



ONGC News as on 14 August 2026 (Print & Online)



Publication : Millennium Post

Editions : New Delhi

Date :14 August 2026

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Fire at ONGC installation in Kalol brought under control

NEW DELHI: A minor fire was reported at an ONGC installation in the Kalol Field on Thursday morning, the company said. ONGC's Fire and Emergency Response teams promptly responded and extinguished the blaze.

No injuries or harm to personnel were reported. The situation is fully under control, with normal production operations restored, ONGC said. The company added that it remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across its operational locations.

Publication : Prabhat (Gujarati)	Editions : Ahmedabad
Date :14 August 2026	Page : 8

Headline: Traffic was diverted on the highway due to fire at Gandhinagar ONGC plant

ગાંધીનગર ONGC પ્લાન્ટમાં આગ લાગતા હાઈવે પર વાહનવ્યવહાર ડાયવર્ટ કરાયો

ગાંધીનગર, તા. ૧૩ કોમનો મારો ચલાવીને આગને ગાંધીનગરના કલોલ- વધુ ફેલાતી અટકાવી હતી. માણસા હાઈવે પર આવેલા સુરક્ષાના આગોતરા પગલારૂપે ઓઈલ એન્ડ નેચરલ ગેસ પ્લાન્ટ આસપાસનો વિસ્તાર કોર્પોરેશન (ONGC)ના તાત્કાલિક ખાલી કરાવવામાં પ્લાન્ટમાં ગુરૂવારે (૧૩મી આવ્યો હતો અને કલોલ-માણસા ઓગસ્ટ) વહેલી સવારે અચાનક હાઈવે પરના વાહનવ્યવહારને ભીષણ આગ લાગી હતી. થોડા સમય માટે અન્ય રસ્તે પ્લાન્ટમાં જવલનશીલ પદાર્થો ડાયવર્ટ કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો. હોવાને કારણે જોતજોતામાં ઘટનાની જાણ થતાં જ અગનજવાળાઓ વિકરાળ બની ઓગસ્ટના ઉચ્ચ અધિકારીઓ હતી અને કાળા ધુમાડાના સહિત સ્થાનિક પોલીસ કાફલો ગોટેગોટા આકાશમાં ઊડતા જોવા પછા સ્થળ પર પહોંચી ગયો હતો. મળ્યા હતા. જોકે, આ દુર્ઘટનામાં પ્રાથમિક તબક્કે શોર્ટ સર્કિટ કોઈ જાનહાનિ થઈ નથી. અથવા ગેસ લીકેજના કારણે આ બનાવની ગંભીરતાને ધ્યાને આગ લાગી હોવાની આશંકા લઈને કલોલ અને ગાંધીનગરથી સેવાઈ રહી છે. હાલ આગ ફાયર વિભાગનો કાફલો ત્વરિત લાગવાના ચોક્કસ કારણો ઘટનાસ્થળે દોડી ગયો હતો. જાણવા માટે તપાસ હાથ ધરવામાં જવાનોએ સતત પાણી અને આવી રહી છે.

NOTEBOOK

How family legacy translates into political leadership

Reporters sometimes get a chance to see how family reputation and standing translate to political capital over generations

M. Kalyanaraman

Reporters when posted to a place where they know no one move in to a lodge, then hunt for a permanent place. I did so with Velumanikam lodge in Ramanathapuram.

As I was checking in, saying I would stay only a few days, an older man in a white khadi shirt and dhoti ambled in. Everyone was watchful of him – a man of standing. He was the owner, Veluchamy.

Veluchamy stared at me for a few seconds, smiled and said, “You should feel free here.” He had sized me up already. He gave me a top-floor room, quiet but breezy; told me I could come and go as I pleased; and made Sivagiri, an employee, my Man Friday – a big help for a reporter.

Veluchamy was a civil contractor who specialised in ONGC works, and the lodge was his office. He spoke little, but when he did, people listened. He carried respect.

This was during the 1998 Lok Sabha elections – a busy time for a reporter. One had to do punditry without appearing to. Without scientific surveys, how could merely speaking to a few random people help? Sivagiri nudged me towards Veluchamy, known for astute observations, and I asked him who would win.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was then a faraway force in Tamil Nadu; it still is. But Veluchamy, known as a Congressman, muttered, “BJP, BJP...”. And the BJP did indeed come to power. It was as if Veluchamy had an uncanny insight into national politics, sitting in Ramanathapuram. Or was it just that he kept his ears to the ground?

Veluchamy made me a part of things, inviting me to festivals at his village temple – an honour, I was told.

A few months later, it seemed that the BJP government might not last, given the pressure from Jayalithaa’s All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).

One evening, the television was showing a Hare Krishna group singing and dancing on the streets of London. Veluchamy pointed at it and said, “Minorities must be

given space.” By then the lodge felt like home. I gave up looking for a permanent place, and stayed until I was posted out of Ramanathapuram.

Thirty years later, while covering the Assembly election, I started at my old stomping grounds – Ramanathapuram. Veluchamy was long dead, but his grandson, V. K. Rajeev, was contesting as a Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) candidate.

Pre-poll surveys and most punditry gave a clear victory to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). But outside Ramanathapuram where the sizeable Muslim vote seemed solidly behind the DMK, nearly every person I met, barring older folk, said that the TVK would win. Unwilling to depend on just anecdotal reportage, I, however, merely said that TVK President Vijay was on a roll, in my report.

I recently dropped by Mr. Rajeev’s office at Fort St. George. Veluchamy’s grandson had won and was now Minister for Environment and Climate Change. He said that after Veluchamy’s death in 2011, his family kept the body for two and a half days, as people thronged to pay their respects. He had been kind to all, and helped them often without his family knowing.

Mr. Rajeev said his grandfather had 18 grandchildren, 10 of whom became doctors – he himself among them. Veluchamy respected doctors, and wanted his grandchildren to reach that stature. “He was so good at judging people that he kept only the good-hearted near him,” he recalls.

The Minister talks of his plans – enforcing the plastic ban; source segregation of municipal waste; climate awareness and the like. Did he predict his own win? He says he did because he was contesting on his family’s good name.

Veluchamy is a study in how a family legacy forms, and how political leadership springs from it. Would Veluchamy have predicted TVK’s win? I could picture him muttering: “Vijay, Vijay...”

Mr. Rajeev maintains an office at the Velumanikam lodge that still stands.

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Exploring options

Strategic reserves must complement oil exploration

Rattled by the war-induced oil shock, India (which imports nearly 90 per cent of its crude needs) has of late unveiled a slew of policy steps to reduce its oil import bill; this could touch \$170 billion this fiscal, assuming a price of \$85 a barrel this year. On the supply side, the Centre has unveiled an ambitious plan for State support in exploration, namely, Samudra Manthan.



Under its ₹84,000 crore outlay for Samudra Manthan over five years, the Centre will support half the cost of drilling deepwater exploration wells, given that hydrocarbon exploration has a long-gestation period — with the period from exploration to commercial production taking five to 10 years. The scheme primarily comprises acquisition and processing of offshore seismic data (₹28,534 crore); drilling of 60 deepwater exploration wells (₹43,200 crore). This comes in the wake of considerable activity in the sector. According to Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri, 172 exploration blocks covering nearly 3.8 lakh km have been awarded under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy over a decade, with committed investments exceeding \$4.3 billion. He said that in FY26, about 674 wells were drilled, few new discoveries made and seven discoveries monetised.

Meanwhile, some reports by the House committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas have dived into this issue. They have raised the need to step up investments in new fields, in the wake of declining returns from ageing ones, which account for nearly three quarters of domestic output. In doing so, they have pointed to rising capex and declining domestic output — a drop from 34.2 million tonnes in FY19 to 28.7 million tonnes in FY25. In the context of the latest investment push, the committee looking into this issue rightly calls for “clearly defined performance benchmarks, periodic evaluation and accountability mechanisms”. The need to spend this huge order of public money sensibly cannot be overstated, given India’s experiences in this regard — with respect to the Krishna-Godavari basin, where either the reserves or the costs of extracting them were not correctly estimated beforehand. A 2012-13 CAG report is instructive here. It has observed that ONGC’s processes at that time were far from efficient. “Cost overruns and shortfalls in survey and drilling targets were noted,” it observes. There were delays in hiring and mobilisation of rigs. While the contractual arrangements have changed, this experience remains relevant.

Meanwhile, another House panel report suggests increasing the level of strategic storage from about 75 days of supplies (including 65 days’ stock with oil marketing companies) to 90 days. Strategic petroleum reserves, at 5.5 million tonnes are enough for just about 10 days. The Centre has, according to the report, not laid aside sufficient funds for new storage centres. Earmarking resources for storage is likely to be more effective than spending large sums on prospecting and exploration alone.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :14 August 2026	Page : 5

TWENTY YEARS AGO **TODAY.**

August 14, 2006

Pesticide residue: Indian grapes pass UK test

Indian grapes being exported to the European countries have got a clean chit. Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD), a UK agency, has come out with a finding which says none of the retail samples of Indian grapes consignment tested for pesticide residue had been detected with level above the norms set by the European Union.

Sahara seeks insurance cover against match cancellation

The overcast sky in Sri Lanka has prompted Sahara, the sponsor of the Indian cricket team, to scurry for cover. The threat of rains washing out the Unitech tri-series being played between India, Sri Lanka and South Africa from August 14 to 29 has pushed the Indian team sponsor to seek proposals for insurance against event cancellation.

Hazira: ONGC may resume output on Aug 18

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is expecting to resume gas production on August 18, while Krishak Bharati Co-operative Ltd (Kribhco) hopes to follow suit by month-end, officials said today after inspecting the losses the two major facilities suffered due to last week's floods from the Tapi river.

GUJARAT

A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation installation in Gujarat on Thursday was brought under control, with no injuries reported, the state-run energy company said.

Publication : The New Indian Express

Editions : Hyderabad

Date :14 August 2026

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GUJARAT

A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation installation in Gujarat on Thursday was brought under control, with no injuries reported, the state-run energy company said.

Publication : The Pioneer	Editions : New Delhi
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Fire incident at ONGC installation in Kalol Field brought under control

A minor fire incident was reported this morning at one of ONGC's installations in the Kalol Field. ONGC's Fire and Emergency Response teams responded immediately and successfully extinguished the fire.

No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored. ONGC places the highest priority on the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities. The Corporation remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across all its operational locations.

(PNS)



Publication : The Pioneer

Editions : New Delhi

Date :14 August 2026

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ONGC Chairman & CEO Arun Kumar called on Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati and committed ₹25 crore towards Assam floods (₹5 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and ₹20 crore to help rebuild over 700 flood-affected schools, with nearly ₹3 lakh per school)

Publication : Veer Arjun (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :14 August 2026	Page : 11

Headline: Fire at ONGC's Kalol plant brought under control; no casualties

ओएनजीसी के कलोल संयंत्र में लगी आग पर काबू पाया गया, कोई हताहत नहीं

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। गुजरात के कलोल क्षेत्र में ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (ओएनजीसी) के एक संयंत्र में बुधवार को आग लग गई, जिसपर आपात टीम की त्वरित कार्रवाई के बाद काबू पा लिया गया। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी ने यह जानकारी दी। इस घटना में किसी के घायल होने की सूचना नहीं है। ओएनजीसी ने कहा कि उसकी अग्निशमन और आपात प्रतिक्रिया टीम ने तुरंत कार्रवाई करते हुए आग बुझा दी। अब कंपनी में सामान्य परिचालन फिर से शुरू कर दिया गया है। कंपनी ने बयान में कहा, किसी भी कर्मचारी के घायल होने या किसी तरह से नुकसान पहुंचने की सूचना नहीं है। स्थिति पूरी तरह नियंत्रण में है और सामान्य उत्पादन परिचालन पूरी तरह बहाल कर दिया गया है। यह घटना गांधीनगर जिले के कलोल-माणसा क्षेत्र स्थित ओएनजीसी के एक संयंत्र में हुई। यहां से आग की लपटें और धुआं दिखाई देने के बाद दमकल टीम को मौके पर भेजा गया।

Hindustan Urvarak looks to chart next phase of growth

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 13 August

Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL), a joint venture of state-run NTPC, Indian Oil, Coal India, Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL), and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), incorporated in 2016, is charting plans for its next phase of growth by examining the feasibility of green urea and coal gasification projects, sources said.

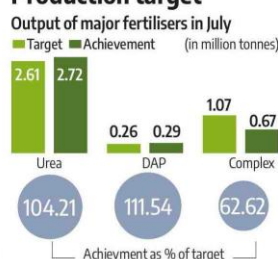
Sources said the company, which has emerged as one of India's significant players in fertiliser manufacturing over the years, is exploring the possibility of producing ammonium sulphate at its Barauni unit using surplus ammonia produced at the plant, and NPK fertiliser at its Sindri unit using surplus ammonia. A feasibility study of the proposals is being prepared following which they will be sent for further review, sources said.

Ammonium sulphate is fast emerging as an affordable alternative to urea, particularly in times of crisis when urea supplies get scarce, like during the West Asia crisis.

While urea contains 46 per cent nitrogen, ammonium sulphate contains 21 per cent nitrogen and 24 per cent sulphur. Some experts said that as nitrogen content is less in ammonium sulphate compared to urea, it requires more application than conventional urea.

Last year in the rabi season, the Central government brought

Production target



Source: Government of India and Trade sources

ammonium sulphate under the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) mechanism that would make it affordable for farmers. Ammonium sulphate is considered a healthier soil nutrient as it releases nitrogen slowly into the soil as compared to urea.

The second plant chemical that HURL has proposed to manufacture is NPK, which in its various grades is considered a much healthier option than conventional urea and DAP as it gives balanced nutrition to the soil. NPK is outside the NBS mechanism partially, and companies are free to price their bag of NPK based on market dynamics.

The three lead promoter companies of HURL — CIL, NTPC, and IOCL — are amongst the top Maharatna Public-Sector Undertakings, belonging to the ministries of coal, power, and oil and natural gas.

Publication : Financial Express

Editions : New Delhi

Date :14 August 2026

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ECONOMY **PAGE 2**

**INDIA SEEKS MORE
US LPG TO CUT
RELIANCE ON US**



STATE-OWNED REFINERS are in talks to secure more US liquefied petroleum gas under annual contracts for next year as the world's biggest consumer of the cooking fuel seeks to diversify imports, reports **Bloomberg**.

India seeks more US LPG to cut West Asia reliance

RAKESH SHARMA
& NICHOLAS LUI
August 13

STATE-OWNED REFINERS ARE in talks to secure more US liquefied petroleum gas under annual contracts for next year as the world's biggest consumer of the cooking fuel seeks to diversify imports.

The government has asked Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum to source at least 15% of the country's 2027 LPG imports through US term contracts, according to people familiar with the matter.

The country arranged its first ever US term supplies earlier this year, contracting about 2.2 million tonnes, or 10% of its total inbound shipments.

Executives from the three companies are in the US to negotiate LPG supply deals, the people said, asking not to be named because the discussions are private.

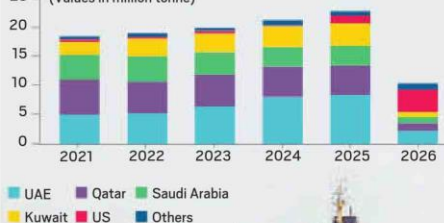
The move will help India widen its supply pool and narrow its trade surplus with the US as New Delhi pursues a trade deal with Washington.

The push to reduce reliance on West Asia, which previously accounted for more than 90% of India's LPG imports, follows acute shortages as the war in Iran disrupted flows through the

FUEL DIPLOMACY

West Asia grip on supplies has weakened due to the war

(Values in million tonne)



Note: LPG imports for 2026 are year-to-date

Source: Kpler, Bloomberg

Strait of Hormuz.

The US has already emerged as the country's top supplier of the oil product, with shipments reaching a record 3.9 million tonnes this year through August.

The state refiners plan to jointly issue a tender for US LPG after assessing potential suppliers and offers, the people said.

Oil ministry, and spokespeople for the three companies didn't immediately reply to emails seeking comments.

The Trump administration has repeatedly sought to boost energy exports to India,

one of the world's largest oil and gas importers.

Trade talks between Washington and New Delhi have dragged on since last year without a deal.

Meanwhile, the impasse over Hormuz and stalled US-Iran talks remain a threat to India's cooking-gas supplies.

LPG consumption plunged more than 16% year-on-year to 2.35 million tonnes last month, as shortages pushed households and industries towards piped natural gas and more polluting fuels such as biomass and kerosene.

—BLOOMBERG

FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF ₹23,731 CR GOBARDHAN SCHEME

Green Energy Body Seeks Wider Blending Mandate

Prashant Mukherjee

New Delhi: The Indian Federation of Green Energy has written to the petroleum and natural gas ministry seeking an extension of the compressed biogas (CBG) blending obligation beyond city gas distributors to large industrial gas consumers, arguing that the distributors alone cannot bear the cost of scaling up.

The industry body's call comes days after the union cabinet approved the ₹23,731 crore Gobardhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme, aimed at increasing domestic CBG production by nearly tenfold over the next decade through assured offtake, stable pricing, capital support, pipeline connectivity and easier access to finance.

In a letter to Alok Tripathi, joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the IFGE proposed extending the CBG blending obligation beyond city gas distribution (CGD) companies to refineries, petrochemical complexes, power plants and other



large industrial consumers that procure natural gas directly through long-term contracts, spot markets or gas exchanges. The current framework puts the incremental cost of CBG largely on CGD companies supplying households and CNG users, while large industrial gas consumers remain outside the obligation, the federation said. "Extending the obligation framework to all gas-consuming sectors would be a natural progression" as the CBG blending targets rise, it said in the letter, a copy of which ET has seen. The issue is significant as India seeks to reduce its dependence on imported gas. Natural gas demand was about 192 million standard cubic metres a day in FY26, with nearly half of that met through LNG imports. The LNG import bill was more than ₹1 lakh crore last year, highlighting the potential of domestic CBG as an alternative source.

However, the CBG market faces both demand and infrastructure constraints. According to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board's report for fiscal 2026,

CGD entities sold 111.48 million standard cubic metres of CBG against 12,033 million standard cubic metres of CNG and domestic PNG, achieving 0.92% blending against the 1% mandate. The obligation rises to 3% in FY27, 4% in FY28 and 5% in FY29.

It also reported that out of 207 CBG plants, only 24 are connected to gas pipelines, while 148 have no connectivity planned. Of 328 plants under construction, just two are connected and 257 have no connectivity planned.

CBG sales are growing, with average monthly sales rising from 211,000 standard cubic metres of gas per day in April 2025 to 620,000 SCMD in March 2026. Yet the market remains concentrated with Torrent Gas, IGL, BPCL, Gujarat Gas and Gail Gas accounting for 54.7% of FY26 CBG sales.

The federation has proposed sector-wide CBG purchase obligations, modelled on the electricity sector's renewable purchase obligation, along with tradable renewable gas certificates for consumers unable to physically source CBG. It suggested excluding fertiliser units because of existing government subsidies, unless CBG becomes cheaper than spot gas.

LIC reported robust Q1 FY27 results with Profit After Tax rising 22.81% YoY to Rs 13,492 crore. Value of New Business surged 61.32% to Rs 3,136 crore, while the net VNB Margin expanded 750 bps to 22.9%. Total Premium Income grew 6.75% to Rs 1,27,250 crore. Individual New Business Premium rose 14.48% to 714,351 crore, and Group Business APE increased 10.20% to Rs 6,180 crore. Non-par APE share within Individual Business improved to 32.49% from 30.34%. LIC maintained market leadership with 60.10% overall FYPI share, 38.89% in individual and 70.90% in Group. Solvency Ratio strengthened from 2.17 to 2.42, and AUM rose 4.10% to Rs 59.39 crore.



(Technical); Swatantra Kumar Tomar, Director (Finance); and other senior officers and staff.

IHM Dehradun successfully organised "Navaganam 2026", a three-day orientation for newly admitted Diploma and Craftsmanship students from August 5-7, 2026. The programme familiarised students with the hospitality industry, professional expectations, and career opportunities. Industry professionals, including Nikhil Thapa (Lemon Tree Hotel Company), Ashwani Jain (Royal Orchid Hotel), Vimal Bahuguna (Effotel by Sayaji), Shibani Goyal (Perfect Cravings), and Ajay Kumar Marjkhola (Pride Ashiyana Resort), shared insights on industry demand, workplace etiquette, and professional competencies. Faculty members, including HOD Manish Semwal and Dr. Savita, supported the programme, which concluded with emphasis on discipline, skill development, and continuous learning.

CBI CBI's Dehradun Region, led by Regional Head Rajat Bajaj, organized a Mega MSME Credit Outreach Camp at the Center for Aromatic Plants, Solauqi, on August 7, 2026. Dr. Lalit Agarwal, Scientist, served as the event's chief guest. About fifty beneficiaries received loan approval letters totaling Rs 100 crore. He highlighted the Uttarakhand government's Mahak Kranti Yojana and sought the bank's cooperation. He urged existing customers to connect fellow entrepreneurs with the bank. Officials provided information on competitive interest rates and minimal processing fees, encouraging wider participation in the credit outreach programme.



DAV Sarla Chopra DAV Public School solemnly organised its Investiture Ceremony, formally inducting the newly elected Student Council comprising 105 members from the Senior and Junior Wings. Principal Upasana Sharma conferred badges upon the young leaders and encouraged them to lead by example, uphold discipline, and serve with compassion and responsibility. The ceremony was graced by Supervisory Heads, Geetu Sabharwal (Senior Wing) and Ekta Kapoor (Junior Wing). The newly elected leaders took a solemn oath to perform their duties with sincerity, integrity, and dedication, pledging to uphold the values and traditions of the school.

CORPORATE BRIEFS



POWERGRID has acquired two Project SPVs under the T8CB mechanism. Bhadra Ramgarh Power Transmission Limited, acquired on July 29, 2026, will execute augmentation works at substations in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, targeting commissioning by January 20, 2029. Krishnagiri REZ Transmission Limited, acquired on August 3, 2026, will establish two new substations in Andhra Pradesh and construct 765 kV and 400 kV lines across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka, with commissioning within 36 months. It will integrate approximately 4.5 GW of renewable energy from the Kurunool area. Operating on a BOOT basis, these projects strengthen green energy evacuation infrastructure, supporting India's 500 GW renewable capacity target by 2030.

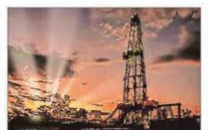
CANARA BANK contributed Rs 25 lakh to the Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund on August 10, 2026, as a gesture of solidarity towards flood-affected communities. The cheque was formally handed over to the Hon. CM by Barun Singh Thakur, GM & Circle Head, Thiruvananthapuram Circle, and Santosh V S, General Manager & SLBC Convener. The contribution reinforces Canara Bank's commitment to supporting the State's relief and rehabilitation initiatives during times of adversity. The gesture received extensive coverage across leading Kerala newspapers.



PHDCCI The Women Leaders' Conclave 2026, themed "Claiming Equity in Viksit Bharat," will be held on August 13-14 at the India International Centre in New Delhi, convening 125+ women leaders nationwide. Building on its successful 2025 Jammu edition, WLC 2026 aims to create a national community for sustained collaboration, mentoring, and policy influence beyond the event. The two-day programme features 13 thematic sessions, over 60 eminent speakers, two book launches, two skits, and two national award presentations. Participants include policymakers, parliamentarians, legal experts, academics, entrepreneurs, and grassroots leaders deliberating on women's leadership, climate change, digital inclusion, livelihoods, and governance. The Dayawati Modi Stree Shakti Samman will be conferred upon Senior Advocate Shobha Gupta, and the Vidushi Vidyottama Stree Shakti Samman upon Sanskrit scholar Dr. Shashi Bala, honouring their impactful contributions to law, justice, and India's intellectual heritage.

BHARAT TAXI will officially launch in Uttar Pradesh with a grand flag-off in Lucknow on August 7, 2026. The event will feature a roadshow of 200 branded cabs and MoUs with state government departments. Operating on a zero-commission cooperative model, Bharat Taxi enables drivers to retain 100% of their earnings while providing affordable, safe, and reliable mobility. Services will begin in Lucknow and Kanpur, with driver onboarding across 16 additional cities. The platform currently serves 44.43 lakh customers nationwide with 8.54 lakh registered drivers.

OIL Oil India Limited reported its highest-ever standalone PAT of Rs 2,870 crore in Q1 FY27, a 2.5x YoY jump, supported by 11% growth in crude oil production and price realisation of \$98.73/bbl. Consolidated PAT rose 97% to Rs 4,027 crore. Crude output reached 0.950 MMT, with record daily production of 10,921 MT on June 27, 2026. Subsidiary NRL posted 167% PAT growth at Rs 1,305 crore with a GRM of \$35.95/bbl. Key milestones included a gas discovery in the Andaman Basin and completion of an exploratory well in Assam achieving a record horizontal displacement of 3,116 metres.



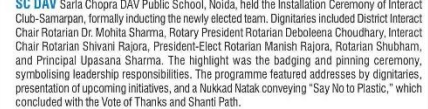
NBCC reported robust Q1 FY27 results, with standalone Revenue from Operations rising to Rs 1,823.04 crore from Rs 1,656.77 crore YoY. EBITDA surged 62.05% to Rs 159.89 crore, expanding the EBITDA margin to 8.77%. PBT grew 32.09% to Rs 202.27 crore, while PAT increased 32.06% to Rs 150.65 crore. On a consolidated basis, EBITDA rose 39.02% to Rs 154.95 crore with margins at 8.66%, while PBT and PAT grew 17.27% and 17.02% to Rs 212.79 crore and Rs 158.01 crore, respectively. With a robust order book and diversified strategy spanning redevelopment, PMC works, PSU land monetisation, real estate, and overseas expansion, NBCC is well-positioned for sustained growth and stakeholder value creation.

PRCI In support of the Public Relations Society, New Delhi held the PRCI Transformative Governance Symposium. This high-level forum features supreme court legal professionals, journalists, senior bureaucrats, industry leaders, and media veterans discussing innovative governance models and pathways for nation-building on recently, India Habitat Center, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. The conclave was inaugurated by Hon. Justice P.B. Bhagwati, C.G. Basava Prabhu S. Patil, Advocate General of Sikkim, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, along with Guest of Hon. S. Venkat Narayan, Former Editor, India Today, President, Foreign Correspondents' Club. The keynote address by S. Venkat Narayan, explains his journey in the PR sector and governance. Special invites also spoke on various topics ranging from Transformative Governance through Legal Reforms, Governance for Responsible Innovation, Governance as a driver of Service Excellence etc.

IGDTUW Indra Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) successfully organised a three-day Vaani seminar on "Smart Manufacturing in the Era of Industry 4.0". The seminar was fully funded by AICTE. The coordinator of the seminar was Prof Deepthi Chhabra & Co - coordinator was Prof N R Chauhan. Faculty members, researchers, and students were part of the event. The interactive sessions provided participants with valuable knowledge of the latest technological advancements and their applications in modern manufacturing. The seminar served as an excellent platform for academic exchange, fostering innovation, collaboration, and awareness of the transformative impact of Industry 4.0 on the manufacturing sector. The event concluded with a vote of thanks.



SC DAV Sarla Chopra DAV Public School, Noida, held the Installation Ceremony of Interact Club-Samarpan, formally inducting the newly elected team. Dignitaries included District Interact Chair Rotarian Dr. Mohita Sharma, Rotary President Rotarian Deboleena Choudhary, Interact Chair Rotarian Shwani Rajora, President-Elect Rotarian Manish Rajora, Rotarian Shubham, and Principal Upasana Sharma. The highlight was the badging and pinning ceremony, symbolising leadership responsibilities. The programme featured addresses by dignitaries, presentation of upcoming initiatives, and a Nukkad Natak conveying "Say No to Plastic," which concluded with the Vote of Thanks and Shanti Path.



Publication : BizzBuzz(English)

Editions : Hyderabad

Date :14 August 2026

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Brent crude trade lower at \$88.88/bbl

Crude oil price fell marginally by Rs 2 to Rs 7,843 per barrel in the futures trade on Thursday amid weak global trends. Crude oil futures for the September delivery slipped by 0.03 per cent in 804 lots. Analysts said the prices fell after participants offloaded their holdings amid weak demand in the spot market. Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude was trading 0.24 per cent lower at \$83.07 per barrel, while Brent crude declined 0.11 per cent to \$88.88 per barrel in New York.

Publication : Business Standard

Editions : New Delhi

Date :14 August 2026

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WORLD 8 ▶

Gulf oil giants are
spending billions to
bypass Hormuz

Gulf oil giants are spending billions to build ways around the Strait

LISA FRIEDMAN
13 August

Six months ago, exporting oil from the Persian Gulf was fairly straightforward: Produce crude at the cheapest price possible, export it through the fastest route and sell it to the countries that can pay the most. Those days are over.

Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, long the most efficient path for exports, remains greatly curtailed because of the war in Iran. Much of the oil getting through the strait is on tankers navigating a treacherous gauntlet of Iranian attack drones, or running dark with their location devices turned off. At least 17 seafarers have

been killed in the region.

Gulf countries that have for decades produced much of the world's oil are now intent on breaking their dependence on the narrow waterway. They are building or expanding pipelines and other infrastructure that can bypass it, and vastly expanding storage capacity in places like Asia.

These endeavours show how the war is changing the oil business in the Persian Gulf. They will cost billions of dollars and take years to complete, but companies and governments consider them essential hedges in an increasingly volatile region. Even if a cease-fire between the United States (US) and Iran materialises, Gulf ex-

porters recognise that relying too heavily on a single transit route is a risk they can no longer afford to take. And the moves, overtime, could diminish Iran's clout in the region.

Before the US and Israel began conducting military strikes on Iran on February 28, about 20 million barrels a day (bpd) of crude sailed through the Strait of Hormuz. Crude exports through the strait had fallen to about 3.7 million bpd as of last week, according to Kpler, a maritime tracking firm.

The frenzy of activity for last-ing workarounds to the strait is evident throughout the region. For example, in Fujairah, a United Arab Emirates port city facing the Gulf of Oman, crews

are working around the clock to lay a secondary crude line parallel to an existing one that delivers oil from onshore fields in Abu Dhabi.

The project aims to double the country's bypass capacity to 3.6 million bpd, allowing nearly all of Abu Dhabi's onshore crude to reach international tankers without ships having to use the Strait. It is considering plans for a liquefied gas export facility on its eastern coast as a way to bypass the Strait of Hormuz, Peter van Driel, chief financial officer of ADNOC Gas, told *Bloomberg Television*. In neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the state oil giant, Aramco, is accelerating a multi-billion-dollar expansion of its East-West Pipeline.

Designed during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, the 1,201-kilometer pipeline crosses the Arabian Peninsula to the Red Sea port of Yanbu. Aramco's chairman, Yasir O. Al-Rumayyan, called it the kingdom's economic "lifeline," successfully re-routing some seven million bpd since Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz. Saudi officials are working to add another one million to two million bpd, and they also are considering a smaller parallel second pipeline for refined oil products.

"In terms of exporting our crude, we are looking at actively increasing optionality right now," Amin Nasser, the chief executive office of Saudi Aramco, said last week.

Kuwait is in discussions with Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations to build a pipeline to connect the its oil fields to ports on the Red Sea or Oman. Iraq and Jordan have revived long-delayed plans for a pipeline that could carry up to one million bpd to the Port of Aqaba off the Red Sea, according to state TV reports in Jordan. Iraq is speeding up plans to rebuild a damaged oil pipeline to ship crude oil from its fields in Kirkuk to Syria's Mediterranean coast.

Gulf nations are also building physical insurance policies by expanding storage in places like South Korea, Japan and India.

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Back-up plan

■ Aramco is accelerating expansion of its East-West Pipeline in Saudi Arabia.

■ Kuwait is in talks with Arab nations to build a pipeline to connect its oil fields to ports on the Red Sea or Oman.

■ Iraq and Jordan have revived plans for a pipeline that could carry crude to Port of Aqaba.

■ Iraq is speeding up plans to rebuild a damaged oil pipeline from fields in Kirkuk to Syria's Mediterranean coast.

■ Gulf nations are building physical insurance policies thousands of miles away by expanding storage in places like South Korea, Japan and India.



Iran, US make contrary statements over Strait of Hormuz control

AGENCIES

13 August

The Strait of Hormuz is "under Iran's control and management", the recently appointed head of Iran's Basij paramilitary unit said on Thursday, a day after United States (US) President Donald Trump said the US had "total control" of the strategic waterway.

Hossein Taeb said the US had sought to disrupt what he described as the Islamic Republic's popularity in the region by launching another war in the Strait of Hormuz, but had once more been defeated despite claiming Iran had neither an air force nor a navy.

"Today you see that the Strait of Hormuz is under the management and control of the Islamic Republic," Taeb said, according to the semi-official *Fars* news. He added that Iran was continuing on its course in complete security.

After the start of the war, which began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, Tehran effectively shut the strait, through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas was previously shipped.

The US subsequently imposed a naval blockade on Iranian shipping and ports, while saying it would protect freedom of navigation for vessels travelling to and

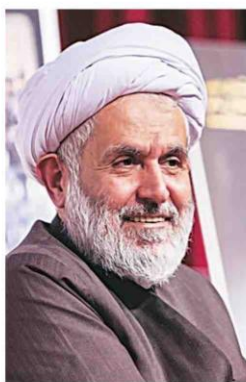


PHOTO: FARS MEDIA CORPORATION, CC BY 4.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

from non-Iranian ports.

Iran's joint military command, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, said later on Thursday that no vessel could transit the Strait of Hormuz without Tehran's permission. "The baseless claims made by the United States regarding the normal passage of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz ... are nothing more than lies and falsehoods," the command said in a statement published by state media.

In June, the two countries

“TODAY YOU SEE THAT THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ IS UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC”

Hossein Taeb
Head of Iran's Basij paramilitary unit

reached an interim agreement declaring a permanent ceasefire and calling for a swift return to freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

The deal unravelled a few weeks later after Iran resumed limited attacks on vessels that it said were sailing contrary to the arrangements under the agreement, prompting the US to restart strikes on Iran's southern provinces, which Washington said were aimed at degrading Tehran's ability to target vessels in the Gulf.

Separately on Thursday, senior military political official Rasoul Sanaei-Rad said that Iran would not reopen the strait unless the other side fulfilled its commitments under the interim deal, adding that the reopening of the waterway was not something the US can achieve unilaterally, according to *Fars* news.

Sanaei-Rad also warned that Iran would respond more forcefully in any future conflict, saying: "In a possible future war, we will stand more firmly and more offensively."

Petronet LNG awaits clarity on Sept LNG cargo from Qatar amid shipping disruption

SHUBHANGI MATHUR
New Delhi, 13 August

India's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL) is awaiting clarity from QatarEnergy on delivery of LNG cargoes in September as traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remain disrupted, said Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Akshay Kumar Singh.

Petronet has a long-term supply agreement with QatarEnergy for 7.5 million tonnes (mt) of LNG in a year. QatarEnergy halted LNG production in early March after

SINCE THE DECLARATION OF FORCE MAJEURE IN MARCH, 56 LNG CARGOES CONTRACTED BY PLL FROM QATAR HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

Iranian attacks on its Ras Laffan facilities and declared force majeure on LNG supplies. "Qatar has extended force majeure till August. They have not given any definite plan for supply of LNG for September," said Singh in post-results media call.

Since the force majeure was declared, 56 LNG cargoes

contracted by PLL from Qatar have been affected. Under the deal, QatarEnergy can supply these cargoes by April 2028, the expiration date of the current agreement.

Qatar is India's largest LNG supplier, accounting for almost 50 per cent of the country's total imports prior to the conflict.

In the April-June (Q1) quarter of 2026-27, Petronet LNG's standalone net profit rose 33 per cent year-on-year to ₹1,132 crore.

The company's revenue from operation declined 53 per cent to ₹5,554 crore in the quarter ended June 30, 2026.

Publication : Business Standard

Editions : New Delhi

Date :14 August 2026

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IGL profit down 44% to ₹238 cr in Q1

Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) reported a 44 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) decline in consolidated net profit to ₹238 crore for April-June quarter (Q1) of 2026-27 (FY27) as high and volatile liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices affect margins amid ongoing West Asia crisis.

However, the firm's total income grew 16.5 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹5,145 crore in FY27 from ₹4,416 crore in the year-ago period.

"The overall sales volume grew 6 per cent over the corresponding quarter in 2025-26, with the average daily sale went up from 9.13 million standard cubic meter per day (mmscmd) to 9.66 mmscmd during this period, the highest ever recorded by the firm," the company said in a statement.

Product wise, compressed natural gas recorded Y-o-Y sales volume growth of 6 per cent, while piped natural gas recorded 5 per cent sales volume growth in the June quarter.

BS REPORTER

RAJASTHAN

Water supply system to get solar power boost

ANIL SHARMA

Jaipur, 13 August

Rajasthan's public health engineering department (PHED) water supply connection is set to be integrated with solar power plants under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model.

Under the initiative, solar rooftop systems with a total capacity of over 200 megawatt (Mw) will be installed for major pumping stations, saving over ₹180 crores, according to sources.

Currently the department's pumping stations consume nearly 3.5 billion units of electricity annually.

The first phase will cover eight districts with 43 solar plants in Baran, 31 in Bharatpur, 13 in Bundi, 26 in Dausa, 16 in Deeg, 21 in Kota, 27 in Sawai Madhopur, and 24 in Tonk.

With an estimated cost of

over ₹703 crore, the initiative will be implemented under the virtual net metering framework (VNM), which allows a single solar plant to supply multiple dispersed connections by injecting power into the grid and adjusting bills accordingly.

Under the public-private partnership model, contracted companies will be responsible for installation, full funding, operation, and maintenance for 25 years. To ensure competition, a single company will be allocated work with a maximum capacity of 50 Mw. Companies will be required to install solar plants that maintain an annual Capacity Utilization Factor (CUF) between 17 per cent and 19 per cent, ensuring a minimum level of power generation.

This model will be subsequently expanded across the entire state, sources said.

India wary as US' Russia tariff Bill advances

Official says trade talks with Washington remain 'reassuring'

KRITY AMBEY
New Delhi, 13 August

India is concerned about a bipartisan US Senate Bill that could expose it to punitive tariffs of up to 100 per cent over its purchases of Russian oil, but a government official said ongoing trade negotiations with Washington have been "reassuring".

"We are engaging with the US regularly," the official said. "The talks have been reassuring," the official added without elaborating.

The US Senate last week passed a Bill that would allow Washington to impose tariffs on major buyers of Russian energy. This comes just six months after the White House withdrew a 25 per cent Russia-related levy on Indian goods.

The measure does not automatically impose a tariff on Indian goods, as the US House of Representatives is yet to consider the legislation. The Bill could then be sent to US President Donald Trump for approval. It also con-

tains a provision allowing Trump to waive the sanctions if he determines that doing so is in the US national interest.

Russia supplied an estimated 52 per cent of India's crude oil imports in July, up from 48.6 per cent in June, according to an analysis by New Delhi-based think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI). India's imports from Russia nearly doubled to \$8.91 billion in July from \$4.84 billion a year ago.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal declined to comment on the tariff risk emanating from the US Bill, but said the two economies have been in regular con-

tact and remain committed to what was agreed in February. The two sides had in February issued a joint statement on an initially agreed trade deal, whose terms are now under revision after the Supreme Court of the United States scrapped the reciprocal tariffs imposed by Trump.

"I think the Russia oil tariff Bill is a legislative process in the US that is underway. I don't think I should comment on that. It's their internal process," Agrawal said. "We are engaged with the US on the trade deal and our contacts are regular. Both sides are committed to what was agreed in February," he added.

NEW DELHI HOPEFUL URALS CRUDE INFLOWS WON'T BE HIT

Trade talks with US on track despite Russian oil tariff plan

MUKESH JAGOTA
New Delhi, August 13

WHILE THE PASSING of a recent Bill in the US Senate facilitating extra tariffs on buyers of Russian oil is a matter of concern, talks between India and the US on the issue so far have been reassuring, a senior official said on Thursday.

The Bill and its impact on the deal being negotiated has been raised by the Indian side during talks on an interim bilateral trade deal which are being held under the framework of the Joint Statement made public on February 7.

India's imports of Russian crude rose to a record high of 2.78 million barrels per day (mbd) in July, accounting for 55.3% of the country's total purchases of 5.03 mbd through July 29.

Strong supplies of Russian Urals crude helped refiners navigate continuing volatility in West Asia, even as Moscow sharply cut discounts to \$2-3/barrel recently.

Despite the 10% additional tariffs by the US under Section 301 of the Trade Act, and now the Bill, both sides remain engaged and discussions are



being held virtually on issues like non-tariff barriers and other components key to the smooth working of any trade deal.

The Senate on August 7 passed the bipartisan Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, which would empower the US President to impose tariffs of up to 100% on buyers of crude oil from Russia.

The legislation would still have to clear the House of Representatives and receive the President's signature before becoming law.

"The legislation is the internal process of the US. I do not think we should comment on

that," another official said, adding that India continues to actively engage with US authorities to resolve outstanding trade issues while working towards early conclusion of the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

The additional 10% tariffs were imposed by the US after an investigation by US Trade Representative (USTR) on the laws of the 60 key trade partners that enable import of goods made with forced labour, thereby hurting US businesses.

Another investigation is ongoing against India regarding policies that enable excess manufacturing capacities. The

report on the investigation and possible tariff action that the US might initiate is awaited.

"India has been part of those processes (of investigation). We have given our submissions," the official said.

The next step is that USTR will come up with the draft findings of the investigation. After that, countries will again get a chance to give their final submissions before the final findings are released.

"So, we are engaged with them. It's taking time on their side, but I think hopefully it will come through in weeks or months," the official added.

Ukraine hits major Russian oil refinery

BLOOMBERG
August 13

UKRAINIAN FORCES **ATTACKED** an oil refinery in Russia's Urals region on Thursday, as Kyiv intensifies strikes on energy infrastructure again.

The strike caused a fire at the Gazprom Neftekhim Salavat plant in Russia's Republic of Bashkortostan, roughly 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) east of Moscow, Ukraine's General Staff said in a Telegram statement. The facility, with a design oil-processing capacity of 200,000 barrels a day, was last attacked in mid-July.

Earlier on Thursday, Bashkortostan governor Rady Khabirov said that falling drone debris caused a fire in the industrial area of Salavat. He did not specify what facilities were damaged. Russia's gas giant Gazprom PJSC, which owns the refinery, did not immediately respond to a Bloomberg request for comment.

Ukraine has been carrying out nearly daily strikes on Russia's energy infrastructure, from oil refineries to export facilities, in a bid to reduce the Kremlin's export revenues and supply the domestic fuel market. Attacks on refineries triggered a nationwide gasoline shortage and forced the government in Moscow to introduce temporary bans on exports of most gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

While domestic supplies improved in the second half of July amid a short lull in the refinery attacks, the resumption of strikes this month puts the Russian oil-processing industry under pressure again.



Publication : Financial Express

Editions : New Delhi

Date :14 August 2026

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Oil falls more than 3%

OIL PRICES FELL more than 3% on Thursday as investors focused on signs of weaker global demand and rising US crude stocks, though prices drew some support from stalled talks over the blockaded Strait of Hormuz. Brent futures were down \$1.93, or 2.2%, at \$87.05 a barrel at 11:01 a.m. ET or 1601 GMT, trimming gains accumulated over the previous six sessions. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell \$1.82, or 2.2%, to \$81.45 after advancing over the past five sessions. —REUTERS

Publication : Millennium Post

Editions : Kolkata

Date :14 August 2026

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Gas pipeline destroyed in Balochistan

KARACHI: Militants have blown up a pipeline of a state-run gas company, disrupting supply to several towns and cities, including parts of the capital Quetta, in the restive Balochistan province of Pakistan, officials said. The blast occurred at the KMP-246 Valve Assembly in the Bolan riverbed area near Gorkat.

Publication : Mint

Editions : New Delhi

Date :14 August 2026

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Petronet has no clarity on Sep gas supply from Qatar



New Delhi: India's top gas importer Petronet LNG does not yet have a definite liquefied natural gas supply plan from its leading supplier Qatar, its CEO said on Thursday, as the West Asian producer reviews force majeure on a month-to-month basis. Qatar declared force majeure on LNG exports in March, when Iran struck two of Qatar's 14 production trains.

REUTERS

Publication : Mint

Editions : Ahmedabad

Date :14 August 2026

Page : 9



Ukraine has been carrying out nearly daily strikes on Russia's energy infrastructure. AP

Ukraine says Russia refinery in Urals hit

Ukrainian forces attacked an oil refinery in Russia's Urals region on Thursday, as Kyiv intensifies strikes on energy infrastructure again.

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Ukraine has been carrying out nearly daily strikes on Russia's energy infrastructure, from oil refineries to export facilities, in a bid to reduce the Kremlin's export revenues and supply the domestic fuel market. **BLOOMBERG**

State of Hormuz? Unclear Claimants: Iran and US

After Trump, Tehran asserts control over strategic waterway



AFP FILE PHOTO

Iran's joint command said on Thursday that no vessel could transit Hormuz without Tehran's permission

Dubai: The Strait of Hormuz is "under Iran's control and management", the recently appointed head of Iran's Basij paramilitary unit said on Thursday, a day after US President Donald Trump said the United States had "total control" of the strategic waterway.

Hossein Taeb said the US had sought to disrupt what he described as the Islamic Republic's popularity in the region by launching another war in the Strait of Hormuz, but had once more been defeated despite claiming Iran had neither an air force nor a navy.

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After the start of the war, which began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, Tehran effectively shut the strait, through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas was previously shipped. The US subsequently imposed a naval blockade on Iranian shipping and ports, while saying it would protect freedom of navigation for vessels travelling to and from non-Iranian ports.

Iran's joint military command, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, said later on Thursday that no vessel could transit the Strait of Hormuz without Tehran's permission.

"The baseless claims made by the United States regarding the normal passage of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz ... are nothing more than lies and falsehoods," the command said in a statement published by state media.

In June, the two countries reached an interim agreement declaring a permanent ceasefire and calling for a swift return to freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

dom of navigation in the Gulf.

CRUDE PRICES DECLINE

Meanwhile, oil prices declined on Thursday as investors assessed prospects for weaker global demand this year and higher US crude stocks, though prices found support from a lack of progress in talks over Hormuz and disruptions to supply.

Brent futures were down 74 cents, or 0.8%, at \$88.24 a barrel at 9:28 PM while US West Texas Intermediate crude was down 77 cents, or 0.8%, at \$82.56.

The large crude oil build in the US last week is a headwind for prices, said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo, adding that the downside should be limited as long as flows through Hormuz remain depressed.

US commercial crude oil inventories made their largest weekly gain since January 2023 as exports slumped, data from the Energy Information Administration on Wednesday.

Crude inventories rose by 17.4 million barrels to 424.4 million in the week ended August 7, their highest since June 5. **Agencies**

Crude oil prices ease as demand fears deepen



Crude oil prices edged lower on Thursday as concerns over weakening global demand outweighed persistent supply risks from the Middle East, where conflict continues to disrupt key energy routes.

US West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell 54 cents to \$82.73 a barrel, while Brent crude, the global benchmark, declined 45 cents to \$88.53 a barrel.

The International Energy Agency has lowered its global oil demand outlook, citing the growing economic impact of disruption to the Strait of Hormuz. The agency said

renewed hostilities and maritime disruptions were also hampering efforts to restore supplies.

Global oil supply in July remained 6.3 million barrels per day below the year-earlier level. Despite weaker demand expectations, geopolitical risks continue to provide support to prices.

Recent attacks on vessels in the Gulf of Oman and the Red Sea have heightened concerns over the security of energy shipments.

Iran's Houthi allies in Yemen also claimed to have targeted a refinery in Saudi Arabia's Jizan region with drones. Attention remains firmly on the Strait of Hormuz as diplomatic efforts to reopen the crucial waterway continue.

Uncertainty surrounding the waterway could leave crude vulnerable to renewed price increases, particularly while supplies remain tight.

Meanwhile, crude oil futures in India were largely flat. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, the September contract slipped ₹2, or 0.03 per cent, to ₹7,843 a barrel, with traders trimming positions as global prices weakened.

—Commodity Desk

Publication : The Hindu

Editions : New Delhi

Date :14 August 2026

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Ukraine's drones hit a major Russian oil refinery, sparking fire

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukrainian drones struck a major refinery deep inside Russia, military officials said on Thursday, the fourth in three days in Kyiv's months-long campaign to choke Moscow's vital oil sector.

Ukraine's General Staff said that its forces struck the Gazprom Neftekhim Salavat oil refining and petrochemical complex in Russia's republic of Bashkortostan overnight, caus-

ing a fire at the facility.

The complex, located southeast of Moscow about 1,300 km from Ukraine's border, is one of Russia's largest oil refining and petrochemical facilities, the General Staff said in a Telegram post.

Meanwhile, five first responders were killed in Russia-annexed Crimea by an explosion after a Ukrainian attack, the Moscow-installed governor of Sevastopol said. "Our guys were inspecting the area after a Ukrainian attack."

India-US talks on Russia oil tariff Bill 'reassuring' so far: Sources

POLICY HURDLE. Discussions are on between the countries but uncertainty remains as it is a legislative issue

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

India is in talks with Washington on the US Senate Bill proposing up to 100 per cent tariffs on countries buying Russian oil as its exports could be potentially hit, and the discussions so far have been "reassuring", sources said.

However, uncertainty remains as the measure is a legislative issue and its final impact on India will depend on how the legislation progresses and is implemented, the sources added.

CONCERN PERSISTS

"The Bill is a concern as India could be affected if it becomes a law but our talks with the US have been reassuring. Things seem positive but since it is in the legislative process, no one can say with certainty what will happen," a source tracking the



TARIFF THREAT. The US Senate recently passed legislation that would empower President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100% on imports from top buyers of Russian oil and gas

matter told *businessline*.

The assurances from Washington assume significance as India has continued to purchase Russian crude despite mounting pressure from the US.

The US Senate had recently overwhelmingly passed legislation that would empower President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on imports from top buyers of Russian oil and gas. India,

the second-largest buyer of Russian crude after China, could potentially be among the countries affected by the proposed measure.

The sanctions Bill, officially the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, will not result in immediate penalty.

The Bill still has to clear the US House of Representatives and the final decision on which country to penalise could rest with US President

Donald Trump. New Delhi is unlikely to check its crude oil purchases from Russia, its largest oil supplier, because of its long-standing economic (especially defence and oil purchase) and diplomatic ties with Moscow, according to various sources in the government and the industry.

In July 2026, Russia supplied an estimated \$7.3 billion of India's total crude imports of \$14 billion — equivalent to approximately 52 per cent, according to estimates made by research body Global Trade and Research Initiative (GTRI).

PROTECTION SOUGHT

Meanwhile, India is also seeking protection against any further tariff action as part of the bilateral trade agreement (BTA) being negotiated with the US. The framework agreed by the two sides in February contains a provision that there would

be no further increase in tariffs once the pact is sealed, sources said.

Such a provision, if retained in the final agreement, would provide India with greater certainty and protect its exports from subsequent tariff hikes by Washington after the BTA comes into force.

The framework for an interim trade deal was announced on February 7, with the two countries agreeing to work towards an interim trade agreement and substantially expand bilateral trade. Negotiations have since continued, although they face delays following the US Supreme Court verdict invalidating the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the Trump regime.

The on-going Section 301 investigations by the US Trade Representative's office against a number of countries, including India, also contributed to the delay.

Online

Headline	India looking to expand strategic petroleum reserves with new facilities in MP, Rajasthan		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

India looking to expand strategic petroleum reserves with new facilities in MP, Rajasthan

<https://www.7globe.in/india-looking-to-expand-strategic-petroleum-reserves-with-new-facilities-in-mp-rajasthan/>

India is bolstering its energy security by planning strategic reserves of crude oil (representative image)

NEW DELHI: India is looking to expand its strategic petroleum reserves with new facilities at Bina in Madhya Pradesh and Bikaner in Rajasthan, besides adding storage capacity at Mangalore, to strengthen the country's energy security against supply disruptions. According to a parliamentary committee report, govt-owned Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle, has completed the feasibility study for the Bikaner caverns and is in the process of finalising it. A pre-feasibility study for Bina has also been completed, with a detailed feasibility report to be initiated soon. This is in addition to the 1.7 million tonne (MT) storage facility being planned at Mangalore, adjacent to its existing Phase-I facility. ISPRL has completed a feasibility study, acquired 155 acres of land and is in the process of obtaining special economic zone (SEZ) notification for 66 acres. The facility will be built by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. India currently has strategic oil reserves of 5.3 MT, developed under Phase-I at Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh to safeguard against global supply disruptions. The capacity is estimated to meet about 9.5 days of the country's crude oil requirement, with the reserves managed by ISPRL. The govt is also adding 6.5 MT of reserves under its Phase-II expansion plan 2.5 MT at Padur and 4 MT at Chandikhol in Odisha. It approved the two projects in July 2021. At Chandikhol, 400 acres of land have been acquired and the request for proposal is under review. At Padur-II, ISPRL signed the concessionaire agreement with the selected bidder in Oct 2025, while financial closure is in progress. The developments have been flagged in the latest action-taken report of the parliamentary standing committee on petroleum and natural gas, which has urged the ministry to ensure timely completion of the projects and work towards the global benchmark of maintaining 90 days of crude oil storage. The committee urged the petroleum ministry to ensure the finalisation of RFPs, SEZ notification and financial closures within the scheduled timelines, while ensuring optimal utilisation of funds, besides maintaining global standard of 90 days of crude oil storage within the country as soon as feasible. The committee also asked the ministry and oil companies to explore more cavern sites in areas with suitable geological conditions, citing the need to strengthen India's energy security amid global geopolitical uncertainties.

Headline	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation appoints Dr. Thakur to its board for three years		
Publication	Balaji Equities	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation appoints Dr. Thakur to its board for three years

<https://www.balajiequities.com/Market/News/News-details/5008499>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited announced the appointment of Dr. Archana Thakur as a Non Official Independent Director to its Board, effective

August 13, 2026, for a period of three years or until further orders, as per a letter from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas dated August 12, 2026.

Headline	ONGC turns to Shell for deepwater and LNG opportunities, but when does the MoU become real investment? August 13, 2026		
Publication	Business News Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

ONGC turns to Shell for deepwater and LNG opportunities, but when does the MoU become real investment? August 13, 2026

<https://business-news-today.com/ongc-turns-to-shell-for-deepwater-and-lng-opportunities-but-when-does-the-mou-become-real-investment/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Shell Energy India are evaluating joint deepwater exploration, farm-in opportunities and LNG sourcing as India opens more offshore acreage. The strategic fit is clear, but no block, drilling budget, LNG volume or investment commitment has yet been agreed. Share this: [Share on Facebook](#) (Opens in new window) [Facebook Share on X](#) (Opens in new window) [X Print](#) (Opens in new window) [Print Email a link to a friend](#) (Opens in new window) [Email Share on LinkedIn](#) (Opens in new window) [LinkedIn Share on Reddit](#) (Opens in new window) [Reddit Share on Tumblr](#) (Opens in new window) [Tumblr Share on Pinterest](#) (Opens in new window) [Pinterest Share on Telegram](#) (Opens in new window) [Telegram Share on Threads](#) (Opens in new window) [Threads Share on WhatsApp](#) (Opens in new window) [WhatsApp](#)

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (NSE: ONGC) has signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding with Shell Energy India Private Limited to evaluate cooperation across deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploration and liquefied natural gas sourcing in India. The August 10 agreement covers potential joint participation in Open Acreage Licensing Policy Rounds X and XI, future bidding rounds and possible farm-in or farm-out transactions involving ONGC's existing OALP acreage. It also creates a framework for the companies to explore LNG sourcing opportunities as India seeks greater gas availability alongside higher domestic hydrocarbon production. The agreement connects ONGC's extensive Indian offshore acreage with Shell's global deepwater, integrated-gas and LNG capabilities, but it does not commit either company to a specific block, well, capital programme or LNG purchase. The central question is therefore not whether ONGC has found another international partner, but whether the framework progresses into binding acreage participation and drilling investment capable of changing ONGC's production trajectory.

What exactly have ONGC and Shell Energy India agreed to evaluate under the August 10 memorandum?

The upstream portion of the memorandum covers possible joint bidding for deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks being offered through OALP Rounds X and XI, as well as later licensing rounds under India's broader Samudra Manthan offshore exploration push. ONGC and Shell Energy India can also evaluate farm-in and farm-out opportunities involving blocks that ONGC already holds. A farm-in could allow Shell to acquire an economic interest in selected acreage and contribute technical expertise or capital, while a farm-out could reduce ONGC's share of exploration expenditure and distribute geological risk between the partners.

None of those outcomes has yet occurred. The memorandum is explicitly non-binding, and neither company has announced acreage selected for participation, equity percentages, operatorship, work commitments, seismic expenditure, drilling schedules or an agreed investment value. That distinction matters because deepwater memorandums can precede years of technical evaluation before a commercial drilling decision emerges, particularly where frontier geology and expensive wells require substantial subsurface confidence.

The LNG component is similarly exploratory. ONGC and Shell Energy India intend to evaluate potential sourcing arrangements, but they have not announced a sale and purchase agreement, contracted annual volume, pricing formula, delivery period or terminal destination. Investors should consequently treat the LNG language as strategic optionality rather than contracted future gas supply.

Why could Shell's deepwater expertise matter when ONGC's domestic production still faces execution pressure?

ONGC entered the new collaboration after reporting a financially strong but operationally mixed first quarter of fiscal 2026-27. Standalone net profit more than doubled to 17,034 crore and revenue from operations increased 45.2% to 46,460 crore, supported by substantially higher crude and gas realisations. Crude production, however, declined 5.5% year on year to 4.95 million tonnes and natural gas production fell 2% to 4.851 billion cubic metres.

The production figures highlight why frontier exploration matters despite the near-term earnings benefit from commodity prices. ONGC attributed part of the output weakness to reservoir behaviour at KG-DWN-98/2 in the Eastern Offshore, weather-related delays affecting Western Offshore work and temporary shutdowns connected with project

commissioning. Higher oil prices can increase profit from each barrel produced, but they cannot replace barrels that mature fields stop producing.

Deepwater resources offer one route to rebuilding the production base, although they are technically and financially demanding. Shell has extensive international experience developing deepwater fields, integrating subsea production systems and managing large offshore developments. The value of the MoU would therefore rise sharply if Shell moves from advisory or bid-stage cooperation into actual equity participation and risk sharing on selected ONGC acreage.

For ONGC, bringing an international major into a block can also create an external technical test of prospect quality. A partner willing to invest its own capital following seismic interpretation and subsurface review provides stronger validation than an MoU alone. That is the threshold investors should ultimately look for.

How does the Shell agreement fit into India's Samudra Manthan offshore exploration push?

The partnership arrives as India is attempting to accelerate frontier offshore exploration through Samudra Manthan and changes to its licensing environment. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in July that 172 blocks covering nearly 380,000 square kilometres had been awarded through OALP, carrying committed investment exceeding \$4.3 billion. The government has also opened nearly 99% of areas previously classified as offshore No-Go zones and says approximately 81% of India's active exploration acreage has been awarded since 2014.

The policy change matters because geological access alone does not guarantee exploration. Companies still need commercially acceptable fiscal terms, sufficiently detailed seismic information, drilling rigs and confidence that a discovery can be developed economically. Deepwater wells can cost substantially more than conventional onshore exploration, making collaboration particularly useful when geological risk remains high.

ONGC is already putting physical drilling behind the policy push. On July 25, India marked the start of the first appraisal well in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin as part of a four-well deepwater programme. The MN-DWN18-1-HD well is intended to evaluate a prospective offshore basin using deepwater drilling technology, demonstrating that Samudra Manthan is moving beyond licensing announcements into actual subsurface work.

The Shell memorandum broadens that effort by potentially bringing another global major into OALP acreage. Its real policy significance will depend on whether international companies progress from reviewing Indian data rooms to committing exploration capital. India has already improved access to acreage; the harder challenge is producing enough commercially attractive discoveries to justify repeat investment.

Does the MoU mark a meaningful return for Shell to India's upstream oil and gas sector?

Shell is not new to Indian upstream activity, but its current producing footprint is very different from its historical presence. Through the BG Group acquisition, Shell inherited interests associated with the Panna-Mukta and Tapti oil and gas fields. Shell later described those assets as end-of-life and said it was carrying out decommissioning work on the Tapti unmanned platforms while continuing to assess newer upstream opportunities created by changes in Indian policy and fiscal terms.

That history gives the ONGC agreement additional strategic relevance. If Shell ultimately acquires interests in new OALP acreage, the move would represent a shift from managing legacy Indian offshore exposure toward participating in a new exploration cycle. The distinction is important because frontier deepwater exploration carries different geological, financial and development risks from decommissioning mature fields.

Shell's current India leadership structure also places integrated gas and upstream responsibilities close together. Shell Energy India operates a substantial LNG and gas business, meaning a future Indian upstream position could sit alongside trading, LNG import and gas-marketing activities rather than functioning as an isolated exploration investment.

The memorandum alone does not establish that Shell has decided to make a large upstream return. It demonstrates that the company is willing to evaluate specific pathways with ONGC. A successful joint bid, farm-in agreement or committed deepwater drilling programme would provide the much stronger evidence.

Why does LNG sourcing belong in the same ONGC-Shell partnership as offshore exploration?

At first glance, domestic exploration and imported LNG can appear to represent competing approaches to energy security. In practice, they operate on different timelines. A deepwater discovery can require years of appraisal, engineering and construction before first production, while LNG can be contracted and delivered much sooner to meet immediate gas requirements.

Shell Energy India already owns and operates the Hazira LNG terminal in Gujarat, which has 5 million tonnes per annum of regasification capacity and connections to the GAIL, Gujarat State Petronet and PIPL pipeline networks. Shell says the facility has received LNG from 17 countries, providing the company with an existing import and trading platform that could support any future arrangement with ONGC.

Shell has also previously indicated that it expects imported LNG to become increasingly important if Indian domestic gas availability fails to keep pace with demand. The company has identified industrial fuel switching and gas-fired power as potential sources of LNG growth, while its Hazira infrastructure was designed with potential expansion in mind.

For ONGC, LNG sourcing could complement rather than undermine upstream strategy. The company can pursue long-duration domestic resource development while securing flexible gas supplies for downstream or group requirements when domestic production is insufficient. The commercial case will depend on pricing because expensive LNG can struggle against alternative fuels in price-sensitive Indian sectors.

Could farm-in agreements help ONGC reduce the financial risk of ultra-deepwater exploration?

Farm-in structures are particularly relevant for ONGC because offshore exploration can consume large amounts of capital before commercial reserves are established. Selling a minority interest in a block can reduce ONGC's exposure to unsuccessful wells while retaining meaningful participation if discoveries are made. An international partner can also bring specialist seismic interpretation, reservoir modelling and project-development experience.

The trade-off is economic ownership. If ONGC farms out part of a highly successful block, it gives up a portion of the eventual production and cash flow in exchange for reduced risk and potentially faster execution. The optimal structure therefore depends on how confident ONGC already is in the resource and how much additional capability the incoming partner contributes.

Shell's involvement could be especially valuable in acreage where development architecture matters as much as geology. Ultra-deepwater fields may require subsea wells, long tiebacks, floating production infrastructure or other complex systems whose economics depend heavily on design optimisation. Technical improvements that reduce development cost can sometimes create more value than retaining a larger working interest in a project that remains uneconomic.

No such transaction has yet been disclosed under the August memorandum. Until a farm-in agreement identifies a block, working interest and committed work programme, the value remains strategic rather than measurable.

What does ONGC's latest share price suggest investors expect from the deepwater strategy?

ONGC shares closed August 11 at 239.45, down 0.17% for the session. The stock had declined approximately 1.05% over one week and 2.25% over one month, while its market capitalisation stood at roughly 3.01 lakh crore. The shares were trading near the lower portion of their 227.65 to 307.50 52-week range, about 22% below the high and only around 5% above the low.

The modest price movement following the Shell announcement is understandable because a non-binding memorandum does not immediately change ONGC's reserves, production, cash flow or capital expenditure. Investors have stronger near-term variables to consider, including oil prices, domestic gas realisations, production performance and the consolidated effect of subsidiaries such as Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.

ONGC's first-quarter numbers illustrate that complexity. Standalone earnings benefited substantially from higher crude prices, while consolidated performance was affected by losses at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited arising from petroleum-product under-recoveries during the West Asia energy-price shock. The upstream parent can therefore report very strong operating economics while the broader group experiences pressure elsewhere.

The market is unlikely to assign substantial value to the Shell MoU until it creates a clearer financial pathway. A joint OALP award, farm-in transaction or committed drilling campaign would provide the type of event capable of shifting the deepwater story from strategic narrative toward quantifiable investment.

What would prove that the ONGC and Shell agreement has moved beyond strategic signalling?

The first meaningful milestone would be identification of specific acreage. Naming an OALP block or an existing ONGC licence under evaluation would narrow the collaboration from an open framework to a defined geological opportunity. The next step would be commercial terms covering equity participation, operatorship, work commitments and capital responsibilities.

A committed well would represent the strongest early proof. Deepwater exploration ultimately creates value through drilling and discovery rather than memorandums, seismic presentations or policy conferences. A Shell-funded or jointly funded well would demonstrate that both companies considered the prospect sufficiently attractive to expose capital to subsurface risk.

The LNG side requires a different proof point. A binding LNG contract should disclose at least enough information to understand duration, approximate volume and supply structure. Until such a contract exists, the LNG element remains an option for future cooperation rather than a material addition to ONGC's gas-sourcing portfolio.

The August 10 MoU has improved ONGC's strategic flexibility by creating a route to combine Indian acreage with Shell's international deepwater and LNG capabilities. What remains unresolved is whether either side will commit capital. The

thesis strengthens if the companies identify acreage, agree risk-sharing terms and progress toward drilling. It weakens if the partnership remains broad while India's offshore acreage continues to require domestic capital without substantial new international participation.

What are the key takeaways from the ONGC and Shell Energy India deepwater and LNG agreement?

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Shell Energy India signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding on August 10, 2026.

The companies will evaluate joint participation in deepwater and ultra-deepwater acreage under OALP Rounds X and XI and future licensing rounds.

They can also consider farm-in and farm-out transactions involving ONGC's existing OALP blocks.

No specific block, working interest, drilling programme, capital commitment or final investment decision has been announced.

The LNG portion of the agreement covers potential sourcing cooperation but does not currently include a disclosed contracted volume or purchase agreement.

Shell Energy India operates the 5 mtpa Hazira LNG terminal and already has an established gas and LNG platform in India.

ONGC's Q1 FY27 standalone profit rose to 17,034 crore, but crude production declined 5.5% and natural gas output fell 2%, reinforcing the strategic importance of future resource additions.

India has awarded 172 OALP blocks covering nearly 380,000 square kilometres with committed investment exceeding \$4.3 billion.

ONGC shares closed August 11 at 239.45, down 2.25% over one month and roughly 22% below their 52-week high.

A specific acreage deal, Shell farm-in or jointly funded deepwater well would be the clearest evidence that the memorandum is becoming economically material.

Headline	Russia interested in Indian investments in oil and gas sector: Report		
Publication	Business Upturn	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Russia interested in Indian investments in oil and gas sector: Report

<https://businessupturn.com/nation/russia-interested-in-indian-investments-in-oil-and-gas-sector-report/>

Russia is interested in attracting greater investment from Indian companies into its oil and gas sector, according to a report by Russian news agency Interfax, highlighting Moscow's effort to deepen energy ties with New Delhi. The development comes as India and Russia maintain extensive cooperation in hydrocarbons, including Indian stakes in Russian oil and gas projects and continuing Russian crude and LNG supplies to the Indian market.

The investment interest covers a relationship that already extends beyond oil purchases. Indian state-owned energy companies have invested heavily in Russian projects, while Russian companies have substantial interests in India's energy market. India's Ministry of External Affairs says Indian investments in Russia are concentrated mainly in oil and gas and pharmaceuticals, while Russian investments in India include oil and gas, petrochemicals, banking, railways and steel.

Russia has previously made clear that it wants Indian capital to play a larger role in its energy industry. In August 2025, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow and New Delhi had a mutual interest in joint energy-resource projects, including in Russia's Far East and Arctic shelf.

That cooperation has continued into 2026. During a visit to New Delhi in April, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov said Russian companies had the capacity to increase oil and liquefied natural gas supplies to India. The Russian government said expanding mutually beneficial trade, investment and cooperation was among the priorities discussed during his meetings with Indian officials.

India's existing footprint provides a foundation for further investment. ONGC Videsh, the overseas arm of state-run ONGC, completed payments into the Sakhalin-1 project's abandonment fund earlier this year to retain its 20% stake. ONGC Videsh Managing Director Rajarshi Gupta said the company's interest in the project was secured and that production and operations were normal.

Indian investment in Russian hydrocarbons has historically been substantial. An official Indian diplomatic publication has put cumulative Indian investment in Russian oil and gas projects at more than \$15 billion, while highlighting opportunities in Russia's Far East and Arctic regions.

The potential for additional investment, however, exists alongside financial and geopolitical complications created by Western sanctions on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. Indian companies have continued engaging with Russian energy assets, but payment mechanisms, sanctions exposure, insurance and logistics can affect the commercial viability of new projects.

For Moscow, additional Indian investment could provide capital and long-term market links for energy projects. For New Delhi, equity participation can potentially complement crude and LNG purchases by giving Indian companies access to upstream resources and strengthening energy-security options.

No specific new Indian investment agreement was identified in the available official material accompanying the Interfax report. The next developments are therefore likely to involve company-level negotiations, assessment of individual Russian assets and discussions between the two governments on investment and payment mechanisms.

Headline	India Energy Week Moves To Kolkata For 2027		
Publication	Construction World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

India Energy Week Moves To Kolkata For 2027

<https://www.constructionworld.in/energy-infrastructure/power-and-renewable-energy/india-energy-week-moves-to-kolkata-for-2027/95982>

India Energy Week will be held in Kolkata from 28 to 31 January 2027 at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town, according to an announcement on the event's LinkedIn page.

The move follows the inauguration of a Rs 10 billion (bn) exhibition-cum-convention centre in Goa a year earlier, a facility that had been promoted as a permanent home for the conference. The shift represents a significant relocation for the annual event that had been hosted at the new convention centre at ONGC's Advanced Training Institute in south Goa. Organisers described the edition as the landmark fifth edition and indicated that preparations were under way to scale the event up in the new location. The LinkedIn communication framed the convention centre's transformation as part of efforts to unite industry leaders, policymakers, investors and technology pioneers shaping the global energy landscape. The oil minister reviewed preparations with officials and noted that the gathering had become the world's largest energy assembly and would attract global chief executives, policymakers and investors in 2027.

The Biswa Bangla Convention Centre comprises an 18-storey building with a 3,200-seat auditorium and extensive convention infrastructure, including an exhibition hall, multiple seminar rooms, banquet spaces and multi-level car parking. The complex also includes an adjoining 100-key hotel block to support delegates and visiting guests. The facility was inaugurated in 2017 and has been presented as capable of hosting major international summits, business meets and cultural events.

The Goa venue had been built rapidly after approvals by the state-owned energy company and hosted the IEW edition in 2026, but it has seen limited activity since. The on-campus oval-shaped convention centre offers roughly 4,000 seats and a wide array of support rooms and lounges, while the management development facility covers about 8,353 sq metres and contains a 182-seat auditorium, syndicate rooms and classrooms. The exhibition hall measures about 6,669 sq m and the campus also features a floating jetty and a helipad that provide connectivity by sea, air and road to nearby hotels and resorts.

Headline	Fire at ONGC Kalol installation brought under control; no injuries reported		
Publication	Daily Excelsior	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	14 Aug 2026		

Fire at ONGC Kalol installation brought under control; no injuries reported

<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/fire-at-ongc-kalol-installation-brought-under-control-no-injuries-reported/>

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 : A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) installation in the Kalol field in Gujarat on Thursday was brought under control after emergency teams responded to the incident, with no injuries reported, the state-run energy company said.

ONGC said its fire and emergency response teams responded immediately and extinguished the blaze. Normal production operations have since been restored, it said.

"No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored," the company said in a statement.

The incident occurred at an ONGC facility in the Kalol-Mansa area of Gandhinagar district. Firefighting teams were deployed after flames and smoke were seen at the installation.

ONGC said it places the highest priority on the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities.

"The Corporation remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across all its operational locations," it said. (PTI)

Headline	Sarzora Woman Loses ₹1.06 Lakh In Fake ONGC Job Scam		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Sarzora Woman Loses ₹1.06 Lakh In Fake ONGC Job Scam

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/goemkarponn+news-epaper-gmkpnnws/sarzora+woman+loses+106+lakh+in+fake+ongc+job+scam-newsid-n723166352>

C UNCOLIM: Cuncolim Police have registered a case after a Sarzora woman was allegedly cheated of approximately 1.06 lakh by unknown persons who

posed as representatives of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and promised her a job.

According to the complaint filed by Fivel Fernandes, the incident took place on June 20, 2026, at around 10 am in Sarzora.

The complainant had reportedly seen a newspaper advertisement inviting applications for various job vacancies. She subsequently provided her email ID and WhatsApp number through the details mentioned in the advertisement.

She later received a phone call from an unknown person who allegedly claimed to be an ONGC representative and made promises of providing her employment.

Believing the representations to be genuine, Fernandes transferred approximately 1,06,690 through multiple online transactions to bank accounts allegedly provided by the accused.

Police said the accused persons dishonestly induced the complainant to part with the money, causing her wrongful loss.

Headline	Fire at Kalol field installation extinguished, production restored: ONGC		
Publication	Energywatch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Fire at Kalol field installation extinguished, production restored: ONGC

<https://www.energywatch.in/oil-and-gas/fire-at-kalol-field-installation-extinguished-production-restored-ongc>

New Delhi: A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) installation in the Kalol field in Gujarat on Thursday has been contained. Emergency teams responded to the incident. No injuries were reported, the state-run energy company said.

Emergency teams deployed at Kalol-Mansa site

The affected facility is located in the Kalol-Mansa area of Gandhinagar district. Firefighting teams were sent to the site after flames and smoke were sighted at the installation.

ONGC said its fire and emergency response teams acted immediately and put out the blaze. Normal production operations have since resumed, the company said.

"No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored," ONGC said in a statement.

Boiler burst cited as preliminary cause

Preliminary information indicated that the fire was caused by a boiler bursting, Kalol Mamlatdar (revenue department official) Navin Nayi told the media.

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ONGC says safety highest priority

The company said it accords the highest priority to the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities.

"The Corporation remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across all its operational locations," the Maharatna PSU said.

Headline	ગાંધીનગર નજીક ONGCના પ્લાન્ટમાં ભિષણ આગ		
Publication	Gujarat Mirror	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	14 Aug 2026		

ગાંધીનગર નજીક ONGCના પ્લાન્ટમાં ભિષણ આગ

<https://gujaratmirror.in/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-ongc-plant-near-gandhinagar/>

ગાંધીનગરના કલોલ-માણસા હાઇવે પર આવેલા ઓઇલ એન્ડ નેચરલ ગેસ કોર્પોરેશન (ઓએનજીસી)ના પ્લાન્ટમાં આજે સવારે અચાનક જ ભિષણ આગ ફાટી નીકળતા ભારે અફરાતફરીનો માહોલ સર્જાયો હતો....

ગાંધીનગરના કલોલ-માણસા હાઇવે પર આવેલા ઓઇલ એન્ડ નેચરલ ગેસ કોર્પોરેશન (ઓએનજીસી)ના પ્લાન્ટમાં આજે સવારે અચાનક જ ભિષણ આગ ફાટી નીકળતા ભારે અફરાતફરીનો માહોલ સર્જાયો હતો. પ્લાન્ટ પરિસરમાં અત્યંત જ્વલનશીલ પદાર્થો હોવાના કારણે જોતજોતામાં આગે અત્યંત વિકરાળ સ્વરૂપ ધારણ કરી લીધું હતું. આગની જ્વાળાઓ અને કાળા ધુમાડાના ગોટેગોટા કેટલાય કિલોમીટર દૂર સુધી આકાશમાં સ્પષ્ટપણે ઊડતા જોવા મળ્યા હતા. જેને પગલે આસપાસના રહેણાંક વિસ્તારોને ખાલી કરાવવામાં આવ્યા હતા. તેમજ હાઇવે વાહન વ્યવહાર માટે ડાયવર્ટ કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો.

ઘટનાની ગંભીરતા અને ભયાનકતાને ધ્યાને લઈને કલોલ તેમજ ગાંધીનગર ફાયર બ્રિગેડની ટીમો તાત્કાલિક ઘટનાસ્થળે દોડી ગઈ હતી. ફાયર ફાઇટરોના જવાનોએ પરિસ્થિતિ પર કાબૂ મેળવવા માટે સતત પાણી અને ખાસ કેમિકલ ફોમનો મારો ચલાવ્યો હતો. આગ વધુ ભિષણ બને કે આસપાસના અન્ય સંવેદનશીલ યુનિટ્સ સુધી ફેલાય તે પહેલા જ ફાયર બ્રિગેડની ટીમે ભારે જહમત બાદ આગને ચારેય તરફથી ઘેરીને વધુ પ્રસરતી અટકાવી હતી.

સુરક્ષાની દ્રષ્ટિએ ઓપરેશન દરમિયાન પ્લાન્ટની આસપાસનો સમગ્ર વિસ્તાર તાત્કાલિક ખાલી કરાવવામાં આવ્યો હતો. આ ઉપરાંત, કોઈ અનિચ્છનીય ઘટના ન બને તે માટે કલોલ-માણસા હાઇવે પરનો વાહનવ્યવહાર થોડા સમય માટે થંભાવી દેવામાં આવ્યો હતો અને વાહનોને સુરક્ષિત અન્ય વૈકલ્પિક માર્ગો પર ડાયવર્ટ કરવામાં આવ્યા હતા. રાહતની વાત એ રહી કે આ સમગ્ર ઘટનામાં સમયસરની કામગીરીના કારણે કોઈ જાનહાનિ થઈ ન હતી.

આ ઘટનાની જાણ થતાં જ ઓએનજીસીના ઉચ્ચ અધિકારીઓનો કાફલો અને સ્થાનિક પોલીસની ટીમ પણ તાબડતોબ ઘટનાસ્થળે પહોંચી ગઈ હતી. પ્રાથમિક તપાસમાં શોર્ટ સર્કિટ અથવા તો ગેસ લીકેજના કારણે આગ લાગી હોવાની આશંકા વ્યક્ત કરવામાં આવી રહી છે. હાલમાં ઓએનજીસીની ટેકનિકલ ટીમ અને પોલીસ દ્વારા આગ લાગવાના ચોક્કસ અને વાસ્તવિક કારણો જાણવા માટે વિસ્તૃત તપાસ હાથ ધરવામાં આવી રહી છે.

Headline	Fire at ONGC Kalol Installation in Gujarat Brought Under Control; No Injuries Reported		
Publication	HDFC Sky	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Fire at ONGC Kalol Installation in Gujarat Brought Under Control; No Injuries Reported

<https://hdfcsky.com/news/ongc-kalol-fire-controlled-no-injuries>

New Delhi: A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) installation in the Kalol field in Gujarat on Thursday was brought

under control after emergency teams responded to the incident, with no injuries reported, the state-run energy company said.

ONGC said its fire and emergency response teams responded immediately and extinguished the blaze. Normal production operations have since been restored, it said.

No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored, the company said in a statement.

The incident occurred at an ONGC facility in the Kalol-Mansa area of Gandhinagar district. Firefighting teams were deployed after flames and smoke were seen at the installation.

The premier oil and gas company insisted it places the highest priority on the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities.

The Corporation remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across all its operational locations, the Maharatna PSU said.

Preliminary information suggested the fire at the ONGC installation was caused by a boiler bursting, Kalol Mamlatdar (revenue department official) Navin Nayi told the media.

(Disclaimer: Except for the headline, this article has not been edited by HDFC Sky editorial team and is auto-generated from PTI feed.)

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Headline	ONGC Spends Rs. 942.88 Cr on CSR in FY 2025-26		
Publication	India CSR	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

ONGC Spends Rs. 942.88 Cr on CSR in FY 2025-26

<https://indiacsr.in/ongc-spends-rs-942-88-cr-on-csr-in-fy-2025-26/>

Focuses on Healthcare, Education and Disaster Management NEW DELHI (India CSR): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) spent

Rs. 942.88 crore on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities during the financial year 2025-26, according to its Integrated Annual Report. The Maharatna public sector enterprise directed the expenditure towards healthcare, education, livelihood enhancement, disaster management, environmental sustainability and rural infrastructure development.

ONGC's CSR spending included Rs. 917.09 crore on CSR projects, Rs. 25.55 crore as administrative overheads and Rs. 0.25 crore on impact assessment. The company's gross CSR obligation for the year stood at Rs. 948.92 crore , calculated as 2% of its average net profit under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.

ONGC had an excess CSR spending balance of Rs. 51.13 crore from FY 2024-25. With Board approval, the company set off this amount against its FY 2025-26 obligation, bringing its net CSR obligation for the year to Rs. 897.79 crore . The company stated that it spent Rs. 942.88 crore during the year. It also transferred Rs. 97.79 crore to its Unspent CSR Account on April 30, 2026, for ongoing CSR projects, in line with the statutory framework. The annual report shows that ONGC had Rs. 45 crore available for set-off in succeeding financial years after accounting for eligible excess expenditure and surplus arising from CSR projects.

Healthcare and efforts to eradicate hunger, poverty and malnutrition received the largest share of ONGC's CSR expenditure. The company spent Rs. 358.76 crore in this area during FY 2025-26. The support covered medical infrastructure, disease prevention, nutrition and outreach camps. This reflects the continuing importance of public health interventions, particularly in underserved and operational areas where access to quality healthcare services remains a challenge.

ONGC spent Rs. 276.47 crore on education and livelihood enhancement projects. Its interventions included school infrastructure, digital classrooms, scholarships, skill development, vocational training, farming support and income-generation activities. The focus on education and livelihoods is intended to strengthen long-term community resilience. Better learning facilities can improve educational access for children, while skill development and livelihood initiatives can help households build more secure income opportunities.

Disaster Management Spending Rises Sharply

The company spent Rs. 136.44 crore on disaster management in FY 2025-26, compared with Rs. 83.86 crore in the previous year. The rise highlights ONGC's role in supporting communities affected by natural disasters and other emergencies. The spending assumes added relevance in the context of ONGC's recent Rs. 25 crore pledge for Assam's flood recovery, including restoration of flood-affected schools and support to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

ONGC allocated Rs. 67.85 crore to environmental sustainability initiatives, compared with Rs. 27.55 crore in FY 2024-25. The interventions included afforestation, renewable energy and waste-management activities. The company also spent Rs. 43.28 crore on rural infrastructure development, supporting areas such as water supply, solar lighting and community assets. Women empowerment received Rs. 7.75 crore, while initiatives for gender equality and reducing inequalities among socially and economically backward groups received Rs. 15.86 crore.

ONGC reported that it created or acquired 38 capital assets through CSR expenditure during the year. The company's CSR programmes are implemented through ONGC Foundation and other credible implementing agencies, with a stated focus on marginalised communities, underserved regions and aspirational districts.

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India CSR is the largest media on CSR and sustainability offering diverse content across multisectoral issues on business responsibility. It covers Sustainable Development, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Sustainability, and related issues in India. Founded in 2009, the organisation aspires to become a globally admired media that offers valuable information to its readers through responsible reporting.

Headline	ONGC Kalol field fire controlled, no injuries reported		
Publication	Indian Chemical News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

ONGC Kalol field fire controlled, no injuries reported

<https://www.indianchemicalnews.com/general/ongc-kalol-field-fire-controlled-no-injuries-reported-31495>

The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored

By ICN Bureau | August 13, 2026

A minor fire incident was reported this morning at one of ONGC's installations in the Kalol Field. ONGC's Fire and Emergency Response teams responded immediately and successfully extinguished the fire.

No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored.

ONGC places the highest priority on the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities. The Corporation remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across all its operational locations.

Headline	MRPL Appoints 3 New Independent Directors to Board, MoP&NG Approves 3-Year Tenure		
Publication	Indian Master Minds	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

MRPL Appoints 3 New Independent Directors to Board, MoP&NG Approves 3-Year Tenure

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/mrpl-appoints-three-independent-directors-board-224038/>

Mangaluru: Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has appointed Mr. Lakhan Chandra Mardi, Mr. Sharwan Singh Karawasra and Mr.

Vipin Malviya as Independent Directors on its Board of Directors.

The appointments were approved by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) through a letter dated August 12, 2026. The appointments are for a period of three years from the date of communication or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

The appointment of the three Independent Directors is aimed at strengthening MRPL's Board and adding diverse professional expertise to its corporate governance and strategic decision-making.

The newly appointed directors are:

The appointments are effective from August 13, 2026, according to the company's disclosure.

Read also: MRPL Q1 FY27 Results: Net Profit Jumps to 946 Crore, Revenue Climbs to 41,609 Crore

Mr. Lakhan Chandra Mardi holds degrees in Political Science (Honours) and Law.

He is a practising Advocate at the Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi. He has also served as a former member of the T.P.P. Committee of the Government of Jharkhand.

His legal and public-sector experience is expected to contribute to the Board's governance and oversight functions.

Mr. Sharwan Singh Karawasra holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Rajasthan University/Engineering College Kota.

He is the Founder and Director of Career Line Coaching Institute. His engineering background and experience in the education sector bring a different professional perspective to MRPL's Board.

Mr. Vipin Malviya is a graduate in Commerce and Law from Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University.

He is an Advocate and Tax Consultant and is the proprietor of B. M. Malviya & Co. His experience in legal and taxation matters is expected to add expertise to the company's Board-level deliberations.

MRPL has confirmed that the three newly appointed Independent Directors meet the applicable eligibility requirements.

The company stated that:

The appointments have been made following the approval conveyed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The induction of three Independent Directors is expected to strengthen MRPL's Board-level oversight and corporate governance framework. The diverse backgrounds of the new directors in law, engineering, taxation and professional services could provide broader perspectives for strategic decision-making and operational oversight.

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) is a leading oil refining and petrochemicals company in India and a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) . The company operates a modern refinery and plays a key role in India's petroleum and energy sector, with a growing focus on efficiency, diversification, and sustainable energy initiatives.

Headline	ONGC Kalol Fire Under Control; No Injuries Reported		
Publication	Industrial Outlook	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

ONGC Kalol Fire Under Control; No Injuries Reported

<https://industrialoutlook.in/article.php?doc=I35kfobwmwngmlnxcq51myh2>

A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) installation in the Kalol field in Gujarat on Thursday was brought under control

after emergency teams responded to the incident, with no injuries reported, the state-run energy company said.

ONGC said its fire and emergency response teams responded immediately and extinguished the blaze. Normal production operations have since been restored, it said.

No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored, the company said in a statement.

The incident occurred at an ONGC facility in the Kalol-Mansa area of Gandhinagar district. Firefighting teams were deployed after flames and smoke were seen at the installation.

The premier oil and gas company insisted it places the highest priority on the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities.

The Corporation remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across all its operational locations, the Maharatna PSU said.

Preliminary information suggested the fire at the ONGC installation was caused by a boiler bursting, Kalol Mamlatdar (revenue department official) Navin Nayi told the media.

Headline	Fire at ONGC Kalol installation brought under control; no injuries reported		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Fire at ONGC Kalol installation brought under control; no injuries reported

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/fire-at-ongc-kalol-installation-brought-under-control-no-injuries-reported/ar-AA2a0U9g>

News18 New Delhi, Aug 13 (PTI) A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) installation in the Kalol field in Gujarat

on Thursday was brought under control after emergency teams responded to the incident, with no injuries reported, the state-run energy company said.

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The Corporation remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across all its operational locations, it said. PTI ANZ BAL BAL

Headline	ONGC commits Rs 25 crore to Assam flood relief & school rebuilding		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

ONGC commits Rs 25 crore to Assam flood relief & school rebuilding

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/ongc-commits-rs-25-crore-to-assam-flood-relief-school-rebuilding/ar-AA2a2A0P>

Guwahati: ONGC has pledged Rs 25 crore for Assam's flood recovery and rebuilding of over 700 damaged schools.

Of the total, Rs 5 crore will go to CM's Relief Fund and Rs 20 crore towards school reconstruction, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday.

State govt said ONGC's aid would provide nearly Rs 3 lakh for each affected school, in addition to the Rs 2 lakh being provided by govt.

The funds will help restore classrooms, furniture, learning materials and other infrastructure damaged in the latest floods.

Sarma thanked ONGC chairperson and CEO Arun Kumar Singh and the company's employees for supporting the state's recovery efforts.

ONGC's bond with Assam is one of trust and partnership, built over decades of shared progress, Sarma said in a post on X'.

The Rs 5-crore contribution will support relief, rehabilitation and restoration in flood-hit areas.

Large parts of Assam, particularly upper Assam, have suffered extensive damage to homes, roads, public infrastructure and agricultural land. Hundreds of schools have also been affected, disrupting education across the state.

Govt is assessing the damage as floodwaters recede and planning repairs and reconstruction. ONGC's assistance is expected to help restore basic infrastructure and enable students to return to functional classrooms.

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Headline	Fire breaks out at Kalol ONGC plant, no injuries reported		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	14 Aug 2026		

Fire breaks out at Kalol ONGC plant, no injuries reported

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/fire-breaks-out-at-kalol-ongc-plant-no-injuries-reported/ar-AA2a2wfw>

Ahmedabad: A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) installation in Kalol-Mansa area of Gandhinagar district on Thursday was brought under control with no injuries reported, the state-run company said.

Fire and emergency response teams were deployed and the blaze was extinguished, ONGC said. Preliminary information suggested that the fire was caused by the bursting of a boiler, Kalol mamlatdar Navin Nayi told the media.

No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored, the company said in a statement.

ONGC said its fire and emergency response teams responded immediately to the incident and production operations had since resumed.

The company said it prioritises the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities and maintains emergency-response preparedness across its operational locations.

With agency inputs

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Headline	ONGC distributes 75,000 Deskits to students under CSR education initiatives		
Publication	Media Mart India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	14 Aug 2026		

ONGC distributes 75,000 Deskits to students under CSR education initiatives

<https://mediamartindia.in/ongc-distributes-75000-deskits-to-students-under-csr-education-initiatives/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) distributed 75,000 Deskits to 75,000 students across 750 government and other non-formal schools in six

states and Union Territories as part of its education-focused CSR initiatives during 2025-26, according to the company's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR).

The Deskits, described by ONGC as school bags convertible into study tables, were distributed to students as part of the company's efforts to support school education and improve access to learning infrastructure. The education initiatives formed part of ONGC's wider CSR programme during the year. The company reported CSR spending of Rs 942.88 crore in FY2025-26, with projects covering education, healthcare, skill development, rural development and other areas. Alongside the Deskit programme, ONGC undertook a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening digital education infrastructure in government schools.

In Anand, Gujarat, the company supported the setting up of 97 smart classrooms in government schools. The initiative was aimed at improving access to technology-enabled learning facilities in government schools. ONGC also distributed 820 Shiksha tablets in Durg, Chhattisgarh, along with installation of 500 solar streetlights. In Ranaghat, West Bengal, the company provided Shiksha tablets to 700 students while also providing sewing machines to underprivileged women under the same CSR intervention. The company's education-related interventions extended beyond digital learning to school infrastructure and access to basic facilities.

In Panchmahal, Gujarat, ONGC supported the setting up of 38 smart classes and 35 solar RO water machines at government schools. In Uttar Pradesh's Salempur Lok Sabha constituency, the company supported installation of 44 smart classes and 30 solar RO plants at government schools. The company also supported formal education infrastructure, including the construction of Chief Minister Composite Schools in five districts of Uttar Pradesh, according to the BRSR. Beyond school education, ONGC's CSR portfolio included skill development aimed at improving employment opportunities among disadvantaged sections. During FY26, the company supported NSDC-certified electronic-sector skill development training for 1,000 underprivileged persons in Thanjavur, Bokaro, Visakhapatnam and Ahmedabad.

The company has also undertaken education and youth-development programmes in Jammu and Kashmir, including guidance courses, vocational education and cultural-value courses for youth. Such initiatives form part of ONGC's broader focus on community development and capacity building. ONGC's BRSR states that its CSR interventions are directed towards inclusive development and include programmes for vulnerable and marginalised sections of society. The company also uses structured mechanisms to engage with priority stakeholder groups in planning its CSR interventions.

Headline	CM Himanta: ONGC commits ₹25 cr for Assam flood schools		
Publication	Nation Press	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

CM Himanta: ONGC commits ₹25 cr for Assam flood schools

<https://www.nationpress.com/national/cm-himanta-ongc-commits-25-cr-for-assam-flood-schools>

ONGC has committed 25 crore to Assam's flood response 5 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and 20 crore to rebuild over 700 flood-damaged schools, supplementing the state's own 2 lakh per-school allocation. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma thanked ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar for the support.

ONGC has pledged 25 crore toward #AssamFloodsResponse , announced on August 13, 2026 . 20 crore is earmarked specifically to rebuild more than 700 flood-affected schools , at nearly 3 lakh per school . 5 crore goes to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for immediate disaster relief.

The ONGC contribution adds to the 2 lakh per school already being provided by the Assam state government , raising combined per-school support to roughly 5 lakh .

The pledge was made by ONGC Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar , acknowledged personally by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma .

ONGC has maintained operational and CSR ties with Assam since the 1950s , when it developed the state's earliest oil fields.

When annual floods tear through Assam's Brahmaputra valley, they don't just swallow farmland they swallow classrooms. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Thursday, August 13, 2026 , that public-sector energy giant ONGC has pledged 25 crore toward the state's flood response, with the bulk earmarked to rebuild more than 700 flood-damaged schools 20 crore for 700 classrooms what the ONGC pledge covers The commitment is split into two tranches. 5 crore goes directly into the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for immediate disaster response. The remaining 20 crore is routed specifically to school reconstruction, working out to nearly 3 lakh per school across the more than affected institutions. CM Sarma noted this corporate contribution sits on top of the 2 lakh per school the state government is already disbursing bringing the combined per-school support to roughly 5 lakh . That stacked funding is designed to move reconstruction faster and build back sturdier than before. ONGC Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar led the commitment on behalf of the company. CM Sarma extended 'heartfelt gratitude' to Kumar and the 'entire ONGC family for standing firmly with the people of Assam in this difficult hour.' Seven decades of ONGC in Assam a partnership with deep roots This pledge is not a one-off act of corporate charity. ONGC has maintained an operational and economic presence in Assam since the 1950s and 1960s , when the company developed some of its earliest oil fields in the region. That history gives the relationship a texture that goes beyond a standard CSR cheque it is a decades-long entanglement of livelihoods, infrastructure, and institutional memory.

The broader pattern is well established: central public-sector undertakings with regional footprints routinely supplement state disaster relief through targeted CSR contributions, particularly in the Brahmaputra valley , where flooding is not an aberration but an annual reckoning. Assam governments have long paired their own per-school allocations with corporate and central support to accelerate post-flood rebuilding cycles. Schools in the flood zone students waiting to return The focus on schools is pointed. Flood damage to educational infrastructure in Assam compounds quickly displaced students, disrupted academic calendars, and communities that lose a civic anchor when a school goes under. Directing the majority of ONGC's contribution at school reconstruction signals a deliberate prioritisation of long-term recovery over short-term relief optics.

With disbursement timelines and reconstruction schedules still to be confirmed, the test now is execution whether the combined state-and-ONGC funding translates into rebuilt classrooms before the next monsoon cycle closes in.

Publicly framing the contribution as a product of 'trust and partnership built over decades' serves a dual purpose: it validates the state's corporate relationship management and positions Assam's recovery narrative around institutional solidarity rather than crisis. The deliberate channelling of 20 crore specifically into school reconstruction rather than a general relief pool reflects a maturing approach to post-flood recovery that prioritises long-term community anchors over immediate optics. Whether other oil-sector PSUs active in Assam follow with matching announcements will be the real indicator of whether this signals a broader coordinated response or a one-off gesture.

How much has ONGC donated for Assam flood relief in 2026?

How much money will each flood-affected school in Assam receive?

Who is the Chairman of ONGC who made the flood relief pledge?

What is the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in Assam?

Why does ONGC have a long-standing relationship with Assam?

Headline	ONGC pledges ₹25 crore to rebuild flood-hit Assam		
Publication	Nation Press	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

ONGC pledges ₹25 crore to rebuild flood-hit Assam

<https://www.nationpress.com/national/ongc-pledges-25-crore-assam-floods>

ONGC has pledged 25 crore to Assam's flood recovery 5 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and 20 crore to rebuild over 700 flood-damaged schools in Upper Assam, following a meeting between ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh and CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on 13 August 2026.

ONGC committed 25 crore to Assam flood relief and recovery on 13 August 2026 . 5 crore goes to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for immediate humanitarian assistance. 20 crore is earmarked to rebuild more than 700 flood-damaged schools in Upper Assam.

The commitment follows a meeting between ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh and CM Dr.

Himanta Biswa Sarma .

Upper Assam faces recurring flood damage along the Brahmaputra corridor, with major inundations recorded in 2020 and 2022 .

ONGC has long-standing operational and CSR presence in Assam, rooted in the state's century-old petroleum history.

When floodwaters recede across Upper Assam, they leave behind something harder to fix than waterlogged fields shattered classrooms. On Thursday, 13 August 2026 , the Chief Minister's Office of Assam announced that Arun Kumar Singh , Chairman and CEO of ONGC , met Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma to commit 25 crore toward flood relief and infrastructure recovery across the region. The commitment breaks into two clear streams: 5 crore directed to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for immediate humanitarian support, and a larger 20 crore earmarked to rebuild more than 700 flood-damaged schools in Upper Assam. The meeting centred on targeted relief, rehabilitation, and the restoration of critical infrastructure for communities hit hardest by seasonal inundation. 700 schools and the children waiting to return The school reconstruction pledge is the sharpest edge of this commitment. Upper Assam's districts sit along the Brahmaputra's flood corridor a geography that turns every monsoon into a recurring demolition cycle for public infrastructure. When schools go down, children lose not just classrooms but months of learning, and communities lose their most visible anchor. Directing 20 crore specifically at rebuilding those structures signals a deliberate shift from generic relief toward durable recovery. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma appreciated ONGC's 'steadfast partnership' and underlined the need for 'swift, coordinated and people-centric interventions' language that reflects the state's long-standing frustration with slow post-flood rebuilding cycles that have followed major inundations in and ONGC's CSR role in Assam's disaster cycle

ONGC is not a casual donor here. India's largest oil exploration public-sector undertaking has deep operational roots in Assam the state where India's petroleum story began at Digboi over a century ago. That history creates both a corporate stake and a social obligation. Channelling CSR funds toward disaster recovery in resource-producing northeastern states has become a recognised pattern among major PSUs, and ONGC's 25 crore pledge fits squarely within that framework.

The Chief Minister's Relief Fund component ensures money can move fast the fund exists precisely for rapid disbursement when administrative channels are overwhelmed. The school-rebuilding tranche, by contrast, will require tendering, construction oversight, and district-level coordination. How quickly those 700-plus schools actually rise will be the real test of this partnership.

Assam's flood calendar does not pause for paperwork. The clock on this commitment started the moment the pledge was made.

Where the state's resource wealth and its vulnerability to natural disaster exist in uncomfortable proximity. The deliberate split between immediate relief and structural rebuilding suggests both sides are aware that past post-flood cycles have stalled at the relief stage without reaching reconstruction. For CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, securing a large PSU commitment on schools is politically and administratively useful: it shifts part of the rebuilding burden off the state budget while delivering a visible, community-level outcome. The real accountability test arrives in the months ahead whether the 700-plus schools are rebuilt on schedule, or whether the pledge joins a longer list of post-flood promises that outlasted public attention.

How much money has ONGC given for Assam flood relief in 2026?

Which schools in Assam will ONGC help rebuild after the floods?

What is the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in Assam?

Why does Upper Assam flood so frequently?

What is ONGC's connection to Assam?

Headline	India looking to expand strategic petroleum reserves with new facilities in MP, Rajasthan		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

India looking to expand strategic petroleum reserves with new facilities in MP, Rajasthan

<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/business/india-looking-to-expand-strategic-petroleum-reserves-with-new-facilities-in-mp-rajasthan-toi/articleshow/145048205d3248abb7ce9f5a9a4f365d2307e742>

NEW DELHI: India is looking to expand its strategic petroleum reserves with new facilities at Bina in Madhya Pradesh and Bikaner in Rajasthan, besides

adding storage capacity at Mangalore, to strengthen the country's energy security against supply disruptions .

According to a parliamentary committee report, govt-owned Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle, has completed the feasibility study for the Bikaner caverns and is in the process of finalising it. A pre-feasibility study for Bina has also been completed, with a detailed feasibility report to be initiated soon.

This is in addition to the 1.7 million tonne (MT) storage facility being planned at Mangalore, adjacent to its existing Phase-I facility. ISPRL has completed a feasibility study, acquired 155 acres of land and is in the process of obtaining special economic zone (SEZ) notification for 66 acres. The facility will be built by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.

India currently has strategic oil reserves of 5.3 MT, developed under Phase-I at Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh to safeguard against global supply disruptions. The capacity is estimated to meet about 9.5 days of the country's crude oil requirement, with the reserves managed by ISPRL.

The govt is also adding 6.5 MT of reserves under its Phase-II expansion plan - 2.5 MT at Padur and 4 MT at Chandikhol in Odisha.

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It approved the two projects in July 2021. At Chandikhol, 400 acres of land have been acquired and the request for proposal is under review. At Padur-II, ISPRL signed the concessionaire agreement with the selected bidder in Oct 2025, while financial closure is in progress.

The developments have been flagged in the latest action-taken report of the parliamentary standing committee on petroleum and natural gas, which has urged the ministry to ensure timely completion of the projects and work towards the global benchmark of maintaining 90 days of crude oil storage.

The committee urged the petroleum ministry to ensure the finalisation of RFPs, SEZ notification and financial closures within the scheduled timelines, while ensuring optimal utilisation of funds, besides maintaining global standard of 90 days of crude oil storage within the country as soon as feasible.

The committee also asked the ministry and oil companies to explore more cavern sites in areas with suitable geological conditions, citing the need to strengthen India's energy security amid global geopolitical uncertainties.

Headline	India Aims to Enhance Strategic Petroleum Reserves with New Facilities in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan		
Publication	Observer Voice	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

India Aims to Enhance Strategic Petroleum Reserves with New Facilities in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

<https://observervoice.com/india-aims-to-enhance-strategic-petroleum-reserves-with-new-facilities-in-madhya-pradesh-and-rajasthan-220955/>

NEW DELHI: India is set to enhance its strategic petroleum reserves by establishing new facilities in Bina, Madhya Pradesh, and Bikaner, Rajasthan, while also increasing storage capacity at Mangalore.

This initiative aims to bolster the country's energy security against potential supply disruptions. The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) has completed feasibility studies for the Bikaner caverns and is finalizing plans for Bina.

The ISPRL is also working on a 1.7 million tonne storage facility at Mangalore, adjacent to its existing Phase-I facility. The organization has acquired 155 acres of land for this project and is seeking special economic zone (SEZ) notification for an additional 66 acres. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation will oversee the construction of the facility.

India currently maintains strategic oil reserves of 5.3 million tonnes, developed under Phase-I at Mangalore, Padur in Karnataka, and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. These reserves can cover approximately 9.5 days of the country's crude oil needs. Under its Phase-II expansion plan, the government is adding 6.5 million tonnes of reserves, with 2.5 million tonnes at Padur and 4 million tonnes at Chandikhol in Odisha. The projects were approved in July 2021, with land acquisition and proposal reviews underway.

The parliamentary standing committee on petroleum and natural gas has urged the ministry to ensure timely completion of these projects and to work towards achieving the global benchmark of maintaining 90 days of crude oil storage. The committee emphasized the need for finalizing requests for proposals, SEZ notifications, and financial closures within the scheduled timelines. It also recommended exploring additional cavern sites to strengthen India's energy security amid global geopolitical uncertainties.

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Headline	ONGC Pledges ₹25 Crore for Assam Flood Relief and School Rebuilding		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

ONGC Pledges ₹25 Crore for Assam Flood Relief and School Rebuilding

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-pledges-25-crore-for-assam-flood-relief-and-school-rebuilding>

ONGC has pledged 25 crore for restoring flood-affected schools in Assam and contributing to the CM Relief Fund. The company also faces 175 crore damage to its own facilities.

Guwahati, August 13, 2026: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has reaffirmed its support to the people of Assam in the aftermath of the recent devastating floods.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, met ONGC Chairman Shri Arun Kumar Singh. During the interaction, ONGC announced a pledge of 25 crore

How the Funds Will Be Used

The contribution will support:

Restoration and rebuilding of flood-affected schools and educational institutions

The Chief Minister's Relief Fund

ONGC stated that the assistance aims to help rebuild not only infrastructure but also classrooms and the future of Assam's children.

Damage to ONGC Facilities

The floods also caused significant damage to ONGC's own installations across Assam. The company estimates the cost of restoration of its facilities at approximately 175 crore

Despite the impact on its own operations, ONGC has reiterated its firm commitment to supporting Assam's recovery and rebuilding efforts.

The Corporation emphasised its solidarity with the state through the message: With Assam. For Assam. In Assam.

Headline	Fire at Kalol field installation extinguished, production restored: ONGC		
Publication	PSU Watch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Fire at Kalol field installation extinguished, production restored: ONGC

<https://psuwatch.com/newsupdates/fire-at-kalol-field-installation-extinguished-production-restored-ongc>

New Delhi: A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) installation in the Kalol field in Gujarat on Thursday has been contained. Emergency teams responded to the incident. No injuries were reported, the state-run energy company said.

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Emergency teams deployed at Kalol-Mansa site

The affected facility is located in the Kalol-Mansa area of Gandhinagar district. Firefighting teams were sent to the site after flames and smoke were sighted at the installation.

ONGC said its fire and emergency response teams acted immediately and put out the blaze. Normal production operations have since resumed, the company said.

"No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored," ONGC said in a statement.

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Boiler burst cited as preliminary cause

Preliminary information indicated that the fire was caused by a boiler bursting, Kalol Mamlatdar (revenue department official) Navin Nayi told the media.

ONGC says safety highest priority

The company said it accords the highest priority to the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities.

"The Corporation remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across all its operational locations," the Maharatna PSU said.

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Headline	ONGC Kalol Fire Under Control; No Injuries Reported		
Publication	Rediff	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

ONGC Kalol Fire Under Control; No Injuries Reported

<https://money.rediff.com/news/market/ongc-kalol-fire-under-control-no-injuries-reported/52414720260813>

A fire at ONGC's Kalol installation in Gujarat was brought under control by emergency teams. No injuries reported, and normal production operations restored.

New Delhi, Aug 13 (PTI) A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) installation in the Kalol field in Gujarat on Thursday was brought under control after emergency teams responded to the incident, with no injuries reported, the state-run energy company said. ONGC said its fire and emergency response teams responded immediately and extinguished the blaze. Normal production operations have since been restored, it said. "No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored," the company said in a statement. The incident occurred at an ONGC facility in the Kalol-Mansa area of Gandhinagar district. Firefighting teams were deployed after flames and smoke were seen at the installation. ONGC said it places the highest priority on the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities. "The Corporation remains committed to maintaining robust safety standards and emergency-response preparedness across all its operational locations," it said.

Headline	L&T bags mega ₹10,000-15,000 crore order to build India's largest NVIDIA B300 AI factory		
Publication	The Economic Times CFO	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

L&T bags mega ₹10,000-15,000 crore order to build India's largest NVIDIA B300 AI factory

<https://cfo.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/strategy-operations/lt-bags-mega-10000-15000-crore-order-to-build-indias-largest-nvidia-b300-ai-factory/133200739>

Larsen & Toubro will build India's largest AI infrastructure for Together AI. This mega order involves deploying ten thousand NVIDIA B300 GPUs in Chennai.

The project marks L&T's significant entry into the AI Factory business sector. This facility will support large-scale AI training and inference workloads. The AI Factory is planned as a gigawatt-scale infrastructure site.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Thursday said it has secured a mega order to build what it described as India's largest single-cluster AI infrastructure , deploying 10,000 NVIDIA B300 GPUs at its Chennai data centre campus for US-based AI cloud company Together AI

The order is classified to be in the range of Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore.

The project marks L&T's entry into the AI Factory business as the company looks to expand its presence in AI infrastructure. The facility will support Together AI's AI-native cloud platform, catering to large-scale AI training, inference and fine-tuning workloads. The shares of Larsen Toubro were trading at Rs 4046.55 apiece on the BSE, up 1.37% on Thursday as of 11.40 AM.

L&T rejigs its digital infra business, transfers Vyoma.AI for Rs 1,400 crore The AI Factory will be developed by L&T's AI infrastructure subsidiary LTN Compute, part of Vyoma.AI, and hosted at Vyoma's Chennai data centre campus. The Chennai campus is planned as a gigawatt-scale AI infrastructure site. Its first phase is designed for 250 MW, with power infrastructure readiness of 150 MVA, allowing the company to expand AI Factory capacity in the future.

The infrastructure will combine data centre capacity with accelerated computing, high-performance networking, ultra-low-latency interconnects, parallel storage and AI infrastructure operations.

The platform is designed to allow customers to deploy and scale AI workloads through a single infrastructure stack.

L&T bags major offshore orders worth Rs 5,000-10,000 crore from ONGC for pipeline replacement Artificial Intelligence is becoming foundational to every industry and AI Factories will power this transformation. Our deployment of an NVIDIA B300 AI Factory for Together AI marks a significant milestone in L&T's Gigawatt AI Infrastructure Mission and reinforces our commitment to making India a global hub for next-generation AI infrastructure, said S N Subrahmanyam, chairman and managing director, Larsen & Toubro.

Vipul Ved Prakash, co-founder and CEO of Together AI, said, Making AI globally accessible is going to be the biggest infrastructure build-out in human history, and L&T understands that. That's exactly why we partnered with them to bring the scale, resilience and engineering excellence this moment demands to India.

LTN Compute is developing AI-ready digital infrastructure in India across hyperscale AI data centres, sovereign cloud platforms, AI Factory services, GPU-as-a-Service and managed AI platforms.

The company said these services will cater to governments, enterprises, cloud providers and AI companies as demand for computing infrastructure grows.

Headline	India looking to expand strategic petroleum reserves with new facilities in MP, Rajasthan		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

India looking to expand strategic petroleum reserves with new facilities in MP, Rajasthan

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-looking-to-expand-strategic-petroleum-reserves-with-new-facilities-in-mp-rajasthan/articleshow/133197082.cms>

India is bolstering its energy security by planning strategic reserves of crude oil (representative image) NEW DELHI: India is looking to expand

its strategic petroleum reserves with new facilities at Bina in Madhya Pradesh and Bikaner in Rajasthan, besides adding storage capacity at Mangalore, to strengthen the country's energy security against supply disruptions. According to a parliamentary committee report, govt-owned Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle, has completed the feasibility study for the Bikaner caverns and is in the process of finalising it. A pre-feasibility study for Bina has also been completed, with a detailed feasibility report to be initiated soon. This is in addition to the 1.7 million tonne (MT) storage facility being planned at Mangalore, adjacent to its existing Phase-I facility. ISPRL has completed a feasibility study, acquired 155 acres of land and is in the process of obtaining special economic zone (SEZ) notification for 66 acres. The facility will be built by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. India currently has strategic oil reserves of 5.3 MT, developed under Phase-I at Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh to safeguard against global supply disruptions. The capacity is estimated to meet about 9.5 days of the country's crude oil requirement, with the reserves managed by ISPRL. The govt is also adding 6.5 MT of reserves under its Phase-II expansion plan - 2.5 MT at Padur and 4 MT at Chandikhol in Odisha. It approved the two projects in July 2021. At Chandikhol, 400 acres of land have been acquired and the request for proposal is under review. At Padur-II, ISPRL signed the concessionaire agreement with the selected bidder in Oct 2025, while financial closure is in progress. The developments have been flagged in the latest action-taken report of the parliamentary standing committee on petroleum and natural gas, which has urged the ministry to ensure timely completion of the projects and work towards the global benchmark of maintaining 90 days of crude oil storage. The committee urged the petroleum ministry to ensure the finalisation of RFPs, SEZ notification and financial closures within the scheduled timelines, while ensuring optimal utilisation of funds, besides maintaining global standard of 90 days of crude oil storage within the country as soon as feasible. The committee also asked the ministry and oil companies to explore more cavern sites in areas with suitable geological conditions, citing the need to strengthen India's energy security amid global geopolitical uncertainties. Get the latest Business News and Live updates. Download the TOI app.

Headline	ONGC commits Rs 25 crore to Assam flood relief & school rebuilding		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

ONGC commits Rs 25 crore to Assam flood relief & school rebuilding

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/ongc-commits-rs-25-crore-to-assam-flood-relief-school-rebuilding/articleshow/133218435.cms>

Aug 13, 2026, 21:38 IST

CM with ONGC Chairman & CEO Shri Arun Kumar

Guwahati:

ONGC has pledged Rs 25 crore for Assam's flood recovery and rebuilding of over 700 damaged schools. Of the total, Rs 5 crore will go to CM's Relief Fund and Rs 20 crore towards school reconstruction, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday. State govt said ONGC's aid would provide nearly Rs 3 lakh for each affected school, in addition to the Rs 2 lakh being provided by govt. The funds will help restore classrooms, furniture, learning materials and other infrastructure damaged in the latest floods. Sarma thanked ONGC chairperson and CEO Arun Kumar Singh and the company's employees for supporting the state's recovery efforts. ONGC's bond with Assam is one of trust and partnership, built over decades of shared progress, Sarma said in a post on X'. The Rs 5-crore contribution will support relief, rehabilitation and restoration in flood-hit areas. Large parts of Assam, particularly upper Assam, have suffered extensive damage to homes, roads, public infrastructure and agricultural land. Hundreds of schools have also been affected, disrupting education across the state. Govt is assessing the damage as floodwaters recede and planning repairs and reconstruction. ONGC's assistance is expected to help restore basic infrastructure and enable students to return to functional classrooms. Stay updated with the latest Guwahati news. Download the TOI App.

Headline	Fire breaks out at Kalol ONGC plant, no injuries reported		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	14 Aug 2026		

Fire breaks out at Kalol ONGC plant, no injuries reported

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/fire-breaks-out-at-kalol-ongc-plant-no-injuries-reported/articleshow/133222548.cms>

TNN / Aug 14, 2026, 00:14 IST

Ahmedabad: A fire that broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) installation in Kalol-Mansa area of Gandhinagar district on Thursday was brought under control with no injuries reported, the state-run company said. Fire and emergency response teams were deployed and the blaze was extinguished, ONGC said. Preliminary information suggested that the fire was caused by the bursting of a boiler, Kalol mamlatdar Navin Nayi told the media. No injury or harm to any personnel has been reported. The situation is fully under control, and normal production operations have been completely restored, the company said in a statement. ONGC said its fire and emergency response teams responded immediately to the incident and production operations had since resumed. The company said it prioritises the safety of its personnel, assets and neighbouring communities and maintains emergency-response preparedness across its operational locations. With agency inputs

Headline	Maharashtra Seamless Builds INR 1,709 Crore Order Book, Led by High-Margin Oil & Export Orders		
Publication	Tubepipe India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Maharashtra Seamless Builds INR 1,709 Crore Order Book, Led by High-Margin Oil & Export Orders

<https://tubepipeindia.com/maharashtra-seamless-builds/>

Maharashtra Seamless Limited has strengthened its order pipeline with INR 714 crore of orders from ONGC and Oil India, alongside a strong export component and a special INR 100 crore cylinder pipe order, creating a favourable mix of higher-margin business

Aug 12, 2026

Maharashtra Seamless Limited (MSL) is seeing a significant improvement in its order book, which currently stands at INR 1,709 crore, with a strong contribution from high-margin segments. Of the total order book, INR 714 crore worth of orders have been secured from ONGC and Oil India, making the oil sector a key driver of the company's current order pipeline.

The company also has a substantial presence in the export segment, which accounts for 20% of the total order book and is another higher-margin business. In addition, MSL has secured special orders worth INR 100 crore for cylinder pipes, further strengthening its order mix.

The improved composition of the order book is expected to support margins in the coming quarters. The company has indicated that the revival in its order book and the accumulation of higher-value orders over recent months have been particularly encouraging.

Headline	असम बाढ़ राहत के लिए ओएनजीसी देगा 25 करोड़ रुपये		
Publication	Vocal Tv	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

असम बाढ़ राहत के लिए ओएनजीसी देगा 25 करोड़ रुपये

<https://vocaltv.in/assam/assam-flood-ongc-provide-25-crorephp/cid19122965.htm>

गुवाहाटी, 13 अगस्त (हि.स.)। ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) के चेयरमैन एवं सीईओ अरुण कुमार सिंह ने गुरुवार को असम के मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. हिमंत

बिस्व सरमा से मुलाकात की। इस दौरान ऊपरी असम में बाढ़ से प्रभावित लोगों के राहत, पुनर्वास और बुनियादी ढांचे की बहाली को लेकर चर्चा हुई।

अमित मालवीय का कांग्रेस पर हमला, बोले- गाली-गलौज भारत के संस्कार नहीं

बैठक में ओएनजीसी ने असम के बाढ़ प्रभावित इलाकों में राहत और पुनर्निर्माण कार्यों के लिए 25 करोड़ की सहायता राशि देने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई। इस राशि में से 5 करोड़ मुख्यमंत्री राहत कोष में दिए जाएंगे। वहीं, 20 करोड़ बाढ़ से क्षतिग्रस्त 700 से अधिक स्कूलों के पुनर्निर्माण पर खर्च किए जाएंगे।

मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्व सरमा ने ओएनजीसी के लगातार सहयोग की सराहना की। उन्होंने बाढ़ प्रभावित परिवारों तक राहत पहुंचाने और जरूरी बुनियादी ढांचे को जल्द बहाल करने के लिए त्वरित, समन्वित और जन-केंद्रित कदम उठाने पर जोर दिया।

मुख्यमंत्री ने गुरुवार को सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर एक पोस्ट के जरिए बैठक और ओएनजीसी की सहायता की जानकारी साझा की।

ओएनजीसी की इस सहायता से बाढ़ प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में शिक्षा व्यवस्था को दोबारा पटरी पर लाने के साथ-साथ प्रभावित समुदायों के पुनर्वास और पुनर्निर्माण प्रयासों को भी मजबूती मिलने की उम्मीद है।

Headline	Carmakers discussed E20 contamination risks before public retreat: Report		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Carmakers discussed E20 contamination risks before public retreat: Report

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/top-automakers-discussed-e20-concerns-before-public-retreat-says-report-126081300686_1.html

Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra discussed concerns over chloride and moisture in E20 fuel even as the industry publicly backed the government's ethanol rollout

E20 has angered motorists, with hundreds alleging it has reduced mileage and increased wear and tear on their cars, and triggered at least one court challenge

NEW DELHI

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Hours after India made public assurances last week that its ethanol-blended petrol was safe, the country's main auto lobby withdrew a complaint about fuel contamination it had sent to the government a week earlier. The group said some figures needed more checks.

But separate communications between industry executives, reviewed by Reuters, showed that in the preceding days, top automakers Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra discussed their concerns about contamination of petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol, called E20.

Their data compiled the most comprehensive fuel testing done by the industry since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government started rolling out E20 nationwide from last year to help curb pollution and cut oil imports. With no other petrol available since April 1, consumer concerns have grown about the impact on vehicle performance.

The carmakers' emails show for the first time how they are privately worried about contaminants in E20, like chloride and moisture, which they say are hurting vehicles, even as they publicly back the government's rollout of the fuel.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) withdrew its July 28 letter on fuel contamination after a government and public uproar over the warning, saying "some numbers" need "authentication".

The previously unreported industry data and emails reviewed by Reuters show "multiple" automakers had already conducted extensive tests by collecting over 250 fuel samples from pumps over a year from as many as 21 of India's 36 states and territories. They found high chloride contamination in many of the samples in 18 states, as well as high moisture content.

The executives' emails raised no concern about data authentication.

Asked for comment on the private emails, SIAM told Reuters the data was intended only for internal circulation, discussion and validation, and collected by "very few" automakers.

Maruti, Tata and Mahindra, who were part of the SIAM internal emails seen by Reuters, account for 67 per cent of India's car market.

As "the testing basis and sample size were insufficient to support definitive conclusions, the communication was withdrawn" as it was sent inadvertently, SIAM said, adding it intends to undertake a proper scientific study.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas did not respond to requests for comment. Its minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, said on Friday that two weeks prior to receiving the letter from SIAM, India's oil marketing companies had begun "rigorous testing" of fuel at retail outlets to check for contamination.

Only four cases of contamination were found, he said. State-run fuel retailers also said last week that extensive random and scientific tests showed "no cause for any alarm on account of fuel contamination".

Mahindra said conclusions drawn from its executive's emails "are completely baseless and incorrect", industry data is limited and preliminary, and it does not see issues with E20. Maruti and Tata did not respond to requests for comment.

Auto industry met government to flag chloride concerns

E20 has angered motorists, with hundreds alleging it has reduced mileage and increased wear and tear on their cars, and triggered at least one court challenge.

SIAM had earlier said high levels of chloride are corrosive for auto parts, while high moisture levels in fuel can immobilise a vehicle immediately after fuelling.

In the group emails exchanged among Maruti, Tata, Mahindra and SIAM, Maruti's senior executive Anoop Bhat raised concerns on the high chloride findings saying this had been privately discussed with the petroleum ministry on July 26.

The tabulated state-wide findings shared by the industry on group emails showed they recorded chloride levels of 6 to 570 parts per million (ppm) in Rajasthan state, 1.4 to 420 ppm in the capital New Delhi and 10 to 357 ppm in Maharashtra.

The Indian government says the permissible limit is 3 ppm.

The data tables also showed moisture levels reaching 13,000 ppm in Andhra Pradesh and 12,500 ppm in Uttar Pradesh, versus a permissible government benchmark of 3,000 ppm.

While the reason for contamination is not known, SIAM said in its now withdrawn letter it had seen an increase in chloride levels since the rollout of E20 and has requested the government to direct oil marketing companies to find the root cause.

For moisture, the Siam letter noted, the cause could be inadequate "maintenance of the underground storage tanks and pipelines at retail outlets".

Maruti's Bhat wrote in his July 26 email that 1 ppm of chloride was the maximum that current fuel injectors, which transport fuel to the engine, "can tolerate".

"Lesser than 1 ppm in E20 is also in line with international standards. Same is in line with discussion held with" the petroleum ministry, Bhat wrote.

Mahindra's senior principal engineer of fluids technology, R. Ramaprabhu, said in emails that organic chloride is the contaminant responsible for the very rapid vehicle failures the industry is seeing and can spoil engines "within 200 km".

"Majority cases reported immediately after fuelling ... is due to organic chloride," he wrote, adding that Mahindra has "strong evidences" of fuel sample data from retail outlets.

Mahindra's Ramaprabhu and Maruti's Bhat did not respond to Reuters' queries.

(Only the headline and picture of this report may have been reworked by the Business Standard staff; the rest of the content is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

First Published: Aug 13 2026 | 11:48 AM IST

Headline	Leaked emails reveal Indian carmakers flagged fuel issues before public backtrack, here's all you need to know		
Publication	DNA	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Leaked emails reveal Indian carmakers flagged fuel issues before public backtrack, here's all you need to know

<https://www.dnaindia.com/world/report-leaked-emails-reveal-indian-carmakers-flagged-fuel-issues-before-public-backtrack-here-s-all-you-need-to-know-3218402>

Since April 1, no other grade of petrol has been available, and consumer worries about how it affects vehicle performance have increased.

Days after the Indian government reassured the public that ethanol-blended petrol was safe, the country's leading automobile body retracted a complaint it had filed with the government a week earlier over fuel contamination. The lobby said certain data points required further verification.

However, separate internal exchanges reviewed by Reuters revealed that in the days before, major carmakers Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra had been discussing concerns about E20 fuel petrol mixed with 20% ethanol.

TRENDING NOW

The testing data they shared represented the industry's most extensive fuel analysis to date, conducted since PM Narendra Modi's government began the nationwide rollout of E20 last year to reduce pollution and dependence on oil imports.

E20-only fuel sparks performance concerns

Since April 1, no other grade of petrol has been available, and consumer worries about how it affects vehicle performance have increased.

Emails from the carmakers reveal, for the first time, their private concerns about contaminants in E20 such as chloride and moisture that they claim are damaging vehicles, despite their public support for the government's E20 rollout.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) pulled back its July 28 letter on fuel contamination amid backlash from the government and the public, stating that "some numbers" required "authentication".

250 samples tested across 21 states

Unreported data and emails seen by Reuters reveal that multiple carmakers conducted extensive fuel testing, collecting over 250 samples from 21 states and UTs in a year. They detected high chloride in samples from 18 states, plus high moisture.

The internal emails did not flag any issues with data authentication.

When asked about the private correspondence, SIAM told Reuters the data was meant only for "internal circulation, discussion and validation" and was gathered by "a very few" automakers.

Maruti, Tata and Mahindra, referenced in SIAM's internal correspondence reviewed by Reuters, account for 67% of the Indian automobile market.

According to SIAM, the communication was pulled back "inadvertently" as the "testing basis and sample size were insufficient" for firm conclusions. It plans a full scientific study now.

Ministry did not respond to queries

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas did not respond to requests for comment. Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Friday that two weeks before SIAM's letter, oil marketing companies had started "rigorous testing" of fuel at retail outlets to check for contamination.

He said only four cases of contamination were detected. State-run fuel retailers also said last week that "extensive random and scientific tests" found "no cause for any alarm" over fuel contamination.

Mahindra said inferences drawn from its executive's email correspondence "are completely baseless and incorrect," and that the available industry data remains "limited and preliminary." The company added it does not perceive any problems with E20.

Car makers flag chloride issues to government

E20 fuel has angered consumers, with hundreds alleging reduced fuel efficiency and increased wear and tear on their cars, and prompting at least one court petition.

SIAM previously said that elevated chloride levels are corrosive to vehicle components, and that high moisture content can lead to immediate engine stalling post-refueling.

In group email exchanges among Maruti, Tata, Mahindra and SIAM, Maruti's senior executive Anoop Bhat highlighted the high chloride findings, stating the matter had been privately discussed with the petroleum ministry on July 26.

Tabulated state-level results shared by the industry indicated chloride concentrations of 6 to 570 ppm in Rajasthan, 1.4 to 420 ppm in New Delhi, and 10 to 357 ppm in Maharashtra. The permissible limit set by the Indian government is 3 ppm.

Industry data also showed moisture at 13,000 ppm in Andhra Pradesh and 12,500 ppm in Uttar Pradesh, against the government cap of 3,000 ppm.

SIAM, in its withdrawn letter, said it doesn't know the reason for contamination but has seen chloride rise post-E20 and wants oil firms to probe the root cause.

For moisture, SIAM pointed to possible lapses in "maintenance of underground storage tanks and pipelines at retail outlets".

Headline	Emails reveal carmakers' E20 fuel contamination worries before public retreat		
Publication	Deccan Herald	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	14 Aug 2026		

Emails reveal carmakers' E20 fuel contamination worries before public retreat

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/emails-reveal-carmakers-e20-fuel-contamination-worries-before-public-retreat-4110609>

With no other petrol available since April 1, consumer concerns have grown about the impact on vehicle performance.

New Delhi: Hours after India made public assurances last week that its ethanol-blended petrol was safe, the country's main auto lobby withdrew a complaint about fuel contamination it had sent to the government a week earlier. The group said some figures needed more checks.

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

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As "the testing basis and sample size were insufficient to support definitive conclusions, the communication was withdrawn" as it was sent inadvertently, SIAM said, adding it intends to undertake a proper scientific study.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas did not respond to requests for comment. Its minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, said on Friday that two weeks prior to receiving the letter from SIAM, India's oil marketing companies had begun "rigorous testing" of fuel at retail outlets to check for contamination.

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Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Maruti, Tata, Mahindra raised E20 fuel contamination concerns, emails show

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/maruti-tata-mahindra-raised-e20-fuel-contamination-concerns-emails-show/133203909>

Automakers privately expressed concerns about E20 fuel contamination, citing chloride and moisture issues. This data emerged after the auto lobby withdrew a complaint to the government.

Industry tests found high chloride and moisture levels in many fuel samples. These contaminants are reportedly harming vehicles and reducing performance.

Maruti, Tata, Mahindra flagged E20 fuel concerns, emails show. REUTERS/Bhawika Chhabra Hours after India made public assurances last week that its ethanol-blended petrol was safe, the country's main auto lobby withdrew a complaint about fuel contamination it had sent to the government a week earlier. The group said some figures needed more checks.

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AUTO INDUSTRY MET GOVERNMENT TO FLAG CHLORIDE CONCERNS

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News

Oil & Gas

Maruti, Tata, Mahindra raised E20 fuel contamination concerns, emails show

Headline	Beyond E20: What India's ethanol industry is aiming for next		
Publication	Financial Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Beyond E20: What India's ethanol industry is aiming for next

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/beyond-e20-what-indias-ethanol-industry-is-aiming-for-next/4316617/>

India reached its 20% ethanol blending target early, boosting farmer income and cutting oil imports, while exploring higher blends like E25 and E85 amid challenges in consumer acceptance and industry capacity.

India's ethanol success story has a paradox at its core. The country hit its 20% blending target five years ahead of schedule, converting sugarcane, rice and maize into a fuel that has cut crude oil imports, pumped over 1.29 lakh crore into sugar mills and generated more than 1.60 lakh crore in additional farmer income since 2014.

But the push towards E20 has also raised concerns among consumers and parts of the auto industry, particularly over mileage, vehicle compatibility and the long-term impact of higher ethanol blends on older vehicles. As the debate around E20 continues, the government is already looking at what comes next.

Now, E25 is on the cards, while E85 is being rolled out for flex-fuel vehicles. Ethanol is also being explored for uses beyond petrol, including sustainable aviation fuel, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, marine fuel and even cooking fuel.

India Inc's gender diversity paradox: 1,498 women hold board positions, just 9 are CEOs

But while the country is preparing for higher blending levels, ethanol producers are sitting on huge unused capacity. The ethanol industry says the road ahead is not going to be easy.

While India's ethanol programme has helped cut crude oil imports and given farmers an additional source of income, many ethanol producers are struggling with low demand and excess capacity.

Pushpinder Singh, President of the Bharat Independent Ethanol Producers Association (BIEPA), spoke to Financial Express about what the industry needs as India moves beyond E20.

India's ethanol story is bigger than just E20

With India importing nearly 88.5% of its crude oil, BIEPA said domestically produced alternate fuels can reduce exposure to global oil prices, shipping disruptions and geopolitical shocks. At the same time, ethanol production capacity has nearly tripled over the past decade, from around 680 crore litres to almost 2,000 crore litres, making India the world's third-largest ethanol producer after the US and Brazil.

But the big question now is what happens after E20.

The Bureau of Indian Standards has already notified fuel-quality standards for E22, E25, E27 and E30, while the government has started selling E85 at 48 outlets for flex-fuel vehicles. This is planned to rise to 500 outlets by December 2026 and around 5,000 by December 2027.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari has also approved rules allowing 100% ethanol, or E100, as a standalone fuel. Automakers such as Maruti Suzuki and Hero MotoCorp have started rolling out flex-fuel vehicles.

But ethanol's future may go beyond transport. The industry is exploring its use in sustainable aviation fuel, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, marine fuel and other sectors that could create fresh demand.

E85 is the next big step, but consumers will decide

As India looks beyond E20, Singh said it is important to get one point right: the next high-blend target for road transport is E85, not E80. India has sufficient installed ethanol capacity to move well beyond E20, Singh said.

But moving the entire country to high ethanol blends will take time. According to Singh, four things will be important for the transition: more flex-fuel vehicles, dedicated fuel infrastructure, a stable policy for feedstock and, most importantly, attractive prices for consumers.

Data Centre Power Boom: Why renewable developers are demanding a Rs 3,000 crore relief package

Without attractive consumer pricing and clear economic incentives, he warned, adoption could remain slow even if India has enough ethanol.

The government has already started building the infrastructure needed for E85. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said E85 could be priced around 20 per litre cheaper than regular petrol. Government projections suggest India's ethanol blending rate could reach nearly 26% by 2030-31 as the E85 network expands.

Is sustainable aviation fuel ethanol's next big opportunity?

The next phase of India's ethanol story may not be limited to petrol pumps.

Singh said there are already established uses for ethanol in chemicals, solvents, pharmaceuticals and sanitisers. But one of the biggest opportunities could come from aviation.

He described sustainable aviation fuel made through alcohol-to-jet technology as its next major energy opportunity.

Ethanol could also find a role in marine fuel. However, Singh said these applications are still under scrutiny when it comes to their commercial viability.

Can ethanol find a new market in cooking fuel?

There has also been growing interest in using ethanol as a cooking fuel. Singh, however, was cautious about this idea. Ethanol can be used in specially designed liquid fuel stoves, he said.

But using it across the country would not be simple. Nationwide adoption would require dedicated appliances, safe distribution, competitive pricing and consumer acceptance, he said.

That means ethanol-based cooking fuel is still some distance away from becoming a commercial option, despite the attention it has received.

Ethanol prices may need to rise

The cost of producing ethanol is another concern. Feedstock accounts for around 80% of the total production cost. These costs have been rising across the country, with concerns over the monsoon and the impact of El Nio adding to the pressure.

At the same time, when a factory operates below capacity, the cost of converting the raw material into ethanol also rises on a per-litre basis.

Singh believes ethanol prices will have to reflect these higher costs. A calibrated increase is therefore both reasonable and necessary to protect plant viability and debt repayment capacity, he said. He also wants India to eventually move towards a more predictable pricing system.

At present, ethanol prices are administratively fixed by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Government data shows that oil marketing companies' weighted average procurement cost for ethanol in Ethanol Supply Year 2025-26 is above 71 per litre, including GST and transportation costs.

The Centre, however, has maintained that the ethanol blending programme is not intended to maximise OMC profits.

India's ethanol push is also raising concerns over food security, as growing demand for maize could reduce land available for pulses and oilseeds and increase edible oil imports. At the same time, ethanol plants are facing opposition in several states over groundwater use and pollution, showing that future expansion will need to address both environmental concerns and local resistance.

Vehicle owners are still worried about E20

As India moves towards E25 and E85, one major challenge will be convincing consumers that higher ethanol blends are safe for their vehicles. Since the nationwide E20 rollout in April, protests have taken place in Delhi and other parts of the country over claims that ethanol can damage older engines and reduce mileage.

One demonstration in August drew crowds who cited around 200,000 petitions on the issue. The Ministry of Petroleum has rejected these concerns as largely unfounded.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers has said the actual impact on mileage is relatively small, at around 2-4%.

Tests by Indian Oil Corporation and the Automotive Research Association of India found no compatibility issues with vehicles using ethanol-blended fuel. However, many vehicle owners still remain unconvinced.

What does the industry want over the next five years?

For Singh, the next five years should not simply be about setting bigger blending targets. His first priority is ensuring equitable distribution. He also wants the industry to focus on building consumer trust in the ethanol programme.

Moving to E25 is another priority, but Singh said it needs to happen keeping everyone's interests in mind, including the consumer.

Faster adoption of flex-fuel vehicles is also important if India wants E85 to succeed. The message from BIEPA is therefore somewhat different from the government's bigger blending ambitions.

The government is looking at a blending rate of nearly 26% by 2030-31. But for independent ethanol producers, the bigger question is whether the growth created by the programme reaches more companies instead of remaining concentrated among a few.

Headline	Iran says no US deal as Trump invokes Allah, claims America will 'keep' Hormuz		
Publication	NEWS DRUM	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Iran says no US deal as Trump invokes Allah, claims America will 'keep' Hormuz

<https://www.newsdrum.in/international/iran-says-no-us-deal-as-trump-invokes-allah-claims-america-will-keep-hormuz-12254911>

Iran says there are no talks on extending the June framework and no progress on restoring it, even as Trump claims US control of Hormuz. Tehran is separately discussing a shipping arrangement with Oman

New Delhi: Iran on Wednesday rejected reports that it had agreed with the United States to extend the interim framework aimed at ending their conflict, widening the gap between Tehran's account of diplomacy and US President Donald Trump's claims that negotiations remain underway.

A senior Iranian source said there had been "absolutely no progress" on getting Washington to return to the June agreement or set a timetable for implementing its commitments. The source also denied that the two sides had agreed to extend a 60-day negotiating period.

Trump responded by declaring that the US had "total control" over the Strait of Hormuz.

"The U.S.A. has total control over the Strait of Hormuz. I THINK WE WILL KEEP IT!" Trump wrote on Truth Social. He described the US naval blockade as a "WALL OF STEEL", claimed Iran's military and economy had been weakened and ended the post with: "Praise be to Allah!"

It was not the first time Trump used the phrase while threatening Iran. He used similar language in April after warning of attacks on Iranian infrastructure unless Tehran reopened Hormuz.

The latest exchange reflects three parallel disputes: whether negotiations are actually underway, whether the June agreement remains alive, and who exercises effective control over Hormuz.

Indirect messages, but no direct talks

Iran is not denying all communication with Washington.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said there were no direct negotiations with the US and that Tehran would not resume them while Washington remained in breach of the June understanding. Messages were still being exchanged through Pakistan and Qatar.

Pakistan has taken a different view, saying the June arrangement remains valid and that its negotiating deadline can be extended. Islamabad has been trying to revive diplomacy, including through recent contacts with Tehran.

Iran's position is that Washington broke the agreement shortly after it was reached and later withdrew from it.

The June memorandum called for an end to military operations and created a 60-day window for negotiations on a broader settlement covering Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions and navigation through Hormuz.

The arrangement soon unravelled. Washington accused Tehran of failing to honour commitments on commercial passage through Hormuz, while Iran accused the US of failing to lift its blockade, release frozen Iranian funds and meet other commitments.

Oman talks are separate

Iran is separately negotiating with Oman over navigation through Hormuz.

Tehran says those talks are advanced and concern the route and mechanism under which vessels could eventually move through the strait. Iranian officials say the two countries have broadly agreed on a shipping route, with technical details still under discussion.

But an Iran-Oman arrangement would not amount to a US-Iran settlement.

Tehran has linked the full reopening of Hormuz to wider demands, including an end to US military action, removal of the naval blockade, sanctions relief, release of frozen assets and compensation for wartime damage.

Trump has made a competing compensation demand, saying Iran should compensate the US for deaths and damage he attributes to Tehran over several decades.

Nuclear dispute remains central

The Hormuz confrontation is tied to the wider US-Iran conflict over Tehran's nuclear programme.

The US and Israel began military operations against Iran on February 28. Trump said the campaign was intended to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and weaken its ability to threaten the US and regional allies. Tehran maintains that its nuclear programme is peaceful.

The June framework was meant to create space for a broader agreement covering the nuclear issue and sanctions relief. Those talks have effectively stalled as both sides first dispute the ceasefire terms and access to Hormuz.

Iran has also continued to signal that it retains the ability to strike US and allied interests despite extensive attacks on its military infrastructure.

The conflict is spreading beyond the Gulf. Iran-backed Houthis have stepped up attacks around Yemen and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, increasing risks to another major shipping route linking the Red Sea and Arabian Sea.

Impact on oil supply

Before the war, roughly one-fifth of the world's traded oil passed through Hormuz, making any prolonged disruption a global economic risk.

Oil prices rose again on Wednesday as expectations of an early diplomatic breakthrough weakened, with Brent trading around \$89 a barrel.

For Trump, sustained high oil and fuel prices could also become a domestic political issue ahead of the November US midterm elections.

India remains directly exposed. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that before the disruption, as much as half of India's crude imports, 90 per cent of imported LPG and 60 per cent of gas imports passed through Hormuz.

India has since diversified supplies and raised domestic production to limit shortages, but higher international prices have still increased its import costs.

New Delhi also has a maritime-security concern after Indian seafarers were killed and injured in attacks on commercial vessels in July. India called for an end to violence and the restoration of safe commercial navigation.

Headline	Maruti, Tata, Mahindra raised E20 fuel contamination concerns, emails show		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

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<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/emails-reveal-indian-carmakers-fuel-contamination-worries-before-public-retreat/articleshow/133199689.cms>

Automakers privately expressed concerns about E20 fuel contamination, citing chloride and moisture issues. This data emerged after the auto lobby withdrew a complaint to the government. Industry tests found high chloride and moisture levels in many fuel samples. These contaminants are reportedly harming vehicles and reducing performance.

NEW DELHI, - Hours after India made public assurances last week that its was safe, the country's main auto lobby withdrew a complaint about fuel contamination it had sent to the government a week earlier. The group said some figures needed more checks.

But separate communications between industry executives, reviewed by Reuters, showed that in the preceding days, top automakers and Mahindra discussed their concerns about contamination of petrol blended with 20% ethanol, called E20.

Their data compiled the most comprehensive fuel testing done by the industry since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government started rolling out E20 nationwide from last year to help curb pollution and cut oil imports.

With no other petrol available since April 1, consumer concerns have grown about the impact on vehicle performance.

The carmakers' emails show for the first time how they are privately worried about contaminants in E20, like chloride and moisture, which they say are hurting vehicles, even as they publicly back the government's rollout of the fuel.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) withdrew its July 28 letter on fuel contamination after a government and public uproar over the warning, saying "some numbers" need "authentication".

The previously unreported industry data and emails reviewed by Reuters show "multiple" automakers had already conducted extensive tests by collecting over 250 fuel samples from pumps over a year from as many as 21 of India's 36 states and territories. They found high chloride contamination in many of the samples in 18 states, as well as high moisture content.

The executives' emails raised no concern about data authentication.

Asked for comment on the private emails, SIAM told Reuters the data was intended only for internal circulation, discussion and validation, and collected by "very few" automakers.

Maruti, Tata and Mahindra, who were part of the SIAM internal emails seen by Reuters, account for 67% of India's car market.

As "the testing basis and sample size were insufficient to support definitive conclusions, the communication was withdrawn" as it was sent inadvertently, SIAM said, adding it intends to undertake a proper scientific study.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas did not respond to requests for comment. Its minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, said on Friday that two weeks prior to receiving the letter from SIAM, India's oil marketing companies had begun "rigorous testing" of fuel at retail outlets to check for contamination.

Only four cases of contamination were found, he said. State-run fuel retailers also said last week that extensive random and scientific tests showed "no cause for any alarm on account of fuel contamination".

Mahindra said conclusions drawn from its executive's emails "are completely baseless and incorrect", industry data is limited and preliminary, and it does not see issues with E20. Maruti and Tata did not respond to requests for comment.

AUTO INDUSTRY MET GOVERNMENT TO FLAG CHLORIDE CONCERNS

E20 has angered motorists, with hundreds alleging it has reduced mileage and increased wear and tear on their cars, and triggered at least one court challenge.

SIAM had earlier said high levels of chloride are corrosive for auto parts, while high moisture levels in fuel can immobilise a vehicle immediately after fuelling.

In the group emails exchanged among Maruti, Tata, Mahindra and SIAM, Maruti's senior executive Anoop Bhat raised concerns on the high chloride findings saying this had been privately discussed with the petroleum ministry on July 26.

The tabulated state-wide findings shared by the industry on group emails showed they recorded chloride levels of 6 to 570 parts per million (ppm) in Rajasthan state, 1.4 to 420 ppm in the capital New Delhi and 10 to 357 ppm in Maharashtra.

The Indian government says the permissible limit is 3 ppm.

The data tables also showed moisture levels reaching 13,000 ppm in Andhra Pradesh and 12,500 ppm in Uttar Pradesh, versus a permissible government benchmark of 3,000 ppm.

While the reason for contamination is not known, SIAM said in its now withdrawn letter it had seen an increase in chloride levels since the rollout of E20 and has requested the government to direct oil marketing companies to find the root cause.

For moisture, the SIAM letter noted, the cause could be inadequate "maintenance of the underground storage tanks and pipelines at retail outlets".

Maruti's Bhat wrote in his July 26 email that 1 ppm of chloride was the maximum that current fuel injectors, which transport fuel to the engine, "can tolerate".

"Lesser than 1 ppm in E20 is also in line with international standards. Same is in line with discussion held with" the petroleum ministry, Bhat wrote.

Mahindra's senior principal engineer of fluids technology, R. Ramaprabhu, said in emails that organic chloride is the contaminant responsible for the very rapid vehicle failures the industry is seeing and can spoil engines "within 200 km".

"Majority cases reported immediately after fuelling ... is due to organic chloride," he wrote, adding that Mahindra has "strong evidences" of fuel sample data from retail outlets.

Headline	Maruti, Tata, Mahindra privately shared concerns on E20 with Government before public retreat
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Publication	The Hindu	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	13 Aug 2026		

Maruti, Tata, Mahindra privately shared concerns on E20 with Government before public retreat

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/emails-reveal-carmakers-shared-concerns-on-e20-with-government-before-public-retreat/article71340483.ece>

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Auto industry met Govt to flag chloride concerns

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