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BT EVENT • SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



(Centre) Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with Siddharth Zarabi, Group Editor, Business Today; Dinesh Bhatia, Group CEO, India Today Group; and Alok Nair, Chief Operating Officer, Business Today, and the winners of Business Today India's Most Sustainable Companies Awards

A FUTURE FOR ALL

BUSINESS TODAY INDIA'S MOST SUSTAINABLE COMPANIES SUMMIT AND AWARDS CELEBRATED FIRMS FOR THEIR SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE ACROSS SECTORS

BY TEAM BT

PHOTOS BY HARDIK CHHABRA, ARUN KUMAR & VIDUSHI MEHROTRA



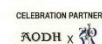
ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL gap between policy commitments and capital flows, thought leaders of India Inc., policymakers, and stakeholders gathered to discuss some of the most pressing challenges shaping India's sustainability journey.

The *Business Today* India's Most Sustainable Companies Summit and Awards, held in New Delhi on June 6, celebrated firms across sectors that have taken a lead on sustainability. Presented by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, 13 Sustainability Leadership Awards were conferred on companies spanning industries from automobiles, capital goods to cement, chemicals, FMCG, infrastructure, etc. In addition, the event recognised companies through the Best ESG Performer of the Year, Best Disclosures & Transparency Leader of the Year, and Special Jury Award categories.

In the next few pages, we get you the highlights! **BT**

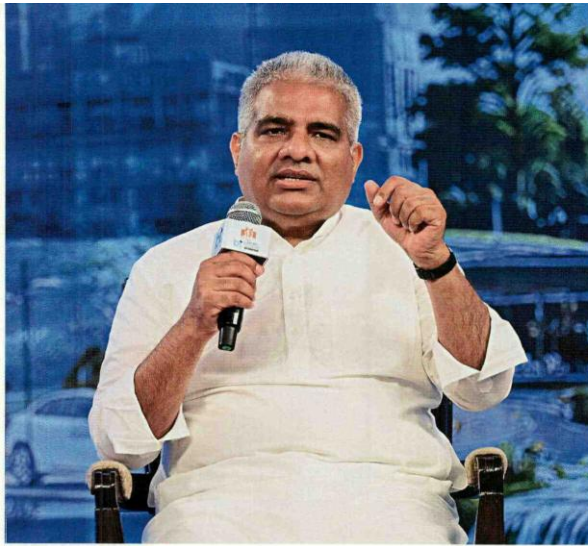


bt INDIA'S MOST SUSTAINABLE COMPANIES SUMMIT & AWARDS



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BHARAT'S SATAT VIKAS

Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

» Yadav highlighted that India's environmental record demonstrates that economic growth and ecological conservation are not mutually exclusive. He cited data from the Forest Survey of India to show that the country had expanded forest and green cover even while continuing to pursue development. Yadav reiterated India's position that access to energy remains essential for improving living standards

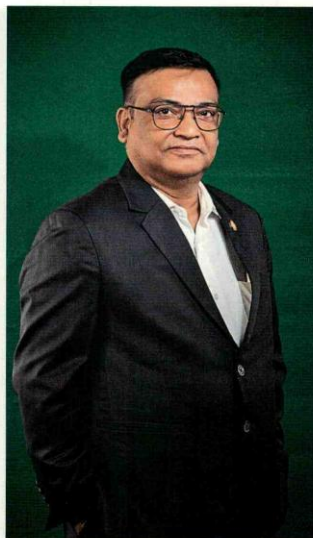
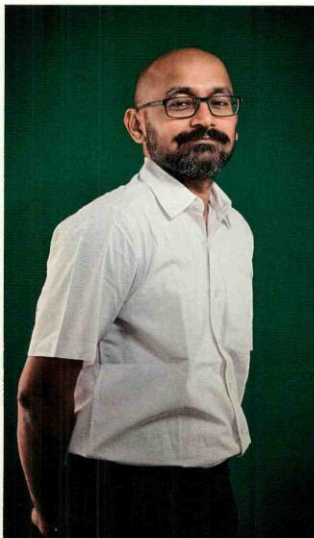


CONSCIOUS CONSUMPTION

Aditya Burman, Director, Dabur India

» "It is more difficult, actually, as an affluent consumer to consume responsibly," said Burman. He said rural consumers have always practised responsible buying

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BT EVENT • SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



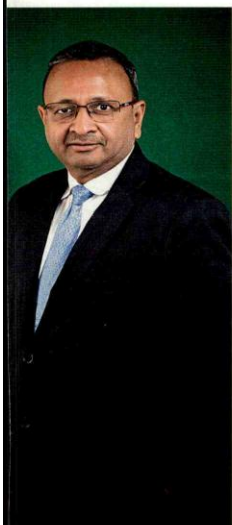
THE ECO DRIVE

Harshvardhan Chitale, CEO, Hero MotoCorp

» Sustainability can no longer be confined to manufacturing operations alone and the next challenge is creating sustainable products that reduce environmental impact throughout their usage cycle, Chitale said, adding the auto sector will ultimately need large-scale electrification

ALTERNATIVE ENERGIES

(From left) **Karthik Ganesan**, Fellow & Director, Council on Energy, Environment & Water
Prabodha Acharya, Chief Sustainability Officer, JSW Group
Santosh Singh, Chief Sustainability Officer, Larsen & Toubro
Rajiv Mangal, VP-Safety, Health & Sustainability, Tata Steel



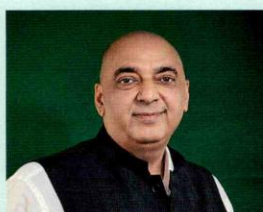
» On nuclear energy, Ganesan said, "What India really needs is a vision to commit to this technology over a 50-60-year time horizon"

» India should look at the available resources first and then turn to external financial support, Archarya believes

» Singh, on alternative energy sources, said it's not about newer technologies but about optimised integration of all energy sources. For decarbonisation to happen alongside growth, one should look at energy security

» Mangal said India can learn from Europe. But he believes that India needs sustainability answers which are suitable to the Indian ecosystem

THE GREEN GOLD



Ajay Mehra, MD, Mehra's Jewellers

» On gold consumption, Mehra said, "Even when gold prices touched ₹1.75 lakh per 10 grammes, there was no dip in sales. So, why will there be a dip now at around ₹1.5-1.6 lakh"



Sugandha Sachdeva, Founder, SS WealthStreet

» Sachdeva said investors could hold 5% of their wealth generating portfolio in gold funds. She also spoke in favour of Electronic Gold Receipts, which is a new concept in India



Keyur Shah, CEO, Muthoot Exim

» Shah said slashing the GST on sale of gold could open the door for more recycling. "Let's just remove capital gains tax," he added

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SUSTAINABILITY AS A BUSINESS PURPOSE

(From left) **Pooja Shali**, Editor, India Today TV
Ankit Todi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra Group
Neha Aggarwal Jain, Partner, Deloitte India
Yashika Singh, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer & Sustainability
 Head, PepsiCo India & South Asia
Pramod K. Singh, Dean, School of Governance, Development
 & Policy, IRMA
Tanuja Pandey, Advisor—Tourism Department, Govt of
 Maharashtra

» Speaking about the sustainable measures undertaken by the Mahindra Group, Todi said they have redesigned their long-term strategy to build a planet-positive company

» Aggarwal Jain said the conversation has shifted from, "is it worth investing in sustainability" to fundamental business models which are sustainable and bring in more cost optimisation and longevity

» Yashika Singh said sustainable practices lead to productivity gains and when a firm has had some productivity gains, the benefit can be passed on to the consumer in terms of pricing

» Corporate India should be a co-creator of India's development journey, believes Singh. He believes each country has its own development trajectory and we have to traverse that

» Maharashtra is developing a lot of sustainable tourism frameworks, Pandey said, adding that such responsible tourism practices will also balance economic gains



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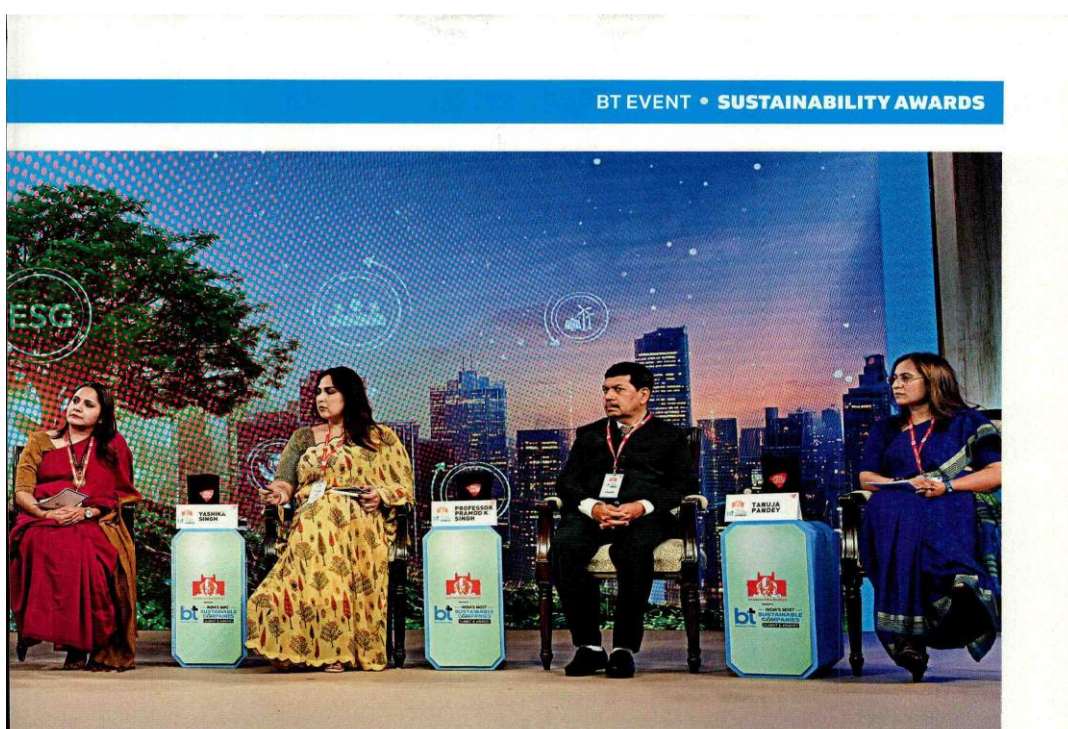


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INDIA'S ENERGY SECURITY CHALLENGE

(From left) **Richa Sharma**, Senior Assistant Editor, Business Today
Ratnesh Kumar, ED, ONGC

M. Sankar, ED, BPCL

Maneesh David Singh, Sustainability Director, PNGRB

Saloni Sachdeva Michael, Lead Energy Specialist, India Clean Energy Transition, IEEFA

» Speaking at the summit, Kumar noted that the era of easy and cheap oil is over and areas such as the Andaman region hold potential for oil and gas discoveries, and companies are actively exploring these opportunities

» M. Sankar, Executive Director of BPCL, stressed the need for a multi-pronged approach to energy security. According to him, India must continue exploring domestic oil and gas resources while simultaneously investing in renewable energy

» Singh said that India's energy needs will grow significantly as the country moves towards its vision of becoming a developed nation. He highlighted how disruptions in global supply routes were managed effectively through government intervention

» Michael warned that dependence on imported minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and nickel poses a new challenge. Strengthening mineral supply chains will be critical to ensuring long-term energy security

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BT EVENT • SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



IS AI SUSTAINABLE?

(From left) **Jui Joshi**, Partner, Climate Collective

Namrata Rana, National Head—ESG, KPMG in India

Rajesh Kumar Jha, Country Sustainability Manager, ABB India

Suruchi Bhadwal, Director, Earth Science & Climate Change, TERI

» “It is not AI versus sustainability. We need to view them together,” Jui said, adding that technology doesn’t mean an adverse thing. It all depends on the usage

» “Data centres don’t necessarily need water. There are many other cooling technologies that can be used; there are many sources of clean power. We now need to design how to use it best,” said Rana

» “We have to break down individual sectors and then see the work done in them... and work is being done to make the system more sustainable. However, a lot more needs to be done,” said Jha

» “There is a big environmental footprint of digitisation... We need to put our heads together and see how to move towards tech that can help us,” Bhadwal said

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CLIMATE FINANCE: THE MISSING MONEY



Leena Nandan, Former Secretary, MoEFCC

» Sustainable development is the larger goal that India needs to accomplish: This is the thought that Nandan began the discussion with, adding that global financing has been too little, too late



Samir Sharma, Head—CSR & Sustainability, L&T Finance

» “If there is a slight nudge to rules, and through proper guidelines, a lot of money can be mobilised,” Sharma said, adding that the risks in climate financing are front ended



Shriram Subramanian, MD, InGovern

» “India has capital but we don’t use it productively. We don’t have accountability for the 80% of capital that we spend, we don’t have disclosures,” Subramanian opined



Nikunj Dube, Chief Ratings Officer, CareEdge—ESG Ratings

» India lacks taxonomy for green financing. Also, the lender needs to understand to not put money in greenwashing, which is why the taxonomy becomes more important, Dube said

Headline: No harm to engine due to E-20 fuel, slight change in mileage

सरकार ने एथनॉल ईंधन पर स्पष्टीकरण जारी किया, सोशल मीडिया पर चल रही अफवाहों पर लगाया विराम ई-20 ईंधन से इंजन को नुकसान नहीं, माइलेज में मामूली बदलाव

आश्वासन

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। सरकार ने शनिवार को देश में चल रहे ई-20 एथनॉल ब्लेंडिंग (मिश्रण) कार्यक्रम को लेकर सोशल मीडिया पर चल रही अफवाहों को निराधार बताया। सरकार ने कहा कि ई-20 ईंधन (20 फीसदी एथनॉल मिला पेट्रोल) वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों के बाद तैयार किया गया है।

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने स्पष्ट कहा कि इससे इंजन को कोई नुकसान नहीं होगा। सिर्फ वाहन के माइलेज में मामूली अंतर आएगा। सरकार ने वायरल दावों का जवाब देने के लिए 10 सूत्रीय स्पष्टीकरण जारी किया।

विशेषज्ञ बोले, ई-20 ईंधन से पुराने वाहनों को कोई नुकसान नहीं: उद्योग जगत के शीर्ष अधिकारियों ने शनिवार को ई-20 के इस्तेमाल से पुराने वाहनों को नुकसान की बात को खारिज कर दिया। सरकार के नेशनल मीडिया सेंटर में आयोजित प्रेस वार्ता में उन्होंने कहा कि यह ईंधन नए और पुराने दोनों वाहनों के लिए पूरी तरह से सुरक्षित है।



नई दिल्ली में शनिवार को ई-20 ईंधन को लेकर आयोजित प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में मौजूद उद्योग जगत के शीर्ष अधिकारी व अन्य। • सोनू मेहता

सरकार ने मुख्य रूप से ये बातें कहीं

1 पानी का कम इस्तेमाल
सरकार ने उन दावों को खारिज कर दिया, जिसमें कहा गया था कि एक लीटर एथनॉल बनाने में 10 हजार लीटर पानी की जरूरत होती है। सरकार ने कहा एक लीटर एथनॉल बनाने में सिर्फ 3 से 5 लीटर पानी का इस्तेमाल होता है।

2 दशकों से इस्तेमाल
यह ईंधन प्रायोगिक नहीं है। बल्कि दशकों से अमेरिका, ब्राजील, कनाडा, थाईलैंड, जापान और यूरोपीय देशों में एथनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है।

3 ईंधन दक्षता पर असर नहीं
सरकार ने कहा कि कारों में लगभग 40 हजार किलोमीटर और दोपहिया वाहनों में 20 हजार किमी की टैरिस्टिंग में ड्राइविंग क्षमता या ईंधन दक्षता पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव नहीं पाया गया। सिर्फ माइलेज में मामूली बदलाव देखे गए। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि ई-20 के लिए डिजाइन वाहनों को एथनॉल की उच्च ऑक्टेन रेटिंग का भी लाभ मिल सकता है।

04 गन्ने के रस के वीडियो मंगद्वंद

5 चीटियां लगने का दावा झूठ
सोशल मीडिया पर दावा किया जा रहा था कि एथनॉल में मिठास होने के कारण गाड़ियों के फ्यूल टैंक में चीटियां लग रही हैं। सरकार ने कहा चीनी का कोई अंश बाकी नहीं रहता।

ई-20 कार्यक्रम एक प्रयोग नहीं
मंत्रालय ने उन दावों का खंडन किया, जिनमें कहा गया था कि उसने सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सामने ई-20 कार्यक्रम को एक प्रयोग कहा था।

मंत्रालय ने कहा कि पेट्रोल में गन्ने का रस मिलाए जाने का दावा करने वाले वायरल वीडियो पूरी तरह से मनगढ़ंत हैं।

7 इंजन नुकसान का दावा गलत
इंजन को नुकसान या वाहन के कलपुर्जों में जंग लगने के दावों को खारिज करते हुए सरकार ने ऑटोमोटिव रिसर्च एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया, इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन, भारतीय पेट्रोलियम संस्थान और सोसाइटी ऑफ इंडियन ऑटोमोबाइल मैनुफैक्चरर्स के अध्ययनों का हवाला दिया। इसमें धातु, प्लास्टिक के हिस्सों के साथ कोई कंपैटिबिलिटी (अनुकूलता) समस्या नहीं पाई गई, हालांकि पुराने वाहनों में रबर के पुर्जों को समय से पहले बदलने की आवश्यकता हो सकती है।

8 वारंटी और बीमा पर असर नहीं
सरकार ने ऑटोमोबाइल निर्माताओं और बीमाकर्ताओं के स्पष्टीकरण का हवाला देते हुए कहा कि ई-20 का इस्तेमाल करने से उन वाहनों की वारंटी या बीमा अमान्य नहीं होता है, जो इस मिश्रण पर चलने के लिए डिजाइन या स्वीकृत किए गए हैं।

9 फ्यूल टैंक में पानी नहीं जाएगा
ई-20 द्वारा पानी सोखने और उसे वाहनों के फ्यूल टैंक में पहुंचाने की चिंताओं को खारिज करते हुए मंत्रालय ने कहा कि आधुनिक वाहनों और ईंधन खुदरा बुनियादी ढांचे में पानी के प्रवेश को रोकने के लिए पर्याप्त सुरक्षा उपाय मौजूद हैं।

10 पर्यावरण पर असर नहीं
सरकार ने कहा कि एथनॉल संयंत्र वैधानिक पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी, भूजल नियमों और जैरो लिक्विड डिस्चार्ज मानदंडों के तहत काम करते हैं।

Publication : Hindustan Times	Editions : New Delhi
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SK Sinha Assumes Charge as Director (Finance) of GAIL

SK Sinha assumed the charge as Director (Finance) of GAIL (India) Ltd. Prior to joining the Board of Directors, he served as Executive Director (Finance & Accounts). A qualified Cost and Management Accountant with an illustrious career spanning over three decades, Sinha possesses extensive expertise in Corporate Finance, Corporate Accounts, Management Accounting, Investor Relations, Taxation, Treasury & Banking Operations, Costing, Budgeting, Project Evaluation, and Mergers & Acquisitions. He has played a



pivotal role in strengthening GAIL's financial systems, enhancing investor engagement, and driving strategic financial decision-making.



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**INDIANOIL LAUNCHES
SWACHHTA PAKHWADA IN DELHI**

IndianOil Northern Region and Delhi State Office launched Swachhta Pakhwada (July 1–15, 2026) to promote cleanliness under the Swachh Bharat Mission. The campaign was inaugurated by Sailesh Kumar, Asst Director, MoP&NG, and Hemant Rathore, Executive Director, NR & SH, DSO, through the Swachhta Pledge. A “Swachhta Rath” was flagged off from Green Park, New Delhi, to spread awareness on cleanliness, hygiene, and reduction of single-use plastics through public outreach and ‘nukkad nataks’.

Publication : Morning India	Editions : Kolkata
Date : 5 July 2026	Page : 3



Kushal Bajoria, Secretary of the Indian Oil Dealers' Forum, West Bengal, addresses a press conference on ethanol-related issues, in the presence of Samir Rohatgi, GM - Customer Service (Eastern Region), and Dilip Loyalka, chartered accountant and entrepreneur, at the Press Club, Kolkata, on Saturday.



Publication : The Hindu	Editions : Chennai
Date :5 July 2026	Page : 3

Ethanol-blended petrol is safe to use: oil firm representatives

Representatives of the oil industry in the State have clarified that ethanol-blended petrol was safe to use. Addressing a press conference here, R. Kesavan, former DGM, IndianOil; M. Arun, an IndianOil dealer; and N.S. Krishnamoorthi, an entrepreneur, said ethanol benefited farmers as it kept away insects, and did not cause damage to vehicles. Countries such as the U.S., Brazil, Canada, and Thailand too used ethanol-blended petrol, the representatives said, adding that sugar cane juice was not mixed to create such fuel.

Publication : The Hindu

Editions : Chennai

Date : 5 July 2026

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An Independence Day parade by the Indian American community in Scranton, Pennsylvania. AP/WIDEWORLD

Meenakshi N. Ahamed

I wrote a book called *Indian Genius: The Meteoric Rise of Indians in America* (2024). The subtitle captures the essence of the book. When I embarked on the project in 2021, it was virtually impossible to turn on CNN, read the Wall Street Journal, go to a hospital, attend a university, or browse a bookstore in America without encountering a sea of Indian names and faces.

During his tenure, President Barack Obama had appointed Dr. Vivek Murthy, an Indian American, as the surgeon general, and in 2021, President Joe Biden reappointed him. Two of the largest Fortune 500 companies – Microsoft and Google – were headed by CEOs born, raised, and educated through their undergraduate years in India. Headlines like ‘Indian immigrants are Tech’s New Titans’ were splashed across the press.

And, after the Mars rover Perseverance touched down on February 18, 2021, President Biden called Sudeep Mohan, a lead scientist at NASA, to congratulate her. “It’s amazing,” he said. “Indian descent Americans are taking over the country – you, my vice-president [Jumala Iyer], my speechwriter [Vijay Iyer]. You guys are incredible.” It felt like the apotheosis of the Indian American story.

As America celebrates 250 years of independence this year, that story reads very differently – and, increasingly, so does the story of the country’s relationship with India itself. Both have deteriorated in tandem, and that is the real story of this anniversary year for the diaspora: not just a community feeling more vulnerable at home, but a homeland relationship souring at the same time, leaving Indian Americans squeezed from both directions.

Attack on diversity and inclusion
Emma Lazarus’s poem ‘The New Colossus’, inscribed on the Statue of Liberty, gave succor to generations of immigrants sailing into New York’s harbour. *Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...* Every president, Republican or Democrat, since Franklin D. Roosevelt has reinforced that message in some form. Ronald Reagan, in his 1989 farewell address, described America as a shining city on a hill, teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace. The Trump administration has jettisoned that inheritance. It has pursued an aggressive anti-immigration agenda and tried to end diversity and inclusion across universities and employment. It has signalled an explicit preference for white immigration, as when it offered visas to white South Africans on the unsubstantiated claim that they face discrimination in their own country. During a 2018 immigration meeting, Trump referred to Haiti, El Salvador and African nations as

AMERICA AT 250 THE DIASPORA AT A CROSSROADS

Rising exclusion and strained U.S.-India ties have left many Indian Americans navigating divided identities



(Clockwise from left) Comedian Zarna Gang; physician Siddhartha Mukherjee; actor Minny Kaling; author Sudeep Mohan; and TV host Padma Lakshmi. (GETTY IMAGES)

“shit-hole countries” and suggested that immigration from places such as Norway should be encouraged instead.

India has not been spared this turn. Trump reposted a podcaster’s remarks describing India and China as “hellholes”, with the commentator saying that “a baby here becomes an instant citizen, and then they bring the entire family in from China or India or some other hellhole on the planet”. India’s main Opposition party called the remarks “extremely insulting and anti-Indian”, and the silence from the Modi government in response only sharpened the sting for many in the diaspora who had assumed their country of origin carried some diplomatic weight in Washington.

This is not the first time eugenics-tinged thinking has contradicted America’s founding ideals. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 barred Chinese immigrants from citizenship even though they

had been recruited to build the railroads. The Depression of 1873-79 saw immigrants scapegoated for unemployment. Today, we see an echo of that in the backlash against H-1B visas, whose recipients are disproportionately Indian. The vitriol directed at Indians online has shocked many in a diaspora that had felt valued and respected. At a talk I gave in Silicon Valley, several entrepreneurs admitted to wondering whether investing their life’s work in America had been wise and whether the country would still welcome their grandchildren.

Praying diplomacy
What makes this moment different from earlier waves of nativism is that the cooling has not stopped at the water’s edge. The year 2025 brought among the sharpest deteriorations in U.S.-India relations since 2001, driven by Trump’s tariffs and pressure over India’s purchases of Russian oil. Last year, more than a

thousand Indians were deported on U.S. charter flights while handcuffed and shackled. It was a political embarrassment for the Modi government. Many Indians had expected a return to the warm Trump-Modi chemistry of his first term, instead, the partnership steadily declined and India found itself shoring up other relationships.

On August 6, 2025, Trump imposed 50% tariffs on India over its trade barriers and continued purchases of Russian oil – among the highest tariffs levied on any U.S. trading partner. He went on to describe the U.S.-India relationship “very one-sided” on social media, while his trade officials accused New Delhi of helping finance Russia’s war effort through its oil purchases. India denounced the measures as “unfair, unjustified and unreasonable”, insisting its energy policy reflected strategic autonomy rather than hostility towards Washington. Unwilling to strain the relationship further, Modi skipped an online BRICS leaders’ summit hosted by Brazil in September 2025 to discuss U.S. trade policies and tariffs, with his foreign minister participating instead.

The damage was not merely rhetorical. Indian markets became the worst performing among emerging economies in 2025, with foreign investors pulling out at record levels. India responded not by capitulating but by lexing it: signalled intent to diversify its partnerships, engaging more closely with Russia’s Putin and China’s Xi, and in January 2026, it signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement with the European Union.

Recently, there has been some thaw – Trump cut tariffs on Indian exports from 50% to 15% in February 2026 after Indian oil companies agreed to curtail Russian crude purchases. Working-level cooperation on defence has held up better than the political relationship, but the two countries renewed their bilateral defence framework for another 10 years in October 2025. But the underlying trust between the two countries, painstakingly built up by former presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama, has come under severe pressure over the past year.

For the diaspora, this dual deterioration – racial and geopolitical – lands differently than either development would on its own. It is one thing to feel that your adopted country has grown less welcoming to people who look like you. It is another to watch your country of origin be publicly demeaned by the same administration, with little pushback from your own government. Indian Americans have found themselves without a fully reliable advocate on either side of the relationship.

The demand-supply equation

It is worth remembering how this community got here in the first place, because the current backlash erases that history. Indian migration to the U.S. began in earnest after immigration laws were relaxed in 1965, driven as much by America’s own needs as by Indian ambition. In the early days of the Cold War, the U.S. military feared losing the space race to the Soviet Union after the success of Sputnik in 1957. They poured money into research, only to find a shortage of engineers. European migration had slowed just as India’s first IIT graduates were entering the workforce, and the match was a natural one.

In 1965, the Medicare Act made around 20 million Americans newly eligible for healthcare even as the Vietnam War pulled doctors into the field, and returning soldiers swelled hospital canteens at home. India’s medical schools, with their English-speaking graduates, helped fill the gap. Physicians Abraham Verghese and Deepak Chopra were among those who came during this period. Even today, around 40% of physicians in rural America and in hospitals serving low-income families are foreign-trained, many of them Indian.

The results of that 50-year partnership are extraordinary by any measure. In 1970, there were just 55,000 Indians in America; today there are over 5 million. They have the highest median household income of any ethnic group in the country – \$151,200 versus \$92,280 for white households, according to 2023 Census data. Around 60% of that population arrived after the 1990s tech boom, making it one of the fastest ascents of any immigrant community in American history.

Between home and homeland

At a town hall organised by Induspora, a diaspora network, prominent Indian Americans debate how to secure the community’s future: should they give more to charity, run for more public office (currently six Indian Americans sit in Congress), or find better ways to convey how many jobs Indian-led companies have created rather than taken? These questions feel more urgent than they did even three years ago.

Over the past 18 months, speaking to audiences across the country, I find that the doubling of the Indian American population has produced an Indian-majority presence in a handful of suburbs – and with it, new friction. An older white man in Seattle told me after a talk that while he respects the contribution Indians have made, he resents what he sees as a refusal to integrate: Indian families who don’t show up to community events, who have effectively taken over the local schools, who stick to themselves even on the playground. His grievance, he says, is cultural – the sense of being made unwelcome in his own town.

That inequality is not accidental. Many of the roughly 3 million Indian Americans who arrived on I-10 visas after 2000 remain deeply tied to India culturally and through family, and some have not decided whether they are staying for good. Several tell me their resentment is almost strategic: to be able to re-enter Indian life seamlessly someday, it makes more sense for them to stay within Indian social and cultural circles rather than assimilate fully. They have not yet decided whether July 4 means more to them than August 15.

As both the welcome at home and the relationship with the homeland fray at once, that question – which date matters more – feels less like an abstraction and more like the defining dilemma of this anniversary year.

The writer is the author of *A Matter of Trust* (2021) and *Indian Genius* (2024).

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
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Indian Oil spreads smiles at Saikripa NGO, Noida

Indian Oil's Refineries Division continued its commitment towards inclusive community engagement through its



"Smiles We Spread" initiative with a heartwarming visit to Saikripa NGO in Noida, that has been working for the welfare of orphaned, abandoned and underprivileged children since 1988. "Smiles We Spread" is IndianOil's people-centric social outreach initiative that reflects the Corporation's core value of Care. It encourages IOCians to go beyond their workplaces and connect with communities through meaningful acts of service, compassion and inclusion. The visit was led by Mr. Anurag Sachdev, ED (M&C, Shipping), RHQ, accompanied by senior officials from CSR, Contracts and Shipping. The interaction brought moments of joy, encouragement and shared warmth as children at Saikripa presented a lively cultural programme and shared their dreams and aspirations. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sachdev encouraged the children to dream big and pursue their aspirations with sincerity and discipline.



Publication : The Statesman

Editions : New Delhi

Date : 5 July 2026

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**BPCL acquires
Videocon's Oil & Gas
interests in Brazil**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Fortune Global 500 company and a Maharatna PSU, through its upstream entity, BPRL has successfully completed the acquisition of all of Videocon's shareholding in its Brazilian Joint Venture company, IBV Brasil Petróleo Ltd. (IBV). The acquisition was made through step-down subsidiaries of BPRL and with this, BPRL's ownership in IBV has increased from 65.40% to 100%, making IBV its wholly owned subsidiary. The acquisition assumes added strategic significance at a time when global energy markets continue to experience heightened volatility driven by geopolitical developments and supply-side constraints. Commenting on transaction, Chairman and Managing Director, BPCL, Mr. Sanjay Khanna said, "This acquisition marks a significant milestone in our overseas upstream growth journey."

E20 gives 4% lower mileage but safe for engines: Experts

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Kolkata: Indian Oil Dealers' Forum secretary Kushal Bajoria on Saturday said E20 fuel, a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% petrol, gives around 3%-4% lower mileage than regular petrol, while advising motorists to keep fuel tanks reasonably full to prevent moisture formation.

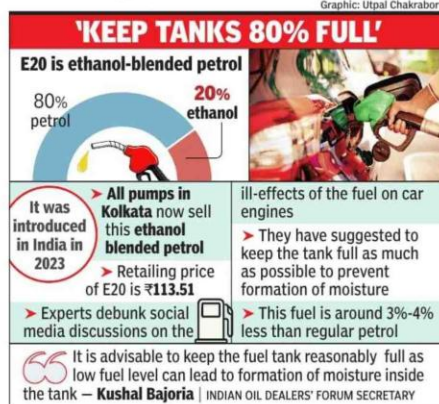
Addressing a news conference organised by the local unit of Press Information Bureau in Kolkata, Bajoria dismissed social media claims that E20 causes engine damage, insurance issues and environmental harm. He said the fuel was safe, but cautioned against keeping fuel levels low for long periods.

"It is advisable to keep the fuel tank reasonably full as low fuel level for a long duration can lead to formation of moisture inside the tank," he said.

Entrepreneur and expert Dilip Loyalka, who also addressed the conference, said it was advisable to keep the tank 80% full so there is no room for moisture.

Motorists, however, said this could be inconvenient and expensive, especially in cities where frequent fuel station visits would be required, and on highways where pumps are often far apart.

Bajoria said no consumer complaint was received on the alleged ill-effects of E20. "Ethanol blend in petrol



is nothing new and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)-led trials on cars and two-wheelers found no adverse impact on cars, with only marginal changes in mileage," he said.

E20 petrol was introduced at select pumps in India in Feb 2023 and has since been rolled out nationwide. By April 2025, it was implemented across the country. All pumps in Kolkata now sell E20 petrol, priced at Rs 113.51 per litre. "XP100 is ethanol-free 100-octane petrol but is more expensive, Rs 167.35 per litre. If a motorist uses E20, he or she can switch to XP100," said Bajoria.

India has achieved its 20% ethanol blending target ahead of the original sche-

dule, with oil marketing companies supplying E20 fuel containing 95 Research Octane Number. The Centre advanced the deadline from 2030 to 2025-26.

Samir Rahatgi from Honda Motorcycles and Scooters said, "All our vehicles are compatible with the E20 petrol, which results in reduction of carbon emission. We have not heard any complaint from our consumers regarding the use of this ethanol-blended petrol."

Motorist Malabika Sarkar said she was worried by social media posts, adding, "Given the high fuel price, it is not feasible financially to keep the tank full even when I am not using my car for a few days."

Publication : Divya Bhaskar (Gujarati)	Editions : Ahmedabad
Date :5 July 2026	Page : 21

Headline: Oil came from 40 countries, cylinder used to reach Rs 2,000: Modi

સજ્જથાન: વિવિધ પ્રોજેક્ટ્સનું ઉદઘાટન કર્યું
40 દેશમાંથી તેલ આવ્યું, સિલિન્ડર
2 હજાર સુધી પહોંચી જતો: મોદી

વડાપ્રધાન નરેન્દ્ર મોદીએ જણાવ્યું કે, પશ્ચિમ એશિયાના પૃથ્વી પેદા થયેલા 21મી સદીના સૌથી મોટા ઊર્જા સંકેતમાંથી ભારત ઉચિત સમયે લીધેલા નિર્ણય, રાજદ્વારી પ્રયાસો અને સંસાધનોના શ્રેષ્ઠ મેનેજમેન્ટથી બની ગયું, જો સરકાર ઉચિત પગલાં ન લેતી તો એવળીજ સિલિન્ડરની કિંમત ૩, 2 હજાર સુધી પહોંચી શકે એમ હતી.



પચપદરામાં દેશની પ્રથમ
ગ્રીનફીલ્ડ એકીકૃત
રિફાઈનરી-કમ-પેટ્રોકેમિકલ
કોમ્પ્લેક્સના ઉદઘાટન પછી
વડાપ્રધાને મહિલા કર્મચારીઓ
સાથે વાત કરી હતી.

શનિવારે પચ્ચાદશમાં વડોદરામાં મોદી અને HPLC રાજસ્થાન રિફાઈનરીને રાષ્ટ્રને સમર્પિત કરી હતી. આશરે ₹79.459 કરોડના ખર્ચે બનેલો આ પ્રોજેક્ટ માત્ર રાજસ્થાનની પ્રથમ રિફાઈનરી જ નહીં, પરંતુ દેશની પ્રથમ નીચીલેટ રિફાઈનરી કમ-પ્રોટેક્ટિવ કંકલ પ્લાન્ટ છે. આ સાથે જ પીએમ મોદીએ જોષ્વર અને રેવોદીના નવા ટર્મિનલ, જયપુર મેટ્રો-ફેઝ-2 સહિત લગભગ ૩.૧ લાખ 5 અજર કરોડ રૂપિયાથી વધુના વિકાસ પ્રોજેક્ટોનું ઉદ્ઘાટન અને શિલાસ્થાપના કરી હતી.

વડાધ્યક્ષના મોદીએ જણાવ્યું કે, ખાડી સંકટના સમયે ભારતે પોતાની વિશેષ આપત્તિનો ફાયરો 25-26 દેશથી વપારીને 40થી વધુ દેશો સુધી લંબાવી દીધો હતો. જેના કારણે દેશમાં સંકટની સ્થિતિ પેદા થવા દીધી ન હતી. આ વિશ્વમાં ભારતની રાજદ્વારી સફળતા દર્શાવે છે. એપ્રિલ અને જૂન વચ્ચે, કંઈ પેટોલ અને ડીઝલના કારણે

संकट समये रेलगाडी छुट्यावण वघारी दीछु
भा.वि. देशामाथी घटी १००% LPG आयात अछार प्रभावित भै छली. तयार रिफाइनरीमेमे अवाञ्छित गेसमारी रोजागरे निर (LPG) मे इन्धनरित कवनामे गिरेअए आयातमा अत्यो घटी. अनाथी उत्पन्न ३३,००,००० वषीमे ५४,००० मिट्ट टन भए २,००० दुधियरेलेसुना भाव व २,००० दुधियरे सुधी काली जगा. पस्तु संकटमे आ परिचिन्तमे अखेअखर रिते संभावनी छती. परिश्रामे अछे अखे विभिन्न दुध गमयमे १९५०० रुपलवले. तेनी सलस क पाछुमे नरस गेसमे अरु कसकसनामे ऊपयनी विन्यात करामे अछी अथवा ईदूक आगामे ११ भाव परीने PNG सलस कवनामे अछी. अनाथी LPG परत दुधियरे ओछु पयनी छती.

કંપનીઓને ₹75,000 કરોડનું નુકસાન થયું.



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Date :5 July 2026	Page : 1, 2

Gas curbs withdrawn

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, July 4

THE CENTRE ON Saturday lifted emergency restrictions on the allocation, use and diversion of natural gas, ending controls imposed nearly four months ago after the West Asia conflict disrupted liquefied natural gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and forced suppliers to declare force majeure. The withdrawal, effective Saturday, removes the substantive provisions of the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order issued on March 9.

Continued on Page 2



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Gas curbs withdrawn

THE PROVISIONS OF the order had empowered the government to regulate production, sector-wise allocation, distribution and consumption of natural gas, including LNG and re-gasified LNG.

The rollback follows the resumption of shipping

through the Strait of Hormuz under a ceasefire and continuing negotiations, easing concerns over supplies from West Asia. "The ongoing conflict in the Middle East that had resulted in the disruption of liquefied natural gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz has been subject of a ceasefire

and negotiations are ongoing, as part of which, sea traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has been permitted to be resumed," the petroleum and natural gas ministry said in a notification.

India had invoked emergency powers under the Essential Commodities Act after disruptions to LNG cargoes and force majeure declarations by suppliers reduced

available gas, prompting diversion of supplies to priority consumers. Today's amendment formally deletes these operative controls. The decision effectively ends the government-directed allocation mechanism introduced during the crisis and allows gas suppliers to move away from emergency diversion arrangements as LNG cargoes resume.

No evidence of E20-related vehicle issues at dealerships, OEMs: ARAI

GEETA NAIR
Pune, July 4

THE AUTOMOTIVE ORIGINAL Equipment Manufacturers (ARAI) have reported no complaints at their dealerships regarding vehicles powered by E20 blended fuel. The ARAI convened a meeting with OEMs to discuss the growing concerns surrounding E20 fuels and customer complaints about their potential adverse effects on engine performance, particularly for two- and four-wheelers.

However, ARAI director Reji Mathai noted that participating

THE FUEL SAGA

■ ARAI director urged that OEMs must address consumer concerns by clarifying performance of their vehicles with respect to E20 blended fuel

■ He hinted various groups working against India's ethanol-fuel blending programme

OEMs were unable to respond meaningfully because their deal-



■ ARAI asserted that the E20 policy has conducted testing to ensure there is no adverse impact on engine life

erships had not seen problems from vehicles using E20 fuel.

Mathai urged that OEMs must proactively address consumer concerns by clarifying the performance of their vehicles with respect to E20 blended fuel. He urged OEMs to speak clearly on the matter.

Additionally, Mathai hinted at various interest groups that may be working against India's ethanol-fuel blending programme, suggesting that the oil lobby may oppose increasing blending levels. He stated that India's combination of BS VI emissions standards and E20 fuel is viewed as a successful global benchmark.

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Headline: Claims of engine failure are rumours: Puri

इंजन में खराबी के दावे अफवाह : पुरी

जोधपुर। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने शनिवार को एथनॉल मिश्रित ईंधन को लेकर सोशल मीडिया पर चल रही चिंताओं को खारिज कर दिया।



उन्होंने कहा कि ई-20 ईंधन से कोई आकर्षित होने या वाहन के इंजन खराब होने के दावे सिर्फ अफवाहें हैं। उन्होंने लोगों से भ्रमक सूचनाओं के बजाय वैज्ञानिक साक्ष्यों पर भरोसा करने का आग्रह किया। जोधपुर में पुरी ने कहा कि सरकार रचनात्मक आलोचना के लिए हमेशा तैयार है।

Headline: Avoid rumours on ethanol, there is no harm to the engine: Hardeep Puri

एथेनॉल पर अफवाहों से बचें, इंजन को कोई नुकसान नहीं: हरदीप पुरी

केंद्रीय मंत्री बोले, 2.8 करोड़ वाहनों में नहीं मिली शिकायत, दुनिया के कई देशों में दशकों से एथेनॉल आधारित ईंधन का उपयोग हो रहा

प्रगनेश सिंह

जोधपुर, (पंजाब केसरी): केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने देश में एथेनॉल मिश्रित ईंधन को लेकर फैल रही अफवाहों को पूरी तरह निराधार बताते हुए कहा कि एथेनॉल से इंजन खराब होने या वाहनों को नुकसान पहुंचने जैसी बातें सिर्फ अफवाह हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि दुनिया के कई देशों में दशकों से एथेनॉल आधारित ईंधन का उपयोग हो रहा है और भारत भी इसी दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है। हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि हाल के दिनों में सोशल मीडिया पर यह भ्रम फैलाया गया कि एथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल से इंजन खराब हो जाएगा या फ्यूल पंप प्रभावित होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि यह पूरी तरह गलत है। इसका सबसे बड़ा प्रमाण वाहन निर्माता कंपनियों स्वयं दे रही हैं। मारुति सुजुकी करीब 2.8 करोड़ वाहनों की सर्विसिंग करती है, जिनमें 2023 से पहले बने लगभग 1.5 करोड़ वाहन भी शामिल हैं, लेकिन एथेनॉल मिश्रित ईंधन से इंजन खराब होने की एक भी शिकायत सामने नहीं आई है। एथेनॉल कोई नया प्रयोग नहीं है, बल्कि दुनिया में सौ वर्षों से इसका



इस्तेमाल हो रहा है। भारत में भी इसकी परिकल्पना वर्षों पहले की गई थी, लेकिन अब प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में इसे तेजी से लागू किया जा रहा है। पुरी ने कहा कि भारत ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर बनने की दिशा में लगातार आगे बढ़ रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि वर्ष 2014 के बाद देश में दूसरी बार बड़ी रिफाइनरी राष्ट्र को समर्पित की गई है। आने वाले महीनों में कई नई रिफाइनरियां भी शुरू होंगी, जिससे देश की रिफाइनिंग क्षमता में उल्लेखनीय बढ़ोतरी होगी।

सरकार अन्य स्वच्छ ऊर्जा स्रोतों पर समान रूप से काम कर रही

उन्होंने कहा कि भविष्य केवल पेट्रोल और डीजल तक सीमित नहीं रहेगा। सरकार एथेनॉल, ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन, बायोफ्यूल और अन्य स्वच्छ ऊर्जा स्रोतों पर समान रूप से काम कर रही है ताकि देश की बढ़ती ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पर्यावरण के अनुकूल तरीके से पूरा किया जा सके। मंत्री ने कहा कि वैश्विक संकटों के दौरान भी भारत ने ऊर्जा आपूर्ति बाधित नहीं होने दी। पेट्रोल, डीजल और एलपीजी की कहीं कहीं कमी नहीं आई और सरकार ने समय रहते उत्पादन बढ़ाकर आम उपभोक्ताओं को राहत दी। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत अब केवल ऊर्जा उपभोक्ता नहीं, बल्कि ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और आत्मनिर्भरता का मजबूत मॉडल बनकर उभर रहा है।

दुनिया के कई देशों में रिफाइनिंग क्षमता घट रही

उन्होंने कहा कि दुनिया के कई देशों में रिफाइनिंग क्षमता घट रही है। अमेरिका में पिछले 50 वर्षों में कोई नई ग्रीनफील्ड रिफाइनरी नहीं बनी, यूरोप में क्षमता लगातार कम हो रही है और चीन में छोटी रिफाइनरियां बंद हो रही हैं, जबकि भारत लगातार अपनी क्षमता बढ़ा रहा है। पुरी ने कहा कि भारत अपनी तेल और गैस जरूरतों का बड़ा हिस्सा अभी भी आयात करता है, इसलिए घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाने पर विशेष जोर दिया जा रहा है। इसी उद्देश्य से 'समुद्र मंथन' अभियान शुरू किया गया है, जिसके तहत अगले तीन वर्षों में समुद्र में बड़े पैमाने पर नए तेल और गैस कुआं की खोज की जाएगी। इसके लिए हजारों करोड़ रुपये का निवेश किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि अगर बड़े पैमाने पर नए भंडार मिलें तो भारत की आयात निर्भरता काफी घट सकती है।

Publication : The Daily Guardian

Editions : New Delhi

Date : 5 July 2026

Page : 4

GUSHER

US oil giants set for best quarterly profits since 2022

CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON

U.S. oil companies are set to report their strongest quarterly profits in years, courting a possible clash with President Donald Trump, who has been pressing his longtime ally Big Oil to bring down gasoline prices before midterm elections in November.

After months of Americans complaining about pain at the pump, Exxon Mobil and Chevron are expected to report second-quarter earnings in the coming weeks that are more than triple first-quarter levels. Oil prices spiked after the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran began in late February and global fuel supplies



tightened. Oil companies' profits are forecast to rise to their highest levels since 2022. The expected bonanza could complicate the normally warm relationship between Trump and the oil industry, an important financial backer of Trump and the Republican Party.

Higher gasoline prices

have amplified cries for affordability from Democrats hoping to win back control of the U.S. Congress, and also sank Trump's approval rating as few Americans believed the Iran war was worth its costs.

The administration has urged the U.S. Justice Department to investigate pos-

sible gasoline price gouging. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent warned producers and refiners that the White House could consider administrative action if pump prices do not decline sharply. "The industry is definitely talking to each other and thinking of ways to deal with it, but we know what's coming. We understand the politics," said one industry executive, speaking anonymously.

Since shipping through the Strait of Hormuz resumed last month, Trump has said he wants the national average to fall to about \$2.50 a gallon — well below the current average of roughly \$3.85 and about 11% below the low for his cur-

rent presidency of roughly \$2.81 reached in late December.

Oil industry lobbyists have stepped up outreach to officials and lawmakers to blunt criticism, according to interviews with eight lobbyists and industry officials.

Oil executives say they have limited influence over retail gasoline prices. Crude oil prices account for nearly half of the price consumers pay at the pump, with the rest determined by refining, distribution, marketing and taxes.

Still, benchmark crude prices have returned to pre-war levels yet U.S. gasoline prices remain about 22% higher than before the war. Analysts and

industry groups cite tight physical fuel markets and constrained gasoline inventories rather than crude oil prices alone.

Bob McNally, president of Rapidan Energy Group, said the divergence highlights structural supply-demand pressures.

"Gasoline prices don't move in lockstep with crude oil, especially during a major global disruption affecting supply, refining and inventories," said Bethany Williams, a spokesperson for the American Petroleum Institute.

The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers said policymakers also play a role, citing regulatory costs.

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :5 July 2026	Page : 1, 7

'5-10% MORE HIGHER-OCTANE FUEL SOLD IN LAST QUARTER'

E20 Worries Pump up Premium Petrol Sales

Availability at stations limited, even as ethanol blending concerns weigh on motorists

Premium Petrol Paradox

An unintended consequence of India's energy transition is the rising sale of premium petrol

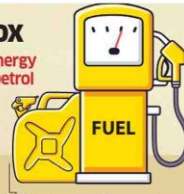
Premium petrol costs about **₹160/L in some markets vs ₹112/L** for regular petrol

Motorists switch to higher-octane fuel as it is designed to keep engines cleaner by reducing carbon deposits

Most pumps don't stock premium petrol

Dealers cite poor retail economics

Demand at fuel stations is outpacing availability



Lijee Philip & Kalpana Pathak

Mumbai: The nation's ethanol blending programme is creating an unlikely winner: premium petrol.

As E20 becomes the default fuel across India, a growing number of motorists are opting for higher-octane petrol amid concerns that E20 could hurt mileage and engine performance.

However, premium petrol remains patchily available, with many fuel stations either not

stocking it or offering it only sporadically, highlighting the weak economics of selling a low-volume fuel.

Petrol pump dealers across the country told ET that enquiries for premium petrol have increased in recent months, with many customers willing to pay a 40-45% premium because they believe it delivers better mileage, smoother engine performance and improved pickup than regular E20 petrol.

Lowering Maintenance >> 7



Publication : The Economic Times

Editions : New Delhi

Date : 5 July 2026

Page : 1, 7

Lowering Maintenance

►► From Page 1

Premium petrol, with its higher octane rating, is marketed for enhanced engine performance in vehicles designed to benefit from such fuel. It costs about ₹160 a litre in some markets, compared with around ₹112 a litre for regular petrol, although prices vary across states.

Many also see the higher fuel cost as a worthwhile trade-off if it helps avoid what they perceive to be higher

long-term maintenance costs.

Premium petrol is regular fuel blended with additives or formulated with a higher octane rating to improve engine performance. It is designed to keep engines cleaner by reducing carbon deposits, lowering maintenance requirements and enhancing performance.

"The sales of premium petrol for all the oil companies range between 5% and 7% of the overall petrol sales," said a senior oil company executive.

"Oil marketing companies target owners of premium four-wheelers and two-wheelers, and thus the fuel is available only in select cities and markets and select outlets."

Oil companies reported 5-10% growth in premium petrol sales in the past quarter, albeit from a low base. "The demand for premium petrol has probably gone up as it contains specialised detergents and friction modifiers, which keep engine clean over a period of time. These help remove carbon deposits from critical parts of the vehicle," the oil company official added. Despite rising demand, availa-

bility remains limited as most fuel stations choose not to stock the product. Dealers said the economics do not justify the investment.

A petrol pump owner in Pune said premium petrol accounts for less than 5% of sales at his outlet, making it difficult to justify the additional investment in storage infrastructure and inventory.

"For such low demand, why should I block so much capital?" he said. "It doesn't make business sense."

Another dealer said premium petrol is largely available only at select outlets, mostly in metro cities.

Oil terminal in St. Petersburg hit in Ukrainian drone strike

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia's second city of St. Petersburg and the surrounding region came under a major Ukrainian drone attack overnight on Saturday, with a local port and oil infrastructure hit, Russian and Ukrainian authorities said, as Kyiv's drone strikes continue to deepen fuel shortages in Russia.

St. Petersburg Governor Alexander Beglov said the city of 6 million had been subjected to a "large-scale" drone attack, with the city's oil terminal struck. He said there were no casualties and that the aftermath of the attack had been dealt with.

Alexander Drozdenko,



Vladimir Putin visits a command post for the joint force grouping, amid the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict. AFP

governor of the surrounding Leningrad region, said a drone had struck the area of Vysotsk port on the Baltic Sea. The port handles oil, grain, coal and liquefied natural gas.

Elsewhere, the governor of Russia's Bryansk region and the Russian-installed

governor of Crimea said that drone strikes had killed one person in each region, with several more wounded.

South of St. Petersburg, the governor of Pskov region said more than 30 drones had been shot down overnight.

E20 vehicles safe for higher blends too, but fuel efficiency may drop, say auto-makers

Prabudatta Mishra
New Delhi

Amid a social media backlash over the rollout of 20 per cent ethanol-blended petrol (E20), the government on Saturday nudged the automobile industry to address public concerns. Representatives of major automakers subsequently held a media briefing at Delhi's National Media Centre, defending E20 as safe for vehicles though it may lead to a marginal drop in fuel efficiency.

Maruti Suzuki's Rahul Bharti said E20-compliant vehicles manufactured since 2023 are engineered to tolerate ethanol blends higher than 20 per cent, although he declined to specify the upper limit.

The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), under the Ministry of Heavy Industries, is currently evalu-



ating E22 and E25 blends and is expected to submit a report to the Petroleum Ministry by December.

HIGHER BLENDS

"Internally, we have a much higher factor of safety. We are absolutely comfortable if the blending goes up by some percentage points from the current E20 level. As of now, we have not taken a call on what that level is because there are several variables relating to design, production and usage. But when we certify an E20-compatible car, it is actually compatible with

much higher blends," Bharti said.

Bharti also said E20 reduces fuel efficiency by 3-3.5 per cent because of ethanol's lower energy content.

BUILT-IN SAFETY

Vikram Gulati, Country Head and Executive Vice-President (Corporate Affairs), Toyota Kirloskar Motor, echoed the view, saying there is a built-in safety buffer beyond E20. Referring to the transition from E10 to E20, he said independent testing by ARAI had shown no adverse impact on vehicles. However, Gulati clarified that Toyota has not independently tested blends higher than E20.

Puneet Anand, Associate Vice-President of Hyundai Motor India, said the industry itself would raise the issue with the government if customers faced genuine problems.

The automakers stressed

that E20 was introduced after extensive scientific validation and meets stringent fuel quality standards. They maintained that it is safe even for vehicles manufactured before 2023.

YEARS OF EVALUATION

Vartika Shukla of Engineers India said the E20 programme was the result of years of scientific evaluation, not a sudden policy decision. India increased ethanol blending in petrol from about 1.5 per cent in 2013-14 to 20 per cent by December 2025, achieving the target five years ahead of schedule. The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme was backed by extensive testing by automakers, ARAI and the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), and aligns with practices followed in the US, Brazil, Canada and Germany.

Also read p12

E20 vehicles safe for higher blends too, but fuel efficiency may drop, say auto-makers

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Also read p12

Headline	Home Guards rescue 10 ONGC employees stranded by floodwaters at Junagadh		
Publication	Gujarat Samachar	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Home Guards rescue 10 ONGC employees stranded by floodwaters at Junagadh

<https://english.gujaratsamachar.com/news/junagadh/home-guards-rescue-10-ongc-employees-stranded-by-floodwaters-at-junagadh-80654249625>

Ten ONGC employees were safely rescued from floodwaters in Gujarat's Junagadh district after heavy rainfall. Stranded at Buri village, a swift Home Guard operation, coordinated with local administration, evacuated all personnel without injury despite strong currents. Prompt action ensured their safe transfer to a secure location.

Headline	Who Will Lead ONGC Next? Rule Changes Open the Door to a High-Stakes Leadership Contest		
Publication	INDIAN PSU	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Who Will Lead ONGC Next? Rule Changes Open the Door to a High-Stakes Leadership Contest

<https://indianpsu.com/ongc-cmd-race-government-relaxes-age-rules-pesb-invites-applications/>

The Government's decision to significantly relax the eligibility criteria for the appointment of the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has transformed what would have been a routine PSU succession exercise into one of the most closely watched leadership contests in India's public sector.

By removing the traditional age-related restrictions and allowing a wider pool of candidates from both the public and private sectors, the government has signalled that it is looking beyond seniority and is instead prioritising transformational leadership, technical expertise and commercial acumen.

A Wider Talent Pool Than Ever Before

Historically, the ONGC CMD position has largely been filled by executives who rose through the organisation or from within the petroleum public sector ecosystem.

This time, however, the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has opened the doors much wider.

The revised eligibility norms make senior executives from other Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), state-owned energy companies and even private sector energy majors eligible to compete, provided they satisfy the prescribed experience and leadership requirements.

The move reflects the government's growing preference for bringing the best available leadership into strategic enterprises irrespective of organisational background.

Why ONGC Needs a Different Kind of Leader

The next CMD will inherit an organisation facing opportunities and challenges of unprecedented scale.

ONGC remains India's largest exploration and production company and contributes significantly to the country's crude oil and natural gas output. At the same time, it faces increasing pressure to:

Reverse declining production from mature fields.

Accelerate deepwater exploration.

Improve recovery from ageing reservoirs.

Expand natural gas production.

Build a commercially viable renewable energy portfolio.

Adopt digital technologies and artificial intelligence across operations.

Strengthen global partnerships and overseas assets.

Deliver strong financial performance despite volatile energy markets.

The leadership required today is therefore very different from what ONGC needed a decade ago.

Could the Government Again Look Beyond Conventional Choices?

The appointment of Arun Kumar Singh in 2022 had already demonstrated the government's willingness to break long-standing conventions.

A former CMD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Singh became the first person to head a Maharatna PSU after retirement, following amendments in appointment rules.

The latest relaxation of age and tenure norms indicates that the government remains open to selecting the most suitable candidate rather than merely the most senior eligible executive.

This increases the possibility that the eventual appointee may come from outside ONGC if the government believes such a candidate can accelerate reforms and improve competitiveness.

Who Could Be in the Race?

Although the application process has only just begun, industry observers expect interest from several categories of executives:

Senior directors currently serving within ONGC.

Top executives from other oil and gas CPSUs.

Leaders from integrated energy companies.

Experienced professionals from private sector energy firms.

Executives with strong backgrounds in exploration, production, LNG, petrochemicals, finance or large-scale project management.

The government's emphasis on engineering capability, commercial strategy and energy transition suggests that technical excellence alone may not be sufficient. Experience in organisational transformation and business diversification is also likely to carry significant weight.

A Test Case for Future PSU Appointments

The ONGC selection process could have implications far beyond one company.

If the revised eligibility framework proves successful, similar flexibility may be adopted for appointments in other strategic Maharatna and Navratna CPSUs.

Such an approach would align with the government's broader objective of enhancing professionalism, improving corporate governance and enabling public sector enterprises to compete effectively in an increasingly dynamic global business environment.

Questions That Merit Attention

As the selection process unfolds, several important questions remain:

Will the next CMD come from within ONGC or from outside the organisation?

Will the government once again favour an experienced leader beyond the conventional retirement age?

Could executives from the private sector emerge as serious contenders?

How much importance will be given to experience in renewable energy and energy transition?

Will the new leadership accelerate ONGC's transformation into an integrated energy company rather than remaining primarily an upstream oil producer?

The answers to these questions will shape not only ONGC's future but also provide a clear indication of the government's evolving philosophy on leadership appointments across India's strategic public sector enterprises.

One development worth watching is whether the government again opts for an external transformational leader, as it did with Arun Kumar Singh, or returns to the more traditional practice of promoting an experienced insider.

This appointment is likely to be among the most consequential PSU leadership decisions of 2026, given ONGC's central role in India's energy security and its transition toward a broader integrated energy business.

Headline	ONGC, bp sign technical services contract to boost production from Western Offshore Basin		
Publication	India's News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

ONGC, bp sign technical services contract to boost production from Western Offshore Basin

<https://www.indiasnews.net/news/279146800/ongc-bp-sign-technical-services-contract-to-boost-production-from-western-offshore-basin>

New Delhi [India, June 25 (ANI): State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and global energy company bp on Thursday signed a Technical Services Contract (TSC) aimed at enhancing hydrocarbon production from ONGC's fields in the Western Offshore Basin.

Under the agreement, bp has been appointed as the Technical Services Provider (TSP) for ONGC's fields in the Western Offshore Basin. The development marks an expansion of the existing collaboration between the two companies, which began with the Technical Services Provider contract for Mumbai High.

ONGC said the Western Offshore Basin is its most prolific hydrocarbon-producing basin, comprising 43 blocks. The basin has been a major contributor to India's energy requirements for more than four decades.

As India's National Oil Company, ONGC accounts for around 64 per cent of the country's domestic crude oil and natural gas production and plays a key role in strengthening India's energy security.

According to the company, the new agreement will facilitate the deployment of advanced technologies, global technical expertise and operating practices across some of India's most important mature hydrocarbon assets.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal.

Under the arrangement, ONGC will retain complete ownership and operational control of the assets. bp will work closely with ONGC's multidisciplinary teams to identify and implement focused interventions across reservoirs, wells and production facilities.

The collaboration is aimed at moderating natural production decline, improving hydrocarbon recovery, enhancing operational efficiency and supporting sustained production growth.

As per the terms of the contract, bp will receive a fixed fee during the first two years. Thereafter, the company will receive a service fee linked to a percentage share of revenue generated from net incremental hydrocarbon production.

The agreement builds on the Technical Services Contract signed between ONGC and bp for Mumbai High in February 2025.

According to ONGC, the first year of collaboration at Mumbai High delivered encouraging results. The two companies were able to moderate production decline and achieve production growth through optimisation of existing wells, enhanced surveillance and focused reservoir, well and facility management initiatives.

Commenting on the development, ONGC Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh said, 'Building on the encouraging outcomes at Mumbai High, this expanded collaboration will support improved recovery, greater efficiency and sustained production growth.'

bp India Chairman and bp Senior Vice President Kartikeya Dube said, 'We look forward to bringing bp's global expertise to support enhanced production from the Western Offshore Basin and strengthen India's energy security.'

The agreement is expected to support efforts to improve output from mature oil and gas fields while contributing to the country's long-term energy security objectives. (ANI)

Headline	ONGC Appoints Prashant Singh as CEO of ONGC Green to Drive 10 GW Renewable Energy Expansion by 2030		
Publication	Indian Master Minds	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

ONGC Appoints Prashant Singh as CEO of ONGC Green to Drive 10 GW Renewable Energy Expansion by 2030

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/ongc-appoints-prashant-singh-ceo-ongc-green-renewable-energy-214958/>

ONGC Appoints Prashant Singh as CEO of ONGC Green to Drive 10 GW Renewable Energy Expansion by 2030

New Delhi: India's energy major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has appointed veteran energy executive Prashant Singh as the Chief Executive Officer of ONGC Green Limited, marking a significant leadership move in the company's clean energy transition strategy.

The appointment comes as ONGC intensifies its focus on renewable energy, green hydrogen, and other low-carbon technologies as part of its long-term decarbonisation roadmap.

ONGC Green Limited is playing a central role in ONGC's strategy to transform into a diversified energy company.

Under its expansion roadmap, the company aims to:

This expansion aligns with India's broader push toward energy transition and reduced carbon emissions across the power and industrial sectors.

Read also: ONGC Appoints Anupam Agarwal as New CFO in Major Leadership Restructuring

Prashant Singh brings over 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, with deep expertise in both traditional hydrocarbons and new energy systems.

Before becoming CEO of ONGC Green Limited, he served as:

He has also served on the boards of:

His background combines operational leadership with governance and strategic planning across the energy sector.

A major part of Singh's mandate will be to support ONGC's long-term sustainability goals, including:

Industry experts believe his appointment strengthens ONGC Green's leadership at a critical stage of rapid scale-up in clean energy investments.

The leadership change is seen as a key strategic move as ONGC transitions from a traditional oil and gas giant into a diversified energy enterprise.

Key expectations from the new leadership include:

With increasing global pressure on energy companies to reduce emissions, ONGC's renewable strategy is becoming a central pillar of its future growth model.

ONGC is steadily repositioning itself from a hydrocarbon-focused company into an integrated energy player. The establishment and expansion of ONGC Green Limited reflects this strategic shift.

The company's long-term vision includes:

This transition is expected to define ONGC's growth trajectory over the coming decades as global energy systems move toward cleaner alternatives.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is India's largest crude oil and natural gas company and a Maharatna public sector enterprise. It plays a critical role in the country's energy security through exploration, production, and development of hydrocarbons. In recent years, ONGC has expanded its focus toward renewable energy and low-carbon technologies as part of its commitment to sustainability and net-zero goals.

Read also: MRPL Appoints ONGC Nominee Satyan Kumar as Director on Board Effective July, 2026

Headline	ONGC Tel Bhawan revives traditional puppetry to promote waste segregation & civic hygiene		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

ONGC Tel Bhawan revives traditional puppetry to promote waste segregation & civic hygiene

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-tel-bhawan-revives-traditional-puppetry-to-promote-waste-segregation-civic-hygiene>

As part of Swachhata Pakhwada 2026, ONGC Tel Bhawan, Dehradun, partnered with Mumkin Hai Development Foundation to host a puppet show for waste segregation awareness.

DEHRADUN, JULY 04: As part of the ongoing nationwide cleanliness campaign, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Tel Bhawan, Dehradun, organised an engaging puppet show to spread critical awareness about cleanliness, personal hygiene, and waste segregation. The initiative focused on promoting responsible civic behaviour among employees and the local community.

The event used vibrant storytelling, colourful puppets, humour, and music to simplify complex environmental and waste management issues. By blending entertainment with education, the interactive program made important sustainability messages memorable and enjoyable for audiences across all age groups.

Join PSU Connect on WhatsApp

Reviving Traditional Art for Modern Awareness

Organised in active collaboration with the Mumkin Hai Development Foundation, the initiative brought together professional puppet artists, volunteers, and local community members. By choosing traditional puppetry over conventional modern media, ONGC successfully revived an old art form, proving it to be a highly effective medium for public awareness and community participation.

Driving Behavioral Change

The core objective of the programme was to reinforce a powerful message: meaningful environmental and behavioural change begins when communities learn, participate, and act together. Through this event, ONGC reiterated its commitment to fostering a cleaner, greener, healthier, and more sustainable India.

Headline	ONGC shareholders clear crucial resolutions for Area-1 Offshore Mozambique project		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

ONGC shareholders clear crucial resolutions for Area-1 Offshore Mozambique project

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-shareholders-clear-crucial-resolutions-for-area-1-offshore-mozambique-project>

ONGC Postal Ballot Voting Results, Area-1 Offshore Mozambique Project, AssetCo Structure, Debt Service Undertaking, SEBI LODR corporate compliance.

NEW DELHI, JULY 04: Energy maharatna Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has successfully secured absolute shareholder backing for its strategically significant overseas gas infrastructure project. In a corporate notification submitted to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE Limited, the state-run explorer announced the definitive closure and positive results of its remote e-voting process conducted via postal ballot.

The shareholder voting, which wrapped up on July 3, 2026, focused on validating key Material Related Party Transactions (RPTs) to streamline operations and corporate underwriting frameworks for the multi-billion dollar Area-1 Offshore Mozambique Project

According to the official Scrutinizer's Report compiled by Shri Sachin Agarwal of M/s. Agarwal S. & Associates, both items put forward in the initial June 3 notice were cleared with an overwhelming, near-unanimous majority.

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Breakdown of the Strategic Resolutions

The postal ballot landscape centered around two foundational ordinary resolutions designated to formalize the project's financial architecture:

Resolution 1 (AssetCo Structure): Approval of Material Related Party Transactions with respect to the Area-1 Offshore Mozambique Project AssetCo Structure.

Resolution 2 (Debt Service Undertaking): Approval of Material Related Party Transactions linked to the execution of the project's Debt Service Undertaking.

The approval represents a major milestone for ONGC's international exploration arm, ensuring structural clarity and financial backing for infrastructure assets positioned across the natural gas-rich Rovuma Basin in Mozambique.

Deep Dive: The Shareholder Voting Matrix

Data generated from the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) e-voting platform indicates an exceptional level of consensus among participating institutional and public equity holders.

AssetCo Structure Resolution: Out of a total of 4,52,17,90,076 valid votes cast, a staggering 4,52,16,33,118 votes (99.9965%) were registered in favor of the commercial setup. Only 390 members, accounting for a minor 1,56,958 votes (0.0035%), voted against the mandate.

Debt Service Undertaking Resolution: Out of 4,52,17,86,712 valid votes processed, 4,52,16,17,499 votes (99.9963%) backed the corporate undertaking framework, while a minute 438 accounts representing 1,69,213 votes (0.0037%) opposed the movement.

Voting Outcome Overview

Core Resolution Agenda

Total Valid Votes Cast

Votes in Favor (%)

Votes Against (%)

Final Corporate Status

1. Mozambique Project - AssetCo Structure

Passed Legally

2. Debt Service Undertaking Framework

Passed Legally

The company confirmed that the internal promoter group did not hold an unaligned interest in the commercial agendas. With the formal authorization cycle completed in complete adherence to Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013, read alongside Regulation 44(3) of SEBI LODR Regulations, ONGC is positioned to advance its critical offshore production parameters to boost long-term energy resource capacity.

Headline	MRPL appoints Satyan Kumar as ONGC Nominee Director		
Publication	Scanx	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

MRPL appoints Satyan Kumar as ONGC Nominee Director

<https://scanx.trade/stock-market-news/companies/mrpl-appoints-satyan-kumar-as-ongc-nominee-director-effective-jul-2/44621938>

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited has appointed Satyan Kumar as ONGC Nominee Director on its Board, effective July 2, 2026. Kumar, currently Director (Strategy & Corporate Affairs) at ONGC, brings over 36 years of experience across the oil and gas value chain. He is eligible for the appointment under Section 164 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited has appointed Satyan Kumar as ONGC Nominee Director on its Board, effective July 2, 2026. The appointment was communicated to the exchanges pursuant to Regulation 30 read with Part "A" of Schedule III of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Satyan Kumar is not debarred from holding the office of Director by any SEBI order or other authority. He is not related to any Directors of the company and is eligible for the appointment under the provisions of Section 164 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Profile of Satyan Kumar

Satyan Kumar currently serves as Director (Strategy & Corporate Affairs) at ONGC. He provides strategic leadership for corporate strategy, business development, joint-venture operations, stakeholder engagement, and emerging energy initiatives.

He holds an Electrical Engineering degree from Dayalbagh Educational Institution, Agra, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from MDI Gurgaon. He has also undergone advanced leadership training at ESCP-EAP, France.

Professional Experience

Kumar brings over 36 years of experience across the oil and gas value chain. His career spans upstream operations, engineering, project management, marketing, business development, petrochemicals, corporate strategy, and renewable energy.

Key Role

Description

Executive Director Chief Corporate Strategy

Shaped ONGC's long-term strategic roadmap

Project Leadership

Led initiatives like captive power plants and the HaziraDahej naphtha pipeline

Renewable Energy

Associated with solar, wind, and biofuels initiatives

He has played a key role in ONGC's diversification into petrochemicals, LNG, and green energy, including the company's first 15 MW utility-scale solar project.

Historical Stock Returns for Mangalore Refinery & Petroleum

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Headline	Why are Vedanta Oil and Gas share price falling 7% today? Explained		
Publication	Tezzbuzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Why are Vedanta Oil and Gas share price falling 7% today? Explained

<https://tezzbuzz.com/why-are-vedanta-oil-and-gas-share-price-falling-7-today-explained/>

Vedanta Oil and Gas Ltd shares fell 7.38 percent to Rs 41.30 on the NSE on July 3, down Rs 3.29 from the previous close of Rs 44.59.

The stock swung in a wide intraday range of Rs 41.10 to Rs 47.60, having opened higher before sliding through the session on profit booking. Its 52 week range stands at Rs 30.42 to Rs 47.60, a band largely built over the past few weeks since listing. Average trading volume stood at 43.92 million shares. P/E ratio and dividend yield were not available given the company's recent listing.

The decline follows a sharp two session rally in which the stock had gained around 40 percent, touching a high of Rs 45.37 on July 2. That move came as investors began pricing Vedanta Oil and Gas as a standalone pure play entity following its demerger from Vedanta Limited, with the four new entities from the demerger, including Vedanta Oil and Gas, having listed independently on June 15. The stock's recent volatility has also been shaped by its transition out of the trade to trade segment, where it spent its first ten sessions with restricted intraday trading, into the B group toward the end of June, which allowed for freer price discovery and higher volumes.

The company's asset base includes an estimated 2.9 billion barrels of oil equivalent in resources, with proven reserves and resources of approximately 1.3 billion boe, anchored by its Rajasthan block alongside smaller contributions from Ravva and Cambay. Credit rating agency ICRA has assigned an AA+ rating with a stable outlook to the company's long term fund based term loans, citing its established position in India's upstream exploration sector and competitive operating costs.

On earnings, the company has guided for a sharp ramp up in profitability, targeting EBITDA of around 939 million dollars, translating to roughly Rs 8,900 crore, for the coming fiscal year, against a current market capitalisation of around Rs 16,500 crore. Actual EBITDA stood at 557 million dollars in FY25 and 492 million dollars in FY26, with estimates rising to 656 million dollars in FY27, 939 million dollars in FY28 and 961 million dollars in FY29, based on assumed Brent crude prices ranging between 70 and 85 dollars a barrel and production estimates rising from 88 thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day in FY26 to 150 thousand by FY29. The company has outlined capital expenditure of around Rs 6,600 crore to support this production growth. If the underlying targets hold, the stock would trade at roughly two times EV to EBITDA on forward estimates, a valuation well below listed peer ONGC.

Investors are being advised to weigh the company's growth targets against the inherent risks of the exploration and production business, including crude price volatility, geological and technical execution risk at existing blocks, and the pace of regulatory approvals for new exploration activity. Production updates from the Rajasthan block, progress on the capital expenditure plan, and debt management as a standalone entity remain key monitorables going forward.

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice. The figures and securities mentioned are for analysis and illustration, not recommendations. Markets carry risk, and readers should conduct their own research or consult a registered financial adviser before making any investment decision.

Headline	Roads and highways in Gujarat bear monsoon scars as rain eases after three days of battering		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Roads and highways in Gujarat bear monsoon scars as rain eases after three days of battering

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/roads-and-highways-in-gujarat-bear-monsoon-scars-as-rain-eases-after-three-days-of-battering/articleshow/132187097.cms>

TNN / Jul 05, 2026, 00:50 IST

Rajkot/Surat: As torrential rain finally eased across most parts of Gujarat on Saturday after three days of relentless battering, the immediate focus shifted from rescue operations to repairing the extensive damage left behind on roads, highways and bridges across the state. From Saurashtra to south Gujarat, heavy rain exposed the vulnerability of transport infrastructure, with highways developing craters, bridge approaches collapsing, roads being washed away and several stretches remaining submerged, disrupting traffic and isolating villages. 10 employees of ONGC rescued by Home Guards One of the worst-hit stretches was National Highway-51 near Husainabad village in Junagadh's Mangrol taluka, where a portion of the highway connecting Dwarka and Somnath was washed away, forcing authorities to suspend traffic. The Junagadh district administration, along with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), restored the damaged stretch on Saturday after emergency repairs. The highway closure stranded nearly 900 passengers travelling in state transport buses, who were shifted to cyclone shelters and provided food and drinking water. 19 people caught in flood at Samdhiyala village in Mendarda taluka rescued Rescue teams also saved 19 people trapped in three vehicles near Samadhiyala village in Mendarda taluka after rising floodwaters surrounded them. The Rajula-Jafrabad-Pipavav coastal belt in Amreli district witnessed a fresh spell of intense showers, causing widespread waterlogging. In north Gujarat, around 5 inches of rain left several parts of Patan town waterlogged, disrupting traffic and daily life. Residents alleged that inadequate pre-monsoon preparations by the civic body had worsened the situation. In neighbouring Aravalli district, authorities barred heavy vehicles from using the Vatrak river bridge near Dabha village on the Bayad-Dehgam state highway after waterlogging raised concerns about its structural safety. South Gujarat also witnessed extensive infrastructure damage. In Navsari district, the Bilimora-Amalsad road developed a five-foot-wide crater near the Ambika river bridge approach after soil erosion beneath the surface caused the road to cave in. The bridge was temporarily closed before emergency repairs restored traffic. National highway blocked On NH-48 near Dhamdachi in Valsad, potholes slowed traffic and damaged vehicles, prompting immediate repair work by NHAI. A section of the Kim-Bharuch expressway near Piludra collapsed during heavy rain when a concrete bridge slab caved in, leaving an 8-foot-deep hole with exposed steel reinforcement. Several vehicles crashed into the damaged section before authorities cordoned off the area. Elsewhere on the expressway near Kim crossroads, erosion washed away a concrete slope protection cover, exposing the highway embankment and triggering fears of further structural weakening. Stay updated with the latest Ahmedabad news. Download the TOI App.

Headline	India bucking trend by adding refining capacity: PM Modi India News		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

India bucking trend by adding refining capacity: PM Modi | India News

<https://www.7globe.in/india-bucking-trend-by-adding-refining-capacity-pm-modi-india-news/>

While people were busy spreading rumours of a crisis, govt was quietly ramping up domestic LPG production, diversifying crude supplies and leveraging

diplomacy to shield consumers from shortages and steep price shocks during the worst energy crisis in decades caused by the West Asia war, PM Modi said on Saturday. Speaking at the inauguration of HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd's greenfield refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Pachpadra in Rajasthan's Balotra district, Modi said the refinery was part of a sustained expansion of the country's refining capacity. Not a single new refinery has been built in the US in the last 50 years, while Europe's refining capacity has steadily declined. India has become the 4th-largest refining nation in the world, and we'll continue to expand this capacity. India overcame what he described as the biggest energy crisis of the 21st century through timely policy interventions and strategic decisions that enabled the country to weather the disruption.

Timely policies helped weather oil crisis: PM Modi

Prime Minister Modi said timely policy interventions and strategic decisions enabled the country to weather the disruption in the oil crisis while many nations grappled with fuel shortages and soaring prices. While some forces were busy spreading rumours and fear publicly, behind the scenes, immense work was being done day and night, Modi said, in what appeared to be a dig at opposition who had predicted an economic tsunami. Those who wished to see India fail, who even made predictions of failure, must today be drowning in despair, the PM added. Recounting the crisis, the PM said that immediate challenge was keeping enough stocks of cooking gas, as India imports around 60% of its LPG requirement, with nearly 90% of those supplies coming from Gulf countries through the Strait of Hormuz before the conflict. You can imagine the chaos that could have erupted, Modi said, adding that as soon as the crisis began, refineries were asked to maximise LPG production. As a result, LPG production rose from 35,000 tonnes to 54,000 tonnes within seven days. Govt also expanded piped natural gas connections to reduce pressure on LPG supplies, he said. Modi said despite the disruption, domestic consumers were protected from the full impact of the price surge. The conflict also pushed crude oil prices from around \$70 a barrel to \$120 and disrupted supply lines. There was no fuel rationing even for a day, the PM stressed. He also said that oil companies in India absorbed losses of more than Rs 75,000 crore between April and June. Modi credited India's diplomatic outreach for helping diversify energy imports during the crisis. Before the conflict, India sourced crude and other energy supplies from about 26 countries. During the crisis, that number increased to more than 40. India sent a clear message to the world for us, national interest and the welfare of our citizens are paramount, he said.

Source link

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Headline	Carmakers on E20: No engine damage, but mileage drops India News		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Carmakers on E20: No engine damage, but mileage drops | India News

<https://www.7globe.in/carmakers-on-e20-no-engine-damage-but-mileage-drops-india-news/>

NEW DELHI: Coming to the defence of govt amid backlash over the impact of mandatory 20% blending of ethanol in petrol, vehicle manufacturers on

Saturday said there was no evidence of damage to engines, although they admitted to 3-3.5% drop in fuel efficiency in pre-2023 vehicles. The fall in mileage was on account of E20 petrol having lower calorific value. TOI has learned that govt on Friday reached out to vehicle manufacturers and oil marketing companies (OMCs) to counter the narrative against E20 on social media, including some that are devoid of facts.

Cos asked to send out safe E20' message

Senior executives from Maruti Suzuki India, Toyota Kirloskar, Bajaj Auto, TVS Motor, Hyundai Motor India and Hero MotoCorp addressed media on Saturday to allay concerns. Responding to a question, Rahul Bharti from Maruti Suzuki India said during 2025-26, they serviced 2.8 crore cars and 1.5 crore of these were more than 3-years-old, meaning these were not certified E20 compliant vehicles. We have not found anything of concern related to E20 fuel usage in these vehicles. Apart from the testing that we do in our labs, the field experience has also been fine. This is what gives us the confidence to tell our customers that there is no problem, he said. In response to another question on whether the industry would urge govt to keep the present mandatory 20% ethanol blending unchanged for 10-15 years to build confidence among new buyers, Toyota Kirloskar Motor's Vikram Gulati said, IMC (inter-ministerial committee) and auto industry along with other stakeholders are talking to the govt. And there is a clear request for flex fuel vehicles (FFVs) and this is also being taken forward. As more FFVs hit the market this will be a globally compatible pathway, which will bring enough flexibility and agility. This is being discussed and govt is looking in that direction. He said that the decision to launch fuel pumps dispensing E85 (petrol with 85% ethanol) is a step in this direction, while backing the move.

Source link

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Headline	'E20 Damages Engines? Baseless Rumours': Hardeep Puri Defends Ethanol-Blended Fuel		
Publication	ABP Majha	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

'E20 Damages Engines? Baseless Rumours': Hardeep Puri Defends Ethanol-Blended Fuel

<https://news.abplive.com/news/india/e20-damages-engines-baseless-rumours-hardeep-puri-defends-ethanol-blended-fuel-1854508>

Hardeep Singh Puri dismissed social media claims that E20 fuel damages engines or attracts pests as "rumours", saying ethanol has been used globally for decades.

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday rejected claims circulating on social media about ethanol-blended fuel damaging vehicle engines or attracting pests, describing them as "rumours" and urging people to rely on scientific evidence instead of misinformation.

Speaking to reporters in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Puri said the government welcomes constructive criticism of its biofuel policy but cautioned against the spread of unverified claims.

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Minister Puri dismissed social media claims about ethanol fuel damage.

Puri stressed ethanol fuel usage has existed globally for decades.

India expanded E20 petrol to cut oil imports and emissions.

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"I welcome criticism. If anyone believes there are shortcomings in our work, we are ready to listen, consider the suggestions and make improvements where required," he said.

Referring to the viral claims, Puri said, "Rumours are being spread that ethanol attracts pests, damages engines or causes fuel pumps to fail. These are baseless claims."

'We Did Not Invent Ethanol Usage'

The minister stressed that ethanol-blended fuel is not a new concept and has been used around the world for decades. He noted that the technology predates the current push for cleaner fuels and cited early automobile pioneer Henry Ford as an example.

"We did not invent ethanol usage. It has been in use for nearly a century. Henry Ford's vehicles ran on biofuels, kerosene and fossil fuels," Puri said.

He also pointed out that India's ethanol blending programme was first conceptualised under the previous Congress-led government. Recalling his tenure as India's Ambassador to Brazil between 2006 and 2008, Puri said an initial target of achieving 5 per cent ethanol blending in 10 states and Union Territories was set, but the programme could only reach 1.4 per cent at the time., ANI news reported

India Rolled Out E20 Petrol Nationwide

The Centre has since significantly expanded the ethanol blending programme as part of its strategy to reduce dependence on crude oil imports, cut carbon emissions and support farmers. The rollout of E20 petrol, which contains 20 per cent ethanol, has been accelerated after compatibility assessments with automobile manufacturers and research institutions.

Puri's remarks come amid a wave of social media posts questioning the impact of E20 fuel on vehicle performance, concerns the government has repeatedly sought to dismiss as unsubstantiated.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What claims about ethanol-blended fuel did Minister Puri reject?

Minister Puri rejected claims circulating on social media that ethanol-blended fuel damages vehicle engines, attracts pests, or causes fuel pumps to fail, calling them baseless rumours.

Is ethanol-blended fuel a new concept?

No, ethanol-blended fuel is not a new concept. Minister Puri stated it has been used globally for nearly a century, even by early automobile pioneer Henry Ford.

About the author

Sneha

Sneha is a Senior Copy Editor at ABP Live English , covering national and global news, politics, and social developments. She approaches every story with clarity, accuracy, and a reader-focused perspective. She holds a Master's degree in Mass Communication from Central University of Jharkhand.

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Diesel

Hardeep Singh Puri

Oil Ministry

E20 Petrol

Headline	Pachpadra refinery among world's top 25% in technology: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri		
Publication	Andhra Pradesh Mirror	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Pachpadra refinery among world's top 25% in technology: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

<https://www.andhrapradeshmirror.com/news/pachpadra-refinery-among-worlds-top-25-in-technology-union-minister-hardeep-singh-puri20260704134155/>

Balotra (Rajasthan) [India, July 4 : Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said the newly inaugurated HRRL

Greenfield Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra ranks among the world's top 25 per cent of refineries in terms of technology and will play a key role in strengthening India's energy security and self-reliance.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony after Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the refinery to the nation, Puri said the 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) refinery-cum-petrochemical complex has a Nelson Complexity Index (NCI) of 17, placing it among the most technologically advanced refineries globally.

"Whenever we discuss refineries globally, their technology is graded on a scale of 1 to 20; this complex has a Nelson Complexity Index of 17, which means it ranks among the top 25 per cent of refineries worldwide in terms of technology. This refinery will be capable of processing both imported crude and crude produced within India, and the total cost of this project is approximately 80,000 crore," Puri said.

He said the refinery would generate employment, boost industrial growth in Rajasthan and contribute to India's energy self-sufficiency.

"In the last ten years, very few greenfield refineries have been built. Two of these were dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji at IOCL's Paradip Refinery in 2016, and today here in Pachpadra, the HRRL refinery, which is a joint venture of HPCL and the Government of Rajasthan," he said.

Puri said extensive infrastructure had been created to support the refinery, including dedicated pipelines for crude oil and water.

"To transport crude oil to the refinery, a dedicated 490-kilometre-long pipeline was laid from Mundra. Additionally, a 75-kilometre local crude pipeline was constructed from the Mangala oil field. For water supply, arrangements were made to bring water from the Nachna reservoir through a separate 230-kilometre-long pipeline. Prime Minister, it was your clear resolve that the Thar region should be linked to the mainstream of the country's development," he said.

The Union Minister alleged that although the project was launched in 2013 and an MoU was signed in 2017, it remained delayed during the previous Congress government in Rajasthan.

"This project originally started in September 2013. In April 2017, an MoU was signed with the then Rajasthan government. However, from 2018 to 2023, during the five-year tenure of the then Congress government in Rajasthan, this project remained stalled. The required equity contribution from the Rajasthan government was not provided, and there were delays in obtaining approvals. In December 2023, when the BJP government was formed again in the state, the situation changed, and the project progressed at full speed," he said.

Referring to recent global energy disruptions, he said India ensured uninterrupted fuel supplies despite challenges in international markets.

"Not a single one of our 107,000 petrol pumps was shut down... There were no dry-outs anywhere. When challenges arose regarding LPG, our refineries increased production from 35,000 metric tonnes per day to 54,000 metric tonnes," he said.

Headline	Hardeep Puri dismisses social media claims over E20 fuel, says criticism backed by facts is welcome		
Publication	Andhra Pradesh Mirror	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Hardeep Puri dismisses social media claims over E20 fuel, says criticism backed by facts is welcome

<https://www.andhrapradeshmirror.com/news/hardeep-puri-dismisses-social-media-claims-over-e20-fuel-says-criticism-backed-by-facts-is-welcome20260704203046/>

Jodhpur (Rajasthan) [India, July 4 : Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday dismissed concerns circulating on

social media over ethanol-blended fuel, saying claims that E20 fuel attracts pests or damages vehicle engines are "rumours" and urging people to rely on scientific evidence rather than misinformation.

Addressing the media in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Puri said the government remains open to constructive criticism but rejected what he described as 'rumours' about biofuel blending.

"Over the past few days, you may have noticed a stir on social media regarding biofuel blending. I welcome criticism. If you feel there are shortcomings in the work we are doing, please point them out, and we will listen to you; we will incorporate your suggestions into our work and make the necessary corrections," the minister said.

"However, consider the rumours that were being spread: first, that using ethanol would attract pests; second, that using ethanol would cause the engine to fail or get damaged, or cause the fuel pump to stop working," he added.

Puri said ethanol is not a new technology and has been used globally for decades.

"We did not invent the concept of ethanol usage; work on this has been going on for a century. Henry Ford, the owner of the Ford Motor Company, drove cars using biofuels, kerosene, and fossil fuels back in his day," Puri said.

The minister also noted that India's ethanol blending programme predates the current government, recalling that the initiative was first conceived during the previous Congress-led government.

"As for India, the Congress government was the first to formulate a plan for this. I recall my time as Ambassador to Brazil—specifically between 2006 and 2008. Sharad Pawar was the Agriculture Minister around that time. We had set a target of achieving 5 per cent biofuel blending across ten states and union territories, though we were unable to meet it—we stalled at 1.4 per cent," he said.

The Centre has been promoting ethanol blending as part of its strategy to reduce crude oil imports, lower carbon emissions, and support the domestic agricultural economy. The government has accelerated the rollout of E20 petrol, containing 20 per cent ethanol, across the country after conducting compatibility testing with automobile manufacturers and research agencies.

Puri's remarks come amid recent social media posts raising concerns over the use of E20 fuel and its impact on vehicle performance.

Headline	Global crisis did not affect India due to PM Modi's foreign policy: BJP leader Manan Mishra		
Publication	Any Tv News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Global crisis did not affect India due to PM Modi's foreign policy: BJP leader Manan Mishra

<https://anytvnews.com/politics/global-crisis-did-not-affect-india-due-to-pm-modis-foreign-policy-bjp-leader-manan-mishra/>

New Delhi, July 4 (IANS). Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated CG Semi's OSAT facility in Sanand, Gujarat.

He said that India's willpower and efforts proved overwhelming during the global crisis. BJP MP Manan Mishra supported his views and said that due to the country's successful foreign policy there was no impact of inflation.

BJP MP Manan Mishra told INS that the Prime Minister is absolutely right. During the global crisis, especially during the conflict between America and Iran, even big and rich countries were caught in difficult situations. Even America had to increase oil prices by more than 50 percent. European countries were badly affected. Still, we are really grateful to our Prime Minister, because of his policies, his visionary policies, India was not affected by that crisis. Here oil prices increased by two to four rupees, but the public did not face any kind of crisis or difficulty.

Taking aim at the opposition, he said that the opposition parties tried their best to mislead the public and spread anarchy. But, the people of the country had faith in the Prime Minister. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, our foreign policy has been successful, due to which India was not affected by the global crisis.

Manan Mishra said that our Prime Minister made concerted efforts to ensure that the business community does not suffer any major personal loss. Even amidst such a huge global crisis, the government took steps to minimize the impact and ensure that no one faces any crisis or hardship. It is the success of our Prime Minister, our Home Minister and our foreign policy that the world faced such a big crisis, but it had no impact on India, India remained untouched by it.

The BJP leader said that due to the successful foreign policy of the Prime Minister, India has good relations with all countries. During the global crisis, India has supplied crude oil from wherever it deems appropriate.

President Murmu has announced the monsoon session from 20th July to 13th August. On this, BJP leader Manan Mishra said that the agenda has not come before all of us yet. But I feel that many important issues will be resolved in the monsoon session. There will be discussion and deliberations on many issues like Women's Reservation Bill.

Amid theft of Ram temple offerings, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray has decided to launch Ram Raksha Andolan in Maharashtra from July 5. Politics has intensified regarding this. BJP leader Manan Mishra said that Uddhav Thackeray neither has any issue nor any work. If any embezzlement or scam has taken place then the SIT is investigating it. The accused are being arrested while taking action. Expanding the scope of investigation, the SIT is interrogating the people of the trust. Uddhav Thackeray is making wrong statements, it is not going to have any impact on the public. He has failed to save even his party, what will he talk about Ram Mandir.

IANS

ASH/ABM

Headline	'Diesel is 19 and petrol is 6...' Crude is cheaper than before, yet why are oil companies in loss? Understand the complete mathematics here		
Publication	Any Tv News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

'Diesel is 19 and petrol is 6...' Crude is cheaper than before, yet why are oil companies in loss? Understand the complete mathematics here

<https://anytvnews.com/business/diesel-is-%e2%82%b919-and-petrol-is-%e2%82%b96-crude-is-cheaper-than-before-yet-why-are-oil-companies-in-loss-understand-the-complete-mathematics-here/>

Even when crude oil prices were high due to the conflict in the Middle East, there was no significant increase in the prices of petrol and diesel in India, causing huge losses to the oil companies.

Now, even though crude oil prices have come down and fuel prices that were raised earlier remain the same, oil companies are still incurring huge losses.

According to a report by ICICI Securities, oil companies have suffered huge losses in the April-June quarter. Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have suffered a loss of 18.9 per liter on diesel and 6 per liter on petrol. According to the brokerage firm, in the same quarter last year, oil and gas companies got a margin of 8.2 per liter on diesel and 10.3 per liter on petrol. However, the full impact of the increase in international crude oil and refined fuel prices during the last quarter was not passed on to retail prices, resulting in negative margins for companies.

How are the prices of petrol and diesel decided?

The price customers pay at a petrol pump is a combination of many factors. The prices of petrol and diesel at the refinery gate are mainly determined by the international refined fuel price. Before deciding the pump price, oil companies add transportation and logistics costs, trading and distribution costs, dealer commission and applicable taxes.

What is included in the cost of refined fuel?

This includes costs like refined fuel price, transportation and logistics, distribution costs, dealer commission, taxes and retail margins. Any change in these factors impacts the margins of companies. When international fuel prices rise but petrol pump prices do not change in the same proportion, the retail profit margins of oil companies are reduced. Conversely, if global prices fall and retail prices remain the same, companies earn higher profit margins.

Why are companies incurring losses?

ICICI Securities attributed the recent losses to the imbalance between rising international fuel prices and stable domestic petrol pump prices during the April-June period. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri recently said oil marketing companies (OMCs) suffered a loss of about 75,000 crore in the quarter from selling petrol, diesel, LPG and aviation turbine fuel below market rates.

The current loss represents a sharp decline from the strong retail margins seen in the last two financial years. According to ICICI Securities, petrol margins reached an all-time high of 12 per liter in Q3FY25, while diesel margins reached as high as 8.2 per liter in Q1FY26.

Headline	Rs 79,459 crore Rajasthan refinery to boost India's energy self-reliance: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Asia Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Rs 79,459 crore Rajasthan refinery to boost India's energy self-reliance: Hardeep Puri

<https://asiapost.in/rs-79459-crore-rajasthan-refinery-to-boost-indias-energy-self-reliance-hardeep-puri/>

New Delhi, July 4 (IANS) Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday described India's first standalone greenfield

refinery-cum-petrochemical complex inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Pachpadra in Rajasthan as a major milestone in the country's journey towards energy self-reliance.

In a post on X, the minister said the refinery will produce nearly 26 per cent petrochemical products from the outset and has a Nelson Complexity Index of 17, making it one of the country's most advanced and energy-efficient refining facilities.

Puri said the complex will house the world's largest polypropylene unit and a polyethylene swing unit capable of manufacturing more than 30 grades of polymers.

It will also feature Asia's largest coker unit, he added.

Highlighting the scale of the project, the minister said its construction involved moving over 150 lakh cubic metres of earth, using 16 lakh cubic metres of concrete and about six lakh tonnes of structural steel.

Describing the refinery as one of India's largest investments in the oil sector, Puri said the project would generate employment, promote industrial development in Barmer and Rajasthan, and strengthen the country's energy security in line with the Make in India' initiative.

The integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex has been developed at an investment of Rs 79,459 crore by HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL), a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), which holds a 74 per cent stake, and the Rajasthan government, which holds the remaining 26 per cent.

The complex has a refining capacity of 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) and a petrochemical capacity of 2.4 MMTPA.

In addition, PM Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated multiple development projects worth more than Rs 1.06 lakh crore in Rajasthan, the minister said.

IANS

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Headline	New Rajasthan refinery among world's top 25%, says Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Asianet News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

New Rajasthan refinery among world's top 25%, says Hardeep Puri

<https://newsable.asianetnews.com/india/new-rajasthan-refinery-among-worlds-top-25-percent-says-hardeep-puri-articleshow-s2btuef>

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the HRRL Greenfield Refinery in Pachpadra, Rajasthan, calling it among the world's top 25% for technology. The 80,000 crore project will boost India's energy security and self-reliance.

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said the newly inaugurated HRRL Greenfield Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra ranks among the world's top 25 per cent of refineries in terms of technology and will play a key role in strengthening India's energy security and self-reliance.

Technologically Advanced Refinery

Addressing the inauguration ceremony after Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the refinery to the nation, Puri said the 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) refinery-cum-petrochemical complex has a Nelson Complexity Index (NCI) of 17, placing it among the most technologically advanced refineries globally.

"Whenever we discuss refineries globally, their technology is graded on a scale of 1 to 20; this complex has a Nelson Complexity Index of 17, which means it ranks among the top 25 per cent of refineries worldwide in terms of technology. This refinery will be capable of processing both imported crude and crude produced within India, and the total cost of this project is approximately 80,000 crore," Puri said.

He said the refinery would generate employment, boost industrial growth in Rajasthan and contribute to India's energy self-sufficiency.

"In the last ten years, very few greenfield refineries have been built. Two of these were dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji at IOCL's Paradip Refinery in 2016, and today here in Pachpadra, the HRRL refinery, which is a joint venture of HPCL and the Government of Rajasthan," he said.

Extensive Supporting Infrastructure

Puri said extensive infrastructure had been created to support the refinery, including dedicated pipelines for crude oil and water.

"To transport crude oil to the refinery, a dedicated 490-kilometre-long pipeline was laid from Mundra. Additionally, a 75-kilometre local crude pipeline was constructed from the Mangala oil field. For water supply, arrangements were made to bring water from the Nachna reservoir through a separate 230-kilometre-long pipeline. Prime Minister, it was your clear resolve that the Thar region should be linked to the mainstream of the country's development," he said.

Project Delays Under Previous Government

The Union Minister alleged that although the project was launched in 2013 and an MoU was signed in 2017, it remained delayed during the previous Congress government in Rajasthan.

"This project originally started in September 2013. In April 2017, an MoU was signed with the then Rajasthan government. However, from 2018 to 2023, during the five-year tenure of the then Congress government in Rajasthan, this project remained stalled. The required equity contribution from the Rajasthan government was not provided, and there were delays in obtaining approvals. In December 2023, when the BJP government was formed again in the state, the situation changed, and the project progressed at full speed," he said.

India's Energy Resilience

Referring to recent global energy disruptions, he said India ensured uninterrupted fuel supplies despite challenges in international markets.

"Not a single one of our 107,000 petrol pumps was shut down... There were no dry-outs anywhere. When challenges arose regarding LPG, our refineries increased production from 35,000 metric tonnes per day to 54,000 metric tonnes," he said. (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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Headline	Puri dismisses E20 fuel rumours, urges reliance on scientific proof		
Publication	Asianet News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Puri dismisses E20 fuel rumours, urges reliance on scientific proof

<https://newsable.asianetnews.com/business/puri-dismisses-e20-fuel-rumours-urges-reliance-on-scientific-proof-articleshow-cdetymo>

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri dismissed social media claims about E20 fuel attracting pests or damaging engines, calling them 'rumours'. He urged people to rely on scientific evidence over misinformation and said the government welcomes criticism.

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday dismissed concerns circulating on social media over ethanol-blended fuel, saying claims that E20 fuel attracts pests or damages vehicle engines are "rumours" and urging people to rely on scientific evidence rather than misinformation.

Addressing the media in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Puri said the government remains open to constructive criticism but rejected what he described as 'rumours' about biofuel blending. "Over the past few days, you may have noticed a stir on social media regarding biofuel blending. I welcome criticism. If you feel there are shortcomings in the work we are doing, please point them out, and we will listen to you; we will incorporate your suggestions into our work and make the necessary corrections," the minister said.

"However, consider the rumours that were being spread: first, that using ethanol would attract pests; second, that using ethanol would cause the engine to fail or get damaged, or cause the fuel pump to stop working," he added.

Historical Context of Ethanol Use

Puri said ethanol is not a new technology and has been used globally for decades. "We did not invent the concept of ethanol usage; work on this has been going on for a century. Henry Ford, the owner of the Ford Motor Company, drove cars using biofuels, kerosene, and fossil fuels back in his day," Puri said.

Ethanol Blending in India

The minister also noted that India's ethanol blending programme predates the current government, recalling that the initiative was first conceived during the previous Congress-led government. "As for India, the Congress government was the first to formulate a plan for this. I recall my time as Ambassador to Brazil--specifically between 2006 and 2008. Sharad Pawar was the Agriculture Minister around that time. We had set a target of achieving 5 per cent biofuel blending across ten states and union territories, though we were unable to meet it--we stalled at 1.4 per cent," he said.

Government's Biofuel Strategy

The Centre has been promoting ethanol blending as part of its strategy to reduce crude oil imports, lower carbon emissions, and support the domestic agricultural economy. The government has accelerated the rollout of E20 petrol, containing 20 per cent ethanol, across the country after conducting compatibility testing with automobile manufacturers and research agencies.

Puri's remarks come amid recent social media posts raising concerns over the use of E20 fuel and its impact on vehicle performance. (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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Headline	Hardeep Puri Dismisses E20 Fuel Rumours, Urges Scientific Evidence		
Publication	Bharat Horizon	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Hardeep Puri Dismisses E20 Fuel Rumours, Urges Scientific Evidence

<https://bharathorizon.com/business/banking/hardeep-puri-dismisses-e20-fuel-rumours-urges-scientific-evidence.html>

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday dismissed social media concerns over ethanol-blended fuel, labelling claims

that E20 petrol attracts pests or damages vehicle engines as "rumours" and urging the public to rely on scientific evidence.

Puri Welcomes Constructive Criticism

Addressing the media in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Puri said the government remains open to constructive criticism but rejected what he described as misinformation about biofuel blending. "Over the past few days, you may have noticed a stir on social media regarding biofuel blending. I welcome criticism. If you feel there are shortcomings in the work we are doing, please point them out, and we will listen to you; we will incorporate your suggestions into our work and make the necessary corrections," the minister stated.

"However, consider the rumours that were being spread: first, that using ethanol would attract pests; second, that using ethanol would cause the engine to fail or get damaged, or cause the fuel pump to stop working," he added.

Ethanol Technology Not New

Puri emphasised that ethanol is not a new technology and has been used globally for decades. "We did not invent the concept of ethanol usage; work on this has been going on for a century. Henry Ford, the owner of the Ford Motor Company, drove cars using biofuels, kerosene, and fossil fuels back in his day," Puri said.

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Government's Push for Ethanol Blending

The Centre has been promoting ethanol blending as part of its strategy to reduce crude oil imports, lower carbon emissions, and support the domestic agricultural economy. The government has accelerated the rollout of E20 petrol, containing 20 per cent ethanol, across the country after conducting compatibility testing with automobile manufacturers and research agencies.

Puri's remarks come amid recent social media posts raising concerns over the use of E20 fuel and its impact on vehicle performance. The minister urged people to rely on scientific evidence rather than misinformation, reiterating the government's commitment to evidence-based policy.

Headline	India navigated energy crisis with minimal burden on citizens: PM		
Publication	Bharat Horizon	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

India navigated energy crisis with minimal burden on citizens: PM

<https://bharathorizon.com/politics/national-politics/india-navigated-energy-crisis-with-minimal-burden-on-citizens-pm.html>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stated that India successfully navigated one of the biggest global energy crises of the 21st century through

proactive policies, diversified fuel sourcing, and strong diplomatic engagement, imposing only a minimal burden on citizens even as several major countries struggled. He made the remarks while inaugurating the country's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex in Balotra, Rajasthan.

PM Modi on Energy Crisis Handling

Speaking at a public meeting, Modi asserted that India's handling of the situation would be remembered as an unprecedented chapter in history. He said some forces were busy spreading fear and playing political games, but they must be wallowing in the depths of despair today. The Prime Minister attributed the success to taking the right decisions at the right time, assessing the situation correctly, using resources in a balanced manner, and utilising diplomatic strength positively.

The war in West Asia created the biggest energy crisis of the 21st century, he said. Many powerful nations struggled with fuel shortages, but India overcame this challenge because of proactive measures.

Inauguration of Greenfield Refinery

Modi dedicated the nation's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex to the nation in Rajasthan's Balotra district. He lauded officials and workers for restoring the project after a major fire broke out on April 20, which forced the postponement of its scheduled inauguration. Thousands of people in the region will get employment because of this refinery, he said, especially congratulating the youth of Rajasthan. He claimed that BJP governments do not merely lay foundation stones and abandon projects midway, but work tirelessly to ensure such projects are completed.

Blame on Previous Congress Government

The PM also blamed the previous Congress government in Rajasthan for delays in the Pachpadra refinery project. He said although an agreement for the project had been signed in 2017, progress slowed considerably between 2018 and 2023 when the Congress was in power in the state. Because of the Congress government's lack of cooperation, work on the project almost came to a standstill. After the double-engine government came to power, work gathered pace, Modi added.

Project Details and Economic Impact

Built at an investment of more than Rs 79,450 crore, the 9 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) Greenfield Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex has been developed as a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Rajasthan Government. The project is expected to boost domestic fuel production, increase petrochemical output, and generate employment in the region. The plant has been designed to process both imported crude oil and locally produced crude from Rajasthan.

Modi said India now enjoys greater flexibility in sourcing crude oil based on prevailing global market prices. To secure crude feedstock and water supply, the complex is supported by an 800-km cross-country pipeline network connecting it to key locations, including Mundra, Palanpur, Mangla, and Nachna.

Government Intervention in Fuel Prices

The PM also claimed that the government prevented a sharp rise in domestic cooking gas prices despite global disruptions. According to him, the crisis could have pushed the price of an LPG cylinder to nearly Rs 2,000, but government intervention ensured consumers continued to get cylinders for around Rs 950. He further said oil marketing companies incurred losses of about Rs 75,000 crore on petrol and diesel between April and June, a burden borne by the government to shield citizens from soaring global fuel prices.

Political Reactions

Meanwhile, former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot dismissed Modi's remarks as misleading and claimed that 85 per cent of the project had been completed during the Congress government's tenure. It is unfortunate that the PM behaved like a BJP leader even during an official programme and made misleading statements at a government function, Gehlot said. These claims sound ridiculous, the PM should have spoken to people associated with the refinery project, the senior Congress leader added.

Headline	EAM Jaishankar Starts 5-Nation Tour to Gulf, US, Belgium		
Publication	Bharat Horizon	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

EAM Jaishankar Starts 5-Nation Tour to Gulf, US, Belgium

<https://bharathorizon.com/politics/diplomacy/eam-jaishankar-starts-5-nation-tour-to-gulf-us-belgium.html>

Jaishankar Embarks on Key Diplomatic Mission to Gulf and Beyond External Affairs Minister Dr. S.

Jaishankar commenced a comprehensive diplomatic tour on July 5, 2026, covering six nations and two international organizations. The itinerary includes visits to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, the United States (New York), and Belgium (Brussels). The tour aims to strengthen India's strategic partnerships in the Gulf region and engage with global institutions.

Gulf Leg: Energy, Trade, and Diaspora Ties

The first phase of the tour focuses on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. In Qatar, Jaishankar is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. Key agenda items include energy security, investment in India's infrastructure, and welfare of the 800,000-strong Indian diaspora in Qatar.

In Bahrain, the minister will meet with Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani. Discussions are expected to center on deepening trade, which stood at \$1.4 billion in 2025-26, and cooperation in fintech and renewable energy. Jaishankar will also interact with the Indian community, numbering over 400,000.

Kuwait's agenda includes bilateral talks with Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. India-Kuwait trade is valued at \$10.5 billion, with crude oil comprising a major share. The minister will also visit a labor camp to assess conditions for Indian workers, a key concern given the 1 million Indian nationals residing in Kuwait.

In Oman, Jaishankar will meet with Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi. The two nations are exploring a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to boost bilateral trade, currently at \$6.8 billion. The Indian diaspora in Oman, nearly 700,000 strong, will also be a focus.

US and Belgium: Multilateral Engagements

Following the Gulf leg, Jaishankar will travel to New York for high-level meetings at the United Nations. He is expected to address the UN Security Council on India's priorities, including reforming global governance and counter-terrorism. The minister will also hold bilateral talks with his counterparts from other nations on the sidelines.

The final stop is Brussels, where Jaishankar will participate in the India-EU Strategic Partnership meeting. Key topics include the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, digital trade, and climate cooperation. The EU is India's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding \$120 billion in 2025-26.

Strategic Significance of the Tour

The tour underscores India's Act East and West Asia policies, balancing economic interests with strategic autonomy. According to Ministry of External Affairs officials, the Gulf countries are crucial for India's energy security, supplying over 60% of its crude oil imports. The visit also aims to enhance cooperation in defense, space, and technology.

Analysts note that the timing of the tour is significant, as India seeks to diversify its energy sources amid global volatility. Additionally, the diaspora engagement reflects India's commitment to the welfare of its 13.5 million overseas citizens in the Gulf region.

Jaishankar's itinerary also includes attending the opening of a new Indian consulate in a Gulf city, strengthening diplomatic presence. The tour is expected to yield multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in sectors such as healthcare, food security, and renewable energy.

Headline	"Doing Solar Without Battery Makes Limited Sense", Says Ratul Puri, Chairman, Hindustan Power		
Publication	Business World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

"Doing Solar Without Battery Makes Limited Sense", Says Ratul Puri, Chairman, Hindustan Power

<https://www.businessworld.in/article/doing-solar-without-battery-makes-limited-sense-says-ratul-puri-chairman-hindustan-power-613246>

Ratul Puri, Chairman of Hindustan Power, believes India's clean energy transition now hinges less on generation capacity and more on building the supporting ecosystem.

In this conversation with BW Businessworld, he discusses why battery storage is becoming indispensable to renewable energy, the case for distributed generation, the rationale behind domestic manufacturing policies such as ALMM, the impact of AI-driven power demand, and the policy reforms needed to accelerate India's energy transition while ensuring long-term investor confidence.

Battery storage in India has gained a lot of attention recently in the solar conversation. We have states like Rajasthan scaling aggressively. Does storage finally make commercial sense in India, or are the economics still dependent on policy support?

I think eventually battery is crucial, it's the key that opens the renewable chain, it's the key that will unlock the opportunity that exists within renewables. Doing solar without battery makes limited sense for India. Today, when the sun is not shining or the wind is not blowing, we are effectively firing up thermal power plants. Those plants are backed down during the day and brought back whenever there is lower solar or wind generation. We also have an evening peak, which means we are building thermal capacity to service that demand while backing it down during solar hours. That significantly adds to the overall cost of the grid. Storage is vital, and I believe India needs to push storage even if it appears uneconomical today. It is certainly more economical than building a new coal-fired power plant, a new coal mine, the rail infrastructure between the two and the transmission infrastructure, only to back that capacity down for several hours every day.

Storage will be the most significant investment India can make over the next five to ten years to enable the energy transition. Electricity is the future of energy, and we are seeing demand rise across residential, industrial, commercial, transportation and data centres. Without storage, solar and wind, I don't think India can meet the aspirations of its 1.4 billion people. Storage is still expensive, but costs have come down sharply over the last two years. Battery costs have fallen by more than 60 per cent, while overall system costs have declined by around 3540 per cent. We now need to create scale and learning capability, just as we did with solar, and eventually build domestic manufacturing. The West Asia conflict has shown us that for something as vital as electricity and energy, we need domestic supply chains.

Today, storage is viable for time-shifting energy. It is certainly cheaper to do that using batteries than by building a coal-fired power plant and backing it down during solar hours. Coal-fired power is still cheaper than solar plus battery, but if the choice is between a thermal plant that sleeps during the day and wakes up at night versus solar plus battery, then solar plus battery is the better combination.

When we talk about solar and even wind, there is increasing discussion that India is running out of commercially viable solar land not just wastelands, but land that actually makes economic sense. Has land availability become the next major bottleneck for renewable energy growth?

I don't believe so. Firstly, I'm a strong believer in distributed generation. India is blessed with a high degree of solar radiation across most of the country. The idea of building solar entirely in Gujarat or Rajasthan and then building long transmission lines to take that power to the point of consumption doesn't make sense in the long run. Today, the government has effectively socialised the cost of transmission, but that's not sustainable forever. Eventually, market economics have to come into play. If you look at the real delivered cost of energy, rather than just the cost of land, distributed generation across states makes much more sense.

There is sufficient non-productive, non-irrigated land available in every state that can deliver lower-cost energy than building solar only in Rajasthan and transmitting it across the country. Yes, land may be cheaper and easier to acquire there, but once you factor in transmission costs, local generation can be more economical. I don't believe land is running out. Land acquisition in India is certainly a challenge because of land records, litigation and disputes, but that's part of the developer's job. A developer has to identify the right combination of sunlight, land and grid connectivity. That's where value creation lies.

People often say you could generate enough energy for the world from a relatively small area in the Sahara Desert. While that may be true in theory, you still have to transmit that electricity to where it is needed. The same principle applies within India. You can live with slightly lower solar radiation or somewhat higher land costs if you're saving substantially on transmission. I believe there is enough barren or low-productivity land across states to support India's renewable energy ambitions. The focus should be on delivering the lowest-cost energy to consumers, and in many cases that means generating power closer to where it will be consumed.

India recently strengthened the ALMM policy to boost domestic manufacturing, but developers have spoken about higher costs and supply disruptions. Has the policy delivered more benefits than challenges so far?

I think if, as a nation, we want to build domestic capacity and domestic supply chains, we have to encourage domestic manufacturing. ALMM and domestic content requirements are an important part of that. Every industry needs some time to stand on its own feet. If you protect domestic industry for a period, you will see capacity coming in. If you look at module manufacturing, India has built very large manufacturing capacity in a short span of time probably the second or third largest in the world by all accounts. That has happened because of positive policy support from the government. You need to handhold industry, give it a runway to achieve scale and become competitive with China and other global manufacturers.

Now the government is stepping further back in the value chain, and I think that's the right approach. Are there challenges? Absolutely. Today, sufficient cell manufacturing capacity does not exist in the country. Developers with large project pipelines are finding it difficult to secure cells, and the entire supply chain is under pressure. But that's how markets work. Manufacturers who invested early in cell capacity are benefiting today because they took the investment risk. Domestic cell prices have risen sharply, creating enough profit incentive for more companies to invest. I believe that within the next year and a half to two years, significant additional cell manufacturing capacity will come up.

Yes, this has been a challenge for developers and it could slow the pace of solar capacity addition in the near term. But in the long run, it will drive investment in domestic cell manufacturing, and that's good for India. We want to build cost-competitive domestic supply chains, but we have to handhold our own industry for some time. It cannot be never-ending protection. You have to let the industry grow, gain experience and then compete globally on its own. That's why I believe the policy has been positive for India, even though it has undoubtedly created short-term challenges for developers.

When we talk about energy consumption, one of the biggest expected demand drivers is artificial intelligence, data centres and industrial electrification. Is India's renewable and grid infrastructure ready for this next phase of demand growth?

I think AI is real. It's clear that it's happening. As a nation, we have a great opportunity because one of the biggest bottlenecks in creating data centre capacity anywhere in the world is the availability of electricity. Eventually, AI comes down to processing power, energy and algorithms. Of those, the two real bottlenecks are GPU capacity and energy. India has an opportunity to attract a significant amount of data centre and compute capacity because intelligence is moving closer to the edge. As inference-related computing grows, capacity will move closer to where consumers are. At the same time, creating new capacity in markets like the US, Europe and Japan is becoming increasingly difficult. That creates an opportunity for India.

Is the grid a bottleneck? Yes, it is. But the grid is also being built out. In fact, these transmission constraints should encourage more distributed renewable generation. If you're setting up a large data centre in Maharashtra or Andhra Pradesh, you would want a local supply chain and generation capacity located nearby rather than depending on power transmitted over long distances. In the longer term, you're better off having the solar plant closer to the load centre than relying on transmission lines that operate at only around a 20-30 per cent plant load factor and remain underutilised for much of the time. I believe these bottlenecks will eventually get addressed because demand itself will drive investment. As data centres expand, they will encourage the creation of local renewable generation and strengthen regional power infrastructure. That's the direction India should move towards.

Renewable energy tariffs have become increasingly aggressive in recent auctions. Is the industry prioritising growth over profitability, and does that pose a long-term risk for the sector?

Certainly, competition is intense. Generally, tariffs today are not remunerative on a risk-adjusted basis. At the same time, there is a significant amount of global capital looking to fund the energy transition, and some of that capital is finding its way to India. That's one of the reasons we've seen such a large build-out of solar capacity over the last five years. I do believe that, in this phase of growth, developers are pricing projects too aggressively without factoring in all the risks. The cycle won't always remain favourable. Today, you have ALMM changes, supply constraints, rupee-dollar fluctuations, higher shipping costs and overall inflation. I don't think many developers fully built these factors into their calculations. While you can't predict every event, such as geopolitical disruptions, you would normally factor in exchange rate movements and inflation while bidding.

We've seen similar cycles in transmission and thermal power. Developers bid aggressively, returns don't materialise, and eventually the sector consolidates. The financially disciplined developers emerge stronger because they haven't taken risks without adequately pricing them. I don't know if there's a simple solution because you still need a competitive bidding process. Perhaps there is a need to strengthen the implementation framework, particularly the penalties for projects that are not executed. That may encourage developers to build a more realistic assessment of risk into their bids.

If there was one policy intervention the government could implement over the next two years to materially accelerate India's clean energy transition, what would it be and why?

I don't think this applies only to clean energy. It applies to building India's infrastructure overall. Stability of policy is a crucial aspect. It is the government's job to make policy interventions and change policy when required, but I believe there is a need to make those interventions less frequent. We need a longer horizon when it comes to policy, along with a proper grandfathering period. If the government decides to change a policy, it should announce it today but make it effective three or five years later. That gives developers and investors enough time to plan for the change instead of having to react immediately.

The second issue is dispute resolution. India needs to address the time it takes to settle commercial disputes. This is particularly important in the energy sector. We created separate regulatory bodies and dispute resolution mechanisms through the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Appellate Tribunal, but there are still significant bottlenecks in these forums. I think India needs to improve dispute resolution across the board both in the courts and within the regulatory system. Policy stability and faster dispute resolution go hand in hand. Both reduce risk for investors, and lower investor risk ultimately translates into lower tariffs and makes India more cost competitive.

Headline	HPCL Rajasthan Refinery will boost energy security, domestic manufacturing: PM Modi		
Publication	Calcutta News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

HPCL Rajasthan Refinery will boost energy security, domestic manufacturing: PM Modi

<http://www.calcuttanews.net/news/279166930/hpcl-rajasthan-refinery-will-boost-energy-security-domestic-manufacturing-pm-modi>

Balotra (Rajasthan) [India, July 4 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the newly inaugurated HPCL Rajasthan Refinery-cum-Petrochemical

Complex at Pachpadra will strengthen India's energy security, boost domestic manufacturing, generate employment and accelerate economic transformation.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, 'Inaugurated the integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical Complex, the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra today. This landmark project will strengthen India's energy security, boost domestic manufacturing, generate employment and accelerate economic transformation.

The Prime Minister termed it another milestone in the journey towards self-reliant India.

'It is another milestone in our journey towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat,' he said.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Pachpadra in Rajasthan's Balotra district.

During the event, he also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple infrastructure and development projects across the state.

He said the inauguration of the Greenfield Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra marks a major step towards making Rajasthan self-reliant, adding that the project would generate employment and strengthen India's energy security.

Addressing the gathering after the inauguration in Balotra, the Prime Minister informed that the new Airport Terminal was also inaugurated today in Jodhpur and said Rajasthan was visible through the architecture and interior of the new terminal.

Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various development projects worth around Rs 1.06 lakh crore in Balotra, Rajasthan, spanning multiple sectors, including petrochemicals, urban transport, railways, roads, renewable energy, and power transmission.

The refinery project, developed as a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Rajasthan government, has been built with an investment of over Rs 79,450 crore. It has an annual refining capacity of 9 million metric tonnes and a petrochemical production capacity of 2.4 million metric tonnes. (ANI)

Headline	E20 fuel underwent rigorous testing before pan-India rollout, no gaps in scientific standards: Former EIL CMD		
Publication	Calcutta News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

E20 fuel underwent rigorous testing before pan-India rollout, no gaps in scientific standards: Former EIL CMD

<http://www.calcuttanews.net/news/279167044/e20-fuel-underwent-rigorous-testing-before-pan-india-rollout-no-gaps-in-scientific-standards-former-eil-cmd>

New Delhi [India, July 4 (ANI): Ethanol-blended E20 petrol was introduced across India only after undergoing rigorous testing on two-wheelers and

four-wheelers, and there are no gaps in the scientific standards used for its rollout, former Chairman and Managing Director of Engineers India Limited (EIL) Vartika Shukla said on Saturday.

Speaking to ANI, Shukla said the E20 fuel rollout was backed by extensive testing before being made available nationwide.

'Regarding the E20 fuel launched on December 25, part of the 'One Nation, One Fuel' initiative, it was initially introduced in select regions before reaching every retail outlet... E20 was launched pan-India following rigorous testing on various 4-wheeler and 2-wheeler engines ahead of the 2030 mandate,' she said.

Calling the programme an important step in India's clean energy transition, she added, 'It is a significant step towards decarbonization.'

Addressing concerns around vehicle performance, Shukla acknowledged that ethanol-blended fuel may have a limited impact on mileage but said several factors influence overall performance.

'As for engine performance, there is a marginal drop, but this depends on various factors such as driving habits, etc,' she said.

Shukla also underlined that the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme was developed through extensive consultations with stakeholders and in line with established technical standards.

'The EBP (Ethanol Blended Petrol) program began in 2018 with significant stakeholder engagement... Oil marketing companies complied with standards... There is absolutely no gap in the scientific methodology used to determine these standards,' she said.

Her remarks come at a time when ethanol-blended fuel has been under public scrutiny following claims on social media that E20 fuel had caused issues in some vehicles.

Automakers and government-backed testing agencies have maintained that E20-compatible vehicles are designed and certified to safely use the fuel, while attributing isolated cases to issues such as fuel contamination rather than the ethanol blend itself.

The Centre has been promoting higher ethanol blending as part of its strategy to reduce crude oil imports, cut carbon emissions and support domestic sugarcane and grain-based ethanol production. (ANI)

Headline	E20 petrol is scientifically tested, safe for vehicles and strengthens India's energy security: Industry experts		
Publication	Calcutta News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

E20 petrol is scientifically tested, safe for vehicles and strengthens India's energy security: Industry experts

<http://www.calcuttanews.net/news/279166878/e20-petrol-is-scientifically-tested-safe-for-vehicles-and-strengthens-india-energy-security-industry-experts>

New Delhi [India, July 4 (ANI): Industry experts on Saturday sought to allay concerns over the use of E20 ethanol-blended petrol, saying the fuel

has undergone extensive scientific testing, meets stringent quality standards and is safe even for vehicles manufactured before the E20 mandate and also helps in reducing India's dependence on crude oil imports.

Addressing a press conference, the experts said India's ethanol blending programme was implemented through a phased and science-based approach involving extensive consultation with automakers, testing agencies and other stakeholders before its nationwide rollout.

Opening the discussion, former Engineers India Limited Chairman and Managing Director Vartika Shukla said the E20 programme was the result of years of scientific evaluation rather than a sudden policy decision.

'This ethanol blending in petrol has been not done overnight, it is a measured scientifically driven step-by-step process,' she said.

Highlighting the programme's progress, she said India increased ethanol blending in petrol from around 1.5 per cent in 2013-14 to 20 per cent by December 2025, achieving the target five years ahead of schedule.

Shukla said the programme was backed by 'scientific evidence, extensive testing' by automotive manufacturers, the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), and follows global practices adopted by countries including the US, Brazil, Canada and Germany. She added that ethanol blending had also helped lower crude oil imports, reducing India's vulnerability during recent geopolitical disruptions.

Vikram Gulati, Country Head and Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Governance, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said both vehicles and fuels in India undergo rigorous testing and certification before reaching consumers.

'Vehicles that are made available to consumers are extremely well engineered, well designed and have a very immense element of oversight through technically sound testing agencies,' he said.

Calling ethanol 'a very good fuel', Gulati said it offers high performance while also helping reduce carbon emissions.

'In an era when we are facing the issue of climate change... this is a zero carbon fuel because it's derived from plants,' he said, adding that ethanol blending also helped cushion consumers and the economy when global crude oil supplies came under pressure.

Representing Maruti Suzuki India, Rahul Bharti, Corporate Affairs Senior Executive Officer, addressed concerns over older vehicles that were originally designed for E10 fuel.

'As a manufacturer, we have tested E10 cars... on E20 fuel for all parameters and we have not found anything of concern,' he said.

He added that the company had incorporated sufficient safety margins in vehicle design and testing to ensure there would be no issues related to wear and tear, corrosion or component life even when pre-2023 vehicles use E20 fuel.

Speaking on behalf of Hero MotoCorp, its Chief Business Officer, Ashutosh Verma said extensive testing and field data from millions of two-wheelers also support the safety of E20 fuel.

'We analyze crores of service data that we have, and... there is no incidence whatsoever of any higher damage with vehicles that run on E20 than the vehicles that were running on fuels prior to E20,' he said. (ANI)

Headline	PM Modi inaugurates NHPC's 300 MW Karnisar solar power plant in Rajasthan's Bikaner		
Publication	Calcutta News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

PM Modi inaugurates NHPC's 300 MW Karnisar solar power plant in Rajasthan's Bikaner

<http://www.calcuttanews.net/news/279167037/pm-modi-inaugurates-nhpc-300-mw-karnisar-solar-power-plant-in-rajasthan-bikaner>

Balotra (Rajasthan) [India, July 4 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday virtually inaugurated NHPC's 300 MW Karnisar Solar Power Plant in Rajasthan's Bikaner.

According to a press release by the NHPC, the project marks a significant addition to India's renewable energy capacity and underscores the nation's commitment to clean energy and sustainable development.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister emphasised that renewable energy is the cornerstone of India's energy security and sustainable future. He further highlighted that Rajasthan is witnessing the development of world-class solar power infrastructure, reinforcing its position as a key contributor to the nation's clean energy ambitions.

NHPC CMD Bhupender Gupta expressed his sincere gratitude to PM Modi, the Centre, Rajasthan government, the Power Ministry and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for their continued support in the successful execution of the project. He reaffirmed NHPC's commitment to contributing towards India's clean energy and renewable energy goals.

The 300 MW Karnisar Solar Power Plant represents NHPC's continued commitment towards strengthening India's renewable energy capacity and supporting the Government of India's vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, with the project being developed using approximately 7.75 lakh domestically manufactured Solar PV Cells and Modules, the press release stated.

The solar power plant is expected to generate around 75 crore units of clean electricity annually, significantly contributing to the nation's renewable energy basket while helping offset nearly 6.4 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year, thereby promoting environmental sustainability and supporting India's climate commitments.

Besides producing clean energy, the project has also contributed to the socio-economic development of the region by creating direct and indirect employment opportunities for over 40 local persons, thereby generating sustainable livelihoods in the remote areas of Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa were also present at the inauguration ceremony.

In Balotra, the Prime Minister dedicated, inaugurated, and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth around Rs 1.06 lakh crore. (ANI)

Headline	Who Will Lead ONGC Next? Rule Changes Open the Door to a High-Stakes Leadership Contest		
Publication	INDIAN PSU	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Who Will Lead ONGC Next? Rule Changes Open the Door to a High-Stakes Leadership Contest

<https://indianpsu.com/ongc-cmd-race-government-relaxes-age-rules-pesb-invites-applications/>

The Government's decision to significantly relax the eligibility criteria for the appointment of the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has transformed what would have been a routine PSU succession exercise into one of the most closely watched leadership contests in India's public sector.

By removing the traditional age-related restrictions and allowing a wider pool of candidates from both the public and private sectors, the government has signalled that it is looking beyond seniority and is instead prioritising transformational leadership, technical expertise and commercial acumen.

A Wider Talent Pool Than Ever Before

Historically, the ONGC CMD position has largely been filled by executives who rose through the organisation or from within the petroleum public sector ecosystem.

This time, however, the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has opened the doors much wider.

The revised eligibility norms make senior executives from other Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), state-owned energy companies and even private sector energy majors eligible to compete, provided they satisfy the prescribed experience and leadership requirements.

The move reflects the government's growing preference for bringing the best available leadership into strategic enterprises irrespective of organisational background.

Why ONGC Needs a Different Kind of Leader

The next CMD will inherit an organisation facing opportunities and challenges of unprecedented scale.

ONGC remains India's largest exploration and production company and contributes significantly to the country's crude oil and natural gas output. At the same time, it faces increasing pressure to:

Reverse declining production from mature fields.

Accelerate deepwater exploration.

Improve recovery from ageing reservoirs.

Expand natural gas production.

Build a commercially viable renewable energy portfolio.

Adopt digital technologies and artificial intelligence across operations.

Strengthen global partnerships and overseas assets.

Deliver strong financial performance despite volatile energy markets.

The leadership required today is therefore very different from what ONGC needed a decade ago.

Could the Government Again Look Beyond Conventional Choices?

The appointment of Arun Kumar Singh in 2022 had already demonstrated the government's willingness to break long-standing conventions.

A former CMD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Singh became the first person to head a Maharatna PSU after retirement, following amendments in appointment rules.

The latest relaxation of age and tenure norms indicates that the government remains open to selecting the most suitable candidate rather than merely the most senior eligible executive.

This increases the possibility that the eventual appointee may come from outside ONGC if the government believes such a candidate can accelerate reforms and improve competitiveness.

Who Could Be in the Race?

Although the application process has only just begun, industry observers expect interest from several categories of executives:

Senior directors currently serving within ONGC.

Top executives from other oil and gas CPSUs.

Leaders from integrated energy companies.

Experienced professionals from private sector energy firms.

Executives with strong backgrounds in exploration, production, LNG, petrochemicals, finance or large-scale project management.

The government's emphasis on engineering capability, commercial strategy and energy transition suggests that technical excellence alone may not be sufficient. Experience in organisational transformation and business diversification is also likely to carry significant weight.

A Test Case for Future PSU Appointments

The ONGC selection process could have implications far beyond one company.

If the revised eligibility framework proves successful, similar flexibility may be adopted for appointments in other strategic Maharatna and Navratna CPSUs.

Such an approach would align with the government's broader objective of enhancing professionalism, improving corporate governance and enabling public sector enterprises to compete effectively in an increasingly dynamic global business environment.

Questions That Merit Attention

As the selection process unfolds, several important questions remain:

Will the next CMD come from within ONGC or from outside the organisation?

Will the government once again favour an experienced leader beyond the conventional retirement age?

Could executives from the private sector emerge as serious contenders?

How much importance will be given to experience in renewable energy and energy transition?

Will the new leadership accelerate ONGC's transformation into an integrated energy company rather than remaining primarily an upstream oil producer?

The answers to these questions will shape not only ONGC's future but also provide a clear indication of the government's evolving philosophy on leadership appointments across India's strategic public sector enterprises.

One development worth watching is whether the government again opts for an external transformational leader, as it did with Arun Kumar Singh, or returns to the more traditional practice of promoting an experienced insider.

This appointment is likely to be among the most consequential PSU leadership decisions of 2026, given ONGC's central role in India's energy security and its transition toward a broader integrated energy business.

Headline	ONGC, bp sign technical services contract to boost production from Western Offshore Basin		
Publication	India's News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

ONGC, bp sign technical services contract to boost production from Western Offshore Basin

<https://www.indiasnews.net/news/279146800/ongc-bp-sign-technical-services-contract-to-boost-production-from-western-offshore-basin>

New Delhi [India, June 25 (ANI): State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and global energy company bp on Thursday signed a Technical Services Contract (TSC) aimed at enhancing hydrocarbon production from ONGC's fields in the Western Offshore Basin.

Under the agreement, bp has been appointed as the Technical Services Provider (TSP) for ONGC's fields in the Western Offshore Basin. The development marks an expansion of the existing collaboration between the two companies, which began with the Technical Services Provider contract for Mumbai High.

ONGC said the Western Offshore Basin is its most prolific hydrocarbon-producing basin, comprising 43 blocks. The basin has been a major contributor to India's energy requirements for more than four decades.

As India's National Oil Company, ONGC accounts for around 64 per cent of the country's domestic crude oil and natural gas production and plays a key role in strengthening India's energy security.

According to the company, the new agreement will facilitate the deployment of advanced technologies, global technical expertise and operating practices across some of India's most important mature hydrocarbon assets.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal.

Under the arrangement, ONGC will retain complete ownership and operational control of the assets. bp will work closely with ONGC's multidisciplinary teams to identify and implement focused interventions across reservoirs, wells and production facilities.

The collaboration is aimed at moderating natural production decline, improving hydrocarbon recovery, enhancing operational efficiency and supporting sustained production growth.

As per the terms of the contract, bp will receive a fixed fee during the first two years. Thereafter, the company will receive a service fee linked to a percentage share of revenue generated from net incremental hydrocarbon production.

The agreement builds on the Technical Services Contract signed between ONGC and bp for Mumbai High in February 2025.

According to ONGC, the first year of collaboration at Mumbai High delivered encouraging results. The two companies were able to moderate production decline and achieve production growth through optimisation of existing wells, enhanced surveillance and focused reservoir, well and facility management initiatives.

Commenting on the development, ONGC Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh said, 'Building on the encouraging outcomes at Mumbai High, this expanded collaboration will support improved recovery, greater efficiency and sustained production growth.'

bp India Chairman and bp Senior Vice President Kartikeya Dube said, 'We look forward to bringing bp's global expertise to support enhanced production from the Western Offshore Basin and strengthen India's energy security.'

The agreement is expected to support efforts to improve output from mature oil and gas fields while contributing to the country's long-term energy security objectives. (ANI)

Headline	ONGC Appoints Prashant Singh as CEO of ONGC Green to Drive 10 GW Renewable Energy Expansion by 2030		
Publication	Indian Master Minds	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

ONGC Appoints Prashant Singh as CEO of ONGC Green to Drive 10 GW Renewable Energy Expansion by 2030

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/ongc-appoints-prashant-singh-ceo-ongc-green-renewable-energy-214958/>

ONGC Appoints Prashant Singh as CEO of ONGC Green to Drive 10 GW Renewable Energy Expansion by 2030

New Delhi: India's energy major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has appointed veteran energy executive Prashant Singh as the Chief Executive Officer of ONGC Green Limited, marking a significant leadership move in the company's clean energy transition strategy.

The appointment comes as ONGC intensifies its focus on renewable energy, green hydrogen, and other low-carbon technologies as part of its long-term decarbonisation roadmap.

ONGC Green Limited is playing a central role in ONGC's strategy to transform into a diversified energy company.

Under its expansion roadmap, the company aims to:

This expansion aligns with India's broader push toward energy transition and reduced carbon emissions across the power and industrial sectors.

Read also: ONGC Appoints Anupam Agarwal as New CFO in Major Leadership Restructuring

Prashant Singh brings over 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, with deep expertise in both traditional hydrocarbons and new energy systems.

Before becoming CEO of ONGC Green Limited, he served as:

He has also served on the boards of:

His background combines operational leadership with governance and strategic planning across the energy sector.

A major part of Singh's mandate will be to support ONGC's long-term sustainability goals, including:

Industry experts believe his appointment strengthens ONGC Green's leadership at a critical stage of rapid scale-up in clean energy investments.

The leadership change is seen as a key strategic move as ONGC transitions from a traditional oil and gas giant into a diversified energy enterprise.

Key expectations from the new leadership include:

With increasing global pressure on energy companies to reduce emissions, ONGC's renewable strategy is becoming a central pillar of its future growth model.

ONGC is steadily repositioning itself from a hydrocarbon-focused company into an integrated energy player. The establishment and expansion of ONGC Green Limited reflects this strategic shift.

The company's long-term vision includes:

This transition is expected to define ONGC's growth trajectory over the coming decades as global energy systems move toward cleaner alternatives.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is India's largest crude oil and natural gas company and a Maharatna public sector enterprise. It plays a critical role in the country's energy security through exploration, production, and development of hydrocarbons. In recent years, ONGC has expanded its focus toward renewable energy and low-carbon technologies as part of its commitment to sustainability and net-zero goals.

Read also: MRPL Appoints ONGC Nominee Satyan Kumar as Director on Board Effective July, 2026

Headline	Rs 79,459 crore Rajasthan refinery to boost India's energy self-reliance: Hardeep Singh Puri		
Publication	Investment Guru India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Rs 79,459 crore Rajasthan refinery to boost India's energy self-reliance: Hardeep Singh Puri

<https://investmentguruindia.com/newsdetail/rs-79-459-crore-rajasthan-refinery-to-boost-india-s-energy-self-reliance-hardeep-singh-puri412437>

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday described India's first standalone greenfield refinery-cum-petrochemical

complex -- inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Pachpadra in Rajasthan -- as a major milestone in the country's journey towards energy self-reliance.

In a post on X, the minister said the refinery will produce nearly 26 per cent petrochemical products from the outset and has a Nelson Complexity Index of 17, making it one of the country's most advanced and energy-efficient refining facilities.

Puri said the complex will house the world's largest polypropylene unit and a polyethylene swing unit capable of manufacturing more than 30 grades of polymers.

It will also feature Asia's largest coker unit, he added.

Highlighting the scale of the project, the minister said its construction involved moving over 150 lakh cubic metres of earth, using 16 lakh cubic metres of concrete and about six lakh tonnes of structural steel.

Describing the refinery as one of India's largest investments in the oil sector , Puri said the project would generate employment, promote industrial development in Barmer and Rajasthan, and strengthen the country's energy security in line with the ' Make in India ' initiative.

The integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex has been developed at an investment of Rs 79,459 crore by HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL) , a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) , which holds a 74 per cent stake, and the Rajasthan government, which holds the remaining 26 per cent.

The complex has a refining capacity of 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) and a petrochemical capacity of 2.4 MTPA.

In addition, PM Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated multiple development projects worth more than Rs 1.06 lakh crore in Rajasthan, the minister said.

Headline	Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Says Pachpadra Refinery Ranks Among World's Top 25% in Technology		
Publication	Kalinga TV	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Says Pachpadra Refinery Ranks Among World's Top 25% in Technology

<https://kalingatv.com/nation/union-minister-hardeep-singh-puri-says-pachpadra-refinery-ranks-among-worlds-top-25-in-technology/>

Discover the Pachpadra refinery technology with a Nelson Complexity Index of 17, ranking it among the top global refineries Advertisement

Balotra: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said the newly inaugurated HRRL Greenfield Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra ranks among the world's top 25 per cent of refineries in terms of technology and will play a key role in strengthening India's energy security and self-reliance.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony after Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the refinery to the nation, Puri said the 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) refinery-cum-petrochemical complex has a Nelson Complexity Index (NCI) of 17, placing it among the most technologically advanced refineries globally.

Whenever we discuss refineries globally, their technology is graded on a scale of 1 to 20; this complex has a Nelson Complexity Index of 17, which means it ranks among the top 25 per cent of refineries worldwide in terms of technology. This refinery will be capable of processing both imported crude and crude produced within India, and the total cost of this project is approximately 80,000 crore, Puri said.

He said the refinery would generate employment, boost industrial growth in Rajasthan and contribute to India's energy self-sufficiency.

In the last ten years, very few greenfield refineries have been built. Two of these were dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji at IOCL's Paradip Refinery in 2016, and today here in Pachpadra, the HRRL refinery, which is a joint venture of HPCL and the Government of Rajasthan, he said.

Puri said extensive infrastructure had been created to support the refinery, including dedicated pipelines for crude oil and water.

Advertisement

To transport crude oil to the refinery, a dedicated 490-kilometre-long pipeline was laid from Mundra. Additionally, a 75-kilometre local crude pipeline was constructed from the Mangala oil field. For water supply, arrangements were made to bring water from the Nachna reservoir through a separate 230-kilometre-long pipeline. Prime Minister, it was your clear resolve that the Thar region should be linked to the mainstream of the country's development, he said.

The Union Minister alleged that although the project was launched in 2013 and an MoU was signed in 2017, it remained delayed during the previous Congress government in Rajasthan.

This project originally started in September 2013. In April 2017, an MoU was signed with the then Rajasthan government. However, from 2018 to 2023, during the five-year tenure of the then Congress government in Rajasthan, this project remained stalled. The required equity contribution from the Rajasthan government was not provided, and there were delays in obtaining approvals. In December 2023, when the BJP government was formed again in the state, the situation changed, and the project progressed at full speed, he said.

Referring to recent global energy disruptions, he said India ensured uninterrupted fuel supplies despite challenges in international markets.

Not a single one of our 107,000 petrol pumps was shut down There were no dry-outs anywhere. When challenges arose regarding LPG, our refineries increased production from 35,000 metric tonnes per day to 54,000 metric tonnes, he said.

(ANI)

Advertisement

Headline	'Criticism is welcome, rumours are not': Puri on E20 fuel buzz, engine damage claims		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

'Criticism is welcome, rumours are not': Puri on E20 fuel buzz, engine damage claims

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/world/criticism-is-welcome-rumours-are-not-puri-on-e20-fuel-buzz-engine-damage-claims/ar-AA27dlkz>

TOI Business Desk Union petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday pushed back against social media claims surrounding

ethanol-blended fuel, saying that the government welcomes constructive criticism but not misinformation about the biofuel programme. Referring to the recent online debate, Puri said people were free to point out shortcomings in the government's work and assured them that genuine suggestions would be considered and incorporated wherever necessary. "Over the past few days, you may have noticed a stir on social media regarding biofuel blending. I welcome criticism. If you feel there are shortcomings in the work we are doing, please point them out, and we will listen to you; we will incorporate your suggestions into our work and make the necessary corrections, he said. Going further, he also dismissed claims of ethanol attracting pests, damages vehicle engines or fuel pumps. However, consider the rumors that were being spread: first, that using ethanol would attract pests; second, that using ethanol would cause the engine to fail or get damaged, or cause the fuel pump to stop working. The minister also said that the use of ethanol as a fuel is not a new idea and has been around for nearly a century. We did not invent the concept of ethanol usage; work on this has been going on for a century. Henry Ford, the owner of the Ford Motor Company, drove cars using biofuels, kerosene, and fossil fuels back in his day. As for India, the Congress government was the first to formulate a plan for this. I recall my time as Ambassador to Brazil specifically between 2006 and 2008. Sharad Pawar was the agriculture minister around that time. We had set a target of achieving 5% biofuel blending across ten states and union territories, though we were unable to meet it we stalled at 1.4%." His remarks come at a time when ethanol-blended petrol has been facing scrutiny following social media discussions over its impact on vehicle performance. Meanwhile, in a recent exclusive interview with ANI, Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) Director Dr Reji Mathai said controlled tests conducted jointly by ARAI and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) found that vehicles running on E20 fuel recorded a 2 to 6 per cent drop in fuel consumption compared with E10 fuel. Dr Mathai said the tests were carried out under controlled laboratory conditions to isolate the impact of the fuel blend. "The studies were done along with the OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers), the vehicle manufacturers who understand their vehicles very well, to assess the impact of E20 compared to E10," he said, adding that ethanol has a slightly lower calorific value than petrol. The tests covered vehicles of different ages, jointly selected by ARAI and manufacturers, and showed a consistent 2 to 6 per cent drop in fuel consumption. The issue also came into focus after a social media video claimed E20 petrol had caused problems in a Toyota Hycross. However, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said its technical assessment found the vehicle was E20-compatible and that the issue was caused by contaminated fuel, not ethanol blending. "Further, based on our detailed technical assessment of the vehicle, the issue was due to fuel contamination. Our inspection confirmed that there was no damage to any vehicle component or its fuel system," the company said, advising customers to refuel only at authorised and reputed fuel stations. Stay updated with the latest news on Times of India . Get all the trending City News , India News , Business News , and Sports News . For Entertainment News , TV News , and Lifestyle Tips , visit Etimes .

Headline	Ethanol Is Not a New Concept, Has Been in Use for Over a Century: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri		
Publication	News On Air	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Ethanol Is Not a New Concept, Has Been in Use for Over a Century: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

<https://newsonair.gov.in/union-minister-hardeep-singh-puri-says-ethanol-has-been-in-use-for-over-a-century/>

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri today said that ethanol is not a new concept and has been in use for over a century.

Addressing a gathering in Rajasthan, Mr Puri said that the government welcomes constructive criticism of the government's biofuel blending programme and assured that the government will incorporate suggestions into its work and make the necessary corrections.

Mr. Puri also said that the idea of ethanol blending in India was first initiated during the previous Congress led government. Recalling his tenure as India's Ambassador to Brazil between 2006 and 2008, he said, a target of five per cent ethanol blending had been set across ten states and Union Territories but could have achieved only 1.4 per cent blending at the time.

Headline	MRPL appoints Satyan Kumar as ONGC Nominee Director		
Publication	Scanx	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

MRPL appoints Satyan Kumar as ONGC Nominee Director

<https://scanx.trade/stock-market-news/companies/mrpl-appoints-satyan-kumar-as-ongc-nominee-director-effective-jul-2/44621938>

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited has appointed Satyan Kumar as ONGC Nominee Director on its Board, effective July 2, 2026. Kumar, currently Director (Strategy & Corporate Affairs) at ONGC, brings over 36 years of experience across the oil and gas value chain. He is eligible for the appointment under Section 164 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited has appointed Satyan Kumar as ONGC Nominee Director on its Board, effective July 2, 2026. The appointment was communicated to the exchanges pursuant to Regulation 30 read with Part "A" of Schedule III of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Satyan Kumar is not debarred from holding the office of Director by any SEBI order or other authority. He is not related to any Directors of the company and is eligible for the appointment under the provisions of Section 164 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Profile of Satyan Kumar

Satyan Kumar currently serves as Director (Strategy & Corporate Affairs) at ONGC. He provides strategic leadership for corporate strategy, business development, joint-venture operations, stakeholder engagement, and emerging energy initiatives.

He holds an Electrical Engineering degree from Dayalbagh Educational Institution, Agra, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from MDI Gurgaon. He has also undergone advanced leadership training at ESCP-EAP, France.

Professional Experience

Kumar brings over 36 years of experience across the oil and gas value chain. His career spans upstream operations, engineering, project management, marketing, business development, petrochemicals, corporate strategy, and renewable energy.

Key Role

Description

Executive Director Chief Corporate Strategy

Shaped ONGC's long-term strategic roadmap

Project Leadership

Led initiatives like captive power plants and the HaziraDahej naphtha pipeline

Renewable Energy

Associated with solar, wind, and biofuels initiatives

He has played a key role in ONGC's diversification into petrochemicals, LNG, and green energy, including the company's first 15 MW utility-scale solar project.

Historical Stock Returns for Mangalore Refinery & Petroleum

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Headline	Why are Vedanta Oil and Gas share price falling 7% today? Explained		
Publication	Tezzbuzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Why are Vedanta Oil and Gas share price falling 7% today? Explained

<https://tezzbuzz.com/why-are-vedanta-oil-and-gas-share-price-falling-7-today-explained/>

Vedanta Oil and Gas Ltd shares fell 7.38 percent to Rs 41.30 on the NSE on July 3, down Rs 3.29 from the previous close of Rs 44.59.

The stock swung in a wide intraday range of Rs 41.10 to Rs 47.60, having opened higher before sliding through the session on profit booking. Its 52 week range stands at Rs 30.42 to Rs 47.60, a band largely built over the past few weeks since listing. Average trading volume stood at 43.92 million shares. P/E ratio and dividend yield were not available given the company's recent listing.

The decline follows a sharp two session rally in which the stock had gained around 40 percent, touching a high of Rs 45.37 on July 2. That move came as investors began pricing Vedanta Oil and Gas as a standalone pure play entity following its demerger from Vedanta Limited, with the four new entities from the demerger, including Vedanta Oil and Gas, having listed independently on June 15. The stock's recent volatility has also been shaped by its transition out of the trade to trade segment, where it spent its first ten sessions with restricted intraday trading, into the B group toward the end of June, which allowed for freer price discovery and higher volumes.

The company's asset base includes an estimated 2.9 billion barrels of oil equivalent in resources, with proven reserves and resources of approximately 1.3 billion boe, anchored by its Rajasthan block alongside smaller contributions from Ravva and Cambay. Credit rating agency ICRA has assigned an AA+ rating with a stable outlook to the company's long term fund based term loans, citing its established position in India's upstream exploration sector and competitive operating costs.

On earnings, the company has guided for a sharp ramp up in profitability, targeting EBITDA of around 939 million dollars, translating to roughly Rs 8,900 crore, for the coming fiscal year, against a current market capitalisation of around Rs 16,500 crore. Actual EBITDA stood at 557 million dollars in FY25 and 492 million dollars in FY26, with estimates rising to 656 million dollars in FY27, 939 million dollars in FY28 and 961 million dollars in FY29, based on assumed Brent crude prices ranging between 70 and 85 dollars a barrel and production estimates rising from 88 thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day in FY26 to 150 thousand by FY29. The company has outlined capital expenditure of around Rs 6,600 crore to support this production growth. If the underlying targets hold, the stock would trade at roughly two times EV to EBITDA on forward estimates, a valuation well below listed peer ONGC.

Investors are being advised to weigh the company's growth targets against the inherent risks of the exploration and production business, including crude price volatility, geological and technical execution risk at existing blocks, and the pace of regulatory approvals for new exploration activity. Production updates from the Rajasthan block, progress on the capital expenditure plan, and debt management as a standalone entity remain key monitorables going forward.

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice. The figures and securities mentioned are for analysis and illustration, not recommendations. Markets carry risk, and readers should conduct their own research or consult a registered financial adviser before making any investment decision.

Headline	Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Rejects Rumors, Defends E20 Fuel Amid Social Media Stir		
Publication	airnews	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	4 Jul 2026		

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Rejects Rumors, Defends E20 Fuel Amid Social Media Stir

<https://airnews.in/articles/f62c691beb-petroleum-minister-hardeep-singh-puri-rejects-rumors-defends-e20-fuel-amid-social-media-stir?feed=india>

On Saturday, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri publicly dismissed social media rumors that ethanolblended E20 petrol damages engines or attracts pests. He urged critics to offer constructive feedback and said the government will incorporate legitimate suggestions as it pushes the biofuel programme forward.

During the Union Ministry's weekly briefing on Saturday, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri fielded a barrage of questions after a socialmedia flareup over ethanolblended petrol. He dismissed the claims as false. If you see shortcomings in our work, point them out; we will listen and act where needed, Puri said.

Ethanol blending is not a novel experiment for India. The Congressled government launched a biofuel roadmap in 2008, aiming for a 5percent mix across ten states and union territories. In practice, the nation stalled at just 1.4percent last year, far short of the goal. Puri reminded the audience that Henry Ford ran cars on a mix of biofuels a century ago, underscoring the technology's longevity.

The Automotive Research Association of India released data on Tuesday showing that vehicles running on E20 consumed 2 to 6percent less fuel than those on E10 under laboratory conditions. We conducted the tests jointly with OEMs to isolate the effect of the blend, explained ARAI Director Dr Reji Mathai. He noted that ethanol's lower calorific value accounts for the modest drop, not engine damage.

A viral video alleging that a Toyota Hycross stalled after being filled with E20 prompted a flurry of speculation. Toyota Kirloskar Motor responded that its technical team found the fuel was contaminated, not the ethanol blend, and that no component of the car's fuel system was harmed. Customers should refuel only at authorised stations, the company advised.

Puri said the ministry will convene a stakeholder forum next month to review the blending roadmap and to incorporate any viable suggestions from industry and consumers. The next phase of the biofuel push is slated to begin with a pilot rollout of E20 in select northern states by early 2027.