



ONGC News as on 10 August 2026 (Print & Online)



Publication : DT Next	Editions : Chennai
Date :10 August 2026	Page : 10

Oil India's Ranjit Rath applies for ONGC top job

NEW DELHI: Oil India Ltd chairman and managing director Ranjit Rath is among more than half a dozen candidates who have applied for the top job at state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), people familiar with the matter said. Rath, 54, is seeking the ONGC chairman and managing director's post for a second consecutive year after the government relaxed eligibility criteria, including the maximum age for the position. The Oil India chief was among the candidates shortlisted for the ONGC post last year, but the government chose to extend the tenure of incumbent Arun Kumar Singh by a year. Rath has headed Oil India, India's second-largest state-run oil and gas explorer, since August 2022.

India Energy Week moves to Kolkata, to be held from Jan 28-31 next year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, AUG 9: India Energy Week (IEW) will move to Kolkata next year, a year after a Rs 1,000-crore exhibition-cum-convention centre in Goa was inaugurated and touted as a permanent venue for the annual energy conference. The next edition of India Energy Week (IEW) will be held from January 28 to 31, 2027, at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town, Kolkata, according to an announcement on the event's LinkedIn page. The move marks a shift for the annual conference, which was held at the newly built 4,000-seat convention centre at state-owned ONGC's Advanced Training Institute (ATI) in pristine south Goa. The Goa venue was positioned as a permanent home for the flagship energy event

when it was built by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at breakneck speed.

Kolkata's selection comes after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the West Bengal assembly elections, taking power in the state for the first time. "A landmark 5th edition of India Energy Week demands an unforgettable scale," IEW's LinkedIn page said.

"The foundation is being laid. Stay tuned as the Convention Centre, New Town, Kolkata transforms for #IEW2027." From industry leaders and policymakers to innovators, investors and technology pioneers, IEW continues to unite the voices shaping the global energy landscape, it said. "India Energy Week 2027 - Convention Centre, New Town, Kolkata - 28-31 January 2027".

In a separate post, Oil

Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said he reviewed preparations for IEW 2027 with officials. IEW has become the world's largest energy gathering, he said, adding "2027 will be bigger: global CEOs, policymakers, investors and innovators converging on India."

"From clean energy transition to energy self-reliance, India isn't just joining the global energy conversation. We're setting its agenda," he said. ONGC in a separate post said: "Kolkata, the energy is coming. India's biggest energy conversations are heading east as #IndiaEnergyWeek 2027 arrives in the City of Joy!" The then West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee had inaugurated the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town, Kolkata on October 13, 2017.

Built to host major

international summits, business meets, and cultural events, the 18-storey facility features a massive 3,200-seater auditorium and advanced convention infrastructure including an exhibition centre, multiple seminar rooms, banquet spaces, multi-level car parking, and an adjoining 100-key hotel block. In February 2024, a makeshift conference centre at the unused portion of the vast land at ONGC's IPSHEM training facility in south Goa was used to host a second edition of IEW, as convention centres that could hold an event of that size elsewhere in the country were unavailable. And there germinated the idea of building a permanent facility to add another chapter to Goa's tourism. Puri first spoke about it and weeks later ONGC began approving one of its largest non-core

infrastructure projects in recent years. Approvals came in remarkable speed, and the centre was built at neck-breaking speed.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had in his Independence Day address on August 15, 2024, announced that the coastal state would serve as the permanent venue for the annual IEW. The 2025 edition of IEW took place in Delhi, but the 2026 edition was hosted in the new facility in Goa.

The convention and exhibition facility at the ATI campus was positioned as a venue for large conferences and marquee events, but no significant event has taken place at the site since IEW 2026.

The oval-shaped Convention Center has a seating capacity of around 4,000 persons at a time. It comprises a VVIP room, a VVIP green room, two VIP

rooms, two VIP lounges, a CEO's meeting room, 5 CEO's translator rooms, bilateral rooms, office spaces, 3 lounges, a dining hall, dry pantries, elevators/escalators and a large foyer.

The 8,353 sq meters rectangular-shaped Management Development Facility (MDF) comprises of offices space, dining hall, conference rooms, 182 seater auditorium, VIP Lounge, office rooms, breakout rooms, 8 syndicate rooms, and 11 classrooms, while the 6,669 sq mt exhibition hall is designed to accommodate large trade fairs and expos. The campus also features a floating jetty and a helipad with four parking points, providing connectivity by sea, air and road. The jetty connects the venue to all leading hotels and resorts on the 15-km beachline in South Goa.



Publication : Echo of India	Editions : Kolkata
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Oil India chief Ranjit Rath among applicants for top job at ONGC

NEW DELHI: Oil India Ltd chairman and managing director Ranjit Rath is among more than half a dozen candidates who have applied for the top job at state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), people familiar with the matter said. Rath, 54, is seeking the ONGC chairman and managing director's post for a second consecutive year after the government relaxed eligibility criteria, including the maximum age for the position. The Oil India chief was among the candidates shortlisted for the ONGC post last year, but the government chose to extend the tenure of incumbent Arun Kumar Singh by a year. Rath has headed Oil India, India's second-largest state-run oil and gas explorer, since August 2022.



Publication : Financial Express

Editions : New Delhi

Date :10 August 2026

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Oil India chief in ONGC top job race

OIL INDIA CHAIRMAN and managing director Ranjit Rath is among more than half a dozen candidates who have applied for the top job at state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), sources said.

Rath, 54, is seeking the ONGC chairman and managing director's post for a second consecutive year after the government relaxed eligibility criteria, including the maximum age for the position. The Oil India chief was among the candidates shortlisted for the ONGC post last year, but the government chose to extend the tenure of incumbent Arun Kumar Singh by a year.

Rath has headed Oil India, India's second-largest state-run oil and gas explorer, since August 2022. **PTI**



Publication : Millennium Post

Editions : New Delhi

Date :10 August 2026

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OIL CMD Ranjit Rath among applicants for ONGC top job

NEW DELHI: Oil India Ltd Chairman & MD (CMD) Ranjit Rath is among more than half a dozen candidates who have applied for the top post at state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), people familiar with the matter said.

Rath, 54, is seeking the position for the second consecutive year after the government relaxed the eligibility criteria, including the maximum entry age.

Other candidates include ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) MD Rajarshi Gupta, ONGC directors Vikram Saxena and Satyam Kumar, OVL Director Dulal Halder, MRPL Director (Finance) Devendra Kumar and Indian Oil Corporation Director (Marketing) S P Shrivastava.

The post will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure. Applications closed on July 22.

The government has set the maximum entry age at 59 years and said the selected candidate will initially serve for three years, extendable by two years based on performance. The selection will be conducted by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry.

AGENCIES



Publication : The Free Press Journal

Editions : Mumbai

Date :10 August 2026

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Oil India chief in ONGC top job race

Oil India Chairman and Managing Director Ranjit Rath is among more than half a dozen candidates seeking ONGC's top post, sources said. Other contenders include ONGC Videsh Managing Director Rajarshi Gupta and senior executives from ONGC, MRPL and Indian Oil. The position falls vacant on December 7, when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh's extended tenure ends.

Publication : Veer Arjun (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
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Headline: Six people, including Oil India CMD Ranjit Rath, are in the race to head ONGC

ओएनजीसी के प्रमुख पद की दौड़ में ऑयल इंडिया के सीएमडी रंजीत रथ सहित छह शामिल नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं गैस कंपनी ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) के चेयरमैन एवं प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएमडी) पद के लिए ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड के प्रमुख (सीएमडी) रंजीत रथ समेत आधा दर्जन से अधिक अधिकारियों ने आवेदन किया है। मामले से जुड़े लोगों ने यह जानकारी दी। रथ (54) लगातार दूसरे वर्ष ओएनजीसी के शीर्ष पद की दौड़ में शामिल हुए हैं। सरकार ने इस पद के लिए अधिकतम आयु सीमा समेत पात्रता संबंधी मानदंडों में ढील दी है, जिसके बाद उन्होंने फिर से आवेदन किया है। रथ पिछले वर्ष भी ओएनजीसी प्रमुख पद के लिए चुने गए उम्मीदवारों की सूची में शामिल थे, लेकिन सरकार ने मौजूदा चेयरमैन एवं प्रबंध निदेशक अरुण कुमार सिंह का कार्यकाल एक वर्ष के लिए बढ़ा दिया था। रथ अगस्त, 2022 से देश की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी पेट्रोलियम कंपनी ऑयल इंडिया का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं। आवेदन करने वालों में ओएनजीसी विदेश लिमिटेड (ओवीएल) के प्रबंध निदेशक राजर्षि गुप्ता भी शामिल हैं। सरकार द्वारा अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु 59 वर्ष किए जाने के बाद वह इस पद के लिए पात्र हुए हैं। गुप्ता (59) जुलाई, 2027 में सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले हैं और इस पद के लिए आवेदन करने वाले आंतरिक उम्मीदवारों में सबसे वरिष्ठ हैं।

27-yr-old killed as gas delivery truck rams into bike

Megha Sood

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MUMBAI: A 27-year-old biker from Nalasopara was killed after a Bharat Petroleum gas delivery truck allegedly rammed into his two-wheeler on the Achole-Vasai Link Road near Martin Complex in Vasai on Sunday morning. Police have impounded the truck and detained its driver while investigating the fatal crash.

The accident occurred around 11.30am, preliminary reports said. The deceased was

identified as Krishna Vishwakarma, and he suffered severe injuries in the collision.

Following the crash, local residents rushed him to Icon Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The Achole police reached the spot after being informed about the accident and took the truck driver into custody for questioning.

"We have registered a case of accidental death and are finding out the exact cause of the accident," an officer from the Achole police station said.



A Bharat Petroleum gas delivery truck allegedly rammed into a two-wheeler on the Achole-Vasai Link Road in Vasai.

No going back on strategic sale of PSUs, ministries told

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Centre has ruled out diluting the list of public sector enterprises lined up for strategic sale amid repeated demands from heavy industries, fertiliser and housing ministries for a review.

Over the last few months, govt has engaged in an extensive exercise reviewing the list of public sector companies that have been identified for privatisation, listing and closure, with the PM's Office involved in the process. While individual ministries have managed to get several of the PSUs that were originally on the sell-off list — such as BPCL and Shipping Corp — out of the govt's scheme, multiple officials told **TOI** that there is little possibility of further dilution.

On Way To Meet Target

- Some ministries have managed to get several of the PSUs that were originally on the sell-off list — such as BPCL and Shipping Corp — out of govt's scheme
- Govt has already raised upwards of ₹60,000 crore from disinvestment
- With IDBI Bank sale and other small stake sales lined up, it is on course to beat the ₹80,000 crore target

Officials acknowledged that several govt departments had started turning inter-ministerial meetings into a forum for seeking a review, with some of them repeatedly approaching Niti Aayog and other agencies suggesting a review.

The message from top is, however, clear that all ministries have to work together in achieving the goal of strategic sale, especially at a time when govt is keen to maximise revenue and also send a message that it is serious about the exercise.

Despite govt's commitment to disinvestment, over the years, the process had become haphazard with no centralised list even in place. Over the years, the companies that were being pursued for privatisation were also lost on the way, be it BEML or Shipping Corp.

Even now, just one entity — IDBI Bank — is sought to be privatised with all eyes on the Prem Vatsa-owned Fairfax and Emirates NBD being the two bidders in the fray. While both have investments in In-

dian banks, Catholic Syrian Bank and RBL, respectively, they are keen on being part of the exercise. For either, RBI will have to step in and provide some exemption to facilitate running two banking entities in the country.

Officials indicated that given the current emphasis on offer-for-sale and initial public offers, strategic sale cases will be identified once the IDBI Bank deal closes.

With govt in the third year of its current term, it will have to move quickly so that more transactions can be pursued. The Centre has already raised upwards of Rs 60,000 crore from disinvestment and with IDBI Bank sale, if it materialises this time, and other small stake sales lined up, it is on course to beat the Rs 80,000 crore target.

Publication : Virat Vaibhav (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
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Headline: Chief Minister Sarma expressed happiness over NRL's record profit

मुख्यमंत्री सरमा ने एनआरएल के रिकॉर्ड मुनाफे पर जताई खुशी

वैभव न्यूज़ ■ गुवाहाटी



असम के मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. हिमंत बिस्व सरमा ने ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड (ओआईएल) और नुमालीगढ़ रिफाइनरी लिमिटेड (एनआरएल) द्वारा हासिल किए गए रिकॉर्ड वित्तीय और ऑपरेशनल लक्ष्यों का जिक्र किया। उन्होंने इस परफॉर्मेंस को असम के लिए गर्व की बात और भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा में एक अहम योगदान बताया। सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर रविवार को एक पोस्ट में, मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि आईओएल ने 2,870 करोड़ रुपये का «अब तक का सबसे ज्यादा तिमाही स्टैंडअलोन प्रॉफिट आफ्टर टैक्स» (पीएटी) दर्ज किया, जो पिछले साल के मुकाबले 2.5 गुना ज्यादा है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह बढ़ोतरी कच्चे तेल के प्रोडक्शन में 11 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि और

कीमतों से अच्छी कमाई के कारण हुई। ओआईएल का कंसोलिडेटेड पीएटी 4,027 करोड़ रुपये रहा, जो पिछले साल के मुकाबले 97 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दिखाता है, जबकि कच्चे तेल का प्रोडक्शन 0.950 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन तक पहुंच गया। कंपनी ने 10,921 टन (यानी 84,109 बैरल) का अब तक का सबसे ज्यादा दैनिक कच्चा तेल प्रोडक्शन भी दर्ज किया। मुख्यमंत्री ने अंडमान बेसिन में ओआईएल की खोज गतिविधियों और असम में एक ऑनशोर कुएं में 3,116 मीटर के अब तक के सबसे ज्यादा हॉरिजॉन्टल डिस्प्लेसमेंट की उपलब्धि पर भी प्रकाश डाला।

India's non-fossil fuel power capacity crosses 300 GW mark

NEW DELHI

IN a major milestone for the nation's clean energy transition and climate action targets, India has crossed 300 GW of non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity generation capacity as on July 31, 2026, which accounts for over 54 per cent of country's total electricity generation capacity of around 552 GW, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on Sunday.

The growth in clean energy generation has been anchored by contributions across sectors. Solar energy remains the key growth en-

gine with around 165 GW at present from just 2.8 GW in 2014. Concurrently, the wind energy sector has also seen strong momentum, reaching over 58 GW from 21 GW in 2014, the statement said.

During 2025-26, a record capacity of 55.29 GW of non-fossil-fuel-based electricity capacity was installed in the country with key contributions from 44.6 GW solar power and 6 GW wind power.

India has already achieved 60 per cent of the 500 GW non-fossil fuel power capac-

Solar energy remains key growth engine with capacity reaching 165 GW last month

CLEAN ENERGY

- Solar energy remains key growth engine with a capacity of 165 GW
- Wind energy has also gone up from 21 GW in 2014 to 58 GW
- A record 55.29 GW non-fossil-fuel-based power added in 2025-26
- India already achieved 60% of 500 GW non-fossil fuel power target by 2030



ity targeted to be achieved by 2030 as the country makes rapid progress towards building an Aatmanirbhar energy ecosystem. The growth in renewable

energy capacity is also reflected in renewable energy generation in the country, which has increased from 190.96 billion units in 2014-15 to 477.79 BU in 2025-26.

To support this rapid expansion and ensure supply chain independence, India has transformed its domestic manufacturing capabilities.

Driven by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme focusing on the nation's solar installations with high-efficiency, indigenously produced modules, the enlisted capacity under the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) for Solar PV Modules has crossed the historic 200 GW milestone, rising from just 2.3 GW in 2014.

Days after Mecca pact, Houthis hit Saudi refinery

Wait for Hormuz deal stretches on as Iran says MoU terms must be met

REUTERS

9 August

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis have attacked Saudi Aramco's Jazan refinery, they said on Sunday, two days after the kingdom signed a defence pact with Türkiye and Pakistan in response to growing regional instability from the United States (US)-Israeli war on Iran. It was not clear whether or how either Pakistan or Türkiye would join in any Saudi response to the latest attacks.

The Houthis declared a naval blockade against Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea last month, citing what they said was a Saudi siege on them, an allegation Riyadh denies.

The Saudi energy ministry said a fire had broken out at the refinery but was later extinguished with no injuries and authorities were dealing with the incident, without giving a cause. The Houthis used a drone to target the refinery, military spokesperson Yahya Saree posted on X. They had struck Aramco sites before in Jazan, which processes 400,000 barrels of crude oil per day in southwestern Saudi Arabia. They had also hit Yanbu on the Red Sea.

In a separate statement, Saree said the Houthis carried out missile and drone strikes on the Yemeni Red Sea port city of Mocha.

Meanwhile, the wait dragged on for an Iranian deal with Oman on the Strait of Hormuz, as Tehran's top envoy said direct talks with the US were currently impossible.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, on Sunday criticised what he described as US violations of a short-lived interim peace agreement

signed in June.

"As long as the American violation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) continues and the US does not make amends for its violations, there is no possibility of resuming negotiations," Araghchi was cited as saying by state TV.

Tehran on Saturday upped the ante by renewing a hefty list of demands for Washington as conditions for a full reopening of Hormuz, indicating any immediate respite for oil and gas supplies may be limited.

No new RE projects within 1 km of border: MHA

NANDINI KESHARI
New Delhi, 9 August

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has prohibited new solar, wind and hybrid renewable energy (RE) projects within 1 km of the Line of Control (LoC), Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the International Border under guidelines for national security clearance of RE projects in border areas.

The guidelines were issued after the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) received applications to set up RE projects in border areas. Areas within 50 kilometre (km) of the LoC, LAC, or International Border

GUIDELINES ALSO PROHIBIT HIRING LABOURERS FROM BORDERING NATIONS WITHOUT APPROVAL

have been designated as "sensitive areas". This includes areas within 20 km of the International Border, where a separate no-objection certificate (NOC) will be required from the Ministry of Defence.

The guidelines also prohibit the engagement of labour for project implementation from countries sharing a land border with India, particularly Pakistan, Bangladesh and China, without permission from the central government.

"Taking into account national security perspectives and also keeping in mind the ease of doing business in consultation and consensus with all stakeholders, uniform transparent guidelines for national security clearance is being prescribed for solar, wind and hybrid energy projects in border areas," the MHA said.

Security clearance for projects proposed between 1 km and 50 km, or for grant of NOC for projects between 1 km and 20 km, will be assessed by the MHA and the defence ministry on a case-to-case basis. Applications for all such RE projects are required to be submitted to MNRE, which will forward the proposals, accompanied

by the state government's in-principle approval for land allotment, to the MHA for security clearance and the defence ministry for an NOC.

"If the proposed project involves foreign investment, a separate application will be required to be made to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the foreign direct investment policy of the government," MHA said.

The norms also restrict the height of civil infrastructure for maintenance and operation to 3 metres for areas within 1-8 km, 5 metres within 8-20 km, and 15 metres from 20-50 km.

Strait of Hormuz and India's neighbours

How China came through relatively unscathed from the West Asia crisis

S DINAKAR
Hyderabad, 9 August

Six months into the war in West Asia, India is finding its feet. But managing the crisis has proved expensive. Not just for India; Japan, South Korea and other south-east Asian nations, too, are relatively worse off.

But one nation, China, has sailed through the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz relatively unscathed even as the impact of its steps shielded other consuming nations from having to pay high crude oil prices.

Pakistan's market-driven experiment with rooftop solar — driven by compulsion rather than choice, and helped by dumped Chinese panels (sold cheaper than the cost of production) — has paid off, partially blunting the impact of gas supply disruptions.

China was relatively insulated from the West Asia crisis, despite losing access to nearly 5-6 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil because of the Hormuz crisis. That's equivalent to half of its overall imports, and all of India's purchases, according to Kpler ship tracking data. But Beijing entered the crisis well-prepared, underpinned by a 2025 energy law that strengthens the government's authority over oil companies. In addition, a multi-layered reserve system that combines government stocks, company inventories and commercial storage, offered Beijing several layers of protection before having to dip into its strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs).

By sharply reducing oil imports, China not only shielded its own economy from a supply shock (to an extent) — its impact also helped cushion the price shock for other Asian economies, analysts said. International crude oil benchmark Brent prices, which spiked to over \$125 per barrel in March after the war in West Asia began, now trades at benign \$80/barrel levels.

So how did China pull it off?

Planning ahead

Thanks to a decade of preparation and riding on immense financial resources and subsidies, China was able to slash crude oil imports, reduce oil demand, boost domestic production to a record, increase electric vehicle sales, and build and fill the world's biggest strategic and commercial oil reserves at a low cost — while keeping the economy humming.

By contrast, India's imports of crude oil have exceeded pre-war levels, sourced at premiums of \$10-\$40 per barrel. Constraints with state funding and land acquisition issues torpedoed SPR expansion, according to government data.

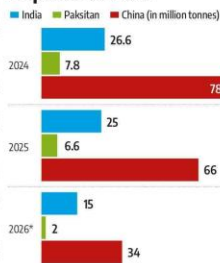
To be sure, India was successful in its strategy to avoid large-scale disruptions to supplies.

China's energy security policy is embedded in its five-year plans.

"China just released its 15th Five-Year Plan (FYP) for Renewable Energy with some good signals on increasing renewable energy consumption — and 'reliably substituting' other power sources," said Belinda Schappe, a China analyst at a Finnish think tank, the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air said in a LinkedIn post. "Overall, the plan maintains the focus of the previous FYP to make the new energy



Imports of LNG



*Data till July 2026; Source: Kpler

power system work as a whole, rather than just looking at capacity targets."

Beijing's approach to energy imports is shifting from passive imports and guaranteed supply to a more active management aimed at strengthening pricing power and domestic energy security, and this trend is likely to continue, said Fu Chengyu, a global energy expert and former chairman of China's top state-owned oil giants, CNOOC and Sinopec. China's domestic production is at a record 4.3 million bpd compared with India's 550,000 bpd lows. The sizes of the two economies is a key differentiator here.

Fu explained a few strategic choices behind China's import reduction in a UK publication, Energy Intelligence. Cost is an important one: reducing purchases at high prices and replenishing reserves at low prices to stabilise annual procurement costs. By restricting refined oil exports, China is also seeking to strengthen domestic energy security, he added.

Beijing slashed oil imports by 40 per cent from a year earlier to a decadal low in June at 7 million bpd, according to Chinese customs data. The cut came from curtailing refining runs, dipping into crude reserves, accumulated last year at rates 50 per cent below current levels, and barring 3 million bpd of oil product exports. Throughputs fell to Covid-era (2020) lows — down by around 18 per cent on-year to 12.5 million bpd, with utilisation collapsing below 60 per cent, according to China's

National Bureau of Statistics.

India exported a near-record volume of fuels in July and persuaded refiners to operate facilities at over 100 per cent capacity and delay maintenance, sending crude imports to over 5 million bpd, higher than prewar levels, refining sources said. This was done to avoid shortages because India depends on imported crude to meet around 90 per cent of its needs.

China stockpiled crude at a rate of 1 million bpd last year when Brent averaged \$69/bbl and during the pandemic when it traded at \$40/bbl levels. It now holds 1.5 billion bbl of commercial inventories and nearly 300 million bbl in strategic reserves, offering over 100 days of cover on total prewar imports, according to Energy Intelligence data. It is adding 169 million barrels in additional storage capacity.

India has over 75 days of oil coverage, said oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri recently. That takes into account even oil in tankers and headed to India, refining sources said. SPR volumes cover around 5-6 days of demand, the sources said.

China's domestic EV sales in the first half of 2026 accounted for 54 per cent of all new car sales, leading to a 62 per cent market share in the second quarter. India's EV share has crossed 10 per cent comprising mainly two- and three-wheelers, Vaahan data show.

"At the current rate, China's EVs are displacing oil equivalent to around 12 per cent of the country's annual imports," said Gavin Mooney, an independent energy transition advisor based in Australia. That converts to around 1.35 million bpd — a quarter of India's total oil demand.

Beijing's close ally

China has also enabled its close ally Pakistan to become one of the world's most successful countries for rooftop solar by exporting cheap solar equipment. In 2024, Pakistan still ranked third globally in liquefied natural gas dependence on Hormuz-transiting cargoes as a share of total consumption, and fifth for oil. Despite a tanking economy, Pakistan imported almost 34 gigawatts worth of solar panels in just the last couple of years, which equals three-fourths of the total grid capacity, to fill the gap caused by an unreliable and expensive grid, according to consultant Ember.

A surge in solar generation from 4 per cent in 2021 to 14 per cent in 2024 has weaned the country away from expensive LNG, used mainly in power generation. By February 2026, solar installations helped avoid \$12 billion in oil and gas imports and could save a further \$6.3 billion by December, said Alice Harrison, senior director at Secure Energy Project.

It's worth noting here that India has legal protections against Chinese dumping of solar energy products, and has allocated ₹75,000 crore to support rooftop household projects under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana Scheme.

"It's not being driven by climate concerns — it's all about economics. Renewables are outperforming traditional sources of energy," said Muhammad Mustafa Amjad, programme director, Renewables First to Yale e360 online publication.

Crude oil, inflation to drive markets: Experts

NEW DELHI: Crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions in West Asia, and upcoming inflation data will dictate stock market direction this week, according to analysts.

Moreover, developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, foreign investor trading activity, and domestic quarterly earnings will also remain key monitorables for the Indian stock market, experts added.

"Domestically, investors will closely monitor the July CPI inflation print, WPI inflation, and the latest foreign exchange reserves data for fresh insights into inflation trends and external sector stability. The Q1 FY27 earnings season will gather further momentum, with many companies, including HAL, Bharat Forge, Grasim Industries, and Tata Motors, scheduled to announce their quarterly results," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking, said.

Globally, market participants will continue to monitor developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, movements in crude oil prices, and broader geopolitical negotiations involving Iran, he added.

On the macroeconomic front, the July US inflation report will be the key global event in the week ahead, he said and added that crude oil will remain another key monitorable for Indian markets.

Meanwhile, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) maintained their buying spree in Indian equities, investing Rs 12,921 crore in the first week of August. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 404.53 points, or 0.51%, and the NSE Nifty went up by 187.05 points, or 0.76%.

The closing auction session remained the key highlight of the last week, as it was the first week of the new system, Santosh Meena, head of Research at Swastika Investment, said. "The week will also be important from a macroeconomic perspective, with India scheduled to release CPI inflation on August 12 and WPI inflation on August 14. In the US, CPI and PPI (Producer Price Index) data will be released on August 12 and 13, respectively," he added.

US Senate's bill against largest buyers of Russian oil, gas may hit India beyond refinery procurement

Indian crude supplies from Russia face threat

NEW DELHI: A US Senate vote to advance tougher sanctions on Russia raises the risk of disruption to Russian crude supplies but is unlikely to immediately alter oil flows to India and China, according to Kpler analyst Sumit Ritolia.

The US Senate on Friday passed a bipartisan Russia sanctions bill that would give President Donald Trump authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on imports from countries that are among the world's largest buyers of Russian oil and gas. The Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia Act of 2026 targets the five biggest purchasers of Russian energy and is aimed at cutting Moscow's revenues from oil and gas sales.

The measure still needs to clear the US House of Representatives and faces further legislative and administrative steps before it could take effect.

As per Ritolia, the measures still face further legislative and administrative hurdles, while their impact will depend largely on how aggressively the US administration implements them, including whether it grants exemptions or waivers.

"Recent experience suggests that when physical supply security becomes a concern, policymakers retain an incentive to avoid measures that could unnecessarily disrupt crude availability," he said.

The timing of any curbs is critical as global crude markets re-



IMPORT TRACK

India's dependence on Russian crude has surged since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022

Russia supplied less than 100,000 barrels per day to India in 2021, or about 2.5% of its crude imports, as per the US Energy Information Administration

Volume rose to about 740,000 bpd in 2022 and nearly 1.8 million bpd in 2023, making Russia India's largest crude supplier with about 39% of imports that year

Kpler data shows Indian refiners imported a record 2.8 million bpd of Russian crude in July 2026, accounting for about 55.5% of total crude imports of just over 5 million bpd

That compares with roughly 1.8 million bpd on average in 2024, according to Kpler-based data

main relatively tight and uncertainty over Middle Eastern supplies has increased the importance of alternative sources, Ritolia said.

A significant restriction on Russian oil could therefore tighten global balances rather than simply redirect existing trade flows.

India's dependence on Russian crude has surged since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, when Western sanctions and an exodus of European buyers left Mos-

cow offering deep discounts to Asian refiners. Russia supplied less than 100,000 barrels per day to India in 2021, or about 2.5% of its crude imports, according to the US Energy Information Administration. The volume rose to about 740,000 bpd in 2022 and nearly 1.8 million bpd in 2023, making Russia India's largest crude supplier with about 39% of imports that year.

The dependence has since grown further. Kpler data show Indian refiners imported a record 2.8 million bpd of Russian crude in

July 2026, accounting for about 55.5% of total crude imports of just over 5 million bpd. That compares with roughly 1.8 million bpd on average in 2024, according to Kpler-based data.

Ritolia said Russian crude has become an important supply hedge for Indian refiners, reducing their exposure to disruptions along traditional Middle Eastern supply routes.

This reliance became particularly evident during the recent period of heightened Middle East supply risks, when the US provided temporary sanctions flexibility that allowed Russian barrels to continue flowing to India, he said.

Replacing Russian crude at current volumes would be difficult, if

not impossible, in the short term, Ritolia said. A rapid curtailment of Russian supplies to India or other Asian buyers could therefore tighten global oil balances and put upward pressure on crude prices.

For India, the impact would extend beyond refinery procurement costs, potentially increasing the country's overall crude import bill, widening pressure on the current account and raising concerns over energy security.

The key question, Ritolia said, is not simply whether Russian barrels can be redirected to other buyers, but whether sufficient alternative supplies are available to replace them without further tightening the global market.

The measure still needs to clear the US House of Representatives and faces further legislative and administrative steps before it could take effect

INDIA HAS ATTRACTED THE MEGA PROJECTS; THE BIGGER CHALLENGE IS THE LOCAL SUPPLIER ECOSYSTEM

The missing manufacturing middle

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO/
NANDINI OZA/OJASVI
GUPTA/V NARAYANAN
Mumbai/Ahmedabad/New
Delhi/Chennai, August 9

INDIA'S MANUFACTURING AMBITIONS are getting bigger. Semiconductor fabs, battery gigafactories, electronics plants, data centres and renewable-energy projects are drawing billions of dollars in investment. But between these large anchor projects and India's millions of small manufacturers lies a much thinner layer of companies capable of supplying the sophisticated components, machinery, tooling and engineering systems they need.

That is emerging as the

THE GAP BENEATH THE MEGA-PROJECTS

■ Over 99% of registered enterprises are micro, while medium enterprises account for less than 0.05%

■ Mega projects need a deep domestic supplier base spanning precision components, machinery, cooling systems etc



■ Data centres, semiconductors, EVs and renewable energy are opening new opportunities for established manufacturers

■ The bigger prize is not just attracting mega factories, but building competitive domestic companies around them that can supply more of their machinery & components needs

missing middle in India's manufacturing push.

The imbalance is stark. Of the 92.4 million enterprises registered on the government's Udyam and Udyam

Assist platforms as of August 9, 91.9 million were micro enterprises, 541,000 were small and just 41,751 were medium enterprises, according to the Ministry of MSME's real-time

dashboard.

More than 99% of registered enterprises are therefore micro, while medium enterprises account for less than 0.05%—roughly 2,200 micro

enterprises for every medium one. The figures cover manufacturing, services and trading, not manufacturing alone, but they underline the scale of the graduation challenge. The dashboard separately lists 18.4 million registered manufacturing enterprises. And "medium" is not particularly large by official standards.

Experts say this thin middle matters because the economic gains from a new factory depend partly on the ecosystem that develops around it. A semiconductor fab, data centre or electric vehicle plant needs a long chain of suppliers making everything from cables, motors, gears and cooling systems to precision components, sensors, specialised materials

and testing equipment. The deeper that domestic ecosystem, the greater the potential for local value addition.

MSMEs already account for about 35.4% of India's manufacturing, 48.58% of exports and 31.1% of GDP, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26. The Survey identifies scaling up MSMEs, improving competitiveness, expanding market access and bridging the credit gap as key to India's industrial transformation.

Demand from the new investment cycle is creating opportunities, but relatively few companies have the scale and technological capability to capture them.

Continued on Page 11

The missing manufacturing middle

THERMAX CLOSED FY26 with a consolidated order book of ₹13,604 crore, up 27% year-on-year, while full-year order bookings rose 34.2% to ₹13,871 crore. Data centres accounted for about 2% of its order book at FY26-end but are becoming a growing opportunity.

"AI is reshaping industries while creating unprecedented demand for power, cooling and infrastructure. Thermax can participate across this value chain through power and heat recovery systems, absorption cooling, water treatment solutions and digital optimisation," said MD & CEO Ashish Bhandari.

Polycab is seeing a similar shift. Its annual report estimates cables can account for 8-10% of data-centre capex, compared with about 3% in conventional infrastructure. EV charging, renewable energy and semiconductor manufacturing are also identified as "sunrise sectors". Its Project Spring entails ₹6,000-8,000 crore of capex over five years to expand capacity.

Elecon Engineering, meanwhile, is benefiting from

demand for industrial gears used in machinery across new-age infrastructure. Its management has stressed "profitability over volume" as it moves towards higher-value engineered products.

At TD Power Systems, data centres and AI-led power demand are emerging as major growth catalysts, with generators and rotating electrical equipment needed to provide reliable power amid grid constraints. The company is expanding capacity and its product range to capture the opportunity. CG Power and Industrial Solutions is also positioned in this infrastructure layer.

Experts say closing that gap could determine how much India ultimately gains from the manufacturing investment boom

Chairman Vellayan Subbiah has described its transformers, switchgear and rail systems as "foundational" to India's infrastructure and energy transition.

Schaeffler India offers evidence of what deeper localisation can look like. CFO Hardevi Vazirani said localisation is close to 80%, while the company continues to invest in capacity. "We have capacities, but we need to use them in the right area and use them to our



strengths," she said. These companies represent one end of the emerging opportunity: established manufacturers with the balance sheets, technology and engineering capabilities to move into new supply chains. The harder challenge is creating many more such companies.

That becomes particularly visible in electronics and semiconductors, where gaps in the domestic supply chain remain significant. Brandworks founder Ishwar Kumhar said the next generation of technology must be "designed, engineered, and built in India". While the firm is expanding local manufacturing, critical inputs such as chips and sensors remain largely imported.

"Government schemes like PLI have played a meaningful

role in encouraging companies like ours to invest further in local manufacturing and localisation," Kumhar said, adding that the company is continuing to assess how to expand component-level manufacturing.

GX Group is targeting another gap through photonics. CEO Paritosh Prajapati said its partnership with SMART Photonics represents a shift from importing optical technology to exporting innovation. The company plans to invest ₹500 crore initially and eventually ₹3,000 crore in the ecosystem.

"Certain highly specialised inputs such as compound semiconductor wafers and specialty optical materials will continue to be sourced globally in the near term," Prajapati said.

For the millions of smaller

businesses below this layer, however, graduating into sophisticated suppliers requires capital, technology, skills, certification and the ability to deliver consistently at scale.

Finance remains one of the biggest constraints. Gujarat MSME expert Divyesh Ladva said cash flow is the biggest bottleneck. "You need proper infrastructure to earn revenue," he said, adding that several MSMEs struggle to meet banks' requirements despite financing schemes.

Experts say closing that gap could determine how much India ultimately gains from the manufacturing investment boom. Attracting an assembly plant or mega factory is only the first step. The larger prize comes when the machinery, components and engineering systems it needs are increasingly supplied by competitive companies operating around it—and when today's micro and small businesses are able to graduate into that supplier network.

The next phase of Atmanirbhar Bharat, therefore, is less about replacing every import than about building competitive depth. India has begun attracting the mega-projects. The harder task now is to build the industrial middle beneath them.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :10 August 2026	Page : 8

The resilience premium

India must build buffers without turning resilience into a cover for protectionism

FOR MUCH OF the past three decades, businesses and governments organised themselves around efficiency. Supply chains grew longer, inventories leaner, and production more concentrated wherever costs were lowest. Capital was allocated on the assumption that trade routes would remain open, energy supplies secure, and geopolitical disruptions episodic. That assumption has been tested repeatedly. The pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, disruptions in the Red Sea, tariff conflicts, and the latest hostilities in West Asia have shown that shocks are no longer exceptional events to be ridden out. They are becoming part of the operating environment. Resilience, therefore, can no longer be treated merely as insurance against unlikely events; it must be recognised as an economic asset.

India has experienced these vulnerabilities particularly sharply. More than 40% of its crude oil imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, leaving the economy exposed to disruption at one of the world's most sensitive choke-points. The latest tensions have pushed up crude prices and shipping and insurance costs, while putting pressure on the rupee. The consequences extend from imported inflation and a wider current account deficit to difficult fiscal choices. Elsewhere, restrictions involving technology, semiconductors, and critical minerals have revealed a different class of dependence. As economist Saumitra Bhaduri argued in these pages, the next chokehold may be technological rather than geographical. The cheapest supplier is not necessarily the cheapest if production stops when that supplier becomes unavailable.

That does not mean India should pursue self-sufficiency indiscriminately. Resilience must not become a convenient justification for protectionism. Attempting to manufacture everything domestically, regardless of comparative advantage, would raise costs, weaken competitiveness, and ultimately hurt exports. Nor does every company need multiple factories and warehouses merely to prepare for the worst. The objective should be diversification, not autarky. India needs multiple sources of energy, critical minerals, and strategic components; companies need alternative suppliers and logistics routes; and banks need diversified funding sources. Strategic reserves could also extend beyond crude oil to liquefied natural gas, fertilisers, critical minerals, and other essential inputs. Some redundancy that appears expensive in normal times can prove remarkably cheap during a crisis.

There is an opportunity in this shift. As global companies redesign supply chains around resilience rather than cost alone, India can position itself as an alternative manufacturing and services base. But it will capture this "resilience premium" only if it is itself seen as dependable. That requires reliable power, ports, and logistics, competitive tariffs, predictable taxation and regulation, and greater policy stability. Production-linked incentives can help create capacity, but subsidies cannot indefinitely compensate for weaknesses in the business environment. Resilience must extend to technology as well as critical public infrastructure should not rely exclusively on a single foreign technology provider or supply chain. The traditional trade-off between efficiency and resilience, therefore, needs recalibration. Eliminating every buffer may maximise returns in normal times but impose far larger costs when conditions change. Excessive redundancy, on the other hand, can destroy competitiveness and encourage rent-seeking. The task for policy-makers and corporate boards is to identify critical vulnerabilities and insure selectively against them. India cannot predict whether the next disruption will come through oil, trade, technology, climate, or geopolitics. It can, however, make itself better able to absorb the shock. In an increasingly disorderly world, resilience is no longer merely the price paid for safety. Properly designed, it can become a source of competitive advantage.

Refiners see cost spike as US cracks whip on Russia

Import costs to rise as Senate allows US president to impose tariffs up to 100%

Rituraj Baruah & Ramita Mishra
NEW DELHI

India's state-run oil refiners are bracing for higher crude procurement costs and tighter availability as they prepare to buy oil for delivery after September amid the prospect of steep tariffs by the US on countries importing Russian crude, two people aware of the development said.

"State-owned refiners have supplies tied up for the next 50 days, so an impact of the bill is not expected immediately," an executive with a refiner said, requesting anonymity.

"Tenders are likely to be floated around mid-August for supplies beyond September. That, however, needs to be seen as to what is the availability and also the pricing."

The concern follows the US Senate's passage of the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 on Friday, which will be taken up in the House of Representatives next month after the Congress returns from its summer recess.

The Act empowers the US president to impose tariffs of up to 100% on countries that are among the top five importers of Russian oil and gas, including China and



SANCTION STRESS

INDIA'S state-owned refiners kept supplies tied up for 50 days	TENDERS may be floated mid-Aug for supplies beyond Sep	INDIA'S oil import bill up 60% year-on-year to \$49.8 bn in Q1
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India, which is the world's third-largest oil importer and fourth-largest refiner. Russian crude accounts for about 48% of imports by India's state-run refiners.

India may fall back on West Asian crude if Russian oil is sanctioned, but the cost of the barrels which are coming in through the Suez Canal would be higher

because the route is longer, while elevated insurance premiums are also affecting shipments on routes outside the Strait of Hormuz due to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

A second person aware of developments said expensive spot purchases already account for 85% of India's crude imports due to the supply constraints.

"Supplies would be somehow secured as oil from Venezuela, the US, UAE and Oman are expected to come in, but pricing will be the key concern."

India's crude oil import bill has already surged 60% year-on-year to nearly \$49.8 billion in the April-June quarter, even as import volumes fell to around 60 million tonnes from 62.6 million tonnes a year ago, suggesting that higher prices rather than demand were the main driver of the increase.

With India importing nearly 90% of its crude oil requirement, every \$1 a barrel increase in crude prices adds about ₹18,000 crore to its annual import bill, underscoring the stakes for the world's third-largest oil importer. Brent crude was trading above \$80 a barrel on Friday, leaving refiners facing a relatively high price base even before any supply shock from sanctions.

Queries emailed to the Union ministry of petroleum and natural gas and the state-run refiners remained unanswered till press time.

Anisur Rahman, professor at the centre for West Asia studies at Jamia Millia Islamia University, said India's purchases of Russian

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Refiners brace for impact of sanctions

FROM PAGE 1

crude might fall if the sanctions are implemented.

"If India is compelled to reduce Russian oil purchases, it will have to buy oil from other countries at a higher price. However, because of India's diversified energy portfolio, it has some degrees of freedom," he said, adding that India should use diplomatic channels while seeking supplies from alternative sources.

Sumit Ritolia, senior manager for modelling at commodities and maritime tracking firm Kpler, said the Senate vote increased policy risk around Russian crude flows. However, it did not alter Kpler's near-term outlook for Indian or Chinese purchases as the US measures still faced legislative and administrative hurdles, and the eventual impact would depend on how aggressively the US administration chooses to implement them, including the use of exemptions or waivers.

India is particularly exposed because of its growing reliance on Russian barrels, Ritolia said. Russian crude has become an important supply hedge for Indian refiners, reducing their exposure to disruptions along traditional West Asian supply



For India, all of this can mean higher crude import costs. AFP

routes.

"Replacing Russian crude at current volumes would be challenging or impossible," he said, adding that a rapid curtailment of Russian flows to India or Asia could tighten global oil balances and push prices higher.

For India, that could mean higher crude import costs, a potentially wider current-account deficit and greater pressure on energy security, Ritolia said.

"The issue therefore is not simply whether Russian barrels can be redirected to other buyers, but whether enough alternative crude is available to replace them without tightening the global market further," Ritolia added.

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Hormus deal is elusive as Iran rejects US talks

Iran's foreign minister criticized what he called a US violations of an interim peace agreement

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The wait dragged on for an Iranian deal with Oman on the Strait of Hormuz, as the Islamic Republic's top envoy said direct talks with the US were currently impossible.

Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi, who said a pact to establish a temporary shipping route through the global energy chokepoint is "very close," on Sunday criticized what he described as US violations of a short-lived interim peace agreement signed in June.

"As long as the American violation of the memorandum of understanding continues and the US does not make amends for its violations, there is no possibility of resuming negotiations," Araghchi was cited as saying by state TV.

Tehran on Saturday upped the ante by renewing a hefty list of demands for Washington as conditions for a full reopening of Hormuz, indicating any immediate respite for oil and gas supplies may be limited.

The status of the Strait of Hormuz has become a key factor in the conflict the US and Israel launched on Iran in late February, and it's unclear how Washington will respond to any agreement. US President Donald Trump has demanded the resumption of open navigation for months, regularly threatening fresh attacks on Iran if it fails to reopen the waterway.

With a deal elusive, the situation in Middle East stayed volatile on Sunday. Iranian-backed Houthi rebels claimed they'd struck Saudi Aramco's Jizan oil refinery in the kingdom. Saudi authorities earlier reported a fire at the facility.

US vice president J.D. Vance the day before suggested there'd been recent progress in negotiations, but it's not clear if the final result will be satisfactory.

The question is whether Iran will be able "to give the things that are necessary for us to be happy, for us to feel like we've gotten what we need out of this particular engagement," he told *For News*.

Washington has repeatedly suggested it's part of negotiations over the management of Hormuz, which Iran disputes.

"Some intermediary countries are trying to re-establish the ground for negotiations," Araghchi was quoted as saying on Sunday. "At present, we are not negotiating with the US — the exchange of messages is taking place through intermediaries."

Oman, within whose territorial waters the strait also lies, said its talks with Iran were progressing in "a positive and constructive atmosphere." In a post on X, authorities called for a halt on actions in the strait to give space for diplomatic efforts.

Besides compensation, Tehran's demands include that the US lifts its naval blockade on Iranian ports, withdraws military forces from around Iran, removes sanctions and releases frozen assets, according to Muhammad Raghfar Zolghadr, a hardliner who heads the supreme national security council.

Traffic through the chokepoint has been largely blocked since the start of the war, but some ships have continued



Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said exchange of messages with US is taking place through intermediaries. AFP

expected to clear the way for the restoration of millions of barrels of supply from the Persian Gulf.

Tensions have flared in the southern Red Sea in recent weeks, with the Houthi rebels in Yemen announcing a blockade on Saudi Arabia's ports, a key alternative export route for the kingdom's oil.

The Houthis on Sunday claimed they'd struck the Jizan refinery with a drone in response to Saudi moves in Yemeni airspace.

The Saudi energy ministry earlier said a fire there was extinguished and no one had been injured, without giving any details on the cause. Saudi Aramco wasn't immediately available to comment.

The blaze would be at least the second in the past month at the Aramco facility. Satellite images showed a fire at a tank in the 400,000 barrel-a-day complex in late July after the Houthis claimed to have attacked.

Any Hormuz deal will need the approval of Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, who hasn't been seen in public since the start of the war. Iranian officials have said it takes time to reach him. There's been no indication whether Khamenei has given his assent to current plans.

Months of conflict have left thousands of people dead, mainly in Iran, and are shaking up security arrangements across the region.

Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a trilateral defense agreement on Friday that commits each country to jointly retaliate to any outside threat posed against any one of them.

The pact is seen as a broader strategic alliance between the three countries, and not meant to replace other existing agreements, according to people familiar with the matter.

Finalizing the deal in the Saudi city of Mocc, Islam's holiest site, likely represents the three countries' vision of a Middle Eastern order overseen by a grouping of the region's Sunni Muslim-majority nations.

to ferry cargoes as part of a shuttle program involving US military help.

As talks stretch on, shippers are attempting to make the crossing face ongoing risks.

Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. said missiles targeted one of its vessels while transiting early Saturday, the United Arab Emirates' state-run WAM news

agency reported. The attack caused no injuries and the situation has been brought under control, it added. Three other ships from the UAE's biggest oil producer were attacked last week.

Oil prices swung between gains and losses last week, with Brent eventually settling above \$83 a barrel as traders weighed the prospects of a deal that's

Publication : Mint	Editions : New Delhi
Date :10 August 2026	Page : 8

Cuba is low on oil. Now, it's counting on solar, with China's help.

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Cuba is running short of fuel, but not sunshine. As the Caribbean island's energy crisis has deepened, Chinese-provided solar panels have popped up across the country, offering an unlikely bright spot for a power grid plagued by fuel shortages, crumbling infrastructure and near-daily blackouts.

At least 41 midsize and 18 smaller-scale solar parks have been built over the past two years, according to RenewAtlas, a database that tracks solar developments and satellite imagery. The government said in 2024 that they plan to build 92 midsize parks by 2028.

The solar push accelerated after a series of nationwide

blackouts in 2024, in part because Cuba's imports of crude oil from Venezuela collapsed, said Ricardo Torres Pérez, a Cuban economist at American University.

But in a cruel twist, Cubans are still spending much of their days without electricity despite the surge in new solar capacity. The island's 10 million residents have suffered

the most daily power outages as fuel supplies have dwindled, a crisis that worsened after the Trump administration blocked nearly all energy shipments to Havana in late January.

The new solar parks could generate around 1,000 megawatts of capacity when operating at peak output, nearly five times what was previously installed and almost one-third of the country's typical peak

demand of about 3,200 megawatts.

Solar now meets about 10% of the nation's power needs, up from 3% at the beginning of last year, the government said.

While it is unclear how much Havana is paying for the new construction, China appears to be the main source of equipment.

Beijing, the manufacturer of about 80% of the world's solar panels, sent Cuba \$17 million worth of equipment in 2025, up from \$3 million in 2023, according to customs data. China has also sent more battery storage units this year, according to the data.

Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz has said the projects were partially financed with nickel revenues.

The government's 2026 economic plan notes 320 megawatts worth of donated solar panels from China. Vietnam



Cuba's import-dependent grid was in a fragile state even before the U.S. cut off Venezuelan oil.

REUTERS

"China gets a lot of goodwill brownie points throughout the region with what they're doing with Cuba," said Jorge Piñón, who studies Cuban energy at the University of Texas.

Though the new solar capacity is a welcome addition, it has done little to ease Cuba's chronic energy problems.

Since fuel shipments and domestic oil production have declined for

years, Cuba's import-dependent grid was in a fragile state even before the U.S. cut off Venezuelan oil and threatened sanctions on countries supplying Havana with fuel.

Cuba said in May that it ran out of fuel reserves. The Trump administration has

since allowed some fuel shipments for private companies on the island.

The island's energy infrastructure is also in poor shape. Fossil-fuel power plants have deteriorated over the past few decades,

decreasing output. Power lines have degraded, causing the loss of about 16% of the grid's electricity, according to research by

Torres. The government is insolvent and unable to upgrade the grid.

The aging grid has also hampered the new solar parks. The country is only using a fraction of the solar capacity it has deployed because it lacks enough battery storage to manage the fluctuations

inherent in solar power, the

Cuban energy minister said in April. One battery was installed in July and three more are planned, according to state media.

Besides utility-scale projects, many families and organizations have installed rooftop solar systems. China, Spain and other nations have donated thousands of panels for individual buildings. But the additions have yet to make a meaningful dent in the crisis.

There have been at least six nationwide blackouts this year, with countless localized dayslong power outages. Failing living conditions have sparked protests across the country.

"Without the solar parks, the blackouts would be even worse," said Torres. "But the reality is they've worsened nonetheless."

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Why This Trump Oil Tariff is Zzz

Russian oil imports can be easily dialled down

A bill passed by overwhelming majority in the US Senate to impose 100% tariffs on the top 5 buyers of Russian oil doesn't pose an immediate disruption to India's energy supplies. The bill is still some way from becoming law, and New Delhi has ramped up its diplomatic initiatives since Russia's war on Ukraine to diversify its oil and gas imports. India now imports oil from a wider basket of oil-producing nations and has adequate buying heft to scale up purchases from alternative sources. Traditional suppliers in West Asia will find it easier to fulfil short-haul tanker deliveries to India as they emerge from a prolonged closure of the Hormuz Strait. Long-term buying commitments from India can help seed investments in energy infrastructure by smaller oil-producing nations in Africa and South America. The share of Russian supplies in India's oil imports grew at breakneck pace. This provides some indication how rapidly these can be dialled down.



The US, however, will face a far more complex situation in ensuring global oil prices don't surge on account of its additional weaponisation. Sanctions, aimed at the top 5 importers, will allow Russian oil to flow to smaller buyers. Opec has been struggling to enforce production quotas, and the UAE's withdrawal from the oil-producing cartel highlights rising conflicts with national interest. Conflicts like those in West Asia and Europe, and ensuing sanctions, contribute to divergence of investment from production capacity in Opec states. Trump will have to use the extra strategic muscle provided in the bill with caution.

He's already facing a pushback from Nato allies over disrupting oil trade. Those effects could magnify if China and India were to draw from the same oil well as Europe. Trump has used tariffs against India and threats against China for buying Russian oil even before Congress gave him the authority. Tariffs against India were withdrawn, and the threat to China was not acted upon. A piece of paper allowing the action should not change the situation on the ground.

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :10 August 2026	Page : 10

Oil, Hormuz tensions put Indian stocks on edge

Crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions in West Asia and key inflation data are expected to drive Indian equities this week, analysts said.

Attention will remain on the Strait of Hormuz after Iran's Supreme National Security Council set new conditions for its full reopening. Council secretary Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr said on Saturday that the strait would remain closed until Washington "corrects its behaviour", according to Iran's state broadcaster.

Investors will also track India's July CPI and WPI inflation data, US inflation readings and quarterly earnings. Last week, the Sensex gained 404.53 points, while the Nifty advanced 187 points, despite volatility and uncertainties weighing on sentiment. Market pundits expect volatility to persist as investors assess global cues, energy prices and domestic economic indicators before taking fresh positions.

—FPJ News Service

India unlikely to curb Russian oil purchase despite US threat

FIRM STANCE. Delhi signals little appetite to sacrifice energy, defence ties with Moscow

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

India is unlikely to rein in crude oil purchases from Russia, its largest oil supplier, despite mounting pressure from Washington, with the US Senate overwhelmingly passing a sanctions Bill empowering President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on imports from the top buyers of Russian oil and gas, sources said.

The legislation puts India, the second-largest buyer of Russian crude after China, directly in the line of fire. But New Delhi is expected to stay the course, not allowing its energy security and strategic ties with Russia to be dictated by external pressure, sources noted.

UNFAZED BY PRESSURE

"India has long-enduring ties with Russia, and its defence and energy relationship is deeply entrenched. It cannot simply be given up under external pressure," a person tracking the matter told *businessline*.

Despite tariff sanctions initiated in the US Senate, India imported a record 2.78



KEY PARTNER

- India imported a record 2.78 million barrels per day (mbd) of Russian crude in July
- Russian oil made up over 50% of India's total crude oil imports
- India's overall crude imports stood at 4.96 mbd during the month

million barrels per day (mbd) of Russian crude in July 2026, according to industry data. Against overall crude imports of 4.96 mbd by India during the month, Moscow accounted for more than half of its total oil buys.

"India's oil import data in July 2026 show that inflows from Russia touched a record high despite the US Senate advancing the sanctions Bill. This gives a fair idea about what the government has in mind and its unwillingness to curtail its ties with Moscow," the source said. Moreover, the passing

of the sanctions Bill, officially the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, would not immediately translate into action as it still has to clear the US House of Representatives. Also, the tariff would not be automatic.

"The legislation gives the President the authority to impose tariffs on top oil importers from Russia and does not automatically result in its imposition. There are already many voices in the US against the Bill, arguing that more duties on China and India would further raise

domestic prices. We need to wait and see what happens," another source said.

New Delhi had moderated its oil purchases from Russia for a brief period last year after the Trump administration, on August 27, 2025, imposed 25 per cent duties on Indian imports.

IMPORT SURGE

However, crude imports from Moscow continued robustly through the year despite the tariffs, with shipments valued at \$40.82 billion accounting for about 30 per cent of the country's overall crude purchases in financial year 2025-26.

The US penal tariffs for Russian oil purchase were subsequently dropped on February 7, 2026, following the announcement of a framework interim trade deal by India and the US.

"India has a lot going with the US, including work on a bilateral trade pact. It has increased its energy imports from the US substantially. Imposing high tariffs on Indian goods is not a good idea for the American consumers as well. One must wait for the situation to develop without any knee-jerk reactions," sources said.

India adds over 16 GW RE in April-June

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

India added roughly 16.12 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity in April-June 2026, a 67.8 per cent y-o-y growth, with Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat accounting for more than half of the additions.

GUJARAT LEADS

Among the large States with an installed renewable energy capacity of around 10 GW or more, Gujarat led the capacity additions in the second quarter of the current calendar year with 4.43 GW, followed by Rajasthan (2.51 GW) and Uttar Pradesh (1.69 GW). Together, the States accounted for more than 53 per cent of the total RE capacity added in the last quarter. Utility scale solar was the driver of capacity additions in Q2, with Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu ac-

Renewable energy capacity additions by large States* (megawatt - mw)

	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026
Uttar Pradesh	105	340	79	365	1,688
Gujarat	4,148	2,571	2,630	4,635	4,428
Rajasthan	3,735	2,613	2,161	4,512	2,509
Madhya Pradesh	452	365	249	329	368
Maharashtra	1,911	3,362	2,661	1,714	1,105
Andhra Pradesh	1,358	504	859	1,145	621
Karnataka	613	970	484	739	600
Tamil Nadu	507	840	524	1,995	668

*States with installed RE capacity of 10,000 MW or more

Source: IEEFA

counting for the most monthly utility-scale solar installations. Data compiled by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) showed that the cumulative q-o-q additions fell by over 15 per cent in Q2.

"Uttar Pradesh recorded the largest q-o-q increase in renewable energy capacity additions in Q2 2026, with installations rising 1.32 GW compared to Q1 2026," the institute noted.

Madhya Pradesh was the only other large State to record an increase, with capacity additions rising by 38.4 MW. Capacity additions fell for the remaining States this quarter, particularly for Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, which saw significant increases in Q1 2026, it added.

HYDRO POWER

Large hydro power was the only generation source to record an increase in net capacity additions of about 30 per

cent in the quarter. Solar remained the dominant source of new capacity, having contributed 73.8 per cent of the total net additions in Q2, despite a 17.7 per cent q-o-q decline from the record commissioning levels in Q1 2026, IEEFA pointed out.

WIND CAPACITY

While wind capacity additions remained stable at about 1.48 GW each quarter since Q2 2025, coal capacity additions declined by 4.8 per cent q-o-q, it added. Gujarat and Maharashtra recorded the highest wind capacity additions, further boosting renewable capacity. "However, the expiry of the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charge waiver could encourage developers to locate projects closer to demand centres, resulting in a more even distribution of future capacity additions across States rather than continued concentration in a few States," IEEFA explained.

● HUB IN THE MAKING

Kerala's new maritime goals



PAUL ANTONY

The announcement that Kerala will pursue a port-led growth strategy is a welcome step, but its success will depend on the creation of a comprehensive maritime ecosystem rather than merely expanding port infrastructure for cargo loading and unloading.

Singapore offers the best model for Kerala to emulate. Beyond cargo handling, it has built a global maritime hub around bunkering or fuelling of ships (around 45 million tonnes), freshwater supply, supply of ship stores (victualling), waste collection, ship repair, supply of spare parts, crew changes and other marine services. These activities generate enormous employment and are supported by a seamless regulatory environment and a large fleet of barges providing ship-to-ship services. Supplying ships through barges on the seas saves the ships the time and effort needed to travel to the harbour, including port clearances and other formalities.

Cumbersome customs and immigration procedures in India, on the other hand, reduce our agility significantly. India imposes 5 per cent GST on bunkering, which forces our oil marketing companies to sell fuel oil in bulk to Singapore, which then does the higher-value retail bunkering to ships.

Kochi is well-placed to emulate the Singapore model. Access to high-quality bunker fuel from Kochi Refinery and world-class repair facilities at Cochin Shipyard give it the basic ingredients for a maritime services hub.

Similar capabilities can be developed at Vizhinjam through the public-private partnership model.

These measures, however, require strong support from the Central government through reforms in taxation, procedures and maritime regulations. Encouragingly, the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 identifies the Cochin-Vizhinjam port cluster as a strategic national hub, providing the



BIZ BEYOND CARGO. Vizhinjam transshipment container port BLOOMBERG

policy foundation for coordinated action between the Centre and Kerala. The Kerala government invested around ₹6,000 crore in the Vizhinjam project, but it cannot afford to fund more such projects.

The Gujarat Maritime Board has developed Mundra, Pipavav, Hazira and Dahej ports through a model where the concessionaire created the port infrastructure. GMB earns around ₹1,700 crore a year from these ventures. Kerala must follow the Gujarat model for future port projects.

VIABILITY

However, Gujarat has the advantage of tapping the vast north Indian hinterland for cargo. Future port projects in Kerala will have no such benefit. Moreover, coastal navigation becomes difficult during the monsoon. Given these constraints, there may be limited potential for major investments in newer ports on Kerala's coastline.

On the other hand, there is significant potential in developing inland waterways in Kerala for freight, passenger traffic and tourism. For instance, it is estimated that 180-220 tanker trucks transport petroleum products daily from Kochi to Thiruvananthapuram, while 120-160 more trucks operate on the Kochi-Kozhikode route.

Diverting a substantial portion of this traffic to waterways would reduce congestion on the National Highways, lower pollution and improve road safety.

The usage of National Waterway-3 needs to be promoted, begin-

ning with the already developed Kollam-Kottapuram stretch. The government should also push for the use of barges to transport hydrochloric acid between Travancore-Cochin Chemicals Ltd and Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited, and for the establishment of an HPCL oil depot at Chavara.

The NW-3's tourism potential needs to be harnessed too. A waterfront tourism project comprising a resort with boating facilities could be developed by a private operator. Besides privately owned land, the investor will require long-term leases for government land abutting the waterway and the assured use of the waterfront.

Approvals for the leases, waterfront tourism, jetties and related infrastructure should be issued through coordinated district-level clearances rather than at multiple State levels.

The government should ensure continuous dredging services, navigation aids and enforcement against obstructions.

With coordinated reforms, private investment, efficient regulation and modern waterways, Kerala can build a thriving maritime economy to generate thousands of jobs, strengthen logistics and transform the State.

The writer is former Chairman of the Cochin Port Authority and former Chief Secretary of Kerala

We value your feedback.
Do send your comments to
bl.logistics@thehindu.co.in



Building a cleaner future through bioenergy

World Biofuel Day highlights the growing role of renewable fuels in strengthening energy security and supporting a more sustainable economy.

OBSERVED every year on 10th August, World Biofuel Day draws attention to the potential of renewable fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The day is also known for the German inventor Sir Rudolf Diesel, whose early experiments showed the possibility of using vegetable oil to power engines. Years later, the idea has acquired renewed significance as countries look for a cleaner, more diverse and locally available source of energy.

Biofuels are usually produced from organic materials such as crops, agricultural residues, animal waste and other forms of biomass. Unlike fossil fuels, these resources can be replenished through natural and agricultural cycles. Ethanol, biodiesel, compressed biogas and sustainable aviation fuel are among the important forms of bioenergy gaining attention across the world.

Building a more diverse energy from within

For a changing economy like India, energy security is actively linked with economic security. This means reducing excessive dependency on imported fossil fuels, leading to strengthening the resilience of the energy system while supporting domestic sources of production. Biofuels offer an opportunity to diversify this energy basket by making greater use of resources that are already available within the country.

The agricultural sector in India at large offers considerable scope in this regard. Crop residues and other biomass that may be discarded or burned have the potential to become useful inputs for producing energy. This creates the possibility of addressing two challenges together—managing agricultural waste and generating cleaner fuel.

Adding new economic value to rural resources

A significant advantage of the biofuel economy is its potential to connect rural

communities with the country's clean-energy ambitions. Moreover, agricultural residues, cooking oil, cattle dung and other organic resources can acquire economic value when they enter organised supply chains. This can create additional avenues of income for farmers and rural enterprises while encouraging better management of biomass. The growth of biogas and compressed biogas projects can also support local economies by creating opportunities in collection, processing, transportation and plant operations.

Turning agricultural residues into opportunity

Biofuels play a significant role when it comes to making energy transitions more environmentally responsible. When produced from suitable feed-

stocks and through efficient processes, they can help reduce emissions over their lifecycle compared with conventional fossil fuels. They can also contribute to reducing the open burning of agricultural residues, a persistent challenge in several parts of the country.

However, the benefits of bioenergy depend on how responsibly it is developed. Ensuring sustainable access to feedstock, improving conversion technologies, and using land and water resources judiciously will be essential to building a biofuel ecosystem that delivers environmental gains without creating new ecological challenges.

Building the next chapter of biodiversity

The future of biofuels will depend on

innovation, investment and a reliable ecosystem connecting producers, farmers, industries and consumers. Several advances in technologies such as 2G ethanol and sustainable aviation fuel are expanding the range of materials that can be converted into useful energy.

World Biofuel Day therefore offers more than an occasion to discuss an alternative fuel. It highlights a broad shift in the way energy can be produced and consumed. By turning agricultural resources, organic waste and other renewable materials into valuable energy, biofuels can support a cleaner pathway that represents an opportunity to combine environmental responsibility with economic growth and rural development.

Biogas: Powering India's Sustainable and Energy-Secure Future

BIOGAS is a dependable renewable energy source that delivers clean, uninterrupted energy 24x7 throughout the year. India currently utilizes only about 10% of its biomass potential, leaving vast opportunities for growth. In addition to generating renewable energy, biogas supports the Swachh Bharat Mission, enhances soil health through organic manure, promotes a circular economy, creates rural employment, and significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Through Government of India initiatives such as NBMMP, BPGP, and SATAT, biogas is transforming dairy farms, poultry farms, gaushalas, temples, hotels, industries, townships, and urban local bodies while reducing dependence on imported LPG and fossil fuels.

GAJANAN PATIL
Managing Director
Urja Bio system Pvt. Ltd. - Pune

India's Biofuel Revolution: Fueling a Sustainable Future

INDIA is witnessing a remarkable biofuel revolution, with ethanol playing a pivotal role in reducing crude oil imports, lowering carbon emissions, and strengthening the nation's energy security. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India achieved 20% ethanol blending ahead of the 2025 target, marking a major step towards sustainable development. Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari has strongly advocated ethanol as a clean, affordable and farmer-friendly fuel. Universal Forces Industries Pvt. Ltd. (UFIL) is contributing to this transformation by developing advanced 1G and 2G ethanol plants, reducing production costs and supporting India's vision of a greener, self-reliant energy future.

PRADEEP DHOKARE
Owner, Universal Forces Industries Pvt. Ltd.



Publication : The Indian Express

Editions : New Delhi

Date :10 August 2026

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India achieves 300 GW RE capacity, 60% of 2030 target

New Delhi: India has achieved 300 GW, or 60% of its non-fossil fuel power generation capacity target of 500 GW, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said on Sunday.

In a major milestone for the nation's clean energy transition

and climate action targets, India has crossed 300 GW of non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity generation capacity as on July 31, 2026; over 60% of the 500 GW capacity targeted to be achieved by 2030, a ministry statement said. **PTI**

Kejriwal escalates attack on E20 petrol, warns of economic fallout as buyers turn to EVs, CNG

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, 9 August

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday renewed his criticism of the Centre's E20 petrol policy, warning that growing uncertainty among consumers could have wider repercussions for the automobile market and the economy.

Kejriwal's latest remarks followed a post on X claiming that petrol-powered vehicles were accumulating at dealerships as consumers increasingly preferred compressed natural gas (CNG) and electric vehicles amid concerns over the use of petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol.

"People have stopped buying petrol cars. Govt should reverse its ethanol policy. Else it will hurt economy very badly," Kejriwal said in his post.

The former Delhi chief minister has made opposition to E20 petrol a major political issue for the AAP in recent weeks. The party stepped up its campaign earlier this week, with Kejriwal leading a march towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

KEJRIWAL'S LATEST REMARKS FOLLOWED A POST ON X CLAIMING THAT PETROL-POWERED VEHICLES WERE ACCUMULATING AT DEALERSHIPS AS CONSUMERS INCREASINGLY PREFERRED COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES AMID CONCERNS OVER THE USE OF PETROL BLENDED WITH 20 PER CENT ETHANOL.

residence to submit petitions opposing the policy.

The march was stopped by Delhi Police before the delegation could meet the Prime Minister. Kejriwal, accompanied by around 100 people whom the AAP described as being affected by the policy, staged a brief sit-in after being denied permission to proceed to the Prime Minister's residence. Police subsequently took custody of the petitions. The AAP said the delegation had collected 2,33,238 petitions from citizens across the country and that these were handed over to the authorities for transmission to the Prime Minister.

Following the protest, Kejriwal alleged that the government



had ignored repeated requests for a meeting on the issue. He claimed the party had sought an appointment with the Prime Minister nearly a month earlier but had received no response.

Kejriwal has also questioned the technical and economic rationale behind E20 petrol. He has claimed that the government had acknowledged in Parliament that ethanol blending could affect fuel efficiency and certain engine components, particularly rubber parts in vehicles.

"If mileage is reducing and engines are being damaged, why is it being imposed?" he had asked, questioning the Centre's decision to move ahead with higher ethanol blending.

Online

Headline	Garden Reach Shipbuilders wins Rs 1,032cr ONGC order as commercial shipbuilding push gathers pace August 10, 2026		
Publication	Business News Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	10 Aug 2026		

Garden Reach Shipbuilders wins Rs 1,032cr ONGC order as commercial shipbuilding push gathers pace August 10, 2026

<http://business-news-today.com/garden-reach-shipbuilders-wins-rs-1032cr-ongc-order-as-commercial-shipbuilding-push-gathers-pace/>

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers has won a 1,032.07 crore ONGC order for four Platform Supply Vessels, adding a significant offshore-energy contract as GRSE expands beyond its defence-heavy order book. Share this: Share on Facebook (Opens in new window) Facebook Share on X (Opens in new window) X Print (Opens in new window) Print Email a link to a friend (Opens in new window) Email Share on LinkedIn (Opens in new window) LinkedIn Share on Reddit (Opens in new window) Reddit Share on Tumblr (Opens in new window) Tumblr Share on Pinterest (Opens in new window) Pinterest Share on Telegram (Opens in new window) Telegram Share on Threads (Opens in new window) Threads Share on WhatsApp (Opens in new window) WhatsApp

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (NSE: GRSE) has secured a 1,032.07 crore contract from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited for the construction of four Platform Supply Vessels, giving the state-owned shipbuilder another substantial foothold outside its traditional naval defence business. The contract, awarded through a Notification of Award dated July 30, 2026, includes GST and is scheduled for completion within 48 months. The timing is significant because Garden Reach Shipbuilders has entered FY27 with sharply higher revenue and profit while simultaneously widening its exposure to commercial vessels, research ships, ferries and other non-defence platforms. The central question is therefore not whether the ONGC order is material, but whether GRSE can convert a widening commercial pipeline into a durable second growth engine without diluting the execution strength that has powered its defence shipbuilding business.

The four vessels will support offshore oil and gas operations by transporting equipment, supplies and other material required by installations at sea. The disclosed contract value works out at approximately 258 crore per vessel, although the 1,032.07 crore headline includes GST and should not be treated as revenue that will be recognised immediately. Execution is spread across four years, making delivery cadence, milestone billing and project margins more important than the headline order value alone. For GRSE, however, the strategic value is broader because the award places a Ministry of Defence-controlled shipyard deeper into the offshore-energy vessel market through a contract with one of India's largest energy companies.

Why does the 1,032 crore ONGC order matter for Garden Reach Shipbuilders beyond its headline value?

The contract is substantial enough to influence GRSE's future commercial shipbuilding mix without fundamentally changing the scale of the company by itself. Garden Reach Shipbuilders finished FY26 with an order book of 15,324.13 crore, covering nine projects and 39 platforms, according to management's May earnings discussion. Against that historical year-end reference point, the ONGC award is equivalent to roughly 6.7% of the order book, although the comparison is indicative rather than directly accounting-compatible because the new contract value includes GST and the order book has continued changing as vessels are delivered and new contracts are added.

More important is the nature of the customer and vessel type. Garden Reach Shipbuilders built its modern scale around warships for the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard, but management has deliberately expanded into commercial shipbuilding categories including multi-purpose vessels, research vessels, ferries, tugs and dredgers. An ONGC order moves that diversification into offshore energy logistics, where vessel requirements are tied to exploration, production, maintenance and supply activity rather than naval procurement cycles. This does not remove GRSE's dependence on government-linked customers, since both Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation remain state-controlled enterprises, but it broadens the economic activity supporting the shipyard's workload.

The Platform Supply Vessel contract also provides GRSE with an additional reference project in a segment that could become more important if India seeks to increase domestic ship ownership and construction. Platform Supply Vessels require specialised offshore capabilities, and industry reporting on the ONGC programme indicates that the vessels are expected to incorporate hybrid propulsion architecture using electrically driven azimuth thrusters and lithium-ion battery energy storage for peak-load management. That specification creates a more technically interesting project than

conventional low-complexity commercial fabrication and potentially strengthens GRSE's credentials when competing for future offshore and lower-emission vessel programmes.

Can commercial shipbuilding become a meaningful second business alongside GRSE's defence order book?

Garden Reach Shipbuilders is not abandoning defence, nor would that be economically logical given the scale of prospective Indian naval procurement. The more interesting strategy is to use defence-derived design, integration and shipyard capabilities to increase utilisation across a broader range of vessels. Management said in May that its FY26-end order book included defence programmes such as the remaining Project 17A frigate, Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft and Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels alongside research vessels, hybrid ferries, multi-purpose vessels and a dredger.

This portfolio mix addresses one of the structural challenges facing specialist defence manufacturers: large military contracts can be valuable but irregular. Commercial and government civilian vessel projects can fill production slots between major defence awards, widen engineering experience and create export credentials that would be harder to develop from naval work alone. Garden Reach Shipbuilders has already been pursuing multi-purpose vessel orders, research ships and green-vessel opportunities, while the ONGC contract adds offshore support vessels to that progression.

The commercial strategy nevertheless needs to be judged on economics rather than contract count. GRSE management acknowledged earlier in 2026 that some previous orders had been accepted at relatively low margins when the company was seeking market entry or production continuity. Management also indicated that, having established stronger positions in defence and commercial shipbuilding, it did not intend future order-book expansion to come at the expense of healthy margins. That makes the ONGC project particularly useful as a future test because a billion-rupee-plus order should eventually provide investors with evidence about whether commercial diversification can contribute earnings as well as workload.

The 48-month execution period also limits the temptation to treat the entire contract as an immediate earnings catalyst. Shipbuilding revenue is normally recognised through stages of execution rather than on contract signing, and the exchange disclosure did not provide a detailed annual revenue schedule or project margin. The ONGC order therefore strengthens visibility, but FY27 earnings will still depend principally on the pace of work across GRSE's much broader project portfolio.

How do GRSE's Q1 FY27 results change the financial context around the ONGC vessel contract?

Garden Reach Shipbuilders entered the new contract from a position of accelerating operating activity. For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, revenue reached 1,814.62 crore, up 38.53% from 1,309.87 crore in the comparable quarter, while profit after tax increased 43.83% to 172.84 crore from 120.18 crore. The numbers suggest that GRSE's current investment case is already being driven by execution of the existing book rather than relying solely on expectations of future defence awards.

The profit growth slightly outpaced revenue growth during the quarter, a constructive signal even though a single quarter cannot establish the sustainable margin profile of a multi-year shipbuilding cycle. Net profit represented roughly 9.5% of revenue, broadly consistent with the comparable period, meaning the headline earnings acceleration primarily reflected higher activity rather than a dramatic change in profitability. That distinction matters when considering the ONGC contract because the value creation from a larger commercial portfolio will ultimately depend on GRSE preserving acceptable margins while production volumes rise.

GRSE also reported its highest-ever turnover during FY26, with annual turnover reaching about 6,400 crore compared with 5,076 crore in the preceding year. The company delivered multiple naval vessels during that period, demonstrating that the fall in its order book from earlier levels was partly a consequence of accelerated execution rather than simply weak order inflows. Management explicitly described the reduction below 20,000 crore as evidence of faster execution, which reframes the order-book debate: GRSE now needs fresh wins not because the operating engine has stalled, but because successful delivery is consuming previously secured backlog.

That makes the ONGC contract useful at precisely the right point in the cycle. A shipbuilder that is accelerating revenue recognition needs continuing replenishment if it wants to avoid a future gap after major naval projects mature. The 1,032.07 crore contract alone will not replace every defence programme moving toward completion, but it adds another source of work while larger naval opportunities remain under competition or procurement.

Why is order-book replenishment becoming increasingly important as GRSE accelerates ship deliveries?

Garden Reach Shipbuilders' FY26-end order book of 15,324.13 crore was materially below the 22,680.75 crore reported a year earlier, but the decline needs to be read alongside the company's record turnover and vessel delivery schedule. GRSE has been moving through high-value programmes including Project 17A frigates and Anti-Submarine Warfare

Shallow Water Craft, while continuing construction of Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels and multiple non-defence platforms. In other words, backlog consumption has been accompanied by higher revenue conversion.

The next stage of the investment case therefore depends on simultaneously maintaining execution and rebuilding backlog. Management has discussed a large pipeline of potential naval opportunities, but competitive procurement means expected programmes cannot be treated as secured revenue until contracts are formally awarded. GRSE itself has emphasised that major domestic orders are increasingly competitive rather than automatically allocated to a particular government shipyard.

That competitive environment increases the strategic value of ONGC and other civilian customers. Every commercial contract makes GRSE slightly less dependent on the timing of a particular naval request for proposal, while also creating another production stream capable of absorbing yard capacity. The company is expanding simultaneous shipbuilding capability, with management indicating that capacity could reach around 35 vessels by the end of calendar 2026 as additional facilities become operational. Higher capacity only creates economic value, however, if GRSE can keep those facilities filled with profitable contracts.

There is consequently a useful tension emerging between capacity and backlog. Garden Reach Shipbuilders has more infrastructure and faster execution capability than it did several years ago, but faster execution also means contracts roll out of backlog more quickly. Sustaining revenue growth therefore requires a correspondingly stronger cadence of order wins. ONGC helps close that gap, while larger prospective defence awards would have a much greater impact if converted.

What does the GRSE share price suggest investors think about the new ONGC contract and future order pipeline?

Garden Reach Shipbuilders shares closed at 2,599 on the National Stock Exchange on August 7, the final trading session before August 10. The stock had closed at 2,601.20 on July 31, leaving it essentially flat over the intervening five trading sessions despite the ONGC order entering the public narrative. Compared with 2,695.30 on July 7, the shares were down roughly 3.6% over one month.

The muted movement is itself informative. GRSE closed at 2,582.70 on August 3, when the ONGC contract was attracting wider market attention, down 0.71% for that session. The shares subsequently recovered to 2,599 by August 7, helped by a 3.67% rise on August 6, but the overall period did not produce a sustained contract-driven rerating. That does not imply investors viewed the contract negatively. It suggests that a 1,032 crore award, while substantial, is being assessed within a company whose valuation already reflects expectations of large defence and commercial order opportunities.

The valuation context reinforces that interpretation. GRSE's 2,599 closing price compared with a recent 52-week range of approximately 1,963.70 to 3,339, leaving the stock about 22% below its 52-week high but roughly 32% above the low. Market capitalisation stood near 29,772 crore based on the August 7 closing price. The shares are therefore neither trading at their recent peak nor at deeply depressed levels, leaving room for sentiment to respond to future orders while also requiring substantial execution to support the valuation already embedded in the stock.

The market reaction also illustrates why order quality matters more than simply accumulating announcements. Investors have already seen evidence of strong Q1 earnings, capacity expansion and a sizeable procurement pipeline. A larger rerating would likely require either exceptionally significant new defence contracts, sustained earnings growth, stronger visibility on margins from the commercial portfolio or a combination of those factors.

Can ONGC help Garden Reach Shipbuilders build an offshore-energy vessel franchise rather than a one-off project?

This is ultimately the more valuable question. Garden Reach Shipbuilders already possesses substantial ship-design, systems-integration and project-management capabilities, but commercial success requires repeat orders, competitive cost structures and delivery records that translate across customers. Completing four Platform Supply Vessels for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation could provide an important domestic reference for future offshore-support tenders, particularly if the vessels meet schedule, technical and lifecycle-performance requirements.

The project also sits at an intersection of two policy priorities: expansion of Indian shipbuilding capacity and greater domestic capability supporting offshore energy infrastructure. That creates strategic relevance, but policy support cannot substitute for commercial performance. The most valuable outcome for GRSE would not merely be recognition of 1,032 crore over four years, but evidence that the project allows the shipyard to compete repeatedly for offshore-support vessels and adjacent commercial categories.

There is also potential technological spillover. Hybrid propulsion, battery-assisted peak-load management and electrically driven thrusters are increasingly relevant across specialised vessels as operators seek fuel efficiency and lower emissions. Experience gained through the ONGC programme could therefore complement GRSE's work in electric ferries and other green-vessel categories, helping the company build capabilities that are applicable beyond a single customer.

That upside remains an execution thesis rather than an assured outcome. Commercial vessel markets can be competitive, pricing discipline matters, and international shipyards possess significant scale advantages. GRSE must show that the engineering capability developed through defence programmes can be translated into commercially attractive delivery economics.

What would confirm that GRSE's commercial diversification strategy is creating durable shareholder value?

The strongest evidence would come from several indicators moving together. GRSE would need to continue converting its existing backlog into revenue at the pace demonstrated in FY26 and Q1 FY27, replenish that backlog through sizeable new awards, preserve margins as the share of commercial projects increases and complete newly won programmes without material schedule deterioration. The ONGC order contributes to the replenishment element, but the remaining tests will unfold over several reporting periods.

A second proof point will be the composition of future order inflows. Large naval awards would reinforce GRSE's core defence franchise, while additional ONGC-type commercial contracts would show that diversification is becoming repeatable rather than opportunistic. The most attractive scenario is not defence being replaced by commercial shipbuilding, but both verticals scaling alongside each other so that GRSE can use expanding capacity more consistently.

The company begins that test from a stronger operational position than the falling headline order-book figure alone suggests. Record FY26 turnover and double-digit Q1 FY27 growth demonstrate that previously secured orders are moving through production, while management's expansion plans point toward greater physical capacity. The strategic challenge is now straightforward: GRSE needs the order pipeline to grow fast enough to match the shipyard's improving ability to execute.

The 1,032.07 crore ONGC contract therefore matters less as four additional ships than as evidence of where Garden Reach Shipbuilders is trying to take the business. If the company can turn offshore support vessels, research ships, multi-purpose vessels, green vessels and exports into repeatable profitable verticals while continuing to capture major naval programmes, GRSE could evolve from a predominantly defence-driven shipyard into a broader maritime manufacturing platform. If commercial orders remain sporadic or carry weaker margins, defence procurement will continue to dominate the earnings thesis.

Key takeaways from Garden Reach Shipbuilders' 1,032 crore ONGC vessel contract

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited has received a 1,032.07 crore ONGC order to construct four Platform Supply Vessels.

The contract was awarded on July 30, 2026 and is scheduled for completion within 48 months.

The disclosed 1,032.07 crore value includes GST, so it should not be interpreted as immediate recognised revenue.

The ONGC contract expands GRSE's commercial shipbuilding exposure into offshore-energy support vessels.

GRSE reported Q1 FY27 revenue of 1,814.62 crore, up 38.53%, while profit after tax increased 43.83% to 172.84 crore.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders ended FY26 with an order book of 15,324.13 crore after accelerating execution and vessel deliveries.

Commercial orders can help diversify production away from exclusive dependence on the timing of large naval procurement programmes.

GRSE closed at 2,599 on August 7, with the share price essentially flat from its July 31 level despite the ONGC award.

The next major test is whether GRSE can replenish backlog through both defence and commercial contracts while preserving project margins.

Repeat offshore, commercial and green-vessel orders would provide stronger evidence that GRSE is building a sustainable second growth engine beyond defence.

Headline	रूस और वेनेजुएला के जरिए पक्की की जाएगी देश की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा,होर्मुज में तनाव के बीच भारत का जानें प्लान B ...		
Publication	Hasde Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	9 Aug 2026		

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<https://hasdeoexpress.com/?p=121686>

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

रूस के उप विदेश मंत्री आंद्रेई रुडेको ने हाल ही में बताया कि भारत आर्कटिक क्षेत्र में तेल-गैस विकास और नॉर्डन सी रूट में सहयोग बढ़ाने में गहरी रुचि दिखा रहा है।

एक तरफ भारत और रूस के बीच 2029 कर सहयोग कार्यक्रम तय है। दूसरी ओर, वेनेजुएला के नए कानून के तहत ONGC सैन क्रिस्टाबल और कारोबोबो- 1 तेल ब्लॉकों के परिचालन नियंत्रण का समझौता करने जा रही है। अब तक वेनेजुएला ने भारत को सीमित और सिर्फ पुराना फंसा लाभांश वसूलने के लिए ही कच्चा तेल मिल रहा था।

नए प्रावधानों से ओएनजीसी को अमेरिका पाबंदियों के कानूनी जोखिम के बिना सीधे कुओं के संचालन और नियमित तेल उत्पादन की पूरी छूट मिल गई है।

?आर्कटिक डील के फायदे

स्वेज मार्ग के मुकाबले चेन्नई-व्लादिवोस्तक रूट 5,600 किलोमीटर छोटा है। इस यात्रा में 16 दिन कम लगेंगे और 35% ईंधन बचेगा।

स्वेज नहर से न गुजरने के कारण 4.2 करोड़ रुपए तक का टोल बचेगा।

युद्ध क्षेत्र से बाहर होने के कारण अतिरिक्त बीमा भी नहीं देना पड़ेगा।

आर्कटिक के 20 नए बंदरगाहों के प्रबंधन का मौका मिलेगा।

?वेनेजुएला से डील के लाभ

यह रास्ता होर्मुज जैसे युद्ध प्रभावित संकरे समुद्री मार्गों से 100 प्रतिशत सुरक्षित है।

बाजार महंगा तेल खरीदने के बजाय कुओं से सीधे तेल निकालने पर 5 से 10 डॉलर प्रति बैरल की बचत होगी।

?आर्थिक मजबूती और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा महत्वपूर्ण

भारत द्वारा रूस से रिकॉर्ड मात्रा में तेल आयात करना केवल अनुकूल बाजार परिस्थितियों को ही नहीं दर्शाता है। यह एक व्यापक रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोण का संकेत है जिसमें आर्थिक मजबूती और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा बाहरी राजनीतिक दबावों से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है।

वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजारों में अस्थिरता बनी रहने और भू-राजनीतिक तवानों के कारण व्यापार प्रवाह में लगातार बदलाव आने के कारण, निकट भविष्य में रूस भारत की कच्चे तेल आयात रणनीति का आधारशिला बना रहेगा।

Headline	Dehradun News: ओएनजीसी ने जीता फुटबाल टूर्नामेंट का खिताब		
Publication	I Next Live	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	9 Aug 2026		

Dehradun News: ओएनजीसी ने जीता फुटबाल टूर्नामेंट का खिताब

<https://www.inextlive.com/uttarakhand/dehradun/ongc-wins-football-tournament-title-1786291247>

देहरादून,ब्यूरो: सोशल बलूनी पब्लिक स्कूल में हुए प्रथम स्व। जगमोहन सिंह नेगी स्मृति मास्टर्स फुटबाल टूर्नामेंट के 60 प्लस वर्ग का खिताब ओएनजीसी ने अपने नाम किया। फाइनल मुकाबले में ओएनजीसी ने यूके मास्टर्स को 1-0 से हराया।

मैच में केवल एक गोल

मैच में एकमात्र गोल पहले हाफ के 15वें मिनट में ओएनजीसी के कमल बर्धवाल ने किया। टूर्नामेंट में मास्टर्स स्पोर्ट्स की आठ टीमों ने हिस्सा लिया। प्रतियोगिता का उद्घाटन स्व। जगमोहन सिंह नेगी की पत्नी मधु नेगी ने किया। यूके मास्टर्स स्पोर्ट्स एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष विपिन बलूनी ने बताया कि यह टूर्नामेंट उत्तराखंड के जाने-माने फुटबालर और कोच जगमोहन सिंह नेगी की याद में शुरू किया गया है और अब इसे हर साल कराया जाएगा। दूसरे मुकाबलों में डीबी फुटबाल क्लब ने यूके मास्टर्स रेड को 1-0, पहाड़ी ब्वाँय ने गोरखा इलेवन को 1-0 और महिंद्रा ने शिवालिक एफसी को 2-1 से हराया। मॉर्निंग स्टार और उत्तराखंड एफसी का मैच 3-3 से ड्रॉ रहा।

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Headline	ओएनजीसी के प्रमुख पद की दौड़ में ऑयल इंडिया के सीएमडी रंजीत रथ सहित छह उम्मीदवार शामिल		
Publication	IBC 24 News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	9 Aug 2026		

ओएनजीसी के प्रमुख पद की दौड़ में ऑयल इंडिया के सीएमडी रंजीत रथ सहित छह उम्मीदवार शामिल

<https://www.ibc24.in/business/six-candidates-including-oil-india-cmd-ranjit-rath-are-in-the-race-for-the-post-of-ongc-chief-3711035.html>

नयी दिल्ली, नौ अगस्त (भाषा) सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं गैस कंपनी ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) के चेयरमैन एवं प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएमडी) पद

के लिए ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड के प्रमुख (सीएमडी) रंजीत रथ समेत आधा दर्जन से अधिक अधिकारियों ने आवेदन किया है। मामले से जुड़े लोगों ने यह जानकारी दी।

रथ (54) लगातार दूसरे वर्ष ओएनजीसी के शीर्ष पद की दौड़ में शामिल हुए हैं। सरकार ने इस पद के लिए अधिकतम आयु सीमा समेत पात्रता संबंधी मानदंडों में ढील दी है, जिसके बाद उन्होंने फिर से आवेदन किया है।

रथ पिछले वर्ष भी ओएनजीसी प्रमुख पद के लिए चुने गए उम्मीदवारों की सूची में शामिल थे, लेकिन सरकार ने मौजूदा चेयरमैन एवं प्रबंध निदेशक अरुण कुमार सिंह का कार्यकाल एक वर्ष के लिए बढ़ा दिया था।

रथ अगस्त, 2022 से देश की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी पेट्रोलियम कंपनी ऑयल इंडिया का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं।

आवेदन करने वालों में ओएनजीसी विदेश लिमिटेड (ओवीएल) के प्रबंध निदेशक राजर्षि गुप्ता भी शामिल हैं। सरकार द्वारा अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु 59 वर्ष किए जाने के बाद वह इस पद के लिए पात्र हुए हैं।

गुप्ता (59) जुलाई, 2027 में सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले हैं और इस पद के लिए आवेदन करने वाले आंतरिक उम्मीदवारों में सबसे वरिष्ठ हैं।

सूत्रों के अनुसार, ओएनजीसी के प्रौद्योगिकी एवं क्षेत्रीय सेवाओं के निदेशक विक्रम सक्सेना, रणनीति एवं कॉरपोरेट मामलों के निदेशक सत्यम कुमार तथा ओवीएल के परिचालन निदेशक दुलाल हलदर ने भी इस पद के लिए आवेदन किया है।

सार्वजनिक उपक्रम चयन बोर्ड (पीईएसबी) ने इस पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए थे। मौजूदा सीएमडी अरुण कुमार सिंह का विस्तारित कार्यकाल सात दिसंबर, 2026 को समाप्त होने के साथ यह पद रिक्त होगा। आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 22 जुलाई थी।

विज्ञापन के अनुसार, सात दिसंबर, 2026 को रिक्ति की तिथि तक उम्मीदवार की आयु 59 वर्ष से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए। चयनित उम्मीदवार की नियुक्ति शुरुआत में तीन साल के लिए होगी, जिसे कार्य निष्पादन की समीक्षा के बाद दो वर्ष और बढ़ाया जा सकेगा।

विज्ञापन में कहा गया है कि 60 वर्ष की आयु के बाद किसी भी प्रकार की नियुक्ति या कार्यकाल विस्तार अनुबंध के आधार पर होगा।

इस पद के लिए चयन सामान्य पीईएसबी प्रक्रिया के बजाय पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय द्वारा गठित खोज-सह-चयन समिति करेगी।

भाषा योगेश अजय

अजय

Headline	Hon'ble President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu Flags Off the Inaugural President's Bodyguard Soldierathon from Rashtrapati Bhavan		
Publication	Kolkata Sun	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	10 Aug 2026		

Hon'ble President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu Flags Off the Inaugural President's Bodyguard Soldierathon from Rashtrapati Bhavan

<https://www.kolkatasun.com/news/279227203/honble-president-of-india-smt-droupadi-murmu-flags-off-the-inaugural-president-bodyguard-soldierathon-from-rashtrapati-bhavan>

PNN New Delhi [India, August 8: The Hon'ble President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, flagged off the inaugural President's Bodyguard

Soldierathon from the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday, 2 August 2026, giving the event a historic beginning and unmatched national significance. The Hon'ble President also released a Special Postal Cover to commemorate the occasion, marking the Soldierathon as a proud national tribute to the Armed Forces and the glorious legacy of The President's Bodyguard.

The ceremony was held in the august presence of General Dr V K Singh, Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram and Patron of the initiative. The race was conducted at Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantonment, where 8000+ of citizens, soldiers, veterans, defence families, students, institutions, corporate teams and fitness enthusiasts came together to take part in one of India's most iconic tribute runs.

"The President's Bodyguard Soldierathon is not just a run - it is a national expression of gratitude to the soldiers of India. It brings citizens and the Armed Forces together in the true spirit of service, discipline and patriotism. The legacy of The President's Bodyguard is one of honour, courage and duty, and this historic initiative will inspire generations to remember, respect and stand with our soldiers," said General Dr V K Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram, Former Chief of the Army Staff and Patron, Soldierathon

The President's Bodyguard Soldierathon stood as a grand national tribute to the courage, sacrifice and service of India's soldiers. Guided by the message Run With Soldiers, Run For Soldiers, the event strengthened the bond between civilians and the Armed Forces, while giving citizens a rare opportunity to express their respect for the men and women who serve the nation.

The President's Bodyguard, popularly known as PBG, is one of the most prestigious military regiments of India. Raised in 1773, The President's Bodyguard is the personal troops of the Hon'ble President of India, the world's only Airborne Cavalry Regiment, the oldest Risala and the senior most regiment of the Indian Armed Forces. For 253 years, the regiment has stood as a symbol of honour, loyalty, courage, discipline and selfless service to the nation.

Its soldiers represent the finest balance of ceremonial excellence and operational readiness. Trained as horsemen, paratroopers and tankmen, the men of The President's Bodyguard carry forward a legacy that is both historic and living. The inaugural President's Bodyguard Soldierathon celebrated this extraordinary journey while also commemorating 27 years of Kargil Vijay Diwas, paying tribute to the bravery, sacrifice and victory of India's soldiers.

The Soldierathon was held in three race categories: Paramvir Run 10 km, Mahavir Run 5 km and Vir 3 km. At Cariappa Parade Ground, the atmosphere reflected the spirit of a national tribute. From competitive runners to first-time participants, from soldiers and veterans to students and families, every participant carried the same emotion: gratitude towards India's Armed Forces. For many, the run was not about timing. It was about remembrance. Every step was a salute, every kilometre carried pride, and every participant became part of a larger national message that India remembers, respects and stands with its soldiers.

The event also supported the larger message of the Fit India Movement and encouraged young citizens to embrace healthy living through the message Say Yes to Sports and No to Drugs. Beyond the finish line, the President's Bodyguard Soldierathon carried a deeper national purpose. Proceeds from Soldierathon support the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre of the Armed Forces, where injured and wounded soldiers receive treatment, rehabilitation and support. The event also supports the welfare of the wards of battle casualties and other soldier welfare initiatives. In addition, the PBG Soldierathon intends to support the troops and horses of The President's Bodyguard, including welfare efforts for PBG personnel and the care of horses that remain central to the regiment's proud equestrian tradition.

Major Surendra Poonia, VSM, Founder of Soldierathon and Fitistan, said, "I had the honour and privilege of serving in The President's Bodyguard. This is my own regiment, and to see the inaugural President's Bodyguard Soldierathon being flagged off by the Hon'ble President of India is an emotion beyond words. PBG represents the highest standards of honour, discipline and service. Through this Soldierathon, we are not only celebrating its 253-year legacy, but we are also standing with its troops, its horses and every injured and wounded soldier who has given so much for the nation. This event is a humble salute to those who serve silently, bravely and selflessly."

Speaking about the emotional power of the event, Shilpa Bhagat, Founder, said, "The President's Bodyguard Soldierathon showed the true heart of India. We saw a toddler in the cradle with her mother, and we saw a 94-year-old senior citizen participating with pride. That is the emotion of Soldierathon. It is not only for runners. It is for every Indian who wants to say thank you to our soldiers. This event brought generations together in one shared feeling of gratitude, respect and national pride."

The Soldierathon movement has, over the years, grown as a patriotic marathon platform inspired by the ideals of service before self, resilience, discipline and national pride. Guided by the vision of leaders including Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, General Bipin Rawat and its current Patron General Dr V K Singh, Soldierathon continues to strengthen the connection between civilians and the Armed Forces through fitness and purposeful action. With the Hon'ble President of India flagging off the inaugural edition, the President's Bodyguard Soldierathon became a rare national moment where Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President's Bodyguard, the Armed Forces and citizens came together in one shared tribute. Guided by the Military Secretary to the President, Maj Gen Voodev Parida, AVSM, VSM, the Team PBG led by Commandant Col Amit Berwal, VSM, worked relentlessly with Team Soldierathon to accomplish this rare fete in just over three weeks, leading to a spectacular display of civil-military synergy and national pride.

A special highlight of the occasion was SENA Made By The Bravest, an initiative created in honour of injured and wounded soldiers at the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre. The SENA jacket and merchandise showcased at the event carried a powerful message of purpose, reminding everyone that the movement goes beyond the race and stands for the real heroes who continue to inspire the nation. Every product represented a commitment to support injured and wounded soldiers and keep their courage at the heart of the movement.

The inaugural President's Bodyguard Soldierathon was more than a race. It was a presidentially flagged-off tribute, a celebration of military legacy and a powerful expression of citizen gratitude. From the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan to Cariappa Parade Ground, from the Special Postal Cover release to thousands of participants running with pride, the day reflected one unforgettable message: India remembers its soldiers, India respects its soldiers, and India stands with its soldiers.

The organisers expressed heartfelt gratitude to all ranks of the PBG and all partners who supported this vision and helped make the inaugural President's Bodyguard Soldierathon a truly memorable national tribute. Special thanks to Title Partner Wonder Cement and Powered By Bhutani Infra, along with Cupid Limited, Bharat Express, Wonder Home Finance Limited, ONGC, GAIL, SENA Made By The Bravest, State Bank of India, D&J, Pragati Group, Bisleri, Digitek, GroundZero, BigFlex, Storia, Bagrrys, Enerzal, Max Protein, Cornitos, Yakult, Yodley, Dukes, Crunch Fitness, Dr Kinju Mishra Physio, Blinkit Ambulances, YesMadam, Radio City, Active & Alive and Zixa for their support in bringing this historic tribute to life.

Headline	OIL CMD Ranjit Rath among applicants for ONGC top job		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	10 Aug 2026		

OIL CMD Ranjit Rath among applicants for ONGC top job

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/oil-cmd-ranjit-rath-among-applicants-for-ongc-top-job-671673>

New Delhi: Oil India Ltd Chairman & MD (CMD) Ranjit Rath is among more than half a dozen candidates who have applied for the top post at state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), people familiar with the matter said.

Rath, 54, is seeking the position for the second consecutive year after the government relaxed the eligibility criteria, including the maximum entry age.

Other candidates include ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) MD Rajarshi Gupta, ONGC directors Vikram Saxena and Satyam Kumar, OVL Director Dulal Halder, MRPL Director (Finance) Devendra Kumar and Indian Oil Corporation Director (Marketing) S P Shrivastava.

The post will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure. Applications closed on July 22.

The government has set the maximum entry age at 59 years and said the selected candidate will initially serve for three years, extendable by two years based on performance. The selection will be conducted by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil

ministry. Agencies

Headline	India Energy Week 2027 moves from Goa to Kolkata		
Publication	New Bytes	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	9 Aug 2026		

India Energy Week 2027 moves from Goa to Kolkata

<https://www.newsbytesapp.com/news/business/india-energy-week-2027-to-be-held-in-kolkata/story>

India Energy Week (IEW) 2027 will take place from January 28 to January 31 at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town, Kolkata .

The announcement was made on the event's official LinkedIn page.

The upcoming edition of IEW marks a major shift from its previous venue at a state-of-the-art convention center built by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in Goa

IEW's shift to Kolkata

The decision to move IEW to Kolkata comes after the BJP's victory in West Bengal assembly elections.

The Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, inaugurated by then West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on October 13, 2017, is a state-of-the-art facility designed for international conferences and cultural events.

It boasts an auditorium with a capacity of 3,200 seats as well as an exhibition center and seminar rooms.

Preparations for IEW 2027 underway

The upcoming IEW 2027 is expected to be a major global energy gathering, with industry leaders, policymakers, innovators, investors, and technology pioneers in attendance.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has already reviewed preparations for the event.

He said that "2027 will be bigger," with global CEOs, policymakers and investors converging on India.

IEW's previous editions and venue developments

The IEW was held in Goa, where a temporary conference center at ONGC's IPSHEM training facility hosted the event.

The success of this edition led to the idea of building a permanent facility in Goa.

However, after the 2026 edition was hosted at this new facility, no other major events have been held there since then.

Headline	ಭಾಗವತ್ ಬಂದ್ರೆ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಕೆಡುತ್ತೆ ಅಂತ ಕೆನಡಾ ಸಂಸದರು ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಬೇಡ ಅಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ: ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಟೀಕೆ		
Publication	Public Tv English	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	9 Aug 2026		

ಭಾಗವತ್ ಬಂದ್ರೆ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಕೆಡುತ್ತೆ ಅಂತ ಕೆನಡಾ ಸಂಸದರು ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಬೇಡ ಅಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ: ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಟೀಕೆ

<https://publictv.in/priyank-kharge-slams-mohan-bhagwat/>

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಮೋಹನ್ ಭಾಗವತ್ (Mohan Bhagwat) ಅವರು ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದ್ರೆ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಕೆಡುತ್ತೆ ಅಂತಲೇ ಕೆನಡಾ ಸಂಸದರು ಪ್ರವೇಶ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಸಚಿವ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ (Priyank Kharge) ಟೀಕಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್ (RSS) ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥ ಮೋಹನ್ ಭಾಗವತ್ ಅವರು ಕೆನಡಾಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸದಂತೆ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ಹೇರಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಂಸದರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿರುವ ವಿಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮೋಹನ್ ಭಾಗವತ್ ಅವರು ಕೆನಡಾಗೆ (Canada) ಬರಬಾರದು ಎಂದು ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಂಸದರು ತಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಭಾಗವತ್ ಅವರು ಮುಸ್ಲಿಮರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಿಶ್ಚಿಯನ್ನರ ಕುರಿತು ಪ್ರಚೋದನಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅವರು ಕೆನಡಾಗೆ ಬಂದರೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಹದಗೆಡಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿಸುವಂತೆ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಭಾಗವತ್ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕೆನಡಾ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ನೀಡಬೇಕೋ, ಬೇಡವೋ ಎಂಬುದು ಆ ದೇಶದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ವಿಚಾರ. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗಳು ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಜುಗರ ಉಂಟುಮಾಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲವೇ ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದನ್ನೂ ಓದಿ: ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಾರ್ಹ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯತ್ತ ಗಮನ ಹರಿಸಿ: ಪ್ರಹ್ಲಾದ್ ಜೋಶಿ

ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಆಗಲಿ

'ಕಂಪುಕೋಟಿ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಂತು ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ ಅವರು ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್ ಅನ್ನು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಎನ್‌ಜಿಒ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಾಗಾದರೆ ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಲಿ. ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳು ಏನು, ಹಣದ ಮೂಲ ಏನು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ದೇಶದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಿ' ಎಂದು ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹಲವು ಮಠಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್ ಕೂಡ ತನ್ನ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಬೇಕು. ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮೂಲ ಏನು? ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏನು? ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿ. ಅಯೋಧ್ಯೆಯ ರಾಮನಿಂದಲೂ ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಕೇಳುವಂತಹ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀವು ಯಾಕೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ? ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ರಾಜಕೀಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವಿಲ್ಲ' ಎನ್ನುವ ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್

ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್ ರಾಜಕೀಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾವು ಇಲ್ಲ, ಸಮಾಜ ಸೇವೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರ ನಾಯಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಸಂಬಂಧದ ಕುರಿತು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಟೀಕಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ವಿದೇಶಾಂಗ ನೀತಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಹಲವು ವಿಚಾರಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮತ್ತೆ ನಾವು ರಾಜಕೀಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲ, ಸಮಾಜ ಸೇವೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇದು ದ್ವಂದ್ವ ನೀತಿಯಲ್ಲವೇ? ಎರಡು ನಾಲಿಗೆಗಳಿವೆಯೇ? ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್ ಸಮಾಜದ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಗೆ ಬರಬೇಕು. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ತನ್ನ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಹಾಗೂ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ಈಗ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ'

ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್‌ನ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಶಾಖೆಯೂ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಘಟಕವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರ ಲೆಕ್ಕಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ತಾವೇ ಆಡಿಟ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದು ಮೋಹನ್ ಭಾಗವತ್ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಕೇಳಿದಾಗ ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದೂ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಗ ನಾವು ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ, ಕೊಡಲಿ ಎಂದರಲ್ಲದೇ ಒಎನ್‌ಜಿಸಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಆರ್ಎಸ್ಎಸ್‌ಗೆ 600 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ, ಯಾಕೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಅಂತ ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಲಿ ಎಂದು ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

Headline	Assam CM Seeks 'Scientific' Permanent Fix as Floods Recede but Thousands Remain Displaced		
Publication	The Sentinel	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	9 Aug 2026		

Assam CM Seeks 'Scientific' Permanent Fix as Floods Recede but Thousands Remain Displaced

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/topheadlines/assam-cm-seeks-scientific-permanent-fix-as-floods-recede-but-thousands-remain-displaced>

Assam battles fresh flooding as Darrang, Nagaon face inundation; govt seeks scientific, sustainable solutions while relief and restoration continue.

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Staff Reporter

Guwahati : Even as floodwaters are receding in the Upper Assam districts, new areas in districts like Darrang, Nagaon, etc., are now getting submerged. The state government is now focusing on innovative and sustainable solutions to tackle the flood problem.

Tourist Destinations

To remove the stagnant water in the Upper Assam district of Sivasagar, which was one of the worst-affected, the Water Resources department has enlisted the help of ONGC to pump out the water using large pipes. The clogged drains, due to which the water is unable to make its way out, are being cleaned.

Although the floods have more or less decreased, thousands of people are still sheltering in relief camps as their houses are unliveable due to stagnant water and silt. Moreover, hundreds of people are camping in makeshift shelters on the roadside.

After reviewing the flood situation in Upper Assam, Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma today made his way to the Darrang district to assess the situation there.

Following his Darrang visit, the CM said, "The state government wants to solve the problem of floods in a scientific way. So, we appeal to the IITs, IIMs and universities to work together on this matter and come up with innovative and sustainable solutions to the floods, which our government can implement to tackle the problem. Once we are in possession of a concrete plan from the academic community to tackle the floods, we can approach the Government of India for funds. A plan has to be provided to us on how to tackle the issue of the excess water flowing into the state from Nagaland, Arunachal, Meghalaya, Bhutan, etc."

"A section of people are demanding that the Assam Floods be declared as a national calamity, but only such a declaration will not solve the problem. The Assam government is stressing a permanent solution to the problem," he added.

The Chief Minister said that rehabilitation and restoration efforts were being intensified across the flood-affected areas as the state government continued to respond to the situation. "More than 77,000 people continue to be sheltered in relief camps as the situation remains under close watch. More than 30,000 people were evacuated by the NDRF and SDRF, with the help of the district administrations," Sarma said.

Meanwhile, officials have been monitoring water levels of major rivers and the condition of embankments in vulnerable areas, even as the authorities remain alert to the possibility of further deterioration in some locations.

The government has also been focussing on restoring roads, communication links and other essential infrastructure disrupted by the floods, while affected communities are being provided assistance through relief mechanisms.