



ONGC News as on 02 August 2026 (Print & Online)



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Headline: ONGC will drill 150 offshore wells

ओएनजीसी 150 समुद्री कुएं खोदेगा

नई दिल्ली। देश में तेल-गैस आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए ओएनजीसी ने बड़ा अभियान शुरू किया है। समुद्र मंथन योजना के तहत कंपनी अगले सात वर्षों में 150 गहरे समुद्री कुएं खोदेगी और समुद्र में नए तेल-गैस भंडारों की खोज करेगी। कंपनी का लक्ष्य करीब 5,600 एमएमटीआई क्षमता वाले तेल और गैस भंडारों की तलाश करना है।

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GLOBAL BOARDROOM CHATTER.

What they say on their India plans

With India being the fastest-growing large economy, what is your India plan? is a common topic in boardrooms of most global corporations. One important source to distil their India plans is from their quarterly earnings calls. This column will present what CXOs of global corporations are saying about India, along with their perspectives and plans during the current earnings season. With the June quarter earnings season in progress, here are some from companies that reported their earnings last week.

Sanmina Corporation (SANM, m-cap \$9.8 billion)

The electronics manufacturer is expanding its Reliance joint venture in India, ramping a newly-completed facility to capture opportunities across multiple end-markets.

"Our India joint venture with Reliance continues to perform well. We completed a new building toward the end of fiscal Q1 and are now focused on filling the additional capacity. India remains a significant growth opportunity and will continue to be an area of investment across all end-markets."

Koninklijke Philips N.V. (PHIA, €22.8 billion)

The health technology company reported double-digit growth in India, driven by premium consumer and healthcare systems, and sees significant potential to expand AI-enabled care inside and outside hospitals.

"India is growing at a double-digit rate across consumer and health systems, led by premium segments and our high-quality, platform-based solutions. Following discussions with Prime Minister Modi and the health ministry, we see significant opportunities to expand AI-enabled care within and beyond hospitals. The business is also contributing positively to group margins."

The Coca-Cola Company (KO, \$380.5 billion)

The beverage major reported broad-based volume growth in India and is investing in affordability, cold-drink equipment and execution capabilities to strengthen its portfolio of leading brands.

"We own seven of India's top 10 beverage brands, and building their equity remains our priority. We are applying revenue growth management capabilities and investing in affordable offerings, cold-drink equipment and market execution to deepen consumer engagement and capture future growth."

Noble Corporation plc (NE, \$6.9 billion)

The offshore drilling contractor sees India as a source of longer-term deepwater growth, although ONGC's planned multi-year exploration campaign has likely been delayed by around one year.

"Asia-Pacific and India contracted ultra-deepwater rigs have risen to 10-11 from eight six months ago, while the region represents 45 per cent of global open demand. India's multi-rig exploration campaign appears delayed by planning and funding lead times rather than cancelled, and we expect the tenders to return after roughly a year."

TransUnion (TRU, \$14.9 billion)

The credit analytics company reported an inflection in India, with improving lending activity, record new sales and strong adoption of its analytics and fraud solutions.

"India revenue accelerated to 8 per cent as consumer lending stabilised and government support improved commercial credit activity. We recorded our largest-ever quarter of new sales in India, supported by refreshed credit scores, broader lender data, strong Tri-Quintessence momentum and expanding Trusted Call Solutions. We expect similar growth in Q3 before accelerating in Q4 as comparisons ease."

Mondelez International, Inc. (MDLZ, \$81 billion)

The snack food company reported an exceptionally strong Biscoff launch in India and is accelerating capacity and distribution expansion to meet demand.

"Our first Biscoff production line in India sold out from its opening month, and we are accelerating construction of a second line. We also added another 1,00,000 stores and see Biscoff becoming an important biscuit brand in India."

Renault SA (RNO, €6.9 billion)

The French automaker reported a strong response to the new Renault Duster in India, helping drive a sharp increase in local sales.

"We successfully launched the Renault Duster in India, contributing to a 61 per cent increase in sales compared with 2025. The launch was a key part of Renault brand's strong first-half performance."

Schneider Electric S.E. (SU, €149.4 billion)

The energy management company is positioning India—now its third-largest market—as a global manufacturing and R&D hub, including for data centre liquid-cooling equipment.

"We are preparing to manufacture coolant distribution units in Bengaluru to serve international markets. India is now our third-largest country by sales and fourth regional hub, leveraging Lauritz Knudsen's R&D and cost-effective manufacturing capabilities. We will progressively export India-made products, beginning with nearby markets such as West Asia."

Contributed by  NAFA
ASSET MANAGERS

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
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Indian Oil Corp buys record spot market crude on supply hit



INDIAN OIL Corp bought a record share of its crude oil from the spot market in the April-June quarter after the US-Iran conflict upended supplies from the West Asia, reports *Bloomberg*. The refiner sourced as much as 84% of its crude through spot purchases.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
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Commercial LPG prices cut by ₹192

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, August 1

STATE-OWNED OIL marketing companies on Saturday cut the price of commercial cooking gas by a steep ₹192 per 19-kg cylinder, providing relief to hotels and restaurants, even as aviation turbine fuel rates were increased by ₹5 per litre in line with divergent international benchmark prices.

A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder will now cost ₹2,738 in Delhi, compared with ₹2,930 earlier.

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Commercial LPG prices down ₹192

THE PRICE OF a 5-kg market-priced LPG cylinder has also been reduced by ₹46.50 to ₹762 from ₹808.50. This is the second consecutive monthly reduction in commercial LPG prices. Oil companies had cut the price of a 19-kg cylinder by ₹183.50 on July 1. The two revisions have lowered the rate by ₹375.50 in two months, after the West Asia conflict pushed LPG prices to record levels in June.

Commercial LPG prices had risen by ₹1,373 per cylinder between February and June, climbing from ₹1,740.50 before the conflict to ₹3,113.50 in June. Despite the latest reductions, the price remains ₹997.50 higher than the February level.

ATF prices were raised to ₹115 per litre from ₹110 per litre. The increase reverses a reduction of a similar pro-

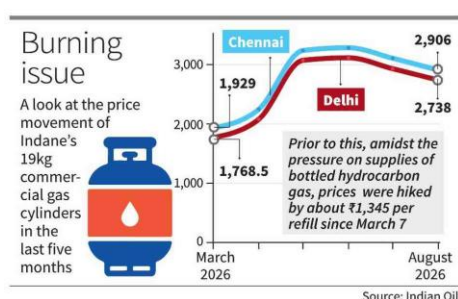


portion implemented on July 1 and could raise operating costs for airlines, for which fuel is a major expense. Commercial LPG and ATF prices are revised on the first day of every month based on movements in international benchmark rates and foreign exchange. Retail prices vary across states because of local levies, including value-added tax. Prices of domestic LPG used by households remained unchanged at ₹942 per 14.2-kg cylinder. Domestic cooking gas rates

were last increased by ₹29 per cylinder on June 7, after a ₹60 hike in March as supply disruptions following the West Asia crisis drove up global energy prices.

In an interaction with reporters, Indian Oil Corporation Chairman A S Sahney said on Friday that oil companies were incurring an under-recovery of ₹503 on every 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder in the month of July.

The continued under-recovery means the reduction has been restricted to market-priced commercial LPG, while household cylinder rates have been held unchanged. Petrol and diesel prices were also left unchanged on Saturday. Retail rates of both fuels had been raised by about ₹7.50 per litre each in May as oil marketing companies responded to higher international energy costs.



Price of commercial LPG slashed by ₹200; jet fuel rates up by ₹5

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday reduced the price of commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by about ₹200 per cylinder. This is the second downward revision since the peak of West Asia crisis that saw prices spiral upwards by about ₹1,345 per cylinder in four tranches.

However, the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, was increased

by ₹5 per litre to ₹115 per litre for domestic carriers.

The price of domestic LPG remained unchanged, although the price of five-kg free trade LPG cylinders - primarily catering to migrant workers - declined by ₹46 per cylinder.

A non-domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi now costs ₹192 less at ₹2,738 per cylinder, while a five-kg FTL cylinder is priced at ₹762 from the earlier ₹808.50.

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Commercial LPG price cut by about ₹200

In Mumbai, a commercial LPG cylinder costs ₹2,691.50 (₹194 less), and in Chennai, it costs ₹2,906 (₹200 less). Among the major metros, Kolkata saw the steepest fall of ₹209. It is now priced at ₹2,872.50.

Sagar Daryani, president, National Restaurant Association of India, welcomed the price cut. "It brings some relief to the industry, especially to small and independent restaurants that continue to operate on thin margins," he told *The Hindu*.

Prashant Vashisht, senior vice-president at ratings agency ICRA, said under-recoveries on LPG continue to exist, although diversifying sources of procurement have helped ease some of the pressure.

"Before the war, we were getting a sizeable proportion of LPG supplies from one region [the Gulf]. Since then, we have figured out alternative sources," Mr. Vashisht told *The Hindu*. "Under-recoveries continue to exist although the pressure on supplies would not be the same as at the onset of the crisis," he added.

With the latest revision, the price of the 19-kg cylinder meant for commercial and industrial consumers has declined by about ₹380 per cylinder across two tranches. The price of FTL has also cumulatively been reduced by about ₹60 per cylinder across the two tranches.

CPI, AMMK condemn oil pipeline through fields

Chennai: Opposing Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's plan for an oil pipeline passing through agricultural lands in Tiruppur, the CPI and the AMMK urged the centre to change the network route and protect farmers' interests. CPI state secretary M Veerapandian said BPCL is implementing a 340-km pipeline project from Coimbatore to Karnataka. Nearly 70 km is through farms, he added.

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
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GAIL reports Revenue from Operations of ₹38,982 crore and PAT of ₹4,292 crore for Q1 FY2026-27

GAIL (India) Limited on 31st July 2026 announced its financial results for the first quarter of financial year 2026-27. The quarter reflected resilience in transmission and liquid hydrocarbons performance. However, amid geopolitical headwinds, the company saw lower gas marketing and polymer volumes. GAIL reported Revenue from Operations of ₹38,982 crore for Q1 FY27, as against ₹34,797 crore in Q4 FY26. EBITDA stood at ₹6,948 crore, compared to ₹2,175 crore in the previous quarter. Profit Before Tax (PBT) for Q1 FY27 stood at ₹5,773 crore, against ₹1,577 crore in previous quarter. Profit After Tax (PAT) stood at ₹4,292 crore, as compared to ₹1,262 crore in the previous quarter. On consolidated basis, for Q1 FY27, Revenue from Operations stood at ₹41,350 crore, compared to ₹35,705 crore in Q4 FY26. EBITDA was ₹7,573 crore, versus ₹2,703 crore in the previous quarter. PBT stood at ₹6,268 crore, compared to ₹1,966 crore in Q4 FY26. PAT (excluding minority interest) stood at ₹4,665 crore, as against ₹1,485 crore in Q4 FY26. Shri Deepak Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, GAIL (India) Limited, said: "FY 2026-27 began amid sharp volatility triggered by the West Asia crisis, which impacted certain GAIL volumes. The Company managed the disruption through portfolio flexibility and spot sourcing, while continuing to support customer requirements and India's energy security."

Publication : Western Times	Editions : Ahmedabad
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Indian Oil piles up Rs 2,661 crore loss in Q1 as crude prices soar amid West Asia crisis

New Delhi, 1 (IANS) Indian Oil piled up a standalone net loss of Rs 2,661 crore for the first quarter (April-June) of 2026-27, as compared to a net profit of Rs 5,689 crore in Q1 2025-26, with the decrease in profitability mainly on account of rise in crude cost due to the West Asia conflict which was not passed on to consumers, according to a company statement. Indian Oil's revenue from operations during the first quarter of the current financial year registered a robust growth of 26 per cent to Rs 2,75,972 crore as compared to Rs 2,18,608 crore in the same quarter of the previous financial year.

The company also achieved its highest-ever Q1 refineries crude throughput of 19.165 mil-

lion metric tonnes (MMT) with 109.4 per cent capacity utilisation as compared to 18.683 MMT in Q1 25-26, improving by 3 per cent. Indian Oil's cross-country pipelines achieved combined throughput of 28.548 MMT in Q1 26-27 as compared to 26.256 MMT in Q1 25-26, improving by 9 per cent, the statement said.

IOC also achieved its highest-ever quarterly sales of petrol at 4.522 MMT and diesel at 10.866 MMT.

Total sales volume for Q1 26-27 was 26.211 MMT as compared to 26.328 MMT in Q1 25-26.

The natural gas sales volume went up to 1.873 MMT, which is 11 per cent higher than the corresponding figure of 1.685 MMT for the same quarter of the previous year.

Publication : Dainik Jagran (Rashtriya) (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
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Headline: Commercial gas cylinder price reduced by Rs 192

वाणिज्यिक गैस सिलिंडर का मूल्य 192 रुपये घटा

नई दिल्ली : तेल विपणन कंपनियों ने होटल और रेस्त्रां में इस्तेमाल होने वाली वाणिज्यिक गैस सिलिंडर के मूल्य में 192 रुपये की कटौती की है। अब दिल्ली में 19 किलोग्राम वाले गैस सिलिंडर का मूल्य घटकर 2,738 रुपये हो गया है। वहीं, विमान ईंधन का मूल्य दिल्ली में पांच रुपये बढ़कर 115 रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गया है। (प्रेर)

Publication : Dainik Jagran (Rashtriya) (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
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Headline: 'Petrol price would have been ₹125 per litre without ethanol blending'

'एथनाल ब्लेंडिंग के बिना 125 रुपये प्रति लीटर होती पेट्रोल की कीमत'

नई दिल्ली, आइएनएस : एथनाल ब्लेंडिंग यानी पेट्रोल में एथनाल मिलाने को लेकर हो रहे विरोध के बीच सरकार ने कहा है कि यदि पेट्रोल में एथनाल न मिलाया गया होता तो हालिया पश्चिम एशिया संकट के दौरान दिल्ली में पेट्रोल की कीमत लगभग 125 रुपये प्रति लीटर तक पहुंच जाती। एथनाल ब्लेंडिंग ने कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में वृद्धि के असर को कम करके प्रति लीटर लगभग 30 रुपये बचाने में मदद की।

पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के अनुसार जब पश्चिम एशिया संकट के दौरान भारतीय क्रूड बास्केट की कीमत लगभग 135 डालर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच गई थी, तो अनुमान लगाया गया था कि एथनाल ब्लेंडिंग के बिना पेट्रोल की खुदरा कीमत राजधानी में लगभग 125 रुपये प्रति लीटर होती। हालांकि, उपभोक्ताओं को 94.77 रुपये प्रति लीटर की दर से पेट्रोल मिला।

Publication : Dainik Jagran (Rashtriya) (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
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Headline: Uninterrupted supply continues in India even as the entire world grapples with an energy crisis: Hardeep Puri

जब पूरी दुनिया ऊर्जा संकट से जूझ रही, तब भारत में जारी है निर्बाध आपूर्ति : हरदीप पुरी

जागरण संवाददाता, सिद्धार्थनगर

केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि वैश्विक स्तर पर ऊर्जा संकट गहराने के बावजूद भारत में पेट्रोल, डीजल और रसोई गैस की उपलब्धता पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ा है। केंद्र सरकार ने समय पर नीतिगत निर्णय लेकर आम लोगों पर महंगाई का बोझ कम करने का प्रयास किया है। उन्होंने बिना नाम लिए विपक्ष पर निशाना साधते हुए कहा कि कुछ लोग लगातार देश की स्थिति खराब होने का दावा करते हैं, जबकि वास्तविकता बिल्कुल अलग है।

हरदीप पुरी कपिलवस्तु स्थित प्राचीन स्तूप पर शनिवार को लाइट व साउंड शो और उससे 700 मीटर दूर स्थित विपश्यना पार्क के लोकार्पण के बाद सभा को संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि दुनिया के अनेक देश ऊर्जा

पेट्रोलियम मंत्री ने कहा, कच्चे तेल की कीमत बढ़ने पर तीन बार घटाया गया उत्पाद शुल्क

हरदीप पुरी ने कपिलवस्तु में विपश्यना पार्क व लाइट-साउंड शो का किया लोकार्पण



कपिलवस्तु के पिपरहवा में लाइट साउंड शो कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी। जागरण

संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं, लेकिन भारत में ऐसी स्थिति नहीं बनने दी गई। उन्होंने कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में

कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में तेजी के बावजूद केंद्र सरकार ने तीन बार उत्पाद शुल्क घटाकर उपभोक्ताओं को राहत दी। जून के बाद से ईंधन की कीमतों में सीमित वृद्धि हुई है।

उन्होंने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में देश की अर्थव्यवस्था लगातार मजबूत हुई है। स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के माध्यम से गांव खुले में शौच से मुक्त हुए, जिसका सबसे अधिक लाभ महिलाओं की गरिमा और स्वास्थ्य को मिला। उन्होंने कहा कि कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक दायित्व (सीएसआर) के माध्यम से औद्योगिक संस्थान भी विकास कार्यों में सक्रिय भागीदारी निभा रहे हैं।

कपिलवस्तु में विकसित विपश्यना पार्क और लाइट व साउंड शो इसी साझेदारी का उदाहरण हैं, जो बौद्ध पर्यटन को नई पहचान देंगे। कार्यक्रम में सांसद जगदीश पाल भी मौजूद रहे।

Publication : Dainik Statesman (Bengali)	Editions : Kolkata
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Headline: Centre allocates Rs 84,000 crore for 'Samudra Manthan' project to explore oil and gas

তেল-গ্যাস খুঁজতে 'সমুদ্র মন্থন' প্রকল্পে কেন্দ্রের বরাদ্দ ৮৪ হাজার কোটি টাকা

দিল্লি, ১ আগস্ট— পুরাণের সমুদ্র মন্থনের মতোই এবার সমুদ্রের গভীরে লুকিয়ে থাকা জ্বালানী সম্পদের সন্ধানে বড় পদক্ষেপ নিল কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার। দেশের জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা বাড়াতে শুক্রবার 'সমুদ্র মন্থন' নামে জাতীয় সামুদ্রিক অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের অনুমোদন দেওয়া হয়েছে। ২০৩০-৩১ অর্থবর্ষ পর্যন্ত এই প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের জন্য প্রায় ৮৪,০৮৪ কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে।

বিশ্বজুড়ে ভূ-রাজনৈতিক অস্থিরতা, জ্বালানী সরবরাহের অনিশ্চয়তা এবং আমদানির উপর নির্ভরতা কমানোর লক্ষ্যে এই প্রকল্প নেওয়া হয়েছে বলে জানিয়েছে কেন্দ্র। পেট্রোলিয়াম ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস মন্ত্রকের অধীনে পরিচালিত এই প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে সমুদ্রের গভীরে তেল ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের সম্ভাব্য ভাণ্ডার চিহ্নিত করা হবে। সরকারের দাবি, এর ফলে দেশে জ্বালানী উৎপাদন বাড়বে এবং 'আত্মনির্ভর ভারত' গঠনের লক্ষ্য আরও শক্তিশালী হবে।

কেন্দ্রীয় সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, 'সমুদ্র মন্থন' প্রকল্পের আওতায় ৬০০ মিলিয়ন মেট্রিক টনেরও বেশি সম্ভাব্য তেল মজুতের অনুসন্ধান চালানো হবে। পাশাপাশি

সমুদ্রতলের বিস্তীর্ণ এলাকায় বৈজ্ঞানিক জরিপ করা হবে। এই অনুসন্ধানের মাধ্যমে দেশের



অভ্যন্তরীণ তেল ও গ্যাস উৎপাদন বাড়ানোর পাশাপাশি নতুন কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগও তৈরি হবে বলে আশা করা হচ্ছে।

এই প্রকল্পের দায়িত্বে থাকবে ডিরেক্টরেট জেনারেল অফ হাইড্রোকার্বনস (ডিজিএইচ)। বঙ্গোপসাগর-সহ দেশের বিভিন্ন উপকূলীয় অঞ্চলে অত্যাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির সাহায্যে সমীক্ষা চালানো হবে। এর মধ্যে রয়েছে 'টি-ডি ব্রডব্যান্ড মেরিন সিসমিক অ্যান্ড গ্রাভিটি-ম্যাগনেটিক ডেটা অ্যাকুইজিশন' পদ্ধতি। এই

প্রযুক্তিতে বিশেষ জাহাজের মাধ্যমে সমুদ্রের নিচে শব্দ তরঙ্গ পাঠানো হয়। পাথর থেকে ফিরে আসা

অববাহিকায় ৩০ হাজার লাইন কিলোমিটার এলাকায় অনুসন্ধান চলবে। বিজ্ঞানীদের মতে, দেশের কয়েকটি উপকূলীয় অঞ্চল তেল ও গ্যাসের দিক থেকে অত্যন্ত সম্ভাবনাময়। বঙ্গীয় উপকূলীয় অববাহিকায় পুরু পাললিক স্তর রয়েছে, যা হাইড্রোকার্বন তৈরির অনুকূল পরিবেশ হতে পারে। মহানদী অববাহিকাকেও উচ্চ সম্ভাবনাময় এলাকা হিসেবে দেখা হচ্ছে। আন্দামান অববাহিকার ভূতাত্ত্বিক গঠন মায়ানমার ও ইন্দোনেশিয়ার গ্যাসক্ষেত্রের সঙ্গে মিল থাকায় সেখানেও বড় মজুদের সম্ভাবনা রয়েছে।

এছাড়া কৃষ্ণা-গোদাবরী অববাহিকা ইতিমধ্যেই দেশের অন্যতম বড় গ্যাস উৎপাদন ক্ষেত্র। তবে এর গভীরে আরও অজানা সম্পদের সন্ধান মিলতে পারে বলে মনে করছেন বিশেষজ্ঞরা। কাবেরী অববাহিকাতেও নতুন অনুসন্ধানের বড় সুযোগ রয়েছে।

কেন্দ্রের আশা, 'সমুদ্র মন্থন' প্রকল্প সফল হলে দেশের জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা আরও মজবুত হবে এবং বিদেশ থেকে তেল-গ্যাস আমদানির নির্ভরতা ধীরে ধীরে কমানো সম্ভব হবে।

অববাহিকায় ৩০ হাজার লাইন কিলোমিটার এলাকায় অনুসন্ধান চলবে।

বিজ্ঞানীদের মতে, দেশের কয়েকটি উপকূলীয় অঞ্চল তেল ও গ্যাসের দিক থেকে অত্যন্ত সম্ভাবনাময়। বঙ্গীয় উপকূলীয় অববাহিকায় পুরু পাললিক স্তর রয়েছে, যা হাইড্রোকার্বন তৈরির অনুকূল পরিবেশ হতে পারে। মহানদী অববাহিকাকেও উচ্চ সম্ভাবনাময় এলাকা হিসেবে দেখা হচ্ছে। আন্দামান অববাহিকার ভূতাত্ত্বিক গঠন মায়ানমার ও ইন্দোনেশিয়ার গ্যাসক্ষেত্রের সঙ্গে মিল থাকায় সেখানেও বড় মজুদের সম্ভাবনা রয়েছে।

এছাড়া কৃষ্ণা-গোদাবরী অববাহিকা ইতিমধ্যেই দেশের অন্যতম বড় গ্যাস উৎপাদন ক্ষেত্র। তবে এর গভীরে আরও অজানা সম্পদের সন্ধান মিলতে পারে বলে মনে করছেন বিশেষজ্ঞরা। কাবেরী অববাহিকাতেও নতুন অনুসন্ধানের বড় সুযোগ রয়েছে।

কেন্দ্রের আশা, 'সমুদ্র মন্থন' প্রকল্প সফল হলে দেশের জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা আরও মজবুত হবে এবং বিদেশ থেকে তেল-গ্যাস আমদানির নির্ভরতা ধীরে ধীরে কমানো সম্ভব হবে।

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Headline: 'Samudra Manthan' scheme will reduce oil and gas imports: Government

‘समुद्र मंथन’ योजना से तेल व गैस के आयात पर घटेगी : सरकार

नई दिल्ली, 1 अगस्त (एजेंसियां)। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने शनिवार को कहा कि केंद्र सरकार की नई ‘समुद्र मंथन’ योजना भारत को लंबे समय में कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस के आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने में मदद करेगी। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि बेहतर भू-वैज्ञानिक डेटा, जोखिम साझा करने की व्यवस्था, साझा बुनियादी ढांचे और घरेलू विनिर्माण क्षमताओं के जरिए यह योजना देश में गहरे समुद्री (डीपवॉटर) तेल और गैस की खोज तथा उत्पादन के लिए मजबूत इकोसिस्टम तैयार करेगी, जिससे ऊर्जा सुरक्षा मजबूत होगी और भारत आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ सकेगा।

मंत्रालय के अनुसार, भारत दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा कच्चा तेल उपभोक्ता है और देश का सालाना तेल आयात बिल करीब 144 अरब डॉलर (लगभग 13 लाख करोड़ रुपये) है। हाल के वैश्विक भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रमों ने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए ऊर्जा संसाधनों की सुरक्षित और निर्बाध उपलब्धता रणनीतिक रूप से बेहद महत्वपूर्ण है। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि आने वाले वर्षों में भारत की ऊर्जा मांग लगातार बढ़ने की संभावना है। ऐसे में घरेलू स्तर पर तेल और गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाना आयात पर निर्भरता कम



करने, ऊर्जा क्षेत्र को अधिक मजबूत बनाने और देश की दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक वृद्धि सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक है।

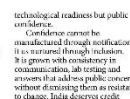
केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने शुक्रवार को ‘समुद्र मंथन’ राष्ट्रीय अपतटीय (ऑफशोर) अन्वेषण योजना को मंजूरी दी थी। इस योजना के लिए 84,084 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है और इसे वित्त वर्ष 2030-31 तक लागू किया जाएगा। सरकार के अनुसार यह अब तक का भारत का सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी ऑफशोर तेल एवं गैस अन्वेषण मिशन है।

मंत्रालय ने कहा कि यह योजना प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में पिछले कुछ वर्षों में किए गए व्यापक सुधारों का अगला चरण है, जिसका उद्देश्य नीतिगत सुधारों को जमीन पर उतारते हुए भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और आत्मनिर्भरता के लक्ष्य को नई गति देना है।

सरकार ने 2014 के बाद से हाइड्रोकार्बन

- दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा कच्चा तेल उपभोक्ता है भारत
- गतिशीलता में भारत की ऊर्जा मांग लगातार बढ़ने की संभावना

अन्वेषण एवं उत्पादन क्षेत्र में कई बड़े संरचनात्मक सुधार किए हैं, जिनमें पहले प्रतिबंधित माने जाने वाले 99 प्रतिशत से अधिक ‘नो-गो’ क्षेत्रों को खोल दिया गया है, जिससे पहली बार भारत के विशिष्ट आर्थिक क्षेत्र के 10 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर से अधिक क्षेत्र में तेल और गैस की खोज का रास्ता साफ हुआ है। इसके अलावा, सरकार ने प्रोडक्शन शेयरिंग कॉन्ट्रैक्ट (पीएससी) व्यवस्था की जगह रेवेन्यू शेयरिंग कॉन्ट्रैक्ट (आरएससी) लागू किया है, जिससे कर एवं राजस्व ढांचा अधिक सरल, पारदर्शी और प्रशासनिक हस्तक्षेप से मुक्त हुआ है। ऑयलफील्ड्स (रेगुलेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट) संशोधन अधिनियम, 2025 के जरिए इस क्षेत्र के कानूनी ढांचे को आधुनिक बनाया गया है। नए कानून में अनुबंधों की स्थिरता, एकीकृत पेट्रोलियम संचालन की मान्यता, विवाद निपटान व्यवस्था को मजबूत करने और आधुनिक नियामकीय ढांचा तैयार करने पर विशेष जोर दिया गया है।



PROCESSING OILS

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MANUFACTURER'S Q4 PROFIT JUMPS 60% ON STRONG DEMAND

TAKING STOCK

RAJIV KAPOOR



Panama Petrochem Limited is India's leading manufacturer of petroleum specialty products and value added lubricants. The company was established in 1982 and in the business of manufacturing transformer oils, white oils, liquid paraffin, industrial lubricants, petroleum jelly, automotive lubricants and rubber processing oils.

It has manufacturing

facilities in India and the UAE and exports to over 80 countries, making it one of India's prominent exporters in the specialty petroleum products segment. Panama Petrochem caters to diverse industries such as power, pharmaceuticals, personal care, tyres, rubber, textiles, plastics and automotive, thereby reducing dependence on any single end user industry. Unlike traditional oil refiners, Panama Petrochem focuses on specialty petroleum products, which generally offer better margins and lower earnings volatility. Over the years, the company has steadily expanded its product portfolio and export footprint, while benefiting from India's growing manufacturing base and increasing demand for specialty lubricants.

Its diversified customer



base and integrated manufacturing facilities have enabled the company to maintain consistent profitability across commodity cycles. Panama Petrochem reported Standalone Q4FY2026 financial numbers with Net Sales at Rs 550.02 crores, up 20.67% from Rs 455.82 crores in March 2025. Quarterly Net Profit climbed to

Rs. 46.92 crores in March 2026, up 60.36% from Rs. 29.26 crores in March 2025.

EBITDA went to Rs. 67.84 crores, up 47.13% from Rs. 46.11 crores in March 2025. The company's EPS increased to a solid Rs. 7.76 in March 2026 from Rs. 4.84 in March 2025. For the trailing twelve months, the company generated higher

revenue while maintaining healthy profitability and attractive valuation multiples relative to many specialty chemical peers. The specialty petroleum products industry enjoys favourable long term growth drivers on the back of rising industrialisation and infrastructure spending, expansion of the power transmission

sector, increasing demand for transformer oils, higher pharmaceutical and cosmetic manufacturing and increasing demand for specialty lubricants and process oils.

Several market commentators and industry analysts have highlighted the company's improving profitability and operational ef-

iciency following its FY26 results. Independent research platforms also note healthy revenue growth, attractive earnings multiples and improving margins. Recently, positive sentiment across the specialty lubricant sector, following strong results from industry peer Gandhar Oil, also lifted Panama Petrochem

shares, reflecting improving investor confidence in the sector. Panama Petrochem represents a high quality mid cap industrial company with a proven track record of consistent execution. Its focus on value-added petroleum specialty products, diversified customer base, expanding export business and strong financial performance position it well to benefit from India's industrial growth and increasing global demand for specialty lubricants.

The strong FY26 results demonstrate improving operating leverage and earnings momentum. Although crude oil price movements and global demand cycles remain key risks, the company's healthy balance sheet, steady dividend policy and attractive valuation make it a compelling long term investment. Portfolio investors with a long term investment horizon may consider Panama Petrochem stock currently quoting at Rs 450 on the bourses as a quality compounder in the specialty petroleum products and industrial lubricants sector.

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'Ethanol cuts petrol prices'

Agencies

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday strongly defended its ethanol blending programme, claiming petrol in Delhi would have cost around Rs 125 per litre during the recent global crude oil price spike if ethanol had not been blended with the fuel.

Responding to criticism over the economic viability of ethanol blending, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said the programme helped shield consumers from volatile global oil prices when crude touched \$135 per barrel. At the time, the retail price of petrol in Delhi remained Rs 94.77 per litre, implying that ethanol blending helped keep prices lower by nearly Rs 30 per litre.

CONTINUED ON NATION

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‘Ethanol cuts...’

The ministry said the objective of ethanol blending was not to make petrol the cheapest fuel on a day-to-day basis, but to reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil, improve energy security and cushion consumers against sharp swings in international oil prices.

The clarification comes amid a heated debate over the government's push for E20 petrol, with critics questioning its impact on vehicle performance, food security and the cost of procuring ethanol. The ministry rejected what it termed "misleading" claims, asserting that the programme has undergone extensive scientific evaluation and has not resulted in widespread engine failures.

The government also highlighted the broader gains from the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme, saying it has saved more than Rs 1.97 lakh crore in foreign exchange by reducing crude oil imports, replaced nearly 316 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil, cut around 952 lakh metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and transferred over Rs 1.66 lakh crore to farmers through ethanol procurement.

The ministry reiterated that there is no proposal to roll back the current E20 programme or reintroduce regular E0 or E10 petrol. It also clarified that any future move to increase ethanol blending beyond 20% would be taken only after detailed scientific and technical studies and consultations with stakeholders. Premium petrol sold by state-run oil companies will continue to remain exempt from the blending programme.

Commercial LPG cylinder prices cut by over Rs 200

NEW DELHI

STATE-OWNED oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday reduced the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by over Rs 200 across major cities, providing relief to restaurants, hotels and other commercial establishments that depend on the fuel for cooking.

The price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders has been reduced by more than Rs 200 in Delhi and Kolkata. The latest revision, which took effect on August 1, saw the price of a commercial cylinder fall by Rs 202 in Delhi and Rs 209 in Kolkata.

In Kolkata, the revised price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder stands at Rs 2,872.50. The reduction,



however, is limited to commercial LPG users.

However, prices of 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinders used by households remain unchanged.

The reduction comes as global energy markets continue to adjust to supply risks arising from geopolitical tensions in the region.

On July 1, the OMCs reduced the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by up to Rs 183.5 across major cities. The decision of price reduction comes

after commercial LPG prices witnessed multiple increases amid rising global energy prices triggered by West Asia conflict.

Earlier, the government relaxed LPG supply restrictions for commercial and industrial users after fuel availability improved.

It restored 50 per cent of supplies to customers whose allocations had earlier been suspended as part of measures to prioritise domestic household demand.

During the war, the government had issued orders under the Essential Commodities Act requiring C3-C4 streams to be utilised exclusively for LPG production, diverting them from petrochemical and other downstream uses.



Publication : The Hans India	Editions : New Delhi
Date :2 August 2026	Page : 11

 **BOOST TO ENERGY SECURITY**
The central government's newly approved 'Samudra Manthan' scheme will unlock India's vast offshore energy potential, accelerate domestic oil and gas exploration and strengthen the country's long-term energy security
— Pranav Adani, Director, Adani Enterprises

The climate diplomat

Ed Miliband

Britain's new Foreign Secretary, once a strong critic of Donald Trump, says tackling climate change and promoting international development will be his core priorities

Joan Sony Cherian

As Ed Miliband took charge as the U.K.'s new Foreign Secretary on July 20, he stated that international development and tackling the climate crisis would be the core priorities of the U.K.'s foreign policy under him.

Under the previous Labour government led by Keir Starmer, Mr. Miliband held the position of Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. He had previously been the Energy Secretary under Prime Minister Gordon Brown from 2008 to 2010. In that short stint, Mr. Miliband strengthened the 2008 Climate Change Act and implemented the U.K. Low Carbon Transition Plan, which was the country's first economy-wide decarbonisation strategy.

After taking on the role again in 2024 under Mr. Starmer, Mr. Miliband oversaw the implementation of various policies that backed the U.K.'s commitment to renewable energy. He established the Great British Energy, a publicly owned energy company, to expand and accelerate homegrown clean energy production and deployment.

He also laid out the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, which aims to reduce the U.K.'s dependency on volatile fossil fuel markets.



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

One of his very first moves as Foreign Secretary was to visit Spain and France, the two countries which are now dealing with devastating wildfire disasters. After Mr. Miliband met with Spain's Foreign Minister, both governments released a joint statement which acknowledged climate change as a global challenge and detailed that these "summer's wildfires demonstrated that climate change was now a national security emergency facing Europe and threatening our way of life."

Seasoned politician

Mr. Miliband is the son of Polish Jewish refugees who came to the U.K. fleeing the Nazis during the Second World War. He started his career in TV journalism before entering politics. He was recruited as a speechwriter by then Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Harriet Harman, in 1993, and climbed through the ranks to work

with Gordon Brown. He stood for elections for the first time in 2005, and attained his first Cabinet position under Mr. Brown in 2007.

His older brother, David Wright Miliband, a former labour party MP, had also, coincidentally, served as the Foreign Secretary in the Brown Cabinet from 2007 to 2010. Both of them ran against each other for the post of Labour Party leader in 2010 after Mr. Brown resigned. The race was eventually won by the junior Miliband.

One of the prominent reforms that Ed Miliband made as Labour Party leader from 2010 to 2015 was to abolish the electoral college within the party, and make it a 'one member, one vote' system. He also sought to unify the party, under the campaign 'One Nation Labour', as one working for the country and its people as a whole rather than for sectional interest groups.

Mr. Miliband was once

one of the biggest critics of U.S. President Donald Trump. After Mr. Trump's election as President in 2016, Mr. Miliband had remarked that he had "lowered the bar for idiocy." However, in his statement after his appointment as Foreign Secretary, Mr. Miliband affirmed that he would "nurture our strong, enduring and essential alliance with the United States".

Rebuilding ties with the EU, post-Brexit, is also a distinct challenge for Mr. Miliband. "Britain's national economic and security interests are served by having a stronger relationship with our European allies," Mr. Miliband said in his statement.

Domestically, the immediate challenge seems to be the shift in Prime Minister Andy Burnham's stance on new drilling licences for oil and gas in the North Sea.

Mr. Miliband has vociferously opposed renewed drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea as it would delay the transition to clean energy. He has also argued that since North Sea energy is sold on the international market, domestic consumers would not see much of a reduction in their energy bills. If Mr. Burnham goes ahead with allowing drilling in the North Sea, Mr. Miliband and he could potentially be at loggerheads.

Publication : The Indian Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 2 August 2026	Page : 13

Commercial LPG prices cut by Rs 192, ATF rates up Rs 5/litre

New Delhi: The prices of commercial LPG — used in establishments such as hotels and restaurants — were on Saturday cut by a steep Rs 192 per 19-kg cylinder while aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices were hiked by Rs 5 per litre in line with divergent trends in benchmark rates. While a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi now costs Rs 2,738 as against Rs 2,930 previously, ATF rates have been raised to Rs 115 per litre from Rs 110. PTI

Maruti Suzuki creates AI vertical; says CNG replacing diesel in PVs market

PADMINI DHURVARAJ @ Bengaluru

MARUTI Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) has set up a dedicated artificial intelligence (AI) vertical to accelerate the adoption of the technology across its operations as India's largest car-maker looks to leverage AI in manufacturing, sales, marketing and other businesses.

Speaking to *TNIE* during a media roundtable, Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales), said the new AI vertical is headed by one of the company's executive officers and is aimed at driving digital transformation across the organisation.



"We have created a dedicated AI vertical. It is being headed by one of our executive officers," Banerjee said, adding that the MSIL is deploying AI beyond vehicle development and product engineering.

"We are not only working on the product, but across our

value chain. Be it plant production, backend operations, marketing and sales, or processes, we are trying to bring change through AI," he said.

While MSIL is yet to publicly detail its AI initiatives, Banerjee said the company plans to share more information in due course. He added that several customer-facing processes have already been digitised.

On the evolving fuel mix in the passenger vehicle market, Banerjee said compressed natural gas (CNG) is increasingly replacing diesel. "CNG has become the new diesel. People are now migrating from diesel to CNG," he said.

Choice defined Brazilian ethanol model. People could choose most economical fuel

The govt's E20 mandate has sparked protests from car owners and transport bodies, with an E20 Janta Party already announced and taxi and transport associations planning a march on Aug 4. As India debates the pace of its ethanol transition, biofuel expert **Suani Coelho**, professor at the Institute of Energy and Environment, University of São Paulo, tells **Himanshi Dhawan** how Brazil built one of the world's most successful ethanol programmes

■ **India is like Brazil in the 1980s, heavily dependent on external sources of oil and struggling to control emission norms. What policy changes were introduced to bring in the biofuel program?**

Brazil's biofuel program emerged under unique global and domestic circumstances. The 1970s oil shocks exposed a vulnerability to oil prices, but our sugarcane industry was well positioned to respond. Launched in 1975, the National Alcohol Program (Proálcool) supported private investment, mobilised public resources and created a guaranteed market for ethanol through blending requirements. The efforts culminated in the introduction of dedicated ethanol-powered vehicles in 1979. Within five years, they accounted for over 90% of new car sales. By addressing production, demand and technological development simultaneously, the program enabled a rapid expansion of the biofuel system. Although today's global energy landscape is different, renewed geopolitical tensions, the climate crisis and the imperative of economic development reinforce the value of energy transition strategies tailored to local capabilities.

■ **How was confidence built among consumers to ensure smooth adoption of the new fuel?**

Consumer confidence was earned over time, and it wasn't without setbacks. The initial blending mandates were relatively straightforward. The challenge came with the adoption of ethanol-powered vehicles, but the message was that ethanol was here to stay rather than an experimental short-term alternative. With the introduction of flex-fuel vehicles in 2003, consumers were free to choose gasoline or ethanol every time they refuelled rather than committing to a single fuel. In just a few years, flex-fuel

vehicles became the dominant technology. These have accounted for more than 80% of annual car sales for the past two decades.

■ **India launched E85 (up to 85%) ethanol for flex-fuel vehicles in June and aims to ramp it up by Dec. There is criticism about the rushed implementation compared to timelines in Brazil...**

Brazil's transition took decades, but some major advances like the growth of corn ethanol happened in relatively short periods triggered by strategic windows of opportunity. What mattered was ensuring the system was ready to deliver: Production capacity, fuel quality standards, infrastructure and consumer familiarity evolved together, allowing rapid scale-up once the necessary conditions were in place.

■ **Indian consumers are complaining that fuel efficiency has suffered while they pay the same as they did earlier. Did Brazil have a similar experience?**

Ethanol contains roughly 30% less energy per litre than gasoline. So, increasing the biofuel content in gasoline leads to a modest reduction in vehicle range. This becomes more noticeable when consumers shift to high-ethanol fuels such as E85. In Brazil, a widely used rule of thumb is that ethanol becomes the better buy when its price per litre falls below roughly 70% of the price of the gasoline — a condition often met in ethanol-producing regions and/or during good harvest years. In São Paulo, Brazil's most populous state and largest ethanol producer, ethanol prices have remained below this threshold in all but two months since Jan 2024, with pump prices falling below USD 0.80 per litre this

year. As refuelling with ethanol is fast and widely accessible, a moderate reduction in driving range is less significant in everyday use.

■ **Indian vehicle owners are upset that they don't have the freedom to choose. How important was it to allow consumers the choice of fuel?**

The mandatory ethanol blend in gasoline, currently E30 and approved to increase to E32, remains a pillar of the industry. In 2025, it accounted for nearly 40% of total ethanol demand, reducing fuel imports during tight global markets. However, consumer choice was one of the defining characteristics of the Brazilian model once flex-fuel vehicles became dominant. While blending ensured broad ethanol use across the vehicle fleet, the widespread availability of E100 allowed consumers to choose the most economical fuel.

■ **How did Brazil balance reduction of emissions and consumer demands for fuel-efficient cars and value for their vehicle purchases?**

Although originally driven by energy security, environmental benefits became ethanol's greatest strength. Today, it delivers substantial greenhouse gas emission reductions compared to gasoline and provides a platform for further climate innovation. This dimension also improved its competitiveness. As a result, Brazil sees no trade-off between environmental protection and consumer interests. This has strengthened confidence that ethanol is part of a long-term climate strategy, sustaining investment across the value chain even as technologies such as electric vehicles emerge. Ethanol is increasingly viewed as complementary to electrification and as a scalable renewable fuel for sectors that are harder to decarbonise, including maritime transport.

■ **What are the lessons learnt in the last 50 years of the program that will be useful for India?**

Brazil's experience suggests building a successful biofuel industry is a long-term process that often appears gradual but usually advances through bursts of change once conditions have matured. Progress is rarely linear; and ups and downs were part of the learning process and helped shape a more resilient and competitive system. Biofuels are not only an energy policy, but also an industrial, agricultural and technological agenda. Their long-term competitiveness depends on continuous innovation, sustained by ambition and coordination. Brazil and India have much to gain from working together. By combining our experience and scale, we can accelerate technological progress, produce more competitive and resilient value chains, and help expand global markets for renewable fuels.

FOR THE
RECORD



Publication : Virat Vaibhav (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 2 August 2026	Page : 9

Headline: Samudra Manthan scheme will help in reducing long term dependence on crude oil imports.

समुद्र मंथन योजना से कच्चे तेल के आयात पर दीर्घकालिक निर्भरता घटाने में मिलेगी मदद

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने शनिवार को कहा कि केंद्र सरकार की नई समुद्र मंथन योजना भारत को लंबे समय में कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस के आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने में मदद करेगी। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि बेहतर भू-वैज्ञानिक डेटा, जोखिम साझा करने की व्यवस्था, साझा बुनियादी ढांचे और घरेलू विनिर्माण क्षमताओं के जरिए यह योजना देश में गहरे समुद्री (डीपवॉटर) तेल और गैस की खोज तथा उत्पादन के लिए मजबूत इकोसिस्टम तैयार करेगी, जिससे ऊर्जा सुरक्षा मजबूत होगी और भारत आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ सकेगा।

मंत्रालय के अनुसार, भारत दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा कच्चा तेल उपभोक्ता है और देश का सालाना तेल आयात बिल करीब 144 अरब डॉलर (लगभग 13 लाख करोड़ रुपए) है।

हाल के वैश्विक भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रमों ने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए ऊर्जा संसाधनों की सुरक्षित और निर्बाध उपलब्धता रणनीतिक रूप से बेहद महत्वपूर्ण है। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि आने वाले वर्षों में भारत की ऊर्जा मांग लगातार बढ़ने की संभावना है।

ऐसे में घरेलू स्तर पर तेल और गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाना आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने, ऊर्जा क्षेत्र को अधिक मजबूत बनाने और देश की दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक वृद्धि सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक है। केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने शुक्रवार को समुद्र मंथन राष्ट्रीय अपतटीय (ऑफशोर) अन्वेषण योजना को मंजूरी दी थी। इस योजना के लिए 84,084 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है और इसे वित्त वर्ष 2030-31 तक लागू किया जाएगा। सरकार के अनुसार यह अब तक का भारत का सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी ऑफशोर तेल एवं गैस अन्वेषण मिशन है। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि यह योजना प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में पिछले कुछ वर्षों में किए गए व्यापक सुधारों का अगला चरण है, जिसका उद्देश्य नीतिगत सुधारों को जमीन पर उतारते हुए भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और आत्मनिर्भर भारत के लक्ष्य को नई गति देना है। सरकार ने 2014 के बाद से हाइड्रोकार्बन अन्वेषण एवं उत्पादन क्षेत्र में कई बड़े संरचनात्मक सुधार किए हैं, जिनमें पहले प्रतिबंधित माने जाने वाले 99 प्रतिशत से अधिक नो-गो क्षेत्रों को खोल दिया गया है, जिससे पहली बार भारत के विशिष्ट आर्थिक क्षेत्र के 10 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर से अधिक क्षेत्र में तेल और गैस की खोज का रास्ता साफ हुआ है।

Publication : Western Times	Editions : Ahmedabad
Date : 2 August 2026	Page : 6

OMCs cut commercial LPG cylinder prices by over Rs 200

New Delhi, Aug 1 (IANS) State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday reduced the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by over Rs 200 across major cities, providing relief to restaurants, hotels and other commercial es-

tablishments that depend on the fuel for cooking. The price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders has been reduced by more than Rs 200 in Delhi and Kolkata. The latest revision, which took effect on August 1, saw the price of a commercial cylinder fall

by Rs 202 in Delhi and Rs 209 in Kolkata.

In Kolkata, the revised price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder stands at Rs 2,872.50. The reduction, however, is limited to commercial LPG users.

However, prices of 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinders used by households remain unchanged.

The reduction comes as global energy markets continue to adjust to supply risks arising from geopolitical tensions in the region. On July 1, the OMCs reduced the price of 19 183.5 across major cities.

The decision of price reduction comes after commercial LPG prices witnessed multiple increases amid rising global energy prices triggered by West Asia conflict. Earlier, the government relaxed LPG supply restrictions for commercial and industrial users after fuel availability improved.

Online

Headline	Cabinet approves "Samudra Manthan" national offshore exploration scheme with outlay of Rs 84,084 crore		
Publication	ANI News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

Cabinet approves "Samudra Manthan" national offshore exploration scheme with outlay of Rs 84,084 crore

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/cabinet-approves-samudra-manthan-national-offshore-exploration-scheme-with-outlay-of-rs-84084-crore20260801111030>

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, approved " Samudra Manthan ", the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas carrying an approved outlay of Rs 84,084 crore for implementation through FY 2030-31. According to an official statement by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil, with an annual import bill of nearly USD 144 billion (approximately Rs 13 lakh crore). As recent geopolitical developments have demonstrated, secure and uninterrupted access to energy resources is of strategic importance for a rapidly growing economy. Since 2014, the Government has undertaken a series of structural reforms over the past few years to create an enabling ecosystem for hydrocarbon exploration and production.

More than 99 per cent of the earlier "No-Go" areas have been removed, making over one million square kilometres of India's Exclusive Economic Zone available for exploration for the first time. India transitioned from Production Sharing Contracts to Revenue Sharing Contracts, simplifying the fiscal framework and improving transparency while reducing administrative intervention. The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025 modernised the legal framework governing the sector by providing contractual stability, recognising integrated petroleum operations, strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms, and establishing a contemporary regulatory architecture. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025 operationalised these reforms by promoting ease of doing business, improving regulatory efficiency, and streamlining the administration of petroleum leases. The Government has also standardised the composition and mandate of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries across all contract regimes, ensuring consistency and a level playing field for all operators, irrespective of when their contracts were signed, the release said. The performance parameters of ONGC and Oil India have been reoriented to place greater emphasis on exploration activities, reinforcing the Government's commitment to expanding India's domestic hydrocarbon resource base. The National Offshore Exploration Scheme " Samudra Manthan " marks the transition from policy reforms to mission-mode implementation. Approved as a Central Sector Scheme with a Phase-I outlay of Rs 84,084 crore up to 31 March 2031, the scheme adopts an integrated approach to accelerate offshore hydrocarbon exploration and production. The scheme comprises four key components. Firstly, acquisition and processing of modern offshore seismic data with an outlay of Rs 28,534 crore. Secondly, drilling of 60 deepwater exploration wells with an allocation of Rs 43,200 crore, including Government support of up to 50% of eligible drilling cost or Rs 675 crore per well, whichever is lower. Also, development of common offshore infrastructure hubs with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore to facilitate commercialisation of discoveries; and establishment of Oil and Gas Manufacturing and Services Zones with an outlay of Rs 2,000 crore to promote domestic manufacturing and localisation of critical equipment and services. Subject to exploration success, the National Offshore Exploration Scheme - Samudra Manthan - aims to increase India's domestic oil and gas production from around 62 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) to 80 MMTOE annually and expand the country's hydrocarbon resource base from 1.6 billion tonnes of Oil Equivalent (TOE) to 2.2 billion TOE. The additional production has the potential to reduce crude oil imports by nearly Rs 1 lakh crore annually, strengthening India's energy security and reducing import dependence.

Headline	ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Mission to unlock offshore reserves		
Publication	ANI News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

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<https://www.aninews.in/news/business/ongc-plans-150-deepwater-wells-under-rs-84084-crore-samudra-manthan-mission-to-unlock-offshore-reserves20260801123755>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is set to accelerate deepwater exploration under the Samudra Manthan programme, with plans to drill 150 deepwater wells over seven years and pursue nearly 5,600 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) of deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon potential, as India steps up efforts to strengthen domestic energy security and reduce dependence on imports. At the centre of ONGC 's exploration drive is DeepX, a mission-mode team of more than 30 experts that will work with advanced technologies and global specialists, while using a "One Company, One Data" approach to bring together subsurface intelligence and accelerate exploration decisions. ONGC said the campaign is aimed at converting complex geological data into discoveries and faster development. The push comes after the Union Cabinet approved the Rs 84,084-crore Samudra Manthan, or National Offshore Exploration Scheme, on July 31. The programme is designed to accelerate exploration in deepwater and ultra-deepwater areas through large-scale 2D and 3D seismic surveys, exploratory drilling and common offshore infrastructure. The scheme is also intended to reduce exploration risks, attract investment and boost domestic oil and gas production, thereby strengthening energy security and reducing import dependence.

The government-backed initiative will support scientific exploration of frontier basins, offshore exploratory wells, advanced technology adoption, digital programme management and capacity building. It also seeks to promote global collaboration and develop a domestic oil and gas manufacturing and services ecosystem. ONGC said its exploration campaign is already building on discoveries in India's offshore basins. The company highlighted the Utkal and Konark discoveries in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin, with exploratory well MN-DW18-1-H-D now being drilled around 23 nautical miles from Konark off the Odisha coast. The company said in a social media post that it is also pursuing opportunities across other offshore frontiers. ONGC pointed to promising indications in the Cauvery and Mahanadi basins, alongside established thermogenic gas presence in the Andaman region. With an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore through FY2030-31, Samudra Manthan is expected to strengthen the entire offshore exploration-to-production chain. ONGC said the programme could help unlock new reserves, accelerate development of discoveries and build indigenous deepwater capabilities. The broader objective is to convert India's offshore resource potential into greater domestic production, investment and energy self-reliance. For ONGC , the mission represents a major expansion of its deepwater exploration efforts as India seeks to secure additional hydrocarbon resources beneath its seas.

Headline	ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Mission to unlock offshore reserves		
Publication	Andhra Pradesh Mirror	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Mission to unlock offshore reserves

<https://www.andhrapradeshmirror.com/news/ongc-plans-150-deepwater-wells-under-rs-84084-crore-samudra-manthan-mission-to-unlock-offshore-reserves20260801123752/>

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With an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore through FY2030-31, Samudra Manthan is expected to strengthen the entire offshore exploration-to-production chain. ONGC said the programme could help unlock new reserves, accelerate development of discoveries and build indigenous deepwater capabilities.

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Headline	'Samudra Manthan' to help India cut long-term dependence on oil and gas imports: Ministry		
Publication	Asia Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

'Samudra Manthan' to help India cut long-term dependence on oil and gas imports: Ministry

<https://asiapost.in/samudra-manthan-to-help-india-cut-long-term-dependence-on-oil-and-gas-imports-ministry/>

By creating a robust offshore exploration ecosystem through better data, risk-sharing, common infrastructure and domestic manufacturing capabilities, the Samudra Manthan' scheme will enable India to build national capability in deepwater exploration and production, strengthen our energy-security resilience, and reduce our long-term dependence on imports, Petroleum Ministry said on Saturday.

India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil, with an annual import bill of nearly \$144 billion (approximately Rs 13 lakh crore).

As recent geopolitical developments have demonstrated, secure and uninterrupted access to energy resources is of strategic importance for a rapidly growing economy.

With India's energy demand expected to rise steadily in the coming decades, enhancing domestic oil and gas production is essential for reducing import dependence, strengthening energy resilience, and securing the nation's long-term economic growth, the ministry said in a statement.

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved Samudra Manthan' the National Offshore Exploration Scheme carrying an approved outlay of Rs 84,084 crore for implementation through FY 203031.

It is India's most ambitious offshore exploration mission to date. This approval marks the culmination of a series of transformative reforms undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strengthen India's hydrocarbon exploration and production sector.

Samudra Manthan' builds upon these reforms by translating policy into action and opening a new chapter in India's journey towards energy security and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Since 2014, the government has undertaken a series of structural reforms over the past few years to create an enabling ecosystem for hydrocarbon exploration and production.

More than 99 per cent of the earlier No-Go areas have been removed, making over one million square kilometres of India's Exclusive Economic Zone available for exploration for the first time.

India transitioned from Production Sharing Contracts to Revenue Sharing Contracts, simplifying the fiscal framework and improving transparency while reducing administrative intervention.

The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025 modernised the legal framework governing the sector by providing contractual stability, recognising integrated petroleum operations, strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms, and establishing a contemporary regulatory architecture.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025 operationalised these reforms by promoting ease of doing business, improving regulatory efficiency, and streamlining the administration of petroleum leases.

The government has also standardised the composition and mandate of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries across all contract regimes, ensuring consistency and a level playing field for all operators, irrespective of when their contracts were signed.

Moreover, the performance parameters of ONGC and Oil India have been reoriented to place greater emphasis on exploration activities, reinforcing the Government's commitment to expanding India's domestic hydrocarbon resource base.

Headline	Cabinet okays 'Samudra Manthan' scheme with Rs 84,084 cr outlay		
Publication	Asianet News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

Cabinet okays 'Samudra Manthan' scheme with Rs 84,084 cr outlay

<https://newsable.asianetnews.com/india/cabinet-okays-samudra-manthan-scheme-with-rs-84-084-cr-outlay-articleshow-oipuu06>

The Union Cabinet approved 'Samudra Manthan,' the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, with a Rs 84,084 crore outlay. It aims to boost domestic oil and gas production and reduce India's massive crude oil import bill, strengthening energy security.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, approved "Samudra Manthan", the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas carrying an approved outlay of Rs 84,084 crore for implementation through FY 2030-31.

India's Push for Energy Security

According to an official statement by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil, with an annual import bill of nearly USD 144 billion (approximately Rs 13 lakh crore). As recent geopolitical developments have demonstrated, secure and uninterrupted access to energy resources is of strategic importance for a rapidly growing economy.

A Foundation of Structural Reforms

Since 2014, the Government has undertaken a series of structural reforms over the past few years to create an enabling ecosystem for hydrocarbon exploration and production. More than 99 per cent of the earlier "No-Go" areas have been removed, making over one million square kilometres of India's Exclusive Economic Zone available for exploration for the first time.

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The Government has also standardised the composition and mandate of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries across all contract regimes, ensuring consistency and a level playing field for all operators, irrespective of when their contracts were signed, the release said.

The performance parameters of ONGC and Oil India have been reoriented to place greater emphasis on exploration activities, reinforcing the Government's commitment to expanding India's domestic hydrocarbon resource base.

'Samudra Manthan': The National Offshore Exploration Scheme

The National Offshore Exploration Scheme "Samudra Manthan" marks the transition from policy reforms to mission-mode implementation. Approved as a Central Sector Scheme with a Phase-I outlay of Rs 84,084 crore up to 31 March 2031, the scheme adopts an integrated approach to accelerate offshore hydrocarbon exploration and production.

Scheme Components and Outlay

The scheme comprises four key components. Firstly, acquisition and processing of modern offshore seismic data with an outlay of Rs 28,534 crore. Secondly, drilling of 60 deepwater exploration wells with an allocation of Rs 43,200 crore, including Government support of up to 50% of eligible drilling cost or Rs 675 crore per well, whichever is lower. Also, development of common offshore infrastructure hubs with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore to facilitate commercialisation of

discoveries; and establishment of Oil and Gas Manufacturing and Services Zones with an outlay of Rs 2,000 crore to promote domestic manufacturing and localisation of critical equipment and services.

Aims and Projected Benefits

Subject to exploration success, the National Offshore Exploration Scheme - Samudra Manthan - aims to increase India's domestic oil and gas production from around 62 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) to 80 MMTOE annually and expand the country's hydrocarbon resource base from 1.6 billion tonnes of Oil Equivalent (TOE) to 2.2 billion TOE. The additional production has the potential to reduce crude oil imports by nearly Rs 1 lakh crore annually, strengthening India's energy security and reducing import dependence. (ANI)

(Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by Asianet Newsable English staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)

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Headline	ONGC to drill 150 deepwater wells under Samudra Manthan programme		
Publication	Asianet News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC to drill 150 deepwater wells under Samudra Manthan programme

<https://newsable.asianetnews.com/business/ongc-to-drill-150-deepwater-wells-under-samudra-manthan-programme-articleshow-az4npr5>

ONGC is launching a major deepwater exploration drive under the Samudra Manthan programme. It plans to drill 150 wells over seven years to pursue nearly 5,600 MMTOE of hydrocarbon potential, aiming to bolster India's energy security.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is set to accelerate deepwater exploration under the Samudra Manthan programme, with plans to drill 150 deepwater wells over seven years and pursue nearly 5,600 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) of deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon potential, as India steps up efforts to strengthen domestic energy security and reduce dependence on imports.

'DeepX' Team to Steer Exploration

At the centre of ONGC's exploration drive is DeepX, a mission-mode team of more than 30 experts that will work with advanced technologies and global specialists, while using a "One Company, One Data" approach to bring together subsurface intelligence and accelerate exploration decisions. ONGC said the campaign is aimed at converting complex geological data into discoveries and faster development.

Govt Approves Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Scheme

The push comes after the Union Cabinet approved the Rs 84,084-crore Samudra Manthan, or National Offshore Exploration Scheme, on July 31. The programme is designed to accelerate exploration in deepwater and ultra-deepwater areas through large-scale 2D and 3D seismic surveys, exploratory drilling and common offshore infrastructure.

The scheme is also intended to reduce exploration risks, attract investment and boost domestic oil and gas production, thereby strengthening energy security and reducing import dependence. The government-backed initiative will support scientific exploration of frontier basins, offshore exploratory wells, advanced technology adoption, digital programme management and capacity building. It also seeks to promote global collaboration and develop a domestic oil and gas manufacturing and services ecosystem.

Focus on Promising Basins

ONGC said its exploration campaign is already building on discoveries in India's offshore basins. The company highlighted the Utkal and Konark discoveries in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin, with exploratory well MN-DW18-1-H-D now being drilled around 23 nautical miles from Konark off the Odisha coast. The company said in a social media post that it is also pursuing opportunities across other offshore frontiers. ONGC pointed to promising indications in the Cauvery and Mahanadi basins, alongside established thermogenic gas presence in the Andaman region.

Aiming for Energy Self-Reliance

With an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore through FY2030-31, Samudra Manthan is expected to strengthen the entire offshore exploration-to-production chain. ONGC said the programme could help unlock new reserves, accelerate development of discoveries and build indigenous deepwater capabilities. The broader objective is to convert India's offshore resource potential into greater domestic production, investment and energy self-reliance.

For ONGC, the mission represents a major expansion of its deepwater exploration efforts as India seeks to secure additional hydrocarbon resources beneath its seas. (ANI)

(Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by Asianetnews Editorial staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)

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to make informed financial decisions. Download the Asianet News Official App from the Android Play Store and iPhone App Store to stay ahead in business.

Headline	'Samudra Manthan' to help India cut long-term dependence on oil and gas imports: Ministry		
Publication	Bhaskar Live	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

'Samudra Manthan' to help India cut long-term dependence on oil and gas imports: Ministry

<https://bhaskarlive.in/samudra-manthan-to-help-india-cut-long-term-dependence-on-oil-and-gas-imports-ministry/>

By creating a robust offshore exploration ecosystem through better data, risk-sharing, common infrastructure and domestic manufacturing capabilities, the Samudra Manthan' scheme will enable India to build national capability in deepwater exploration and production, strengthen our energy-security resilience, and reduce our long-term dependence on imports, Petroleum Ministry said on Saturday.

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It is India's most ambitious offshore exploration mission to date. This approval marks the culmination of a series of transformative reforms undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strengthen India's hydrocarbon exploration and production sector.

Samudra Manthan' builds upon these reforms by translating policy into action and opening a new chapter in India's journey towards energy security and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Since 2014, the government has undertaken a series of structural reforms over the past few years to create an enabling ecosystem for hydrocarbon exploration and production.

More than 99 per cent of the earlier No-Go areas have been removed, making over one million square kilometres of India's Exclusive Economic Zone available for exploration for the first time.

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The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025 modernised the legal framework governing the sector by providing contractual stability, recognising integrated petroleum operations, strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms, and establishing a contemporary regulatory architecture.

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The government has also standardised the composition and mandate of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries across all contract regimes, ensuring consistency and a level playing field for all operators, irrespective of when their contracts were signed. Moreover, the performance parameters of ONGC and Oil India have been reoriented to place greater emphasis on exploration activities, reinforcing the Government's commitment to expanding India's domestic hydrocarbon resource base.

Headline	Cabinet approves "Samudra Manthan" national offshore exploration scheme with outlay of Rs 84,084 crore		
Publication	Bihar 24x7	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

Cabinet approves "Samudra Manthan" national offshore exploration scheme with outlay of Rs 84,084 crore

<https://www.bihar24x7.com/news/cabinet-approves-samudra-manthan-national-offshore-exploration-scheme-with-outlay-of-rs-84084-crore20260801111020/>

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According to an official statement by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil, with an annual import bill of nearly USD 144 billion (approximately Rs 13 lakh crore). As recent geopolitical developments have demonstrated, secure and uninterrupted access to energy resources is of strategic importance for a rapidly growing economy.

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Headline	ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Mission to unlock offshore reserves		
Publication	Bihar 24x7	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

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<https://www.bihar24x7.com/news/ongc-plans-150-deepwater-wells-under-rs-84084-crore-samudra-manthan-mission-to-unlock-offshore-reserves20260801123752/>

New Delhi [India, August 1 : Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is set to accelerate deepwater exploration under the Samudra Manthan programme, with

plans to drill 150 deepwater wells over seven years and pursue nearly 5,600 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) of deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon potential, as India steps up efforts to strengthen domestic energy security and reduce dependence on imports.

At the centre of ONGC's exploration drive is DeepX, a mission-mode team of more than 30 experts that will work with advanced technologies and global specialists, while using a "One Company, One Data" approach to bring together subsurface intelligence and accelerate exploration decisions. ONGC said the campaign is aimed at converting complex geological data into discoveries and faster development.

The push comes after the Union Cabinet approved the Rs 84,084-crore Samudra Manthan, or National Offshore Exploration Scheme, on July 31. The programme is designed to accelerate exploration in deepwater and ultra-deepwater areas through large-scale 2D and 3D seismic surveys, exploratory drilling and common offshore infrastructure. The scheme is also intended to reduce exploration risks, attract investment and boost domestic oil and gas production, thereby strengthening energy security and reducing import dependence.

The government-backed initiative will support scientific exploration of frontier basins, offshore exploratory wells, advanced technology adoption, digital programme management and capacity building. It also seeks to promote global collaboration and develop a domestic oil and gas manufacturing and services ecosystem.

ONGC said its exploration campaign is already building on discoveries in India's offshore basins. The company highlighted the Utkal and Konark discoveries in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin, with exploratory well MN-DW18-1-H-D now being drilled around 23 nautical miles from Konark off the Odisha coast.

The company said in a social media post that it is also pursuing opportunities across other offshore frontiers. ONGC pointed to promising indications in the Cauvery and Mahanadi basins, alongside established thermogenic gas presence in the Andaman region.

With an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore through FY2030-31, Samudra Manthan is expected to strengthen the entire offshore exploration-to-production chain. ONGC said the programme could help unlock new reserves, accelerate development of discoveries and build indigenous deepwater capabilities.

The broader objective is to convert India's offshore resource potential into greater domestic production, investment and energy self-reliance. For ONGC, the mission represents a major expansion of its deepwater exploration efforts as India seeks to secure additional hydrocarbon resources beneath its seas.

Headline	'Samudra Manthan' to help India cut long-term dependence on oil and gas imports: Ministry		
Publication	Bilkul Bazaar	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

'Samudra Manthan' to help India cut long-term dependence on oil and gas imports: Ministry

<https://bilkulbazaar.com/samudra-manthan-to-help-india-cut-long-term-dependence-on-oil-and-gas-imports-ministry/>

By creating a robust offshore exploration ecosystem through better data, risk-sharing, common infrastructure and domestic manufacturing capabilities, the Samudra Manthan' scheme will enable India to build national capability in deepwater exploration and production, strengthen our energy-security resilience, and reduce our long-term dependence on imports, Petroleum Ministry said on Saturday.

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As recent geopolitical developments have demonstrated, secure and uninterrupted access to energy resources is of strategic importance for a rapidly growing economy.

Nifty, Sensex gain over 2.5 pc this week as crude prices ease; rupee stays strong

With India's energy demand expected to rise steadily in the coming decades, enhancing domestic oil and gas production is essential for reducing import dependence, strengthening energy resilience, and securing the nation's long-term economic growth, the ministry said in a statement.

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Headline	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation announces senior management changes		
Publication	Business Upturn	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

Oil & Natural Gas Corporation announces senior management changes

<https://businessupturn.com/business/oil-natural-gas-corporation-announces-senior-management-changes/>

Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has announced changes in its senior management team, effective from 1 August 2026.

The company, in a regulatory filing with the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), disclosed that two of its Executive Directors, Amal Krishna and Madhukar Mohan, have retired via superannuation.

Amal Krishna and Madhukar Mohan both held the position of Executive Director, which is one level below the Board of Directors at ONGC. The company has not yet announced their successors or any pertinent restructuring within the management team following these superannuations.

Superannuation refers to the retirement of an employee after reaching a certain age or completing a specified period of service, and it often signals a period of transition within a company's leadership structure. The departure of high-level executives like Krishna and Mohan could potentially lead to new strategies and operational approaches in the company.

ONGC, with its headquarters located at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, is a major public sector enterprise recognised for its contributions to India's energy sector. The organisation frequently undergoes leadership changes as part of its continuous efforts to enhance operational efficiency and maintain its competitive edge in the oil and gas industry.

The company's disclosure about this management change was made following the guidelines under Regulation 30 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. It has been reported for the information and record of stakeholders and the general public.

ONGC's continued compliance with these regulations reinforces its commitment to transparency and good corporate governance practices, ensuring that its stakeholders are kept informed of significant developments within the company.

As the company navigates these executive transitions, ONGC stakeholders will be keenly observing how these changes impact the organisation's strategic direction and performance in the competitive energy sector.

Headline	ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under ₹84,084-crore Samudra Manthan Mission		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under ₹84,084-crore Samudra Manthan Mission

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/ongc-plans-150-deepwater-wells-under-84084-crore-samudra-manthan-mission/132785436>

ONGC will drill 150 deepwater wells over seven years. The Samudra Manthan scheme aims to boost domestic oil and gas exploration.

This initiative will utilise advanced technologies and global specialists for faster discoveries.

The government approved 84,084 crore for this ambitious offshore exploration program. The goal is to strengthen energy security and reduce import dependence.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is set to accelerate deepwater exploration under the Samudra Manthan programme, with plans to drill 150 deepwater wells over seven years and pursue nearly 5,600 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) of deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon potential, as India steps up efforts to strengthen domestic energy security and reduce dependence on imports.

At the centre of ONGC's exploration drive is DeepX, a mission-mode team of more than 30 experts that will work with advanced technologies and global specialists, while using a "One Company, One Data" approach to bring together subsurface intelligence and accelerate exploration decisions. ONGC said the campaign is aimed at converting complex geological data into discoveries and faster development.

The push comes after the Union Cabinet approved the 84,084-crore Samudra Manthan, or National Offshore Exploration Scheme, on July 31. The programme is designed to accelerate exploration in deepwater and ultra-deepwater areas through large-scale 2D and 3D seismic surveys, exploratory drilling and common offshore infrastructure. The scheme is also intended to reduce exploration risks, attract investment and boost domestic oil and gas production, thereby strengthening energy security and reducing import dependence.

The government-backed initiative will support scientific exploration of frontier basins, offshore exploratory wells, advanced technology adoption, digital programme management and capacity building. It also seeks to promote global collaboration and develop a domestic oil and gas manufacturing and services ecosystem.

ONGC said its exploration campaign is already building on discoveries in India's offshore basins. The company highlighted the Utkal and Konark discoveries in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin, with exploratory well MN-DW18-1-H-D now being drilled around 23 nautical miles from Konark off the Odisha coast.

The company said in a social media post that it is also pursuing opportunities across other offshore frontiers. ONGC pointed to promising indications in the Cauvery and Mahanadi basins, alongside established thermogenic gas presence in the Andaman region.

With an outlay of 84,084 crore through FY2030-31, Samudra Manthan is expected to strengthen the entire offshore exploration-to-production chain. ONGC said the programme could help unlock new reserves, accelerate development of discoveries and build indigenous deepwater capabilities.

The broader objective is to convert India's offshore resource potential into greater domestic production, investment and energy self-reliance. For ONGC, the mission represents a major expansion of its deepwater exploration efforts as India seeks to secure additional hydrocarbon resources beneath its seas.

Headline	ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Mission to unlock offshore reserves		
Publication	Lokmat Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Mission to unlock offshore reserves

<https://www.lokmatimes.com/business/ongc-plans-150-deepwater-wells-under-rs-84084-crore-samudra-manthan-mission-to-unlock-offshore-reserves/>

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Headline	GRSE shares surges mildly after gaining significant order from ONGC Ltd		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

GRSE shares surges mildly after gaining significant order from ONGC Ltd

<https://www.psuconnect.in/stock/grse-shares-surges-mildly-after-gaining-significant-order-from-ongc-ltd>

Defense major PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders Ltd. (GRSE) shares are witnessing a marginal rise of 0.34% at Rs 2,595.00 in the recent early morning trade of the stock exchange.

Defense major PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders Ltd. (GRSE) shares are witnessing a marginal rise of 0.34% at Rs 2,595.00 in the recent early morning trade of the stock exchange. This surge has been experienced due to the order gains from another public sector firm ONGC Ltd.

According to the exchange filing, the company has received the Notification of Award (NOA) on 30 Jul 2026 for Construction of Four (4) Platform Supply Vessels' for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) at a total value of Rs 1032.07 crore.

Further, the project is to be completed within 48 months from the date of NOA. The nature of order is of construction and delivery of the vessel.

The company has delivered a strong financial report during the June-end quarter, reporting a revenue from operations of Rs 1,814.62 crore and a net profit of Rs 172.84 crore.

The average 12-month target price for GRSE is approximately Rs 3,146.00, which demonstrates an expected upside of about 21.8% from its recent trading price of Rs 2,581.50.

Headline	ONGC Two Executive Directors Superannuate Effective 1 August 2026		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC Two Executive Directors Superannuate Effective 1 August 2026

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-two-executive-directors-superannuate-effective-1-august-2026>

ONGC Executive Directors Shri Amal Krishna (CISO) and Shri Madhukar Mohan superannuate effective 1 August 2026 after more than 35 years of service each.

New Delhi, August 1, 2026: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has informed the stock exchanges that two Executive Directors (one level below the Board) have superannuated with effect from 1 August 2026.

Executives who superannuated

Shri Amal Krishna, Executive Director

Shri Madhukar Mohan, Executive Director

About Shri Amal Krishna

Shri Amal Krishna served as Executive Director & Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) of ONGC.

A Telecommunications Engineer from Patna University with a PG Diploma in Management from IGNOU, he joined ONGC in 1989 as AEE (Telecom) at Ankleshwar.

Over a career spanning more than 35 years, he worked across Ankleshwar, Mumbai, Dehradun, Sivasagar, Nazira and Delhi. He played a key role in building ONGC's information and communication backbone, covering field communication, SCADA, microwave and offshore radio systems, IT infrastructure, digital initiatives and cyber security.

He earlier held positions as Head IT and Chief Digital & Technology before taking charge as CISO.

About Shri Madhukar Mohan

Shri Madhukar Mohan is a Mechanical Engineer who joined ONGC in 1989.

His career of over 35 years covered production operations, artificial lift systems, asset management, coal bed methane (CBM) and international upstream ventures.

He served at Karaikal, Mumbai Offshore, Nazira, Ahmedabad and Bokaro. He later took up leadership roles with ONGC Videsh, including Project Manager in Mozambique, Regional President for Mozambique, and Country Manager Colombia.

The disclosure was made under Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Headline	ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL) announces Polypropylene (PP) and Polyethylene (PE) price revisions in the domestic markets of India		
Publication	Polymer Update	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL) announces Polypropylene (PP) and Polyethylene (PE) price revisions in the domestic markets of India

<https://www.polymerupdate.com/News/Details/1501183/breaking>

01 Aug 2026 10:32 IST

Headline	ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-crore Samudra Manthan Mission		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-crore Samudra Manthan Mission

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/ongc-plans-150-deepwater-wells-under-rs-84084-crore-samudra-manthan-mission/articleshow/132784869.cms>

ONGC will drill 150 deepwater wells over seven years. The Samudra Manthan scheme aims to boost domestic oil and gas exploration. This initiative will utilize advanced technologies and global specialists for faster discoveries. The government approved Rs 84,084 crore for this ambitious offshore exploration program. The goal is to strengthen energy security and reduce import dependence.

New Delhi:) is set to accelerate under the programme, with plans to drill 150 deepwater wells over seven years and pursue nearly 5,600 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) of deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon potential, as India steps up efforts to strengthen domestic energy security and reduce dependence on imports.

At the centre of ONGC's exploration drive is DeepX, a mission-mode team of more than 30 experts that will work with advanced technologies and global specialists, while using a "One Company, One Data" approach to bring together subsurface intelligence and accelerate exploration decisions. ONGC said the campaign is aimed at converting complex geological data into discoveries and faster development.

The push comes after the Union Cabinet approved the Rs 84,084-crore Samudra Manthan, or , on July 31. The programme is designed to accelerate exploration in deepwater and ultra-deepwater areas through large-scale 2D and 3D seismic surveys, exploratory drilling and common offshore infrastructure. The scheme is also intended to reduce exploration risks, attract investment and boost domestic oil and gas production, thereby strengthening energy security and reducing import dependence.

The government-backed initiative will support scientific exploration of frontier basins, offshore exploratory wells, advanced technology adoption, digital programme management and capacity building. It also seeks to promote global collaboration and develop a domestic oil and gas manufacturing and services ecosystem.

ONGC said its exploration campaign is already building on discoveries in India's offshore basins. The company highlighted the Utkal and Konark discoveries in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin, with exploratory well MN-DW18-1-H-D now being drilled around 23 nautical miles from Konark off the Odisha coast.

The company said in a social media post that it is also pursuing opportunities across other offshore frontiers. ONGC pointed to promising indications in the Cauvery and Mahanadi basins, alongside established thermogenic gas presence in the Andaman region.

With an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore through FY2030-31, Samudra Manthan is expected to strengthen the entire offshore exploration-to-production chain. ONGC said the programme could help unlock new reserves, accelerate development of discoveries and build indigenous deepwater capabilities.

The broader objective is to convert India's offshore resource potential into greater domestic production, investment and energy self-reliance. For ONGC, the mission represents a major expansion of its deepwater exploration efforts as India seeks to secure additional hydrocarbon resources beneath its seas.

Headline	Centre approves Rs 84,000-crore deep-sea oil and gas exploration scheme to boost energy output		
Publication	The New Indian Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

Centre approves Rs 84,000-crore deep-sea oil and gas exploration scheme to boost energy output

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/india/2026/Aug/01/centre-approves-rs-84000-crore-deep-sea-oil-and-gas-exploration-scheme-to-boost-energy-output>

NEW DELHI: In a bid to increase domestic oil and gas production, the Centre on Friday approved the Rs 84,000-crore Samudra Manthan scheme to accelerate deep-sea exploration.

According to the petroleum ministry, the scheme will add 600 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MTOE) to India's hydrocarbon reserves. It is also projected to enhance the annual domestic oil and gas production by 10-15 MTOE.

The biggest share of the scheme Rs 43,200 crore has been earmarked to support the drilling of 60 deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploration wells. The government will provide financial support to state-run ONGC and Oil India as well as private exploration firms to encourage drilling in deepwater areas where exploration is expensive and risky.

The support comes after the government opened 99% of the offshore areas earlier classified as no-go' zones due to defence and space-related curbs.

Another Rs 28,500 crore has been allocated for large-scale 2D and 3D offshore seismic surveys and advanced data processing using technologies such as artificial intelligence. The surveys will help create detailed maps of the seabed and find locations for drilling.

The scheme also provides Rs 10,000 crore to build common offshore infrastructure for developing stranded discoveries in basins such as Mahanadi and Kutch, where high evacuation costs have made projects commercially unviable.

In addition, Rs 2,000 crore has been allocated to set up an Oil and Gas Manufacturing and Services Zone to promote domestic manufacturing of oilfield equipment and services.

The Centre expects the move to cut imports and strengthen the domestic supply chain.

Rs 5,070 crore Floating solar scheme

To boost India's solar power generation, the government approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana, a Rs 5,070-crore scheme to set up 5,000 MW (5GW) of floating solar power projects over the next five years. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India currently has 0.7 GW of installed floating solar capacity.

Headline	ONGC to help restore flood-hit schools in Assam's Sivasagar and Charaideo		
Publication	The Telegraph	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC to help restore flood-hit schools in Assam's Sivasagar and Charaideo

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/north-east/ongc-to-help-restore-flood-hit-schools-in-assams-sivasagar-and-charaideo-prnt/cid/2172777>

Official sources said 1,349 schools in the two districts 982 in Sivasagar and 367 in Charaideo were affected by the unprecedented floods that hit the districts on July 19, wreaking havoc

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has decided to support the restoration of educational institutions damaged by the devastating floods in Sivasagar and Charaideo districts.

Official sources said 1,349 schools in the two districts 982 in Sivasagar and 367 in Charaideo were affected by the unprecedented floods that hit the districts on July 19, wreaking havoc.

ADVERTISEMENT

An official statement said: ONGC Assam Asset has decided in principle to undertake the initiative under its Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Environmental Responsibility programmes.

It added: The public sector undertaking (PSU) will work in coordination with the Government of Assam and the district administrations to identify priority educational institutions for assistance, subject to statutory approvals and budgetary provisions.

Speaking to reporters after distributing essential food items and medicines among flood-affected families at Ghilaguri in Betbari, Sivasagar, on Thursday, ONGC Assam Asset manager Uday Paswan said the company was committed to supporting the restoration and rehabilitation of educational institutions affected by the floods.

He said ONGC had assured chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of its support and promised full cooperation to the government in its rebuilding and restoration efforts.

To provide fresh school uniforms to students in the flood-affected districts, the state government on Friday decided to release about 8 crore from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

Paswan also said ONGC Assam Asset had itself suffered extensive losses due to the floods. Although the PSU's operations are yet to return to normal following the inundation of Sivasagar and Nazira, the company has continued to stand by the flood-affected people with a sense of responsibility during the crisis and would continue extending assistance to the affected communities in the days ahead.

The floods disrupted the lives of hundreds of families living in ONGC's residential colonies in Sivasagar, Nazira and Lakwa, besides adversely affecting the PSU's drilling and production activities, an official said.

Headline	ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Mission to unlock offshore reserves		
Publication	The Tribune	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Mission to unlock offshore reserves

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/ongc-plans-150-deepwater-wells-under-rs-84084-crore-samudra-manthan-mission-to-unlock-offshore-reserves/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is set to accelerate deepwater exploration under the Samudra Manthan programme, with plans to drill 150 deepwater wells over seven years and pursue nearly 5,600 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) of deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon potential, as India steps up efforts to strengthen domestic energy security and reduce dependence on imports.

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With an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore through FY2030-31, Samudra Manthan is expected to strengthen the entire offshore exploration-to-production chain. ONGC said the programme could help unlock new reserves, accelerate development of discoveries and build indigenous deepwater capabilities.

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Publication	West Bengal Khabar	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

ONGC plans 150 deepwater wells under Rs 84,084-Crore Samudra Manthan Mission to unlock offshore reserves

<https://www.westbengalkhabar.in/news/ongc-plans-150-deepwater-wells-under-rs-84084-crore-samudra-manthan-mission-to-unlock-offshore-reserves20260801123752/>

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Headline	Commercial LPG cylinder prices cut by over ₹200 in Delhi, Kolkata after steep hikes		
Publication	Deccan Herald	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

Commercial LPG cylinder prices cut by over ₹200 in Delhi, Kolkata after steep hikes

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/commercial-lpg-cylinder-prices-cut-by-over-200-in-delhi-kolkata-after-steep-hikes-4095336>

Following the cut, a commercial LPG cylinder will cost Rs 2,728 in Delhi and Rs 2,872.50 in Kolkata from Saturday.

The government on Saturday (August 1) cut the prices of 19 kg commercial LPG cylinders by more than Rs 200 in Delhi and Kolkata, according to ANI report. This comes after months of steep hikes due to the West Asian crisis.

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

The price of the commercial LPG cylinder has been slashed by Rs 202 in Delhi and Rs 209 in Kolkata, effective immediately.

Following the cut, a commercial LPG cylinder will cost Rs 2,728 in Delhi and Rs 2,872.50 in Kolkata from Saturday.

However, there is no price change for the 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders supplied to household, ANI reported citing sources.

This is the second consecutive monthly cut after a similar reduction in July, marginally reversing the steep increase in the previous months as global LPG prices rose amid supply concerns linked to the Iran war.

The cuts come two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a nearly two-hour long meeting in Parliament with senior ministers and top officials to assess the India's readiness in the wake of the escalating conflict in West Asia.

The meeting was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, among others.

According to reports, all ministries updated on the measures taken to manage the situation, while the overall fuel supply crisis was reviewed in detail. The government reiterated that there is no shortage of LPG, petrol or diesel in the country despite the geopolitical tensions.

India is the world's third-largest importer of oil and the second-largest buyer of LPG. The country faced disruptions due to the blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, a passage that accounts for 20 per cent of global oil shipments.

As the war rages in Iran and the neighbouring regions, India has planned to buy a quarter of its LPG needs from the United States from 2027, as reported by Reuters earlier this week. The move aims to reduce its reliance on the Middle East and support efforts to finalise a trade deal with Washington.

India has already upped its spot purchases from the US and other suppliers to reduce Middle East supplies.

Headline	Does E20 impact mileage? Nitin Gadkari says 2-6%, Petroleum Ministry gives different figure		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

Does E20 impact mileage? Nitin Gadkari says 2-6%, Petroleum Ministry gives different figure

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/economy/does-e20-impact-mileage-nitin-gadkari-says-2-6-petroleum-ministry-gives-different-figure/ar-AA29aJKW>

Amid nationwide concerns over blending of petrol with ethanol 80 per cent petrol and 20 per cent ethanol shown by vehicle owners that it may impact their vehicles' engines or impact mileage, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari informed the Parliament on Friday that the use of E20 may impact fuel economy by 2-6 per cent depending upon the vehicle category and vintage.

While the Union Minister said that there could be a drop of 2-6 per cent in fuel economy, a few days ago, the Petroleum ministry had said that the use of E20-powered petrol may impact 3-5 per cent on a vehicles' mileage. The Petroleum ministry comes under Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

However, the Union Minister Gadkari informed that engine durability tests on a dynamometer and on-road vehicle tests have not shown any failures over the use of blending petrol.

In fact, Gadkari said that E20 fuel provides better accelerations, improved ride quality, and around 30 per cent lower carbon emissions compared to E10.

In a written reply in Lok Sabha, as the monsoon session is underway, Gadkari informed that a study had been conducted to evaluate the effect of E20 on BS-III, BS-IV, and BS-VI E10 (gasoline) two-wheelers and four-wheelers. The study was carried out jointly by ARAI, SIAM, and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL).

The study comprised standard testing as per the respective certification requirements and customized test protocols developed along with the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

"The fuel efficiency of vehicles may be reduced by 2 to 6 per cent depending on the vehicle category and vintage. The tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and vehicle tests on the road have not shown any failures due to E20," the minister said.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6M_IzRKymI

Why People Are Concerned Over Use of E20? The rollout of E20 petrol 80 per cent petrol, 20 per cent ethanol has drawn criticism from opposition parties and some consumer groups, who have raised concerns about its impact on older vehicles not specifically designed for 20 per cent ethanol blends. Critics have questioned whether all vehicles are fully compatible with E20, flagged the possibility of reduced fuel efficiency and higher maintenance costs, and sought clarity on liability if engine or fuel-system problems arise.

What's the Govt View on E20?

The government has maintained that the transition has been phased and backed by extensive testing, while automobile manufacturers have said they continue to honour warranty claims for vehicles using E20 fuel.

Opposition Demands Transparency

Opposition parties have repeatedly sought greater transparency on vehicle compatibility and consumer safeguards.

The minister explained that the Ethanol blended petrol (EBP) programme has been implemented through a phased, scientifically validated, and consultative process involving NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), and other technical institutions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEV1IOCRcf8>

In India, he said the ethanol blended petrol (EBP) programme commenced with a pilot in 2001, E5 was introduced in 2006, and although blending remained around 1.53 per cent in 2013-14, it has since been increased progressively in a calibrated manner after creating the necessary production capacity, infrastructure, and regulatory framework.

According to him, E15+ blended petrol has been in widespread use for over three-and-a-half years, and E19-E20 fuel for over two-and-a-half years.

Gadkari noted that more than 20 crore two-wheelers and over 3 crore petrol cars have been operating on these blends without any verified evidence of widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending.

"Manufacturer service data confirm that there is no abnormal corrosion, wear, or reduction in vehicle life due to E20 fuel," he said, adding that manufacturers continue to honour warranty obligations for vehicles using E20 fuel, providing further confidence in its safety and reliability.

BS, or Bharat Stage, refers to India's vehicle emission standards that set limits on pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), hydrocarbons (HC), and particulate matter (PM).

Headline	Kejriwal raises E20 stakes, says will take 100 people unafraid of lathis to PM's home on August 4		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

Kejriwal raises E20 stakes, says will take 100 people unafraid of lathis to PM's home on August 4

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/kejriwal-raises-e20-stakes-says-will-take-100-people-unafraid-of-lathis-to-pm-s-home-on-august-4/ar-AA29crXh>

Aam Aadmi Party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced that he would walk towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence on August 4 (Tuesday) with a group of 100 people "who are not afraid of lathis" to submit printouts of petitions signed by more than two lakh citizens against the Centre's E20 petrol policy.

The declaration came at the end of his National Town Hall Against E20 at the Constitution Club in New Delhi on Saturday, where he linked the rollout of 20% ethanol-blended fuel to a recent India-US trade deal and alleged that the policy was being imposed "to keep America happy". AAP leaders flagged the heavy presence of Rapid Action Force and Delhi Police personnel outside the venue.

Delhi recently saw huge protests over the NEET-UG paper leak issue. Dhammendra Pradhan had to resign as the Union Education Minister after a police crackdown on protesters on July 20 made the crowds swell.

Addressing a large gathering that people had also joined in virtually, Kejriwal said the online petition launched a few days earlier had already crossed two lakh signatures. "I have taken printouts of them. On Tuesday, August 4, at noon, I will personally go towards the Prime Minister's residence to submit all those petitions. There is no need for everyone to come. I will take 100 such people with me who are not afraid of lathis," he said, inviting volunteers to tag him and write to him if they wished to join the march.

This came even as activist Tehseen Poonawalla faced house arrest in New Delhi . Poonawalla had planned a march to Gandhi Smriti and a day-long hunger strike against the Centre's implementation of the E20 programme.

KEJRIWAL'S THREE DEMANDS ON E20 PETROL

The AAP leader listed three clear demands that received vocal support from the audience.

First, motorists must be given a choice at petrol pumps between pure petrol and E20 so that the market can decide. The second demand was pure petrol should be priced lower than E20, which has 20% ethanol in petrol. The third demand was that petrol should be sold at less than Rs 84 a litre. "Do you accept these three demands? So today we make these three demands," Kejriwal said, urging the Prime Minister to discuss the matter in the Cabinet and withdraw the decision.

Kejriwal argued that ethanol was costlier than petrol once taxes are removed, delivers lower mileage because of its lower caloric value, does not save foreign exchange as claimed, and has left farmers near ethanol plants suffering from water scarcity, pollution and damaged land.

The AAP leader rejected suggestions that the policy was meant to benefit Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's family, saying he did not believe PM Modi was acting for that reason. Instead, he claimed a recently signed India-US trade deal requiring India to buy \$100 billion of American goods over five years was the real driver.

America, the world's largest ethanol producer with limited domestic demand, was finding a market in India, Kejriwal said. Imports, according to him, had already risen sharply and were set to jump five-fold this year to five billion litres, almost entirely from the United States, costing India billions of dollars.

"To keep America happy, ethanol is being forcibly imposed on our country," Kejriwal said, adding that ordinary vehicle owners were paying the price.

HEAVY RAF, CRPF PRESENCE OUTSIDE AAP'S NATIONAL TOWNHALL VENUE

Outside the Constitution Club, a heavy security presence was already in place before the Town Hall began. AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj, speaking in a video posted on X, said Rapid Action Force personnel, CRPF, Delhi Police and women officers had been deployed in large numbers. "Hundreds, and perhaps even thousands, of Rapid Action Force, CRPF and Delhi Police have arrived. All of them are fully present in front of the Constitution Club hall," he said.

The E20 issue has gained political momentum after the recent Cockroach Janta Party agitation forced the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan.

Kejriwal repeatedly invoked that success, telling the crowd that once citizens lose their fear of police action and jail, "the throne begins to shake". He urged people across the country to post videos, tag him and amplify the campaign, declaring that agencies such as the ED, CBI and Income Tax would prove inadequate if 140 crore Indians raised their voice together.

TEHSEEN POONAWALLA SAYS HE'S UNDER HOUSE ARREST

Separately, activist Tehseen Poonawalla, who had planned a silent march to Gandhi Smriti followed by a hunger strike against the same E20 policy, claimed he was placed under house arrest by Delhi Police on Saturday morning. In videos posted from his residence, Poonawalla showed police personnel, including women officers, stationed at his door and questioned an officer about the absence of any formal order.

"An entire battalion of Delhi Police, including women officers, has put me under house arrest! Nitin Gadkari is scared of ethanol," he wrote on X. Poonawalla has been a vocal critic of the ethanol-blending programme and of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for weeks. His earlier plan for a larger march near Parliament Street had been called off after Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri met his representatives and sought more time.

Vehicle owners and several organisations have complained that the rapid shift to E20 has reduced fuel efficiency, affected engine performance and raised maintenance costs, even as the Centre maintains that the blend does not damage vehicles though a drop in mileage is possible. With Kejriwal now taking the issue to the Prime Minister's doorstep and Poonawalla's protest disrupted by alleged house arrest, the ethanol-blending programme is shaping up as the next political flashpoint in New Delhi.

Headline	Petrol would've hit Rs 125/litre in Delhi without ethanol blend, says govt		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	1 Aug 2026		

Petrol would've hit Rs 125/litre in Delhi without ethanol blend, says govt

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/petrol-wouldve-hit-rs-125/litre-in-delhi-without-ethanol-blend-says-govt/articleshow/132781712.cms>

Petrol in Delhi would have cost around Rs 125 a litre when global crude prices touched \$135 a barrel, had oil companies not blended ethanol into the fuel, the petroleum ministry said on Friday, defending the ethanol programme against claims about its costs, food security impact, and alleged taxpayer subsidy. The ministry said consumers instead paid Rs 94.77 per litre, since ethanol procured domestically at pre-agreed prices made up 20% of every litre and helped insulate retail prices from the crude spike, saving nearly Rs 30 a litre at the peak of the crisis. The government held petrol and diesel prices steady for nearly 75 days after the West Asia conflict began on February 28, before raising them by Rs 7.5 a litre in May. Standard E20 petrol (91-octane) now costs Rs 102.12 a litre in Delhi, while 100-octane petrol is priced at Rs 169. The ministry also denied allegations that foodgrain meant for the poor was being diverted for ethanol production, or that subsidised FCI rice was being used to support the programme. On the question of fuel efficiency, the road transport ministry citing a study by ARAI, SIAM and IOC told the Lok Sabha on Thursday that BS-III, BS-IV and BS-VI vehicles designed for E10 fuel may see efficiency drop by 2-6% depending on vehicle category and age when run on E20. The oil ministry had earlier told the Rajya Sabha on July 20 that the reduction in such vehicles is limited to about 3-5%. Both ministries said the Ethanol Blended Petrol programme was rolled out through a phased, scientifically validated process, with blending levels raised gradually as production capacity and infrastructure were built up. Road transport minister Nitin Gadkari told the Lok Sabha that the shift to E20 followed validation of fuel systems, engine durability, drivability, material compatibility and emissions performance, with automakers, oil marketing companies, and the sugar and grain industries consulted throughout. The government added that lab studies and real-world data have shown no adverse impact on vehicle performance from E20 fuel, noting that over 20 crore two-wheelers and 3 crore-plus petrol cars have run on these blends without verified evidence of engine failure linked to ethanol blending. Stay updated with the latest Delhi news.

Headline	Brent crude down 8.7% this week: What next for oil prices, rupee and fuel rates?		
Publication	Zee Business	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Aug 2026		

Brent crude down 8.7% this week: What next for oil prices, rupee and fuel rates?

<https://www.zeebiz.com/markets/commodities/news-brent-crude-down-87-this-week-what-next-for-oil-prices-rupee-and-fuel-rates-399757>

At the current level, Brent is up 47.7 per cent on a year-to-date basis. However, the benchmark remains 28.4 per cent below a four-year peak touched earlier this year.

International oil benchmark Brent closed at \$90.2 per barrel on Friday, July 31, gaining \$3.4 or 3.9 per cent during the session. The global benchmark traded between \$87.1 and \$90.2 a barrel before settling at the day's high. For the week, oil fell 8.7 per cent, reflecting a sharp reversal in sentiment after recent geopolitical tensions had pushed prices towards the \$100 mark.

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Oil prices gained from the previous day's close of \$86.9 after foreign media reports suggested that some tankers were forced to turn around in the Strait of Hormuz -- a crucial sea route where disruptions have kept crude oil rates elevated for much of this year.

The reports prompted traders to reassess shipping flows through the key waterway, which remains central to the US-Iran conflict and the global oil market.

The Strait of Hormuz has been effectively closed amid reported violations of a fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran established earlier this month.

Normally, the waterway -- which links the Gulf of Oman with the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea -- handles around one-fifth of global oil and gas supplies, making any prolonged disruption a major concern for energy markets.

The latest move in crude highlights how sensitive oil prices remain to developments around the Strait of Hormuz. Any further disruption to tanker movement could quickly revive concerns around global supply and push prices higher.

Analysts say the market is still weighing the possibility of easing geopolitical tensions against the risk of fresh disruptions.

For India, the Strait of Hormuz remains particularly important given the country's dependence on imported crude.

India has successfully shielded itself from the crisis by ramping up domestic oil and gas production, diversifying imports and exporting domestically produced finished petroleum products.

The Indian government is also considering a Rs 4 lakh-crore programme to expand the country's storage capacity and inventory buffers for crude oil, natural gas and LPG, sources told Zee Business.

Around Rs 2 lakh crore is likely to be allocated towards establishing infrastructure, while another Rs 2 lakh crore could go towards building inventories.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry is learnt to have started inter-ministerial consultations on the proposal.

The government is also planning to create a dedicated fund for the purpose, sources said.

The proposed expansion comes against the backdrop of heightened concerns around energy security and supply disruptions.

In India, petrol and diesel retail prices are set mainly by oil marketing companies such as Indian Oil, BPCL and HPCL.

The pricing mechanism takes into account global fuel trends, exchange rates, freight, dealer commission and taxes. Retail prices are reviewed daily, with any revisions effected across fuel stations at 6 am.

A fall in global crude prices for just over a week is not necessarily enough to trigger a reduction in retail fuel prices, say sources.

In early July, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said petrol and diesel prices could be reduced if international crude oil prices remained at lower levels for the next few weeks.

The indication was that policymakers were looking for a sustained decline in global crude rather than a short-lived fall.