



ONGC News as on 08 September 2026 (Print & Online)

India Inc's intent to raise foreign funds hit \$7.7 bn in Jul

AATHIRA VARIER
Mumbai, 7 September

Indian companies, including non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), filed proposals with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to raise \$7.696 billion in external commercial borrowings (ECBs) and foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs) in July 2026, up from \$6.09 billion in June.

Of the total, \$6.91 billion worth of proposals were under the automatic route, while \$780 million was approved under the special route.

Among prominent firms that filed their intent in July was Flipkart Internet Pvt Ltd, which plans to raise \$712 million from a foreign equity holder for three years. RRP Electronics Ltd plans to raise \$650 million from a non-resident financial institution for five years to import capital goods. ONGC Videsh plans to raise \$325 million through a financial institution in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) for overseas investment for five years. Continuum Green Energy plans to raise \$455.53 million from a financial institution in IFSC for five years to refinance rupee loans.

Avaada Ventures plans to raise \$350 million from a financial institution in IFSC for four years to refinance rupee loans, while Nuclear Power Corporation of India is looking to raise \$100 million from a financial institution in IFSC for five years and two months for a new project. Tata Capital is looking to raise \$500 million from international capital markets for three years and six months to refinance rupee loans.

Among NBFCs, HUDCO plans to raise \$500 million and \$228.5 million to refinance rupee loans.

India's Energy Shield Holds Firm

Energy resilience helped India sustain growth despite severe global supply disruptions

RESILIENT INDIA



TUHIN A SINHA & DIBYENDU DEEPAK

T SINHA IS A NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON OF THE BJP, AND D DEEPAK IS A SEASONED ENERGY PROFESSIONAL



Energy security did not create growth, but it protected it

India's spectacular 7.8 per cent real GDP growth in Q1 FY27 deserves to be viewed against the extraordinary circumstances in which it was achieved. The quarter was marked by a severe West Asian conflict, disruption around the Strait of Hormuz, volatile crude prices and fears of an energy supply shock cascading across economies. Yet factories ran, trucks moved, airlines flew, restaurants and hotels remained open and households continued to receive fuel. Energy security was not the sole reason for India's growth, but it was a critical shock absorber that prevented an external geopolitical crisis from becoming an internal economic crisis.

Concerted acquisition diversification as a strategy

India imports nearly 90 per cent of its crude requirement, with roughly 45 per cent of imports transiting Hormuz before the crisis. Yet within days of the disruption, India substantially altered its sourcing map. By March 2026, around 70 per cent of crude imports were arriving

through routes outside Hormuz, against about 55 per cent earlier. India was sourcing crude from 40 countries, compared with 27 in 2006-07. Russian purchases rose sharply as Middle Eastern supplies declined, while additional cargoes were secured from the UAE, Venezuela and other producers. By May, crude imports had rebounded to 5.27 million barrels per day, while some Indian refineries were operating above 100 per cent of nominal capacity.

This was not crisis management improvised in March, but the payoff from a decade-long strategy of widening sourcing across Russia, Africa, Latin America, the United States and other producers, alongside developing refining capabilities for diverse crude grades. For an import-dependent economy, energy security does not necessarily mean eliminating imports; it means ensuring that no geography, supplier or shipping route can hold the economy hostage.

The LPG test

The second test was closer to home. India imports about 60

NO GEOGRAPHY, SUPPLIER OR SHIPPING ROUTE SHOULD HOLD THE ECONOMY HOSTAGE

per cent of its LPG consumption, with approximately 90 per cent of those imports normally arriving through Hormuz. On March 8, the government directed refineries and petrochemical complexes to maximise LPG production by diverting propane, butane, propylene and butenes into the LPG pool. Domestic production subsequently increased by 25-28 per cent, while cargoes were secured from the United States, Norway, Canada, Algeria and Russia.

Protecting supplies mattered beyond household kitchens. Commercial LPG supports restaurants, hotels, dhabas, canteens and food processors, meaning

shortages could quickly have translated into higher food costs, closures and employment disruption. Commercial supplies were therefore prioritised even as the transition towards piped natural gas (PNG) was accelerated.

Turning crisis into reform

Under the Natural Gas Control Order issued in March, domestic PNG and CNG for transport received 100 per cent supply protection, while alternative LNG procurement was activated. City-gas companies were asked to prioritise PNG connections for hotels, restaurants and canteens. By May 21, about 7.64 lakh PNG connections had been gasified since March, with infrastructure created for another 2.81 lakh. India did not merely seek to survive the shock; it used the crisis to accelerate a more resilient energy architecture.

Strategic storage is the next layer. India is moving towards an integrated "Strategic Fuel System", with a proposed \$42-billion decade-long programme to add 28 million tonnes of crude, 9 MT of LNG and 4 MT of LPG storage. Expanding reserves at

home and through international partnerships would provide another buffer against geopolitical disruptions.

The next frontier: Atmanirbharta

Resilience, however, cannot be the final objective. India must reduce its underlying import vulnerability, making Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on energy Atmanirbharta strategically important. ONGC and Oil India are undertaking ultra-deepwater exploration in the Andaman basin, with drilling targeting depths of up to 5,000 metres. A recent well yielded traces of light crude and condensate and evidence of an active petroleum system, although commercial accumulations have not yet been established. The Andaman story must therefore be approached with optimism, but without prematurely declaring an oil bonanza.

The 7.8 per cent GDP figure consequently represents more than headline growth. Consumption remained robust, manufacturing expanded, services stayed buoyant and investment strengthened while the global energy system was under extraordinary stress. Energy security did not create all these growth drivers. But it protected them.

Diversified imports, high refinery utilisation, stronger domestic LPG production, strategic reserves, greater gas penetration and deeper exploration are components of the same architecture. The Hormuz crisis demonstrated that India could absorb an extraordinary external shock without surrendering its growth momentum. The challenge now is to move from resilience towards greater self-reliance. If diversified sourcing can be combined with domestic exploration, deeper reserves and new discoveries, energy security can become not merely a shield against crises but an enabler of India's economic rise.

Views expressed are personal

ONGC chairman selection: 7 candidates in second round

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Seven candidates shortlisted for the top job at State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) are likely to appear before a search-cum-selection committee this week, as the Government moves ahead with choosing a successor to Chairman and Managing Director Arun Kumar Singh, people familiar with the selection process said.

The second round of interviews comes after 18 applicants were screened on August 18, with the field subsequently narrowed to seven.

The selection process has drawn attention over a one-off relaxation in the age eligibility criterion, allowing candidates up to 59 years of age — a departure from the existing 58-year limit and the recent relaxation to 60 years in the case of State-run power producer NTPC, as well as ONGC, in 2022.

Oil India Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Ranjit Rath, who is seen as a



frontrunner, is among those shortlisted. Rath, 54, is making a second attempt at the ONGC top job after being shortlisted last year, when the Government opted instead to extend Singh's tenure.

The other shortlisted candidates include ONGC Videsh Ltd Managing Director Rajarshi Gupta, 59; ONGC Director for Technology and Field Services Vikram Saxena; ONGC Director for Strategy and Corporate Affairs Satyam Kumar; OVL Director for Operations Dulal Halder; MRPL Director (Finance) Devendra Kumar and Indian

Oil Corporation Director (Marketing) SP Shrivastava, according to people familiar with the process.

The Government earlier relaxed the age criterion for the ONGC appointment, allowing applications from candidates who had not attained 59 years on the date of occurrence of the vacancy — December 7, 2026, when Singh's extended tenure ends.

Under the existing norms, the upper age limit is generally 58 years for internal candidates and 57 years for external candidates, while the superannuation age for public-sector executives is 60.

Gupta's shortlisting has raised questions because he will be about 59 years and five months old on December 7, making him ineligible under a literal reading of the 59-year condition in the advertisement. Candidates who chose not to apply because they would cross the age limit by the date of vacancy could challenge the selection process if Gupta is ultimately appointed, the people said.

INDIAN CRUDE BASKET ABOVE \$100

OMCs' marketing margins come under fresh pressure

● Petrol margin slips to minus ₹4.2/litre, diesel loss near ₹25

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, September 7

STATE-RUN OIL MARKETING companies (OMCs) are facing renewed pressure on fuel sales, with petrol marketing margin deteriorating to minus ₹4.2 a litre from minus ₹2 a week earlier and diesel remaining deeply negative at ₹24.9 a litre, as the Indian crude basket crossed the \$100-a-barrel mark amid fresh tensions in West Asia.

The Indian crude basket stood at \$101.07 a barrel on September 4, while the September average has climbed to \$99.38 a barrel. Crude prices strengthened further on Monday, with Brent futures rising \$1.19, or 1.2%, to \$97.47 a barrel by 1214 GMT, after touching \$97.93, the highest level since July 24.

According to Equirus Securities' weekly oil and gas tracker, petrol marketing margin worsened to minus ₹4.2 a litre from minus ₹2 a week earlier, while diesel was almost unchanged at minus ₹24.9 a litre compared with minus ₹24.8. Month-to-

FUEL SQUEEZE

■ Indian crude basket crossed **\$100 a barrel**, averaging **\$99.38** in September as West Asia tensions escalate

■ Petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged since May 25 despite rising crude and logistics costs

■ Strong product cracks are offsetting retail losses, keeping integrated refining-and-marketing margins positive

■ IndianOil, BPCL and HPCL together posted **₹18,149 cr** in June-quarter net losses amid supply disruptions and higher costs

■ Hormuz threats, elevated freight and insurance costs could further squeeze fuel marketing margins and deepen LPG under-recoveries

date margins stood at minus ₹3.2 a litre for petrol and minus ₹26.5 for diesel.

The latest squeeze comes even though petrol and diesel pump prices have remained unchanged since the last round of retail price increases on May 25. State-run retailers had raised prices four times between May 15 and May 25, cumulatively by around 77.5 a litre, taking petrol in Delhi to ₹102.12 a litre and diesel to ₹95.20 a litre.

The last retail price revisions came during a period of substantially higher crude costs, with the Indian crude basket averaging \$106.23 a barrel in May. The basket's September average of \$99.38 remains below that level. Marketing margins, however, are

also influenced by international petrol and diesel prices, freight and insurance costs and the rupee.

Prashant Vasishth, senior vice-president and co-group head, corporate ratings, ICRA, said the renewed Iran-US hostilities pose a challenge to crude supplies moving through the Strait of Hormuz, while Iran's threat to establish a restricted maritime zone beyond Hormuz could put additional energy flows at risk. He said the rise in crude prices could further pressure auto-fuel marketing margins and increase domestic LPG under-recoveries. The upward pressure on crude has been visible over the past week. Brent averaged \$96.3 a barrel in the week ended September 4, up 2.8% week-on-week, while the Indian crude

basket rose faster by 3.8% to \$99.4. Oman crude increased 4.7% to \$102.7 a barrel, while Dubai rose 1.2% to \$86.6.

Strong refining margins, however, continue to offset part of the retail loss. Gasoline crack rose 2.2% week-on-week to \$27.2 a barrel, around 45% above its one-year average. Gasoil crack eased 1.4% to \$72.6 a barrel, but remained around 82% above the one-year average. Jet kerosene crack rose 0.5% to \$71.9 a barrel.

As a result, integrated refining-and-marketing margins remained positive despite losses on retail fuel sales. Assuming a 1:1 refining-to-marketing ratio, petrol integrated margin fell 13.6% week-on-week to ₹12 a litre, while diesel declined 5% to ₹18.2 a litre.

LPG refill booking gap cut to 25 days

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, September 7

THE GOVERNMENT ON Monday cut the minimum LPG refill booking interval for rural households to 25 days from 45 days, bringing it on a par with urban consumers, as cooking gas supplies improved and refill backlogs declined significantly after months of disruptions triggered by the West Asia conflict. The Petroleum Ministry has directed state-run oil marketing companies Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation to implement the revised 25-day interval with immediate effect.

The earlier differentiated booking cycle was introduced as

a temporary demand-management measure when the conflict strained LPG availability.

Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said supply pressures following the outbreak of the West Asia conflict had prompted the govern-

ment to prescribe a 25-day refill interval in urban areas and 45 days in rural areas.

"However, in view of the current LPG supply situation improving and the significant reduction in refill backlog, the central government has relaxed this restriction. Now, all domestic LPG consumers, regardless of urban or rural, can book refills at an interval of 25 days," Gopi said in a Facebook post.





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25-day LPG refill interval now uniform nationwide

Supplies have improved and refill backlogs have fallen considerably

MPOST BUREAU

New Delhi, September 7

The government has reduced the LPG refill booking gap for rural consumers from 45 days to 25 days, bringing it in line with the rule for urban households, Union Minister Suresh Gopi said on Monday. The Petroleum Ministry, in a September 7 letter to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), directed the oil marketing companies (OMCs) to implement the

revised interval with immediate effect. Gopi, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Tourism, said the earlier 25-day urban and 45-day rural limits had been introduced in March as a temporary demand-management measure amid LPG supply pressures linked to the Middle East conflict. The ministry said supplies have since improved and refill backlogs have fallen considerably. "Now, all domestic LPG consumers, regardless of urban or rural, can book refills at an interval of 25 days," Gopi said in a Facebook post.



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Date :8 September 2026	Page : 7

BCCI Ropes in 3 Associate Sponsors for India Matches

Javed Farooqui

Mumbai: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has roped in Reliance Consumer Products' soft drink brand Campa Cola, life insurer SBI Life and AI chatbot ChatGPT as associate partners for bilateral matches played in India. The deal, covering 35 matches, will run till March 2028, while the board continues to look for a title sponsor after the earlier deal ended in August 2026.

As per people familiar with the development, Campa Cola emerged as the highest bidder at ₹1.31 crore per match,

followed by ChatGPT and SBI Life at ₹1.2 crore each. Campa Cola beat competition from Bisleri and Indian Oil Corporation, both of which bid ₹1.2 crore per match.

In July, the BCCI invited bids for title sponsorship and associate partner rights for its events, including Team India's international matches and domestic tournaments such as the Ranji Trophy. While the deadline for title sponsorship bids was August 13, the deadline for associate partner quotations was August 25. The board subsequently extended the latter to September 7 as it had not finalised a title sponsor.



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LPG booking interval for rural users cut to 25 days

Saptaparno Ghosh

NEW DELHI

The Union Petroleum Ministry on Monday reduced the interval between bookings of domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders for rural consumers to 25 days, months after it had been increased to 45 days during the peak of the West Asia conflict.

This brings the interval between bookings for rural consumers on a par with urban consumers, for whom the period remains unchanged at 25 days.

In a letter to oil marketing companies, it cited "considerable reduction" in refill backlogs in the current supply situation among the reasons that prompted the move. LPG distributors' associations welcomed the move and said it will benefit them.

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LPG booking interval at 25 days for rural users

At the peak of the conflict in West Asia in March 2026, the government had expanded the booking interval for domestic LPG cylinders from 21 days to 25 days for urban consumers and 45 days for rural consumers.

Prior to the conflict, India met 60% of its overall LPG requirements through imports. Of these imports, 90% were routed via the Strait of Hormuz, which faced a blockade as a result of the conflict.

Indian oil marketing companies then began increasingly importing LPG from the United States, which now forms nearly two-thirds of India's LPG import basket.

The government's subsequent push for piped natural gas (PNG), among other factors, led to India's consumption of LPG declining by 17.4% in June compared to the same month last year, and 16.2% in August compared to the same period last year.

Distributors hail move

Speaking to *The Hindu*, LPG distributors' associations welcomed the move.

Chandra Prakash, president of the All-India LPG Distributors Federation, said certain distributors categorised as rural were actually located in areas that had later developed into full-fledged urban centres, such as Noida in Uttar Pradesh and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra. The Petroleum Ministry's move will benefit such distributors, he said.

Mr. Prakash assured that distributors would be able to meet the demand arising from the revision in the booking interval. "There will not be a massive surge in demand with the move. India's oil marketing companies have diversified their procurement, and we have augmented our domestic production as well. We do not foresee any shortage even in the upcoming festival season," Mr. Prakash said.

Pawan Soni, general secretary of the Federation of LPG Distributors of India, also said the Ministry's move would benefit distributors that come under the rural categorisation.

Publication : The Morning Standard	Editions : New Delhi
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LPG refill booking gap cut to 25 days

The Centre has directed oil marketing companies to revise refill booking interval for all domestic consumers of cooking gas

MOVE FOLLOWS DIP IN REFILL

The earlier interval for refill booking for rural consumers was 45 days. Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said on Monday that the decision follows an improvement in LPG supply situation and a reduction in refill backlog

GULF WAR EFFECT ON LPG SUPPLY

Owing to the West Asia crisis, LPG was the worst-hit fuel, as India imports 60% of its domestic requirement, with 90% of those from the Gulf | **P10**

Recently, India significantly diversified its LPG imports, with the United States emerging as the country's largest supplier



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Petroleum ministry asks OMCs to reduce LPG refill booking gap to 25 days

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

PETROLEUM ministry has directed oil marketing companies (OMCs) to revise the inter-refill booking interval for domestic LPG cylinders from 45 days to 25 days.

The move will allow consumers across urban and rural areas to book a refill after a uniform gap of 25 days. In February 2026, following the outbreak of the West Asia conflict, the Min-

istry had prescribed different booking intervals for LPG consumers as a temporary measure to manage demand. Under the arrangement, consumers in urban areas could book a refill after 25 days, while those in rural areas had to wait 45 days.

The decision comes as the government assesses the LPG supply situation to have improved considerably, with refill backlogs declining from the levels seen when the temporary



demand-management measures were introduced earlier this year. Now, citing the im-

proved supply position and a "considerable reduction" in refill backlogs, the Ministry has

decided to rationalise the existing booking intervals.

Oil marketing companies — Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) — have been advised to implement the revised interval with immediate effect across urban and rural areas.

During the West Asia crisis, cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz — one of the

world's most critical energy chokepoints — was severely disrupted. The waterway handles nearly 40% of India's crude oil imports, 60% of its LNG imports and about 90% of its LPG imports. LPG was the worst-hit fuel as India imports nearly 60% of its domestic requirement, with around 90% of those imports traditionally sourced from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait through the Strait of Hormuz.

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GAIL, Petronet LNG host MC Plus Hyderabad Connect

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
Hyderabad

GAIL (India) Limited, India's integrated energy major, Petronet LNG Limited, and MC² Foundation, in association with IITC Incubator of IIT Hyderabad, organised 'MC² Plus IGNITE Hyderabad Connect' at IIT Hyderabad. Anil K Khandelwal, former CMD, Bank of Baroda, delivered the keynote address.

The event was graced by Deepak Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, GAIL (India) Limited, Akshay Kumar Singh, MD & CEO, Petronet LNG Limited, Professor BS Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad and Ayush Gupta, Director (HR), GAIL.

Speaking on the occasion, keynote speaker Anil K Khandelwal said that innovation dies quietly in fearful organisations. True transformation is never driven by a single initiative; it is built through a culture of customer-centricity, technology, experimentation and continuous learning.

Addressing the gathering at the MC² IGNITE event, Deepak Gupta, CMD, GAIL, said that India is at a "remarkable inflexion point", with rapidly growing energy



requirements alongside its ambition to become a developed economy, ensure affordable and reliable energy, build globally competitive industries and meet its climate commitments.

Speaking on the occasion, Akshay Kumar Singh, MD & CEO, Petronet LNG Limited, said, "MC²+ Ignite in connecting India's energy indus-

try with the startup and innovation ecosystem, with a focus on leveraging digital technologies such as AI, advanced sensors, robotics and digital twins to make LNG infrastructure smarter, safer, more reliable and efficient."

Speaking in the program, Professor BS Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad shared, "IIT Hyderabad has always placed

innovation at the forefront of its academic and research ecosystem, with a strong focus on translating ideas into solutions that create meaningful impact for society and the nation."

Addressing students and start-ups, Ayush Gupta, Director (HR), GAIL, said, "MC²+ Ignite would not only fund innovative ideas but would empower innovators to shape India's energy future."

The event also featured an engaging panel discussion on innovation and the startup ecosystem, moderated by Murali Talasila, Ground Game Health, with participation from Vaibhav Kaushik, Nawgati, G Prasad Babu, GCRS, Miles Dongre, EyeROV, Varun Kumar, Detect Technologies, Bhuvanesh Kumar Sharma, VDT Pipeline Integrity Solutions Pvt Ltd and Vishwas Chandra Khan, Vasitars.

Speaking at the event, Sandeep Maheshwari, CEO, MC² Foundation, said that MC² Plus is India's flagship energy innovation accelerator, envisioned by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) in collaboration with leading energy-sector organisations.



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Rural LPG booking gap cut to 25 days

Easing curbs imposed amid West Asia conflict, govt has cut the time gap for booking LPG refills in rural areas to 25 days from 45 days, bringing it on a par with the interval for urban areas. **P8**



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Rural area LPG booking period reduced from 45 to 25 days

New Delhi: With improvement in LPG supplies and a fall in refill backlogs, govt Monday reduced the minimum time gap for booking LPG refills in rural areas to 25 days from 45 days, bringing it on a par with the interval for urban consumers, reports **Atul Mathur**.

Union minister of state for petroleum and natural gas Suresh Gopi said the restriction had been imposed amid pressure on LPG supplies following the outbreak of the conflict in West Asia, with the booking interval set at 25 days in urban areas and 45 days in rural areas.

"However, in view of the current LPG supply situation improving and the significant reduction in refill backlog, Centre has relaxed this restriction. Now, all domestic LPG consumers, regardless of urban or rural, can book refills at an interval of 25 days," Gopi said. Petroleum ministry has issued an order to oil marketing companies IOC, BPCL and HPCL, asking them to implement this with immediate effect.



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FRONT 1▶

Alternative fuels
zoom past petrol in
share of PV sales

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CNG, EVs STEAL THE SHOW

Alternative fuels zoom past petrol in share of PV sales

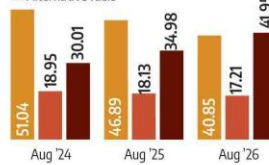
SHINE JACOB
Chennai, 7 September

For the first time in history, the penetration of petrol-powered cars was surpassed by alternative fuel vehicles in India in August. The share of alternative fuels — compressed natural gas (CNG), hybrid and electric combined — in the passenger vehicle (PV) market stood at 41.95 per cent against petrol's 40.85 per cent, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (Fada) on Monday.

Alternative fuel PV sales closed the 11.9 percentage

Racing ahead

Petrol/ethanol Diesel Alternative fuels*



Note: Alternative fuels denote combined share of CNG/LPG, hybrid and electric vehicles in PV sales
Source: Fada Research, BS calculations

point gap with petrol PV sales seen last August, which was narrower than the 21.03 percentage point gap seen August 2024. This comes at a time

when customers are raising concerns over the E20 (20 per cent ethanol and 80 per cent petrol blended) fuel.

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Alternative fuels zoom past petrol in share of PV sales

Automobile retail sales clocked the best-ever August sales this year, at 24,23,201 units, up 18 per cent from the year-ago period, driven by record August retail numbers in PVs, two wheelers (2W), three wheelers (3W), and commercial vehicles (CVs), the data showed.

"The defining development of the month, however, was a structural one: for the first time in India's history,

alternative fuels — CNG, hybrid and electric combined — overtook petrol in the PV market, at 41.95 per cent against petrol's 40.85 per cent. A little over a year ago petrol led this contest by nearly 11 percentage points; that lead has now been erased," said Sai Giridhar, president, Fada.

Dealers attribute the shift to running-cost economics and continuing consumer hesitation around the E20

CNG, EV drive demand

Share of PV sales by alternative fuel type, in %

Source: Fada research
BS calculations

	Aug '24	Aug '25	Aug '26
Combined share	30.01	34.98	41.95
▶ CNG/LPG	18.72	21.47	25.28
▶ Hybrid	9.17	8.13	9.04
▶ Electric vehicles (EVs)	2.12	5.38	7.63

transition, which is nudging petrol buyers towards CNG, hybrids and EVs. In August 2025, petrol's share was 46.89 per cent, while that of alternative fuels stood at 34.98 per cent, compared with 51.04 per cent and 30.01 per cent, respectively in August 2024.

The rise in alternative fuels PVs' share in sales is mainly driven by an improvement in CNG and EV segments. CNG's PV sales share increased from 18.72 per cent in August 2024 to 25.28 per cent in August 2026, while electric PV sales' share zoomed from 2.12 per cent to 7.63 per cent, during the same period. The share of hybrids in PV sales was down from 9.17 per cent in August 2024 to 9.04 per cent this year. Petrol's share of PV sales remains the largest by individual fuel type at 40.85 per cent.

The new peak in overall retail sales comes even as retails eased 6.48 per cent over a record July on the seasonal monsoon lull and a festival calendar that shifted Ganesh Chaturthi and the spillover of Onam-led buying into September.

Two-wheeler retail sales stood at 17,14,610 units, up 19.69 per cent year-on-year (Y-

o-Y). This marked the best-ever August sales for the segment as 2W recorded their first new August peak since 2018. This marks trend recovery after an eight-year gap, though this figure was 5.70 per cent lower on a sequential basis. Rural 2W sales (20.25 per cent Y-o-Y) once again edged out urban sales (19.07 per cent).

PV retail sales stood at 4,02,398 units in August, up 16.14 per cent Y-o-Y. This was the best-ever August sales figure with PVs crossing the 4-lakh mark for the first time in August. However, this figure was 3.40 per cent lower sequentially. The Bharat-led character was stark: Rural PV sales grew 24.99 per cent Y-o-Y while urban PV sales were at 10.93 per cent. "We would, however, read the headline with discipline: much of the Y-o-Y strength rests on a soft August 2025 base, when buyers had deferred purchases awaiting the GST 2.0 rate cut, and dealers report that the festive curtain raiser came in below their own expectations — the true test of the season lies in showroom conversion through September to November, not in Y-o-Y optics," Giridhar added.

US energy firms' facilities are 'exposed' to hits: Iran

Tehran hits Aramco facility, vows to retaliate if its oil sites are attacked

REUTERS
Dubai, 7 September

Iran threatened on Monday to retaliate against any new US attacks on its assets, warning that the energy production chain in the region was "sprawling, accessible and exposed" and that US oil and gas companies there shared that exposure.

"Strike our assets and you get struck," Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said after US and Iranian strikes on shipping at the weekend that pushed oil prices up to six-week highs at one point on Monday.

Financial Times, citing two sources, reported that The Jazan oil refinery, owned by the world's biggest oil company Saudi Aramco, was attacked on Monday and the damage is being ascertained.

On Sunday, senior Iranian security official Mohsen Rezaei said Iran would announce plans for a new restricted zone in the Gulf in the coming days, and that it would soon approve maps of a new shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has throttled traffic



US strikes on Iranian oil carriers on Saturday, as seen in a video released by the US military

PHOTO: REUTERS

through the strait, a vital global oil and gas supply route, since the war with the United States began with US and Israeli strikes on February 28.

Rezaei said the new restricted zone would begin from where a US naval blockade of Iran starts and extend into areas of the Gulf. Any ship entering the new zone would be added to an Iranian sanctions list, he said. "We will only commit to the Strait of Hormuz being open when they (the Americans) stop the sabotage, threats and at-

tacks on Iran," Rezaei said.

Qalibaf issued a new threat to respond to any US strikes, in what appeared to be a response to a warning by US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth that Iran's oil tanker fleet was defenceless. "It's simple: the oil and gas production chain here is sprawling, accessible, and exposed. American oil and gas companies across these waters and facilities share that exposure," Qalibaf, who is Iran's top negotiator, wrote on X.

"Strike our assets and you

get struck. We've already proven it. Ask the bases that are no longer viable," referring to Iranian attacks on US military bases in the region throughout the conflict.

US President Donald Trump has yet to achieve the aims he set out when he launched "Operation Epic Fury" in February: to end Iran's nuclear programme, halt its ability to attack its neighbours and create conditions for Iranians to topple their leadership. Tehran's clerical rulers remain in power and aim to emerge from the war stronger than before, demanding the lifting of sanctions and hoping to collect fees from ships that use the strait, which carried a fifth of global oil and gas shipments before the war.

After a pause in military action for much of August, tit-for-tat strikes have resumed following the unravelling of an interim ceasefire deal that was reached in June, and there has been little progress on getting the peace process back on track.

US forces struck three Iranian oil tankers on Saturday, US Central Command said, including one off Kharg Island.

TEHRAN SAYS NEW CORRIDOR WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN COMING DAYS

Iran to unveil new Gulf restricted zone

REUTERS
Dubai, September 7

IRAN SAID IT will announce a new restricted zone in the Gulf in the coming days, along with maps of a new shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz, as a weekend exchange of strikes on shipping sent oil prices higher on Monday.

The new restricted zone will begin from where the US blockade of Iran begins and extend into areas of the Gulf, Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said in an interview with state TV. Few details were provided on the plan, but Rezaei said any ship entering the new zone would be added to a sanctions list. In addition, maps detailing passage routes for the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy conduit largely closed to tanker traffic, would also be approved soon, Rezaei said.

"The maps of a new international corridor which lies in Iranian and Omani waters and in which Iran will have management have been agreed and should be signed in the coming days," he said. "We will only commit to the Strait of Hormuz

STRAIT STAKES RISE

- New Hormuz shipping corridor maps coming
- Iran to manage proposed international corridor
- Ships entering zone face sanctions
- Iran links Hormuz opening to US actions
- US strikes three Iranian oil tankers
- Tit-for-tat strikes resume after August pause
- Hormuz carries nearly one-fifth global oil



- Strait traffic hits lowest level since May
- Brent crude rises above \$97 a barrel
- US blockade squeezes Iran's oil exports
- Kharg Island reportedly hit 550 times

OIL, WAR JOLT MARKETS

Rising oil prices, West Asia conflict and political uncertainty in Europe kept investors on edge, while stocks drifted lower. Brent rose 1.3% to \$97.5, a seven-week high, ahead of inflation data

UAE BUILDS ROUTES FOR EXPORTS

UAE is building routes for energy exports and trade to avoid being held hostage by US-Iran war, presidential adviser Anwar Gargash said. Conflict has disrupted Gulf states following Iran's tankers attacks

DEAL WITH OMAN JUST DAYS AWAY

Iran said a Oman deal to manage shipping through the Hormuz is imminent, potentially tightening Tehran's control over the waterway. The agreement will include a safe route for energy shipments

OMAN RESCUES 16 FROM TANKER

Oman evacuated 16 crew members from the Saudi-owned tanker Sidr after it was attacked by Iran. The vessel was among two supertankers carrying Saudi oil reportedly hit while transiting Hormuz.

being open when they (the Americans) stop the sabotage, threats and attacks on Iran," Rezaei added.

Six months after US-Israeli strikes on Iran sparked the war, the conflict appears to be at a stalemate. A preliminary cease-

fire accord reached in June has unravelled, and little progress has been made in diplomatic efforts to get the peace process back on track.

After a pause in military action for much of August, tit-for-tat strikes have resumed. US

forces struck three Iranian oil tankers on Saturday, US Central Command said, including one off Kharg Island, Iran's key oil export hub, following attacks by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on US warships in the region.

Tehran has shown it retains the capability to attack US interests in neighbouring countries and to shut down oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of global oil supplies flowed prior to the conflict.



Publication : Hindustan Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 September 2026	Page : 1, 15

SAUDI ARAMCO OIL FACILITY ON RED SEA COAST HIT IN FRESH ATTACK

LONDON/RIYADH: The Jazan oil refinery, owned by the world's biggest oil company Saudi Aramco, was attacked on Monday and the damage is being ascertained, news agency Reuters said, quoting a Financial Times (FT) report, which cited two people with knowledge of the development. In August, Yemen's Houthis claimed to have targeted the refinery in Jazan on the Red Sea coast twice in a week. →P15

Saudi Aramco's oil facility on Red Sea coast hit in fresh strikes: Report

Reuters, Bloomberg & AFP

letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON/RIYADH: The Jazan oil refinery, owned by the world's biggest oil company Saudi Aramco, was attacked on Monday and the damage is being ascertained, Reuters reported quoting the Financial Times (FT) reported, citing two people with knowledge of the matter.

In August, Yemen's Houthis claimed to have targeted the refinery in Jazan on the Red Sea coast twice in a week. The group's forces fired two drones at the refinery and hit it, Houthi-controlled Saba news agency reported, citing an unidentified military source. One of the strikes temporarily knocked out some production in the refinery.

The attacks in southwest Saudi Arabia were carried out in response to the kingdom's "violation" of Yemen's airspace and sovereignty in Sa'dah and Hajjah, according to the report.

In July, the Houthis said they

would blockade Saudi Arabia's oil flows in response to a Saudi blockade of Yemeni territory.

Jazan is home to a 400,000-barrel-per-day oil refinery, which is among Saudi Arabia's largest, along with associated plants and other energy infrastructure. Aramco's chief executive Amin Nasser said last month that the attacks had

caused some interruptions to oil production but that this had no material operational or financial impact, FT reported.

On Monday, Iran-backed Houthis accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out airstrikes around the country, as the rebels press a deadly offensive to seize territory bordering the strategic Bab al-Mandab Strait.

Days of fighting near the Red Sea coast have left more than 300 people dead and displaced hundreds of families as the Houthis try to capture land bordering Bab al-Mandab Strait.

Oil prices near six-week high on US-Iran attacks

Oil prices were near six-week high on Monday, creeping closer to \$100 a barrel, as tit-for-tat strikes between the US and Iran on vessels sailing in the Strait of Hormuz and other areas kept crude oil flows in the Middle East low.

Brent crude futures rose \$1.03, or 1.1%, to settle at \$97.31 a barrel, after hitting their highest point since July 24 at \$98.06. US West Texas Intermediate crude also hovered near a recent six-week high at \$92.65 a barrel, up 1.3%.

Monday's gains come on top of Brent rising around 8% last week, while WTI was boosted nearly 10% after the US and Iran resumed attacks.

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Date :8 September 2026	Page : 2

Argentina ready to supply lithium, copper, oil & gas to India

Ramita Mishra
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NEW DELHI

Argentina is pitching itself as a reliable supplier of lithium, copper, and oil and gas to India as New Delhi seeks to diversify supplies of critical minerals and cut exposure to concentrated global supply chains.

Argentina, part of the "lithium triangle" with Bolivia and Chile, has emerged as a key destination for countries seeking supplies of the battery metal as China and other major economies race to secure resources needed for

electric vehicles and the energy transition.

"As India advances towards Viksit Bharat 2047, it will require secure, diversified and predictable sources of critical minerals and energy, and that is precisely what Argentina offers: lithium, copper, and growing volumes of oil and gas, from a reliable partner that is far away from any major geopolitical conflict," Argentina's ambassador to India Mariano Agustín Caucino said in an interview.

India's crude petroleum imports from Argentina rose nearly 92% to \$10 million in 2025-26, according to commerce ministry data.



Argentina's ambassador to India Mariano Agustín Caucino.

Argentina also sees an opportunity to reduce its dependence on China as a buyer of lithium, while India seeks to diversify its critical-mineral supply chains, which

are heavily exposed to Chinese processing and refining.

"Every country wants that. And you are doing the same here. You are trying not to be so dependent on certain countries. Every country tries to do that, to diversify its provisions and its exports," Caucino said.

The push for closer ties on lithium comes as India and Argentina broaden their economic relationship, which was elevated to strategic partnership seven years ago. Argentina set up embassy in India in 1950, among the first Latin American countries to do so.

The relationship is increasingly driven by economic

complementarities, with Argentina offering food, energy and mineral resources and India providing a large and growing market.

India was Argentina's fifth-largest trading partner in 2025-26, with bilateral trade rising 25% to \$5.96 billion in 2024-25, according to Indian government data.

India imported lithium oxides and hydroxides worth \$8.36 million from Argentina in 2025-26, up from \$1.1 million in 2024-25. India imported lithium worth \$46.91 million in 2025-26, up 31%.

"There are some Indian companies working there," he

said. "You have this program of developing the EV, the electric vehicles. And in order to develop that, you need batteries. And in order to get batteries, you need more lithium. And we have a huge reserve of lithium in the north of Argentina."

India has already begun establishing a foothold in Argentina's lithium industry. In 2024, state-owned Khanij Bidesh India Ltd signed an agreement with Catamarca Minera Y Energetica Sociedad del Estado, the mining and energy firm owned by Argentina's Catamarca province.

For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.

UKRAINE STRIKES RUSSIAN OIL FACILITIES, DRONE SITES: VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

AGENCIES
KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday said Ukrainian forces had struck Russian oil-processing facilities, a site used to store and launch attack drones and a target in the Black Sea in response to Russian strikes on Ukraine.

Zelenskyy, in a post on X, said that Ukrainian forces had struck an oil refinery in Russia's Ryazan region, while long-range capabilities were used against oil-processing facilities in the Perm region and Tatarstan.

He said, "Our warriors continue responding justly to Russian strikes on Ukraine. An oil refinery was hit in the Ryazan region. Our long-range capabilities were used against oil-processing facilities in the Perm region and Tatarstan and against a site used to store and launch attack drones



Ukraine launches strikes on Russia

in the Kursk region. A target was also hit in the Black Sea. I thank every one of our units for their precision!"

The Ukrainian claims

came as Russia continued strikes on Ukrainian port infrastructure and vessels, according to Russian state news agency TASS, citing

the Russian Defence Ministry.

TASS reported that Russian strike drones hit the Mavka dry cargo vessel, which was carrying military equipment, at the port of Chernomorsk on Sunday evening.

According to TASS, Russian forces on the morning of September 7 (Monday) also struck a production and loading complex at the port of Izmail that the Russian Defence Ministry claimed was being used to unload military cargo delivered to Ukraine by Western countries from vessels.

TASS further reported that a patrol boat used to escort vessels carrying military cargo was struck in the Black Sea.

The Russian Defence Ministry had earlier said on September 6 that its forces struck two logistics centres in Ukraine's Odesa region using Geran-4 seeker drones, TASS reported.

TASS also said Russian strike drones had hit a dry cargo vessel carrying military equipment supplied to Ukraine by Western countries in the Black Sea.

On Sunday, US special envoy Steve Witkoff and US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner held "substantive" discussions with Ukrainian officials in Kyiv and pushed for Kyiv and Moscow to resume talks, CNN reported.

The visit by the two key Trump aides was the first to Kyiv since the conflict broke out. While no major breakthroughs were announced after Sunday's talks, Witkoff said he was "confident that there'll be a good resolution here."

The talks followed rigorous meetings Witkoff and Kushner held with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Saturday, part of a renewed push by the US to bring an end to the Russia-Ukraine war.



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Date :8 September 2026	Page : 11

Iran set to announce new restricted zone in the Gulf

AGENCIES
DUBAI

Iran said it will announce a new restricted zone in the Gulf in the coming days, along with maps of a new shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz, as a weekend exchange of strikes on shipping sent oil prices higher on Monday.

The new restricted zone

will begin from where the U.S. blockade of Iran begins and extend into areas of the Gulf, Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Sunday in an interview with state TV.

Few details were provided on the plan, but Rezaei said any ship entering the new zone would be added to a sanctions list.

In addition, maps detailing passage routes for the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy conduit largely closed to tanker traffic, would also be approved soon, Rezaei said.

"The maps of a new international corridor which lies in Iranian and Omani waters and in which Iran will have management have been agreed and should be signed in the coming days," he said.

"We will only commit to the Strait of Hormuz being open when they (the Americans) stop the sabotage, threats and attacks on Iran," Rezaei added. Six months after U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran sparked the war, the conflict appears to be at a stalemate. A preliminary ceasefire accord reached in June has unravelled, and little progress has been made

in diplomatic efforts to get the peace process back on track. After a pause in military action for much of August, tit-for-tat strikes have resumed. U.S. forces struck three Iranian oil tankers on Saturday, U.S. Central Command said, including one off Kharg Island, Iran's key oil export hub, following attacks by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on

U.S. warships in the region.

Tehran has shown it retains the capability to attack U.S. interests in neighbouring countries and to shut down oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of global oil supplies flowed prior to the conflict. An average of 10 commodity ships transited the Strait per day in the past 10 days, the lowest

since May, according to shipping data on Monday. That helped oil prices extend last week's big gains, with Brent crude up 0.8% above \$97 a barrel.

Iran has said it will step up efforts to tackle problems created by U.S. sanctions that are crippling its economy.

However, the U.S. campaign to throttle Iran's

economy by blockading its oil exports and stopping sanctions evasion is growing increasingly difficult to withstand, three senior Iranian sources have said.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Sunday that the U.S. should understand that the rules of the game have changed "before it is too late".

U.S. energy facilities in Gulf remain exposed to retaliation, warns Iran

Tehran issues threat after latest clashes with the U.S.; new Hormuz passage maps to be approved soon, ships entering new restricted zone will be added to sanctions list, says Iran's security head; oil prices near six-week highs after attacks on ships

Reuters
DUBAI

Iran threatened on Monday to retaliate against any new U.S. attacks on its assets, warning that the energy production chain in the region was "sprawling, accessible and exposed" and that U.S. oil and gas companies there shared that exposure.

"Strike our assets and you get struck," Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said after U.S. and Iranian strikes on shipping at the weekend that pushed oil prices up to six-week highs at one point on Monday.

On Sunday, senior Ira-



Persian tides: People ride in a boat near vessels in the Gulf waters off the coast of Iran's port city of Bandar Abbas on Monday. AFP

nian security official Mohsen Rezaei said Iran would announce plans for a new restricted zone in the Gulf in the coming days, and that it would soon approve maps of a new shipping

corridor through the Strait of Hormuz.

Mr. Rezaei said the new restricted zone would begin from where a U.S. naval blockade of Iran starts and extend into areas of the

Gulf. Any ship entering the new zone would be added to an Iranian sanctions list, he said. "We will only commit to the Strait of Hormuz being open when they (the Americans) stop the sabotage, threats and attacks on Iran," Mr. Rezaei said.

Underlining Iran's defiance, Mr. Qalibaf issued a new threat to respond to any U.S. strikes, in what appeared to be a response to a warning by U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth that Iran's oil tanker fleet was "defenceless".

"It's simple: the oil and gas production chain here is sprawling, accessible, and exposed. American oil and gas companies across these waters and facilities

share that exposure," Mr. Qalibaf, who is Iran's top negotiator, wrote on X.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei on Monday warned South Korea against military deployment or involvement in U.S. operations in the Strait of Hormuz, saying such a move would have "serious consequences".

On Friday, Seoul said it was considering "contributions" to U.S. security efforts in the Strait of Hormuz. South Korea said it would consider the move provided that its own military readiness was not compromised, but added that no decision had been made.

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Iran expects Strait of Hormuz deal with Oman soon

Eltaf Najafizada

Iran said a deal with Oman to manage shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is just days away, a move likely to increase tension over the waterway due to the likelihood that the US will oppose any accord.

The agreement, which the two countries have been negotiating for weeks, is in the final stages and will include details on a temporary safe route through the crucial transit point for energy supplies, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei told reporters in Tehran.

Describing it as an "understanding," he said it would be documented with the International Maritime

Organization, a United Nations body responsible for shipping globally. "The talks have made very good progress," Baghaei said, adding that he hoped there would not be interference from third parties, which he didn't name.

Oil prices reversed gains on the news, on optimism an Iran-Oman accord will help get more tankers and other commercial vessels through the chokepoint safely. Brent crude traded roughly flat at \$96.38 a barrel in mid-morning London, having traded earlier in the day at \$97.93.

Iran and Oman have been in talks about a deal aimed at formalising control of the strait, which they both border, and are likely to look to charge service fees. The US, which is



THE DEAL. Aimed at formalising control of the strait VIA REUTERS

blockading Iranian ports to prevent oil exports from the Islamic Republic, wants the waterway to revert to its pre-war status of being free to use.

Iran effectively closed the strait after the US and Israel began strikes at the

end of February. All talks aimed at resolving the conflict have so far failed, producing an uneasy stalemate featuring occasional rounds of tit-for-tat strikes.

Iran said at the weekend it hit three US-linked ships taking an unauthorized route through the strait in retaliation for American attacks on Iranian tankers. The US military earlier said it struck three Iranian crude tankers, one of which was destroyed, in response to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps targeting two US Navy warships with ballistic missiles.

The war, now into its seventh month, has pushed up oil, fuel and natural gas prices and threatened to stoke global inflation. BLOOMBERG

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
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**Crude oil holds six-week
highs on US-Iran attacks**



London: Crude oil prices were near six-week highs on Monday, creeping closer to \$100 a barrel, as tit-for-tat strikes between the US and Iran on vessels sailing in the Strait of Hormuz kept crude oil flows in West Asia low. Brent crude futures were up 89 cents, or 0.92 per cent, at \$97.17 a barrel by 1333 GMT, having earlier hit their highest point since July 24 at \$97.93. US West Texas Intermediate crude also hovered near a six-week high at \$92.27 a barrel, up 79 cents.

REUTERS



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Date :8 September 2026	Page : 14

Saudi Aramco's Jazan oil facilities attacked: Report

Riyadh: The Jazan oil refinery, owned by the world's biggest oil company Saudi Aramco, was attacked on Monday and the damage is being ascertained, the *Financial Times* reported, citing two people with knowledge of the matter.

Reuters was not able to verify the report. **REUTERS**

TEHRAN: WILL ANNOUNCE NEW RESTRICTED ZONE IN GULF IN COMING DAYS

Iran vows retaliation, says US energy sites 'exposed'

Oil prices shoot;
Strike us & you get
struck: Ghalibaf

Reuters
Dubai, September 7

IRAN THREATENED Monday to retaliate against any new US attacks on its assets, warning that energy infrastructure across Gulf, including American oil and gas interests, was vulnerable.

"Strike our assets and you get struck," Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said after US and Iranian strikes on shipping at the weekend that pushed oil prices up near six-week highs Monday.

On Sunday, senior Iranian security official Mohsen Rezaei said Tehran would soon announce a new restricted zone in the Gulf and unveil a new shipping corridor through the strait.

Rezaei said the zone would begin where a US naval blockade of Iran starts and extend into parts of the Gulf. Any vessel entering the area would be placed on an Iranian sanctions list.

"We will only commit to the Strait being open when they (the US) stop the sabotage, threats and attacks on Iran," Rezaei said.



A boy stands with his bicycle on a beach overlooking commercial ships anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas on Monday. REUTERS

Ghalibaf later reinforced Tehran's warning in what appeared to be a response to US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, who had described Iran's oil tanker fleet as "defenceless".

"It's simple: The oil and gas production chain here is sprawling, accessible and exposed. American oil and gas companies across these waters and facilities share that exposure," Ghalibaf wrote on X.

LEBANON BOMBARDMENT

Regional tensions were heightened by Israeli strikes on a town in southern Lebanon that killed at least 12 people on Mon-

day, according to Lebanon's health ministry, marking one of the deadliest days of bombardment in recent weeks.

The attacks have fuelled fears of a renewed Israeli military campaign despite a June ceasefire with the Iran-backed Hezbollah group. They also complicate efforts to end the wider conflict, with Tehran insisting that any lasting agreement with Washington must include an end to Israeli attacks in Lebanon.

TANKER ATTACKS

On Saturday, US forces struck three Iranian oil tankers, including one near Kharg Island, Iran's main oil export hub, ac-

cording to US Central Command. The attacks followed strikes by Iran's Revolutionary Guards on US warships operating in the region.

Shipping data showed an average of just 10 commodity vessels per day transited the strait over the past 10 days, the lowest level since May.

Iran has said it will step up efforts to tackle problems created by US sanctions that are crippling its economy. Yet the pressure is mounting. Three senior Iranian sources told Reuters that Washington's campaign to choke off Iranian oil exports and curb sanctions evasion is becoming increasingly difficult for Tehran to withstand.

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
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Iran plans 'restricted' maritime zone beyond Strait of Hormuz: Top security official



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Tehran, 7 September

With the Strait of Hormuz becoming the flashpoint between Tehran and Washington, Iran is mulling over declaring a new "restricted zone" beyond the strategic waterway in the coming days, with vessels entering the area without coordination with Tehran facing Iranian sanctions, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said.

In a televised interview, Major General Mohsen Rezaei said the new zone "will begin from the US Navy's blockade line and extend into parts of the Persian Gulf," covering the stretch leading towards loading ports.

He asserted that ships approaching the Strait of Hormuz from either side and entering the designated area without coordination would face sanctions with possible consequences for their insurance and future passage.

Rezaei also said the Strait

of Hormuz was "completely closed and under the control of the armed forces," rejecting US President Donald Trump's assertion that the strategic waterway remained open as a "big lie."

Before Iran closed the strait, more than 100 ships carrying over 100 million tonnes of cargo passed through it daily, Rezaei said. Now, only seven to eight vessels carrying essential goods for Iran were transiting the waterway, according to him.

"The Americans are trying to smuggle five to six vessels through at great expense, but these ships are usually struck," Rezaei said. He added that Iran had not decided to sink the vessels it described as smuggling ships because they were carrying oil and their sinking could cause environmental damage in the region. Rezaei said a memorandum on a new corridor in the Strait of Hormuz would be signed in the coming days, with entry and exit to be fully managed by Iran.

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Iran to announce new restricted zone in Gulf in the coming days

Dubai: Iran said it will announce a new restricted zone in the Gulf in the coming days, along with maps of a new shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz, as a weekend exchange of strikes on shipping sent oil prices higher on Monday. The new restricted zone will begin from where the US blockade of Iran begins and extend into areas of the Gulf, Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Sunday in an interview with state TV.

Few details were provided on the plan, but Rezaei said any ship entering the new zone would be added to a sanctions list.

In addition, maps detailing passage routes for the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy conduit largely closed to tanker traffic, would also be approved soon, Rezaei said. "The maps of a new international corridor which lies in Iranian and Omani waters and in which Iran will have management have been agreed and should be signed in the coming days," he said.

"We will only commit to the Strait of Hormuz being open when they (the Americans) stop the sabotage, threats and attacks on Iran," Rezaei added.

Iran govt to raise fuel price for heavy users: Iran will raise the price of gasoline for users surpassing 110 litres per month starting Tuesday, a govt spokesperson said Sunday.

The price of the first and second quotas, which include 110 litres, will remain unchanged, but the price of the third quota will be raised to 100,000 Iranian rials per litre (around 4 US cents based on the free-market rate), Fatemeh Mohajerani said in comments carried by state media. The increase in Iran's gasoline price, which is one of the lowest in the world, was discussed by the govt and postponed amid concerns it could trigger new protests. Iran experienced widespread protests in 2019 over the same issue. The higher fuel price will only affect consumers who require more than 110 litres per month, Mohajerani said. REUTERS

Publication : The Times of India	Editions : New Delhi
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US turns diplomatic screws on Iran for atomic non-compliance

The US is increasing diplomatic pressure on Iran by proposing that Tehran be referred to the United Nations Security Council over its stonewalling of nuclear inspectors, who have been unable to verify the location of the country's stockpile of near-weapons-grade uranium.

The manoeuvre is expected to unfold at the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors meeting in Vienna, which began Monday. Iran has blocked the UN watchdog from reviewing Iran's uranium inventory for 15 months, since the start of Israeli air strikes in June 2025.

The US resolution demands that Iran "urgently remedy its non-compliance" and allow checks to ensure "the non-diversion of nuclear material," according to a copy of the two-page document seen by Bloomberg News. The IAEA has grown increasingly frustrated over Iran's obstruction of its inspectors' work.

"There's no engagement,

there is no information, and we are being told that they are not going to cooperate until there is some agreement in the wider political negotiation," IAEA director general Rafael Mariano Grossi said at a press briefing Monday.

The last time Washington referred Iran's atomic file to the UN, Israel started strikes against the nation's nuclear facilities within 24 hours, triggering a 12-day war. The start of the current conflict on Feb. 28 came a day after the IAEA reported the observation of renewed activity near bombed sites. US President Trump has repeatedly said the ongoing military campaign is aimed at preventing Iran developing a nuclear weapon.

Iran, meanwhile, threatened Monday to retaliate against any new US attacks on its assets, warning that the energy production chain in the region was "sprawling, accessible and exposed" and that US oil and gas companies there shared that exposure. AGENCIES



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Date :8 September 2026	Page : 1

Iran govt to raise fuel price for heavy users: Iran will raise the price of gasoline for users surpassing 110 litres per month starting Tuesday, a govt spokesperson said Sunday.

The price of the first and second quotas, which include 110 litres, will remain unchanged, but the price of the third quota will be raised to 100,000 Iranian rials per litre (around 4 US cents based on the free-market rate), Fatemeh Mohajerani said in comments carried by state media. The increase in Iran's gasoline price, which is one of the lowest in the world, was discussed by the govt and postponed amid concerns it could trigger new protests. Iran experienced widespread protests in 2019 over the same issue. The higher fuel price will only affect consumers who require more than 110 litres per month, Mohajerani said. REUTERS

Online

Headline	"Hormuz Shut Down, India Wasn't Affected": ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh On Energy Resilience		
Publication	Business Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Sep 2026		

"Hormuz Shut Down, India Wasn't Affected": ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh On Energy Resilience

<https://www.businesstoday.in/bt-tv/short-video/hormuz-shut-down-india-wasnt-affected-ongc-chairman-arun-kumar-singh-on-energy-resilience-553123-2026-09-07>

Hormuz Shut Down, India Wasn't Affected: ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh On Energy Resilience

Headline	ONGC Completes Hundredth Crude Offloading from Cluster-7 FPSO		
Publication	Chemical Industry Digest	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Sep 2026		

ONGC Completes Hundredth Crude Offloading from Cluster-7 FPSO

<https://chemindigest.com/ongc-completes-hundredth-crude-offloading-from-cluster-7-fps/>

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Headline	Govt shortlists 7 candidates for 2nd round interview for ONGC top job		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Sep 2026		

Govt shortlists 7 candidates for 2nd round interview for ONGC top job

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/govt-shortlists-7-candidates-for-2nd-round-interview-for-ongc-top-job-675021>

New Delhi: Seven candidates shortlisted for the top job at state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) are likely to appear before a

search-cum-selection committee this week as the government moves to choose a successor to Chairman and Managing Director Arun Kumar Singh, people familiar with the process said.

The second round follows the screening of 18 applicants on August 18, after which the field was narrowed to seven. The shortlisted candidates include Oil India Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Ranjit Rath, 54, seen as a frontrunner; ONGC Videsh Ltd MD Rajarshi Gupta, 59; ONGC Director (Technology and Field Services) Vikram Saxena; Director (Strategy and Corporate Affairs) Satyam Kumar; OVL Director (Operations) Dulal Halder; MRPL Director (Finance) Devendra Kumar; and Indian Oil Corporation Director (Marketing) SP Shrivastava.

Headline	ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL) announces Polyethylene (PE) price revisions in the domestic markets of India		
Publication	Polymer Update	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Sep 2026		

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

<https://www.polymerupdate.com/News/Details/1507494/ldpe>

07 Sep 2026 11:44 IST

Headline	Prolonged ONGC gas leak in Sivasagar village sparks panic, safety and crop damage fears		
Publication	The Sentinel	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Sep 2026		

Prolonged ONGC gas leak in Sivasagar village sparks panic, safety and crop damage fears

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/assam-news/prolonged-ongc-gas-leak-in-sivasagar-village-sparks-panic-safety-and-crop-damage-fears>

NAZIRA: Panic has gripped residents of Bhakat Bhajani village under Shilakuti Mouza in Sivasagar district following a prolonged gas leak from an ONGC pipeline passing through agricultural land in the area.

According to local residents, gas has reportedly been escaping continuously from a ruptured pipeline for around one and a half months, raising serious concerns over public safety, health and damage to agricultural land.

The affected pipeline connects the Dimowal Gas Gathering Station (GGS) with the Lakwa GGS. Residents said the same pipeline had developed a leak around four months ago, when gas reportedly continued to escape for several days, creating fear among people living nearby.

Following the earlier incident, ONGC personnel reportedly carried out temporary repairs on the old pipeline and managed to stop the leakage for some time. However, residents allege that the pipeline has again ruptured at the same location and gas has been leaking continuously for nearly one and a half months.

Local people claim that they have informed the ONGC authorities about the latest leakage, but no effective permanent remedial measures have been taken so far. Residents are also worried about the possible impact on nearby agricultural fields.