने और रखरखाव खर्च बढ़ने की संभावना है, क्योंकि वे वाहन ई-20 के लिए डिजाइन नहीं किए गए थे। हालांकि, केंद्र सरकार ने ई-20 के साथ शुद्ध पेट्रोल या ई-10 पेट्रोल बेचने की संभावना से इनकार किया है। सरकार ने माना है कि सामान्य पेट्रोल की तुलना में ई-20 से वाहनों का



ईंधन की गुणवत्ता पर मिलीं सिर्फ 4 शिकायतें

■ रोजाना लिए जाने वाले 2,000 ईंधन नमूनों में अब तक केवल 4 मामलों में मिलावट या गुणवत्ता संबंधी समस्या मिली

■ पुराने वाहनों में ई-20 के इस्तेमाल से पुर्जा के जल्दी खराब होने, माइलेज घटने और रखरखाव खर्च बढ़ने की आशंका

माइलेज 3 से 5 फीसदी तक कम हो सकता है।

देश की तीनों सरकारी तेल कंपनियों ने कहा है कि ईंधन में क्लोराइड की मात्रा की लगातार जांच की जा रही है। यह जांच रिफाइनरी, डिस्टिलरी, डिपो, टर्मिनल और पेट्रोल पंपों समेत पूरी आपूर्ति श्रृंखला

■ सरकार ने माना है कि सामान्य पेट्रोल की तुलना में ई-20 से वाहनों का माइलेज 3 से 5 फीसदी तक कम हो सकता है

■ भारत के पास कच्चे तेल और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का भंडारण 74 दिनों से अधिक का है और वैकल्पिक ईंधन से भी मिलती है मदद

के कई स्तरों पर की जा रही है। देश के 90 फीसदी से ज्यादा पेट्रोल पंप सरकारी तेल कंपनियों इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन, भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन के हैं।

कंपनियों ने कहा कि जांच में पाया गया है कि ईंधन की गुणवत्ता तय मानकों के

भीतर है। उन्होंने कहा कि वैज्ञानिक तरीके से की गई व्यापक जांच में ईंधन में मिलावट या खराब गुणवत्ता को लेकर चिंता का कोई ठोस सबूत नहीं मिला है।

पश्चिम एशिया संकट से पैदा हुई ऊर्जा आपूर्ति बाधाओं पर पुरी ने कहा कि भारत ने इस चुनौतीपूर्ण समय में उपभोक्ताओं को ईंधन की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की। देश की मजबूत रिफाइनिंग क्षमता, विविध आपूर्ति स्रोतों और बेहतर बुनियादी ढांचे से यह संभव हुआ। भारत की स्थिति आज काफी मजबूत है। हमने तेल और गैस की आपूर्ति के स्रोतों में विविधता लाई है। हमने मजबूत बुनियादी ढांचा तैयार किया है, भरोसेमंद साझेदारियां बनाई हैं और नई तकनीकों को अपनाया है। हमारे पास पर्याप्त भंडार भी हैं, जिन्हें भविष्य में और बढ़ाया जा सकता है। पुरी ने कहा कि भारत के पास कच्चे तेल और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का भंडारण करीब 74 दिनों से अधिक का है। इसके अलावा वैकल्पिक ईंधन, मजबूत साझेदारियां और तकनीकी क्षमता देश को बाहरी झटकों से बचाने में मदद करती हैं।

उन्होंने बताया कि होर्मुज स्ट्रेट बंद होने के बावजूद देश में किसी भी पेट्रोल पंप पर ईंधन की कमी नहीं हुई। एलपीजी आपूर्ति में कुछ समय के लिए चिंता जरूर बनी थी, लेकिन घरेलू रिफाइनरियों ने उत्पादन बढ़ाकर इसकी भरपाई कर दी।

पुरी ने कहा कि संकट के दौरान भी स्कूल खुले रहे, फैक्ट्रियों में उत्पादन जारी रहा और परिवहन व्यवस्था सामान्य रही। पुरी ने घरेलू तेल और गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार की पहल की भी जानकारी दी।

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Oil India profit jumps 3-fold in Q1

OIL INDIA ON Friday reported a more than three-fold jump in standalone net profit for the first quarter of FY27, helped by higher crude oil price realisations and increased production.

Its standalone net profit rose to ₹2,870 crore for the quarter ended June 30, from ₹813 crore in the corresponding period last year. Oil India's crude oil realisation increased 11% to \$98.73 per barrel, while its net profit margin more than doubled to 36.07% from 16.23% a year earlier. Revenue from operations climbed 59% year-on-year to ₹7,958 crore.

REUTERS

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Oil cos say E20 petrol meets quality norms

Press Trust of India
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NEW DELHI: State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) said on Friday that additional nationwide testing of E20 petrol found no evidence to support claims of high moisture or chloride contamination, with fuel quality remaining within prescribed limits across the supply chain.

The intensified testing followed recent media reports alleging the presence of moisture and chloride in E20 (20 per cent ethanol blended petrol).

Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd in a joint statement said the exercise covered the entire supply chain and reaffirmed that fuel quality remained "consistently well within prescribed limits". "Contrary to certain assertions being made, there is no evidence of any alarm on account of fuel contamination validated

by extensive and scientifically designed tests," the companies said.

The three OMCs said the government has prescribed stringent chloride specifications for ethanol used in petrol blending and has put in place high-frequency monitoring at refineries, distilleries, depots, terminals and retail outlets to ensure compliance.

The companies said they have also strengthened quality surveillance by conducting water-ingress and density tests 8-12 times a day at every retail outlet, deploying mobile fuel quality testing laboratories and independently validating results through fuel laboratories.

More than 100 additional petrol samples collected from refineries showed chloride levels at or below 1 part per million (ppm), while ethanol samples from 80 distilleries tested over the past 10 days recorded chloride content below 3 ppm, OMCs said.

REJECT CONTAMINATION CLAIMS

OMCs say nationwide tests find E20 petrol meets quality norms

OUR CORRESPONDENT

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The intensified testing followed recent media reports alleging the presence of moisture and chloride in E20 (20 per cent ethanol blended petrol).

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) in a joint statement said the exercise covered the entire supply chain and reaffirmed that fuel quality remained "consistently well within prescribed limits".

"Contrary to certain assertions being made, there is no evidence of any alarm on account of fuel contamination validated by extensive and scientifically designed tests," the companies said. The three OMCs said the government has prescribed stringent chloride specifications for ethanol used in petrol blending and has put in place high-frequency monitoring at refineries, distilleries, depots, terminals and retail outlets to ensure compliance.



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More than 80 samples collected from depots and terminals across the country also showed chloride content below 3 ppm, they said.

At retail outlets, more than 160 E20 samples tested over the past few days recorded chloride levels in the 0-3 ppm range, "contrary to the claims of several hundred ppm," OMCs said.

The surveillance identified two isolated instances of ele-

vated chloride levels, where supplies were immediately suspended pending root-cause analysis and corrective action before restoration.

The companies said about 90,000 retail outlets had begun mandatory inspections of underground storage tanks, with checks conducted 8-12 times daily. No water ingress had been detected so far.

Speaking at a CII event earlier on Friday, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri dismissed concerns over E20 fuel quality, saying attempts were being made to "create some controversy" around the country's ethanol blending programme.

Puri said the ministry had begun intensified testing about two weeks before a letter dated July 28 raised concerns over fuel quality, adding that dedicated teams had conducted extensive checks across fuel retail outlets.

"They formed crack teams... What did they find? They found four cases out of 107,000 petrol pumps... So obviously, someone out there is trying to place some things out of context," Puri said.

The minister said India has about 107,000 fuel retail outlets serving an estimated 6-7 crore customers a day, adding that contamination, where it occurs, can affect any product and isolated cases should not be viewed as evidence of a systemic problem.

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E20 petrol meets quality norms: Oil cos

State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) said on Friday that additional nationwide testing of E20 petrol found no evidence to support claims of high moisture or chloride contamination, with fuel quality remaining within prescribed limits across the supply chain. The intensified testing followed recent media reports alleging the presence of moisture and chloride in E20 (20% ethanol blended petrol). IOC, BPCL and HPCL in a joint statement said the exercise covered the entire supply chain and reaffirmed that fuel quality remained "consistently well within prescribed limits".

No chloride contamination in E20 fuel, assert oil firms

Oil marketing companies base their assurance on E20's reliability after checks across retail outlets, refineries, and at distilleries; also refute claims of excess moisture in the ethanol blended petrol

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Friday rejected claims of chloride contamination in E20 fuel, stating that additional intensive testing conducted at retail outlets, refineries, and at the point of ethanol procurement confirmed that chloride levels remained within the prescribed limits.

In a joint statement, IndianOil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum also refuted allegations of excess moisture in the one-fifth ethanol blended petrol fuel validated from water-ingress testing.

"Contrary to certain assertions being made, based



'Clean' chit: The OMCs said 100 random petrol samples taken from varied refineries tested for "consistently low" chloride content. AP

on extensive random testing through scientifically designed tests, the evidence shows that there is no cause for any alarm on fuel contamination," they said in the statement.

The assurance from the OMCs comes days after the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM),

in a communication to the oil ministry, flagged concerns about vehicular parts experiencing wear due to excess chloride presence since the introduction of E20 petrol.

SIAM had later withdrawn the letter assuring that E20 was safe, emphasising the data they cited

required further authentication.

The three OMCs stated that chloride monitoring conducted by them at multiple points – at refineries, distilleries, depots and retail outlets across the country – confirmed that "quality is being consistently maintained throughout the supply chain".

They stated 100 additional random petrol samples taken from varied refineries tested for "consistently low" chloride content, that is, at or below 1 parts per million (ppm). Further, they reported that chloride content was found to be below 3 ppm from the over 80 ethanol and E20 samples tested at OMCs' terminals across the country.

Claims of 500 ppm chloride and presence of moisture in E20 fuel not validated: OMCs

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) said on Friday that more than 100 randomly selected petrol samples tested across refineries confirms that chloride content is consistently low, with all samples reported at or below 1 ppm (parts per million).

Further, a dedicated task force, having members of the three OMCs and the Centre for High Technology (CHT), checked ethanol samples from 80 distilleries across

India in the last 10 days with all samples having chloride content of less than 3 ppm.

The OMCs also tested ethanol and E20 samples at depots and terminals. More than 80 samples were collected from various OMC terminals, which showed chloride content below 3 ppm, said a consolidated statement on behalf of the three OMCs — Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation.

Under the intensified monitoring programme, more than 160 samples had been analysed for chloride



content in the last few days and the levels are in range of 0.3 ppm contrary to the claims of several hundred ppm, it added.

The surveillance system identified only two isolated instances where elevated

chloride levels were detected. These were suspended immediately, followed by detailed root-cause analysis and implementation of appropriate corrective measures before restoration of supplies, the statement pointed out.

On water ingress testing, the statement said about 90,000 retail outlets (ROs), or petrol pumps, had commenced mandatory inspection and monitoring of underground storage tanks.

The underground tanks at ROs are being inspected 8-12 times every day and had not revealed any water in-

gress so far. The government has prescribed a stringent chloride specification for ethanol used in petrol blending and has instituted a high-frequency monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance across the entire supply chain.

UNDER SURVEILLANCE

Chloride monitoring is being done at multiple point of supply chain including refineries, distilleries, depots/terminals and retail outlets nationwide, confirming that quality is being consistently maintained throughout the supply chain.

Besides, OMCs have further strengthened surveillance by conducting water-ingress and density tests 8-12 times daily at every retail outlet. Mobile fuel quality testing laboratories had also been deployed across locations, while test results are being independently validated through fuel laboratories quality assurance, the statement said.

Amid recent media reports on moisture and chloride in E20 petrol, OMCs carried out a nationwide intensive testing covering the entire EBMS supply chain, it added.

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 11

Centre defends E20 fuel rollout:

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday told Parliament that the nationwide rollout of E20 petrol was preceded by extensive scientific studies and field trials, which confirmed its safety for use under prescribed standards. The Ministry of Heavy Industries said evaluations by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and automobile manufacturers assessed engine durability, drivability, emissions, fuel efficiency, corrosion resistance and material compatibility. An Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted under NITI Aayog in December 2020 also examined vehicle compatibility and mileage before recommending implementation. The ministry said automobile manufacturers, component suppliers, testing agencies and oil marketing companies participated in the evaluation process. According to the government, the studies found no significant adverse impact on vehicle performance, durability or material compatibility in legacy vehicles when operated under prescribed standards, supporting the phased introduction of E20 fuel across the country.

New biz growth to drive gains for Samvardhana

Component maker may beat global auto sales, say brokerages

RAM PRASAD SAHU
Mumbai, 7 August

Strong June-quarter results, positive demand outlook, and expectations of growth outperformance led to a jump in the stock price of auto component major Samvardhana Motherson International (SAMIL) on Friday. It was the top gainer among the BSE100 stocks, rising over 9 per cent.

The growth outlook for its core auto as well as new businesses remains robust and it could benefit from ongoing consolidation in the auto component space. Including Friday's gains, the stock is up about 32 per cent over the last three months. Given the target prices, the rally has some more legs to run. But its ability to sustain will depend on the ability to tap long-term growth opportunities.

The company's consolidated revenues grew at a healthy 17 per cent and were supported by steady performance of wiring harness, emerging businesses, and the modules and polymer products (MPP).

While wiring harness saw a growth of 27 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y), MPP posted a 20 per cent increase and emerging businesses gained 31 per cent.

SAMIL's FY27 growth outlook, according to Emkay Research, is robust. It is aided by commercial vehicle industry demand recovery across markets, healthy and rising order book across segments, ramp up of consumer electronics business, and integration of new mergers and acquisitions (M&As).

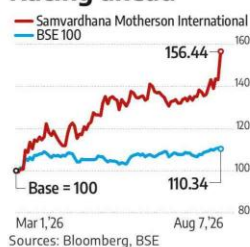
Given the strong outlook, analysts led by Chirag Jain of the brokerage have raised FY28 earnings per share by 8-10 per cent.

The analysts have raised the target price by 20 per cent to ₹180 to factor in the major growth potential in consumer electronics and resilient core operations.

Operating profit, too, saw a healthy growth of 25 per cent while



Racing ahead



margins expanded 65 basis points (bps) Y-o-Y to 8.8 per cent which was above Street estimates.

The gains on the margin front were largely due to operational efficiencies and cost optimisation efforts which negated the higher input costs. On a sequential basis, however, margins saw a 230 bps fall as margins at the gross level were hit by copper and crude oil linked polymer prices which are passed on with three to six months lag.

The staff cost and other expenses also weighed on the quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) margin performance as they were 120 bps and 50 bps higher, respectively.

While the management remains constructive on the core auto business, JM Financial Research believes there are

multiple growth drivers. Nitin Agrawal and Sahil Malik of JM Financial believe that growth in consumer electronics is likely to accelerate upon commissioning of the third facility in Q3FY27 and margin improvement supported by upstream integration.

The other triggers are aerospace, supported by 17 per cent Y-o-Y expansion in order book and ongoing diversification into jet and helicopter components and consolidation of recent acquisitions, including Yutaka (Q2FY27) and Nexans (Q2FY27).

The brokerage has a "buy" rating and also revised its target price to ₹180 from ₹156.

Motilal Oswal Research expects SAMIL to outperform global automobile sales, fuelled by rising premiumisation and EV transition, a robust order backlog in autos and non-autos, and successful integration of recent acquisitions.

Further, analysts led by Aniket Mhatre of the brokerage point out that the current adverse global macro is likely to lead to industry consolidation. With this, players like SAMIL are likely to emerge as key beneficiaries in the long run.

Given the long-term growth opportunities, the brokerage has reiterated its "buy" rating on the stock with a revised target price of ₹178.

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 1, 4

Contamination in just 4 of 2K E20 samples: Puri

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday dismissed attempts to stir up controversy around E20 petrol, saying only four contamination cases have been found from 2,000 fuel samples tested daily across the country's 107,000 petrol pumps. "Our biofuel blending programme is doing exceptionally well," he said at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. SHUBHANGI MATHUR reports 4 ▶

Kirloskar Brothers bets on data centres to drive growth

PRACHI PISAL
Mumbai, 7 August

Kirloskar Brothers Limited (KBL) expects data centres, thermal power, and overseas oil and gas projects to remain key growth drivers going ahead, as the pump manufacturer targets double-digit revenue growth and continues to expand its international business.

"The order book is the leading indicator, while sales are the lagging indicator. To deliver double-digit sales growth, we also need double-digit growth in order inflows. We remain optimistic because our pipeline is healthy," Alok Kirloskar, managing director (MD) of Kirloskar Brothers International B.V. and SPP Pumps, told *Business Standard*.

KBL is the flagship company of the \$2.5 billion Kirlos-

kar Group. It is a multinational fluid management solutions provider and manufacturer of industrial, agricultural, and domestic pumps, valves, and hydro-turbines.

In the first quarter of financial year 2027 (Q1FY27), KBL reported revenue from operations of ₹1,104.9 crore, up 12.9 per cent year-on-year (Yo-Y). In FY26, revenue was ₹4,538 crore.

As of June 2026, KBL's domestic industrial order book stood at over ₹2,300 crore, while the international industrial order book was around ₹1,500 crore.

Kirloskar said both retail and industrial businesses supported growth during the first quarter. Demand in the retail segment improved on the back of higher investments by households and farmers. The industrial business benefited



“TO DELIVER DOUBLE-DIGIT SALES GROWTH, WE ALSO NEED DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH IN ORDER INFLOWS”

Alok Kirloskar
MD, Kirloskar Brothers International BV
and SPP Pumps

from government spending on water infrastructure in India and robust overseas demand.

International business grew around 20 per cent during the April-June period, led by data

centres and offshore oil and gas projects. Overseas revenue contributed around 38 per cent to consolidated revenue in Q1, with the company reiterating its long-term ambition of moving towards a 50:50 India-international revenue mix.

Data centres have emerged as a significant growth engine for KBL's overseas operations, particularly in the United States. "Four years ago, they contributed nothing to our US business. Last year, they accounted for 25 per cent of our US business," Kirloskar said.

The company supplies cooling infrastructure for hyperscale data centres, including modular pumping systems, booster systems, HVAC pumping modules, containerised firefighting systems, along with associated piping and control systems.

Beyond data centres, KBL

expects thermal power to remain a major domestic growth driver, supported by fresh capacity additions.

"Nuclear power also represents a significant opportunity over the medium to long term. However, several issues — including government policy, funding mechanisms and tariff structures — need to be resolved before investments accelerate," Kirloskar said.

The company also sees opportunities across steel, distilleries, real estate, airports, metro rail and other infrastructure projects in India.

Internationally, KBL expects growth to be driven by oil and gas, data centres and its expanding services business. The company currently manages around 160 customer sites under long-term service contracts, covering pumps of multiple brands.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 7

Gold rises for fourth straight day to ₹1.54 lakh



GOLD PRICES
EXTENDED gains for the fourth straight session on

Friday, rising by ₹200 to ₹1.54 lakh per 10 gram, while tracking a sharp rally globally as a weaker US dollar and softer crude oil prices lifted demand. However, silver stayed unchanged at ₹2,34,800 per kg after a sharp rise in the last session.

Publication : Hindustan Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 8 August 2026	Page : 19

Oil cos say E20 petrol meets quality norms

Press Trust of India
feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) said on Friday that additional nationwide testing of E20 petrol found no evidence to support claims of high moisture or chloride contamination, with fuel quality remaining within prescribed limits across the supply chain.

The intensified testing followed recent media reports alleging the presence of moisture and chloride in E20 (20 per cent ethanol blended petrol).

Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd in a joint statement said the exercise covered the entire supply chain and reaffirmed that fuel quality remained "consistently well within prescribed limits". "Contrary to certain assertions being made, there is no evidence of any alarm on account of fuel contamination validated

by extensive and scientifically designed tests," the companies said.

The three OMCs said the government has prescribed stringent chloride specifications for ethanol used in petrol blending and has put in place high-frequency monitoring at refineries, distilleries, depots, terminals and retail outlets to ensure compliance.

The companies said they have also strengthened quality surveillance by conducting water-ingress and density tests 8-12 times a day at every retail outlet, deploying mobile fuel quality testing laboratories and independently validating results through fuel laboratories.

More than 100 additional petrol samples collected from refineries showed chloride levels at or below 1 part per million (ppm), while ethanol samples from 80 distilleries tested over the past 10 days recorded chloride content below 3 ppm, OMCs said.

Publication : Millennium Post	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 8 August 2026	Page : 9

L&T's offshore business arm bags Major project orders from ONGC

NEW DELHI: L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore, the offshore business arm of Larsen & Toubro, secured a batch of major orders from the ONGC for offshore engineering, procurement, construction, installation, and commissioning (EPCIC) projects off west coast.

According to project classification details, the orders fall under the "Major" classification, which encompasses contracts valued between Rs 5,000 crore and Rs 10,000 crore. Other project tiers include "Significant" (Rs 1,000 to 2,500 Cr), "Large" (Rs 2,500 to 5,000 Cr), "Mega" (Rs 10,000 to 15,000 Cr), and "Ultra-Mega" carrying a total value exceeding Rs 15,000 crore.



The awarded projects include the Pipeline Replacement Project (PRP-X) and the Well Head Platforms Project. Under the scope of PRP-X, the business will handle the EPCIC of multiple subsea pipeline segments. The assignment also entails associated modification works across the offshore fields owned by ONGC. Meanwhile, the Well Head Platforms Project requires the EPCIC of four

distinct Well Head Platforms off the west coast.

Commenting on the order win, Parthasarathi Chatterjee, Senior Vice President & Head - L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore, said, "These orders reaffirm LTEH Offshore's position as a trusted partner in the development of India's offshore energy infrastructure." "They reflect the confidence customers place in our integrated EPCIC capabilities, extensive project execution experience and unwavering commitment to safety & operational excellence," Chatterjee added. "We look forward to delivering these projects to ONGC & contributing to the nation's energy aspirations." ANI

India weathered Hormuz disruption without fuel shortages: Oil Min Puri

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India had moved beyond viewing energy security solely through the lens of access to hydrocarbons

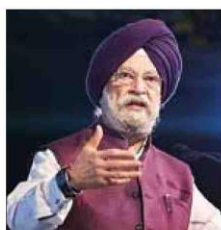
OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: India successfully shielded consumers from supply disruptions triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year through diversified sourcing, expanded refining capacity and higher domestic production, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Friday, while outlining the government's broader strategy to strengthen the country's energy security.

Addressing an industry event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Puri said India had moved beyond viewing energy security solely through the lens of access to hydrocarbons, citing diversified imports, strategic partnerships, infrastructure expansion and alternative fuels as key pillars of its approach.

"Today, I think we are in the happy situation of being able to say that, as far as India is concerned, we have moved on from that," he said.

He said India maintained uninterrupted fuel supplies despite disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy transit route.



Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

The Iran war disrupted energy supplies through the strait. Pre-war, India imported as much as half its crude oil from countries using the strait as a transit. Also, 90 per cent of cooking gas LPG and 60 per cent of gas imports passed through the strait.

These supplies were disrupted, but India diversified its sources to prevent any dry-out anywhere in the country.

"I can say with a degree of confidence, not one station went dry, not one," Puri said, referring to the country's network of more than 1,07,000 fuel retail outlets.

According to Puri, India expanded its crude supply sources from 27 to 41 countries, increased its fuel retail

HIGHLIGHTS

- » Also, 90 per cent of cooking gas LPG and 60 per cent of gas imports passed through the strait
- » According to Puri, India expanded its crude supply sources from 27 to 41 countries

network from about 52,000 outlets in 2014 to around 1,07,000 currently, and broadened city gas distribution coverage from 55 geographical areas to 309.

The minister said domestic LPG production was increased to offset lower imports from Gulf suppliers affected by the disruption.

"We never ran short of crude oil supplies. We always had about 60 days (cover); there was no shortage," he said.

Puri also said the US had emerged as India's largest supplier of LPG following the disruption.

"Today, I am happy to inform you that the United States accounts for something like 67 per cent of our LPG

imports."

Looking beyond the immediate supply security, Puri highlighted the government's recently approved Rs 84,000 crore Samudra Manthan programme aimed at supporting deep-water oil and gas exploration.

"The government is not going to do the drilling. The drilling is going to be done by private players," he said, adding that the government would support up to 50 per cent of drilling costs or up to Rs 650 crore per well to encourage investment in high-risk offshore exploration.

Puri said India had opened previously restricted offshore acreage for exploration and expected further opportunities under future licensing rounds. He also highlighted the government's push to expand compressed biogas capacity and said India's ethanol blending programme continued to make progress.

Turning to recent concerns over ethanol-blended petrol, Puri dismissed suggestions of widespread fuel contamination, saying oil marketing companies had launched large-scale testing before complaints sur-

faced publicly.

"They found four cases out of 1,07,000 petrol pumps with six crores to seven crores consumers going every day. So obviously, someone out there is trying to place some things out of context."

Puri said inspection teams carried out extensive checks across the country. He argued that contamination incidents could occur in any fuel or product, but said the findings did not indicate a systemic issue.

The minister also defended the government's fuel pricing policy, saying excise duty reductions had helped cushion consumers from global volatility.

"In the last four years, if you look at an overall period, prices in India have largely come down. Why? Because the central government, thanks to very bold decision-making by the Prime Minister, decided to cut excise duty on fuel on three occasions in November 21, May 2022, and March 10, 2026."

He added that while retail petrol and diesel prices had risen modestly over a longer period, excise duty reductions had more than offset those increases.

Publication : The Asian Age	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 7

INDIA SHIELDED FUEL SUPPLIES AMID DISRUPTIONS: PURI

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 7

Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said that India successfully shielded consumers from supply disruptions triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year through diversified sourcing, expanded refining capacity and higher domestic production.

"India maintained uninterrupted fuel supplies despite disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Pre-war, India imported as much as half its crude oil from countries using the strait as a transit. Also, 90 percent of cooking gas LPG and 60 per cent of gas imports passed through the strait," the minister said at a CII event.

The minister said India expanded its crude supply sources from 27 to 41 countries, increased its fuel network to 1,07,000, and broadened city gas distribution coverage from 55 areas to 309.

Crude Reality of Hormuz Deal: Oil Falls One Day, Gains on Another

London: Oil prices edged lower on Friday as investors weighed signals that Gulf states and Iran were closing in on a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz under a temporary arrangement aimed at allowing for broader talks to bring the Iran war to a close.

Brent crude futures were down 75 cents, or 0.9%, at \$81.74 a barrel at 5:11 PM. US West Texas Intermediate futures fell 66 cents, or 0.9%, to \$76.63. Oil futures settled more than \$3 a barrel higher on Thursday as Iran reviewed a bill to ban U.S. and Israeli vessels from the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas normally passed before the war began at the end of February.

Prices fell earlier in the week as a possible solution to the conflict looked more likely, and both bench-

marks are on course for a weekly loss of about 9%.

Still, analysts said that this week's developments have signalled that hostilities between Iran and the U.S. are not yet over.

Iran is seeking fees of between 5% and 7% of the price of cargoes from ships using the strait, a senior Iranian official said. Oman, meanwhile, is discussing fees of about 3% while Washington wants no fees at all.

ADNOC BUYS \$1.3 B WORTH OF TANKERS AS OIL EXPORTS BOOM

Meanwhile, the biggest oil producer in the UAE spent \$1.3 billion to expand its tanker fleet to benefit from surging crude exports after the country left OPEC and pushed more of its oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

Abu Dhabi National Oil ship-

ping arm almost doubled the number of its Very Large Crude Carriers, which can carry about 2 million barrels of crude, to 14 from eight. It also bought five ships that carry fuels like propane. **Agencies**



NIFTY, SENSEX TUMBLE

D St Overcomes CAS Pain to Post Weekly Gains

Cooling oil prices, RBI's upward revision of FY27 growth outlook lift sentiment

Our Bureau

Mumbai: India's broadest equity indices, which retreated marginally Friday, still managed to notch up weekly gains in roller-coaster trading as stocks swung between gains and losses after the rollout of the closing auction system (CAS) that seeks to reduce extreme volatility in closing prices. However, sentiment improved through the first trading week in August amid a fall in global oil prices.

On Friday, the Nifty fell 65.35 points, or 0.3%, to close at 24,570 points. The Sensex declined 455.59 points, or 0.6%, to end at 78,499 points.

For the week, however, the Nifty gained 0.8%, while the Sensex climbed 0.5%.

Rajesh Palviya, head of research, Axis Securities, said market sentiment improved as peace talks in West Asia eased geopolitical concerns, leading to a retreat in crude oil prices. He also said the CAS teething troubles should end soon.

"Domestically, the implementation of CAS created some uncertainty, but Friday's trading session ended on a normal note, and we expect market functioning to remain stable going forward," he said. "Traders, however, should continue exercising caution on weekly derivatives expiry days."

Brent crude oil futures had fal-

How They Fared

Nifty Sectoral Indices

GAINERS	Weekly Chg (%)
PSU Bank	5.0
Metal	3.7
Auto	3.1
IT	2.7

LOSERS	Weekly Chg (%)
Media	-3.9
Realty	-1.7
Private Bank	-0.5
Healthcare	-0.3

INDEX	Weekly Chg (%)
Midcap 150	0.97
Smallcap 250	2.44
Microcap 250	3.48

Source: ET Data/NSE



len to about \$81.8 on Friday evening, down nearly 0.9% over the previous day.

"The markets witnessed a broad-based rally this week, with selective strength in the mid and small caps," said Aamar Deo Singh, senior vice president, research, Angel One. "Improved global sentiment due to the easing of geopolitical tensions supported buying interest in pockets — financials, pharma, and IT."

Fear Gauge Up a Tad ►► 10

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 8 August 2026	Page : 1, 10

Fear Gauge Up a Tad

►► From Page 1

Singh also said that the central bank's upward revision of the FY27 growth forecast to 6.7% during the monetary policy review this week, coupled with a downward revision of the inflation forecast for the fiscal year, boosted investor confidence.

The Nifty Midcap 150 was up 0.2%, while the Nifty Small-cap 250 ended flat Friday. These two broader-market indices have risen 1% and 2.4%, respectively, this week.

On Friday, the market's fear gauge—the Nifty's Volatility Index or VIX—marginally climbed to 12.18.

Palviya of Axis said he remains bullish on the Nifty and expects the index to cross 24,700.

"A sustained move above this could open the door to

the 24,900-25,000 zone, while 24,450 should serve as the stop-loss for long positions," he said. "We continue to favour auto, pharma, new-age companies, and IT, while select metal and power stocks also appear well positioned."

Elsewhere in Asia, China advanced 1%, Hong Kong rose 0.5%, while Japan fell 0.1%, South Korea declined 0.6% and Taiwan dropped 0.4%.

The pan-Europe index Stoxx 600 was up 0.6% at the time of going to print.

Angel One's Singh said investors should be cautious about geopolitical uncertainties, but he does not see much downside from current levels.

Foreign portfolio investors net bought shares worth Rs 480 crore. Domestic institutions were buyers to the tune of Rs 236 crore.

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 3

Congress to Take up E20 Issue Soon: Rahul

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said his party will soon take up the issue of E20 petrol, saying it was damaging people's cars and scooters. "This issue of E20 is a very big issue. Normally, we say 'daal mein kuchh kaala hai, magar ye daal hi kaali hai,'" he said in a video on X. The Congress move comes a week after Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP launched a mass mobilisation against the E20 blending. – OPB

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 8

ETHANOL BLENDING

Minister Dismisses Concerns About Fuel Adulteration

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri Friday dismissed concerns over fuel adulteration linked to the ethanol blending programme, contending that nationwide testing found just four cases across 107,000 petrol pumps so far.

Oil marketing companies have been conducting "rigorous testing" for fuel adulteration across the country, he said. "What did they find? They found four cases out of 107,000 petrol pumps with 6-7 crore (customers) going every day," said Puri, speaking at a CII conference.



Concerns over the impact of ethanol-blended petrol on vehicle engine performance and fuel economy have intensified in recent months, with some automakers previously attributing adulterated fuel for causing damage to vehicle parts.

Concerns have also been raised about chloride content exceeding safe thresholds in the blended fuel.

In a joint statement Friday, oil marketing companies said their testing didn't validate the "claims of 500 parts per million (ppm) chloride and presence of moisture" in the blended fuel.

Chloride monitoring is being done at multiple points of supply chain including refineries, distilleries, depots, terminals and retail outlets nationwide, the companies said. "Under the intensified monitoring programme, more than 160 samples have been analysed for chloride content in last few days and levels are in range of 0-3 ppm contrary to the claims of several hundred ppm," the companies said.

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 8 August 2026	Page : 8

Higher Onion, LPG Prices Inflate Thali Costs: Crisil

Rise partially offset by lower tomato and potato prices; unseasonal rain and hailstorms in Maharashtra constrain supplies

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The average cost of home cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis increased 4% and 9% year-on-year, respectively, in July, driven by higher prices for onions, vegetable oil, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), according to a Crisil report released on Friday.

The rise was partially offset by lower tomato and potato prices. The cost of a vegetarian thali rose to ₹29.1 in July from ₹28.1 a year earlier while a non-vegetarian thali cost ₹58.3, up from ₹53.5 in the corresponding month last year.

Onion prices climbed 20% YoY as higher-priced stored rabi or winter

season stocks entered the market. Supplies were further constrained after unseasonal rainfall and hailstorms in Maharashtra, India's top onion producing state, during March and April damaged late-season crop and inventory.

"Going forward, onion prices are expected to remain firm due to tight rabi supplies and an expected delay in kharif onion arrivals," said Pushan Sharma, director, Crisil Intelligence.

He said potato prices could edge higher as expensive cold-storage stocks are released into the market while tomato prices are likely to remain stable in the near term due to fresh arrivals from southern states. However, tomato pri-

4 & 9%
RISE IN AVERAGE COST OF
VEG AND NON-VEG THALIS

ces are expected to strengthen from September onwards amid delayed kharif arrivals and seasonal festive demand, he said. Vegetable oil and LPG cylinder prices rose 11% and 10%, respectively, from a year earlier in July, mainly due to supply disruptions and elevated energy prices linked to the West Asia conflict.

Edible oil prices are also expected to stay firm, Sharma said, adding higher crude oil prices continue to weigh on freight rates and import costs while elevated polymer and resin prices are pushing up packaging costs.

The increase in overall thali cost was partly cushioned by a 12% and 2% on-year decline in potato and tomato prices, respectively. Potato prices eased following a 2.3% hike in rabi production, supported by higher acreage. Tomato prices remained lower as prolonged high temperatures during February and March delayed summer crop planting by nearly a month, shifting the supply cycle and resulting in higher market arrivals in July.



Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : Bangalore
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 9

Puri Dismisses Claims of Ethanol Fuel Adulteration

Our Bureau



Nation-wide testing found just four cases across 107,000 petrol pumps, says minister

New Delhi: Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday dismissed concerns over fuel adulteration linked to India's ethanol blending programme, saying nationwide testing found just four cases across 107,000 petrol pumps.

Oil marketing companies have been conducting "rigorous testing" for fuel adulteration across the country, he said.

"What did they find? They found four cases out of 107,000 petrol pumps with 6-7 crore (customers) going every day. So obviously someone out there is trying to place some things out of context," Puri said at a CII conference.

Concerns over the impact of ethanol-blended petrol on engine performance and fuel economy have intensified in recent months, with some automakers attributing vehicle damage to fuel adulteration. India supplies E20 petrol, containing 20% ethanol, as the standard grade at fuel stations nationwide.

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 8

Crude futures rise on renewed West Asia tensions

Crude oil futures edged higher on Friday as renewed geopolitical tensions in West Asia fuelled concerns over potential supply disruptions, although gains remained limited amid mixed global cues. On the MCX, the August crude oil futures contract rose ₹27, or 0.37%, to ₹7,404/barrel, with trading volume of 13,250 lots.

Analysts attributed the rise to escalating regional tensions after Iran reportedly launched missiles towards Tel Aviv in retaliation for Israeli military action in Lebanon, raising fears over crude supplies from the region. In international trade, oil prices also strengthened. Brent crude rose to around \$83.33/barrel, while WTI climbed to approximately \$78.18/ barrel, supported by supply concerns and a weaker US dollar following softer-than-expected US jobs data.

Oil traders will monitor developments surrounding shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

—PTI

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 10

Crude oil up on Strait of Hormuz reopening plans



New Delhi: Crude oil extended gains amid further concerns around the opening of the Strait of Hormuz, as Iran suggested banning vessels deemed hostile from the Strait and heavily fining those who violated the proposed rules. Brent crude futures were up 85 cents at \$83.34 a barrel by 0634 GMT. US WTI rose 52 cents to \$77.81. REUTERS

Publication : The Indian Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 9

E20 destroying people's lives, their vehicles: Rahul

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday said E20 fuel blending was a "big issue" and claimed that it was aimed at stealing from people and destroying their vehicles. "This issue of E20 is very big. Normally we say, *daal mein kuchh kaala hai, magar yahan puri daal hi kaali hai* (not a minor issue, the whole thing is corrupt)," he said in a video posted on social media.

"...this is a matter of sequencing. In any campaign, we have to decide the sequence of affairs. Our problem right now is that there is so much corruption that there is a huge line in what we have to sequence," he said.

Gandhi said the Congress would take up the matter "in a massive way" because it is "destroying people's scooters, destroying people's lives, and is stealing directly from them".

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 1, 4

Contamination in just 4 of 2K E20 samples: Puri

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday dismissed attempts to stir up controversy around E20 petrol, saying only four contamination cases have been found from 2,000 fuel samples tested daily across the country's 107,000 petrol pumps. "Our biofuel blending programme is doing exceptionally well," he said at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. SHUBHANGI MATHUR reports 4 ▶

Puri: Only 4 cases of ethanol contamination reported so far

SHUBHANGI MATHUR
New Delhi, 7 August

Some people may be trying to stir up a controversy around ethanol-blended E20 petrol, but just a few cases of E20 fuel contamination have been reported across the country's 107,000 petrol pumps based on daily testing of 2,000 samples done by oil marketing companies (OMCs), Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Puri said on Friday.

"Our biofuel blending programme is doing exceptionally well... Every day, six to seven crore customers go to petrol pumps. If there is contamination, the contamination can take place in anything. Contamination can take place in the food you eat, in the air you breathe. It can take place in kerosene. It can take place in diesel," the minister said at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Of 2,000 fuel samples collected each day, only four cases of contamination have been reported so far, he said. "So, obviously, someone out there is trying to place things out of context," Puri stated, adding that OMCs would be issuing a detailed press release, indicating the amount of testing they have done.

In a joint statement issued later, the three state-run OMCs — Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL),



“WE ARE IN A HAPPY SITUATION TODAY. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE LARGELY TO DIVERSIFY OUR SUPPLIES...I CAN SAY WITH A DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE, NOT ONE STATION WENT DRY (AMID THE WEST ASIA CRISIS)”

Hardeep Singh Puri
Union minister for petroleum and natural gas

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) — which operate over 90 per cent of India's retail outlets, said chloride monitoring is being done at multiple points of the supply chain nationwide, from refineries and distilleries to depots, terminals, and retail outlets.

Quality is being consistently maintained throughout the supply chain, they said, adding: "The findings reaffirm that fuel quality remains consistently well within prescribed limits. Contrary to certain assertions being made, there is no evidence of any alarm on account of fuel contamination validated by extensive and scientifically designed tests."

Ethanol blending with petrol

is being widely criticised by customers over concerns that some vehicles, particularly older models, could face faster component wear, lower fuel efficiency, and higher maintenance costs. This was because they were not designed for E20.

Meanwhile, the Centre has ruled out selling pure petrol or E10 alongside E20, but acknowledged that the fuel reduces vehicle mileage by 3-5 per cent compared with conventional petrol.

Commenting on energy supply disruptions triggered by the West Asia crisis, Puri said India successfully navigated the challenging period ensuring energy availability for consumers. This could be achieved on the back of the country's robust refining capacity, he added.

"As far as India is concerned, we are in a happy situation today. We have been largely able to diversify our supplies. We built resilient infrastructure. We have trusted partnerships. We have technological innovation. We have reserves; they could perhaps be even more. Our holding capacity (for crude oil and products) is about 74 days plus. We have alternative fuels, and above all, we have the ability to protect our citizens from external shocks," said Puri.

Despite supply-chain disruption due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Puri emphasised that no fuel retail outlet ran dry in the country even at the peak of the conflict. Supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which is primarily used as cooking gas in the country, had become worrisome temporarily, but domestic refiners ramped up production to bridge the gap, he added. "Our schools remained open, factories continued production, and transport kept moving. Economic activity, in short, continued uninterrupted," said Puri.

He applauded the government's initiative to support oil and gas exploration to boost domestic output. Under the Samudra Manthan programme, the government has provided fiscal support of \$9-10 billion for deepwater exploration in the country, he added.

Kirloskar Brothers bets on data centres to drive growth

PRACHI PISAL
Mumbai, 7 August

Kirloskar Brothers Limited (KBL) expects data centres, thermal power, and overseas oil and gas projects to remain key growth drivers going ahead, as the pump manufacturer targets double-digit revenue growth and continues to expand its international business.

"The order book is the leading indicator, while sales are the lagging indicator. To deliver double-digit sales growth, we also need double-digit growth in order inflows. We remain optimistic because our pipeline is healthy," Alok Kirloskar, managing director (MD) of Kirloskar Brothers International B.V. and SPP Pumps, told *Business Standard*.

KBL is the flagship company of the \$2.5 billion Kirlos-

kar Group. It is a multinational fluid management solutions provider and manufacturer of industrial, agricultural, and domestic pumps, valves, and hydro-turbines.

In the first quarter of financial year 2027 (Q1FY27), KBL reported revenue from operations of ₹1,104.9 crore, up 12.9 per cent year-on-year (Yo-Y). In FY26, revenue was ₹4,538 crore.

As of June 2026, KBL's domestic industrial order book stood at over ₹2,300 crore, while the international industrial order book was around ₹1,500 crore.

Kirloskar said both retail and industrial businesses supported growth during the first quarter. Demand in the retail segment improved on the back of higher investments by households and farmers. The industrial business benefited



“TO DELIVER DOUBLE-DIGIT SALES GROWTH, WE ALSO NEED DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH IN ORDER INFLOWS”

Alok Kirloskar
MD, Kirloskar Brothers International BV
and SPP Pumps

from government spending on water infrastructure in India and robust overseas demand.

International business grew around 20 per cent during the April-June period, led by data

centres and offshore oil and gas projects. Overseas revenue contributed around 38 per cent to consolidated revenue in Q1, with the company reiterating its long-term ambition of moving towards a 50:50 India-international revenue mix.

Data centres have emerged as a significant growth engine for KBL's overseas operations, particularly in the United States. "Four years ago, they contributed nothing to our US business. Last year, they accounted for 25 per cent of our US business," Kirloskar said.

The company supplies cooling infrastructure for hyperscale data centres, including modular pumping systems, booster systems, HVAC pumping modules, containerised firefighting systems, along with associated piping and control systems.

Beyond data centres, KBL

expects thermal power to remain a major domestic growth driver, supported by fresh capacity additions.

"Nuclear power also represents a significant opportunity over the medium to long term. However, several issues — including government policy, funding mechanisms and tariff structures — need to be resolved before investments accelerate," Kirloskar said.

The company also sees opportunities across steel, distilleries, real estate, airports, metro rail and other infrastructure projects in India.

Internationally, KBL expects growth to be driven by oil and gas, data centres and its expanding services business. The company currently manages around 160 customer sites under long-term service contracts, covering pumps of multiple brands.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 7

Gold rises for fourth straight day to ₹1.54 lakh



GOLD PRICES
EXTENDED gains for the fourth straight session on

Friday, rising by ₹200 to ₹1.54 lakh per 10 gram, while tracking a sharp rally globally as a weaker US dollar and softer crude oil prices lifted demand. However, silver stayed unchanged at ₹2,34,800 per kg after a sharp rise in the last session.

Oil cos say E20 petrol meets quality norms

Press Trust of India

feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) said on Friday that additional nationwide testing of E20 petrol found no evidence to support claims of high moisture or chloride contamination, with fuel quality remaining within prescribed limits across the supply chain.

The intensified testing followed recent media reports alleging the presence of moisture and chloride in E20 (20 per cent ethanol blended petrol).

Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd in a joint statement said the exercise covered the entire supply chain and reaffirmed that fuel quality remained "consistently well within prescribed limits". "Contrary to certain assertions being made, there is no evidence of any alarm on account of fuel contamination validated

by extensive and scientifically designed tests," the companies said.

The three OMCs said the government has prescribed stringent chloride specifications for ethanol used in petrol blending and has put in place high-frequency monitoring at refineries, distilleries, depots, terminals and retail outlets to ensure compliance.

The companies said they have also strengthened quality surveillance by conducting water-ingress and density tests 8-12 times a day at every retail outlet, deploying mobile fuel quality testing laboratories and independently validating results through fuel laboratories.

More than 100 additional petrol samples collected from refineries showed chloride levels at or below 1 part per million (ppm), while ethanol samples from 80 distilleries tested over the past 10 days recorded chloride content below 3 ppm, OMCs said.

Publication : Millennium Post	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 8 August 2026	Page : 9

L&T's offshore business arm bags Major project orders from ONGC

NEW DELHI: L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore, the offshore business arm of Larsen & Toubro, secured a batch of major orders from the ONGC for offshore engineering, procurement, construction, installation, and commissioning (EPCIC) projects off west coast.

According to project classification details, the orders fall under the "Major" classification, which encompasses contracts valued between Rs 5,000 crore and Rs 10,000 crore. Other project tiers include "Significant" (Rs 1,000 to 2,500 Cr), "Large" (Rs 2,500 to 5,000 Cr), "Mega" (Rs 10,000 to 15,000 Cr), and "Ultra-Mega" carrying a total value exceeding Rs 15,000 crore.



The awarded projects include the Pipeline Replacement Project (PRP-X) and the Well Head Platforms Project. Under the scope of PRP-X, the business will handle the EPCIC of multiple subsea pipeline segments. The assignment also entails associated modification works across the offshore fields owned by ONGC. Meanwhile, the Well Head Platforms Project requires the EPCIC of four

distinct Well Head Platforms off the west coast.

Commenting on the order win, Parthasarathi Chatterjee, Senior Vice President & Head - L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore, said, "These orders reaffirm LTEH Offshore's position as a trusted partner in the development of India's offshore energy infrastructure." "They reflect the confidence customers place in our integrated EPCIC capabilities, extensive project execution experience and unwavering commitment to safety & operational excellence," Chatterjee added. "We look forward to delivering these projects to ONGC & contributing to the nation's energy aspirations." ANI

India weathered Hormuz disruption without fuel shortages: Oil Min Puri

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India had moved beyond viewing energy security solely through the lens of access to hydrocarbons

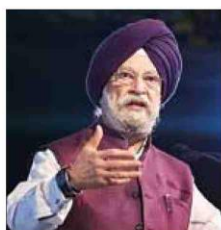
OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: India successfully shielded consumers from supply disruptions triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year through diversified sourcing, expanded refining capacity and higher domestic production, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Friday, while outlining the government's broader strategy to strengthen the country's energy security.

Addressing an industry event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Puri said India had moved beyond viewing energy security solely through the lens of access to hydrocarbons, citing diversified imports, strategic partnerships, infrastructure expansion and alternative fuels as key pillars of its approach.

"Today, I think we are in the happy situation of being able to say that, as far as India is concerned, we have moved on from that," he said.

He said India maintained uninterrupted fuel supplies despite disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy transit route.



Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

The Iran war disrupted energy supplies through the strait. Pre-war, India imported as much as half its crude oil from countries using the strait as a transit. Also, 90 per cent of cooking gas LPG and 60 per cent of gas imports passed through the strait.

These supplies were disrupted, but India diversified its sources to prevent any dry-out anywhere in the country.

"I can say with a degree of confidence, not one station went dry, not one," Puri said, referring to the country's network of more than 1,07,000 fuel retail outlets.

According to Puri, India expanded its crude supply sources from 27 to 41 countries, increased its fuel retail

HIGHLIGHTS

- » Also, 90 per cent of cooking gas LPG and 60 per cent of gas imports passed through the strait
- » According to Puri, India expanded its crude supply sources from 27 to 41 countries

network from about 52,000 outlets in 2014 to around 1,07,000 currently, and broadened city gas distribution coverage from 55 geographical areas to 309.

The minister said domestic LPG production was increased to offset lower imports from Gulf suppliers affected by the disruption.

"We never ran short of crude oil supplies. We always had about 60 days (cover); there was no shortage," he said.

Puri also said the US had emerged as India's largest supplier of LPG following the disruption.

"Today, I am happy to inform you that the United States accounts for something like 67 per cent of our LPG

imports."

Looking beyond the immediate supply security, Puri highlighted the government's recently approved Rs 84,000 crore Samudra Manthan programme aimed at supporting deep-water oil and gas exploration.

"The government is not going to do the drilling. The drilling is going to be done by private players," he said, adding that the government would support up to 50 per cent of drilling costs or up to Rs 650 crore per well to encourage investment in high-risk offshore exploration.

Puri said India had opened previously restricted offshore acreage for exploration and expected further opportunities under future licensing rounds. He also highlighted the government's push to expand compressed biogas capacity and said India's ethanol blending programme continued to make progress.

Turning to recent concerns over ethanol-blended petrol, Puri dismissed suggestions of widespread fuel contamination, saying oil marketing companies had launched large-scale testing before complaints sur-

faced publicly.

"They found four cases out of 1,07,000 petrol pumps with six crores to seven crores consumers going every day. So obviously, someone out there is trying to place some things out of context."

Puri said inspection teams carried out extensive checks across the country. He argued that contamination incidents could occur in any fuel or product, but said the findings did not indicate a systemic issue.

The minister also defended the government's fuel pricing policy, saying excise duty reductions had helped cushion consumers from global volatility.

"In the last four years, if you look at an overall period, prices in India have largely come down. Why? Because the central government, thanks to very bold decision-making by the Prime Minister, decided to cut excise duty on fuel on three occasions in November 21, May 2022, and March 10, 2026."

He added that while retail petrol and diesel prices had risen modestly over a longer period, excise duty reductions had more than offset those increases.

Publication : The Asian Age	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 7

INDIA SHIELDED FUEL SUPPLIES AMID DISRUPTIONS: PURI

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 7

Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said that India successfully shielded consumers from supply disruptions triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year through diversified sourcing, expanded refining capacity and higher domestic production.

"India maintained uninterrupted fuel supplies despite disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Pre-war, India imported as much as half its crude oil from countries using the strait as a transit. Also, 90 percent of cooking gas LPG and 60 per cent of gas imports passed through the strait," the minister said at a CII event.

The minister said India expanded its crude supply sources from 27 to 41 countries, increased its fuel network to 1,07,000, and broadened city gas distribution coverage from 55 areas to 309.

NIFTY, SENSEX TUMBLE

D St Overcomes CAS Pain to Post Weekly Gains

Cooling oil prices, RBI's upward revision of FY27 growth outlook lift sentiment

Our Bureau

Mumbai: India's broadest equity indices, which retreated marginally Friday, still managed to notch up weekly gains in roller-coaster trading as stocks swung between gains and losses after the rollout of the closing auction system (CAS) that seeks to reduce extreme volatility in closing prices. However, sentiment improved through the first trading week in August amid a fall in global oil prices.

On Friday, the Nifty fell 65.35 points, or 0.3%, to close at 24,570 points. The Sensex declined 455.59 points, or 0.6%, to end at 78,499 points.

For the week, however, the Nifty gained 0.8%, while the Sensex climbed 0.5%.

Rajesh Palviya, head of research, Axis Securities, said market sentiment improved as peace talks in West Asia eased geopolitical concerns, leading to a retreat in crude oil prices. He also said the CAS teething troubles should end soon.

"Domestically, the implementation of CAS created some uncertainty, but Friday's trading session ended on a normal note, and we expect market functioning to remain stable going forward," he said. "Traders, however, should continue exercising caution on weekly derivatives expiry days."

Brent crude oil futures had fal-

How They Fared

Nifty Sectoral Indices

GAINERS	Weekly Chg (%)
PSU Bank	5.0
Metal	3.7
Auto	3.1
IT	2.7

LOSERS

-3.9	Media
-1.7	Realty
-0.5	Private Bank
-0.3	Healthcare

INDEX

Midcap 150	0.97
Smallcap 250	2.44
Microcap 250	3.48

Source: ET Data/NSE



len to about \$81.8 on Friday evening, down nearly 0.9% over the previous day.

"The markets witnessed a broad-based rally this week, with selective strength in the mid and small caps," said Aamar Deo Singh, senior vice president, research, Angel One. "Improved global sentiment due to the easing of geopolitical tensions supported buying interest in pockets — financials, pharma, and IT."

Fear Gauge Up a Tad ►► 10

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 8 August 2026	Page : 1, 10

Fear Gauge Up a Tad

►► From Page 1

Singh also said that the central bank's upward revision of the FY27 growth forecast to 6.7% during the monetary policy review this week, coupled with a downward revision of the inflation forecast for the fiscal year, boosted investor confidence.

The Nifty Midcap 150 was up 0.2%, while the Nifty Small-cap 250 ended flat Friday. These two broader-market indices have risen 1% and 2.4%, respectively, this week.

On Friday, the market's fear gauge—the Nifty's Volatility Index or VIX—marginally climbed to 12.18.

Palviya of Axis said he remains bullish on the Nifty and expects the index to cross 24,700.

"A sustained move above this could open the door to

the 24,900-25,000 zone, while 24,450 should serve as the stop-loss for long positions," he said. "We continue to favour auto, pharma, new-age companies, and IT, while select metal and power stocks also appear well positioned."

Elsewhere in Asia, China advanced 1%, Hong Kong rose 0.5%, while Japan fell 0.1%, South Korea declined 0.6% and Taiwan dropped 0.4%.

The pan-Europe index Stoxx 600 was up 0.6% at the time of going to print.

Angel One's Singh said investors should be cautious about geopolitical uncertainties, but he does not see much downside from current levels.

Foreign portfolio investors net bought shares worth Rs 480 crore. Domestic institutions were buyers to the tune of Rs 236 crore.

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 3

Congress to Take up E20 Issue Soon: Rahul

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said his party will soon take up the issue of E20 petrol, saying it was damaging people's cars and scooters. "This issue of E20 is a very big issue. Normally, we say 'daal mein kuchh kaala hai, magar ye daal hi kaali hai,'" he said in a video on X. The Congress move comes a week after Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP launched a mass mobilisation against the E20 blending. – OPB

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 8

ETHANOL BLENDING

Minister Dismisses Concerns About Fuel Adulteration

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri Friday dismissed concerns over fuel adulteration linked to the ethanol blending programme, contending that nationwide testing found just four cases across 107,000 petrol pumps so far.

Oil marketing companies have been conducting "rigorous testing" for fuel adulteration across the country, he said. "What did they find? They found four cases out of 107,000 petrol pumps with 6-7 crore (customers) going every day," said Puri, speaking at a CII conference.



Concerns over the impact of ethanol-blended petrol on vehicle engine performance and fuel economy have intensified in recent months, with some automakers previously attributing adulterated fuel for causing damage to vehicle parts.

Concerns have also been raised about chloride content exceeding safe thresholds in the blended fuel.

In a joint statement Friday, oil marketing companies said their testing didn't validate the "claims of 500 parts per million (ppm) chloride and presence of moisture" in the blended fuel.

Chloride monitoring is being done at multiple points of supply chain including refineries, distilleries, depots, terminals and retail outlets nationwide, the companies said. "Under the intensified monitoring programme, more than 160 samples have been analysed for chloride content in last few days and levels are in range of 0-3 ppm contrary to the claims of several hundred ppm," the companies said.

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 8 August 2026	Page : 8

Higher Onion, LPG Prices Inflate Thali Costs: Crisil

Rise partially offset by lower tomato and potato prices; unseasonal rain and hailstorms in Maharashtra constrain supplies

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The average cost of home cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis increased 4% and 9% year-on-year, respectively, in July, driven by higher prices for onions, vegetable oil, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), according to a Crisil report released on Friday.

The rise was partially offset by lower tomato and potato prices. The cost of a vegetarian thali rose to ₹29.1 in July from ₹28.1 a year earlier while a non-vegetarian thali cost ₹58.3, up from ₹53.5 in the corresponding month last year.

Onion prices climbed 20% YoY as higher-priced stored rabi or winter

season stocks entered the market. Supplies were further constrained after unseasonal rainfall and hailstorms in Maharashtra, India's top onion producing state, during March and April damaged late-season crop and inventory.

"Going forward, onion prices are expected to remain firm due to tight rabi supplies and an expected delay in kharif onion arrivals," said Pushan Sharma, director, Crisil Intelligence.

He said potato prices could edge higher as expensive cold-storage stocks are released into the market while tomato prices are likely to remain stable in the near term due to fresh arrivals from southern states. However, tomato pri-

4 & 9%
RISE IN AVERAGE COST OF
VEG AND NON-VEG THALIS

ces are expected to strengthen from September onwards amid delayed kharif arrivals and seasonal festive demand, he said. Vegetable oil and LPG cylinder prices rose 11% and 10%, respectively, from a year earlier in July, mainly due to supply disruptions and elevated energy prices linked to the West Asia conflict.

Edible oil prices are also expected to stay firm, Sharma said, adding higher crude oil prices continue to weigh on freight rates and import costs while elevated polymer and resin prices are pushing up packaging costs.

The increase in overall thali cost was partly cushioned by a 12% and 2% on-year decline in potato and tomato prices, respectively. Potato prices eased following a 2.3% hike in rabi production, supported by higher acreage. Tomato prices remained lower as prolonged high temperatures during February and March delayed summer crop planting by nearly a month, shifting the supply cycle and resulting in higher market arrivals in July.



Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : Bangalore
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 9

Puri Dismisses Claims of Ethanol Fuel Adulteration

Our Bureau



Nation-wide testing found just four cases across 107,000 petrol pumps, says minister

New Delhi: Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday dismissed concerns over fuel adulteration linked to India's ethanol blending programme, saying nationwide testing found just four cases across 107,000 petrol pumps.

Oil marketing companies have been conducting "rigorous testing" for fuel adulteration across the country, he said.

"What did they find? They found four cases out of 107,000 petrol pumps with 6-7 crore (customers) going every day. So obviously someone out there is trying to place some things out of context," Puri said at a CII conference.

Concerns over the impact of ethanol-blended petrol on engine performance and fuel economy have intensified in recent months, with some automakers attributing vehicle damage to fuel adulteration. India supplies E20 petrol, containing 20% ethanol, as the standard grade at fuel stations nationwide.

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 8

Crude futures rise on renewed West Asia tensions

Crude oil futures edged higher on Friday as renewed geopolitical tensions in West Asia fuelled concerns over potential supply disruptions, although gains remained limited amid mixed global cues. On the MCX, the August crude oil futures contract rose ₹27, or 0.37%, to ₹7,404/barrel, with trading volume of 13,250 lots.

Analysts attributed the rise to escalating regional tensions after Iran reportedly launched missiles towards Tel Aviv in retaliation for Israeli military action in Lebanon, raising fears over crude supplies from the region. In international trade, oil prices also strengthened. Brent crude rose to around \$83.33/barrel, while WTI climbed to approximately \$78.18/ barrel, supported by supply concerns and a weaker US dollar following softer-than-expected US jobs data.

Oil traders will monitor developments surrounding shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

—PTI

Publication : The Indian Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 August 2026	Page : 9

E20 destroying people's lives, their vehicles: Rahul

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday said E20 fuel blending was a "big issue" and claimed that it was aimed at stealing from people and destroying their vehicles. "This issue of E20 is very big. Normally we say, *daal mein kuchh kaala hai, magar yahan puri daal hi kaali hai* (not a minor issue, the whole thing is corrupt)," he said in a video posted on social media.

"...this is a matter of sequencing. In any campaign, we have to decide the sequence of affairs. Our problem right now is that there is so much corruption that there is a huge line in what we have to sequence," he said.

Gandhi said the Congress would take up the matter "in a massive way" because it is "destroying people's scooters, destroying people's lives, and is stealing directly from them".

Online

Headline	"Someone writes, rumours are spread": Hardeep Singh Puri dismisses cooking gas levy		
Publication	Calcutta News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	8 Aug 2026		

"Someone writes, rumours are spread": Hardeep Singh Puri dismisses cooking gas levy

<http://www.calcuttanews.net/news/279226718/someone-writes-rumours-are-spread-hardeep-singh-puri-dismisses-cooking-gas-levy>

New Delhi [India, August 7 (ANI): Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday dismissed speculative reports regarding

a potential levy on cooking gas, clarifying that no such move is under consideration by the government.

Speaking at the 7th CII International Energy Conference, Puri challenged media reliance on unverified claims, stating, 'Someone writes and rumours are spread and then you ask me to respond. It's not fair. It's not fair. If you have something concrete, let me know. But I'm not aware of any such proposal.'

Earlier, addressing concerns over ethanol-blended petrol, the minister highlighted that India's fuel distribution network remained stable through recent market shocks.

He said India's fuel retail network had remained fully resilient through recent global disruptions, addressing controversy around the E20 ethanol-blended petrol.

Responding to concerns raised after an industry body wrote on 28 July, Puri said intensive testing had actually begun two weeks earlier. Oil marketing companies collected around 2,000 samples daily from petrol stations nationwide using dedicated testing teams, he said. Out of India's 107,000 retail outlets serving six to seven crore customers a day only four contamination cases were found. He suggested some parties were presenting the findings out of context.

Puri said India's retail fuel network had expanded from 52,000 outlets in 2014 to roughly 107,000 today, and that not one outlet had run out of stock despite global supply pressures. He attributed this to diversified crude sourcing, resilient infrastructure, trusted international partnerships, technological upgrades and strategic reserves India currently holds about 74 days of reserve capacity, he said.

Puri noted that India is now the world's third-largest energy consumer and importer, and the fourth-largest refiner, with energy demand growing at roughly three times the global average. Citing the International Energy Agency, he said India could account for nearly 30% of the increase in global oil demand between now and 2050. He contrasted this with declining refining capacity in Europe and the US, noting Europe is losing around 200,000 barrels per day in refining capacity while the US has not commissioned a new refinery in 50 years.

On LPG, Puri said a brief period of concern over supplies from Gulf nations near the Strait of Hormuz was addressed by ramping up domestic LPG production from about 34,000 to 55,000 metric tonnes a day, achieved partly by reconfiguring refinery output. He said the United States now supplies about 67% of India's LPG imports, reducing reliance on the Gulf region.

The minister also highlighted a collaboration between ONGC, Brazil's Petrobras and BP to revive production at the Mumbai High offshore fields, discovered in 1974. The government will support drilling costs by up to 50%, capped at around 650 crore per well, he said.

On fuel prices, Puri said that while global crude volatility had pushed petrol and diesel prices up marginally in recent years, excise duty cuts announced by the central government in November 2021, May 2022 and March 2026 cumulatively around Rs 10 per litre had kept Indian retail fuel prices among the most affordable globally, notably lower than neighbouring countries as well as several European nations.

He struck a cautiously optimistic note on the outlook, saying that while global uncertainties persist, India remains well-placed to manage future challenges. (ANI)

Headline	Just four contamination cases found in 1.07 lakh outlets: Hardeep Puri amid controversy over E20 blend		
Publication	Calcutta News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	8 Aug 2026		

Just four contamination cases found in 1.07 lakh outlets: Hardeep Puri amid controversy over E20 blend

<http://www.calcuttanews.net/news/279226704/just-four-contamination-cases-found-in-107-lakh-outlets-hardeep-puri-amid-controversy-over-e20-blend>

By Shailesh Yadav New Delhi [India, August 7 (ANI): Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said India's

fuel retail network had remained fully resilient through recent global disruptions, addressing controversy around the E20 ethanol-blended petrol at the CII International Energy Conference & Exhibition.

Responding to concerns raised after an industry body wrote on July 28, Puri said intensive testing had actually begun two weeks earlier. Oil marketing companies collected around 2,000 samples daily from petrol stations nationwide using dedicated testing teams, he said. Out of India's 107,000 retail outlets serving six to seven crore customers a day only four contamination cases were found. He suggested some parties were presenting the findings out of context.

Puri said India's retail fuel network had expanded from 52,000 outlets in 2014 to roughly 107,000 today, and that not one outlet had run out of stock despite global supply pressures. He attributed this to diversified crude sourcing, resilient infrastructure, trusted international partnerships, technological upgrades and strategic reserves India currently holds about 74 days of reserve capacity, he said.

Puri noted that India is now the world's third-largest energy consumer and importer, and the fourth-largest refiner, with energy demand growing at roughly three times the global average. Citing International Energy Agency, he said India could account for nearly 30% of the increase in global oil demand between now and 2050. He contrasted this with declining refining capacity in Europe and the US, noting Europe is losing around 200,000 barrels per day in refining capacity while the US has not commissioned a new refinery in 50 years.

On LPG, Puri said a brief period of concern over supplies from Gulf nations near the Strait of Hormuz was addressed by ramping up domestic LPG production from about 34,000 to 55,000 metric tonnes a day, achieved partly by reconfiguring refinery output. He said the United States now supplies about 67% of India's LPG imports, reducing reliance on the Gulf region.

The minister also highlighted a collaboration between ONGC, Brazil's Petrobras and BP to revive production at the Mumbai High offshore fields, discovered in 1974. The government will support drilling costs by up to 50%, capped at around 650 crore per well, he said.

On fuel prices, Puri said that while global crude volatility had pushed petrol and diesel prices up marginally in recent years, excise duty cuts announced by the central government in November 2021, May 2022 and March 2026 cumulatively around Rs 10 per litre had kept Indian retail fuel prices among the most affordable globally, notably lower than neighbouring countries as well as several European nations.

He struck a cautiously optimistic note on the outlook, saying that while global uncertainties persist, India remains well-placed to manage future challenges. (ANI)

Headline	L&T को महारत्न PSU से मिला ₹5,000-10,000 करोड़ का ठेका, ऑफशोर बिजनेस को बूस्ट; ₹7.79 लाख करोड़ की ऑर्डरबुक		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	8 Aug 2026		

L&T को महारत्न PSU से मिला ₹5,000-10,000 करोड़ का ठेका, ऑफशोर बिजनेस को बूस्ट; ₹7.79 लाख करोड़ की ऑर्डरबुक

<https://www.msn.com/hi-in/money/general/l-t-%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9-%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%A%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8-psu-%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%87-%E0%A4%AE-%E0%A4%B2-5-000-10-000-%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%A1%E0%A4%BC-%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%A0%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%91%E0%A4%AB%E0%A4%B6-%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%AC-%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B8-%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%AC%E0%A5%82%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F-7-79-%E0%A4%B2-%E0%A4%96-%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%A1%E0%A4%BC-%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%91%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A1%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%AC%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%95/ar-AA29ACcp>

तूलिका कुशवाहा L&T Order News: इंजीनियरिंग और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर क्षेत्र की दिग्गज कंपनी लार्सन एंड टुब्रो (L&T) फिर से एक बड़े ऑर्डर ऑयल एंड

नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ONGC) से बड़ा ऑर्डर मिला है। कंपनी ने बताया कि उसकी ऑफशोर इकाई L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore (LTEH Offshore) को ONGC की ओर से ₹5,000 करोड़ से ₹10,000 करोड़ के दायरे वाले बड़े प्रोजेक्ट्स का ठेका मिला है।

यह ऑर्डर कंपनी के ऑयल और गैस बिजनेस के लिए बड़ा ट्रिगर माना जा रहा है और इससे आने वाले सालों में रेवेन्यू ग्रोथ को भी सपोर्ट मिलने की उम्मीद है।

L&T का शेयर शुक्रवार को 4,045 रुपये के भाव पर सपाट बंद हुआ है।

किन प्रोजेक्ट्स के लिए मिला ऑर्डर?

L&T को ONGC से दो प्रमुख ऑफशोर प्रोजेक्ट्स मिले हैं। इनमें Pipeline Replacement Project (PRP-X) और Well Head Platforms Project शामिल हैं। ये दोनों प्रोजेक्ट भारत के पश्चिमी तट पर स्थित ONGC के ऑफशोर तेल और गैस क्षेत्रों से जुड़े हुए हैं।

ये भी पढ़ें: 75% बढ़ा मुनाफा, Q1 में दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी एल्युमीनियम कंपनी ने पेश किया दमदार रिजल्ट

Pipeline Replacement Project के तहत कंपनी को कई समुद्र के भीतर बिछी पाइपलाइन सेगमेंट्स का इंजीनियरिंग, खरीद, निर्माण, स्थापना और कमीशनिंग (EPCIC) कार्य करना होगा। इसके अलावा ONGC के मौजूदा ऑफशोर फील्ड्स में जरूरी संशोधन और अपग्रेडेशन का काम भी शामिल है।

वहीं Well Head Platforms Project के तहत L&T को चार नए वेल हेड प्लेटफॉर्म तैयार करने और स्थापित करने की जिम्मेदारी दी गई है। ये प्लेटफॉर्म समुद्र में तेल और गैस उत्पादन गतिविधियों के लिए बेहद अहम होते हैं।

क्या है LTEH Offshore की ताकत?

L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore कंपनी का वह कारोबार है जो ऑफशोर ऑयल और गैस इंडस्ट्री के लिए EPCIC सॉल्यूशन देता है। कंपनी के पास मजबूत इंजीनियरिंग विशेषज्ञता, आधुनिक फैब्रिकेशन सुविधाएं और विशेष समुद्री जहाजों का बेड़ा है, जिसकी मदद से वह जटिल ऑफशोर प्रोजेक्ट्स को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा करती है।

पिछले चार दशकों में इस बिजनेस ने दुनिया के कई बाजारों में बड़े और चुनौतीपूर्ण प्रोजेक्ट पूरे किए हैं। इनमें फिक्स्ड प्लेटफॉर्म, सबसी पाइपलाइन, ऑफशोर स्ट्रक्चर, ब्राउनफील्ड अपग्रेडेशन और डीकमीशनिंग प्रोजेक्ट्स शामिल हैं।

यही अनुभव और तकनीकी क्षमता L&T को भारत के सबसे बड़े ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के प्रोजेक्ट्स में मजबूत दावेदार बनाती है।

कंपनी ने क्या कहा?

इस ऑर्डर मिलने पर L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore के सीनियर वाइस प्रेसिडेंट और हेड पार्थसारथी चटर्जी ने कहा कि यह ऑर्डर कंपनी की क्षमताओं और ट्रैक रिकॉर्ड पर ग्राहकों के भरोसे को दर्शाता है।

उनके मुताबिक, यह सफलता कंपनी की मजबूत EPCIC क्षमता, जटिल प्रोजेक्ट्स को समय पर पूरा करने के अनुभव और सुरक्षा मानकों के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता का परिणाम है. उन्होंने कहा कि कंपनी इन प्रोजेक्ट्स को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा करने और भारत के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र को मजबूत बनाने में योगदान देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है.

L&T Q1 Highlights

L&T के लिए क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है यह ऑर्डर?

L&T का ऑर्डर बुक पहले से ही मजबूत है और कंपनी लगातार देश और विदेश में बड़े प्रोजेक्ट हासिल कर रही है. ONGC से मिला यह नया ऑर्डर कई कारणों से महत्वपूर्ण है.

सबसे पहले, यह ऑर्डर भारत के ऊर्जा इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर क्षेत्र से जुड़ा है, जहां आने वाले वर्षों में भारी निवेश की संभावना है. दूसरा, इससे कंपनी के ऑफशोर और हाइड्रोकार्बन कारोबार को मजबूती मिलेगी. तीसरा, बड़े EPC प्रोजेक्ट्स मिलने से कंपनी की भविष्य की आय और ऑर्डर बुक में और सुधार देखने को मिल सकता है.

भारत में ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया जा रहा है. ऐसे में ONGC जैसे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों की ओर से नए निवेश किए जाने से L&T जैसी इंजीनियरिंग कंपनियों को लगातार अवसर मिल सकते हैं.

Headline	Hardeep Puri responds to E20 controversy, says only four fuel contamination cases reported		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
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Hardeep Puri responds to E20 controversy, says only four fuel contamination cases reported

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/hardeep-puri-responds-to-e20-controversy-says-only-four-fuel-contamination-cases-reported/ar-AA29Cc9a>

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said India's fuel retail network has remained stable despite recent global disruptions.

Speaking at the CII International Energy Conference & Exhibition, he addressed concerns over E20 ethanol-blended petrol and said extensive testing had started two weeks before an industry body raised the issue on July 28.

Oil marketing companies collected around 2,000 samples daily from petrol stations nationwide using dedicated testing teams, he said. Out of India's 107,000 retail outlets serving six to seven crore customers a day only four contamination cases were found. He suggested some parties were presenting the findings out of context.

Puri said India's retail fuel network had expanded from 52,000 outlets in 2014 to roughly 107,000 today, and that not one outlet had run out of stock despite global supply pressures. He attributed this to diversified crude sourcing, resilient infrastructure, trusted international partnerships, technological upgrades and strategic reserves India currently holds about 74 days of reserve capacity, he said.

Puri noted that India is now the world's third-largest energy consumer and importer, and the fourth-largest refiner, with energy demand growing at roughly three times the global average. Citing International Energy Agency, he said India could account for nearly 30% of the increase in global oil demand between now and 2050. He contrasted this with declining refining capacity in Europe and the US, noting Europe is losing around 200,000 barrels per day in refining capacity while the US has not commissioned a new refinery in 50 years.

On LPG, Puri said a brief period of concern over supplies from Gulf nations near the Strait of Hormuz was addressed by ramping up domestic LPG production from about 34,000 to 55,000 metric tonnes a day, achieved partly by reconfiguring refinery output. He said the United States now supplies about 67 per cent of India's LPG imports, reducing reliance on the Gulf region.

The minister also highlighted a collaboration between ONGC, Brazil's Petrobras and BP to revive production at the Mumbai High offshore fields, discovered in 1974. The government will support drilling costs by up to 50 per cent, capped at around 650 crore per well, he said.

On fuel prices, Puri said that while global crude volatility had pushed petrol and diesel prices up marginally in recent years, excise duty cuts announced by the central government in November 2021, May 2022 and March 2026 cumulatively around Rs 10 per litre had kept Indian retail fuel prices among the most affordable globally, notably lower than neighbouring countries as well as several European nations. He struck a cautiously optimistic note on the outlook, saying that while global uncertainties persist, India remains well-placed to manage future challenges.

With inputs from ANI

Headline	ओएनजीसी का पहली तिमाही का मुनाफा दोगुने से अधिक होकर 17,033 करोड़ रुपये		
Publication	Vyapar Hindi	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	8 Aug 2026		

ओएनजीसी का पहली तिमाही का मुनाफा दोगुने से अधिक होकर 17,033 करोड़ रुपये

https://vyaparhindi.com/news/company_samachar/5979

Saturday, 08 Aug, 2026 हमारे साथ जुड़ें - सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) का शुद्ध लाभ चालू वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 की पहली तिमाही (अप्रैल-जून) में दोगुने से अधिक होकर 17,033.81 करोड़ रुपये पर पहुंच गया है। कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में आई तेजी के बल पर कंपनी के मुनाफे में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई। इससे पिछले वित्त....

