



**ONGC News as on 15 August 2026 (Print & Online)**



**Print**

# Market ends the week in red as Iran tensions, crude keep bulls at bay

**Anupama Ghosh**  
Mumbai

The markets closed the week on a cautious note on Friday, with the Nifty 50 falling for the fourth consecutive session as elevated crude oil prices and escalating geopolitical tensions in the West Asia kept investor appetite suppressed, even as Wall Street logged record closes overnight.

The Nifty 50 settled at 24,366, down 29.85 points, while the BSE Sensex declined 70.71 points to close at 78,009. For the week, the Nifty slipped 0.83 per cent lower and the BSE Sensex tumbled 0.6 per cent.

## MIDCAP SLIDE

The Nifty Midcap 100 shed 0.53 per cent, a day after hit-

ting an all-time high of 64,125, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 fell 0.69 per cent, breaking below a six-day consolidation range.

However, it was mixed trend for the broader markets during the week. While the MidCap index edged up 0.5 per cent, the SmallCap index slipped 0.7 per cent.

## SECTORS SUFFER

Sectorally, Nifty Media and Consumer Durables were the lone gainers on Friday. Pharma, Metals, Auto, and Capital Markets bore the brunt of selling pressure.

A majority of sectoral indices closed in the red for the week, with Nifty Metal slumping 1.88 per cent and Auto 1.48 per cent.

Nifty Media and Consumer Durables, however, stole the limelight with 2.26

per cent gains and 1.30 per cent respectively.

Among Nifty 50 stocks, Apollo Hospitals, Bharti Airtel, and Adani Enterprises led gains, while Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Jio Financial Services, and ONGC were the session's biggest drags during the day.

Looking ahead, markets are expected to remain range-bound next week with the Q1-FY27 earnings season largely behind. "Indian equities are likely to remain range-bound next week as global cues and macro developments assume greater importance....," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, adding that crude, West Asia developments, and global sentiment will remain the primary near-term drivers.



Publication: The Hindu

Editions: Vlzg

Date: 15 August 2026

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## HPCL: Powering Progress, Building the Future

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) was formed on 15th July 1974, and is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). During 2025-26, HPCL recorded annual gross sales of ₹4,76,411 crore. As of March 2026, ONGC and its promoter group held 54.9% of HPCL. HPCL achieved its highest-ever sales volume of 51.45 MMT and processed a record 26.04 million tonnes of crude during 2025-26, with refinery capacity utili-

sation of 106.3%. It also recorded its highest-ever standalone Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹17,175 crore and holds approximately 20.73% of India's petroleum products market. HPCL operates refineries at Mumbai and Visakhapatnam, with capacities of 9.5 MMTPA and 15.0 MMTPA respectively. It also has significant stakes in joint ventures including HMEL, HRRIL and MRPL, strengthening its presence across the refining and petroleum value

chain. The company has an extensive marketing network with 23 Zonal Offices and 156 Regional Offices, supported by terminals, depots, LPG bottling plants and aviation fuel stations. Its network includes 25,160 retail outlets, 5,806 EV charging stations, 2,289 CNG facilities and 6,391 LPG distributorships, serving around 9.9 crore LPG consumers as of June 2026. HPCL operates India's second-largest petroleum product pipeline network,

spanning 5,440 km, and has 20 joint ventures and subsidiary companies across the oil and gas sector. Its HP Green R&D Centre in Bengaluru focuses on technological innovation and operational improvement. HPCL also supports sustainability and community development through CSR initiatives covering education, healthcare, skill development, sports, environment and community development.

- Md.Nisar



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)

## 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)



## SC Slaps ₹10 L Fine on RIL For Delaying NTPC Gas Supply Suit

New Delhi: Coming down heavily on Reliance Industries (RIL) for delaying a suit by NTPC Ltd for two decades in a supply of natural gas contract since 2005, the Supreme Court Friday fined it, saying the Mukesh Ambani company's power to litigate and obstruct progress of the suit seems unlimited.

"There is no dearth of financial resources, no obligation to aid and assist the court to cope with pending backlog of cases, perhaps it is lucrative for Reliance Industries to raise some objection or the other at every stage and when the trial court rejects it, the appellate and special leave jurisdictions open up. This litigation has multiple seasons laden with many episodes, a bench comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe said while indicting RIL for the delay.

"...it is compelling for us to note that the suit filed by NTPC way back in 2005 has not progressed much. At every stage there has been obstruction," it said, adding that seven years have passed since the apex court had directed the suit to be disposed of in nine months.

Imposing a fine of ₹10 lakh on RIL, the top court dismissed its appeal against the Bombay HC's decision to redact certain portions of examination-in-chief affidavits of NTPC's witness B.K. Ganguly in the long-running commercial dispute with the PSU. —Indu Bhan

## Wholesale inflation eased to 9.78% in July

HIMANSHI BHARDWAJ  
New Delhi, 14 August

The wholesale price index (WPI) inflation rate, based on the 2022-23 series, eased marginally to 9.78 per cent in July from a series-high 9.87 per cent in June, as a sharp cooling in energy costs offset a broad-based hardening in prices of food, primary articles, and manufactured goods, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Friday.

The all-commodities index eased to 110 in July from 110.2 in June. The ministry also released India's goods output producer price index (PPI), where the index was unchanged at 109.9, keeping the PPI inflation rate steady at 9.57 per cent.

Fuel and power inflation slowed to 20.05 per cent in July from 27.41 per cent in June, as crude petroleum and natural gas inflation fell to 26.99 per cent from 34.75 per cent, and mineral oils eased to 32.4 per cent from 46.48 per cent. Electricity inflation turned positive at 1.09 per cent for the first time since July 2025.

For primary articles, in contrast, inflation jumped to 8.52 per cent in July, the highest in 21 months, from 7 per cent in June. Within the group, food inflation moderated to 5.44 per cent from 5.49 per cent in the preceding month, while non-food articles and minerals both showed an uptick in their inflation levels from 11.07 per cent and 9.45 per cent to 17.66 per cent and 13.28 per cent, respectively.

### Marginal decline

WPI inflation on base 2022-23



Key price indices as on July 26 (%)

Primary articles inflation: 8.52  
Manufactured products inflation: 8.29  
Output PPI inflation: 9.57

Source: DPIIT

Core WPI inflation, excluding food and fuel, rose to 8.2 per cent from 7.5 per cent, Sonal Badhan, economist at Bank of Baroda, said in a research note.

The WPI food index, which combines primary food articles with manufactured food products, rose to a 16-month high of 6.65 per cent in July from 6.14 per cent in June. The rate for manufactured products, which carry a weighting of 63.1 per cent, rose to 8.29 per cent from 7.48 per cent — the highest in the current 2022-23 series.

Bank of Baroda struck a note of caution on the outlook. "Going forward, as hopes of a peace deal between the US and Iran diminish, and two key waterways (Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb Strait) remain under threat, volatility in oil prices can be expected," Badhan said.

More on [business-standard.com](https://business-standard.com)

## Kerch Strait warning, a call for vigilance

**I**N MARCH 2022, the FAO's benchmark food price index hit an all-time high, following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. More than four years later, those fears of a global food crisis have revived with an escalation of two-way strikes on ports, grain terminals and cargo vessels across the Black Sea, Kerch Strait and Sea of Azov. From an agricultural trade perspective, the intensified tensions in this region arguably pose a greater threat today than the conflict in West Asia. The world has somewhat adjusted to the supply disruptions from the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. This was also the case with Russia-Ukraine, where the initial cycle of major missile and drone exchanges had given way to a gradual resumption of grain shipments.

That period of relative calm has been shattered by the effective halting of operations in the Greater Odesa port complex that handles about 90 per cent of Ukraine's agricultural produce exports. More than 80 per cent of Russia's grain exports move through ports on the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea, which have all again been targets of Ukrainian attacks. The resultant paralysis of export trade can spill over into a global food supply crisis similar to that in 2022. Russia and Ukraine together account for over a quarter of the world's wheat exports, with these shares at roughly 15 per cent in corn and barley and 60 per cent-plus for sunflower oil. Past supply shocks show these spreading from one commodity to another; when sunflower oil becomes scarce, it drives up soyabean and palm oil prices, too.

Those risks are also magnified through the interactions of different "systems" — in the present scenario, that would include both wars (Russia-Ukraine and US-Iran) and weather (El Niño and European heatwaves). A perfect storm from such interactions cannot be ruled out. All the more reason for policymakers to stay vigilant. The Modi government can be credited with reasonably insulating Indian consumers and farmers from the shortages in transport fuels, LPG, LNG and urea triggered by the West Asia war. Similar supply-side management may be required if the Kerch Strait becomes no less a cause for concern than Hormuz.

THE COMPASS

## Margin risk may lead to downgrades for Siemens

DEVANGSHU DATTA

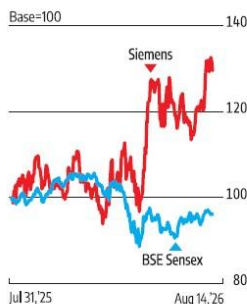
Siemens India's results for the first quarter of the 2026-27 (Q1FY27) were a mixed bag: Revenue met consensus estimates, but profitability disappointed as margins were hit by commodity inflation and currency fluctuations. Adjusted for one-off items in the mobility vertical, operating margins slipped into single digits. On the operational front, order inflows increased 16.5 per cent year-on-year (though they were down 6 per cent sequentially) to ₹6,328 crore, taking the overall order book to ₹46,700 crore — up 10 per cent Y-o-Y.

Revenue rose 15 per cent year-on-year to ₹4,714 crore, driven by strong growth in the digital industries business (up 25 per cent Y-o-Y). The smart infrastructure and mobility segments grew 11 per cent and 13 per cent Y-o-Y, respectively. Gross margin expanded 265 basis points quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q), despite commodity cost inflation, but was down 170 basis points Y-o-Y at 28.9 per cent. Siemens' peers ABB India and Cummins India reported contractions of 200 basis points Q-o-Q and 150 basis points Q-o-Q, respectively, in gross margins in Q1FY27.

Siemens' Ebitda margin stood at 9.1 per cent, down 345 basis points year-on-year. Ebitda, short for earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation, fell 17 per cent Y-o-Y (and 3 per cent Q-o-Q) to ₹431 crore. Profitability was weighed down by a sharp surge in other expenses, which rose 40 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹469 crore.

At the segment level, digital industries reported an ebit margin of 5.1 per cent, while smart infrastructure came in at 7.6 per cent. Mobility recorded an ebit margin of 10.2 per cent, though this included a one-time foreign exchange gain of ₹39 crore. Adjusted for that, its operating margin was 6 per cent. Meanwhile, overall order inflows grew 16.5 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹6,328 crore — a jump of 43.9 per cent Y-o-Y when adjusting for a large mobility order booked in Q1FY26.

Smart infrastructure's growth was driven by data centres, grid modernisation projects and commercial real estate. Within digital industries, automation solutions for solar cell manufacturing and across metals, electronics, pharmaceuticals and water market segments drove order inflow. The mobility business showed good growth in the rolling stock business. The



company's large order book offers revenue visibility for the next 10 quarters. Given strong execution, this could lead to revenue growth of over 20 per cent for the next three financial years.

Revenue across segments was broadly in line with estimates. Smart infrastructure's revenue increased 11 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹2,630 crore. Mobility revenue rose 13 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹930 crore, and digital industries' revenue grew 25 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹1,140 crore.

At the Ebit level, profitability was impacted by volatility in commodity prices, foreign exchange and an increase in material costs.

Smart infrastructure's ebit margin contracted 580 basis points Y-o-Y, while digital industries saw its ebit margin shrink by 560 basis points. In contrast, Mobility's ebit margin expanded 640 basis points Y-o-Y. Digital industries received orders for automation solutions in solar cell manufacturing, as well as across metals, electronics, pharmaceuticals and water management. Smart infrastructure witnessed strong demand from grid modernisation projects, data centres, and commercial real estate, while mobility saw healthy growth in its rolling stock business.

Smart infrastructure will benefit from the increased spending on power transmission and distribution, grid automation, data centres, electric mobility, and industrial infrastructure. Margins in this segment may recover once commodity inflation eases. In the mobility division, locomotive deliveries are expected to ramp up progressively.

Margins are expected to remain protected despite commodity cost infla-

tion, supported by price escalation clauses in contracts. In digital industries, order inflows have picked up and margins improved Q-o-Q. While a recovery in private sector capital expenditure could drive order volumes higher, limited localisation and elevated input costs — particularly in semiconductor — are expected to put a ceiling on margin expansion.

Smart infrastructure adjusted net was lower than expected due to weaker margins. Adjusted net profit declined 17 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹350 crore while reported profit after tax was down 19 per cent. Siemens received ₹1,800 crore (adjusted for tax) from the sale of its low voltage motor business — a deal recorded as exceptional gains. Order deferral on large price hikes and continued commodity inflation is a key downside risk and aggressive bidding in competitive segments could also hurt. Related party transactions at low margins is another monitorable.

Siemens is historically a high valuation stock, trading at 75 times the estimated FY27 earnings. The trends in margins and commodity inflation and currency pressures may lead to downgrades in earnings estimates in FY27.

The writer is a New Delhi-based independent journalist

## Crude oil eyes weekly gains on geopolitical woes



Crude oil prices were on track for weekly gains after the US threatened an indefinite naval blockade of Iran, raising concerns about disruptions to crude supplies from West Asia. Brent futures were up 25 cents to \$87.32 a barrel at 1205 GMT. US WTI futures were up 49 cents to \$81.74. Brent and WTI were on track for weekly gains of about 4.5 per cent. REUTERS

# India continues to move ahead as world's fastest-growing major economy: President

**Press Trust of India**  
New Delhi

Highlighting India's economic resilience, President Droupadi Murmu said on Friday that the country continues to move ahead as the world's fastest-growing major economy, with its growth rate projected to be more than double the global average.

Addressing the nation on the eve of the 80<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, President Murmu noted that warfare and instability prevailing in several parts of the world are affecting every country.

## ECONOMIC PROGRESS

She emphasised that despite such trying circumstances, initiatives like 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'

(Self-Reliant India initiative) have further strengthened the bedrock of the country's economic progress and national security.

The President's remarks on global turmoil come at a time when the crisis in West Asia, marked by expanding regional conflicts, military instability and heightened maritime security risks across crucial shipping corridors, continues to disrupt global energy supply chains and inflate trade costs worldwide.

Highlighting India's commitment to sustainable growth, she said that while advancing on the path of modern development, the country is playing a leading role at the global level in protecting the environment.

She added that India has

achieved several sustainable development goals (SDGs) targeted for 2030 ahead of schedule, with the develop-

ment of renewable energy gaining unprecedented momentum over the past few years.



**KERALA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND BOARD**  
(A Statutory Body under Finance Department, Government of Kerala)  
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*Defining the Future*

## Statement Of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2026

The Unaudited Standalone Financial Results of Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for the Quarter ended June 30, 2026 (Financial Results) reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee on August 11, 2026 have been approved by the Board Members at their meeting held on August 13, 2026.

The Financial Results along with the Limited Review Report are available on the website of KIIFB under Compliance Tab at: <https://www.kiifb.org/resources.jsp> and on the website of BSE at: [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com). The same can also be accessed by scanning the Quick Response Code (QR Code) as provided below:



For Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board  
Sd/-  
**Mini Antony**  
Chief Executive Officer (In-Charge)

Place: Trivandrum  
Date: 13.08.2026

{ **WORLD** } ALL SEAFARERS SAFE

## Two ships with Indians on board attacked in Hormuz



**Two ships with Indian crew on board were attacked with** projectiles while passing through the Strait of Hormuz on Friday. All crew members are safe, said the directorate of maritime administration. A Singapore-flagged Oil Products Tanker MT Navig8 Messi with 15 Indian seafarers was reportedly struck by a projectile in the Aft Peak area on Friday, while inbound into the Persian Gulf. The directorate in its report added that a Liberia-flagged Crude Oil Tanker MT Tarif was struck by a projectile in the Freshwater tank area on Friday, outbound from the Persian Gulf. The vessel has 21 crew members on board including 1 Indian national. The report said that there are six Indian-flagged vessels and eight foreign-flagged vessels of Indian interest in the Persian Gulf (West of Strait of Hormuz), with a total of 130 Indian seafarers onboard. **HTC**

## PARL PANEL FLAGS BULK VACANCIES IN GOVT-RUN FIRMS

**Saubhadra Chatterji**

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**NEW DELHI:** A parliamentary committee has expressed deep concerns over bulk vacancies in government-run companies or Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) and Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) under the finance ministry, calling it an "acute governance deficit."

The finance standing committee led by senior BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahtab said in its latest report, "It is deeply concerning that 53 CPSEs continue to operate without regular Chairmen and Managing Directors (CMDs), while a staggering 70% of Independent Director posts (533 out of 758) remain vacant."

The committee noted a "systemic governance deficit" across CPSE "characterised by a "triple crisis" of leadership vacancies, funding shortfalls, and state capability gaps."

The report maintained that as of February 2026, 53 CPSEs, including strategic entities such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and BSNL, are operating without regular Chairmen and Managing Directors (CMDs), relying on temporary "additional charge" arrangements. This crisis in oversight is further acute for Independent Directors, with 533 vacancies against a requirement of 758—a staggering 70% vacancy rate.

# Bihar offers free land to oil firms to set up CBG plants

**Subhash Pathak**

subhash.pathak@htlive.com

**PATNA:** The Bihar government has turned to major oil companies to facilitate large-scale production of compressed biogas (CBG) by offering them free land in four cities after years of modest returns from its village-level community units, officials familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

The state cabinet chaired by chief minister Samrat Choudhary at its last meeting, approved the urban development and housing department's (UDHD) proposal to allot 10 acres of land free of cost for 25 years in each of the four municipal corporations—Gayaji, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Biharsharif.

Officials of UDHD said that Indian Oil will set up the plant in Gaya Ji, GAIL in Muzaffarpur, Hindustan Petroleum in Bhagalpur and Bharat Petroleum in Biharsharif.

The companies will process organic and municipal waste into compressed biogas. HPCL's Bhagalpur unit alone is projected to cost about ₹139 crore and produce roughly 10 tonnes of CBG daily.

The decision marks a clear shift towards industrial-scale, company-led projects. It follows the state's earlier experience



A compressed bio-gas plant.

HT PHOTO

with community biogas plants rolled out under the Lohia Swachh Bihar Abhiyan of the rural development department, in tandem with the Centre's GOBARdhan scheme.

GOBARdhan was launched nationally in 2018 as part of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gram-teen) to convert cattle dung, agricultural residue and other organic waste into biogas and bio-slurry. Bihar began implementing community and district-level plants under Lohia Swachh Mission in the early 2020s, with the first units becoming operational around 2022-23. The stated goal was one functional plant in every district, typically of 60-80 cubic metre or 2-metric-tonne capacity, built at a cost of around ₹50 lakh each

and intended to supply piped cooking gas to 20-30 households while generating organic manure.

By mid-2025, officials claimed 36 to 38 GOBARdhan units were established across the state's districts. "However, most of them did not work well for a long time and started to go awry one by one.

As per the rural development reports, only 14 plants are somehow managing to be in working status, with many others under construction or facing delays," said a senior officer of the rural development department, adding that community biogas plants at Bataspur in Gaya and a women-managed unit in Begusarai's Teghra block, and early projects in East Champaran are

**GOBARdhan WAS LAUNCHED NATIONALLY IN 2018 AS PART OF SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAM-teen) TO CONVERT CATTLE DUNG INTO BIO-GAS**

currently in the functional state. These plants delivered smoke-free cooking fuel and modest income from manure sales for participating families.

A section of the officials of the rural development department said that the overall programme struggled with consistency. Common problems included irregular supply of cow dung, dissatisfaction over the low procurement rate of 50 paise per kilogram, technical failures such as cracks in digesters that shut plants for months, shortage of operators once initial funding ended, and limited daily supply windows of just a few hours.

Some units, including one of the state's earliest in East Champaran, fell into disrepair within a year of inauguration. Coverage remained confined to small clusters of households, often leaving poorer or more distant communities without access.

# 'Delhi EV policy opens paths'

Delhi's newly approved Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy has gone beyond the conventional model of offering purchase subsidies by becoming the first in India to lay down a roadmap for phasing out the registration of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles in key segments, according to Amit Bhatt, Managing Director (India), International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), based in New Delhi. Bhatt has over two decades of experience in transport planning and urban development, and previously led integrated transport initiatives at World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

## Excerpts:

**Q: What is your assessment of Delhi's new EV Policy? What are the biggest changes compared to the previous policy?**

**A:** The biggest difference is that the policy has moved beyond merely offering incentives. Earlier EV policies, including Delhi's previous one, were largely designed around subsidies because electric vehicles have a higher upfront cost. The objective was to reduce that price gap.

This policy retains incentives but also introduces stronger regulatory measures. The most significant one is the phased discontinuation of new ICE vehicle registrations in certain categories. From January 1 next year, new petrol and diesel three-wheelers will no longer

be registered in Delhi. From April 2028, new ICE two-wheelers and light commercial vehicles will also stop being registered.

That is a very significant policy intervention and something no other Indian state has attempted so far.

Another important feature is the mandatory electrification targets for school buses. Schools will have to progressively increase the share of electric buses over the coming years—transitioning 30 per cent of their fleet over five years. These are major structural reforms rather than just financial incentives.

**Q: What happens to existing petrol and diesel vehicles after these deadlines?**

**A:** The policy only restricts the registration of new vehicles. Existing vehicles can continue operating according to prevailing regulations.

For example, if someone purchases a petrol two-wheeler on March 31, 2028, they can still use it for its legally permitted life, which is currently up to 15 years. Diesel vehicles will continue under their existing operational limits of 10 years. So this is not an immediate ban on existing vehicles; it is a transition for future registrations.

**Q: Despite policy support, EV adoption still faces challenges. What are the biggest barriers today?**

**A:** Cost remains the biggest barrier. Subsidies help, but governments cannot subsidise every vehicle forever. The real solution is competition among manufacturers. Manufacturers will invest, launch better products and reduce prices only when they are confident that demand will continue growing.

That is precisely what this policy achieves. Clearly indicating that future vehicle registrations in certain segments will be electric gives the automobile



Industry confidence to invest. Companies no longer have to keep guessing whether they should prioritise petrol, CNG, ethanol or electric technologies. Delhi is giving them a clear market direction.

**Q: Why has the government focused primarily on two-wheelers, three-wheelers and light commercial vehicles?**

**A:** These segments contribute significantly to urban emissions.

Two-wheelers and three-wheelers alone account for nearly one-third of PM2.5 emissions from transport. When you include light commercial vehicles and buses, the coverage becomes even larger. The current policy leaves out private cars and medium and heavy commercial trucks. Even then, more than half of transport-related emissions are expected to be covered through these measures.

**Q: Will consumers benefit from this policy?**

**A:** Yes, I believe consumers will eventually receive better products at more competitive prices.

Currently, much of the responsibility lies with buyers to adopt electric vehicles.

Going forward, manufacturers will also have to compete aggressively because they know the future market is shifting towards electric mobility.

Competition should lead to better products, more innovation and lower prices. In the two-wheeler segment especially, we should begin seeing these benefits from around 2028 onwards.

**Q: Charging infrastructure continues to worry many consumers. Does the policy adequately address this issue?**

**A:** Charging infrastructure is important, but it is often misunderstood.

Modern EVs are offering ranges of 400 to 500 kilometres, which means common inter-city trips like Delhi-Jaipur, Delhi-Chandigarh or Delhi-Agra can often be completed on a single charge.

More importantly, nearly 85 to 90 per cent of EV charging happens at home.

The bigger challenge is enabling charging in apartment complexes and group housing societies, where residents often face resistance from Resident Welfare Associations. That is why Delhi now needs a proper 'right to charge' framework that guarantees residents with parking spaces the right to install charging points. Such a framework could solve one of the biggest barriers to EV adoption.

**Q: But what about three-wheeler drivers living in congested neighbourhoods with limited parking?**

**A:** Two-wheelers and three-wheelers require only a standard 16-amp electrical connection, similar to that used to power a household refrigerator.

People living in independent houses generally have access to this. In dense neighbourhood colonies, we could also see local businesses such as neighbourhood shops offering charging facilities.

The key requirement is creating a regulatory framework that allows these charging solutions to emerge.

**Q: Safety concerns around EV fires have also increased. How should these be addressed?**

**A:** Many reported fire incidents involve vehicles using lead-acid batteries. Delhi's policy promotes advanced chemistry cells such as lithium-ion batteries, which are much safer.

At the same time, illegal and unsafe charging practices remain a concern. A proper right-to-charge framework should also include safety standards, installation procedures and approved charging equipment. Encouraging legal, standardised charging infrastructure will significantly reduce these risks.

**Q: The policy also talks about encouraging domestic manufacturing. Why is that important?**

**A:** Local manufacturing depends on demand.

Manufacturers are willing to invest in factories and local supply chains only when they are confident that demand will justify those investments.

As Delhi creates a predictable market, and if other states adopt similar policies, manufacturers will increasingly localise production instead of importing components. That strengthens India's manufacturing ecosystem while also improving long-term energy security.

**Q: Will greater EV adoption automatically improve air quality, considering India's electricity still comes partly from fossil fuels?**

**A:** From a public health perspective, the answer is absolutely yes.

Think about Delhi two decades ago, when markets were filled with diesel generators emitting fumes where people were shopping. Those generators were eventually phased out. Vehicles are essentially mobile generators that emit

pollution exactly where people live, walk, cycle and use public transport.

When you replace those vehicles with zero tailpipe-emission vehicles, you eliminate pollution at street level, where people are directly exposed. For climate benefits, India must continue increasing renewable energy generation. But from an urban air-pollution and public health perspective, shifting to electric mobility is a clear win.

**Q: How do you expect the policy to affect public transport and commercial fleets?**

**A:** Delhi has already been moving towards electrifying its bus fleet.

The new policy expands this transition by introducing school bus mandates while also accelerating the electrification of delivery vehicles, light commercial vehicles and last-mile transport.

Delivery vehicles, in particular, travel much longer distances every day than private vehicles, making electrification even more beneficial both economically and environmentally.

**Q: What implementation challenges do you still foresee?**

**A:** The policy itself is excellent, but implementation will require addressing two important issues.

First, there is a possibility that buyers may simply register petrol or diesel vehicles in neighbouring states and continue using them in Delhi. Ideally, NCR states should adopt similar policies because Delhi's air quality is affected by emissions beyond its borders.

Second, while new registrations are being phased out, existing ICE vehicles can still remain on the road for many years. Over the longer term, policymakers will need to consider strategies for gradually reducing the use of these older vehicles as well. Those conversations may come later, but they will eventually become necessary if Delhi wants to achieve its clean mobility goals.

THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL

## Crude climbs as Iran blockade threatens vital supply routes



### Commodity Desk

MUMBAI

Crude oil advanced as the prospect of an indefinite US naval blockade of Iran intensified concerns over Middle East supply and shipping, outweighing signs of comfortable inventories and softer demand growth.

On the MCX, crude oil for September delivery gained ₹44, or 0.57%, to ₹7,808 per barrel, with 3,491 lots changing hands as firm physical demand encouraged fresh positions.

Blockade Risk International crude was positioned for a weekly gain after Washington said on Thursday that its naval blockade of Iran could continue indefinitely, alongside greater economic pressure after ceasefire negotiations stalled.

At 9:11 am EDT, Brent was 12 cents, or 0.1%, lower at \$86.95 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate added 13 cents, or 0.2%, to \$81.38. At another trading snapshot, WTI was 1.29% higher at \$82.30 and Brent had advanced 0.90% to \$87.85 in New York.

Commodity analysts said the latest US approach offered little prospect of an early Middle East resolution.

**Hormuz under strain:** Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz fell below this month's average as the US and Iran asserted control over the strategic passage.

Before US-Israeli attacks on Iran began in late February, Hormuz handled about one-fifth of global daily oil and liquefied natural gas supplies. Two Abu Dhabi National Oil

**Crude heads towards a weekly gain as Iran blockade threatens, constrained Middle East supplies and shipping risks outweigh swelling US inventories**

Company vessels were attacked while transiting the strait on Thursday, UAE state news agency WAM reported.

**Coalition takes shape:** Saudi Arabia and 13 other countries have confirmed a maritime military coalition to safeguard navigation through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Bahrain, Bangladesh, the Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Türkiye and Yemen are the first members, with more nations expected to join.

**Inventories offer counterweight:** Against geopolitical scarcity, OPEC forecasts pointed to weaker demand growth, while US crude inventories recorded their largest weekly increase in more than three-and-a-half years. IEA and EIA reports showed storage holding up better than feared, potentially pulling crude lower.

For oil, the immediate contest is between geopolitical scarcity and underlying supply comfort. Rising US inventories and softer demand expectations offer a counterweight, but prolonged disruption around Hormuz could keep a substantial risk premium

# Urgent order to discharge LPG from arrested vessel

The vessel, LPG Amir Gas, had been arrested by the court in April in a commercial admiralty dispute

**Urvi Mahajani**

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has ordered urgent steps for discharge of 1,880.26 metric tonnes of highly inflammable LPG from an arrested vessel at Jaigarh Port, Ratnagiri, after being told that serious defects in the ship's safety systems posed a potential risk to human life, port infrastructure and the environment.

Justice Abhay Ahuja passed the order last week while hearing an interim application filed by JSW Jaigarh Port Ltd. The vessel, LPG Amir Gas, had been arrested by the court in April in a commercial admiralty dispute.

The court was informed that the LPG required continuous cooling. However, an inspection by the directorate general of shipping on August 5 found several critical defects, including a non-functional main cargo cooling pump, an inoperative water sprinkler firefighting system and sprinkler pumps, and a non-operational inert gas system. The vessel's protection and indemnity insurance had also expired.

Port's advocate, Prashant Pratap, submitted that failure to maintain the cargo temperature could result in an explosion, endangering the crew and causing extensive damage to the vessel, port facilities, other ships and the

environment. An explosion could potentially cause damage within a radius of 5 to 10 km.

The court also ruled that any party depositing AED34,78,481 as security could have the LPG cargo discharged in its favour. The plaintiff agreed to deposit the amount.

The court made it clear that if the security amount is not deposited, the discharge of the LPG would not take effect. However, the DG Shipping, National, State and District Disaster Management Authorities were directed to plan and prepare for a safe discharge even if no amount is deposited.

## WPI inflation eases to 9.78%, first dip in nine months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

Wholesale price inflation softened month-on-month for the first time in nine months to 9.78 per cent in July on easing in fuel and food prices.

Wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation was 9.87 per cent in June.

This is the first time since October 2025 that WPI inflation has fallen month-on-month. The softening in July numbers is mainly on account of lower inflation in fuel and power even as inflation in primary articles and manufactured products accelerated.

"Across groups, mineral oils (containing petroleum products), food articles, manufacture of basic metals, non-food articles, manufacture of food products, and manufacture of chemicals and chemical products have been major drivers of WPI inflation in July 2026," the commerce and industry ministry said while releasing the



monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) data on Friday.

Wholesale inflation in fuel and power dropped to 20.05 per cent in July, as against 27.41 per cent in June.

Inflation in food articles too eased marginally to 5.44 per cent in July from 5.49 per cent in June. However, manufactured products saw an uptick in inflation at 8.29 per cent in July, as against 7.48 per cent in June.

As per the data, the output Producer Price Index (PPI) — which the Government has said will eventually replace

the WPI in about 5 years — remained unchanged at 9.6 per cent YoY in July vis-a-vis June. Output PPI saw lower inflation in manufacturing and mining, but higher agriculture and electricity PPI nullified those gains.

In a research note, Barclays said the direction of the WPI has reversed and WPI inflation should soften in coming months as global prices seem to have peaked.

"In our view, WPI inflation has peaked and gradual and modest disinflation from hereon should continue, in

line with relatively lower global commodity prices in general and crude oil price in particular (since June)," Barclays said.

The war in West Asia war which began on February 28 and the resultant blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which the majority of crude oil is imported into India, has kept WPI elevated with pressure on global crude and fertiliser costs.

ICRA Principal Economist Rahul Agrawal said the moderation in July WPI was not broad-based and was entire-

ly led by the fuel and power group whereas all the other groups witnessed a hardening in their inflation prints vis-a-vis June 2026.

"Looking ahead, we anticipate a larger easing in the WPI inflation to below 9.5 per cent in August, after peaking at 9.9 per cent each during May-June 2026. Nevertheless, prints are likely to remain elevated through much of the year, with an average WPI inflation forecast of around 8.5 per cent for FY27," Agrawal said.

The WPI data is in contrast to the retail inflation numbers released earlier this week.

The consumer price index based retail inflation rose to 4.45 per cent in July from 4.38 per cent in June, on high food prices.

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee, earlier this month, kept benchmark policy rates unchanged at 5.25 per cent and has projected retail inflation at 5 per cent for FY27.



**Online**



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | India named first official partner country at Russian Energy Week |         |                 |
| Publication    | The Economic Times                                                | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                    |         |                 |

### India named first official partner country at Russian Energy Week

[https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/india-named-first-official-partner-country-at-russian-energy-week/amp\\_articleshow/133245239.cms](https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/india-named-first-official-partner-country-at-russian-energy-week/amp_articleshow/133245239.cms)

India will be the first official partner country of the Russian Energy Week international forum, the Russian government said in a statement on Thursday, as Moscow seeks to attract greater Indian investment in its energy assets.

The Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry, which represents the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, will be present at the forum to showcase current and future projects being undertaken by the two countries, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Russian Energy Week international forum is scheduled for October 14-16 in Moscow.

“Russia is interested in attracting Indian investment to the Russian oil and gas sector, as well as in developing a distribution network with the participation of Russian companies in India,” the Russian government statement said, quoting Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak. “Relations between the two countries have the nature of a strategic partnership, and their leaders are in constant contact. Mutually beneficial cooperation in oil and gas projects is being actively promoted.”

Russian Energy Week is a key international platform for discussing issues related to the development of the fuel and energy complex, interregional cooperation and international energy relations.

Over the past two decades, India has made significant investments in Russian energy assets. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) has invested \$1.6 billion for a 20% stake in the Sakhalin-1 oil and gas project. Indian public sector companies, including Oil India and OVL, invested \$1 billion for stakes in Rosneft’s Vankor cluster projects. OVL holds a 100% stake in London-listed, Siberia-focused Imperial Energy Corporation.

Russia’s Rosneft owns a 49% stake in India’s Nayara Energy, which operates the Vadinar refinery and exports processed fuels, including to Russia.

Since 2022, India has been a major importer of Russian crude. India imported a record 2.8 million barrels per day of Russian crude oil in July 2026, accounting for roughly 55.5% of the country’s total crude imports.

India and Russia have been in talks to expand energy cooperation through gas supplies and joint ventures, including the development of hydrocarbon fields in India, ET reported in May. The two sides are exploring opportunities to supply gas to Indian cities, expand CNG filling stations and develop new oil, gas and petrochemical facilities, Roman Babushkin, Russia’s deputy chief of mission in India, said at an event in May.

ET also reported that India is in talks with Russia to purchase LPG. There have also been reports that India is looking to explore new hydrocarbon assets in eastern Russia.

In civilian nuclear energy, Russian nuclear major Rosatom is the only foreign partner so far to have constructed a nuclear power plant in Kudankulam.



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Sensex, Nifty trade rangebound; European mrkt decline |         |                 |
| Publication    | Business Standard                                     | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                        |         |                 |

## Sensex, Nifty trade rangebound; European mrkt decline

[https://www.business-standard.com/amp/markets/capital-market-news/sensex-nifty-trade-rangebound-european-mrkt-decline-126081401001\\_1.html?isa=yes](https://www.business-standard.com/amp/markets/capital-market-news/sensex-nifty-trade-rangebound-european-mrkt-decline-126081401001_1.html?isa=yes)

The key equity benchmarks traded with minor losses in afternoon trade as investors assessed a slew of Q1 FY27 earnings announcements amid the ongoing results season. Sector- and stock-specific movements remained in focus, while investors also tracked the progress of the monsoon, an important factor for the broader economic outlook. The Nifty hovered below the 24,350 mark, while sentiment remained subdued amid a lack of strong directional cues. Investors continued to monitor movements in crude oil and gold prices, along with developments on the global geopolitical front, for further indications on the market's near-term trajectory.

Pharma, PSU Bank and oil & gas shares declined while media and consumer durables shares advanced.

At 13:25 IST, the barometer index, the S&P BSE Sensex declined 255.23 points or 0.33% to 77,824.73. The Nifty 50 index fell 60.85 points or 0.25% to 24,334.85.

In the broader market, the BSE 150 MidCap Index declined 0.24% and the BSE 250 SmallCap Index fell 0.25%.

The market breadth was negative. On the BSE, 1,833 shares rose and 2,284 shares fell. A total of 261 shares were unchanged.

### Gainers & Losers:

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise (up 3.36%), Bharti Airtel (up 2.97%), Adani Ports (up 1.93%), Adani Enterprises (up 1.77%) and Wipro (up 0.82%) were the top gainers.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (down 4.73%), Asian Paints (down 2.24%), jio Financial Services (down 1.94%), ONGC (down 1.61%) and NTPC (down 1.48%) were the top losers.

### Monsoon Session of Parliament Ends:

The Monsoon Session of Parliament concluded on 13 August 2026 after 19 sittings spread over 25 days, with both Houses passing 12 Bills. Key legislation included Bills on public examinations, MSMEs, taxation, tribunals, banking records, mining and the renaming of Kerala as Keralam. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill was referred to a Joint Committee for further scrutiny. The session was marked by repeated disruptions, with Lok Sabha recording approximately 19% productivity and Rajya Sabha around 39%.

### Stocks in Spotlight:

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (PV) dropped 4.73% after the company reported a sharp 80.25% decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 775 crore in Q1 FY27 compared with Rs 3,924 crore posted in Q1 FY26. Revenue from operations increased 9.26% YoY to Rs 95,799 crore in the quarter ended 30th June 2026.

KMC Speciality Hospitals (India) jumped 6.04% after the company reported a net profit of Rs 16.57 crore for Q1 FY27, which is 119.9% higher as compared with the PAT figure of Rs 7.53 crore recorded in Q1 FY26.

Honasa Consumer rose 1.99% after the company reported strong financial performance for Q1 FY27. On a consolidated basis, profit after tax increased 116.5% YoY and 30.3% QoQ to Rs 90 crore in Q1 FY27. Revenue from operations increased 27% YoY and 15% QoQ to Rs 756 crore.

Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF) shed 0.36%. The company reported a 35% rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 73.53 crore in Q1 FY27, compared with Rs 54.43 crore in Q1 FY26. Revenue from operations rose 6.38% year on year (YoY) to Rs 3585.71 crore during the quarter ended 30 June 2026.



#### Global Market:

European market declined as Brent crude prices surged more than 1% amid heightened uncertainty over the ongoing US-Iran conflict.

Asian markets traded mixed on Friday, poised for their strongest week in two months as benign inflation data dented expectations of an imminent U.S. rate hike, although faltering talks to end the war in the Middle East are likely to keep risk sentiment in check.

Brent futures jumped over \$88 after a drop on Thursday but were set for a 4% weekly gain, snapping a two-week losing streak, after the U.S. threatened to ramp up economic pressure on Iran, including extending a naval blockade.

Markets have so far shrugged off the lack of progress in ending the Iran war, instead focusing on the broad AI theme and the global monetary policy outlook.

U.S. inflation reports this week suggested pricing pressure remained under control, lowering the odds of a rate increase from the Federal Reserve next month.

Overnight on Wall Street, the S&P 500 notched a record-high close on Thursday, fueled by advances in Sandisk and other heavyweight technology stocks.

The S&P 500 climbed 0.65% to end the session at 7,798.99 points, exceeding its record high close last Friday. The Nasdaq gained 0.81% to 26,803.03 points, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.13% to 53,839.99 points.

Memory chip makers Sandisk and Micron Technology surged 13.7% and 4.2%, respectively, while Microsoft added almost 1% and Meta Platforms rose 2.8%.

Strong earnings forecasts in recent weeks from companies, including Microsoft and Amazon, has reduced investors' concerns about massive spending on AI data centers.



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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Nifty ends week in red as Iran tensions, crude keep bulls at bay |         |                 |
| Publication    | The Hindu Business Line                                          | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                   |         |                 |

### Nifty ends week in red as Iran tensions, crude keep bulls at bay

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/nifty-ends-week-in-red-as-iran-tensions-crude-keep-bulls-at-bay/article71345459.ece>

Markets closed the week on a cautious note Friday, with the Nifty 50 falling for the fourth consecutive session as elevated crude oil prices and escalating geopolitical tensions in the West Asia kept investor appetite suppressed, even as Wall Street logged record closes overnight.

The Nifty 50 settled at 24,366, down 29.85 points or 0.12 per cent, while the BSE Sensex declined 70.71 points or 0.09 per cent to close at 78,009. The index ended the week 0.83 per cent lower, oscillating within a narrow 100-point band through the session before a modest 10-point recovery during the Closing Auction Session limited further damage.

#### Midcap slide

The Nifty Midcap 100 shed 0.53 per cent, a day after hitting an all-time high of 64,125, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 fell 0.69 per cent, breaking below a six-day consolidation range. Market breadth on the BSE deteriorated, with the advance-decline ratio slipping to 0.84, and 331 of Nifty 500 stocks ending in the red.

Sectorally, Nifty Media and Consumer Durables were the lone gainers. Pharma, Metals, Auto, and Capital Markets bore the brunt of selling pressure. Among Nifty 50 stocks, Apollo Hospitals, Bharti Airtel, and Adani Enterprises led gains, while Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Jio Financial Services, and ONGC were the session's biggest drags.

Crude oil remained a key overhang. Brent hovered near \$87 per barrel, while WTI traded around \$82, with both benchmarks holding a geopolitical risk premium. Fresh attacks around the Strait of Hormuz, stalled Iran-Oman negotiations, and the US signalling an indefinite naval blockade of Iran kept supply disruption concerns alive. The IEA cut its global oil demand outlook this week, citing prolonged conflict and elevated prices already weighing on consumption. Mishra noted that "...investor sentiment remained subdued as Brent crude hovered around the \$87 per barrel mark amid concerns over potential disruptions to global energy supplies."

The Indian rupee remained under pressure, trading in the ₹95.40-95.45 range against the dollar before closing near ₹95.43, extending its recent depreciating trend on persistent dollar demand, though losses were contained as the market factored in the possibility of RBI intervention.

#### Global cues

Asian markets delivered a mixed picture. South Korea's Kospi extended its recent rally with a gain of 2.41 per cent, while Japan's Nikkei 225 advanced 0.59 per cent. Several China-linked and oil-sensitive markets underperformed as investors weighed higher energy prices and persistent geopolitical uncertainty. European markets also traded mixed, balancing optimism from Wall Street's strong finish against renewed West Asia concerns.

On the domestic macro front, India's trade deficit widened to \$32 billion in July, though strong exports in electronics, engineering, and chemicals are expected to keep the external balance manageable. The monsoon deficit has narrowed sharply to 12 per cent of the Long Period Average as of August 12, down from 38.6 per cent in June, supporting kharif sowing and easing food inflation pressure. FY27 GDP growth is pegged at 6.8–7.0 per cent, with CPI inflation estimated at 5.1 per cent.

Looking ahead, markets are expected to remain range-bound next week with the Q1FY27 earnings season largely behind. "Indian equities are likely to remain range-bound next week as global cues and macro developments assume greater importance...", said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, adding that crude, West Asia developments, and global sentiment will remain the primary near-term drivers. Hariselman Radhakrishnan, Founder and CEO of HST Wealth, struck a cautiously constructive note, saying the Nifty's ability to defend the 24,325 support zone for a second consecutive session indicated that "...buying interest continues to emerge at lower levels." Investors will track the US Federal Reserve's July meeting minutes, US crude inventory data, India's infrastructure output numbers, and August flash PMI readings through the week.



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Nifty holds above 24,300 at midday as metals, IT drag; bulls eye 24,450 |         |                 |
| Publication    | The Hindu Business Line                                                 | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                          |         |                 |

### **Nifty holds above 24,300 at midday as metals, IT drag; bulls eye 24,450**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/nifty-holds-above-24300-at-midday-as-metals-it-drag-bulls-eye-24450-for-direction/article71344512.ece>

Markets remained under pressure through the first half of Friday's session, with the Nifty 50 trading at 24,341.65, down 54.20 points or 0.22 per cent, and the Sensex at 77,839.55, lower by 240.41 points or 0.31 per cent, as of 12.35 pm. The session marks the fourth consecutive day of decline for the benchmarks, with the broader market struggling to find a directional trigger.

Sudeep Shah, Head of Technical and Derivatives Research at SBI Securities, noted that "the frontline indices continue to trade in an exceptionally narrow range, reflecting a clear lack of directional conviction." He pointed out that the Nifty has remained confined within a 438-point trading band since August 4. "A decisive breakout from the prevailing consolidation range will be crucial in determining the next directional move," he said, adding that until then, stock- and sector-specific movements would take precedence.

On the Nifty 50, Shah identified 24,260–24,240 as the immediate crucial support zone. A slip below 24,240 could pull the index towards 24,120–24,100. On the upside, 24,430–24,450 is the resistance band, and a surge above 24,450 could extend the rally to 24,600. For the Sensex, support is placed at 77,400 and resistance at 78,350.

The Advance-Decline Ratio on the Nifty stood at a weak 14:36 at midday, underlining the breadth deterioration. On the BSE, of 4,545 stocks traded, 2,192 advanced and 2,127 declined, with 226 unchanged. A total of 167 stocks hit 52-week highs against 95 touching 52-week lows, while 10 stocks were locked in upper circuits and 44 in lower circuits.

All major sectoral indices were trading in the red, with Nifty Metal the worst performer, followed by Nifty IT. Mild profit-taking also emerged in the Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 after their recent strong outperformance.

#### **Top gainers and losers**

Among Nifty 50 losers, TMPV led the fall, sliding 4.92 per cent to ₹332.40 from a previous close of ₹349.60, with volumes surging to over 2.10 crore shares worth ₹70,032.14 lakhs. Asian Paints fell 2.21 per cent to ₹2,694.70 against a previous close of ₹2,755.50. Jio Financial Services dropped 1.82 per cent to ₹250.95, ONGC declined 1.68 per cent to ₹235.86, and NTPC shed 1.64 per cent to ₹338.60.

On the gainers side, Apollo Hospitals led with a gain of 2.91 per cent, rising to ₹8,840.00 from a previous close of ₹8,600.00, on volumes of 8.47 lakh shares worth ₹74,638.06 lakhs. Bharti Airtel surged 2.81 per cent to ₹1,993.50 from ₹1,939.10, with value traded crossing ₹1,32,016.67 lakhs. Adani Ports advanced 1.63 per cent to ₹1,685.00, Adani Enterprises gained 1.54 per cent to ₹3,010.70, and Bajaj Auto edged up 0.82 per cent to ₹11,757.00.

On the commodities front, MCX Crude Oil opened sharply lower near ₹7,750, retreating from resistance near ₹8,050, while US WTI crude eased to around \$81 a barrel. The Indian rupee held steady, with USD/INR consolidating in the ₹95.3–₹95.4 range. COMEX Gold traded near \$4,380 after facing rejection near \$4,500, while MCX Gold slipped to around ₹1,52,500 from recent highs of ₹1,55,500. COMEX Silver traded near \$64 and MCX Silver settled near ₹2,33,000, both extending their downside after recent peaks, with momentum indicators signalling caution across precious metals.

On the options front, Shah noted meaningful call writing at the 24,400 and 24,500 strikes, while the 24,300 put had substantial open interest, followed by the 24,200 strike, suggesting the market is likely to remain pinned in this band through the remainder of the session. "With neither the bulls nor the bears able to establish a decisive upper hand, market participants have largely adopted a wait-and-watch approach," Shah added.



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Why India is struggling to acquire critical mineral assets abroad |         |                 |
| Publication    | The Indian Express                                                | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                    |         |                 |

### Why India is struggling to acquire critical mineral assets abroad

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-economics/india-critical-mineral-assets-overseas-hurdles-10832979/>

India's efforts to secure critical mineral assets overseas are facing a series of hurdles, ranging from high asset valuations, volatile mineral prices, financial constraints, to socio-political risks in resource-rich countries.

Incorporated in 2019, the government's flagship overseas acquisition vehicle, Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) — a joint venture of National Aluminium Company Ltd., Hindustan Copper Limited, and Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Limited — is mandated to identify, explore and acquire overseas critical mineral assets to help meet India's growing demand for these strategic resources.

However, barring some progress in Argentina, KABIL has struggled to expand its overseas footprint in other mineral-rich countries, including Australia, Vietnam, Mali, and Chile, as proposed investments in critical mineral extraction projects have either stalled or fallen through.

In Argentina, KABIL has so far acquired five lithium brine blocks in Catamarca province. It is also evaluating seven additional greenfield lithium blocks in Catamarca and is in discussions for two more lithium projects in Jujuy province.

In December 2024, a consortium comprising KABIL, Coal India Ltd (CIL), Oil India Ltd (OIL), and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) submitted a non-binding offer (NBO) of \$184 million to acquire 10% equity stake each in the Mt Marion and Wodgina lithium mines in Australia. The proposed transaction involved acquiring a 20% stake in the holding company, Mineral Resources Ltd, which owned 50% stakes in both mines.

After the process was reopened, the consortium submitted a revised NBO of \$233 million in September 2025, seeking to acquire a 20% stake in each of the two mines. This would have entailed acquiring a 40% stake in Mineral Resources Ltd.

But the assets were ultimately acquired by South Korean steel and chemical major POSCO, which paid \$765 million for 15% stake each in the Wodgina and Mt Marion mines, equivalent to a 30% stake in Mineral Resources Ltd.

When a parliamentary panel, whose report was tabled in Parliament on Wednesday (August 12), sought details from KABIL on the unsuccessful bid, the company outlined several key lessons from the failed attempt. These included the absence of a domestic value chain for spodumene concentrate, the end product of the Mt Marion and Wodgina projects; high volatility in lithium prices; significant variations in long-term spodumene concentrate price forecasts published by different market intelligence agencies; and the high valuation of assets amid intense competition for lithium projects.

#### Challenges in Chile and Vietnam

KABIL also failed to submit a bid for a lithium brine project in Chile that involved a "high-value investment". The company had signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) for the project in October 2025 and was subsequently granted initial-stage access to the project's "data room".

In its response to the parliamentary panel, KABIL said that given the scale of investment involved, it decided to pursue a joint bid with other public sector undertakings, including CIL, OIL, and OVL. "Due diligence by the partnering companies was initiated. Due to limited time period, bid could not be submitted," it said.

In another case involving Chile's state-owned mining company ENAMI, KABIL had signed an NDA to evaluate potential business opportunities across the lithium value chain, including exploration, extraction, processing, and commercialisation. However, KABIL decided to hand over the opportunity to Coal India Ltd, citing its "limited financial capacity" and the investment requirements associated with developing the five lithium brine blocks it acquired in Argentina in January 2024. Similarly, KABIL's proposed acquisition of a 5% stake in rare earth element (REE) projects in Vietnam's Lai Chau province did not materialise after the seller withdrew the opportunity before due diligence could be completed.

#### Socio-political instability in Africa



KABIL's efforts to expand into Africa have also faced challenges. In June 2025, the company signed an NDA with Uranium One Group, a subsidiary of Russia's state-owned nuclear company Rosatom, to jointly evaluate and invest in critical mineral projects in third countries, excluding India and Russia.

As part of this arrangement, KABIL began due diligence on an exploration-stage, hard-rock lithium project in Mali. The due diligence, however, has since been put on hold due to the recent socio-political instability in the country.

KABIL, meanwhile, told the parliamentary panel that it has initiated discussions with Malawi Mining Investment Company, a designated company of the Malawi government, to explore opportunities for joint investment and development of critical mineral projects in the country.

In Australia, KABIL, along with other public sector companies including OIL, CIL, and NLC India Ltd, is currently jointly evaluating investment opportunities in two lithium mining projects — Mt Holland and Andover.

The company is also evaluating potential investment opportunities in countries including Brazil, Canada, Russia and Indonesia, it informed the panel.

Queries sent to KABIL and the Ministry of Mines remained unanswered until the time of publication.



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Jindal Drilling Q1 Results: New ONGC Rig Contract, Order Book At ₹1,310 Crore |         |                 |
| Publication    | Scanx Trade                                                                   | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                                |         |                 |

### Jindal Drilling Q1 Results: New ONGC Rig Contract, Order Book At ₹1,310 Crore

<https://scanx.trade/stock-market-news/companies/jindal-drilling-q1-results-new-ongc-rig-contract-order-book-1-310/48251466>

Jindal Drilling & Industries Limited reported stable financial performance for the first quarter of FY27, characterized by consistent revenue and EBITDA levels compared to recent quarters. The key operational highlight was the award of a new contract from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for the Jindal Pioneer rig, which is currently undergoing refurbishment in the UAE and is scheduled for deployment in October 2026.

The company remains India's largest offshore jack-up drilling contractor based in India, with five rigs currently deployed on long-term contracts with ONGC. The sixth rig, Jindal Pioneer, has secured its new contract, bringing total active or contracted assets to six. Management noted that total revenue was broadly constant with previous quarters, while the dip observed in Q3FY26 was attributed to the reversal of an other income item booked in Q2FY26.

#### Financial Performance and Order Book

EBITDA remained in line with expectations, with variations primarily driven by foreign exchange fluctuations in other expenses, which were less prevalent in Q1FY27 compared to the last quarter of FY26. The order book stands at ₹1,310 crore, bifurcated rig-wise and day-rate-wise to provide visibility into future revenue streams.

#### Metric Status / Value

Order Book ₹1,310 crore

Active Rigs (ONGC) 5

New Contract Jindal Pioneer (Deployment Oct 2026)

Cash Position Cash-rich

Management emphasized that the company remains cash-rich despite acquiring one rig in FY25 and conducting refurbishment exercises. The cash position is expected to improve further in coming quarters.

#### Operational Outlook and Refurbishment

Three rigs are expected to be de-hired within the current financial year, entering a 4 to 6-month refurbishment period during which no revenue will accrue. This is expected to impact H2FY27 revenue significantly. However, management indicated that EBITDA may not decline proportionally because the de-hired rigs include two rented assets (Virtue-I and Jindal Star) with varying profitability profiles, while the owned rig (Discovery-I) contributes significantly to earnings.

Refurbishment costs are estimated between ₹90 crore and ₹110 crore per rig, considering inflationary trends in labor and material transit costs. The company is not planning any acquisitions at present, focusing instead on redeploying existing assets and conserving cash for refurbishment obligations.

#### What the Numbers Show

The divergence between revenue and EBITDA sensitivity in H2FY27 highlights the structural shift in the company's asset mix. While three rigs will go off-hire, the impact on earnings is mitigated by the fact that only two of these rigs contribute materially to EBITDA. This suggests that while top-line revenue will face pressure due to idle periods, margin resilience may be preserved as lower-margin rented assets are cycled out of operation.

#### Legal Dispute Update

Regarding the ongoing legal dispute with ONGC, which has been pending for 14-15 years, management stated there is no material update. The case is currently before the Supreme Court. The company has received funds related to the dispute but noted that if it loses the case, it would have to repay the amount. The total exposure includes an original receivable of ₹63 crore plus interest and forex appreciation, totaling close to ₹163 crore. Management assessed the possibility of losing the case as remote, citing consistent wins at previous stages including arbitration. Historical Stock Returns for Jindal Drilling & Industries

|        |        |         |          |        |          |
|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1 Day  | 5 Days | 1 Month | 6 Months | 1 Year | 5 Years  |
| -1.41% | -4.52% | -6.00%  | +24.21%  | -3.07% | +352.31% |



|                |                                                        |         |                 |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | ONGC Appoints Dr Archna Thakur as Independent Director |         |                 |
| Publication    | Elets eGov                                             | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                         |         |                 |

## ONGC Appoints Dr Archna Thakur as Independent Director

<https://egov.eletsonline.com/2026/08/ongc-appoints-dr-archna-thakur-as-independent-director/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has appointed Dr Archna Thakur as a Non-Official Independent Director on its Board.

The appointment follows a letter dated August 12, 2026, issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. ONGC's Board approved her appointment as Additional Director (Independent Director) with effect from August 13, 2026.

### Three-Year Tenure

Dr Archna Thakur has been appointed for a period of three years from August 12, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Her Director Identification Number (DIN) is 11719170.

As an Independent Director, she will contribute to the company's Board-level deliberations and governance processes.

### Strong Academic Background

Dr Archna Thakur holds a Doctorate in International Politics from Himachal Pradesh University. She is also a Gold Medalist in Master's in Political Science.

She brings more than 20 years of experience across academics, management, administration and social services.

### Diverse Professional Experience

Over the course of her career, Dr Thakur has held several positions across education, media, rural development and social sectors.

Her previous assignments include:

Principal, Vocational Training Institute under the Department of Technical Education (Polytechnic)

Head of the Department of Social Science, an international school

Marketing Director, electronic media houses in Himachal Pradesh

Consultant, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Himachal Pradesh

Her varied professional experience spans institutional management, education, communication and rural development.

### Work in Social Development

Dr Archna Thakur has also been associated with several non-governmental organisations working on women's empowerment, social awareness, community welfare and social development.

Her experience in these areas adds a social-sector perspective to her professional profile as she takes up the new Board-level responsibility at ONGC.

### Appointment Strengthens ONGC Board

The appointment adds an experienced professional with a background spanning academics, administration and social services to ONGC's Board. Dr Archna Thakur will serve as a Non-Official Independent Director as the company continues its operations and corporate governance responsibilities in India's energy sector.



|                |                                                       |         |                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | ONGC Adds Independent Director Archna Thakur to Board |         |                 |
| Publication    | The Globe And Mail                                    | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                        |         |                 |

### ONGC Adds Independent Director Archna Thakur to Board

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/markets/markets-news/Tipranks/3856261/ongc-adds-independent-director-archna-thakur-to-board/>

Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. ( (IN:ONGC) ) just unveiled an announcement.

Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited has appointed Dr. Archna Thakur as a non-official independent director on its board, following approval from India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The appointment is initially as an additional independent director from August 13, 2026, and is aligned with a three-year term specified by the ministry, subject to further orders and shareholder approval at the next AGM.

Dr. Thakur holds a doctorate in international politics and has more than two decades of experience spanning academics, management, administration and social services, including roles in technical education, international schooling, media marketing and rural livelihood consulting. Her extensive engagement with NGOs and work in women's empowerment and community development are expected to add diversity of perspective and governance strength to ONGC's board, with the company confirming she is not subject to any regulatory debarment.

More about Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd.

Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is an Indian state-controlled energy company engaged in the exploration, production and development of oil and natural gas resources. As a key player in India's upstream hydrocarbons sector, it supplies crude oil and natural gas that are critical to the country's energy security and industrial growth.



|                |                                                                         |         |                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Fire incident at ONGC installation in Kalol Field brought under control |         |                 |
| Publication    | The Pioneer                                                             | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                          |         |                 |

#### **Fire incident at ONGC installation in Kalol Field brought under control**

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/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.



|                |                                                                                                                                                              |         |                 |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Nifty Oil and Gas Prediction for Monday, 17 August 2026: Crude -1.88% to Rs 7,803 Splits Sector: BPCL GRM Improves, ONGC Upstream Faces Realization Pressure |         |                 |
| Publication    | Univest                                                                                                                                                      | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                                                                                                               |         |                 |

## Nifty Oil and Gas Prediction for Monday, 17 August 2026: Crude -1.88% to Rs 7,803 Splits Sector: BPCL GRM Improves, ONGC Upstream Faces Realization Pressure

[https://univest.in/blogs/nifty-oil-gas-prediction-for-monday-17-august-2026?utm\\_source=univest\\_website\\_desktop&utm\\_medium=Signup\\_AUTO\\_OPENING\\_POPUP\\_desktop\\_blogs\\_nifty-oil-gas-prediction-for-monday-17-august-2026](https://univest.in/blogs/nifty-oil-gas-prediction-for-monday-17-august-2026?utm_source=univest_website_desktop&utm_medium=Signup_AUTO_OPENING_POPUP_desktop_blogs_nifty-oil-gas-prediction-for-monday-17-august-2026)

The Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday for Monday 17 August 2026 is shaped by Thursday's twin macro developments: MCX Crude Oil crashing -1.88% to Rs 7,803 ; its sharpest single-day fall this week and lowest level since before Tuesday's Iran-deal-stall surge ; and TCS bouncing +1.08% to Rs 2,356, confirming IT sector recovery after Wednesday's -3.93% crash. Nifty 50 closed at 24,354.85 (-0.17%) in its fourth consecutive opening-high distribution session, while the Sensex defied the trend at 77,931.10 (-0.19%). Bank Nifty slipped -0.43% to 57,459.10 after ICICI Bank fell -1.74%, blocking the Day 6 banking rotation for a second consecutive day. Nifty Oil and Gas is the sector tracked on Friday.

Ankit Jaiswal, Senior Research Analyst at Univest, and Kunal Singla, Associate Director at Univest, frame the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday around crude oil's -1.88% Thursday fall as the dominant macro shift heading into Friday. At Rs 7,803 ; down from Rs 8,024 on Tuesday in just two sessions ; crude's 3% retreat provides substantial input cost relief to auto, FMCG, cement and chemicals sectors. Simultaneously, IT sector recovery (TCS -0.80% (Day 2 IT stalled), HCL Tech +0.34%) provides a second positive catalyst. Together, these two themes make the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday the most opportunity-rich of the week, even as banking consolidates after Thursday's ICICI Bank +0.40% (finally recovered Friday).

### Thursday's Market Recap for the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday

| Indicator     | Fri 17 Aug Close (Groww) | ChangeSignal for Friday                                                           |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nifty 50      | 24,354.85                | -0.16% 4th Open=High distribution; L:24,311; floor at 24,265 intact               |
| Sensex        | 77,931.10                | +0.15% Only index green; TCS -0.80% (Day 2 IT stalled) drove this; L:77,399       |
| Bank Nifty    | 57,459.10                | -0.43% Open=High session; ICICI +0.40% (finally recovered) primary drag; L:57,548 |
| MCX Crude Oil | Rs 7,803/bbl             | -1.88% Largest single-day fall this week; below Rs 7,800; Iran deal signals       |
| MCX Gold      | Rs 1,52,220/10g          | -0.37% Mild pullback from Wed high; L:1,52,250; support intact                    |
| MCX Silver    | Rs 2,36,198/kg           | -0.80% Correcting from Wed bounce; L:2,34,700                                     |
| MCX Copper    | Rs 1,373.55/kg           | -0.29% Mild dip; L:1,357.55; industrial demand intact                             |
| MCX Zinc      | Rs 398.30/kg             | -0.51% L:390.45; supply deficit still alive                                       |
| MCX Nat Gas   | Rs 263.70/MMBTU          | -0.60% L:265.80; consolidating above Rs 265                                       |
| TCS           | Rs 2,356                 | +1.08% IT Day 1 recovery; NASDAQ bounce confirmed; H:2,375                        |
| ICICI Bank    | Rs 1,412.40              | -1.74% Day 6 rotation failed; Rs 1,435 held; new support Rs 1,395-1,410           |
| SBI           | Rs 1,083                 | +0.09% PSU banking stable; H:1,086.80; floor at Rs 1,073                          |
| Reliance      | Rs 1,317                 | -0.90% Worst session this week; L:1,307.20; crude fall helps O2C Fri              |

### Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday: Key Factors for Friday

Crude oil crashing -1.88% to Rs 7,803 Thursday creates the most pronounced upstream-downstream split the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday has seen this week. ONGC's upstream crude realization is approximately Rs 245 lower at Rs 7,803 versus Rs 8,024 (Tuesday) ; translating to approximately USD 3.0 per barrel lower oil revenue. This is a meaningful Q2 FY27 top-line headwind for Friday's session's upstream component.

BPCL's downstream refining margin (GRM) improves by approximately USD 0.50-0.70/bbl at Rs 7,803 crude versus Tuesday's Rs 8,024 ; since BPCL's feedstock cost falls while its product prices lag by 1-2 sessions. for Friday's session, this GRM improvement is the primary positive from Thursday's -1.88% crude crash. Ankit Jaiswal: BPCL at Rs 315-322 entry is Friday's primary crude beneficiary on Friday.

Reliance Industries at Rs 1,317 (-0.90% Thursday) ; its worst session this week ; presents a Friday opportunity for Friday's session. Thursday's -0.90% Reliance fall happened even as crude fell (which improves O2C refining margins) ; the stock sold off on broader market weakness (Nifty -0.16%) rather than crude-specific reasons. For Friday's Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday, Reliance at Rs 1,305-1,320 entry has crude improvement working in its favour after Thursday's equity-driven sell-off.

MCX Natural Gas at Rs 263.70 (-0.60% Thursday) remains above Rs 265 ; keeping KG-D6 gas realization for both ONGC and Reliance positive. for Friday's session, ONGC's gas division (KG-D6 at Rs 263.70) provides some offset to the crude upstream realization headwind. Kunal Singla: ONGC's net Thursday effect is negative but less negative than



pure crude realization suggests.

Technical Levels for the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday

Level Zone Why It Matters

Primary Support 12,380-12,440 Confirmed buyer zone from Thursday's session; DII accumulation visible

Secondary Support 12,200-12,280 Deeper correction floor ; only matters if primary breaks on Friday

Immediate Resistance 12,520-12,620 First recovery target for Friday; partial booking zone

Extended Resistance 12,780-12,880 Breakout target if Friday session builds on Thursday momentum

Stocks Flagged for the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday

Stock Thu Close Entry Zone Target Stop Loss Analyst Why Now

BPCL Rs 320 est. Rs 315-322 Rs 338 Rs 308 Ankit Jaiswal Crude -1.88% improves GRM USD 0.50-0.70/bbl vs Tuesday. Primary Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday downstream beneficiary Friday.

Reliance Industries Rs 1,317 (-0.90% Thu; L: Rs 1,307.20) Rs 1,305-1,320 Rs 1,350 Rs 1,290 Kunal Singla Thursday's -0.90% equity-driven fall + crude now working in O2C favour = catch-up opportunity. KG-D6 gas Rs 263.70 additional upstream positive. Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday large-cap.

ONGC Rs 236 est. Rs 232-238 (conditional on crude > Rs 7,700) Rs 250 Rs 224 Ankit Jaiswal ONGC upstream realization Rs 245 lower at Rs 7,803 vs Tuesday. Entry only if crude stabilises above Rs 7,700 Friday. Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday inverse crude trade.

Strategy for the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday Session

BPCL at Rs 315-322 is Ankit Jaiswal's primary Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday Friday entry ; crude -1.88% GRM improvement is the direct catalyst.

Reliance at Rs 1,305-1,320 is the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday catch-up trade ; Thursday's -0.90% equity-driven fall with crude actually improving O2C margins creates better value than Wednesday's entry.

ONGC should be monitored ; entry only if crude stabilises above Rs 7,700 Friday; below Rs 7,600, ONGC upstream realization headwinds intensify on Friday.

Rs 12,380-12,440 is the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday buy-on-dip zone Friday. Above 12,450 = downstream GRM improvement priced in positively.

Key Risks to the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday

Iran deal collapsing overnight sending crude back above Rs 8,000, reversing BPCL GRM improvement but recovering ONGC realization on Friday.

Crude falling further below Rs 7,600 Friday, amplifying ONGC upstream realization headwinds beyond current Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday models.

Natural gas falling below Rs 265 (three-session floor) Friday, reducing KG-D6 realization for both ONGC and Reliance on Friday.

Conclusion

The Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday for Monday 17 August 2026 has crude oil's -1.88% Thursday fall to Rs 7,803 as its most important macro input. Ankit Jaiswal of Univest identifies primary support at 12,380-12,440 and immediate resistance at 12,520-12,620 for Friday's session, with the crude relief trade (auto, FMCG, cement) and IT recovery (TCS, HCL Tech) as Friday's two highest-conviction positive themes.

Kunal Singla of Univest adds that ICICI Bank's Thursday -1.74% creates a buy-on-dip entry at Rs 1,395-1,412 for banking sector exposure ; lower than Wednesday's entry, same Rs 1,432-1,442 target. Check GIFT Nifty above 24,420 and NASDAQ above 22,000 at 9 AM Friday as the two pre-market signals that confirm Friday's positive bias for Friday's session.

**FAQs on Nifty Oil And Gas Prediction For Monday, 17 August 2026**

**What is the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday, 17 August 2026?**

**Ans.** Mixed-to-negative for the sector overall. Crude -1.88% to Rs 7,803 is positive for BPCL (GRM improvement) but negative for ONGC (upstream realization). Reliance catch-up opportunity after Thursday -0.90%. Support 12,380-12,440, resistance 12,520-12,620.

**Which analysts prepared the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday?**

**Ans.** Ankit Jaiswal, Senior Research Analyst, and Kunal Singla, Associate Director at Univest, using Groww-confirmed Thursday data: Crude Rs 7,803 (-0.23%), Reliance Rs 1,308.70 (-0.63%), Gas Rs 263.70 (-0.60%).

**How does crude at Rs 7,803 split the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday?**

**Ans.** ONGC upstream realization falls Rs 245/bbl vs Tuesday Rs 8,024 (negative). BPCL downstream GRM improves USD 0.50-0.70/bbl from lower feedstock (positive). Reliance is balanced ; O2C refining improves while Thursday's equity sell-off creates a catch-up entry on Friday.

**What is support and resistance for the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday?**

**Ans.** Support 12,380-12,440 and 12,200-12,280. Resistance 12,520-12,620 and 12,780-12,880.

**Which stocks are watched in the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday?**

**Ans.** BPCL (GRM improvement primary), Reliance Industries (O2C catch-up after Thursday equity sell), ONGC (conditional on crude above Rs 7,700) on Friday.



|                |                                                                                           |         |                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Sensex Today Ends 71 Points Lower   Nifty below 24,400   ONGC & Hindalco Among Top Losers |         |                 |
| Publication    | Equity Master                                                                             | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                                            |         |                 |

## Sensex Today Ends 71 Points Lower | Nifty below 24,400 | ONGC & Hindalco Among Top Losers

<https://www.equitymaster.com/indian-share-markets/08/14/2026/Sensex-Today-Ends-71-Points-Lower--Nifty-below-24400--ONGC--Hindalco-Among-Top-Losers>

The benchmark Nifty50 and the Sensex declined as oil prices rose after the US threatened to continue the naval blockade at the Strait of Hormuz for indefinite time.

At the closing bell, the BSE Sensex closed 7 points lower.

Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty closed 29 points lower.

Stay updated with real-time market insights, click here to access our Live Blog page.

Apollo Hospital, Bharti Airtel and ICICI Bank among the top gainers today.

Hindalco, ONGC and Asian Paints on the other hand, were among the top losers today.

The GIFT Nifty was trading at 24,413 trading 0.1% down at the time of writing.

The BSE 150 Midcap index ended 0.2% lower and the BSE 250 Smallcap index ended 0.4% lower.

Sectoral indices were trading mixed today with stocks in telecom sector and hospital sector witnessing buying spear. Meanwhile stocks in energy and oil & gas sector witnessed selling pressure.

Now track the biggest movers of the stock market using stocks to watch today section. This should help you keep updated with the latest developments...

The rupee is trading at 95.43 against the US\$.

Gold prices for the latest contract on MCX are trading 0.13% lower at Rs 153,267 per 10 grams.

Meanwhile, silver prices were trading 0.3% lower at Rs 234,721 per 1 kg.

Speaking of stock markets, Tanushree Banerjee, Research Analyst at Equitymaster, explains how TVS Motor's market share gains could create a strong ripple effect for its key supplier, Sedemac Mechatronics.

If TVS Motor gains 5% market share on the back of its advanced electronic features, Sedemac could see a disproportionate increase in its order book.

The supplier's financial performance can often mirror and even amplify the operational growth of the auto major.

Watch the video to know more.

Why did Welspun Living Rally 10% Today?

Shares of Welspun Living surged over 10% in Friday's trading session after the home-textile major reported a strong Q1FY27 performance.

For the June 2026 quarter, its total income jumped 23.5% YoY to Rs 28,280, million (m), up from Rs 22,890 m a year back.

EBITDA for the quarter came in at Rs 3,540 m, up 39.1% against the same quarter last year. The net profit after minority interest for the quarter jumped to Rs 1,610 m, up 83.6% from Rs 880 m a year back.

The net profit margin came in at 5.7%, up from 3.8% a year ago.



Welspun Living is a global home textile company with a presence in over 50 countries and a workforce of more than 26,000 people. The company has built a strong position in home textiles by focusing on innovation, technology and sustainability.

The stock touched its 52-week high of Rs 178 on 14 August 2026.

Welspun Living Share Price Performance - 1 Month

Apex Frozen Foods Share Hits 20% Upper Circuit

Shares of Apex Frozen Foods hit the 20% upper circuit on Friday after the company reported a 144% YoY rise in net profit for the quarter ended June 2026.

Apex Frozen Foods reported a net profit of Rs 220 million in the June 2026 quarter, compared with Rs 90 m in the corresponding quarter a year earlier.

The company's revenue from operations stood at Rs 2,570 m in the June 2026 quarter, marginally lower than Rs 2,580 m in the year-ago period. However, revenue increased 53% sequentially from Rs 1,680 m in the March 2026 quarter.

Sales declined 0.63% YoY to Rs 2,565.3 m in the June 2026 quarter from Rs 2,581.6 m in the same quarter of the previous year.

Ashoka Buildcon Gets REC Power Lol

On August 14 Ashoka Buildcon received a Letter of Intent (LoI) from REC Power Development and Consultancy.

The LoI is for the establishment of a 400/220/132 kV AIS Sakoli substation in Bhandara, Maharashtra, under the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) route.

The project has a completion period of 24 months, followed by an Operations & Maintenance period of 35 years.

The annual transmission charges for the project stand at Rs 1.3 bn.

Why Bharti Airtel Share Price is Rising

Shares of Telecommunications stocks, including Bharti Airtel, rose 3% on 14 August 2026. The primary driver behind the sharp gain was the broad-based strength across the telecom sector.

The BSE Telecom index jumped 1.10% today. As a result, Bharti Airtel is also moving higher, benefiting from the broader sector rally.

This could be one of the main reasons for the share price surge and for positive investor sentiment.

Going forward, Bharti Airtel sees major growth opportunities in its main connectivity business, data centers, digital services, and related areas.

Bharti Airtel is a leading global telecommunications company headquartered in India, operating in 18 countries across Asia and Africa. It ranks among the top three mobile operators worldwide by subscriber base, with over 600 m customers.



|                |                                                                                    |         |                 |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Sensex, Nifty end marginally lower as oil prices rise on Strait of Hormuz concerns |         |                 |
| Publication    | ap7am.com                                                                          | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                                     |         |                 |

### **Sensex, Nifty end marginally lower as oil prices rise on Strait of Hormuz concerns**

<https://www.ap7am.com/en/133599/sensex-nifty-end-marginally-lower-as-oil-prices-rise-on-strait-of-hormuz-concerns>

Indian equity benchmarks ended modestly lower on Friday after oil prices gained following reports that the United States may continue the naval blockade at the Strait of Hormuz for an indefinite period, raising concerns about energy supplies and inflation.

The Sensex fell 71 points, or 0.09 per cent, to settle at 78,009.25, while the Nifty declined 29.85 points, or 0.12 per cent, to close at 24,366.00.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the index traded largely below the 24,400 zone, although the 24,300 region emerged as an important buying-interest area and during the second half, recovery attempts pushed the index briefly above 24,400, with an intraday high of 24,405, but the move faced immediate supply pressure, highlighting continued resistance at higher levels.

"On the downside, 24,300–24,250 remains the immediate support," an analyst stated.

Market sentiment remained cautious as higher crude oil prices increased concerns about import costs for India, one of the world's largest oil-importing nations.

The uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy shipping route, further dampened risk appetite.

Among the Nifty constituents, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Jio Financial Services and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) emerged as the top losers, dragging the benchmark indices lower.

The broader market also witnessed selling pressure. The Nifty MidCap index ended 0.53 per cent lower, while the Nifty SmallCap index declined 0.69 per cent.

Sectoral performance was mixed during the session. The Nifty Consumer Durables index outperformed its peers, gaining nearly 1 per cent as buying interest emerged in select discretionary consumption stocks.

On the other hand, the Nifty Pharma and Nifty Realty indices were among the worst-performing sectoral gauges.

Experts said that despite the modest decline in headline indices, investors remained focused on developments in the Middle East and their potential impact on global energy markets.

"The stability in the rupee, moderation in India's 10-year bond yield, and a gradual improvement in FII participation are providing support to the domestic macro-environment and supporting the inflation trajectory," a market expert mentioned.



|                |                                                         |         |                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Nifty 50 Today: Midday Market Update for 14 August 2026 |         |                 |
| Publication    | univest                                                 | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                          |         |                 |

## Nifty 50 Today: Midday Market Update for 14 August 2026

[https://univest.in/blogs/nifty-50-14-august-2026-midday-update?utm\\_source=univest\\_website\\_desktop&utm\\_medium=Signup\\_AUTO\\_OPENING\\_POPUP\\_desktop\\_blogs\\_nifty-50-14-august-2026-midday-update](https://univest.in/blogs/nifty-50-14-august-2026-midday-update?utm_source=univest_website_desktop&utm_medium=Signup_AUTO_OPENING_POPUP_desktop_blogs_nifty-50-14-august-2026-midday-update)

### Quick market takeaways

At 12:30:00 PM IST on 14 August 2026, Nifty 50 Today constituents reflected a selective mid-session market, with 17 stocks advancing and 33 declining.

Bharti Airtel, Apollo Hospitals, Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Bajaj Auto led the gainers, while Tata Motors, Asian Paints, Jio Financial Services, NTPC and ONGC were the main laggards.

Telecom, Trading and Logistics were the leading categories, while Chemicals, Crude Oil, Iron & Steel, Mining and Power remained under pressure.

The rest of the session will be watched for whether leadership in Bharti Airtel and the Adani names can broaden beyond a limited group of gainers.

### Market summary

The midday picture was mixed but tilted towards weakness: more stocks were falling than rising, even as a few large names posted meaningful gains. Of the 50 tracked constituents, 17 advanced and 33 declined. This points to selective buying rather than a move shared widely across the market.

The equal-weighted constituent change was down 0.35%, while the market-cap-weighted constituent change was down a narrower 0.19%. Total volume stood at 150,736,879 shares and estimated turnover was Rs 11,667.33 crore. The represented market capitalisation was Rs 197.44 lakh crore. For normal investors, the smaller decline in the market-cap-weighted reading indicates that strength in some larger companies helped cushion the broader weakness across the constituent set.

The live figures used in this update were published at 12:30:00 PM IST through Univest Market View. The contrast between the two market measures remains important: a market can appear relatively resilient when large companies hold up, while a larger number of individual stocks still trade lower.

### Why did the market move?

The available price action shows leadership concentrated in a handful of prominent stocks. Bharti Airtel rose 2.91% to Rs 1,995.60 and traded near its day high, making Telecom the strongest listed category in the snapshot. Adani Enterprises gained 1.64% to Rs 3,013.60 and Adani Ports added 1.63% to Rs 1,685, with both also positioned near their intraday highs.

Healthcare had a split performance rather than a uniform advance. Apollo Hospitals climbed 2.60% to Rs 8,824, but Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and Cipla were lower. The sector's aggregate change was therefore flat despite Apollo Hospitals being among the day's largest gainers.

On the weaker side, pressure was visible across commodity-linked and cyclically oriented groups. Chemicals fell 2.22% with Asian Paints lower, Crude Oil declined 1.02% as ONGC and Reliance Industries lost ground, and Iron & Steel was down 0.94% with both Tata Steel and JSW Steel in the red. Power was also lower by 0.86%, with NTPC's decline outweighing a modest gain in Power Grid.

Overall, the midday move was defined by concentrated strength in Telecom and selected large stocks, alongside wider softness across the rest of the tracked constituents.

### Market breadth analysis for nifty 50 today

The advance-decline ratio was 0.52, based on 17 advances against 33 declines. A ratio below 1 indicates that declining stocks outnumbered advancing stocks, making participation narrow at this stage of the session. There were no unchanged constituents.

The 0.35% fall in the equal-weighted estimate was deeper than the 0.19% fall in the market-cap-weighted estimate. That gap suggests larger companies with positive moves, especially Bharti Airtel and the advancing Adani names, offered



more support than the average constituent. The breadth reading will remain a useful marker through the afternoon: an improvement would require gains to extend beyond the current leadership cluster.

#### Sector snapshot

##### Leading multi-stock groups

Retailing was the strongest multi-stock group, up 0.33%, with both Trent, up 0.51%, and Zomato, listed as ETERNAL, up 0.24%. Healthcare was flat

overall, though its internal picture was mixed: Apollo Hospitals advanced 2.60%, while three other constituents declined. Telecom, Trading and Logistics delivered the largest category gains, but each is represented by one constituent in this snapshot and should be read as individual-stock-led performance.

##### Lagging multi-stock groups

Crude Oil fell 1.02%, with ONGC down 1.58% and Reliance Industries down 0.93%. Iron & Steel declined 0.94%, as Tata Steel lost 1.27% and JSW Steel fell 0.69%. Power was lower by 0.86%; NTPC dropped 1.64%, while Power Grid gained 0.17%. These groups show that weakness was spread across several multi-stock segments rather than confined to a single name.

##### Top 5 gainers

| Stock             | Move                | Why it matters                                                |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bharti Airtel     | Rs 1,995.60, +2.91% | Strongest gainer and near the day high of Rs 2,003.20.        |
| Apollo Hospitals  | Rs 8,824, +2.60%    | Its gain stood out within an otherwise flat Healthcare group. |
| Adani Enterprises | Rs 3,013.60, +1.64% | Traded near its intraday high of Rs 3,028.60.                 |
| Adani Ports       | Rs 1,685, +1.63%    | Near the day high and supportive of selective leadership.     |
| Bajaj Auto        | Rs 11,758, +0.83%   | Held near its intraday high of Rs 11,785.                     |

##### Top 5 losers

| Stock                  | Move                | Why it matters                                           |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Tata Motors            | Rs 332.35, -4.93%   | The largest percentage decline among the tracked movers. |
| Asian Paints           | Rs 2,694.30, -2.22% | Near its day low and the driver of Chemicals weakness.   |
| Jio Financial Services | Rs 250.95, -1.82%   | Traded close to its intraday low of Rs 250.50.           |
| NTPC                   | Rs 338.60, -1.64%   | Its fall weighed on the Power group.                     |
| ONGC                   | Rs 236.12, -1.58%   | Near the day low and part of broad Crude Oil weakness.   |

##### Stocks to watch next session

Bharti Airtel, Adani Enterprises and Adani Ports merit attention because each was trading near its intraday high at midday. Apollo Hospitals is also relevant after its 2.60% advance within a mixed Healthcare group. On the weaker side, Tata Motors remains in focus after its 4.93% fall, while Asian Paints and ONGC should be monitored for whether their near-low trading positions persist into the close and next session.

#### Technical market view

The technical picture from the available intraday information is one of weak breadth with concentrated leadership. The 0.52 advance-decline ratio and the deeper equal-weighted decline show that participation favoured sellers. At the same time, Bharti Airtel, Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Bajaj Auto were in the upper portions of their respective daily ranges, demonstrating leadership strength in a limited set of names.

In contrast, Asian Paints, Jio Financial Services, NTPC and ONGC were near the lower ends of their daily ranges. The key intraday signal is whether the number of advancing constituents improves, not merely whether a few large gainers remain elevated.

#### The bull case

The constructive case rests on the resilience of selected large companies. Bharti Airtel's 2.91% rise, combined with positive moves in Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Bajaj Auto, helped keep the market-cap-weighted decline narrower than the equal-weighted decline. Retailing also showed complete positive participation among its two tracked constituents. If this leadership expands to more stocks, the breadth picture could improve.

#### The cautious case

The cautious case is the breadth imbalance. With 33 decliners and only 17 advancers, the market's midday tone remains fragile beneath the gains in a few leaders. Weakness in Crude Oil, Iron & Steel and Power, along with steep declines in Tata Motors and Asian Paints, shows that selling pressure has affected multiple parts of the constituent set.

#### Univest Insights

The principal market driver at midday was selective leadership rather than a broad advance. Bharti Airtel was the clearest strength signal, while the gains in Adani Enterprises and Adani Ports added support from Trading and Logistics. These



positive moves moderated the market-cap-weighted decline even as the average constituent remained under pressure.

Retailing offered the strongest broad participation among the positive multi-stock groups, with both Trent and Zomato higher. Healthcare was more divided, led by Apollo Hospitals but offset by declines in Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and Cipla. This distinction matters because a sector-level flat reading can conceal sharply different stock-level moves.

Commodity-linked groups and Power form the key area to track. ONGC and Reliance Industries were both lower in Crude Oil, while Tata Steel and JSW Steel declined in Iron & Steel. The afternoon close will show whether selling in these groups remains widespread or whether participation begins to recover.

For traders and investors, the key signal to watch is...

Track live constituent moves and sector performance on Univest Market View and the Nifty 50 Today screener.

#### Frequently asked questions

1. What was the midday breadth in Nifty 50 Today on 14 August 2026?

At 12:30:00 PM IST, 17 tracked constituents advanced and 33 declined, producing an advance-decline ratio of 0.52.

2. Which stock was the top gainer at midday?

Bharti Airtel was the top gainer, up 2.91% at Rs 1,995.60.

3. Which stock was the biggest loser at midday?

Tata Motors was the biggest loser among the listed movers, down 4.93% at Rs 332.35.

4. Which multi-stock sector was strongest?

Retailing was the strongest multi-stock group, rising 0.33% as both Trent and Zomato advanced.

5. Which multi-stock sectors were weak?

Crude Oil, Iron & Steel and Power were among the weaker multi-stock groups, declining 1.02%, 0.94% and 0.86%, respectively.

6. What does the gap between the two market measures indicate?

The equal-weighted estimate fell 0.35% versus a 0.19% decline in the market-cap-weighted estimate, indicating that selected larger stocks cushioned broader constituent weakness.



|                |                                                                         |         |                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | ONGC Appoints Dr. Archna Thakur as Independent Director for 3-Year Term |         |                 |
| Publication    | Indian Masterminds                                                      | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                          |         |                 |

### ONGC Appoints Dr. Archna Thakur as Independent Director for 3-Year Term

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/ongc-appoints-archna-thakur-independent-director-224313/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has appointed Dr. Archna Thakur as a Non-Official Independent Director on its Board.

The appointment follows a letter dated August 12, 2026, issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. ONGC's Board of Directors approved her appointment as an Additional Director (Independent Director) with effect from August 13, 2026.

#### ONGC Independent Director Appointment Details

Dr. Archna Thakur will serve as an Independent Director for a period of three years, subject to further orders.

Key details of the appointment include:

Name: Dr. Archna Thakur

DIN: 11719170

Position: Non-Official Independent Director

Effective Date: August 13, 2026

Tenure: Three years from August 12, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier

As an Additional Director, her appointment will continue until the ensuing Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company, in accordance with applicable provisions.

The appointment strengthens ONGC's Board with independent expertise and supports the company's corporate governance framework under the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015.

#### Dr. Archna Thakur: Education and Experience

Dr. Archna Thakur holds a Doctorate in International Politics from Himachal Pradesh University. She is also a Gold Medalist in Master's in Political Science.

She has more than 20 years of professional experience across academics, management, administration and social services.

Her previous professional roles include:

Principal of a Vocational Training Institute under the Department of Technical Education (Polytechnic).

Head of the Social Science Department at a reputed international school.

Marketing Director with electronic media houses in Himachal Pradesh.

Consultant with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Himachal Pradesh.

Her diverse experience covers education, administration, management and community-focused initiatives.

#### Dr. Archna Thakur's Social Sector Experience

Alongside her professional career, Dr. Thakur has been associated with several non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Her social-sector involvement has focused on areas such as:

Women's empowerment

Social awareness

Community welfare

Social development

Her experience in these areas is expected to bring an additional perspective to the company's Board-level discussions and governance processes.



#### ONGC Confirms Director Eligibility

ONGC has confirmed that Dr. Archana Thakur is not related to any existing Director of the company.

The company has also stated that she is not debarred from holding the office of Director by any SEBI order or any other statutory or regulatory authority.

The appointment has been made pursuant to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas' communication and has been disclosed by ONGC in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements. About ONGC Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is India's largest exploration and production company and a major public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The company is engaged in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas and plays a significant role in India's energy sector.



|                |                                                                                      |         |                 |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | ONGC Celebrates 71st Foundation Day; CVO Shelly Srivastava Unfurls Flag in New Delhi |         |                 |
| Publication    | PSU Connect                                                                          | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                                       |         |                 |

### **ONGC Celebrates 71st Foundation Day; CVO Shelly Srivastava Unfurls Flag in New Delhi**

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-celebrates-71st-foundation-day-cvo-shelly-srivastava-unfurls-flag-in-new-delhi>

On the occasion of its 71st Foundation Day, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) held celebrations in New Delhi.

Chief Vigilance Officer Shelly Srivastava, IRTS, attended as the Chief Guest. She paid solemn tributes at the Martyrs' Memorial and unfurled the ONGC flag during the ceremony.

The event marked seven decades of ONGC's service to the nation. It also reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to probity, integrity and transparency as it continues to support India's journey towards energy Aatmanirbhar Bharat.



|                |                                                                                  |         |                 |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | ONGC Appoints Dr. Archna Thakur as Independent Director with 20 Years Experience |         |                 |
| Publication    | PSU Connect                                                                      | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                                   |         |                 |

### ONGC Appoints Dr. Archna Thakur as Independent Director with 20 Years Experience

<https://www.psuconnect.in/new-faces-in-psus/ongc-appoints-dr-archna-thakur-as-independent-director-with-20-years-experience>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has appointed Dr. Archna Thakur as Non-Official Independent Director on its Board.

The appointment has been made in terms of the letter dated 12 August 2026 issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. The Board of Directors approved her appointment as Additional Director (Independent Director) with effect from 13 August 2026.

#### Appointment Details

Name: Dr. Archna Thakur

DIN: 11719170

Position: Non-Official Independent Director

Tenure: Three years from 12 August 2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier

#### Brief Profile

Dr. Archna Thakur holds a Doctorate in International Politics from Himachal Pradesh University and is a Gold Medalist in Master's in Political Science. She has over 20 years of experience in academics, management, administration and social services.

She has previously served as:

Principal of the Vocational Training Institute under the Department of Technical Education (Polytechnic)

Head of the Department of Social Science in a reputed International School

Marketing Director with electronic media houses in Himachal Pradesh

Consultant with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Himachal Pradesh

Dr. Thakur has also been actively associated with several NGOs working in the areas of women's empowerment, social awareness, community welfare and social development.

ONGC has confirmed that she is not related to any Director of the Company and is not debarred from holding the office of Director by any SEBI order or other authority.



|                |                                                                                       |         |                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | ONGC Commits ₹25 Crore, West Bengal Donates ₹10 Crore to Assam CM's Flood Relief Fund |         |                 |
| Publication    | Sentinel                                                                              | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                                        |         |                 |

### ONGC Commits ₹25 Crore, West Bengal Donates ₹10 Crore to Assam CM's Flood Relief Fund

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/topheadlines/ongc-commits-25-crore-west-bengal-donates-10-crore-to-assam-cms-flood-relief-fund>

ONGC has committed Rs 25 crore towards flood relief efforts in Assam, while Rs 10 crore has been donated from the West Bengal CM's Relief Fund to the Assam Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

In this regard, Chief Minister Dr [Himanta Biswa Sarma](#) said on his X handle, "ONGC's bond with Assam is one of trust and partnership, built over decades of shared progress. Today, @ONGC\_ has committed Rs 25 crore towards #AssamFloodsResponse - Rs 5 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and Rs 20 crore to help rebuild over 700 flood-affected schools, with nearly Rs 3 lakh per school. This will be in addition to the Rs 2 lakh per school already being provided by the State Government, giving us greater strength to restore these institutions quickly and better. My heartfelt gratitude to Chairman & CEO Shri Arun Kumar and the entire ONGC family for standing firmly with the people of Assam in this difficult hour and helping us rebuild stronger."

In another post on X, the CM wrote, "Deeply grateful to the Government and people of West Bengal for standing with Assam in this difficult hour. The Chief Minister's Relief Fund has received a generous contribution of Rs 10 crore from the West Bengal Chief Minister's Relief Fund. My sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri @SuvenduWB for this gesture of solidarity from a neighbouring State with which Assam shares deep historical and civilisational ties. When neighbours stand together, Eastern India grows stronger and a stronger East strengthens India - This is the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat."



|                |                                                                          |         |                 |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Seamec secures \$1.47 million contract for diving support on ONGC vessel |         |                 |
| Publication    | Business Up Turn                                                         | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                           |         |                 |

### Seamec secures \$1.47 million contract for diving support on ONGC vessel

<https://businessupturn.com/business/seamec-secures-1-47-million-contract-for-diving-support-on-ongc-vessel/>

Seamec Limited, a member of the MMG Group, has announced the formation of a consortium agreement with Supreme Hydro Engineering Pvt. Limited. This collaboration is aimed at availing diving technical expertise on the ONGC vessel 'Samudra Sevak', which is managed by Seamec. The contract, valued at approximately USD 1.47 million, includes the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The agreement marks a significant partnership for Seamec Limited in the marine and offshore engineering sector. Supreme Hydro Engineering Pvt. Limited is recognised for its extensive expertise in marine and diving operations, which aligns well with Seamec's operational objectives for the Samudra Sevak vessel.

The consortium agreement entails Seamec Limited leveraging the diving technical expertise offered by Supreme Hydro Engineering. However, according to the details disclosed, there are no shareholding or special rights involved in this agreement, nor does it fall under related party transactions. This ensures that the agreement stands as a straightforward business collaboration aimed at enhancing operational efficiency on the Samudra Sevak.

The financial specifics were disclosed under regulations set forth by SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, and were documented in the required annexures during the regulatory filing on August 14, 2026. Both parties have not disclosed any potential for issuing shares, amendments, or terminations related to this agreement, emphasising the current contract as the primary focus. Sharetrading platform

Seamec Limited's consortium arrangement with Supreme Hydro Engineering Pvt. Limited for the 'Samudra Sevak' project represents a strategic move within the oil and gas sector, further solidifying Seamec's presence and capabilities in offshore support services. This contract is part of Seamec's ongoing commitment to fostering key business alliances that drive growth and expertise in niche areas.

Seamec Limited, headquartered in Mumbai, is an integral player in the marine sector, offering diverse services in offshore, subsea, and diving operations, enhancing its reputation as a contractor member of the International Marine Contractors Association.



|                |                                                                        |         |                 |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Markets Close Lower Amid Energy Price Concerns; Sensex Falls 71 Points |         |                 |
| Publication    | News Mobile                                                            | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                         |         |                 |

### Markets Close Lower Amid Energy Price Concerns; Sensex Falls 71 Points

<https://www.newsmobile.in/business/markets-close-lower-amid-energy-price-concerns-sensex-falls-71-points/>

Indian equity markets ended lower on Friday as investors remained cautious amid uncertainty over the outlook for energy prices and global bond yields.

The Nifty 50 declined 29.85 points, or 0.12 per cent, to close at 24,366.00, while the BSE Sensex fell 70.71 points, or 0.09 per cent, to settle at 78,009.25.

Among Nifty 50 gainers were Apollo Hospitals, Bharti Airtel, Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Wipro. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle, Jio Finance, ONGC, Asian Paints and SBI were among the major laggards.

Sectorally, Nifty Media was the only index to finish higher, gaining 0.96 per cent. Nifty Pharma fell 1.04 per cent, while Auto declined 0.54 per cent, FMCG 0.56 per cent, IT 0.34 per cent and PSU Bank 0.72 per cent.

Brent crude moderated from the beginning of the week but remained elevated at around USD 87 a barrel.

Asian markets were mixed, with Japan's Nikkei gaining 0.75 per cent, Singapore's Straits Times 0.41 per cent and South Korea's KOSPI 2.36 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 1.17 per cent, while Taiwan's Weighted Index fell 0.46 per cent.



|                |                                                                                                    |         |                 |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Energy stocks today, August 14: Mahanagar Gas gains over 2%; HPCL tumbles 5%, ONGC and IOC decline |         |                 |
| Publication    | Business Up Turn                                                                                   | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                                                     |         |                 |

### Energy stocks today, August 14: Mahanagar Gas gains over 2%; HPCL tumbles 5%, ONGC and IOC decline

<https://businessupturn.com/finance/stock-market/energy-stocks-today-august-14-mahanagar-gas-gains-over-2-hpcl-tumbles-5-ongc-and-ioc-decline/>

Indian energy stocks traded largely lower on Friday, August 14, with selling pressure visible across oil marketing companies, upstream producers and select renewable energy counters. Mahanagar Gas, BPCL and Deep Industries were among the notable gainers.

At around 12:05 pm, the S&P BSE Energy index was down 0.56% at 11,296.56. The broader market was also weak, with the Nifty 50 declining 0.30% to 24,321.70 and the BSE Sensex down 0.39% at 77,776.06. Nifty50 analysis

Mahanagar Gas rises over 2%

Mahanagar Gas was among the strongest energy stocks in midday trade, gaining 2.17% to Rs 1,150.20 on the NSE.

BPCL advanced 0.95% to Rs 318, while Deep Industries rose 0.76% to Rs 670.95.

Linde India gained 0.46% to Rs 6,719.50, while Petronet LNG was up 0.45% at Rs 280.55.

Indraprastha Gas advanced 0.35% to Rs 152.30, while Veedol Corporation was up 0.27%.

HPCL shares fall over 5%

On the downside, HPCL was among the biggest losers, dropping 5.22% to Rs 372.40 on the NSE.

Asian Energy Services fell 10.01% on the BSE to Rs 368.75, while Hindustan Oil Exploration declined 3.47% to Rs 152.50 on the NSE.

Inox Green Energy Services was down 3.19% at Rs 180.99, while Gujarat Gas declined 2.28% to Rs 743.10.

ONGC, Oil India and IOC trade lower

Major oil and gas stocks also remained under pressure.

Oil India declined 1.91% to Rs 470.65, while ONGC fell 1.54% to Rs 236.21.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) was down 1.46% at Rs 139.44, while MRPL slipped 1.71% to Rs 171.40.

Chennai Petroleum declined 1.16% and GAIL fell 1.11%.

Reliance Industries, Suzlon Energy also decline

Reliance Industries was trading 0.97% lower at Rs 1,304.20 on the NSE.

Suzlon Energy also declined 0.97% to Rs 47.15, while Selan Exploration slipped 0.60%.

Castrol India remained almost flat, down 0.03% at Rs 187.37



|                |                                                                                |         |                 |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Nifty, Sensex close lower on Friday, experts see dip as routine profit booking |         |                 |
| Publication    | Big News Net Work                                                              | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                                                 |         |                 |

### **Nifty, Sensex close lower on Friday, experts see dip as routine profit booking**

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/279241586/nifty-sensex-close-lower-on-friday-experts-see-dip-as-routine-profit-booking>

The share markets in the country closed under pressure on Friday as investors awaited greater clarity on the outlook for energy prices and global bond yields.

The Nifty 50 index closed at 24,366.00, down 29.85 points or 0.12 per cent. The BSE Sensex also closed lower at 78,009.25, down 70.71 points or 0.09 per cent.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, 'A sideways trend persisted in the market as investors awaited greater clarity on the outlook for energy prices and global bond yields. However, the market witnessed a recovery from the day's lows, led by consumer durables and discretionary consumption stocks, supported by improving demand trends.'

He added that better-than-expected corporate earnings during the quarter, along with supportive domestic factors that could drive revisions to FY27 earnings estimates upward, continue to create opportunities for a bottom-up stock selection approach.

Nair also said that stability in the rupee, moderation in India's 10-year bond yield, and a gradual improvement in FII participation are providing support to the domestic macro-environment and supporting the inflation trajectory.

Among the top gainers in the Nifty 50 were Apollo Hospitals, Bharti Airtel, Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, and Wipro. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle, Jio Finance, ONGC, Asian Paints, and SBI were among the top losers.

Among sectoral indices, Nifty Media was the only index to close in the green, gaining 0.96 per cent. Nifty Auto declined 0.54 per cent, Nifty FMCG fell 0.56 per cent, Nifty IT declined 0.34 per cent, Nifty Pharma lost 1.04 per cent, and PSU Bank fell 0.72 per cent.

Brent crude oil prices have moderated compared to the beginning of the week but remain elevated and are currently trading at USD 87 per barrel.

Riyank Arora, Associate Vice President - HNI & Derivatives, Hedged.in, said, 'Today's dip looks like routine profit booking rather than a change in trend, provided the key supports hold. The larger picture still favours the bulls. A buy-on-dips approach in quality names, backed by disciplined risk management, remains the sensible way to play this.'

In other Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index gained 0.75 per cent to close at 68,823. Singapore's Straits Times was up 0.41 per cent at 5,743. South Korea's KOSPI index gained 2.36 per cent to close at 6,977.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index declined 1.17 per cent to close at 25,102, while Taiwan's Weighted Index lost 0.46 per cent to close at 45,811. (ANI)



|                |                                                       |         |                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Sensex, Nifty trade rangebound; European mrkt decline |         |                 |
| Publication    | Dailyhunt                                             | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                        |         |                 |

### **Sensex, Nifty trade rangebound; European mrkt decline**

<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/capital+market-epaper-capmar/sensex+nifty+trade+rangebound+european+mrkt+decline-newsid-n723260190>

The key equity benchmarks traded with minor losses in afternoon trade as investors assessed a slew of Q1 FY27 earnings announcements amid the ongoing results season.

Sector- and stock-specific movements remained in focus, while investors also tracked the progress of the monsoon, an important factor for the broader economic outlook.

The Nifty hovered below the 24,350 mark, while sentiment remained subdued amid a lack of strong directional cues. Investors continued to monitor movements in crude oil and gold prices, along with developments on the global geopolitical front, for further indications on the market's near-term trajectory.

Pharma, PSU Bank and oil & gas shares declined while media and consumer durables shares advanced.

At 13:25 IST, the barometer index, the S&P BSE Sensex declined 255.23 points or 0.33% to 77,824.73. The Nifty 50 index fell 60.85 points or 0.25% to 24,334.85.

In the broader market, the BSE 150 MidCap Index declined 0.24% and the BSE 250 SmallCap Index fell 0.25%.

The market breadth was negative. On the BSE, 1,833 shares rose and 2,284 shares fell. A total of 261 shares were unchanged.

#### **Gainers & Losers:**

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise (up 3.36%), Bharti Airtel (up 2.97%), Adani Ports (up 1.93%), Adani Enterprises (up 1.77%) and Wipro (up 0.82%) were the top gainers.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (down 4.73%), Asian Paints (down 2.24%), jio Financial Services (down 1.94%), ONGC (down 1.61%) and NTPC (down 1.48%) were the top losers.

#### **Monsoon Session of Parliament Ends:**

The Monsoon Session of Parliament concluded on 13 August 2026 after 19 sittings spread over 25 days, with both Houses passing 12 Bills. Key legislation included Bills on public examinations, MSMEs, taxation, tribunals, banking records, mining and the renaming of Kerala as Keralam. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill was referred to a Joint Committee for further scrutiny. The session was marked by repeated disruptions, with Lok Sabha recording approximately 19% productivity and Rajya Sabha around 39%.

#### **Stocks in Spotlight:**

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (PV) dropped 4.73% after the company reported a sharp 80.25% decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 775 crore in Q1 FY27 compared with Rs 3,924 crore posted in Q1 FY26. Revenue from operations increased 9.26% YoY to Rs 95,799 crore in the quarter ended 30th June 2026.

KMC Speciality Hospitals (India) jumped 6.04% after the company reported a net profit of Rs 16.57 crore for Q1 FY27, which is 119.9% higher as compared with the PAT figure of Rs 7.53 crore recorded in Q1 FY26.

Honasa Consumer rose 1.99% after the company reported strong financial performance for Q1 FY27. On a consolidated basis, profit after tax increased 116.5% YoY and 30.3% QoQ to Rs 90 crore in Q1 FY27. Revenue from operations increased 27% YoY and 15% QoQ to Rs 756 crore.

Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF) shed 0.36%. The company reported a 35% rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 73.53 crore in Q1 FY27, compared with Rs 54.43 crore in Q1 FY26. Revenue from operations rose 6.38% year on year



(YoY) to Rs 3585.71 crore during the quarter ended 30 June 2026.

#### Global Market:

European market declined as Brent crude prices surged more than 1% amid heightened uncertainty over the ongoing US-Iran conflict.

Asian markets traded mixed on Friday, poised for their strongest week in two months as benign inflation data dented expectations of an imminent U.S. rate hike, although faltering talks to end the war in the Middle East are likely to keep risk sentiment in check.

Brent futures jumped over \$88 after a drop on Thursday but were set for a 4% weekly gain, snapping a two-week losing streak, after the U.S. threatened to ramp up economic pressure on Iran, including extending a naval blockade.

Markets have so far shrugged off the lack of progress in ending the Iran war, instead focusing on the broad AI theme and the global monetary policy outlook.

U.S. inflation reports this week suggested pricing pressure remained under control, lowering the odds of a rate increase from the Federal Reserve next month.

Overnight on Wall Street, the S&P 500 notched a record-high close on Thursday, fueled by advances in Sandisk and other heavyweight technology stocks.

The S&P 500 climbed 0.65% to end the session at 7,798.99 points, exceeding its record high close last Friday. The Nasdaq gained 0.81% to 26,803.03 points, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.13% to 53,839.99 points.

Memory chip makers Sandisk and Micron Technology surged 13.7% and 4.2%, respectively, while Microsoft added almost 1% and Meta Platforms rose 2.8%.

Strong earnings forecasts in recent weeks from companies, including Microsoft and Amazon, has reduced investors' concerns about massive spending on AI data centers.



|                |                                                 |         |                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Mohammed Ali Shihab Takes Charge as CVO of MRPL |         |                 |
| Publication    | Elets eGov                                      | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 August 2026                                  |         |                 |

### **Mohammed Ali Shihab Takes Charge as CVO of MRPL**

<https://egov.eletsonline.com/2026/08/mohammed-ali-shihab-takes-charge-as-cvo-of-mrpl/>

Mohammed Ali Shihab A., IAS (Nagaland cadre, 2011 batch), has taken charge as the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL).

MRPL, a Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise and subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), has welcomed Shihab to the new assignment.

#### **Experienced IAS Officer Takes Up New Role**

Mohammed Ali Shihab is a 2011-batch IAS officer of the Nagaland cadre with experience in public administration and governance.

During his career, he has handled several responsibilities in the Government of Nagaland, including assignments in the State Secretariat, district administration and development-related sectors.

His administrative experience includes policy implementation, governance and development programmes.

#### **Focus on Vigilance and Corporate Governance**

As CVO of MRPL, Shihab will be responsible for overseeing the company's vigilance-related framework and supporting efforts to strengthen integrity and transparency.

His role will also involve promoting sound governance practices and strengthening internal oversight mechanisms within the organisation.

#### **MRPL Looks to Strengthen Integrity Framework**

The appointment comes with a focus on maintaining strong standards of ethical conduct and accountability across the organisation.

MRPL has expressed confidence that Mohammed Ali Shihab will contribute to further strengthening its vigilance systems and corporate governance practices.

His experience in public administration is expected to support the company's continued focus on transparency, integrity and effective internal controls.



## Competitors



|                |                                                                   |         |                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | GAIL Secures 100% Ownership of Konkan LNG After Capital Reduction |         |                 |
| Publication    | The Globe and Mail                                                | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                       |         |                 |

### **GAIL Secures 100% Ownership of Konkan LNG After Capital Reduction**

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/markets/stocks/GAILF/pressreleases/3844823/gail-secures-100-ownership-of-konkan-lng-after-capital-reduction/>

GAIL (India) ( [GB:GAID](#) ) has shared an update.

GAIL (India) Limited has become the sole owner of Konkan LNG Limited after a court-approved reduction of Konkan LNG's equity share capital. Following the National Company Law Tribunal's order, Konkan LNG remitted consideration to GAIL and MSEB Holding Company, leading to the cancellation of over 148 million shares and increasing GAIL's stake to 100% while reducing MSEB's holding to zero.

The transaction consolidates GAIL's control over Konkan LNG's LNG infrastructure, potentially streamlining decision-making and operational integration within GAIL's portfolio. Full ownership of Konkan LNG may enhance GAIL's strategic flexibility in the liquefied natural gas segment and could strengthen its competitive positioning in India's evolving natural gas and LNG market.

#### Spark's Take on GAID Stock

According to Spark, TipRanks' AI Analyst, GAID is a Neutral.

The score is primarily driven by mixed financial performance: solid balance-sheet leverage is offset by FY26 margin compression and inconsistent cash generation. Technicals add modest support due to an upward bias in moving averages and a positive MACD, while valuation is average with a reasonable P/E but no dividend yield.

To see Spark's full report on GAID stock, [click here](#).

#### More about GAIL (India)

GAIL (India) Limited is a state-owned natural gas company engaged in gas transmission, marketing, distribution and related infrastructure across India. Through subsidiaries and joint ventures, it operates LNG terminals and gas processing assets, supporting India's gas-based energy transition and strengthening its position in the midstream and downstream gas value chain.



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | NMC raises demand for 1.2L tonnes of bitumen for Kumbh road asphaltting works |         |                 |
| Publication    | The Times of India                                                            | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                                   |         |                 |

### **NMC raises demand for 1.2L tonnes of bitumen for Kumbh road asphaltting works**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nashik/nmc-raises-demand-for-1-2l-tonnes-of-bitumen-for-kumbh-road-asphaltting-works/articleshow/133247380.cms>

Nashik: The Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC), ahead of the Simhastha Kumbh Mela, has sought a dedicated supply of 1.22 lakh metric tonne (MT) of bitumen from state-run petroleum companies through state govt to ensure the timely execution of large-scale road asphaltting works across Nashik and Trimbakeshwar.

The demand for bitumen has been placed with the three major oil marketing companies -- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) -- amid concerns over the availability of bitumen for Kumbh-related infrastructure projects.

Municipal commissioner Manisha Khatri said the civic body has taken the initiative well in advance after road works were affected earlier this year due to bitumen shortage linked to geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

"To ensure uninterrupted availability of bitumen once road asphaltting begins after the monsoon, we have sought 1.2 lakh tonnes of bitumen through the state govt. The requirement includes the demand of the public works department (PWD) which was worked out through our consultants. Around 50% of the total quantity will be required for NMC projects, while the remaining will be used for PWD road works related to Kumbh," Khatri told TOI.

She added that the state govt has been requested to coordinate with BPCL, IOCL and HPCL to earmark the required quantity specifically for Kumbh-related road projects in Nashik. According to Khatri, the oil companies have responded positively to the demand and have shared details of measures being planned to strengthen bitumen supply for Nashik.

"The petroleum companies are increasing their bitumen allocation for Nashik's Kumbh road works. They have informed us that they are exploring the possibility of establishing temporary depots in Nashik for easier supply. In addition, dedicated bitumen storage facilities are being planned in Mumbai for use during the Kumbh works. Tenders for these facilities have already been floated by the companies concerned," Khatri said.

The civic administration expects major asphaltting activities to commence in Oct after the monsoon ends and weather conditions become conducive for road surfacing works. An NMC official said bitumen shortages during May and June had affected plans to take up asphaltting works on certain stretches. The shortages were attributed to disruptions in supply arising from the conflict in West Asia.

The NMC is currently implementing an ambitious road development programme as part of preparations for the 2027 Simhastha Kumbh Mela. It is developing nearly 30 roads spanning around 150 km at an estimated cost of Rs1,300 crore. Of the total road network, around 40% comprises concrete roads, while the remaining are being developed as bituminous roads requiring large quantities of asphalt.

The tender process for 28 road projects has already been completed and work is underway on several stretches. The NMC recently received administrative approval from the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela Authority (NTKMA) for two additional road projects, and tenders for these works are expected to be floated shortly.



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| Headline       | Kochi Corporation plans waste management overhaul as complaints pile up |         |                 |
| Publication    | The New Indian Express                                                  | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                             |         |                 |

### Kochi Corporation plans waste management overhaul as complaints pile up

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/amp/story/cities/kochi/2026/Aug/14/kochi-corporation-plans-waste-management-overhaul-as-complaints-pile-up>

KOCHI: Hit by a surge in complaints of inefficient waste collection and treatment, the Kochi corporation is gearing up for a total revamp of the city's waste management system while also focusing on plugging financial leakage.

"The corporation will look into cutting down unwanted expenses by reviewing the lapses in existing waste management programmes," Mayor Minimol V K said after the council meeting on Thursday, adding that the city's waste management system would undergo major changes in the coming days.

The council meeting discussed in detail the defunct Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant that was set up by the BPCL at Brahmapuram. The project, meant for treatment of 150 tonnes of food waste, segregated at source, per day, has been lying idle owing to various operational challenges. At present, the corporation spends Rs 2,500 to process a tonne of plastic waste at Brahmapuram. The council is looking into ways to cut down such costs, including vehicle charges.

"We have decided to take up the matter with the chief minister and sort out the issues. Instead of the CBG plant, which would cause losses to the corporation, the project proposed by G3R will be more viable," the mayor said, referring to private firm G3 Renewables Pvt Ltd, which had proposed setting up an organic waste treatment plant on 3.5 acre of land at Brahmapuram.

"This can bring down expenses as they will take care of waste collection and transportation," she said.

Meanwhile, urging the corporation to convene a special council for the analysis of solid waste management plan and chalk out future programmes, Vyttila councillor V P Chandran alleged that the previous (LDF-led) administration spent large amounts in the name of solid waste management, but the projects ultimately yielded no results.

"After the fire at the Brahmapuram waste in 2023, many initiatives were implemented, but never continued after launch, causing enormous sums of money to go to waste," said Chandran. He claimed that the much-publicised Thumburmuzhi model waste treatment bins were distributed in a few divisions, but the entire initiative fizzled out after launch.

"Despite spending large amount on buying vehicles for waste collection and setting up plants, the system seems to choke with no proper monitoring," Chandran alleged.

'Corp failed to keep up'

Leader of Opposition in the council V A Sreejith alleged that the present UDF-led corporation failed to keep up with the initiatives taken by previous LDF-led council. "It is essential to turn waste into income, but it can only be achieved by implementing projects without drawbacks. Cost-cutting measures should focus on making the waste management system better instead of entrusting private firms like G3R and without sorting out issues in the existing CBG plant," he said.

City's waste management expenses (2025-26)

Repairs & maintenance of treatment plants: Rs 20.19 lakh

Sanitation & waste management: Rs 23.57 crore

Public sanitation: Rs 21.44 crore

Solid waste management (SWM)-General: Rs 2.70 crore

SWM-Collection & transportation: Rs 45.27 lakh



SWM-Related activities: Rs 9.99 lakh

SWM-Processing: Rs 9.04 crore



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| Headline       | Nifty Oil and Gas Prediction for Monday, 17 August 2026: Crude -1.88% to Rs 7,803 Splits Sector: BPCL GRM Improves, ONGC Upstream Faces Realization Pressure |         |                 |
| Publication    | Univest                                                                                                                                                      | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                                                                                                                  |         |                 |

### **Nifty Oil and Gas Prediction for Monday, 17 August 2026: Crude -1.88% to Rs 7,803 Splits Sector: BPCL GRM Improves, ONGC Upstream Faces Realization Pressure**

[https://univest.in/blogs/nifty-oil-gas-prediction-for-monday-17-august-2026?utm\\_source=univest\\_website\\_desktop&utm\\_medium=Signup\\_AUTO\\_OPENING\\_POPUP\\_desktop\\_blogs\\_nifty-oil-gas-prediction-for-monday-17-august-2026](https://univest.in/blogs/nifty-oil-gas-prediction-for-monday-17-august-2026?utm_source=univest_website_desktop&utm_medium=Signup_AUTO_OPENING_POPUP_desktop_blogs_nifty-oil-gas-prediction-for-monday-17-august-2026)

The Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday for Monday 17 August 2026 is shaped by Thursday's twin macro developments: MCX Crude Oil crashing -1.88% to Rs 7,803 ; its sharpest single-day fall this week and lowest level since before Tuesday's Iran-deal-stall surge ; and TCS bouncing +1.08% to Rs 2,356, confirming IT sector recovery after Wednesday's -3.93% crash. Nifty 50 closed at 24,354.85 (-0.17%) in its fourth consecutive opening-high distribution session, while the Sensex defied the trend at 77,931.10 (-0.19%). Bank Nifty slipped -0.43% to 57,459.10 after ICICI Bank fell -1.74%, blocking the Day 6 banking rotation for a second consecutive day. Nifty Oil and Gas is the sector tracked on Friday.

Ankit Jaiswal, Senior Research Analyst at Univest, and Kunal Singla, Associate Director at Univest, frame the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday around crude oil's -1.88% Thursday fall as the dominant macro shift heading into Friday. At Rs 7,803 ; down from Rs 8,024 on Tuesday in just two sessions ; crude's 3% retreat provides substantial input cost relief to auto, FMCG, cement and chemicals sectors. Simultaneously, IT sector recovery (TCS -0.80% (Day 2 IT stalled), HCL Tech +0.34%) provides a second positive catalyst. Together, these two themes make the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday the most opportunity-rich of the week, even as banking consolidates after Thursday's ICICI Bank +0.40% (finally recovered Friday).

#### **Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday: Key Factors for Friday**

Crude oil crashing -1.88% to Rs 7,803 Thursday creates the most pronounced upstream-downstream split the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday has seen this week. ONGC's upstream crude realization is approximately Rs 245 lower at Rs 7,803 versus Rs 8,024 (Tuesday) ; translating to approximately USD 3.0 per barrel lower oil revenue. This is a meaningful Q2 FY27 top-line headwind for Friday's session's upstream component.

BPCL's downstream refining margin (GRM) improves by approximately USD 0.50-0.70/bbl at Rs 7,803 crude versus Tuesday's Rs 8,024 ; since BPCL's feedstock cost falls while its product prices lag by 1-2 sessions. for Friday's session, this GRM improvement is the primary positive from Thursday's -1.88% crude crash. Ankit Jaiswal: BPCL at Rs 315-322 entry is Friday's primary crude beneficiary on Friday.

Reliance Industries at Rs 1,317 (-0.90% Thursday) ; its worst session this week ; presents a Friday opportunity for Friday's session. Thursday's -0.90% Reliance fall happened even as crude fell (which improves O2C refining margins) ; the stock sold off on broader market weakness (Nifty -0.16%) rather than crude-specific reasons. For Friday's Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday, Reliance at Rs 1,305-1,320 entry has crude improvement working in its favour after Thursday's equity-driven sell-off.

MCX Natural Gas at Rs 263.70 (-0.60% Thursday) remains above Rs 265 ; keeping KG-D6 gas realization for both ONGC and Reliance positive. for Friday's session, ONGC's gas division (KG-D6 at Rs 263.70) provides some offset to the crude upstream realization headwind. Kunal Singla: ONGC's net Thursday effect is negative but less negative than pure crude realization suggests.

#### **Strategy for the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday Session**

BPCL at Rs 315-322 is Ankit Jaiswal's primary Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday Friday entry ; crude -1.88% GRM improvement is the direct catalyst.

Reliance at Rs 1,305-1,320 is the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday catch-up trade ; Thursday's -0.90% equity-driven fall with crude actually improving O2C margins creates better value than Wednesday's entry.

ONGC should be monitored ; entry only if crude stabilises above Rs 7,700 Friday; below Rs 7,600, ONGC upstream realization headwinds intensify on Friday.

Rs 12,380-12,440 is the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday buy-on-dip zone Friday. Above 12,450 = downstream GRM improvement priced in positively.

#### **Key Risks to the Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday**

Iran deal collapsing overnight sending crude back above Rs 8,000, reversing BPCL GRM improvement but recovering ONGC realization on Friday.

Crude falling further below Rs 7,600 Friday, amplifying ONGC upstream realization headwinds beyond current Nifty Oil and



Gas prediction for Monday models.

Natural gas falling below Rs 265 (three-session floor) Friday, reducing KG-D6 realization for both ONGC and Reliance on Friday.

Conclusion

The Nifty Oil and Gas prediction for Monday for Monday 17 August 2026 has crude oil's -1.88% Thursday fall to Rs 7,803 as its most important macro input. Ankit Jaiswal of Univest identifies primary support at 12,380-12,440 and immediate resistance at 12,520-12,620 for Friday's session, with the crude relief trade (auto, FMCG, cement) and IT recovery (TCS, HCL Tech) as Friday's two highest-conviction positive themes.

Kunal Singla of Univest adds that ICICI Bank's Thursday -1.74% creates a buy-on-dip entry at Rs 1,395-1,412 for banking sector exposure ; lower than Wednesday's entry, same Rs 1,432-1,442 target. Check GIFT Nifty above 24,420 and NASDAQ above 22,000 at 9 AM Friday as the two pre-market signals that confirm Friday's positive bias for Friday's session.



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | LPG- Government Issues Special Instructions to IOCL, HPCL and BPCL, Know Here |         |                 |
| Publication    | Timesbull                                                                     | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                                   |         |                 |

### **LPG- Government Issues Special Instructions to IOCL, HPCL and BPCL, Know Here**

<https://www.timesbull.com/lpg-government-issues-special-instructions-to-iocl-hpcl-and-bpcl-know-here>

LPG: Big news for LPG consumers. The Indian government has clearly directed Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum to secure a minimum of 15 percent of their total LPG imports until 2027 through long-term contracts with the United States. Earlier this year, India finalized its initial long-term agreement with the US, obtaining around 2.2 million tons, which accounts for 10 percent of its total imports. Senior officials from these three companies are presently in the US, engaged in negotiations for new supply agreements.

Why is India shifting its focus away from the Middle East?

This shift is part of India's broader strategy to lessen its reliance on the Middle East. Previously, more than 90 percent of India's LPG requirements were fulfilled by Gulf nations, but conflicts in Iran and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have led to significant shortages. This situation has emphasized to India the necessity of diversifying its sources of supply.

The United States has already become India's primary LPG supplier by August this year, delivering a record 3.9 million tons of gas from the US. These companies will soon issue a joint tender for American LPG after evaluating potential suppliers and their proposals.

Challenges in trade agreements and energy security

This move will also assist India in reducing its trade surplus with the US, as New Delhi is striving to finalize a substantial trade agreement with Washington. The Trump administration has persistently urged India to enhance its energy exports, given India's status as one of the largest importers of oil and gas globally. Despite ongoing trade discussions since last year, no tangible outcomes have been achieved yet.

A significant crisis affecting daily life

Meanwhile, the ongoing crisis in the Strait of Hormuz and the stalled negotiations between the US and Iran continue to present a serious threat to India's supply of cooking gas. Due to this shortage, LPG consumption dropped by over 16 percent last month compared to the previous year, totaling just 2.35 million tons. The gas scarcity is compelling households and industries to shift to PNG or more environmentally harmful alternatives like biofuels and kerosene.

LPG cylinder prices for August 14

Currently, the costliest LPG cylinder is in Leh, priced at Rs 1,119 for domestic use and Rs 3,376 for commercial purposes. In Delhi, a 14.2 kg cylinder is priced at Rs 942, while a 19 kg commercial cylinder costs Rs 2,738. In Ranchi, a domestic cylinder is priced at Rs 999.50 and a commercial cylinder at Rs 2,922. Compared to Delhi, domestic cylinders are Rs 57.50 more expensive, while commercial cylinders are Rs 184 pricier.



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| Headline       | Indian refiners turn to spot crude as Middle East supply risk rises |         |                 |
| Publication    | ET Chemicals                                                        | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                         |         |                 |

## Indian refiners turn to spot crude as Middle East supply risk rises

<https://chemicals.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/petrochemicals/indian-refiners-turn-to-spot-crude-as-middle-east-supply-risk-rises/133227871>

Indian refiners are increasing spot crude purchases as Middle East disruptions threaten term supplies and shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea. The move is accelerating diversification towards West African and other non-traditional barrels, with MRPL and HPCL leading the latest tenders.

India's state-run refiners are reworking crude procurement plans as disruption risks in the Middle East push buyers towards the spot market and alternative supply routes. The latest tenders underline how geopolitical stress around the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea is reshaping buying behaviour for one of the world's fastest-growing fuel markets.

Spot buying gathers paceAccording to IndexBox, citing Reuters and tender documents, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have together sought 6 million barrels of crude through spot tenders. HPCL is looking for as much as 4 million barrels for delivery in September and October, while MRPL is seeking cargoes for the October 10 to 20 loading window.

The shift to the spot market reflects a broader attempt by Indian refiners to keep plants supplied even when term deliveries from the Middle East become difficult to secure on schedule. For refiners that run large, complex processing systems, crude continuity is not simply a trading decision but a refinery utilisation issue with direct implications for output and margins.

Routes through the Gulf are under scrutinyMRPL has gone a step further by asking suppliers to avoid cargoes that pass through the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, the two shipping corridors most exposed to regional tensions. That request mirrors the company's earlier position in late July, when it became the first Indian refiner to formally tell suppliers to steer clear of both routes amid renewed hostilities and Houthi threats to oil traffic.

The caution is significant because the Strait of Hormuz remains one of the most important crude chokepoints in global energy trade. Any prolonged disruption can force buyers to pay more for longer-haul barrels, accept different grades, or adjust refinery runs to match available feedstock. For Indian buyers, the issue is not only price but also delivery certainty.

West African barrels are filling the gapAs Middle East supply has become less predictable, Indian state-run refiners have increased purchases from West Africa and other distant sources. Last week, MRPL bought about 1 million barrels of Omani crude in a tender, paying a premium of around \$3 per barrel to Dated Brent, with Mitsui & Co Energy Trading Singapore as the seller, Reuters reported.

Indian Oil Corporation, the country's largest refiner by capacity, has also stepped up diversification. The company purchased 4 million barrels of West African crude from Chevron, including grades from Angola and Congo. The move shows how refiners are widening their sourcing map to reduce dependence on any single corridor or supplier cluster. Industry buyers have increasingly looked as far afield as Angola and Venezuela after term cargoes from the Middle East were delayed again in July and did not arrive in India as planned. That pattern suggests the current procurement strategy is less about opportunistic trading and more about building resilience into refinery feedstock supply.

What the buying pattern means for India's oil marketFor Indian refiners, the current scramble for spot barrels points to a deeper recalibration in crude procurement. Term contracts have traditionally provided price stability and supply visibility, but they can become vulnerable when shipping lanes are exposed to geopolitical shocks. Spot buying offers flexibility, although often at a higher cost and with greater exposure to freight and quality premiums. The trend also reinforces the advantage held by refiners with broad crude slates and established trading relationships. Companies able to process a wider range of grades can respond faster when a preferred source is disrupted. That matters in India, where refiners are not just buying for domestic consumption but also supporting a large fuel export business that depends on steady throughput.

IndexBox's report on India's crude petroleum oil market places these developments in a wider commercial context, tracking demand, supply, trade flows, pricing and the competitive structure across the sector. The report also notes that the market outlook extends to 2035, with supply security, transport costs and regulatory shifts expected to remain central to buying decisions. For now, the message from Indian refiners is clear: when the Middle East becomes uncertain, procurement teams move fast, diversify aggressively and pay close attention to shipping routes that can no longer be taken for granted.



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| Headline       | Petrol, diesel prices on August 14 — Check fuel refill cost in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru today |         |                 |
| Publication    | Live Mint                                                                                              | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                                                            |         |                 |

### **Petrol, diesel prices on August 14 — Check fuel refill cost in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru today**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/petrol-diesel-prices-on-august-14-check-fuel-refill-cost-in-delhi-mumbai-kolkata-bengaluru-today-11786668785541.html>

Petrol and diesel prices today, August 14: Fuel rates in India remained unchanged on Friday even as Brent crude, the international oil benchmark, extended its decline. There was little to no change in petrol and diesel refill cost in cities like New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, among others.

Traders continued to monitor efforts toward a possible deal that could reopen the Strait of Hormuz, while fresh attacks on tankers and energy infrastructure kept the market on edge, Bloomberg reported early Friday.

Brent was trading near \$87 a barrel after falling 2.2% in the previous session, while West Texas Intermediate stood at around \$81. Iran and Oman have yet to reach an agreement to reopen the critical waterway, after optimism earlier this week that a deal was close.

Retail petrol and diesel prices continue to align with OMCs last major price revision implemented nearly three months ago, on 25 May. State-run fuel retailers continue to shield consumers from volatility in oil prices.

Who is responsible for fuel pricing?

The three major OMCs responsible for fuel pricing and distribution in India are Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

Retail fuel prices in the country are based on several factors, including the price of crude oil in international markets, the rupee-dollar exchange rate, and taxes imposed by the central and state governments.

Petrol and diesel prices are revised every day at 6 AM. This practice helps OMCs to keep domestic fuel prices aligned with international crude oil prices and currency exchange rates.

Oil rates remain high

Oil futures are still headed for a weekly gain and have risen more than 40% so far this year, as the Iran war that began in late February drags on.

The International Energy Agency this week forecast a deeper supply shortfall this quarter, and sees the deficit in 2026 expanding to the widest in five years. according to a Bloomberg report.

US could keep naval blockade on Iran 'indefinitely'

The United States on Thursday said that it could maintain a naval blockade of Iran indefinitely and would intensify economic pressure on Tehran as ceasefire talks have stalled, global oil supplies have tightened and regional tensions are rising.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters that the US military has the capability to sustain a naval presence in the region to enforce its blockade of Iran, which has already caused significant economic damage to the country, Reuters said in a news report.

"Indefinitely the United States Navy can maintain a blockade like that because we'll rotate ships in and out, as we have, and we'll continue to," Hegseth told reporters during a trip to Panama.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Thursday that the United States planned to inflict more financial damage on Iran.



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| Headline       | Maruti, Tata, Mahindra Flag E20 Fuel Contamination Risks In Internal Emails |         |                 |
| Publication    | Business World                                                              | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                                 |         |                 |

### Maruti, Tata, Mahindra Flag E20 Fuel Contamination Risks In Internal Emails

<https://www.businessworld.in/article/maruti-tata-mahindra-flag-e20-fuel-contamination-risks-in-internal-emails-619190>

Major Indian automakers privately expressed concerns over the quality of E20 fuel after internal testing detected elevated levels of chloride and moisture in samples collected from several states, according to internal emails and documents reviewed by Reuters. The disclosures come days after the automobile industry withdrew a formal complaint to the government regarding fuel contamination, citing the need for further verification of data.

The findings were discussed among leading vehicle manufacturers, including Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra, as part of industry-wide deliberations on the impact of E20 fuel on vehicle performance. Internal assessments reportedly found contamination levels exceeding prescribed limits in a significant number of fuel samples, raising concerns about corrosion, component wear and long-term engine performance.

The concerns had prompted the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) to seek a formal mechanism for detecting fuel contamination at petrol pumps. However, the industry body later withdrew its warning, stating that the data required further validation before definitive conclusions could be drawn.

#### Government, OMCs Defend Fuel

State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs), including Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, have rejected allegations of widespread contamination. They said nationwide testing of fuel samples from refineries, depots and retail outlets found chloride and moisture levels within prescribed limits and maintained that E20 fuel meets all quality standards.

The government has positioned ethanol blending as a key pillar of its energy security and emissions-reduction strategy. E20 fuel was rolled out across the country ahead of the original 2030 target, with policymakers arguing that higher ethanol blending can reduce crude oil imports and support domestic agriculture.

#### Debate Likely To Continue

The latest revelations are likely to intensify scrutiny of India's ethanol-blending programme, which has already faced criticism from some vehicle owners over fuel efficiency and maintenance issues. While automakers maintain that E20-compatible vehicles have undergone extensive testing, the internal discussions indicate continuing concerns over fuel handling, storage conditions and contamination risks across the supply chain.

The episode highlights the challenge of balancing India's clean-energy ambitions with consumer confidence, as regulators, fuel retailers and automakers seek to establish whether isolated contamination incidents or broader quality-control issues are behind the complaints.



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| Headline       | India cuts windfall tax on exports of petrol, diesel, aviation fuel |         |                 |
| Publication    | Reuters                                                             | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 15 Aug 2026                                                         |         |                 |

### India cuts windfall tax on exports of petrol, diesel, aviation fuel

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/india-cuts-windfall-tax-exports-petrol-diesel-aviation-fuel-2026-08-14/>

Aug 14 (Reuters) - India has lowered windfall taxes on exports of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel with effect from Saturday, according to a government order.

The duty on diesel exports has been cut to 24 Indian rupees (\$0.2515) per litre from 25.5 rupees, while petrol duty has been set at zero rupees per litre, down from 3.5 rupees, the government order showed.

The tax on aviation turbine fuel has been set at 19.5 rupees per litre from 22 rupees earlier.

India first imposed windfall taxes in July 2022 to capture extraordinary gains from soaring oil prices and scrapped it two years later. The levy was reintroduced in March 2026 after oil prices surged during the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran.

India currently revises the export levies every fortnight, based on international prices of crude oil and petroleum products.



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| Headline       | LPG Rate 14 August 2026: Know the latest rate before booking a gas cylinder, check city-wise price |         |                 |
| Publication    | Informal Newz                                                                                      | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                                                        |         |                 |

### **LPG Rate 14 August 2026: Know the latest rate before booking a gas cylinder, check city-wise price**

<https://www.informalnewz.com/lpg-rate-14-august-2026-know-the-latest-rate-before-booking-a-gas-cylinder-check-city-wise-price/?amp=1>

LPG Rate 14 August 2026: Amidst the ongoing conflict in the West and the Middle East, India's government oil companies (OMCs) have not made any change in the prices of 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders. At the same time, the rates of commercial gas cylinders have also been kept stable.

LPG Rate 14 August 2026: Amidst the ongoing conflict in the West and the Middle East, India's government oil companies (OMCs) have not made any change in the prices of 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders. At the same time, the rates of commercial gas cylinders have also been kept stable. However, on the first of the month, a big cut of Rs 192 was made in the 19 kg cylinder. If you are thinking of booking a gas cylinder in such a situation, then first of all it is important to know the rate of your city.

What is the country's future plan?

India is among the world's largest consumers of LPG. Amid rising tensions in West Asia, India no longer wants to rely on a single region for its LPG supply. As part of this strategy, India is preparing to purchase more LPG from the United States by 2027.

According to a Bloomberg report, the Indian government has directed state-owned oil companies Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) to try to secure at least 15% of the country's total LPG imports from the US through long-term contracts in 2027.

The move is aimed at making the supply of LPG more secure and robust, so that any tension or supply disruption in West Asia has minimal impact on India.

Will gas cylinder become expensive ?

Currently, there has been no change in the prices of domestic and commercial LPG cylinders, but fluctuations are possible in the coming days. The government is considering a proposal to impose a new tax on LPG to build strategic fuel reserves. Any price changes could have a direct impact on the pockets of ordinary people. Therefore, it's best to monitor daily LPG prices to stay updated on the latest gas cylinder rates.



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | ORSL subsidiary wins Rs 15.46 crore IOCL O&M contract for Gorakhpur CBG plant |         |                 |
| Publication    | Bioenergy Times                                                               | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                                   |         |                 |

### ORSL subsidiary wins Rs 15.46 crore IOCL O&M contract for Gorakhpur CBG plant

<https://bioenergytimes.com/or-sl-sub-sidiary-wins-rs-15-46-crore-iocl-om-contract-for-gorakhpur-cbg-plant/>

Organic Recycling Systems Ltd (ORSL) said on Thursday that its wholly owned subsidiary, Solapur Bioenergy Systems Pvt Ltd (SBESPL), has secured a two-year operations and maintenance (O&M) contract from Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for its compressed biogas (CBG) plant in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

The contract, valued at about Rs 15.46 crore, will run from August 13, 2026, to August 12, 2028. It is the second consecutive O&M contract awarded to SBESPL for the facility, PTI reported.

Under the agreement, SBESPL will provide end-to-end O&M services for IOCL's 200 tonnes-per-day paddy straw-based CBG plant. Its responsibilities will include plant operations, preventive and breakdown maintenance, safety compliance and manpower management

The Gorakhpur facility uses agricultural residues such as paddy straw, press mud and cattle dung to produce CBG and organic manure. The project is aimed at supporting renewable energy production, reducing agricultural residue burning and creating livelihood opportunities in rural Uttar Pradesh.

The contract renewal comes as India expands its compressed biogas sector under the government's GOBARdhan scheme, which provides a unified policy framework for developing the CBG ecosystem. The framework includes measures such as assured offtake, stable pricing, capital assistance, pipeline connectivity and access to finance.

ORSL said the renewal reflects SBESPL's performance during the previous contract and strengthens its portfolio of recurring revenue agreements with public sector companies in the bioenergy sector.

"Securing a second consecutive O&M contract from IOCL is a testament to the consistent operational performance delivered by our team at Gorakhpur," ORSL Promoter and Managing Director Sarang Bhand said.

Pankaj Tanwar, CEO-Bioenergy at ORSL, said the company would focus on operational discipline, safety, preventive maintenance and process reliability during the renewed contract period.

ORSL, founded in 2008 and listed on the BSE SME platform in 2023, describes itself as a CleanTech and decarbonisation company focused on waste management and bioenergy technologies.



|                |                                                                                                           |         |                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Organic Recycling Systems' Subsidiary Secures Second O&M Contract from Indian Oil for Gorakhpur CBG Plant |         |                 |
| Publication    | Bioenergy Times                                                                                           | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                                                               |         |                 |

### Organic Recycling Systems' Subsidiary Secures Second O&M Contract from Indian Oil for Gorakhpur CBG Plant

<https://m.thewire.in/article/ptiprnews/organic-recycling-systems-subsidiary-secures-second-om-contract-from-indian-oil-for-gorakhpur-cbg-plant/amp>

Solapur Bioenergy Systems Private Limited secures second consecutive two-year O&M contract valued at approximately ₹15.46 crore, reinforcing ORSL's position in India's expanding compressed biogas sector amid the rollout of GOBARdhan, the Government's National Unified Scheme for Compressed Biogas.

New Delhi [India], August 14: Organic Recycling Systems Limited (BSE: 543997), an integrated CleanTech and decarbonisation platform, is pleased to announce that its wholly owned subsidiary, Solapur Bioenergy Systems Private Limited (SBESPL), has secured the renewal of its Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contract from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for the Gorakhpur Compressed Biogas plant in Uttar Pradesh. This marks the second consecutive term for which SBESPL has been entrusted with full O&M responsibility for the facility, underscoring the sustained operational confidence IOCL has placed in ORSL's subsidiary.

The contract is valued at approximately ₹15.46 crore and covers a two-year period commencing August 13, 2026, and concluding August 12, 2028. Under the renewed contract, SBESPL will continue to provide end-to-end O&M services for IOCL's 200 TPD paddy straw-based Compressed Biogas plant, encompassing plant operations, preventive and breakdown maintenance, safety compliance, and manpower management.

The Gorakhpur CBG plant is a significant facility within IOCL's green energy portfolio. The plant processes agro-residues including paddy straw, press mud, and cattle dung to produce Compressed Biogas and nutrient-rich organic manure, contributing to India's energy security, reduction of agricultural stubble burning, and rural livelihood support in Uttar Pradesh.

The contract renewal comes at a significant time for India's compressed biogas sector. Building on the foundation established through the Government of India's SATAT initiative, the recently approved GOBARdhan – India's National Unified Scheme for Compressed Biogas – creates an integrated policy framework to accelerate the development of the CBG ecosystem through measures including assured offtake, stable pricing, capital assistance, pipeline connectivity and access to finance. As an established operations and maintenance partner for one of IOCL's key CBG facilities, ORSL is well positioned to support the next phase of growth in India's clean energy and circular bioeconomy sectors.

The contract renewal is also a direct reflection of SBESPL's operational performance during the preceding contract period. It reinforces ORSL's standing as a trusted long-term O&M partner for PSU-led clean energy infrastructure and adds to the Company's portfolio of recurring revenue contracts in the bioenergy sector.

"Securing a second consecutive O&M contract from IOCL is a testament to the consistent operational performance delivered by our team at Gorakhpur. It reflects the trust that India's largest oil and gas PSU continues to place in our capabilities, and strengthens our commitment to supporting India's compressed biogas mission." — Mr. Sarang Bhand, Promoter and Managing Director, Organic Recycling Systems Limited

Commenting on the contract renewal, Mr. Pankaj Tanwar, CEO – Bioenergy, Organic Recycling Systems Limited, said:

The renewal of this mandate reflects the importance of consistent execution in operating large-scale compressed biogas facilities. Our focus over the next two years will remain on maintaining high standards of operational discipline, safety, preventive maintenance, and process reliability while ensuring seamless day-to-day plant operations. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Indian Oil and contributing to the efficient operation of one of India's key CBG assets."

This contract adds to ORSL's growing portfolio of long-term recurring revenue engagements with PSU clients and reinforces its position as a trusted operational partner for India's CBG infrastructure.

#### About Organic Recycling Systems Limited

Organic Recycling Systems Limited (BSE: 543997) is an integrated CleanTech and decarbonisation platform founded in 2008 and listed on the BSE SME platform in 2023. The Company holds 2 patents, 5 proprietary technologies, and maintains active R&D partnerships with IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, the University of Birmingham, and AGH University of Science and Technology, Poland. Further information is available at [www.organicrecycling.co.in](http://www.organicrecycling.co.in) and [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) (Scrip Code: 543997).



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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Indian Refiners Rush to Secure Crude as Supply Fears Mount |         |                 |
| Publication    | whalesbook                                                 | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                |         |                 |

### Indian Refiners Rush to Secure Crude as Supply Fears Mount

<https://www.whalesbook.com/news/English/energy/Indian-Refiners-Rush-to-Secure-Crude-as-Supply-Fears-Mount/6a7eda376ffbe1e6461b6796>

Indian state-owned refiners are booking crude oil supplies months in advance to avoid potential shortages from global geopolitical tensions. This change in strategy comes as companies like HPCL face profit pressure and recent stock volatility following their quarterly results.

Indian state-owned refiners, including Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), are changing their purchasing habits. Usually, these companies buy spot crude oil for delivery one or two months in advance. However, they are now securing supplies for delivery as late as November 2026. This shift shows growing concern about the reliability of global oil shipments.

#### Why Supply Security is a Priority

The move comes amid rising geopolitical tensions. Energy experts are worried about potential disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway for global oil transit. Additionally, attacks on energy infrastructure in Russia have made it harder for India to rely on its top crude supplier. To manage these risks, companies are looking for alternative sources, including supplies from West Africa and other Middle Eastern nations that do not require passage through the troubled Strait of Hormuz.

#### Financial and Market Context

This aggressive push for inventory comes at a difficult financial time for these refiners. HPCL reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 12,264.67 crore for the quarter ending June 2026. A major reason for this performance is that marketing margins—the profit made on selling fuel—have been under pressure because retail fuel prices in India are regulated and do not always move in line with global oil costs.

On August 14, 2026, shares of HPCL fell by approximately 5%. This price decline was influenced by both the company's recent weak quarterly results and the fact that the stock was trading ex-dividend. When a stock trades ex-dividend, its price typically drops by the amount of the dividend paid out, which was Rs 19.25 per share for HPCL.

#### Risks and Future Monitoring

The strategy of buying crude in advance can help companies avoid sudden shortages, but it also carries financial risks. Securing oil while prices are volatile may affect cash flow. Additionally, there is uncertainty regarding potential U.S. sanctions on countries that buy Russian energy. While the Indian government has maintained its stance on energy imports, any new policy changes could create further pressure on the refining sector.

Investors will likely track whether these companies can balance the need for secure supply with the pressure on their profit margins. Other monitorables include global oil price trends, the status of the Strait of Hormuz, and whether the upcoming festival season in India leads to the expected surge in domestic fuel demand, which could help refiners improve their financial performance.



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| Headline       | Rajasthan, HPCL sign MoU for ₹22 crore polytechnic college in Balotra |         |                 |
| Publication    | The Economic Times                                                    | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                           |         |                 |

### **Rajasthan, HPCL sign MoU for ₹22 crore polytechnic college in Balotra**

<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/education/rajasthan-hpcl-sign-mou-for-22-crore-polytechnic-college-in-balotra/133235143>

The Rajasthan government and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) on Thursday signed an MoU to establish a government polytechnic college in Janiana, Balotra, to provide technical education and training to local youth and support employment opportunities at the Balotra refinery-cum-petrochemical complex.

HPCL will provide ₹22 crore from its corporate social responsibility funds to the Rajasthan government for construction of the college building and procurement of equipment, furniture and other resources.

The MoU was signed between HPCL and officials of the Rajasthan government's Technical Education Department in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa at the Secretariat.

The college will offer courses aligned with the manpower requirements of the refinery. In the first year, courses are planned in petroleum, mechanical and civil engineering, along with computer science.

Bairwa said the college would support the government's plan to link the refinery project with employment opportunities for local youth.

The Balotra refinery-cum-petrochemical complex was developed as a joint venture between HPCL and the Rajasthan government. It has a refining capacity of 9 million metric tonnes per annum and was established with an investment of ₹79,459 crore. The complex has a petrochemical production capacity of 2.4 MMTPA.

A project to establish additional petrol pumps is also planned to increase the consumption of petrol and diesel produced by the refinery within Rajasthan.

The refinery-cum-petrochemical complex is also expected to support the development of petrochemical and plastic parks, along with related downstream and ancillary industries.

HPCL Director – Human Resources – K S Shetty, Executive Director Manoj Kumar Moharana, Chief General Manager Manish Tandon and General Managers Pender N Baba and Yashpal Aneja were present during the signing of the MoU.



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| Headline       | Oil Rises as US Warns of More Economic Pressure to Isolate Iran |         |                 |
| Publication    | Live Mint                                                       | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 15 Aug 2026                                                     |         |                 |

## Oil Rises as US Warns of More Economic Pressure to Isolate Iran

<https://www.livemint.com/market/oil-rises-as-us-warns-of-more-economic-pressure-to-isolate-iran-11786737452456.html>

(Bloomberg) -- Oil edged higher as traders weighed a US threat to impose unprecedented economic measures on Iran, with the war that snarled the Strait of Hormuz in its sixth month.

Brent settled above \$88 a barrel, notching a roughly 6% gain for the week. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Newsmax the US will apply economic pressure on Iran "like the world has never seen," with more to be announced next week. He said the US will also maintain its naval blockade of Iranian ports as Washington pushes Tehran to reopen the key energy chokepoint.

Oil futures have surged more than 40% this year as the war disrupted output and exports from top OPEC producers in the Persian Gulf, even as they've found ways to ship their crude out to global markets. The International Energy Agency this week forecast a deeper supply shortfall this quarter, and sees the deficit in 2026 expanding to the widest in five years.

Iran has been in talks with Oman about reopening Hormuz, but they've yet to strike a deal despite optimism earlier this week that an agreement was within reach. Those efforts have been complicated by a hardening of positions in Tehran and Washington, with US President Donald Trump making sweeping new demands.

It's unclear how effective US economic pressure to force Iran to capitulate will be. The Islamic Republic has in the past weathered several waves of sanctions and financial strain, without bending on its nuclear program or relinquishing its influence over the Strait of Hormuz.

Traders have returned to parsing through how much oil is crossing the waterway as progress has stalled over a deal. US Energy Secretary Chris Wright told Fox News that the capacity of US forces to escort ships through the strait is increasing, allowing flows to rise. Tankers are often crossing with their transponders switched off in an effort to avoid targeted strikes, but transits remain risky.

The prospect of higher flows through Hormuz than the market initially anticipated suggests that this week's gain reflects a risk premium rather than tighter fundamentals, according to Scott Shelton, an energy specialist at TP ICAP Group Plc. "I would also assume fast money is profit-taking ahead of another 'deal' on the table," he added.

Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., among the most successful operators in moving crude out of the Gulf, said two more of its ships were attacked late Thursday, but the situation had been brought under control.

Until another major development emerges, oil prices will likely remain in an \$80-to-\$90 range, according to Saul Kavonic, senior energy analyst at MST Marquee. The outlook remains clouded by uncertainty over the conflict's trajectory and the volume of oil leaving the region, he said.



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Oil may hit \$100 by mid-Sept as US-Iran standoff persists: Mirae Asset |         |                 |
| Publication    | Business Standard                                                       | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                             |         |                 |

### Oil may hit \$100 by mid-Sept as US-Iran standoff persists: Mirae Asset

[https://www.business-standard.com/markets/commodities/oil-may-hit-100-by-mid-sept-as-us-iran-standoff-persists-mirae-asset-126081400968\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/markets/commodities/oil-may-hit-100-by-mid-sept-as-us-iran-standoff-persists-mirae-asset-126081400968_1.html)

Disclaimer: This article is written by Mohammed Imran, research analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan. Views expressed are his own. Readers' discretion is advised.

#### Higher crude oil prices risks demand destruction

The second-order effects of the US–Iran conflict are now visible in global oil markets. Crude prices have traded in an unusually wide range of nearly \$40/bbl, driven by rapid shifts in diplomatic expectations and renewed escalation risk. Hopes of progress triggered sharp declines in June and early July, but the return of hostilities pushed prices as high as \$105/bbl on 23 July. Although the standoff has not escalated into direct large-scale military exchange over the past two weeks, physical markets remain tight: Dated Brent is holding above \$90/bbl, Brent futures remain above \$85/bbl, and WTI continues to trade above \$80/bbl.

#### IEA Inventory Update: Stock Draws Deepen

The International Energy Agency's latest monthly report shows that global observed oil inventories fell by 69 million barrels in July. The draw was driven by renewed disruptions to crude flows through the Strait of Hormuz and the Caspian Sea, alongside a decline in floating inventories. Onshore stocks fell by a more modest 6 million barrels as the pace of emergency stock releases slowed even as Chinese crude inventories continued to draw. Since the start of the conflict, monitored stocks have fallen by an estimated 410 million barrels, equivalent to roughly 2.7 mb/d on average.

#### Refined products: The main pressure point

The most visible stress is now in refined products, where shortages directly affect economic activity. Global refinery crude throughput improved in July as US and European refiners returned from annual maintenance, but overall runs remained nearly 5 mb/d below year-earlier levels at 80.9 mb/d. Continued Middle East product export disruptions and attacks on Russian refineries kept the system under pressure. Global refining capacity is still expected to fall by 370 kb/d by the end of Q3, while throughput may decline by an average of 2.5 mb/d in 2026 before rebounding by 3.5 mb/d in 2027. Tighter light and middle distillate markets have pushed cracks and margins to record highs: Singapore gasoil cracks against Dubai averaged \$63.99/bbl, while European gasoline cracks against Brent averaged \$55.88/bbl.

#### China: Price sensitivity and EV substitution

Price-sensitive Asian demand is showing signs of adjustment, particularly in China. EV penetration has remained above 60 per cent Y-o-Y in 2026, and Chinese crude demand is expected to lose around 1.5 mb/d to EV substitution. Lower refinery activity explains roughly half of the import reduction. Official data from China's National Bureau of Statistics show that refinery runs fell by 2.7 mb/d from pre-war levels through June, the steepest contraction on record and deeper than the decline seen during the COVID-zero period in 2022.

#### Demand outlook: Contraction in 2026, recovery in 2027

The IEA now expects global oil demand to contract by 1.6 mb/d in 2026, as the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz and elevated fuel prices continue to weigh on consumption. The annual contraction is expected to ease from 4.9 mb/d in 2Q26 to 2.8 mb/d in 3Q26, before demand returns to growth in the final quarter. For 2027, demand is projected to expand by 2.4 mb/d.

#### GCC to remain in pain

Global supply remains constrained by GCC disruptions, even as non-OPEC+ producers continue to add barrels. Supply rose by 2.4 mb/d month-on-month to 101.5 mb/d in July, but remained 6.3 mb/d below year-earlier levels, with 8.3 mb/d of Gulf output still shut in. Renewed hostilities and maritime disruptions in July and early August have reduced projected 3Q26 oil supply by 1.7 mb/d compared with the previous IEA report. Global oil supply is now projected to decline by 4.3 mb/d on average in 2026 before rebounding by 8.3 mb/d in 2027 to 110.3 mb/d.

#### US inventories



The latest EIA data show that US inventory buffers remain thin. As of 7 August, crude oil inventories were 1.8 per cent below the seasonal five-year average, gasoline inventories were 5.8 per cent below average, and distillate inventories were 11.9 per cent below average. US crude production rose slightly to 13.805 mb/d in the week ending 7 August, just below the November 2025 record of 13.862 mb/d.

#### Outlook:

There is still no clear sign of progress between the US and Iran on a durable agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. While some vessels continue to move through the waterway with transponders switched off, traffic remains far below normal levels. Until flows normalize, refined-product shortages, weak inventory buffers, and persistent geopolitical risk should keep the crude price floor elevated and volatility high.

We believe that in the absence of any resolution between the US and Iran, each passing week would see floor prices increasing for global oil prices, by mid-September dated brent could see \$100 mark and Brent futures above \$90.



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|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | US Oil Rig Count Edges Higher to 455, Baker Hughes Data Shows |         |                 |
| Publication    | Bitcoinworld                                                  | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 14 Aug 2026                                                   |         |                 |

**US Oil Rig Count Edges Higher to 455, Baker Hughes Data Shows**

<https://bitcoinworld.co.in/us-oil-rig-count-rises-455-baker-hughes/>

The US oil rig count rose to 455 in the week ending [Date], up from 454 the previous week, according to data released by Baker Hughes on [Day]. This marks a modest increase in drilling activity, reflecting cautious optimism among producers amid stable oil prices and ongoing supply concerns.

**What the Latest Rig Count Data Shows**

The one-rig increase brings the total number of active oil drilling rigs in the United States to 455, as reported by Baker Hughes, a leading oilfield services company. The weekly data, closely watched by energy analysts, indicates a slight uptick in exploration and production activity, though the pace remains subdued compared to historical highs.

While a single-week change is often within normal volatility, the trend over recent months suggests a plateau in drilling activity, with operators balancing capital discipline against steady demand. The rig count is a leading indicator of future US crude output, and this marginal rise points to a stable but not aggressive expansion in domestic production.

**Market and Industry Implications**

For energy markets, the rig count data provides insight into supply expectations. A higher rig count typically signals increased future production, which can influence oil prices. However, the modest nature of this increase means it is unlikely to trigger significant market movement on its own. Analysts often look at multi-week trends and the mix of oil versus gas rigs to gauge the industry’s direction.

The stability in rig counts comes as producers focus on shareholder returns and cost efficiency rather than rapid growth. This approach, combined with geopolitical uncertainties and OPEC+ production policies, continues to shape the global oil supply landscape. For consumers, steady drilling activity helps maintain a balanced market, potentially mitigating price spikes.

**Why This Matters to Readers**

Understanding rig count trends is essential for anyone following energy prices, regional employment, or the broader economic outlook. The oil and gas sector is a significant contributor to US jobs and investment, particularly in states like Texas, New Mexico, and North Dakota. A stable or rising rig count supports local economies and signals confidence in the sector’s near-term prospects.

**Conclusion**

The Baker Hughes report showing the US oil rig count at 455 reflects a steady, if cautious, drilling environment. While the weekly change is minimal, it underscores the industry’s balanced approach to production growth. As energy markets evolve, continued monitoring of rig counts will remain a key indicator of US supply trends.

**FAQs**

Q1: What is the Baker Hughes rig count?

The Baker Hughes rig count is a weekly census of active oil and gas drilling rigs in the US and internationally. It is a widely used indicator of drilling activity and future production.

Q2: Why did the oil rig count increase by only one?

The one-rig increase reflects minor adjustments in drilling plans, often due to operator decisions, maintenance schedules, or short-term market conditions. Such small changes are common and not necessarily indicative of a larger trend.

Q3: How does the rig count affect oil prices?

A higher rig count generally suggests more future supply, which can put downward pressure on prices. However, prices are influenced by many factors, including demand, geopolitical events, and OPEC+ decisions, so the impact of a single week’s change is limited.



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| Headline       | Fire breaks out again at Rajasthan's HPCL refinery: Spark ignites after oil leak in CDU; fire brigade controls blaze in 15 minutes |         |                 |
| Publication    | Bhaskar English                                                                                                                    | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 15 Aug 2026                                                                                                                        |         |                 |

### Fire breaks out again at Rajasthan's HPCL refinery: Spark ignites after oil leak in CDU; fire brigade controls blaze in 15 minutes

<https://www.bhaskarenglish.in/local/rajasthan/news/hpcl-refinery-balotra-fire-accident-cdu-oil-leakage-138728349.html>

A fire broke out once again at the country's most high-tech Hindustan Petroleum Limited (HPCL) refinery in Rajasthan's Balotra. On Friday around 6 PM, there was an oil leak in the Crude Distillation Unit (CDU), where a fire started after a spark.

However, as soon as the fire started, the refinery's fire system was activated, and sirens also began to sound. When smoke rose, there was chaos at the spot.

Upon receiving information, fire brigade vehicles reached the location and brought the fire under control in about 15 minutes.

According to initial information, there has been no major damage from the fire. Upon receiving information, police and administration teams also reached the spot.

Administrative officers have denied the fire incident. They claim that there was a minor oil leakage, which activated the fire system.

Fire had also broken out at the refinery on 20th April

Earlier this year, on 20th April, a fire had broken out in two sections of the refinery - Crude Distillation Unit (CDU) and Vacuum Distillation Unit (VDU). This incident occurred a day before the refinery's inauguration on 21 April.

After the accident, PM Narendra Modi's visit here was postponed. After this, repair work was carried out here, and on 4th July, the Prime Minister inaugurated the refinery.

HPCL refinery built across 4,500 acres

The refinery of state-run oil company Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is located in Pachpadra, Balotra, a newly formed district in Rajasthan.

Spread across 4,500 acres (7,200 bighas), the refinery complex is equipped to process imported crude oil and produce various petroleum products. It can refine 9 million tonnes of crude oil annually.

India's most high-tech refinery

The Pachpadra refinery is a joint venture between HPCL, which holds a 74% stake, and the Rajasthan government, which owns 26%. After a 15-year wait and an additional cost of ₹42,229 crore compared with the initial estimate, the project is now set to transform the desert landscape.

One of the refinery's biggest strengths is its Nelson Complexity Index (NCI), which stands at around 17. In technical terms, this makes it one of India's most advanced, high-conversion refineries.

It can process even heavy, low-quality crude oil sourced from anywhere in the world and convert it into high-value petrol, diesel and petrochemical products.

Most of the refinery's reactors, columns and large storage tanks were manufactured in India. However, advanced technology from the US, Japan and Europe was used for its control systems and high-pressure compressors.

Dutch technicians also worked at the site to ensure that the finishing and welding met international quality standards.



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|----------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Hormuz Stalemate Raises Risk of \$120 Oil |         |                 |
| Publication    | Investing                                 | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 15 Aug 2026                               |         |                 |

### Hormuz Stalemate Raises Risk of \$120 Oil

<https://in.investing.com/analysis/hormuz-stalemate-raises-risk-of-120-oil-200639057>

For months now, traders and market analysts have had to weigh two opposing scenarios for oil prices—the ongoing war and severely disrupted oil flows at the Strait of Hormuz and hopes that a U.S.-Iran deal would free up millions of barrels of oil and refined products trapped in the Persian Gulf.

For five and a half months of negotiations, threats, Iranian attacks on tankers, U.S. blockades on Iran's oil exports, and numerous pledges of "strong responses" from both sides, oil prices have spiked and crashed so many times that these can only be compared to the number of threats from U.S. President Donald Trump to "obliterate" Iran.

This week's story is the apparent stalemate over the control of the Strait of Hormuz, which remains mostly closed, with traffic at two-month lows.

#### Sentiment Vs Supply

The crude oil futures market moves on sentiment and (a lack of) hope about an imminent reopening of the Strait. This has been the case since the war began on February 28.

However, global inventories are depleting, including those from the massive releases from the strategic stockpile, while China, which has kept oil futures prices in check with a decade-low import level in May and June, is now back to buying more crude.

If the stalemate over the U.S.-Iran talks and the Strait of Hormuz control persists for a few more weeks, the physical oil market could reach the much-feared tipping point, beyond which shortages would be felt, and prices will spike, analysts say.

The crude oil futures haven't jumped to record highs amid the biggest-ever disruption in oil markets, thanks to the low Chinese imports in the second quarter, the global release of strategic stocks, and the big buffer of oil on water at the start of the Iran war. But refining margins have jumped to the highest on record in the Atlantic Basin, amid depleting inventories, supply bottlenecks, and peak summer demand. Related: EIA Sees Massive Uptick in US Crude Oil Inventories

Analysts have started to point to the tightening fuel markets and China's tentative return to increased oil imports as fundamentals that could lead to oil futures price spikes within weeks, if tanker traffic at the Strait of Hormuz does not begin to pick up again soon.

#### What's Next for Oil Prices?

Early on Wednesday, Brent Crude oil prices rose above \$89 per barrel as Iran and the United States offered contrasting claims about who controls the Strait of Hormuz.

Earlier this week, Iran said that the Strait of Hormuz will remain closed unless the United States ends the war and meets Tehran's conditions.

Later on Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump said that the United States had "total control over the Hormuz Strait."

The prospect of more severe demand destruction due to the protracted crisis and high fuel prices sent oil prices lower early on Thursday.

It looks like the market is more focused on all the rhetoric coming from the U.S. and Iran than it is willing to accept that the tightening fuel markets could reach the "tipping point" at about end-September early-October if oil flows at the Strait of Hormuz remain severely constrained.

"The crude set-up is more bullish on a fundamental basis," Amrita Sen, founder and director of research at consultancy Energy Aspects, has recently told CNBC.

According to Kieran Tompkins, senior climate and commodities economist at Capital Economics, "If the strait remains closed and oil inventories in OECD countries continue to be depleted quickly, the oil market could reach a tipping point around the start of Q4."



"This would be consistent with much higher prices, possibly in the region of \$120-140 per barrel based on historical form," Tompkins told CNBC via email.

Ole Hansen, Head of Commodity Strategy at Saxo Bank, reckons that refined products "remain significantly tighter than crude as Middle Eastern and Russian refinery disruptions drive crack spreads and refining margins to exceptional levels."

The crude oil futures market is being driven by all the Hormuz headlines, but the real squeeze in the market is in the refined products, especially the middle distillates diesel, gasoil, and jet fuel, Hansen said in a Wednesday analysis.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) flagged the tight fuel markets and high refining margins in its monthly Oil Market Report out this week.

"Despite a monthly increase of 1.8 mb/d, global refinery crude throughputs in July remained nearly 5 mb/d below year-earlier levels, with capacity elsewhere in the system currently unable to offset product supply bottlenecks," the IEA said.

Even as U.S. fuel exports rose by about 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) in July from a year earlier, global seaborne trade in petroleum products slumped by 3.8 million bpd, amid plunging diesel and jet fuel exports from Russia and the Middle East, the agency noted.

"Although the market is projected to return to surplus towards the end of this year, risks remain substantial and the urgency of reopening the Strait has increased, as previously available inventory buffers are rapidly depleting," the IEA added.

Saxo Bank's Hansen wrote that "Until the Strait actually reopens and production visibly recovers, volatility looks set to remain a defining feature - while distillates and the shape of the futures curve may continue to provide the clearest evidence of just how tight the underlying energy market has become."



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|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Headline       | Oil India Shares Fall 2% to Rs 470.20 |         |                 |
| Publication    | Moneycontrol                          | Edition | Online Coverage |
| Published Date | 15 Aug 2026                           |         |                 |

### Oil India Shares Fall 2% to Rs 470.20

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/stocks/oil-india-shares-fall-2-to-rs-470-20-alpha-article-14005523.html>

Oil India Ltd shares declined by 2.00% to Rs 470.20 on Friday at 12:17 pm. The stock is a constituent of the Nifty Midcap 150 index.

#### Financial Performance

Oil India's consolidated financial results reveal a mixed performance over recent quarters and years.

For the quarter-ending June 2026, Oil India reported a substantial increase in revenue, reaching Rs 12,503.32 Crore, up from Rs 9,293.27 Crore in the quarter-ending March 2026. This represents a quarter-over-quarter increase of 34.54%. Net Profit also saw a significant jump to Rs 3,847.13 Crore from Rs 2,007.52 Crore over the same period, marking a 91.68% rise, with EPS rising from 12.91 to 22.32.

Annually, the company's revenue increased to Rs 33,946.13 Crore in the year-ending March 2026, compared to Rs 32,512.48 Crore in the previous year, an increase of 4.41%. However, Net Profit for the year-ending March 2026 saw a decline to Rs 6,429.11 Crore from Rs 7,098.28 Crore in the year-ending March 2025, representing a decrease of 9.49%. The EPS also saw a marginal increase to 40.70 from 40.27 over the same period.

Sales grew by 4.41% from the year-ending March 2025 to March 2026, reaching Rs 33,946 Crore. However, Net Profit for the year-ending March 2026 decreased by 9.49% compared to the previous year, from Rs 7,098 Crore to Rs 6,429 Crore.

In the quarter-ending June 2026, Oil India's sales significantly increased to Rs 12,503 Crore, up by 34.54% from the previous quarter-ending March 2026 sales of Rs 9,293 Crore. Net Profit also surged by 91.68% to Rs 3,847 Crore over the same period, compared to Rs 2,007 Crore in the previous quarter.

Net Cash Flow improved significantly to Rs 711 Crore in the year-ending March 2026, compared to Rs 300 Crore in March 2025, marking an increase of 137%.

Oil India's total assets and liabilities grew to Rs 123,848 Crore in the year-ending March 2026, up from Rs 104,444 Crore in March 2025, an increase of 18.57%.

As of March 2026, the company's P/E ratio stands at 11.68, and the P/B ratio is 1.33. The Debt to Equity ratio is 0.62, while the Return on Networth / Equity is 11.41%. The P/E ratio increased from 9.60 in March 2025 to 11.68 in March 2026. The Return on Networth / Equity decreased from 13.16% in March 2025 to 11.41% in March 2026.

#### Corporate Actions

Oil India announced an interim dividend of Rs 7.00 per share (70%) on February 10, 2026, with an effective date of February 18, 2026. Another inter...