



ONGC News as on 16 June 2026 (Print & Online)

EVEN AS OVER \$900M DIVIDEND DUES REMAIN UNPAID

ONGC's Overseas Arm Set to Revive Venezuela Ops

Move comes as S American nation invites more foreign partnerships in oil reserves via a new legal framework

Kalpna Pathak

Mumbai: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp's overseas arm, ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), plans to revive operations in Venezuela even as more than \$900 million in dividend dues remain unpaid, industry executives aware of the development told ET.

OVL had acquired assets overseas as part of increasing the state-run oil producer's crude output.

The move to revive OVL operations in what's described as the nation with the world's biggest oil reserves comes as the Venezuelan government opens its oil sector to greater foreign participation under a new legal framework.

OVL has two onshore assets in Venezuela. The first is San Cristóbal in the Orinoco belt in eastern Venezuela. OVL took a 40% stake in San Cristobal in April 2008, while Venezuela's state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA) holds 60%.

OVL's other Venezuelan field is Petrocarabobo in the East Orinoco, where OVL and Spain's Repsol each hold an 11% stake and IndianOil and Oil India each hold a 3.5% stake. PdVSA holds 71% in the field.

These assets have remained underutilised for years due to the imposition of US sanctions on Venezuela.

OVL did not reply to the email query sent.



"The economic conditions in Venezuela are now suitable for operations, so all the field operators are going back, and OVL is also re-examining the situation," said an industry executive, adding that as per the new legal framework, there will be freedom to repatriate profit and restoration of oil and gas lifting rights.

This January, the United States launched a military strike in Venezuela and captured incumbent Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro, taking control of the Venezuelan oil exports. Venezuela's oil production has fallen sharply over the past decade, from roughly 3-4 million barrels per day historically to around 700,000-800,000 barrels per day now, the executive said.

"Venezuela's revised regulations require companies to route investments through U.S.-incorporated entities. Since OVL already has a US office, it could help meet these requirements," the executive said, adding that for India, this

could strengthen energy security by diversifying supply sources beyond West Asia and Russia.

It is, however, unclear when OVL would be able to secure the dividend due to it. Executives said Venezuela is asking companies to prioritise investment and production growth before seeking immediate dividend repatriation, arguing that restoring output is essential to rebuilding the sector.

Executives said that OVL is conducting technical assessments of its producing fields and evaluating the condition of surface facilities. While SanCristobal is said to be at an advanced stage of planning, discussions continue with partners on the second asset.

OVL is expected to submit revival proposals for its fields within the next few months, though the executives cautioned that timelines could shift given the country's uncertain operating environment.

ONE-YEAR AVERAGE MARKET CAPITALISATION OF UNDIVIDED VEDANTA WAS ₹2.1 LAKH CRORE

M-cap of Split Cos Rises 67% to 3.5 L-Cr

ET ANALYSIS

Sachin Kumar

ET Intelligence Group: Vedanta's demerger has resulted in a significant value unlocking for shareholders. On its listing debut, the combined market capitalisation of the parent and four newly listed entities jumped to ₹3.5 lakh crore. This is about 67% higher than the one-year average market capitalisation of ₹2.1 lakh crore for the undivided company.

The sharp jump indicates that investors are willing to pay a premium for pure-play exposure to sectors such as aluminium, power, zinc and iron ore, and oil and gas.

The demerger has resulted in the separation of Vedanta into five lis-

ted entities—Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Power, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Iron & Steel, and a residual Vedanta, which retains zinc, copper and other base-metal businesses.

Vedanta Aluminium's price-to-sales multiple of around three is broadly in line with sector peers, suggesting much of its value may already be reflected in the stock. However, Vedanta Iron & Steel trades at 0.6 times sales, significantly below Tata Steel and JSW Steel, pointing to a persistent discount. Vedanta Oil & Gas occupies a middle ground, trading at 1.5 times sales compared with 0.5 for ONGC and 3.2 for Oil India.

A break-up of the combined market capitalisation shows that Vedanta's aluminium business is the dominant value driver, contributing nearly ₹2 lakh crore, or over half of the total valuation. This underscores the scale and earnings strength

The Sum Gets Bigger

A snapshot of how Vedanta's breakup reshaped valuations

	Market Cap (₹ crore)	FY26 Sales (₹ crore)	Price/ Sales
Vedanta (Zinc, copper)	1,18,446	76,080	1.6
Vedanta Aluminium Metal	1,95,774	65,847	3.0
Vedanta Power	15,974	NA	NA
Vedanta Oil and Gas	14,488	9,582	1.5
Vedanta Iron and Steel	8,231	13,761	0.6

Source: Company, ETIG

of the aluminium segment.

The residual Vedanta entity accounts for about ₹1.2 lakh crore, translating into roughly one-third of the overall valuation.

The higher contribution from aluminium suggests that investor interest remains concentrated in large, cash-generating core busines-

ses, while smaller verticals are yet to see meaningful rerating.

On Monday, Vedanta's shares closed at ₹302.6, down 2% while Vedanta Aluminium Metal fell 5% to ₹500.7. Vedanta Power slipped 1% to ₹41, while Vedanta Oil & Gas declined 5% to ₹37.1. Vedanta Iron & Steel also dropped 5% to close at ₹21.1.

OMCs' underrecovery on petrol halves to ₹3 a litre

SHUBHANGI MATHUR
Mumbai, 15 June

A sharp slump in crude oil prices following a peace agreement between the US and Iran has reduced under-recoveries on the sale of petrol and diesel for India's state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs).

As of June 15, underrecovery on petrol sales has nearly halved to ₹3 per litre from ₹6 per litre a week earlier. On diesel, underrecovery declined to ₹27 per litre from ₹30 per litre on June 8.

Meanwhile, underrecovery on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) remains elevated at ₹700 per cylinder, said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), during a press briefing.

Benchmark Brent crude prices fell 5 per cent to \$82 per barrel on June 15 after the US-Iran peace agreement rekindled hopes of the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. "If

WHILE UNDERRECOVERY ON DIESEL HAS DECLINED TO ₹27 PER LITRE, IT REMAINS ELEVATED AT ₹700 PER LPG CYLINDER

the peace deal between the US and Iran follows through, India's energy supplies through the troubled waters are expected to improve," Sharma said during a media briefing.

Lower crude prices are expected to provide relief to Indian refiners and fuel retailers, which have been grappling with elevated input costs and supply disruptions linked to geopolitical tensions in West Asia. To offset mounting losses, Indian oil retailers had cumulatively raised petrol prices by ₹7.38 per litre and diesel prices by ₹7.52 per litre since May 15. The increases marked the first fuel price hike in four years.

In May, state-run OMCs were reportedly incurring under-recoveries of nearly ₹1,000 crore per

day on the combined sale of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders as global oil prices surged amid the conflict.

In Delhi, petrol currently retails at ₹102.12 per litre, while diesel is priced at ₹95.20 per litre.

The government also reiterated its warning to industrial and commercial consumers against purchasing diesel through retail fuel outlets. This follows a growing shift by bulk consumers towards retail pumps due to a price differential of nearly ₹40 per litre between retail and bulk diesel supplies. According to MoPNG data, the share of bulk diesel in total diesel consumption declined to 8.3 per cent in May from 12.6 per cent a year earlier.

Industry observers said a sustained decline in crude oil prices and the normalisation of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz could further reduce fuel marketing losses, improve refining margins and ease inflationary pressures on the broader economy.

Public Sector OMCs continue to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuels across West Bengal

KOLKATA, JUNE 15/--/ Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)- Indian Oil, BPCL and HPCL - reaffirm that the availability of Petrol, Diesel and LPG remains normal across West Bengal, with supply chains functioning smoothly and efficiently to meet consumer requirements.

Over the past several days, the OMCs have successfully maintained uninterrupted fuel supplies through their extensive network of fuel terminals, depots, pipelines, LPG bottling plants and retail outlets. Continuous monitoring of inventory levels and logistics movements has enabled timely replenishment of stocks across markets, ensuring that consumer demand is being met without disruption.

The OMCs have activated enhanced coordination mechanisms across operational locations and are working closely with transporters, distributors, dealers and local administrations to ensure seamless movement of products. Field teams across the supply chain continue to remain on high alert to respond swiftly to any localised demand variations.

The oil industry wishes to reassure consumers that there is no shortage of Petrol, Diesel or LPG. Adequate stocks are available, and supply plans are being continuously reviewed and strengthened to maintain reliable product availability across urban, semi-urban and rural markets.

Public Sector OMCs remain committed to ensuring energy accessibility and serving consumers with efficiency and reliability. Consumers are requested to avoid unnecessary purchases beyond their normal requirements and to rely only on official communications from authorised agencies and OMCs for authentic information regarding fuel supplies. (EOIC)

Vedanta split sparks value hunt

Ananya Roy
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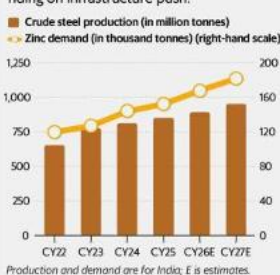
Vedanta's long-awaited demerger finally culminated. Nearly three years after the company's demerger announcement, four new entities—aluminium, oil & gas, power, and iron & steel—made their stock market debut on Monday.

Vedanta Aluminium Metal (VAML), often touted as the conglomerate's crown jewel, could emerge as the market favourite, with brokerages ascribing about half of the conglomerate's sum-of-the-parts enterprise value to the business.

The enthusiasm is understandable. VAML has more than 2.8 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of aluminium capacity and is the third-largest producer globally outside China. The firm plans to expand capacity, supported by rising demand from electric vehicles, renewable energy infrastructure, transmission networks and construction. The West Asia war has also pushed up aluminium prices, boosting realizations.

Galvanized rise

Demand growth for zinc is expected to be in tandem with steel demand, riding on infrastructure push.



Source: Company, CMIE, Woodmac

Shining

Silver's contribution to Hindustan Zinc's profitability has been on a rise.



Ebit is earnings before interest and taxes.
PRATEEK KUMAR/MINT

But the best business does not always become the best stock.

ICICI Securities on 29 April pegged VAML's valuation at 6.5x EV/Ebitda based on its FY27 estimates, suggesting that much of this optimism is already reflected in the stock price. Moreover, the aluminium business will shoulder the largest share of

the group's debt. The firm has assigned net debt of \$3.5 billion to the demerged aluminium entity—two-thirds of the group's consolidated debt. VAML stock was trading at ₹495.9, 5% below its opening price.

Vedanta's oil & gas business, through Cairn, contributes roughly 25% of India's crude oil production.

With oil prices trending lower, upstream Vedanta Oil & Gas was trading at ₹36.10, about 5% below its opening price.

Meanwhile, Vedanta Iron & Steel is trading 5% above its opening price, riding on India's growing infrastructure demand. Vedanta Power has erased early gains to trade flat for the day.

Yet the most interesting entity may be the one receiving the least attention—the residual Vedanta, which contributed 40% of consolidated Ebitda in FY26.

The company retains its more than 60% stake in Hindustan Zinc, which has 74% share of India's primary zinc market.

Zinc demand moves in tandem with steel consumption, providing exposure to India's infrastructure and manufacturing growth.

At the same time, Hindustan Zinc is increasingly becoming a silver story. Its silver production has risen from 24 tonnes in FY06 to 627 tonnes in FY26, making it one of the

world's top 10 silver producers.

Residual Vedanta also retains copper, nickel, ferrochrome and emerging critical minerals assets. While these businesses currently contribute far less than Hindustan Zinc, they provide exposure to structural commodity themes. Nickel remains critical

for battery technologies, ferrochrome is used in steel manufacturing, and copper in power infrastructure. The copper segment turned Ebitda-positive in Q4FY26, while copper prices have rallied another 16% so far this fiscal year.

But zinc, silver and copper prices remain cyclical. Silver has declined about 7% so far this fiscal year, which could weigh

on profitability in the coming quarters. Vedanta is trading at about 4.5 times consensus FY27 earnings, as investors continue to apply a conglomerate discount to its diversified commodity portfolio. Still, the best opportunities often emerge from the businesses attracting less attention.

NEW ENTITIES

VAML, often touted as the conglomerate's crown jewel, appears to be overvalued

VEDANTA Iron & Steel is trading 5% above debut price, riding on growing infra demand

FINGERS CROSSED OVER PEACE Sensex and Nifty rally 3.3% in past two sessions on short covering; ₹200 cr FPI inflow on Mon

Oil's Well? D-St Goes Bang Bang

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Indian equities extended gains on Monday, with benchmark indices rising 1% after climbing as much as 1.7% during the session, as hopes of a peace deal between the US and Iran prompted traders to pare bearish bets, while easing crude oil prices lifted sentiment.

While the durability of the rally will depend on the finalisation of a deal, analysts said downside risks appear limited for now.

The NSE Nifty 50 gained 231 points, or 1%, to close at 23,853.90, after briefly crossing the 24,000 mark for the first time since May 29. The S&P BSE Sensex advanced 736.38 points, or 1%, to end at 76,264.33. Over the past two sessions, both indices have rallied as much as 3.3%.

"The rally on Monday and Friday was driven by short covering on hopes of a peace deal between the US and Iran, and while the sustainability of gains is not certain, the deal seems to be around the corner," said Nitesh Jain, VP-Head of Technical and Derivative Research, Centurion Finance.

The US and Iran said they have reached a new ceasefire agreement that will end a US blockade of Iranian ports and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, ending the months-long conflict that has kept investors on tenterhooks and kept oil prices elevated.

With both sides

Stocks of War

Nifty 500 movers since the Iran conflict started

GAINERS	% Chg over 27 Feb 2026	LOSERS	% Chg over 27 Feb 2026
HFCL	163.4	IDBI Bank	-33.7
Cemindia Projects	104.6	ICICI Pru Life Insurance	-25.7
Aditya Infotech	99.3	Ashok Leyland	-25.3
Ola Electric Mobility	74.9	Rail Vikas Nigam	-24.2
Emmvee Photovoltaic Power	72.5	Force Motors	-23.8
Welspun Corp	67.2	Indian Oil Corporation	-22.9
Syrrma SGS Technology	58.2	SBI Cards & Payment	-22.4
Adani Power	57.4	JK Tyre & Industries	-21.9
Adani Green Energy	56.5	PG Electroplast	-21.5
BSE	52.4	Central Bank of India	-20.5

Compiled by: ETIG Database

showing willingness to bring the war to an end, Brent crude futures fell more than 5% to \$85.8 a barrel on Monday. Across Asia, South Korea, Japan surged 5.2% and 5%, respectively, while Taiwan gained 2.8%. China and Hong Kong rose 1.6% and 0.5%.

"The reaction in oil prices after the peace deal was announced reassured investors that crude prices are not expected to sustain at elevated levels for longer and triggered a rally," said Vailbhav Chugh, chief executive officer, Abakus Mutual Fund. "The fear has toned down considerably, and optimism could build further," he added.

Realty stocks led the gains, with the Nifty Realty index surging 4%. The Nifty Consumer Durables and Auto indices climbed 2.9% and 2.6%, respectively. Foreign portfolio investors

bought shares worth a net ₹200 crore on Monday - after 11 consecutive sessions of selling, while domestic institutional investors bought shares worth ₹3,189.3 crore. So far in June, foreign investors have sold shares worth ₹41,967 crore.

"Foreign investors have pared some of their short positions, which contributed to the rally. However, towards the latter part of the session, participants booked some profits in the derivatives market," said Abhilash Pagaria, Head of Alternative & Quantitative Research at NuVama Wealth. If the deal is finalised, a significant source of uncertainty could be removed, potentially encouraging foreign investors to increase allocations to Indian equities, he said.

The India VIX volatility index fell 2.5% to 14.4 on Monday, after spiking to around 29 at the height of the Iran conflict.

The India VIX volatility index fell 2.5% to 14.4. After spiking to around 29 at the height of the conflict, the gauge has retreated to more comfortable levels, suggesting investor anxiety has eased. "For the gains to be sustainable, Nifty must decisively close above 24,000," said Jain.

He said intermittent declines could not be ruled out, but the Nifty could gradually move towards 24,500 during the June series if it breaks above the 24,000 mark.

Broader markets outperformed the benchmarks, with the Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty Smallcap 250 rising 1.5% and 1.3%, respectively. Over the past week, the two indices have gained 1% and 3%.



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Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran delivering the virtual inaugural address at the event on Monday. R. RAGU

U.S.-Iran peace deal welcome, hope it lasts: Anantha Nageswaran

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The 'peace deal' between Iran and the U.S. over the Strait of Hormuz was "very welcome" for a country like India that imports oil, natural gas, and fertilizer, V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the Government of India, said on Monday. He further hoped that "it lasts".

Delivering his virtual inaugural address on 'Public Sector Leadership in Shaping India's Journey to a Developed Nation: From Legacy to Future Readiness', as part of the CPCL Scooper Leadership Series organised by the Madras Management Center in Chennai, Mr. Nageswaran said: "Public sector leadership must build strategic reserves across the critical commodity spectrum, not just crude oil."

He reasoned that nuclear power was "immune to choke points" and it provided the base load that a nation of fabs and data centres would need. Flagging a new set of problems, he said the first was resource and energy security. The second was research and development. "If the private sector discounts the future too heavily,

the public sector must be the patient investor that does not discount the future so heavily."

Public enterprises and public resource institutions should be where frontier capability was built and then shared in energy, materials, and in process technology, he said.

Nurturing enterprises

The third was the nurturing of small and medium enterprises. "India's strength will not come from a handful of large firms alone," he said.

Underlining that Germany's industrial debt rested on its *Mittelstand*, the CEA said thousands of mid-sized engineering firms with deep technical capability sustained by patient capital and a culture of quality. "India needs its own version of *Mittelstand*," he asserted.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) managing director H. Shankar, professor Ashwin Mahalingam of the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT-Madras, MMA executive director group captain (retd.) R. Vijayakumar, and former chairman of Indian Oil Corporation and CPCL B. Ashok, were present at the event.

Newly listed Vedanta firms slip below debut price

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Vedanta Group company stocks faced selling pressure after the fresh listing of four demerged business on the stock exchanges.

The shares ended below their opening price, with Vedanta Aluminium Metal, Vedanta Oil and Gas and Vedanta Iron and Steel plunging 5 per cent each to ₹501, ₹37 and ₹21, respectively, while Vedanta Power was down one per cent at ₹41.

The parent holding company Vedanta dipped two per cent to ₹303.

Netra Deshpande, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said all four stocks will be transacted in the trade-to-trade segment



Ashishkumar Chauhan, CEO of NSE, along with Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta Group, during the NSE closing bell ceremony in Mumbai on Monday, marking the listing of four newly demerged companies on the stock exchanges PTI

which requires compulsory delivery on every order during the initial 10 sessions. Vedanta and Vedanta Aluminium are expected to retain their large-cap status as a result of their higher DII

participation post-listing, whereas Vedanta Power, Vedanta Oil & Gas, and Vedanta Iron & Steel are likely to be classified as small-caps, she added. Earlier on the occasion of listing ceremony of

demerged entities, Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta, said the company is conscious about its dividend payments and aims to remain a dividend-paying company while simultaneously creating long-term value.

COMPANY PROFILE

Vedanta Aluminium will be third-largest aluminium producer globally outside China. It has an aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, Odisha, with a production capacity of 30 lakh tonne per annum. It plans to double its capacity over the next three years, with a clear ambition to become the world's largest and low-cost, fully integrated aluminium producer.

With a debt-free balance sheet, Vedanta Oil & Gas plans to invest about \$5 billion over the next three to

five years to scale production to 5 lakh barrels per day at globally competitive costs. Its growth portfolio spans tight oil, shale gas, shallow-water and deep-water assets, satellite fields as well as significant acreage in Assam and the North-East — the region where Asia's first oil well was drilled.

Vedanta Iron & Steel plans to increase its capacity to 15 mtpa from about 4 mtpa. It enjoys a unique competitive advantage through security of three critical inputs: nearly 4 billion tonnes of iron ore resources in Goa, Odisha and Karnataka.

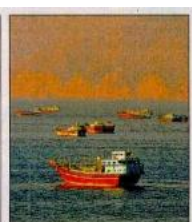
Vedanta Power is the fifth-largest thermal power producer with 4.2 GW of operational capacity supported by long-term power purchase agreements and secure coal mines.

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Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday. (Reuters)

Hormuz relief: Risks still linger

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: The US-Iran peace deal will bring relief to India, which has been reeling under the impact of the war on multiple fronts, but experts advised caution, given the fragile nature of the proposed agreement.

Reopening the Strait of Hormuz is expected to stabilise energy markets by avoiding a prolonged shock, ease pressure on oil and gas prices, strengthen the rupee and improve India's growth outlook.

India's dependence extends beyond oil and gas, encompassing the supply of fertiliser, petrochemicals, plastics, metals and several industrial raw materials.

"The conflict exposed India's dependence on West Asia, from where it sources roughly 50 per cent of its crude imports, around 70 per cent of its LPG supplies and nearly 90 per cent of its LNG imports. The disruption of shipping through the Gulf raised India's energy import bill, increased inflation risks, weakened the rupee and forced refiners to seek alternative supplies from distant markets," Ajay Srivastava, founder of GTRI, said.

Shrikant M. Vaidya, former chairman of Indian Oil, said operational normalcy at the Strait could take months.

"The true test is not whether the Strait is open. The true test is when shipowners, insurers, traders and refiners conduct business as though disruption is no longer a credible risk. This distinction is important. In energy logistics, reopening is an event. Normalisation is a process... restoring confidence takes considerably longer than restoring flows," Vaidya said in a LinkedIn post.

Oil prices fall to 3-mth low, Brent at \$83

Oil prices slipped to a three-month low Monday, with Brent crude falling to \$83. The Indian oil basket was at \$86.8 on Friday, the last available price. Rising for the second straight session, the sensex gained over 1%, gaining 736 points to close above 76,000.

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Wholesale inflation rises for 8th mth in row, PPI debuts

Shiva.Rajora@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India's wholesale inflation surged for the eighth consecutive month to 9.7% in May from 8.3% in April on account of high prices of crude oil and manufactured products, the newly released wholesale price index (WPI) series Monday with the updated 2022-23 base year showed.

Besides, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) also released the maiden producer price index (PPI), covering the output and input manufacturing prices and prices of seven services - banking, securities transaction, insurance, management of pension funds, railways, air passengers and telecom. It estimated inflation at 9.4% in May, driven largely by mining and quarrying (19%) and manufactured products (11.3%).

In WPI, prices of crude



petroleum and natural gas accelerated 61% in May, as compared to 56% in April. Similarly, the prices of mineral oils accelerated 50% during the month, reflecting the impact of the supply chain disruptions caused due to the prolonged conflict in west Asia. "If prices do come down sharply as has been seen today, there can be moderation in WPI inflation for sure on

this account," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis.

The factory gate prices for manufactured products rose 7.5% in May from 6.7% in April, led by acceleration in the prices of industries like food products, textiles, leather, chemicals, electrical equipment, basic metals, among others. The weightage for manufactured products has slightly come down to 63.1% in the new series. Wholesale prices of food items also witnessed a rise in May as food index rose to 4.5% in May from 3.1% in April.

The new WPI series has seen an increase in the coverage of items to 957 from 697. New sources of energy, such as solar and wind, along with nuclear power, have been added under the electricity group. The new series showed that wholesale inflation stood at 0.4% in FY26.

₹ hits 5-week high versus \$, stocks sprint as oil cools

Indian markets gained ground on Monday as easing West Asia tensions and falling crude oil prices lifted sentiment. The rupee rose 0.42 per cent to a five-week high of 94.72 per dollar, supported by lower oil prices and the recent measures by the government and the Reserve Bank of India to attract foreign inflows. The 10-year bond yield eased to a two-month low of 6.87 per cent.

The benchmark equity indices ad-

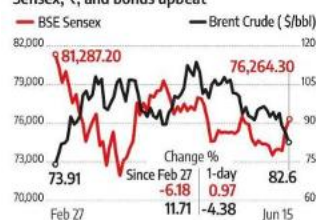
vanced nearly 1 per cent, while Brent crude oil fell over 4 per cent on expectations that the Strait of Hormuz could reopen, easing concerns over energy supplies.

Going forward, the rupee is expected to remain firm, bond yields range-bound, and equities supported by improving risk sentiment, potential foreign inflows and softer crude prices.

BS REPORTER

108 days of tumult

Sensex, ₹, and bonds upbeat

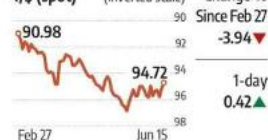


Sensex mcap* (₹ trn)

	June 15	Since Feb 27	1-day
Change (₹ trn)	470.5	1.5▲	8.5▲

*mcap of all BSE-listed companies
The war in West Asia started on Feb 28
Source Bloomberg; Compiled by BS Research Bureau

₹/\$ (spot) (Inverted scale) Change %



India 10-year Gsec yield (%)

	June 15	Since Feb 27	1-day
Change (bps)	6.9	22▲	-1▼

US, Iran sign peace MoU; Hormuz hopes set sail

Energy supplies via the Strait to resume slowly after formal deal on Friday

**SHUBHANGI MATHUR, ASIT RANJAN MISHRA
& DHIRUVAKSH SAHA**
New Delhi, 15 June

The United States (US) and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to settle a 108-day war, senior US officials said on Monday, adding that a signing ceremony would take place on Friday and shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz would gradually pick up.

The MoU has been signed by US President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance and Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, *Reuters* reported, quoting a US official.

With this development, India is optimistic about a gradual resumption of energy supplies through the key shipping route — a development that could lower procurement and transportation costs.

Speaking at a briefing with reporters, the US official added that there will also be a signing ceremony on Friday, likely

in Geneva. "You will see significant increase in traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, actually starting

already, and that will ramp up slowly over time," said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Industry executives and experts, however, cautioned that normalisation of flows through the waterway could still take weeks, if not months.

Following the progress, the first India-bound liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier, *Disha*, managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium, safely crossed the conflict-hit waterway on Monday. Carrying 62,370 metric tonnes of LNG, the vessel is expected to reach Dahej port in Gujarat on June 18.

Welcoming the development towards an interim agreement between the US and Iran, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X: "India hopes that the implementation of this understanding will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce."

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“SHIPS OF
THE WORLD,
START YOUR
ENGINES. LET
THE OIL
FLOW!”

Donald Trump
US President



“...ALL OF
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INTO ACCOUNT”

Kazem Gharibabadi
Iran Deputy
Foreign Minister

US, Iran sign peace MoU; Hormuz hopes set sail

Trump said on social media that he was authorising the "toll free opening" of Hormuz and ending a blockade of the Islamic Republic.

India is awaiting the reopening of the key shipping channel and has prepared for the evacuation of additional vessels stranded in the region, a shipping ministry official said on Monday.

Even after Disha's transit, 13 Indian-flagged vessels carrying 325 seafarers remain stranded west of the Strait of Hormuz, Opesh Sharma, director at the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said at a press briefing on Monday.

Since the conflict began, 10 Indian-flagged vessels and five India-bound vessels have safely transited the waterway, he added.

Benchmark Brent crude prices fell more than 5 per cent to about \$82 a barrel following the US-Iran agreement, raising hopes of economic relief for India. Disruptions to shipping through the Gulf have increased India's energy import bill, heightened inflation risks, weakened the rupee and forced refiners to seek alternative supplies from more distant markets.

"An easing of geopolitical tensions, combined with the reopening of key trade routes, should help correct global oil prices, ease fuel-driven inflation, reduce pressure on the fiscal deficit, and provide support to the rupee," said Rajnish Gupta, partner, tax and economic policy group, EY India.

Despite the initial optimism, concerns remain over implementation of the agreement and the pace of traffic normalisation through Hormuz, particularly as previous US-brokered ceasefire efforts have failed. "Markets have seen this playbook before, with an initial rally on the headline followed by a fade as implementation risk re-emerges, and there is little to



“INDIA HOPES THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS UNDERSTANDING WILL HELP RESTORE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION AND ENSURE THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND COMMERCE”

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

suggest that pattern has been broken," said Claudio Galimberti, chief economist at Rystad Energy.

Experts said oil prices could remain around \$90 a barrel in the coming weeks as supply disruptions persist and pent-up demand returns. "Hormuz supply normalisation will take weeks, if not months. Tanker availability, insurance costs, mine clearance and other factors will mean flows through the Strait of Hormuz resume only gradually. Production from shuttered oil wells will also take time to restart," said Madhavi Arora, chief economist at Emkay Global. She added that for FY27, gross domestic product growth is projected at 6.3 per cent, headline inflation at 5.1 per cent and the current account deficit at 2.3 per cent of GDP.

According to reports, mine-clearing operations involving conventional minesweepers and advanced underwater drones could continue for 40 to 50 days before insurers, shipping companies and oil firms regain sufficient confidence to resume normal

transit through Hormuz.

Meanwhile, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) welcomed the peace agreement, calling it an important step toward restoring stability at sea. "The agreement also allows IMO to advance its plan to evacuate the thousands of seafarers stranded in the area. The Organization is working in close collaboration with Member States and partners to implement this plan safely and effectively. However, its implementation will require time to ensure that all necessary safety and security guarantees are in place," the organisation said in a statement.

Shipping lines and freight operators are also expected to remain cautious.

"The announcement is clearly a positive step for global shipping, but the market will focus less on the deal itself and more on how quickly confidence returns. Capacity can come back relatively quickly, but

insurers, shipowners and charterers will still want evidence of sustained stability before normal operating patterns resume. In the near term, we expect the deal to ease pressure on freight markets, but not immediately return rates to pre-crisis levels," said Ashish Sheth, chairman and managing director of Sarjak Container Lines, an asset-owning project logistics company.

Freight rates have also remained elevated because of the global peak shipping season, with several carriers imposing peak-season surcharges. From a freight perspective, the agreement is more likely to cap further increases than trigger an immediate correction, Sheth said, adding that rates have risen because of disruptions, higher insurance costs, fuel-price volatility and capacity uncertainty — factors that are unlikely to disappear overnight.

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 16 June 2026	Page : 9

Hope versus experience

Optimism over US-Iran deal should be cautious

Oil prices plunged and stock markets soared on news that the United States (US) and Iran have agreed to a deal that will end 108 days of hostilities, which brought significant hardship for the world economy. The agreement, mediated by Pakistan, is reported to have been signed, and the signing ceremony would take place on June 19. The text is yet to be published but available information suggests convergence on some key issues. But many constraints lie between the US President's exuberant social-media announcements and cautious Iranian official statements. In a Truth Social post, US President Donald Trump said he authorised the "toll-free" opening of the Strait of Hormuz and the immediate removal of the US naval blockade. "Let the oil flow," he exulted. On state TV, the Iranian deputy foreign minister clarified that the sides agreed to a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This MoU is an interim agreement and the starting point to reach a final deal within 60 days, the timetable extendable by mutual agreement. Though Iran has confirmed the strait would be reopened, the timeline is unclear. Nor is there visibility on how the navigation of the waterway will be managed. US officials have said that the traffic would increase gradually.

Under the reported terms of the deal, the US and its regional partners would commit themselves to a reconstruction programme for Iran worth \$300 billion. The US will not impose new sanctions and lift existing sanctions in accordance with an agreed timetable and release \$25 billion of Iran's frozen assets. The last stipulation is reportedly absent in the US version. According to the draft, the nuclear programme will be subject to later talks. Iran reiterated its position that it would not produce or acquire nuclear weapons, and refrain from further enrichment. The US has apparently agreed to allow Iran to dilute its uranium stockpiles on Iranian soil. Pakistan has stated that the agreement includes the cessation of all military operations, including in Lebanon, where Israel is pursuing Iran-backed Hezbollah. Israel, however, insisted that its forces would remain in the country. This divergence between US intentions and Israeli aims remains the sticking point in any deal with Iran.

The world has seen this play before, when failure to agree on a deal ended in hostilities by the US and Israel on February 28. On April 11, a ceasefire was followed by fresh negotiations, this time involving US Vice-President J D Vance. Those talks collapsed after a marathon 21 hours. Two days later the US implemented a naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, Israeli hostilities in Lebanon, which began in March ostensibly to eliminate Hezbollah, have not abated. Israel did not observe a ceasefire brokered in Washington. Now Tel Aviv maintains it is not part of the US-Iran negotiations. But its freelance actions as West Asia's sole nuclear power have magnified concern in Iran, which is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but Israel is not. There is evidence that Mr Trump has finally understood the Israeli obstacle to West Asian peace. How effectively he can restrain his ally, given the powerful bipartisan pro-Israeli lobby in the US, could determine the outcome of this latest attempt at peace.

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Date :16 June 2026	Page : 1, 4

Import surge in May kept trade gap elevated despite record exports

A sharp rise in imports kept India's trade deficit elevated in May despite merchandise exports touching a record high, according to data released by the Union commerce ministry on Monday. India's merchandise exports rose 18 per cent Y-o-Y in May to \$45.2 billion, driven by petroleum and engineering goods, and recovery in shipments to West Asia. The trade deficit widened sharply from a year earlier and narrowed marginally on a sequential basis, easing to \$28.21 billion in May. Imports surged nearly 21 per cent to a seven-month high of \$73.41 billion, pushing India's import bill to its second-highest level on record.

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Import surge keeps trade gap elevated

KRITY AMBEY
New Delhi, 15 June

A sharp rise in imports to the second-highest level kept India's trade deficit elevated in May despite merchandise exports touching a record high, according to the commerce ministry data released on Monday.

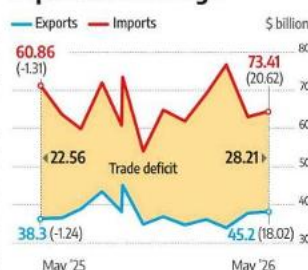
India's merchandise exports rose 18 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in May to a record high of \$45.20 billion, driven by strong petroleum and engineering goods exports, and recovery in shipments to West Asia.

However, the trade deficit widened sharply from a year earlier, and narrowed only marginally on a sequential basis, easing to \$28.21 billion in May from \$28.38 billion in April. Imports surged nearly 21 per cent to a seven-month high of \$73.41 billion, pushing India's import bill to its second-highest level on record, behind only the \$76.73 billion registered in October last year.

The commerce ministry estimated services exports at \$36.76 billion in May, up 13 per cent Y-o-Y, while services imports were estimated 14 per cent up Y-o-Y at \$19.06 billion. India recorded an estimated services trade surplus of \$17.70 billion in May. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to release final services trade data later this month.

Petroleum products and engineering goods were the main drivers of export growth

Exports at new high



Source: Department of Commerce

in May. Petroleum product exports rose 55 per cent from a year earlier to \$8.42 billion, while engineering goods exports climbed nearly 25 per cent to \$12.31 billion.

"I am happy to inform that exports to West Asia more or less reached the May 2025 level," Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said. India's exports to West Asia were \$5.30 billion in May compared to \$5.38 billion a year ago, Agrawal said, attributing the recovery to the efforts of export promotion agencies and the shipping ministry in finding alternative routes amid the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

India's exports in June are also likely to be "good" if the situation normalises in West Asia following the US-Iran peace deal, Agrawal said.

"Our imports from West Asia have also reached around \$10.74 billion in May as compared to \$13 billion in May 2025," Agrawal said. "We are improving on imports also, despite the fact that oil imports from West Asia have definitely reduced," he added.

An increase in inflow of crude oil and electronic goods shipments took India's import bill for May to the second-highest level. India imported crude oil worth \$22.68 billion in May, up 54 per cent Y-o-Y. Import of electronic goods grew nearly 36 per cent to \$12.31 billion.

India's gold imports also jumped 34 per cent to \$3.42 billion in May. However, gold shipments were lower than \$5.62 billion in April, which had prompted the government to raise the duty on gold. Meanwhile, the impact of Customs duty hike on silver showed prominently in May data as imports of the metal fell 87 per cent to \$75.57 million.

China was India's top import source, with inward shipments growing 23 per cent to \$12.73 billion in May. Exports to China also rose 25 per cent to \$2.02 billion in the same month.

The US remained India's largest export destination in May, even as exports declined marginally to \$8.82 billion from \$8.83 billion

a year ago. Imports from the US rose 54 per cent to \$5.87 billion due to a surge in imports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from the region, according to Agrawal.

Some new export destinations like Singapore and Tanzania featured among the top 10 export destinations in May due to the rise in shipments of petroleum products, and gems & jewellery to these nations, Agrawal said.

India's cumulative goods exports in April-May were \$88.91 billion, up 16 per cent Y-o-Y. Imports rose 15 per cent to \$145.35 billion. India recorded a trade deficit of \$56.44 billion in the first two months of 2026-27 (FY27), compared to \$49.65 billion a year ago.

Going ahead in the year, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the de-escalation of geopolitical tensions are expected to further boost Indian exports, Federation of Indian Export Organisations President S C Ralhan said.

Rahul Agrawal, principal economist, Ica Ltd, said the easing of tensions in West Asia, and the consequent cooling in energy and commodity prices are expected to bring some relief to the merchandise trade deficit prints. "We now expect the current account deficit (CAD) to be relatively benign in FY27 as opposed to our earlier estimate of 1.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for the financial year, which had assumed an average crude oil price of \$95/barrel," he added.

US-Iran ceasefire deal lifts mkts

SUNDAR SETHURAMAN
Mumbai, 15 June

Domestic equities gained on Monday, along with their global peers, after the US and Iran said they had agreed on a framework to end the war. US President Donald Trump's statement that the Strait of Hormuz will open on Friday cheered investors.

The benchmark Sensex, after gaining as much as 1,293 points or 1.7 per cent, gave up its gains and ended Monday's session at 76,264, a gain of 736 points or 0.97 per cent. Nifty, meanwhile, ended the session at 23,854, a gain of 231 points or 0.98 per cent. The total market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms rose by ₹8.5 trillion to ₹470 trillion. In the last two sessions, the total market capitalisation rose by ₹18 trillion on the back of optimism that the warring sides would reach a truce.

Reports suggested that the US and Iran agreed on a framework to end their war, and as part of the deal, the US would stop its blockade of Iran and the Strait of Hormuz, the key chokepoint for oil flows, would be reopened. A memorandum of understanding will be signed by both sides on Friday in Switzerland. The more pressing issues, including the fate of Iran's nuclear programme, will be negotiated over a sixty-day period.

The war, which began on February 28, led to thousands of deaths and one of the biggest global energy crises. Iran struck Israel and West Asian countries, hitting US bases, damaging their energy infrastructure, and blocking the Strait of Hormuz through which a fifth of global oil passes. The US forces, in turn, blocked Iranian ports.

The news of the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz sent oil prices tumbling. Brent crude was trading at \$85.52, the lowest level since March 4, 2026, a decline of 4.43 per cent. But despite the recent fall, Brent crude is still 11.7 per cent above



Sentiment boost



Sources: Bloomberg, BSE
Compiled by BS Research Bureau

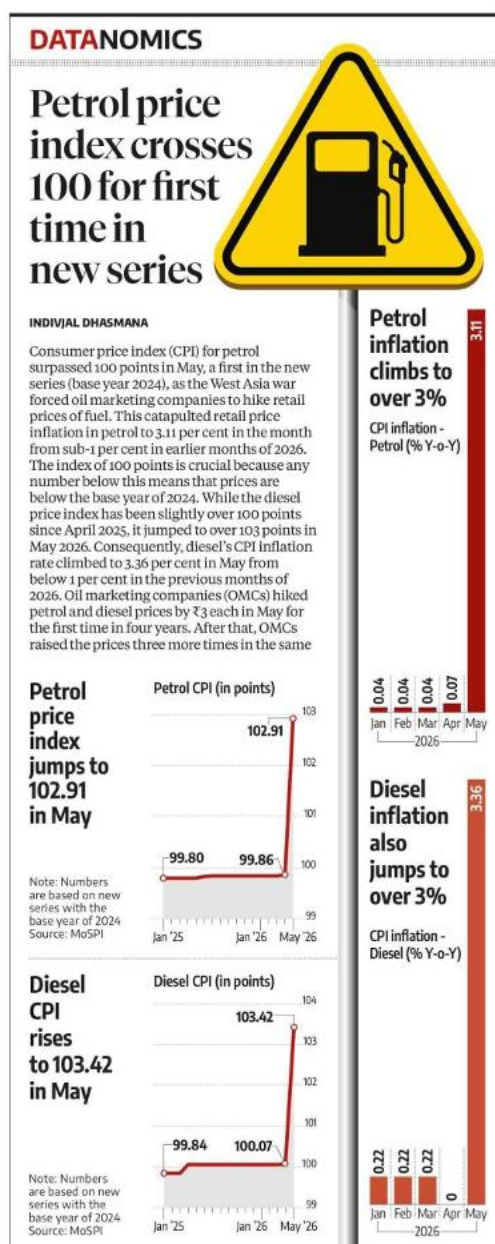
the pre-conflict levels. Falling crude prices are good for India, which relies on imports to meet its energy needs. India's wholesale price inflation rose 9.7 per cent year-on-year in May because of the after-effects of higher crude prices.

"The interim peace agreement has significantly improved investor sentiment, triggering a broad-based recovery across equity markets. With crude oil prices easing, concerns around inflation have moderated, supporting a more stable interest rate outlook and improving earnings visibility for FY27. As the risk-reward equation for equities becomes more favourable, investors have increasingly shifted toward growth-oriented sectors such as autos, industrials, capital goods, and real estate, which are well positioned

to benefit from an improving macro environment. The easing in geopolitical risks is also expected to moderate bond yields, FII outflows and strengthen the rupee, further reinforcing the positive outlook," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Investments.

Market breadth was strong, with 3,030 stocks advancing and 1,384 declining. Larsen & Toubro, which has significant business exposure to West Asia, rose 3 per cent and was the biggest contributor to Sensex gains. Since the beginning of the war, the Sensex has declined by 6.2 per cent and the Nifty by 5.3 per cent. "Going forward, the zone of 23,970-24,000 is likely to act as an immediate hurdle for the index. A sustained move above the 24,000 mark could trigger fresh buying interest, paving the way for an upside rally towards 24,150, followed by 24,300 in the short term. On the downside, the zone of 23,730-23,700 remains a crucial support area, and holding above this range will be important for maintaining the prevailing positive bias," said Sudeep Shah, head of technical and derivatives research at SBI Securities.

Foreign portfolio investors turned buyers after 13 sessions, buying net worth ₹200 crore. Domestic institutional investors also remained net buyers with purchases worth ₹3,189 crore.



US-Iran thaw opens new sector playbook

Analysts point to oil-sensitive biz, W Asia-linked opportunities

PUNEET WADHWA
New Delhi, 15 June

The US-Iran peace deal is likely to ease stress and benefit a host of sectors back home, say analysts. They, however, suggest that investors await the finer minutiae of the agreement before investing. At the moment, both parties — the US and Iran — could try to spin narratives due to domestic political compulsions, point out analysts at Bernstein. Some more details may only become visible in the coming weeks.

Among sectors, Bernstein expects oil-marketing companies (OMCs) to benefit from reduced crude oil prices, which dropped around 4 per cent on Monday to \$83 a barrel. Aviation, travel, and Middle East and North Africa (Mena)-exposed names are other direct beneficiaries. The research and broking house has a Nifty target of 26,000 by year-end, nearly 8.3 per cent above current levels.

"We'll likely see a continued rebound in healthcare due to easing US pricing pressures. We also expect many infrastructure (infra)-linked announcements in West Asia after a decisive end to the war — involving both energy-linked and water-linked infrastructure — which could support some industrial names in the coming months," said Venugopal Garre, managing director (MD), Bernstein. With the rate-hike overhang receding, we may also see an easing of the spending environment in the US, potentially helping the information technology sector, he added.

The announcement of a likely US-Iran peace deal, to be signed on June 19, sent global markets soaring on Monday, with the Sensex and Nifty 50 indices rising over 1.3 per cent each in intraday deals.

If the ceasefire holds and energy markets stabilise, the cleaner Indian beneficiaries, according to Anirudh Garg, partner and fund



Top sectoral gainers

On June 15	Close	1-day chg (%)
Nifty Realty	800.1	4.0
Nifty Financial Services Ex-Bank	31,284.3	3.0
Nifty CD	35,995.9	2.9
Nifty Auto	26,977.5	2.6
Nifty India Tourism	7,633.1	2.5
Nifty 50	23,853.9	1.0

Source: Bloomberg

manager, INVasset PMS, are oil-sensitive domestic sectors: OMCs, aviation, logistics, cement, paint, automotive, and select financials.

Capital market intermediaries, he believes, could also become relevant because lower geopolitical risk can revive flows, risk appetite, and trading activity. Pharmaceutical remains a defensive hedge, while power remains structural, but the immediate post-West Asia basket is import-cost relief.

"India's pressure point in this conflict was never only geopolitics; it was the pass-through into crude, rupee weakness, imported inflation, and margin pressure. Lower crude and calmer freight rates can give immediate earnings relief to sectors where fuel, petrochemical, transport, or borrowing costs

matter," Garg said.

That said, as a strategy, U R Bhat, cofounder and director, Alphaniti Fintech, suggests investors partly sell into the rally as there is still time for the actual deal to be signed (on June 19) in Switzerland. "I think investors should play it safe for now. Finer details of the deal are still awaited, and the actual signing is still a few days away. If oil prices fall further, stocks of OMCs and airline companies will do well. Once West Asia opens for reconstruction, Indian infra companies may bag orders and, to that extent, the stocks will be in the limelight. Reliance Industries is another counter that can do well as it has underperformed in the past few weeks," Bhat said.

Meanwhile, analysts at Morgan Stanley Research expect strong consumption growth in India going ahead, helped by lower interest rates, the effect of lower taxes, and better overall income growth. A pickup in private capital expenditure (capex), they said, is the key reason for them to remain overweight on the consumption-related sector.

Morgan Stanley's list of 'focus stocks' includes Maruti Suzuki India, Trent, Lenskart Solutions, Varun Beverages, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Ultra-Tech Cement, Prestige Estates, and Adani Power.

CNG shortage hits Rameswaram's public & private transportation

SP. LOGANATHAN | DC
RAMESWARAM, JUNE 15

Due to the shortage of CNG (compressed natural gas) and inadequate infrastructure, public and private transport has been severely affected in Rameswaram.

Thousands of pilgrims and tourists visit the Rameswaram island every day. Around 300 suburban buses also come to Rameswaram to facilitate the transportation of the local people. Apart from this, 12 city buses are operated within the island.

Recently, CNG buses are being operated as an alternative to diesel buses to reduce the demand for diesel.

It takes 20 minutes to an



hour to refuel a bus with CNG, due to the lack of sufficient CNG refuelling stations in government and private workshops.

There are only two private CNG refuelling stations in Rameswaram. So, buses have to wait for sev-

eral hours to refuel. This hinders the operation of buses at certain times. This results in the plight of passengers waiting for several hours at the bus stand.

Furthermore, due to fuel shortage, bus services continue to be delayed and

many services are cancelled during weekends.

Office-goers, students and the elderly are facing great inconvenience due to the late arrival of buses on suburban and urban bus routes. Several villagers are affected as bus services from the rural areas to the city are disrupted.

To increase the use of CNG buses, the government should first plan to set up refuelling stations at their respective transport depots. Although environment-friendly, the limitations and supply shortages of CNG have become a major challenge for the transport sector and have also caused great inconvenience to the general public.

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Date : 16 June 2026	Page : 9

15 VESSELS CROSS HORMUZ SAFELY: MEA

New Delhi, June 15: A Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carrier, chartered by an Indian firm, safely transited through the Strait of Hormuz – the first Indian LNG tanker to cross the war-hit narrow shipping lane since the war in West Asia broke out more than three and a half months back.

LNG Carrier Disha, managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium and chartered by Petronet LNG Ltd, is also one of the first commercial vessels to transit the Strait since the announcement of a preliminary ceasefire deal between the United States and Iran. The vessel is expected to arrive at Dahej in Gujarat – the flagship import terminal of Petronet – on June 18, said Upesh Kumar Sharma, Director in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Disha is carrying 62,370 tonnes of LNG, he said at a news briefing. India meets about half of its natural gas demand through imports of LNG.

Shippers cautious on Hormuz transit despite US-Iran deal

KENTARO OKASAKA,
JESLYN LERH, EMILY CHOW
& STINE JACOBSEN
Tokyo/Copenhagen, June 15

SHIPPERS IN ASIA and Europe said confidence in resuming transit through the Strait of Hormuz could take weeks to rebuild and navigation will only restart once safety is assured, after the US and Iran agreed a framework deal to reopen the waterway. US and Iranian officials are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding to end their war and reopen the strait on Friday. Global oil prices fell about 5% on Monday in response. President Donald Trump said in a Truth Social post that ships loaded with oil are starting to move out of the strait, "going along the Southern 'highway,' which is totally safe, secure, and pristine."

There were no significant tanker crossings visible in vessel-tracking data on Monday, aside from one LNG carrier, however ships have been quietly moving barrels along Oman's coast for weeks, sailing "dark" with US navy support.

The data, which captures only vessels actively transmitting their positions, showed dozens of tankers clustered on both sides of the Strait of Hormuz.

Shippers welcomed news of the deal, but are waiting for more details, including on clearing mines.

"AIS data shows no wave of ships heading towards Hormuz this morning," Jyske Bank ana-



Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman, on Monday

REUTERS

lyst Haider Anjum said in a client note. "The shipping companies probably want to wait until it is clear that the agreement holds, as we have already had Hormuz 'open' for a very short time twice before," he added.

The Iran war that began on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes has largely stopped shipping through the transit route

for around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supply, along with products such as aluminium and urea.

While traffic remains limited, India's Petronet sent the LNG tanker Disha through the strait on Monday, the only visible shipment so far, data from Kpler and LSEG showed.

The tanker, which loaded at

Qatar's Ras Laffan on March 1-2 and had been west of the strait since, is expected to arrive at India's Dahej terminal on June 18, an Indian federal shipping ministry official said.

Shipping association BIMCO said it still considers transit through the strait highly risky, with mines a key concern.

—REUTERS

Publication : Financial Express

Editions : New Delhi

Date : 16 June 2026

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Crude falls 5% to three-month low

OIL PRICES SLUMPED 5% to a three-month low on Monday amid a broad selloff after the US and Iran said they agreed terms to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude futures fell \$4.38, or 5.02%, to \$82.95 a barrel and US West Texas Intermedi-

ate was at \$80.28, down \$4.60, or 5.42%. Both contracts fell to their lowest levels since March 10 on Monday. WTI futures fell as much as \$5 during the session. The US and Iran will sign a memorandum of understanding in Switzerland on Friday, said Pakistan

PM. Trump said on Sunday that the Strait of Hormuz would be open "toll free" and that a US naval blockade of Iranian ports would also end, though it remains in effect pending completion of the ceasefire agreement.

—REUTERS

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Date : 16 June 2026	Page : 8

Peace gets a chance

The US-Iran deal offers lifeline
to a fragile global economy

SUNDAY'S MEMORANDUM OF understanding between the US and Iran will come as a huge relief to a world weary of the 107-day conflict that roiled oil markets, threatened to push inflation higher, and cast a shadow over global growth and trade. Fingers crossed, the formal agreement scheduled to be signed in Geneva this Friday will pave the way for constructive negotiations and, ultimately, a durable peace. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif deserves credit for helping facilitate the breakthrough. With neither side willing to yield ground for much of the conflict, Islamabad's role as mediator merits recognition. Equally important, countries across the globe — particularly in Europe and Asia — will welcome the prospect of the Strait of Hormuz reopening. Nearly a fifth of the world's oil and gas supplies pass through this narrow waterway, making it one of the most strategically important chokepoints in global trade. The announcement has already sent Brent crude prices below \$84 a barrel, down over 5%, while equity markets across Asia have rallied sharply.

Yet optimism must be tempered with caution. The two sides remain divided on critical issues. Washington is seeking a commitment from Tehran that it will refrain from enriching uranium for at least the next two decades. That could prove a significant sticking point, if not a deal-breaker, as many experts doubt Iran will accept such restrictions. Equally troubling are suggestions from President Donald Trump that military action could resume if a nuclear accord is not reached. Such rhetoric is unlikely to aid negotiations and may instead complicate an already fragile process. Iran, for its part, will seek meaningful sanctions relief and access to tens of billions of dollars in frozen oil revenues. The coming weeks will reveal whether both sides are willing to make the compromises necessary for a lasting settlement.

For India, which has borne the brunt of the energy shock and faced renewed pressure on its macroeconomic fundamentals, an end to hostilities would bring significant relief. The restoration of normal supplies of crude oil, liquefied petroleum gas, and natural gas should help moderate import costs and reduce pressure on the rupee, imported inflation, and the current account deficit. Recent measures to attract foreign capital inflows — including incentives for dollar deposits and tax exemptions on sovereign bond investments — should further support the currency and strengthen the balance-of-payments position. Trade with West Asia, disrupted by the conflict, is also likely to recover over the coming months.

Even so, the crisis has exposed several structural vulnerabilities in the Indian economy. The government must use this period of respite to strengthen resilience against future supply shocks. Strategic petroleum reserves should be expanded further, even as sources of energy imports are diversified. India currently has storage capacity equivalent to roughly 74-75 days of net imports, but greater buffers would enhance energy security. Fertiliser pricing reforms also deserve consideration. Rather than relying primarily on subsidies, the government should move towards direct benefit transfers to farmers, encouraging more efficient use while easing pressure on the fisc. Similarly, while the transition to electric vehicles is underway, charging infrastructure needs to expand much faster. Finally, attracting long-term foreign capital will require regulatory certainty, fair bilateral investment arrangements, and a stable tax regime. The West Asian conflict has served as a reminder that external shocks can quickly expose domestic weaknesses. Addressing them is essential if India wants to achieve its full growth potential.

IRAN-US PACT, HORMUZ REOPENING COULD EASE ENERGY SHOCK, SAY EXPERTS

Oil at \$83, LNG seen falling 40%

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, June 15

THE US AND Iran have reached an agreement to end the conflict in West Asia and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, with the accord set to be signed in Switzerland on Friday, raising hopes of a revival of oil and gas flows from the region. The prospect of a peace deal has already pushed Brent crude prices down to around \$83 per barrel, while analysts expect Asian spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices to fall up to 40% to \$12-15 per MMBtu from the current \$18-20 range, potentially delivering significant relief to India's energy import bill, inflation, subsidy burden and industrial fuel costs.

The development is particularly significant for India, which imports over 85% of its crude oil requirement and over 50% of its natural gas consumption. Nearly 20% of global oil and gas supplies move through the Strait of Hormuz, making any disruption a direct threat to India's energy security and import costs. Analysts estimate that a \$10 decline in crude oil prices can reduce India's annual import bill by \$13-15 billion.

Prashant Vasishth, senior vice president and co-group head, corporate ratings, ICRA, said a

MAJOR RELIEF

■ Analysts estimate that a \$10 decline in crude prices can reduce India's annual import bill by

\$13-15 bn

■ Crude prices could take six months to one year to normalise to pre-war levels, experts say

■ LNG surged above \$25/MMBtu at peak of the crisis but normalisation of trade flows could bring them down in \$12-15/MMBtu range



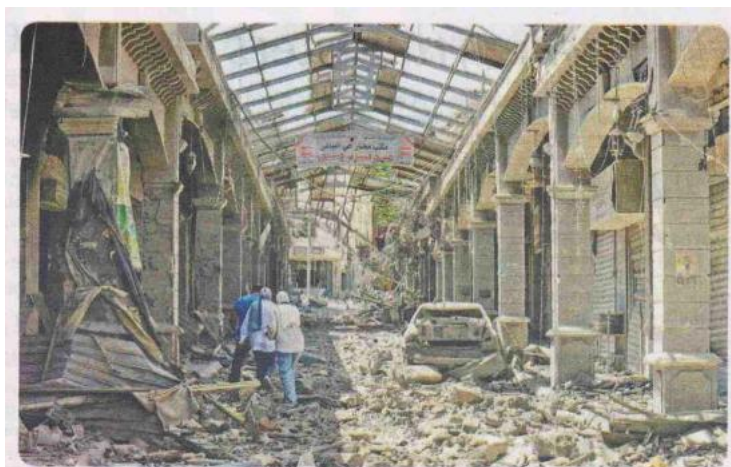
successful agreement would ease both crude and gas markets, although a complete return to pre-conflict conditions could take time. "In case of a successful US-Iran deal and subsequent normalisation of the vessel traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, crude oil and

natural prices would ease. However, beyond the immediate price action, crude prices could take six months to one year to normalise to pre-war levels given that almost 10-11 million barrels per day of production has been shut in West Asia, while some facilities have suffered

damages," Vasishth said.

The biggest and quickest gains, however, could emerge in the LNG market. According to Rajesh Kumar Mediratta, managing director and CEO, Indian Gas Exchange (IGX), restoration of LNG trade flows via Hormuz could significantly ease global gas market tightness. "A successful US-Iran pact and the restoration of normal LNG trade flows through the Strait of Hormuz could significantly ease global gas market tightness, potentially bringing Asian spot LNG prices down to the \$12-15/MMBtu range," he said.

LNG prices had surged above \$25/MMBtu at the peak of the crisis and averaged \$17-18/MMBtu during much of the disruption.



People make their way through the rubble of a destroyed building as residents displaced by the fighting return to Nabatieh in southern Lebanon, after the US-Iran deal on Monday. PIC/AFP

Iran, US agree to halt war and reopen Hormuz

DUBAI: US and Iranian officials said they had reached an agreement to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a preliminary pact that sent oil prices falling but leaves the fate of Tehran's nuclear program

to further negotiations.

While still a framework, the deal marked the biggest breakthrough towards resolving the conflict.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan would host the signing ceremony of the peace agreement between the US and Iran in Switzerland on Friday (June 19).

Agencies

What deal will include...

- Reopening Strait of Hormuz
- US ending blockade of Iranian ports
- Iran to freeze nuclear activity, refraining from further uranium enrichment
- US to halt imposition of new sanctions on Iran until a final deal was reached
- US to waive oil sanctions on Iran for a specified period
- US to release \$25 billion of Iran's frozen assets
- Immediate and permanent end of all military operations to include Lebanon

JUNE 19

Day deal will be signed

Peace in West Asia, relief for the world

War draws to a close as US, Iran agree to sign deal on Friday

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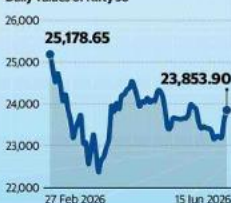
After multiple false starts towards peace, the US and Iran agreed to shake hands and end the West Asia war that has rocked the world for over 100 days, sending waves of relief across markets, industries and policy circles. Yet, concerns remain about the deal's stability and longevity, given Israeli officials' opposition to a deal they say does not address their country's concerns.

Crude oil prices were the first to react to the news, falling around 5%, after news broke that the two sides will sign the peace agreement on Friday in Switzerland. On Monday evening, the Brent August contract

RELIEF ROAD

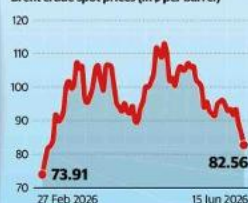
Crude reacted to the news, falling around 5%. Markets cheered, with the Nifty climbing 1%. The rupee strengthened, closing below the 95-mark.

Daily values of Nifty 50



Source: Bloomberg

Brent crude spot prices (in \$ per barrel)



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was trading 4.95% lower at \$83.01 per barrel. Global markets cheered,

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US-Iran deal to spell peace in West Asia, relief for the world

FROM PAGE 1

with stocks in Japan and South Korea jumping over 5%, while the Shanghai Composite gained nearly 2%. Indian equities joined in, with the Nifty climbing 1%.

The rupee strengthened, closing below the 95-mark. Benchmark 10-year government bond yield fell four basis points to 6.87%, tracking declines in US Treasury yields and lower oil prices.

"This is a massive short-term relief," said Dhiraj Relli, managing director and chief executive officer at HDFC Securities. Nilesh Shah, managing director of Kotak Mahindra AMC, said the deal de-risks a key vulnerability for India's economy.

Out of India's annual oil imports of around \$123 billion, 60-70% used to cross the Strait before the war. Cheaper oil augurs well for India, which imports about 90% of its oil requirement.

Though a peace deal is positive for India, much will depend on the details, said Pronab Sen, India's former chief statistician.

"If the opening comes with conditions or operational constraints, concerns over energy supplies and freight costs may persist. However, if normal shipping operations are fully restored, it could significantly ease pressure on the Indian economy through lower crude oil prices, reduced inflationary risks and a smaller import bill," Sen said.

An increase of \$1 per barrel raises India's annual import bill

by about \$18,000 crore.

The news could give the central bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) some breathing room as well. In June, the committee noted uncertainties around the conflict and its duration. Governor Sanjay Malhotra had said the major risk is how long these disruptions continue and how they will impact prices. "The peace accord makes life easier for the MPC. It reduces uncertainty," said Gaura Sen Gupta, chief economist at IDFC First Bank.

However, a significant ease in energy supplies may take a considerable time period, may be months, given the impact on several oil and gas facilities.

Prashant Vasish, senior vice-president and co-group head, corporate ratings, Icria said: "In case of a successful US-Iran deal and subsequent normalization of the vessel traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, crude oil and natural prices would ease. However, beyond the immediate price action, crude prices could take six months to one year to normalize to pre-war levels, given that almost 10-11 million barrels per day of production has been shut in West Asia besides which some facilities have suffered damages." Brent crude closed at \$72.87 per barrel on 27 Friday, a day before the US launched Operation Epic Fury.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda agreed that it may take at least six months for West Asia to ramp up



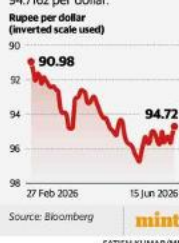
A significant ease in energy supply may take time. REUTERS

energy output. "Hence, while prices may not go up further, they would continue to be range-bound in the area of \$80-90, rather than \$90-100 barrel." The International Energy Agency, in its oil market report for May, said demand could recover later this year if flows through the Strait gradually resume from the September quarter, though supply recovery is expected to lag.

The peace deal offers balm for India's fertilizer sector as it reopens the Strait, a critical route for shipments of urea, ammonia, sulphur and liquefied natural gas used in fertilizer production. India depends heavily on overseas supplies of fertilizers and feedstocks. Vasish of Icria said that for the

Rupee recovery

The rupee strengthened, closing below the 95-mark at 94.762 per dollar.



urea segment, imported LNG prices are expected to moderate once supplies from Qatar resume, which should bring down the cost of domestic production. At the peak of the conflict, fertilizer and raw material prices had shot up 40-100%.

The reprieve comes at a time when this year's southwest monsoon is expected to witness below-normal rains at 90% of the 50-year average.

Rajnish Gupta, partner, tax and economic policy group at EY India highlighted that beyond energy, the removal of supply chain disruptions will also give a meaningful fillip to manufacturing activity and export recovery to the West Asian region.

"At the same time, we are mindful that a series of steps still need to fall into place — normalization of trade routes, stabilization of global supply chains and sustained diplomatic momentum for these gains to fully materialize," said Gupta.

The lifting of restrictions on vessel movement is expected to lower war-risk insurance premiums, vessel charter rates and fuel costs, all of which surged during the war. Exporters, too, stand to benefit as congestion eases and container movement normalizes after weeks of disruption that left thousands of containers stranded across ports and trans-shipment hubs.

Pharmaceuticals and the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) are also expected to witness some ease in cost and supply chain pressure, if the deal stays for a long term.

"We are closely monitoring the situation, and we need to give a two-to-three-month settling-down period to see how this will impact the industry at large," said Namit Joshi, chairman of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India.

MSMEs accounting for 48-49% of India's merchandise exports could benefit if shipping costs and delivery times stabilize, said Vinod Kumar, president of the India SME Forum. India's total merchandise exports in FY26 were about \$442 billion.

Welcoming the agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India looks forward to

deliberations on the remaining issues reaching a sustainable final agreement. "I welcome the understanding reached between the United States and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia, which has caused serious economic disruption across the world and led to loss of life in many countries. India hopes that the implementation of this understanding will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce," he said in a post on X.

However, given Israel's targeting of Lebanon and its concern that the peace framework leaves Iran's missile programme, regional proxy networks and nuclear capabilities largely untouched, Ajay Srivastava, founder Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), said, "The disagreement highlights the fragility of the accord and raises questions about its long-term durability. For the agreement to succeed, Washington may need to restrain Israeli actions that could undermine the peace process."

Speaking to reporters, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas said that under-recovery on the sale of petrol is currently at ₹3 and that in diesel sales is at ₹27 per litre, significantly down from the March levels.

With inputs from Vijay C. Roy, Shayan Ghosh, Subhana Shaikh, Dipti Sharma, Dharendra Kumar, Subhash Narayan and Priyanka Sharma

US-Iran peace will unclog petrochemical supply lines

Over the past three months, India has used most refinery products to produce cooking gas

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The much-anticipated peace deal between Iran and the US is expected to ease petrochemical supply chains and allow Indian refiners to redirect downstream refinery products towards petrochemical production.

Over the past three months, most refinery products in India have been used for domestic cooking gas production, hitting supplies to other industries ranging from paints to pharmaceuticals.

The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz would ease access to both imported petrochemicals and crude oil—the primary feedstock for the domestic petrochemical industry—helping restore supplies and moderate prices.

For the global petrochemical industry, the reopening of Hormuz would be a significant development as the strategic waterway handles about 20% of global seaborne crude oil trade and is also a critical export route for petrochemical feedstocks and products from major West Asian countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Iran.

Recent disruptions to shipping through the strait had increased freight costs, extended transit times, created supply shortages, and pushed up feedstock prices across multiple petrochemical value chains.

According to a report by polymerupdate.com, a petrochemicals and plastics-focused market intelligence firm, improved shipping access through the Gulf could increase the availability of key raw materials such as naphtha, LPG, ethane, methanol, aromatics, and



The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz would ease access to both imported petrochemicals and crude oil helping restore supplies and moderate prices. AFP

olefins, while easing logistical bottlenecks that have affected polyethylene, polypropylene, PVC, PET, and other petrochemical exports from West Asia.

India annually imports petrochemicals worth around \$50 billion, accounting for about 45% of the country's total

prices shot up amid the war as feedstock got costlier. We may see an ease in prices going ahead," said Deepak Mahurkar, partner, oil & gas, PwC India.

Prices of petrochemicals and polymers produced from these petrochem-

icals have increased in the range of 60% to 100% since the start of the war.

Crude is a key feedstock for petrochemicals. The government had, in March, directed refiners to use downstream products of crude oil for the production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), as imports of LPG have been

most impacted due to the war. However, the restrictions have been somewhat eased to meet requirements in key industries, including pharmaceuticals. In April, the government exempted 40 critical petrochemical products from customs duty until 30 June, and allowed minimum quantities of propane, butane, propylene, and butenes, for critical sectors such as petrochemicals.

The exemption was aimed at benefiting sectors including plastics, packaging, textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and automotive components, all of which rely heavily on petrochemical inputs.

These materials are used in a wide range of products such as pharmaceuticals, paints, adhesives, polyester, disinfectants, detergents, packaging bottles, and electronics.

Supply chain constraints and higher prices are expected to have a spillover of the conflict into domestic inflation. Economists have warned that supply disruptions could push up inflation and interest rates globally as trade channels transmit the shock. On Monday, government data showed that India's wholesale inflation rose to 9.68% in May, up from 8.30% in April.

Early Monday, the US and Iran said they had reached a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. US President Donald Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social: "The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete. Congratulations to all! I hereby fully authorize the toll free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and, simultaneously herewith, authorize the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade. Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!"

The deal is expected to be signed in Switzerland on Friday.

VITAL PATHWAY

THE Strait of Hormuz handles about 20% of global seaborne crude oil trade

IT is also vital for petrochemical feedstock, product exports from major West Asian countries

RECENT disruptions across the strait hiked freight costs, and extended transit times, among others

INDIA imports petrochemicals worth around \$50 billion a year, about 45% of its needs

requirement.

Lower energy costs could also reduce production expenses for downstream manufacturers worldwide.

"More than the supplies, prices have been impacted and have increased significantly. Globally supplies are available in Europe and China also. However,

icals have increased in the range of 60% to 100% since the start of the war.

Crude is a key feedstock for petrochemicals. The government had, in March, directed refiners to use downstream products of crude oil for the production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), as imports of LPG have been

Hormuz reopening to soothe fertilizer supply concerns

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The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz following the US-Iran agreement to end the war could provide significant relief to India's fertilizer sector, easing supply concerns and lowering input costs that have weighed on the industry for months.

The sector has been under pressure since tensions in West Asia disrupted trade through Hormuz, a critical route for shipments of urea, ammonia, sulphur and liquefied natural gas (LNG)—key inputs in fertilizer production.

The development is significant for India as it depends heavily on overseas supplies of fertilizers and feedstocks. Industry estimates suggest the country relies on West Asia for around 40% of its fertilizer imports. Domestic manufacturing units have also been facing a shortage of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and ammonia, 80% of which is sourced from the conflict-prone region.

According to experts, a US-Iran agreement would facilitate smoother energy exports, which would further improve the availability of natural gas and fertilizer feedstocks, potentially reducing global prices for urea and phosphatic fertilizers.

"For the urea segment, imported LNG prices are expected to moderate once the supplies from Qatar resume, which should bring down the cost of domestic production," said Prashant Vasisht, senior vice-president and co-group

The development is significant for India as it is dependent on overseas supplies of fertilizers and feedstocks



The sector has been under pressure since tensions in West Asia disrupted trade through Hormuz. AP

head, corporate ratings, Ica Ltd.

"Global urea prices have already softened as was witnessed in the recent tender opened in India wherein prices have already reached ~\$450/mt (tonnes) as China has restarted urea exports," Vasisht added.

At the peak of the conflict, fertilizer and raw material prices witnessed a sharp spike in the range of 40-100%.

The fertilizer sector accounts for roughly 30% of India's natural gas consumption, and domestic manufacturing has been squeezed amid the war due to a shortage initially. Lower freight and insurance costs for Gulf shipments would further support the trend.

India is the world's second-largest fertilizer consumer, but domestic supply hasn't kept pace. The country imports about 60% of its diammonium phosphate (DAP) requirement and roughly 15% of its urea and nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK)-based fertilizer

demand, along with intermediates such as rock phosphate, phosphoric acid and potash.

"The US-Iran peace agreement is expected to facilitate smoother supplies of urea, DAP, and NPK fertilizers, said Sanjiv Kanwar, managing director, Yara South Asia, a fertilizer firm and provider of environmental solutions. "However, much will depend on how rapidly shipping companies rebuild trust and resume normal operations."

Rising global fertilizer prices had sparked concerns of a surge in India's subsidy outgo, putting pressure on fiscal resources. A decline in international prices would help contain subsidy expenditure and improve sector profitability simultaneously.

While the government had budgeted for ₹1.77 trillion fertilizer subsidy bill for the current fiscal year, the department of fertilizers has sought 100% increase to ₹3.5 trillion earlier, amid rising prices of LNG and raw material imports. The fertilizer subsidy remains one of the largest components of the Centre's support to the farm sector, with the fertilizer subsidy bill for India crossing ₹2.17 trillion in FY26.

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Oil surge pushes wholesale inflation up to 9.68% in May

The provisional estimate is the first under the new series, with 2022-23 as the base year

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India's wholesale inflation surged to a new high of 9.68% in May from 8.26% in April, driven by a sharp rise in fuel, crude petroleum, and manufactured chemical and metal product prices.

The provisional estimate of May wholesale price index-based inflation (WPI) figure is the first being released under the new series, with 2022-23 as the base year, as against the 2011-12 base year used in the earlier series.

The total number of items has increased from 697 to 957, while new sources of energy, such as "Solar and Wind", have been added to the "Electricity" group under the new WPI series. In addition, "Nuclear Electricity" has been included in the basket. Also, "Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas" has been shifted from "Primary Articles" to "Fuel and Power" major group.

Across major groups, year-on-year (y-o-y) inflation for primary articles, fuel and power, and manufactured products stood at 4.99%, 30.33%, and 7.48%, respectively, in May 2026, compared with 3.78%, 24.89%, and 6.68%, respectively, in April 2026.

Across groups, "Mineral Oils (containing Petroleum Products)", "Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas", "Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Prod-



Inflation for Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas stood at 61.51% in May, up from 56.31% in April and 26.13% in March.

REUTERS

ucts", and "Manufacture of Basic Metals", have been major drivers of WPI inflation in April and May 2026, the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Inflation for crude petroleum and natural gas stood at 61.51% in May, up from 56.31% in April and 26.13% in March. WPI inflation in mineral oils also stood at a high of 49.82% in May.

Among the manufactured products, inflation in the manufacture of tobacco products stood at 13.59%, manufacture of textiles at 10.22%, manufacture of chemical products at 13.40%, manufacture of basic metals at 12.30%, manufacture of

electrical equipment at 11.32%, and other manufacturing at 22.87% in May.

The WPI Food Index, having a weight of 24.99%, consists of "food articles" from the primary articles major group, and "Manufacture of Food Products" from the Manufactured Products major group. It observed y-o-y inflation of 4.49% in May 2026, up from 3.11% in April 2026. Year-on-year comparisons cannot be made due to the switch to a new base year from May.

"As per the new WPI series (base year: 2022-23) released by the commerce ministry, the headline WPI inflation surged to a series high of 9.7% in May

2026 from 8.3% in April 2026, amid a broad-based uptick across most groups, partly aided by a favourable base," said Rahul Agrawal, principal economist, Ica Ltd. "The newly released OPPI prints have closely tracked the WPI, with the inflation in the former printing at 9.4% in May 2026, up from 8.1% in April 2026. The recent cooling in global energy and commodity prices after the easing of tensions in West Asia is expected to provide respite to the WPI inflation print for June 2026," he added.

The commerce ministry also released provisional estimates of the output producer price index, or OPPI, (base year 2022-23) for May 2026. According to it, the all-India output PPI for All Commodities for May 2026 stands at 109.6, up from 108.6 in April. Across Major Groups, indices for Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying; Manufactured Products; and Electricity are 111.9, 122.3, 109.5, and 90.2, respectively, in May 2026, whereas they were 111.2, 122.5, 108.3, and 90.6, respectively, in April.

The new index has differential weights for the three broad categories, though the changes are not significant: for primary, it is up from 22.6% to 22.8%, while for manufacturing, it is down to 63.1% and fuel and power is up from 13.2% to 14.1%, said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

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

957

The total number of items in the revised series

697

Number of items that were part of original series

Oil executives are sounding the alarm over dwindling stockpiles

Even if Strait of Hormuz soon reopens, U.S. would likely need months to replenish inventories

Colin Jackson, Benoit Morenne
Michael R. Gordon

President Trump's deal with Iran is set to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, but how quickly it can arrest a steep decline in oil stockpiles will determine the trajectory of energy prices in the coming weeks.

For more than 15 weeks, the U.S. and other countries around the world have had to dip into oil tanks, salt caverns and strategic reserves to make up for the millions of barrels of oil trapped behind the strait. Now, the stocks are nearing critical levels, and energy executives say without an influx of more oil, prices will have to surge to stop the run on supplies.

Mike Wirth, chief executive of Chevron, has repeatedly warned on television that the supply crunch will soon manifest itself around the world. Neil Chapman, the No. 2 at Exxon Mobil, has said the U.S. is approaching "unheard-of inventory levels." Other executives, such as Wil VanLoon, of Quantum Capital Group, say "it's going to get ugly."

"The world has never had to destroy 10 million barrels a day of oil demand," VanLoon added, referring to the crude production not making it to global markets.

Relief could be on the way. The U.S. and Iran agreed Sunday to a deal — set to be signed Friday in Switzerland — that would quickly reopen the strait, through which 20% of the world's petroleum typically passes. But even if that deal holds, it would likely take months for the oil market to return to normal.

Since late March, the U.S. has drawn about 66 million barrels of oil from its strategic petroleum reserve, a system of salt caverns on the Gulf Coast that was created in 1975 after the Arab oil embargo. The Trump administration authorized the release of 172 million barrels — and if drawdowns continue at the current pace, that allotment could dry up in early September.

The current release — if fully exhausted — is set to bring inventories down to 243 million barrels, a historically low level. Drawing further from the stocks after that would limit the U.S. ability to respond to new oil disruptions on the world's stage, or natural disasters such as hurricanes that can damage fuel supply chains. The SPR peaked at more than 700 million barrels in 2009.

Commercial stocks are also under stress. At the key storage hub in Cushing, Okla., inventories have dropped to 21 million barrels, down roughly 1 million barrels in the latest week. At roughly 20 million barrels, tank opera-



Since late March, the U.S. has drawn about 66 million barrels of oil from its strategic petroleum reserve.

tors begin running into a variety of complications.

Tanks typically have to have 10% to 15% of their capacity in storage to guarantee smooth operations. That is in part because the outlet allowing oil to flow is set at that level and sludge builds up at the bottom, said John Auers, managing director of refined fuel analytics at RBN Energy, part of analytics firm Novati Labs.

"Whenever you get to tank bottoms, the whole operation gets bogged down," he said. He cautioned the 20-million-barrel limit isn't hard and fast, and operators would likely try to keep pumping crude out of the facility — albeit at a slower rate.

Chapman, a senior vice president at Exxon, said physical oil prices could rise as high as \$150 or \$160 a barrel once the limits at global hubs are hit.

"You can debate whether that's going to hit those really low levels in two weeks or three weeks. But once you get to that point, then you'll see prices shoot up," he said at a conference in New York.

Even if the strait soon reopens, Trump said steps will be needed to ensure mines have been removed. Oil shippers and their insurers are expected to remain cautious about

traveling through the waterway. It would likely take even longer for the U.S. and other countries to replenish their depleted oil inventories, keeping prices elevated.

U.S. oil prices fell 4.1% to \$81.42 a barrel on Sunday evening shortly after trading opened. They have fallen more than 25% from early April, when they approached \$113. Prices at the pump have fallen, too.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright told The Wall Street Journal last week that Trump has been briefed on the inventory situation and the administration doesn't foresee a jump in energy prices.

"I don't think so, we got a challenge, but I think we're solving the challenge," he said.

At a Bloomberg event on Friday, Wright said 7 million barrels a day of oil and refined products were making it out of the strait with the help of the U.S. military. Wirth, speaking at that same event, seemed skeptical of that claim.

"Our view would be it's probably not quite that much," he said.

The Trump administration has suggested for months that the pressure on energy prices would disappear as soon as a deal with Tehran is reached. The

president has also insisted that he doesn't fear the political fallout from his war with Iran.

But without a quick end to the conflict, declining inventories could create a perfect political storm in which prices continue to rise as the mid-term approach and opinion polls show many Americans disapprove of the Iran war.

The deal to reopen the strait and end the American blockade of Iran will set the stage for thorny nuclear talks to come, U.S. officials say.

The two sides have had major differences over the American demand that Iran hand over or dilute its supply of highly enriched uranium so it can't be used to make a nuclear weapon.

Without a definitive resolution of the nuclear questions in the coming talks, the longer-term security of the strait would remain uncertain.

"When the president forces this conflict to a successful end, gas prices will drop back to multi-year lows and global energy markets will be much more stable long term," White House spokeswoman Taylor Rogers said.

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Since late March, the U.S. has drawn about 66 million barrels of oil from its strategic petroleum reserve

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Oil normalcy months away

NEW YORK: High oil and gasoline prices and energy supply problems won't be solved overnight, despite an agreement to end the Iran war and open the Strait of Hormuz announced on Sunday.

It will likely take months before energy companies can resume operations to the point of meeting the world's demand, according to energy experts. The slow pace of the process of shipping and refining crude oil, and doubts about the security of trav-

eling through the strait mean the effect won't be seen immediately, they said.

Ships loaded with crude oil have been stranded in the Persian Gulf for more than three months, unable to safely travel through the waterway, through which about a fifth of the world's oil and gasoline supplies typically traveled before the war began.

First, ships that have been stranded will have to exit the strait, and then new tankers will have to come in to be loaded. ^{AP}

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Date : 16 June 2026	Page : 1, 4

Oil may Fall Below \$80/bbl in 2-3 Weeks



Oil supplies could normalise and prices fall below \$80 per barrel within 2-3 weeks if the planned US-Iran pact is signed on Friday and the Hormuz Strait is reopened to all shipping without any curbs, said executives at Indian refineries. **Sanjeev Choudhary** reports. [▶▶ 4](#)

BRENT CRUDE FALLS 5% TO \$83 PER BARREL

Strait Path Laid for Crude Prices to Travel Downward

Proximity to W Asia to
ensure faster access to
large volumes of crude

Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: Oil supplies could normalise and prices fall below \$80 per barrel within two-three weeks if the planned US-Iran agreement is signed on Friday and the Strait of Hormuz is reopened without any restrictions, said executives at Indian refineries.

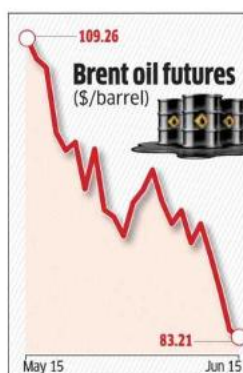
The US and Iran have agreed on a deal, scheduled to be signed on Friday, to end all military hostilities, remove the US naval blockade of the Islamic Republic and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The two countries have also given themselves another 60 days to conclude negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme. Brent crude fell 5% on Monday to \$83 per barrel following the announcement.

The Strait is expected to reopen after the signing. "If the US Navy and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards do not play any game and allow the deal to be signed as planned on Friday and implement it fully, the crude oil market will normalise within 15-20 days," said an executive, who did not wish to be identified. "Brent should fall below \$80 per barrel."

As the Strait reopens, loaded tankers stranded in the Persian Gulf would quickly begin reaching demand centres, he said, adding that producers also have large volumes in onshore storage that they would be keen to ship as soon as possible.

For India, proximity to the Gulf region would mean faster access to large volumes of crude, another executive said, pointing out that the country's dependence on long-haul cargoes from the US and Russia could decline.

The damage to oil-producing facilities in the Gulf region is not severe and they should return to operation relatively quickly, the executive said. Overall crude supply-



OPEC+ IMPACT

Increased OPEC+ output & return of Iranian crude likely to further ease supplies and put downward pressure on prices

es from the region would ramp up much faster than many expect, although the same may not hold true for LNG or refined product supplies, he cautioned.

Increased production from OPEC+ members, coupled with the return of Iranian supplies, would further ease market tightness and put downward pressure on prices, executives said.

The end of hostilities and sanctions on Iran, along with the availability of more tankers, would help sharply reduce freight and insurance rates, they added.

Before the war, the Gulf region accounted for 40% of India's crude supplies. After the Iran war began on February 28, supplies from the region fell sharply. While imports from Saudi and the UAE largely recovered after an initial slump, supplies from Iraq, Kuwait and a couple of other producers were hit hard.

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Date :16 June 2026	Page : 1, 7

BUSINESS

US-Iran peace deal to boost India's exports, stabilise rupee

The announcement that the US and Iran have finalised a deal to end their 107-day conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz is expected to boost India's exports to West Asia, which was severely impacted by the hostilities, spur manufacturing activity and help stabilise.

P7

US-Iran peace deal to boost India's exports, stabilise rupee

For India, which relies heavily on West Asia for crude oil, LPG and LNG supplies, the deal promises relief from high energy prices

Peace Deal Impact

- The peace agreement would be signed on June 19
- Reopening the Strait of Hormuz is expected to stabilise energy markets

NEW DELHI

THE announcement that the US and Iran have finalised a deal to end their 107-day conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz is expected to boost India's exports to West Asia, which was severely impacted by the hostilities, spur manufacturing activity and help stabilise the rupee, according to exporters and experts.

They said the announcement, if implemented successfully, would reduce pressure on India's import bill, ease inflationary covers and create a more conducive



environment for trade. The peace agreement would be signed on June 19 in Switzerland. The US and Iran have reached a peace deal to end a four-month war that disrupted global energy supplies, pushed oil prices above \$ 100 per barrel, and brought the Middle East to the brink of a wider regional conflict.

For India, which relies heavily on West Asia for crude oil, LPG and LNG supplies, the deal promises relief from high energy prices, pressure on the rupee, and inflation risks that intensified during the conflict, economic think tank GTRI said.

"For India, the agreement

brings immediate economic relief as the conflict has exposed India's dependence on West Asia, from where it sources roughly 50 per cent of its crude oil imports, around 70 per cent of its LPG supplies and nearly 90 per cent of its LNG imports," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

The disruption of shipping through the Gulf raised India's energy import bill, increased inflation risks, weakened the rupee and forced refiners to seek alternative supplies from distant markets. Reopening the Strait of Hormuz is expected to stabilise energy markets, ease pressure on oil and gas prices,

strengthen the rupee and improve India's growth outlook, he said. Mumbai-based exporter and Founder Chairman, Technocraft Industries India, Sharad Kumar Saraf said the announcement paves way for the end of uncertainties, economic slow down and unwarranted hardships.

"The end of war and hostilities will not only help in quantum jump in India's exports but will throw open a host of new business opportunities. Next 2-3 years will accelerate India's efforts for a Viksit Bharat," he said.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President S C Ralhan said any easing of geopolitical tensions in the region should help restore normalcy in global energy supplies and moderate prices.

"For India, this would reduce pressure on the import bill, normalise exports, support rupee stability, ease inflationary concerns, and create a more conducive environment for trade and economic growth," he said.

● **LETTERS TO EDITOR** Send your letters by email to bleditor@thehindu.co.in or by post to 'Letters to the Editor', The Hindu Business Line, Kasturi Buildings, 859-860, Anna Salai, Chennai 600002.

Clean fuel

Apropos 'Nitin Gadkari clears E100 fuel framework' (June 15). The Union Government's approval of E100 fuel, enabling vehicles to operate on 100 per cent ethanol, represents a transformative milestone in India's energy architecture.

The initiative seeks to curtail the nation's chronic dependence on imported crude oil, thereby enhancing energy security and conserving foreign exchange reserves. By fostering a robust domestic ethanol ecosystem, the policy is expected to invigorate the agricultural sector, particularly sugarcane cultivation and allied industries.

Ethanol's comparatively lower

carbon footprint also aligns with India's decarbonisation objectives. Nevertheless, the transition necessitates substantial investments in production capacity, distribution infrastructure, and vehicle adaptation to realise its full potential.

N Sadhasiva Reddy

Bengaluru

Jobs and AI

Apropos 'Will employment rise in age of AI?' (June 15). The policy silence, not AI itself, is the real threat. Jevons Paradox and Schumpeter's creative destruction reassure markets, yet they ignore the human ledger. If one algorithm replaces 10 coders, shareholders gain while 10 families face rent and bills. The IT boom of the 2000s raised

output without lasting jobs, and governments now carry debt they cannot spend away. Welfare cannot substitute for work that sustains dignity. We need skill funds tied to apprenticeships, portable benefits for gig roles, and incentives for firms that hire while automating. Growth must widen the circle of earners, not just efficiency.

K Chidanand Kumar

Bengaluru

This refers to the article 'Will employment rise in age of AI?' (June 15).

The comparison with the IT boom of the 2000s is apt and sobering.

Productivity gains from technology have rarely translated into jobs in India, and AI may follow the same

pattern unless policy steps are taken. Simply hoping that new jobs will emerge to replace displaced ones is not a strategy. Government investment in reskilling programmes, particularly for routine white-collar roles most exposed to automation, are needed now. Equally, sectors with genuine labour absorption capacity, such as care work, construction, and small manufacturing, deserve more attention.

Abbharna Barathi

Chennai

Expand crackdown

Apropos 'FSSAI cracks down on misleading brands & their claims' (June 15). Although belated, this is a welcome move.

However, the issue is not confined to food items but even to plant nutrients, yield and plant growth enhancers – which influence the farmers to choose a product oblivious of its ill effects on Agri produce.

Likewise, several attractive advertisements also claim on pest and insect control, soil health etc which are becoming more popular than scientifically recommended products. There must be an immediate crackdown on these ads to prevent contamination of food produce since it is resulting in rejection of Indian Agri produce, recent examples being rice and red chilli rejection by China.

Rajiv Magal

Halekere Village (Karnataka)

Iran, US agree to end war, reopen Hormuz

DEAL DONE. The memorandum of understanding is scheduled to be officially signed on Friday in Switzerland

Reuters
Dubai/Washington

The US and Iran said they had agreed terms to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, news that brought relief to markets although the pact may hinge on an end to hostilities in Lebanon and defers talks on Tehran's nuclear programme.

While still a framework, the deal marked the biggest breakthrough towards resolving the conflict that has killed thousands and upended energy markets since it began with joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February.

"The deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete," US President Donald Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform at around 5:30 pm in Washington (21:30 GMT) on Sunday. His post came shortly after

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country has served as a mediator, announced a deal had been struck.

The memorandum of understanding is scheduled to be officially signed on Friday in Switzerland.

The precise terms were not immediately known. Sharif said in a post on X that the pact called for "the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon."

Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations are due to arrive at a French lakeside resort on Monday, where Trump will be pressed for details.

STICKING POINT

While the US and Iran had largely ceased hostilities as they engaged in weeks-long negotiations, Lebanon has suffered the deadliest spill



HUGE RELIEF. A teacher of Gurukul School of Art welcomes the US-Iran peace deal through a painting in Mumbai.

over of the conflict. Nearly 1.2 million people have been uprooted by an Israeli offensive against the Iran-backed group Hezbollah, which opened fire on Israel in support of Tehran on March 2.

Lebanon has been a per-

sistent sticking point in talks, with Israel and Hezbollah ignoring calls from Trump and others to stop their attacks on each other, while Iran made a full ceasefire in Lebanon one of its demands.

The secretariat of Iran's

Supreme National Security Council said war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, would end permanently starting on Monday night.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said there must be a complete halt to Israeli attacks against Lebanon and wrote on Telegram that the US bears responsibility for implementing the framework deal.

Hezbollah has not yet publicly commented on the US-Iran deal, but Lebanese and foreign security sources told Reuters that the group had last fired at Israel before midnight on Sunday night and had not launched operations since then. The pace of Israeli attacks has decreased dramatically, they added.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has yet to respond publicly to the US-Iran agreement.

Trump said the Strait of

Hormuz, a major shipping route for global oil and gas supplies that Iran has effectively shut down for months, would open on Friday, and that he had ordered the end of the US blockade of Iranian ports.

STRAIT TO REOPEN

"Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" Trump wrote. Oil prices fell on the news, though shippers remained cautious and ensuring the waterway is clear of mines could take weeks. Brent crude futures fell some 5 per cent on Monday while stock markets jumped.

The agreement was sealed despite an Israeli strike on Lebanon on Sunday.

The fate of Tehran's nuclear programme, another thorny issue, will also be addressed in those later talks, sources previously told Reuters.

Tentative peace

Promise of US Iran deal, a big relief

For the first time in nearly four months of the US-Iran-Israel war, there are strong signs that at least US and Iran are inclined to end it. In his usual bombastic manner, US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the 'deal' was done, and 'oil would flow' through the Straits of Hormuz very soon. The details of the agreement that will likely be signed by US and Iran in Geneva on Friday are not accurately known as no written statement has been issued from either side.



However, it is the first time in these months that Iran has, through its top officials, confirmed that a 'memorandum of understanding' has been firm up. So, the world is faced with a realistic chance of returning to a semblance of peace, normal trade and economic activity, even if it takes a year or so to get there. Yet, there is the dark chance of Israel sabotaging any pact before the ink runs dry. On balance, there are enough reasons for the US to end the war. It has promised and sought a 60-day ceasefire as part of the 'deal' to work out 'technical details'. US inflation at 4.2 per cent in May was the highest in three years. Trump is up against a restive electorate in the upcoming mid-terms in November. A war that appears to have begun on Israel's prodding has visibly lost all direction and purpose. Regime change has not been accomplished and Iran's so-called nuclear stockpile (if at all it exists) has not been unearthed. Instead, the US ended up handing control of the Strait of Hormuz to Iran, and with it, control of oil supplies to the world.

Iran might have been devastated, but it has inflicted huge damage on infrastructure and oil facilities in its neighbourhood. US and Israel never looked like winning, and at least Trump needed a respectable exit. Iran too would like to recover its huge losses, but it seems to have had the upper hand in the 'deal' that is in the making. Meanwhile, the markets bounced back in wild relief on Monday, with the Sensex rising 1 per cent and the rupee gaining 47 paise to the dollar, while Brent crude fell over 5 per cent.

For the world, including India, the most important issue is the status of movement on the Strait of Hormuz. About half of India's oil supplies and 70 per cent of LNG is sourced from the Gulf region. However, the statements so far do not clearly state whether movement will be levy-free. After Trump said in a social media post that movement shall be toll-free, he seems to have corrected himself later to say that the Straits will be open for demining. Iran's state news agency has reported that the Straits will be open, subject to "Iranian arrangements". The 60-day ceasefire is meant to work out details regarding Iran's nuclear programme. A promise to lift sanctions on Iran, including its frozen assets, would lift world trade prospects. India would perhaps be able to curtail oil and fertilizer imports, and with it the current account deficit over the next few months. Hopefully, this may not turn out to be as bad a year for India as most expected.

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Crude oil hits 3-month low on US, Iran peace deal



London: Crude oil prices slipped to a three-month low on Monday after US President Donald Trump and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister said they had reached an initial deal to end the war and to resume traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude futures fell \$4.16 to \$83.17 a barrel by 1315 GMT and US WTI was at \$80.49, down \$4.39. REUTERS

Go short in natural gas if futures slip below ₹286

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Natural gas futures (₹290/mmBtu) were down nearly 4 per cent last week, and thus posted a loss for the second consecutive week. The contract is now hovering near a support. The June futures fell off from the resistance at ₹323 towards the end of the first week of the month.

The price is now below



WEAK BIAS

Target: ₹270
Stop-loss: ₹300

COMMODITY CALL.

both the 21- and 50-day moving averages and has slipped below a trendline.

While the above factors show a bearish bias, the contract has a support ahead at ₹286. If this level is breached, the near-term outlook could turn bearish.

In such a scenario, natural gas futures could decline to ₹270. Support below ₹270 is at ₹260. On the other hand, if the contract reclaims ₹300, it

could recover back to ₹323.

A breakout of ₹323 will open the door for a rally to ₹350. Nevertheless, as it stands, the bears are gaining traction but there is one last hurdle to win over the bulls.

TRADE STRATEGY

Short natural gas futures if they slip below the support at ₹286. Target and stop-loss can be ₹270 and ₹300.

Since the risk-reward ratio is only slightly above 1, risk-averse traders can refrain from trading.

• GEOPOLITICS

US-Iran MoU: The elusive quest for 'New Middle East'

Disputes over interpretation will begin as soon as the text is released. Implementation will be harder, possibility of breakdown is real. In any case, a profound transition is underway



C RAJA MOHAN

FOR ALL the political turmoil around it, the memorandum of understanding between the United States and Iran, announced by US President Donald Trump on Sunday, could mark an important turning point in the geopolitics of the Middle East. For India, any movement towards defusing the conflict, that threatens to upend its economic stability, is enormously welcome — from the interest of its diaspora to the imperatives of its energy security.

The text of the MoU isn't public yet but it has already triggered strong opposition in Israel, considerable criticism in Washington, and some dissent in Tehran. The resistance in all three capitals suggests that both the US and Iran have made significant concessions to make the agreement possible.

As with any complex negotiation between long-standing adversaries, disputes over interpretation will begin as soon as the text is released. The internal questing of the agreement will get sharper. The implementation will be even harder and the possibility of breakdown remains real.

Yet the significance of the agreement cannot be dismissed. As US Vice President JD Vance, who is expected to sign the MoU in Geneva on Friday, recently argued, it has the "potential to remake the region and lead to lasting peace". That may be an overstatement. But there is little doubt that the agreement seeks to redefine relations between Washington and Tehran, which have been locked in confrontation since Iran's Islamic Revolution of 1979.

The idea of a "new Middle East" has been an elusive one. The Oslo peace process in the 1990s, the American invasion of Iraq in 2003, the Arab Spring of 2011, and the Abraham Accords of 2020 were all presented as decisive turning points. Yet each produced outcomes very different from those originally envisaged.

Could it be different this time? The rise of new economic power centres in the Gulf, the accumulation of extraordinary wealth, growing indigenous military capabilities, and the exhaustion produced by decades of conflict are reshaping the Middle East landscape.

To be sure, this is not the first US-Iran agreement. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) of 2015, negotiated under US President Barack Obama, fo-



An artwork on the US-Iran peace deal in Mumbai on Monday.

cusced primarily on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

The nuclear issue remains central to the current negotiations. But the new MoU appears to go well beyond the nuclear question. It seeks to establish a broader framework for managing US-Iran tensions, reducing the risk of military confrontation, and creating the basis for a more stable regional order. It would also involve phased sanctions relief and support for Iran's economic reconstruction after years of sanctions and the destruction caused by the wars of 2025-26.

The ambition is impressive. The more expansive the agenda, the harder it becomes to negotiate and implement.

Skeptics argue that meaningful change in the Middle East is impossible. Others welcome change but doubt that the region's entrenched rivalries can be overcome. Yet change is the one constant in international politics, and the Middle East is not immune to that fundamental law. The real question is about the nature of change that is now underway.

One important factor is the shifting mood in the US. Across the political spectrum, there is growing fatigue with America's long military involvement in the Middle East. The demand for ending America's "forever wars" now comes from both the left and the right. Equally striking is the growing willingness in Washington to question long-standing assumptions about US policy towards Israel. While Trump has had to walk back his rhetorical bombast before and during the war with Iran, he has also reaffirmed the US role as the principal external force shaping the geopolitics of the region. As in Gaza, so in the Gulf, Iran, meanwhile, confronts a different reality. If Iranian expansion and regional influence were among the defining stories of the last two decades, the wars of 2025-26

have exposed the costs of that strategy. The economy remains under severe strain. Several regional partners have been weakened by conflict. The risks of direct confrontation with Israel and the United States have become increasingly evident.

Iran has demonstrated significant missile capabilities and shown its ability to threaten critical maritime routes in the Gulf. But you can't live on deterrence alone. Missile cities that Tehran built under its mountains are not the means for Iran's national reconstruction.

Israel remains deeply sceptical of any accommodation between Washington and Tehran. For much of the past decade, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promoted his own vision of a "New Middle East", one built around the containment of Iran and, more recently, the prospect of regime change in Tehran. That project no longer appears to command the same support in Washington. At the same time, growing political divisions within Israel raise questions about the future direction of its own regional strategy.

The Gulf states have also moved away from the assumptions that framed their response to the JCPOA as "American appeasement" of Iran. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates now place a premium on stability and economic transformation. The recent conflict demonstrated how vulnerable their wealth is to war and violence. They have as much interest in de-escalation as Iran does.

For decades, the Middle East has been trapped in recurring cycles of war, proxy conflict, and diplomatic breakdown. The current negotiations suggest that many regional and external powers are searching for a different framework — one based less on permanent confrontation and more on managing rivalries.

Whether such a framework can endure is another matter. Deep distrust between Washington and Tehran remains. Israel's concerns will not disappear. Conflicts in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen continue to generate instability.

It may therefore be premature to proclaim the arrival of a new Middle East. But it is not premature to recognise that the old order has been badly shaken. Whatever emerges from the current diplomacy, the region is already in the midst of a profound transition. As the region enters a new phase, India needs to shift from a risk-averse policy to an active role in stabilising regional policies in the Middle East, on its own as well as in coalition with partner nations.

(The writer is a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express)

A new framework

For decades, the Middle East has been trapped in recurring cycles of war, proxy conflict, and diplomatic breakdown.

The current negotiations suggest that many regional and external powers are searching for a different framework — one based less on permanent confrontation and more on managing rivalries.

LNG tanker Disha crosses Hormuz; 1st Indian ship to exit Persian Gulf in 2 mths

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, June 15

INDIAN LIQUEFIED natural gas (LNG) tanker Disha crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Monday amid the announcement that the US and Iran have reached a peace deal. Disha, which is operated and managed by state-owned Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), is the first Indian merchant vessel to cross the fraught waters of the strait in nearly two months. It is carrying Qatari LNG for India.

As per the ship tracking data and industry watchers, it is also the first vessel to cross the strait since the announcement of the peace pact, which is expected to be inked later this week. Shipping sector insiders say the shippers are eyeing the developments with caution, and traffic through the strait has not really picked up despite the announcement that a US-Iran deal has been worked out. Experts said it could take weeks for traffic through the strait to meaningfully pickup, and only if they feel assured that the peace deal will hold, given the experience of the past three months.

Carrying LNG for India's largest LNG importer Petronet LNG, the Malta-flagged Disha had been stranded in the Persian Gulf for over three months amid the West Asia war.

With Disha crossing the strait, the number of Indian vessels in the Persian Gulf, which is to the west of the strait, now stands at 13. Since early March, a total of 10 Indian vessels — of which nine were also India-flagged — have crossed the narrow waterway.

"As we speak now, LNG carrier Disha, managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium, has safely transited the Strait of Hormuz, and she is carrying 62,370 metric tonnes

• HORMUZ TRANSIT BY INDIAN SHIPS

CARRYING LNG for India's largest LNG importer Petronet LNG, the Malta-flagged Disha had been stranded in the Persian Gulf for over three months amid the war

WITH DISHA crossing the strait, the number of Indian vessels in the Persian Gulf, which is to the west of the Strait of Hormuz, now stands at 13

SINCE EARLY March, a total of 10 Indian vessels — of which nine were also India-flagged — have



crossed the narrow waterway that connects the Persian Gulf with Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea

of LNG cargo. The vessel is supposed to enter Dahej on coming to India, likely on the 18th (of June)," Shipping Ministry Director Opesh Kumar Sharma said. He added that the Centre stands ready to bring back the Indian ships stranded in the Persian Gulf whenever the strait opens and it is deemed safe for sailing, but didn't go into details of the preparation. As per vessel tracking data from MarineTraffic, Disha crossed the strait with the Automatic Identification System transponder on, broadcasting its location continuously. Most vessels that have crossed the strait in recent weeks have done so by switching off their transponders, or going dark, to avoid detection.

While a few Indian ships made their way through the strait over a weeks-long period starting mid-March due to diplomatic efforts by the Centre, transits of Indian and India-bound vessels came to a standstill after the April 18 incident in which a couple of Indian ships were fired upon by Iranian forces as they attempted to cross the waterway. One vessel — Desh Garima — man-

aged to slip out on April 18. The US also started its own blockade of Iranian ports mid-March, which worsened the maritime security scenario in the region. Since then, a few tankers carrying LPG, LNG, and crude oil for India did transit the strait, none of them were India-flagged or owned by Indian firms.

Iran suddenly closed the strait on April 18 — within a day of announcing unimpeded vessel movements through the waterway — leading to confusion among vessels that had lined up to cross it. This incident, and subsequent similar ones with Iran and the US running their own blockades, further hit the already constrained vessel movements.

Among the Indian vessels that have crossed the strait since early March are eight LPG tankers, one crude oil tanker, and one LNG tanker — Disha. A couple of Indian tankers also exited the war zone in this period, but they didn't have to cross the strait as they were already in the Gulf of Oman. One of them was loading at the UAE's Fujairah port when the oil terminal there came under attack. **FULL REPORT ON**

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Crude oil price may take a year to return to pre-war levels

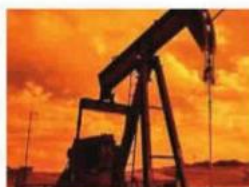
RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

CRUDE oil prices could take up to a year to return to pre-war levels even if the Strait of Hormuz reopens after a peace deal between the US and Iran, as restoring oil production and repairing damaged energy infrastructure in West Asia will take time.

Prashant Vasisht, senior vice president and co-Group head, corporate ratings at ICRA Ltd, said the more than 90-day conflict in West Asia has resulted in substantial production losses and damage to oil facilities, limiting the scope for an immediate correction in prices.

"In case of a US-Iran deal and subsequent normalisation of the vessel traffic via the Strait of Hormuz, crude oil and natural gas prices would ease. However, beyond the immediate price action, crude prices could take six months to one year to normalise to pre-war levels given that 10-11 million barrels a day of output has been shut in West Asia, besides which some facilities have suffered damages. Additionally, removal of sanctions on Iranian crude would be positive for India given geographical proximity and higher credit period offered historically," said Vasisht.

The disruption pushed global crude prices as high as \$125 per barrel from pre-war levels



RAY OF HOPE

- 1 Removal of sanctions on Iranian oil positive for India
- 2 Iran war has resulted in major production losses
- 3 India's crude import bill surged 52.3% to \$16.3 bn

of around \$70-\$75 per barrel.

Following the peace deal announcement, Brent crude fell 4.92% to \$83.03 per barrel, while US WTI declined 5.49% to \$80.22 per barrel as of 6.08 pm IST. India, which imports nearly 88% of its crude oil needs, is heavily dependent on the Strait of Hormuz, with the route accounting for about 40% of its oil imports, 50% of LNG imports and 90% of LPG imports.

The average price at which Indian refiners imported crude oil rose to \$106.23 per barrel in May. India's oil import bill surged 52.3% to \$16.3 billion in April from \$10.7 billion in the year-ago period, as crude traded above \$100 per barrel for most of the month.

US-Iran peace deal boosts investor sentiment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai

Stock markets rose for the second straight session with benchmark Sensex closing higher by 736 points on Monday, propelled by a rally in global equities and a sharp decline in crude oil prices after the US and Iran finalised a deal to end their 107-day war.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 736.38 points, or 0.97 per cent, to settle at 76,264.33. During the day, it zoomed 1,293.12 points, or 1.71 per cent, to 76,821.07.

Rising for the second day, the 50-share NSE Nifty surged 231 points, or 0.98 per cent, to



end at 23,853.90. During the day, the benchmark rallied 388.5 points, or 1.64 per cent, to 24,011.40. Sensex had rallied 1,695 points or 2.3 per cent and Nifty soared by 461

points or nearly 2 per cent in the previous session on Friday. The US and Iran finalised a deal to end their 107-day war and open the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow

waterway used to ferry one-fifth of the global oil supplies, on Friday after an in-person signing of the agreement in Switzerland.

US President Donald Trump made the announcement on Truth Social on Sunday evening, easing pressure on the global energy markets, as officials said the peace agreement would be signed on June 19 in Switzerland.

Crude oil prices fell to three-month lows in global markets after the announcement of the US-Iran deal. Global benchmark Brent Crude dropped 5 per cent to trade near \$82.90 per barrel.

Among 30 Sensex firms, Trent, InterGlobe Aviation,

Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement, Eternal and Maruti were the major winners.

NTPC, ICICI Bank, Asian Paints and Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi jumped over 5 per cent, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed nearly 5 per cent. Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also ended higher.

Markets in Europe were trading in the green. US markets ended in positive territory on Friday. "The easing of geopolitical tensions following the USA-Iran peace agreement is a significant

positive for global risk assets. The immediate correction in crude oil prices is particularly encouraging for an import-dependent economy like India, as it helps alleviate inflationary pressures, improves macroeconomic stability, and provides greater policy flexibility," Rajesh Palviya, Head of Research, Axis Direct, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,082.18 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. On Friday, the Sensex jumped 1,695.40 points, or 2.30 per cent, to settle at 75,527.95. The Nifty ended sharply higher by 461.30 points, or 1.99 per cent, at 23,622.90.

Oil Quiet? Not Quite

It's not a deal till it's signed, and there will be risks even after, so don't count your barrels yet

Trump gave himself a birthday gift on Sunday, but unpacking it will take a while. Is the war on Iran really over? That's the second question on top of everyone's mind. The first is, will oil go back to \$73, where it was before Feb 28? The answers are 'maybe', and 'probably not', respectively. Here's why.

As for peace, neither US nor Iran has appeared keen on fighting since April, never mind Trump's wild rhetoric. Still, tensions and the Hormuz blockade have persisted because of Israel's actions. So, Trump's ability to rein in Netanyahu is the biggest if. But there are others, too, like Iran's stand on nuclear enrichment. The nuclear question isn't part of the agreement that both sides will sign this Friday. For that, they've given themselves 60 days. Much can go wrong in two months, or between now and Friday. Hence, permanent peace remains a maybe, even though markets have strongly signalled

faith. Stocks are up, dollar's down, so is oil.



But markets are fickle. They have swung many times already in the past three months. What's notable, though, is oil's gradual slide towards \$80, from a high of around \$120. If traders are willing to book long-term contracts at a lower rate, there's

reason to hope the worst of the crisis is over. That said, the dip from \$80 to \$70 won't happen overnight. Nor can captains of stranded vessels heed Trump's call: "Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" Even if US and Iran lift their respective blockades on Friday, the 500-odd ships stuck in Persian Gulf can't exit immediately. Given that the Strait is mined, their passage will have to be carefully controlled. Removing all mines might take months.

Good news is that those vessels are laden with over 100mn barrels of oil, and Gulf countries – unable to ship oil and gas since Feb – are sitting on inventories. So, whenever shipping normalises, massive amounts of oil and gas could flood markets. But...prices won't fall, as buyer countries will rush to fill up their depleted strategic reserves. Also, now that markets and insurers have seen what Iran can do with Hormuz, they might price in a premium to cover future risks. Gas prices might stay high even longer, because Qatar needs 3-5 years to repair its damaged LNG capacity. Overall, peace will ease pressure on the global economy, but a quick return to Feb's prices is unlikely.

Safe Hormuz passage for Disha sparks hope for 34 India-bound ships

Dipak Dash & Atul Mathur | TNN

New Delhi: The safe transit of India-bound LNG carrier Disha through the Strait of Hormuz Monday has raised expectations for safe and swift passage of another 34 Indian- and foreign-flagged ships, stranded in the Persian Gulf, to sail to Indian ports, as the US and Iran have announced a decision to sign a peace deal.

While the expected sailing of 16 of these ships loaded with fertiliser will help augment supply of the key soil nutrient, policymakers are keeping fingers crossed as improvement in energy supplies may not immediately translate into relief due to extensive damage to facilities, such as Ras Laffan in Qatar.

► **Damage to facilities, P 10**

Damage to facilities may not allow immediate energy relief

► Continued from P 1

Better energy supplies may not bring immediate relief because extensive damage to facilities has created uncertainty over when normal operations will resume. India has a long-term gas supply contract with QatarEnergy's Ras Laffan facility.

UAE's Habshan Gas Plant was also damaged, disrupting operations. Officials said 60% of the plant's capacity has been restored. They expect recovery to reach 80% by the end of 2026 and full structural restoration in 2027. According to officials, two liquefied natural gas (LNG) trains — processing units — at state-owned QatarEnergy's Ras Laffan facility were damaged, wiping out roughly 17% of its capacity.

Before the conflict, India imported more than 88% of its crude oil requirement, with nearly half coming from West Asia. More than 60% of its imported LNG also passed through the Strait of Hormuz. India sourced nearly 60% of its LPG requirements from West Asia with about 90% of these supplies transiting through Hormuz.

STATE OF AFFAIRS	
35 No of India-bound ships stuck in Persian Gulf	16 No ships carrying fertiliser
No of India-bound ships safely crossed Strait of Hormuz 10 Indian-flagged & 5 foreign-flagged	
13 No of Indian-flagged ships stuck in Persian Gulf	

TOI has learnt that 15 ships are carrying crude, LNG and LPG, while the remaining three carry other cargo.

Briefing reporters on the recent developments in West Asia, Opesh Kumar Sharma, director in shipping ministry said, "LNG carrier Disha has safely transited the Strait of Hormuz, and she is carrying 62,370 tonnes of LNG cargo. The vessel is supposed to enter Dahej, likely on June 18."

Bandana Preyashi, joint secretary in the fertiliser department, said that out of the 16 ships in the crucial strait, eight are carrying urea, four diammonium phosphate (DAP), three sulphur and one ammonia.

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Date :16 June 2026	Page : 7

Oil prices tumble up to 5 pc on US-Iran deal

New Delhi, June 15 (IANS) Global crude oil prices declined by nearly 5 per cent on Monday after the United States and Iran reached an agreement and announced the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, easing concerns over disruptions to global energy supplies. Global crude-mark Brent crude fell as much as 4.90 per cent to \$83.05 per barrel in early trade, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude plunged 5.74 per cent to around \$80 per barrel. According to market experts, Asian equities surged at the start of the week as progress towards a US-Iran peace deal boosted global risk appetite, while US futures also traded firmly higher. "Meanwhile, Brent crude oil declined sharply by more than 4 per cent towards the \$83-per-barrel mark, easing inflation concerns and providing additional support to market sentiment," they said.

Online

Headline	Sivasagar gas leak raises safety concerns; ONGC cites ageing pipeline		
Publication	Assam Tribune	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

Sivasagar gas leak raises safety concerns; ONGC cites ageing pipeline

<https://assamtribune.com/assam/sivasagar-gas-leak-raises-safety-concerns-ongc-cites-ageing-pipeline-1612756>

Company says pipeline replacement proposal awaits approval as affected residents seek compensation for potential losses & relief

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Guwahati, June 15: A gas leak from an ONGC pipeline was reported at Silakuti Bhakat Gaon under Nazira in Sivasagar district on Monday morning, with officials saying the situation had been brought under control.

Officials of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) said the affected pipeline had been isolated and gas supply from the source had been stopped to prevent further escalation.

"As soon as we got informed in the morning, we rushed to the site and stopped the supply. There is nothing much to worry about now and by evening, everything will be back to normal," an ONGC official present at the site, said.

The official said gas was no longer flowing into the damaged section and that only residual gas trapped inside the pipeline was continuing to escape.

"Once the residue in the pipe empties, we will be able to repair it completely," he added.

The official also acknowledged concerns about the pipeline's condition, saying a replacement proposal had already been submitted and was awaiting approval from competent authorities.

He further said compensation for any losses suffered by affected residents was under consideration.

Responding to questions regarding previous assurances that no such leakages would occur, the official said, "Although guarantees were given, unfortunately such incidents are not entirely in anyone's hands."

However, local residents expressed dissatisfaction with the response, alleging that signs of leakage had been visible for months.

Another local farmer blamed the incident on the continued use of ageing infrastructure despite repeated assurances of replacement.

"The pipeline is very old. Officials had assured us that new pipes would be installed, but they continued managing with the old ones. The smell from the fumes is affecting people living nearby," he said.

Highlighting the impact on agriculture, the farmer said local cultivators were unable to freely use tractors and machinery in their fields due to safety concerns.

"A slow gas leak has been continuing for nearly three months. Since yesterday, vapour-like fumes also started coming out. It is a matter of concern for people living nearby," another resident said, claiming that similar incidents had occurred in the past without any compensation being provided.

The resident further alleged that workers had visited the site but had not taken adequate action. "If the gas were to catch fire, everything around would be reduced to ashes," he warned.

Some residents alleged irregularities in maintenance work and claimed that earlier demands for accountability had highlighted alleged corruption involving pipeline contractors. ONGC had not issued an official response to the allegations at the time of filing this report.

Headline	ONGC's overseas arm set to revive Venezuela operations		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jun 2026		

ONGC's overseas arm set to revive Venezuela operations

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/ongcs-overseas-arm-set-to-revive-venezuela-operations/131757679>

The move to revive OVL operations in what's described as the nation with the world's biggest oil reserves comes as the Venezuelan government opens its oil sector to greater foreign participation under a new legal framework.

MUMBAI: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp's overseas arm, ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), plans to revive operations in Venezuela even as more than \$900 million in dividend dues remain unpaid, industry executives aware of the development told ET.

OVL had acquired assets overseas as part of increasing the state-run oil producer's crude output.

The move to revive OVL operations in what's described as the nation with the world's biggest oil reserves comes as the Venezuelan government opens its oil sector to greater foreign participation under a new legal framework.

OVL has two onshore assets in Venezuela. The first is San Cristobal in the Orinoco belt in eastern Venezuela. OVL took a 40 per cent stake in San Cristobal in April 2008, while Venezuela's state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA) holds 60 per cent.

OVL's other Venezuelan field is Petrocarabobo in the East Orinoco, where OVL and Spain's Repsol each hold an 11 per cent stake and IndianOil and Oil India each hold a 3.5 per cent stake. PdVSA holds 71 per cent in the field.

These assets have remained underutilised for years due to the imposition of US sanctions on Venezuela.

OVL did not reply to the email query sent.

"The economic conditions in Venezuela are now suitable for operations, so all the field operators are going back, and OVL is also re-examining the situation," said an industry executive, adding that as per the new legal framework, there will be freedom to repatriate profit and restoration of oil and gas lifting rights.

This January, the United States launched a military strike in Venezuela and captured incumbent Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro , taking control of the Venezuelan oil exports. Venezuela's oil production has fallen sharply over the past decade, from roughly 3-4 million barrels per day historically to around 700,000-800,000 barrels per day now, the executive said.

"Venezuela's revised regulations require companies to route investments through US-incorporated entities. Since OVL already has a US office, it could help meet these requirements," the executive said, adding that for India, this could strengthen energy security by diversifying supply sources beyond West Asia and Russia.

It is, however, unclear when OVL would be able to secure the dividend due to it. Executives said Venezuela is asking companies to prioritise investment and production growth before seeking immediate dividend repatriation, arguing that restoring output is essential to rebuilding the sector.

Executives said that OVL is conducting technical assessments of its producing fields and evaluating the condition of surface facilities. While SanCristobal is said to be at an advanced stage of planning, discussions continue with partners on the second asset.

OVL is expected to submit revival proposals for its fields within the next few months, though the executives cautioned that timelines could shift given the country's uncertain operating environment.

Headline	ONGC NTPC Green Arm Commissions Additional 50 MW at 300 MW Solar Project in Rajasthan		
Publication	Energetica India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

ONGC NTPC Green Arm Commissions Additional 50 MW at 300 MW Solar Project in Rajasthan

<https://www.energetica-india.net/news/ongc-ntpc-green-arm-commissions-additional-50-mw-at-300-mw-solar-project-in-rajasthan>

Project Sixteen Renewable Power, a step-down subsidiary of ONGC NTPC Green and a group company of NTPC Green Energy, has operationalised an additional 50 MW at its 300 MW solar project in Rajasthan, taking the project's cumulative commissioned capacity to 250 MW. With this, the NGEL group's total installed capacity has increased to 10,671.40 MW.

NTPC Green Energy (NGEL) has announced that Project Sixteen Renewable Power, a step-down subsidiary of NGEL's joint venture ONGC NTPC Green, has operationalised the third part capacity of 50 MW at its 300 MW solar project located in Rajasthan.

With this, the project's cumulative installed capacity has reached 250 MW. While the first part capacity of 150 MW was operationalised in April 2026, the second part capacity of 50 MW was commissioned in May 2026.

With the commissioning of this 50 MW capacity, the total installed capacity of the NTPC Green Energy Group has increased to 10,671.40 MW, stated the company in a regulatory filing.

In May 2026, NGEL operationalised the eighth and the last part capacity of 105 MW, thereby fully commissioning its 1,200 MW Khavda-II Solar PV Project located in Gujarat.

In March 2026, the company operationalised the third and last part capacity of 75 MW at its 500 MW Bhadla solar PV project located in Phalodi, Rajasthan and the twelfth and last part capacity of 78.02 MW at its 1,255 MW Khavda-I solar PV project located in Gujarat.

By 2032, NTPC Group plans to have 60 GW capacity through RE sources, constituting nearly 45 percent of its overall power generation capacity.

Headline	Assam: Gas Leak in ONGC Pipeline at Sivasagar Brought Under Control, Says Official		
Publication	G Plus	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

Assam: Gas Leak in ONGC Pipeline at Sivasagar Brought Under Control, Says Official

<https://guwahatiplus.com/assam/assam-gas-leak-in-ongc-pipeline-at-sivasagar-brought-under-control-says-official>

A gas leak from an ONGC pipeline at Silakuti Bhakat Gaon under Nazira in Assam's Sivasagar district was brought under control on Monday, June 15, shortly after it was reported.

According to an ONGC official, immediate measures were taken to stop the flow of gas through the affected pipeline.

Speaking to the media at the site, an ONGC official said there was no cause for concern as the situation had been contained.

"As soon as we received information about the gas leak, we stopped it. There is nothing to worry about, as we have stopped the flow of gas in these lines," the engineer said.

He added that the remaining gas trapped inside the pipeline was being released and that the situation was expected to return to normal by the evening.

"All the residual gases have come out from the pipeline, and by evening everything shall be fine," he said.

The official further stated that the company was considering compensation for any losses suffered by affected residents as a result of the leak.

Headline	Prozeal Green Energy secures 250 MW captive wind project from ONGC		
Publication	Indian Infrastructure	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

Prozeal Green Energy secures 250 MW captive wind project from ONGC

<https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/06/15/prozeal-green-energy-secures-250-mw-captive-wind-project-from-ongc/>

Prozeal Green Energy Limited has received a notification of award from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for the development of 250 MW of inter-state transmission system-connected captive wind power projects in India.

The order, valued at over Rs 20 billion, involves setting up captive wind capacity to meet ONGC's renewable energy requirements.

Headline	Assam में गैस लीक मामले पर ONGC ने पुरानी पाइपलाइन का हवाला दिया		
Publication	Janta Se Rishta	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

Assam में गैस लीक मामले पर ONGC ने पुरानी पाइपलाइन का हवाला दिया

<https://www.jantaserishta.com/local/assam/ongc-cited-an-old-pipeline-regarding-the-gas-leak-incident-in-assam-4756612>

Tara Tandi 15 June 2026 3:28 PM Guwahati गुवाहाटी : सोमवार को असम के शिवसागर जिले के नजीरा इलाके में सिलाकुटी भक्त गांव में ऑयल एंड

नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ONGC) की पाइपलाइन से गैस लीक होने की खबर मिली। इससे इलाके के लोगों में सुरक्षा और पुराने हो चुके इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर की हालत को लेकर चिंता बढ़ गई।

ONGC अधिकारियों ने बताया कि लीक का पता चलते ही प्रभावित पाइपलाइन को अलग कर दिया गया और किसी भी बड़ी घटना को रोकने के लिए सोर्स से गैस की सप्लाई रोक दी गई। मौके पर मौजूद अधिकारियों के अनुसार, स्थिति को काबू में कर लिया गया है और शाम तक सब कुछ कांपोकपी बम धमाके में 3 घायल, कुकी इनपी ने कार्रवाई की मांग की सामान्य होने की उम्मीद है।

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि पाइपलाइन के क्षतिग्रस्त हिस्से में अब गैस का बहाव नहीं हो रहा है और केवल लाइन के अंदर बची हुई गैस ही बाहर निकल रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि बची हुई गैस के निकल जाने के बाद मरम्मत का काम शुरू किया जाएगा।

अधिकारियों ने पाइपलाइन की उम्र को लेकर जताई गई चिंताओं को भी माना और कहा कि इसे बदलने का प्रस्ताव पहले ही भेजा जा चुका है और सक्षम अधिकारियों से मंजूरी का इंतजार है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रभावित निवासियों को हुए किसी भी नुकसान के लिए मुआवजे पर विचार किया जा रहा है।

पद्मा मुसाहारी ने शिवांगी सोनोवाल के 'पहली' दावे पर सवाल उठाया

हालांकि, निवासियों का आरोप है कि लीक के संकेत महीनों से दिख रहे थे और उन्होंने अधिकारियों पर बार-बार चिंता जताने के बावजूद समस्या का समाधान न करने का आरोप लगाया। कई ग्रामीणों का दावा है कि लगभग तीन महीनों से धीरे-धीरे लीक हो रहा था और पिछले एक दिन में भाप जैसी गैस का निकलना और बढ़ गया, जिससे आसपास रहने वाले लोगों में डर बढ़ गया।

स्थानीय किसानों ने कहा कि लीक से खेती-बाड़ी पर असर पड़ा है और सुरक्षा कारणों से कई लोग पाइपलाइन के पास के खेतों में ट्रैक्टर और अन्य मशीनें चलाने से हिचकिचा रहे हैं। उन्होंने गैस की गंध की भी शिकायत की और आरोप लगाया कि पुरानी पाइपलाइन को बदलने का वादा पूरा नहीं किया गया।

India-बांग्लादेश सीमा पर तनाव, नो-मैन्स लैंड में फंसे 9 नागरिक, समाधान की कोशिश जारी

कुछ निवासियों ने यह भी दावा किया कि पहले भी ऐसी घटनाएं हो चुकी हैं और आरोप लगाया कि ज़मीन के नीचे बिछी पाइपलाइनों की देखरेख और निगरानी ठीक से नहीं की गई। उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि अगर तुरंत समाधान नहीं किया गया तो लीक से गंभीर खतरा हो सकता है और उन्होंने रोकथाम के लिए कड़े कदम उठाने की मांग की।

लीक की खबर डिठाईपुखुरी सिलाकुटी भक्त गांव से मिली, जहां ONGC की कच्चा तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस ले जाने वाली पाइपलाइनें कृषि भूमि से होकर गुजरती हैं।

गुवाहाटी में भूस्खलन जोखिम पर सर्वे रिपोर्ट में बड़ा खुलासा

ग्रामीणों ने ONGC और जिला प्रशासन से आग्रह किया है कि वे घटनास्थल का अच्छी तरह से आकलन करें, सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताओं का समाधान करें और भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए कदम उठाएं।

इस रिपोर्ट को लिखे जाने के समय तक, ONGC ने रखरखाव के तरीकों और ठेकेदार से जुड़ी अनियमितताओं के बारे में निवासियों द्वारा लगाए गए आरोपों पर कोई आधिकारिक प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी थी।

Headline	Natural gas MCX rate June 2026: prices still soft		
Publication	Multibagg AI	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jun 2026		

Natural gas MCX rate June 2026: prices still soft

<https://www.multibagg.ai/market-pulse/articles/natural-gas-mcx-june-2026-cmqfic8rc5hwbvnv0jjz2qzj42>

MCX natural gas snapshot for June 14 Natural gas futures on MCX were quoted at 296.80 per 1 mmBtu at 11:54 PM IST on 14 Jun, 2026 , with

the contract carrying an expiry of 25-Jun-2026 . The price was up 2.40 (0.82%) from the previous close, according to the market data shared. Trading activity was healthy with volume at 93,834 . The contract opened at 294.00 , compared with a previous close of 294.40 . The data also showed an average price of 294.20 per mmBtu for the day. While the session ended higher, the broader tone in gas remained cautious.

Day range versus broader contract range

The day's range was reported at 288.5 to 298.7 . Over the wider contract period, the range was 277.40 to 363.50 . These ranges matter because they show how quickly sentiment has shifted in recent months. Even after the late-session uptick, the current level remains closer to the lower end of the broader contract band than the highs. That positioning aligns with the note in the feed that, despite rising demand, gas prices remain subdued

Spot market reference stays much lower

Alongside futures, the update carried a spot price of 230.40 . The gap between the MCX futures quote near 296.80 and the spot reference at 230.40 is large in the data provided. Such a spread is worth tracking for market participants who watch near-term physical tightness against derivative pricing. The dataset does not attribute a specific reason for the difference, but it underlines that the futures market is not moving in lockstep with the spot number shown. Investors and hedgers typically monitor this spread for signals on near-term supply and demand conditions.

Natural gas is down more than 24% since January

The feed also highlighted a larger trend: natural gas prices have shed over 24% since January . That decline frames the day's move in context and helps explain why the narrative remains about subdued pricing. A single-session rise of is modest compared with the scale of the year-to-date fall referenced. The combination of rising demand and lower prices suggests that other variables, including supply availability and broader energy price direction, are influencing benchmarks. The text did not provide a precise breakdown by driver, so the key takeaway is the magnitude of the decline and its persistence.

India's June domestic natural gas price set at \$1.58

Policy-linked domestic pricing also moved lower. India's oil ministry set the June domestic natural gas price at \$1.58 per mn Btu , based on a mechanism that sets prices at 10% of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket . The June level marks an 8.3% fall from May , when the ministry set the price at \$1.27 per mn Btu . For gas-consuming sectors in India, official pricing inputs can influence procurement planning, cost pass-through discussions, and contracting decisions. The update is also relevant for markets tracking the trajectory of administered and linked prices.

Ceiling price for conventional gas and a higher band for difficult fields

The same update noted differentiated pricing within domestic production categories. For conventional gas produced by state-controlled firms such as ONGC and Oil India (OIL) , the price was set at \$1.50 per mn Btu . This was described as a ceiling price that will remain in place for the next two years to support a stable pricing regime for domestic gas consumers. Separately, gas produced from deepwater, ultra-deepwater, high-temperature and high-pressure areas will be priced at \$12.12 per mn Btu until 30 September . These bands indicate that India's gas pricing framework is not uniform across sources, and the spread between \$1.50 and \$12.12 is substantial.

Global petroleum cues: gasoline drops to \$1.98 per gallon

International fuel pricing in the feed pointed to broader softness in refined products. Gasoline fell to \$1.98 per gallon on June 14, 2026 , down from the previous day. Over the past month, the gasoline price was reported to be down , while

still 32.92% higher than a year ago , based on a CFD that tracks a benchmark market for the commodity. Separately, GasBuddy commentary in the text linked recent declines in average gasoline prices to falling oil prices and the unwinding of recent price cycles , alongside optimism around a potential U.S.-Iran agreement easing concerns over global oil supplies. These references matter for energy traders because oil and refined product direction often shapes sentiment across the complex, even when gas fundamentals differ.

Retail fuel prices in Indian cities remain elevated

The dataset also included a city-wise snapshot of retail prices for petrol, diesel, and CNG across major Indian cities. In this list, Hyderabad showed petrol at 115.72 per litre and diesel at 103.82 per litre , among the higher numbers presented. New Delhi was listed at 102.12 per litre for petrol and 95.20 per litre for diesel, with CNG at 83.09 per kg Mumbai petrol was 111.21 per litre , diesel 97.83 per litre , and CNG 86 per kg . The prices provide context for how retail fuel costs are tracking even as some global measures point to declines.

Key numbers at a glance

City-wise fuel prices (as provided)

Why the gas and fuel print matters for market tracking

For Indian market participants, daily MCX pricing is one of the quickest ways to gauge near-term sentiment in domestic gas trading. The combination of a higher close near 296.80 , a much lower spot reference of 230.40 , and the reminder of a 24%+ decline since January helps frame risk management decisions without relying on a single session's move. On the policy side, the ministry's cut to \$1.58 per mn Btu and the stated bands for different production categories signal how administered price inputs are evolving. Meanwhile, the retail fuel snapshot across cities provides a consumer-facing read-through on energy costs, even as the global gasoline reference in the text points to month-on-month declines.

Conclusion

Natural gas on MCX ended June 14 modestly higher, but the broader picture in the feed remains one of softness, with prices down more than 24% since January. India's June domestic gas price was also reduced to \$1.58 per mn Btu , while maintaining a ceiling for conventional output and pricing for difficult fields through 30 September . With the June MCX contract expiring on 25-Jun-2026 , traders will continue to watch the spot-futures gap, policy-linked price updates, and global energy cues for direction.

Headline	ONGC Pipeline Leak Sparks Safety Fears in Assam's Sivasagar District		
Publication	NE Wire	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jun 2026		

ONGC Pipeline Leak Sparks Safety Fears in Assam's Sivasagar District

<https://newire.in/articles/ongc-pipeline-leak-sparks-safety-fears-in-assam-s-sivasagar-district>

A gas leak from an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation pipeline in the Silakuti Bhakat Gaon area of Nazira, Assam, has sparked significant safety concerns among local residents.

The leak was identified in a section of the pipeline traversing agricultural land in the Sivasagar district. Officials confirmed they isolated the pipeline and halted the gas supply to prevent the situation from escalating.

Authorities stated the incident is now under control, with only residual gas escaping from the line. Repairs will commence once the remaining gas dissipates. Responding to public criticism, ONGC officials acknowledged the infrastructure is outdated and confirmed a proposal for its replacement is currently awaiting approval from competent authorities. They added that compensation for residents affected by the leak is under active consideration.

Local farmers and residents expressed frustration, claiming that signs of a leak have been visible for months. Villagers reported that vapour emissions increased significantly over the last day, leading to widespread anxiety. One resident noted the ongoing nature of the problem, with villagers claiming that "a slow leak had been continuing for nearly three months" prior to the current escalation.

Agricultural activities have been disrupted, as farmers fear using machinery near the damaged pipeline. Residents have urged the district administration and ONGC to perform a thorough safety assessment to prevent further incidents. At the time of this report, ONGC had not provided an official response regarding allegations of inadequate maintenance or oversight.

Headline	ONGC Videsh to restart San Cristobal and Petrocarabobo in Venezuela		
Publication	New Bytes	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jun 2026		

ONGC Videsh to restart San Cristobal and Petrocarabobo in Venezuela

<https://www.newsbytesapp.com/news/business/ongc-videsh-to-restart-san-cristobal-and-petrocarabobo-in-venezuela/tldr>

ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the global arm of India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, is gearing up to restart its oil projects in Venezuela.

This comes after Venezuela updated its laws to welcome more foreign investment, opening the door for OVL to revive its long-paused stakes in the San Cristobal and Petrocarabobo oil fields.

ONGC Videsh owed \$900 million+, repatriation allowed

OVL is owed more than \$900 million in unpaid dividends from these projects, but new rules now let foreign companies send profits home and restore oil and gas lifting rights.

For now, Venezuelan officials want everyone focused on boosting production before cashing out.

OVL is currently assessing its sites and planning a comeback strategy, though working in Venezuela still brings some challenges.

Headline	ONGC's overseas arm set to revive Venezuela operations		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jun 2026		

ONGC's overseas arm set to revive Venezuela operations

<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/trending/ongcs-overseas-arm-set-to-revive-venezuela-operations-et/articleshow/1450482066936c21a9fea28f1941238b7228ebd1>

ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), plans to revive operations in Venezuela even as more than \$900 million in dividend dues remain unpaid, industry executives aware of the development told ET.

OVL had acquired assets overseas as part of increasing the state-run oil producer's crude output.

The move to revive OVL operations in what's described as the nation with the world's biggest oil reserves comes as the Venezuelan government opens its oil sector to greater foreign participation under a new legal framework.

Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA) holds 60%.

OVL's other Venezuelan field is Petrocarabobo in the East Orinoco, where OVL and Spain's Repsol each hold an 11% stake and IndianOil and Oil India each hold a 3.5% stake. PdVSA holds 71% in the field.

Strait path laid for crude prices to travel downward

These assets have remained underutilised for years due to the imposition of US sanctions on Venezuela.

OVL did not reply to the email query sent.

"The economic conditions in Venezuela are now suitable for operations, so all the field operators are going back, and OVL is also re-examining the situation," said an industry executive, adding that as per the new legal framework, there will be freedom to repatriate profit and restoration of oil and gas lifting rights.

India hikes diesel, ATF export levies from June 16

This January, the United States launched a military strike in Venezuela and captured incumbent Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro , taking control of the Venezuelan oil exports. Venezuela's oil production has fallen sharply over the past decade, from roughly 3-4 million barrels per day historically to around 700,000-800,000 barrels per day now, the executive said.

"Venezuela's revised regulations require companies to route investments through U.S.-incorporated entities. Since OVL already has a US office, it could help meet these requirements," the executive said, adding that for India, this could strengthen energy security by diversifying supply sources beyond West Asia and Russia.

It is, however, unclear when OVL would be able to secure the dividend due to it. Executives said Venezuela is asking companies to prioritise investment and production growth before seeking immediate dividend repatriation, arguing that restoring output is essential to rebuilding the sector.

Executives said that OVL is conducting technical assessments of its producing fields and evaluating the condition of surface facilities. While SanCristobal is said to be at an advanced stage of planning, discussions continue with partners on the second asset.

OVL is expected to submit revival proposals for its fields within the next few months, though the executives cautioned that timelines could shift given the country's uncertain operating environment.

Headline	ONGC Videsh to restart San Cristobal and Petrocarabobo in Venezuela		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jun 2026		

ONGC Videsh to restart San Cristobal and Petrocarabobo in Venezuela

<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/business/ongc-videsh-to-restart-san-cristobal-and-petrocarabobo-in-venezuela-newsbytes/articleshow/1450482031d7de7d33cebef7d633f39313b42509>

OVL is owed more than \$900 million in unpaid dividends from these projects, but new rules now let foreign companies send profits home and restore oil and gas lifting rights.

For now, Venezuelan officials want everyone focused on boosting production before cashing out.

OVL is currently assessing its sites and planning a comeback strategy, though working in Venezuela still brings some challenges.

Headline	Oil PSU officer association push for early constitution of 4th Pay Revision Committee		
Publication	PSU Watch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

Oil PSU officer association push for early constitution of 4th Pay Revision Committee

<https://psuwatch.com/newsupdates/oil-psu-officer-association-push-for-early-constitution-of-4th-pay-revision-committee>

Executive associations from Indian Oil, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC, GAIL and Oil India met in Kolkata, demanding timely constitution of the 4th PRC

Kolkata: In a significant development ahead of the upcoming 4th Pay Revision Committee (PRC) for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), the Indian Oil Officers' Association (IOOA) convened the first joint brainstorming session of executive associations from major oil and gas CPSEs in Kolkata. The meeting was attended by senior representatives of officers' associations from Indian Oil, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC, GAIL and Oil India.

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Concern over delay in PRC constitution

In a joint statement, the associations said: "The participants expressed concern over the delay in constitution of the 4th PRC by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), despite the next wage revision becoming due from 1 January 2027." The leaders said the forthcoming pay revision "is expected to impact nearly 20 lakh employees and pensioners associated with CPSEs across the country," and stressed the need for timely constitution of the PRC "to facilitate meaningful stakeholder consultations and smooth implementation of the revised pay structure."

Retiral benefits, PRP framework in focus

During the deliberations, special focus was given to strengthening retiral and post-retirement benefits, particularly comprehensive medical coverage for serving and retired employees in view of rising healthcare costs. The statement also flagged concerns over "the existing profitability-linked affordability clause, which often subjects employees to factors beyond their control such as regulatory interventions, market fluctuations and geopolitical developments."

The associations further advocated for "a more equitable and transparent Performance Related Pay (PRP) framework, improved fitment benefits to ensure real wage growth, revision of pay scales and annual increments to maintain competitiveness with the private sector, and enhanced social security measures for employees."

Joint platform planned ahead of 4th PRC

The participants unanimously resolved to continue coordinated engagement on issues concerning CPSE executives and to work collectively towards "a fair, progressive and sustainable framework" under the 4th PRC. They underscored the critical role played by energy sector professionals in safeguarding the nation's energy security and supporting economic growth.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment among all participating associations to pursue a common platform for addressing executive welfare and pay revision matters ahead of the constitution of the 4th PRC.

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Dr Ajay Sharma of the Indian Oil Officers' Association said such meetings of oil PSU associations would now be held regularly, and that a joint letter from the collective of oil PSU associations would be sent to the government seeking early constitution of the 4th Pay Revision Committee and early finalisation of its recommendations, with the pay revision due from January 1, 2027.

is India's Business News centre that places the spotlight on PSUs, Bureaucracy, Defence and Public Policy. ? Click to join our channel now: . Prefer LinkedIn? Follow PSU Watch on . Click to stay connected on and stay updated.)

Headline	Prozeal Green Energy secures 250 MW captive wind project from ONGC		
Publication	Powerline Magazine	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

Prozeal Green Energy secures 250 MW captive wind project from ONGC

<https://powerline.net.in/2026/06/15/prozeal-green-energy-secures-250-mw-captive-wind-project-from-ongc/>

Prozeal Green Energy Limited has received a notification of award from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for the development of 250 MW

of inter-state transmission system-connected captive wind power projects in India.

The order, valued at over Rs 20 billion, involves setting up captive wind capacity to meet ONGC's renewable energy requirements.

Headline	ONGC's overseas arm set to revive Venezuela operations		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jun 2026		

ONGC's overseas arm set to revive Venezuela operations

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/ongcs-overseas-arm-set-to-revive-venezuela-operations/articleshow/131754219.cms>

ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) had acquired assets overseas as part of increasing the state-run oil producer's crude output. The move to revive OVL operations in what's described as the nation with the world's biggest oil reserves comes as the Venezuelan government opens its oil sector to greater foreign participation under a new legal framework.

MUMBAI: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp's overseas arm, ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), plans to revive operations in Venezuela even as more than \$900 million in dividend dues remain unpaid, industry executives aware of the development told ET.

OVL had acquired assets overseas as part of increasing the state-run oil producer's crude output.

The move to revive OVL operations in what's described as the nation with the world's biggest oil reserves comes as the Venezuelan government opens its oil sector to greater foreign participation under a new legal framework.

OVL has two onshore assets in Venezuela. The first is San Cristobal in the Orinoco belt in eastern Venezuela. OVL took a 40% stake in San Cristobal in April 2008, while Venezuela's state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA) holds 60%.

OVL's other Venezuelan field is Petrocarabobo in the East Orinoco, where OVL and Spain's Repsol each hold an 11% stake and IndianOil and Oil India each hold a 3.5% stake. PdVSA holds 71% in the field.

Strait path laid for crude prices to travel downward

These assets have remained underutilised for years due to the imposition of US sanctions on Venezuela.

OVL did not reply to the email query sent.

"The economic conditions in Venezuela are now suitable for operations, so all the field operators are going back, and OVL is also re-examining the situation," said an industry executive, adding that as per the new legal framework, there will be freedom to repatriate profit and restoration of oil and gas lifting rights.

India hikes diesel, ATF export levies from June 16

This January, the United States launched a military strike in Venezuela and captured incumbent Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro , taking control of the Venezuelan oil exports. Venezuela's oil production has fallen sharply over the past decade, from roughly 3-4 million barrels per day historically to around 700,000-800,000 barrels per day now, the executive said.

"Venezuela's revised regulations require companies to route investments through U.S.-incorporated entities. Since OVL already has a US office, it could help meet these requirements," the executive said, adding that for India, this could strengthen energy security by diversifying supply sources beyond West Asia and Russia.

It is, however, unclear when OVL would be able to secure the dividend due to it. Executives said Venezuela is asking companies to prioritise investment and production growth before seeking immediate dividend repatriation, arguing that restoring output is essential to rebuilding the sector.

Executives said that OVL is conducting technical assessments of its producing fields and evaluating the condition of surface facilities. While San Cristobal is said to be at an advanced stage of planning, discussions continue with partners on the second asset. OVL is expected to submit revival proposals for its fields within the next few months, though the executives cautioned that timelines could shift given the country's uncertain operating environment.

Headline	ONGC Videsh Eyes Venezuela Oil Field Restart Amid Stuck Dues		
Publication	Whalesbook	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jun 2026		

ONGC Videsh Eyes Venezuela Oil Field Restart Amid Stuck Dues

<https://www.whalesbook.com/news/English/energy/ONGC-Videsh-Eyes-Venezuela-Oil-Field-Restart-Amid-Stuck-Dues/6a305478d017fdb509975ec8>

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ONGC Videsh plans to restart work on Venezuelan oil assets despite over \$900 million in unpaid dividends. The move follows changes in Venezuela's legal framework, though geopolitical and operational risks remain key factors for investors to watch.

What Happened

ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the international investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), is working to restart its oil exploration and production operations in Venezuela. This strategic pivot comes after these assets have remained largely underutilized for years due to global sanctions against the South American nation. OVL holds a 40% stake in the San Cristobal project and an 11% stake in the Petrocarabobo field, with IndianOil and Oil India also holding minority stakes in the latter.

This decision is being driven by a shift in Venezuela's legal framework, which is now encouraging greater foreign participation in its energy sector. The move is seen as a way to potentially unlock value from these assets and improve energy security for India, although significant hurdles remain regarding the recovery of past dues.

Why This Matters For Investors

For investors, the most significant point is the nearly \$900 million in unpaid dividends that OVL is currently owed from its Venezuelan ventures. Resuming operations is a necessary step to potentially recover these funds, but it is not a guarantee. If the company can successfully navigate the current regulatory environment, it could help in bringing these profits back to India.

Furthermore, diversifying energy sources is a long-standing goal for India. By potentially reviving production in Venezuela, which holds some of the world's largest oil reserves, OVL could help strengthen India's access to crude oil, reducing reliance on other geographies. However, the path to reviving these fields involves complex negotiations and compliance with international regulations.

The Risk Factor

Investors must weigh the potential benefits against substantial risks. The primary challenge has been the impact of United States sanctions on Venezuela, which have severely restricted operations and financial transactions. Even with a new legal framework, the operating environment in Venezuela remains highly volatile.

There is also the risk of further delays in project execution. OVL is currently conducting technical assessments to check the condition of its fields and surface facilities, which have seen little activity for a long time. Any further political instability or changes in international policy could impact these plans. The financial recovery of the \$900 million is also tied to the success of these operations and the ability of the local partner, Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA), to meet its obligations.

How Investors May Read This

Market participants often view such developments as a double-edged sword. On one hand, the revival of stranded assets can be seen as an attempt to protect shareholder value and secure energy resources. On the other hand, the history of unpaid dividends and the heavy weight of geopolitical sanctions mean that this project carries a high-risk profile.

Investors should look beyond the headline of 'resuming operations' and consider the practical difficulties of working in such an environment. The company's ability to successfully restart these fields will depend heavily on whether the current Venezuelan regulations prove durable and whether international sanctions allow for normal business dealings.

What Investors Should Track

Moving forward, the key things to watch are the progress of technical assessments and the submission of official revival proposals. Investors will also monitor any updates from the company regarding its compliance strategy, specifically how it plans to navigate investment routes that align with international rules. Finally, any news on the actual repatriation of dividends or payments from Venezuelan authorities would be a critical indicator of whether this strategy is yielding financial results for the company.

Quarterly results, bulk deals, concall updates and major announcements delivered in real time.

Headline	Iran-US peace deal: Which stocks could gain as Middle East tensions ease? Check full list		
Publication	Zee Business	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

Iran-US peace deal: Which stocks could gain as Middle East tensions ease? Check full list

<https://embed.zeebiz.com/market-news/news-iran-us-peace-deal-which-stocks-could-gain-as-middle-east-tensions-ease-check-full-list-397268>

Indian equity markets traded sharply higher on Monday after easing tensions in the Middle East, and a decline in crude oil prices boosted investor sentiment. Market participants also tracked companies with significant business exposure to the region. At 11:25 am, the BSE Sensex was trading 1,146.98 points higher at 76,674.93, while the Nifty50 gained 342.30 points to 23,965.20.

The rally came after crude oil prices fell and concerns over energy supply disruptions eased. Brent crude settled 4.8 per cent lower at USD 83.3 per barrel, its lowest closing level in three months.

Investor sentiment improved further after US President Donald Trump announced a peace agreement with Iran and said the Strait of Hormuz would reopen with the naval blockade lifted, reducing concerns over global energy supplies.

OMCs emerge among top beneficiaries

Shares of oil marketing and gas distribution companies witnessed strong buying as lower crude prices are generally seen as positive for their business. The Nifty Oil & Gas index rose 1.86 per cent to 11,216.95.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation emerged as the top gainer in the sector, rising 6.17 per cent to Rs 1,207.90. Petronet LNG gained 5.17 per cent to Rs 288.95, while Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) advanced 4.89 per cent to Rs 407.90.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) climbed 3.48 per cent to Rs 145.84, and GAIL (India) rose 3.17 per cent to Rs 175.91. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) gained 2.71 per cent to Rs 310.55.

Aegis Logistics and Aegis Vopak Terminals rose 2.71 per cent and 2.59 per cent, respectively. Castrol India added 2.61 per cent, while Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) and Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) gained 2.48 per cent and 2.14 per cent, respectively.

Reliance Industries traded 1.52 per cent higher, while Adani Total Gas was up 0.41 per cent. However, upstream oil producers lagged the broader sector. Oil India fell 0.66 per cent, and ONGC declined 0.95 per cent during trade.

Infra companies with Middle East exposure in focus

Investors also monitored infrastructure and engineering companies that derive a significant portion of their business from the Middle East. Larsen & Toubro (L&T), one of India's largest engineering and construction companies, traded 3.40 per cent higher at Rs 4,188. Around 36 per cent of the company's order book is linked to the Middle East region.

KEC International gained 2.02 per cent to Rs 514.50. The company derives around 20-25 per cent of its revenue from the Middle East. Kalpataru Projects International traded 0.50 per cent higher at Rs 1,309. Around 11 per cent of its order book comes from West Asia.

Welspun Corp remained in focus due to its exposure to Saudi Arabia, which accounts for around 23 per cent of its order book. The stock, however, traded 0.57 per cent lower at Rs 1,391.

Market participants said easing geopolitical uncertainty could support business activity and project execution across the region, benefiting companies with a strong Middle East presence.

Basmati rice exporters also on investors' radar

The easing of tensions in the region also kept agricultural exporters in focus, particularly companies with exposure to Middle Eastern markets. KRBL and LT Foods, two major basmati rice exporters, remained on investors' watchlists as countries in the region account for a significant share of India's basmati rice exports.

KRBL, which derives around 61 per cent of its revenue from the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, gained 2.63 per cent to Rs 376.20.

LT Foods traded largely flat and was down 0.21 per cent at Rs 380.10. Iran continues to be an important importer of basmati rice, making developments in the region significant for the sector.

Markets cheer easing geopolitical concerns

Broader market sentiment remained positive as investors welcomed signs of reduced geopolitical risks and lower energy costs. Analysts said easing tensions in the Middle East could help stabilise global energy markets and improve risk appetite among investors.

Stocks linked to oil consumption, gas distribution, infrastructure projects and exports to the Middle East remained among the key sectors in focus during Monday's trade.

Headline	India Approves E100 Fuel: What It Means For Petrol Cars, Farmers And Oil Imports		
Publication	ABP Live	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

India Approves E100 Fuel: What It Means For Petrol Cars, Farmers And Oil Imports

<https://news.abplive.com/business/e100-fuel-nitin-gadkari-ethanol-blended-petrol-flex-fuel-oil-imports-1850302>

India has taken another significant step in its effort to reduce dependence on imported crude oil, with the government approving the use of E100 fuel.

E100 is made almost entirely from ethanol. The move, announced by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, is being positioned as a major milestone in the country's transition towards alternative fuels.

Speaking at an event in Nagpur marking 12 years of the NDA government, Gadkari said the regulatory framework required for the legal use of 100 per cent ethanol fuel had been finalised. He revealed that he signed the relevant file on Saturday evening, paving the way for E100 fuel to enter the Indian market, reported Aaj Tak.

The announcement has reignited discussions around ethanol-blended fuels, which have already become a key part of India's energy strategy. While E20 fuel is currently available across the country, E100 represents a much more ambitious step

What Is E100 Fuel And Why Is It Important?

E100 fuel consists of nearly 100 per cent ethanol, unlike conventional petrol, which is derived from crude oil. Ethanol can be produced domestically using agricultural feedstocks such as sugarcane, maize, rice and agricultural waste.

India already uses E20 petrol, which contains 20 per cent ethanol and 80 per cent petrol. E100 takes the concept much further by eliminating petrol and relying almost entirely on ethanol as the fuel source.

The government's interest in E100 stems largely from India's heavy dependence on imported crude oil. Global oil price fluctuations frequently impact the country's economy, making domestically produced alternatives increasingly attractive. By expanding ethanol use, policymakers hope to reduce the nation's fuel import bill and improve energy security.

Automakers Prepare For Flex-Fuel Vehicles

According to Gadkari, several major automobile manufacturers are preparing to introduce vehicles capable of running on high-ethanol fuels. Companies including Hyundai, Toyota, MG Motor and Maruti Suzuki are expected to bring ethanol-compatible models to the market in the coming months.

Maruti Suzuki has already showcased a flex-fuel version of its popular WagonR. Initially aimed at fleet operators, the vehicle could later become available to private buyers as the ecosystem develops.

Gadkari said the idea of widespread ethanol use was once met with scepticism. However, he believes advancements in vehicle technology and fuel infrastructure are gradually turning the concept into a practical reality.

Potential Benefits For The Economy And Farmers

One of the strongest arguments in favour of E100 fuel is its potential to reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels. Since ethanol can be produced within the country, greater adoption could help lower expenditure on crude oil imports.

The government also sees ethanol production as a way to create additional income opportunities for farmers. Increased demand for crops such as sugarcane and maize could support rural incomes while strengthening domestic supply chains linked to biofuels.

Officials have previously stated that the ethanol blending programme has already generated substantial economic benefits. According to government figures, the initiative has helped save more than Rs 1 lakh crore in crude oil imports while providing farmers with nearly Rs 80,000 crore in additional income.

Challenges That Could Slow Adoption

Despite the optimism, experts acknowledge that a nationwide shift to E100 fuel will not happen overnight. One of the biggest obstacles is vehicle compatibility. Most petrol vehicles currently on Indian roads are designed for conventional fuel or lower ethanol blends and cannot run directly on E100.

Many consumers are still adapting to E20 fuel. Some vehicle owners have reported reduced mileage and higher maintenance costs after switching to higher ethanol blends. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has previously noted that ethanol's lower energy density can lead to a modest decline in fuel efficiency.

As a result, widespread E100 adoption will require a gradual transition towards flex-fuel vehicles specifically engineered to handle high ethanol concentrations.

Infrastructure And Consumer Awareness Remain Key

Building the infrastructure necessary to support E100 fuel presents another major challenge. Fuel stations across the country will need dedicated storage, distribution systems and dispensing facilities for ethanol-based fuels.

Industry observers believe multiple fuel options, ranging from E20 to E100, may need to coexist for years as consumers gradually transition to new vehicle technologies. Clear labelling and distinct dispensing systems will also be essential to help motorists choose the correct fuel for their vehicles.

In addition, petrol pump staff may require specialised training to ensure customers receive the appropriate fuel and understand the differences between various ethanol blends.

The government has also launched E85 fuel for compatible flex-fuel vehicles, highlighting its broader commitment to expanding ethanol use. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri recently noted that India achieved its ethanol blending targets ahead of schedule, with blending levels rising from 1.5 per cent in 2014 to 10 per cent by November 2022 and reaching the 20 per cent target years earlier than planned.

While E100 fuel offers a promising pathway towards cleaner and more locally sourced energy, significant hurdles remain. Vehicle availability, infrastructure development and consumer acceptance will all determine whether pure ethanol can move from policy ambition to everyday reality.

Before You Go

BREAKING NOW: Indore fire tragedy as EV short circuit triggers deadly explosions

Frequently Asked Questions

Which automakers are preparing to introduce E100-compatible vehicles?

Automakers like Hyundai, Toyota, MG Motor, and Maruti Suzuki are preparing to introduce flex-fuel vehicles compatible with high-ethanol fuels. Maruti Suzuki has already showcased a flex-fuel version of its popular WagonR.

About the author

Akshat Ayush

Akshat Ayush is an Editorial Intern at ABP Live English covering business and personal finance. An English Journalism graduate from IIMC Delhi, he is keen on making finance stories accessible and engaging.

Headline	LPG, CNG, PNG prices today, June 15: Check latest rates in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, other cities		
Publication	Business Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

LPG, CNG, PNG prices today, June 15: Check latest rates in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, other cities

<https://www.businesstoday.in/india/story/lpg-cng-png-prices-today-june-15-check-latest-rates-in-delhi-mumbai-chennai-other-cities-536802-2026-06-15>

LPG, CNG, PNG prices today: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said there is no shortage of energy in the country and that the supply situation of crude oil, LPG and natural gas is quite comfortable.

LPG, CNG, PNG prices today: Concerns over LPG, CNG and PNG prices continue to affect Indian households. The price of a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi was increased by 29 to 942 from 913 on June 7. This was the second increase in three months and came amid higher global energy costs, repeated revisions in CNG prices, and pressure on state-owned fuel retailers.

The latest revision followed earlier changes in commercial LPG rates and a reduction in the number of subsidised cylinders available annually to Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries from nine to four. The government has stated that it was working to strengthen fuel reserves and manage domestic supplies while protecting consumers from hardship. Meanwhile, ministers have said the supply position of crude oil, LPG and natural gas remains comfortable.

MUST READ | Petrol, diesel and LPG costs drive inflation higher; SBI Research flags rising imported price pressures

14.2 kg LPG cylinder rates on June 15

Commercial (19kg) LPG cylinder rates on June 15

CNG prices across major cities on June 15

PNG prices across major cities on June 15

Industry sources said the recent domestic LPG price rise only partly covers losses on household cylinder sales. Before the revision, oil marketing companies were estimated to be losing about 703 on each LPG cylinder sold. The government noted that the cost of supplying a domestic LPG cylinder has risen to more than 1,600 due to international price surges linked to the war in West Asia.

India's LPG import costs are linked to the Saudi Contract Price, which has risen by around 46 per cent since February because of supply disruptions in the Gulf region. Commercial LPG prices were also revised on June 1. The price of a 19-kg commercial cylinder increased by 42 in Delhi and by 53.5 in Kolkata. In Delhi, the price of a 5-kg Free Trade LPG cylinder went up by 11 to 821.5.

DON'T MISS | 'Your LPG subsidy will be blocked': Why this message should set off alarm bells

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said it was unavoidable due to the global situation. He pointed to limited sources of LPG and difficulties in procurement and transportation, including higher costs caused by long trans-shipment times.

Despite the increase in prices and other measures, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said there is no shortage of energy in the country and that the supply situation of crude oil, LPG and natural gas is quite comfortable. He said that where daily LPG use was 80,000 metric tonnes, domestic production used to be 32,000 MT and has now increased to 54,000 MT, reducing dependence on imports.

He added that LPG connection holders were being asked to shift to piped gas and said, We have a maximum stock of LPG which is 75-80 days of stock.

Headline	Petrol, diesel prices to be reviewed based on crude oil supply, says Union Minister Suresh Gopi		
Publication	Hindustan Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

Petrol, diesel prices to be reviewed based on crude oil supply, says Union Minister Suresh Gopi

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/car-bike/petrol-diesel-prices-to-be-reviewed-based-on-crude-oil-supply-says-union-minister-suresh-gopi-101781498145058.html>

Petrol and diesel prices in India witnessed a series of hikes in May 2026. Updated on: Jun 15, 2026 10:26 AM IST By Mainak Das

Limited Time Deals on Popular cars

75.8 Lakhs Onwards

1.26 - 1.33 Cr

Petrol and diesel prices in India have been under the scanner over the last few days due to the recent price hikes. Both petrol and diesel prices shot up by 8 a litre in May 2026. The reason behind these price hikes was cited as the stressed supply line of fuel due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Keeping pace with the petrol and diesel, CNG prices too were hiked multiple times. Now, Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Suresh Gopi, has said that fuel prices would be reviewed based on the availability of crude oil supplies in the country.

Responding to a question about the possibility of petrol and diesel price revision, Gopi said that the situation would be assessed based on the crude oil supply in India. "Let us see the supply of crude oil. We have the minister concerned, Hardeep Singh Puri. Let it come," PTI has quoted Gopi saying.

While the global crude oil markets remained volatile amid ongoing tensions in the West Asia crisis, petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged across India over the last week, as the state-owned oil marketing companies continued to hold fuel rates steady. Petrol and diesel prices were last revised in May 2026, when rates were increased by 3 per litre.

What determines petrol and diesel prices in India?

The retail prices of petrol and diesel in fuel stations across India are influenced by a mix of global and domestic factors. While the international price of crude oil is the most significant influencing factor, the foreign exchange rate also plays a key role in determining the retail price of fuel.

The petrol and diesel prices differ across cities and states in India owing to the variations in state-level taxes. The central government levies excise duty on fuel, while state governments impose their respective value-added tax (VAT). In addition to that, transportation and distribution costs, along with local demand and supply conditions, can also influence the retail price that consumers pay at the fuel station.

These multiple factors result in variable retail prices for petrol and diesel across India.

Headline	Hardeep Singh Puri says India has over 60 days of crude oil, natural gas stocks; rules out energy shortage		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jun 2026		

Hardeep Singh Puri says India has over 60 days of crude oil, natural gas stocks; rules out energy shortage

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/markets/hardeep-singh-puri-says-india-has-over-60-days-of-crude-oil-natural-gas-stocks-rules-out-energy-shortage/ar-AA25BbYN>

India's crude oil, natural gas stocks: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said that there is no shortage of energy in the country, asserting that crude oil, LPG and natural gas supplies remain comfortable amid the West Asia crisis. Speaking with reporters in Ludhiana, Puri further asserted that, while fuel prices rose considerably in many countries, rates in India dropped by 3.1 per cent from May 2022 to May 2026, news agency PTI reported. The petroleum and natural gas minister said oil prices rose across the world in the wake of the Iran conflict. Puri shares data of fuel prices

Sharing data of fuel prices during May 2022 to May 2026, Puri said petrol prices in Pakistan rose by 70 per cent, Sri Lanka by 66 per cent, France by 47 per cent, Italy 46 per cent, Bangladesh 36 per cent and the US 35 per cent. "In India between May 2022 and May 2026, prices dropped by 3.1 per cent. On one hand, prices rose by 70-80 per cent in the world, but here (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji reduced prices by 3.1 per cent," he said. "How did it happen? The cost of petrol at the extraction point, then add insurance cost, freight, margin, Centre's excise duty and states' VAT. Fuel prices dropped after the Prime Minister reduced the central excise duty three times in November 2021, May 2022 and now recently, he pointed out. "A few weeks ago, excise duty on petrol and diesel was reduced by Rs 10 a litre," he said, adding that it put an additional burden of Rs 1 lakh crore on the budget. But the PM did not want people to face any financial burden, he said. "When we raised petrol and diesel prices, how much did it increase? Fuel prices rose by Rs 7.60 a litre," he said. In addition to Japan, there was the lowest increase in fuel prices in India, he said. Puri on capping sale of diesel at 200 litres a day

Replying to a question on capping sale of diesel at 200 litres a day, he said it was done to curb black marketing. India has over 60 days of crude oil stock To another question, Puri said the supply situation is quite comfortable. "We have a stock of crude oil for over 60 days, we have natural gas stock for over 60 days," he said. On the LPG situation, he said it is also quite comfortable. For example, if 80,000 metric tonne of LPG per day were used, we ourselves used to make 32,000 MT and it has now been raised to 54,000 MT, he said, which led to reduction in dependence on its import. He further said LPG connection holders were being asked to shift to piped gas. "We have a maximum stock of LPG which is 75-80 days of stock," he said. On E85 fuel (85 per cent ethanol blended petrol), he said at present, there are 47 E85 fuel pumps in the NCR. By December 2026, the strength of pumps would go up to 500 and by December 2027, it would further increase to 5,000 pumps, he said. To a question on the killing of three Indian seafarers in a US military strike on a merchant vessel in the Gulf of Oman, he said India has lodged a strong protest. India summoned US Charge d'Affaires twice, while External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar raised it with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in this regard, he said.

Headline	WagonR Bioflex price revealed; Maruti Suzuki's flex-fuel car costs more than conventional petrol variant		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
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WagonR Bioflex price revealed; Maruti Suzuki's flex-fuel car costs more than conventional petrol variant

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Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, the country's biggest carmaker, has finally revealed the price of its maiden flex-fuel car, the WagonR Bioflex.

Priced at Rs 7,23,900, the WagonR flex-fuel costs Rs 1,28,420 more than a comparable WagonR ZXi MT and Rs 74,420 more than the ZXi+ variant. The WagonR Bioflex runs on E85 fuel, a blend comprising 85% ethanol and 15% petrol. The company claims it can also run on E100 or pure ethanol. The flex-fuel WagonR was launched by Union minister of road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari and Union minister of petroleum and natural gas Hardeep Singh Puri on June 4. Industry executives had earlier told Business Today that E85 needs to be at least 30% cheaper than conventional petrol to make economic sense for consumers as ethanol contains roughly one-third less energy than petrol. However, E85, which is now available at select fuel pumps costs Rs 82 per litre in Delhi, roughly 20% less than E20 petrol. About 500 petrol pumps across Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur will dispense E85, a fuel blend containing 85% ethanol and 15% petrol, by the end of 2026, Union minister Puri said at the launch of flex-fuel WagonR. In the beginning, we will have about 50-100 dispensing station outlets in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur corridor. These will expand to 500 by December this year, and approximately, God willing, to 5,000 outlets across major cities by end of next year, Puri said. India has over 1,00,000 petrol pumps across the country. Flex-fuel vehicles will need new infrastructure or modifications in existing gas stations to dispense E85. The government could also leverage the fuel dispensing infrastructure currently used for high-octane petrol to roll out E85 fuel. This is feasible because the Research Octane Number (RON) of petrol sold in India has risen to 95 from around 88 in the past. The introduction of E20-blended petrol has enhanced the fuel's octane value and resistance to engine knocking, thereby reducing the technical challenges involved in transitioning to E85.

Headline	Hormuz May Reopen Soon, But It May Never Matter Quite The Same Way Again		
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Hormuz May Reopen Soon, But It May Never Matter Quite The Same Way Again

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Hormuz may never carry the traffic it had prior to the war, and its significance for global supply chains may be diminished, to an extent. Here's why

US President Donald Trump recently announced that the US and Iran had reached a deal and that the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened soon. Coming over three months after the war started, however, many countries have by now explored alternate pathways to keep their economies running and to hedge against future disruptions.

The India-Omani Partnership

India has been one of the worst hit countries by this war, in particular by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, as much of her energy imports from the Middle East transit through this critical waterway. While oil and gas are the most important, there are other major imports, like fertilizers, that also transit through Hormuz. Recently, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, revealed that India's oil marketing companies were losing Rs. 16,000 crore a day, something the recent fuel price hikes aim to address, to an extent. The rupee has fallen to a historical low to touch 95 to the dollar. Amidst these shocks, the news that the India-Omani Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has been actualised was met with much glee.

CEPA paves the way for more buoyant trade with the Oman Sultanate, especially facilitating Indian exports - a critical need for the economy currently. Most importantly, the location of Oman is significant now with all the tension around the Strait of Hormuz. Oman is located outside the Strait, directly on the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, and thus, goods can enter and exit its ports of Salalah and Duqm easily without having to go through Hormuz. Moreover, India also had a historical presence at Duqm. India's imports from Oman actually increased by 246.4%, rising from USD 430 million to nearly USD 1.5 billion, driven by higher purchases of crude oil and urea. The countries are now seeking to reactivate the proposal for the Rs.40,000-crore Oman-Gujarat deep-sea gas pipeline. The 2,000-km subsea project would bypass the Strait of Hormuz, offering a potentially safer and more direct route for natural gas imports, hedging against any similar disruptions in future.

Oman's Sweet Spot

In fact, Oman is in a sweet spot now with its location outside the Strait of Hormuz as countries seek alternatives. One fifth of the world's energy supplies pass through Hormuz from countries of the Gulf like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE to mainly Asian markets. Consequently, Oman has increased its oil exports to unprecedented levels, given that its ports are located outside Hormuz, enabling it to pump supplies to Asian markets. Beyond this, the gains from customs declarations have been remarkable. For example, revenues from declarations for shipments destined for Dubai alone jumped from \$270 million in March to \$2.16 billion in April.

More important is the Sultanate's new positioning as a reliable hub for maritime and air transport and shipping through its ports and airports. For instance, food exports to Gulf countries through Hormuz have also been disrupted. Currently, shipments are travelling from Omani ports through the Hatta border crossing between Oman and the UAE and further into the wider Gulf region and markets. This will enable Oman to reap continuous benefits even after the Hormuz crisis ends. It will also attract massive investments for strategic road and railway projects linking the Gulf states to Oman, and oil and gas pipeline projects that bypass the Strait of Hormuz, like the one with India. Oman will definitely aim to preserve the economic and geopolitical gains it achieved in the war.

The Fujairah Terminal

Other countries, too, are hedging. For many like the UAE, whose economy depends majorly on energy exports, it is an existential threat. The world has lost 1 billion barrels of oil due to Iran's closure of the Strait, according to Dr Sultan Al Jaber, the UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology. Therefore, the country is now accelerating the construction of the West-East oil pipeline to double its oil export capacity to 4 million barrels per day by 2027 via the port of Fujairah, which lies around 70 nautical miles outside the Strait of Hormuz.

The Fujairah Oil Terminal FZC (FOT) is a premier, 1.177 million cubic meter independent onshore storage facility in the UAE, specialising in crude oil and refined products. With the disruptions in Hormuz, its strategic significance for global supply through it has increased manifold. This is just as significant for India, as the Fujairah oil terminal can still send supplies to us while also ramping up oil production. According to data, UAE oil exports to India rose to around 619,000 barrels per day in April this year, a 43% increase from previous averages.

Saudi And Iraq Look Elsewhere, Too

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's second largest oil producer has, similarly, diverted exports through its port of Yanbu on the Red Sea, via its East-West Pipeline. It consists of twin pipes that carry oil more than 1,200 km from the Abqaiq oil field in the Kingdom's Eastern Province to Yanbu. Interestingly, this pipeline, also known as Petroline, was built in 1981 during the Iran-Iraq war as an emergency route, with the singular objective of bypassing the Strait of Hormuz to avoid any crisis there and promote energy security. That has now paid off, with the pipeline reported to be operating at full capacity. In fact, Saudi exports of jet fuel to Europe through Yanbu has actually increased after the war broke out this year.

Like them, Iraq, another major oil producer, is also diversifying. As a major exporter through Hormuz, the Strait's closure has made it look elsewhere. It has begun exporting oil through Syria's Baniyas oil port, since early April. Iraqi fuel crossed through the Al-Tanf border crossing into Syrian territory, where from Baniyas on the Mediterranean coast Iraqi oil will make its way to global markets. With Syria's stabilisation and reconstruction, this route is sure to become a permanent one for at least some of Iraq's oil exports even after Hormuz reopens.

Two Unintended 'Beneficiaries'

An unhappy fallout of the closure of Hormuz has been that it is essentially Asian markets that have been affected the most. These relied most on supplies through the strait, unlike, say, Israel, which together with the US began the war. While the US has benefited from oil sales, countries like India, Japan, South Korea have been vulnerable to the Hormuz crisis. They, too, have been looking for alternatives and have turned to non-traditional sources.

Two such "non-traditional" sources that have become beneficiaries are Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

On May 2, a Japan Times report noted how a tanker carrying some 45,000 kilolitres of crude oil from Azerbaijan arrived at an Eneos refinery in Yokohama, quoting officials at Eneos. The shipment of Azerbaijan oil arrived in Japan for the first time as it sought to diversify supply sources. Like India, Japan had also imported mostly Middle Eastern crude, and now has also procured US and Russian oil. This marks a major shift in its energy procurement as it diversifies its supply chains. It also stands to reason that once Hormuz reopens, Japan will no longer be totally reliant on the supplies through that route, at least not as much as pre-war levels. It has now also turned to Kazakhstan as an alternate source, which, logistically, will be cheaper for procurement than Middle-Eastern supplies.

Kazakhstan has also become a beneficiary of the Hormuz crisis. The loss of Middle-Eastern oil in global markets has translated into a surge in demand for Kazakh oil, and disruption in traditional trade routes has meant greater traffic along the country's Middle Corridor or the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, which traverses through Central Asia, the Caspian Sea, and the South Caucasus to reach Turkey, Black Sea and Mediterranean ports to Europe. Kazakhstan has ramped up supplies to European markets as well as to Japan and countries like Bangladesh. Jihad Azour, director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Middle East and Central Asia Department, recently described Central Asia as a "transit hedge", offering alternative routes for trade and energy flows amid rising geopolitical uncertainty.

Thus, each day newer partnerships, diversified supply sources and alternative routes are emerging around the globe, necessitated by the uncertainty around Hormuz. After the prolonged crisis of the recent war and the persisting uncertainty around it, the possibility that these new supply lines will morph into permanent ones as countries invest in removing current bottlenecks and transforming them into more cost effective, shorter and resilient routes, is high. Of course, these will not substitute the Hormuz chokepoint in its entirety. But Hormuz may never carry the traffic it had prior to the war, and its significance for global supply chains may be diminished, to an extent. Every country dependent on it will retain alternatives to hedge against any similar disruptions in the future.

In a way, this may be akin to the de-dollarisation phenomenon, which began with America weaponising the dollar. Weaponising Hormuz, may in fact have turned out to be a sort of a self-goal for Iran.

Headline	Diesel to be given only in Peso-approved cans		
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Diesel to be given only in Peso-approved cans

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/diesel-to-be-given-only-in-peso-approved-cans/articleshow/131754299.cms>

Following the notification issued by the Union ministry of petroleum and natural gas and a subsequent order by the state govt to curb hoarding and illegal sale of diesel, the Federation of All Maharashtra Petrol Dealers Association (FAMPEDA) has clarified that petrol pumps will supply diesel only in Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)-approved containers or cans. Speaking to TOI, FAMPEDA president Amit Gupta said petrol pumps cannot sell diesel in ordinary cans, even to hospitals, hotels or farmers, as any violation could invite action against the petrol pump owner. "As per the notification, diesel can only be provided in Peso approved cans or containers. Currently, very few institutes have Peso-approved cans. The Peso website has a list of companies making these cans. But these companies don't have enough stock as they hardly had any buyers till now," said Gupta. Gupta said that he will be meeting officials of the Food and Civil Supplies Department and if they provide some relaxation, diesel could be supplied for emergency services in other cans. With Peso-approved cans not available in the market, hospitals are finding it difficult to maintain sufficient diesel stock for running generators in case of power outage. Farmers too are worried as tractors play a key role in pre-sowing activities like tilling. Meanwhile, the Nagpur Residential Hotels Association (NRHA) has written to Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri, claiming that hotels in Nagpur are facing difficulties in procuring diesel for generator sets. "The petrol pump staff are asking us to bring a letter from the collector office for getting diesel supply," said NRHA president Tejinder Singh Renu. The association has urged the government to grant temporary relaxation. Stay updated with the latest Nagpur news.

Headline	Gadkari gives nod to 100% ethanol fuel use		
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Gadkari gives nod to 100% ethanol fuel use

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/gadkari-gives-nod-to-100-ethanol-fuel-use/>

Says will help reduce import bill of Rs 22 lakh crore Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced that India has

granted legal recognition to 100 per cent ethanol fuel, enabling vehicles to run entirely on ethanol. The move is expected to reduce dependence on petrol and accelerate the country's transition towards cleaner energy sources.

Speaking at an event in Nagpur, Gadkari said on Friday night, I signed the file making rules for 100 per cent ethanol and giving it legal process. He said ethanol would now serve as a viable alternative to conventional fossil fuels.

Expressing concern over India's dependence on imported fossil fuels, Gadkari said ethanol would emerge as a viable alternative to petrol and help reduce the country's annual fuel import bill of approximately Rs 22 lakh crore.

As part of this transition, the minister highlighted the recent launch of a 100 per cent ethanol-compatible version of the Maruti Suzuki WagonR, unveiled in collaboration with Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. He added that several major automobile manufacturers were preparing to expand their offerings in this segment.

Moreover, Hero MotoCorp has also introduced two flex-fuel motorcycle models capable of running on 100 per cent ethanol. He added that other major automobile companies, including Toyota, Suzuki, MG Motor and Hyundai, were expected to roll out ethanol-compatible vehicles within the next six weeks.

The minister emphasised that ethanol blending and full ethanol-fuelled mobility could significantly reduce import dependence on crude oil while supporting India's farmers through increased demand for ethanol feedstock.

Recently, the E85 rollout commenced across 48 public sector OMC's retail outlets (ROs) in the country, enabling flex-fuel vehicle users to access this cleaner fuel. The initiative is slated for nationwide expansion. The same would be scaled up to 500 ROs by December 2026 and about 5,000 by December 2027 and help raise India's aggregate ethanol blending levels to nearly 26 per cent by 2030-31. E85 fuel is meant exclusively for specially designed flex-fuel vehicles, not for normal petrol vehicles.

NITI Aayog officially classified ethanol-based Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs), including vehicles running on high ethanol blends such as E85, as zero-emission vehicles. E85 fuel also produces near-zero particulate matter (PM) emissions, making flex-fuel vehicles a promising solution for addressing the country's growing air pollution challenge.