



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

MRPL back in black, posts Rs 946cr profit

#NEW DELHI : Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) on Wednesday reported a turnaround in performance, posting a record net profit of Rs 945.68 crore for the June quarter, driven by a sharp improvement in refining margins. MRPL, a subsidiary of ONGC, had reported a loss of Rs 270.66 crore in the year-ago period.

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PTI

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Profit surged on the back of refining margin boost amid the West Asia crisis that led to a spike in global energy prices

sharp improvement in refining margins.

MRPL, a subsidiary of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), had reported a loss of ₹270.66 crore in the year-ago period, according to a stock exchange filing by the company.

The profit in April-June 2026 was also higher than ₹116.99 crore earnings in the preceding January-March period.

Profit surged on the back of refining margin boost amid the West Asia crisis that led to a spike in global energy prices.

MRPL however did not disclose the exact refining margin earned in April-June - the first quarter of 2026-27 fiscal year.

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MRPL PAT zooms to ₹946 cr in Q1

PTI

NEW DELHI

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IGX files initial papers for IPO

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India to launch an initial public offering.

In a BSE filing on Wednesday, Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) said that IGX, its associate company, had filed a draft red herring prospectus with SEBI and BSE on July 14, in connection with the proposed IPO.

The issue comprises an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 1.671 crore shares by IEX, it added. IEX currently holds a 47.3 per cent stake in IGX. The OFS will reduce its stake to 25 per cent. IGX's other shareholders include GAIL, ONGC, IOC, Adani Total Gas, Torrent Gas and NSE Investments.

The primary objective of the IPO is to achieve benefits of listing on stock exchanges, which it anticipates will enhance visibility, strengthen brand image and provide a public market for its shares.

IGX is India's first online platform for trading in nat-

ural gas. During Q1 FY27, IGX traded gas volume of 27.48 million mBtu (692.70 MSCM), representing an increase of 47.94 per cent q-o-q and 11.91 per cent on y-o-y basis.

TRADING PLATFORM

The platform provides a marketplace to trade in spot and forward gas contracts at designated delivery points across five regional hubs. It currently offers trades at 19 delivery points including 6 LNG terminals, 9 domestic gas field landfall points and 4 pipeline interconnections.

IGX offers delivery-based trading in 10 standardised natural gas contracts — Intra-day, Day-Ahead, Daily, Weekday, Weekly, Fortnightly and Monthly (up to 12 months), Balance of Month and two Long Duration Contracts-3 Months and 6 Months.

IGX facilitates price discovery reflective of Indian natural gas supply and demand, showcased by its benchmark price index, GIXI. It operates under the regulatory framework of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board.

Shyam Steel's ₹15,000-crore projects to generate employment for 20,000

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Kolkata: Shyam Steel Group's mega projects, the foundation stone for which is likely to be laid by CM Suwendu Adhikari on Friday, are expected to generate employment for 20,000 people with an investment of Rs 15,000 crore, making these the biggest projects in terms of investment and jobs announced since BJP came to office in Bengal.

The group has an annual turnover of over Rs 10,000 crore and directly employs more than 25,000 people.

Shyam Steel director Lalit Beriwal told **TOI** that the group was setting up an integrated steel plant in Bankura's Mejia with a production capacity of 2 MTPA (million tonne per annum) at an estimated cost of Rs 10,000 crore. "The project has the potential to become one of the most significant manu-



CM Suwendu Adhikari met Flipkart Group CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy (L) at Nabanna on Wednesday to discuss MSME growth, farmer and artisan market access, food processing, startups, youth skilling, employment generation and strengthening digital commerce in the state

facturing investments in the industrial history of Bengal. Upon implementation, it is expected to generate approximately 15,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, while further strengthening the state's industrial ecosystem and manufactu-

ring capabilities," he said. The plant would increase the group's capacity to 3.5 MTPA. "Once commissioned, the steel plant will be one of the biggest in the region," he added. Beyond the steel plant, Shyam Steel Group has proposed investments

of around Rs 5,000 crore across defence manufacturing, real estate and industrial townships, fabrication, paints and industrial coatings, infrastructure, construction chemicals, engineering and other emerging sectors. These projects are expected to create another 5,000 jobs.

"This will play a significant role in fostering the development of a modern industrial ecosystem in Bengal. It will substantially strengthen the state's manufacturing capabilities, promote technological innovations, and contribute to sustainable economic growth, improving the quality of life of the people of the state," Beriwal added.

The group's key institutional clients will include the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Airports Authority of India (AAI), and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

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Swiggy, HPCL to pilot cooking gas delivery

Swiggy and Hindustan Petroleum Corp said on Wednesday they will partner for doorstep deliveries of cooking gas cylinders in India, marking the country's first such delivery service through a quick-commerce app.

The launch, coming a few months after reports of severe cooking gas supply concerns during the Iran conflict, will initially offer doorstep delivery of smaller cylinders sized 5 kilograms and 10 kilograms, as opposed to the standard ones

sized 14.2 kilograms, the companies said.

Customers will not need an existing HP Gas connection to buy the cylinders, the companies said, adding that the service will initially pilot in Bengaluru before expanding to other cities. They did not disclose pricing.

India is the world's second-largest LPG consumer, with cooking gas supplied mainly by state-run retailers Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum.

REUTERS



Ateesh Tankha & Sudhir K Joshi

Don't Become An Alcoholic

In ancient times, alcohol was used either as a safer source of nutrition than contaminated water, or to reduce noxious effects of bacteria by mixing it with water in a fixed proportion. Not too dissimilarly, countries like Brazil, battered by the 1973 oil crisis, turned to ethanol as an alternative sustainable fuel, or as an additive to dilute the devastating impact of any future oil shock.

Today, alcohol has outlived its purpose as a water decontaminant. And ethanol — despite its value as a greener feedstock replacement for petrochemicals, and as a core ingredient in sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) — is increasingly being passed over as a cleaner-burning or sustainable fuel for ICE, in favour of new technologies.

So, two questions need to be considered in the context of India's current

vehicles, providing consumers with choice at the pump — as road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari reiterated this week in a ToI interview — and offsetting any loss of mileage through differential pricing. Govt could take care of these issues.

But India in 2026 is not Brazil in 1976. Its growth objectives are tied to energy, food and environmental security, which cannot depend on older technology that provides an incremental benefit to one area while adversely affecting another. On the face of it, ethanol — of which India consumes some 11 MMT annually — is the perfect antidote to India's oil addiction. The country can fully depend on its domestic production capacity, which is expandable and renewable, to reduce the energy import bill, allow farmers to earn more from a cash crop and demand fewer subsidies, and utilise a cleaner biofuel.

Economics, however, is a subset of the natural environment, not conventional mathematics. Nothing is boundless or infinitely sustainable. To produce 1 MT of ethanol requires about 2.6 t of maize or 12.5 t of sugarcane.

The trade-off lies in the fact that, for India to have achieved its E20 target 5 yrs ahead of the 2030 target date set by National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, 13.7 mn ha and 5.4 mn ha of land were allocated for maize and sugarcane production, respectively. Since Govt intends to divert another 8 mn ha by 2030 to meet domestic growth requirements, ethanol feedstock will command a fifth of India's net sown area.

Moreover, the impact on India's fast-depleting water table may be even more concerning. It takes between 2,000 and 10,000 l of water to grow and process feedstock for 1 l of ethanol compared to, say, a similar amount required to extract lithium and produce an EV battery.

Consequently, pursuing a strategy that develops even more highly concentrated ethanol fuels and promotes flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) to justify their use, or increasing production area and volume to export ethanol to countries with feedstock deficits, will be counterproductive.

Is ethanol a credible answer to India's energy security dilemma? Because of the points mentioned above, no.

India's long-term energy security goals will be best served by investing in renewables for tomorrow's wholly electric, solar, nuclear or hydrogen-powered world. In the short term, it could balance some of its energy security needs by issuing oil bonds, while meeting consumer vehicular demand by subsidising and promoting mild, full and plug-in hybrids.

Ultimately a commitment to fund ethanol production and expansion today is akin to building massive alcohol vats for potable drinking water. With cleaner and cheaper technology on the horizon, abstinence may be cheaper than the cure.

Tankha is MD, eTrans Solutions, and Joshi is former director (finance), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd

push for E20, blend of 20% ethanol and 80% petrol:

● Will ethanol drive higher vehicular efficiency and lower emissions? Ethanol has a high-octane rating — it offers greater acceleration and better anti-knocking (uncontrolled autoignition) performance in an engine's cylinder.

But this is only discernible in high-performance or turbocharged engines. Furthermore, while ethanol is safe to use in both new and older vehicles (of BS IV and BS VI vintage), it is hygroscopic (affinity to absorb moisture) and can corrode metal parts. Higher the proportion of ethanol, greater the chances that rubber hoses and gaskets in older cars will be damaged.

On the flip side, because ethanol burns more cleanly than fossil fuels — emitting less CO₂ and almost no CO — it is more environmentally friendly both in its pure form and as a blend, than petroleum fuels. But since it has a 33% lower fuel density than petrol, mileage is affected in equal measure.

As a result, under perfect driving conditions — in India, the outlook is somewhat worse — E10 and E20 are likely to show mileage degradations of 3.5% and 6.5%, respectively. Since fuels are not priced in India based on energy content, this impact will become much more perceptible in the future if ethanol proportion increases.

None of these are, however, dealbreakers. By following the Brazilian model of phasing out older

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Tata Group to Set Up Shipbuilding Venture in Kerala: CM Satheesan

Thiruvananthapuram: Chief minister V D Satheesan on Wednesday said that the Tata Group would set up its first shipbuilding venture in Kerala, with plans to establish shipbuilding and ship maintenance facilities in the state.

Addressing a programme here, Satheesan said the state government was working to strengthen Kerala's



maritime sector through investments and infrastructure development.

"Tata's shipbuilding units will come to Kerala. There will also be ship maintenance facilities," he said.

The chief minister said the government had also held discussions with major public sector oil companies to support the sector.

"We have said that we can provide bunkering facilities. We have spoken to India's leading companies-Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), HPCL and BPCL-and told them that bunkering facilities can be provided," he said.

He also said the state government is also going to provide support to Cochin Port to start a cruise terminal.

Earlier, the chief minister inaugurated the programme titled 'Maritime Mahotsavam- 2026' organised by Kerala Samudra Mission. —PTI

Two opposing views on India pressing its foot down on the ethanol pedal — is it vroom or doom?

CO₂ CH₃CH₂OH CHANGE

Jump on This Bandwagon



Ravi Gupta

Don't Become An Alcoholic

Ateesh Tankha & Sudhir K Joshi

Long before EVs and hydrogen became part of the global energy transition conversation, ethanol was already powering engines. The first ethanol-powered engine was developed in 1828 by Samuel Morey, and Henry Ford's first automobile, the 1896 Quadricycle, was designed to run on ethanol.

Some 200 yrs later, ethanol has become an integral part of the transport fuel strategy of more than 90 countries. India may have joined this journey later than many of its peers, but it's now emerging as one of the world's fastest-growing ethanol economies.

Ethanol-blending involves mixing ethanol, a renewable biofuel produced from agricultural feedstocks, with petrol. Flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) extend this concept by allowing motorists to use higher ethanol blends depending on availability and price. Although these technologies are often viewed as relatively new in India, they are supported by decades of global experience.

Oil crises of the 1970s established ethanol's strategic importance because countries resorted to domestic alternatives to costly imported crude. Brazil launched its National Alcohol Programme, Proalcool, in 1975 and built the world's most successful ethanol ecosystem. The US later instituted growth through its 2005 Renewable Fuel Standard. With growing climate concerns in the following decades, countries such as Canada, Thailand, Argentina and the Philippines adopted blending mandates, turning ethanol into a mainstream component of energy policy.

During much of this period, India's priorities were understandably different. It was focused on ensuring food security, strengthening agricultural production and supporting economic development. While India launched its Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme in the early 2000s, progress remained slow for over a decade. Limited ethanol availability, inadequate procurement mechanisms, unattractive producer economics, feedstock constraints and policy uncertainty meant that blending stood at only about 1.5% in 2014.

The transformation since then has been remarkable. Through consistent policy support, assured pricing, expansion of feedstock options, investment in distillation capacity and stronger coordination between farmers, industry and oil marketing companies, India has rapidly scaled up ethanol production. It achieved 10% blending ahead of schedule in 2022, and increased blending from 12.06% in ethanol supply year (ESY) 2022-23 to 14.60% in ESY 2023-24. India also crossed its 20% ethanol blending 5 yrs ahead of schedule.

The country's progress is particularly significant because it has benefited from decades of international experience. Many of the concerns often raised today — food security, crop diversion, pricing, fuel economics and vehicle compatibility — had been debated in Brazil, the US and several other countries years ago. These countries have demon-

strated that, with sound policy design and continuous technological improvements, ethanol can become a reliable component of a country's transport fuel mix, while supporting farmers, strengthening energy security and reducing emissions.

The next phase of India's ethanol journey will require moving beyond blending targets to building a complete consumption ecosystem. This includes expanding ethanol retail infrastructure, encouraging flex-fuel vehicles, competitive fuel pricing, increasing consumer awareness and ensuring confidence in higher ethanol blends. Go's approval of fuels like E85 and E100, along with introduction of India's first commercial FFV last month, represents an important step in that direction.

Benefits of the programme are already becoming evident. According



Chaiti ka naam energy security

to GoI, EBP Programme has generated payments of more than ₹1.5 lakh to farmers, displaced over 280 lakh of crude oil imports, and reduced net CO₂ emissions by nearly 969 lakh t. At a time of volatile global energy markets, domestically produced ethanol has emerged not only as an environmental solution, but also as a strategic tool for enhancing energy security, reducing import dependence and creating additional value within the rural economy.

Ethanol's story is one of evolution, going beyond experimentation. Countries have embraced it to strengthen energy security, support agriculture, reduce emissions and cushion oil-price volatility. India may have

The next phase of India's ethanol journey will require expanding retail infra, encouraging flex-fuel vehicles, competitive fuel pricing, ensuring confidence in higher ethanol blends

started later than its peers but it has progressed rapidly. The question is no longer whether ethanol belongs in its energy future, but how its use can expand while balancing energy security, farmer welfare, sustainability and consumer interests. Better late than never, India Inc is now positioned to help shape ethanol's next chapter.

The tarrar in the illustration depicts Shree Ramula Sugars

In ancient times, alcohol was used either as a safer source of nutrition than contaminated water, or to reduce noxious effects of bacteria by mixing it with water in a fixed proportion. Not too dissimilarly, countries like Brazil, battered by the 1970 oil crisis, turned to ethanol as an alternative sustainable fuel, or as an additive to dilute the devastating impact of any future oil shock.

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FACE-OFF

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Tankha is MD & Trans Solutions, and Joshi is former director (Finance), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd

Del HC judge, later Manipur CJ, had LPG agency during tenure

Kept Renewing Contract While Holding Office

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New Delhi: Judges, especially those in constitutional courts, are bound by oath and an unwritten code of conduct which make it highly unethical for them to have any pecuniary, contractual, business or trade links with the govt, private parties, PSUs or companies.

However, this didn't deter Justice (retd) Siddharth Mridul from running an LPG distribution agency through his 16-year tenure as a judge of Delhi high court and Chief

DEALERSHIP SUSPENDED THIS MONTH

> LPG dealership allotted to Siddharth Mridul in 1984. 2 years later, Mridul starts practice as Delhi HC advocate

> Appointed Delhi HC judge in 2008. Becomes Manipur HC CJ in 2023. Retires on Nov 21, 2024

> Continues to own LPG agency through this period. Dealership agreement between BPCL and Justice Mridul last renewed in 2025 for another 5 years

> On May 29 this year, BPCL

serves notice on former judge citing public grievance complaint filed in Dec 2025 alleging that he 'previously served in capacity of a judge'

> BPCL's notice says Justice Mridul violated terms of contract and asks him to explain why distributorship shouldn't be suspended

> Ex-judge apparently doesn't respond to the notices. BPCL suspends dealership on July 6

Justice of Manipur HC.

Mridul, who started practice as an advocate in Delhi HC in 1986, was appointed a judge in the same court in March 2008. He became Manipur HC Chief Justice in Oct 2023.

The distributorship agree-

ment between BPCL and Mridul for the company 'Kitchen Flame' was renewed on Aug 25, 1995; Aug 24, 2005; Aug 23, 2010; Aug 25, 2015; May 7, 2025; and on Sep 29 last year (with validity up to Aug 24, 2030). The last agreement (TOI has a copy)

displays Mridul's photograph on a stamp paper and is signed by him for 'Kitchen Flame'.

While constitutional court judges, in keeping with transparency norms, need to declare their shareholdings in companies to avoid conflict of interest, Justice Mridul, who retired as Manipur HC CJ on Nov 21, 2024, appears to have violated the code of ethics by continuing with the LPG distributorship allotted to him in 1984 by Bharat Petroleum.

This comes even as judiciary appeared to be bracing for likelihood of Parliament initiating the process for removal of Justice Yashwant Varma, formerly of Delhi HC, over discovery of bags of currency notes from his official bungalow.

► Ignored all notices, P 12

Ex-judge ignored all notices sent by BPCL

► Continued from P 1

The "Kitchen Flame" controversy, involving another judge of a constitutional court, can only deepen the embarrassment.

The Justice Mridul episode is marked by an interesting irony. While the judge may have issued notices to numerous people, entities and authorities, he ended up being slapped with a notice by BPCL on May 29, where the PSU spoke about a public grievance complaint filed in Dec 2025 against the judge alleging that "you have previously served in the capacity of a judge".

The oil marketing company said that Justice Mridul's running the gas agency violated the contract and asked him to explain why the distributorship should not be suspended.

"It prima facie appears that material facts regarding your full-time engagement in constitutional/judicial office during the subsistence of earlier distributorship agreements, and the manner in which the distributorship was being operated in your absence, were not disclosed to the corporation at any point of

The oil marketing company said that Justice Mridul's running the gas agency violated the contract and asked him to explain why the distributorship should not be suspended. In its notice, the company also reminded the judge about earlier letters on Jan 30 and Feb 26, seeking an explanation over the issue

time," BPCL said in its notice and reminded Justice Mridul that it had earlier written him letters on Jan 30 and Feb 26, seeking an explanation over the issue.

Referring to the clauses of the distributorship agreement, BPCL stated, "It prima facie appears that taking up and/or continuing judicial employment during the subsistence of the distributorship, without even prior written permission of BPCL, is violative of various clauses of the agreement."

Mridul apparently did not respond to any of the notices sent by BPCL, which on July 6 suspended the LPG distribution dealership of 'Kitchen Flame'. Two months earlier, Monika Yadav, widow of Deepak Yadav who was managing the LPG distributorship for Justice Mridul's 'Kitchen Flame', had moved Delhi high court

seeking a directive to BPCL to decide her application seeking reconstitution of proprietorship of the agency in her favour.

The Delhi high court had asked BPCL to decide her application within two months. After BPCL suspended the dealership of Kitchen Flame on July 6, Monika again moved the high court accusing BPCL of contumaciously not deciding her application for reconstitution of ownership of the agency and additionally suspending LPG supply.

In her petition, she said, "The petitioner, who has acted in good faith, complied with all requirements, and secured a favourable court order, is now being victimised for reasons entirely attributable to the outgoing proprietor (Justice Mridul) and the BPCL's own inaction over the years."

US Senators table Bill slapping 100% tariffs on India for buying Russian oil

China also on 5-nation penalty list | Move aimed at increasing pressure to end Ukraine war

UJWAL JALALI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 15

A bipartisan group of US Senators has introduced a legislation proposing tariffs of up to 100 per cent on imports from India, China and three other countries over their continued purchase of Russian oil, marking Washington's latest attempt to intensify economic pressure on Moscow over the Ukraine war.

The legislation targets the five largest buyers of Russian oil — India, China, Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan — while exempting 15 European countries that continue to import Russian natural gas. Lawmakers argued that gas



EMPOWERS PRESIDENT TO TAKE CALL ON LEVY

The Bill scales back an earlier proposal that sought to impose punitive tariffs of up to 500 per cent on countries importing Russian energy. Instead, it authorises US President Donald Trump to impose tariffs ranging from zero to 100 per cent, depending on the circumstances.

<< PM Modi with US President Donald Trump in France, FILE

purchase by those nations accounted for only a small share of their energy requirements and that they were steadily reducing their dependence on Russian supplies.

The Bill significantly scales

back an earlier proposal that sought to impose punitive tariffs of up to 500 per cent on countries importing Russian energy. Instead, it authorises US President Donald Trump to impose tariffs ranging

from zero to 100 per cent, depending on the circumstances. The measure, one of the last major legislative initiatives backed by the late Republican Senator,

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US Senators table Bill slapping 100% tariffs...

Lindsey Graham, has been introduced along with Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal, who urged Congress to move quickly on the proposal. Announcing the Bill, Blumenthal said the White House had agreed to the revised framework before Graham's death.

"Now is the time for this sweeping sanctions Bill," Blumenthal said, describing it as far broader than a tariff measure. According to Blumenthal, the legislation will impose "full blocking sanctions" on key sectors of the Russian economy, including its energy, financial and defence industries, while also targeting Russian President Vladimir Putin, oligarchs and other influential business figures.

He said the tariff provision had been "narrowly crafted" to apply only to the five largest importers of Russian oil. Speaking to reporters, one of the lawmakers said the exact tariff rate — anywhere between zero and 100 per

cent — would be determined with the objective of strongly discouraging continued purchase of Russian energy by the targeted countries.

The proposal comes as Washington seeks to tighten economic pressure on Moscow, with US lawmakers arguing that curbing Russia's energy revenues remains critical to weakening its ability to sustain the war in Ukraine.

India had sharply increased imports of discounted Russian crude after the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict in 2022, maintaining that its energy purchases were driven by national interest and the need to ensure affordable supplies for its consumers.

New Delhi has consistently defended its position, saying it does not recognise unilateral sanctions that are not mandated by the United Nations and that its energy sourcing decisions are based on market conditions and domestic requirements.

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India at risk of 100% US tariff for Russia oil buys

**KRITY AMBEY,
SHUBHANGI MATHUR &
ASIT RANJAN MISHRA**
New Delhi, 15 July

**BIPARTISAN BILL IN US
SENATE TARGETS THE
FIVE LARGEST IMPORTERS
OF RUSSIAN ENERGY**

A bipartisan group of US senators has introduced a revised Russia sanctions Bill proposing a 100 per cent tariff on goods from the five largest buyers of Russian crude oil and gas, including India.

The Bill, originally spearheaded by Senator Lindsey Graham before his death on July 12, had proposed a 500 per cent tariff on potentially all purchasers of Russian energy. The revised version narrows its scope to the five largest buyers—China, India, Hungary, Slovakia and Azerbaijan — while excluding most European countries.

India's imports of Russian

crude rose to a record 2.58 million barrels a day (bpd) in June, driven by constrained supplies from West Asian producers and discounts offered by Moscow. Russia accounted for nearly half of India's total crude imports during the month, according to maritime intelligence firm Kpler. Imports have remained robust in July and could exceed June's volumes.

The revised Bill also authorises American President Donald Trump to waive the sanctions if he determines that doing so is in the US national interest. Turn to Page 7 ►

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India at risk of 100% US tariff for Russia oil buys

The legislation has been introduced at a time when India and the US are struggling to seal an interim trade agreement, with New Delhi seeking a tariff advantage over competing economies. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday that the deal would be signed when the time is right. A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bipartisan Russia sanctions Bill has not figured in the ongoing trade negotiations. "The trade deal is expected to address all tariff-related concerns, including the bipartisan Bill," the official said.

Ajay Srivastava, founder of the GTRI, said India should continue to base its energy policy on national interest and energy security, arguing that the legislation is unlikely to become law even if it clears the Senate. "India should continue

buying Russian oil, just as China does, rather than allowing external political pressure to determine its energy policy. Given China's economic and strategic weight, any attempt to impose such tariffs would almost certainly invite retaliation, making enforcement against Beijing far more difficult than the legislation suggests," he added.

"For India, the challenge is even more pronounced. There are currently few alternative suppliers capable of replacing Russian crude at the same scale, reliability and economics. Russian crude remains the most practical and competitive source of supply for Indian refiners, and under current market conditions, it is difficult to see those volumes disappearing from the system in the near term," said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst at Kpler.

DATA NOMICS

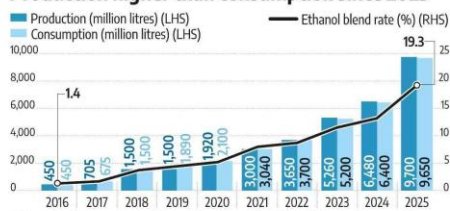
Despite adequate domestic output, India continues to import ethanol from US

JAYANT PANKAJ

On July 14, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari defended India's ethanol-blending policy, stressing that the ongoing West Asia crisis highlights why the country cannot remain dependent on imported fuel. India's ethanol fuel production has risen from 450 million litres in 2016 to 9,700 million litres in 2025, with consumption levels closely tracking production. The ethanol-blending rate has steadily increased, moving from 1 per cent in 2016 to 13 per cent in 2024, and further to 20 per cent in 2026. However, this surge in domestic production has had only a minimal impact on reducing

imports. India's ethanol fuel trade deficit stood at \$280 million in FY19, widened to \$459 million in FY25, and eased slightly to \$403 million in FY26. Despite higher blending rates, production has slightly exceeded consumption for the past three years. Even so, India imports most of its ethanol from the US. The US' share rose from 79 per cent in FY25 to 94 per cent in FY26. However, India's total ethanol imports remained under \$0.5 billion throughout. Globally, India ranked second in ethanol blending in 2025, behind Brazil.

Production higher than consumption since 2023



Note: 2025 data is projected data. Ethanol is not blended in ultra premium petrol
Source: United States Department of Agriculture Biofuels Annual Report

Minimal impact of higher production on imports

(in \$ million)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, BS calculations

US biggest supplier

Share of ethanol fuel imports by countries (%)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, BS calculations

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 16 July 2026	Page : 1, 7

US launches new strikes against Iran

REUTERS
Cairo/Dubai, July 15

THE US CONDUCTED a new wave of strikes against Iran's coastal defence systems and missile sites on Wednesday after reimposing a naval blockade of Iranian ports, while Iran threatened to shut off more regional energy exports.

The daytime strikes mark the latest escalation of attacks and counterattacks launched by the two sides as they vie for con-

trol of the Strait of Hormuz, which carried about a fifth of global oil and gas shipments before the war.

"At 6 am ET (4.30 pm IST) today, US Central Command forces began launching a wave of strikes against Iran," the US military said.

"The strikes are designed to further degrade military capabilities Iranian forces have used to attack commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz."

There were no immediate

reports of attacks in Iranian media. US Central Command said the military had attacked coastal defence systems and cruise missile storage and launch sites on Iran's Greater Tunb Island, and had completed the wave of strikes within around 90 minutes. That followed seven hours of strikes on Tuesday in which the US said it had hit dozens of military targets near the Hormuz.

Continued on Page 7

CRISIS DEEPENS

■ Hostilities have intensified since last week

■ Iran threatens to close 'all other export corridors'



Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 16 July 2026	Page : 1, 7

US launches new strikes against Iran

IN RESPONSE, IRAN'S Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it had struck US military targets in the region, including in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan. It also threatened to shut off more regional energy exports, saying the US "must brace for the closure of all other export corridors that benefit the US and its allies".

Hostilities have intensified since Iran said late on Saturday it had closed the Strait of Hormuz. The US says Iran had attacked seven commercial ships over the last week, leaving a dozen crew members killed or injured.

The war, which began with US and Israeli strikes against Iran on February 28, triggered Iranian attacks on Gulf states that host U.S. bases and caused major disruption to global energy supplies, raising fears of a surge in inflation. Oil prices edged up on Wednesday, after settling on Tuesday at a new one-month high.

An interim ceasefire deal in the conflict signed last month was meant to lead to further negotiations including on Iran's nuclear programme, and to a permanent truce, but a return to talks has faltered.

Analysts say that while the US and Iran have gone back to sparring as they did before the interim ceasefire deal was signed, they are unlikely to return to full-scale war, though a risk of escalation remains. They say Iran is signalling it may use its Houthi allies in Yemen to shut Bab el-Mandeb, opening a new front against Washington and putting two of the world's most vital energy arteries at risk.

Bab el-Mandeb links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, through which Saudi oil exports and a substantial share of global shipping pass. Some shippers have been returning to Red Sea routes after being deterred by Houthi attacks linked to the Gaza War that began in 2023.

As a result of this year's war, Iran has been trying to assert permanent control over shipping in Hormuz and to impose fees on vessels passing through it, in what would be a major shift of the balance of power in a region where the US has long acted as guarantor of security.

US' 100% tariff threat tests India's Russia oil strategy

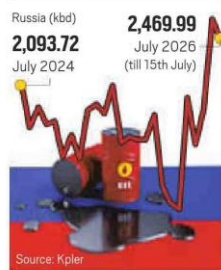
SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, July 15

INDIA'S RUSSIAN CRUDE strategy faces a fresh challenge, with US senators proposing tariffs of up to 100% on major buyers of Moscow's oil. The move comes at a time when Russian supplies have surged to 2.6 million barrels per day, accounting for more than half of India's crude imports.

The revised bill scales back an earlier 500% blanket tariff threat but narrows its focus to the world's five largest buyers of Russian oil or natural gas, placing India and China directly in its crosshairs.

This raises risks for India's refinery operations, fuel security and replacement crude costs. For India, the proposal also threatens a supply source that has emerged as its

SUPPLY RISK



strongest energy-security hedge amid disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. Russian crude imports rose to around 2.6 million barrels per day in June, accounting for more than 50% of India's total crude imports, according to Kpler.

Continued on Page 7

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
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India's Russia oil strategy

JULY ARRIVALS ARE also tracking at healthy levels and could match or exceed June volumes, reflecting a steady rise in Russian supplies since March.

"The proposed US tariffs on countries buying Russian crude should be viewed in the context of today's exceptionally volatile global oil market," said Sumit Ritolia, lead analyst for refining supply and modelling at Kpler.

"From India's perspective, Russian crude has become the country's strongest energy security hedge, particularly since the Strait of Hormuz disruptions," he said. Russian barrels have enabled Indian refiners to maintain high refinery run rates, ensure uninterrupted domestic fuel supplies and avoid the disruptions experienced by several other Asian refining systems, excluding China.

The tariff threat comes when alternative crude supplies remain constrained. India would need to replace a large part of the 2.6 million bpd

sourced from Russia if the proposed measure materially discourages purchases.

Ritolia said Russian crude has also acted as a stabilising force for the global market. The original sanctions framework was redesigned to keep Russian oil flowing because removing millions of barrels per day would tighten global crude balances and push prices higher, an outcome the US would not want.

"If secondary tariffs of 100%, or any number, were implemented in a way that reduced purchases of Russian crude, the market would first need to answer a question: where would the replacement barrels come from?" Ritolia said.

"With spare production capacity limited, Strait of Hormuz risks still elevated, and alternative supplies constrained, replacing Russian volumes at scale would be extremely challenging without triggering a sharp increase in oil prices," he added.

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Date : 16 July 2026	Page : 3

Instamart to sell HPCL's composite LPG cylinders

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION Limited (HPCL) on Tuesday said it would sell cooking gas cylinders on Swiggy's Instamart, marking the first time a state-run oil marketing company has put LPG onto a quick commerce platform. The service will be piloted in Bengaluru before a wider city rollout.

Customers will be able to order HPCL's newly branded HP Navya 10 kg composite cylinder, as well as a 5 kg metal cylinder, through the Instamart app. But unlike a typical quick commerce order, the cylinders will not be delivered by Instamart's own fleet. Orders will be fulfilled through HPCL's authorised distributor network and delivered by trained distributor personnel under existing safety and regulatory protocols, the companies said. First-time buyers must complete identity verification to receive a new cylinder, while subsequent refills will require returning the empty cylinder at the point of delivery, with proof-of-delivery documentation built into the process, it added.

During the pilot, cylinders will be delivered within 45 minutes, a person aware of the matter said, adding that fulfilment would move closer to Instamart's standard delivery speeds as the service expands. Expansion to all major metro cities is being targeted by the festive season, the sources added.

The tie-up is the latest attempt by Instamart to push beyond groceries into higher-value, essential categories as it works to lift order values and move towards contribution-margin breakeven, which Swiggy has guided for Q1FY27. Instamart, present in over 131 cities and listing more than 50,000 items, has been widening its assortment as platform order frequency has stayed under pressure, despite rising average order value.

—FE BUREAU

New Russia oil curbs bill aims 100% tariffs on India and China

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: A bipartisan group of US senators has unveiled a long-awaited bill imposing sweeping sanctions on Russia, naming India among five countries that could face tariffs for continuing to buy Russian oil, ANI reported.

The measure, negotiated by a bipartisan group of senators, would grant Trump authority to hit the countries with tariff rates up to 100%, Bloomberg reported.

The legislation, dubbed by some colleagues the "Lindsey Graham Russia Accountability Bill", was formally announced on Capitol Hill on Tuesday by Senators Richard Blumenthal and Jeanne Shaheen, along with Republicans Roger Wicker, Katie Britt, and more than a

dozen other lawmakers from both parties.

It comes promptly after the death of Senator Lindsey Graham, who spent nearly two years negotiating the measure and whom colleagues repeatedly credited as its driving force.

Senator Blumenthal, the lead Democratic sponsor, said the bill goes far beyond tariffs, imposing full blocking sanctions on large parts of Russia's economy, its energy and financial sectors, its defence industry, oligarchs, businesspeople, and Russian President Vladimir Putin himself.

Separately, the bill authorises the administration to impose tariffs, set at a rate above zero but capped well below full value, on countries identified as the largest buyers of Russian oil. Blumenthal named five: China, India, Slovakia, Hungary, and

Azerbaijan.

A related provision targets buyers of Russian natural gas, though it exempts countries importing less than 15% of their gas from Russia if they are already reducing purchases, a carve-out that shields most European allies. Senators were clear that the actual rate has not been decided and will be set by the US Trade Representative, not fixed in the bill itself.

Blumenthal said he expected it would be set high enough "to discourage China, India, and other major purchasers of Russian oil and gas strongly," but declined to give a figure.

The bill also includes waiver authority, along with reporting requirements to Congress if tariffs are later lowered.

Senator James Risch, chairman of the US Senate Foreign

Relations Committee, said he had pushed for a separate provision cracking down on Russia's "shadow fleet" tankers used to evade existing sanctions and keep exporting oil.

Lawmakers stressed that the bill has been significantly narrowed from earlier versions, which reportedly could have applied tariffs to as many as 63 countries. Blumenthal said the current draft focuses on a "very discreet number" of five oil and five gas buyers, with some overlap, a change he said reflected input from the Trump administration, which he said has now endorsed the bill in writing.

Senators said they hoped the redesign would win over House Democrats who had criticised the bill's broader, earlier version.

The announcement carried an emotional undertone, with sena-

tor after senator invoking Graham's memory.

Senator Wicker, who served alongside Graham for over three decades, called it "Lindsey Graham's greatest achievement."

Senator Ted Cruz said Graham had personally negotiated the bill's terms directly with President Trump before his death and urged colleagues to honour him by passing it "overwhelmingly."

Senators argued that the bill's timing is urgent, pointing to what they described as Ukrainian battlefield gains and continuing Russian strikes on civilian areas. Several said they expect the Senate could act before the end of August and that they had received assurances from the Senate Majority Leader that a vote will proceed once sufficient support is secured.

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Date : 16 July 2026	Page : 1, 4

PROPOSAL CUTS EARLIER 500% TARIFF PLAN

US Bill targets India, China with up to 100% tariffs for buying Russian oil

MPOST BUREAU

WASHINGTON/ NEW DELHI: A bipartisan group of US senators has introduced a revised Russia sanctions Bill that would allow President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on the five largest buyers of Russian oil, including India and China, while expanding sanctions on Rus-

sia's energy, financial and defence sectors. The proposal marks a significant shift from an earlier draft that sought blanket tariffs of 500 per cent on countries importing Russian oil and gas. Lawmakers said the revised version was carefully tailored to target the biggest purchasers of Russian energy while providing limited exemptions for certain countries reducing their

dependence on Moscow.

The legislation, originally introduced in April 2025 by late Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal, identifies India, China, Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan as the five largest buyers of Russian crude oil that could face tariffs of up to 100 per cent.

Continued on P4

US Bill targets

Blumenthal said the proposal goes far beyond tariffs.

"It has been referred to as a tariffs Bill, but actually it imposes full blocking sanctions on wide swaths of the Russian economy, including its energy industry, financial industry, defence industrial base, oligarchs, business people, and Vladimir Putin himself," he told reporters.

He said the tariff provisions were "narrowly tailored" and that US allies in Europe were not the focus of the legislation.

The revised Bill creates an exemption for countries importing less than 15 per cent of Russia's

natural gas exports if they are taking meaningful steps to reduce those purchases. Lawmakers said the provision could apply to several countries, while maintaining pressure on the biggest buyers of Russian energy.

Besides tariffs, the measure targets Russia's so-called shadow fleet of oil tankers, the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, major financial institutions and state-backed energy projects, including Yamal LNG and Arctic LNG 1, 2 and 3. It also gives Trump authority to waive sanctions if he determines doing so serves US national interests.

Senate aides said the Bill has 26 co-sponsors and expressed confidence it has a strong chance of passing after months of negotiations with the White House.

Trump said he supported the legislation and suggested sanctions on Iran and Hezbollah could also be added. "This is in honour of Lindsey. This was his thing. He wanted this more than anything," Trump said.

Blumenthal urged lawmakers to move ahead without broadening the proposal, saying, "We should move forward with this Bill rather than opening it, in my view, to other potential targets."

Lawmakers said the sanctions are intended to increase economic pressure on Moscow over its continuing war in Ukraine while discouraging major economies from financing Russia through energy purchases.

Hormuz jinx forces Indian refiners to dock at UAE's ports

Rituraj Baruah &
Subhash Narayan

NEW DELHI

The war in West Asia is reshaping India's energy supply routes. To avert risks, Indian refiners and importers are increasingly relying on the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Fujairah and Khor Fakkan ports along the Gulf of Oman to skip the Strait of Hormuz, three people familiar with the matter said.

These ports, on the east of the Strait of Hormuz, have emerged as a lifeline for India amid growing attacks on commercial ships. Indian refiners are also using the UAE's 406km Habshan-Fujairah strategic oil pipeline as a Hormuz bypass, the people said. While the alternatives bring some respite, the war continues to throw up new worries, including Tehran's reported threat on Wednesday to target alternative routes.

Apart from imports from the UAE, the Emirati ports are also playing a key role in routing energy supplies from other countries in the region, including liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar, said one of the people cited above,



Refiners are relying on UAE's Fujairah, Khor Fakkan ports.

requesting anonymity.

"Imports from West Asia, largely energy, are now mostly reliant on the UAE ports outside the Strait of Hormuz. It is being looked at to source energy supplies from other countries also through these ports," the second person added.

About 60% of India's crude oil imports, 54% of LNG imports and 90% of cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) imports were sourced from West Asia and routed via the Strait before the war. It is now a hotbed of the US-Iran war.

The Sohar port in Oman has

TURN TO PAGE 6

India eyes UAE ports to skirt Hormuz

FROM PAGE 1

also emerged as a pathway for energy commodities.

Shipments from Saudi Arabia have also shifted to its Yanbu port through the Red Sea, which receives oil through the Saudi Aramco's East-West pipeline for crude supplies to bypass Hormuz. However, this is logistically costlier as the route is longer.

India, world's third-largest energy buyer, imports about 90% of its crude oil needs.

"After the opening up of the Strait, it was thought the dependence on these ports would reduce. But now the importers, including refiners, have fallen back to these supply chains," added an Indian government official, one of the three people cited above, pointing to the easing war tensions after the two warring sides signed an interim peace agreement in mid-June that was nixed in less than two weeks.

India and the UAE became key trade partners after they signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2023, with bilateral trade crossing \$100 billion. Apart from being the third-



India is the world's third-largest energy buyer.

AFP

largest oil supplier to India, UAE is also the sole foreign investor and partner in India's strategic petroleum reserves.

So far in July, the UAE, third largest oil supplier after Russia and Saudi, has shipped 475,000 barrels crude per day to India.

Analysts say the UAE is considering expanding the terminals at Fujairah to ease freight movement. Manas Majumdar, leader, oil and gas at PwC India said, "Typically most of the energy exports from UAE used to take place

from the Jebel Ali port, which is towards the west of Strait of Hormuz. There are instances of cargo being transferred to the ports to the east or outside

of the strait. The UAE is also considering expanding the terminals at Fujairah."

Financial Times recently reported that Dubai-based ports and logistics major DP World plans to expand operations of the Fujairah port to include most of UAE's exports to bypass the Strait of Hormuz.

"UAE has been a key sup-

plier of energy to India traditionally, and due to the strategic partnership between the two countries it has enhanced the trade opportunities," added Sankalp Gurjar, associate professor at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics.

Queries emailed to the oil ministry, state-owned refiners the embassies of the UAE, Saudi and Oman, and shipping lines remained unanswered.

For India's state-owned refiners, there could be more worries coming up.

On Wednesday, Tehran warned that in response to the US naval blockade of Iranian energy exports, "other export routes for oil and gas which serve the interests of America and its allies" will also be closed, including the UAE's Fujairah pipeline and Saudi East-West pipeline, the *Tasnim* news agency reported.

India's oil supplies from Russia are also under threat as US senators have proposed a new bill to impose 100% tariff on eight Russian oil importing countries, including India.

rituraj.baruah@live-mint.com

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

India and the UAE became key trade partners after they signed the CEPA in 2023

The U.S. and Iran reckon with shrinking options to end war in the Middle East

David S. Cloud
Sheryl Holiday

With the U.S. and Iran slugging it out over the Strait of Hormuz again, each nation is running out of time to achieve its goals. The question is whose clock expires first.

President Trump would prefer a resolution before the November midterm elections and before oil prices surge back to painful levels for Americans. Tehran is hoping it can outlast Trump before a reimposed U.S. naval blockade cripples its already reeling economy—and without provoking another large-scale American and Israeli attack aimed at toppling the Islamic government.

Each side has concluded that its best course is to resume the conflict at a low level while waiting for the other to buckle, analysts said. "It's really about endurance now," said Hamidreza Azizi, a visiting fellow specializing in Iran at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

For Tehran, the immediate task is to maintain its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, using its battered but still formidable array of small boats and antiship missiles to block oil tankers and other ships from exiting the Persian Gulf. Achieving such an aim would raise the pressure on Trump, as it did after the war began, but there is less time now before U.S. voters go to the polls.

For Washington, the challenge is to find a way to slip out of that knot, by degrading Iranian military sites that threaten shipping and by curtailing Iran's oil exports from the gulf with a reimposed naval blockade. The strategy had limited success early in the conflict, but it might show better results as the toll on Iran mounts.

"Iran basically thinks that it can attack enough vessels that they'll effectively suppress shipping in the strait," said Rosemary Kelenic, director of the Middle East program at Defense Priorities, a Washington think tank. "Trump seems to think the U.S. has found a way to get significant quantities of oil out of Hormuz, even if the Iranians don't cooperate."

The U.S. has cleared shipping lanes off the southern Hormuz coast of Oman to help commercial vessels move in and out of the Gulf. Over the past two months, U.S. forces have helped more than 800 ships sail through the narrow



Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps managed to hit and disable ships using the southern route with its missiles. AFP

waterway, the American military has said.

As the ceasefire has crumbled in recent days, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps managed to hit and disable ships using the southern route with its missiles and drones, killing and injuring crew members and alarming

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

ships to go through the strait's northern passage, which hugs Iran's coast.

The attacks are threatening to choke off traffic and once again raise oil prices, after they returned briefly to prewar levels last month.

Prices for Brent crude, the international benchmark, rose 1.7% to \$84.73 a barrel on Tuesday and are up more than 1% over the past two days. They are still far below the highest levels reached at the beginning of the war, when prices breached \$100 a barrel.

U.S. strikes that restarted last week continued Tuesday, said the U.S. military, which added that its "forces began launching an additional round of strikes against Iran to continue degrading Iranian capabilities used to attack commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz." The U.S. blockade of Iranian ports and shipping resumed Tuesday afternoon.

The U.S. has used jet fighters, drones and attack helicopters flying over the strait to intercept Iranian weapons and boats before they can hit ships sailing along the Omani shore. But with Iran firing its coastal-defense cruise missiles from close range, some recent Iranian attacks came too fast to stop, a senior U.S. official said.

The Pentagon could potentially dedicate guided-missile destroyers to the navigation effort, positioning them alongside tankers and other ships

exiting the Gulf to shoot down Iranian missiles. But a convoy operation is impractical with the blockade in full force, U.S. officials say. The destroyers are needed in the Gulf of Oman to help prevent ships from traveling to and from Iranian ports, the officials added.

The ticking clock that both sides face as the fighting resumes in some ways favors Tehran, as long as it can keep the conflict contained.

"They don't want to escalate to the point where escalation would get out of control, where Trump is out of options other than more extreme military options," Azizi said.

Although the blockade is likely to harm Iran's economy further, Tehran has shown it can absorb such costs already and is now seeking to reconstitute missile arsenals and air defenses that have been badly degraded during the conflict.

The U.S. is unlikely to be able to stop Iran from threatening shipping in the strait without a sharp increase in its military effort, which it won't risk for reasons rooted in domestic politics, Alan Eyré, a former senior State Department negotiator with Iran who is now at the Middle East Institute, said in a social-media post Tuesday.

With the U.S. elections looming, Iran still has to worry that Trump might escalate attacks, seeking a clear-cut victory instead of allowing the conflict to continue through the midterms.

But such a strategy would carry heavy risks for Trump, analysts said. Iran would likely retaliate against U.S. allies in the Persian Gulf and even against Israel. The U.S. is facing shortages of interceptors that are critical for knocking out incoming Iranian missiles, making it dicier for Trump to stretch the clock.

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DESPITE PROPOSED US TARIFFS...

Russian Crude Key Energy Security Hedge, says Kpler

New Delhi: Proposed US tariffs targeting countries that buy Russian crude could inject fresh volatility into global oil markets, but replacing Russian supply would be difficult given limited spare production capacity and ongoing geopolitical risks, according to a Kpler analyst.

"Russian crude has become the country's strongest energy security hedge, particularly since the Strait of Hormuz disruptions," according to Sumit Ritolia, an analyst at Kpler.



US senators on Tuesday unveiled a revised bipartisan Russia sanctions bill that would impose sanctions on Russian officials while softening proposed tariffs on countries importing Russian oil and gas. The measure lowers the maximum tariff on the five largest buyers of Russian energy, including China and India, to 100% from the 500% proposed in the original bill introduced in April 2025. It exempts countries importing less than 15% of Russia's natural gas if they are taking significant steps to reduce purchases.

Russia supplied around 2.6 million barrels per

day (mbd) of crude to India in June, accounting for more than half of the country's total crude imports, Ritolia said. Imports have risen steadily since March, while July arrivals are on track to match or exceed June's volumes. - PTI

US, Iran Step Up Attacks as Fight for Hormuz Intensifies

US military targets coastal defences and cruise missile sites on Iran's Greater Tunb Island

Cairo | Dubai: The U.S. conducted a new wave of strikes against Iran's coastal defence systems and cruise missile storage and launch sites on Wednesday after reimposing a naval blockade of Iranian ports, while Iran threatened to shut off more regional energy exports.

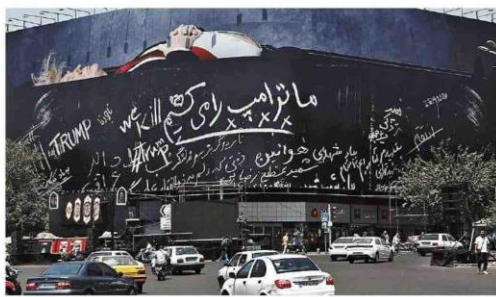
The strikes mark the latest escalation of attacks and counterattacks launched by the two sides as they vie for control of the Strait of Hormuz, which carried about a fifth of global oil and gas shipments before the war.

"At 6 a.m. ET today, U.S. Central Command forces began launching a wave of strikes against Iran," the U.S. military said.

"The strikes are designed to further degrade military capabilities Iranian forces have used to attack commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz."

There were no immediate reports of attacks in Iranian media. US Central Command said in a statement the military had targeted coastal defence systems and cruise missile storage and launch sites on Iran's Greater Tunb Island, and had completed the wave of strikes within around 90 minutes.

Late on Tuesday the US military said it had hit dozens of military



A billboard in Tehran showing US president Donald Trump laid in a coffin

IRAN STRIKES US TARGETS



Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps says it struck US military targets in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan

targets near the Strait of Hormuz and Iranian coastal areas in strikes lasting seven hours.

In response, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said on Wednesday it had struck U.S. military targets in the region, including in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan. It also threatened on Wednesday to shut off more regional energy exports,

saying the US "must brace for the closure of all other export corridors that benefit the U.S. and its allies".

Hostilities have intensified since Iran said late on Saturday it had closed the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. says Iran had attacked seven commercial ships over the last week, leaving nearly a dozen crew members killed, missing or injured.

The war, which began with U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran on February 28, triggered Iranian attacks on Gulf states that host U.S. bases and caused major disruption to global energy supplies, raising fears of a surge in inflation. Oil prices extended gains by about 1% on Wednesday, after settling on Tuesday on a new one-month high.

An interim ceasefire deal in the conflict signed last month was meant to lead to further negotiations including on Iran's nuclear programme, and to a permanent truce, but a return to talks has faltered.

Analysts say that while the U.S. and Iran have gone back to sparring as they did before the interim ceasefire deal was signed, they are unlikely to return to full-scale war, though a risk of further escalation remains.

They say Iran is signalling it may use its Houthi allies in Yemen to shut Bab el-Mandeb, opening a new front against Washington and putting two of the world's most vital energy arteries at risk.

As a result of the war, Iran has been trying to assert permanent control over shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and to impose fees on vessels passing through it, in what would be a major shift of the balance of power in a region where the U.S. has long acted as guarantor of security. **Reuters**

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UNDER AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT INITIATIVE

Urea Policy gets Cabinet OK



The Cabinet has approved a new framework to encourage investment in gas-based urea factories to ramp up local production. ►► **5**

THE AIM: SELF-SUFFICIENCY UNDER AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT INITIATIVE

Cabinet Nod for Urea Investment Policy to Boost Gas-based Units

Approval to help in setting up 8-9 plants with capacity of 10 mt, address forex risks

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026), a new framework to encourage investment in gas-based urea manufacturing units to boost domestic production.

The policy will help in setting up 8-9 new gas-based plants with a production capacity of 10 million tonnes aiming to achieve the goal of self-sufficiency under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the government said in a statement. The new policy introduces several changes over the earlier New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012. The investment window of the old policy ended in October 2019.

The new policy separates fixed and variable costs in pricing framework. It introduces a return on equity (RoE) band with a minimum of 12% and maximum of 16%. It also addresses foreign exchange risk by converting fixed costs into rupees after four years based on the prevailing exchange rate.

The government said these changes will improve transparency and save more than ₹250 crore for every plant set up under NIPU-2026 compared with projects approved under NIP-2012.



At present, there are 33 operational urea manufacturing units with a total installed capacity of 26.94 mt. In the last decade itself, six new urea plants were set up, which helped to reduce the country's dependence on imports.

"India's urea consumption is around 40 mt, while domestic production presently is close to 30 mt. The balance comes from imports. The new policy will help bridge that gap and make the country self-reliant in urea," information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

The closure of critical trade routes such as the Strait of Hormuz triggered an input cost escalation and logistical disruptions in the initial days when manufacturers either had to suspend production or scale it down. The government had to work hard to procure LNG for domestic manufacturing of urea to resume production at the usual rate.

"By encouraging significant new investments in domestic urea manufacturing, the policy has the potential to reduce import dependence, enhance supply reliability and create a more sustainable foundation for India's food production ecosystem," said Satyam Shivam Sundaram, partner, government and public sector, EY India.

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date : 16 July 2026	Page : 9

India should prioritise energy security

India should continue to base its energy policy on national interest and energy security, as imports of Russian oil have helped contain inflation and ensure stable energy supplies, think tank GTRI said on Wednesday. Commenting on the proposed US tariffs targeting countries that buy Russian crude, the GTRI said that the odds of this bill becoming law—and being enforced—appear low. "India should continue to base its energy policy on national interest and energy security. Russian oil has helped contain inflation and secure stable energy supplies," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

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Date :16 July 2026	Page : 1

Oil, gas exports are for everyone or no one: Iran

TEHRAN: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) warned that the oil and gas export routes of the United States' allies could also be targeted after claiming strikes on the US Navy's Fifth Fleet base in Bahrain, saying, "the region's oil and gas exports are either for everyone or for no one." According to the IRGC announcement, the force said it carried out the fifth wave of Operation Nasr 2, codenamed 'Mubarak Ya Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS)', and "smashed and destroyed" the NSI management centre [NSA Bahrain (Naval Support Activity Bahrain)], the command and control centre, large warehouses containing military parts and equipment, and fuel tanks at the US Fifth Fleet base in Bahrain.

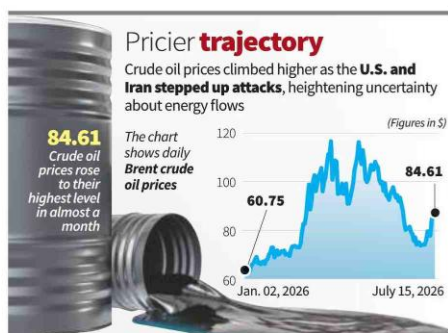
Iran threatens regional oil blockade over U.S. actions

Oil and gas 'will either be for everyone or no one', says Iran as U.S. claims 'wave of strikes'; U.S. blockade has 'dismantled' the peace MoU, says Tehran; Brent crude price nears \$85 a barrel

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

Returning to war nearly a month after signing a memorandum of understanding towards peace in West Asia, the U.S. and Iran on Wednesday launched strikes on targets across the region.

While the U.S. Central Command said it launched "a wave of strikes... designed to further degrade military capabilities Iranian forces have used to attack commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz", Iranian state media reported explosions near the port city of Bandar Abbas, on the island of Qeshm, and on Bandar Imam Khomeini. Iranian media later said new U.S. strikes hit the southern port city of Bush-



ehr, home to the country's only civilian nuclear plant. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they targeted the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, where the military said it had intercepted attacks against civilian targets, while Jordan's armed forces said they had downed three missiles

from Tehran. Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said the renewed U.S. blockade on Iranian ports "has, in a way, dismantled the Islamabad memorandum", referring to the interim deal reached last month to halt hostilities and pursue peace talks.

The Guards also threatened on Wednesday to halt all energy exports from West Asia over the blockade. "The export of oil and gas from the region will be either for everyone or for no one," it said.

The Brent crude oil, the international standard, traded close to \$85 a barrel on Wednesday – more than 15% higher than the price before the war, but still below the nearly \$120 reached at the height of the conflict. Analysts with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have warned that while a surplus of oil had kept prices low, "much of that room has now been used up".

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Iran warns of blockade over U.S. actions

“As tensions flare again in the Strait of Hormuz, that room [from oil surplus] is now smaller and shrinking further as spare capacity has been deployed, demand has compressed, and inventories have been drawn down,” Azim Sadikov and Jean-Marc Natal from the IMF wrote in a blog post. “Unless inventories are replenished, the world will start from a weaker position when the next shock comes.”

At the heart of the resumption of hostilities has been the dispute over the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway that is crucial for global oil and gas flows.

Iran blockaded Hormuz after the U.S. and Israel launched their massive attack on February 28, using it for leverage against its foes for months before briefly reopening it, and then again vowing it would be closed “until the U.S. ends its aggression”.

The U.S., in turn, has reimposed its own blockade of Iran’s ports, though Mr. Trump has backed down on a planned 20% levy on ships using the strait.

Since the war began, Iran has asserted its control over the strait and opened fire on ships for taking routes it says are unauthorised.

“The retaliatory operations of the fighters will continue, and the strait will remain closed until the U.S. ends its acts of aggression,” the Guards have said.

Recent escalations

A Norwegian tanker was hit by an explosion caused by an unidentified device off the Omani coast early on Tuesday, the crisis response company MTI Network said.

Kuwait said one of its naval vessels was struck during an Iranian missile and drone barrage, wounding four crew members.

Since last week, renewed U.S. attacks have killed at least 30 people in Iran, a government spokesperson said. Separately, the military announced that seven of its personnel were killed in Wednesday’s strikes on the southeast.



Publication : The Hindu	Editions : New Delhi
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Indian Gas Exchange files IPO papers; parent to divest stake

Indian Gas Exchange Ltd. (IGX), the country's first online delivery-based trading platform for natural gas, has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The proposed public issue is entirely an Offer For Sale (OFS) of up to 1.67 crore equity shares by promoter Indian Energy Exchange Ltd (IEX), according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed on Tuesday.

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‘Oil exploration only after resolving Assam-Nagaland border disputes’

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Konyak Union, the apex body of the Konyak Naga community, has asked the Nagaland government to proceed with the joint oil exploration with Assam only after the long-pending border disputes between the two States are resolved.

The union insisted that territorial clarity, landowners' consent, and stronger border security must precede the implementation of the bilateral agreement. The border dispute between the two States has claimed more than 150 lives since the 1960s, when Nagaland was carved out of Assam.

The Konyak Union's advisory board council and the union executive council recently reviewed the June

Konyak Nagas said territorial clarity, landowners' consent must precede implementation of bilateral agreement

11 memorandum of understanding on oil exploration signed by the governments of Assam and Nagaland in New Delhi. The agreement was inked in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah.

In a statement on July 14, the Konyak Union said that the Nagaland government should first resolve disputed areas, particularly the Tizit-Naginimora belt and the boundary between Longwa in Nagaland's Mon district and Pongchao in Arunachal Pradesh's Longding district, before initiating oil exploration to

avoid future disputes.

It also urged the government to ensure that the concerns, rights, and consent of landowners are taken into consideration before any final decision is made, maintaining that stakeholder participation is essential for a fair, transparent, and acceptable outcome.

Clarity sought

The Konyak Union also backed the recent stand of a Lotha Naga organisation, which sought clarity on the Disputed Area Belt and other border issues to safeguard Nagaland's territorial integrity. Expressing concern over unresolved boundary issues in Mon district, the union alleged that Google Maps continues to inaccurately depict parts of Nagaland's borders.

MNRE, US firm in talks to tap geothermal energy

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Top officials from the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) including Secretary Santosh Sarangi met Graham Gillies, Vice President for Asia-Pacific at Baker Hughes, on Tuesday to strengthen cooperation in the renewable energy sector.

The discussions covered renewable energy integration, grid stability, green hydrogen and ammonia, and emerging technologies such as geothermal energy, the Ministry said.

During the meeting, Sarangi highlighted India's remarkable renewable energy journey, driven by enabling policies, and underscored the importance of collaboration to accelerate innovation and advance the clean energy transition.

The US is the leading country in geothermal energy. The Houston-headquartered Baker Hughes has around 40 years of experience in geothermal energy.

POLICY SUPPORT

The development assumes importance as India is pushing for expanding the geothermal energy segment. To enhance participation from private sector, the Ministry is exploring incentives such as tax breaks, viability gap funding (VGF) and long term concessional loans to expand potential and viability of the site-specific renewable energy source.

To this effect, the MNRE in September last year unveiled the National Policy on Geothermal Energy to harness geothermal resources for power generation and direct-use applications such as district heating, agriculture, aquaculture, and space cooling as well as heating via Ground Source Heat Pumps.



To enhance participation from the private sector, the Ministry is exploring incentives such as tax breaks, VGF and long term concessional loans

In this direction, the policy aims to integrate geothermal energy with India's Net Zero (2070) target and renewable energy objectives. The government may explore the possibility of long-term concessional loans from and viability gap funding, among other avenues and fiscal support such as tax breaks.

COSTLY SOURCE

Currently, geothermal energy is cost intensive with around ₹36 crore required to create 1 MW of capacity (global estimate) with electricity costing around ₹10 per unit in India.

India's geothermal energy capacity is projected to be around 10 GW, with studies and pilot projects underway to ascertain its real potential.

Globally, geothermal capacity is around 15.43 GW, as per IRENA's RE capacity statistics 2024. Geothermal energy increased by roughly 0.4 GW in 2024 from around 15.05 GW in 2023, led by New Zealand, Indonesia, Türkiye and the US.

Crude oil prices rise as W. Asia hostilities escalate

Reuters
London

Crude oil extended gains as the US said it had begun a new wave of strikes against Iranian military installations on Wednesday, aiming to limit Tehran's ability to strike commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

Washington earlier reimposed a naval blockade of Iranian ports and launched overnight strikes, prompting the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to threaten to close "all other export corridors that benefit the US and its allies".

SUPPLY FEARS

Brent futures gained 18 cents, or 0.2 per cent, to \$84.91 a barrel at 1214 GMT. West Texas Intermediate futures rose 26 cents, or 0.3 per cent, to \$79.60 a barrel.

Crude oil prices settled up 2 per cent at a one-month high on Tuesday as attacks exacerbated a supply disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passed before the war's outbreak.

The hostilities between Iran and the US reignited last

week, fraying an already fragile truce reached in June after several months of fighting. Late on Tuesday, the US military said it had hit dozens of military targets near the strategic waterway and Iranian coastal areas in strikes lasting seven hours.

In response, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said on Wednesday it struck US military targets in the region, including in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan. The US military said its fresh strikes on Wednesday against Iran's coastal defence systems and cruise missile storage and launch sites were "designed to further degrade military capabilities Iranian forces have used to attack commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz".

Analysts have said Iran has been signalling it may use its Houthi allies in Yemen to shut the Bab el-Mandeb gateway to the Red Sea, opening a new front against Washington and putting two of the world's most vital energy arteries at risk. Further strengthening oil prices was a US naval blockade of ships coming and going to Iranian ports, said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo.

The case for hydrogen trains must be studied

India's first hydrogen train could generate practical knowledge in fuel-cell operation, storage, safety and long-term reliability

Sudhanshu Mani

After more than three years of ambitious announcements, social media teasers and repeated postponements, Indian Railways' (IR's) first hydrogen-powered train is finally ready. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to flag it off later this week.

The train will operate between Jind and Sonapat and consists of two hydrogen-powered driving power cars, each producing 1,200 kW of traction power, and eight passenger coaches.

The launch deserves recognition. Hydrogen fuel cells generate electricity while emitting only water vapour, and the train represents a significant engineering achievement. Although the fuel-cell stack itself is imported, an Indian company has successfully developed the propulsion, control systems and overall integration. India thus becomes only the third country, after Germany and China, to introduce hydrogen trains in commercial passenger service.

Yet technological milestones should encourage informed debate rather than unquestioned celebration.

Germany, which pioneered hydrogen rail technology with the Alstom Coradia iLint in 2022, has already scaled back many of its operations, with several routes shifting towards battery-powered

trains after encountering issues such as fuel-cell degradation, supply chain challenges and operational reliability. Japan, Sweden, South Korea, Switzerland and the US have confined themselves largely to demonstration projects while continuing to evaluate the technology.

India is perhaps the only country to run a hydrogen-powered passenger train on a fully electrified route under the wire; hydrogen trains are designed as an alternative to polluting diesel trains on non-electrified regional lines.

HERITAGE ROUTES

As an afterthought, therefore, it changed the discourse to 'Hydrogen for Heritage', declaring that 35 such trains shall be developed for eight scenic, ecologically sensitive narrow-gauge and metre-gauge heritage routes.

The concept has merit. Heritage railways traverse environmentally sensitive regions where conventional electrification may be undesirable, and hydrogen could potentially offer a cleaner alternative. However, these routes are small, geographically dispersed and located in remote areas. Establishing hydrogen production, storage and refuelling infrastructure at each location would be expensive and operationally demanding. Moreover, despite a budgetary allocation of about ₹2,800 crore three years ago, little



HYDROGEN TRAIN. A vital case study ANI

visible progress has been made towards developing these heritage train prototypes.

The broader question concerns hydrogen itself. Hydrogen is often described as the fuel of the future, but it is more accurately an energy carrier than a primary fuel. Unlike coal, petroleum or uranium, hydrogen must first be manufactured using energy before it can be used. It is then compressed or liquefied, transported, stored and finally converted back into electricity inside a fuel cell. Every stage consumes energy, leaving hydrogen with significantly lower overall efficiency than battery-electric systems. However, inexplicably, IR has not yet pursued battery-powered trains in any significant way.

Hydrogen's environmental

credentials also depend on how it is produced. More than 95 per cent of global hydrogen is currently derived from natural gas, a process that emits carbon dioxide. Truly green hydrogen, produced by splitting water using renewable electricity, remains considerably more expensive. Unless the electricity used for electrolysis itself comes from renewable sources, hydrogen cannot be described as a completely green fuel.

Despite these challenges hydrogen offers considerable promise in sectors where batteries face fundamental limitations, such as green steel production, fertilizer manufacture, long-distance shipping and perhaps aviation. Railways, however, present a far more nuanced case.

The Jind-Sonapat prototype will nevertheless provide invaluable operational experience. Indian engineers will acquire practical knowledge in fuel-cell operation, hydrogen storage, maintenance, safety and long-term reliability. That experience makes the project worthwhile, provided future decisions are guided by evidence and close study of international experience rather than by technological enthusiasm.

The writer is Retd. General Manager/Indian Railways, Leader of Vande Bharat project & Independent Rail Consultant

INDIA IS THE SECOND-BIGGEST EXPORT MARKET FOR RUSSIAN CRUDE

US bill proposes 100% tariffs on top five buyers of Russian energy

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, July 15

A REWORKED bill, backed by a bipartisan group of US senators, proposes up to 100% tariffs on the top buyers of Russian oil and natural gas, which include India and China. The move comes amid renewed Gulf crisis with experts calling it impractical. The bill, initially backed by the late US senator Lindsey Graham, was aimed at squeezing Russia's revenue from oil and gas exports. Following Graham's sudden demise last week, the group of US senators on Tuesday unveiled the revised version of the Russia sanctions bill.

Although it remains to be seen whether the bill will turn into law in its current form — considering the original bill failed to move beyond the initial phases for over a year — the proposed legislation would certainly be a cause of concern for New Delhi. Notably, the new bill is a watered-down version of the original, and does offer some room for workarounds and concessions from Washington. India is expected to push for those, if at all, the bill

is enacted, according to industry experts and analysts.

The new bill proposes tariffs of up to 100% on the top five buyers of Russian oil and natural gas, against the proposal of a blanket 500% tariff on buyers of Russian energy in the original version that had been hanging fire. While this reduction in proposed tariffs appears meaningful on paper, the cap is still too high for India, which is also working to finalise a trade deal with the US. Importantly, from New Delhi's perspective, the new bill gives powers to the US president to issue waivers on its provisions.

"India would almost certainly push for it (waiver), and it would make sense for the US to agree as a friendly concession, especially given how serious the situation is for New Delhi," Abu Dhabi-based energy analyst Natalia Katona told *The Indian Express*. She added that the bill "risks colliding" with the India-US trade talks.

That would be counterproductive for both Washington and New Delhi, which have made progress in negotiations after initial setbacks and hiccups. The use of tariffs under



The new bill is a watered-down version of the original, and does offer some room for workarounds. REUTERS

the proposed law as leverage by Washington cannot be ruled out. Any such ploy by the US would create additional pressure on India. Even for Washington, taking away millions of barrels of Russian oil from the market when energy flows from West Asia remain stifled wouldn't be prudent. That would worsen an already worrying supply situation, sending oil prices soaring, something that the Donald Trump administration wouldn't want ahead of the US midterm polls.

Meaningfully reducing Russian oil imports is just not an

option in the prevailing circumstances of global supply tightness amid the West Asia crisis. As per Kpler data, India's Russian oil imports rose to 2.6 million barrels per day (bpd) in June, accounting for over half of New Delhi's oil imports. July could match or even exceed June's volumes.

"From India's perspective, Russian crude has become the country's strongest energy security hedge, particularly since the Strait of Hormuz disruptions. Russian barrels have enabled Indian refiners to maintain high refinery run

rates, ensure uninterrupted fuel supplies, and avoid the disruptions experienced by several other Asian refining systems," said Sumit Ritolia, modelling and refining manager at Kpler.

While there are calls from some US lawmakers to expedite the bill's passage, the prevailing energy market dynamics add an element of uncertainty. Nonetheless, India is expected to communicate its energy concerns to Washington, as was done last year as well when the original bill was mooted. Experts are also sceptical about the bill's prospects.

"The question is whether this bill is economically real at all. I simply do not see this bill passing, or remaining in its current form. It has already been diluted from a 500% tariff threat against virtually all buyers of Russian oil and gas to a maximum of 100% aimed at only the five largest. European exemptions and presidential waivers have also been added. That tells you the political slogan is already being adjusted to economic reality," said Katona.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

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HPCL intensifies ethanol quality monitoring across network; conducts 3,651 inspections

MUMBAI: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has further strengthened its nationwide fuel quality surveillance programme through extensive inspections and testing of ethanol-blended petrol across its pan-India retail outlet network, reaffirming its commitment to delivering quality fuels to customers. Between July 7 and July 13, 2026, HPCL field officers conducted 2,173 surprise inspections at retail outlets to verify ethanol blending compliance.

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Headline: Bill introduced to impose 100% US tariffs on five countries for purchasing Russian oil

रूसी तेल खरीदने पर पांच देशों पर 100% अमेरिकी शुल्क लगाने का विधेयक पेश

एजेंसी। वाशिंगटन।

अमेरिका के दोनों प्रमुख दलों- रिपब्लिकन पार्टी और डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी के सांसदों के एक समूह ने सीनेट में एक विधेयक पेश किया है, जिसमें रूस से तेल खरीदने के लिए भारत और चीन समेत पांच देशों पर 100 प्रतिशत तक आयात शुल्क लगाने का प्रस्ताव है।

रिपब्लिकन सीनेटर लिंडसे ग्राहम की पहल पर तैयार इस विधेयक में रूस से तेल खरीदने वाले 15 यूरोपीय देशों को शुल्क से छूट दी गई है। इसके पीछे तर्क दिया गया है कि रूस से उनकी खरीद उनकी कुल जरूरत का बहुत छोटा हिस्सा है और ये देश मॉस्को पर अपनी निर्भरता कम करने के लिए कदम उठा रहे हैं। ग्राहम का रविवार तड़के निधन हो गया। भारत और चीन के अलावा स्लोवाकिया, हंगरी और अजरबैजान भी 100 प्रतिशत प्रस्तावित शुल्क के दायरे में हैं। इसे शुल्क संबंधी विधेयक कहा जा रहा है, लेकिन वास्तव में यह रूस के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र, वित्तीय क्षेत्र, रक्षा औद्योगिक आधार, धनाढ्य



कारोबारियों, उद्योगपतियों और स्वयं व्लादिमीर पुतिन समेत रूसी अर्थव्यवस्था के बड़े हिस्से पर पूरी तरह रोक लगाने वाले प्रतिबंध लागू करता है। ब्लूमैथल ने कहा, इसमें लक्षित शुल्क लगाने का प्रावधान है। यह शुल्क रूसी तेल के पांच प्रमुख खरीदारों तक सीमित होगा और इसकी दर 100 प्रतिशत तक हो सकती है। इसमें छूट देने का अधिकार भी बहुत सीमित रखा गया है। फिलहाल रूसी तेल के ये पांच प्रमुख खरीदार चीन, भारत, स्लोवाकिया, हंगरी और अजरबैजान हैं। यदि यह विधेयक पारित हो जाता है तो यह पहली बार होगा, जब अमेरिकी कांग्रेस किसी अन्य देश के युद्ध प्रयासों के लिए धन उपलब्ध कराने वाले देशों को दंडित करने के उद्देश्य से शुल्क को भू-राजनीतिक हथियार के रूप में

इस्तेमाल करने की स्पष्ट अनुमति देगी। विधेयक के पहले के संस्करण में रूस से तेल और गैस खरीदने वाले देशों पर 500 प्रतिशत शुल्क लगाने का प्रस्ताव था। ब्लूमैथल ने कहा, हमारे यूरोपीय सहयोगियों को इसमें निशाना नहीं बनाया गया है। उन्होंने कहा, यह समझना बहुत जरूरी है कि हमने इस विधेयक को इस तरह तैयार किया है कि इसका दायरा बहुत सीमित रहे और यह मुख्य रूप से रूसी तेल और गैस के बड़े खरीदारों को ही निशाना बनाए। कैपिटल हिल (अमेरिकी संसद परिसर) में आयोजित संवाददाता सम्मेलन में रिपब्लिकन और डेमोक्रेटिक सीनेटरों ने एक साथ खड़े होकर इस विधेयक को दक्षिण कैरोलाइना के सीनेटर ग्राहम को श्रद्धांजलि के रूप में पेश किया। ग्राहम का रविवार तड़के निधन हो गया था। अलबामा से रिपब्लिकन सीनेटर केटी ब्रिट ने कहा कि ग्राहम ने इस विधेयक को तैयार कराने के लिए बिना थके और लगातार काम किया था और उनका मानना था कि यह उनके राजनीतिक जीवन का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कानून बनेगा।

Delhi signs MoU for compressed bio-gas plants to handle city's waste, boost livestock farmers' income

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 15 July

To ensure the proper disposal of cow dung, which contributes to the pollution of the Yamuna River, Delhi has geared up to establish Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for the construction of the plants.

According to officials from the Ministry, the MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Delhi Lieutenant Governor



Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Union Home Secretary, the Union Cooperation Secretary, and several senior officials from the Central and Delhi governments.

"The agreement will serve as a model for making all major cities of the country clean," Shah said after the signing of the MoU. He added that the initiative would not only increase the income of

livestock farmers but also improve cleanliness, generate Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), and provide a major boost to organic farming.

Shah said that every citizen of the country wants the

SHAH SAID THAT EVERY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTRY WANTS THE YAMUNA RIVER TO BE CLEAN, BUT THIS GOAL CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT STOPPING THE DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE AND OTHER WASTE INTO THE RIVER.

Yamuna River to be clean, but this goal cannot be achieved without stopping the discharge of sewage and other waste into the river. He added that the agreement is an important step towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to clean the Yamuna.

Highlighting the progress made so far, the Home Minister said work had already begun on around 80 treatment plants in Delhi for the treatment of sewage and industrial waste.

He said arrangements were being made to ensure that not even a small amount of cow dung enters the Yamuna River in the future. He added that this would not be possible without the proper disposal of waste generated by nearly 1.25 lakh cattle.

Shah said the government aims to ensure that not a single litre of untreated water enters the Yamuna River by December 2028.

He further said that cow dung would be processed at the Nangli, Ghoga-Goyla and Ghazipur waste disposal plants. According to Shah, the agreement will serve as a model for metropolitan cities across the country and, in the future, the processing of cow dung will also benefit livestock farmers in rural India.

Civic body & national dairy board join hands to set up bio-gas plants

ANSHITA MEHRA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 15

In a bid to tackle cattle waste and accelerate the Yamuna clean-up, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to establish compressed bio-gas (CBG) plants for the scientific processing of cow dung in the national capital.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, Union Animal Husbandry Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Mayor Pravesh Wahi and senior officials from the Centre and the Delhi government.

Addressing the gathering, Shah described the agreement as a major step towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to cleaning the Yamuna and said it would serve as a model for other cities across the country.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with CM Rekha Gupta and others in New Delhi on Wednesday.

"All citizens want the Yamuna river's water to be clean, but this dream cannot be realised without stopping the discharge of filth and sewage into the river. This agreement is an important step in that direction," Shah said.

He said the government was making arrangements to ensure that cattle waste no longer find its way into the river and announced that the processing of cow dung would be carried out at Nangli, Ghoga-Goyla and Ghazipur waste disposal facilities.

Shah said nearly 1.25 lakh

cattle in Delhi generate a substantial quantity of dung every day, making scientific processing essential. He added that livestock farmers would be paid Rs 1 per kilogram of cow dung, a move aimed at encouraging proper disposal while providing them an additional source of income.

The Union Home Minister also said work had already begun on around 80 treatment plants for sewage and industrial waste in Delhi and reiterated the government's target of ensuring that not a single litre of untreated

wastewater enters the Yamuna by December 2028.

According to the government, the CBG plants will convert cattle dung into compressed bio-gas and organic manure, promoting clean energy, improving urban sanitation and supporting organic farming. Officials said the initiative is expected to reduce pollution caused by indiscriminate dumping of cattle waste while creating a sustainable waste-management model that can be replicated in other metropolitan cities.

Online

Headline	Indian Gas Exchange files IPO papers as parent IEX looks to pare stake		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

Indian Gas Exchange files IPO papers as parent IEX looks to pare stake

<https://www.7globe.in/indian-gas-exchange-files-ipo-papers-as-parent-iex-looks-to-pare-stake/>

The proposed IPO will be entirely an offer for sale (OFS), with parent Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) planning to sell up to 1.67 crore shares.

Since the issue does not include a fresh equity component, IGX will not receive any proceeds from the offering.

The stake sale is aimed at complying with regulatory norms. IEX currently holds 47.3% in IGX and plans to reduce its shareholding to 25%, which is the maximum ownership permitted for any shareholder that is not a member of a gas exchange.

According to the draft prospectus, IGX's shares are proposed to be listed on the BSE.

Earlier this year, IGX Managing Director and CEO Rajesh Kumar Mediratta told news agency PTI that the company had deferred its IPO by a year after seeking an extension. The public issue is now expected to be launched before December 2026.

Looking ahead, the exchange plans to expand its product offerings, subject to regulatory approvals. Mediratta had earlier said IGX intends to introduce one-year and two-year gas contracts, in addition to long-term contracts with tenures of three months and six months. At present, the exchange offers day-ahead and five term-ahead contracts daily, weekday, weekly, fortnightly and monthly.

Longer-duration contracts are still a small part of the business. The three-month and six-month contracts contributed less than 5% of total traded volumes in FY26, while monthly contracts accounted for 59% of volumes during the first nine months of FY26. Overall, trading volumes on the exchange increased 46% during the April-December 2025 period.

Beyond gas contracts, IGX also plans to launch a platform for booking regasified liquefied natural gas (R-LNG) capacity, besides introducing a hydrogen index and hydrogen trading platform.

IGX operates an electronic marketplace for natural gas, facilitating spot, forward and delivery-based contracts.

Apart from IEX, the exchange's shareholders include GAIL, ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation, Adani Total Gas, Torrent Gas and NSE Investments.

For FY26, the Noida-based company reported a 36.5% increase in net profit to 42.02 crore, while revenue rose 25% to 61 crore.

Headline	ONGC-NTPC-backed Ayana bags 50 MW wind power project from SECI		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

ONGC-NTPC-backed Ayana bags 50 MW wind power project from SECI

<https://www.7globe.in/ongc-ntpc-backed-ayana-bags-50-mw-wind-power-project-from-seci/>

The project was awarded under SECI's tender for the selection of wind power developers to set up 2,000 MW of ISTS-connected wind power projects in India under tariff-based competitive bidding (SECI Tranche-XX).

Ayana secured the 50 MW capacity at a tariff of 3.85 per kWh in the e-reverse auction conducted by SECI. The auction concluded on July 15, 2026.

ONGC NTPC Green Pvt Ltd is a 50:50 joint venture between NTPC Green Energy Ltd and ONGC Green Ltd, and Ayana is its wholly owned subsidiary.

Earlier on July 7, NTPC Green had informed that it has decided to issue unsecured non-convertible debentures (NCDs) worth 2,500 crore on July 9, 2026, through a private placement, according to a regulatory filing.

The debentures will carry a coupon of 7.27% per annum and have a tenor of 10 years, maturing on July 9, 2036.

The company said this is the first issue of debentures under the approval granted by its board of directors on May 22, 2026.

The proceeds of the issue will be utilised, among other things, for financing capital expenditure, including refinancing and recoupment of capital expenditure already incurred by the company, extending such financing for capital expenditure to its subsidiaries and joint ventures through inter-corporate loans, and for other general corporate purposes.

NTPC Green Energy shares ended at 93.00 on the NSE on July 15, down 1.22% or 1.15 from the previous close. The stock settled at 93.00 at the close of trade.

Headline	SEAMEC deploys SEAMEC PALADIN vessel on charter with ONGC		
Publication	Balaji Equities	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

SEAMEC deploys SEAMEC PALADIN vessel on charter with ONGC

<https://www.balajiequities.com/Market/News/News-details/1710243>

SEAMEC announced that its vessel 'SEAMEC PALADIN' after completion of its regulatory formalities has been on hired with effect from 15 July 2026 at 06:10 hrs to resume its long term charter with ONGC.

Headline	Rajasthan govt pushes for higher crude oil output via advanced technologies		
Publication	Bhaskar Live	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

Rajasthan govt pushes for higher crude oil output via advanced technologies

<https://bhaskarlive.in/rajasthan-govt-pushes-for-higher-crude-oil-output-via-advanced-technologies/>

Jaipur, July 14 (IANS) Concerned over the decline in crude oil production in recent years, the Rajasthan government has asked oil-producing companies to deploy the latest technologies to boost output.

Additional Chief Secretary (Mines and Petroleum) Aparna Arora said refining more of the state's crude oil within Rajasthan would significantly enhance value addition and drive economic growth.

The Rajasthan government has stepped up efforts to formulate a comprehensive action plan for increasing crude oil and natural gas production in the state, with a strong emphasis on adopting advanced technologies and expanding exploration activities.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday with senior officials from organisations engaged in crude oil and natural gas exploration and production, Arora stressed the need to leverage globally proven technologies to enhance production. She noted that Rajasthan ranks second in onshore natural gas production and third in crude oil production in the country.

Rajasthan now has the capacity to process around 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil produced within the state.

She observed that crude oil production has declined in recent years and called upon producing companies to adopt the latest technologies to reverse the trend. She emphasised that maximising refining of Rajasthan's crude oil within the state would contribute significantly to economic growth and value addition.

The Additional Chief Secretary said oil and gas companies should pursue a two-pronged strategy by accelerating exploration in new prospective areas while simultaneously enhancing production from existing fields through advanced recovery technologies. She stressed the need for a long-term action plan to achieve sustained growth in production.

She informed the meeting that Rajasthan has four major crude oil and natural gas basins: the Jaisalmer Basin, Barmer-Sanchore Basin, Bikaner-Nagaur Basin, and Vindhyan Basin.

Exploration and production activities are currently underway in the Jaisalmer, Barmer-Sanchore, and Bikaner-Nagaur basins. Petroleum Director Awadhesh Singh informed the meeting that the state has so far granted 12 petroleum mining leases and 12 petroleum exploration licences.

Rajasthan is currently producing approximately 54,000 barrels of crude oil per day and 2.2 million standard cubic metres of natural gas per day (MMSCMD). Representatives of Cairn India, ONGC, Oil India Limited, and Focus Energy made detailed presentations on ongoing exploration and production activities.

The meeting was also attended by Special Secretary (Mines) Namrata Vrishni, SG Sunil Kumar Verma, Joint Director (Petroleum) Dilip Raj Sharma, Deputy Directors Rohit Mallah, Mohan Kumawat, and Ankit Soni, along with representatives of the participating companies.

Headline	GAIL GAS CEO visits to Dehradun GA		
Publication	Bureaugram Inside	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

GAIL GAS CEO visits to Dehradun GA

<https://bureaugram.com/news/gail-gas-ceo-visits-to-dehradun-ga>

Ashu Shinghal, CEO, GAIL Gas Limited, visited the Dehradun Geographical Area (GA) to review ongoing operations, interact with employees, and celebrate significant milestones in the region's growth journey.

During the visit, he commissioned PNG supply to ONGC Colony, Dehradun, officially declaring it an LPG-Free Society. This achievement further strengthens the longstanding partnership between ONGC and GAIL in advancing India's natural gas ecosystem and promoting cleaner energy adoption.

He also inaugurated a new commercial PNG connection at Anandam Sweets, one of Dehradun's leading food chains, with a gas demand of 180 SCMD, marking another step forward in expanding PNG infrastructure across the region.

Shinghal congratulated the Dehradun GA team on achieving the significant milestone of 1 Lakh SCMD gas sales, applauding their dedication, hard work, and commitment to operational excellence. He reiterated GAIL Gas Limited's continued support for accelerating growth and enhancing customer service across the Geographical Area.

The visit reflected GAIL Gas Limited's continued focus on expanding cleaner energy access, strengthening City Gas Distribution infrastructure, and building partnerships that support a more sustainable energy future.

Headline	SEAMEC enters charter hire contract for SEAMEC GLORIOUS		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

SEAMEC enters charter hire contract for SEAMEC GLORIOUS

https://www.business-standard.com/markets/capital-market-news/seamec-enters-charter-hire-contract-for-seamec-glorious-126071500195_1.html

SEAMEC has entered into a Bimco Charter Party with M/s. Lamprell Energy for Charter Hire of our Barge SEAMEC GLORIOUS for working in Mumbai High & West Coast Offshore including Daman Oilfield for carrying out jobs related to offshore accommodation and hook-up work barge & Support for Project of Oil and Natural Gas

Corporation (ONGC). The firm period of Charter is for 180 days with option for extension. The charter to commence within the window period of 15 October 2026 to 31 October 2026.

The total value of the contract is USD 5.21 million, inclusive of GST.

Headline	Seamec 's vessel SEAMEC Paladin begins long-term charter with ONGC		
Publication	Business Upturn	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

Seamec 's vessel SEAMEC Paladin begins long-term charter with ONGC

<https://businessupturn.com/business/seamec-s-vessel-seamec-paladin-begins-long-term-charter-with-ongc/>

Arunika Jain Seamec Limited has announced that its vessel, SEAMEC Paladin, has been successfully deployed following the completion of regulatory formalities.

According to a corporate statement released on 15th July 2026, the vessel has been on hire since 06:10 hours on that day to resume its long-term charter with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

The notification, filed with the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), follows a previous letter sent by the company on 2nd July 2026. In this missive, Seamec Limited updated shareholders and stakeholders about the anticipated deployment status of SEAMEC Paladin, indicating the conclusion of necessary formal preparations for its operational start.

SEAMEC Paladin's charter marks a significant development for Seamec Limited, reinforcing its strategic partnership with ONGC, a major player in the oil and gas sector. This deployment is crucial, as it underscores Seamec Limited's commitment to operational excellence and its capability to meet the demands of its charterers by adhering to stringent industry standards and schedules. The vessel joins ONGC's fleet to further the oil giant's maritime operations, capitalising on Seamec's marine service expertise.

The details of the charter agreement with ONGC, including duration and terms, were not disclosed in the statement. However, this partnership continues to build on Seamec Limited's extensive experience in providing specialised offshore support services.

Seamec Limited, a member of the MMG group, operates with a vision of delivering world-class marine services. Its registered office is located in Mumbai, and the company has established a strong market presence rooted in its history of safety, reliability, and efficiency. SEAMEC Paladin's activation exemplifies the company's forward-looking strategy, catered to the burgeoning energy sector demands.

The information relevant to this corporate update was officially received by the markets on 15th July 2026 at 08:11 hours. This disclosure showcases Seamec Limited's dedication to transparency and timely communication with its investors and interested parties.

Headline	ONGC-NTPC-backed Ayana bags 50 MW wind power project from SECI		
Publication	CNBC TV18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

ONGC-NTPC-backed Ayana bags 50 MW wind power project from SECI

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/business/companies/ongc-ntpc-backed-ayana-bags-50-mw-wind-power-project-from-seci-19946502.htm>

Ayana Renewable, owned by ONGC NTPC Green, secured a 50 MW wind project at a tariff of 3.85 per unit under SECI's latest competitive bidding round.

2 Min Read

Ayana Renewable Power Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC NTPC Green Pvt Ltd, has won a 50 MW wind power project in a tender floated by the Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI), according to a regulatory filing. As on Jul 15, 2026 3:59 PM

The project was awarded under SECI's tender for the selection of wind power developers to set up 2,000 MW of ISTS-connected wind power projects in India under tariff-based competitive bidding (SECI Tranche-XX).

Ayana secured the 50 MW capacity at a tariff of 3.85 per kWh in the e-reverse auction conducted by SECI. The auction concluded on July 15, 2026.

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Earlier on July 7, NTPC Green had informed that it has decided to issue unsecured non-convertible debentures (NCDs) worth 2,500 crore on July 9, 2026, through a private placement, according to a regulatory filing.

The debentures will carry a coupon of 7.27% per annum and have a tenor of 10 years, maturing on July 9, 2036.

The company said this is the first issue of debentures under the approval granted by its board of directors on May 22, 2026.

The proceeds of the issue will be utilised, among other things, for financing capital expenditure, including refinancing and recoupment of capital expenditure already incurred by the company, extending such financing for capital expenditure to its subsidiaries and joint ventures through inter-corporate loans, and for other general corporate purposes.

NTPC Green Energy shares ended at 93.00 on the NSE on July 15, down 1.22% or 1.15 from the previous close. The stock settled at 93.00 at the close of trade.

Headline	Rajasthan asks oil producers to deploy new technologies to boost crude output		
Publication	ET Auto	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

Rajasthan asks oil producers to deploy new technologies to boost crude output

<https://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-lubes/rajasthan-asks-oil-producers-to-deploy-new-technologies-to-boost-crude-output/132411277>

State begins preparing long-term roadmap to raise oil and gas production as output declines; officials review exploration plans with Cairn, ONGC, Oil India and Focus Energy.

Additional Chief Secretary, Mines and Petroleum, Aparna Arora chaired a review meeting with senior officials of oil and gas companies at the state secretariat on Tuesday. The Rajasthan government has initiated work on a roadmap to increase crude oil and natural gas production in the state, with a focus on deploying advanced technologies and expanding exploration activities.

Chairing a review meeting with senior officials of oil and gas companies at the state secretariat on Tuesday, Additional Chief Secretary Mines and Petroleum Aparna Arora said producers would need to adopt the latest technologies to arrest the decline in crude oil production and enhance output from existing fields.

Advt Rajasthan ranks second in onshore natural gas production and third in crude oil production in India. Representatives of Cairn Vedanta, Oil India, ONGC and Focus Energy attended the meeting.

Arora said production has commenced at the HRRL Rajasthan Refinery, which has a capacity of 9 MMTPA and can refine up to 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil produced in Rajasthan. She noted that crude oil production has declined in recent years and said producing companies should adopt newer technologies to increase output. She added that the state aims to have Rajasthan-produced crude refined within the state to contribute to economic development.

She said companies involved in oil exploration and production would need to focus on two areas: expanding exploration in new blocks and increasing production in existing fields through the adoption of new technologies. She said a long-term implementation plan would be required. Rajasthan has four sedimentary basins Jaisalmer, Barmer-Sanchore, Bikaner-Nagaur and Vindhyan. Exploration and production activities are currently being carried out in the Jaisalmer, Barmer-Sanchore and Bikaner-Nagaur basins.

Petroleum Director Avdhesh Singh said the state has issued 12 petroleum leases and 12 petroleum exploration licences. Rajasthan is currently producing around 54,000 barrels of crude oil per day and 2.2 MMSCM of natural gas per day.

Advt Representatives of Cairn India, ONGC, Oil India and Focus Energy briefed the meeting on exploration and production activities. A representative of Cairn India said the company is using ASP technology to improve production, while Oil India also shared details of the technologies it is adopting.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary (Mines) Namrata Vrishni, SG Sunil Kumar Verma, Joint Director (Petroleum) Dileep Raj Sharma, Deputy Directors Rohit Mallah, Mohan Kumawat and Ankit Soni, along with representatives of the participating companies.

Headline	Rajasthan asks oil producers to deploy new technologies to boost crude output		
Publication	ET Government	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

Rajasthan asks oil producers to deploy new technologies to boost crude output

<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/rajasthan-asks-oil-producers-to-deploy-new-technologies-to-boost-crude-output/132409320>

State begins preparing long-term roadmap to raise oil and gas production as output declines; officials review exploration plans with Cairn, ONGC, Oil India and Focus Energy.

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The meeting was attended by Special Secretary (Mines) Namrata Vrishni, SG Sunil Kumar Verma, Joint Director (Petroleum) Dileep Raj Sharma, Deputy Directors Rohit Mallah, Mohan Kumawat and Ankit Soni, along with representatives of the participating companies.

Headline	ONGC seals gas bubbling site in Assam's Geleki field, says situation stable		
Publication	India Today NE	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

ONGC seals gas bubbling site in Assam's Geleki field, says situation stable

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/ongc-seals-gas-bubbling-site-in-assams-geleki-field-says-situation-stable-1424401-2026-07-15>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has successfully sealed the site of a low-intensity gas bubbling incident at Napam Baruwati in its Geleki field in Assam's Sivasagar district, stating that the situation is now stable and under control.

According to an official statement issued on July 14, the localized surface gas bubbling, which had been observed for nearly a week, was confined to a single location.

A multidisciplinary team of experts was deployed immediately to assess the situation and implement safety measures.

ONGC said the affected area was barricaded and kept under continuous surveillance, while methane levels were regularly monitored using hand-held gas detectors. The monitoring detected only very low concentrations of methane.

The company also carried out a detailed technical investigation, including verification of pipeline drawings and physical examination of the area using underground pipeline-locating equipment.

"These investigations have ruled out the presence of any buried pipeline beneath or in the vicinity of the location," the statement said.

To permanently contain the bubbling, ONGC excavated the affected spot and sealed the pit on Monday using a chemical barite treatment followed by a cement-concrete mixture.

The company said the gas bubbling subsided after the treatment and confirmed that the situation is now stable, with no immediate cause for concern.

ONGC added that it will continue monitoring the site as a precautionary measure while maintaining all necessary safety protocols.

Headline	SEAMEC Wins USD 5.21 Million Offshore Charter Contract from Lamprell Energy for ONGC Support Operations		
Publication	Innovacia	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

SEAMEC Wins USD 5.21 Million Offshore Charter Contract from Lamprell Energy for ONGC Support Operations

<https://innovacia.in/seamec-wins-usd-5-21-million-offshore-charter-contract-from-lamprell-energy-for-ongc-support-operations/>

SEAMEC Limited has entered into a BIMCO Charter Party Agreement with Lamprell Energy Limited for the charter hire of its barge SEAMEC GLORIOUS . The contract, valued at USD 5.21 million (inclusive of GST) , will support offshore accommodation and hook-up operations for ONGC projects in the Mumbai High & West Coast Offshore region.

Immediate Effect: SEAMEC has secured a new offshore charter contract that strengthens its order book and provides revenue visibility through a 180-day charter period with an option for extension.

What Happened ?

SEAMEC Limited announced that it has entered into a BIMCO Charter Party with Lamprell Energy Limited for the charter hire of its offshore barge SEAMEC GLORIOUS.

The vessel will be deployed for offshore accommodation and hook-up support work across Mumbai High and the West Coast Offshore region, including the Daman Oilfield, supporting projects undertaken for ONGC. The agreement carries a firm charter period of 180 days with an extension option and is scheduled to commence within the second half of October 2026.

Headline	ONGC Plugs Gas Leak Site in Assam's Geleki Field		
Publication	NE Wire	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

ONGC Plugs Gas Leak Site in Assam's Geleki Field

<https://newire.in/articles/ongc-plugs-gas-leak-site-in-assam-s-geleki-field>

Guwahati: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation successfully sealed a gas bubbling site at Napam Baruwati in Assam.

The leak occurred within the company's Geleki field in the Sivasagar district. Officials confirmed the site is now stable and fully under control.

The low-intensity bubbling persisted for nearly a week. It remained confined to a single localized spot. ONGC deployed a multidisciplinary team to manage the hazard and implement safety measures immediately. The crew barricaded the area and kept it under continuous watch.

Workers used hand-held detectors to track methane levels. Readings showed only very low concentrations of the gas. Technical teams verified pipeline drawings and swept the ground with underground locating equipment to find the source. "These investigations have ruled out the presence of any buried pipeline beneath or in the vicinity of the location," the company stated on July 14.

Crews excavated the site on Monday to stop the flow. They applied a chemical barite treatment to the pit. A cement-concrete mixture sealed the opening permanently. Bubbling ceased following the repair. ONGC will keep monitoring the area as a precaution to ensure safety protocols remain intact.

Headline	NTPC Green-ONGC JV Wins 50 MW Wind Project in SECI Auction at ₹3.85/kWh		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

NTPC Green-ONGC JV Wins 50 MW Wind Project in SECI Auction at ₹3.85/kWh

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ntpc-green-ongc-jv-wins-50-mw-wind-project-in-seci-auction>

NTPC Green Energy informed that Ayana Renewable Power, a subsidiary of its ONGC JV, has won a 50 MW wind project in SECI's latest auction at a tariff of 3.85 per kWh.

New Delhi, July 15: NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL) has announced that Ayana Renewable Power Pvt. Ltd. , a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC NTPC Green Pvt. Ltd. , has won a 50 MW wind power project in the latest auction conducted by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)

ONGC NTPC Green Pvt. Ltd. is a 50:50 joint venture between NTPC Green Energy and ONGC Green Ltd.

The project was awarded under SECI Tranche-XX , which invited bids for setting up 2,000 MW of ISTS-connected wind power projects across India through a competitive bidding process.

Ayana secured the project after emerging as the successful bidder in SECI's e-reverse auction . The company won the 50 MW capacity at a tariff of 3.85 per unit (kWh)

The project will be developed under SECI's competitive bidding framework for interstate transmission system (ISTS)-connected wind power projects.

Positive Step for Renewable Energy

The latest project adds to the renewable energy portfolio of the NTPC Green-ONGC joint venture , which is expanding its presence in India's clean energy sector. The company continues to participate in large renewable energy auctions as India moves towards its clean energy and net-zero goals.

NTPC Green Energy shared the development through a regulatory filing with stock exchanges on 15 July 2026

Headline	ONGC to build 1.75 MT strategic oil reserve in Mangaluru to strengthen India's energy security		
Publication	Prop News Time	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

ONGC to build 1.75 MT strategic oil reserve in Mangaluru to strengthen India's energy security

<https://propnewstime.com/latestnewsstories/MzMwNjg=/ongc-to-build-1-75-mt-strategic-oil-reserve-in-mangaluru-to-strengthen-india-s-energy-security>

India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to develop a 1.75 million metric tonne (MT) strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) in Mangaluru as part of the country's efforts to strengthen energy security. The proposed facility will add to India's existing emergency crude storage capacity and may also be used for commercial purposes after obtaining government approval. The move comes as India continues to expand its strategic reserves following recent global supply disruptions and deepen energy partnerships with countries such as the UAE and Japan to improve crude oil storage and supply resilience.

India's largest oil and gas explorer, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), plans to build a 1.75 million metric tonne (MT) national strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) in Mangaluru, Karnataka. The company disclosed the proposal in a stock exchange filing after receiving approval from its board.

The planned reserve forms part of India's broader strategy to strengthen its emergency crude oil storage capacity following recent geopolitical tensions that disrupted global energy supplies. The country, which is the world's third-largest importer and consumer of crude oil, faced concerns over supply security after the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz during the conflict involving Israel, the United States and Iran. Nearly one-fifth of the world's oil and energy shipments pass through this key maritime route, making uninterrupted access critical for countries dependent on crude imports.

As part of the proposal, ONGC said it would seek approval from the Central Government to allow commercial utilisation of the new storage facility in the national interest. Such an arrangement would enable the infrastructure to remain operational while also serving as an emergency reserve during supply disruptions.

India already operates strategic petroleum reserves with a combined storage capacity of 5.33 MT at Mangaluru, Padur in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. These facilities are managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL), a government-owned company established to build and maintain the country's emergency crude oil reserves. The government has already permitted commercial use of a portion of these underground storage facilities.

Mangaluru is also home to Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL), an ONGC subsidiary that operates a refinery with a capacity of 300,000 barrels per day. Half of the existing 1.5 MT strategic reserve at Mangaluru has already been leased to MRPL, while the remaining storage capacity is leased to Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of the United Arab Emirates.

India has been expanding its energy cooperation with several countries, including the UAE and Japan, to improve crude oil security and strengthen emergency stockpiles. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE earlier this year, ADNOC announced plans to increase its crude oil storage in India to as much as 30 million barrels. The company also said it would explore the possibility of storing crude oil at Fujairah in the UAE as part of India's strategic reserve framework.

The country is simultaneously expanding its strategic petroleum storage network through new projects. Plans are already underway to develop a 4 MT strategic petroleum reserve at Chandikhol in Odisha and another 2.5 MT facility at Padur in Karnataka. Once completed, these projects are expected to significantly increase India's emergency crude storage capacity and improve preparedness against future supply disruptions.

Headline	Rajasthan govt pushes for higher crude oil output via advanced technologies Rajasthan govt pushes for higher crude oil output via advanced technologies July 14, 2026		
Publication	Pune News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

Rajasthan govt pushes for higher crude oil output via advanced technologies Rajasthan govt pushes for higher crude oil output via advanced technologies July 14, 2026

<https://pune.news/nation/rajasthan-govt-pushes-for-higher-crude-oil-output-via-advanced-technologies-468351/>

Concerned over the decline in crude oil production in recent years, the Rajasthan government has asked oil-producing companies to deploy the latest technologies to boost output.

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She observed that crude oil production has declined in recent years and called upon producing companies to adopt the latest technologies to reverse the trend. She emphasised that maximising refining of Rajasthan's crude oil within the state would contribute significantly to economic growth and value addition.

The Additional Chief Secretary said oil and gas companies should pursue a two-pronged strategy by accelerating exploration in new prospective areas while simultaneously enhancing production from existing fields through advanced recovery technologies. She stressed the need for a long-term action plan to achieve sustained growth in production.

She informed the meeting that Rajasthan has four major crude oil and natural gas basins: the Jaisalmer Basin, Barmer-Sanchore Basin, Bikaner-Nagaur Basin, and Vindhyan Basin.

Exploration and production activities are currently underway in the Jaisalmer, Barmer-Sanchore, and Bikaner-Nagaur basins. Petroleum Director Awadhesh Singh informed the meeting that the state has so far granted 12 petroleum mining leases and 12 petroleum exploration licences.

Rajasthan is currently producing approximately 54,000 barrels of crude oil per day and 2.2 million standard cubic metres of natural gas per day (MMSCMD). Representatives of Cairn India, ONGC, Oil India Limited, and Focus Energy made detailed presentations on ongoing exploration and production activities.

The meeting was also attended by Special Secretary (Mines) Namrata Vrishni, SG Sunil Kumar Verma, Joint Director (Petroleum) Dilip Raj Sharma, Deputy Directors Rohit Mallah, Mohan Kumawat, and Ankit Soni, along with representatives of the participating companies.

Headline	NTPC Green JV Ayana Secures 50 MW SECI Wind Project at ₹3.85/kWh Tariff		
Publication	Sahi	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jul 2026		

NTPC Green JV Ayana Secures 50 MW SECI Wind Project at ₹3.85/kWh Tariff

<https://www.sahi.com/news/ntpc-green-jv-ayana-secures-50-mw-seci-wind-project-at-3-85-kwh-tariff-1025787-PE1>

NTPC Green's indirect subsidiary, Ayana Renewable Power, has successfully bagged a 50 MW wind project under SECI's competitive bidding. Securing the project at 3.85 per kWh tariff, the win feeds directly into the parent group's massive pipeline expansion and marks another milestone in the scaling up of the ONGC-NTPC joint venture.

Market snapshot: Ayana Renewable Power, a step-down subsidiary of NTPC Green Energy's joint venture with ONGC, has won a 50 MW wind power project in SECI's competitive Tranche-XX tender. The capacity was secured at a competitive tariff of 3.85 per kWh, reinforcing the joint venture's active clean energy pipeline and backing NTPC Green's aggressive capacity targets.

Data Snapshot

Ayana Renewable Power secured a 50 MW wind energy project under the SECI-Tranche-XX competitive tender at a tariff of 3.85 per kWh.

NTPC Green Energy and ONGC Green's 50:50 joint venture, ONGC NTPC Green Private Limited, acquired 100% of Ayana Renewable Power for a cash consideration of 6,248.50 crore on March 27, 2025.

NTPC Green Energy Group's total commercial operational capacity rose to 10,721.80 MW following the latest Vanki wind project commissioning on July 8, 2026.

Consolidated revenue from operations for NTPC Green Energy grew 29% YoY to 2,858 crore in FY26, alongside an operating EBITDA of 2,475 crore.

What's Changed

NTPC Green Energy Group's total commercial capacity has scaled significantly, rising from 5,902 MW as of March 31, 2025, to 10,721.80 MW as of July 8, 2026, representing an increase of 81.66% (derived: 10,721.80 MW vs 5,902 MW).

Key Takeaways

Pipeline Scale-Up: The 50 MW SECI wind project win adds another high-visibility asset to Ayana's active development pipeline, expanding the joint venture's total reach across resource-rich states.

JV Execution Synergy: The win validates the operational effectiveness of ONGC NTPC Green Private Limited (ONGPL) since its inorganic acquisition of Ayana in early 2025.

Clear Counterparty Profiles: SECI acts as a high-credit-rated off-taker, minimizing counterparty and payment risks for the newly secured wind assets.

SAHI Perspective

The 50 MW wind project win by Ayana at a 3.85 per kWh tariff demonstrates that the ONGC-NTPC joint venture continues to run competitive bid operations. This project adds long-term revenue visibility, supported by SECI's strong counterparty credit rating. The parent company's focus remains on utilizing these step-down subsidiaries to bridge the gap toward its massive 60 GW by 2032 capacity target.

Market Implications

With the wind energy segment gaining strong policy traction, developer wins under the ISTS competitive framework ensure robust transmission connectivity. NTPC Green Energy continues to strengthen its commercial footprint, reinforcing investor confidence in its ability to execute and scale post-IPO.

Trading Signals

Market Bias: Bullish

NTPC Green Energy continues to execute its growth strategy smoothly, supported by Ayana's 50 MW wind win at 3.85 per kWh. With a 29% YoY revenue jump to 2,858 crore in FY26 and cumulative capacity crossing 10.7 GW, the operational momentum is strongly positive.

Overweight: Renewable Energy, Power Utilities

Trigger Factors:

Formal execution timelines and PPA signing for the 50 MW wind capacity.

Commissioning progress of Ayana's larger under-construction asset pipeline.

Quarterly commercial operational capacity additions from NTPC Green Energy Group.

Time Horizon: Near-term (0-3 months)

Industry Context

India is aggressively scaling its clean energy capacity to reach 500 GW by 2030. Within this market, utility-scale players are heavily dependent on SECI tenders to lock in long-term power purchase agreements. Tariff-based competitive bidding remains highly intense, making execution capabilities and low financing costs crucial differentiators for top-tier developers.

Key Risks to Watch

Competitive Tariff Pressures: Bidding at 3.85 per kWh requires disciplined capital expenditure to preserve long-term internal rate of return (IRR) metrics.

Execution and Grid Connection: Delays in building out Interstate Transmission System (ISTS) connections could cause timing mismatches for project commissioning.

Recent Developments

NTPC Renewable Energy declared commercial operations for 50.4 MW of the Vanki Wind Project on July 8, 2026. Prior to this, the subsidiary signed a 1,200 MW solar PPA with PTC India on July 3, 2026. NTPC Green also finalized plans on July 9, 2026, to raise 2,500 crore via 10-year unsecured non-convertible debentures carrying a 7.27% annual coupon.

Closing Insight

As NTPC Green Energy scales its step-down joint ventures, project wins like Ayana's SECI wind contract confirm the company's strong execution capabilities. Disciplined competitive bidding combined with cheap debt access places the group in a sweet spot to lead India's energy transition.

Headline	Aditya Birla Renewables Locks-In Huge Rs 17,200 Cr Sprng Deal		
Publication	Startup Feed	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jul 2026		

Aditya Birla Renewables Locks-In Huge Rs 17,200 Cr Sprng Deal

<https://startupfeed.in/aditya-birla-renewables-sprng-energy-deal/>

Aditya Birla Renewables buys Sprng Energy owner Solenergi Power from Shell for Rs 17,200 Cr (\$1.8 Bn). Deal adds 5 GWp contracted capacity, lifting the combined portfolio to about 9.3 GWp. Grasim and BlackRock backed GIP fund the buy, with closing targeted before December 2026.

Aditya Birla Renewables agreed on July 13, 2026 to acquire Solenergi Power Private Limited, the Mauritius holding company of Sprng Energy, from Shell Overseas Investment BV at an enterprise value of Rs 17,200 Cr (\$1.8 Bn).

The buyer is a subsidiary of listed Grasim Industries , the Aditya Birla Group flagship. The deal is one of the largest acquisitions in India's renewable energy sector by value and by scale, according to the company statement. It takes the group's clean power portfolio past 9 gigawatts.

The number that matters here is not Rs 17,200 Cr, it is 3.3 GWp of already operational capacity. Aditya Birla Renewables just bought a decade of greenfield execution risk off the table in a single signature. Its own portfolio leaned commercial and industrial (C&I), where margins are better but ticket sizes are small. Sprng brings utility-scale contracts with state discoms. Founders in the energy transition sector should watch this closely: platform consolidation is now cheaper than building. StartupFeed expects at least two more Indian renewable platforms above 1 GWp to change hands before March 2027, as private equity owners look for exits. By Avinash.

Aditya Birla Renewables Deal Breakdown

The Aditya Birla Renewables transaction is a 100% share purchase of Solenergi Power Private Limited, the entity that holds the Sprng Energy group of companies. Shell Overseas Investment BV, a wholly owned Shell plc subsidiary, is the seller. The final equity payment to Shell will be set after adjustments for debt, cash and other items named in the transaction documents.

The most striking fact is the funding structure. Grasim will infuse equity alongside funds managed by Global Infrastructure Partners, part of BlackRock , with the balance raised as debt. That gives Aditya Birla Renewables a global infrastructure investor on the cap table for a domestic consolidation play.

About Aditya Birla Renewables

Aditya Birla Renewables Limited generates and supplies clean power through solar, wind, hybrid and battery storage assets. Founded in 2011, it is headquartered in Mumbai and operates as a subsidiary of Grasim Industries under the Aditya Birla Group, chaired by Kumar Mangalam Birla. Its official portfolio stood at roughly 4.4 GWp before this deal, anchored by C&I customers including Hindalco and UltraTech. Backers now include Global Infrastructure Partners.

What does the Sprng Energy acquisition mean for the sector?

The Sprng Energy acquisition moves Aditya Birla Renewables into the top rank of Indian renewable platforms by contracted capacity. Utility-scale assets and C&I assets sit on different risk curves, and the combined entity now holds both. Aryaman Vikram Birla, director at Aditya Birla Group, framed the scale ambition directly.

Having almost achieved our 10 gigawatts target ahead of time, we are now on track to double capacity in the next few years, said Aryaman Vikram Birla, director, Aditya Birla Renewables.

Kumar Mangalam Birla tied the purchase to national industrial policy rather than pure returns, saying the group views India's energy transition through the same lens it applied to building materials, metals and financial services. The stated target is 20 GWp and above in coming years. For state distribution companies, a better capitalised counterparty reduces offtake risk on long-dated power purchase agreements.

Why did Shell sell Sprng Energy?

Shell bought Sprng Energy from private equity firm Actis in 2022 for about \$1.55 Bn, then spent years testing exit routes as chief executive Wael Sawan redirected capital toward oil and gas. The Shell newsroom has documented that shift across successive quarterly updates. Reported earlier sale attempts stalled on valuation gaps with bidders including ONGC.

Selling the whole platform at an \$1.8 Bn enterprise value ends a long process. Shell mandated Barclays as advisor for the sale, according to reports. KKR, Actis and NIIF were also in the fray for Sprng before Aditya Birla Renewables prevailed.

Aditya Birla Renewables now competes with Adani Green, ReNew and Greenko on national scale. What sets it apart is captive demand: group companies such as Grasim, Hindalco and UltraTech are large industrial power buyers, which gives the platform an anchor offtake base most rivals must win in the open market.

What's Next

The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals, including competition clearance, and other customary closing conditions. Both companies expect the deal to close before December 31, 2026. Watch for the Competition Commission of India (CCI) filing and the first combined capacity disclosure in Grasim's quarterly results after closing. Will 20 GWp arrive before FY30?

Frequently Asked Questions

How much did Aditya Birla Renewables pay for Sprng Energy?

Aditya Birla Renewables agreed to an enterprise value of Rs 17,200 Cr (\$1.8 Bn) for Solenergi Power, the holding company of Sprng Energy. The final equity payment to Shell will be set after adjustments for debt, cash and other items named in the transaction documents.

What does Sprng Energy do?

Sprng Energy develops and operates utility-scale solar, wind and hybrid power projects in India. Founded in 2017 and based in Pune, it was set up by private equity firm Actis and later sold to Shell. It supplies power to state distribution companies under long-term agreements.

How is the Aditya Birla Renewables deal being funded?

The purchase will be funded through a mix of debt and equity. Equity comes from parent Grasim Industries and from funds managed by Global Infrastructure Partners, part of BlackRock. The structure gives the platform a global infrastructure investor alongside its promoter group.

Why is Shell exiting its India renewable platform?

Shell is redirecting capital toward oil and gas under chief executive Wael Sawan, and Sprng no longer fits that plan. Shell bought Sprng from Actis in 2022 for about \$1.55 Bn and ran a formal sale process with Barclays as advisor before agreeing this exit.

When will the acquisition close?

The companies expect closing before December 31, 2026. Completion depends on regulatory approvals, including competition clearance, and other customary conditions. Until then, Sprng Energy continues to operate under Shell ownership and its existing power purchase agreements remain in force.

Written by Avinash. Have a tip? Write to us at editorial@startupfeed.in.

Avinash is a dedicated MBA professional with expertise in business operations, team management, and AI-driven content development. Backed by global certifications and published HR research, he leverages innovation and strategic management to drive organizational success.

Headline	Ayana Renewable a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC NTPC GreenSecures 50 MW Project in SECI Wind Power Tender		
Publication	Wow News 24x7	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jul 2026		

Ayana Renewable a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC NTPC GreenSecures 50 MW Project in SECI Wind Power Tender

<https://www.wownews24x7.com/ayana-renewable-a-wholly-owned-subsiary-of-ongc-ntpc-greensecures-50-mw-project-in-seci-wind-power-tender>

Ayana Renewable Power, an indirect subsidiary of the 50:50 joint venture between NTPC Green Energy and ONGC Green, has won a 50 MW wind power project.

The capacity was secured at a tariff of 3.85 /kWh in a 2,000 MW ISTS-connected auction conducted by SECI.

Headline	India Refiners Reap Fuel Export Windfall as War Drives Shortages		
Publication	Bloomberg	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

India Refiners Reap Fuel Export Windfall as War Drives Shortages

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-07-14/india-refiners-reap-fuel-export-windfall-as-war-drives-shortages>

Oil-product shipments from India are on track to climb to their highest level since September as refiners cash in on robust profit margins after a Russian export ban and hostilities in the Middle East tightened supplies.

The worlds fourth-largest refining hub is set to export about 1.4 million barrels a day of petroleum products in July, about a fifth higher than a year earlier and nearly 50% more than the volume shipped in May, according to Kpler vessel-tracking estimates.

The upsurge in attacks in the Middle East looks set to tighten global fuel supplies, which have already been squeezed after Ukrainian drone attacks on Russias energy infrastructure prompted Moscow to ban exports.

Processors in India have rushed to capitalize on the tight markets that have pushed global prices for fuels to multi-year highs while competitors from the Middle East, traditionally major exporters of diesel and jet fuel, were hamstrung by the war. Two of the countrys largest refineries, run by Nayara Energy Ltd. and Reliance Industries Ltd., restarted after planned maintenance while domestic diesel demand was seasonally weak due to the monsoon rains.

Strong profit margins for diesel, jet fuel and gasoline continue to encourage refiners to maximize throughput, said Sumit Ritolia, lead analyst for refining supply and modeling at Kpler, adding that lower Russian product exports have tightened global fuel balances while strengthening refining economics.

However, emerging threats to oil flows may upend the profitable trade. President Donald Trump reimposed a blockade on Iranian ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz and has said the US will impose a 20% toll on all goods passing through the waterway. India typically gets almost 40% of its crude from the Persian Gulf region and the government may force the refiners to limit exports if crude supply disruptions persist.

So far, Russian oil supplies have helped processors in the South Asian nation to operate their plants at full capacity despite the Middle East disruptions. India has imported 2.6 million barrels a day of Russian oil to date this month, or more than half of its total requirement, Kpler data showed.

India also cut export taxes this month as local stockpiles swelled. The country has crude oil and petroleum products inventories for 75-80 days, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said last week.

Headline	E20 fuel debate puts creators under spotlight		
Publication	Exchange 4 Media	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

E20 fuel debate puts creators under spotlight

<https://www.exchange4media.com/influence-zone-news/e20-fuel-debate-puts-creators-under-spotlight-156378.html>

The government's ethanol-blending programme has been one of the largest policy-led influencer campaigns seen in India

The FIR filed against four influencers, including YouTuber-politician Manish Kashyap, over content related to ethanol-blended petrol (E20) has brought India's creator ecosystem into the centre of a policy debate that has played out extensively on social media over the past year.

The case, registered at Nagpur Cyber Police Station, alleges that the creators circulated misleading and defamatory content against Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari while discussing E20 fuel. Besides Kashyap, the FIR names Instagram account Desi Boys, Harshit Rathi and Ankleash Invatee. Police have invoked provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Information Technology Act.

The development is notable because the government's ethanol-blending programme has been one of the largest policy-led influencer campaigns seen in India. Months before the FIR, creators across categories were enlisted to explain the benefits of E20 fuel to their audiences.

When Creators Were Promoting E20

As India accelerated its ethanol-blending programme and achieved the target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol, creators became an important part of the communication strategy.

Several influencers, including Abhishek Malhan (Fukra Insaan), Thugesh, Neha Nagar, Rajan Arora, RJ Karishma, RJ Naved, Arun Kushwah and others, posted content around E20 fuel. The videos largely highlighted three themes consistently associated with the government's messaging: reducing dependence on imported crude oil, lowering emissions and increasing income opportunities for farmers through ethanol production.

Many of these posts appeared as collaborations with accounts linked to Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and state-run oil marketing companies including Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum.

The campaign generated significant reach. Several creators recorded view counts running into millions, demonstrating the scale at which influencer marketing was being used to communicate a public policy initiative.

Media reports also highlighted that influencer agencies had approached creators for E20-related collaborations. Some automotive creators publicly claimed they declined participation because of concerns around the policy and its impact on vehicles.

A Debate Beyond Social Media

The government's position on E20 has remained consistent. Officials have argued that ethanol blending helps reduce crude oil imports, improves energy security, lowers emissions and supports India's agricultural economy.

At the same time, criticism has emerged from sections of motorists, automobile enthusiasts and content creators. Concerns have centred on fuel efficiency, long-term engine performance and the impact on older vehicles that were not originally designed for higher ethanol blends.

These concerns have fuelled discussions across YouTube, Instagram and automotive forums, making E20 one of the most debated automobile-related policy issues on Indian social media.

The Sourav Joshi-Mercedes Episode

The debate gained fresh momentum after YouTuber Sourav Joshi claimed in a vlog that the mileage of his Mercedes-Benz SUV had dropped significantly after he started using E20 petrol.

The video quickly gained traction and sparked renewed discussion around the impact of ethanol-blended fuel on vehicles.

Read On: Why E20 could reshape auto marketing

Mercedes-Benz India subsequently issued a clarification, stating: "All Mercedes-Benz petrol BS VI vehicles are materially compatible with E20 fuel and certified accordingly."

The company maintained that its BS VI petrol vehicles sold in India are fully compatible with E20 fuel and meet the required certification standards.

Joshi later clarified that the issue was traced to an engine-related fault and not to E20 petrol. The episode nevertheless demonstrated how creator content can quickly shape public discourse around a policy issue and draw responses from major brands.

For brands, the E20 debate reflects a larger shift in the digital ecosystem. Conversations that begin with creators can rapidly influence consumer sentiment, trigger media coverage and require corporate responses. The FIR against influencers comes at a time when creators are playing a larger role in discussions that extend beyond entertainment and consumer products.

Governments, public institutions and private companies increasingly rely on creators to explain complex subjects to mass audiences. At the same time, creators are emerging as commentators and critics on issues ranging from public policy to technology and finance.

The E20 controversy highlights both sides of that equation. Influencers were used to amplify awareness around ethanol blending, but some are now facing legal scrutiny over content critical of the same policy.

Headline	Petrol, diesel prices on July 15: Check new fuel rates in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and more		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

Petrol, diesel prices on July 15: Check new fuel rates in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and more

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/topstories/petrol-diesel-prices-on-july-15-check-new-fuel-rates-in-mumbai-bengaluru-chennai-kolkata-and-more/ar-AA27VPnH>

Author: Yukta Baid Staterun oil marketing companies have kept petrol and diesel prices unchanged on July 15, as fuel rates remain at the levels set after the lateMay hike.

This means motorists across major metros are paying the same prices as in recent weeks, even as global crude markets stay volatile.

Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum continue to follow the daily dynamic pricing system, under which pump rates can be adjusted every morning based on global crude prices and currency movements.

Last week, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri suggested that reducing local fuel costs is not an option at this time.

Fuel prices in the nation have escalated four times over the last four months amid the Iran war, increasing by about Rs 7.5-8 per litre during the period.

Petrol prices on July 15

Petrol price in Delhi: Rs 102.12/litre

Petrol price in Kolkata: Rs 113.43/litre

Petrol price in Mumbai: Rs 111.12/litre

Petrol price in Chennai: Rs 107.75/litre

Petrol price in Hyderabad: Rs 115.69/litre

Petrol price in Bengaluru: Rs 110.93/litre

Diesel prices on July 15

Diesel price in Delhi: Rs 95.20/litre

Diesel price in Kolkata: Rs 99.78/litre

Diesel price in Mumbai: Rs 97.78 litre

Diesel price in Chennai: Rs 99.57/litre

Diesel price in Hyderabad: 103.82/litre

Diesel price in Bengaluru: 98.79/litre

Global Crude Prices

Oil prices extended their rally for a third consecutive session on Wednesday after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened further military action against Iran, adding to supply concerns as shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz intensified.

Global benchmark Brent crude climbed toward \$86 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate traded above \$80, building on an 11% surge over the previous two sessions.

The latest gains came after Trump warned that the U.S. would continue striking Iranian targets and could target power plants and bridges as early as next week unless Tehran agreed to return to negotiations.

The renewed escalation followed Washington's decision to resume its blockade of Iranian shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints.

What Moves Petrol And Diesel Prices?

While international crude rates are the biggest factor for fuel prices in India, they aren't the only ones. Taxes, freight costs, refining margins, and the rupee-dollar exchange rate also play a key role in determining what you pay at the pump.

The Centre recently revised export duties on petroleum products. The change, however, does not impact retail fuel prices in India.

Headline	Petrol, Diesel Prices On July 16: Check Updated Fuel Rates In Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, And More		
Publication	NDTV Profit	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	16 Jul 2026		

Petrol, Diesel Prices On July 16: Check Updated Fuel Rates In Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, And More

https://www.ndtvprofit.com/india/petrol-diesel-prices-on-july-16-check-new-fuel-rates-in-delhi-mumbai-bengaluru-hyderabad-chennai-and-kolkata-11777455#pfrom=home-business_globalbusiness

State-run oil marketing companies have kept petrol and diesel prices unchanged on July 16, as fuel rates remain at the levels set after the late-May hike.

This means motorists across major metros are paying the same prices as in recent weeks, even as global crude markets stay volatile.

Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum continue to follow the daily dynamic pricing system, under which pump rates can be adjusted every morning based on global crude prices and currency movements.

Last week, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri suggested that reducing local fuel costs is not an option at this time. Even Bank of America noted that petrol and diesel prices are unlikely to see an immediate cut even as India's retail inflation has climbed above the Reserve Bank of India's 4% target for the first time in 17 months.

Fuel prices in the nation have escalated four times over the last four months amid the Iran war, increasing by about Rs 7.5-8 per litre during the period.

However, India has increased windfall taxes on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and lowered the levy on petrol exports, reflecting the recent rebound in global crude oil prices. The revised duties, announced through a Finance Ministry notification, will take effect from July 16.

Export duty on diesel has been raised to Rs 15.5 per litre from Rs 8.5 per litre, while the levy on ATF exports has been increased to Rs 14.5 per litre from Rs 7.5 per litre. The duty on petrol exports, however, has been reduced to Rs 2.5 per litre from Rs 4 per litre.

Oil prices climbed for a fourth consecutive session on Thursday as escalating military action between the United States and Iran kept traders focused on the risk of supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important energy corridors.

Global benchmark Brent crude traded near \$85 a barrel, after rallying about 12% over the previous three sessions, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) hovered around \$80 a barrel.

The latest gains came after the United States launched another round of airstrikes on Iran, saying it had also disabled an unladen oil tanker headed for an Iranian port. The renewed military action has reinforced fears that tensions in the region could further disrupt the movement of crude from the Middle East.

While international crude rates are the biggest factor for fuel prices in India, they aren't the only ones. Taxes, freight costs, refining margins, and the rupee-dollar exchange rate also play a key role in determining what you pay at the pump.

The Centre recently revised export duties on petroleum products. The change, however, does not impact retail fuel prices in India.

Headline	City-Wise Fuel Price Update Brings Latest Petrol And Diesel Rates Across India		
Publication	The Indian Witness	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	15 Jul 2026		

City-Wise Fuel Price Update Brings Latest Petrol And Diesel Rates Across India

<https://www.indianwitness.com/news/national/city-wise-fuel-price-update-brings-latest-petrol-and-di>

State-run oil marketing companies have kept petrol and diesel prices unchanged across India on July 15, maintaining the rates introduced after the late-May hike despite continued volatility in global crude oil markets. Consumers in major cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru, will continue to pay the same prices at the pump as international oil prices remain under pressure from geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) continue to follow the daily dynamic pricing mechanism, under which fuel prices are reviewed every morning based on changes in global crude oil prices and fluctuations in the rupee-dollar exchange rate. However, no revision has been announced for July 15. Last week, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri indicated that a reduction in domestic fuel prices was not feasible under the current global market conditions. Petrol and diesel prices in India have increased four times over the past four months, rising by around 7.50 to 8 per litre during the period.

The latest retail fuel prices in major cities are as follows: Petrol is priced at 102.12 per litre in Delhi, 113.43 in Kolkata, 111.12 in Mumbai, 107.75 in Chennai, 115.69 in Hyderabad, and 110.93 in Bengaluru. Diesel is retailing at 95.20 per litre in Delhi, 99.78 in Kolkata, 97.78 in Mumbai, 99.57 in Chennai, 103.82 in Hyderabad, and 98.79 in Bengaluru. Fuel prices differ across states due to variations in value-added tax (VAT), local levies, transportation costs, dealer commissions, and other state-specific charges.

Global crude oil prices continued their upward momentum for a third straight session on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump warned of additional military action against Iran, intensifying concerns over crude supplies. Brent crude climbed towards \$86 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) traded above \$80 per barrel after gaining around 11% over the previous two sessions. Market sentiment was further affected by escalating tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route that handles a significant portion of the world's oil exports.

The latest gains followed Trump's warning that the United States could continue striking Iranian targets and potentially target power plants and bridges if Tehran failed to return to negotiations. The renewed tensions came after Washington resumed its blockade of Iranian shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, heightening concerns over disruptions to global energy supplies. While international crude prices remain the biggest driver of retail fuel rates in India, domestic factors such as central and state taxes, freight charges, refining margins, and the rupee's exchange rate against the US dollar also influence pump prices. Although the Centre recently revised export duties on petroleum products, the move does not affect retail petrol and diesel prices for consumers.