



ONGC News as on 06 July 2026 (Print & Online)

Publication : Dainik Vishwamitra (Hindi)	Editions : Kolkata
Date : 6 July 2026	Page : 2

Headline: Oil Production in Ashoknagar Soon

अशोकनगर में जल्द ही तेल का उत्पादन

कोलकाता, 5 जुलाई (नि.प्र.)। अशोकनगर से जल्द ही ओएनजीसी व्यावसायिक स्तर पर खनिज तेल का उत्पादन शुरू करने वाला है। सूत्रों से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार अगर सब कुछ ठीक रहा तो इसी महीने उत्तर 24 परगना जिले के अशोकनगर के बैगाछी प्लांट से कच्चा तेल का उत्पादन शुरू कर दिया जाएगा। पिछले काफी समय से यह प्लांट चर्चाओं में छाया हुआ था। बताया जाता है कि भविष्य में यहां से प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन करने का लक्ष्य भी निर्धारित किया गया है। अशोकनगर से कच्चा तेल का अगर व्यावसायिक उत्पादन शुरू हो जाता है तो देश के मानचित्र पर बंगाल का यह छोटा सा शहर एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थान हासिल कर लेगा। संभावना जतायी जा रही है कि इस क्षेत्र के औद्योगिक विकास के साथ-साथ यहां रोजगार के अवसर भी उपलब्ध होंगे जिससे वित्तीय विकास को भी बढ़ावा मिलेगा। सूत्रों के हवाले से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार अशोकनगर में कुल 7 तेल के कुएं खोदे गये थे। प्राथमिक स्तर पर इस महीने से बैगाछी के एक कुएं से तेल का उत्पादन शुरू हो सकता है। बताया जाता है कि अशोकनगर विधानसभा क्षेत्र के भुक्कुंडा, दौलतपुर समेत अन्य कच्चे तेल के कुओं का काम भी जारी है। बाद में इन कुओं से भी तेल उत्पादन किया जा सकता है।

Publication : Dina Malar (Tamil)	Editions : Chennai
Date :6 July 2026	Page : 11

Headline: Age limit raised for ONGC leadership





Publication : Echo of India	Editions : Kolkata
Date :6 July 2026	Page : 8

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

NEW DELHI: The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure.

Publication : Jansatta (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 6 July 2026	Page : 9

Headline: Entry age for ONGC chairman increased to 59 years

ओएनजीसी चेयरमैन के लिए प्रवेश आयु बढ़कर 59 वर्ष हुई

नई दिल्ली, 5 जुलाई (भाषा)।

सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) के अगले चेयरमैन की नियुक्ति के लिए पात्रता शर्तों में ढील दी है। इसके तहत अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु बढ़ाकर 59 वर्ष कर दी गई है और चयनित उम्मीदवार को तीन वर्ष का निश्चित कार्यकाल दिया जाएगा, जिसे प्रदर्शन समीक्षा के आधार पर दो वर्ष तक बढ़ाया जा सकेगा। इस कदम से देश की सबसे बड़ी तेल एवं गैस उत्पादक कंपनी के शीर्ष पद के लिए अधिक उम्मीदवारों के लिए अवसर खुल गया है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों में नियुक्तियों के लिए प्रमुख चयन एजेंसी लोक उद्यम चयन बोर्ड (पीईएसबी) ने इस पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए हैं। यह पद सात दिसंबर को वर्तमान चेयरमैन अरुण कुमार सिंह के विस्तारित कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद खाली हो जाएगा। ओएनजीसी के विज्ञापन के अनुसार, उम्मीदवार की आयु पद रिक्त होने की तिथि यानी सात दिसंबर 2026 तक 59 वर्ष से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए।

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers five-year tenure

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure.

Under the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of



occurrence of the vacancy — December 7, 2026.

The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review.

"Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis," the advertisement said.

The selection will be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process.

The revised age limit marks

a departure from the norms followed for most board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

While recent appointments have largely been governed by a residual service criterion rather than fixed age limits, the advertisement prescribes a maximum entry age of 59 years, allowing both internal and external candidates who would otherwise have been ineligible to be considered.

The tenure conditions are also a departure from the prevailing practice of appointing PSU chiefs until the age of superannuation, which is generally 60 years.

Under the revised framework, a chairman may continue beyond that age on a contractual basis.

The government had made a similar relaxation when appointing Singh in 2022.

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
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ONGC chairman entry age raised

The government has relaxed eligibility norms for appointing ONGC's next chairman, raising the maximum entry age to 59 and offering a three-year term extendable by two years. The move widens the pool of eligible candidates for the top post and offers greater leadership flexibility. The revised rules also allow appointments beyond retirement age on contract.

—PTI

Publication : Veer Arjun (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 6 July 2026	Page : 11

Headline: Government raises entry age for ONGC Chairman to 59 years

सरकार ने ओएनजीसी चेयरमैन के लिए प्रवेश आयु बढ़ाकर 59 वर्ष की

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) के अगले चेयरमैन की नियुक्ति के लिए पात्रता शर्तों में ढील दी है। इसके तहत अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु बढ़ाकर 59 वर्ष कर दी गई है और चयनित उम्मीदवार को तीन वर्ष का निश्चित कार्यकाल दिया जाएगा, जिसे प्रदर्शन समीक्षा के आधार पर दो वर्ष तक बढ़ाया जा सकेगा। इस कदम से देश की सबसे बड़ी तेल एवं गैस उत्पादक कंपनी के शीर्ष पद के लिए अधिक उम्मीदवारों के लिए अवसर खुल गया है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों में नियुक्तियों के लिए प्रमुख चयन एजेंसी लोक उद्यम चयन बोर्ड (पीईएसबी) ने इस पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए हैं। यह पद सात दिसंबर को वर्तमान चेयरमैन अरुण कुमार सिंह के विस्तारित कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद खाली हो जाएगा।

HMT ordered to return forest land worth Rs 15k cr

Deputy forest conservator gives company 30 days to file appeal

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major development in the dispute related to 430 acres of land occupied by the HMT Limited in Bengaluru, the forest department has ruled that the Rs 15,000-crore property remains a forest and ordered the company to hand over the entire land if an appeal is not filed within 30 days from the receipt of the order.

The ruling by the deputy conservator of forests (DCF), Bengaluru Urban, N Ravindrakumar, is likely to have wider implications as it held that the company's transfer of land to the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), Raman Research Institute, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and others is "liable to be examined" in light of the applicable forest laws.

The order dated June 15, 2026, which was sent to the HMT early last week, observed that the company should have returned the lands to the state government when they were no longer required for the purpose for which they were granted, noting that the company alienated more than 170 acres to 44 parties.

CHRONOLOGY OF CASE

1901 599 acres of Peenya Jalahalli Plantation declared reserved forest through gazette notification	orders between 1960 and 1965 to transfer land	2024 HMT challenges notice in HC, which directs forest dept to follow due legal process
1932 Another 444 acres and 12 guntas of Jarakabande Sandal Reserve notified as reserved forest	1963 A registered gift deed executed in favour of HMT	2025 Bengaluru Urban DCF conducts an inquiry
1960-1965 HMT claims the then Mysore Government issued	1996-2006 HMT sells or transfers 178 acres to 44 parties	2026 DCF rules that 430-acre land remains forest, directs HMT to hand over land
2024 RFO issues notice to HMT, saying it is illegally occupying reserved forest		



The ruling came after the DCF held an inquiry into a notice issued by the range forest officer (RFO) to the company on November 4, 2024.

The company had challenged the notice before the Karnataka High Court, which restrained the forest depart-

ment from dispossessing the petitioners "without following the process of law".

Subsequently, the DCF asked both parties — the RFO and the HMT — to present their cases.

The RFO stated that the lands in dispute — survey num-

bers 1 and 2 of Peenya Plantation and survey numbers 18 and 19 of Jarakabande Sandal Reserve — were reserved forest under "illegal occupation".

The RFO pointed to the January 31, 1901, gazette notification declaring 599 acres of Peenya Jalahalli Plantation as state forest and another gazette notification of August 18, 1932, declaring 444 acres and 12 guntas as Jarakabande Sandal Reserve.

"The aforesaid lands continue to retain their character as forest lands under the applicable forest laws, as no notification has been produced showing that they were lawfully de-reserved, de-notified, or otherwise declared to have ceased to be forest areas in accordance with the statutory procedure," the RFO argued before the DCF.

In HMT's defence, Karthik G, deputy general manager (AM&CP), and Om Prakash Singh, assistant general manager, produced two government orders, a gift deed and two grant certificates along with revenue receipts and an old map reflecting the lands as gifted by the erstwhile Government of Mysore.

► HMT, Page 4

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HMT ordered to return forest land worth Rs 15,000 crore

HMT, From Flap 1

As per the prevailing rules, any diversion of reserved forest for non-forest purposes required procedures to be followed under Section 30 of Mysore Forest Regulation No. XI of 1900, Section 28 of the Karnataka Forest Act 1963, and for diversions made after October 1980, Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act.

The DCF noted that the documents submitted by the HMT—especially the government order dated March 27, 1965, and the registered gift deed dated

August 12, 1963, executed by the deputy commissioner—do not themselves constitute the foundational authority for alienating the forest land. Moreover, he noted that the company could not submit the original records.

"During the inquiry, HMT failed to produce the original government orders under which the lands were allegedly released and transferred. The absence of foundational records is fatal. Where forest or plantation land is released subject to conditions, such release remains conditional unless strict compliance is established. The

burden of proof lies on the beneficiary," the DCF said, citing two Supreme Court orders.

The official said that in the absence of foundational government orders releasing/ de-notifying the land, once a forest always remains a forest as per the orders issued by the apex court in the T Godavarman Thirumulpad.

"This authority holds that the registered gift deed dated 12.08.1963 is merely a consequential instrument and cannot by itself establish lawful release, de-reservation, alienation, extinguishment of forest status,

or valid transfer of land," the order said.

Further, the DCF held that HMT ought to have returned the lands to the state government when they were no longer required for the purpose for which they were granted. However, records indicate that between 1996 and 2006, the company alienated approximately 178 acres and 7.2 guntas to 44 parties, the official said.

The order directed the company to hand over 430 acres 21.853 guntas but gave 30 days to file an appeal before the conservator of forests.

BPCL acquires Videocon's oil and gas interests in Brazil

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, JULY 5: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Fortune Global 500 company and a Maharatna PSU, through its upstream entity, Bharat PetroResources Limited (BPRL) has successfully completed the acquisition of all of Videocon's shareholding in its Brazilian Joint Venture company, IBV Brasil Petróleo Ltda. (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. BPRL had earlier exercised its Right of First Refusal available under the shareholders' agreement of IBV to acquire the stake of the remaining shareholder in IBV. After all due approvals and necessary registrations from Brazilian authorities, the transaction has now been consummated.

Strategic Relevance Amid Global Energy Volatility: 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. Disruptions across key producing regions and critical energy

supply corridors have reinforced the importance of diversifying energy sources and building resilient, long-term supply networks.

IBV holds participating interests in oil & gas Concessions in Brazil including BM-SEAL-11 and BM-C-30 Concessions. The aforementioned acquisition has the potential to add equity oil and gas production of approximately 1 Million Tons of oil equivalent per annum, upon commencement of production from the BM-SEAL-11 Concession. BM-SEAL-11 Concession, in which IBV holds 40% participating interests and the remaining interest held by Petrobras, is currently progressing through the development phase, with the contract for the Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) unit having been executed in May 2026.

Commenting on the transaction, Chairman and Managing Director, BPCL, Sanjay Khanna said, "This acquisition marks a significant milestone in our overseas upstream growth journey. By increasing our stake in a strategic developing asset, we are reinforcing our long-term commitment to strengthening our global energy portfolio and contributing to India's energy security through secure and sustainable access to hydrocarbon resources."

Publication : Millennium Post

Editions : New Delhi

Date : 6 July 2026

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AS LNG SUPPLIES NORMALISE

Govt withdraws emergency gas curbs imposed during Hormuz disruption

SIMONTINI BHATTACHARJEE

NEW DELHI: The Centre has withdrawn most provisions of the emergency natural gas supply regulations introduced during the recent West Asia conflict after liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the Strait of Hormuz resumed following a ceasefire.

In a notification issued on Saturday, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas amended the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026, removing key operational provisions that had allowed the government to control the allocation of domestically produced natural



gas and imported LNG according to a revised priority list.

The emergency order, issued on March 9 under the Essential Commodities Act, came after the conflict in West Asia disrupted LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. Some suppliers invoked force majeure clauses and diverted cargoes to

Continued on P6

Hormuz disruption

priority consumers, raising concerns over India's energy security.

The ministry said the situation has improved since then. "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 to a ceasefire, and negotiations are ongoing, as part of which, sea traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has been permitted to be resumed," the notification said.

It added that, in view of these developments, the government was "omitting" parts of the March 9 order that had prioritised the allocation of available gas supplies.

The gas supply restrictions were one

of three emergency measures introduced after energy supplies from the Gulf came under threat following US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 and Tehran's retaliatory attacks, which effectively disrupted traffic through the strategic waterway.

The other two emergency measures, directing refiners to maximise LPG production by diverting feedstock from petrochemical units and restricting diesel sales to bulk consumers, had already been withdrawn after fuel supplies returned to normal.

India remains heavily dependent on imported energy. The country imports about 88 per cent of its crude oil requirements and nearly half of its natural gas demand. Around 40 to 45 per cent of crude oil imports and about 65 per cent of LNG supplies originate from West Asia, making the Strait of Hormuz a critical route for India's energy imports.

Although India managed to diversify crude oil purchases by sourcing supplies from other producing nations during the crisis, natural gas imports remained exposed because most LNG cargoes from Qatar pass through the Strait of Hormuz. The March order gave the government powers to direct sector-wise allocation and diversion of domestic gas, LNG and regasified LNG to ensure uninterrupted supplies to essential consumers. It guaranteed full supplies, based on the previous six months' average consumption, to piped natural gas households, compressed natural gas for transport, LPG production and pipeline operations.

Fertiliser plants were assured 70 per cent of their average gas requirement, while industrial consumers connected to the national gas grid and city gas distribution networks were guaranteed 80 per cent of their average consumption, subject to operational availability.

To meet these commitments, gas supplies to petrochemical plants and power stations could be reduced, while oil refiners were directed to cut gas consumption to about 65 per cent of their average use wherever operationally feasible.

The order also required state-run GAIL, working with the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, to pool and redistribute gas supplies, determine pooled prices for diverted gas and oversee revised allocation schedules. Gas producers, LNG importers, marketers, pipeline operators and city gas distributors were required to comply with the revised supply plan, with the emergency provisions taking precedence over existing commercial agreements.

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India eyes oil exploration expansion after Middle East war shortages

AFP
feedback@livemint.com

Hit by the biggest energy supply shock in decades during the Middle East war, import-dependent India is expanding domestic crude exploration, its oil minister says.

India, the world's third-largest importer of oil and the second-largest buyer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), faced major disruptions due to restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz during the conflict between the US and Iran.

With a temporary US-Iran deal in place to pause hostili-

ties, oil and gas shipments are flowing through the Gulf waterway again, and restrictions and price hikes in India are being rolled back.

But minister of petroleum and natural gas Hardeep Singh Puri said the energy crunch provided fresh impetus for India's expansion of domestic supplies.

"We are currently in the process...to bid out about 250,000 sq. km of unexplored area," Puri told AFP.

India is a modest producer in global terms.

Domestic crude production in 2025-2026 was 25.98 million tonnes, according to the oil



Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the energy crunch provided fresh impetus for India's expansion of domestic supplies. AFP

ministry.

That meets just 10% of India's crude needs, equivalent to roughly 522,000 barrels per

day (bpd)—a figure well below its production peak of just more than 900,000 bpd in 2011.

India survived the energy

crunch by expanding its crude suppliers from 27 to 41 countries, including Iran, Venezuela, greater purchases from Russia and several African nations. New Delhi has previously been criticized by both the US and Europe for its purchase of Russian oil, with critics arguing that it bankrolled Moscow's war against Kyiv.

But Puri said India had a "pragmatic approach" that put its energy needs above "ideological considerations."

The country's domestic crude production is concentrated in the west—in its Mumbai offshore fields, Rajasthan and Gujarat—as well as in the

north-east in Assam.

But Puri has hailed what he calls an "ocean of energy opportunities" off India's Andaman and Nicobar archipelago. The vast Andaman Basin is geologically similar to hydrocarbon-bearing basins in South-East Asia.

Puri posted a video on social media in June of a gas flare at an exploratory well drilled in the Andaman Sea by state-owned Oil India. "Large number of deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploration wells are planned in our offshore basins to fully exploit our hydrocarbon reserves," Puri said when he released the video.

New Delhi is working with "deepwater exploration experts" including Petrobras, TotalEnergies, BP, Shell and ExxonMobil, he said.

In the same Andaman Sea, India is readying a \$9 billion Great Nicobar Island Project to build a megaport, airport and city, creating a strategic base on what is, for now, a far-flung island covered in pristine forests and home to one of Earth's most isolated peoples.

The push pre-dates the Middle East war. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Samudra Manthan' mission during a speech marking Independence Day in August 2025.



Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :6 July 2026	Page : 8

Centre denies reports of Bhutan rejecting E20 petrol proposal

New Delhi: The Centre on Sunday rejected media reports claiming that Bhutan turned down an Indian proposal to import E20 petrol, clarifying that no such offer was made by Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and that there is no proposal to export the fuel to the neighbouring country.

Govt slams reports of Bhutan rejecting E20 petrol proposal

NEW DELHI: THE Centre on Sunday rejected media reports claiming that Bhutan turned down an Indian proposal to import E20 petrol, clarifying that no such offer was made by Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and that there is no proposal to export the fuel to the neighbouring country.

"Claims that Bhutan declined an offer to import E20 petrol from India are incorrect," the ministry said. "No such offer has been made by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), and there is no proposal for export of E20 petrol to Bhutan," it added. The clarification came after media reports claimed that Bhutan had declined an Indian proposal to supply E20 petrol

due to concerns over fuel storage infrastructure and the compatibility of vehicles with higher ethanol-blended fuel. The reports, citing Bhutanese officials, said the country had requested Indian OMCs to continue supplying conventional petrol instead of E20, pointing to technical and infrastructure-related challenges.

According to the reports, Bhutan's concerns were linked to the hygroscopic nature of ethanol, which absorbs moisture more readily than conventional petrol. Officials were reported to have expressed apprehension that ageing underground fuel storage tanks in the country's mountainous terrain could be susceptible to water seepage, increasing the risk of phase separation.

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
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Claims of Bhutan rejecting Indian E20 false, Petroleum Ministry says no proposal for exporting E20 petrol

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 5 July

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Sunday said that India's Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) never made any offer to export E20 petrol to Bhutan, and said that there is "no such proposal" on exporting E20 petrol to the neighbouring country.

The ministry said that the reports of Bhutan rejecting imports of India's E20 petrol are incorrect.

In a post on Facebook, the ministry said: "Fact Check: Claims that Bhutan declined an offer to import E20 petrol from India are incorrect. No such offer has been made by the Oil

Marketing Companies (OMCs), and there is no proposal for export of E20 petrol to Bhutan. Please rely only on official information from MoPNG and the Oil Marketing Companies."

Earlier on Saturday, Congress alleged that Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have refused India's fuel.

These reports come as there have been concerns raised about the performance and reliability of the newly introduced E20 blend fuel.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting clarified in this respect that: "E20 fuel was introduced only after

extensive laboratory, vehicle, and field testing by India's leading technical institutions. Science led the way, ensuring reliability, performance, and confidence on every journey."

The government has clarified that the automobile industry has been aligning vehicles with prescribed ethanol-blending standards. Use of approved E20 fuel does not automatically void the manufacturer's warranty merely because ethanol-blended petrol is used, as per the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Ethanol blending is a

scientifically designed, internationally accepted fuel formulation implemented (In countries such as Brazil) under India's Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme. It is governed by established fuel quality standards and is not fuel adulteration.

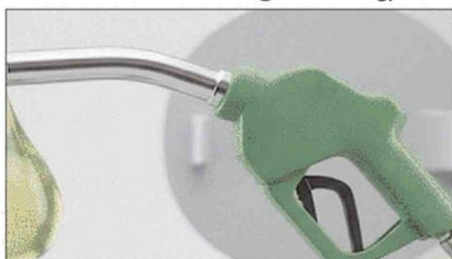
Extensive testing previously by ARAI, Indian Oil R&D and IIP has found no significant engine durability or performance issues with E20 in older vehicles. Millions of vehicles are already operating on E20 since 1st April 2025 (Pan rollout of E20) without any evidence of engine failure attributable to the fuel, the Ministry further said.

Headline: E20 program planned, ethanol blending in petrol implemented after discussions with all stakeholders

ई20 प्रोग्राम नियोजित, पेट्रोल में एथेनॉल मिश्रण सभी पक्षकारों से चर्चा के बाद हुआ लागू

एजेंसी ■ मुंबई

केंद्र सरकार का ई20 प्रोग्राम पूरी तरह से नियोजित है और पेट्रोल में एथेनॉल मिश्रण कई वर्षों तक सभी पक्षकारों से चर्चा के बाद लागू किया गया है। इसमें ऑयल मार्केटिंग कंपनियां, एथेनॉल उत्पादक, ऑटोमोबाइल इंडस्ट्री, वैज्ञानिक और ऑटोमोबाइल रिसर्च एसोसिएशन शामिल हैं। यह जानकारी पूर्व बीपीसीएल निदेशक (रिफाइनरी) आर. रामचंद्रन की ओर से दी गई। समाचार एजेंसी आईएनएस से बातचीत में आर. रामचंद्रन ने कहा कि ई20 के कार्यान्वयन से पहले तकनीकी, परिचालन और नीतिगत पहलुओं सभी पर विचार किया गया है। रामचंद्रन ने आईएनएस को बताया, ई20 एथेनॉल मिश्रण पहले एक अच्छी तरह से सोची-समझी और कई सालों तक चली प्रक्रिया रही है, जिसमें सभी पक्षकारों-तेल कंपनियां, एथेनॉल बनाने वाली कंपनियां, ऑटोमोबाइल इंडस्ट्री, वैज्ञानिक और ऑटोमोबाइल रिसर्च एसोसिएशन- शामिल रहे हैं। ई85 के बारे में बात करते हुए रामचंद्रन ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह अभी किसी सरकारी पॉलिसी या लागू करने की योजना का हिस्सा नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा, ई85 अभी किसी सरकारी पॉलिसी या लागू करने की



योजना का हिस्सा नहीं है। इसे भविष्य के एक संभावित विकल्प के तौर पर देखा जा रहा है। यह सोच ब्राजील जैसे देशों से प्रेरित है, जहाँ ई100 को फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल इंजन टेक्नोलॉजी के साथ इस्तेमाल करने के लिए विकसित किया गया है। भविष्य में औद्योगिक विस्तार के दौरान पानी के इस्तेमाल को लेकर जताई जा रही चिंताओं पर बात करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि उद्योगों को उत्पादन बढ़ाने के साथ-साथ पानी बचाने को भी प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए। उन्होंने लगभग 100 प्रतिशत पानी की रीसाइक्लिंग करने, ट्रीट किए गए वेस्टवॉटर का अधिक से अधिक इस्तेमाल करने और इंडस्ट्रियल-ग्रेड पानी बनाने के लिए रिवर्स ऑस्मोसिस और डिमिनेरलाइजेशन प्लांट जैसी टेक्नोलॉजी अपनाने पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने यह भी सुझाव दिया

कि उद्योग पानी को अधिक खपत वाली प्रक्रियाओं पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए वैकल्पिक कूलिंग सिस्टम अपनाना, जिनमें एयर-वेस्ट, कंप्रेस्ड-एयर और चिलड-एयर टेक्नोलॉजी शामिल हैं। भारत की एनर्जी सिक्योरिटी के बारे में रामचंद्रन ने कहा कि देश की मजबूती कई वजहों से है, जिसमें पिछले पांच-छह सालों में कच्चे तेल के आयात बास्केट में लगातार विविधता लाना शामिल है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय तेल उद्योग ने पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर तेल खरीदने के विकल्पों को बढ़ाया है। इससे देश वैकल्पिक आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से कच्चा तेल हासिल करके सप्लाय चेन में आने वाली संभावित रुकावटों जैसे कि होर्मुज स्ट्रेट का बंद होना आदि को संभाल सकता है।

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15 vessels carrying urea, DAP and sulphur cross Hormuz safely: Govt

The Centre on Sunday said that 15 vessels bound for India, carrying fertilisers and key raw materials, have crossed the Strait of Hormuz since tensions between Iran and the US eased. These vessels include eight carrying 0.33 million tonnes of urea, four carrying 0.25 million tonnes of DAP, and three carrying 0.11 million tonnes of sulphur. Their arrival over the next few days is expected to significantly boost fertiliser stocks, SANJEEB MUKHERJEE reports

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15 vessels carrying urea, DAP, sulphur crossed Hormuz after US-Iran truce

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 5 July

The government on Sunday said that 15 vessels bound for India, carrying fertilisers and key raw materials used in their production, have crossed the Strait of Hormuz since tensions between Iran and the US eased.

According to an official statement, these vessels include eight carrying 0.33 million tonnes of urea, four carrying 0.25 million tonnes of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), and three carrying 0.11 million tonnes of sulphur. Their arrival over the next few days is expected to significantly boost the country's fertiliser stocks.

Sources said around 20 vessels carrying fertilisers and related inputs for India had been stranded for several days on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz due to the Iran-US conflict. Since tensions eased, 15 vessels have crossed the strait, while five more are awaiting passage. Of the remaining five vessels, three are carrying urea and one is carrying ammonia, all of which are scheduled to sail for India in the coming days.

"One vessel is carrying 25,000 tonnes of ammonia, while another is carrying 45,000 tonnes of urea. Loading of urea is currently underway on two more vessels, while another vessel is being loaded with sulphur. The arrival of these shipments will further strengthen the country's fertiliser stocks," the official state-

ment said.

The government also said that, following sustained efforts, natural gas supplies to fertiliser plants—which had fallen to around 65 per cent of requirements immediately after the conflict—have now been fully restored.

"Consequently, all urea plants across the country are operating at full capacity, resulting in a significant increase in domestic production," the statement said.

India produced around 2.09 million tonnes of urea in April 2026, exceeding the target of 2.03 million tonnes. Production rose to 2.51 million tonnes in May against a target of 2.25 million tonnes, and further increased to 2.53 million tonnes in June, surpassing the target of 2.46 million tonnes.

"Overall, in the first quarter of FY27 (April-June), India produced 7.15 million tonnes of urea against the target of 6.78 million tonnes, exceeding the target by 0.36 million tonnes," the statement added.

In addition to urea, India produced 0.98 million tonnes of DAP during April-June against a target of 0.86 million tonnes. It also produced 2.07 million tonnes of NPKS and 1.35 million tonnes of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) during the same period.

As a result, fertiliser stocks have risen to more than 51 per cent of the estimated kharif requirement, compared with the usual level of around 33 per cent, the government said.

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Centre withdraws emergency gas curbs imposed during Hormuz disruption

The government, in a notification issued on Saturday, withdrew most provisions of the emergency natural gas supply regulation order imposed during the West Asia conflict after liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the Strait of Hormuz resumed following a ceasefire.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas amended the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026, omitting key operational provisions, which led to all domestically produced natural gas and imported LNG to be sold as per a new priority customer list drawn by the Centre. The gas supply curbs were one of three emergency measures the government introduced after energy supplies from the Gulf were threatened by ongoing war. The other two measures — directing refiners to maximise LPG production by diverting feedstock from petrochemicals and restricting diesel sales to bulk consumers — have already been withdrawn.

PTI

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Opec+ approves further oil output increase by 188K bpd from August

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec+) has agreed a further increase in output targets from August, the group said in a statement on Sunday, adding to global supply at a time when oil prices are falling due to the gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. The oil-producing group agreed during an online meeting to increase quotas by 188,000 barrels per day (bpd) from August, on top of similar increases for June and July. The seven core members of Opec+, which groups Opec and allied producers including Russia, have hiked their output quotas from April through July by almost 800,000 bpd. Yet the increase has remained largely on paper due to the West Asia conflict. REUTERS

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India's emission record improved in 2025

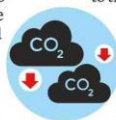
S DINAKAR
Hyderabad, 5 July

The emission of carbon dioxide from energy use in India last year was lower than that in the United States (US) and China, the two largest polluters in the world, according to a report by global climate consultants. And though India comes third on the world's list of polluters, its growth in annual carbon-dioxide emission in 2025 was its lowest on record except 2020, which saw the pandemic-induced shutdown, according to the Energy Institute's Statistical Review of World Energy dataset (going back to 1965). Fossil fuels, however, made up 93 per cent of India's energy supply. The country's carbon-dioxide emission rose by just 0.6 per cent, or 9 million tonnes, last year to 2.96 billion tonnes. This was much lower than the 4.4 per cent growth in 2024 and

the 3.4 per cent increase in 2015-25, according to calculations based on the report. The decline last year was chiefly because of lower temperatures, which reduced the need for electricity, according to the government data. The US was the biggest contributor to growth in global emission because of pro-fossil fuel policies of the climate-sceptic Donald Trump administration, which also pulled out of the United Nations climate treaty. Emission in the US grew by 3.1 per cent, or 129 million tonnes, making the country the biggest contributor to the increase in global carbon-dioxide emission from energy use, to 4.75 billion tonnes, according to the report, which Ember, KPMG and Kearney collaborated on and is being published since 1952. Global emission grew by 1.1 per cent last year from 2024.

China, which accounts for nearly a third of it, grew its emission by only 0.7 per cent last year to 11.2 billion tonnes because of a surge in renewables and the increasing use of electric vehicles. In 2025, coal was the main source of India's energy (59 per cent), followed by oil (28 per cent), according to the institute. "In contrast to historical trends, the year saw no overall growth in India's fossil fuel consumption, with gas consumption falling by 5.9 per cent, coal consumption growing by only 0.6 per cent, and oil by 0.3 per cent," the report said. "The cause of this was a mixture of weather-driven and structural effects." India also set records in growth in wind and solar generation, while good hydro conditions further boosted renewables' output. India's behind-the-meter

solar capacity increased by 40 per cent year-on-year to reach 43.6 gigawatts (Gw), which was the largest increase outside China in 2025. Together these factors led to a 3 per cent fall in coal generation and a 15 per cent dip in gas output, the report said. But lack of transmission infrastructure prevented a further integration of renewables, following rapid increases in capacity in the last five years. **Carbon emission** Global emission in carbon dioxide from the energy sector rose by 1.1 per cent to 35.8 billion tonnes. And emission from energy, gas flaring and methane rose by 1.1 per cent to 41 billion tonnes. Remarkably, 36 per cent of that rise (to 35.8 billion tonnes) was in the US, with its year-on-year growth almost three times the global expansion. More on business-standard.com



'Sustained earnings growth key to equity upside'

Q&A The easing of geopolitical tensions has given a boost to Indian equities, but the next leg of market movement will depend on whether firms deliver on earnings expectations, says **Rahul Singh**, chief investment officer (CIO)-equities, Tata Asset Management. In an email interview with Abhishek Kumar in Mumbai, Singh says Nifty50 earnings growth could rise to around 15 per cent in FY27 if commodity prices soften further and supply chains continue to normalise. Edited excerpts:

The market is recovering as concerns over West Asia tensions ease. But do current valuations and earnings growth expectations leave enough room for further meaningful upside?

■ The easing of geopolitical tensions has improved the market backdrop by reducing downside risks to corporate earnings and key macro variables such as the dollar/rupee exchange rate. However, from here, market returns are likely to be driven more by earnings growth than by further valuation expansion, as Indian equities remain relatively expensive.

If commodity prices continue to soften and supply chains normalise further, the *Bloomberg* consensus estimate of around 15 per cent Nifty earnings growth for the current financial year appears increasingly achievable. That would provide a strong foundation for a gradual market recovery.

Artificial intelligence (AI)-related concerns remain an overhang — both in terms of their potential long-term impact on India's demographic dividend and

influence on global capital flows. In this environment, companies and sectors delivering superior earnings growth are likely to command valuation premiums. Looking ahead to 2027, India's growth differential relative to other major economies is expected to narrow, making stock selection and earnings execution even more critical drivers of returns.

What factors are likely to drive equity markets in the coming months?

■ Corporate earnings will remain the single biggest driver of equity markets in the coming months. An improving macro environment, easing geopolitical risks, softer commodity prices and stable bond yields should provide a supportive backdrop. On the domestic front, the investment cycle, improving credit growth, manufacturing tailwinds and healthy asset quality within the banking system continue to support the medium-term outlook.

At the same time, global capital flows, AI-led investments and movements in crude oil prices will remain



“GLOBAL CAPITAL FLOWS, AI-LED INVESTMENTS AND CRUDE OIL PRICE MOVEMENTS WILL ALSO REMAIN IMPORTANT VARIABLES”

Rahul Singh
CIO-equities, Tata Asset Management

important variables influencing market sentiment.

Which sectors are best positioned to lead the next phase of market rally? Are there any sectors where you remain cautious?

■ We continue to favour banking, healthcare, power and the broader resources and energy space. Banking is

well placed as improving credit growth and a turning interest-rate cycle should support earnings over time, making the risk-reward favourable at current valuations. Healthcare remains a compelling long-term structural opportunity, supported by strong demand and reasonable valuations.

Within energy, rising electricity demand, ongoing investments in both conventional and renewable power generation, transmission capex, and the increasing focus on energy security continue to create opportunities. On the other hand, we remain relatively cautious on IT in the near term.

While AI presents significant long-term opportunities for enterprise AI adoption, the pace at which these opportunities emerge and competition from AI-native services companies will determine the extent to which they can offset near-term deflationary pressures.

What are the key risks that equity markets face at this juncture?

■ The biggest risks continue to be external. Geopolitical developments, volatility in crude oil and other commodity prices, and changes in global trade policies remain key monitorables. In addition, AI's impact on global capital allocation as well as job creation has structural implications for India. Ultimately, the performance will

depend on whether corporate earnings meet expectations.

Broader markets have significantly outperformed since April. Do you expect this trend to continue?

■ The valuation gap between large-cap and broader markets has narrowed meaningfully since 2024, making the latter more reasonably valued. More importantly, several attractive themes, including energy, manufacturing and healthcare, are better represented within the midcap and smallcap universe. Rather than taking a market cap call, investors should opt for flexi-cap and multi-cap strategies that can capture opportunities across segments.

What are your expectations for the June quarter earnings season?

■ The upcoming earnings season will be important in determining whether the recent improvement in market sentiment is supported by fundamentals. Consensus expectations continue to point towards healthy earnings growth over the next two financial years, with a compound annual growth rate of around 15 per cent. Going forward, the quality and sustainability of earnings will be more important than top line growth in determining market direction.

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गैस पर लगाए गए आपात प्रतिबंध वापस लिए

पश्चिम एशिया में तनाव कम होने और होर्मुज स्ट्रेट से एलएनजी (तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस) की आपूर्ति सामान्य होने के बाद केंद्र सरकार ने प्राकृतिक गैस आपूर्ति पर लगाए गए अधिकांश आपातकालीन प्रतिबंध वापस ले लिए हैं।

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने शनिवार को अधिसूचना जारी कर प्राकृतिक गैस (आपूर्ति विनियमन) आदेश, 2026 में संशोधन करते हुए उन प्रमुख प्रावधानों को हटा दिया, जिनके तहत घरेलू और आयातित गैस की आपूर्ति सरकार द्वारा तय प्राथमिकता सूची के अनुसार की जा रही थी। सरकार ने यह आपात व्यवस्था पश्चिम एशिया में संघर्ष के कारण आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के तहत लागू की थी।

भाषा

Restrictions eased as maritime traffic via Hormuz is back to normal Emergency gas curbs gone as LNG supplies normalise post ceasefire

NEW DELHI: The government has withdrawn most provisions of the emergency natural gas supply regulation order imposed during the West Asia conflict after liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the Strait of Hormuz resumed following a ceasefire.

In a notification issued on Saturday, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas amended the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026, omitting key operational provisions, which led to all domestically produced natural gas and imported LNG to be sold as per a new priority customer list drawn by the government.

The original order, issued on March 9 under the Essential Commodities Act, was brought in after the conflict in West Asia disrupted LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, with suppliers invoking force majeure and diverting cargoes to priority consumers.

The ministry said the situation has since improved, with a ceasefire in place, negotiations underway and maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz resuming.

The gas supply curbs were one of three emergency measures the government introduced after ener-



gy supplies from the Gulf were threatened by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, following US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 and Tehran's retaliatory attacks.

The other two measures - directing refiners to maximise LPG production by diverting feedstock from petrochemicals and restricting diesel sales to bulk consumers - have already been withdrawn as the supply situation normalised.

India, the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, imports about 88 per cent of its crude oil requirements and around half of its natural gas needs.

About 40-45 per cent of its crude oil imports and nearly 65 per cent

of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies come from West Asia, underscoring the country's vulnerability to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, through which most Gulf energy exports are shipped.

The threat to traffic through the waterway prompted the government to invoke emergency powers in March to safeguard domestic fuel and gas supplies. While India diversified crude oil purchases by sourcing supplies from other producers, natural gas imports remained exposed because most LNG cargoes from Qatar pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

The disruption led some suppliers to invoke force majeure, prompting the government to in-

troduce emergency measures to prioritise gas supplies to essential sectors. The March order empowered the government to direct sector-wise allocation and diversion of domestic gas, LNG and regasified LNG to ensure uninterrupted supplies to priority consumers after suppliers invoked force majeure clauses amid the West Asia crisis.

Under the emergency measures, supplies to piped natural gas (PNG) households, compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport, LPG production and pipeline operations were to be maintained at 100 per cent of their average consumption over the previous six months.

Fertilizer plants were assured 70 per cent of their average gas requirement, while industrial consumers connected to the national gas grid and city gas distribution networks were guaranteed 80 per cent of their average consumption, subject to operational availability.

To meet those priorities, the government had authorised curtailment of gas supplies to petrochemical plants and power stations, while directing oil refiners to reduce gas consumption to about 65 per cent of their average use, wherever operationally feasible.

No curbs on gas supply as shipments normalise

War hit LNG consignments, with suppliers invoking force majeure

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

The Centre has withdrawn most provisions of the emergency natural gas supply regulation order imposed during the West Asia conflict after liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the Strait of Hormuz resumed following a ceasefire.

The ministry said the emergency measures were no longer required as the conflict that had disrupted LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz had been followed by a ceasefire, negotiations were underway and maritime traffic through the strategic waterway had resumed.

"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 to a ceasefire, and negotiations are ongoing, as part of which, sea traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has been permitted to be resumed," the

SHIPMENTS RISE

- MoPNG amended the natural gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026.
- New regulations omit key operational provisions leading to domestically produced natural gas and imported LNG to be sold as per a new priority customer list drawn by the government.

EMERGENCY MEASURES PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED

- Gas supply curbs, directing refiners to maximise LPG production and restricting diesel sales.

notification said.

The original order, issued on March 9 under the Essential Commodities Act, was introduced after the conflict in West Asia disrupted LNG shipments, with suppliers invoking force majeure and diverting cargoes to priority consumers.

The ministry said the situation had since

improved.

The gas supply curbs were one of three emergency measures introduced after energy supplies from the Gulf were threatened by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The other two measures — directing refiners to maximise LPG production by diverting feedstock

INDIA is the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer.

40-45% of crude oil imports come from West Asia.

65% of LNG supplies come from West Asia.



from petrochemicals and restricting diesel sales to bulk consumers — have already been withdrawn as the supply situation normalised.

India, the world's third-largest importer and consumer of crude oil, imports about 88 per cent of its crude oil requirement and around half of its natural gas demand.

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Headline: E20 petrol saved ₹1.90 lakh crore in foreign exchange: Centre

ई20 पेट्रोल से 1.90 लाख करोड़ रुपए की विदेशी मुद्रा बची : केंद्र

नई दिल्ली, 5 जुलाई (एजेंसियां)। एथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल (ईबीपी) प्रोग्राम भारत के एनर्जी ट्रांजिशन और बायोफ्यूल रणनीति का एक अहम हिस्सा है। इसने कच्चे तेल के आयात को कम करके देश की विदेशी मुद्रा की बचत की है, साथ ही ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन को घटाया है और नए मार्केट के मौकों के जरिए किसानों की आमदनी बढ़ाई है। यह जानकारी सरकार द्वारा रविवार को जारी फैक्टशीट में दी गई।

फैक्टशीट में बताया गया कि 2014-15 से मई 2026 तक, एथेनॉल ब्लेंडिंग प्रोग्राम की वजह से 310 लाख मीट्रिक टन आयातित कच्चे तेल की जगह एथेनॉल का इस्तेमाल करके विदेशी मुद्रा में 1.90 लाख करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा की बचत हुई है और किसानों की 1.6 लाख करोड़ रुपए से अधिक की अतिरिक्त कमाई हुई



है। इसके अलावा, इससे 930 लाख मीट्रिक टन से ज्यादा कार्बन उत्सर्जन में कमी आई है। फैक्टशीट में बताया गया है कि भारत अपनी जरूरत का लगभग 88.5 प्रतिशत कच्चा तेल आयात करता है। इससे पता चलता है कि पॉलिसी एजेंडा में एथेनॉल ब्लेंडिंग को इतनी अहमियत क्यों दी जा रही है। विदेश से खरीदे जाने वाले तेल के हर बैरल के साथ देश की कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव और सप्लाई में अचानक आने वाली रुकावटों का सामना करना पड़ता है, जिन पर उसका कोई कंट्रोल नहीं होता।

Fifteen India-bound vessels with fertilisers cross Hormuz safely

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, July 5

IN A MAJOR boost to soil nutrient supplies, 15 vessels carrying over 0.7 million tonne (MT) of fertilisers and raw materials – urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and sulphur – have crossed the Strait of Hormuz and are expected to reach Indian ports soon.

Out of these 15 vessels, eight ships are carrying 0.33 MT of urea, four have 0.25 MT of DAP and three are loaded with 0.11 MT of sulphur. Sources told FE that another five ships carrying ammonia, sulphur and urea are expected to cross the strait soon, further boosting the government's fertiliser stocks.

This follows four vessels carrying 0.18 MT of fertilisers crossing the strait, after its reopening on June 22, 2026. The closure of the strait since February had led to severe disruption in supplies of raw

materials like LNG and finished products of soil nutrients.

Earlier, 50% of LNG used in domestic urea manufacturing was imported from Qatar, under a long-term agreement, which was disrupted following the West Asia crisis.

Officials said that while the government does not foresee any fertiliser shortage in the ongoing kharif season, invento-

Five more vessels are in the pipeline, including one each carrying 0.25 lakh tonne of ammonia and 0.45 lakh tonne of urea

ries remain comfortable due to diversification of imports and higher domestic production.

As part of diversification of imports, an official of the department recently stated that

currently soil nutrients are sourced from Oman, Malaysia, Vietnam, Georgia, Nigeria, Russia, Finland, Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, and the Netherlands.

Import of other variants – DAP and NPKs – were procured from Russia, Morocco, Egypt, USA, Jordan, South Korea, Tunisia, and Saudi Arabia via the Red Sea.

Govt's biofuel push under pressure

RAKESH SHARMA
July 5

THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCELERATED shift to petrol with a higher percentage of ethanol has angered drivers, whose complaints include weaker fuel efficiency, higher maintenance costs and engine corrosion.

The government and automakers have been on the defensive after weeks of complaints on social media. Authorities sought to contain the controversy by convening a media briefing with auto industry executives on Saturday. Carmakers dismissed the complaints as unfounded.

"We are very confident that we haven't seen any glaring issues on social media that warrant a rethink of the government's biofuel blending programme," said Puneet Anand, associate vice president at Hyundai Motor India.

Speaking separately in Rajasthan, Oil Minister Hard-



Entrepreneur and television personality Tehseen Poonawalla and others hold posters during a protest over implementation of 20% ethanol blending (E20) policy in petrol, in New Delhi on Sunday

deep Singh Puri blamed vested interests of spreading misinformation. The government met its target of blending 20% ethanol into petrol five years ahead of schedule in 2025 and is evaluating a further increase in the mandate.

Last month, state refiners also began selling petrol blended with 85% ethanol for flex-fuel vehicles.

Automakers said E20 had undergone extensive testing before its nationwide rollout. Vehicles designed for E20 have been on sale since 2025, while the fuel is also compatible with older E10-certified vehicles, according to Rahul Bharti, executive director at Maruti Suzuki India. Although fuel economy may decline modestly, the tradeoff is offset by

the fuel's broader economic and environmental benefits, he said.

Manufacturers also pushed back against specific claims circulating online. Vikram Gulati, country head at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said a widely shared case involving a Toyota Innova Hycross allegedly damaged by E20 was traced to contaminated fuel rather than ethanol blending. He also rejected claims that ethanol attracts ants, saying gasoline's odor repels insects.

For consumers, however, the biofuel debate comes as vehicle ownership costs continue to climb. Petrol prices remain near four-year highs following geopolitical disruptions, while insurance premiums, toll charges, poor road conditions and monsoon-related damage have added to motorists' expenses, making concerns over fuel efficiency and maintenance more politically sensitive.

—BLOOMBERG

OPEC+ approves further oil output increase

REUTERS
London, July 5

OPEC+ HAS AGREED a further increase in output targets from August, the group said in a statement on Sunday, adding to global supply at a time when oil prices are falling due to the gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for oil exports.

The oil-producing group agreed during an online meeting to increase quotas by 188,000 barrels per day from August, on top of similar increases for June and July.

The seven core members of OPEC+, which groups OPEC and allied producers including Russia, have hiked their output quotas from April through July by almost 800,000 bpd.

Yet the increase has remained largely on paper because of the US-Israeli war on Iran, which closed the Strait of Hormuz to tanker traffic for some of the most important OPEC+ members, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

OPEC+ output fell to 33.13 million bpd in May, according to OPEC data, from 42.77 million bpd in February.

It began to recover in June thanks to US efforts to help the UAE and other OPEC+ nations export more oil, but is still below pre-war levels.

Despite persisting supply



disruptions, oil prices have returned to pre-war levels, pressured by lower Chinese imports, higher exports from non-Middle East producers, and a record global strategic stock release coordinated by the International Energy Agency.

"The group of seven kept unwinding their production cuts as widely expected," UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said. "The near-term focus will remain on how many tankers will manage to cross the Strait of Hormuz and how quickly demand and Chinese crude imports recover."

A memorandum of understanding between Washington and Tehran to end the war has also helped convince traders that supply will ultimately return to normal levels.

Brent crude prices traded near \$72 per barrel on Friday, down from recent peaks of more than \$120 per barrel

and back to levels traded just before the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28.

Besides agreeing production targets, OPEC+ is also facing other challenges after the United Arab Emirates left the group and Iraq signaled it wants higher quotas.

OPEC+ includes 21 members including Iran, but in recent years only the seven nations — and the UAE until its departure — have been involved in monthly production management.

Those seven producers — Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Kazakhstan and Oman — are boosting output as part of the phased rollback of a 1.65 million bpd supply cut agreed in 2023, when the group still included the UAE. The UAE quit the alliance in late April because it wanted to align its capacity more closely with its production, free of production restraints imposed by the group.

From August, taking into account the UAE's exit from May 1, the seven core members will still have about 379,000 bpd of the original cut to return to the market, according to Reuters calculations. With the August increase now decided, they will have fully unwound the 2023 cut if they make one more hike of around the same size for September at their next meeting on August 2.

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Headline: Crude oil prices will determine market movements

कच्चे तेल की कीमतें तय करेंगी बाजार की चाल

एजेंसी ► नई दिल्ली

इस सप्ताह शेयर बाजार का रुख कच्चे तेल की कीमतों, वैश्विक रुझानों और कंपनियों के तिमाही नतीजों की शुरुआत से तय होगा। विश्लेषकों ने यह कहा

सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (आईटी) क्षेत्र की दिग्गज कंपनी टीसीएस नौ जुलाई को अपने जून तिमाही के वित्तीय परिणाम घोषित करेगी। विश्लेषकों ने कहा कि इसके अलावा दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून की प्रगति और विदेशी निवेशकों की कारोबारी गतिविधियां भी बाजार की चाल को प्रभावित करेंगी। रेलिंगेयर प्रोकिंग लिमिटेड के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष (शोध) अजित मिश्रा ने कहा, निवेशक नौ जुलाई को आने वाले टीसीएस के तिमाही नतीजों पर करीबी नजर रखेंगे।



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**15 INDIA-BOUND SHIPS
CARRYING FERTILISER
CROSS HORMUZ: GOVT**

The Centre on Sunday said 15 vessels carrying fertilisers and key raw materials have safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz after it reopened on June 17, easing concerns over supplies after disruptions to maritime traffic during the conflict in West Asia. According to a release, the Centre has secured 19.76MT of fertilisers against an estimated Kharif requirement of 38.39MT, which it said would help ensure uninterrupted supplies during the ongoing sowing season. →P8

15 fertiliser ships clear Hormuz; supplies ease

Pallavi Singhal

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NEW DELHI: The Centre on Sunday said 15 vessels carrying fertilisers and key raw materials have safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz after it reopened on June 17, easing concerns over supplies after disruptions to maritime traffic during the recent conflict in West Asia.

In a statement, the Department of Fertilisers said the shipments, carrying urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and sulphur, are arriving at Indian ports. These ships had been stuck since the war began on February 28.

According to the release, the Centre has secured 19.76 million tonnes (mt) of fertilisers against an estimated Kharif requirement of 38.39 mt, equivalent to over 51% of the season's projected demand, which it said would help ensure uninterrupted supplies during the ongoing sowing season. Last year, the stock with the ministry at this time stood at 33% of the total demand.

In the statement, Union chemicals and fertilisers minister JP Nadda said the government had ensured uninterrupted fertiliser supplies through advance planning, import diversification and

THE SHIPS, WHICH ARE CARRYING UREA, DAP AND SULPHUR, WERE STUCK AT HORMUZ SINCE FEBRUARY 28

close coordination with Indian missions abroad, despite disruptions to global supply chains.

According to the ministry, India sourced urea from countries including Oman, Malaysia, Vietnam, Nigeria, Russia, Egypt and Algeria, while DAP and NPK fertilisers were procured from suppliers such as Russia, Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the US through alternative shipping routes.

Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz was disrupted following the escalation of conflict in West Asia in February, raising concerns over supplies of crude oil, liquefied natural gas and fertilisers passing through one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes. Traffic has gradually resumed since mid-June after the US and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding.

The ministry also said natural gas supplies to fertiliser plants,

which had temporarily fallen to about 65% during the crisis, have now been fully restored, enabling all domestic urea plants to operate at full capacity.

It said India produced 7.2 mt of urea during April-June, exceeding the target of 6.8 mt, while DAP production reached 984,000 tonnes, surpassing the target of 861,000 tonnes.

The government said fertiliser availability remains comfortable, with stocks of key nutrients, including urea, DAP, muriate of potash (MOP), NPK and single super phosphate, standing at 16.3 mt as of July 2.

According to the release, five more vessels from the straight of Hormuz bound for India containing urea, DAP and sulphur are on their way.

Even as traffic resumes, industry executives say freight, insurance costs and supply chains may take over three months to fully normalise. Sanjiv Kanwar, managing director, Yara South Asia, noted that shipping-related costs remain elevated even as supply routes reopen, with war-risk insurance premiums on vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz still close to 4%, compared with normal levels of around 0.15%.

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Opec+ approves hike in oil output

LONDON: Opec+ has agreed a further increase in output targets from August, the group said in a statement on Sunday, adding to global supply at a time when oil prices are falling.

The oil-producing group agreed during an online meeting to increase quotas by 188,000 barrels per day from August.

REUTERS

THEIR VIEW

India must adapt its strategy to a world of climate-inflected trade

The Centre must ensure that its decarbonization efforts are adequately recognized by trade partners



PRACHI PRIYA & R.V. ANURADHA
are, respectively, a Mumbai based economist, and partner, Clarus Law Associates.

India has turned its climate commitments into action through a broad and increasingly sophisticated policy architecture. At the centre sits the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), its first explicit carbon-pricing mechanism that establishes emissions-intensity benchmarks for energy-intensive sectors such as cement, aluminium, petrochemicals, refining, pulp and paper, and textiles. Firms performing better than the benchmarks earn tradable carbon credits while underperformers must purchase credits or face penalties.

The emission intensity-based approach of the CCTS is an intelligent policy choice for a fast industrializing economy. Unlike absolute emission caps such as those followed by the EU, which fix total emission targets regardless of output, intensity targets encourage efficiency improvements while allowing production to expand.

Beyond a carbon market, India has steadily built a wider climate policy ecosystem: renewable consumption obligations to drive renewable energy uptake; extended producer responsibility regimes to promote recycling; the National Electric Mobility Mission and the National Solar Mission; investments in battery and grid-scale energy storage; green credit schemes; and climate finance taxonomy to guide private capital towards sustainable investment.

Fiscal policy has reinforced these

efforts. Recent Union budgets have expanded support for carbon capture, utilization and storage, as also the National Green Hydrogen Mission, and provided customs duty exemptions for clean-tech inputs such as battery storage systems and solar components. Structural reforms have also opened nuclear energy to private participation.

Integral to India's growth strategy is the forging of trade agreements—nine of them have been signed since 2021 that cover 38 countries. Of these, pacts with the UK, EU, European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and a forthcoming one with Canada address issues related to trade, environment and climate change. The agreement with the EU also acknowledges its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). It requires imported goods to pay the difference in carbon price in India and that determined through the EU's Emission Trading System, which is quite significant. The challenge for Indian businesses is to derive the monetary equivalent of the range of measures India has taken on decarbonization or carbon taxation. The tacit nod to CBAM limits the scope for any challenge to the price differential. The UK also plans a CBAM, but the trade deal is silent on it.

These highlight India's challenge of addressing the trade-climate interface. While the EU and UK agreements include sustainable development chapters, they do not adequately reflect India's proactive climate efforts. What also remains unaccounted for are the significant implicit carbon costs that Indian industry already bears in the form of renewable obligations, coal levies and fossil fuel taxes. In the absence of a global standard, there is no realistic way in which the effective carbon price paid can be ascertained.

While India has built a strong foundation for its climate goals, there is an urgent need for closer alignment between climate outcomes, industrial competitiveness and trade agreements. India's trade-pact strategy needs a more

forward-looking and equitable approach. Trade-pact partners need to recognize diverse decarbonization pathways and acknowledge India's approach. Negotiations could link market access to climate-technology transfer, clean manufacturing investment and integration into low-carbon value chains. The India-EFTA deal provides a useful precedent, with tariff reductions tied to investment commitments.

On domestic efforts, India can build on existing production-linked incentives (PLI) by piloting 'green PLIs' that reward reductions in carbon intensity, turning decarbonization into a competitive advantage. India should also accelerate low-carbon industrial hubs through infrastructure, fiscal incentives and faster approvals. In parallel, India's carbon framework should harmonize implicit carbon costs across regulations with its carbon-pricing mechanism.

India must also engage more actively in shaping emerging global carbon markets and climate-trade governance to avoid remaining a rule-taker. India has stayed out of the World Trade Organization initiative of Trade and Environment Sustainability Structured Discussions and has not demonstrated active participation in coalitions like Brazil's Open Coalition and the Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade. Participation is important to shape emerging norms in a climate-linked trade environment. Along with other Global South economies, India should push for an approach that recognizes economy-wide decarbonization efforts, which are the basis for commitments on nationally determined contributions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, rather than having to adapt to the EU's carbon border measures, which privilege emission trading systems.

As climate policy gets entangled with trade, geopolitics and industrial policy, the future will belong to countries that integrate climate ambition with energy security and economic transformation.

These are the authors' personal views.



Ministers from key Opec+ countries 'decided to implement a production adjustment of 188 thousand barrels per day', Reuters

Opec+ raises quotas again as West Asia calms

AFP
feedback@livemint.com
BERLIN

Seven Opec+ members decided on Sunday to again raise oil production quotas as Gulf countries reel from the war in West Asia.

Ministers from key Opec+ countries—Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman met virtually on Sunday and "decided to implement a production adjustment of 188 thousand barrels per day," a statement from the organization said, adding that "this adjustment will be implemented in August 2026".

Gulf countries had to cut output after the near-paralysis of the Strait of Hormuz orchestrated by Iran during the war in West Asia, which blocked their oil exports for several months.

Between the first quarter of 2026 and May, combined production by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait—three of the seven countries raising their quotas—fell by some six million barrels per day, Opec data have shown.

But on 17 June, Tehran and Washington signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), committing themselves to removing obstacles to maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz for the duration of talks following the signature.

Giovanni Staunovo, a commodity analyst at the Swiss bank UBS, told *AFP* that "for now, production is probably still below" Opec+'s targets.

Since the MoU was signed, ship transport in the region has slowly recovered, with oil prices dropping sharply to levels comparable to those seen before the war in anticipation of a gradual return to normal.

Oil supplies through this

shipping lane may already have exceeded 10 million barrels a day, according to a US official quoted by the *Bloomberg* agency.

But the oil currently leaving the strait has up to now been sitting in tankers or storage facilities, said Saxo Bank analyst Ole Hansen, adding that "shut-in production takes time to restart".

"Assuming shipping continues to normalise, July will show an improvement with August probably being the month where the pickup accelerates," he told *AFP*.

"For next year, everybody is anticipating a surplus," Jorge Leon, an analyst at Rystad Energy, told *AFP*.

Rebuilding the inventories that countries tapped during the conflict should help absorb the flows at first, but producers may face a strong downward pressure on prices later on.

And Opec+, already weakened by the

departure of the United Arab Emirates from the group in May, will have to manage sliding prices while members will push for production increases.

Iraq, in particular, has asked the cartel to raise production quotas to make up for the shortfall it incurred during the war in West Asia, the Iraqi oil ministry said in late June.

But Hansen said the need for a higher quota "is not imminent" as production volumes are still far from their pre-conflict levels. "Iraq's request may become part of the 2027 capacity review, where production baselines will be examined," he added. At the end of the year, the Opec+ is indeed due to reassess members' quotas based on their ability to produce more, which could become a thorny issue.

Iraq, in particular, asked Opec+ to raise production quotas to cover for the shortfall incurred during the West Asia war

AS HORMUZ EXPORTS RECOVER

OPEC+ to Lift Oil Output from Aug

To increase quotas by 188k barrels per day; prices fall to pre-war levels over glut fears

London: OPEC+ has agreed a further increase in output targets from August, the group said in a statement on Sunday, adding to global supply at a time when oil prices are falling due to the gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for oil exports.

The oil-producing group agreed during an online meeting to increase quotas by 188,000 barrels per day from August, on top of similar increases for June and July.

The seven core members of OPEC+, which groups OPEC and allied producers including Russia, have hiked their output quotas from April through July by almost 800,000 bpd.

Yet the increase has remained largely on paper because of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, which closed the Strait of Hormuz to tanker traffic for some of the most important OPEC+ members, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

OPEC+ output fell to 33.13 million bpd in May, according to OPEC data, from 42.77 million bpd in February. It began to recover in June thanks to U.S. efforts to help



the UAE and other OPEC+ nations export more oil, but is still below pre-war levels.

Despite persisting supply disruptions, oil prices have returned to pre-war levels, pressured by lower Chinese imports, higher exports from non-Middle East producers, and a record global strategic stock release coordinated by the International Energy Agency.

"The group of seven kept unwinding their production cuts as widely expected," UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said. "The near-term focus will remain on how many tankers will manage to cross the Strait of Hormuz and how quickly demand and Chinese crude imports recover."

An MoU between Washington and Tehran to end the war has also helped convince traders that supply will ultimately return to normal levels. **Reuters**

OPEC+ approves higher oil output for August

OPEC+ has agreed to raise oil production by 188,000 barrels per day from August, following a virtual meeting to assess global market conditions. The decision was taken by seven key producers — Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman — as part of efforts to maintain market stability amid evolving demand and supply dynamics.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the group reaffirmed its commitment to a cautious and flexible production strategy. It said output adjustments could be increased, paused or reversed depending on market conditions and price trends.

OPEC+ added that it would continue monitoring global oil fundamentals and ensure

member countries comply with agreed production targets. The alliance's measured supply increase signals a balanced approach aimed at supporting crude prices while ensuring adequate supply to global markets. The next meeting of participating nations is scheduled for August 2.

Analysts said the production increase signals OPEC+'s continued focus on balancing supply with global demand while preventing sharp price swings.

Market participants will closely monitor crude prices, geopolitical developments and demand trends in major economies, as these factors are expected to influence future output decisions by the alliance. —**Business Desk**

Hormuz to home, India's resilience in uncertain times

The Strait of Hormuz has long been recognised as one of the world's most critical maritime routes. Nearly a fifth of global oil consumption passes through this narrow waterway, making it indispensable to global energy security and international trade. Any disruption here immediately reverberates across shipping, freight, insurance and commodity markets.

As someone closely associated with the shipping industry, I witnessed this uncertainty first-hand. One of our company's vessels was among those caught amid heightened tensions in West Asia. We were confronted with an evolving security situation, uncertainty over navigation, and delays that disrupted commercial operations.

Yet, what stood out during this difficult period was the speed and coordination of the Indian government's response. Through continuous engagement with shipping companies, diplomatic channels, maritime authorities and international partners, Indian authorities ensured the safe movement of Indian-flagged vessels. That timely intervention inspired confidence at a time when uncertainty was at its peak. Equally reassuring was the government's unwavering focus on Indian crew and seafarers, ensuring that they remained protected amid one of the world's most challenging shipping environments.

This experience is just one example of India's growing ability to respond swiftly and decisively to external shocks. Whether during the COVID-19 pandemic, global supply chain disruptions, or recent geopolitical tensions in West Asia, India's institutional response has increasingly been characterised by coordination, agility, and strategic foresight.

Economic stability under pressure

India imports nearly 90% of its crude oil requirements, making it particularly vulnerable to disruptions in energy-producing regions. Rising crude prices, elevated freight costs and shipping delays could easily have translated into widespread inflationary pressures and economic uncertainty. Despite these headwinds, India's macroeconomic fundamentals have remained



Vijay Sankar

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The Sanmar Group

A calibrated
approach and
coordination
marked India's
response
to global
energy shocks

remarkably resilient. Inflation has broadly remained within the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s target band despite global commodity volatility, while India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy, supported by strong domestic demand, public investment and expanding manufacturing.

What deserves particular recognition is the manner in which the government has managed the energy challenge. Unlike in several countries where consumers experienced sharp increases in fuel prices or even supply shortages, India adopted a calibrated approach aimed at protecting households while maintaining macroeconomic stability. The government relied on a combination of supply diversification, diplomatic engagement, inventory management and coordinated action with public sector energy companies to ensure uninterrupted availability of petroleum products. Retail fuel prices have been managed prudently, helping to moderate inflationary pressures.

Energy management strategy

The government's strategy has been built around a whole-of-government approach under the leadership and guidance of the Prime Minister, with Ministries, State governments, municipal authorities, oil marketing companies and industry associations working in close coordination to ensure uninterrupted supplies of oil and gas while minimising disruptions to economic activity. In the case of natural gas, the government encouraged the use of piped natural gas (PNG) wherever existing infrastructure permitted. This flexibility was made possible because of sustained investments over the past decade. India's City Gas Distribution network has expanded from just 55 geographical areas in 2014 to over 300 today.

Similarly, exporters navigating rising freight charges, insurance premiums and shipping delays received targeted support. Measures aimed at strengthening export resilience, including liquidity support, logistics facilitation and simplified customs procedures, helped businesses continue servicing international

markets despite disruptions to maritime trade. India's strong merchandise exports growth of 16% during April-May FY27 is a clear reflection of this.

The RBI has also complemented government efforts by maintaining financial stability. Despite elevated global uncertainty, liquidity conditions have remained comfortable, financial markets continued to function smoothly, and the banking system remained well-capitalised. The RBI's steady communication and measures such as forex swap facilities, scheme for raising foreign currency deposits from non-resident Indians as well as rationalisation of taxes on foreign portfolio investors (FPI) have been critical in strengthening India's external sector resilience.

India was among the economies most vulnerable to this crisis, yet its policy response has been among the most effective. Across the world, governments grappled with surging fuel prices, elevated inflation and supply shortages. India's strategic response has ensured preserving macroeconomic stability and maintaining growth momentum.

India's preparedness

No economy today can completely insulate itself from geopolitical uncertainty. Commodity markets react instantly to conflict, shipping disruptions ripple across continents and supply chains remain deeply interconnected. A key learning from the Hormuz episode is that resilience is no longer built through emergency response alone. It is created through years of investment in infrastructure, diversified supply chains, institutional coordination and policy preparedness.

Over the past decade, India has steadily expanded refining capacity, diversified crude sourcing, strengthened strategic petroleum reserves, built gas infrastructure, modernised logistics networks and accelerated the transition toward cleaner energy. These investments become invaluable when external shocks test the economy. As India advances towards its vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, it is institutional capability that will become an increasingly important competitive advantage.

Emergency gas curbs eased as LNG shipments normalise

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

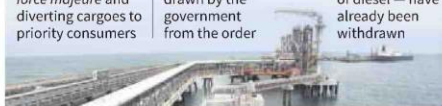
The Union government has withdrawn most provisions of an emergency natural gas supply regulation order following the resumption of liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

In a notification issued on Saturday, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas amended the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026, omitting key operational provisions which led to all domestically produced natural gas and imported LNG to be sold as per a priority customer list drawn by the government. The original order, issued on March 9 under the Essential Commodities Act, was brought in after the conflict in West Asia disrupted LNG shipments, with suppliers invoking *force majeure* and diverting cargoes to priority consumers.

Restored flow

The gas supply curbs were one of three emergency measures the govt. introduced after energy supplies from the Gulf were threatened by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz

- Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026 was brought in on March 9 with suppliers invoking *force majeure* and diverting cargoes to priority consumers
- Latest amendment omits operational provisions for LNG to be sold as per a new priority customer list drawn by the government from the order
- The other two measures — diverting feedstock to maximise LPG production and restricting bulk sale of diesel — have already been withdrawn



The Ministry said the situation has since improved, with a ceasefire in place, further negotiations under way, and traffic through the Strait of Hormuz resuming.

Emergency measures

The gas supply curbs were one of three emergency measures the government introduced after energy supplies from the Gulf were threatened by the closure of the Strait of Hor-

muz after the crisis broke out with U.S.- Israeli strike on Iran in February.

The other two measures — directing refiners to maximise LPG production by diverting feedstock from petrochemicals and restricting diesel sales to bulk consumers — have already been withdrawn as the supply situation normalised.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Publication : The Hindu	Editions : New Delhi
Date :6 July 2026	Page : 1, 10

Gas curbs eased as LNG shipments normalise

India, the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, imports about 88% of its crude oil requirements and around half of its natural gas needs. About 40-45% of its crude oil imports and nearly 65 % of its LNG supplies come from West Asia, underscoring the country's vulnerability to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

The threat to traffic through the waterway prompted the government to invoke emergency powers in March to safeguard domestic fuel and gas supplies. While India diversified crude oil purchases by sourcing supplies from other producers, natural gas imports remained exposed because most LNG cargoes from Qatar pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

The disruption led some suppliers to invoke force majeure, prompting the government to introduce emergency measures to prioritise gas supplies to essential sectors.

OPEC+ set to approve another oil output increase, say sources

Reuters
London

OPEC+ is set to agree another increase in output targets from August, sources with knowledge of the matter said, adding to global supply amid falling oil prices due to a gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for oil exports.

The oil-producing group has agreed in principle to increase quotas by 188,000 barrels per day from August,

on top of similar increases for June and July, one OPEC+ source said ahead of the group's meeting.

Sources said an increase of this amount was the most likely decision as a result of the online discussion.

OUTPUT QUOTAS

Seven core members of OPEC+, which groups OPEC and allied producers including Russia, have increased their output quotas from April through July by almost

800,000 barrels per day.

Yet the increase has remained largely on paper because of the US-Israel war on Iran, which closed the Strait of Hormuz for passage of tankers from some of the most important OPEC+ members including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

OPEC+ output fell to 33.13 million bpd in May, according to OPEC data, from 42.77 million bpd in February. It began to recover in June thanks to US efforts to

help the UAE and other OPEC+ nations to export more oil, but is still below pre-war levels.

PRE-WAR LEVELS

Despite persisting supply disruptions, oil prices have returned to pre-war levels, pressured by lower Chinese imports, higher exports from non-West Asia producers, and a record global strategic stock release coordinated by the International Energy Agency.

India moves to build strategic gas reserves after W. Asia crisis

FUTURE PROOF. New Delhi evaluating storage options, including salt caverns, cryogenic tanks

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

The recent West Asia conflict has prompted the government to begin work on creating India's first strategic natural gas storage system, with public sector oil companies evaluating multiple options, including underground salt caverns and above-ground cryogenic LNG tanks.

The move marks a significant expansion of India's strategic energy security planning. While the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) manages the country's strategic crude oil reserves, it does not have expertise in salt cavern-based natural gas storage. As a result, feasibility studies are underway to assess suitable storage technologies and geological structures.

"PSU oil companies are already working on the feasibility of storing crude oil and gas in salt caverns. As ISPRL does not have expertise in salt caverns, a feasibility study is being done by Engineers India. Besides, storing gas in cryogenic over-



FUEL SAFEGUARD. The push follows concerns over India's vulnerability to disruptions in LNG and LPG supplies after the West Asia conflict (file photo)

ground tanks is also being worked out," a source said.

VULNERABILITY FACTOR
The push follows concerns over India's vulnerability to disruptions in LNG and LPG supplies after the West Asia conflict, with the region accounting for more than half of India's imports of both fuels.

Sources said a committee under the Petroleum Ministry, constituted after the

conflict erupted, is evaluating storage options for LNG and LPG.

One of the seven Empowered Groups of Secretaries set up by the government is also examining short-, medium- and long-term measures to address potential disruptions to trade, supply chains and logistics.

"Some storage for gas has become important. The deliberations focus on what

should be the storage volume keeping in view visibility over the next 4-5 years. Besides, another key issue to debate over is how much should be strategic and commercial, considering storage buffers can also help monetise arbitrage opportunities like China does with its huge crude storage," another source said.

REBUILDING INFRA

The same source added: "The West Asia conflict has likely pushed ahead the schedule for these new production facilities with focus first on rebuilding damaged infrastructure like in Qatar's Ras Laffan facility. We need to factor all these issues."

Officials are evaluating a range of storage options, including salt caverns, depleted gasfields and cryogenic tanks near LNG regasification terminals.

A recent study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water noted that India has no dedicated strategic natural gas storage despite importing nearly half of its gas requirement, leaving key sectors exposed to supply disruptions.

● **PENALTY CORNER**

RE sector awaits easing of generation forecast norms

M Ramesh

One of the biggest regulatory headaches for the renewable energy industry — the stringent Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) rules that penalise wind and solar generators for failing to match their generation forecasts — may soon ease a bit.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is considering allowing developers to revise their generation forecasts much closer to the time of actual electricity delivery, which the industry believes could significantly reduce penalties. MNRE Secretary Santosh Sarangi told *businessline* that the government was examining a proposal to relax the timeline for forecast revisions.

At present, renewable energy generators can revise their schedules several times during the day, but the final revision must be submitted 90 minutes before the 15-minute delivery block. The proposal is to reduce this to about 45 minutes.

The changed timeline could make a substantial difference because weather forecasts become progressively more accurate closer to the time of generation. For instance, instead of freezing the schedule for the 10–10.15 am block at 8.30 am, developers may be able to revise it until around 9.15 am, improving forecast accuracy and reducing deviations.

The issue has assumed significance as India rapidly expands re-



RAIN OR SHINE. Generation forecasting plays a major role in maintaining renewable-powered grid stability ISTOCK

newable capacity. The country has installed about 110 GW of solar and over 55 GW of wind capacity, and targets 500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity by 2030.

With the growing spread of renewable energy, grid stability would increasingly depend on accurate forecasting.

COMMERCIAL IMPACT

Under the DSM framework, renewable generators must submit generation schedules in 15-minute intervals for the following day. Significant deviations attract commercial consequences.

The original framework allowed a wider deviation band. However, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission's 2024 DSM regulations, which took effect in phases from April 2026, tighten the tolerance limit to plus- or minus-5 per cent for solar and hybrid projects and plus- or minus-10 per cent for wind projects, making compliance considerably more demanding.

Developers say the tighter norms expose them to substantial financial risk because renewable generation ultimately depends on weather conditions, which cannot be perfectly predicted.

According to industry estimates, DSM-related penalties could shave off as much as 10 per cent of project revenues in adverse conditions.

The industry has challenged the regulation before courts. While the Karnataka High Court has granted interim relief in one of the petitions, developers remain apprehensive, particularly due to the proposed retrospective application of some provisions.

Their principal demand is that any tightened norms should apply only prospectively.

Not everyone agrees that the rules are unreasonable.

Alok Kumar, former power secretary and now Director General of the All India Discoms Association, argues that renewable generators have had ample time to improve their forecasting systems.

"The industry always creates a *hulla* whenever tighter discipline is introduced," Kumar told *businessline*. Unless developers face commercial consequences, there will be little incentive to invest in sophisticated forecasting tools, he said.

GRID VS GENERATORS

Accurate forecasting is essential because unexpected swings in renewable generation force grid operators to arrange balancing power at short notice, increasing costs and complicating grid operations.

With renewable energy accounting for an ever-growing share of India's electricity mix, forecasting errors can have wider implications for grid security.

Developers acknowledge the need for grid discipline but contend that wind and solar generation can never be forecast with complete precision. They argue that a shorter gate-closure period represents a practical compromise — one that improves forecast accuracy without diluting the objective of maintaining grid stability.

For now, that appears to be the government's preferred middle path.

By allowing forecasts to be updated closer to real time, the Centre hopes to reduce unnecessary penalties while preserving the scheduling discipline that an increasingly renewable-powered grid demands.

Gas curbs lifted as Hormuz LNG shipments resume

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The government has withdrawn the March 2026 order regulating the supply of natural gas which was issued following the conflict in West Asia, which led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) and impacted almost half of India's LNG consumption.

"The Centre had assessed that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East had resulted in the disruption of liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the SoH and suppliers had invoked *force*

According to a recent Gastech report, India, the fourth-largest importer of LNG, depends heavily on overseas supplies

majeure clause which entailed diversion of natural gas to the priority sectors," the government said in a gazette notification on Saturday (July 4, 2026).

DISRUPTION IN LNG

"The ongoing conflict in West Asia that had resulted

in the disruption of liquefied natural gas shipments through the SoH has been the subject of a ceasefire and negotiations are ongoing, as part of which, sea traffic through the SoH has been permitted to be resumed," the notification said.

OVERSEAS SUPPLIES

According to a recent Gastech report, India, the fourth-largest importer of LNG, depends heavily on overseas supplies.

Qatar accounts for 41.4 per cent of LNG imports.

The country imported 27 million tonnes of LNG in FY25, of which 11.2 mt were

sourced almost entirely from Ras Laffan.

The US EIA has said that 83 per cent of LNG shipped through the SoH in 2024 went to Asian markets, with China, India, Japan, and South Korea accounting for 59 per cent.

The action further bolsters the narrative that energy supplies are gradually picking up as vessels resume transit through the SoH.

Since June 29, the government has removed the cap on the sale of diesel and petrol and reduced the prices of commercial LPG, domestic ATF, and 5 kg LPG cylinders.

Sugar industry renews push for dedicated E100 fuel dispensing stations

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

The Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has renewed its demand for the government to allow ethanol distilleries to set up dedicated E100 fuel dispensing stations, arguing that the move is critical for scaling up flex-fuel mobility and easing the financial stress facing the ethanol industry.

In a letter to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas last month, ISMA sought permission for the "installation of dedicated E100 dispensing infrastructure" co-located with sugar biorefineries — a proposal first made in February 2023.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

In the letter, ISMA Director General Deepak Ballani said hydrous E100, widely used in Brazil for over four decades, is a low-carbon, domestically produced transport fuel that can enhance energy security while reducing dependence on fossil fuels.



The demand comes as ethanol distilleries grapple with excess capacity. The industry has created production capacity of around 2,000 crore litres, while oil marketing companies require only about 1,100-1,200 crore litres annually to achieve the 20 per cent ethanol blending target.

With procurement slowing, some distilleries have already approached courts over lower offtake by OMCs. The government has been treading cautiously amid concerns over the E20 blending programme. On July 4, it asked automobile manufacturers to explain the benefits of E20 fuel after complaints about reduced mileage. While the industry defended the programme, it acknowledged that E20 results in some loss of fuel efficiency.

Publication : The Indian Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :6 July 2026	Page : 13

Crude oil, TCS earnings to drive mkt sentiment

New Delhi: Trading sentiment in the stock market this week will depend on crude oil prices, global trends and the start of corporate earnings season with IT bellwether Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reporting its June-quarter financial results on July 9, analysts said. Apart from this, the advancement of the southwest monsoon and trading activity of foreign investors would also influence market trading, the analysts added. PTI

OPEC+ okays further oil output increase

Reuters

London, July 5

OPEC+ HAS agreed a further increase in output targets from August, the group said in a statement on Sunday, adding to global supply at a time when oil prices are falling due to the gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for oil exports.

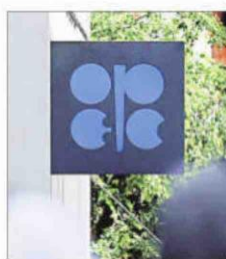
The oil-producing group agreed during an online meeting to increase quotas by 188,000 barrels per day (bpd) from August, on top of similar increases for June and July.

The seven core members of OPEC+, which groups OPEC and allied producers including Russia, have hiked their output quotas from April through July by almost 800,000 bpd. Yet the

increase has remained largely on paper because of the US-Israeli war on Iran, which closed the Strait of Hormuz to tanker traffic for some of the most important OPEC+ members, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

OPEC+ output fell to 33.13 million bpd in May, according to OPEC data, from 42.77 million bpd in February. It began to recover in June thanks to US efforts to help the UAE and other OPEC+ nations export more oil, but is still below pre-war levels.

Despite persisting supply disruptions, oil prices have returned to pre-war levels, pressured by lower Chinese imports, higher exports from non-Middle East producers, and a record global strategic stock re-



OPEC+ output fell to 33.13 million bpd in May, from 42.77 million bpd in February. REUTERS

lease coordinated by the International Energy Agency.

"The group of seven kept unwinding their production cuts as widely expected," UBS analyst

Giovanni Staunovo said. "The near-term focus will remain on how many tankers will manage to cross the Strait of Hormuz and how quickly demand and Chinese crude imports recover."

A memorandum of understanding between Washington and Tehran to end the war has also helped convince traders that supply will ultimately return to normal levels. Brent crude prices traded near \$72 per barrel on Friday, down from recent peaks of more than \$120 per barrel and back to levels traded just before the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28.

Besides agreeing production targets, OPEC+ is also facing other challenges after the UAE left the group and Iraq signalled it wants higher quotas.

'Ethanol crucial for India; fastest, cheapest way to decarbonise road mobility'

AS INDIA is witnessing transition in mobility both on account of different energy powertrains and ethanol blend of petrol, **Vikram Gulati**, country head and EVP, Toyota Kirloskar Motors told **Sandeep Singh** that all cleaner technologies need to be supported to help reduce carbon emissions, bring down pollution, and reduce dependence on imported energy. Amid growing concerns over impact of ethanol blend on fuel efficiency, he said the studies showed that the shift from E10 to E20 had negligible material impact and the impact on fuel efficiency was in the range of around 3-5%. He, however, said that for E25, new and older vehicles need to be evaluated before making that transition. He also called for greater policy support for hybrids for faster displacement of petrol and diesel cars. Edited excerpts:

Where do you see EVs, hybrids, ethanol-based flex-fuels fitting in the country's mobility transition?

If you look at India's priorities from a macro perspective, the objectives are very clear — reduce fossil fuel consumption, reduce carbon emissions, bring down pollution, increase domestic value addition and reduce dependence on imported energy.

I think at this stage, it makes sense to support all cleaner technologies. It is not EV versus hybrid — it is EVs and hybrids. Along with that, we need flex fuels, CNG, compressed biogas, hydrogen and other solutions working together.

The task is so huge that even if all these technologies grow, there will still be a gap and fossil fuels will continue to remain part of the system.

Anyone who wants to buy an EV will buy an EV. A hybrid is not going to distract that customer. But someone who is considering buying a petrol or diesel vehicle may think twice if a hybrid gives them the right total cost of ownership. So every hybrid sold is actually replacing a petrol or diesel vehicle. That helps the country, the city and the environment. Policy should ensure that the customer is not inadvertently taxed more for choosing such a clean technology.

Ethanol, on the other hand, is extremely relevant for India as



it is a domestic energy source, it supports the agricultural economy, helps reduce the amount of fossil fuel we consume and is the fastest as well as cheapest way to decarbonise road mobility. India's energy challenge is huge. There have been forecasts indicating that a significant part of the increase in global fossil fuel demand over the coming years will come from India because of economic growth and the increasing number of vehicles. The only way to address this is by improving efficiency and encouraging energy substitution through both electricity and ethanol.

India is pushing ethanol blending aggressively. Do you think this is the right time to accelerate the ethanol roadmap?

Definitely. If you look at the ethanol industry, there is significant available capacity today. The industry has been highlighting that plants are operating below their potential, and there is enough opportunity to scale up ethanol production. This can help India reduce petrol consumption and fossil fuel dependence. This is the right time to move in that direction.

Brazil's experience is very important. Initially, after the oil crisis, they pushed ethanol-only vehicles. But customer adoption had limitations because people wanted flexibility. The major change happened when flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) were introduced. FFVs were promoted by the government through enabling policies that encouraged rapid customer adoption. Once customers had the ability to use different ethanol blends depending on availability and economics, ethanol adoption increased sharply.

That is the real learning —

make the FFV technology customer-friendly, affordable to buy and run.

India has a strong opportunity. If policies create economic value for customers — both while buying flex-fuel vehicles and while using ethanol fuel — adoption can grow very quickly. For manufacturers also, scale matters. If volumes increase, engine supply chains can be developed for flex-fuel technology at a larger scale, which will help bring costs down.

The important point is that the transition has to be designed properly and the customer has to accept it. The technology, policy and economics all have to work together and there has to be value for the customer.

There are concerns around higher ethanol blends and their impact on fuel efficiency and engines. How do you see that?

We need to clearly differentiate between different blends. E85 is meant only for flex-fuel vehicles that are specifically designed for flexibly using any higher ethanol content. There was also some discussion on moving existing vehicles beyond E20, for example towards E25. That requires careful evaluation. The issue is not that it cannot be done but requires adequate testing to be completed and evaluated as was done earlier for E20.

When India moved from E10 to E20, a lot of studies were conducted. Older vehicles from different manufacturers were tested. Material compatibility, component deterioration and fuel efficiency impact were evaluated. The conclusion was that there was very negligible material impact. Fuel efficiency impact was minimal and estimated in the range of around 3-5%. Therefore, the concerns being seen in social media recently are not backed by scientific facts and sound technical evaluation. But for E25, similar extensive testing has not yet happened.

New vehicles and older vehicles need to be evaluated before making that transition. Testing will provide the answer. However, we feel that FFV provides agility and is the optimal way ahead.

FULL INTERVIEW ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



KIRIT S PARIKH

West Asia crisis has made India more energy secure

BY THE end of June, oil prices had come down to \$74 per barrel, the pre-crisis level of early February. I must confess to being pleasantly surprised by the fall in prices. Iran's bombing of the Middle East's oil infrastructure made me think it would take many months for global supply to recover and crude prices to fall to pre-crisis levels. However, price is an outcome of both supply and demand. With high prices, some reduction in consumption can be expected. But the demand for Gulf oil has also fallen because countries diversified their sources, and took measures to enhance long-term oil security.

India has managed the crisis very well. Supply was ensured. Hardly any retail outlet ran dry. Domestic consumption was reduced with 20 per cent ethanol blending. Electric mobility was pushed. Consumers were protected: Prices were not increased in step with import prices, and oil marketing companies and the government bore a large part of the burden. This was justifiable if the government expected the crisis to last no more than three to four months. Fortunately, it was proved right. The revenue forgone was Rs 17 lakh crore. The consumer price of petrol was later increased by Rs 3 per litre, around a 7 per cent increase. The price increase is by far the smallest among major oil-importing countries.

More than half of the LPG consumed by Indian kitchens would arrive through the Gulf, and that suddenly stopped. Government ac-

tion was decisive. An LPG control order, issued within eight days of the disruption, directed domestic refineries to increase production. Within seven days, production increased from 35,000 to 54,000 tonnes per day. The regulated price of LPG was kept at Rs 942, and for the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Rs 642, with a direct benefit transfer of Rs 300 per month to nearly 10.6 crore households. Commercial LPG supply was restrained for some time, and industrial and commercial users were encouraged to use other fuels.

The management of supply has been built on infrastructure developed over the last decade or so. Between 2011 and 2022, LPG import terminals doubled, to 22, increasing the country's LPG import capacity from 12 MMTPA to 32.3 MMTPA. At the same time, the city gas distribution network coverage increased from 55 cities to 300-plus cities. From 2011 to 2022, LNG import terminals doubled, and India expanded its crude oil sourcing network from 27 to 41 countries, which facilitated supply diversification and inter-fuel substitution.

India was also able to get a number of its ships through the Strait of Hormuz despite the blockade. This required coordination between more than one institution and ministry. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas identified and shared the list of priority vessels carrying India-bound cargo with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping

and Waterways. The latter compiled additional vessel-specific information and forwarded it to the MEA, which liaised directly with the Iranian embassy in New Delhi to seek clearances, while simultaneously instructing the Indian embassy in Tehran to expedite the processing of such requests by engaging with Iranian authorities. The Navy then coordinated with the vessels to ensure their safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. This approach ensured that requests were pursued through both capitals at once, reducing the turnaround time for approvals.

India has long been concerned about disruptions in oil and gas supply from the Gulf. Its bilateral engagements with several countries, which predate the crisis, facilitated the diversification of imports. India continues exploration efforts domestically as well as beyond the country's shores and has procured oil and gas assets abroad. Thus, in a sense, the crisis has made India a little more energy secure.

However, the challenge for the government is not over. Consumers have been protected at a high cost to the government and oil marketing companies. The government faces a challenge in keeping inflation in check, the fiscal deficit on target and facilitating investment to ensure growth, while keeping expenditure on education and health on track. One hopes it will attain these targets.

The writer is chairman, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)

Supply was ensured. Domestic consumption was reduced with 20 per cent ethanol blending. Consumers were protected: Prices for them were not increased in step with import prices

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 6 July 2026	Page : 10

OPEC+ set to consider modest oil output hike for August amid easing supply concerns

AGENCIES

New Delhi, 5 July

OPEC+ is expected to consider another modest increase in oil production quotas for August as the alliance continues unwinding earlier supply cuts, with delegates indicating that seven key producers have reached a preliminary agreement ahead of a virtual meeting on Sunday.

According to delegates, the proposed increase would raise the combined production target of seven major producers, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, by 188,000 barrels per day if approved during the video conference.

The move is in line with the group's strategy to gradually reverse production curbs introduced in 2023 to support oil prices.

If implemented, the latest increase would bring the cumulative quota additions since the policy reversal began to around 940,000 barrels per day, equivalent to nearly 1 per cent of global oil demand.

While previous production increases remained largely on paper due to disruptions caused by the conflict in the region and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the recent interim peace agreement between the United States

and Iran has enabled major Gulf producers to restore exports and output.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have already brought oil exports close to pre-conflict levels, according to tanker-tracking data, aided by improved shipping access through the Strait of Hormuz following the easing of tensions.

The return of additional supplies has contributed to a surplus in key Asian markets, reversing the sharp rise in oil prices witnessed during the conflict and increasing the possibility of intensified competition among OPEC producers for market share.

The production decision

also comes at a time when OPEC+ is facing internal challenges. Iraq, one of the organisation's founding members, recently indicated that it could eventually consider leaving the group if it is not granted a higher production quota. The United Arab Emirates had previously exited the alliance in May following similar concerns over production limits.

If approved, the August increase would represent the penultimate phase of restoring two layers of production cuts implemented in 2023, with one final increase expected in September to complete the process.

Publication : The Times of India	Editions : New Delhi
Date :6 July 2026	Page : 1, 12

More crude likely in mkt soon as OPEC+ clears hike of 188,000 bpd for Aug

New Delhi: Oil-producing group OPEC+ Sunday approved another modest increase of 188,000 barrels per day (bpd) in production for Aug, the fifth such hike in as many months since the war broke out in West Asia.

Analysts said the move is expected to increase crude availability in the market, put downward pressure on prices

and ease the burden on countries such as India, which imports nearly 90% of its crude oil requirement.

Global benchmark Brent crude has slipped close to its pre-conflict level of about \$72 a barrel, while the Indian basket has eased to \$67-68 a bar-

rel. Higher supplies are expected to reduce inflationary pressure and help India build up its strategic reserves. TNN

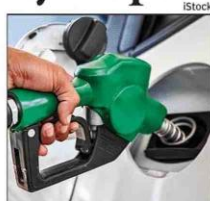
►Oil cos may break even, P 12

Oil firms may break even on petrol, diesel within 10 days if prices hold current levels

►Continued from P 1

Though oil companies continue to report under-recoveries, they may break even on petrol and diesel in the next seven to 10 days if crude prices hold around current levels, although they are losing around Rs 500 on every cylinder of cooking gas sold by them. State-run refiners have lost more than Rs 75,000 crore during the first quarter of the current financial year, and given the stock of higher-cost oil purchased by them, their bottom lines remain under pressure during this quarter as well.

The decision was taken at a virtual meeting of seven



SUPPLY BOOST

major producers led by Saudi Arabia and Russia to review market conditions and the global outlook. According to reports, the group has added 940,000 bpd to production quotas since the West Asia war began on Feb 28 — equivalent to nearly 1% of global oil demand.

The increase, however, has largely remained on paper as the US-Israel attack on Iran disrupted energy supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, the key maritime route for crude shipments from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. More than a fifth of the world's oil supplies passed through the strait before the war. The availability of Iranian crude — for which payments can be made in dollars — has eased the pressure for countries, as has the entry of oil from Venezuela.

"The group of seven kept unwinding their production cuts as widely expected," UBS analyst Giovanni Stuenkel told Reuters. "The near-term focus will remain

on how many tankers will manage to cross the Strait of Hormuz and how quickly demand and Chinese crude imports recover."

The announcement came days after founding member Iraq said it may quit the group if it was denied a higher production limit. The UAE exited the group in May to align its output with its production capacity.

The latest increase is part of the gradual unwinding of production cuts totalling 2.2 million barrels per day announced by eight OPEC+ countries in Nov 2023. These were in addition to cuts of 1.66 mbd announced in May 2023 to support oil prices and market stability.

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

Nayara Energy cuts petrol prices by Rs 5, diesel by Rs 3 as crude oil eases

New Delhi, (IANS) India's largest private fuel retailer, Nayara Energy, reduced petrol prices by Rs 5 per litre and diesel prices by Rs 3 per litre across its nationwide retail network, which is the first cut in retail fuel prices since global crude oil prices began easing following the de-escalation of tensions in West Asia.

The revised rates have come into effect at all of Nayara Energy's more than 7,000 fuel stations across the country.

Online

Headline	Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure-126070500201_1.html

The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59

years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure.

Under the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy -- December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review. "Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis," the advertisement said.

The selection will be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process.

The revised age limit marks a departure from the norms followed for most board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

While recent appointments have largely been governed by a residual service criterion rather than fixed age limits, the advertisement prescribes a maximum entry age of 59 years, allowing both internal and external candidates who would otherwise have been ineligible to be considered.

The tenure conditions are also a departure from the prevailing practice of appointing PSU chiefs until the age of superannuation, which is generally 60 years.

Under the revised framework, a chairman may continue beyond that age on a contractual basis.

The government had made a similar relaxation when appointing Singh in 2022.

A search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry picked him in August that year, barely two months before he turned 60, making him the first executive of that age to be appointed chairman of a blue-chip state-run company.

Singh, who retired as chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd in October 2022, took charge of ONGC on December 6, 2022, after the government relaxed the eligibility criteria.

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ONGC had remained without a full-time chief between April 2021 and December 2022, during which the company was headed by three interim chairmen before Singh's appointment.

Applications will close on July 21, while the deadline for forwarding applications through the prescribed channels is July 30, the advertisement said.

According to the job description, the chairman will be responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the company, including driving growth in revenue and profitability, leading ONGC's exploration and production business, overseeing expansion into new energy and petrochemicals through acquisitions and joint ventures, and steering technology adoption across the organisation.

Headline	Govt Raises ONGC Chairman Entry Age To 59, Offers Up To Five-Year Tenure		
Publication	Daily Excelsior	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt Raises ONGC Chairman Entry Age To 59, Offers Up To Five-Year Tenure

<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure/>

The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure. Under the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy -- December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review.

"Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis," the advertisement said.

The selection will be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process.

The revised age limit marks a departure from the norms followed for most board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). While recent appointments have largely been governed by a residual service criterion rather than fixed age limits, the advertisement prescribes a maximum entry age of 59 years, allowing both internal and external candidates who would otherwise have been ineligible to be considered. The tenure conditions are also a departure from the prevailing practice of appointing PSU chiefs until the age of superannuation, which is generally 60 years. Under the revised framework, a chairman may continue beyond that age on a contractual basis.

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Headline	Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/pti+english-epaper-ptien/govt+raises+ongc+chairman+entry+age+to+59+offers+up+to+fiveyear+tenure-newsid-n718497941>

The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

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Headline	सरकार ने ओएनजीसी चेयरमैन के लिए प्रवेश आयु बढ़ाकर 59 वर्ष की		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

सरकार ने ओएनजीसी चेयरमैन के लिए प्रवेश आयु बढ़ाकर 59 वर्ष की

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/hindi/pti+hindi-epaper-ptihi/sarakar+ne+oenajisi+cheyaramain+ke+lie+pravesh+aayu+badhakar+59+varsh+ki-newsid-n718523377>

नयी दिल्ली, पांच जुलाई (भाषा) सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) के अगले चेयरमैन की नियुक्ति के लिए पात्रता शर्तों में ढील

दी है। इसके तहत अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु बढ़ाकर 59 वर्ष कर दी गई है और चयनित उम्मीदवार को तीन वर्ष का निश्चित कार्यकाल दिया जाएगा, जिसे प्रदर्शन समीक्षा के आधार पर दो वर्ष तक बढ़ाया जा सकेगा।

इस कदम से देश की सबसे बड़ी तेल एवं गैस उत्पादक कंपनी के शीर्ष पद के लिए अधिक उम्मीदवारों के लिए अवसर खुल गया है।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों में नियुक्तियों के लिए प्रमुख चयन एजेंसी लोक उद्यम चयन बोर्ड (पीईएसबी) ने इस पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए हैं। यह पद सात दिसंबर को वर्तमान चेयरमैन अरुण कुमार सिंह के विस्तारित कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद खाली हो जाएगा।

ओएनजीसी के विज्ञापन के अनुसार, उम्मीदवार की आयु पद रिक्त होने की तिथि यानी सात दिसंबर 2026 तक 59 वर्ष से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए। चयनित उम्मीदवार को प्रारंभ में तीन वर्ष के लिए नियुक्त किया जाएगा, जिसे प्रदर्शन के आधार पर दो वर्ष तक बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

विज्ञापन में कहा गया है, "60 वर्ष की आयु के बाद किसी भी तरह का रोजगार या कार्यकाल का विस्तार अनुबंध के आधार पर होगा।"

यह चयन सामान्य पीईएसबी चयन प्रक्रिया के बजाय पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय द्वारा गठित एक 'खोज-सह-चयन समिति' द्वारा किया जाएगा।

संशोधित आयु सीमा केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों (सीपीएसई) में अधिकांश बोर्ड-स्तरीय नियुक्तियों के लिए अपनाए जाने वाले मानदंडों से अलग है।

हाल के वर्षों में अधिकतर नियुक्तियां शेष सेवा अवधि के आधार पर होती रही हैं, जबकि इस विज्ञापन में स्पष्ट रूप से 59 वर्ष की अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु तय की गई है।

कार्यकाल संबंधी शर्तें भी मौजूदा परंपरा से अलग हैं, जिसके तहत आमतौर पर पीएसयू प्रमुखों की नियुक्ति सेवानिवृत्ति आयु (जो सामान्यतः 60 वर्ष होती है) तक की जाती है। नई व्यवस्था के तहत, चेयरमैन 60 वर्ष की आयु के बाद भी अनुबंध आधार पर कार्यरत रह सकते हैं।

सरकार ने 2022 में सिंह की नियुक्ति के समय भी इसी तरह की छूट दी थी।

भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) के चेयरमैन और प्रबंध निदेशक पद से अक्टूबर 2022 में सेवानिवृत्त हुए सिंह ने सरकार द्वारा पात्रता मानदंड में ढील दिए जाने के बाद छह दिसंबर 2022 को ओएनजीसी का कार्यभार संभाला था।

पिछले साल केंद्र सरकार ने उन्हें एक साल का सेवा विस्तार दिया था, जिससे वह छह दिसंबर 2026 तक ओएनजीसी के चेयरमैन पद पर बने रहने के पात्र हुए। तब तक उनकी आयु 64 वर्ष से अधिक हो जाएगी।

सरकार ने पिछले साल ही एक नियमित चेयरमैन की तलाश शुरू कर दी थी।

विज्ञापन के अनुसार, आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 21 जुलाई है जबकि निर्धारित माध्यमों से आवेदन भेजने की आखिरी तारीख 30 जुलाई है।

Headline	Govt Raises ONGC Chairman Entry Age To 59, Offers Up To Five-year Tenure		
Publication	Deccan Chronicle	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt Raises ONGC Chairman Entry Age To 59, Offers Up To Five-year Tenure

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure-1968583>

Under the ONGC advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy -- December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review. Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis, the advertisement said

New Delhi: The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

The government's headhunter, Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), has invited applications for the key post in state-owned oil and gas company, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure. However, the selection for the post is likely to be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process.

Under the ONGC advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy -- December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review. Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis, the advertisement said.

The revised age limit marks a departure from the norms followed for most board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). While recent appointments have largely been governed by a residual service criterion rather than fixed age limits, the advertisement prescribes a maximum entry age of 59 years, allowing both internal and external candidates who would otherwise have been ineligible to be considered.

The tenure conditions are also a departure from the prevailing practice of appointing PSU chiefs until the age of superannuation, which is generally 60 years. Under the revised framework, a chairman may continue beyond that age on a contractual basis. The government had made a similar relaxation when appointing Singh in 2022.

A search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry picked him in August that year, barely two months before he turned 60, making him the first executive of that age to be appointed chairman of a blue-chip state-run company. Singh, who retired as chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd in October 2022, took charge of ONGC on December 6, 2022, after the government relaxed the eligibility criteria.

Headline	Government raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Government raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/government-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure/132192852>

This move aims to widen the candidate pool for India's largest oil producer. The selection process will now involve a search-cum-selection committee, a departure from the usual PESB procedure. Applications are open until July 21.

The government has broadened the eligibility for ONGC's next chairman, raising the maximum entry age to 59 and offering a three-year term extendable by two years. New Delhi: The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure.

Advt Under the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy, December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review.

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Last year, the Centre granted him a rare one-year extension, allowing him to continue as ONGC chairman until December 6, 2026, by which time he will be over 64 years old.

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Publication	ET Government	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

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<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/psu/government-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure/132192832>

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The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure.

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Publication	ETV Bharat	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt Raises ONGC Chairman Entry Age To 59, Offers Up To Five-Year Tenure

<https://www.etvbharat.com/en/bharat/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure-enn26070501380>

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Publication	IBC 24 News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

सरकार ने ओएनजीसी चेयरमैन के लिए प्रवेश आयु बढ़ाकर 59 वर्ष की

<https://www.ibc24.in/business/govt-raises-entry-age-for-ongc-chairman-to-59-years-3663119.html>

सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) के अगले चेयरमैन की नियुक्ति के लिए पात्रता शर्तों में ढील दी है। इसके तहत अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु बढ़ाकर 59 वर्ष कर दी गई है और चयनित उम्मीदवार को तीन वर्ष का निश्चित कार्यकाल दिया जाएगा, जिसे प्रदर्शन समीक्षा के आधार पर दो वर्ष तक बढ़ाया जा सकेगा।

इस कदम से देश की सबसे बड़ी तेल एवं गैस उत्पादक कंपनी के शीर्ष पद के लिए अधिक उम्मीदवारों के लिए अवसर खुल गया है।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों में नियुक्तियों के लिए प्रमुख चयन एजेंसी लोक उद्यम चयन बोर्ड (पीईएसबी) ने इस पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए हैं। यह पद सात दिसंबर को वर्तमान चेयरमैन अरुण कुमार सिंह के विस्तारित कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद खाली हो जाएगा।

ओएनजीसी के विज्ञापन के अनुसार, उम्मीदवार की आयु पद रिक्त होने की तिथि यानी सात दिसंबर 2026 तक 59 वर्ष से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए। चयनित उम्मीदवार को प्रारंभ में तीन वर्ष के लिए नियुक्त किया जाएगा, जिसे प्रदर्शन के आधार पर दो वर्ष तक बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

विज्ञापन में कहा गया है, '60 वर्ष की आयु के बाद किसी भी तरह का रोजगार या कार्यकाल का विस्तार अनुबंध के आधार पर होगा।'

यह चयन सामान्य पीईएसबी चयन प्रक्रिया के बजाय पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय द्वारा गठित एक 'खोज-सह-चयन समिति' द्वारा किया जाएगा।

संशोधित आयु सीमा केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों (सीपीएसई) में अधिकांश बोर्ड-स्तरीय नियुक्तियों के लिए अपनाए जाने वाले मानदंडों से अलग है।

हाल के वर्षों में अधिकतर नियुक्तियां शेष सेवा अवधि के आधार पर होती रही हैं, जबकि इस विज्ञापन में स्पष्ट रूप से 59 वर्ष की अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु तय की गई है।

कार्यकाल संबंधी शर्तें भी मौजूदा परंपरा से अलग हैं, जिसके तहत आमतौर पर पीएसयू प्रमुखों की नियुक्ति सेवानिवृत्ति आयु (जो सामान्यतः 60 वर्ष होती है) तक की जाती है। नई व्यवस्था के तहत, चेयरमैन 60 वर्ष की आयु के बाद भी अनुबंध आधार पर कार्यरत रह सकते हैं।

सरकार ने 2022 में सिंह की नियुक्ति के समय भी इसी तरह की छूट दी थी।

भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) के चेयरमैन और प्रबंध निदेशक पद से अक्टूबर 2022 में सेवानिवृत्त हुए सिंह ने सरकार द्वारा पात्रता मानदंड में ढील दिए जाने के बाद छह दिसंबर 2022 को ओएनजीसी का कार्यभार संभाला था।

पिछले साल केंद्र सरकार ने उन्हें एक साल का सेवा विस्तार दिया था, जिससे वह छह दिसंबर 2026 तक ओएनजीसी के चेयरमैन पद पर बने रहने के पात्र हुए। तब तक उनकी आयु 64 वर्ष से अधिक हो जाएगी।

सरकार ने पिछले साल ही एक नियमित चेयरमैन की तलाश शुरू कर दी थी।

विज्ञापन के अनुसार, आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 21 जुलाई है जबकि निर्धारित माध्यमों से आवेदन भेजने की आखिरी तारीख 30 जुलाई है।

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>

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.

Headline	Government raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Government raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/topstories/government-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure/ar-AA27ekRI>

The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure. Under the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy, December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review. "Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis," the advertisement said. The selection will be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process. The revised age limit marks a departure from the norms followed for most board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). While recent appointments have largely been governed by a residual service criterion rather than fixed age limits, the advertisement prescribes a maximum entry age of 59 years, allowing both internal and external candidates who would otherwise have been ineligible to be considered. The tenure conditions are also a departure from the prevailing practice of appointing PSU chiefs until the age of superannuation, which is generally 60 years. Under the revised framework, a chairman may continue beyond that age on a contractual basis. The government had made a similar relaxation when appointing Singh in 2022. A search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry picked him in August that year, barely two months before he turned 60, making him the first executive of that age to be appointed chairman of a blue-chip state-run company. Singh, who retired as chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd in October 2022, took charge of ONGC on December 6, 2022, after the government relaxed the eligibility criteria. Last year, the Centre granted him a rare one-year extension, allowing him to continue as ONGC chairman until December 6, 2026, by which time he will be over 64 years old. The government had initiated a search for a regular chairman last year. PESB invited applications in April 2025, and more than a dozen candidates, including Oil India Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Ranjit Rath, applied. However, no interviews were held, and the selection process remained inconclusive without any official explanation. ONGC had remained without a full-time chief between April 2021 and December 2022, during which the company was headed by three interim chairmen before Singh's appointment. Applications will close on July 21, while the deadline for forwarding applications through the prescribed channels is July 30, the advertisement said. According to the job description, the chairman will be responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the company, including driving growth in revenue and profitability, leading ONGC's exploration and production business, overseeing expansion into new energy and petrochemicals through acquisitions and joint ventures, and steering technology adoption across the organisation.

Headline	Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/topstories/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure/ar-AA27eiZ7>

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Headline	Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers five-year tenure		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	6 Jul 2026		

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers five-year tenure

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-five-year-tenure-666967>

The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's head hunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure.

Under the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy -- December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review.

Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis, the advertisement said.

The selection will be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process.

The revised age limit marks a departure from the norms followed for most board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

While recent appointments have largely been governed by a residual service criterion rather than fixed age limits, the advertisement prescribes a maximum entry age of 59 years, allowing both internal and external candidates who would otherwise have been ineligible to be considered.

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The government had made a similar relaxation when appointing Singh in 2022.

A search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry picked him in August that year, barely two months before he turned 60, making him the first executive of that age to be appointed chairman of a blue-chip state-run company.

Singh, who retired as chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd in October 2022, took charge of ONGC on December 6, 2022, after the government relaxed the eligibility criteria.

Last year, the Centre granted him a rare one-year extension, allowing him to continue as ONGC chairman until December 6, 2026, by which time he will be over 64 years old.

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According to the job description, the chairman will be responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the company, including driving growth in revenue and profitability, leading ONGC's exploration and production business,

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Headline	Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	Mint	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure-11783250823840.html>

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's head hunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on Dec 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure

New Delhi: The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

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Headline	सरकार ने ONGC चेयरमैन पद के लिए बढ़ाई प्रवेश आयु, मिलेगा निश्चित कार्यकाल		
Publication	Navodaya Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

सरकार ने ONGC चेयरमैन पद के लिए बढ़ाई प्रवेश आयु, मिलेगा निश्चित कार्यकाल

<https://www.navodayatimes.in/news/business/modi-government-raises-entry-age-for-ongc-chairman-grants-fixed-tenure/296983/>

केंद्र की मोदी सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) के अगले चेयरमैन की नियुक्ति के लिए पात्रता शर्तों में ढील दी है। इसके तहत अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु बढ़ाकर 59 वर्ष कर दी गई है और चयनित उम्मीदवार को तीन वर्ष का निश्चित कार्यकाल दिया जाएगा, जिसे प्रदर्शन समीक्षा के आधार पर दो वर्ष तक बढ़ाया जा सकेगा। इस कदम से देश की सबसे बड़ी तेल एवं गैस उत्पादक कंपनी के शीर्ष पद के लिए अधिक उम्मीदवारों के लिए अवसर खुल गया है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों में नियुक्तियों के लिए प्रमुख चयन एजेंसी लोक उद्यम चयन बोर्ड (पीईएसबी) ने इस पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए हैं। यह पद सात दिसंबर को वर्तमान चेयरमैन अरुण कुमार सिंह के विस्तारित कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद खाली हो जाएगा।

ओएनजीसी के विज्ञापन के अनुसार, उम्मीदवार की आयु पद रिक्त होने की तिथि यानी सात दिसंबर 2026 तक 59 वर्ष से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए। चयनित उम्मीदवार को प्रारंभ में तीन वर्ष के लिए नियुक्त किया जाएगा, जिसे प्रदर्शन के आधार पर दो वर्ष तक बढ़ाया जा सकता है। विज्ञापन में कहा गया है, "60 वर्ष की आयु के बाद किसी भी तरह का रोजगार या कार्यकाल का विस्तार अनुबंध के आधार पर होगा।" यह चयन सामान्य पीईएसबी चयन प्रक्रिया के बजाय पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय द्वारा गठित एक 'खोज-सह-चयन समिति' द्वारा किया जाएगा। संशोधित आयु सीमा केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों (सीपीएसई) में अधिकांश बोर्ड-स्तरीय नियुक्तियों के लिए अपनाए जाने वाले मानदंडों से अलग है।

हाल के वर्षों में अधिकतर नियुक्तियां शेष सेवा अवधि के आधार पर होती रही हैं, जबकि इस विज्ञापन में स्पष्ट रूप से 59 वर्ष की अधिकतम प्रवेश आयु तय की गई है। कार्यकाल संबंधी शर्तें भी मौजूदा परंपरा से अलग हैं, जिसके तहत आमतौर पर पीएसयू प्रमुखों की नियुक्ति सेवानिवृत्ति आयु (जो सामान्यतः 60 वर्ष होती है) तक की जाती है। नई व्यवस्था के तहत, चेयरमैन 60 वर्ष की आयु के बाद भी अनुबंध आधार पर कार्यरत रह सकते हैं। सरकार ने 2022 में सिंह की नियुक्ति के समय भी इसी तरह की छूट दी थी।

भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) के चेयरमैन और प्रबंध निदेशक पद से अक्टूबर 2022 में सेवानिवृत्त हुए सिंह ने सरकार द्वारा पात्रता मानदंड में ढील दिए जाने के बाद छह दिसंबर 2022 को ओएनजीसी का कार्यभार संभाला था। पिछले साल केंद्र सरकार ने उन्हें एक साल का सेवा विस्तार दिया था, जिससे वह छह दिसंबर 2026 तक ओएनजीसी के चेयरमैन पद पर बने रहने के पात्र हुए। तब तक उनकी आयु 64 वर्ष से अधिक हो जाएगी। सरकार ने पिछले साल ही एक नियमित चेयरमैन की तलाश शुरू कर दी थी। विज्ञापन के अनुसार, आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 21 जुलाई है जबकि निर्धारित माध्यमों से आवेदन भेजने की आखिरी तारीख 30 जुलाई है।

Headline	Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	News 18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://www.news18.com/agency-feeds/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure-10191220.html>

The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure.

Under the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review.

Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis," the advertisement said.

The selection will be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process.

The revised age limit marks a departure from the norms followed for most board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

While recent appointments have largely been governed by a residual service criterion rather than fixed age limits, the advertisement prescribes a maximum entry age of 59 years, allowing both internal and external candidates who would otherwise have been ineligible to be considered.

The tenure conditions are also a departure from the prevailing practice of appointing PSU chiefs until the age of superannuation, which is generally 60 years. Under the revised framework, a chairman may continue beyond that age on a contractual basis.

The government had made a similar relaxation when appointing Singh in 2022.

A search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry picked him in August that year, barely two months before he turned 60, making him the first executive of that age to be appointed chairman of a blue-chip state-run company.

Singh, who retired as chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd in October 2022, took charge of ONGC on December 6, 2022, after the government relaxed the eligibility criteria.

Last year, the Centre granted him a rare one-year extension, allowing him to continue as ONGC chairman until December 6, 2026, by which time he will be over 64 years old.

The government had initiated a search for a regular chairman last year.

PESB invited applications in April 2025, and more than a dozen candidates, including Oil India Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Ranjit Rath, applied. However, no interviews were held, and the selection process remained inconclusive without any official explanation.

ONGC had remained without a full-time chief between April 2021 and December 2022, during which the company was headed by three interim chairmen before Singh's appointment.

Applications will close on July 21, while the deadline for forwarding applications through the prescribed channels is July 30, the advertisement said.

According to the job description, the chairman will be responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the company, including driving growth in revenue and profitability, leading ONGC's exploration and production business,

overseeing expansion into new energy and petrochemicals through acquisitions and joint ventures, and steering technology adoption across the organisation.

Headline	Government raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Government raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/trending/government-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure-et/articleshow/145048206a3cd5d8c3a0876ca90d529eeba01a2d>

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The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy, December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review.

"Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis," the advertisement said.

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Headline	Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	PTI	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://www.ptinews.com/story/business/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure/3830717>

NEW DELHI: (Jul 5) The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum

entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's headhunter for appointments to state-run firms, has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure.

Under the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy -- December 7, 2026. The selected candidate will initially be appointed for three years, with the tenure extendable by another two years after a performance review.

Headline	Government raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Government raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/government-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure/articleshow/132191545.cms>

The government has broadened the eligibility for ONGC's next chairman, raising the maximum entry age to 59 and offering a three-year term extendable by two years. This move aims to widen the candidate pool for India's largest oil producer. The selection process will now involve a search-cum-selection committee, a departure from the usual PESB procedure. Applications are open until July 21.

New Delhi: The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of state-owned ONGC by raising the maximum entry age to 59 years and offering the successful candidate a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years, widening the pool of eligible contenders to head India's largest oil and gas producer.

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"Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis," the advertisement said.

The selection will be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process.

The revised age limit marks a departure from the norms followed for most board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

While recent appointments have largely been governed by a residual service criterion rather than fixed age limits, the advertisement prescribes a maximum entry age of 59 years, allowing both internal and external candidates who would otherwise have been ineligible to be considered.

The tenure conditions are also a departure from the prevailing practice of appointing PSU chiefs until the age of superannuation, which is generally 60 years.

Under the revised framework, a chairman may continue beyond that age on a contractual basis.

The government had made a similar relaxation when appointing Singh in 2022.

A search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry picked him in August that year, barely two months before he turned 60, making him the first executive of that age to be appointed chairman of a blue-chip state-run company.

Singh, who retired as chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd in October 2022, took charge of ONGC on December 6, 2022, after the government relaxed the eligibility criteria.

Last year, the Centre granted him a rare one-year extension, allowing him to continue as ONGC chairman until December 6, 2026, by which time he will be over 64 years old.

The government had initiated a search for a regular chairman last year.

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ONGC had remained without a full-time chief between April 2021 and December 2022, during which the company was headed by three interim chairmen before Singh's appointment.

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According to the job description, the chairman will be responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the company, including driving growth in revenue and profitability, leading ONGC's exploration and production business, overseeing expansion into new energy and petrochemicals through acquisitions and joint ventures, and steering technology adoption across the organisation.

Headline	Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	The Hindu Business Line	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure/article71185207.ece>

The selection will be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process

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Headline	Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure		
Publication	The Telegraph	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Govt raises ONGC chairman entry age to 59, offers up to five-year tenure

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/govt-raises-ongc-chairman-entry-age-to-59-offers-up-to-five-year-tenure/cid/2168690>

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Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by The Telegraph Online staff and has been published from a syndicated feed.

Headline	Government Raises ONGC Chairman Entry Age to 59, Offers Up to Five-Year Tenure		
Publication	bhashatimes	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Government Raises ONGC Chairman Entry Age to 59, Offers Up to Five-Year Tenure

<https://bhashatimes.com/en/business/ongc-chairman-entry-age-59-tenure>

The government has relaxed eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of ONGC, raising the maximum entry age to 59 years with a three-year term extendable by up to two years.

The government has relaxed the eligibility conditions for appointing the next chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), raising the maximum entry age to 59 years. The successful candidate will receive a fixed three-year term extendable by up to two years after a performance review.

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has invited applications for the post, which will fall vacant on December 7 when incumbent Arun Kumar Singh completes his extended tenure. Under the advertisement, candidates should not have attained the age of 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy. Any employment or extension of tenure beyond the age of 60 shall be on a contract basis.

The selection will be made by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry instead of the normal PESB selection process. The revised age limit marks a departure from the norms followed for most board-level appointments in Central Public Sector Enterprises, where recent appointments have largely been governed by a residual service criterion rather than fixed age limits.

The government made a similar relaxation when appointing Singh in 2022. A search-cum-selection committee constituted by the oil ministry picked Singh in August 2022, barely two months before he turned 60. He was the first executive of that age to be appointed chairman of a blue-chip state-run company. Last year, the Centre granted him a rare one-year extension, allowing him to continue as ONGC chairman until December 6, 2026, by which time he will be over 64 years old.

Applications will close on July 21, with the deadline for forwarding applications through prescribed channels on July 30.

Tata Steel Plans Rs 20,000 Crore Capex for FY27, 60% Allocated to India

Headline	Drivers in India protest ethanol petrol policy over mileage, cost concerns		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Drivers in India protest ethanol petrol policy over mileage, cost concerns

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/drivers-in-india-protest-ethanol-petrol-policy-over-mileage-cost-concerns-126070500213_1.html

Indian motorists will gather in New Delhi on Sunday, in the first major protest against a flagship biofuel program intended to reduce crude imports and support farm incomes. The government's accelerated shift to gasoline with a higher percentage of ethanol a signature self-reliance policy for Prime Minister Narendra Modi has angered drivers, whose complaints include weaker fuel efficiency, higher maintenance costs and engine corrosion.

The government and automakers have been on the defensive after weeks of complaints on social media. Authorities sought to contain the controversy by convening a media briefing with auto industry executives on Saturday. Carmakers dismissed the complaints as unfounded. We are very confident that we haven't seen any glaring issues on social media that warrant a rethink of the government's biofuel blending program, said Puneet Anand, associate vice president at Hyundai Motor India. Speaking separately in Rajasthan, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri blamed vested interests of spreading misinformation.

The backlash comes as Modi seeks to expand one of his signature energy initiatives. India met its target of blending 20% ethanol into gasoline five years ahead of schedule in 2025 and is evaluating a further increase in the mandate. Last month, state refiners also began selling gasoline blended with 85% ethanol for flex-fuel vehicles.

Automakers said E20 had undergone extensive testing before its nationwide rollout. Vehicles designed for E20 have been on sale since 2025, while the fuel is also compatible with older E10-certified vehicles, according to Rahul Bharti, executive director at Maruti Suzuki India. Although fuel economy may decline modestly, the tradeoff is offset by the fuel's broader economic and environmental benefits, he said.

Manufacturers also pushed back against specific claims circulating online. Vikram Gulati, country head at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said a widely shared case involving a Toyota Innova Hycross allegedly damaged by E20 was traced to contaminated fuel rather than ethanol blending. He also rejected claims that ethanol attracts ants, saying gasoline's odor repels insects.

For consumers, however, the biofuel debate comes as vehicle ownership costs continue to climb. Gasoline prices remain near four-year highs following geopolitical disruptions, while insurance premiums, toll charges, poor road conditions and monsoon-related damage have added to motorists' expenses, making concerns over fuel efficiency and maintenance more politically sensitive.

India's gasoline demand has been expanding faster than diesel consumption, rising an average 8.8% annually over the past five financial years compared with 5.5% for diesel, according to government data. Gasoline accounts for about 18% of refined fuel sales, making the success of the ethanol program increasingly important to the government's energy strategy.

The South Asian nation is among several major emerging economies expanding biofuel use, a campaign that has accelerated in the aftermath of the Iran war. Indonesia is fast-tracking plans to increase biodiesel blending to 50% using palm oil. And debate over biofuel mandates is intensifying in the US, where some conservative groups are urging lawmakers to roll back blending requirements, arguing they increase costs for consumers.

Puri said Saturday that any move to raise ethanol blending to 25% from 20% would be undertaken only after rigorous testing and consultations with stakeholders. He added that India's strategy to diversify transport fuels would rely on multiple technologies, including biofuels, batteries and compressed natural gas.

Headline	53% petrol vehicle owners fault govt's handling of E20 rollout: Survey		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

53% petrol vehicle owners fault govt's handling of E20 rollout: Survey

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/e20-petrol-rollout-localcircles-survey-mileage-drop-vehicle-owners-126070500287_1.html

A LocalCircles survey says 66 per cent of pre-2023 petrol vehicle owners reported a mileage drop of more than 10 per cent, while 31 per cent want the option to return to E0 or E10 fuel

According to the survey, 66 per cent of pre-2023 petrol vehicle owners said their vehicle mileage had dropped by more than 10 per cent after the use of E20 petrol.

A majority of petrol vehicle owners have rated the government's handling of the E20 petrol rollout as disastrous or ineffective, citing concerns over mileage, wear and tear, and the absence of lower-ethanol fuel options at pumps, according to a latest survey by LocalCircles.

The survey, conducted in June 2026 across 316 districts, received 22,567 responses from petrol vehicle owners. Of these, 42 per cent described the handling of the rollout as disastrous, 5 per cent as very ineffective, and 6 per cent as quite ineffective, taking the combined negative response to 53 per cent. Only 13 per cent rated the rollout positively, while 19 per cent called it average and 15 per cent did not give a view. Survey respondents included 69 per cent men and 31 per cent women. LocalCircles said 46 per cent of respondents were from tier-1 districts, 32 per cent from tier-2 districts, and 22 per cent from tier-3, tier-4, tier-5 and rural districts.

India completed the nationwide rollout of E20 petrol in April 2025, achieving the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending ahead of the original 2030 schedule. The government has defended the programme, citing benefits for farmers, foreign exchange savings and lower crude import dependence.

Mileage, repair concerns drive criticism

According to the survey, 66 per cent of pre-2023 petrol vehicle owners said their vehicle mileage had dropped by more than 10 per cent after the use of E20 petrol. The survey also found that 45 per cent of such owners reported a moderate to major increase in wear and tear or the need for repairs.

The survey found that dissatisfaction was particularly high among owners of vehicles manufactured before the E20-compliance cut-off. The survey document said vehicles made before April 2023 were designed for E10 fuel, while only those sold from April 2025 onwards were fully E20-compliant.

The survey also found that 31 per cent of pre-2023 petrol vehicle owners wanted the option to shift back to E0 or E10 petrol even if it cost more.

Government defends ethanol blending plan

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has maintained that the mileage impact of ethanol-blended fuel is minor and has rejected much of the online criticism around E20. The minister also clarified that vehicle insurance cover remains unaffected by the switch to E20. From April 1, 2026, all E20 petrol sold in India is required to meet a minimum Research Octane Number of 95 to improve combustion stability and reduce engine knocking. In May 2026, the Bureau of Indian Standards notified IS 19850:2026, covering E22 to E30 blends. The current roadmap commits to E20 until October 31, 2026, with any decision on higher blends expected to follow an Inter-Ministerial Committee report and stakeholder consultations.

Headline	India eyes oil exploration expansion after West Asia war shortages		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

India eyes oil exploration expansion after West Asia war shortages

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-eyes-oil-exploration-expansion-after-west-asia-war-shortages/132191014>

The strategic push, dubbed "Samudra Manthan," seeks to secure energy needs amidst growing demand and global geopolitical shifts, with substantial investment planned for deepwater exploration.

B

India is intensifying domestic crude exploration following a significant energy supply shock during the West Asia war. Hit by the biggest energy supply shock in decades during the West Asia war, import-dependent India is expanding domestic crude exploration, its oil minister says.

India, the world's third-largest importer of oil and the second-largest buyer of liquefied petroleum gas, faced major disruptions due to restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz during the conflict between the United States and Iran.

With a temporary US-Iran deal in place to pause hostilities, oil and gas shipments are flowing through the Gulf waterway again, and restrictions and price hikes in India are being rolled back.

Advt But Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said the energy crunch provided fresh impetus for India's expansion of domestic supplies.

"We are currently in the process... to bid out about 250,000 square kilometres (96,500 square miles) of unexplored area," Puri told AFP.

India is a modest producer in global terms.

Domestic crude production in 2025-2026 was 25.98 million metric tonnes, according to the oil ministry.

That meets just 10 percent of India's crude needs, equivalent to roughly 522,000 barrels per day (bpd) -- a figure well below its production peak of just more than 900,000 bpd in 2011.

India survived the energy crunch by expanding its crude suppliers from 27 to 41 countries, including Iran, Venezuela, greater purchases from Russia and several African nations.

New Delhi has previously been criticised by both the United States and Europe for its purchase of Russian oil, with critics arguing that it bankrolled Moscow's war against Kyiv.

But Puri said India had a "pragmatic approach" that put its energy needs above "ideological considerations".

Ocean of energy opportunities

The country's domestic crude production is concentrated in the west -- in its Mumbai offshore fields, Rajasthan and Gujarat -- as well as the northeastern state of Assam.

Advt But Puri has hailed what he calls an "ocean of energy opportunities" off India's Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, an 800-kilometre-long (500-mile) chain of environmentally sensitive islands in the seas bordering Thailand and Indonesia.

The vast Andaman Basin is geologically similar to hydrocarbon-bearing basins in Southeast Asia.

Puri posted a video on social media in June of a gas flare at an exploratory well drilled in the Andaman Sea by state-owned Oil India.

"Large number of deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploration wells are planned in our offshore basins to fully exploit our hydrocarbon reserves," Puri said when he released the video.

New Delhi is working with "deepwater exploration experts" including Petrobras, TotalEnergies, BP, Shell and ExxonMobil, he said.

In the same Andaman Sea, India is readying a \$9 billion Great Nicobar Island Project to build a mega port, airport and city, creating a strategic base on what is, for now, a far-flung island covered in pristine forests and home to one of Earth's most isolated peoples.

Exceptionally bullish

The push pre-dates the West Asia war.

Hindu-nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Samudra Manthan" mission during a speech marking Independence Day in August 2025.

The name refers to a central event in Hindu mythology meaning the "churning of the ocean".

"We want to work in a mission mode towards finding oil reserves, gas reserves under the sea and hence India is going to start the National Deep Water Exploration Mission," Modi said at the time.

But India's bid to reduce dependence faces challenges.

Domestic demand in the world's most populous nation of 1.4 billion people is growing rapidly -- even as the government vows to achieve carbon neutrality by 2070.

India is also ramping up investments in renewables, nuclear energy and blending petrol with ethanol.

"India's energy consumption today is growing at three times the pace compared to rest of the world," Puri said.

"It has jumped from five million barrels per day in 2021 to about 5.6 million barrels today, and would soon touch six million barrels per day, on the back of the robust economic and per capita income growth."

Puri said he was "exceptionally bullish" for the future.

"I am happy with the knowledge that our E+P (exploration & production) is going up and, believe me, it's going to rise very fast," Puri said.

He noted it was "a very capital intensive and time-consuming" process, but said he had high hopes.

"We are putting fiscal resources into oil and gas exploration in a very big way -- with a \$10 billion programme," he added.

"With it, we are going into one million kilometres of unexplored area."

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

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

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/pm-modi-inaugurates-nhpcs-300-mw-karnisar-solar-power-plant-in-rajasthans-bikaner/132194016>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday virtually inaugurated NHPC's 300 MW Karnisar Solar Power Plant at Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Prime Minister emphasised that renewable energy is the cornerstone of India's energy security and sustainable future. 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.

Advt 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.

Advt 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 1.06 lakh crore.

Headline	Petrol, diesel prices today — 5 July: Latest fuel rates in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad, other cities		
Publication	Mint	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

Petrol, diesel prices today — 5 July: Latest fuel rates in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad, other cities

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/petrol-diesel-prices-today-5-july-latest-fuel-rates-in-delhi-mumbai-bengaluru-kolkata-hyderabad-other-cities-11783212430515.html>

Fuel prices in India remained stable on 5 July despite falling global crude prices. Oil Marketing Companies are not expected to cut domestic prices soon. Petrol and diesel prices today : Fuel prices in India held steady with marginal changes on Sunday, 5 July. Even though Brent crude, the international oil benchmark, recently erased its war-time rally in their biggest quarterly slump since 2020, fuel prices in India remained stable. Due to easing West Asia tensions, global crude oil prices have fallen to a four-month low and returned to pre-war levels. Ever since the US and Iran signed the 14-point memorandum of understanding to reopen the Strait of Hormuz in mid-June, oil prices extended decline despite brief periods of fluctuations. Recent positive discussions in Qatar to convert their interim 60-day truce into a lasting accord has boosted recovery of flows through the Strait. Notably, state run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are unlikely to cut domestic fuel prices anytime soon as domestic retail refiners are still processing costlier crude purchased during the peak of the West Asia crisis, Union petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri said. Future adjustment in fuel prices is possible if international crude prices remain stable, Hardeep Singh earlier said.

However, OMCs cut Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices by about 5 per litre and slashed commercial 19-kg LPG rates by 183.50 per cylinder on 1 July as a part of its monthly revision. This marked the first reduction in nearly 4 months as these fuels track global crude benchmarks.

At the same time, the 5-kg marked-priced or Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinder rate also plunged by 13 to 808.50 per 5-kg cylinder. Nayara Energy, India's largest private retailer, also announced rate cut in fuel prices. The Rosneft-backed company reduced petrol and diesel prices by 5 and 3 per litre, respectively. This price revision made it the first retailer in more than two years to reduce pump rates.

Check latest petrol and diesel price in your city on 5 July On 4 July, Hardeep Singh Puri issued a statement over Centre's ethanol blending campaign which is a part of its strategy to reduce crude oil imports, lower carbon emissions and support the domestic agricultural economy. Dismissing concerns over ethanol-blended fuel and its impact on vehicle performance, he said claims that E20 fuel attracts pests or damages vehicle engines are rumours.

While addressing the media in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Puri said, "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," ANI reported.

Brent crude price slides as more tankers transit Strait of Hormuz Brent futures traded just above \$72 a barrel on 4 July with volumes depressed due to the US Independence Day holiday. According to Bloomberg report, there has been a flood of more than 60 million trapped barrels in the weeks since US-Iran signed peace deal. The glut of crude is a result of returning frozen supply when the war began.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates oil exports returned to pre-war levels. Furthermore, Iranian oil, which was subjected to heavy American sanctions for years, is also available in the market after the US issued sanctions waivers.

the head of commodities research at JPMorgan Chase & Co, Natasha Kaneva, said, The market is facing the risk of a temporary glut as trapped oil finally re-enters a system that has already spent months learning how to function without it, adding, The barrels now exiting Hormuz increasingly have nowhere to go except China. But China is not buying," Bloomberg reported.

Headline	E20 petrol backlash grows: 53% of vehicle owners call rollout 'disastrous', 66% report mileage drop, survey finds		
Publication	Mint	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

E20 petrol backlash grows: 53% of vehicle owners call rollout 'disastrous', 66% report mileage drop, survey finds

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/e20-petrol-backlash-53-per-cent-of-vehicle-owners-call-rollout-disastrous-66-per-cent-report-mileage-drop-11783272601052.html>

India's E20 petrol rollout faces growing criticism as 53% of motorists rate it negatively and 66% report mileage losses, according to a LocalCircles survey.

Just over a year after India achieved nationwide availability of E20 petrol in April 2025 meeting its target of 20% ethanol blending six years ahead of the original 2030 deadline public opinion on the implementation of the programme has turned increasingly critical.

A survey conducted by LocalCircles found that 53% of petrol vehicle owners described the Road Transport and Petroleum Ministries' handling of the E20 rollout as either "disastrous" or "ineffective", with 42% calling it outright "disastrous". By comparison, only 13% of respondents gave the government's handling a positive rating.

The survey also revealed widespread concerns over fuel efficiency and vehicle performance. Around 66% of respondents said their vehicles' mileage had dropped by more than 10% after switching to E20 petrol, while 31% said they would prefer the option of using E0 or E10 fuel again, even if it came at a higher price.

The government, however, has consistently defended the ethanol blending programme. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has maintained that the impact of E20 on fuel efficiency is minimal, dismissed much of the criticism circulating online as a "make-believe narrative", and clarified that vehicle insurance coverage is unaffected by the transition to the blended fuel.

Regulatory changes have continued alongside the rollout. From April 1, 2026, all E20 petrol sold in the country must comply with a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95 to improve combustion stability and minimise engine knocking. In May 2026, the Bureau of Indian Standards also notified IS 19850:2026, establishing specifications for ethanol blends ranging from E22 to E30, with effect from May 15.

India's E20 petrol rollout faces growing consumer scrutiny For now, the government's roadmap remains focused on E20 until October 31, 2026. Any decision to introduce higher ethanol blends will be taken after the Inter-Ministerial Committee submits its report and consultations with stakeholders are completed.

Appearing before the Supreme Court in July 2026, the Centre said ethanol blending remains an evolving programme whose long-term impact is expected to become clearer by 2027, while rejecting claims that the initiative is merely experimental. Nevertheless, a noticeable gap continues to exist between official assessments and consumer experiences.

While the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) estimates that E20 results in only a 1-6% reduction in fuel efficiency, several independent real-world studies have reported mileage losses of 8-12% in older vehicles, many of which were never designed to operate on E20 fuel. Nearly 300 million such vehicles remain on Indian roads.

53% of petrol vehicle owners rate E20 rollout negatively, survey finds The LocalCircles survey asked petrol vehicle owners how they rated the ministries' handling of the E20 rollout.

Among 22,567 respondents, 42% described the implementation as "disastrous", while 5% called it "very ineffective" and another 6% rated it "quite ineffective". Together, these responses accounted for 53% of all participants expressing a negative opinion.

Only 13% of respondents approve of the government's E20 implementation On the other hand, only 2% rated the rollout as "superb", 3% considered it "very effective" and 8% described it as "quite effective", taking the total positive response to just 13%. Meanwhile, 19% termed the rollout "average", while 15% said they were unable to comment, according to the survey findings.

The results indicate that negative opinions outweigh positive ones by roughly four to one, suggesting a significant disconnect between the government's messaging and the experiences reported by motorists.

66% of motorists report over 10% mileage loss after switching to E20 petrol. The dissatisfaction is also reflected in practical ownership concerns. According to the survey, 66% of owners of petrol vehicles manufactured before 2023 reported a decline in fuel efficiency exceeding 10% after switching to E20 fuel, up sharply from 45% in a similar survey conducted a month earlier.

In addition, 45% said they had experienced a moderate to significant increase in engine wear, maintenance requirements or repair costs.

Many vehicle owners want E0 and E10 petrol back despite higher prices. Notably, nearly one-third of respondents said they would be willing to pay more for the option to use E0 or E10 petrol again, indicating that concerns extend beyond perception and are rooted in operating costs and vehicle reliability, LocalCircles said.

NITI Aayog had warned of fuel efficiency losses before E20 rollout. Critics argue that these concerns had been identified well before the nationwide rollout. In its June 2021 report, Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25, NITI Aayog had estimated that four-wheelers originally designed for E0 and calibrated for E10 could experience a 6-7% drop in fuel efficiency, while two-wheelers could see a decline of 3-4%.

The report also recommended that ethanol-blended fuel be sold at a lower price than conventional petrol to compensate for its lower energy content and that fuel suitable for older vehicles should continue to remain available. However, neither recommendation has been implemented, with E20 currently retailing at the same price as regular petrol across the country.

Headline	India ramping up oil exploration after global energy shock, says Oil Minister Puri		
Publication	Moneycontrol	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

India ramping up oil exploration after global energy shock, says Oil Minister Puri

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/india-ramping-up-oil-exploration-after-global-energy-shock-says-oil-minister-puri-13966267.html>

India is accelerating efforts to expand domestic oil and gas exploration after recent global energy disruptions highlighted the risks of its heavy dependence on imported crude.

The move follows a period of heightened volatility in global energy markets triggered by tensions in the Middle East, which temporarily disrupted shipping routes and raised concerns over the stability of key supply corridors such as the Strait of Hormuz.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the episode reinforced the need for stronger domestic production capabilities and a wider exploration push across untapped regions.

We are currently in the process to bid out about 250,000 square kilometres of unexplored area, Puri said, outlining the scale of the governments planned expansion in exploration activity, in an interview with AFP.

India remains one of the worlds largest crude importers, with domestic production covering only a small portion of its total demand. Officials say the gap between consumption and output continues to expose the economy to external shocks, even as demand rises steadily with growth in transport, industry, and urban consumption.

Over the past few years, India has diversified its crude import sources significantly to manage supply risks, expanding its supplier network across multiple regions, including the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and Eurasia.

Puri said Indias energy strategy is driven by practical considerations of security and affordability. He has previously argued that the countrys approach prioritises national needs over external political pressures.

A major focus of the new exploration push is offshore and deepwater reserves, with particular attention on frontier basins that have remained largely unexplored. Officials believe these regions could hold significant hydrocarbon potential, though extraction remains technically complex and capital-intensive.

TheCentre has also highlighted emerging opportunities in offshore regions near the Andaman Sea, describing them as part of a broader push to unlock previously underexplored energy zones.

India is collaborating with several international energy firms, including major global players, to bring advanced deepwater exploration technologies and expertise into its domestic production strategy.

The exploration expansion is part of a wider energy roadmap that also includes renewable energy growth, ethanol blending in fuels, and nuclear expansion. However, officials acknowledge that fossil fuels continue to account for a significant share of Indias rapidly rising energy demand.

Puri said consumption in India is growing faster than in many other major economies, driven by economic expansion and rising income levels, adding that demand is expected to increase further in the coming years.

He described himself as optimistic about the countrys exploration outlook, saying domestic exploration and production activity is set to expand significantly under new investment programmes.

I am happy with the knowledge that our E&P is going up and, believe me, its going to rise very fast, Puri said, adding that the process, while slow and capital-intensive, is receiving strong fiscal backing from the government.

The renewed push reflects Indias broader effort to balance long-term energy security with rising domestic demand, as it works to reduce vulnerability to global supply disruptions while sustaining economic growth.

Headline	India eyes oil exploration expansion after Middle East war shortages		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

India eyes oil exploration expansion after Middle East war shortages

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-eyes-oil-exploration-expansion-after-middle-east-war-shortages/articleshow/132190425.cms>

In response to a critical energy supply crisis, India is ramping up its efforts in domestic crude exploration. The country, known for its reliance on oil imports, is set to unveil extensive uncharted regions for bidding. This initiative, named 'Samudra Manthan,' aims to enhance production levels in light of rising energy demands and global volatility, with significant funding earmarked for offshore drilling activities.

New Delhi: Hit by the biggest energy supply shock in decades during the Middle East war, import-dependent India is expanding domestic crude exploration, its oil minister says.

India, the world's third-largest importer of oil and the second-largest buyer of liquefied petroleum gas, faced major disruptions due to restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz during the conflict between the United States and Iran.

With a temporary US-Iran deal in place to pause hostilities, oil and gas shipments are flowing through the Gulf waterway again, and restrictions and price hikes in India are being rolled back.

But Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said the energy crunch provided fresh impetus for India's expansion of domestic supplies.

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That meets just 10 percent of India's crude needs, equivalent to roughly 522,000 barrels per day (bpd) -- a figure well below its production peak of just more than 900,000 bpd in 2011.

India survived the energy crunch by expanding its crude suppliers from 27 to 41 countries, including Iran, Venezuela, greater purchases from Russia and several African nations.

New Delhi has previously been criticised by both the United States and Europe for its purchase of Russian oil, with critics arguing that it bankrolled Moscow's war against Kyiv.

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'Ocean of energy opportunities' The country's domestic crude production is concentrated in the west -- in its Mumbai offshore fields, Rajasthan and Gujarat -- as well as the northeastern state of Assam.

But Puri has hailed what he calls an "ocean of energy opportunities" off India's Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, an 800-kilometre-long (500-mile) chain of environmentally sensitive islands in the seas bordering Thailand and Indonesia.

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New Delhi is working with "deepwater exploration experts" including Petrobras, TotalEnergies, BP, Shell and ExxonMobil, he said.

In the same Andaman Sea, India is readying a \$9 billion Great Nicobar Island Project to build a megaport, airport and city, creating a strategic base on what is, for now, a far-flung island covered in pristine forests and home to one of Earth's most isolated peoples.

'Exceptionally bullish' The push pre-dates the Middle East war.

Hindu-nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the " Samudra Manthan " mission during a speech marking Independence Day in August 2025.

The name refers to a central event in Hindu mythology meaning the "churning of the ocean".

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But India's bid to reduce dependence faces challenges.

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"It has jumped from five million barrels per day in 2021 to about 5.6 million barrels today, and would soon touch six million barrels per day, on the back of the robust economic and per capita income growth."

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He noted it was "a very capital intensive and time-consuming" process, but said he had high hopes.

"We are putting fiscal resources into oil and gas exploration in a very big way -- with a \$10 billion programme," he added.

"With it, we are going into one million kilometres of unexplored area."

Headline	PM Modi inaugurates India's first integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex in Rajasthan		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	5 Jul 2026		

PM Modi inaugurates India's first integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex in Rajasthan

<https://manufacturing.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/chemicals/pm-modi-inaugurates-indias-first-integrated-refinery-cum-petrochemical-complex-in-rajasthan/132193408>

The project combines refining and petrochemical production, with a petrochemical capacity of 2.4 MMTPA.

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on Saturday dedicated India's first integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex with a refining capacity of 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to the nation and launched multiple infrastructure projects worth 1.06 lakh crore in Rajasthan, reports ET Online

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma were present at the event held in Pachpadra, Balotra.

The integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex has been developed as a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) and the Rajasthan government at an investment of over 79,450 crore.

The project combines refining and petrochemical production, with a petrochemical capacity of 2.4 MMTPA. It features a Nelson Complexity Index of 17.0 and petrochemical yields exceeding 26 per cent, aligning with global standards for efficiency and sustainability.

The complex will strengthen India's energy security, boost petrochemical self-sufficiency and drive industrial development while serving as the anchor industry for a proposed Petrochemical and Plastic Park in the region, added the report.

The PM also laid the foundation stone for Phase 2 of the Jaipur Metro Rail Project, involving an investment of over 13,000 crore. The project includes a 41-km north-south metro corridor from Prahladpura to Todi Mod with 36 stations, connecting major industrial, residential and commercial areas including Sitapura Industrial Area, Vishwakarma Industrial Area (VKI), Jaipur Airport, Tonk Road, SMS Hospital, SMS Stadium, Ambabari and Vidyadhar Nagar. Phase 1 of the Jaipur Metro, comprising an 11.64-km corridor with 11 stations, is already operational.

PM Modi also dedicated the Churu-Sadulpur (58 km) and Churu-Ratangarh (46 km) rail doubling projects, built at a cost of around 900 crore, strengthening rail connectivity across 104 km in north-west Rajasthan.

In the road sector, he inaugurated the four-laning of the NH-125A Jodhpur Ring Road Section-2 (Karwar-Dangiyawas), developed at a cost of 740 crore.

The Prime Minister further dedicated SJVN Ltd's 1,000 MW Bikaner Solar Energy Project, built with an investment of about 5,500 crore, and NHPC's 300 MW Karnisar Bikaner Solar Energy Plant.

The SJVN project uses 24.22 lakh domestically manufactured solar modules, while the NHPC plant has been developed using around 7.75 lakh domestically manufactured solar photovoltaic cells and modules, supporting the government's push for indigenous renewable energy manufacturing.

As part of renewable energy infrastructure, Modi inaugurated a power transmission line built at a cost of over 1,900 crore for evacuating electricity from the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). He also laid the foundation stone for a 530-km power transmission system that will facilitate renewable power evacuation and strengthen electricity supply across the state.

Earlier, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Pachpadra project marks India's first greenfield refinery in a decade, calling it a major milestone in the country's energy infrastructure development.

Headline	Modi's ethanol push comes under pressure as motorists protest		
Publication	The Hindu Business Line	Edition	Online Coverage
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Modi's ethanol push comes under pressure as motorists protest

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/modis-ethanol-push-comes-under-pressure-as-motorists-protest/article71185213.ece>

India met its target of blending 20% ethanol into gasoline five years ahead of schedule in 2025 and is evaluating a further increase in the mandate Indian motorists will gather in New Delhi on Sunday, in the first major protest against a flagship biofuel program intended to reduce crude imports and support farm incomes. The government's accelerated shift to gasoline with a higher percentage of ethanol a signature self-reliance policy for Prime Minister Narendra Modi has angered drivers, whose complaints include weaker fuel efficiency, higher maintenance costs and engine corrosion. The government and automakers have been on the defensive after weeks of complaints on social media. Authorities sought to contain the controversy by convening a media briefing with auto industry executives on Saturday. Carmakers dismissed the complaints as unfounded. We are very confident that we haven't seen any glaring issues on social media that warrant a rethink of the government's biofuel blending program, said Puneet Anand, associate vice president at Hyundai Motor India. Speaking separately in Rajasthan, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri blamed vested interests of spreading misinformation.

The backlash comes as Modi seeks to expand one of his signature energy initiatives. India met its target of blending 20 per cent ethanol into gasoline five years ahead of schedule in 2025 and is evaluating a further increase in the mandate.

Last month, state refiners also began selling gasoline blended with 85 per cent ethanol for flex-fuel vehicles.

Automakers said E20 had undergone extensive testing before its nationwide rollout. Vehicles designed for E20 have been on sale since 2025, while the fuel is also compatible with older E10-certified vehicles, according to Rahul Bharti, executive director at Maruti Suzuki India. Although fuel economy may decline modestly, the tradeoff is offset by the fuel's broader economic and environmental benefits, he said.

Manufacturers also pushed back against specific claims circulating online. Vikram Gulati, country head at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said a widely shared case involving a Toyota Innova Hycross allegedly damaged by E20 was traced to contaminated fuel rather than ethanol blending. He also rejected claims that ethanol attracts ants, saying gasoline's odor repels insects.

For consumers, however, the biofuel debate comes as vehicle ownership costs continue to climb. Gasoline prices remain near four-year highs following geopolitical disruptions, while insurance premiums, toll charges, poor road conditions and monsoon-related damage have added to motorists' expenses, making concerns over fuel efficiency and maintenance more politically sensitive.

India's gasoline demand has been expanding faster than diesel consumption, rising an average 8.8 per cent annually over the past five financial years compared with 5.5 per cent for diesel, according to government data.

Gasoline accounts for about 18 per cent of refined fuel sales, making the success of the ethanol program increasingly important to the government's energy strategy.

The South Asian nation is among several major emerging economies expanding biofuel use, a campaign that has accelerated in the aftermath of the Iran war.

Indonesia is fast-tracking plans to increase biodiesel blending to 50 per cent using palm oil. And debate over biofuel mandates is intensifying in the US, where some conservative groups are urging lawmakers to roll back blending requirements, arguing they increase costs for consumers.

Puri said Saturday that any move to raise ethanol blending to 25 per cent from 20 per cent would be undertaken only after rigorous testing and consultations with stakeholders. He added that India's strategy to diversify transport fuels would rely on multiple technologies, including biofuels, batteries and compressed natural gas.

Headline	PM Modi unveils NHPC's 300 MW solar plant in Rajasthan		
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PM Modi unveils NHPC's 300 MW solar plant in Rajasthan

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/pm-modi-unveils-nhpcs-300-mw-solar-plant-in-rajasthan>

NHPC's 300 MW Karnisar solar power plant at Bikaner, Rajasthan, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through virtual mode on Saturday.

The project marks a significant addition to India's renewable energy capacity and underscores the nation's commitment to clean energy.

The virtual inauguration was held in the presence of Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, and Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister emphasised that renewable energy is the cornerstone of India's energy security and sustainable future. He 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.

Bhupender Gupta, CMD, NHPC, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Power, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and the Rajasthan government for their continued guidance in the successful execution of the project. He reaffirmed NHPC's commitment to contributing towards India's green energy goals.

Aligned with the vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, the mega project was developed using approximately 7.75 lakh domestically manufactured solar PV cells and modules.

The solar power plant is expected to generate around 75 crore units of clean electricity annually. It will significantly bolster the nation's renewable energy basket while helping offset nearly 6.4 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year.

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

Headline	Centre Lifts Gas Supply Curbs As LNG Flow From Middle East Resumes		
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Centre Lifts Gas Supply Curbs As LNG Flow From Middle East Resumes

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/centre-lifts-gas-supply-curbs-as-lng-flow-from-middle-east-resumes-article-154945004>

Centre withdrew gas supply curbs after LNG shipments, easing earlier emergency measures imposed in March to prioritise key sectors amid Strait of Hormuz disruption.

The Indian government has withdrawn an order imposing curbs on gas suppliers as supply of liquefied natural gas has resumed from the Middle East, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in a notification issued on Saturday. India in March invoked emergency measures to divert gas supplies from non-priority sectors to key users after the disruption of LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

Earlier this month, India lowered windfall taxes on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel, while raising the duty on petrol exports. The duty on diesel exports has been cut to 8.5 rupees per litre from 14 rupees, while the aviation turbine fuel duty has been set at 7.5 rupees/litre, down from 12.5 rupees. The export duty on petrol has been increased to 4 rupees per litre from 1.5 rupees to ensure domestic supply.

Notably, the ministry said that there is no change in the current excise duty rates on petrol and diesel meant for domestic consumption, ensuring that local retail prices remain unaffected.

Also, the central government has lifted restrictions on the sale of petrol and diesel from July 1. The government had imposed the restrictions earlier this month amid disruptions to global supply chains due to the US-Iran war.

According to Union Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, the Oil marketing companies have incurred losses of Rs 74,781 crore after selling petrol, diesel and LPG below cost for the period up to June 30 when global crude oil prices spiked in the wake of the West Asia conflict.

Puri explained that while international oil prices have eased in recent weeks, companies are still processing crude that was purchased at elevated rates during the peak of the West Asia crisis.

Oil companies typically buy crude oil -- the raw material for producing fuel -- at least two months in advance. So, crude oil that is being processed now is essentially what was bought in April or early May when international prices were very high.