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Headline: ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh; paves the way for pilot power plant

ओएनजीसी ने लद्दाख में खोदा दूसरा जियोथर्मल कुआं, पायलट बिजली संयंत्र का रास्ता साफ भविष्य में व्यावसायिक स्तर पर जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा के उपयोग की बड़ी उम्मीद

नई दिल्ली। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं गैस कंपनी ओएनजीसी ने लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में दूसरा जियोथर्मल (भू-तापीय) कुआं सफलतापूर्वक खोद लिया है। इसके साथ ही भारत के पहले पायलट जियोथर्मल बिजली संयंत्र की स्थापना की दिशा में एक और महत्वपूर्ण कदम बढ़ गया है।

ओएनजीसी ने बताया कि उसकी अनुसंधान एवं विकास इकाई ओएनजीसी एनर्जी सेंटर ने 14,000 फीट से अधिक ऊंचाई पर स्थित पुगा घाटी में करीब एक महीने में 1,000 मीटर गहरा कुआं खोदा। यह काम पहले अभियान की तुलना में कम समय और कम लागत में पूरा किया



गया। यह नया कुआं पहले जियोथर्मल कुएं की सफलता पर आधारित है। पहले कुएं से पानी के उबलने के तापमान से अधिक गर्म भाप निकली थी, जिससे पुगा क्षेत्र में जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा की बड़ी संभावनाएं साबित हुई थीं। कंपनी ने कहा कि दूसरा कुआं भारत के पहले एक मेगावाट क्षमता वाले पायलट जियोथर्मल बिजली संयंत्र के विकास में मदद करेगा। साथ ही इससे देश में भविष्य में व्यावसायिक

24 घंटे बिजली देने वाला स्वच्छ ऊर्जा स्रोत... इस परियोजना के अगले चरण में 1 मेगावाट क्षमता का पायलट संयंत्र स्थापित किया जाएगा। लंबे समय में इस क्षेत्र के जियोथर्मल संसाधनों का उपयोग कर लद्दाख को लगातार और भरोसेमंद बिजली उपलब्ध कराने की योजना है। पुगा जियोथर्मल क्षेत्र भारत का सबसे संभावनाशील जियोथर्मल क्षेत्र माना जाता है।

क्या है जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा : यह पृथ्वी के भीतर मौजूद गर्मी का उपयोग कर बिजली और ताप ऊर्जा पैदा करती है। यह सौर व पवन ऊर्जा की तरह मौसम पर निर्भर नहीं होती।

स्तर पर जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा के उपयोग का रास्ता भी खुल सकता है। व्यूरो

ऊर्जा चुनौतियों के लिए स्थायी उपाय जरूरी

वर्ष 1990 में खाड़ी क्षेत्र में हुए युद्ध के कारण भारत में गंभीर तेल संकट उत्पन्न हुआ, जिसने 1991 के वित्तीय संकट को जन्म दिया। इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में ईरान पर अमेरिका-इजरायल हमले के कारण हुए व्यवधान से अब तक कम नुकसान हुआ है। भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था अब कहीं अधिक मजबूत है, और तेल की कीमतें भी पहले की तरह लंबे समय तक उच्च स्तर पर नहीं रही हैं। वैसे तेल आयात पर निर्भरता 1990 में 50 फीसदी से कम से बढ़कर अब लगभग 90 फीसदी हो जाने के कारण जोखिम बना हुआ है।

युद्ध शुरू होने पर होर्मुज स्ट्रेट के बंद होने से प्रतिदिन लगभग 150-200 लाख बैरल (एमबीडी) तेल अवरुद्ध हो गया, जो वैश्विक स्तर पर व्यापार किए जाने वाले तेल का लगभग 20 फीसदी था। हालांकि, शुरुआत में ईरान द्वारा केवल खाड़ी अरब देशों से होने वाले निर्यात को अवरुद्ध किया गया था, जबकि प्रतिदिन लगभग 15 लाख बैरल ईरानी तेल चीन के ग्राहकों को भेजा जाता रहा, जो अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों से अप्रभावित थे। मार्च के मध्य में अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी के सदस्य देशों ने रणनीतिक भंडारों से 40 करोड़ बैरल तेल की समन्वित निकासी की व्यवस्था की। सऊदी अरब ने लाल सागर तक जाने वाली पाइपलाइनों का तेजी से नवीनीकरण और पुनः संचालन किया। संयुक्त अरब अमीरात द्वारा अरब सागर पर स्थित टर्मिनलों के उपयोग से वैकल्पिक निकास मार्गों पर बमबारी के ईरानी प्रयासों के बावजूद, विश्व बाजारों में प्रतिदिन लगभग 50-70 लाख बैरल तेल की आपूर्ति फिर से शुरू हो गई। अप्रैल के मध्य में अमेरिकी नौसेना द्वारा ईरानी बंदरगाहों की सफल 'जवाबी-

नाकाबंदी' से ईरान के निर्यात पर रोक लगने के बाद तेल की कीमतों में फिर से तेजी से वृद्धि हुई। लेकिन तब तक, दुनिया के सबसे बड़े आयातक चीन ने अपने विशाल रणनीतिक भंडारों से तेल निकालना शुरू कर दिया था और तेल आयात में हर दिन 40 लाख बैरल से अधिक की कमी कर दी थी। चीन से मांग में कमी के कारण भारत सहित सभी आयातकों के लिए कीमतों में और अधिक उछाल नहीं आई। शांति वार्ता में प्रगति के बारे में अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डॉनल्ड ट्रंप के बार-बार किए गए दावे भी तेल बाजार की भावना को संतुलित करने के उद्देश्य से प्रतीत होते थे।

इस बार तेल संकट से निपटने के लिए भारत की तैयारी स्पष्ट रूप से बेहतर साबित हुई। आयात स्रोतों के विविधीकरण ने यह सुनिश्चित किया कि कच्चे तेल की खेप भारत के बंदरगाहों पर लगातार पहुंचती रहे। वर्ष 1990 के विपरीत, अब हमारे पास कुछ हफ्तों के लिए पर्याप्त स्टॉक है, जो अधिकतर भारत की विश्वस्तरीय शोधन कंपनियों के वाणिज्यिक भंडार में है, और रणनीतिक भंडार से एक सप्ताह से अधिक की आवश्यकता पूरी हो सकती है। लेकिन हमारी ऊर्जा समस्याएँ केवल तेल तक ही सीमित नहीं हैं। ये तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी) और तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (एलपीजी) तक भी फैली हुई हैं। लगभग आधी एलपीजी आयात की जा रही थी, जिसमें से अधिकांश खाड़ी देशों से आती थी। पिछले दशक में,



रंजन मथाई

बढ़ती मांग के कारण आयात क्षमता लगभग तीन गुना बढ़ गई है। अमेरिका से आने वाली वैकल्पिक एलपीजी आपूर्ति से आपूर्ति में आई कमी पूरी नहीं हो सकी। तब सरकार ने एलपीजी निर्यात आदेश लागू किया, जिसके चलते तेल रिफाइनरियों ने एलपीजी उत्पादन को अधिकतम करने के लिए तकनीकी दक्षता का भरपूर इस्तेमाल किया। आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, एलपीजी का उत्पादन 35,000 टन से बढ़कर 54,000 टन प्रतिदिन हो गया। इससे प्रोपीलीन जैसे पेट्रोकेमिकल उत्पादन में कमी आई, जिससे रासायनिक उद्योगों पर असर पड़ा, लेकिन घरेलू आपूर्ति काफी हद तक सुरक्षित रही।

सरकार ने प्रशासनिक उपायों के जरिये एलपीजी और पेट्रोल की कीमतों को भी नियंत्रण में रखा। इससे तेल विपणन कंपनियों को भारी नुकसान हुआ है। वित्त मंत्रालय ने कंपनियों को राहत देने के लिए पेट्रोल पर उत्पाद शुल्क में कमी की घोषणा की है, जिससे सरकारी खजाने पर भारी असर पड़ेगा। युद्धविराम से तेल की कीमतों में गिरावट आने से राहत मिली। हालांकि, अब ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकता देनी होगी। सबसे पहला काम भारत की आयात पर निर्भरता को कम करना है, जिसके लिए सरकार के समग्र प्रयासों से घरेलू तेल और गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाना आवश्यक है। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की सराहनीय पहल अपने आप में अपर्याप्त हैं। यदि तेल उद्योग विकास उपकरण (जिसका उपयोग तेल

उद्योग विकास के लिए नहीं किया जाता) को हटा दिया जाए, तो ओएनजीसी का अन्वेषण बजट दोगुना हो सकता है! नियामक और कानूनी मुद्दे जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय तेल कंपनियों को भारत के अन्वेषण क्षेत्र से दूर रखते हैं, उनका समाधान करना होगा।

रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडारों में काफी वृद्धि करनी होगी। चीन के पास रणनीतिक और वाणिज्यिक भंडारों में 1 अरब बैरल से अधिक का भंडार है, जो हमारे वर्तमान भंडारों से 10 गुना अधिक है। एलपीजी और प्राकृतिक गैस के लिए अतिरिक्त क्रायोजेनिक भंडारण टैंक विभिन्न स्थानों पर विकसित किए जाने चाहिए। भारत में कोयले का गैसीकरण चीन की तुलना में 5 फीसदी से भी कम है, और इसके लिए केवल नीतिगत घोषणाओं की नहीं, बल्कि कार्यान्वयन में प्राथमिकता की आवश्यकता है। चीन द्वारा क्षेत्रीय पहल शुरू करने से पहले, हमें अपने आसपास के देशों की ईंधन सुरक्षा के लिए सक्रिय दृष्टिकोण अपनाने की आवश्यकता है। श्रीलंका के बहुचर्चित त्रिंकोमाली तेल भंडार में 80 लाख बैरल से अधिक तेल का भंडारण किया जा सकता है, जो देश की लगभग दो महीने की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त है। श्रीलंका पेट्रोल और डीजल की बिक्री में भारी कटौती करके 2022 जैसे आर्थिक संकट से बाल-बाल बचा है। त्रिंकोमाली भंडार के पुनर्विकास के लिए एक सहयोगात्मक परियोजना श्रीलंका और मालदीव दोनों के लिए बफर स्टॉक प्रदान कर सकती है, और भारत में स्थानीय आपातकालीन आवश्यकताओं को पूरा कर सकती है। ऊर्जा परिवर्तन की दिशा में दशकों के प्रयासों के बावजूद, तेल आने वाले कुछ दशकों तक सभी देशों के लिए ऊर्जा का महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत बना रहेगा। हम होर्मुज स्ट्रेट को बंद करने वाले किसी भी युद्ध को ध्यान में रखते हुए तैयारी करनी होगी।

(लेखक पूर्व राजनयिक हैं)



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In Ladakh, ONGC drills 2nd geothermal well

NEW DELHI: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has finished drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant. Its R&D arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 m at an altitude of over 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post. The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, it said.

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ONGC DRILLS 2ND GEOTHERMAL WELL IN LADAKH

New Delhi, July 12: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country. — PTI



ONGC completes drilling 2nd geothermal well in Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 12

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The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions.

The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently for decades, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to take off in the country because of technical and economic challenges.

India is seeking to diversify its renewable energy mix beyond solar, wind and hydropower.

ONGC drills 2nd geothermal well

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India is seeking to diversify its renewable energy mix beyond solar, wind and hydropower as it works towards its target of installing 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

PTI

ONGC drills second well in Ladakh, for first pilot geothermal power plant

NEW DELHI: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said. The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at



temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in

the country. The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource. Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions. PFI

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Headline: Drilling of second geothermal well in Ladakh completed

लद्दाख में दूसरे 'जियोथर्मल' कुएं की खुदाई पूरी

नयी दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) ने लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में दूसरे भू-तापीय (जियोथर्मल) कुएं की खुदाई सफलतापूर्वक पूरी कर ली है। इसके साथ ही भारत पहले प्रायोगिक जियोथर्मल बिजली संयंत्र की स्थापना की दिशा में एक और कदम आगे बढ़ गया है। भू-तापीय ऊर्जा पृथ्वी की सतह के नीचे मौजूद प्राकृतिक ऊष्मा का उपयोग कर बिजली और तापीय ऊर्जा पैदा करती है। यह सौर और पवन ऊर्जा के उलट मौसम पर निर्भर नहीं होती और लगातार बिजली उपलब्ध कराने में सक्षम है। कंपनी ने सोशल मीडिया पर साझा जानकारी में बताया कि उसकी अनुसंधान एवं विकास इकाई ओएनजीसी एनर्जी सेंटर ने 14,000 फुट से अधिक की ऊंचाई पर स्थित इस कुएं की लगभग 1,000 मीटर गहराई तक खुदाई करीब एक महीने में पूरी की। यह अभियान पहले जियोथर्मल खुदाई अभियान की तुलना में कम समय और कम लागत में पूरा किया गया यह दूसरा कुआं पुगा घाटी में पहले जियोथर्मल कुएं की सफलता पर आधारित है। पहले कुएं से पानी के उबलने के तापमान से अधिक गर्म भाप निकली थी, जिससे इस क्षेत्र में भू-तापीय ऊर्जा की प्रचुर संभावनाओं की पुष्टि हुई थी। कंपनी के अनुसार, दूसरा कुआं भारत के पहले एक मेगावाट क्षमता वाले प्रायोगिक भू-तापीय बिजली संयंत्र के विकास में अहम भूमिका निभाएगा। इसके सफल होने पर देश में जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा के व्यावसायिक उपयोग का मार्ग भी प्रशस्त हो सकता है। परियोजना के अगले चरण में एक मेगावाट क्षमता का पायलट बिजली संयंत्र स्थापित किया जाएगा।

DEFINING DEVELOPMENTS (JULY 6-12)

On July 8, the International Monetary Fund lowered India's FY2026-27 GDP growth forecast to 6.4%, while retaining India as the world's fastest-growing major economy. Global growth was cut to 3.0%.

The **ADB** also trimmed growth projections for developing Asia, citing elevated energy prices, trade uncertainty and persistent geopolitical risks.

Renewed US-Iran tensions returned West Asia to the centre of the global economic agenda, reinforcing geopolitical risks across financial markets.

Brent crude climbed to \$80.50 a barrel on July 8 before easing to around \$77-78, although markets continued pricing a geopolitical risk premium.

India's **forex reserves** rose by \$7.26 billion to \$674.19 billion in the week ended July 3. Foreign-currency assets increased by \$4.5 billion to \$545.5 billion, while gold reserves rose by \$2.6 billion to \$105.2 billion, reinforcing the country's external resilience.

FPIs turned net buyers in July, investing ₹15,156 crore until July 10, supported by improving macroeconomic stability, rising debt inflows and a resilient rupee.

Reciprocal tariffs and unresolved India-US trade negotiations prolonged uncertainty for exporters, while the USTR's Section 301 process remained under global scrutiny.

India hosted fresh **ASEAN-India** trade negotiations and strengthened partnerships in clean energy, digital payments, critical minerals and resilient supply chains.

The **Sensex settled at 77,569.39**, while the Nifty 50 closed at 24,206.90, recovering a significant part of the week's earlier losses.

The **rupee** recovered after early pressure from higher crude prices. It settled 9 paise higher at ₹95.38 per US dollar, supported by RBI intervention and easing market sentiment.

India's **Q1 FY27 earnings** season began on a positive note, led by TCS, as investors shifted attention towards corporate profitability and AI-driven business demand.

Equity mutual fund inflows surged 26.5% to ₹28,973 cr, extending India's strong retail investment momentum, while SEBI approved intraday borrowing for mutual funds to strengthen liquidity management.

SBI Funds Management reduced its IPO size to ₹9,812.9 cr after a pre-IPO placement, while retaining the ₹545-574 price band. The issue opens on July 14 and closes on July 16, making it one of India's largest public offerings of 2026.

TRAI moved to tighten oversight of caller-identification platforms and clarify rules for 1400 and 1600-series numbers, aiming to strengthen consumer protection, curb fraudulent calls and improve confidence in India's telecom ecosystem.

ONGC proposed expanding strategic petroleum reserves, reinforcing the country's long-term energy security strategy.

Office leasing across India's top nine cities reached a record 45.5 million sq ft, led by strong demand from GCCs.

AI, semiconductor manufacturing, private credit, E20 fuel, an above-normal monsoon and improving kharif sowing emerged as the defining structural themes shaping the medium-term economic outlook.

On July 10, former RBI Governor **Raghuram Rajan**, Harvard economist **Raj Chetty** and Microsoft executive **Asha Sharma** were appointed to **US Federal Reserve task forces** reviewing future monetary policy.

India enters the new week with confidence, but not certainty. Yet resilient savings, strong corporate earnings, healthy foreign-exchange reserves and a deep capital-market pipeline underpin long-term growth. Uncertainty remains the world's most expensive economic variable.
—palazhi

● PREDICTIVE OPERATIONS

Why the energy sector isn't AI-ready yet

FALTERING ROI. As technology investments meet legacy systems and poorly governed data, projects rarely go past pilots

N Nagaraj

There is a photograph that energy companies love to show at conferences. A gleaming control room, banks of screens, operators watching dashboards fed by thousands of sensors across pipelines, wells and grids. Everything visible, everything connected, everything intelligent.

The KPMG Global Tech Report 2026, which surveyed 258 technology leaders across the oil and gas, mining, chemicals, power and utilities, and renewables sectors in 22 countries, tells a more complicated story. The screens are real. The dashboards exist. But the data feeding them is often incomplete, poorly governed or trapped in legacy systems.

One in five energy companies is achieving a return of more than 200 per cent on its technology investments. The majority, 57 per cent, are at break-even. The cross-sector average for technology ROI sits at 200 per cent. Energy lags, and has been lagging for a decade of heavy investment.

THE PILOT TRAP

Almost every large energy company has run AI pilots. Many have run dozens. Predictive maintenance. Production optimisation. Automated document processing. These pilots often work. They demonstrate value. And then they stop.

Twenty-nine per cent of energy companies are still in the piloting phase, running AI projects without clear returns. Executives expect that to fall to 2 per cent within a year, a claim so confident it functions as a test of whether the sector's commitment to scale is real or rhetorical.

The obstacle is rarely AI. Around 60 per cent of energy executives say



NO BLACKOUTS. A grid drawing heavily on renewable energy can use AI to rapidly fill demand-supply gaps ISTOCK

legacy systems are blocking full returns on their technology investments. An oil refinery built in the 1980s runs on control systems designed back then, robust and long-lived and wholly unequipped to share data with cloud platforms or machine learning models. Connecting them is slow, expensive and operationally risky. Upgrades are deferred, and the gap between the modern systems built on top and the ageing ones underneath — what one KPMG partner calls “digital debt” — keeps widening.

India makes this visible at scale. The National Thermal Power Corporation and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation run sophisticated digital programmes. The State distribution companies that actually deliver electricity to homes are still fighting bad meter data, billing failures and grid losses, which in the worst-performing States exceed a quarter of the power generated. For them, the conversation about agen-

tic AI is not yet relevant. It is about whether the underlying data is reliable enough to build on.

WHAT THE NUMBERS HIDE

The financial returns that do exist come largely from the back office, finance, procurement, HR and compliance, where generative AI accelerates document-heavy work. Over 50 per cent of energy organisations report that AI contributes 31–40 per cent of their total financial benefits. That is substantial, and a long way from the story of AI changing how energy is produced and delivered, which remains, for most organisations, ahead of them.

At the operational front-end, AI's most categorical value is in grid management. A coal or gas grid is predictable: Burn more fuel, get more power. A grid drawing heavily on solar and wind must balance variable supply against variable demand across thousands of connection points in real time, at a speed

beyond human operators. India's target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, formalised in its Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC, will make this problem acute. The technical case for AI-driven grid management in India is as strong as elsewhere in the world. The implementation challenge, given the grid infrastructure and data quality across much of the country, is correspondingly harder.

CUTTING CORNERS

Nearly three-quarters of energy executives say that prioritising speed and cost-efficiency leads to trade-offs in security, scalability and data standardisation.

The consequences in energy are physical. A cybersecurity gap in a pipeline invites infrastructure disruption. A poorly governed AI model in grid management can contribute to blackouts. Improved cybersecurity management is the

single most anticipated benefit from technology investment, ranked above revenue growth and operational efficiency.

AI sharpens the threat on both sides. It enables faster, more accurate threat detection. It also puts sophisticated attack tools within the reach of bad actors. Intrusions into Indian grid infrastructure have been documented by cybersecurity researchers, though attribution in specific cases remains contested. As India's grid becomes more connected and AI-dependent, the attack surface expands. The gap between national cybersecurity policy and the operational reality at smaller State utilities is consequential in the country's energy transition.

THE MISSING SKILL

Ninety-six per cent of energy leaders believe that managing AI agents will be a key workforce skill within five years. The current generation of AI tools recommend; the next will act. An agentic system will not suggest adjusting a valve — it will adjust it. Managing that shift requires people who understand what these systems are doing, when to override them, and where human judgment remains indispensable.

India has engineering depth and a growing data science community. What it lacks, at scale, is the overlap: People who understand both the physics of energy systems and the architecture of AI. Shreyansh Upadhyay, KPMG India's AI for Energy chair, puts it plainly. The biggest challenge is in building models that are context-aware and grounded in the physical behaviour of actual machinery, not just historical data patterns. That combination is hard to hire and harder to build quickly.

We value your feedback.
Do send your comments to
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Headline: ONGC completes drilling of second geothermal well in Ladakh

ओएनजीसी ने लद्दाख में दूसरे जियोथर्मल कुएं की खुदाई पूरी की

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) ने लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में दूसरे भू-तापीय (जियोथर्मल) कुएं की खुदाई सफलतापूर्वक पूरी कर ली है। इसके साथ ही भारत पहले प्रायोगिक जियोथर्मल बिजली संयंत्र की स्थापना की दिशा में एक और कदम आगे ब गया है।

भू-तापीय ऊर्जा पृथ्वी की सतह के नीचे मौजूद प्राकृतिक ऊष्मा का उपयोग कर बिजली और तापीय ऊर्जा पैदा करती है। यह सौर और पवन ऊर्जा के उलट मौसम पर निर्भर नहीं होती और लगातार बिजली उपलब्ध कराने में सक्षम है। कंपनी ने सोशल मीडिया पर साझा जानकारी में बताया कि उसकी अनुसंधान एवं विकास इकाई ओएनजीसी एनर्जी सेंटर ने 14,000 फुट से अधिक की ऊंचाई पर स्थित इस कुएं की लगभग 1,000 मीटर गहराई तक खुदाई करीब एक महीने में पूरी की। यह अभियान पहले

जियोथर्मल खुदाई अभियान की तुलना में कम समय और कम लागत में पूरा किया गया। यह दूसरा कुआं पुगा घाटी में पहले जियोथर्मल कुएं की सफलता पर आधारित है। पहले कुएं से पानी के उबलने के तापमान से अधिक गर्म भाप निकली थी, जिससे इस क्षेत्र में भू-तापीय ऊर्जा की प्रचुर संभावनाओं की पुष्टि हुई थी। कंपनी के अनुसार, दूसरा कुआं भारत के पहले एक मेगावाट क्षमता वाले प्रायोगिक भू-तापीय बिजली संयंत्र के विकास में अहम भूमिका निभाएगा।

इसके सफल होने पर देश में जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा के व्यावसायिक उपयोग का मार्ग भी प्रशस्त हो सकता है। परियोजना के अगले चरण में एक मेगावाट क्षमता का पायलट बिजली संयंत्र स्थापित किया जाएगा। इसके बाद लद्दाख के लिए चौबीस घंटे उपलब्ध रहने वाली भरोसेमंद बिजली उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से क्षेत्र के भू-तापीय संसाधनों का दीर्घकालिक विकास किया जाएगा।

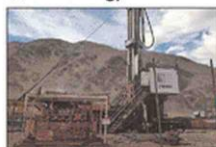
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ओएनजीसी ने लद्दाख में दूसरे भू-तापीय कुएं की ड्रिलिंग पूरी की

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) ने लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में अपने दूसरे भू-तापीय कुएं की ड्रिलिंग पूरी कर ली है। यह भारत के पहले पायलट भू-तापीय बिजली संयंत्र के विकास की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम माना जा रहा है। ओएनजीसी की अनुसंधान एवं विकास इकाई ओएनजीसी एनर्जी सेंटर ने लगभग एक महीने में 14,000 फीट से अधिक की ऊंचाई पर 1,000 मीटर गहराई तक इस कुएं की ड्रिलिंग की ओएनजीसी के वयान के अनुसार, यह कार्य पहले जियोथर्मल (भू-तापीय) ड्रिलिंग अभियान की तुलना में कम समय और कम लागत में पूरा किया गया। कंपनी के अनुसार, यह नया कुआं पुगा में खोदे गए पहले भू-तापीय कुएं की सफलता पर आधारित है। पहले कुएं से पानी के उबलने के तापमान से अधिक तापमान वाली भाप निकली थी, जिससे इस क्षेत्र में भू-तापीय ऊर्जा की अपार संभावनाओं की पुष्टि हुई थी। ओएनजीसी ने कहा कि दूसरा कुआं भारत के पहले 1 मेगावाट इलेक्ट्रिक (एमडब्ल्यूई) पायलट भू-तापीय बिजली संयंत्र के विकास में मदद करेगा और देश में भू-तापीय ऊर्जा के



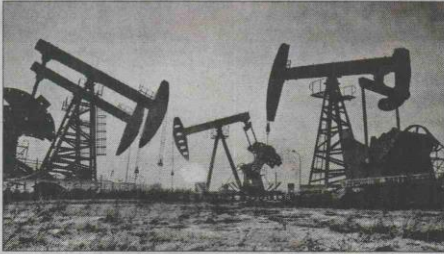
व्यावसायिक उपयोग का मार्ग खोल सकता है। परियोजना के अगले चरण में 1 मेगावाट क्षमता वाला पायलट जियोथर्मल बिजली संयंत्र स्थापित करने और दीर्घकाल में लद्दाख को विश्वसनीय आधारभूत बिजली उपलब्ध कराने के लिए भू-तापीय संसाधनों का विकास करने की योजना है। पूर्वी लद्दाख में स्थित पुगा भू-तापीय क्षेत्र को भारत का सबसे संभावनाशील भू-तापीय संसाधन माना जाता है। भू-तापीय ऊर्जा पृथ्वी की सतह के नीचे मौजूद प्राकृतिक गर्मी का उपयोग करके बिजली उत्पादन और ताप उपलब्ध कराती है। यह कम-कार्बन उत्सर्जन वाली चौबीसों घंटे उपलब्ध रहने वाली ऊर्जा का स्रोत है। सौर और पवन ऊर्जा के विपरीत, यह मौसम पर कम निर्भर होने के कारण अधिक विश्वसनीय मानी जाती है। हालांकि, पुगा क्षेत्र को लंबे समय से भारत का सबसे संभावनाशील भू-तापीय क्षेत्र माना जाता रहा है और यहां समय-समय पर खोज संबंधी कार्य भी किए गए हैं।

Headline: India becomes Russia's biggest oil importer

जून में रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर की कच्चे तेल की खरीद

भारत रूस से तेल का सबसे बड़ा आयातक बना

■ **भारत ने जून में 5.5 अरब यूरो का ईंधन आयात किया**
आज समाज नेटवर्क
नई दिल्ली। भारत ने जून में रूस से रिकॉर्ड मात्रा में कच्चा तेल खरीदा। रूस की कुल तेल निर्यात आय में गिरावट के बावजूद भारत की ओर से रूसी कच्चे तेल की खरीद मई की तुलना में 34 फीसदी बढ़ गई। ऊर्जा और स्वच्छ वायु अनुसंधान केंद्र (सीआरईए) की एक रिपोर्ट में यह जानकारी दी गई है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, भारत ने जून में रूस से 4.5 अरब यूरो का कच्चा तेल खरीदा। रूस से भारत ने कुल 5.5 अरब यूरो का जीवाश्म ईंधन (कच्चा तेल, कोयला आदि) खरीदा था, जिसमें कच्चे तेल की हिस्सेदारी 83 फीसदी रही। इसके साथ ही भारत, रूस से तेल और गैस खरीदने के मामले में चीन के बाद दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा खरीदार बन गया। भारत की ओर से रूसी तेल की खरीद में यह बड़ी बढ़ोतरी ऐसे समय हुई, जब देश का कुल कच्चे तेल का आयात महीने-दर-महीने 5.4 फीसदी बढ़ा। प्रमुख तेल रिफाइनरी में



रूसी तेल की आपूर्ति में भी बड़ी बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज की जामनगर रिफाइनरी में रूसी तेल की आपूर्ति मई के मुकाबले 150 फीसदी बढ़ी। वहीं, इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन की पारादीप रिफाइनरी में आयात 126 फीसदी बढ़ गया। इसके अलावा, बीपीसीएल की कोच्चि रिफाइनरी और नायर एनर्जी की वडिनार रिफाइनरी में रूसी तेल की आपूर्ति में क्रमशः 83 फीसदी और 45 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत की बढ़ी हुई खरीदारी से जून में रूस के कच्चे तेल के निर्यात में 14 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई। हालांकि, कम कीमतों के कारण रूस की कच्चे तेल से होने वाली कमाई महीने-दर-महीने आठ फीसदी घटकर रोजाना 34.8 करोड़ यूरो रह गई। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि रूस के कुल जीवाश्म ईंधन निर्यात से होने वाली आय भी एक फीसदी घटकर रोजाना 73.4 करोड़ यूरो रह गई, जबकि निर्यात की मात्रा में 7 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई। सीआरईए ने कहा, जून 2026 में भारत रूस के जीवाश्म ईंधन का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा खरीदार रहा। भारत ने कुल 5.5 अरब यूरो का रूसी तेल और अन्य ईंधन खरीदा। इसमें कच्चे तेल की हिस्सेदारी 83 फीसदी यानी 4.5 अरब यूरो रही। तेल उत्पादों की खरीद 48.8 करोड़ यूरो और कोयले की खरीद 44.4 करोड़ यूरो रही। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, रूस के

कच्चे तेल से बने ईंधन के वैश्विक व्यापार में भारत की भूमिका अहम बनी हुई है। भारत, तुर्किये, बुनेई और जॉर्जिया की रिफाइनरी ने जून में उन देशों को 81.4 करोड़ यूरो के तेल उत्पाद निर्यात किए, जिन्होंने रूस पर प्रतिबंध लगाए हैं। इनमें यूरोपीय संघ, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और अमेरिका शामिल हैं। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, इनमें से करीब 36.9 करोड़ यूरो के तेल उत्पाद रूसी कच्चे तेल से तैयार किए गए थे। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि यूरोपीय संघ की ओर से रूसी कच्चे तेल से बने तेल उत्पादों के आयात पर रोक के बावजूद, जून में भारतीय रिफाइनरी से रूसी तेल से तैयार दो खेप यूरोपीय संघ के बंदरगाहों पर पहुंची। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, ब्रिटेन ने रूसी कच्चे तेल से तैयार डीजल और जेट ईंधन के आयात को छूट देने के बाद जामनगर से पहली बार जेट ईंधन की खेप मंगाई। सीआरईए ने कहा, जून 2026 में ब्रिटेन ने भारत की जामनगर रिफाइनरी में तैयार जेट ईंधन की पहली खेप उतारी। यह ब्रिटिश सरकार की उस छूट के बाद हुआ, जिसके तहत रूस के कच्चे तेल से तैयार डीजल और जेट ईंधन के आयात की अनुमति दी गई थी। इस खेप की कीमत करीब 6.3 करोड़ यूरो बताई गई।

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Headline: India is buying oil from Russia in large quantities; imports reached record levels in June

रूस से जमकर तेल खरीद रहा भारत, जून महीने में रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर पहुंचा आयात

सीआरईए की रिपोर्ट में खुलासा...मई की तुलना में रूसी कच्चे तेल की खरीद 34% बढ़ी

नई दिल्ली। भारत ने जून में रूस से रिकॉर्ड मात्रा में कच्चे तेल की खरीद की। रूस के कुल तेल निर्यात आय में गिरावट के बावजूद भारत की ओर से रूसी कच्चे तेल की खरीद मई की तुलना में 34 फीसदी बढ़ गई। यह जानकारी ऊर्जा एवं स्वच्छ वायु अनुसंधान केंद्र (सीआरईए) की एक रिपोर्ट में दी गई है।

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, भारत ने जून में रूस से 4.5 अरब यूरो का कच्चा तेल खरीदा। यह रूस से आयात किए गए कुल 5.5 अरब यूरो के जीवाश्म ईंधन का 83 प्रतिशत था, जिससे भारत चीन के बाद रूसी हाइड्रोकार्बन का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा खरीदार बन गया। भारत की ओर से रूसी तेल की खरीद में यह बड़ी बढ़ोतरी ऐसे समय हुई, जब देश का कुल कच्चे तेल का आयात महीने-दर-महीने 5.4 फीसदी बढ़ा। प्रमुख तेल रिफाइनरी में रूसी तेल की आपूर्ति में भी बड़ी बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज की जामनगर रिफाइनरी में आपूर्ति मई की तुलना में 150 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई, जबकि इंडियन



गुजरात तट पर रूसी तेल टैंकर।

ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन की पारादीप रिफाइनरी में आयात 126 प्रतिशत बढ़ गया। बीपीसीएल (बीपीसीएल) की कोच्चि रिफाइनरी और नायरा एनर्जी की वाडिनार रिफाइनरी में क्रमशः 83 प्रतिशत और 45 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।

रूस की तेल बिक्री बढ़ी पर कमाई घटी... रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत की बढ़ी हुई खरीदारी से जून में रूस के कच्चे तेल

के निर्यात में 14 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई। हालांकि, कम कीमतों के कारण रूस की कच्चे तेल से होने वाली कमाई महीने-दर-महीने आठ फीसदी घटकर रोजाना 34.8 करोड़ यूरो रह गई। रूस के कुल जीवाश्म ईंधन निर्यात से होने वाली आय भी एक फीसदी घटकर रोजाना 73.4 करोड़ यूरो रह गई, जबकि निर्यात की मात्रा में 7 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई।

भारत की अहम भूमिका बरकरार

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, रूस के कच्चे तेल से बने ईंधन के वैश्विक व्यापार में भारत की भूमिका अहम बनी हुई है। भारत, तुर्किये, बुर्नेई और जॉर्जिया की रिफाइनरी ने जून में उन देशों को 81.4 करोड़ यूरो के तेल उत्पाद निर्यात किए, जिन्होंने रूस पर प्रतिबंध लगाए हैं। इनमें यूरोपीय संघ, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और अमेरिका शामिल हैं। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, इनमें से करीब 36.9 करोड़ यूरो के तेल उत्पाद रूसी कच्चे तेल से तैयार किए गए थे। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि यूरोपीय संघ की ओर से रूसी कच्चे तेल से बने तेल उत्पादों के आयात पर रोक के बावजूद, जून में भारतीय रिफाइनरी से रूसी तेल से तैयार दो खेप यूरोपीय संघ के बंदरगाहों पर पहुंचीं।

सीआरईए ने कहा, जून 2026 में भारत रूस के जीवाश्म ईंधन का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा खरीदार रहा। भारत ने कुल 5.5 अरब यूरो का रूसी तेल और अन्य ईंधन खरीदा। इसमें कच्चे तेल की हिस्सेदारी 83 फीसदी यानी 4.5 अरब यूरो रही। तेल उत्पादों की खरीद 48.8 करोड़ यूरो और कोयले की खरीद 44.4 करोड़ यूरो रही। एजेंसी

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India's Russian crude imports hit record high in June

India's imports of Russian crude oil surged to a record high in June, rising 34% from the previous month despite a decline in Russia's overall oil export revenues, according to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

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INDIA IMPORTS RECORD RUSSIAN CRUDE IN JUNE

India also sends first jet fuel cargo to UK after govt's waiver to Russian oil imports

NEW DELHI

INDIA's imports of Russian crude oil surged to a record high in June, rising 34 per cent from the previous month despite a decline in Russia's overall oil export revenues, according to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

India bought Russian crude worth EUR 4.5 billion in June, accounting for 83 per cent of its total Russian fossil fuel imports of EUR 5.5 billion, making it the second-largest buyer of Russian hydrocarbons after China, the report said.

The sharp increase came as India's overall crude imports rose 5.4 per cent month-on-month, with Russian supplies to key refineries posting steep gains. Deliveries to Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery jumped 150 per cent from May, while imports at Indian Oil Corp's Paradip refinery rose 126 per cent. BPCL's Kochi refinery and Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery recorded increases of 83 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively, CREA said.

The surge in Indian purchases helped lift Russia's crude export volumes by 14 per cent in June, even as its crude oil export revenues fell 8 per cent month-on-month to EUR 348 million a day due to lower prices. Overall, Russian fossil fuel export revenues declined 1 per cent to EUR 734 million per day

MORE OIL FROM RUSSIA



- India bought EUR 4.5 bn worth Russian crude in June
- This accounts for 83% of India's total Russian fossil fuel imports
- India becomes Russia's 2nd top hydrocarbons buyers after China
- India's overall crude imports gone up by 5.4% MoM in June

despite a 7 per cent rise in export volumes, the report added.

"India was the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in June 2026, importing a total of EUR 5.5 billion of Russian hydrocarbons. Crude oil constituted 83 per cent of India's purchases, totalling EUR 4.5 billion. Oil products (EUR 488 million) and coal (EUR 444 million) constituted the remainder of their monthly Russian imports," CREA said.

India continued to play a key role in global trade flows of refined fuels produced from Russian crude. Refineries in India, Türkiye, Brunei and Georgia exported oil products worth EUR 814 million to countries that have imposed sanctions on Russia in June, including the European Union, Australia and the United States.

An estimated EUR 369 million of those exports were refined from Russian crude, it added.

The report noted that despite the European Union's ban on imports of oil products made from Russian crude, two shipments from Indian refineries using Russian crude were unloaded at EU ports in June. It also said the United Kingdom received its first cargo of jet fuel from Jamnagar after allowing imports of diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude under an exemption.

"In June 2026, the UK unloaded its first shipment of jet fuel produced at India's Jamnagar refinery following the UK Government's exemption allowing imports of diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude oil. The cargo, valued at approximately EUR 63 million,

The surge in Indian purchases helped lift Russia's crude export volumes by 14 per cent in June, even as its crude oil export revenues fell 8 per cent month-on-month to EUR 348 million a day due to lower prices

was unloaded at the ports of Thames Haven and the Isle of Grain," it said.

Jamnagar refineries are owned and operated by Reliance Industries Ltd.

"Exports to the US originated at the Jamnagar refinery in India, the SOCAR-owned STAR refinery in Türkiye, and the Tupras Izmit refinery as well.

In the prior three months, 60 per cent of the Tupras Izmit refinery's crude oil feedstock and 27 per cent of the Jamnagar refinery's feedstock came from Russia," it said.

China remained Russia's largest fossil fuel customer in June, accounting for EUR 7.3 billion of purchases, while India ranked second with EUR 5.5 billion, CREA said.

The report also highlighted the continued reliance of Russian oil exports on the so-called "shadow fleet", with 54 per cent of Russia's seaborne oil transported by sanctioned shadow tankers in June, while another 43 per cent was carried by G7-insured or owned vessels.

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INDIA'S RUSSIAN CRUDE IMPORTS RISE 34% IN JUNE: REPORT

New Delhi, July 12: India's imports of Russian crude oil surged to a record high in June, rising 34 per cent from the previous month despite a decline in Russia's overall oil export revenues, said a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

India bought Russian crude worth EUR 4.5 billion in June, accounting for 83 per cent of its total Russian fossil fuel imports of EUR 5.5 billion, making it the second-largest buyer of Russian hydrocarbons after China, it said.

The sharp increase came as India's overall crude imports rose 5.4 per cent month-on-month, with Russian supplies to key refineries posting steep gains.

Deliveries to RIL's Jamnagar refinery jumped 150 per cent from May, while imports at Indian Oil Corp's Paradip refinery rose 126 per cent. BPCL's Kochi refinery and Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery recorded increases of 83 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively, CREA said. — PTI

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Headline: Russian crude oil imports to India rise 34% in June

भारत में रूसी कच्चे तेल का आयात जून में 34 प्रतिशत बढ़ा

नई दिल्ली, 12 जुलाई (एजेंसियां)। भारत में रूसी कच्चे तेल का आयात जून में 34 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 4.5 अरब यूरो रहा है। आयात में बढ़ोतरी ऐसे समय पर हुई है, जब वैश्विक स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में गिरावट देखी गई। यह जानकारी सेंटर फॉर रिसर्च ऑन एनर्जी एंड क्लीन एयर (सीआईए) की ओर से जारी रिपोर्ट में दी गई। रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि भारत की ओर से जून में रूस से 4.5 अरब यूरो का कच्चा तेल आयात किया है। इसमें मई के मुकाबले 34 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। जून में भारत के कुल रूसी जीवाश्म ईंधन आयात में कच्चे तेल की हिस्सेदारी 83 प्रतिशत थी, जिसकी कीमत 5.5 अरब यूरो थी। इस तरह भारत, चीन के बाद रूसी हाइड्रोकार्बन का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा खरीदार बन गया।

खरीद में यह बढ़ोतरी भारत के कुल कच्चे तेल के



■ चीन के बाद रूसी हाइड्रोकार्बन का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा खरीदार बन गया भारत

आयात में मासिक आधार पर 5.4 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि के साथ हुई, जिसमें कई बड़ी रिफाइनरियों को रूसी आपूर्ति में भारी बढ़ोतरी देखी गई। सीआईए के अनुसार, जामनगर रिफाइनरी में रूसी कच्चे तेल का आयात पिछले महीने के मुकाबले 150 प्रतिशत बढ़ गया, जबकि इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन की पारादीप रिफाइनरी में 126 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई। भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन की कोच्चि रिफाइनरी ने आयात में 83 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की।

India's Russian crude imports hit record in Jun even as Moscow's oil revenues slip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUL 12: India's imports of Russian crude oil surged to a record high in June, rising 34 per cent from the previous month despite a decline in Russia's overall oil export revenues, according to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). India bought Russian crude worth EUR 4.5 billion in June, accounting for 83 per cent of its total Russian fossil fuel imports of EUR 5.5 billion, making it the second-largest buyer of Russian hydrocarbons after China, the report said. The sharp increase came as India's overall crude imports rose 5.4 per cent month-on-month, with Russian supplies to key refineries posting steep gains. Deliveries to Reliance Industries'

Jamnagar refinery jumped 150 per cent from May, while imports at Indian Oil Corp's Paradip refinery rose 126 per cent. BPCL's Kochi refinery and Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery recorded increases of 83 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively, CREA said.

The surge in Indian purchases helped lift Russia's crude export volumes by 14 per cent in June, even as its crude oil export revenues fell 8 per cent month-on-month to EUR 348 million a day due to lower prices. Overall, Russian fossil fuel export revenues declined 1 per cent to EUR 734 million per day despite a 7 per cent rise in export volumes, the report added. "India was the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in June 2026, importing a total of EUR 5.5 billion of Russian

hydrocarbons. Crude oil constituted 83 per cent of India's purchases, totalling EUR 4.5 billion. Oil products (EUR 488 million) and coal (EUR 444 million) constituted the remainder of their monthly Russian imports," CREA said.

India continued to play a key role in global trade flows of refined fuels produced from Russian crude. Refineries in India, Türkiye, Brunei and Georgia exported oil products worth EUR 814 million to countries that have imposed sanctions on Russia in June, including the European Union, Australia and the United States. An estimated EUR 369 million of those exports were refined from Russian crude, it added. The report noted that despite the European Union's ban on imports of oil products made from

Russian crude, two shipments from Indian refineries using Russian crude were unloaded at EU ports in June. It also said the United Kingdom received its first cargo of jet fuel from Jamnagar after allowing imports of diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude under an exemption. "In June 2026, the UK unloaded its first shipment of jet fuel produced at India's Jamnagar refinery following the UK Government's exemption allowing imports of diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude oil. The cargo, valued at approximately EUR 63 million, was unloaded at the ports of Thames Haven and the Isle of Grain," it said. Jamnagar refineries are owned and operated by Reliance Industries Ltd.

"Exports to the US

originated at the Jamnagar refinery in India, the SOCAR-owned STAR refinery in Türkiye, and the Tupras Izmit refinery as well. In the prior three months, 60 per cent of the Tupras Izmit refinery's crude oil feedstock and 27 per cent of the Jamnagar refinery's feedstock came from Russia," it said. China remained Russia's largest fossil fuel customer in June, accounting for EUR 7.3 billion of purchases, while India ranked second with EUR 5.5 billion, CREA said. The report also highlighted the continued reliance of Russian oil exports on the so-called "shadow fleet", with 54 per cent of Russia's seaborne oil transported by sanctioned shadow tankers in June, while another 43 per cent was carried by G7-insured or owned vessels.

Russian crude imports to India at record high in June

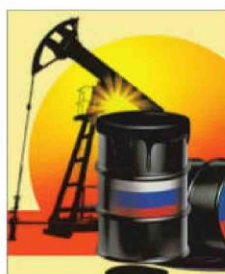
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 12

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The sharp increase came as India's overall crude imports rose 5.4% month-on-month, with Russian supplies to key refineries posting steep gains.

Deliveries to Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery jumped 150% from May, while imports at Indian Oil



Corp's Paradip refinery rose 126%.

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prices. Overall, Russian fossil fuel export revenues declined 1% to €734 million per day despite a 7% rise in export volumes, the report added.

"India was the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in June 2026, importing a total of €5.5 billion of Russian hydrocarbons. Crude oil constituted 83% of India's purchases, totalling €4.5 billion. Oil products (€488 million) and coal (€444 million) constituted the remainder of their monthly Russian imports," CREA said.

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Refineries in India, Türkiye, Brunei and Georgia exported oil products worth €814 million to countries that have imposed sanctions on Russia in June, including the European Union, Australia and the US.

Nafed aims to increase turnover by a third in FY27

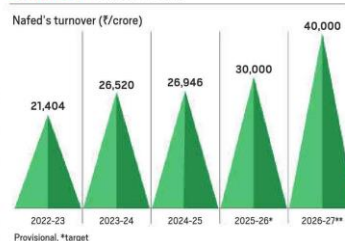
● Procurement of pulses, oilseeds to be scaled up

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, July 12

COOPERATIVE MAJOR NAFED is aiming to increase its turnover to around ₹40,000 crore in the current fiscal from nearly ₹30,000 crore in FY26 by expanding its retail business and ramping up procurement of pulses, oilseeds and onions for the government's buffer, a senior official said.

"Our sales turnover in the first quarter of the current fiscal year has been quite robust and we continue to expand our partnership with retailers, institutional buyers and exporters to boost sales of our products this fiscal," Deepak

STEADY GROWTH



Agarwal, Managing Director, Nafed, told FE.

In FY26, Nafed had earned a net profit of ₹405 crore, Agarwal said. In 2024-25, the federation reported a turnover of ₹26,946 crore and a net profit

of ₹565 crore. Nafed, one of the biggest agri-cooperative, annually procures 4 to 5 million tonne (MT) of pulses, oilseeds and onion annually under the government's Prices Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabili-

sation Fund (PSF) from the farmers from creating buffer and this operation still contributes over 80% of its sale turnover.

The federation earns a commission of 1% on the value of

procurement of pulses, oilseeds and pulses under PSF and PSF while it gets 0.5% on the disposal of the commodities from the government.

"Currently we are holding over 3 MT of pulses under a



■ Federation plans to expand food retail business through partnerships with CSD, BPCL, IRTC, Amul

■ Recently, the federation launched its e-auction portal for selling agricultural commodities

buffer, which will liquidated after we see the impact of El nino on crop yield," Agarwal said.

The federation is aiming to further expand its retail business of supplying and selling a host of food products through partnerships with canteen store department (CSD) of defence ministry, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation or Amul.

The federation supplies its own range of consumer products including pulses, edible oils, sugar, tea, spices, dry fruits, Ready-to-Eat products etc. For boosting cultivation of organic crops by farmers, the federation has launched several products including pulses, flour, spices, grains, honey etc under the brand 'Organic Soul'.

Several products of the federation are exported through global retailers such as Lulu group. In addition, Nafed also procures and supplies pulses on behalf of state governments such as Gujarat for distribution through the public distribution system.

Recently, the federation launched its e-auction portal - NAFEX.in - for selling agricultural commodities, while currently it uses private platforms such as mjunction, NCDEX e Markets - NeML and E-Teach for selling of procured commodities in the open market in a calibrated manner.

To improve efficiency in grain management, NAFED has launched the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform - Saksham - which would integrate key business processes on a single digital platform.

Publication : Hari Bhoomi (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :13 July 2026	Page : 10

Headline: India bought record crude oil worth €4.5 billion from Russia in June: Report

सीआरईए ने कहा, पिछले माह से 34 फीसदी अधिक आयात भारत ने जून में रूस से रिकॉर्ड 4.5 अरब यूरो का कच्चा तेल खरीदा : रिपोर्ट

एजेसी » नई दिल्ली

भारत ने इस साल जून में रूस से रिकॉर्ड मात्रा में कच्चे तेल का आयात किया है और यह इससे पिछले महीने की तुलना में 34 प्रतिशत अधिक रहा है। हालांकि, इस दौरान अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कीमतों में नरमी के कारण रूस की

■ कीमतों में नरमी के कारण तेल निर्यात से होने वाली आय में कमी दर्ज की गई।

सेक्टर फॉर रिसर्च ऑन एनर्जी एंड क्लीन एयर (सीआरईए) की रिपोर्ट में यह जानकारी दी गई है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, जून में भारत ने रूस से 4.5 अरब यूरो मूल्य का कच्चा तेल खरीदा, जो रूस से उसके कुल 5.5 अरब यूरो के जीवाश्म ईंधन आयात का 83 प्रतिशत बैठता।

खास बातें

- जून में भारत ने रूस से 4.5 अरब यूरो मूल्य का कच्चा तेल खरीदा



ब्रिटिश सरकार के विशेष प्रावधान से आयात हुआ संभव

रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया कि यूरोपीय संघ द्वारा रूसी कच्चे तेल से बने उत्पादों के आयात पर प्रतिबंध के बावजूद जून में भारतीय रिफाइनरियों से मेजी गई ऐसी दो खेप यूरोपीय बंदरगाहों पर उतारी गई। इसके अलावा, ब्रिटेन ने भी जून में जामनगर रिफाइनरी से रूसी कच्चे तेल से तैयार जेट ईंधन की पहली खेप प्राप्त की। ब्रिटिश सरकार द्वारा दिए गए विशेष प्रावधान के तहत यह आयात संभव हुआ।

रूसी तेल की आपूर्ति भारतीय रिफाइनरियों में बढ़ी

इस तरह भारत चीन के बाद रूस से हाइड्रोक्राबिंग खरीदने वाला दूसरा सबसे बड़ा देश रहा। भारत के कुल कच्चे तेल आयात में जून के दौरान मासिक आधार पर 5.4 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई। इस दौरान रूसी तेल की आपूर्ति भारतीय रिफाइनरियों में उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ी।

रिलायंस की रिफाइनरी से तेल की आपूर्ति

रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज की जामनगर रिफाइनरी में रूस से तेल की आपूर्ति मई की तुलना में 150 प्रतिशत, इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन (आईओसी) की पारादीप रिफाइनरी में 126 प्रतिशत, भारत पेट्रोलियम (बीपीसीएल) की कोच्चि रिफाइनरी में 83 प्रतिशत और नायरा एनर्जी की वाडिनार रिफाइनरी में 45 प्रतिशत बढ़ी।

भारत की निर्यात मात्रा 14 प्रतिशत बढ़ी

सीआरईए के अनुसार, भारत की बढ़ी हुई खरीदारी से जून में रूस के कच्चे तेल के निर्यात की मात्रा 14 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई। इसके बावजूद कम कीमतों के कारण रूस की कच्चे तेल से दैनिक निर्यात आय आठ प्रतिशत घटकर 34.8 करोड़ यूरो प्रतिदिन रह गई। कुल मिलाकर रूस के जीवाश्म ईंधन निर्यात की दैनिक आय एक प्रतिशत घटकर 73.4 करोड़ यूरो रह गई, जबकि निर्यात मात्रा सात प्रतिशत बढ़ी।

भारत वैश्विक व्यापार में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहा

रिपोर्ट कहती है जून में भारत द्वारा रूस से आयात किए गए 5.5 अरब यूरो के जीवाश्म ईंधन में 4.5 अरब यूरो का कच्चा तेल, 48.8 करोड़ यूरो के पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद और 44.4 करोड़ यूरो का कोयला शामिल था। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक भारत, रूस के कच्चे तेल से तैयार किए गए परिष्कृत ईंधन के वैश्विक व्यापार में भी अहम भूमिका निभा रहा है।

81.4 करोड़ यूरो मूल्य का उत्पाद निर्यात

जून में भारत, तुर्किये, बुर्नेई और जॉर्जिया की रिफाइनरियों ने रूस पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाले देशों— यूरोपीय संघ, अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रेलिया—को 81.4 करोड़ यूरो मूल्य के पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का निर्यात किया। इनमें से लगभग 36.9 करोड़ यूरो के उत्पाद रूसी कच्चे तेल से तैयार किए गए थे।

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Headline: India becomes the second- largest buyer of Russian crude in June

‘सेंटर फार रिसर्च आन एनर्जी एंड क्लीन एअर’ की रिपोर्ट में दावा जून में रूस से कच्चे तेल का दूसरा बड़ा खरीदार बना भारत

नई दिल्ली, 12 जुलाई (भाषा)।

भारत ने इस साल जून में रूस से रिकार्ड मात्रा में कच्चे तेल का आयात किया है और यह इससे पिछले महीने की तुलना में 34 फीसद अधिक रहा है। हालांकि, इस दौरान अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कीमतों में नरमी के कारण रूस की तेल निर्यात से होने वाली आय में कमी दर्ज की गई।

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भारत के कुल कच्चे तेल आयात में जून के दौरान मासिक आधार पर 5.4 फीसद की वृद्धि हुई। इस दौरान रूसी तेल की आपूर्ति भारतीय



भारत के कुल कच्चे तेल आयात में जून के दौरान मासिक आधार पर 5.4 फीसद की वृद्धि हुई। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज की जामनगर रिफाइनरी में रूस से तेल की आपूर्ति मई की तुलना में 150 फीसद, इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन की पारादीप रिफाइनरी में 126 फीसद, भारत पेट्रोलियम की कोच्चि रिफाइनरी में 83 फीसद और नायरा एनर्जी की वाडिनार रिफाइनरी 45 फीसद बढ़ी।

रिफाइनरियों में उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ी। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज की जामनगर रिफाइनरी में रूस से तेल की आपूर्ति मई की तुलना में 150 फीसद, इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन की पारादीप रिफाइनरी में 126 फीसद, भारत पेट्रोलियम की कोच्चि रिफाइनरी में 83 फीसद और नायरा एनर्जी की वाडिनार रिफाइनरी 45 फीसद बढ़ी। सीआरईए के अनुसार, भारत की बढ़ी हुई खरीदारी से जून में रूस के कच्चे तेल के निर्यात

की मात्रा 14 फीसद बढ़ गई। इसके बावजूद कम कीमतों के कारण रूस की कच्चे तेल से दैनिक निर्यात आय आठ फीसद घटकर 34.8 करोड़ यूरो प्रतिदिन रह गई।

रिपोर्ट कहती है जून में भारत द्वारा रूस से आयात किए गए 5.5 अरब यूरो के जीवाश्म ईंधन में 4.5 अरब यूरो का कच्चा तेल, 48.8 करोड़ यूरो के पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद और 44.4 करोड़ यूरो का कोयला शामिल था।

Headline: Crude Oil: India plays the role of kingmaker in the global business of refined fuels

ક્રૂડ ઓઇલ: રિફાઇન્ડ ફ્યુઅલના ગ્લોબલ બિઝનેસમાં ભારત કિંગમેકરની ભૂમિકામાં

નવી દિલ્હી: ભારતે ચાલુ વર્ષે જૂન ૨૦૨૬માં રશિયા પાસેથી રેકૉર્ડ માત્રામાં કાચા તેલ (ક્રૂડ ઓઇલ) ની આયાત કરી છે. જે તેના અગાઉના મહિના એટલે કે મે કરતાં ૩૪ ટકા વધુ છે. જોકે, આ સમયગાળા દરમિયાન આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય બજારમાં તેલના ભાવમાં નરમાઈ આવવાને કારણે રશિયાની નિકાસની કમાણીમાં થોડો ઘટાડો નોંધાયો છે.

આ સંદર્ભના રિપોર્ટ અનુસાર, જૂન મહિનામાં ભારતે રશિયા પાસેથી ૪.૫ અબજ યુરોનું ક્રૂડ ઓઇલ ખરીદ્યું હતું. જે રશિયા પાસેથી ભારતના કુલ ૫.૫ અબજ યુરોની ઇંધણ આયાતના ૮૩ ટકા જેટલું થાય છે. આ ખરીદી સાથે ભારત, ચીન પછી રશિયા પાસેથી હાઇડ્રોકાર્બન ખરીદનારો વિશ્વનો બીજો સૌથી મોટો દેશ બની ગયો છે.

ભારતીય રિફાઇનરીઓમાં રશિયન તેલની ધૂમ આવક થઇ રહી હોવાના સમાચાર છે. જૂન મહિનામાં ભારતની કુલ ક્રૂડ ઓઇલ આયાતમાં માસિક ધોરણે ૫.૪ ટકાનો વધારો થયો છે. આ દરમિયાન દેશની મુખ્ય રિફાઇનરીઓમાં રશિયન તેલની સપ્લાય નોંધપાત્ર રીતે વધી હતી. ઉપલબ્ધ આંકડાઓ મુજબ રિલાયન્સ ઇન્ડસ્ટ્રીઝની જામનગર રિફાઇનરી મે મહિનાની સરખામણીએ રશિયન તેલની સપ્લાયમાં ૧૫૦ ટકાનો જંગી વધારો થયો.

ઇન્ડિયન ઓઇલ કોર્પોરેશન (આઇઓસી)ની પારાદીપ રિફાઇનરી

સપ્લાયમાં ૧૨૬ ટકાનો વધારો થયો અને ભારત પેટ્રોલિયમ (બીપીસીએલ)ની કોસ્થ રિફાઇનરીની આયાતમાં ૮૩ ટકાનો વધારો થયો છે, જ્યારે નાથરા એનજીની વાડિનાર રિફાઇનરી સપ્લાયમાં ૪૫ ટકાનો વધારો નોંધાયો છે. રશિયાના ક્રૂડ ઇમ્પોર્ટમાં ૧૪ ટકાનો વધારો થયો છે. રિપોર્ટ અનુસાર, ભારતે ખરીદેલા કુલ ૫.૫ અબજ યુરોની ઇંધણ પ્રોડક્ટ્સમાં ૪.૫ અબજ યુરોનું ક્રૂડ ઓઇલ, ૪૮.૮ કરોડ યુરોના પેટ્રોલિયમ ઉત્પાદનો અને ૪૪.૪ કરોડ યુરોનો કોલસો સામેલ હતો.

ભારતની આ વ્યાપક ખરીદીને કારણે જૂનમાં રશિયાના કુલ ક્રૂડ એક્સપોર્ટ વોલ્યુમમાં ૧૪ ટકાનો વધારો થયો હતો, તેમ છતાં વૈશ્વિક મંદીને કારણે રશિયાની દૈનિક તેલ આવક આઠ ટકા ઘટીને ૩૪.૮ કરોડ યુરો થઈ ગઈ હતી. આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય બિઝનેસમાં ભારતની ભૂમિકા હવે મહત્વની બની ગઈ છે અને યુરોપિયન યુનિયનનો પ્રતિબંધ આ માટે કારણભૂત છે.

ભારત માત્ર રશિયન તેલ ખરીદી જ નથી રહ્યો, પરંતુ તેમાંથી તૈયાર થતા રિફાઇન્ડ ફ્યુઅલના વૈશ્વિક બિઝનેસમાં પણ કિંગમેકરની ભૂમિકા ભજવી રહ્યો છે. જૂનમાં ભારત, તુર્કિય, બ્રુનેઇ અને જ્યોર્જિયાની રિફાઇનરીઓએ રશિયા પર પ્રતિબંધ મૂકનારા દેશો (યુરોપિયન યુનિયન, અમેરિકા અને ઓસ્ટ્રેલિયા)ને ૮૧.૪ કરોડ યુરોની પેટ્રોલિયમ પ્રોડક્ટ્સ નિકાસ કરી હતી. જેમાંથી ૩૬.૮ કરોડ યુરોની પ્રોડક્ટ્સ રશિયન ક્રૂડમાંથી બનેલી હતી. ■

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Headline: India bought a record 4.5 billion euros of crude oil from Russia in June

भारत ने जून में रूस से रिकॉर्ड 4.5 अरब यूरो का कच्चा तेल खरीदा

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): भारत ने इस साल जून में रूस से रिकॉर्ड मात्रा में कच्चे तेल का आयात किया है और यह इससे पिछले महीने की तुलना में 34 प्रतिशत अधिक रहा है। हालांकि, इस दौरान अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कीमतों में नरमी के कारण रूस की तेल निर्यात से होने वाली आय में कमी दर्ज की गई। सेंटर फॉर रिसर्च ऑन एनर्जी एंड क्लीन एयर (सीआरईए) की रिपोर्ट में यह जानकारी दी गई है।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, जून में भारत ने रूस से 4.5 अरब यूरो मूल्य का कच्चा तेल खरीदा, जो रूस से उसके कुल 5.5 अरब यूरो के जीवाश्म ईंधन आयात का 83 प्रतिशत बैठता। इस तरह भारत चीन के बाद रूस से हाइड्रोकार्बन खरीदने वाला दूसरा सबसे बड़ा देश रहा। भारत के कुल कच्चे तेल आयात में जून के दौरान मासिक आधार पर 5.4 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई। इस दौरान रूसी तेल की आपूर्ति भारतीय रिफाइनरियों में

● **पिछले महीने की तुलना में 34 प्रतिशत अधिक रहा आयात**

● **चीन के बाद रूस से हाइड्रोकार्बन खरीदने वाला दूसरा सबसे बड़ा देश रहा भारत**

उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ी। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज की जामनगर रिफाइनरी में रूस से तेल की आपूर्ति मई की तुलना में 150 प्रतिशत, इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन (आईओसी) की पारादीप रिफाइनरी में 126 प्रतिशत, भारत पेट्रोलियम (बीपीसीएल) की कोच्चि रिफाइनरी में 83 प्रतिशत और नायरा एनर्जी की वाडिनार रिफाइनरी में 45 प्रतिशत बढ़ी।

सीआरईए के अनुसार, भारत की बढ़ी हुई खरीदारी से जून में रूस के कच्चे तेल के निर्यात की मात्रा 14 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई। इसके बावजूद कम कीमतों के कारण रूस की कच्चे तेल से दैनिक निर्यात आय आठ प्रतिशत घटकर 34.8 करोड़ यूरो प्रतिदिन रह गई। कुल मिलाकर रूस के जीवाश्म ईंधन निर्यात की दैनिक आय एक प्रतिशत घटकर 73.4 करोड़ यूरो रह गई, जबकि निर्यात मात्रा सात प्रतिशत बढ़ी। रिपोर्ट कहती है जून में भारत द्वारा रूस से आयात किए गए 5.5 अरब यूरो के जीवाश्म ईंधन में 4.5 अरब यूरो का कच्चा तेल, 48.8 करोड़ यूरो के पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद और 44.4 करोड़ यूरो का कोयला शामिल था।

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, भारत, रूस के कच्चे तेल से तैयार किए गए परिष्कृत ईंधन के वैश्विक व्यापार में भी अहम भूमिका निभा रहा है। जून में भारत, तुर्किये, यूनेई और जॉर्जिया की रिफाइनरियों ने रूस पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाले देशों—यूरोपीय संघ, अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रेलिया-को

81.4 करोड़ यूरो मूल्य के पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का निर्यात किया। इनमें से लगभग 36.9 करोड़ यूरो के उत्पाद रूसी कच्चे तेल से तैयार किए गए थे।

रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया कि यूरोपीय संघ द्वारा रूसी कच्चे तेल से बने उत्पादों के आयात पर प्रतिबंध के बावजूद जून में भारतीय रिफाइनरियों से भेजी गई ऐसी दो खेप यूरोपीय बंदरगाहों पर उतारी गई।

इसके अलावा, ब्रिटेन ने भी जून में जामनगर रिफाइनरी से रूसी कच्चे तेल से तैयार जेट ईंधन की पहली खेप प्राप्त की। ब्रिटिश सरकार द्वारा दिए गए विशेष प्रावधान के तहत यह आयात संभव हुआ। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, जून में 7.3 अरब यूरो की खरीद के साथ चीन, रूस के जीवाश्म ईंधन का सबसे बड़ा ग्राहक रहा, जबकि 5.5 अरब यूरो के आयात के साथ भारत दूसरे स्थान पर रहा।



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Oil companies look to expand sales of 10-kg LPG cylinders

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New Delhi: State-run oil marketing companies are looking to expand the use of their lightweight 10-kg LPG cylinders beyond domestic consumers, with these likely to be sold at commercial LPG rates if approved. The plan, under discussion, could benefit migrant workers, tenants and students living away from home, besides street vendors who do not have enough space to use the larger 19kg commercial LPG cylinders.

It could also be suitable for cafes, food kiosks and other establishments with relatively low LPG consumption.

The cylinders, made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) material, are likely to be made available through gas agencies and select outlets.

The lightweight composite cylinders are not new. All three state-run OMCs already distribute them to a limited number of domestic LPG consumers under different brand names. HPCL introduced HP Gas Ojas in 2019, followed by IndianOil's Indane Xtralight in 2021, which now has nearly seven lakh subscribers. BPCL launched Bharatgas Lite in Jan this year, though its rollout remained limited after the West Asia conflict disrupted LPG supplies.

The OMCs at present market LPG in 19kg, 5kg and 2kg cylinders for commercial users and consumers without domestic LPG connections.



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**Ladakh sets up CoE
for smart energy**

LEH: In a major step towards positioning Ladakh as a hub for clean energy innovation and future-ready technical education, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Smart Energy and Electrical Systems at LREDA Campus here. "This Centre of Excellence will prepare the youth for emerging sectors such as renewable energy, industrial automation, electric mobility and smart infrastructure."

India's search for the next fuel revolution

From hydrogen and EVs to CNG and isobutanol, emerging alternatives aim to cut emissions and reduce crude oil imports

VINCENT FENANDES

IN 2026, the debate between Hydrogen and CNG centers on practicality vs. zero-emission potential. While CNG remains the most practical and affordable daily driving fuel with an expansive network, Hydrogen is the future for heavy transport, offering faster refueling and emitting only water vapor.

Rising fuel costs and growing environmental concerns are changing how people choose their vehicles today. Many users are now actively looking for cleaner and more cost-effective alternatives to traditional petrol and diesel cars. This shift has brought options like CNG, electric vehicles, and hydrogen vehicles into focus as practical solutions.

However, choosing between these options is not always simple. Each one comes with its own advantages, limitations, and suitability depending on your daily driving needs. Understanding these differences can help you avoid confusion and make a confident decision.

In India, CNG cars are widely used because they offer low running costs and are easily available in many cities. They are a practical choice for daily commuters and commercial users who want to reduce their fuel expenses without compromising on reliability.

When looking at options like CNG vs EV vs hydrogen, CNG stands out as a simple and cost-effective solution for current needs. It is also a cleaner fuel compared to petrol and diesel, which helps reduce emissions and supports a more sustainable and responsible way of driving.

Electric vehicles, commonly known as EVs, run on electricity instead of petrol or diesel. They use an electric motor for movement, and the energy comes from batteries that can be charged at home or at public charging stations. This simple system reduces the need for traditional fuel and makes driving more efficient.

EVs are becoming a popular choice,



especially in cities, because they offer lower running costs and a cleaner driving experience. Since they do not produce tailpipe emissions, they help reduce air pollution and support a healthier environment. When exploring options like CNG vs EV vs hydrogen, EVs stand out for their modern technology and eco-friendly benefits.

Hydrogen vehicles operate using fuel cell technology that generates electricity from hydrogen gas. Instead of storing power like battery-based cars, these vehicles convert hydrogen into electricity through a chemical reaction inside the fuel cell, which then powers the motor to move the vehicle. One of the biggest advantages of hydrogen vehicles is their clean output. They release only water vapor, making them one of the most environmentally friendly options available today.

When comparing CNG vs EV vs hydrogen, hydrogen stands out for its long-term sustainability and clean energy potential.

CNG vehicles are the most affordable when it comes to the initial investment and are easily accessible for most buyers. Electric vehicles usually have a higher upfront price because of battery technology, but they offer lower running costs over time, making them economical for daily city use. Hydrogen vehicles are currently the most expensive option due to limited production and advanced fuel

cell technology, which makes them less practical for everyday users at present.

CNG cars deliver consistent mileage and reliable performance for regular commuting. Electric vehicles are highly efficient, especially in stop-and-go city traffic, as they convert most of the stored energy directly into motion. Hydrogen vehicles also show good efficiency, but their real-world performance depends heavily on infrastructure availability, which is still limited in India.

Isobutanol is a renewable, four-carbon alcohol used as a high-performance biofuel and gasoline/diesel additive. Because its energy density is closer to petroleum than ethanol and it is far less corrosive, it can seamlessly "drop into" existing fuel infrastructure.

While ethanol blends well with petrol, it has historically failed when blended with diesel due to stability issues. Isobutanol is changing this dynamic. Governments (such as India) are actively conducting trials and piloting 10% isobutanol-diesel (ISB10) blends to reduce carbon emissions and dependency on crude oil imports.

Isobutanol can be manufactured from biomass, agricultural feedstocks (like sugarcane, corn, or cassava), and residual lignocellulose. Bio-isobutanol can be created by engineering microorganisms for specialized fermentation, or by retrofitting existing first-generation ethanol distilleries.

The govt sees it as a potential way to reduce dependence on imported crude oil. One of the government's goals is to reduce dependence on imported crude oil. India imports more than 85 percent of its crude oil requirements, leaving it exposed to global energy price swings and ongoing pressures from the global energy market. As a result, diesel continues to retail at close to Rs 100 per litre in several major cities. Experiments were carried out to blend 10 percent ethanol with diesel, but they turned out to be unsuccessful. Now efforts are being made to blend diesel with isobutanol.

Iran expands attacks on Gulf, says Hormuz shut

REUTERS
Washington/Dubai, July 12

US AND IRANIAN forces have exchanged heavy missile and drone assaults, with Tehran targeting US facilities in states across the Gulf on Sunday and saying it had again closed the vital Strait of Hormuz. The strikes were the latest in a cycle of attacks and counter-attacks as Iran seeks to assert control over shipping through the strait. However, the barrage marked an escalation in pace and range.

The strikes extended to Qatar, a mediator in ceasefire talks that had not come under attack since April, while the UAE, which had not been targeted since early May, said its air defences had engaged missiles and drones from Iran.

The renewed violence casts further doubt on the future of an interim US-Iranian agree-

RISING TENSIONS

■ US says it hit hundreds of Iranian targets after ship attacks

■ Iran retaliates, multiple Gulf states targeted

■ Indian crew member missing after container vessel hit



■ Iran says Hormuz to stay closed till 'end of US interference'

ment signed last month that aimed to reopen the strait and end the war after a further 60 days of negotiations. In the past week, US President Donald Trump has said he considers the ceasefire over, while leaving the door open to more talks.

The war has destabilised the Gulf, while Iran's effective blockade of the strait has driven

energy prices higher, fuelling global inflation. Higher prices, especially for gasoline, are politically sensitive for Trump ahead of November's congressional elections.

Iran has sought to establish a permanent system for collecting fees in the strait, which carried one-fifth of the world's oil and LNG gas shipments.

mint primer

Why is the ethanol fuel push sparking consumer fury?

BY AYAAN KARTIK

The Centre has defended its ethanol blending programme just as discussions gain momentum to push the blend beyond 20%. The defence comes as consumers express renewed anxieties over potential damages and costs of higher ethanol mixing. *Mint* examines the validity of these fears and whether the transition to E20 was too hasty.



Auto companies find themselves stuck between a policy requirement and consumer fury over the ethanol move.

1 Why are consumers angry?

With discussions gaining momentum to increase ethanol blending beyond 20% following the West Asia war-linked crude oil shock, a section of consumers has once again raised concerns regarding damage to vehicle parts and lower mileage for older cars. Full material compliance for E20 began in 2023, whereas older vehicles were tuned for E10. While the government claimed this led to a minor 3-5% drop in mileage, a survey by LocalCircles in June found 66% of consumers reported a more than 10% mileage drop in pre-2023 cars with no fuel-price adjustments. Consumers also lack a precise understanding of the expected mileage drop for their specific vehicle because automakers have not provided model-wise data.

2 Does India need a 'protection fuel' strategy?

During discussions on the ethanol roadmap, the automobile industry advocated for a 'protection fuel'—specifically, keeping E10 fuel available alongside E20 to accommodate older, E10-compliant vehicles. Industry executives cited the example of Brazil, where the transition to higher ethanol blends was spread out over more than three decades, offering consumers multiple fuel choices to ease anxieties. Additionally, the auto industry had requested pushing the E20 mandate back to 2028 to provide adequate time to address all manufacturing and consumer contingencies.

TURN TO PAGE 6

Why is the ethanol fuel push sparking consumer fury?

FROM FRONT FLAP



The government says E20 delivers smoother performance than older blends. PTI

3 What was the government's defence?

On Friday, the government released a note defending the move, saying the transition to E20 was not planned in haste. While conceding that there has been a drop in mileage, it argued that E20 is a cleaner fuel that delivers smoother performance and better acceleration than older blends. It effectively ruled out the 'protection fuel' idea, saying that managing multiple fuel blends would pose a huge challenge. It also said the transition was carefully scheduled, pointing to a roadmap for the April 2025 E20 rollout that was published by Niti Aayog back in June 2021.

4 How will automakers deal with this?

Auto companies find themselves stuck between a policy requirement and consumer fury. Measures available to them include guaranteeing that warranty claims will not be denied due to E20 usage, accelerating the rollout of flex-fuel vehicles capable of handling any blend, and explicitly detailing the exact impact of E20 across different model years. Toyota and Mercedes-Benz have also noted that fuel adulteration in certain parts of India is compounding the issue, with consumers frequently mistaking poor fuel quality for ethanol-related damage.

5 Will the latest flare-up stall the ethanol push?

The government remains firm, saying that rolling back the mandate now would inflict severe losses on ethanol makers who scaled up capacity based on state policy. However, there is no public indication that the government will aggressively push beyond E20 toward higher blends like E21, E22, or E25 just yet. Industry executives note that while testing for higher blends is ongoing, no final decisions have been made. Meanwhile, car makers are preparing to launch more flex-fuel vehicles, supported by a targeted expansion of up to 5,000 flex-fuel pumps by the end of next year.

Publication : The Hindu	Editions : Hyderabad
Date :13 July 2026	Page : 8

Oil conundrum

India's energy imports from Russia seem driven by confusion, not strategy

Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) data on India's May crude imports show that receipts from Russia had reached the pre-sanction levels of more than 40%, which is also the highest in two years. Though India has defended this as commercially prudent, its yuan-based payments give China an edge to internationalise its currency at India's expense, even if it has no bearing on the domestic strength of the Indian rupee due to strict capital controls. Oil import concentration from a single source, and paying a premium, is risky for India, which has long pursued a diversified energy strategy. Moreover, sourcing fuel from the Gulf spot market amid evolving sanctions has its own risks. Secondary sanctions could hit trade channels, exposing Indian refiners to severe supply shocks. India's crude imports from Russia surged in June, while UAE shipments were at record levels as refiners sought to secure supplies after the Strait of Hormuz reopened. However, renewed Iran-U.S. hostilities have put those flows at risk. And even as Venezuela has emerged as a key supplier, increasing and unsustainably high one-country concentration could weaken India's bargaining power, reduce flexibility, and erode its credibility as an independent balancing power.

MCI data highlight the price impact: Russian imports carried a \$46-per-ton premium. Import value surged 83% amid a 2% fall in volume, likely diminishing Indian refiners' margins on refined products using Russian crude. While spot purchases have enabled refiners to capture discounts of up to \$10 per barrel on Russian Urals crude relative to Brent during some periods, after February this year, narrowing discounts, weaker product cracks, and geopolitical risks have moderated gross refining margins. India must strike a balance between having long-term stable contracts with multiple producers, and selectively using the spot-market to mitigate the procurement risks. Until the Russia-Ukraine conflict, nearly 70% of India's crude imports came through long-term contracts, particularly from West Asia. True, India cannot overlook the diplomatic costs as Russian energy dependence risks sanctions. When Russian crude was cheap because of discounts on account of the Ukraine war, India reduced imports under U.S. pressure; now when it is being sold at a premium because of the Iran war, India is moving back to Russian crude. India must expand its strategic petroleum reserves to cushion temporary disruptions. Whether it increases or cuts down Russian oil imports, India seems to make decisions that are far removed from any sense of strategic autonomy.

Hormuz closure threatens India's gas, crude supplies

Amiti Sen
Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Fresh escalation in West Asia following the US attack on Iran and Tehran's declaration that it has again shut the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) threatens to disrupt India's hydrocarbon supplies, particularly liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas, while also raising concerns over crude oil imports and higher costs for exporters.

Government and industry officials said India had some immediate buffer as refiners had topped up crude, LPG and LNG cargoes during the recent sanctions reprieve. However, a prolonged disruption to shipping through the strategic waterway could recreate the supply tightness witnessed in March-April this year.

"India has been able to make up for some lost cargoes of LPG and LNG. For now, there are supplies. However, if this escalation extends, leading to the SoH becoming un-navigable, the March-April 2026 shortage scenario could return," a government source said.

CLOSE WATCH

Another senior official described the situation as "tense and fluid", saying the government is monitoring developments closely and is in touch with stakeholders to ensure the safe movement of crude oil, LPG, LNG and chemical cargoes.

A refinery official said, "At present, vessel traffic is not happening through the SoH. There will be shadow tanker activity. No one can say for sure what will happen next or how will the conflict de-



FUEL IMPACT. Exporters said the biggest immediate fallout would be through energy prices rather than shipping disruptions

escalate. For now, it's wait and watch."

He added that refiners would continue relying on crude from Russia, the US, West Africa and South America, and LPG and LNG imports from the US, reverting to sourcing arrangements that existed before the Iran sanctions reprieve.

The SoH carries roughly a fifth of global crude oil trade and a substantial share of the world's LNG shipments, making any prolonged disruption a major concern for energy-importing countries such as India.

DISRUPTIONS SEEN

Exporters said the biggest immediate fallout would be through energy prices rather than shipping disruptions.

Since commercial container traffic had not resumed through the Strait even after the temporary ceasefire, the latest escalation had mainly extinguished hopes of an early return to normalcy while threatening to raise fuel and freight costs.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations Director General Ajay Sahai said there would be no immediate deterioration in container movement because commercial cargoes were already avoiding the Strait.

"The disruption is simply

getting prolonged," he said.

EPC India Chairman Pankaj Chadha said engineering exporters were more worried about gas availability than shipping. "Container traffic through the Strait never really reopened. The difference now is that whatever hope we had of normal shipping resuming has disappeared."

He added that manufacturers had begun receiving better gas supplies after the initial truce, and gas prices had started softening from July 1. "Now, it appears the situation will reverse again. Gas prices are likely to rise, and industries that had just begun recovering from shortages may once again face the same problems," Chadha said.

Headline	ONGC completes drilling of second geothermal well in Ladakh		
Publication	Any Tv News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC completes drilling of second geothermal well in Ladakh

<https://anytvnews.com/technology/ongc-completes-drilling-of-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh/>

New Delhi, July 12 (IANS). Public sector Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling of its second geothermal well in Puga Valley in Ladakh.

This is considered an important step towards the development of India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

ONGC Energy Centre, the research and development arm of ONGC, drilled this well to a depth of 1,000 meters at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month.

According to an ONGC statement, the work was completed in less time and at lower cost than earlier geothermal drilling campaigns.

According to the company, this new well builds on the success of the first geothermal well drilled in Puga. The first well produced steam at a temperature higher than the boiling point of water, confirming the immense potential of geothermal energy in the region.

ONGC said the second well will help in the development of India's first 1 megawatt electric (MWE) pilot geothermal power plant and could open the way for commercial use of geothermal energy in the country.

The next phase of the project plans to set up a 1 MW capacity pilot geothermal power plant and develop geothermal resources to provide reliable base power to Ladakh in the long run.

The Puga geothermal field located in eastern Ladakh is considered to be India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy uses natural heat beneath the Earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heat. It is a 24/7 source of energy with low-carbon emissions. Unlike solar and wind energy, it is considered more reliable as it is less dependent on weather.

Although the Puga region has long been considered India's most promising geothermal region and exploration work has been carried out from time to time, geothermal power generation has not yet started on a commercial scale due to technical and economic challenges.

Meanwhile, India is moving rapidly towards the target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel based energy capacity by the year 2030. The country's non-fossil fuel based installed capacity has increased from 81 GW in 2014 to 288 GW currently, representing an increase of over 256 per cent.

During the same period, solar energy capacity has increased from 2.8 GW to 155 GW and wind energy capacity has increased from 21 GW to 56.4 GW.

IANS

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Headline	ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh		
Publication	Asia Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh

<https://asiapost.in/ongc-drills-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh/>

New Delhi, July 12 (IANS) Public sector Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga

Valley, in a significant step toward developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The upstream oil giant's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, according to an ONGC statement.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the statement said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country.

The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power. It is considered a reliable and dependable source of energy, unlike solar and wind energy, which are more dependent on weather conditions.

The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently over the years, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to achieve the required breakthrough due to the technical and economic challenges involved.

Meanwhile, India is well on track to achieve its target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030. The country's non-fossil fuel capacity has increased from 81 GW in 2014 to 288 GW at present, registering a growth of over 256 per cent . Solar energy capacity has risen from 2.8 GW to 155 GW, while wind energy capacity has grown from 21 GW to 56.4 GW.

The next phase will require deeper integration of generation, storage and transmission systems, along with enhanced grid resilience.

IANS

sps/vd

Headline	ONGC Completes Second Geothermal Well in Ladakh, Advances India's First Geothermal Power Project		
Publication	Bizz Buzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Completes Second Geothermal Well in Ladakh, Advances India's First Geothermal Power Project

<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/national/ongc-completes-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh-advances-indias-first-geothermal-power-project-1397251>

ONGC has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, advancing India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power plant project.

image for illustrative purpose

New Delhi, July 12: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has successfully completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another milestone in the development of India's first pilot geothermal power project and strengthening the country's renewable energy ambitions.

ONGC's research and development arm, the ONGC Energy Centre, has completed drilling a 1,000-metre-deep geothermal well in the Puga geothermal field at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet.

Builds on Success of First Well

The second well follows the successful drilling of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures exceeding the boiling point of water, confirming the significant geothermal potential of the region.

The company said the latest well will support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant, which is expected to demonstrate the commercial viability of geothermal energy generation in the country.

Pilot Power Plant Planned

The next phase of the project involves establishing a 1 MWe pilot geothermal power plant in the Puga Valley.

ONGC said the long-term objective is to harness the geothermal resources of the region to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh, offering a stable source of clean energy throughout the year.

Unlike solar and wind power, geothermal energy generates electricity continuously, regardless of weather conditions, making it a dependable low-carbon energy source.

Puga Holds India's Best Geothermal Potential

Located in eastern Ladakh, the Puga geothermal field has long been recognised as India's most promising geothermal resource.

Although exploratory work has been carried out intermittently over the years, commercial geothermal power generation has remained limited due to technical complexities and economic challenges associated with developing the resource.

The successful drilling campaigns are expected to provide valuable data for future commercial-scale geothermal development in India.

Supports India's Clean Energy Goals

The geothermal project complements India's broader renewable energy strategy as the country moves towards achieving its target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030.

According to official figures, India's non-fossil fuel power generation capacity has increased from 81 GW in 2014 to 288 GW currently, representing growth of more than 256 per cent.

During the same period:

Solar energy capacity has expanded from 2.8 GW to 155 GW.

Wind energy capacity has increased from 21 GW to 56.4 GW.

The government has stated that the next phase of India's energy transition will require deeper integration of renewable power generation with energy storage systems, transmission infrastructure and a more resilient electricity grid.

The successful completion of ONGC's second geothermal well marks an important step towards diversifying India's renewable energy mix by tapping the country's largely untapped geothermal resources while advancing clean, reliable and round-the-clock power generation.

Headline	ONGC To Build 1.75 MT Strategic Oil Reserve In Mangalore		
Publication	Business World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC To Build 1.75 MT Strategic Oil Reserve In Mangalore

<https://www.businessworld.in/article/ongc-to-build-1-75-mt-strategic-oil-reserve-in-mangalore-614230>

ONGC is going to build an oil storage facility in Mangalore. This storage place will be able to hold 1.75 million tons of oil. This will help India store oil in case of an emergency.

The company says this oil storage facility will help ensure India has oil when it has trouble obtaining it from other countries. ONGC will ask the government whether it can use this storage facility for business purposes, if needed for the country.

India is an oil user and imports a lot of oil from other countries. So India is working with countries like the UAE and Japan to make sure it has oil stored away. This is because India had trouble securing oil when issues arose in the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz is an important route for oil to be shipped.

The government already allows some business use of the oil storage places in Mangalore, Padur and Vizag. These places can hold up to 5.33 million tons of oil. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd is responsible for these locations.

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals, which is a part of ONGC, has a refinery in Mangalore. It can process 300,000 barrels of oil per day. This company has already rented out half of the oil storage place in Mangalore. The rest of the storage place is rented out to Abu Dhabi National Oil Co from the UAE.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the UAE, Abu Dhabi National Oil Co said it wants to increase the amount of oil it stores in India. The company wants to store up to 30 million barrels of oil in India. The UAE is also thinking about storing oil in Fujairah as part of India's plan to store oil.

India is also planning to build oil storage facilities. One will be in Chandikhol in Odisha. It will be able to hold 4 million metric tons of oil. Another one will be in Padur, in India, and it will be able to hold 2.5 million metric tons of oil. ONGC and India are working on these oil storage facilities to ensure India has oil.

Share

Headline	Mangaluru: ONGC approves expansion of strategic petroleum reserve with 17.5 lac MT capacity		
Publication	Daiji World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

Mangaluru: ONGC approves expansion of strategic petroleum reserve with 17.5 lac MT capacity

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1319758>

Mangaluru, Jul 12: In a major move aimed at strengthening India's energy security, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has granted in-principle approval for the expansion of the strategic petroleum reserve in Mangaluru. The proposed facility will boast a massive capacity of 17.5 lac metric tonnes (MT).

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Communications Equipment

Along with the expansion, the ONGC board has also approved a proposal seeking government support to expand commercial utilization opportunities with regulatory backing. The newly planned project will add significant depth to India's overall strategic storage network, which is managed by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

Mangaluru stands out as one of India's most critical strategic petroleum storage locations, and it also houses ONGC's subsidiary, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), which operates a refinery with a capacity of 3 lac barrels per day. The expansion decision comes amid escalating global geopolitical tensions and persistent supply vulnerabilities through the Strait of Hormuz.

Existing infrastructure at Permude and Padur

Presently, crude oil is stored in massive underground rock caverns managed by ISPRL at Permude in Mangaluru. Additionally, ISPRL operates another mega underground crude oil storage facility at Padur in Udupi district. Both the Mangaluru and Padur cavern systems are interconnected via an underground pipeline network.

At the Mangaluru storage site, one cavern has been allocated to MRPL for its operations, while another has been leased out to the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Furthermore, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) operates a massive underground LPG storage facility at Permude, which was dedicated to the nation last year.

Current underground petroleum storage capacities in the coastal region:

Permude (Crude Oil): 1.5 million metric tonnes capacity (2 caverns)

Padur (Crude Oil): 2.5 million metric tonnes capacity (4 caverns)

Permude (LPG): 80 thousand metric tonnes capacity (2 caverns)

The newly approved 17.5 lac metric tonnes expansion will further cement the coastal region's status as a pivotal hub for India's energy contingency plans.

Top Stories

Headline	ONGC Drills 2nd Geothermal Well In Ladakh, Paving Way For India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant		
Publication	Daily Excelsior	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Drills 2nd Geothermal Well In Ladakh, Paving Way For India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant

<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/ongc-drills-2nd-geothermal-well-in-ladakh-paving-way-for-indias-first-pilot-geothermal-power-plant/>

New Delhi, Jul 12: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country.

The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions.

The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently for decades, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to take off in the country because of technical and economic challenges.

India is seeking to diversify its renewable energy mix beyond solar, wind and hydropower as it works towards its target of installing 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by 2030. (AGENCIES)

Headline	ONGC drills 2nd geothermal well in Ladakh, paving way for India's first pilot geothermal power plant		
Publication	Early Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills 2nd geothermal well in Ladakh, paving way for India's first pilot geothermal power plant

<https://www.earlytimes.in/newsdet.aspx?q=403916>

Early Times Report NEW DELHI, July 12: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well

in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant. The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

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Headline	ONGC Completes Second Geothermal Well In Ladakh's Puga Valley, Advances India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant		
Publication	Earth News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Completes Second Geothermal Well In Ladakh's Puga Valley, Advances India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant

<https://earthnews.in/ongc-completes-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakhs-puga-valley-advances-indias-first-pilot-geothermal-power-plant/>

New Delhi, July 12: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has successfully completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's

Puga Valley, marking a major milestone towards setting up India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

ONGC's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the 1,000-metre-deep well at an altitude of over 14,000 feet in around one month, improving on the time and cost involved in its first geothermal drilling effort, the company said.

The latest drilling follows the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which generated steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, confirming the region's significant geothermal potential.

The second well will support the development of a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could open the way for large-scale utilisation of geothermal energy in India.

ONGC said the project's next phase includes establishing the pilot plant and exploring long-term geothermal resources to provide reliable, round-the-clock electricity for Ladakh.

Located in eastern Ladakh, the Puga geothermal field is considered one of India's most promising geothermal sites. The region has been identified as a potential hub for clean energy due to its naturally occurring underground heat resources.

Geothermal energy uses heat from beneath the Earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating. Unlike solar and wind power, it can deliver continuous low-carbon energy regardless of weather conditions.

Although exploration in Puga has been underway for decades, commercial geothermal power generation in India has faced challenges due to technological and economic constraints. The latest ONGC initiative is aimed at overcoming these hurdles and expanding India's renewable energy portfolio beyond solar, wind and hydropower.

Comments are closed.

Headline	ONGC approves expansion of Mangaluru oil reserve		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC approves expansion of Mangaluru oil reserve

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/topstories/ongc-approves-expansion-of-mangaluru-oil-reserve/ar-AA27IQGM>

Bengaluru / Mangaluru: In a major step toward strengthening India's energy security, ONGC has given in-principle approval for the expansion of a

strategic petroleum reserve with a capacity of 17.5 lakh metric tonnes in Mangaluru. Furthermore, it has approved a proposal to seek government assistance to expand commercial utilization opportunities with regulatory support.

This new project will significantly reinforce India's overall storage network and will be managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

Mangaluru stands out as one of India's key strategic petroleum storage locations. The city also hosts a refinery with a capacity of 3 lakh barrels per day, operated by MRPL, a subsidiary of ONGC. This decision comes amid rising global geopolitical tensions and supply concerns through the Strait of Hormuz.

Oil reserves located in Permude and Padur

Crude oil is already being stored in underground rock caverns operated by ISPRL at Permude in Mangaluru. Additionally, ISPRL operates a massive underground crude oil facility at Padur in Udupi district, and both of these cavern facilities are interconnected via a pipeline. In Mangaluru, one cavern has been taken up by MRPL, while the other has been leased out to the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Furthermore, HPCL operates a massive underground LPG storage facility at the same location in Permude, Mangaluru, which was dedicated to the nation just last year.

Underground petroleum storage capacities in the coastal region

Permude: 1.5 million metric tonnes capacity across 2 caverns.

Padur: 2.5 million metric tonnes capacity across 4 caverns.

Permude (LPG): 80 thousand metric tonnes capacity across 2 caverns.

Headline	ONGC moves closer to India's first geothermal plant		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC moves closer to India's first geothermal plant

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/india/ongc-moves-closer-to-india-s-first-geothermal-plant/ar-AA27JrU1>

New Delhi: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country.

The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

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The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently for decades, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to take off in the country because of technical and economic challenges.

India is seeking to diversify its renewable energy mix beyond solar, wind and hydropower as it works towards its target of installing 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

For more news like this visit The Economic Times

Headline	ONGC drills second well in Ladakh, for first pilot geothermal power plant		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills second well in Ladakh, for first pilot geothermal power plant

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/ongc-drills-second-well-in-ladakh-for-first-pilot-geothermal-power-plant-667903>

New Delhi: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said. The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

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The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource. Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions.

Headline	ONGC Announces Graduate Trainee Recruitment: Salaries Up to 90K, Applications Open July 17		
Publication	News 18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Announces Graduate Trainee Recruitment: Salaries Up to 90K, Applications Open July 17

<https://one.news18.com/english/article/news/career/ongc-announces-graduate-trainee-recruitment-salaries-up-to-90k-applications-open-july-17-hin-8810651009>

ONGC has released a short notification for Graduate Trainee positions in Engineering and Geosciences disciplines.

The detailed notification and application process will commence on July 17 at ongcindia.com.

Candidates require a BE/B.Tech in the relevant branch for Engineering roles and a PG (MSc/MTech) in Geology for Geologist positions.

Passing GATE 2026 is mandatory; final selection may include GATE score and an interview.

Selected candidates will receive an E1 grade salary, with initial in-hand pay ranging from 70,000 to 90,000+ per month.

Escalator Brushes: Not for Cleaning Shoes, But Saving Millions of Lives!

Singer S. Janaki's Net Worth: Crores Amassed Despite Living in Rented House?

Actor Arya, Producer Vinod Booked Over Alleged Rs 1.80 Crore Unpaid Dues for 'Ananthan Kaadu'

Sultanpur's Sacred Sites: Devotees Tie Bells for Fulfilled Wishes at Ancient Shrines.

Headline	ONGC approves in-principle expansion of Mangaluru strategic oil reserve		
Publication	News Karnataka	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC approves in-principle expansion of Mangaluru strategic oil reserve

<https://newskarnataka.com/mangaluru/ongc-approves-in-principle-expansion-of-mangaluru-strategic-oil-reserve/12072026/>

Mangaluru: In a significant step towards enhancing India's energy security, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has granted in-principle

approval for the expansion of the strategic petroleum reserve in Mangaluru. The proposed underground storage facility will have a capacity of 17.5 lakh metric tonnes (MT) , substantially increasing the country's emergency crude oil storage capability.

Ad

The ONGC Board has also approved a proposal seeking government support to enable greater commercial utilisation of the strategic reserve through an appropriate regulatory framework. The expansion is expected to strengthen India's strategic petroleum storage network, which is managed by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

Ad

The decision assumes added importance against the backdrop of rising geopolitical tensions across the world and continued concerns over global crude oil supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime route for international oil trade.

Mangaluru to play a bigger role in India's energy security

Mangaluru is already one of India's most important strategic petroleum storage centres and is home to Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) , an ONGC subsidiary that operates a refinery with a capacity of 3 lakh barrels per day

The proposed expansion is expected to significantly enhance the country's ability to maintain emergency crude oil reserves that can be utilised during supply disruptions or international crises.

Strategic petroleum reserves are maintained to ensure uninterrupted availability of crude oil in the event of geopolitical conflicts, natural disasters, or disruptions to global shipping routes. Expanding these reserves is considered an important component of India's long-term energy security strategy.

Government support proposed for commercial utilisation

Along with approving the expansion in principle, the ONGC Board has endorsed a proposal seeking government support to facilitate commercial utilisation of the additional storage capacity through suitable regulatory mechanisms.

Industry experts believe that allowing greater commercial use of strategic storage infrastructure can improve operational efficiency while ensuring that emergency reserves remain available whenever required.

The proposal is expected to be taken up with the Central Government for further consideration.

Existing underground storage network

The coastal Karnataka region already hosts some of India's largest underground petroleum storage facilities managed by ISPRL.

At Permude near Mangaluru, crude oil is stored in massive underground rock caverns designed to safely preserve strategic petroleum reserves. Another major underground crude oil storage complex is located at Padur in neighbouring Udupi district.

Both storage systems are connected through an underground pipeline network, enabling efficient movement of crude oil between the facilities whenever necessary.

At the Mangaluru facility, one underground cavern has been allocated to MRPL for operational purposes, while another has been leased to the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) as part of international energy cooperation.

LPG storage strengthens regional infrastructure

Apart from crude oil storage, Permude also houses one of India's major underground LPG storage facilities.

The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) operates an underground LPG cavern at Permude, which was dedicated to the nation last year. The facility further enhances the region's strategic importance in India's energy infrastructure by ensuring secure storage of liquefied petroleum gas.

Together, the crude oil and LPG storage facilities make coastal Karnataka one of the country's most critical energy hubs.

Current storage capacities

The existing underground petroleum storage facilities in the coastal region include:

Permude (Crude Oil): 1.5 million metric tonnes capacity across two underground caverns.

Padur (Crude Oil): 2.5 million metric tonnes capacity across four underground caverns.

Permude (LPG): 80,000 metric tonnes capacity across two underground caverns.

With the proposed addition of 17.5 lakh metric tonnes, India's strategic petroleum reserve capacity in the region will increase substantially, further strengthening the country's preparedness against global energy supply disruptions.

Strategic importance amid global uncertainty

The approval comes at a time when international energy markets continue to remain volatile due to geopolitical conflicts and concerns over maritime trade routes, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, which handles a significant share of the world's crude oil shipments.

Expanding strategic petroleum reserves enables India to better manage supply shocks and reduce the impact of sudden disruptions in crude imports.

The proposed expansion is also expected to reinforce Mangaluru's position as one of India's foremost strategic energy centres, complementing the operations of MRPL, ISPL and other petroleum infrastructure in the region.

Once the project receives the necessary approvals from the Government of India, it is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening the country's long-term energy resilience and emergency preparedness.

Headline	ONGC Drills 2nd Geothermal Well in Ladakh, Paving Way for India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant		
Publication	Outlook Business	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Drills 2nd Geothermal Well in Ladakh, Paving Way for India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant

<https://www.outlookbusiness.com/industry/ongc-drills-2nd-geothermal-well-in-ladakh-paving-way-for-indias-first-pilot-geothermal-power-plant>

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential

PTI

ONGC Energy Centre completed drilling the second geothermal well to a depth of 1,000 metres in Ladakh's Puga Valley.

The drilling operation was executed at an altitude of over 14,000 feet within a month, improving on previous timelines and costs.

The second well will directly support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric pilot geothermal power plant.

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

1 June 2026

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BY PTI

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The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions.

The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently for decades, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to take off in the country because of technical and economic challenges.

India is seeking to diversify its renewable energy mix beyond solar, wind and hydropower as it works towards its target of installing 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

Headline	Assam: ONGC Fails to Contain Nazira Gas Leak on Day 8		
Publication	Pratidintime	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

Assam: ONGC Fails to Contain Nazira Gas Leak on Day 8

<https://www.pratidintime.com/latest-assam-news-breaking-news-assam/assam-ongc-fails-to-contain-nazira-gas-leak-on-day-8-12156266>

ONGC teams have started adopting new strategies at the site in an attempt to stop the leakage, but no breakthrough has been reported so far.

PratidinTime News Desk

The gas leak incident in the Geleki area of Nazira in Sivasagar district entered its eighth day on Sunday, with ONGC yet to successfully control the situation, raising continued concern among residents.

According to sources, gas is still leaking from multiple abandoned wells in West Geleki, even as efforts are underway to contain the situation. ONGC teams have started adopting new strategies at the site in an attempt to stop the leakage, but no breakthrough has been reported so far.

Officials have also begun an access road to the leakage points to facilitate the movement of machinery and emergency response teams. However, the prolonged delay in stopping the gas flow has triggered fear among people living in nearby areas.

Residents said the continuous leakage has created a risky environment, especially with flammable gas spreading close to homes and farmland.

The incident was first reported earlier this week at a poultry farm, where a suspected pipeline rupture led to the release of gas. Since then, locals have been raising concerns over safety and the condition of ageing infrastructure in the region.

With the situation still unresolved on the eighth day, pressure is mounting on ONGC to act swiftly and ensure the safety of residents in the affected area.

Headline	Boat owners flag ONGC lights as navigation hazard at Betul		
Publication	THE GOAN EVERYDAY	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

Boat owners flag ONGC lights as navigation hazard at Betul

<https://thegoan.net/preview.php?id=150977>

Cutbona federation says glare at River Sal mouth endangers fishing vessels at night

THE GOAN NETWORKPANAJIAs Goa moves towards technology-driven traffic enforcement, vehicle owners with registrations issued before April 1, 2019 are being urged to install High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs).While all vehicles purchased on or after April 1, 2019 are fitted with HSRPs before leaving the showroom, a significant number of older vehicles are yet to comply with the mandatory requirement despite the program having been in place for several years.Government

Headline	ONGC moves closer to India's first geothermal plant		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC moves closer to India's first geothermal plant

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/ongc-moves-closer-to-indias-first-geothermal-plant/articleshow/132340831.cms>

ONGC has drilled its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley. This marks a significant step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant. The company's research arm drilled the well to 1,000 meters, improving on previous timelines. This new well will support a 1-megawatt electric pilot geothermal power plant. The project aims to pave the way for commercial geothermal energy exploitation in India.

New Delhi: State-run (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, , drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

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Headline	ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh		
Publication	The Hans India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh

<https://assets.thehansindia.com/news/international/ongc-drills-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh-1096776>

ONGC has successfully drilled its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, moving India closer to launching its first 1 MWe geothermal pilot power plant.

Learn how this project aims to provide reliable, low-carbon baseload electricity for the region.

Public sector Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, in a significant step toward developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The upstream oil giant's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, according to an ONGC statement.

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The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently over the years, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to achieve the required breakthrough due to the technical and economic challenges involved.

Meanwhile, India is well on track to achieve its target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030. The country's non-fossil fuel capacity has increased from 81 GW in 2014 to 288 GW at present, registering a growth of over 256 per cent . Solar energy capacity has risen from 2.8 GW to 155 GW, while wind energy capacity has grown from 21 GW to 56.4 GW.

The next phase will require deeper integration of generation, storage and transmission systems, along with enhanced grid resilience.

Headline	ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh		
Publication	The Rahnuma Daily	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh

<https://therahnuma.com/ongc-drills-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh/>

New Delhi, July 12 (IANS) Public sector Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga

Valley, in a significant step toward developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The upstream oil giant's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, according to an ONGC statement.

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The Rahnuma-E-Deccan Daily

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Headline	ONGC Board Clears 1.75 MMT Strategic Petroleum Reserve Expansion at Mangaluru		
Publication	The Sentinel	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Board Clears 1.75 MMT Strategic Petroleum Reserve Expansion at Mangaluru

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/more-news/business/ongc-board-clears-175-mmt-strategic-petroleum-reserve-expansion-at-mangaluru>

ONGC has approved plans for a 1.75 MMT strategic petroleum reserve at Mangaluru to strengthen India's energy security. Published on

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NEW DELHI: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has received in-principle approval from its Board of Directors to develop a 1.75 million metric tonne (MMT) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) at Mangaluru as a project of national importance, in line with directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). The proposed facility will be developed as the Phase-I extension of the Mangaluru Strategic Petroleum Reserve and will include associated infrastructure, ONGC said in a regulatory filing.

In addition, the Board directed the company to take up with the government the issue of broadening commercial utilisation opportunities for the strategic petroleum reserve, along with the necessary regulatory support.

According to an analysis by Khaleej Times, India is stepping up efforts to strengthen its strategic petroleum reserves and diversify energy cooperation after the disruption caused by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz during the Iran conflict, through which nearly one-fifth of the world's energy supplies pass. The report noted that India already permits commercial utilisation of a portion of its strategic crude storage facilities at Mangaluru, Padur and Visakhapatnam, which together have a storage capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT).

These facilities are managed by the government-owned Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd.

It added that Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) -- an ONGC subsidiary -- operates a 300,000 barrels-per-day refinery in Mangaluru.

Half of the existing 1.5 MMT strategic petroleum reserve at Mangaluru has been leased to MRPL, while the remaining capacity is leased to Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

The analysis further said that during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE earlier this year, ADNOC announced plans to expand its crude oil storage in India to as much as 30 million barrels and also explore crude storage at Fujairah as part of India's strategic reserve programme.

According to the report, India is also planning to build an additional 4 MMT strategic petroleum reserve at Chandikhol in Odisha and a new 2.5 MMT facility at Padur in Karnataka. ONGC has not disclosed the estimated cost or timeline for the proposed 1.75 MMT strategic petroleum reserve expansion at Mangaluru. (IANS)

Headline	ONGC silent on Assam's shale gas potential; RTI queries allegedly ignored		
Publication	The Sentinel	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC silent on Assam's shale gas potential; RTI queries allegedly ignored

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/assam-news/ongc-silent-on-assams-shale-gas-potential-rti-queries-allegedly-ignored>

The vast potential of shale gas reserves in Assam and the Northeast continues to remain shrouded in mystery, with allegations emerging that Oil and

Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has maintained a conspicuous silence on the issue and failed to respond to Right to Information (RTI) queries.

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A CORRESPONDENT

NAZIRA: The vast potential of shale gas reserves in Assam and the Northeast continues to remain shrouded in mystery, with allegations emerging that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has maintained a conspicuous silence on the issue and failed to respond to Right to Information (RTI) queries.

Shale gas, considered a significant unconventional energy resource globally, is known for being relatively environmentally friendly compared to traditional fossil fuels. While conventional oil and gas extraction contributes significantly to air pollution and global warming, shale gas-trapped within sedimentary rock layers underground-offers a cleaner alternative despite higher extraction costs.

In India, surveys conducted by national and international agencies have indicated the presence of shale gas reserves in regions such as the Gangetic basin, Assam, Gujarat, and various offshore areas. On January 5, 2013, then Union Petroleum Minister M Veerappa Moily announced plans for shale gas exploration in Assam. Subsequently, both ONGC and Oil India Limited identified potential sites in Lakwa, Banamali, Namti, Dibrugarh, Chabua, and Doomdooma.

However, more than a decade later, there has been little to no public disclosure regarding the progress or findings of these explorations. In 2017, ONGC reportedly halted shale gas exploration citing technical challenges. Yet, concerns persist that crucial information is being deliberately withheld.

Attempts to obtain clarity through RTI applications submitted to the ONGC chairman, as well as communications with the public relations offices at its Nazira-based Assam Asset headquarters and the Jorhat Basin, have reportedly yielded no response, deepening suspicions around the issue.

Adding to the controversy, the Government of India had granted permission to private sector company Essar to undertake shale gas exploration. This has raised questions about why a Maharatna public sector enterprise like ONGC has been unable-or unwilling-to proceed similarly.

Despite widespread media coverage in regional newspapers, ONGC's Assam Asset office in Nazira has remained largely unresponsive. Critics allege that the organisation continues to rely on selectively issued press statements while avoiding direct engagement with local journalists, even ignoring RTI obligations.

Headline	ONGC Ladakh मध्ये भूगर्भीय ऊर्जा प्रकल्प: दुसऱ्या विहिरीचे यशस्वी ड्रिलिंग पूर्ण		
Publication	Whalesbook	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Ladakh मध्ये भूगर्भीय ऊर्जा प्रकल्प: दुसऱ्या विहिरीचे यशस्वी ड्रिलिंग पूर्ण

<https://www.whalesbook.com/news/Marathi/energy/ONGC-Completes-Second-Geothermal-Well-in-Ladakh-Puga-Valley/6a53208e1210e3dc99a74052>

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Headline	E20 controversy explained: Why an old roadmap is back in spotlight		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

E20 controversy explained: Why an old roadmap is back in spotlight

<https://www.7globe.in/e20-controversy-explained-why-an-old-roadmap-is-back-in-spotlight/>

E20 sparks concerns among riders The Centre's push for mandatory 20% ethanol-blended petrol, or E20, has triggered a political row, with

Opposition leaders citing a 2021 NITI Aayog report to question the nationwide rollout. They argue that the Centre departed from the phased transition and safeguards proposed in the report before making E20 the standard fuel at petrol pumps across India in April 2025. The controversy escalated after a Supreme Court hearing on petitions challenging the E20 policy. During the hearing, Attorney General R Venkataramani referred to E20 as an experiment, saying its results would be known next year. While the Centre later denied that E20 itself was being described as an experiment, videos of the court proceedings went viral, fuelling fresh criticism and renewed focus on the NITI Aayog roadmap.

What does NITI Aayog report say?

Released in 2021, the NITI Aayog report laid out India's roadmap for transitioning to higher ethanol blending in petrol. It argued that higher ethanol blending would reduce crude oil imports, improve energy security, lower emissions and create a stable market for agricultural feedstock. At the same time, it prescribed the conditions under which the shift to E20 should take place. The report recommended a phased rollout, with E10 remaining available across the country until 2025 as a protection fuel for existing vehicles, while E20 was to be introduced gradually from April 2023 before becoming widely available by 2025. It also recognised that older vehicles would not perform the same on E20. The report estimated that fuel efficiency could decline by 6-7% in four-wheelers designed for E0 and calibrated for E10, 3-4% in similarly designed two-wheelers, and 1-2% in newer four-wheelers designed for E20. It added that engine modifications and calibration could reduce these losses. On vehicle compatibility, the report said tests found no abnormal wear or damage to engine metal components, but some rubber and plastic materials, including elastomers, performed poorly with E20 and would need to be replaced with ethanol-compatible components in newer vehicles. The expert committee also suggested tax incentives to offset the drop in fuel efficiency, recommending that E20 be priced lower than regular petrol through tax relief to encourage consumers to switch. The report further proposed that manufacturers introduce E20-compatible vehicles in phases, with material-compliant vehicles from April 2023 and fully E20-tuned vehicles from April 2025.

Why are people worried?

The biggest concern has been mileage. Since E20 became available nationwide, many vehicle owners have complained that their cars and two-wheelers are delivering fewer kilometres per litre. Government-backed studies by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Indian Oil and SIAM estimate that fuel efficiency may decline by around 3-4%, while fuel consumption could increase by up to 6% in some vehicles. However, many consumers claim the real-world impact is higher. Concerns over older vehicles are also rooted in findings of a 2021 ARAI study, which the government and automobile manufacturers have repeatedly cited in support of the E20 rollout. While the study found no significant corrosion or damage to metallic engine components, it noted that certain rubber parts in fuel systems such as hoses, gaskets, seals and O-rings showed signs of faster deterioration with E20 and may need replacement in E10-compatible vehicles.

The study also recorded mixed results in engine durability tests. One BS-IV four-wheeler engine completed testing without issues, while a BS-VI turbocharged engine developed an exhaust valve problem during durability testing. However, experts associated with the study said such failures can occur for multiple reasons and cannot automatically be attributed to E20 alone. Tests on engines from three two-wheeler manufacturers did not flag any durability concerns. Overall, the study concluded that E20 did not adversely affect metallic engine components or emissions performance. It did, however, estimate that fuel consumption could rise by 2-6% compared to E10, depending on the vehicle.

What happened in the Supreme Court?

The issue gained national attention after the Supreme Court heard petitions challenging the E20 rollout, with petitioners raising concerns over its impact on consumers and seeking an independent evaluation of the policy. During the hearing, Attorney General R Venkataramani referred to E20 as an experiment whose results would become clear next year. The remark quickly went viral. The government later clarified that Venkataramani had used the term only in the context of

ethanol supply volumes and not the E20 policy itself. The Attorney General also told Reuters that his comments had been misunderstood.

Why are opposition parties protesting?

Opposition leaders argue that the Centre rolled out E20 nationwide despite concerns over mileage and compatibility with older vehicles. They have cited the NITI Aayog report to claim the government did not fully follow its own roadmap, which recommended a gradual transition and safeguards for existing vehicles. The political attack has coincided with growing complaints from motorists, many of whom say they are spending more on fuel because of reduced mileage. The controversy intensified after the Supreme Court hearing, with Congress leader Priyank Kharge accusing the Centre of treating motorists as guinea pigs. Referring to the Attorney General's experiment remark, Kharge said the government was conducting an experiment on 3.6 crore Indians while mileage is plummeting and engines are getting bust. He demanded that the Centre Roll back E20. First, prove. Then, deploy. NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar also questioned the policy, alleging that Pushing ethanol blending beyond 20 per cent in older vehicles will cause technical damage. One hundred per cent ethanol is unfeasible until flex-fuel cars are widely introduced in India. He argued that flex-fuel vehicles should become more widespread before higher ethanol blends are considered.

What has the government said?

The Centre has strongly defended the E20 programme, saying ethanol blending has reduced India's dependence on imported crude oil, saved foreign exchange and strengthened the country's energy security. It also notes that India achieved 20% ethanol blending five years ahead of its original 2030 target. Rejecting claims that India is an outlier, the government says the country is following a global trend towards higher ethanol blending. It has pointed to the United States, where E10 is the standard petrol blend and E15 is being rolled out more widely, with millions of flex-fuel vehicles capable of running on blends of up to E85. Brazil, considered a global leader in ethanol adoption, mandates E27 as its standard petrol blend and is moving towards increasing it to around 35%. More than 80% of new vehicles sold there are flex-fuel models capable of running on E27, E30 or even pure hydrous ethanol. The government has also cited Japan's phased introduction of E10, along with ethanol blending programmes in Canada, Thailand and several European countries, arguing that blending ethanol into petrol is part of a broader global shift towards cleaner transport fuels. The Centre maintains that E20 is backed by scientific studies and says any move beyond 20% ethanol blending will be preceded by further research and consultations with stakeholders. While the government sees the programme as a long-term step towards energy security, the current debate has shifted to whether its nationwide rollout fully reflected the phased approach envisioned in the 2021 NITI Aayog roadmap.

Source link

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Headline	Crude oil prices rise after US, Iran trade strikes, offer contrasting positions on Hormuz		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Crude oil prices rise after US, Iran trade strikes, offer contrasting positions on Hormuz

<https://www.7globe.in/crude-oil-prices-rise-after-us-iran-trade-strikes-offer-contrasting-positions-on-hormuz/>

Brent Crude is now trading above the \$78 a barrel mark for contracts that expire in September.

The 3%-plus gains come after the contracts had gained 5.5% last week, while the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) or the US crude variant also traded above the mark of \$74 a barrel. European Natural Gas futures also added 2.5% after the weekend break.

Is The Strait of Hormuz Open Or Shut?

While Iran has announced that the Strait, a key waterway, which controls 20% of the global energy supply, will be closed until further notice, the US Central Command has denied such a claim, stating that forces are prepared to ensure freedom of navigation.

The Strait of Hormuz is open to all vessels seeking to lawfully transit the international waterway, the Central Command wrote on X.

The US Central Command also said that it has launched a fresh round of strikes at 5 PM Eastern Time on Sunday to hold Iran accountable for the attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait.

Crude oil prices are rebounding yet again after giving up all the gains they made during the Iran war, after both the US and Iran signed an MoU on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France last month, which included points to end the war and ensure safe passage of commercial vessels through the Strait.

This recent flare up now risks derailing efforts to rebuild the depleted oil inventories later this year, as per the International Energy Agency's statement on Friday, before the recent round of attacks.

According to the Joint Maritime Information Center, there was almost no traffic through the strait on Sunday, with only two oil products tankers seen approaching the chokepoint. However, the JMIC went on to add that the southern route coordinated by Oman remains available.

Iran's Parliament Speaker and top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf has declared that the era of one-sided deals is over, insisting that Washington must prioritize prior commitments made on Hormuz transits and normalize oil exports from Iran before talks can resume.

Source link

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Headline	10-Kg Lpg Cylinders: Oil companies plan expanding 10-kg LPG cylinder sales		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

10-Kg Lpg Cylinders: Oil companies plan expanding 10-kg LPG cylinder sales

<https://www.7globe.in/10-kg-lpg-cylinders-oil-companies-plan-expanding-10-kg-lpg-cylinder-sales/>

NEW DELHI: State-run oil marketing companies are considering expanding the use of lightweight 10-kg LPG cylinders beyond domestic consumers, with

the cylinders likely to be sold at commercial LPG rates if approved. The move could benefit migrant workers, tenants, students, street vendors, cafes and food kiosks that need LPG but lack space for larger 19-kg commercial cylinders. The HDPE-based composite cylinders may be sold through gas agencies and select retail outlets. The cylinders are already available on a limited scale for domestic users under different brand names: HPCL's HP Gas Ojas, IndianOil's Indane Xtralight, and BPCL's Bharatgas Lite. OMCs currently market 19 kg, 5 kg and 2 kg cylinders for commercial users and consumers without domestic LPG connections. Commercial LPG costs about 133% more than domestic cooking gas. In Delhi, a 14.2 kg domestic cylinder costs Rs 942, while a 19 kg commercial cylinder costs Rs 2,930. A 5-kg cylinder is priced at Rs 808.5. Made using advanced composite technology, the 10-kg cylinder has a three-layer construction and is nearly 50% lighter than a conventional steel LPG cylinder, making it easier to carry, transport and handle. Unlike steel cylinders, these are easier to carry to upper floors. Their translucent body lets consumers check gas levels without a gauge, making refills easier to plan, an oil company executive said.

Source link

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Headline	ONGC completes drilling of second geothermal well in Ladakh		
Publication	Any Tv News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC completes drilling of second geothermal well in Ladakh

<https://anytvnews.com/technology/ongc-completes-drilling-of-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh/>

New Delhi, July 12 (IANS). Public sector Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling of its second geothermal well in Puga Valley in Ladakh.

This is considered an important step towards the development of India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

ONGC Energy Centre, the research and development arm of ONGC, drilled this well to a depth of 1,000 meters at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month.

According to an ONGC statement, the work was completed in less time and at lower cost than earlier geothermal drilling campaigns.

According to the company, this new well builds on the success of the first geothermal well drilled in Puga. The first well produced steam at a temperature higher than the boiling point of water, confirming the immense potential of geothermal energy in the region.

ONGC said the second well will help in the development of India's first 1 megawatt electric (MWE) pilot geothermal power plant and could open the way for commercial use of geothermal energy in the country.

The next phase of the project plans to set up a 1 MW capacity pilot geothermal power plant and develop geothermal resources to provide reliable base power to Ladakh in the long run.

The Puga geothermal field located in eastern Ladakh is considered to be India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy uses natural heat beneath the Earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heat. It is a 24/7 source of energy with low-carbon emissions. Unlike solar and wind energy, it is considered more reliable as it is less dependent on weather.

Although the Puga region has long been considered India's most promising geothermal region and exploration work has been carried out from time to time, geothermal power generation has not yet started on a commercial scale due to technical and economic challenges.

Meanwhile, India is moving rapidly towards the target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel based energy capacity by the year 2030. The country's non-fossil fuel based installed capacity has increased from 81 GW in 2014 to 288 GW currently, representing an increase of over 256 per cent.

During the same period, solar energy capacity has increased from 2.8 GW to 155 GW and wind energy capacity has increased from 21 GW to 56.4 GW.

IANS

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Headline	ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh		
Publication	Asia Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh

<https://asiapost.in/ongc-drills-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh/>

New Delhi, July 12 (IANS) Public sector Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga

Valley, in a significant step toward developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The upstream oil giant's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, according to an ONGC statement.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the statement said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country.

The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power. It is considered a reliable and dependable source of energy, unlike solar and wind energy, which are more dependent on weather conditions.

The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently over the years, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to achieve the required breakthrough due to the technical and economic challenges involved.

Meanwhile, India is well on track to achieve its target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030. The country's non-fossil fuel capacity has increased from 81 GW in 2014 to 288 GW at present, registering a growth of over 256 per cent . Solar energy capacity has risen from 2.8 GW to 155 GW, while wind energy capacity has grown from 21 GW to 56.4 GW.

The next phase will require deeper integration of generation, storage and transmission systems, along with enhanced grid resilience.

IANS

sps/vd

Headline	Oil prices surge three per cent amid escalating US-Iran tensions		
Publication	Bhaskar Live	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Oil prices surge three per cent amid escalating US-Iran tensions

<https://bhaskarlive.in/oil-prices-surge-three-per-cent-amid-escalating-us-iran-tensions/>

Washington, July 13 (IANS) Oil prices rose more than 3 per cent as the United States and Iran exchanged fresh strikes, renewing fears of disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global energy supplies.

US crude futures climbed 3.4 per cent to \$73.87 a barrel by 6.03 p.m. ET, CNBC reported. Brent crude, the international benchmark, gained 3.5 per cent to \$78.67.

The New York Times put Brent slightly higher at nearly \$79 a barrel. That was about 9 per cent above its pre-war price.

The gains followed another round of US strikes against Iran. The attacks were intended to reduce Tehran's ability to target civilian mariners and commercial ships in the strait.

At 5 p.m. ET today, U.S. Central Command forces began launching more strikes against Iran to continue degrading their ability to attack civilian mariners and commercial ships freely transiting the Strait of Hormuz, CENTCOM said.

The Commander in Chief has directed the strikes to hold Iranian forces accountable, it added.

The Wall Street Journal said the operation was the third wave of American attacks in 24 hours. Earlier strikes targeted Iranian missile and air-defence systems, small boats, radars and weapons storage sites around the waterway.

Iranian forces fired at commercial ships around the time of the latest US operation. American aircraft shot down an Iranian cruise missile and a one-way attack drone, CENTCOM spokesman Capt. Tim Hawkins said, according to CNN and The New York Times.

Iran said the strait was closed until further notice. CENTCOM disputed the claim and said ships could continue to transit lawfully.

Iran does not control the strait. Traffic is flowing, CENTCOM said, according to CNBC.

The maritime intelligence firm Windward tracked nine ships passing through the strait on Saturday. The Joint Maritime Information Center said the southern route through Omani waters remained open to inbound and outbound traffic. It nevertheless advised mariners to exercise extreme vigilance.

Shipping volumes remain sharply below normal. More than 130 vessels used the strait each day before the war, but only 22 made the passage on Thursday, The New York Times reported, citing maritime data company Kpler.

That confidence eroded very, very quickly, Kpler's head of Middle East research, Amena Bakr, told the newspaper. We're back to square one when it comes to that situation.

Fox News reported that the US had hit about 140 Iranian targets in its overnight assault. Iran retaliated against sites across the Gulf. Kuwait said attacks damaged three border posts and an offshore oil platform, injuring one worker.

IANS

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Headline	"Many of your facts are wrong": Arvind Kejriwal slams BJP's Amit Malviya amid E20 fuel blending row		
Publication	Bihar 24x7	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

"Many of your facts are wrong": Arvind Kejriwal slams BJP's Amit Malviya amid E20 fuel blending row

<https://www.bihar24x7.com/news/many-of-your-facts-are-wrong-arvind-kejriwal-slams-bjps-amit-malviya-amid-e20-fuel-blending-row20260712173354/>

New Delhi [India, July 12 : A war of words erupted on social media between Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal and BJP's IT

Cell head Amit Malviya over the impact of E20 (20% ethanol-blended) petrol on vehicles in the country.

Responding to Malviya's claims on X, the former Delhi Chief Minister accused the BJP leader of peddling misinformation provided by the central government.

"Many of your facts are wrong. Your government keeps pushing you forward by feeding you wrong facts. The disgrace is yours," Kejriwal posted on X.

The retort came after Amit Malviya earlier in the day accused Kejriwal of engaging in "politics of spreading lies and fear" regarding the transition to ethanol-blended fuels, after Kejriwal visited petrol pumps on Saturday.

Malviya argued that if vehicles were breaking down on a large scale due to E20 fuel, the country's transport system would have already collapsed.

"Arvind Kejriwal is once again engaging in the politics of spreading lies and fear. If vehicles were truly breaking down on a large scale due to E20, then over the past five years, the roads across the country would have been choked with stalled cars and two-wheelers," Malviya stated.

Defending the government's ethanol blending roadmap, Malviya provided a timeline of fuel availability, claiming that E15 has been available since 2021 and E20 since April 2025.

"The truth is that E15 has been available since 2021, E19 since 2024, and E20 since April 2025. Today, nearly 2.5 crore petrol cars and over 20 crore two-wheelers are running on E15+ blended fuel," the BJP leader added.

Malviya further pointed toward the thriving second-hand automobile market as evidence against Kejriwal's claims. He noted that if the fuel were damaging engines, insurance premiums would have skyrocketed and the resale value of petrol vehicles would have crashed.

"India's second-hand car market today sees about 60 lakh vehicles annually, valued at over \$40 billion, and is projected to reach \$70-82 billion by FY2031. Lies can be spread by showing a few selective videos, but the truth cannot be changed. Arvind Kejriwal is once again peddling confusion and falsehoods in place of facts," Malviya wrote.

Kejriwal on Saturday visited a petrol pump and service station in Delhi to interact with ordinary vehicle owners over the impact of E20-blended petrol, alleging that the government's claims about the fuel do not reflect the experiences of consumers.

According to a release, he spoke to owners who had come to refuel and to others who had brought their vehicles for repairs to understand the effects of E20 petrol on their vehicles.

Citing these interactions, the AAP chief claimed that people consistently reported reduced mileage and mechanical problems after using E20 petrol. He alleged that the government's assertions on E20 were "blatant lies" and that ordinary people were facing difficulties because of ethanol-blended fuel.

Headline	ONGC Completes Second Geothermal Well in Ladakh, Advances India's First Geothermal Power Project		
Publication	Bizz Buzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Completes Second Geothermal Well in Ladakh, Advances India's First Geothermal Power Project

<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/national/ongc-completes-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh-advances-indias-first-geothermal-power-project-1397251>

ONGC has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, advancing India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power plant project.

image for illustrative purpose

New Delhi, July 12: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has successfully completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another milestone in the development of India's first pilot geothermal power project and strengthening the country's renewable energy ambitions.

ONGC's research and development arm, the ONGC Energy Centre, has completed drilling a 1,000-metre-deep geothermal well in the Puga geothermal field at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet.

Builds on Success of First Well

The second well follows the successful drilling of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures exceeding the boiling point of water, confirming the significant geothermal potential of the region.

The company said the latest well will support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant, which is expected to demonstrate the commercial viability of geothermal energy generation in the country.

Pilot Power Plant Planned

The next phase of the project involves establishing a 1 MWe pilot geothermal power plant in the Puga Valley.

ONGC said the long-term objective is to harness the geothermal resources of the region to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh, offering a stable source of clean energy throughout the year.

Unlike solar and wind power, geothermal energy generates electricity continuously, regardless of weather conditions, making it a dependable low-carbon energy source.

Puga Holds India's Best Geothermal Potential

Located in eastern Ladakh, the Puga geothermal field has long been recognised as India's most promising geothermal resource.

Although exploratory work has been carried out intermittently over the years, commercial geothermal power generation has remained limited due to technical complexities and economic challenges associated with developing the resource.

The successful drilling campaigns are expected to provide valuable data for future commercial-scale geothermal development in India.

Supports India's Clean Energy Goals

The geothermal project complements India's broader renewable energy strategy as the country moves towards achieving its target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030.

According to official figures, India's non-fossil fuel power generation capacity has increased from 81 GW in 2014 to 288 GW currently, representing growth of more than 256 per cent.

During the same period:

Solar energy capacity has expanded from 2.8 GW to 155 GW.

Wind energy capacity has increased from 21 GW to 56.4 GW.

The government has stated that the next phase of India's energy transition will require deeper integration of renewable power generation with energy storage systems, transmission infrastructure and a more resilient electricity grid.

The successful completion of ONGC's second geothermal well marks an important step towards diversifying India's renewable energy mix by tapping the country's largely untapped geothermal resources while advancing clean, reliable and round-the-clock power generation.

Headline	Oil Jumps Over 3% as US and Iran Trade Fresh Strikes, Reigniting Fears for Global Supply		
Publication	Bizz Buzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Oil Jumps Over 3% as US and Iran Trade Fresh Strikes, Reigniting Fears for Global Supply

<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/industry/energy/oil-jumps-over-3-as-us-and-iran-trade-fresh-strikes-reigniting-fears-for-global-supply-1397314>

Oil prices surge over 3% as US strikes on Iran intensify and Tehran claims the Strait of Hormuz is closed. Here's what's driving the latest spike in Brent and US crude.

Oil Jumps Over 3% as US and Iran Trade Fresh Strikes, Reigniting Fears for Global Supply

Washington, July 13 Crude prices shot up more than 3 percent on the back of renewed fighting between the United States and Iran, as traders once again worry about disruptions to the Strait of Hormuz the narrow waterway that carries a massive share of the world's oil.

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By 6:03 p.m. ET, US crude futures had climbed 3.4 percent to \$73.87 a barrel, according to CNBC. Brent crude, the benchmark used globally, rose 3.5 percent to \$78.67. The New York Times pegged Brent even a touch higher, close to \$79 a barrel around 9 percent above where prices stood before the war began.

The jump came right after the US carried out another round of strikes on Iranian targets, aimed at cutting down Tehran's ability to threaten civilian sailors and cargo ships passing through the strait.

US Central Command said the operation began at 5 p.m. ET, framing it as a continued effort to protect commercial shipping in the waterway. Officials described the strikes as directly ordered from the top, meant to hold Iranian forces accountable.

This was the third wave of US attacks in just 24 hours, according to The Wall Street Journal. Earlier strikes in that stretch had already hit Iranian missile systems, air-defense equipment, small boats, radar installations, and weapons storage sites near the strait.

Conflicting Claims Over Whether the Strait Is Even Open

Iranian forces fired on commercial vessels around the same time as the latest US strikes. American aircraft responded by shooting down an Iranian cruise missile and a one-way attack drone, CENTCOM spokesman Capt. Tim Hawkins confirmed.

Iran declared the strait closed until further notice. The US flatly rejected that claim. "Iran does not control the strait. Traffic is flowing," CENTCOM said, according to CNBC.

The numbers tell a more complicated story, though. Maritime intelligence firm Windward tracked nine ships making it through the strait on Saturday, and the Joint Maritime Information Center confirmed the southern route through Omani waters remains open for both inbound and outbound traffic though it's urging ships to stay on high alert.

Even so, traffic is nowhere close to normal. Before the war, more than 130 vessels passed through the strait daily. On Thursday, only 22 made the trip, according to maritime data firm Kpler, as reported by The New York Times.

"That confidence eroded very, very quickly," Kpler's head of Middle East research, Amena Bakr, told the paper. "We're back to square one when it comes to that situation."

Fox News reported the US hit roughly 140 Iranian targets in its overnight assault. Iran struck back at sites across the Gulf region Kuwait said the attacks damaged three of its border posts and an offshore oil platform, leaving one worker injured.

What This Means for Prices Going Forward

The latest spike builds on a rough stretch for oil markets. Brent had already climbed more than 5 percent over the previous week as renewed strikes kept delaying any real recovery in tanker traffic through Hormuz a route that normally handles around a fifth of the world's oil and gas trade.

Adding to the pressure, the US Treasury Department recently revoked a temporary waiver that had allowed Iranian oil sales to continue through August 21. That authorization is now set to end just after midnight on July 17, effectively cutting off transactions tied to Iranian crude going forward.

The International Energy Agency has warned that if the conflict drags on, it could delay efforts to rebuild global oil inventories that had been drawn down earlier this year. Still, not every signal points to a supply crunch the United Arab Emirates ramped up crude production to a record high last month, part of a broader push by Gulf producers to keep exports flowing despite the chaos elsewhere in the region.

Markets had briefly found some relief last month after Washington and Tehran signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at ending the conflict and reopening the strait, which pushed Brent down to its lowest level since early March. This latest escalation has undone much of that progress, dragging prices back toward levels not seen in weeks. Analysts say the coming days will hinge on whether diplomatic talks between the two sides can resume, or whether the fighting deepens further.

Headline	India's crude oil imports from Russia hit a record high in June, rising 34 percent. July 12, 2026		
Publication	Business Remedies	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

India's crude oil imports from Russia hit a record high in June, rising 34 percent. July 12, 2026

<https://www.businessremedies.com/india-russian-crude-imports-record-high-june-2026/>

New Delhi, India has significantly increased its crude oil imports from Russia in June.

According to a report by the Energy and Clean Air Research Center, India's crude oil imports from Russia reached a record level in June. However, Russia's total oil export earnings declined due to softening crude oil prices in the global market. According to the report, India imported crude oil worth 4.5 billion from Russia during June, which is 34 percent more than in May. India's total fossil fuel imports from Russia in June were worth 5.5 billion, of which crude oil accounted for 83 percent. This makes India the second largest buyer of hydrocarbons from Russia after China.

India's increase in crude oil purchases from Russia comes at a time when the country's total crude oil imports also registered a 5.4 percent increase on a monthly basis. Several major refineries in the country significantly increased their supplies from Russia. According to reports, crude oil imports from Russia at Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery increased by 150 percent compared to the previous month. At Indian Oil Corporation's Paradip refinery, this increase was 126 percent. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's Kochi refinery registered an 83 percent increase in imports from Russia, while Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery saw a 45 percent increase in crude oil supplies from Russia.

The impact of India's increasing demand was also visible on Russia's exports. Russia's crude oil export volume increased by 14 percent in June, but its export earnings were affected due to falling prices in the international market. Russia's daily export earnings from crude oil decreased by 8 percent to 348 million per day. The report said that Russia's total fossil fuel export volume increased by 7 percent during June, but despite this, its total daily export earnings decreased by 1 percent to 734 million per day.

According to the report, India was the second largest buyer of fossil fuels from Russia in June 2026. India imported hydrocarbons worth a total of 5.5 billion from Russia. This included crude oil worth 4.5 billion, oil products worth 488 million, and coal worth 444 million. The report also states that India's role in the global trade of refined petroleum products made from Russian crude oil is continuously strengthening. Refineries in India, Turkey, Brunei, and Georgia exported a total of 814 million worth of oil products to countries that have imposed sanctions on Russia, including the European Union, Australia, and the United States, during June.

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Russian crude oil

Headline	Strait of Hormuz remains open despite Iran closure claim as shipping continues through key oil route		
Publication	Business Upturn	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

Strait of Hormuz remains open despite Iran closure claim as shipping continues through key oil route

<https://www.businessupturn.com/usa/strait-of-hormuz-remains-open-despite-iran-closure-claim-as-shipping-continues-through-key-oil-route/411105/>

Bhavya Rai Tension in the Middle East has risen once again. But one of the world's most important shipping routes is still operating.

The southern route of the Strait of Hormuz remained open for commercial ships on Sunday. This comes even after Iran declared the strategic waterway closed following the latest exchange of attacks with the United States.

The update came from a maritime advisory group that tracks shipping movements and security risks in the region. The development is important because any disruption in the Strait of Hormuz can affect global oil prices, fuel supplies and international trade within hours.

Strait of Hormuz remains open as ships continue to move

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow sea passage between Iran and Oman. It connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. Around one fifth of the world's oil supply passes through this route every day, making it one of the busiest and most important waterways on the planet.

Despite Iran's announcement, the southern shipping lane remained open. Commercial vessels were still able to move through the passage on Sunday. Shipping companies and governments continue to monitor the situation closely because the area has become increasingly volatile.

The latest tension follows a fresh round of military action between the United States and Iran. While both sides have exchanged attacks, there has been no confirmed halt to commercial shipping through the southern route so far.

Iran and US tensions put global shipping under pressure

Even when ships continue to sail, rising military tensions create fresh challenges for the shipping industry. Companies may choose longer routes, increase security measures or pay higher insurance costs if they believe the risk has grown.

Any prolonged disruption in the Strait of Hormuz could quickly push crude oil prices higher. Countries across Asia, Europe and other regions depend heavily on oil and liquefied natural gas that passes through this narrow waterway.

That is why every update from the Strait of Hormuz is closely watched by energy markets, governments and shipping firms around the world.

What happens next in the Strait of Hormuz

For now, the southern route remains open and commercial traffic continues. However, the situation remains highly sensitive as military tensions between Iran and the United States continue to evolve.

The next few days will be crucial. Markets will be watching not only for further military developments but also for any sign that commercial shipping is slowing, because even a temporary disruption in the Strait of Hormuz could have immediate consequences for global energy supplies and oil prices.

Headline	ONGC To Build 1.75 MT Strategic Oil Reserve In Mangalore		
Publication	Business World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC To Build 1.75 MT Strategic Oil Reserve In Mangalore

<https://www.businessworld.in/article/ongc-to-build-1-75-mt-strategic-oil-reserve-in-mangalore-614230>

ONGC is going to build an oil storage facility in Mangalore. This storage place will be able to hold 1.75 million tons of oil. This will help India store oil in case of an emergency.

The company says this oil storage facility will help ensure India has oil when it has trouble obtaining it from other countries. ONGC will ask the government whether it can use this storage facility for business purposes, if needed for the country.

India is an oil user and imports a lot of oil from other countries. So India is working with countries like the UAE and Japan to make sure it has oil stored away. This is because India had trouble securing oil when issues arose in the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz is an important route for oil to be shipped.

The government already allows some business use of the oil storage places in Mangalore, Padur and Vizag. These places can hold up to 5.33 million tons of oil. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd is responsible for these locations.

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals, which is a part of ONGC, has a refinery in Mangalore. It can process 300,000 barrels of oil per day. This company has already rented out half of the oil storage place in Mangalore. The rest of the storage place is rented out to Abu Dhabi National Oil Co from the UAE.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the UAE, Abu Dhabi National Oil Co said it wants to increase the amount of oil it stores in India. The company wants to store up to 30 million barrels of oil in India. The UAE is also thinking about storing oil in Fujairah as part of India's plan to store oil.

India is also planning to build oil storage facilities. One will be in Chandikhol in Odisha. It will be able to hold 4 million metric tons of oil. Another one will be in Padur, in India, and it will be able to hold 2.5 million metric tons of oil. ONGC and India are working on these oil storage facilities to ensure India has oil.

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Headline	Crude oil prices rise after US, Iran trade strikes, offer contrasting positions on Hormuz		
Publication	CNBC TV18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Crude oil prices rise after US, Iran trade strikes, offer contrasting positions on Hormuz

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/market/commodities/crude-oil-prices-today-brent-wti-us-iran-war-strait-of-hormuz-attacks-traffic-iaa-inventories-impact-19943684.htm>

Crude oil prices are rebounding yet again after giving up all the gains they made during the Iran war, after both the US and Iran signed an MoU on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France last month, which included points to end the war and ensure safe passage of commercial vessels through the Strait.

2 Min Read

Crude oil prices rose on Monday, July 13, in early Asian trading after the US and Iran traded fresh round of strikes over the weekend and also offered contrasting versions on the status of the Strait of Hormuz. As on Jul 10, 2026 3:58 PM

Brent Crude is now trading above the \$78 a barrel mark for contracts that expire in September. The 3%-plus gains come after the contracts had gained 5.5% last week, while the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) or the US crude variant also traded above the mark of \$74 a barrel. European Natural Gas futures also added 2.5% after the weekend break.

While Iran has announced that the Strait, a key waterway, which controls 20% of the global energy supply, will be closed "until further notice", the US Central Command has denied such a claim, stating that forces are prepared to ensure freedom of navigation.

"The Strait of Hormuz is open to all vessels seeking to lawfully transit the international waterway," the Central Command wrote on "X".

The US Central Command also said that it has launched a fresh round of strikes at 5 PM Eastern Time on Sunday to hold Iran accountable for the attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait.

Crude oil prices are rebounding yet again after giving up all the gains they made during the Iran war, after both the US and Iran signed an MoU on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France last month, which included points to end the war and ensure safe passage of commercial vessels through the Strait.

This recent flare up now risks derailing efforts to rebuild the depleted oil inventories later this year, as per the International Energy Agency's statement on Friday, before the recent round of attacks.

According to the Joint Maritime Information Center, there was almost no traffic through the strait on Sunday, with only two oil products tankers seen approaching the chokepoint. However, the JMIC went on to add that the southern route coordinated by Oman remains available.

Iran's Parliament Speaker and top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf has declared that the era of "one-sided deals" is over, insisting that Washington must prioritize prior commitments made on Hormuz transits and normalize oil exports from Iran before talks can resume.

Headline	Global oil prices surge by 4 per cent following fresh Iranian strikes across Gulf region		
Publication	Chhattisgarh Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Global oil prices surge by 4 per cent following fresh Iranian strikes across Gulf region

<https://www.chhattisgarhtoday.in/news/global-oil-prices-surge-by-4-per-cent-following-fresh-iranian-strikes-across-gulf-region20260713080640/>

New Delhi [India, July 13 : Oil prices jumped on Monday as Iran attacked Gulf states in response to US strikes in Tehran.

Consequently, Brent Crude stood at USD 79.17, reflecting a rise of USD 3.16, or 4.16 per cent, at the time of filing. At the same time, crude oil stood at USD 74.47, gaining USD 3.06 or 4.29 per cent.

The price movement followed a wave of military actions that disrupted the critical Strait of Hormuz maritime corridor, heightening concerns over global energy supplies.

The escalation triggered widespread regional instability, drawing sharp condemnation from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and triggering formal diplomatic protests as the standoff on the Strait of Hormuz continues.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the OIC General Secretariat strongly denounced Iranian attacks targeting Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Jordan.

The organisation labelled the strikes a "flagrant and ongoing violation" of national sovereignty and a direct breach of the principles of good neighbourliness.

The OIC further criticised Iran's ongoing disruption of international trade and attacks on commercial vessels, stating that these actions violate international law and the charters of both the United Nations and the OIC.

Warning that such escalations threaten regional security, the OIC reaffirmed its full solidarity with the targeted nations and supported their right to take measures to safeguard their security and territorial integrity.

"The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation expresses its strong condemnation and denunciation of the Iranian attacks against the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which constitute a flagrant and ongoing violation of the sovereignty of these states and a breach of the principles of good-neighbourliness based on mutual respect," it stated.

"The General Secretariat affirms that these ongoing attacks and Iran's continued aggression against commercial vessels and obstruction of international trade constitute a clear violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and are likely to undermine international efforts to restore security and stability in the region," it added.

Meanwhile, Oman took direct diplomatic action, claiming drone strikes on sites in the Musandam and Al Wusta governorates. Sheikh Khalid Almuslahi, the Foreign Ministry Undersecretary, summoned the Iranian Ambassador to Oman, Mousa Farhang, to deliver a formal note of protest.

During the meeting, Omani officials expressed deep concern over the "irresponsible acts", demanding that Iran adhere to the values of non-interference, sovereignty, and the ethical norms that bind neighbouring nations.

Headline	Mangaluru: ONGC approves expansion of strategic petroleum reserve with 17.5 lac MT capacity		
Publication	Daiji World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

Mangaluru: ONGC approves expansion of strategic petroleum reserve with 17.5 lac MT capacity

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1319758>

Mangaluru, Jul 12: In a major move aimed at strengthening India's energy security, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has granted in-principle approval for the expansion of the strategic petroleum reserve in Mangaluru. The proposed facility will boast a massive capacity of 17.5 lac metric tonnes (MT).

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Along with the expansion, the ONGC board has also approved a proposal seeking government support to expand commercial utilization opportunities with regulatory backing. The newly planned project will add significant depth to India's overall strategic storage network, which is managed by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

Mangaluru stands out as one of India's most critical strategic petroleum storage locations, and it also houses ONGC's subsidiary, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), which operates a refinery with a capacity of 3 lac barrels per day. The expansion decision comes amid escalating global geopolitical tensions and persistent supply vulnerabilities through the Strait of Hormuz.

Existing infrastructure at Permude and Padur

Presently, crude oil is stored in massive underground rock caverns managed by ISPRL at Permude in Mangaluru. Additionally, ISPRL operates another mega underground crude oil storage facility at Padur in Udupi district. Both the Mangaluru and Padur cavern systems are interconnected via an underground pipeline network.

At the Mangaluru storage site, one cavern has been allocated to MRPL for its operations, while another has been leased out to the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Furthermore, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) operates a massive underground LPG storage facility at Permude, which was dedicated to the nation last year.

Current underground petroleum storage capacities in the coastal region:

Permude (Crude Oil): 1.5 million metric tonnes capacity (2 caverns)

Padur (Crude Oil): 2.5 million metric tonnes capacity (4 caverns)

Permude (LPG): 80 thousand metric tonnes capacity (2 caverns)

The newly approved 17.5 lac metric tonnes expansion will further cement the coastal region's status as a pivotal hub for India's energy contingency plans.

Top Stories

Headline	ONGC Drills 2nd Geothermal Well In Ladakh, Paving Way For India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant		
Publication	Daily Excelsior	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Drills 2nd Geothermal Well In Ladakh, Paving Way For India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant

<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/ongc-drills-2nd-geothermal-well-in-ladakh-paving-way-for-indias-first-pilot-geothermal-power-plant/>

New Delhi, Jul 12: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country.

The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions.

The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently for decades, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to take off in the country because of technical and economic challenges.

India is seeking to diversify its renewable energy mix beyond solar, wind and hydropower as it works towards its target of installing 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by 2030. (AGENCIES)

Headline	Missiles Over Hormuz, 65% of India's Oil in the Crossfire - Can Modi's Back-Channel Survive a Strait That Won't Stay Open?		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Missiles Over Hormuz, 65% of India's Oil in the Crossfire - Can Modi's Back-Channel Survive a Strait That Won't Stay Open?

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/apherald-epaper-apherald/missiles+over+hormuz+65+of+indias+oil+in+the+crossfire+can+modis+backchannel+survive+a+strait+that+wont+stay+open-newsid-n719390555>

The US-Iran missile exchange over the Strait of Hormuz directly imperils India's energy security: approximately 65% of India's crude oil imports transit or skirt that 33-km chokepoint, according to the Ministry of Petroleum's data.

If the strait narrows or closes even briefly, petrol and LPG prices could spike sharply, the current account deficit would balloon, and the rupee would face severe pressure testing Modi's dual back-channel diplomacy with both Washington and Tehran as never before.

Sixty-five per cent. That is not an abstraction. That is the share of India's crude oil that sails through or within missile range of a 33-kilometre-wide corridor of water between Iran and Oman the Strait of Hormuz where, as of this week, American and Iranian ordnance is actively flying. For a country that imports over 85% of its petroleum needs, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, this is not a faraway war. It is the price you will pay at the petrol bunk on Friday.

The arithmetic is blunt. India consumed roughly 5.4 million barrels per day of crude in FY2025-26, per the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). Of that, nearly 3.5 million barrels transited the Hormuz chokepoint daily sourced from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, and Iran itself. When missiles fly over the water your tankers must cross, the insurance premium alone war-risk surcharges on tanker hulls can add \$2-4 per barrel overnight, according to Lloyd's List shipping data. Scale that across 3.5 million barrels a day. The maths writes itself on your LPG bill before any warhead hits any ship.

And that is the optimistic scenario the one where no tanker is actually struck and the strait stays nominally open.

What a 'Hormuz Premium' Means at Your Kitchen Table

India's current account deficit, which the Reserve Bank of India reported at a manageable 1.2% of GDP for FY2025-26, is hostage to the oil import bill. Every \$10 per barrel increase in Brent crude widens the deficit by approximately \$15 billion annually, a relationship the RBI's own bulletins have repeatedly flagged. With Brent already climbing past \$88 on the latest escalation up from \$78 just three weeks ago, per Reuters commodity data the tremor is not hypothetical; it is already moving through the system.

The downstream translation is what the average Indian will feel first: petrol and diesel prices in India, deregulated since 2014 but politically managed through oil marketing companies' pricing discretion, have historically lagged global spikes by two to four weeks. If Brent sustains above \$90 a threshold last breached during the Russia-Ukraine shock of 2022 OMCs will face the familiar impossible choice: absorb losses or pass the cost to consumers. The government's LPG subsidy bill, already at 12,480 crore for FY2025-26 according to Union Budget documents, would balloon further, squeezing fiscal room that Delhi needs for election-year welfare spending.

The rupee, too, takes the hit. A wider current account deficit draws down forex reserves and pressures the currency, which in turn makes oil imports more expensive in a vicious feedback loop the RBI knows intimately. The rupee has already weakened past 86.5 against the dollar this week, per Bloomberg data.

Political Pulse

Here is the part no official briefing will say out loud, and it is where India Herald's read of this crisis begins to diverge from the wire copy.

The talk in South Block corridors and it has been persistent since External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's last Washington visit is that New Delhi has been running a delicate double back-channel: one to Tehran through the Chabahar port relationship and the Iranian foreign ministry, and one to the Trump White House through National Security Adviser-level contacts. The strategic bet, people familiar with this diplomatic architecture suggest, has been that India

can maintain its Iranian energy lifeline and its deepening US defence partnership simultaneously the classic Indian both-and rather than either-or.

That bet is about to be stress-tested to its breaking point. Trump's maximum-pressure posture leaves little room for nuance. The previous round of Iran sanctions in 2018-19 forced India to cut Iranian crude imports to zero a painful capitulation that cost India a reliable discount supplier and handed market share to competitors. The whisper in Delhi's strategic community now, according to analysts tracking the back-channel, is whether this time India has any more leverage or whether the Chabahar exemption, quietly renewed, becomes the first casualty of a wider escalation.

Meanwhile, Tehran's own calculus is shifting. Iran knows India needs its oil and its port. But a Tehran under missile attack has different priorities than a Tehran at the negotiating table. The risk, one former Indian ambassador to Iran noted in a recent policy forum, is that India becomes collateral not from a missile, but from a set of American secondary sanctions so broad that no Indian refiner dares lift a barrel of Iranian crude, regardless of what any back-channel promises.

The Naval Question No One Is Asking Loudly Enough

India maintains a naval presence near the strait through its logistics agreement with Oman, centred on the port of Duqm. The Indian Navy has conducted anti-piracy and freedom-of-navigation operations in the region for over a decade, a fact the Ministry of Defence highlights regularly. But in an active US-Iran shooting war, the nature of that presence transforms overnight.

Is an Indian warship near Hormuz a shield for Indian-flagged tankers or a target that draws India into a conflict it has meticulously avoided? Defence analysts tracking naval deployments suggest India has quietly pulled its assets further south in recent days, creating what one retired admiral described to a defence publication as a 'watchful distance.' The Indian Navy's posture, for now, appears to be eyes-open, hands-off but the pressure to escort Indian tankers, should insurance companies refuse to cover the route, could force Delhi's hand faster than any diplomatic cable.

Eight Million Indians in the Blast Radius

The human dimension is staggering and under-discussed. Approximately 8 million Indian nationals live and work in the Gulf states, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. Their remittances over \$32 billion annually from the Gulf region alone, per RBI data are a structural pillar of India's balance of payments and the economic lifeline of entire districts in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. A full-blown Gulf conflict does not just threaten oil prices; it threatens the paycheques that keep millions of Indian families above the poverty line.

Operation Vande Bharat in 2020 evacuated roughly 60,000 Indians from the Gulf during COVID. A wartime evacuation from a region under active missile fire would be an operation of an entirely different magnitude and one the MEA's crisis management division is, sources suggest, already running scenarios for, though no official confirmation has been issued as of this writing.

The Forward Read: Three Scenarios India Must Watch This Week

Scenario One Controlled Escalation: Both sides trade limited volleys, insurance costs spike but the strait stays open. India absorbs a \$5-8 per barrel premium; petrol prices rise 3-5 per litre within a month; the rupee tests 87; the RBI intervenes with reserves. Painful but manageable. This is the consensus base case among energy analysts polled by Reuters.

Scenario Two Tanker Incident: A tanker not necessarily Indian-flagged is struck or seized. Lloyd's and other insurers suspend war-risk cover for the strait. The 'Hormuz premium' explodes to \$15-25 per barrel. India scrambles to reroute sourcing to non-Hormuz suppliers (West Africa, the US, Guyana), but at higher freight costs and longer lead times. Petrol prices jump 8-12 per litre. The current account deficit blows past 2.5% of GDP. This is the scenario the petroleum ministry fears most, according to energy sector sources.

Scenario Three Strait Closure: Even a 48-hour blockade let alone a sustained one would be a global economic earthquake. India's strategic petroleum reserve, at roughly 9.5 days of net import cover per the PPAC, is designed for supply disruptions, not for a closed chokepoint. In this scenario, rationing is not unthinkable; it is a planning assumption, and the political fallout for any government in power would be severe.

India Herald's assessment is that Scenario One is the most likely in the immediate term, but the trajectory of Trump's escalation which, critically, appears driven as much by domestic political signalling as by strategic calculation makes Scenario Two a non-trivial risk within the fortnight. The variable that matters most is not military: it is whether the back-channel between Delhi and Washington can extract an Indian-specific carve-out from whatever sanctions or blockade regime Trump imposes next. If Jaishankar's quiet diplomacy has built real capital, this is the week it gets spent.

The question that should keep every Indian policymaker awake tonight is not whether missiles will hit a tanker. It is whether the architecture of India's energy security built on the assumption that the strait will always stay open and that diplomacy can always buy a workaround is a house built on a 33-kilometre-wide fault line that just moved.

Allegations and strategic assessments reported here are attributed to named or described sources and reflect analysis, not confirmed operational intelligence; matters involving military deployments and diplomatic channels are reported without prejudice.

Reported and written with AI assistance under India Herald's editorial standards; a human editor governs publication.

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Key Takeaways

India imports roughly 65% of its crude through or near the Strait of Hormuz; the current US-Iran missile exchange directly threatens that supply at a time when India consumes over 5.4 million barrels per day.

Every \$10/barrel rise in crude widens India's current account deficit by approximately \$15 billion annually the rupee has already weakened past 86.5 against the dollar this week.

Eight million Indians in the Gulf states remit over \$32 billion annually; a full-blown conflict would threaten both their safety and the economic lifeline of millions of families across India.

India's strategic petroleum reserve covers roughly 9.5 days of net imports designed for disruptions, not a sustained Hormuz closure.

Modi's dual back-channel diplomacy with Tehran and Washington faces its severest test: the Chabahar lifeline and the US defence partnership may no longer coexist if Trump imposes sweeping secondary sanctions.

By the Numbers

65% of India's crude oil imports transit or skirt the Strait of Hormuz approximately 3.5 million barrels per day (PPAC data)

Every \$10/barrel Brent increase widens India's current account deficit by ~\$15 billion annually (RBI)

~8 million Indian nationals in Gulf states remit over \$32 billion annually to India (MEA/RBI)

India's strategic petroleum reserve covers ~9.5 days of net import needs (PPAC)

Brent crude has climbed from \$78 to past \$88 in three weeks on escalation fears (Reuters)

The 5W+H: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How

Who: The United States under President Trump and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, with India's 1.4 billion consumers and 8 million Gulf-based diaspora caught in the crossfire.

What: Intensified missile exchanges between US and Iranian forces in and around the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most critical oil chokepoint, threatening disruption to Indian crude supplies.

When: The escalation intensified in late June 2026, with missile volleys reported over the strait in the last 72 hours, according to Reuters and AFP dispatches.

Where: The Strait of Hormuz the 33-km-wide passage between Iran and Oman through which roughly 20% of global oil passes and the broader Persian Gulf region.

Why: The Trump administration's renewed maximum-pressure campaign against Iran's nuclear programme and Tehran's retaliatory posture have turned the strait into an active conflict zone, raising the stakes for every energy-importing nation, India foremost among them.

How: American naval and air strikes targeting Iranian missile sites have drawn retaliatory Iranian missile and drone salvos toward the strait's shipping lanes, per reports attributed to Reuters and Pentagon briefings, creating a live threat to tanker traffic India depends upon.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much of India's oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz?

Approximately 65% of India's crude oil imports about 3.5 million barrels per day transit through or near the Strait of Hormuz, sourced mainly from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, and Iran, according to PPAC data.

How would a Hormuz crisis affect petrol and LPG prices in India?

A sustained \$10/barrel rise in Brent crude could push petrol prices up 3-8 per litre within weeks and balloon the government's LPG subsidy bill, which was already 12,480 crore in FY2025-26 per Union Budget documents. A tanker incident could spike prices further.

Are Indian citizens in the Gulf safe during the US-Iran conflict?

Approximately 8 million Indians live in Gulf states. The MEA has crisis management protocols and ran Operation Vande Bharat in 2020, but a wartime evacuation from an active missile zone would be far more complex. No official evacuation advisory has been issued as of this writing.

Does India have enough oil reserves if the Strait of Hormuz closes?

India's strategic petroleum reserve covers approximately 9.5 days of net imports, per PPAC. This is designed for supply disruptions, not a sustained chokepoint closure rationing would become a real planning scenario in a prolonged blockade.

What is India's diplomatic position on the US-Iran conflict?

India has maintained dual back-channel diplomacy with both Washington and Tehran, anchored by the Chabahar port relationship with Iran and deepening US defence ties. This balancing act faces its most severe test if Trump imposes broad secondary sanctions that force an either-or choice.

Source: India Herald - MANOJ KUMAR N

Headline	"E20 causing problems in vehicles, ordinary people deeply distressed because of ethanol": Arvind Kejriwal		
Publication	Delhi Live News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

"E20 causing problems in vehicles, ordinary people deeply distressed because of ethanol": Arvind Kejriwal

<https://www.delhilivenews.in/news/e20-causing-problems-in-vehicles-ordinary-people-deeply-distressed-because-of-ethanol-arvind-kejriwal20260711231524/>

According to a release, he spoke to owners who had come to refuel and to others who had brought their vehicles for repairs to understand the effects of E20 petrol on their vehicles.

Citing these interactions, the AAP chief claimed that people consistently reported reduced mileage and mechanical problems after using E20 petrol. He alleged that the government's assertions on E20 were "blatant lies" and that ordinary people were facing difficulties because of ethanol-blended fuel.

After his visit, AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal took to 'X' and voiced problems faced by ordinary people from the ground, stating, "Today, I went to a petrol pump and a service station in Delhi to understand the ground reality. The government is telling blatant lies. E20 petrol is genuinely causing problems in vehicles. Ordinary people are deeply distressed because of ethanol. Almost everyone I spoke to said their vehicles' mileage has dropped, and many have complained about mechanical issues."

He added, "For the past few days, I have been observing that anyone in the country who opposes E20-blended petrol is being abused by ministers in this government. They are being called anti nationals, traitors, agents of the petrol lobby, unemployed social activists, and several other names. I want to tell Prime Minister Narendra Modi that such arrogance is not appropriate."

The AAP Supremo asserted, "All those who are raising concerns about E20 petrol are distressed by its impact. They are our fellow citizens. They are not traitors. They are patriots. It is wrong to abuse them in this manner. I want to tell Prime Minister Narendra Modi that they should not be insulted like this. We live in a democracy. Listen to what they have to say. It is the government's duty to hear their grievances and address them."

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has clarified concerns over the nationwide rollout of E20 fuel and the absence of separate availability of pure petrol, E10 and E20 at retail outlets.

The Ministry said maintaining multiple petrol grades across India's fuel distribution network would create significant operational and logistical challenges. It said the transition to E20 followed extensive consultations with automobile manufacturers, testing agencies and other stakeholders, and was based on technical evaluations covering vehicle compatibility, engine performance, emissions and fuel efficiency.

According to the Ministry, India's network of over one lakh fuel retail outlets, supported by refineries, terminals, depots and pipelines, is not designed to handle multiple nationwide fuel supply chains simultaneously.

The Ministry also said automobile manufacturers had supported the transition after extensive testing and continue to honour warranties for vehicles. Citing field data, it noted that Maruti Suzuki serviced 2.84 crore vehicles during FY 2025-26, including 1.5 crore older non-E20-certified vehicles, without reporting E20-related issues such as corrosion or abnormal wear. Hero MotoCorp has reported similar findings.

The Ministry acknowledged that E20 may reduce fuel economy by 3-5 per cent in some vehicles but said the blend offers benefits including higher octane rating, improved combustion, smoother engine performance, cleaner operation and lower lifecycle carbon emissions.

It added that the ethanol-blending programme would also reduce crude oil imports, strengthen energy security and support farmers through increased ethanol production.

Headline	Gulf Tensions Spark Global Market Turmoil		
Publication	Devdiscourse	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Gulf Tensions Spark Global Market Turmoil

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/business/3949210-gulf-tensions-spark-global-market-turmoil>

Share markets dropped in Asia due to escalating Gulf tensions and Iran's claim of closing the Strait of Hormuz. This led to a surge in oil prices and inflation risks globally. In the U.S., interest rate hike expectations increased, with major economic indicators and corporate earnings in focus.

Markets across Asia saw substantial declines on Monday amid escalating tensions in the Gulf region. Iran's announcement of closing the critical Strait of Hormuz fueled a significant surge in oil prices, rekindling global inflationary concerns.

As oil prices ascended, the likelihood of an interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve also increased, influencing both the dollar and bond yields. This news comes just before Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh's testimony before Congress.

In the U.S., stock futures and crude prices saw early fluctuations. While investors await key economic indicators, major corporate earnings, including big banks, Netflix, and General Electric, are anticipated to set the financial tone for the near future.

(With inputs from agencies.)

Headline	ONGC drills 2nd geothermal well in Ladakh, paving way for India's first pilot geothermal power plant		
Publication	Early Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills 2nd geothermal well in Ladakh, paving way for India's first pilot geothermal power plant

<https://www.earlytimes.in/newsdet.aspx?q=403916>

Early Times Report NEW DELHI, July 12: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well

in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant. The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country.

The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions.

The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently for decades, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to take off in the country because of technical and economic challenges.

Headline	ONGC Completes Second Geothermal Well In Ladakh's Puga Valley, Advances India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant		
Publication	Earth News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Completes Second Geothermal Well In Ladakh's Puga Valley, Advances India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant

<https://earthnews.in/ongc-completes-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakhs-puga-valley-advances-indias-first-pilot-geothermal-power-plant/>

New Delhi, July 12: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has successfully completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's

Puga Valley, marking a major milestone towards setting up India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

ONGC's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the 1,000-metre-deep well at an altitude of over 14,000 feet in around one month, improving on the time and cost involved in its first geothermal drilling effort, the company said.

The latest drilling follows the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which generated steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, confirming the region's significant geothermal potential.

The second well will support the development of a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could open the way for large-scale utilisation of geothermal energy in India.

ONGC said the project's next phase includes establishing the pilot plant and exploring long-term geothermal resources to provide reliable, round-the-clock electricity for Ladakh.

Located in eastern Ladakh, the Puga geothermal field is considered one of India's most promising geothermal sites. The region has been identified as a potential hub for clean energy due to its naturally occurring underground heat resources.

Geothermal energy uses heat from beneath the Earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating. Unlike solar and wind power, it can deliver continuous low-carbon energy regardless of weather conditions.

Although exploration in Puga has been underway for decades, commercial geothermal power generation in India has faced challenges due to technological and economic constraints. The latest ONGC initiative is aimed at overcoming these hurdles and expanding India's renewable energy portfolio beyond solar, wind and hydropower.

Comments are closed.

Headline	Ethanol Economics Explained — Why does Made in India E20 fuel cost you more?		
Publication	Financial Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Ethanol Economics Explained — Why does Made in India E20 fuel cost you more?

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-ethanol-economics-explained-why-does-made-in-india-e20-fuel-cost-you-more-4289595/>

E20 petrol price will not decrease as the government emphasizes its role in energy security and price stability, despite lower mileage and higher production costs compared to conventional petrol. Experts highlight that savings benefit the exchequer, not consumers.

E20 petrol price is not going to fall; the government made that clear on July 10.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has addressed the one question ethanol blending has never satisfactorily answered why hasn't the fuel become any cheaper?

Its reply, in effect, was that consumers should treat E20 as a tool for price stability and energy security rather than for lower fuel prices. Government also, for the first time, conceded that E20 delivers 3 to 5% lower mileage than conventional petrol, even as it defended the programme.

This follows the July 4 press conference at which automakers rejected claims of engine damage, and repeated defences from Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Reports now suggest E25 will be rolled out in phases, precisely to avoid another compatibility backlash.

Yet the complaints from two-wheeler owners about lower mileage and the sense of paying the same for less have not gone away. The most pertinent question being asked is what does E20 actually cost, both to produce and to the person at the petrol pump?

KBS Sidhu, IAS (Retd.), former Special Chief Secretary of Punjab told Financial Express Digital that he believes the consumer price of E20 rests on incomplete accounting, and a real national benefit is being used to justify a bill the motorists should not be paying in full.

1. Ethanol is the more expensive input The expectation that domestic, renewable fuel is cheaper is not corroborated with the procurement numbers.

On a pure procurement basis, the administered price OMCs pay for ethanol, roughly Rs 65 to Rs 72 a litre depending on feedstock, is higher than the pre-tax, refinery-gate cost of petrol, which runs closer to Rs 53 a litre, Sidhu said. Litre for litre, before any tax is added on either side, ethanol is not the cheaper input.

The Ministry's own FAQs agree that E20's economics hinge on the global crude price and at around \$70 a barrel, producing E20 can cost as much as, or more than, conventional petrol. Blending turns genuinely advantageous only when crude climbs into the \$120 to 130 range or higher. In other words, at today's prices, the blended fuel is not a cost saving.

2. Consumers are also buying less energy per litre Ethanol carries less energy than petrol. Blended at 20%, E20 delivers roughly 67% less energy per litre according to NITI Aayog's 2021 report. In practice, that means lower mileage and fewer kilometres on the same litres.

Crucially, NITI Aayog anticipated exactly this and recommended a pricing correction. Its report stated: For better acceptability of higher ethanol blends retail price of such fuels should be lower than normal petrol to compensate for the reduction in calorific value.

3. Rs 1.97 lakh crore is a gross figure, not a net one The Centre's claim of Rs 1.97 lakh crore saving, alongside some 316 lakh metric tonnes of crude substituted, is not the net saving, Sindhu argues.

The Rs 1.9 lakh crore figure is a gross substitution number, the value of crude oil not imported, not a net saving, Sidhu said. It does not net out what the government has actually paid to procure that ethanol domestically at administered prices, the excise and GST concessions foregone on higher blends, or the power-and-water subsidy embedded in growing the feedstock in the first place.

A genuine savings figure, he argued, has to subtract the domestic cost of the substitute from the avoided cost of the import. Subsidised electricity and underpriced water that go into growing the feedstock never appear in the headline.

4. A macro saving used as a shield The foreign-exchange saving is a national, balance-of-payments benefit. The pump price is a domestic matter of excise, GST and oil-marketing-company margin. The problem, Sidhu argued, is that the first is being invoked to avoid touching the second.

If OMCs are already paying more per litre for the ethanol component than they would for petrol, the savings Minister Puri cites are macro-level import-substitution savings, not a cost reduction that has already been passed through and therefore [do not justify charging the consumer full price for a fuel that delivers less energy, he said. The two forms of saving are being conflated so that one is used to justify withholding the other.

5. The farmer-income trade-off The most common defence of E20 pricing is that any cut would hurt farmers. Sidhu rejects the framing outright.

The price paid to distilleries for ethanol and the price charged to the motorist at the pump are two entirely different administrative levers: one is procurement, the other is retail taxation and OMC margin, he said.

The government can lower the retail price of E20, through the excise component or the OMC margin, without touching the procurement price paid to farmers and distilleries by a single rupee. Conflating the two allows a tax and pricing choice to be presented as a straight trade-off between cheaper fuel and poorer farmers. It is not one.

6. Why states are not rushing to cut prices either There is a fiscal reason the relief has not materialised at the state level. Petrol is taxed ad valorem and as a percentage of the final price.

Lower the petrol pump price, and state VAT revenue falls with it, automatically. That disincentive holds across states regardless of which party governs them and is a structural drag on any price cut.

The saving is happening but not for the consumer Reducing dependence on imported crude is a legitimate national goal, and the programme has been rolled out effectively. The Ministry is also right that a domestically sourced fifth of every litre insulates India's fuel supply from Brent swings, shipping disruptions and geopolitics.

The narrower charge stands, though. On a per-litre basis, E20 costs more to produce than petrol at current crude prices, and it delivers less energy once it is in the petrol tank. The forex saving that offsets this benefits the exchequer, not the consumer.

The saving is real, as Sidhu's argument reduces to, it simply is not the consumer's saving.

Until E20 is priced to reflect the energy it actually delivers, as NITI Aayog itself recommended five years ago, the ordinary motorist will keep paying full price for a fuel that does less, while the taxpayer and the environment quietly absorb the rest of the bill.

Headline	E20 petrol debate: Mercedes-Benz says all BS VI petrol cars are fully compatible		
Publication	FirstPost	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

E20 petrol debate: Mercedes-Benz says all BS VI petrol cars are fully compatible

<https://www.firstpost.com/business/e20-petrol-debate-mercedes-benz-says-all-bs-vi-petrol-cars-are-fully-compatible-14030877.html>

Mercedes-Benz India has clarified that all its BS VI petrol vehicles are fully compatible with E20 fuel after a viral video sparked fresh debate over ethanol-blended petrol and mileage concerns

Mercedes-Benz India reaffirmed that all its petrol BS VI vehicles are fully compatible with E20 petrol, issuing a customer advisory after a viral social media video reignited public debate over the impact of ethanol-blended fuel on vehicle performance and fuel efficiency.

The luxury carmaker said customer safety, vehicle reliability and performance remain its highest priorities, adding that all Mercedes-Benz petrol BS VI vehicles are materially compatible with E20 fuel and have been certified by the relevant authorities.

All Mercedes-Benz petrol BS VI vehicles are materially compatible with E20 fuel and have been certified by the relevant authorities, the company said in the advisory. It also assured customers that its technical teams remain available to address any queries related to fuel compatibility and reiterated its commitment to sustainable mobility.

Customer Advisory pic.twitter.com/RxuTYl6Phz Mercedes-Benz India (@MercedesBenzInd) July 12, 2026

Mercedes-Benz reiterates earlier stand

The latest advisory is in line with Mercedes-Benz India's long-standing position on ethanol-blended fuels.

Earlier this month, Managing Director and CEO Santosh Iyer said the company's newer petrol vehicles are fully compatible with E20 fuel, with some models, including the latest S-Class Hybrid, also capable of running on E25 petrol.

He had said Mercedes-Benz had not encountered any significant technical issues related to E20 fuel, although dealerships had received more customer queries amid growing public discussion over mileage, engine durability and fuel compatibility.

At the same time, the company has urged the government to adopt a phased approach before increasing ethanol blending beyond 20 per cent.

Mercedes-Benz has argued that while new-generation vehicles are engineered to operate on E20 petrol, India's large fleet of older vehicles would require adequate safeguards before the country transitions to higher ethanol blends such as E25.

The company has also recommended that multiple grades of petrol remain available at fuel stations during the transition period, allowing owners to choose fuel appropriate for their vehicles.

India's ethanol push

The Government of India has been promoting ethanol blending as part of its broader strategy to reduce dependence on imported crude oil, lower carbon emissions and support domestic ethanol production.

India brought forward its target of achieving 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol from 2030 to the 2025-26 ethanol supply year, making E20 the standard fuel being rolled out across the country.

Automobile industry experts have consistently maintained that vehicles specifically designed and certified for E20 fuel are engineered to operate safely on the higher ethanol blend. They also note that ethanol contains less energy than conventional petrol, meaning some reduction in fuel efficiency is expected compared with pure petrol.

However, industry testing has not shown widespread engine damage in vehicles specifically designed for E20 fuel. Manufacturers continue to advise owners of older vehicles to follow their respective recommendations before using higher ethanol blends.

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Headline	Oil prices surge three per cent amid escalating US-Iran tensions		
Publication	Hi India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Oil prices surge three per cent amid escalating US-Iran tensions

<https://hiindia.com/oil-prices-surge-three-per-cent-amid-escalating-us-iran-tensions/>

Washington, July 13 (IANS) Oil prices rose more than 3 per cent as the United States and Iran exchanged fresh strikes, renewing fears of disruption

in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global energy supplies.US crude futures climbed 3.4 per cent to \$73.87 a barrel by 6.03 p.m. ET, CNBC reported. Brent crude, the international benchmark, gained 3.5 per cent to \$78.67.The New York Times put Brent slightly higher at nearly \$79 a barrel. That was about 9 per cent above its pre-war price.The gains followed another round of US strikes against Iran. The attacks were intended to reduce Tehran's ability to target civilian mariners and commercial ships in the strait.At 5 p.m. ET today, U.S. Central Command forces began launching more strikes against Iran to continue degrading their ability to attack civilian mariners and commercial ships freely transiting the Strait of Hormuz, CENTCOM said.The Commander in Chief has directed the strikes to hold Iranian forces accountable, it added.The Wall Street Journal said the operation was the third wave of American attacks in 24 hours. Earlier strikes targeted Iranian missile and air-defence systems, small boats, radars and weapons storage sites around the waterway.Iranian forces fired at commercial ships around the time of the latest US operation. American aircraft shot down an Iranian cruise missile and a one-way attack drone, CENTCOM spokesman Capt. Tim Hawkins said, according to CNN and The New York Times.Iran said the strait was closed until further notice. CENTCOM disputed the claim and said ships could continue to transit lawfully.Iran does not control the strait. Traffic is flowing, CENTCOM said, according to CNBC.The maritime intelligence firm Windward tracked nine ships passing through the strait on Saturday. The Joint Maritime Information Center said the southern route through Omani waters remained open to inbound and outbound traffic. It nevertheless advised mariners to exercise extreme vigilance.Shipping volumes remain sharply below normal. More than 130 vessels used the strait each day before the war, but only 22 made the passage on Thursday, The New York Times reported, citing maritime data company Kpler.That confidence eroded very, very quickly, Kpler's head of Middle East research, Amena Bakr, told the newspaper. We're back to square one when it comes to that situation.Fox News reported that the US had hit about 140 Iranian targets in its overnight assault. Iran retaliated against sites across the Gulf. Kuwait said attacks damaged three border posts and an offshore oil platform, injuring one worker.IANSIkJ/rs

Headline	Global oil prices surge by 4 per cent following fresh Iranian strikes across Gulf region		
Publication	Indian Economic Observer	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

Global oil prices surge by 4 per cent following fresh Iranian strikes across Gulf region

<https://www.indianeconomicobserver.com/news/global-oil-prices-surge-by-4-per-cent-following-fresh-iranian-strikes-across-gulf-region20260713080640/>

New Delhi [India, July 13 : Oil prices jumped on Monday as Iran attacked Gulf states in response to US strikes in Tehran.

Consequently, Brent Crude stood at USD 79.17, reflecting a rise of USD 3.16, or 4.16 per cent, at the time of filing. At the same time, crude oil stood at USD 74.47, gaining USD 3.06 or 4.29 per cent.

The price movement followed a wave of military actions that disrupted the critical Strait of Hormuz maritime corridor, heightening concerns over global energy supplies.

The escalation triggered widespread regional instability, drawing sharp condemnation from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and triggering formal diplomatic protests as the standoff on the Strait of Hormuz continues.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the OIC General Secretariat strongly denounced Iranian attacks targeting Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Jordan.

The organisation labelled the strikes a "flagrant and ongoing violation" of national sovereignty and a direct breach of the principles of good neighbourliness.

The OIC further criticised Iran's ongoing disruption of international trade and attacks on commercial vessels, stating that these actions violate international law and the charters of both the United Nations and the OIC.

Warning that such escalations threaten regional security, the OIC reaffirmed its full solidarity with the targeted nations and supported their right to take measures to safeguard their security and territorial integrity.

"The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation expresses its strong condemnation and denunciation of the Iranian attacks against the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which constitute a flagrant and ongoing violation of the sovereignty of these states and a breach of the principles of good-neighbourliness based on mutual respect," it stated.

"The General Secretariat affirms that these ongoing attacks and Iran's continued aggression against commercial vessels and obstruction of international trade constitute a clear violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and are likely to undermine international efforts to restore security and stability in the region," it added.

Meanwhile, Oman took direct diplomatic action, claiming drone strikes on sites in the Musandam and Al Wusta governorates. Sheikh Khalid Almuslahi, the Foreign Ministry Undersecretary, summoned the Iranian Ambassador to Oman, Mousa Farhang, to deliver a formal note of protest.

During the meeting, Omani officials expressed deep concern over the "irresponsible acts", demanding that Iran adhere to the values of non-interference, sovereignty, and the ethical norms that bind neighbouring nations.

Headline	ONGC approves expansion of Mangaluru oil reserve		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC approves expansion of Mangaluru oil reserve

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/topstories/ongc-approves-expansion-of-mangaluru-oil-reserve/ar-AA27IQGM>

Bengaluru / Mangaluru: In a major step toward strengthening India's energy security, ONGC has given in-principle approval for the expansion of a

strategic petroleum reserve with a capacity of 17.5 lakh metric tonnes in Mangaluru. Furthermore, it has approved a proposal to seek government assistance to expand commercial utilization opportunities with regulatory support.

This new project will significantly reinforce India's overall storage network and will be managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

Mangaluru stands out as one of India's key strategic petroleum storage locations. The city also hosts a refinery with a capacity of 3 lakh barrels per day, operated by MRPL, a subsidiary of ONGC. This decision comes amid rising global geopolitical tensions and supply concerns through the Strait of Hormuz.

Oil reserves located in Permude and Padur

Crude oil is already being stored in underground rock caverns operated by ISPRL at Permude in Mangaluru. Additionally, ISPRL operates a massive underground crude oil facility at Padur in Udupi district, and both of these cavern facilities are interconnected via a pipeline. In Mangaluru, one cavern has been taken up by MRPL, while the other has been leased out to the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Furthermore, HPCL operates a massive underground LPG storage facility at the same location in Permude, Mangaluru, which was dedicated to the nation just last year.

Underground petroleum storage capacities in the coastal region

Permude: 1.5 million metric tonnes capacity across 2 caverns.

Padur: 2.5 million metric tonnes capacity across 4 caverns.

Permude (LPG): 80 thousand metric tonnes capacity across 2 caverns.

Headline	ONGC moves closer to India's first geothermal plant		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC moves closer to India's first geothermal plant

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/india/ongc-moves-closer-to-india-s-first-geothermal-plant/ar-AA27JrU1>

New Delhi: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country.

The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions.

The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently for decades, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to take off in the country because of technical and economic challenges.

India is seeking to diversify its renewable energy mix beyond solar, wind and hydropower as it works towards its target of installing 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

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Headline	E20 petrol: Will it affect your motor insurance claim? Government clarifies insurance, warranty rules		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

E20 petrol: Will it affect your motor insurance claim? Government clarifies insurance, warranty rules

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/topstories/e20-petrol-will-it-affect-your-motor-insurance-claim-government-clarifies-insurance-warranty-rules/ar-AA27Klhr>

Ankit Kumar The rollout of E20 petrol across India has raised several questions among vehicle owners, with many wondering whether using the

ethanol-blended fuel could affect their motor insurance claims or void their vehicle warranty. Addressing these concerns, the government has clarified that using E20 petrol does not invalidate motor insurance or original equipment manufacturer (OEM) warranty. It has also dismissed several viral claims related to engine damage, mileage loss and insurance claim rejection.

Will E20 petrol affect your motor insurance claim?

The government has made it clear that using E20 petrol by itself will not lead to the rejection of a motor insurance claim.

According to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, insurance companies and automobile manufacturers have confirmed that the use of E20 fuel has no impact on the validity of vehicle insurance or manufacturer warranty in India.

The clarification comes after social media posts and online discussions raised concerns that motorists using E20 petrol could face problems while making insurance claims after an accident or vehicle damage.

Government clarifies insurance and warranty rules

In a post on X, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said insurers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) have clarified that using E20 petrol does not affect the validity of motor insurance or vehicle warranties.

The ministry also said the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has confirmed that warranties remain valid for vehicles using E20 fuel that meets the prescribed quality standards.

Why were motorists worried about E20 petrol?

Concerns over E20 petrol gained traction after claims suggested that using ethanol-blended fuel in vehicles not designed for it could affect performance, maintenance and compliance with manufacturer recommendations. Many vehicle owners were also worried that using E20 petrol could:

Result in motor insurance claim rejection

Void the manufacturer's warranty

Damage vehicle engines

Significantly reduce fuel efficiency

The government has rejected these claims, saying they are not supported by scientific evidence.

Government debunks viral claims about E20 fuel

Earlier, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued a 10-point clarification to address misinformation surrounding the E20 programme. According to the ministry:

Using E20 petrol does not invalidate motor insurance.

Vehicle warranties remain valid when approved E20 fuel is used.

Claims that E20 reduces vehicle mileage by 30 per cent are misleading.

There is no evidence that E20 fuel damages compatible engines.

Modern ethanol production consumes significantly less water than viral social media claims suggest.

The government said modern ethanol plants use only around 3-5 litres of processed water to produce one litre of ethanol and operate using Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) systems.

What is E20 petrol?

E20 petrol is a blend containing 20 per cent ethanol and 80 per cent petrol.

The government says the ethanol blending programme aims to:

Reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil

Lower greenhouse gas emissions

Save foreign exchange

Create additional income opportunities for farmers through higher demand for ethanol feedstock

According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India's ethanol production capacity has expanded from about 421 crore litres in 2014 to nearly 2,000 crore litres in 2026.

Many countries already use ethanol-blended fuel

The government said India joins several countries that already use ethanol-blended petrol. Examples include:

United States (E10, expanding E15)

Brazil (E27 and moving towards even higher blends)

Canada

Japan

Thailand

Several European countries

Headline	ONGC drills second well in Ladakh, for first pilot geothermal power plant		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills second well in Ladakh, for first pilot geothermal power plant

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/ongc-drills-second-well-in-ladakh-for-first-pilot-geothermal-power-plant-667903>

New Delhi: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said. The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country. The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource. Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions.

Headline	ONGC approves in-principle expansion of Mangaluru strategic oil reserve		
Publication	News Karnataka	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC approves in-principle expansion of Mangaluru strategic oil reserve

<https://newskarnataka.com/mangaluru/ongc-approves-in-principle-expansion-of-mangaluru-strategic-oil-reserve/12072026/>

Mangaluru: In a significant step towards enhancing India's energy security, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has granted in-principle

approval for the expansion of the strategic petroleum reserve in Mangaluru. The proposed underground storage facility will have a capacity of 17.5 lakh metric tonnes (MT) , substantially increasing the country's emergency crude oil storage capability.

Ad

The ONGC Board has also approved a proposal seeking government support to enable greater commercial utilisation of the strategic reserve through an appropriate regulatory framework. The expansion is expected to strengthen India's strategic petroleum storage network, which is managed by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

Ad

The decision assumes added importance against the backdrop of rising geopolitical tensions across the world and continued concerns over global crude oil supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime route for international oil trade.

Mangaluru to play a bigger role in India's energy security

Mangaluru is already one of India's most important strategic petroleum storage centres and is home to Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) , an ONGC subsidiary that operates a refinery with a capacity of 3 lakh barrels per day

The proposed expansion is expected to significantly enhance the country's ability to maintain emergency crude oil reserves that can be utilised during supply disruptions or international crises.

Strategic petroleum reserves are maintained to ensure uninterrupted availability of crude oil in the event of geopolitical conflicts, natural disasters, or disruptions to global shipping routes. Expanding these reserves is considered an important component of India's long-term energy security strategy.

Government support proposed for commercial utilisation

Along with approving the expansion in principle, the ONGC Board has endorsed a proposal seeking government support to facilitate commercial utilisation of the additional storage capacity through suitable regulatory mechanisms.

Industry experts believe that allowing greater commercial use of strategic storage infrastructure can improve operational efficiency while ensuring that emergency reserves remain available whenever required.

The proposal is expected to be taken up with the Central Government for further consideration.

Existing underground storage network

The coastal Karnataka region already hosts some of India's largest underground petroleum storage facilities managed by ISPRL.

At Permude near Mangaluru, crude oil is stored in massive underground rock caverns designed to safely preserve strategic petroleum reserves. Another major underground crude oil storage complex is located at Padur in neighbouring Udupi district.

Both storage systems are connected through an underground pipeline network, enabling efficient movement of crude oil between the facilities whenever necessary.

At the Mangaluru facility, one underground cavern has been allocated to MRPL for operational purposes, while another has been leased to the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) as part of international energy cooperation.

LPG storage strengthens regional infrastructure

Apart from crude oil storage, Permude also houses one of India's major underground LPG storage facilities.

The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) operates an underground LPG cavern at Permude, which was dedicated to the nation last year. The facility further enhances the region's strategic importance in India's energy infrastructure by ensuring secure storage of liquefied petroleum gas.

Together, the crude oil and LPG storage facilities make coastal Karnataka one of the country's most critical energy hubs.

Current storage capacities

The existing underground petroleum storage facilities in the coastal region include:

Permude (Crude Oil): 1.5 million metric tonnes capacity across two underground caverns.

Padur (Crude Oil): 2.5 million metric tonnes capacity across four underground caverns.

Permude (LPG): 80,000 metric tonnes capacity across two underground caverns.

With the proposed addition of 17.5 lakh metric tonnes, India's strategic petroleum reserve capacity in the region will increase substantially, further strengthening the country's preparedness against global energy supply disruptions.

Strategic importance amid global uncertainty

The approval comes at a time when international energy markets continue to remain volatile due to geopolitical conflicts and concerns over maritime trade routes, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, which handles a significant share of the world's crude oil shipments.

Expanding strategic petroleum reserves enables India to better manage supply shocks and reduce the impact of sudden disruptions in crude imports.

The proposed expansion is also expected to reinforce Mangaluru's position as one of India's foremost strategic energy centres, complementing the operations of MRPL, ISPL and other petroleum infrastructure in the region.

Once the project receives the necessary approvals from the Government of India, it is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening the country's long-term energy resilience and emergency preparedness.

Headline	ONGC Drills 2nd Geothermal Well in Ladakh, Paving Way for India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant		
Publication	Outlook Business	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Drills 2nd Geothermal Well in Ladakh, Paving Way for India's First Pilot Geothermal Power Plant

<https://www.outlookbusiness.com/industry/ongc-drills-2nd-geothermal-well-in-ladakh-paving-way-for-indias-first-pilot-geothermal-power-plant>

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential

PTI

ONGC Energy Centre completed drilling the second geothermal well to a depth of 1,000 metres in Ladakh's Puga Valley.

The drilling operation was executed at an altitude of over 14,000 feet within a month, improving on previous timelines and costs.

The second well will directly support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric pilot geothermal power plant.

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

1 June 2026

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BY PTI

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The project's next phase includes plans to set up a 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and the longer-term development of geothermal resources to provide reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh.

The Puga geothermal field, located in eastern Ladakh, is considered India's most promising geothermal resource.

Geothermal energy harnesses heat from beneath the earth's surface to generate electricity and provide heating, and offers a source of round-the-clock, low-carbon power, unlike solar and wind energy, whose output depends on weather conditions.

The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently for decades, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to take off in the country because of technical and economic challenges.

India is seeking to diversify its renewable energy mix beyond solar, wind and hydropower as it works towards its target of installing 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

Headline	ONGC moves closer to India's first geothermal plant		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC moves closer to India's first geothermal plant

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/ongc-moves-closer-to-indias-first-geothermal-plant/articleshow/132340831.cms>

ONGC has drilled its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley. This marks a significant step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant. The company's research arm drilled the well to 1,000 meters, improving on previous timelines. This new well will support a 1-megawatt electric pilot geothermal power plant. The project aims to pave the way for commercial geothermal energy exploitation in India.

New Delhi: State-run (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The company's research and development arm, , drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, ONGC said in a social media post.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the company said.

ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and could pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy in the country.

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Headline	ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh		
Publication	The Hans India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh

<https://assets.thehansindia.com/news/international/ongc-drills-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh-1096776>

ONGC has successfully drilled its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, moving India closer to launching its first 1 MWe geothermal pilot power plant.

Learn how this project aims to provide reliable, low-carbon baseload electricity for the region.

Public sector Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, in a significant step toward developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

The upstream oil giant's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, according to an ONGC statement.

The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the statement said.

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The Puga geothermal field in Ladakh has long been identified as India's most promising geothermal resource. While exploratory work has been carried out intermittently over the years, commercial geothermal power generation has yet to achieve the required breakthrough due to the technical and economic challenges involved.

Meanwhile, India is well on track to achieve its target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030. The country's non-fossil fuel capacity has increased from 81 GW in 2014 to 288 GW at present, registering a growth of over 256 per cent . Solar energy capacity has risen from 2.8 GW to 155 GW, while wind energy capacity has grown from 21 GW to 56.4 GW.

The next phase will require deeper integration of generation, storage and transmission systems, along with enhanced grid resilience.

Headline	ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh		
Publication	The Rahnuma Daily	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Jul 2026		

ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh

<https://therahnuma.com/ongc-drills-second-geothermal-well-in-ladakh/>

New Delhi, July 12 (IANS) Public sector Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga

Valley, in a significant step toward developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

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The Rahnuma-E-Deccan Daily

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Headline	ONGC Board Clears 1.75 MMT Strategic Petroleum Reserve Expansion at Mangaluru		
Publication	The Sentinel	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	12 Jul 2026		

ONGC Board Clears 1.75 MMT Strategic Petroleum Reserve Expansion at Mangaluru

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/more-news/business/ongc-board-clears-175-mmt-strategic-petroleum-reserve-expansion-at-mangaluru>

ONGC has approved plans for a 1.75 MMT strategic petroleum reserve at Mangaluru to strengthen India's energy security. Published on

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NEW DELHI: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has received in-principle approval from its Board of Directors to develop a 1.75 million metric tonne (MMT) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) at Mangaluru as a project of national importance, in line with directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). The proposed facility will be developed as the Phase-I extension of the Mangaluru Strategic Petroleum Reserve and will include associated infrastructure, ONGC said in a regulatory filing.

In addition, the Board directed the company to take up with the government the issue of broadening commercial utilisation opportunities for the strategic petroleum reserve, along with the necessary regulatory support.

According to an analysis by Khaleej Times, India is stepping up efforts to strengthen its strategic petroleum reserves and diversify energy cooperation after the disruption caused by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz during the Iran conflict, through which nearly one-fifth of the world's energy supplies pass. The report noted that India already permits commercial utilisation of a portion of its strategic crude storage facilities at Mangaluru, Padur and Visakhapatnam, which together have a storage capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT).

These facilities are managed by the government-owned Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd.

It added that Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) -- an ONGC subsidiary -- operates a 300,000 barrels-per-day refinery in Mangaluru.

Half of the existing 1.5 MMT strategic petroleum reserve at Mangaluru has been leased to MRPL, while the remaining capacity is leased to Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

The analysis further said that during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE earlier this year, ADNOC announced plans to expand its crude oil storage in India to as much as 30 million barrels and also explore crude storage at Fujairah as part of India's strategic reserve programme.

According to the report, India is also planning to build an additional 4 MMT strategic petroleum reserve at Chandikhol in Odisha and a new 2.5 MMT facility at Padur in Karnataka. ONGC has not disclosed the estimated cost or timeline for the proposed 1.75 MMT strategic petroleum reserve expansion at Mangaluru.