



ONGC News as on 18 July 2026 (Print & Online)

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Plea before SC seeks CBI probe into 'KG Basin gas extraction' by Reliance

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court (SC) challenging a Bombay High Court (HC) judgment that refused to order a criminal investigation into allegations that Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) illegally extracted natural gas from an adjoining Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) block in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin.



The appeal has been filed by Jitendra Punamchand Maru, who is seeking directions for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register an FIR against RIL, its directors, and others on charges including theft, criminal breach of trust, dishonest misappropriation, and criminal conspiracy.

Maru has questioned the HC's March 27 ruling, which dismissed his petition after finding it to be an abuse of the judicial process. The HC had observed that although the petition was presented as a matter of public interest, it failed to demonstrate any genuine public purpose. It also held that Maru had not established his bona fides.

BHAVINI MISHRA



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J-K LG commissions India's first geothermal wells in Ladakh

In a landmark milestone for India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said. Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over 14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said. He said the project also fulfils the PM's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security. PTI

■ Key step for clean energy and sustainable development India's 1st geothermal wells in Ladakh

Leh, July 17: In a landmark milestone for India's clean energy mission, lieutenant-governor V.K. Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in the Union territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said.

Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over 14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean

energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said. He said the project, which is a big stride towards setting up of India's first-ever geothermal power plant, also fulfils the PM's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

The L-G termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a

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"This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-

economic development.

"What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," Mr Saxena said. He lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering. —PTI

Ladakh L-G commissions India's 1st geothermal wells at Puga Valley

LEH: India on Friday commissioned its first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a major step towards establishing the country's first geothermal power plant.

Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena inaugurated the two 1,000-metre-deep wells, developed by ONGC Energy Centre at an altitude of over 14,000 feet.

The wells will support the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project, India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, and advance Ladakh's goal of becoming a carbon-neutral clean energy hub.

The project had faced delays after the expiry of the tripartite memorandum of under-



standing between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre.

The pact was renewed for five years in June following the Lieutenant Governor's intervention, allowing work to resume.

The completed wells will enable reservoir evaluation,

power plant planning and future commercial development of geothermal resources.

Engineers have recorded temperatures of up to 135 degrees Celsius at a depth of 400 metres and are continuing tests in the hope of finding higher temperatures needed for power generation. MPOST

Plea in SC seeks CBI probe into Reliance's alleged gas extraction

NEW DELHI: A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged unauthorised extraction of natural gas by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) from an ONGC-operated block in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin.

The appeal, filed by Jitendra Punamchand Maru, challenges a March 27 judgment of the Bombay High Court that dismissed his plea as an abuse of the judicial process. Maru has sought directions for registration of an FIR against RIL, its directors and others on charges including alleged theft, criminal breach of trust, dishonest misappropriation and criminal conspiracy.

The dispute relates to the alleged migration of gas from

ONGC's KG Basin blocks to the adjoining KG-D6 block operated by RIL and its consortium partners. Maru alleged that RIL extracted gas from ONGC's fields through sideways drilling, relying on reports examining gas migration and subsequent court proceedings involving RIL and the Union government.

He contended that despite findings regarding the alleged extraction of gas from the adjoining ONGC block, no criminal investigation was initiated.

After the CBI closed his complaint in September 2025, he approached the High Court, which dismissed the petition.

The CBI argued before the High Court that the matter was prima facie a civil dispute and noted that neither ONGC nor

the Union government had sought a criminal investigation.

RIL denied the allegations, calling the petition an attempt to damage its reputation and gain publicity.

The High Court also questioned Maru's delay of more than a decade in pursuing criminal proceedings and observed that initiating a criminal case carries serious consequences for those accused.

The commercial dispute over the alleged gas migration has already been the subject of arbitration. An arbitral tribunal ruled in RIL's favour in 2018. While a single judge of the Delhi High Court upheld the award in 2023, a Division Bench set it aside in February 2025. RIL's appeal against that ruling is pending before the Supreme Court.

AGENCIES



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**Govt caps arbitration fee as
NHAI targets zero debt**

The road transport ministry has launched a crackdown on the ballooning costs of legal disputes over highway projects as the central government aims to make the country's premier road-building agency debt-free by 2030.

>P17

Govt moves to cap arbitrator fees as NHAI targets zero debt

Subhash Narayan &
Manas Pimpalkhare

NEW DELHI

The road transport ministry has launched a crack-down on the rising costs of legal disputes over highway projects as the Centre aims to make the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) debt-free by 2030.

The ministry plans to cap arbitrator fees and mandate tiered payouts as it aims to clear ₹1.17 trillion of pending construction claims that have weighed on NHAI's finances and strained federal budget.

As part of this push, the ministry has asked state and municipal road-building authorities to strictly follow the rules for calculating arbitrator fees after noting they had been flouted in some cases, according to correspondence reviewed by *Mint* and a person aware of the development.

"In cases of ad-hoc arbitration involving the Ministry/State PWDs, there is a lack of

u n i f o r m i t y regarding the fixation and release of fees to the Arbitral Tribunal," the road transport ministry told state and regional officers in a letter dated 16 June, adding that arbitrator fees are often not fixed according to the rules.

"All Regional Officers of the Ministry must ensure that the fee of arbitrators in case of Ad-hoc arbitration is fixed in accordance with the Fourth Schedule of The Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996," the ministry said in the letter.

Schedule IV prescribes a model fee structure for arbitrators based on the value of the dispute, ranging from

The efforts to reduce arbitration dues come as the NHAI aims to become debt-free by 2030

₹45,000 for disputes up to ₹5 lakh to a maximum of ₹30 lakh for disputes exceeding ₹20 crore.

However, lawyers said parties can decide arbitrator fees mutually, without following Schedule IV of the law. A precedent that allows this is the 2022 case of *ONGC v Afcons Gunanusa JV*, where the Supreme Court clarified that Schedule IV is not mandatory and left the decision of the arbitrator's fees to the parties.

According to Anuradha Mukherjee, partner and head of disputes for north India at law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, while the ministry's circular does not qualify as "law" per se, it binds the government and

its officers in their conduct. The efforts to reduce arbitration dues come as the NHAI, the country's road-building behemoth, aims to become debt-free by 2030. NHAI's debt was ₹2.16 trillion as of January.

"The plan is to reduce debt to ₹1.5 trillion in the next financial year," the person said.

NHAI's debt peaked at about ₹3.5 trillion in FY22 on the back of market borrowings

for road building and it has since been on a deleveraging path. The government has halted fresh incremental borrowings by NHAI and shifted to direct budgetary support.

Being debt-free would allow NHAI to invest further in road building and unlock technological advances.

Queries emailed to the road ministry and NHAI on 16 July remained unanswered.

The road transport ministry has asked stakeholders to use arbitration institutions such as the Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes set up by NHAI, the Delhi International Arbitration Center (DIAC) of the Delhi high court and the India International Arbitration Centre run by the central government to resolve disputes.

Adverse decisions in road and highway construction disputes have been a pain point for the government, which owed highway builders thousands of crores of rupees. Road developers and concessionaires had arbitration claims worth ₹1.17 trillion pending against NHAI, according to its latest available annual report (FY24).

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



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MINT

Shashank Mehta COMING CLEAN

The founder of The Whole Truth on his own struggles with weight, experimenting with protein bars at home, and what makes them a 100% clean label food brand

Illustration by Priya Kuriyan

Art by Priya Kuriyan

In October 2019, a team of four people working with two tables, two blenders and an oven out of 1,000 sq. ft unit in Anand East, Mumbai, packed and shipped the first orders for a new food brand. The operation, with a newly built website, produced a protein bar available in three flavours.

There were no stores, no advertising campaigns and a few existing customers who came from a blog. For Shashank Mehta, the founder of what would become The Whole Truth (TWT), the launch was the culmination of a set of questions he had been asking for years—first as a consumer, then as a marketer and eventually as an entrepreneur.

"This is such a mission-oriented company," says Mehta, 40, "and my own identity is mixed up with the company. Because it really feels like my entire life was leading up to the moment when I started the company."

TWT, with its 1400-plus staff, and six products—protein bars, musli, peanut butter, dark chocolate, protein powders and a range for children—calls itself India's first 100% clean label food brand. Mehta says they are currently operating at an annual revenue of around ₹650 crore and expect that figure to approach ₹800 crore this year.

About 98% of their sales come through online channels, including e-commerce platforms and e-commerce marketplaces. The rest comes from roughly 3,000 retail outlets.

At a cafe in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex, Mehta wonders whether he should have a coffee—given his controlled diet. He decides to postpone the decision—and eventually chooses not to have anything. Dressed in a T-shirt with the words, "Say no to sugar sugar," he is an animated speaker, a cautious listener and—as found out later—passionate researcher.

Currently operating at an annual revenue of around ₹650 crore, about 90% of TWT's sales comes through online channels.

Having grown up in Delhi as the son of a math teacher mother and a father who worked at ONGC, his entire career, Mehta describes himself as "always fat kid". By the time he completed Class XII from a boys-only school, he weighed around 100kg.

When he joined engineering at the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in Delhi, he decided to lose weight. He was in a co-ed for the first time and thought that he'd get enough attention from women. "I thought it was because of the way I looked. So, I just stopped eating and started running. There was no science behind it."

He lost around 10kg in less than a year. He quit eating and drinking like his thin friends. In three years, 30kg came back by the end of engineering. He was again at around 100kg.

At the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, he repeated the cycle. The pattern he'd been in last career concern him, taking him to a marketing job at Hindustan Unilever Ltd in Mumbai in 2009. His parents were understandably thrilled as Mehta's first salary was higher than his father's last salary.

The expectation was straightforward: build a career, stay with a larger company and progress steadily. But Mehta drew happiness from creation, which he divided into two categories. "You can either become an individual creator, which is a comedian, actor, artist or some form. Or you can become an institutional creator, which is called an entrepreneur."

In 2012, he left Unilever to join a food start-up, Rebel Foods which had the Taseer brand, as an entrepreneur in residence. The "operationally intense" experience lasted two years because interesting restaurants turned out to be different from building marketing campaigns. "You are on the floor for 16 hours a day," says Mehta.

By the time he returned to Unilever, he had regained weight and was questioning some of his assumptions about discipline, health and work. The third attempt at weight loss proved different.

He spent months reading nutrition research, books on food and scientific papers. He taught himself how to read labels, understand ingredient lists and evaluate nutritional claims. The weight



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came off. More significantly, it stayed off. "I knew that eating right is a structural matter. That I will remain off forever. From (aged) 26 till today, 40, it's never come back," says the father of two and a half-year-old.

Around 2014-15, he published articles in a blog, Fishit, examining packaged foods, nutrition claims and ingredient lists, some short and social media friendly, others over 1,500 words long. The response was encouraging, with people interested in not just nutrition but trust in what they were buying.

Consumers felt that they were discovering aspects about products years after they had started eating them. The problems, Mehta believes, were not that food companies were lying. "They don't lie. If they lie, they go to jail. They speak half truths," he says, about terms such as "high protein", "low fat" or "diabetic friendly".

"I love the phrase 'diabetic friendly'," he says. "What does the cook do? Does it come out of the packet and huge a diabetic? What does 'diabetic friendly' mean? Nothing, and you can't take me to court for it."

He realised he was doing the same thing in his previous job, selling shampoo and creams with the promises of getting rid of dandruff in three weeks or fairer skin in four. "The tricks were the same. But in food it hurts more because it goes inside your body," Mehta says.

Around 2017, he began experimenting with a protein bar at home, trying to make it with a short ingredient list and without the additives commonly found in packaged foods. He eventually arrived at a version that held together and tasted good enough for colleagues to try.

With the blog's growing momentum, he felt he had to put words into action or shut up about it. The encouraging feedback led to Mehta thinking about a food company built around a different premise, not to have ingredients hidden on the back of a package while marketing claims occupied the front. The company name, naturally, became Fishit Health Solutions.

Years at Unilever had taught him that durable brands are often built on a simple insight. For The Whole Truth, that insight was, "No one likes being lied to."

Sauce vc, whose founder Manu Chandra had been reading the blog, came in as an investor along with former colleagues from Unilever. Mehta was introduced to Rachna Aggarwal, a pastry chef and chocolatier, who ran a training studio. Initially she helped him improve the recipes later she agreed to join as co-founder.

The duo worked on making the products commercially viable, giving them a shelf life without the use of preservatives, while Mehta served out his notice period at Unilever as a marketing manager. When TWT finally launched in October 2019, the company had one product category.

TWT asked the aspect of taste—sweetening without refined sugar—with dates, which added a caramel-like sweetness and could be binding. They eliminated the need for preservatives by removing mois-

The book he reads continuously "in the background" is The Bhagwad Gita

Favourite TWT product Double cocoa protein bar

Product he wants to make Pet food

ture from the consumables—using a lot of dry fruits—and nitrogen flushing their packaging.

"We call ourselves a truth brand. We're not a healthy food brand. We're not a protein brand. We're not a snacking brand. We are clear that as long as we can keep holding your trust by never telling you a half truth, our consumers show that they will buy any product from us," he adds.

Whatever ingredients they use, they declare it prominently. TWT broadly competes with brands like Yoga Bar, Skyr, Furo, True Elements among others. "But our product," Mehta says with a pause, "we call it scaling artisan. That we're trying to scale your mom's kitchen. We're not changing the process."

Today, it operates its own facilities in Mumbai which, according to Mehta, was driven by necessity because early contract manufacturers were unwilling to produce bars using the formulations he wanted. He explains that the means of making their products—initially in his kitchen to now in a facility—has not changed much. Today, about 500 women come in every day to hand-press the bars. "The process is take five ingredients, put it in the mixer. It becomes a goop. Take that goop out. Make it into balls of 20g each. There's a mould which is the shape of the bar. Put the goop in that. Press. You get the bar. Sprinkle almost on top. Press. Your bar is done."

Mehta spends less time now working on products and more time on operations

and hirings while Aggarwal focuses on product development. He also remains the company's primary brand ambassador, filling its website and social media with blogs and other commentary on food.

But claims of being "truthful" has also come with scrutiny. Earlier this year, TWT revised some packaging vocabulary on its chocolate products after regulatory discussions around claims relating to sugar content. The formulation remained unchanged, he says, but wording on the packaging was altered.

"If you see our chocolate packaging, 50% of the front of pack says this chocolate is made of 77% cocoa, 23% dates. At the base, there is a small thing that says no added sugar, which is now changed to sweetened with dates."

The company's next target is an IPO within the next three-four years but before that there will be opportunities across multiple food categories. TWT has already begun testing freshly made protein shakes through cloud kitchens in Mumbai, a move it takes it beyond only packaged products.

Many companies are able to build one or two great products," Mehta says. "Few are able to build an organisation with all the capabilities needed—like finance, supply, production etc.—coming together and humming every day."

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Suvendu Adhikari lays foundation for Rs 15,000-cr Shyam Steel plant in Bankura

MI News Service, Mejia (Bankura) : Asserting that a number of major investments would generate large-scale employment opportunities in the backward districts of West Bengal in the coming months, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari laid the foundation stone of an integrated steel plant of Shyam Steel Group here at Mejia in Bankura district on Friday amid huge enthusiasm.

Describing the laying of foundation of this major project as a "major step in the BJP government's industrialisation drive, the Chief minister said the project, which is a part of the Shyam Steel Group's expansion programme, entails an investment of around Rs 15,000 crore and is set to generate 15,000 direct and indirect jobs. Addressing a huge gathering on the occasion, Suvendu Adhikari further stated that his government was committed to attracting more industries even to the backward districts of Bankura and Purulia, besides Paschim Bardhaman and Birbhum to spur regional development. "Thousands of crores will be invested here, creating employment opportunities for many people. If we cannot bring industries to places like Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Bardhaman and Birbhum, infrastructural development of these regions will not happen, and ancillary industries will not expand. Thousands of young men migrate to other states for work. They too will return. The government's revenue will increase," he said.

Welcoming this yet-another big-ticket investment in the state, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari also came down heavily on the previous TMC regime and particularly on former Chief minister Mamata Banerjee. Squarably blaming her for the present state of affairs in the state in terms of industrial re-growth,



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari is lighting the ceremonial lamp at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the expansion of the Steel Division of Shyam Steel Macaw Paints. In presence of Minister-in-Charge of Health and Family Welfare Sharadwat Mukherjee, Minister-in-Charge of Commerce and Industry Tapas Roy and Directors of Shyam Steel Manufacturing Ltd., Manish Beriwal and Lalit Beriwal, at Mejia in Bankura district on Friday. Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

he also invited her to come and witness the possibility of a huge industrial regeneration of these once backward areas. This will be among the biggest projects in terms of investment and job creations since BJP came to office in

Bengal, the Chief minister reiterated. As the project is backed by a Rs15,000-crore investment and is expected to generate approximately 15,000 direct and indirect jobs, it will set to become one of the largest manufacturing invest-

ments in the state's history, official sources said. When completed the production capacity of the new integrated steel plant would be 2 million tonnes per annum, bringing the group's total capacity in the region to 3.5 MTPA. Inci-

dentally, this foundation laying follows a string of industrial pushes announced by the government across West Bengal with Chief minister Suvendu Adhikari a few days ago also laying the foundation for a Rs 600-crore garment hub at

Dankuni in Hooghly district, alongside upcoming investments in Durgapur steel expansions and Dhalagarh. The state government credits these developments to its new direct land purchase policies and improved business atmosphere. The Shyam Steel group has an annual turnover of over Rs 10,000 crore and directly employs more than 25,000 people.

Shyam Steel director Lalit Beriwal said, "The project has the potential to become one of the most significant manufacturing 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 manufacturing 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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Mircea Eliade, Mother Teresa and a Kapurthala link



AJAI MALHOTRA
FORMER AMBASSADOR TO
ROMANIA & MOLDOVA

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu's state visit to Moldova, North Macedonia and Romania from July 20 to 25 signals a new phase in India's outreach to south-eastern Europe. While differing greatly in size, history and economic weight, the three countries illustrate India's expanding engagement with a region increasingly central to Europe's security, connectivity and energy agenda.

The visit begins in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, a landlocked country that emerged as an independent state after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

One of the less prosperous countries of Europe, Moldova is an agricultural powerhouse, earning the sobriquet "the Orchard of Europe" for its vineyards, apple orchards and walnut groves.

India and Moldova established diplomatic relations in 1992. President Mircea Snegur visited India the following year.

President Murmu's visit is the first ever by an Indian Head of State, underscoring New Delhi's interest in closer ties. Moldova reinforced the relationship by opening its embassy in New Delhi in 2023. Around 2,000 Indian students study medicine in Moldova, making education a strong bilateral link.

Moldova has joined the International Solar Alliance, while the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Invest Moldova have agreed to encourage business ties. India-an company KEC International is completing a 157-km Vulcanesti-Chisinau transmission line that will enhance Moldova's energy resilience. A Declaration of Intent on a Migration and Mobility Partnership was signed in 2024.

The second leg takes President Murmu to Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia. Relations with North Macedonia are shaped by Yugoslavia's legacy as a co-founder, alongside India, of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade in 1961.

India recognised North Macedonia in 1995 under the provisional name of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, reflecting its then-unresolved dispute with Greece. The Prespa Agreement of 2018 paved the way for its present name and opened the door to NATO membership in 2020.

India's ties with North Macedonia also rest on enduring historical connections. Mother Teresa was born in Skopje in 1910. Another defining moment was India's humanitarian aid after the 1963 earthquake that devastated Skopje. North Macedonia is home to about 60,000 Roma, one of the country's founding constitutional communities, whose distant origins are believed to lie in the Indian subcontinent.



FRIENDSHIP : The Kapurthala Maharaja's gift to Romania's royal family occupies a pride of place at Peles Castle.

Bilateral trade remains modest at US\$32 million, with considerable untapped potential. As an EU candidate with an attractive corporate tax regime, North Macedonia offers Indian manufacturers a comparatively low-cost production base and a potential gateway into European supply chains. Its well-developed mining sector, centred on base metals essential to manufacturing and the clean-energy transition, offers possibilities for future cooperation.

President Murmu will conclude her tour in Romania, India's closest partner among the three countries. Romanians display a warmth towards India that often surprises first-time visitors. Our diplomatic ties, dating back to 1948, are enriched by remarkable shared historical connections.

President Murmu's upcoming visit sends a diplomatic signal—a broader engagement with Europe, beyond Brussels, Paris and London.

This year marks the centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's landmark visit to Romania. Mircea Eliade's scholarship on Hinduism and yoga, shaped by his stay in

India in 1928-1931, gave Romania a distinctive place in the Western understanding of Indian civilisation and left an enduring intellectual legacy.

The War Heroes Cemetery at Slobozia, near Bucharest, is a poignant reminder of our friendship. British Indian Army soldiers captured elsewhere in Europe who died in German POW camps in Romania are buried there. Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala enjoyed a close friendship with Romania's royal family. His gift of an exquisitely carved teak dining table set still occupies pride of place at Peles Castle. In 1926, he was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of Romania.

Romania also contributed to India's early industrialisation. Its petroleum engineers helped develop the Guwahati and Barauni refineries and played an important role in the initial growth of ONGC.

Bilateral trade approached US\$3 billion in 2023-24, before moderating amid global economic headwinds. Indian investments in Romania leverage its talented multilingual professionals across IT, pharmaceuticals, healthcare and manufacturing. Romania's reserves of magnesium, graphite and copper make critical minerals a natural area for deeper cooperation.

The 2023 Defence Cooperation Agreement provides a

framework yet to be fully tapped. NATO members have committed to raise defence spending to 5% of GDP by 2035 and Romania is emerging as a production hub for several Western defence firms. India's cost-competitive base makes it a natural partner.

Each stop on President Murmu's itinerary advances a distinct bilateral relationship; collectively, they reveal a wider pattern. Proximity to the Ukraine conflict makes them relevant to Europe's evolving security architecture, energy diversification and infrastructure planning. Romania and Moldova facilitated the evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine during Operation Ganga in 2022.

Common themes run through all three relationships, including humanitarian solidarity. A 40-member delegation from Indian industry will participate in business forums across all three countries.

The significance of President Murmu's visit lies in the diplomatic signal it sends: a broader, geographically balanced engagement with Europe, extending beyond Brussels, Berlin, Paris and London. As central and south-east European countries play a growing role in shaping EU policy, stronger bilateral ties with them will become an increasingly valuable component of India's wider partnership with Europe.



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BPCL Reinforces Fuel Quality Assurance

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) intensified nationwide fuel quality surveillance across its Retail Outlet (RO) network, with an extensive inspection and testing exercise confirming no violations during the reporting period. The exercise found no cases of adulteration, contamination, critical irregularities or compliance lapses, reaffirming BPCL's commitment to maintaining high standards of fuel quality and strengthening consumer confidence.

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Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Akasa Air announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on advancing the adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) in India.

STARTING TROUBLE FOR PETROL PUMPS



Prabhadevi fuel station's loss after rainwater contamination highlights teething problems city pump-owners face in E20 transition

Aditi Thakur
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A Bharat Petroleum pump in Prabhadevi allegedly suffered losses of more than Rs 5 lakh after rainwater entered an underground storage tank containing E20 petrol during heavy rainfall on July 5.

The contamination rendered thousands of litres of fuel unusable, triggered customer complaints and refunds, and led to videos of affected vehicles circulating widely on social media. Chandan Agarwal, owner of the outlet, told Mumbai Mirror that about 20,000 litres of E20 petrol were stored in the underground tank when rainwater entered through a faulty pipe.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Leakage repair work underway at the BP petrol pump in Prabhadevi (also above) which faced a loss of Rs 5 lakh due to rainwater contamination

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Retailers raise concerns over blended petrol



E85 petrol dispensers at the HP pump in Cotton Green are currently not operational

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"I had filled the underground tank with around 20,000 litres of E20 petrol. During the heavy rain on July 5, water entered through a damaged pipe. Around 4,000 litres became completely unusable because it was ethanol-blended petrol," Agarwal said.

"I had to bear a loss of nearly Rs 5 lakh as those 4,000 litres went to waste. Customers returned complaining about their vehicles, many posted videos that went viral within minutes, and I had to refund nearly Rs 1.5 lakh."

Agarwal said Bharat Petroleum was informed immediately and the company dispatched a technical team to inspect and repair the damaged infrastructure.

The incident has renewed concerns among fuel retailers over ethanol-blended petrol during the monsoon, when water can seep into underground storage tanks if maintenance is inadequate. Ethanol is hygroscopic, meaning it absorbs water more readily than conventional petrol, making proper storage systems critical.

Some dealers remain cautious

At another Bharat Petroleum outlet in Reay Road, the station manager said

the owner decided against stocking E20 petrol after learning about similar incidents online.

"After hearing about such cases, our owner decided not to stock E20 nearly a year ago. We continue to sell regular petrol because we do not want to inconvenience customers. We felt it was better to continue with what

Ethanol is hygroscopic, meaning it absorbs water more readily than normal petrol, making proper storage systems extremely important

we already have rather than introduce something that could create problems if water contamination occurs," the manager said.

E85 fails to find buyers

At a Hindustan Petroleum (HP) petrol pump in Cotton Green, the manager said customer demand for E85 fuel had been negligible despite its lower price.

"We had around 4,000 litres of E85 in stock about a month ago, but only three to four litres were sold. We stopped selling it around 15 to 16 days ago, and the company has also stopped supplying E85 to our outlet," the manager said.

According to the manager, E85 was priced at about Rs 91.10 per litre compared with Rs 111.18 for regular petrol.

"There was a difference of nearly Rs 20 per litre, but customers still preferred regular petrol. We did not receive many complaints, but people continued asking for conventional fuel, so we resumed selling only that."

'No complaints'

The manager of an Indian Oil outlet at Reay Road said the station had been selling E20 petrol for nearly a year without any complaints.

"Buyers are informed they are purchasing E20 because it is clearly mentioned on the receipt. We have not experienced any storage-related issues either," he said.

Managers at HP and Bharat Petroleum petrol pumps in the Masjid area also said they had not encountered contamination problems, attributing smooth operations to regular maintenance.

"There have been no such issues at our outlets. Proper maintenance of storage tanks is essential and we carry it out regularly. The only concern we occasionally hear from customers is reduced mileage after filling E20 petrol. We explain that this is linked to the ethanol blend supplied by the oil companies rather than any issue at the petrol pump."

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :18 July 2026	Page : 7

GAIL, KABIL sign pact to explore opportunities in critical minerals

State-owned GAIL (India) Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) to explore opportunities in critical and strategic minerals, as part of efforts to strengthen India's long-term resource security.

"The partnership provides a framework for cooperation in identifying and evaluating opportunities in critical and strategic minerals," GAIL said in a press release on Friday.

Under the agreement, the two public sector companies will exchange technical expertise, undertake capacity-building activities and explore joint initiatives across the mining value chain. The collaboration aims to help strengthen India's long-term supply of these vital resources and clean energy transition, the release said.



The MoU was signed by Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Director (Research and Development and Exploration and Production) at GAIL, and Sunil Kumar Singh, Chief Executive Officer of KABIL. The signing took place in the presence of GAIL Director (Business Development) RK Singhal and other senior officials from the two organisations.-ANI

GAIL, KABIL to strengthen collaboration in critical minerals

Our Bureau
New Delhi

GAIL (India) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL) to collaborate in critical and strategic minerals, supporting India's long-term resource security.

GAIL said the partnership provides a framework for co-operation in identifying and

evaluating opportunities in critical and strategic minerals, facilitating the exchange of technical expertise, capacity building and exploring joint initiatives across the mining value chain to help strengthen long-term supply of these vital resources and clean energy transition.

KABIL is a joint venture of three Central Public Sector Enterprises — National Aluminium Company, Hindustan Copper and Mineral Ex-

ploration & Consultancy.

KABIL was established to secure overseas critical and strategic mineral assets to support India's long-term economic growth, industrial development, and energy transition.

RISEING DEMAND

A May 2026 note by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis and Climate and Sustainability Initiative (CSI) emphasises

that meeting the rising demand for critical minerals will require significant investment across the supply chain over the next two decades.

The note highlights funding shortfalls across the supply chain, from upstream exploration to capital-intensive midstream processing.

It underscores the importance of private investment and targeted de-risking

measures to attract capital into the sector, given that much of this investment is front-loaded with uncertain returns in the long term.

The success of the critical minerals mission also hinges on scaling India's green manufacturing capacity across key sectors such as batteries, electric vehicles, solar modules and electronics, which can drive growth in the critical minerals sector, it emphasised.

CSR must move from compliance to creating impact, say industry leaders

Our Bureau
Bengaluru

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) in India must evolve from being a statutory compliance exercise to becoming a transparent, outcome-driven instrument for nation building, with the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) emerging as a key platform to channel corporate and philanthropic capital towards measurable social impact, speakers at the CSR Conclave 2026 organised by the One World One Family Mission, headed by Sadhguru Sri Madhusudan Sai, said on Friday.

businessline was the media partner for the conclave, which brought together corporate leaders, policymakers, regulators, philanthropists and social sector practitioners to deliberate on strengthening India's CSR ecosystem.

Opening the second day of the conclave, S Ramadorai,

former Vice Chairman of Tata Consultancy Services and former Chairman of the National Skill Development Agency and the National Skill Development Corporation, said India's development journey would be defined less by the speed of deploying resources than by ensuring they are directed towards the right outcomes.

SOCIETAL IMPACT

"The compass is always more important than the clock," he observed, urging businesses to build purpose-led institutions where commercial success and societal impact reinforce each other.

He described the SSE as an important institutional innovation capable of bringing together corporate capital, philanthropic intent and credible social organisations through a transparent and accountable framework.

Over time, he said, the SSE had the potential to become for the social sector what India's digital public infra-

structure has become for payments and governance. Delivering the keynote address, Vinit Nayar, Founder-Chairman of the Sampark Foundation and former CEO of HCL Technologies, argued that the social sector needs the same spirit of innovation and design thinking that transformed India's IT industry.

Lasting social change, he said, would require combining technology, purpose-driven leadership and volunteerism to create institutions capable of delivering systemic impact rather than incremental improvements.

Sadhguru Sri Madhusudan Sai, founder of the One World One Family Mission, called upon businesses to see themselves primarily as problem-solvers, with profits emerging as a consequence rather than the sole objective. Drawing from the *Bhagavad Gita*, he interpreted *yajna*, *dana* and *tapas* for the corporate world, saying business itself should become an offering for social good, CSR should represent voluntary giving beyond statutory compliance and governance should embody discipline and ethical conduct, CSR, he added, must

increasingly be viewed as social investment rather than expenditure.

PRINCIPAL HIGHWAY

The inaugural panel discussion, moderated by Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor of *businessline*, examined whether the SSE could become India's principal highway for CSR funding following the Centre's decision permitting companies to deploy up to 10 per cent of their CSR spending through the platform.

The panel featured Vimal Bhatnagar, Deputy General Manager, SEBI; A Balasubramanian, Managing Dir-

ector and CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC; Vineet Shastri of the NSE Social Stock Exchange; and Pratyush Kumar Panda, CEO of Allcargo Foundation.

Panelists said the regulatory framework was beginning to take shape but wider awareness, simpler processes, stronger participation by corporates and non-profits, and greater emphasis on measurable outcomes would determine the platform's success.

Subsequent discussions expanded the conversation beyond domestic CSR. A panel moderated by Vineet

Nayar explored how India's 35-million-strong diaspora and global philanthropic capital could be better channelled through trusted institutional mechanisms, while highlighting the need to simplify compliance and create credible pathways for international giving.

Another panel, chaired by former SEBI Chairman M Damodaran, argued that trust itself should become a measurable asset.

GREATEST IMPACT

Speakers maintained that funding decisions should increasingly be driven by independently verified outcomes, robust integrity frameworks and beneficiary feedback instead of institutional familiarity or visibility, helping capital flow towards organisations delivering the greatest impact.

The concluding discussion, moderated by author and scientist Anand Ranganathan, focused on the role of

CSR and the SSE in building India's future human capital.

Panelists argued that CSR funds, though relatively modest in relation to the economy, could serve as catalytic capital by supporting innovative models in education, healthcare, nutrition and skilling that governments and private investors could subsequently scale.

Outcome-based financing, blended finance and measuring success through long-term social impact rather than expenditure emerged as recurring themes. A common thread running through the conclave was that India's next phase of CSR should be anchored in trust, transparency, measurable outcomes and collaboration among government, business, philanthropy and civil society.

Participants endorsed the release of a white paper outlining recommendations to strengthen the country's CSR ecosystem through the SSE and accelerate progress towards a *Viksit Bharat*.



(from left) Author Anand Ranganathan, Ravi Rajan & Co Founder S Ravi, IOC Executive Director Shailesh Tiwari, Tata Hitachi MD Sandeep Singh and HSBC India SVP Sustainability Romit Sen, at a panel discussion at the CSR Conclave 2026 in Bengaluru on Friday

GAIL, KABIL sign pact for critical minerals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

GAIL (India) Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) on Friday to collaborate in the field of critical and strategic minerals, supporting India's long-term resource security.

The MoU has been signed by Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Director (R&D & E&P), GAIL, and Sunil Kumar Singh, Chief Executive Officer, KABIL, in the presence of RK Singhal, Director (Business Development), GAIL, and other senior officials from both organisations.

The partnership provides a framework for cooperation in identifying and evaluating opportunities in critical and strategic minerals, facilitating the exchange of technical expertise, capacity building, and exploring joint initiatives across the mining value chain to help strengthen India's long-term supply of



these vital resources and clean energy transition.

About GAIL (India) Limited
GAIL (India) Limited, India's integrated energy major, is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. GAIL has a diversified presence across the entire natural gas value chain, including natural gas transmission and marketing, LNG sourcing and regasification, LPG transmission, petrochemicals, city gas distribution, renewable energy, and upstream exploration & production.

About Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)

Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) is a joint venture of three Central Public Sector Enterprises - National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), and Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Limited (MECL).

KABIL was established to identify, acquire, develop, and secure overseas critical and strategic mineral assets to support India's long-term economic growth, industrial development, and energy transition.

Publication : The Tribune	Editions : New Delhi
Date :18 July 2026	Page : 2

Talks fail, Panipat refinery staff launch indefinite hunger strike

MUKESH TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, JULY 17

Four leaders of the Indian Oil Panipat Refinery Employees' Union (IPREU) on Friday began an indefinite hunger strike after talks with the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) refinery management failed to resolve their long-pending demands.

The hunger strike started at Gate No. 2 of the refinery township, with the union asserting that the protest would continue until its demands were accepted.

Union president Sampooran Singh, along with

Manoj Katiyar, Pradeep Sharma and Pawan Chahal, sat on the indefinite fast.

"If any member of the employees' union suffers any unfortunate incident, the refinery administration will be responsible," Singh said.

He said the union had been agitating over the issues for several weeks. On June 29, employees held a one-day symbolic sit-in in the refinery township. When the management failed to respond within the deadline set by the union, employees staged another protest on July 10, raising slogans against the refinery admin-

istration and taking out a procession from the P-25 Project Gate to Coco Chowk.

The union also marked Refinery Day by wearing black clothes and holding a morning march in protest.

"Several rounds of talks have taken place between the employees' union and the refinery administration, but the problems remain unresolved. The refinery administration does not want to resolve the employees' issues," Singh alleged.

Among the key demands, the union has sought installation of an RO plant in the refinery township, alleging

that residents lack access to clean drinking water. It has also demanded a permanent solution to the stray dog menace, claiming that stray dogs frequently attack residents.

Other demands include improving the quality of medicines and laboratory services at the refinery hospital, filling manpower shortages in the service department, improving the functioning of the refinery township estate office, stopping the appointment of EOs in the PP-3 plant, and restoring employee benefits on Refinery Day and Indian Oil Day that were allegedly curtailed.

Publication : Amar Ujala (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :18 July 2026	Page : 14

Headline: Despite the oil crisis, neither the trains nor the vehicle of development came to a halt: Modi

तेल संकट के बावजूद रेल रुकी न विकास की गाड़ी : मोदी बोले-पश्चिम एशिया संकट 2014 से पहले आता तो भारत की ट्रेनें ठप हो जातीं

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

जौद। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने शुक्रवार को देश की पहली हाइड्रोजन ट्रेन को हरी झंडी दिखाने के बाद जौद में पश्चिम एशिया में जारी युद्ध के चलते तेल संकट का जिक्र किया। उन्होंने कहा कि इस संघर्ष के कारण स्ट्रेट ऑफ होर्मुज समुद्री मार्ग पर खतरा बना हुआ है, जहाँ से भारत बड़ी मात्रा में पेट्रोल, डीजल, एलपीजी और खाद का आयात करता है। मोदी ने कहा कि यदि 2014 से पहले ऐसी स्थिति पैदा होती तो ट्रेनें ठप हो जातीं। देश के सामने बड़ा संकट खड़ा हो जाता मगर आज भारत पहले से तैयार है।

मोदी ने कहा कि यह 2014 से पहले का भारत नहीं, ये मोदी है, जो पहले



हाइड्रोजन ट्रेन में छात्राओं से बात करते पीएम मोदी।

सोचता भी है और समस्याओं का समाधान जमीन पर उतारता भी है। वैश्विक तेल संकट के बावजूद भारत की रेल नहीं रुकी और विकास की गाड़ी अटकी

पहले की रफ्तार होती तो रेलवे के बिजलीकरण में 300 साल लगते पीएम मोदी ने बिना नाम लिए कांग्रेस पर निशाना साधा। कहा, रेलवे में बिजलीकरण की शुरुआत 1925 में हुई थी, लेकिन 2014 तक केवल 30 फीसदी रेल नेटवर्क का ही बिजलीकरण हो पाया था। उस समय 70 फीसदी ट्रेनें डीजल से चलती थीं। अगर पहले की ही रफ्तार से काम चलता रहता तो पूरे रेल नेटवर्क का बिजलीकरण करने में 300 साल लग जाते। मोदी ने कहा कि पिछले 12 वर्षों में देश के 99 फीसदी रेलवे नेटवर्क का बिजलीकरण पूरा हो चुका है।

नहीं। प्रधानमंत्री ने जौद से हरियाणा में 14,721 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन व शिलान्यास किया।

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :18 July 2026	Page : 4

Renewable energy capacity additions rose 25% in H1 2026

NANDINI KESHARI
New Delhi, 17 July

India added 30.6 Gigawatts (Gw) of renewable energy capacity in the first half of 2026, registering a year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth of 25 per cent, New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a social media post.

The growth was led by solar power, which witnessed Y-o-Y surge of 43 per cent, with 26.34 Gw being added between January and June 2026. As on June 30, 2026, installed capacity of renewable energy (including hydro) stood at 288 Gw, accounting for 52 per cent of the total capacity, according to Central Electricity Authority. On the other hand, solar capacity was 162 Gw and wind energy capacity stood at 57 Gw.

In 2025, the country's annual renewable capacity additions rose by almost 60 per cent, the fastest growth among major markets, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its latest report. It pointed out that the



New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said solar energy was the driving force of the capacity addition

country commissioned almost 50 Gw of solar PV, twice that of the year earlier. Wind additions also doubled in 2025 reaching over 6 Gw.

However, IEA noted that offshore wind energy projects are not materialising in India due to project cancellations and delays.

Globally, the offshore wind industry faces multiple challenges, with several developers reducing their 2030 deployment targets, it said. "Lower expectations have been driven by policy shift in the United States and project cancellations and delays in Europe, India and Japan due to cost and supply chain challenges," IEA added.

The renewable energy capacity growth comes at a time when the country's grid is facing stress due to rising variable renewable energy penetration.

A recent working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister said India's rising solar penetration is causing power-grid stress. In addition to meeting more mid-day demand, solar power is forcing thermal-power plants to ramp up and down their generation more sharply to meet the net load.

According to the working paper, the grid stress is visible in fluctuating spot power prices, curtailment in solar power and power shortage. About 24 GWh of solar was wasted daily in May due to curtailment.



Publication : Hindustan Times

Editions : New Delhi

Date :18 July 2026

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OIL ADVANCES AS FEARS MOUNT OVER ESCALATION IN IRAN-U.S. WAR

Bloomberg

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Oil surged on growing fears the US and Iran could return to full war, threatening flows through the Strait of Hormuz.

Global benchmark Brent rose more than 3.5% to trade around \$87 and is on track for its biggest weekly advance since April. The commodity surged to intraday highs after Axios reported that the US is sending dozens of refueling planes to Israel, raising expectations of a near-term escalation in the conflict that has roiled energy markets in recent months.

In the latest round of hostilities, Iran attacked Kuwaiti water and power plants, with many power-generation units sustaining damage. That came after the US carried out another wave of strikes on Iran, hitting targets including defence sites, in a sixth straight day of hostilities. Crude has soared to near its highest in about a month, paring a roughly 30% decline in the second quarter, as the escalation revives concerns over traffic through Hormuz, the chokepoint for about a fifth of global oil flows before the war. The conflict has also impacted the supply of fuels such as diesel and gasoline, sending profit margins for US refiners to records.



Publication : Hindustan Times

Editions : New Delhi

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62 U.S. SENATORS BACK BILL SEEKING 100% INDIA TARIFF OVER RUSSIAN OIL

Shashank Mattoo

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WASHINGTON: Sixty-two of the US Senate's 100 members on Thursday backed a new bill that would grant President Donald Trump the authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on India and four other countries for purchasing Russian oil. →PM

{ 100% TARIFF } INDIA, CHINA AMONG TOP 5 PURCHASERS

A majority of senators back Russia oil bill

Shashank Mattoo

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WASHINGTON: More than 60 of the US Senate's 100 members — including Senate Majority Leader John Thune — on Thursday backed a new bill that would grant President Donald Trump the authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on India and four other countries for purchasing Russian oil, in a legislative push that has gained fresh momentum following the death of its chief architect, Senator Lindsey Graham.

The bill, formally named the Sanctioning Russia Act of 2026, has secured the backing of 62 senators from both parties, according to a Senate Foreign Relations Committee statement

— enough to clear the 60-vote threshold needed to overcome a filibuster. It has also obtained the backing of the White House and could be passed before August, according to supporters.

Among its lead sponsors is Darline Graham, Lindsey Graham's sister, who was appointed by South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster to serve out his term and sworn into the Senate on July 14 — two days before the bill's formal introduction. Graham, the first woman to represent South Carolina in the Senate, introduced the bill alongside Democrats Richard Blumenthal and Jeanne Shaheen.

Lindsey Graham, who spearheaded the legislation with Blumenthal over more than a year, died suddenly on July 11 of an

aortic dissection. He had secured the White House's agreement on the bill's text days earlier, after meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv.

The bill would grant the Trump administration authority to place tariffs of up to 100% on the five largest purchasers of Russian oil or natural gas. Senators have clarified that the tariffs would target China, India, Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan for their oil purchases. The legislation also provides for tariffs on the five countries doing the most to help Russia evade sanctions. The exact tariff rate on each country would be set by the US Trade Representative.

The bill provides significant exemptions for European allies that continue to purchase Rus-

sian natural gas. "The bill exempts countries whose Russian natural gas imports account for less than 15% of Russia's total natural gas exports and that are taking significant steps to reduce those imports. The bill calls for USTR to reassess the top 5 purchasers every 180 days and can adjust tariff rates based on changes in purchasing behaviour," according to a summary released by the bill's Senate backers.

India's ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal addressed questions on the US bill at a briefing, saying New Delhi is "closely following these developments".

"We are aware of the proposed legislation. That is what I have to say," he said.



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Date :18 July 2026	Page : 1, 15, 18

RELIANCE BEATS THE STREET AS OIL, JIO FIRE UP Q1 PROFIT | PAGE 18

Reliance beats the Street as oil, Jio fire up Q1 profit

Consolidated profit of ₹20,946 cr powered by oil-to-chemicals, Jio Platforms

Nehal Chaliawala
nehal.chaliawala@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Ltd delivered a better-than-expected start to FY27 as a resilient oil refining and petrochemicals business weathered severe disruption in global energy markets triggered by the US-Iran conflict, more than offsetting weakness in its retail arm.

The earnings beat came despite expectations that geopolitical tensions and volatile energy markets would weigh on Reliance's flagship oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business, which contributes more than half of the company's consolidated revenue.

India's most valuable company reported a consolidated profit of ₹20,946 crore attributable to owners in the first quarter, ahead of a consensus estimate of ₹19,823 crore of analysts polled by *Bloomberg*.

This was a 12% increase over the same period last year, after accounting for a one-time gain of ₹8,924 crore made then by a stake sale in Asian Paints Ltd.

"Reliance has made a steady start to FY27, with all businesses delivering strong operating performance," Mukesh Ambani, the

FAST TRACK



BUSINESS RESILIENCE

RIL's profit saw a 12% increase over the same period last year

RIL's consolidated topline for Q1 was higher by 25% y-o-y

RELIANCE has made a steady start to FY27, said Mukesh Ambani

company's chairperson and managing director said in a statement. "Our diverse business portfolio has once again demonstrated its resilience in a quarter which witnessed continuing geopolitical tensions and volatile commodity markets."

The Mumbai-headquartered heavyweight's consolidated

topline for Q1 was higher by 25% year-on-year at ₹3.1 trillion. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) grew by a tenth to ₹47,517 crore, while Ebitda margin slipped by 201 basis points (bps) to 15.2%. A hundred bps equals 1%.

"The earnings are better than expectations due to strong O2C

(oil to chemicals) performance. Retail was weaker than expected," said Harshraj Aggarwal, executive vice president-institutional equity research at Yes Securities.

Analysts had pencilled in a weaker quarter for the O2C business because of turbulence in global energy markets, the introduction of the special additional excise duty (SAED), negative marketing margins, and possible inventory losses.

However, the business reported revenues higher by nearly a third to ₹2 trillion, and Ebitda higher by a sixth to ₹17,010 crore, though margins shrank 100 bps.

The segment benefited from both better fuel cracks and downstream margins, according to Aggarwal.

Cracks refer to the difference between the cost of crude oil and the price of refined products, with higher cracks implying better margins for refiners.

"The O2C business delivered strong performance during the quarter, supported by all-time

TURN TO PAGE 15

Publication : Mint

Editions : New Delhi

Date :18 July 2026

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Reliance Industries tops estimates in Q1

FROM PAGE 18

high middle distillate cracks and improved downstream petrochemical deltas," Ambani said.

"This was achieved despite a challenging global energy market backdrop with disrupted supply chains. Our teams navigated this difficult environment with operational agility and ensured adequate availability of essential fuels and materials in the domestic markets," he added.

IPO-bound Jio Platforms Ltd—which comprises RIL's telecom and digital businesses—delivered a strong performance that was in line with expectations.

Revenue was up by more than a tenth to ₹39,173 crore and profit, too, rose by a tenth to ₹7,764 crore. Ebitda margin expanded 150 basis points to 53.3%.

The company added nearly 9 million customers during the quarter, maintaining its spot as India's largest telecom operator with 533 million subscribers at the end of June.

"As we embark on our next phase of journey to be a publicly listed company in



The firm's Ebitda grew by a tenth to ₹47,517 crore. REUTERS

India, we will continue to maintain our deep tech focus and democratise access to digital connectivity and digital services in India and globally," said Akash Ambani, managing director of Jio Platforms and Mukesh's elder son.

Retail was the lone disappointment. While revenue was up 8% to ₹79,745 crore, profit declined 14% to ₹2,806 crore. Ebitda margin narrowed 80 bps to 7.9%.

Investors had anticipated Reliance's strong performance, with the stock gaining 2.59% on Friday to close at ₹1,326.5 on the BSE compared to a 1.25% gain in the BSE Sensex.



Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : Kolkata
Date :18 July 2026	Page : 1, 3

BEIJING, NEW DELHI TO BEAR BRUNT
India Tracks US '100%' Levy
 New Delhi is keeping a close watch on the US' 100% tariff bill concerning India's Russia oil purchases, as choking oil supplies amid the Hormuz turmoil would hurt supply. **Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury** reports. ►► **3**

AS INDIA AND US WORK TO FINALISE A TRADE DEAL

India Watches as US Bill Targets Buyers of Russian Oil Selectively



Bill proposes 100% tariffs on India, 4 other countries; exempts European nations buying gas from Moscow

Dipanjana Roy Chaudhury

New Delhi: India is closely monitoring developments involving a US bill that threatens 100% tariffs against New Delhi for purchasing Russian oil but gives exemptions to American purchase of uranium from Moscow and EU imports of Russian LNG.

The bill, if approved by the Trump administration, may adversely impact India-USA ties.

A bill seeking to impose 100% tariffs on five countries, including India and China, for buying Russian oil, while exempting European nations purchasing gas from Moscow, was introduced on Thursday in the U.S. Senate with the support of over 60 lawmakers.

The bill was conceived by Democrat Senator Richard Blumenthal and late Republican Senator Lindsey Graham.

Blumenthal has identified China, India, Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan as the five countries currently expected to fall within the scope of the proposal.

Apart from the LNG supplies exemption to the EU, the proposed law also exempts US purchases of Russian uranium for nuclear reactors and medical isotopes, as well as activities carried out under the US-Russia cooperation in the nuclear and space sectors.

Sources here described this move as a policy of double standards and noted that efforts to choke oil supplies at the time of Hormuz crisis can further squeeze out of global market impacting India.

India has defended its purchases of discounted Russian crude as essential for energy security and price stability.

According to the Centre for Rese-

arch on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), India imported Russian crude worth 4.5 billion euros in June, making it the world's second-largest buyer after China. India's imports of Russian crude oil increased to a record high in June, rising 34 per cent from the previous month.

There has been an increase in imports of Russian crude by India since

US EXEMPTED

 The proposed bill also exempts US purchases of Russian uranium for nuclear reactors and medical isotopes

ce the Iran war.

The bill must still pass the Senate and the House of Representatives before it can be sent to President Donald Trump for his approval. But the Modi government has taken strong note of unveiling of the bill, ET had earlier reported. The bill comes while India and the USA are working to finalise the trade deal.

Last year, the US President Donald Trump had imposed 25 per cent tariffs on India for purchasing Russian oil but later withdrew as trade deal negotiations with India progressed.

The bill threatening India comes at a time when the USA has imposed 25 per cent tariffs against Brazil rupturing ties with South America's biggest economy while carving out exemptions from certain Brazil exports to the USA without which inflation may rise in America.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line

Editions : New Delhi

Date :18 July 2026

Page : 9

Crude oil flares up on rising US-Iran hostilities



New Delhi: Crude oil prices rose on Friday after the US and Iran stepped up attacks across the Gulf, with their broken truce limiting oil flows out of the Strait of Hormuz and with Tehran asking the Houthi political and military organisation to stand ready to shut the Red Sea export route. Brent crude futures rose 70 cents to \$84.93 a barrel at 0312 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate futures rose 81 cents to \$79.76 a barrel. Both benchmark contracts have climbed nearly 12 per cent this week, with Brent on track for a third consecutive weekly gain and WTI on pace for a second weekly gain. "Oil security is still a critical issue," International Energy Agency Executive Director Fatih Birol said on Thursday at a Council on Foreign Relations event in Washington. REUTERS

Headline	India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh India News		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh | India News

<https://www.7globe.in/indias-first-2-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-india-news/>

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena Friday commissioned the country's first and the deepest geothermal wells at Puga valley.

ONGC Energy Centre would execute two geothermal wells in the Union Territory. What has been achieved in Puga valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said. The commissioning of the two 1,000m-deep wells, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, officials said. The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the officials added. Project engineers said that successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning, and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. They said that the maximum temperature of 135 celsius was recorded at the depth of 400m. Further testing is on and they are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy. The engineers said that despite encountering geothermal activities, complex subsurface conditions, and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000m on May 22, 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000m depth on July 8. The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution. Saxena then intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed, officials said.

Source link

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	ANI News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212440/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 (ANI): In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean

energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh , which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh 's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh 's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh 's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	ANI News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://aninews.in/news/national/general-news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212440/>

In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

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Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

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It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

Headline	Geothermal Wells: लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में देश के पहले दो जियोथर्मल कुएं शुरू, एलजी ने बताया ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि		
Publication	Amar Ujala	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

Geothermal Wells: लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में देश के पहले दो जियोथर्मल कुएं शुरू, एलजी ने बताया ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि

<https://www.amarujala.com/jammu/country-s-first-two-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-s-puga-valley-2026-07-18>

लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में भारत के पहले और सबसे गहरे दो जियोथर्मल (भू-तापीय) कुओं का शुक्रवार को शुभारंभ हुआ। उपराज्यपाल वीके सक्सेना ने इन कुओं को राष्ट्र

को समर्पित किया। ओएनजीसी एनर्जी सेंटर द्वारा विकसित दोनों कुएं 14 हजार फीट से अधिक ऊंचाई पर 1000-1000 मीटर की गहराई तक खोदे गए हैं। इनके शुरू होने से लद्दाख में देश के पहले एक मेगावाट क्षमता वाले डेमो स्केल जियोथर्मल पॉवर प्लांट की स्थापना का रास्ता साफ हो गया है।

यह परियोजना प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के कार्बन न्यूट्रल लद्दाख के विजन को साकार करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण पहल मानी जा रही है। जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा के उपयोग से लद्दाख को स्वच्छ ऊर्जा का केंद्र बनाने के साथ ही भविष्य में क्षेत्र की ऊर्जा जरूरतों को नवीकरणीय स्रोतों से पूरा करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है।

पूर्व में लद्दाख प्रशासन और ओएनजीसी एनर्जी सेंटर के बीच हुए समझौते की अवधि समाप्त होने से परियोजना कुछ समय के लिए ठप हो गई थी। बाद में उपराज्यपाल वीके सक्सेना के हस्तक्षेप से जून 2026 में एमओयू को अगले पांच वर्षों के लिए बढ़ाया गया, जिसके बाद कुओं की ड्रिलिंग का कार्य दोबारा शुरू हुआ।

400 मीटर की गहराई पर 135 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ तापमान

प्रोजेक्ट इंजीनियरों ने बताया कि 400 मीटर की गहराई पर अधिकतम तापमान 135 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। आगे की टेस्टिंग चल रही है। इंजीनियरों को उम्मीद है कि एक मेगावाट के पायलट जियोथर्मल पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट के संचालन और जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा के व्यावसायिक इस्तेमाल के लिए और भी ज्यादा तापमान मिलेगा। यह प्रोजेक्ट दुनिया के सबसे मुश्किल कामकाजी माहौल में शुरू किया गया है। बेहद खराब मौसम और ऊबड़-खाबड़ जमीन पर काम करने का समय भी काफी कम मिलता है।

पहले कुएं की खोदाई मई और दूसरे की जुलाई में हुई पूरी

जियोथर्मल गतिविधियों, जमीन के नीचे की मुश्किल स्थितियों और काम से जुड़ी चुनौतियों के बीच पहला कुआं 22 मई 2026 को 1000 मीटर की तय गहराई तक सफलतापूर्वक खोदा गया। इसके बाद 03 जून 2026 को दूसरे जियोथर्मल कुएं की खोदाई शुरू हुई। करीब एक महीने में 08 जुलाई 2026 को इसे 1000 मीटर की गहराई तक सफलतापूर्वक खोदकर पूरा कर लिया गया।

क्या है जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा

जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा पृथ्वी के भीतर मौजूद प्राकृतिक गर्मी से प्राप्त होने वाली स्वच्छ और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा है। इसमें भूमिगत गर्म पानी और भाप की मदद से बिजली बनाई जाती है। यह ऊर्जा 24 घंटे उपलब्ध रहती है। इससे कार्बन उत्सर्जन बेहद कम होता है। इसलिए इसे भविष्य के स्वच्छ ऊर्जा स्रोतों में सबसे भरोसेमंद माना जाता है।

यह उपलब्धि भारत की स्वच्छ ऊर्जा यात्रा में ऐतिहासिक मील का पत्थर है। यह परियोजना लद्दाख की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने, पर्यावरण संरक्षण को बढ़ावा देने और क्षेत्र के सामाजिक आर्थिक विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी। ओएनजीसी के इंजीनियर और परियोजना से जुड़े कर्मचारी बधाई के पात्र हैं। यह परियोजना भारतीय इंजीनियरिंग क्षमता का बेजोड़ उदाहरण है।

- वीके सक्सेना, उपराज्यपाल लद्दाख

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Andhra Pradesh Mirror	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.andhrapradeshmirror.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	Asianet News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://newsable.asianetnews.com/india/indias-first-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley-articleshow-rrpilum>

LG VK Saxena commissioned India's first and deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley. Executed by ONGC, this project is a major step towards a 1 MW pilot power project and making Ladakh a carbon-neutral clean energy hub.

In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

A Catalyst for Ladakh's Development

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added. He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Project Overcomes Delays

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Technical Achievements in a Challenging Environment

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added. The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

(Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by Asianet Newsable English staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	BOLD NEWS	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://boldnewsonline.com/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/>

Development marks a historic milestone towards PM's vision of Carbon-Neutral Ladakh and towards setting up India's first geothermal power project

Leh, July 17: In a landmark milestone in Indias clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor, Shri VK Saxena, today commissioned Indias first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre. The development is a big stride towards the establishment of Indias first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in Ladakh.Government

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakhs journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Honble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The project also fulfils the Honble PMs vision of Carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources for our future security.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be Indias first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution. Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for Indias energy security and clean energy transition, L-G Shri Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.Geographic Reference

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the worlds most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on 22 May 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on 03 June 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1000 metres depth on 08 July 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in Indias clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakhs transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakhs holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakhs energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, L-G Shri Saxena said.

Shri Saxena lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise Indias growing stature in the field of global engineering. He also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

Headline	ONGC Completes Two Deep Geothermal Wells at Puga, Taking India Closer to Its First Geothermal Power Project		
Publication	Bharat Neeti	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Completes Two Deep Geothermal Wells at Puga, Taking India Closer to Its First Geothermal Power Project

<https://bharatneeti.com/ongc-completes-two-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-taking-india-closer-to-its-first-geothermal-power-project/>

New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) Energy Centre has successfully completed geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 at the Puga Geothermal

Project, advancing the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Puga Geothermal Project site to mark the successful completion of geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre, a milestone in the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

The milestone advances the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga and opens new possibilities for clean, dependable and round-the-clock energy in Ladakh. The project shall help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters.

Beyond electricity generation, geothermal energy has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism and sustainable livelihoods. These applications could contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives. The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh and LAHDC-Leh under a five-year collaboration renewed in June 2026.

The occasion was attended by Administrative Secretary Himanshu Gupta, IAS; Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Shashanka Ala, IAS; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Rajora; and Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbas Jaffari.

Lieutenant Governor highlighted the project's national and regional significance and commended the ONGC Energy Centre team. Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Vikram Saxena said the achievement reaffirmed ONGC's commitment to innovation, energy security and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Big News Network	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/279194544/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-india-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 (ANI): In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, 'Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time.'

'I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth', he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, 'This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region.'

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that further testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Bihar 24x7	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.bihar24x7.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	SC moved against Bombay HC order on CBI probe in RIL-ONGC gas row		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

SC moved against Bombay HC order on CBI probe in RIL-ONGC gas row

https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/sc-moved-against-bombay-hc-order-on-cbi-probe-in-ril-ongc-gas-row-126071701258_1.html

The petitioner has challenged the High Court's refusal to order a CBI investigation into allegations that Reliance Industries extracted gas from an adjoining ONGC block

Listen to This Article

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging a Bombay High Court judgment that refused to order a criminal investigation into allegations that Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) illegally extracted natural gas from an adjoining Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) block in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin.

The appeal has been filed by Jitendra Punamchand Maru, who is seeking directions for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register an FIR against RIL, its directors and others on charges including theft, criminal breach of trust, dishonest misappropriation and criminal conspiracy.

Maru has challenged the Bombay High Court's March 27 ruling, which dismissed his petition after finding it to be an abuse of the judicial process. The High Court observed that although the petition was presented as a matter of public interest, it failed to demonstrate any genuine public purpose. It also held that Maru had not established his bona fides.

The dispute stems from allegations that gas migrated from ONGC-operated fields into the neighbouring KG-D6 block operated by RIL and its consortium partners. Maru claimed that RIL extracted the gas through directional drilling and relied on expert reports and earlier proceedings involving RIL and the Union government to support his allegations.

According to the petition, despite findings regarding the alleged migration of gas, no criminal action was initiated. Maru later approached the CBI seeking registration of an FIR, but the agency closed his complaint in September 2025.

Before the High Court, the CBI argued that the dispute was essentially civil in nature and noted that neither ONGC nor the Union government the entities that could potentially pursue claims against RIL had sought a criminal investigation.

RIL denied the allegations, contending that the petition was intended only to tarnish its reputation and attract publicity. The High Court also questioned why Maru had waited for more than a decade before initiating criminal proceedings.

Emphasising the consequences of criminal prosecution, the court observed that registration of an FIR carries serious implications for those accused.

The underlying commercial dispute has already been the subject of arbitration. An arbitral tribunal ruled in RIL's favour in July 2018. While a single judge of the Delhi High Court upheld the award in May 2023, a Division Bench overturned that decision in February 2025. RIL's appeal against the Division Bench ruling is currently pending before the Supreme Court.

First Published: Jul 17 2026 | 8:19 PM IST

Headline	India a step closer to its first demonstration-scale geothermal power project		
Publication	Business Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India a step closer to its first demonstration-scale geothermal power project

<https://www.besnesstoday.in/latest/corporate/story/india-a-step-closer-to-its-first-demonstration-scale-geothermal-power-project-543731-2026-07-17>

ONGC has completed two wells in Ladakh to harness geothermal power as part of the Puga Geothermal Project.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) Energy Centre has completed geothermal wells at the Puga Geothermal Project, Ladakh, advancing the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Geothermal energy is heat energy within Earth that can be captured and harnessed for electrical power generation, space heating and cooling, and various direct uses.

The milestone advances the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga and opens new possibilities for clean, dependable and round-the-clock energy in Ladakh. The project shall help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters.

Beyond electricity generation, geothermal energy has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism, and sustainable livelihoods. These applications could contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives. The initiative is being advanced jointly by the ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and LAHDC-Leh under a five-year collaboration, renewed in June 2026.

The Government of India has notified the National Policy on Geothermal Energy (2025), reinforcing its commitment towards achieving the ambitious 2070 Net Zero Goal and strengthening the country's energy security through diversified renewable energy sources.

India, with its untapped geothermal resources, is poised to leverage this clean and reliable energy source for power generation and direct-use applications such as district heating, agriculture, aquaculture, and space cooling and heating via Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs). The newly unveiled policy provides a comprehensive framework to promote exploration, development, and utilization of geothermal energy in India.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Chhattisgarh Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.chhattisgarhtoday.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	LG commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Daily Excelsior	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

LG commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/lg-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/>

LEH, July 17: In a landmark milestone in India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, today commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre. The development is a big stride towards the establishment of India's first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in Ladakh.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, L-G personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

"This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," L-G said.

Headline	India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG Saxena hails historic feat		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG Saxena hails historic feat

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/indiatvnews-epaper-intvnews/indias+first+geothermal+wells+commissioned+in+ladakhs+puga+valley+lg+saxena+hails+historic+feat-newsid-n720001143>

Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday inaugurated India's first and deepest geothermal wells in the Puga Valley of the Union Territory (UT), which were executed by the ONGC Energy Centre.

This was a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clean energy vision.

The two 1,000-meter-deep wells were drilled at a high altitude of over 14,000 ft and will pave the way for the establishment of India's first 1-megawatt pilot geothermal power project in Ladakh.

In a statement on X (previously Twitter), Saxena congratulated the engineers and technical experts involved in the project. He said the project will "catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth".

"A historic and proud moment in India's journey towards green, renewable energy!" the Ladakh LG said. "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

All about the project

The project had been delayed for several months after the expiry of the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), and the ONGC Energy Centre. However, Saxena intervened and ensured that the MoU was renewed for another five years in June this year.

The successful completion of the project will facilitate the evaluation of the geothermal reservoir and pave the way for the commercial development of geothermal energy in Ladakh.

Project Engineers said that a maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters. Further testing is underway, and engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project.

"This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," Saxena said.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Delhi Live News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.delhilivenews.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	ONGC Recruitment 2026: Geoscientists & Engineers (E1 Level) – 52 Vacancies Salary Up to ₹1.80 Lakh Per Month		
Publication	Dmc Education	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Recruitment 2026: Geoscientists & Engineers (E1 Level) – 52 Vacancies | Salary Up to ₹1.80 Lakh Per Month

<https://dmc-education.com/2026/07/17/ongc-recruitment-2026-geoscientists-engineers-e1-level-52-vacancies-salary-up-to-%e2%82%b91-80-lakh-per-month/>

ONGC Recruitment 2026 Notification released for Geoscientists & Engineers (E1 Level). Check eligibility, qualification, experience, salary, important dates, selection process, CBT exam, and application details.

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) , India's leading Maharatna Public Sector Enterprise (PSU) , has announced the ONGC Recruitment 2026 for Geoscientists and Engineers (E1 Level) through a Computer Based Test (CBT) followed by an Interview. This recruitment offers an excellent opportunity for talented engineering and geoscience graduates who want to build a long-term career in India's energy sector.

Selected candidates will receive an attractive pay scale of 60,0001,80,000 , along with an approximate CTC of 26 lakh per annum , medical facilities, career growth opportunities, and the chance to work on some of India's largest oil and gas exploration and production projects.

1 About ONGC

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is India's largest crude oil and natural gas producer. It contributes significantly to the country's energy security through exploration, drilling, production, refining support, and advanced energy technologies.

? Why Choose ONGC?

? Maharatna Government Company

? Excellent Salary Package

? Fast Career Growth

? Opportunities to Work Across India

? Exposure to Onshore & Offshore Projects

?? Professional Training Programs

? Medical & Retirement Benefits

? Secure Government Career

2 Recruitment Overview

? Organization: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

? Post Name: Geoscientists & Engineers

? Level: E1

? Job Location: Across India

? Pay Scale: 60,0001,80,000

? Approximate Annual CTC: 26 Lakhs

? Selection Mode: CBT + Interview

? Total Vacancies: 52

3 Important Dates

? Online Application Starts: 17 July 2026

? Last Date to Apply: 31 July 2026 (11:59 PM)

? Computer Based Test (Tentative): 06 September 2026

? Interview: To be notified after CBT.

Candidates are advised to complete the online application well before the closing date to avoid last-minute technical issues.

4 Vacancy Details

ONGC has announced 52 vacancies for various Geoscientist and Engineering disciplines.

The vacancies are distributed among different reservation categories as per Government of India rules for:

General (UR)

Other Backward Classes (OBC)

Scheduled Caste (SC)

Scheduled Tribe (ST)

Economically Weaker Section (EWS)

Candidates should check the detailed notification for the discipline-wise and category-wise breakup.

5 Opening Positions

The recruitment includes the following disciplines:

? 1. Petroleum Engineering

Petroleum Engineers are responsible for oil and gas production, drilling operations, reservoir optimization, and production planning.

Educational Qualification

B.E./B.Tech in Petroleum Engineering from a recognized university.

Experience

Freshers are eligible where specified.

Candidates with internships or industrial training in drilling, production, reservoir engineering, or oil & gas operations will have an added advantage.

2. Mechanical Engineering

Mechanical Engineers play a vital role in maintaining drilling equipment, compressors, pumps, turbines, pipelines, and production facilities.

Educational Qualification

B.E./B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering.

Experience

Fresh graduates can apply where eligible.

Experience in maintenance, rotating equipment, pipeline engineering, or oil & gas projects is desirable.

? 3. Chemical Engineering

Chemical Engineers manage process plants, refinery operations, production optimization, and quality control.

Educational Qualification

B.E./B.Tech in Chemical Engineering.

Experience

Freshers are eligible for applicable posts.

Experience in petrochemical plants, refineries, process engineering, or gas processing is an added advantage.

? 4. Geoscience Disciplines

ONGC also recruits professionals in Geology and Geophysics for exploration and resource evaluation.

Educational Qualification

Master's Degree (M.Sc./M.Tech or equivalent) in the relevant Geoscience discipline from a recognized university.

Experience

Freshers can apply where permitted.

Candidates with fieldwork, seismic interpretation, geological mapping, or exploration project experience may receive preference where applicable.

6 Eligibility Criteria

Candidates should:

Be Indian citizens.

Possess the required educational qualification in the relevant discipline.

Meet the age criteria specified in the official notification.

Satisfy ONGC's medical fitness standards.

Produce all original certificates during document verification.

7 Key Highlights

52 Vacancies

Maharatna PSU Job

Salary up to 1.80 Lakh Per Month

Approximate 26 Lakh Annual CTC

Computer Based Test

Personal Interview

Government Job Security

Excellent Career Growth

Training by Industry Experts

Opportunity to Work on India's Major Energy Projects

1 Geologist

? Qualification: M.Sc./M.Tech in Geology, Applied Geology or equivalent from a recognized university.

? Experience: Freshers can apply where eligible. Candidates with exploration, basin analysis, sedimentology, petroleum geology, or field mapping experience will have an advantage.

? Job Role: Hydrocarbon exploration, reservoir studies, geological mapping, drilling support.

2 Geophysicist (Surface)

? Qualification: M.Sc./M.Tech in Geophysics or equivalent.

? Experience: Freshers are eligible. Experience in seismic data acquisition, interpretation, and processing is desirable.

? Job Role: Seismic surveys, exploration planning, subsurface interpretation.

3 Geophysicist (Wells)

? Qualification: Master's Degree in Geophysics or related specialization.

? Experience: Well logging or formation evaluation experience is preferred but not mandatory where freshers are allowed.

? Job Role: Well log interpretation, reservoir evaluation, drilling support.

4 Petroleum Engineering

? Qualification: B.E./B.Tech in Petroleum Engineering.

? Experience: Fresh graduates are eligible. Internship or industry exposure in drilling, production, or reservoir engineering is beneficial.

Job Role: Drilling operations, production optimization, reservoir management.

5 Mechanical Engineering

? Qualification: B.E./B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering.

? Experience: Freshers may apply. Experience with rotating equipment, pipelines, maintenance, or oil & gas projects is an advantage.

? Job Role: Plant maintenance, equipment reliability, offshore and onshore operations.

6 Chemical Engineering

? Qualification: B.E./B.Tech in Chemical Engineering.

? Experience: Freshers are eligible. Experience in refinery, petrochemical, process engineering, or gas processing is desirable.

? Job Role: Process optimization, production facilities, refinery operations.

9. Salary & Benefits ?

Selected candidates will receive:

? Pay Scale: 60,000 1,80,000

? Approximate Annual CTC: 26 Lakhs

? Medical Facilities

? HRA/Accommodation (as applicable)

??? Provident Fund

? Performance Related Pay

? Transport Benefits

? Training & Development

? Career Growth Opportunities

? Paid Leave & Other PSU Benefits

? Selection Process

The recruitment process includes:

? Computer Based Test (CBT)

? Personal Interview

? Document Verification

? Medical Examination

Final Merit List

11 Documents Required

? 10th & 12th Mark Sheets

? Degree Certificates

? Semester Mark Sheets

? Passport Size Photograph

Signature

? Aadhaar/PAN

? Category Certificate (if applicable)

? Experience Certificate (if applicable)

12 Why Join ONGC? ?

Maharatna PSU

India's Leading Energy Company

Excellent Work Culture

High Salary Package

Job Security

International Exposure

Promotion Opportunities

Advanced Technology Projects

Learning & Development Programs

13 Career Growth

After joining at E1 Level , employees can progress through executive grades based on performance, experience, and organizational requirements. ONGC offers structured training, leadership development, and opportunities to work on offshore, onshore, and international energy projects.

14 How to Apply

Visit the official ONGC Careers portal.

Register with your email ID and mobile number.

Complete the online application form.

Upload the required documents.

Pay the application fee (if applicable).

Submit the application before the closing date.

Download the confirmation page for future reference.

15 Preparation Tips

? Revise core engineering/geoscience subjects.

? Practice previous CBT papers.

Attempt online mock tests.

? Stay updated with current affairs.

? Improve reasoning, aptitude, and English.

16 Important Dates

? Application Starts: 17 July 2026

? Last Date: 31 July 2026

? CBT (Tentative): 06 September 2026

? Interview: To be announced after CBT

17 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can freshers apply?

Yes, eligible fresh graduates can apply for E1-level positions where specified.

What is the salary?

? 60,0001,80,000 per month, with an approximate annual CTC of 26 lakh.

What is the selection process?

? CBT followed by an Interview, Document Verification, and Medical Examination.

What is the last date to apply?

? 31 July 2026

? Conclusion

ONGC Recruitment 2026 is an excellent opportunity for talented engineers and geoscientists to begin their careers with one of India's most prestigious Maharatna PSUs. With a salary of 60,0001,80,000 , an estimated 26 lakh annual CTC , career advancement opportunities, and exposure to world-class energy projects, this recruitment drive is highly attractive. Candidates should complete their applications before 31 July 2026 and prepare well for the Computer Based Test (CBT) and interview.

Headline	ONGC completes 2 deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing Ladakh's demonstration project		
Publication	Energywatch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC completes 2 deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing Ladakh's demonstration project

<https://www.energywatch.in/oil-and-gas/ongc-completes-2-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-advancing-ladakh-demonstration-project>

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Puga Geothermal Project site on Friday, marking the completion of geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre, the state-run explorer said in a statement.

ONGC described the milestone as advancing the development of what it called India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga. The company said the project opens up possibilities for round-the-clock clean energy in Ladakh, and could help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support power availability through the region's severe winters.

What the project is meant to do

Beyond electricity generation, ONGC said geothermal energy at the site has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism and sustainable livelihoods. According to the company, these applications could contribute to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its stated aspiration to become a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, ONGC said the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives.

Who is building it

The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and LAHDC-Leh, under a five-year collaboration that was renewed in June, the statement said.

Who was present

The event was attended by Administrative Secretary Himanshu Gupta, IAS; Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Shashanka Ala, IAS; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Rajora; and Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbas Jaffari.

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The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the project's national and regional significance and commended the ONGC Energy Centre team, according to the statement. Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Vikram Saxena said the achievement reaffirmed the company's commitment to innovation, energy security and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

Headline	LG Ladakh commissions India's first 2 geothermal wells in Puga Valley		
Publication	Greater Kashmir	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

LG Ladakh commissions India's first 2 geothermal wells in Puga Valley

<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/ladakh/lg-ladakh-commissions-indias-first-2-geothermal-wells-in-puga-valley-12174939>

Leh, Jul 17: In a landmark milestone in India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

The development is a big stride towards the establishment of India's first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in Ladakh.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The project also fulfils the PM's vision of Carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources for our future security.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, LG Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters.

Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22, 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3, 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1000 metres depth on 08 July 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, LG Saxena said.

Saxena lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

He also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Gujarat Samachar News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.gujaratsamachar.news/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Gujarat Varta	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.gujaratvarta.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	L-G commissions India's first geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	HT Syndication	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G commissions India's first geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://htsyndication.com/kashmir-images/article/l-g-commissions-india-s-first-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh-s-puga-valley/102346405>

Leh, July 18 -- Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a

significant step towards the country's first geothermal power project and the Union Territory's transition to clean energy.

The two wells, each drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet by the ONGC Energy Centre, are expected to support the proposed 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power plant.

Officials said the project is aimed at advancing Ladakh's renewable energy capacity and aligns with the Centre's vision of promoting carbon-neutral development in the region.

According to the administration, th...

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	HT Syndication	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://htsyndication.com/early-times/article/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-india-s-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/102345135>

Leh, July 17 -- In a landmark milestone in India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor, Shri VK Saxena, today commissioned India's first and

deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre. The development is a big stride towards the establishment of India's first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in Ladakh.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The project also fulfils the Hon'ble PM's vision of Carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources f...

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Haryana Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.haryanatoday.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Himachal Patrika	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.himachalpatrika.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	ONGC Completes Two Deep Geothermal Wells at Puga, Taking India Closer to Its First Geothermal Power Project		
Publication	INDIAN PSU	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Completes Two Deep Geothermal Wells at Puga, Taking India Closer to Its First Geothermal Power Project

<https://indianpsu.com/ongc-completes-two-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-indias-first-geothermal-power-project/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) Energy Centre has successfully completed geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 at the Puga Geothermal Project, advancing the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Puga Geothermal Project site to mark the successful completion of geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre, a milestone in the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

The milestone advances the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga and opens new possibilities for clean, dependable and round-the-clock energy in Ladakh. The project will help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters.

Beyond electricity generation, geothermal energy has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism and sustainable livelihoods. These applications could contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy security and Net Zero objectives. The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh and LAHDC-Leh under a five-year collaboration renewed in June 2026.

The occasion was attended by Administrative Secretary Himanshu Gupta, IAS; Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Shashanka Ala, IAS; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Rajora; and Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbas Jaffari.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena highlighted the project's national and regional significance and commended the ONGC Energy Centre team. Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Vikram Saxena said the achievement reaffirmed ONGC's commitment to innovation, energy security and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

Headline	India's first two geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG Saxena hails historic feat		
Publication	India TV News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's first two geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG Saxena hails historic feat

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/india-s-first-two-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-s-puga-valley-lg-saxena-hails-historic-feat-2026-07-17-1048608>

After the commission of the two geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG VK Saxena hailed the achievement and said this project will catalyze the Union Territory's holistic development.

Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday inaugurated India's first and deepest geothermal wells in the Puga Valley of the Union Territory (UT), which were executed by the ONGC Energy Centre. This was a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clean energy vision.

The two 1,000-meter-deep wells were drilled at a high altitude of over 14,000 ft and will pave the way for the establishment of India's first 1-megawatt pilot geothermal power project in Ladakh.

In a statement on X (previously Twitter), Saxena congratulated the engineers and technical experts involved in the project. He said the project will "catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth".

"A historic and proud moment in India's journey towards green, renewable energy!" the Ladakh LG said. "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

All about the project

The project had been delayed for several months after the expiry of the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), and the ONGC Energy Centre. However, Saxena intervened and ensured that the MoU was renewed for another five years in June this year.

The successful completion of the project will facilitate the evaluation of the geothermal reservoir and pave the way for the commercial development of geothermal energy in Ladakh.

Project Engineers said that a maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters. Further testing is underway, and engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project.

"This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," Saxena said.

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Publication	India TV News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

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India's first two geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley on Friday.

(Image Source : SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT)

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	India's News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.indiasnews.net/news/279194544/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-india-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 (ANI): In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Indian Economic Observer	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

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<https://www.indianeconomicobserver.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Indian News Network	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.indiannewsnetwork.net/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

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Headline	India's First Deep Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh, Paving Way for 1 MW Pilot Power Plant		
Publication	Jammu Links	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's First Deep Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh, Paving Way for 1 MW Pilot Power Plant

<https://www.jammulinksnews.com/indias-first-deep-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-paving-way-for-1-mw-pilot-power-plant/>

LEH: In a major milestone for India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Thursday commissioned the country's first and deepest

geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a significant step towards establishing India's first geothermal power plant.

The two geothermal wells, each drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet, have been executed by the ONGC Energy Centre. The development is expected to accelerate Ladakh's transformation into a renewable energy hub and support the vision of making the Union Territory carbon-neutral.

The wells are a key component of the proposed 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will serve as India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power plant.

The project had faced delays after the expiry of the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ladakh Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and ONGC Energy Centre. The project resumed after the MoU was renewed for another five years in June following the intervention of Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

Officials said the successful completion of the wells would facilitate reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and future commercial development of geothermal resources in the region. Engineers have recorded a maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius at a depth of 400 metres and are continuing further tests in the hope of achieving higher temperatures required for operating the 1 MW pilot project and future commercial exploitation.

The project has been executed under challenging conditions, including extreme weather, rugged terrain and a short annual working season. Despite complex subsurface conditions and geothermal activity, the first well reached its target depth on May 22, 2026, while the second well, drilled after spudding on June 3, was completed to 1,000 metres on July 8 in just over a month.

Addressing the commissioning ceremony, VK Saxena described the project as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

He said the geothermal power project would strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to the region's socio-economic development. He added that the achievement at Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero ambitions and support the development of Ladakh as an environmentally sustainable region.

The Lieutenant Governor also praised the ONGC engineers, technicians and workers involved in the project, describing the successful execution under difficult conditions as a testament to their skill, determination and perseverance.

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Headline	ONGC Expands CSR Healthcare Outreach with Free Eye Camp at Amlabad in Bokaro		
Publication	Jharkhand Mirror	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Expands CSR Healthcare Outreach with Free Eye Camp at Amlabad in Bokaro

<https://www.jharkhandmirror.net/ongc-eye-camp-amlabad-bokaro-csr/>

ONGC CBM Asset, Bokaro organised a free eye care and cataract surgery camp at Amlabad under its CSR initiative, benefiting hundreds of rural residents with free health services.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Jharkhand Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.jharkhandtimes.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

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The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Karnataka Live	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.karnatakalive.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Kashmir Breaking News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.kashmirbreakingnews.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

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The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	Deepest Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh, Paving Way for First Geothermal Power Plant		
Publication	Kashmir Life	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Deepest Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh, Paving Way for First Geothermal Power Plant

<https://kashmirlife.net/deepest-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-paving-way-for-first-geothermal-power-plant-443561/>

SRINAGAR: India on Friday achieved a major milestone in its clean energy programme with the commissioning of the country's first and deepest geothermal

wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, a development expected to accelerate the establishment of India's first geothermal power plant.

The two geothermal wells, each drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet, were commissioned by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena. Executed by the ONGC Energy Centre, the wells will support the country's first 1 MW demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Project engineers said a temperature of 135 degrees Celsius has already been recorded at a depth of 400 metres, with further testing underway. They expect higher temperatures that could support electricity generation and future commercial exploitation of geothermal resources in the region.

The project is considered a significant step towards harnessing geothermal energy in India and advancing Ladakh's goal of becoming a clean energy hub powered by renewable sources.

The geothermal project had faced delays after the expiry of an earlier tripartite memorandum of understanding involving the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Leh) and the ONGC Energy Centre. The agreement was renewed for another five years in June, allowing drilling work to resume.

The first well reached its target depth on May 22, while the second, which was spudded on June 3, was completed on July 8 in just over a month despite difficult geological conditions.

Located in one of the world's harshest operating environments, the project involved drilling through complex subsurface formations amid extreme weather, rugged terrain and a short working season.

The wells are expected to facilitate reservoir evaluation, detailed power plant planning and eventual commercial development of geothermal energy in Ladakh.

Speaking after commissioning the wells, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena described the achievement as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

He said the geothermal power project would strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to the region's socio-economic development. He added that the initiative could serve as a model for India's broader net-zero ambitions and help realise the vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh.

Saxena also praised the ONGC engineers and workers involved in the project, saying the successful drilling of the wells under extreme conditions reflected the capability of Indian engineering and the determination of the project team.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Kashmir Newsline	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.kashmirnewsline.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

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An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh		
Publication	Kashmir Vision	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh

<https://kashmirvision.in/2026/07/18/lg-saxena-commissions-indias-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh/>

Leh: In a landmark milestone for India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest

geothermal wells at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said.

Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over 14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said.

He said the project, which is a big stride towards setting up of India's first-ever geothermal power plant, also fulfils the prime minister's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

The Lt Governor termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development.

What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said.

He lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

The Lt Governor also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the spokesperson said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, the Lt Governor personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed for completion of the two geothermal wells, the spokesperson said.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh, the spokesperson said.

The official said the project engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful of achieving even higher temperatures for the operation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22.

Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000 metres depth on July 8, the spokesperson said.

Headline	India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	Khelja	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://khelja.in/indias-first-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley/>

LG VK Saxena commissioned India's first and deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley.

Executed by ONGC, this project is a major step towards a 1 MW pilot power project and making Ladakh a carbon-neutral clean energy hub.

In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

A Catalyst for Ladakh's Development

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time.

I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth, he added. He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region.

Project Overcomes Delays

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Technical Achievements in a Challenging Environment

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It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

(Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by Asianet Newsable English staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)

Headline	India News L-G VK Saxena Commissions India's First Two Geothermal Wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Latest LY	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India News | L-G VK Saxena Commissions India's First Two Geothermal Wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/india-news-l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh-7521116.html>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 (ANI): In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Lokmat Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.lokmatimes.com/national/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

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Headline	India a step closer to its first demonstration-scale geothermal power project		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India a step closer to its first demonstration-scale geothermal power project

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/india-a-step-closer-to-its-first-demonstration-scale-geothermal-power-project/ar-AA2888SY>

Richa Sharma Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) Energy Centre has completed geothermal wells at the Puga Geothermal Project, Ladakh, advancing

the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Geothermal energy is heat energy within Earth that can be captured and harnessed for electrical power generation, space heating and cooling, and various direct uses.

The milestone advances the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga and opens new possibilities for clean, dependable and round-the-clock energy in Ladakh. The project shall help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters.

Beyond electricity generation, geothermal energy has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism, and sustainable livelihoods. These applications could contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives. The initiative is being advanced jointly by the ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and LAHDC-Leh under a five-year collaboration, renewed in June 2026.

The Government of India has notified the National Policy on Geothermal Energy (2025), reinforcing its commitment towards achieving the ambitious 2070 Net Zero Goal and strengthening the country's energy security through diversified renewable energy sources.

India, with its untapped geothermal resources, is poised to leverage this clean and reliable energy source for power generation and direct-use applications such as district heating, agriculture, aquaculture, and space cooling and heating via Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs). The newly unveiled policy provides a comprehensive framework to promote exploration, development, and utilization of geothermal energy in India.

Headline	India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/india/india-s-first-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-s-puga-valley/ar-AA288MXZ>

Asianet News Central In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

A Catalyst for Ladakh's Development

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added. He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Project Overcomes Delays

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Technical Achievements in a Challenging Environment

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added. The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI) (Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by Asianet Newsable English staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)

Headline	India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/india-s-first-2-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh/ar-AA289kRW>

Naseer Ganai SRINAGAR: In a major step towards India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena Friday commissioned

the country's first and the deepest geothermal wells at Puga valley. ONGC Energy Centre would execute two geothermal wells in the Union Territory.

What has been achieved in Puga valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said.

The commissioning of the two 1,000m-deep wells, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, officials said. The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the officials added.

Project engineers said that successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning, and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

They said that the maximum temperature of 135 celsius was recorded at the depth of 400m. Further testing is on and they are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The engineers said that despite encountering geothermal activities, complex subsurface conditions, and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000m on May 22, 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000m depth on July 8.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Saxena then intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed, officials said.

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Headline	India's first and deepest geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first and deepest geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/india/india-s-first-and-deepest-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-s-puga-valley/ar-AA289bgs>

Fayaz Wani SRINAGAR: In a major boost to India's clean energy mission, the country's first and deepest geothermal wells were commissioned at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh on Friday.

The two geothermal wells, executed by the ONGC Energy Centre, were commissioned by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

The wells are critical to the implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

The commissioning of the two 1000-metre-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Saxena said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback after the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in delays of several months.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, Saxena facilitated the renewal of the MoU for another five years in June, following which work resumed on the completion of the two geothermal wells.

The successful completion of the wells will facilitate reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

According to project engineers, a maximum temperature of 135C was recorded at a depth of 400 metres.

They said further testing was under way and expressed hope of recording even higher temperatures to support the operation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project and the eventual commercial exploitation of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

According to officials, despite geothermal activity, complex subsurface conditions and operational challenges, the first well was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22, 2026.

The second well was spudded on June 3 and, in just over a month, was drilled and completed to a depth of 1,000 metres on July 8.

Saxena described the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, he said.

Saxena also praised the ONGC engineers, saying Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world and capable of accomplishing some of the most challenging engineering feats, symbolising India's growing stature in global engineering.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Maharashtra Samachar	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.maharashtrasamachar.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	Ladakh L-G commissions India's 1st geothermal wells at Puga Valley		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

Ladakh L-G commissions India's 1st geothermal wells at Puga Valley

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/ladakh-l-g-commissions-indias-1st-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-668611>

Leh: India on Friday commissioned its first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a major step towards establishing the country's first geothermal power plant.

Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena inaugurated the two 1,000-metre-deep wells, developed by ONGC Energy Centre at an altitude of over 14,000 feet.

The wells will support the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project, India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, and advance Ladakh's goal of becoming a carbon-neutral clean energy hub.

The project had faced delays after the expiry of the tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre.

The pact was renewed for five years in June following the Lieutenant Governor's intervention, allowing work to resume.

The completed wells will enable reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and future commercial development of geothermal resources.

Engineers have recorded temperatures of up to 135 degrees Celsius at a depth of 400 metres and are continuing tests in the hope of finding higher temperatures needed for power generation. Mpost

Headline	Puri Reviews India's Overseas Oil Portfolio Spanning 20+ Nations		
Publication	Nation Press	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Puri Reviews India's Overseas Oil Portfolio Spanning 20+ Nations

<https://www.nationpress.com/national/puri-reviews-india-20-nation-oil-portfolio>

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on 17 July 2026 reviewed the overseas upstream E&P portfolios of five Indian energy PSUs ONGC Videsh, IOCL, BPRL, OIL and GAIL spanning 20-plus countries, with active assets in Mozambique, Brazil, UAE, Venezuela and Libya.

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri reviewed India's overseas upstream E&P portfolio on 17 July 2026 .

Five PSUs ONGC Videsh, IOCL, BPRL, OIL and GAIL collectively operate in more than 20 countries across six regions.

Key active and development assets are located in Mozambique, Brazil, UAE, Venezuela and Libya .

Cumulative PSU investments in overseas assets run into billions of dollars , according to the minister.

India imports over 80 percent of its crude requirements, making overseas equity stakes central to energy security.

The review signals continued government intent to expand India's international upstream footprint under PM Narendra Modi .

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday, 17 July 2026 , reviewed the overseas upstream exploration and production (E&P) portfolio of India's state-owned energy companies, reaffirming the country's strategy of securing long-term, diversified energy supplies through equity stakes and strategic partnerships across more than 20 countries

Context

Posting on X, Minister Puri stated that India's energy public sector undertakings (PSUs) are 'pursuing global assets including equity oil, dividend models and strategic partnerships alike, to secure long-term, diversified energy supplies for the country.' The review covered the combined international footprint of ONGC Videsh Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) Bharat PetroResources Limited (BPRL) Oil India Limited (OIL) , and GAIL (India) Limited

Together, these entities hold equity in active producing assets and key development projects in countries including Mozambique Brazil UAE Venezuela , and Libya , with the minister noting that 'cumulative investments running into billions of dollars' have been committed across these geographies.

Policy Backdrop

India's push for overseas equity oil dates to the early 2000s. ONGC Videsh acquired a stake in Russia's Sakhalin-I project in , establishing the template for state-led international E&P investments. The Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 document, released in , formally recommended that Indian PSUs pursue overseas opportunities to reduce the country's dependence on crude imports.

India currently imports over 80 percent of its crude oil requirements, making supply diversification a structural imperative. In , India signed an MoU with Mozambique for development of the Rovuma LNG project , in which both ONGC Videsh and OIL hold stakes one of the most significant African upstream commitments by Indian PSUs.

The geographic spread reviewed by the minister spanning North America Latin America , the CIS region , the Middle East Africa , and Asia Pacific mirrors strategies adopted by other large Asian importers competing for upstream acreage globally.

Stakeholders and Impact

The five PSUs under review collectively represent India's primary vehicle for acquiring 'equity barrels' crude oil produced from assets in which Indian companies hold an ownership stake, as distinct from spot or term purchases on the open market. Equity oil provides a degree of price insulation and supply predictability that market purchases cannot guarantee.

For domestic crude importers and refiners, a robust overseas portfolio translates into greater negotiating leverage and supply chain resilience. IOCL and BPRL , in particular, complement their refining operations with upstream equity

positions, creating an integrated supply model. GAIL 's international stakes extend India's reach into LNG supply chains critical for the country's gas-based transition ambitions.

What's Next

The Petroleum Ministry is expected to conduct quarterly portfolio reviews of PSU overseas assets, with fresh bidding opportunities in Brazil's pre-salt rounds and UAE offshore blocks being closely watched by Indian energy planners. Minister Puri framed the review as 'a clear reaffirmation that India's energy security strategy extends confidently beyond our shores,' signalling continued government appetite for expanding the international upstream footprint.

As global energy markets remain volatile, India's ability to grow its equity oil base and reduce reliance on price-exposed spot purchases will be a key metric of the country's long-term energy security posture under the Modi government

Modi-era strategic doctrine rather than a legacy inheritance. By naming five PSUs and six global regions in a single post, Puri is consolidating a narrative of proactive energy diplomacy ahead of what could be a competitive bidding cycle in Brazil and the UAE. The equity-oil model has bipartisan roots going back to the early 2000s, but the current government is clearly invested in claiming ownership of its expansion. Crucially, the absence of specific production or revenue figures keeps the communication aspirational the harder test will come when quarterly reviews translate into verifiable new acreage wins.

Which Indian PSUs hold overseas oil and gas assets?

What is equity oil and why does India pursue it?

Where are India's major overseas oil investments located?

What is ONGC Videsh and what does it do?

What did Hardeep Singh Puri announce about India's energy policy in July 2026?

Headline	India completes 1st deep geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	New Bytes	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India completes 1st deep geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://www.newsbytesapp.com/news/india/india-completes-1st-deep-geothermal-wells-in-ladakhs-puga-valley/tldr>

India just hit a big milestone: its first deep geothermal wells are done in Ladakh's Puga Valley.

ONGC Energy Centre drilled two wells, each 1,000 meters deep, to kickstart the country's very first geothermal power plant.

At over 14,000 feet high, this plant is set to deliver steady renewable energy and push Ladakh closer to becoming carbon-neutral.

Wells hit 135C, powering 1MW pilot

Getting here wasn't easy: the project faced delays and tricky geology, plus seismic activity slowed things down.

Thanks to a fresh five-year agreement signed in June 2026, work picked up pace and drilling wrapped up on July 8.

The wells reached thermal activity of 135 degrees Celsius at 400 meters and will power a pilot 1-megawatt plant.

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena praised the team for their hard work under extreme conditions, calling it a huge step for India's clean energy future.

Headline	India's First Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh by L-G VK Saxena		
Publication	New Kerala	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's First Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh by L-G VK Saxena

<https://www.newkerala.com/news/all-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-910.htm>

Leh, July 17 In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Naredhra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant

Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth - VK Saxena"

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

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Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

ANI

Headline	Ladakh Unveils India's First & Deepest Geothermal Wells in Puga Valley		
Publication	News 18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

Ladakh Unveils India's First & Deepest Geothermal Wells in Puga Valley

<https://one.news18.com/english/article/india/ladakh-unveils-indias-first-and-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-puga-valley-eng-9910219360>

Ladakh successfully commissioned India's first and deepest geothermal wells in Puga Valley, a landmark for the renewable energy sector.

Two 1,000-meter-deep wells were drilled by the ONGC Energy Centre at an altitude exceeding 14,000 feet, paving the way for India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, hailed the achievement as a historic moment for India's green energy journey.

The project overcame challenging conditions including high altitude, extreme cold, and complex geology, completed in record time.

This development is expected to accelerate geothermal energy in Ladakh, reduce reliance on diesel, and support a carbon-neutral Ladakh and Net-Zero India.

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Headline	Ladakh Drills Into History: India's First & Deepest Geothermal Wells Go Live At Puga		
Publication	News 18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

Ladakh Drills Into History: India's First & Deepest Geothermal Wells Go Live At Puga

<https://www.news18.com/india/ladakh-drills-into-history-indias-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-go-live-at-puga-10219360.html>

The two 1,000-metre-deep wells, drilled by ONGC Energy Centre at over 14,000 feet, mark a big step towards creating India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project in the region

In a landmark achievement for India's renewable energy sector, the Union Territory of Ladakh on Friday successfully commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley.

The two 1,000-metre-deep wells, drilled by the ONGC Energy Centre at an altitude exceeding 14,000 feet, mark a major step towards establishing India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project in the region.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena announced the milestone in an official post, calling it a historic and proud moment in India's journey towards green, renewable energy".

Successfully commissioned India's first and deepest, two geothermal wells, today at Puga Valley in Ladakh. Drilled at a high altitude of over 14,000 ft, these two 1000-meter-deep wells by the ONGC Energy Centre also pave the way for setting up of India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project in Ladakh," he said on X.

The project overcomes some of the most challenging conditions in the countryhigh altitude, extreme cold, unpredictable geothermal activity, and complex subsurface geologyand was completed in record time by the engineering teams.

Officials say the successful drilling is expected to accelerate the development of geothermal energy in Ladakh, reduce dependence on diesel-based power in remote areas, and support the broader national goal of a carbon-neutral Ladakh and Net-Zero India.

The Puga Valley has long been identified as one of India's most promising geothermal sites. The commissioning of these deep wells is being viewed as a critical breakthrough that could open the door for geothermal power generation in the Himalayas.

Geothermal energy development in Ladakh is expected to reduce dependence on diesel-based power in remote areas and support the goal of a carbon-neutral Ladakh. India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project is being established in the region.

The commissioning of India's first and deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley could pave the way for geothermal power generation in the Himalayas. This pilot project is seen as a critical breakthrough.

The next steps for India's 1 MW pilot geothermal power project include setting up the plant and developing geothermal resources for reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh. The project aims to provide clean energy and potentially pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy.

Headline	India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh

<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/india/indias-first-2-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-toi/articleshow/1450482099646b310d487473d313948b95f44ba0>

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena Friday commissioned the country's first and the deepest geothermal wells at Puga valley. ONGC Energy Centre would execute two geothermal wells in the Union Territory.

What has been achieved in Puga valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said.

The commissioning of the two 1,000m-deep wells, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, officials said. The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the officials added.

Project engineers said that successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning, and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

They said that the maximum temperature of 135 celsius was recorded at the depth of 400m. Further testing is on and they are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Northeast Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.northeasttimes.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	ONGC Energy Centre Completes Geothermal Wells GT#02 & GT#03 at Puga Valley, Ladakh		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Energy Centre Completes Geothermal Wells GT#02 & GT#03 at Puga Valley, Ladakh

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-energy-centre-completes-geothermal-wells-gt-02-gt-03-at-puga-valley-ladakh>

ONGC Energy Centre successfully completes GT#02 and GT#03 geothermal wells at Puga Valley, Ladakh. This advances India's first 1 MWe geothermal pilot power plant. Full details here.

In a significant milestone for India's renewable energy sector, the ONGC Energy Centre has successfully completed drilling of two geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 at Puga Valley in Ladakh.

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, unveiled the commemorative plaque and graced the completion ceremony.

Key Highlights:

Depth of each well : 1,000 metres

Altitude : Over 14,000 feet

Project : Puga Geothermal Project

The wells were drilled under challenging high-altitude conditions and mark a major step forward in India's indigenous geothermal exploration capabilities.

Attendees:

Shri Himanshu Gupta, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Power Development Department

Ms Shashanka Ala, IAS, Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

Shri Nitish Rajora, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Changthang

Senior officials from UT Administration and ONGC leadership, including Director (Technology & Field Services) Vikram

This achievement paves the way for the proposed 1 MWe pilot geothermal power plant at Puga envisaged as India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Analysis: The Puga Geothermal Project is strategically important for providing round-the-clock renewable energy in the difficult Himalayan terrain. Geothermal energy, being baseload and clean, can play a vital role in India's energy security and clean energy transition goals. ONGC Energy Centre's success at such high altitude demonstrates India's growing technical capability in geothermal development.

Headline	ONGC completes 2 deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing Ladakh's demonstration project		
Publication	PSU Watch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC completes 2 deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing Ladakh's demonstration project

<https://psuwatch.com/newsupdates/ongc-completes-2-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-advancing-ladakh-s-demonstration-project>

ONGC has completed two deep geothermal wells at Puga in Ladakh, moving its demonstration-scale power project closer to first output. Published on

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Puga Geothermal Project site on Friday, marking the completion of geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre, the state-run explorer said in a statement.

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ONGC described the milestone as advancing the development of what it called India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga. The company said the project opens up possibilities for round-the-clock clean energy in Ladakh, and could help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support power availability through the region's severe winters.

What the project is meant to do

Beyond electricity generation, ONGC said geothermal energy at the site has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism and sustainable livelihoods. According to the company, these applications could contribute to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its stated aspiration to become a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, ONGC said the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives.

Who is building it

The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and LAHDC-Leh, under a five-year collaboration that was renewed in June, the statement said.

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Who was present

The event was attended by Administrative Secretary Himanshu Gupta, IAS; Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Shashanka Ala, IAS; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Rajora; and Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbas Jaffari.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the project's national and regional significance and commended the ONGC Energy Centre team, according to the statement. Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Vikram Saxena said the achievement reaffirmed the company's commitment to innovation, energy security and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

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Headline	J-K LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh		
Publication	PTI	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

J-K LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh

<https://www.ptinews.com/story/national/j-k-lg-saxena-commissions-india-s-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh/3870623>

LEH: (Jul 17) In a landmark milestone for India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first

and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said.

Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over 14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said.

He said the project, which is a big stride towards setting up of India's first-ever geothermal power plant, also fulfils the prime minister's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

Headline	UPES, ONGC partner on AI innovation agenda		
Publication	Pioneer Edge	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

UPES, ONGC partner on AI innovation agenda

<https://pioneeredge.in/upes-ongc-partner-on-ai-innovation-agenda/>

PIONEER EDGE NEWS SERVICE/ Dehradun UPES and the Keshava Deva Malaviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration (KDMIPE), ONGC will jointly explore

opportunities for long-term collaboration in AI-driven energy innovation and clean energy research and also to identify opportunities in multidisciplinary research and emerging energy technologies. Things were finalised during an interaction held between the seniors of both the institutions. The key areas included Natural Hydrogen, Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), unconventional energy resources, and Artificial Intelligence-enabled solutions for energy exploration and production.

Organised under the leadership of the vice- chancellor, UPES, Dr. Sunil Rai, the interaction focused on strengthening industryacademia partnerships that can drive scientific advancement and support India's transition towards a more sustainable energy future. Among those who representedKDMIPE, ONGC was the Executive Director and Chief of Institute (COI), Tarun Kumar Mathuria He highlighted ONGC's contributions to hydrocarbon exploration, its growing role in the clean energy transition and the increasing adoption of advanced technologies to drive innovation across the energy sector.

In his address, Rai said that the future of energy would be shaped by meaningful collaboration between academia and industry.

During the visit, the ONGC delegation toured UPES' state-of-the-art facilities, including the Bajaj Engineering Skills and Training Centre (BEST), and reviewed ongoing research initiatives focused on advancing future energy technologies.

Headline	ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL) announces Polypropylene (PP) and Polyethylene (PE) price revisions in the domestic markets of India		
Publication	Polymer Update	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

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<https://www.polymerupdate.com/News/Details/1498374/important>

17 Jul 2026 12:19 IST

Headline	Clean Energy: Ladakh Gets India First Deep Geothermal Wells		
Publication	Power Corridors	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Clean Energy: Ladakh Gets India First Deep Geothermal Wells

<https://powercorridors.in/clean-energy-ladakh-gets-india-first-deep-geothermal-wells/>

The 1,000-metre-deep wells, drilled at over 14,000 feet by ONGC Energy Centre, are expected to advance Ladakh's goal of becoming a carbon-neutral region.

BY PC Bureau

New Delhi, July 17: India on Thursday achieved a major milestone in its clean energy ambitions with the commissioning of the country's first and deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley, a breakthrough expected to accelerate the development of India's first geothermal power plant.

Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena inaugurated the two 1,000-metre-deep wells, drilled by the ONGC Energy Centre at an altitude of over 14,000 feet. The project marks a significant step towards transforming Ladakh into a renewable energy hub and advancing the Centre's vision of making the Union Territory carbon neutral.

The newly commissioned wells will supply crucial data and geothermal resources for the proposed 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga , India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power initiative.

The project had remained stalled after the expiry of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and the ONGC Energy Centre. The initiative was revived after the MoU was renewed for another five years in June this year following the intervention of Lieutenant Governor Saxena, allowing drilling operations to resume and reach completion.

READ: Land Ownership Doesn't Establish Citizenship: Calcutta HC

According to project engineers, temperatures of up to 135 degrees Celsius have already been recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is underway, with officials optimistic that even higher temperatures at greater depths will be sufficient to operate the planned pilot power plant and support future commercial-scale geothermal energy production.

The drilling campaign was carried out under some of the world's harshest conditions, including sub-zero temperatures, rugged Himalayan terrain, an altitude exceeding 14,000 feet, and a narrow annual construction window. Despite these challenges, the first well reached its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22, 2026 , while the second well, spudded on June 3 , was completed in a record five weeks on July 8

Describing the achievement as a landmark in India's clean energy journey, Saxena said the geothermal project would become a catalyst for Ladakh's long-term development.

This geothermal power project will strengthen energy security, promote environmental sustainability and accelerate socio-economic development in Ladakh. The success achieved in Puga Valley will serve as a blueprint for India's journey towards net-zero emissions, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the ONGC engineers and technical teams for executing one of the country's most challenging drilling projects and praised the workers for their perseverance in the difficult high-altitude environment.

Once operational, the Puga geothermal project is expected to demonstrate the viability of geothermal energy as a dependable, round-the-clock renewable power source in India, reducing dependence on fossil fuels while supporting the country's broader clean energy transition.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Rajasthan Ki Khabar	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.rajasthankikhabar.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Rising Kashmir	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://risingkashmir.com/jammu-and-kashmir/lg-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-geothermal-wells-puga-valley-ladakh-12174593>

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Headline	ONGC completes two deep geothermal wells at Puga in Ladakh		
Publication	Scanx	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC completes two deep geothermal wells at Puga in Ladakh

<https://scanx.trade/stock-market-news/companies/ongc-completes-two-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-in-ladakh/45843386>

Oil & Natural Gas Corporation completed two deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. The initiative, led by ONGC Energy Centre in collaboration with the UT Administration of Ladakh and LAHDC-Leh, aims to provide round-the-clock clean energy. The project supports energy security, reduces dependence on conventional fuels, and aids Ladakh's goal of becoming a carbon-neutral region.

Oil & Natural Gas Corporation marked the completion of two deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. The successful drilling of wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre was commemorated by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, on July 17, 2026. This milestone opens new avenues for clean, dependable, and round-the-clock energy in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The project is expected to strengthen energy access in remote areas and reduce dependence on conventional fuels. It is designed to support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters. Beyond electricity generation, the geothermal energy potential at Puga extends to space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism, and sustainable livelihoods.

Strategic Collaboration and Objectives

The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Leh. The collaboration operates under a five-year partnership that was renewed in June 2026. The project aligns with India's clean-energy portfolio, technological self-reliance, and long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives.

Regional and National Impact

The development is anticipated to contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region. At the national level, it strengthens the country's clean energy capabilities. The occasion was attended by key officials, including Administrative Secretary Shri Himanshu Gupta, IAS, and Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Ms Shashanka Ala, IAS.

Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Shri Vikram Saxena stated that the achievement reaffirmed the organization's commitment to innovation, energy security, and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

Historical Stock Returns for Oil & Natural Gas Corporation

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	South India News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.southindianews.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

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Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Telangana Journal	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.telanganajournal.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	14,000 feet up: Deep well drilling completed for India's first geothermal plant in Puga Valley		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

14,000 feet up: Deep well drilling completed for India's first geothermal plant in Puga Valley

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/14000-feet-up-deep-well-drilling-completed-for-indias-first-geothermal-plant-in-puga-valley/articleshow/132465622.cms>

In a groundbreaking move, India has initiated its first-ever geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley, delving deep at 1,000 meters. This marks a monumental step towards establishing the nation's first geothermal power station. After overcoming administrative challenges, the project is back on track with a fresh agreement. Engineers have reported exciting thermal activity with temperatures hitting 135 degrees Celsius.

India entered the global geothermal energy map on Friday as Lieutenant Governor commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at in Ladakh- one of the highest altitude facility in the world.

Executed by the , the successful completion of these two 1,000-meter-deep wells clears the path for constructing India's first-ever Geothermal Power Plant.

Situated at an extreme altitude of over 14,000 feet, the wells are critical infrastructure for an upcoming 1 MW pilot project. This demonstration-scale facility aligns with the larger governmental vision of a , positioning the border region-often at sub zero temperatures- as a futuristic hub for sustainable, round-the-clock renewable energy.

The project recently overcame administrative gridlock following the expiration of a previous tripartite agreement between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh, and the ONGC Energy Centre. Recognizing its strategic importance for national energy security, the new dispensation led by LG Saxena is learnt to have intervened to facilitate a new five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June, immediately restarting stalled field operations.

The project required braving complex sub-surface anomalies, high seismic activity, and a severely restricted annual working window. Despite all odds, the first well hit its 1,000-meter target on May 22, 2026. The second well was spudded on June 3 and completed in a record time of just over a month on July 8, 2026.

Project engineers reported promising thermal activity, recording a maximum temperature of 135C at a depth of just 400 meters. Ongoing reservoir evaluations are expected to yield even higher temperatures as testing progresses to the lower limits.

Terming the launch a defining moment, LG Saxena praised the grit of the technical teams working in one of the world's most hostile environments. "Beyond its immense scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security and promote vital regional socio-economic development," Saxena stated, adding that the Puga Valley project will serve as an operational blueprint for Indias broader net-zero journey.

Headline	L-G commissions India's first geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	The Kashmir Images	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G commissions India's first geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://thekashmirimages.com/2026/07/18/l-g-commissions-indias-first-geothermal-wells-in-ladakhs-puga-valley/>

Leh: Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Friday commissioned Indias first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a significant step towards the countrys first geothermal power project and the Union Territorys transition to clean energy.

The two wells, each drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet by the ONGC Energy Centre, are expected to support the proposed 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be Indias first demonstration-scale geothermal power plant.

Officials said the project is aimed at advancing Ladakhs renewable energy capacity and aligns with the Centres vision of promoting carbon-neutral development in the region.

According to the administration, the project had faced delays after the expiry of a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) involving the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Leh) and the ONGC Energy Centre. The MoU was renewed for another five years in June, allowing work on the geothermal wells to resume.

Officials said the completion of the wells would facilitate reservoir evaluation, planning of the pilot power plant and future commercial development of geothermal resources in the region.

Project engineers informed that temperatures of up to 135 degrees Celsius had been recorded at a depth of around 400 metres during drilling. Further testing is underway to assess the resources suitability for power generation.

The project was executed under challenging conditions, including extreme weather, rugged terrain and a short working season. The first well reached its target depth on May 22, while the second was completed on July 8, just over a month after drilling commenced.

Addressing the gathering, Saxena described the commissioning of the wells as a milestone in Indias clean energy journey and said the project would strengthen Ladakhs energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to the regions socio-economic development.

He also commended the engineers, technicians and workers associated with the project for completing the work under difficult high-altitude conditions.

Headline	India's first and deepest geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	The New Indian Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first and deepest geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/india/2026/Jul/17/indias-first-and-deepest-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley>

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to India's clean energy mission, the country's first and deepest geothermal wells were commissioned at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh on Friday.

The two geothermal wells, executed by the ONGC Energy Centre, were commissioned by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

The wells are critical to the implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

The commissioning of the two 1000-metre-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Saxena said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback after the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in delays of several months.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, Saxena facilitated the renewal of the MoU for another five years in June, following which work resumed on the completion of the two geothermal wells.

The successful completion of the wells will facilitate reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

According to project engineers, a maximum temperature of 135C was recorded at a depth of 400 metres.

They said further testing was under way and expressed hope of recording even higher temperatures to support the operation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project and the eventual commercial exploitation of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

According to officials, despite geothermal activity, complex subsurface conditions and operational challenges, the first well was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22, 2026.

The second well was spudded on June 3 and, in just over a month, was drilled and completed to a depth of 1,000 metres on July 8.

Saxena described the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, he said.

Saxena also praised the ONGC engineers, saying Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world and capable of accomplishing some of the most challenging engineering feats, symbolising India's growing stature in global engineering.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	The News Mill	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://thenewsmill.com/2026/07/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/>

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh on Friday, marking a significant

advancement in the region's transition to clean energy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clean energy mission. The wells were developed by the ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement noted that the first well was successfully drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres on May 22, 2026, while the second well was spudded on June 3, 2026, and completed to the same depth by July 8, 2026, within just over a month.

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena said on X, Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time. He added, I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyse Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth. He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The official statement emphasised that these two geothermal wells are crucial for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which is set to become India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking at the commissioning, LG VK Saxena remarked, This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region.

The statement also acknowledged that the project faced significant delays due to the expiry of a previous tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and the ONGC Energy Centre, which resulted in several months of postponed execution.

Project engineers reported a maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is ongoing, with hopes of achieving even higher temperatures to facilitate the operation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project and future commercial geothermal energy exploration.

The statement concluded by highlighting that the project is being undertaken in one of the world's most challenging environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh		
Publication	The News Now	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh

<https://www.thenewsnow.co.in/lg-saxena-commissions-indias-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh/>

Leh: In a landmark milestone for India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said.

Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over 14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said.

He said the project, which is a big stride towards setting up of India's first-ever geothermal power plant, also fulfils the prime minister's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

The Lt Governor termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development.

What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said.

He lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

The Lt Governor also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the spokesperson said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, the Lt Governor personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed for completion of the two geothermal wells, the spokesperson said.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh, the spokesperson said.

The official said the project engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful of achieving even higher temperatures for the operation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22.

Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000 metres depth on July 8, the spokesperson said.

Leave a Comment

Headline	India's 1st geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	The Pioneer	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's 1st geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/indias-1st-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley>

India is gradually inching closer to realising its dream of establishing the first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in the cold desert region of Ladakh.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development.

What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, LG Saxena said.

LG VK Saxena lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

He also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

The project also fulfils the PM's vision of Carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources for our future security.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, LG Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters.

Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on 22 May 2026.

Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on 03 June 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1000 metres depth on 08 July 2026.

Headline	India's 1st geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	The Pioneer	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's 1st geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/slug-lite/indias-1st-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley>

India is gradually inching closer to realising its dream of establishing the first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in the cold desert region of Ladakh. Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday commissioned Indias first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakhs journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be Indias first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. History

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in Indias clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakhs transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

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What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, LG Saxena said.

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Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, LG Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells. History

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters.

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Headline	ONGC Holds Free Eye Care Camp at Amlabad Under CSR Initiative		
Publication	The Researchers	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Holds Free Eye Care Camp at Amlabad Under CSR Initiative

<https://www.theresearchers.us/2026/07/16/ongc-eye-camp-amlabad-bokaro-csr/>

Bokaro: ONGC CBM Asset, Bokaro, organized a free eye check-up and cataract surgery camp at the Amlabad Panchayat Secretariat on Wednesday under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

The initiative, conducted in collaboration with Anugrah Drishtidan, Delhi , and Agarwal Laser and Implant Centre, Bokaro , benefited hundreds of villagers through free health screenings and treatment.

The camp provided eye examinations, blood pressure and blood sugar tests, medicines and spectacles. Patients diagnosed with cataracts were referred for free surgeries. The programme aimed to improve access to quality eye care and promote health awareness among economically weaker rural communities.

ONGC will organize similar camps at the Community Hall, Paduwa Bhava Mela, on July 18 , and at the Shaheed Shaktinath Mahto Memorial, Kultand , on July 19

Police Officials Inspect CSR Initiatives

Amlabad Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kaushalendra Kumar and Chandankiyari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Amit Rai visited the camp, interacted with beneficiaries and appreciated ONGC's CSR efforts. They later inspected various development projects executed by ONGC in Amlabad.

During the visit, Kaushalendra Kumar lauded ONGC's contribution in the fields of education, healthcare and environmental conservation. He particularly appreciated the construction of toilets in government schools, stating that the initiative would improve student attendance and help reduce dropout rates among girl students.

Senior ONGC officials, including Dayanand Kalundia (Head-HR), Anita Yadav (Asset Support Manager), Dolly Kumari (CSR In-charge), Vikas Chandra Singh (Head-Well Services), Ajay Kumar Das Abhinav Kumar Anokhelal Ashish Yadav , and Dr. Shashank Shekhar , were present. Amlabad Mukhiya Ajay Rajwar and social worker Prithvi Singh also attended the programme.

Headline	LG Saxena commissions landmark geothermal wells, fuels carbon-neutral Ladakh vision		
Publication	The Statesman	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

LG Saxena commissions landmark geothermal wells, fuels carbon-neutral Ladakh vision

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/lg-saxena-commissions-landmark-geothermal-wells-fuels-carbon-neutral-ladakh-vision-1503617955.html>

In a major boost to India's clean energy ambitions, Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a significant step towards establishing India's first geothermal power plant and advancing the vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh.

In a major boost to India's clean energy ambitions, Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a significant step towards establishing India's first geothermal power plant and advancing the vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh.

The commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet will significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources. The project also fulfils the PM's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years in June this year, following which work resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.

The successful completion of the two wells will facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Project engineers reported that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is underway, and the engineers hope to achieve even higher temperatures for the operation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project and the eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions, and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on 22 May 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on 3 June 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1,000 metres on 8 July 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development, Saxena said.

Saxena lauded the ONGC engineers, saying Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in global engineering.

Related posts

Headline	India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indias-first-2-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh/articleshow/132468253.cms>

Naseer Ganai / TNN / Jul 18, 2026, 00:29 IST

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena Friday commissioned the country's first and the deepest geothermal wells at Puga valley. ONGC Energy Centre would execute two geothermal wells in the Union Territory. What has been achieved in Puga valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said. The commissioning of the two 1,000m-deep wells, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, officials said. The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the officials added. Project engineers said that successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning, and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. They said that the maximum temperature of 135 celsius was recorded at the depth of 400m. Further testing is on and they are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy. The engineers said that despite encountering geothermal activities, complex subsurface conditions, and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000m on May 22, 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000m depth on July 8. The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution. Saxena then intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed, officials said. Get the latest India News and Live updates. Download the TOI app.

Headline	L-G Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh		
Publication	The Tribune	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/j-k/l-g-saxena-commissions-indias-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh/>

Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over

14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said.

He said the project, which is a big stride towards setting up of India's first-ever geothermal power plant, also fulfils the prime minister's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

The Lt Governor termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

"This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development.

"What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," Saxena said.

He lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

The Lt Governor also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the spokesperson said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, the Lt Governor personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed for completion of the two geothermal wells, the spokesperson said.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh, the spokesperson said.

The official said the project engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful of achieving even higher temperatures for the operation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22.

Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000 metres depth on July 8, the spokesperson said.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Vanakkam Tamil Nadu	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.vanakkamtamilnadu.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Web India 123	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20260717/4476053.html>

In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

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Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	West Bengal Khabar	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.westbengalkhabar.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh India News		
Publication	7 Globe News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh | India News

<https://www.7globe.in/indias-first-2-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-india-news/>

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena Friday commissioned the country's first and the deepest geothermal wells at Puga valley.

ONGC Energy Centre would execute two geothermal wells in the Union Territory. What has been achieved in Puga valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said. The commissioning of the two 1,000m-deep wells, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, officials said. The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the officials added. Project engineers said that successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning, and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. They said that the maximum temperature of 135 celsius was recorded at the depth of 400m. Further testing is on and they are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy. The engineers said that despite encountering geothermal activities, complex subsurface conditions, and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000m on May 22, 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000m depth on July 8. The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution. Saxena then intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed, officials said.

Source link

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	ANI News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212440/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 (ANI): In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean

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Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

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Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

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Headline	Geothermal Wells: लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में देश के पहले दो जियोथर्मल कुएं शुरू, एलजी ने बताया ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि		
Publication	Amar Ujala	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

Geothermal Wells: लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में देश के पहले दो जियोथर्मल कुएं शुरू, एलजी ने बताया ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि

<https://www.amarujala.com/jammu/country-s-first-two-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-s-puga-valley-2026-07-18>

लद्दाख की पुगा घाटी में भारत के पहले और सबसे गहरे दो जियोथर्मल (भू-तापीय) कुओं का शुक्रवार को शुभारंभ हुआ। उपराज्यपाल वीके सक्सेना ने इन कुओं को राष्ट्र

को समर्पित किया। ओएनजीसी एनर्जी सेंटर द्वारा विकसित दोनों कुएं 14 हजार फीट से अधिक ऊंचाई पर 1000-1000 मीटर की गहराई तक खोदे गए हैं। इनके शुरू होने से लद्दाख में देश के पहले एक मेगावाट क्षमता वाले डेमो स्केल जियोथर्मल पॉवर प्लांट की स्थापना का रास्ता साफ हो गया है।

यह परियोजना प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के कार्बन न्यूट्रल लद्दाख के विजन को साकार करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण पहल मानी जा रही है। जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा के उपयोग से लद्दाख को स्वच्छ ऊर्जा का केंद्र बनाने के साथ ही भविष्य में क्षेत्र की ऊर्जा जरूरतों को नवीकरणीय स्रोतों से पूरा करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है।

पूर्व में लद्दाख प्रशासन और ओएनजीसी एनर्जी सेंटर के बीच हुए समझौते की अवधि समाप्त होने से परियोजना कुछ समय के लिए ठप हो गई थी। बाद में उपराज्यपाल वीके सक्सेना के हस्तक्षेप से जून 2026 में एमओयू को अगले पांच वर्षों के लिए बढ़ाया गया, जिसके बाद कुओं की ड्रिलिंग का कार्य दोबारा शुरू हुआ।

400 मीटर की गहराई पर 135 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ तापमान

प्रोजेक्ट इंजीनियरों ने बताया कि 400 मीटर की गहराई पर अधिकतम तापमान 135 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। आगे की टेस्टिंग चल रही है। इंजीनियरों को उम्मीद है कि एक मेगावाट के पायलट जियोथर्मल पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट के संचालन और जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा के व्यवसायिक इस्तेमाल के लिए और भी ज्यादा तापमान मिलेगा। यह प्रोजेक्ट दुनिया के सबसे मुश्किल कामकाजी माहौल में शुरू किया गया है। बेहद खराब मौसम और ऊबड़-खाबड़ जमीन पर काम करने का समय भी काफी कम मिलता है।

पहले कुएं की खोदाई मई और दूसरे की जुलाई में हुई पूरी

जियोथर्मल गतिविधियों, जमीन के नीचे की मुश्किल स्थितियों और काम से जुड़ी चुनौतियों के बीच पहला कुआं 22 मई 2026 को 1000 मीटर की तय गहराई तक सफलतापूर्वक खोदा गया। इसके बाद 03 जून 2026 को दूसरे जियोथर्मल कुएं की खोदाई शुरू हुई। करीब एक महीने में 08 जुलाई 2026 को इसे 1000 मीटर की गहराई तक सफलतापूर्वक खोदकर पूरा कर लिया गया।

क्या है जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा

जियोथर्मल ऊर्जा पृथ्वी के भीतर मौजूद प्राकृतिक गर्मी से प्राप्त होने वाली स्वच्छ और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा है। इसमें भूमिगत गर्म पानी और भाप की मदद से बिजली बनाई जाती है। यह ऊर्जा 24 घंटे उपलब्ध रहती है। इससे कार्बन उत्सर्जन बेहद कम होता है। इसलिए इसे भविष्य के स्वच्छ ऊर्जा स्रोतों में सबसे भरोसेमंद माना जाता है।

यह उपलब्धि भारत की स्वच्छ ऊर्जा यात्रा में ऐतिहासिक मील का पत्थर है। यह परियोजना लद्दाख की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने, पर्यावरण संरक्षण को बढ़ावा देने और क्षेत्र के सामाजिक आर्थिक विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी। ओएनजीसी के इंजीनियर और परियोजना से जुड़े कर्मचारी बधाई के पात्र हैं। यह परियोजना भारतीय इंजीनियरिंग क्षमता का बेजोड़ उदाहरण है।

- वीके सक्सेना, उपराज्यपाल लद्दाख

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Andhra Pradesh Mirror	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.andhrapradeshmirror.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

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An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	Asianet News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://newsable.asianetnews.com/india/indias-first-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley-articleshow-rrpilum>

LG VK Saxena commissioned India's first and deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley. Executed by ONGC, this project is a major step towards a 1 MW pilot power project and making Ladakh a carbon-neutral clean energy hub.

In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

A Catalyst for Ladakh's Development

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

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The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Project Overcomes Delays

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Technical Achievements in a Challenging Environment

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added. The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

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(Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by Asianet Newsable English staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)

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Publication	BOLD NEWS	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://boldnewsonline.com/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/>

Development marks a historic milestone towards PM's vision of Carbon-Neutral Ladakh and towards setting up India's first geothermal power project

Leh, July 17: In a landmark milestone in Indias clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor, Shri VK Saxena, today commissioned Indias first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre. The development is a big stride towards the establishment of Indias first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in Ladakh.Government

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakhs journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Honble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The project also fulfils the Honble PMs vision of Carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources for our future security.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be Indias first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution. Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for Indias energy security and clean energy transition, L-G Shri Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.Geographic Reference

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the worlds most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on 22 May 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on 03 June 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1000 metres depth on 08 July 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in Indias clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakhs transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakhs holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakhs energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, L-G Shri Saxena said.

Shri Saxena lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise Indias growing stature in the field of global engineering. He also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

Headline	ONGC Completes Two Deep Geothermal Wells at Puga, Taking India Closer to Its First Geothermal Power Project		
Publication	Bharat Neeti	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Completes Two Deep Geothermal Wells at Puga, Taking India Closer to Its First Geothermal Power Project

<https://bharatneeti.com/ongc-completes-two-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-taking-india-closer-to-its-first-geothermal-power-project/>

New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) Energy Centre has successfully completed geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 at the Puga Geothermal

Project, advancing the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Puga Geothermal Project site to mark the successful completion of geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre, a milestone in the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

The milestone advances the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga and opens new possibilities for clean, dependable and round-the-clock energy in Ladakh. The project shall help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters.

Beyond electricity generation, geothermal energy has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism and sustainable livelihoods. These applications could contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives. The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh and LAHDC-Leh under a five-year collaboration renewed in June 2026.

The occasion was attended by Administrative Secretary Himanshu Gupta, IAS; Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Shashanka Ala, IAS; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Rajora; and Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbas Jaffari.

Lieutenant Governor highlighted the project's national and regional significance and commended the ONGC Energy Centre team. Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Vikram Saxena said the achievement reaffirmed ONGC's commitment to innovation, energy security and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Big News Network	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/279194544/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-india-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 (ANI): In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, 'Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time.'

'I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth', he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, 'This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region.'

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that further testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Bihar 24x7	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.bihar24x7.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	Hormuz blockade risks reignite upward pressure on Crude Oil prices		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Hormuz blockade risks reignite upward pressure on Crude Oil prices

https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/crude-price-oil-outlook-hormuz-blockade-risks-reignite-upward-pressure-on-crude-oil-prices-126071700588_1.html

Crude Oil market has moved beyond a simple war-premium story. It's now balancing three forces at once: geopolitical risk around Hormuz, refinery-led product tightness and softer macro-demand impulse.

Crude oil price outlook by Mohammed Imran, research analyst of Mirae Asset Sharekhan. | Image: Bloomberg

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Global crude oil markets have moved back into a geopolitical-risk regime after renewed USIran escalation around the Strait of Hormuz reversed the brief relief that followed the June 17 memorandum of understanding. Brent has returned to the mid-\$80s, while WTI has moved back toward \$80/bbl, with both contracts posting their strongest weekly performance in several weeks as traders price a renewed threat to one of the world's most important energy chokepoints. The latest escalation does not yet represent a complete physical shutdown of Hormuz, but it has materially raised the probability of supply disruption. Vessel-tracking data and market reports indicate that ships are still crossing the strait, although traffic has fallen sharply and insurance, security and operational risks have increased. This distinction is important: the market is not pricing confirmed lost barrels alone; it is pricing the risk that flows could deteriorate further if attacks on tankers, ports or regional energy infrastructure continue. Physical market tightness returns The physical crude market has tightened again as the partial recovery in Persian Gulf flows loses momentum. Gulf exports had recovered to more than 80 per cent of pre-war levels in the first two weeks after the June MoU, but renewed tanker incidents have pushed observable flows back below 10 per cent, or around 2 mb/d. This leaves the market short roughly 13.4 mb/d of Persian Gulf flows versus normal conditions and increases reliance on inventory draws demand adjustment and alternative export routes. The observable data may understate actual flows. Some tankers are reportedly crossing with transponders switched off and reappearing outside the chokepoint, which means flow estimates may be revised higher later. Even with this caveat, the direction of travel is clear: shipping confidence has weakened, risk premiums have widened and the recovery in Gulf exports is no longer linear. Why the recovery may be uneven The first constraint is geopolitical. Further attacks on tankers, export terminals or regional infrastructure could delay any sustained normalization of Persian Gulf flows. Based on earlier blockade dynamics, renewed restrictions on Iranian ports and coastal areas could reduce Iranian exports by 1.52.0 mb/d, while also discouraging commercial operators from using non-Iranian Hormuz routes. The second constraint is operational. Saudi Arabia and the UAE drove most of the initial June rebound because they have larger tanker capacity, stronger logistics and higher-quality fields. UAE output likely exceeded pre-war levels in June, supported by its ability to bypass Hormuz through alternative infrastructure. Other producers, however, remain more exposed to shipping constraints, port bottlenecks and field-level restart challenges, leaving roughly 9 mb/d of crude production losses versus February levels. Refining stress shifts the Crisis into Products The crude shock has increasingly migrated into refined products. In April, global refinery intakes fell by 7.3 mb/d versus pre-crisis levels as lower Middle Eastern crude arrivals forced run cuts across East of Suez markets. Heavy spring maintenance and constrained heavy-crude availability tightened gasoil, diesel and jet fuel balances. The crack spread in US is above \$60 shows the market tightness. US retail jet/kerosene prices surged above \$170/bbl in April, 78 per cent higher than February, while US gasoil approached \$148/bbl, up 73 per cent over the same period. Combined refinery intake across Japan, China, India, Singapore and South Korea rose by 690 kb/d month-on-month in June to 24.48 mb/d, while US refinery utilization increased to 96.41 per cent, equivalent to 17.28 mb/d of throughput. Even so, global refinery runs remain down from 86.8 mb/d to 79.3 mb/d, leaving a roughly 7 mb/d hole in the global refining system. Russia deepens the distillate squeeze Russia has become a second pressure point for refined-product markets. The Middle East and Russia together account for around 18 per cent of global refining capacity. Russia alone has 6.7 mb/d of capacity but is currently running closer to 3.5 mb/d after Ukrainian strikes disrupted roughly one-third of its refinery system, pushing throughput to about 3.91 mb/d, the lowest since 2005. With domestic refining constrained, Russia has been forced to export more crude instead of processing it, while an estimated 135 million barrels of Russian crude remain stuck at sea. This has kept diesel and gasoil markets tight even as headline crude balances fluctuate. Refiners are also facing a quality mismatch: they have access to more light sweet crude from shale, but less sour Middle Eastern crude that yields higher volumes of diesel and jet fuel. That mismatch explains why crack spreads remain elevated, but refinery profitability is not necessarily improving evenly. Demand and macro signals are turning more fragile The macro backdrop is also less supportive than it was earlier in the year. High fuel prices have started to pressure transport, aviation, petrochemicals

and energy-intensive manufacturing. China's price-sensitive crude imports may have bottomed after Middle Eastern producers reduced official selling prices for July and August, but demand remains highly responsive to price. India's fuel demand has been more resilient, helped by state refiners absorbing part of the price shock, yet the broader Asian demand story remains vulnerable to high freight, fuel and feedstock costs. The global transition to electric mobility is also capping medium-term gasoline demand growth. Price Outlook: Higher floor, volatile ceiling Brent's near-term bias remains range-bound to higher while Hormuz risk persists. Upside could come from further vessel disruptions, tighter product cracks, slower inventory rebuilding and renewed financial positioning. WTI is likely to trade broadly in a \$70-90/bbl Brent could range in \$74-95 range in the near term, with Brent maintaining a premium as the global market prices seaborne supply risk more aggressively. However, credible peace talks or verifiable de-escalation could trigger a sharp 12-15 per cent correction, particularly if tanker traffic improves and Gulf producers restore exports faster than expected. The downside should still be cushioned by structurally low inventories, elevated product cracks and the need to rebuild strategic and commercial stocks. In short, the market has moved beyond a simple war-premium story. It is now balancing three forces at once: geopolitical risk around Hormuz, refinery-led product tightness and a softer macro-demand impulse. Until one of these forces decisively breaks, crude is likely to remain volatile, with a higher floor than pre-war levels but a ceiling increasingly constrained by demand destruction. (Disclaimer: This article is by Mohammed Imran- Research Analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan. Views expressed are his own.)

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Headline	India a step closer to its first demonstration-scale geothermal power project		
Publication	Business Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India a step closer to its first demonstration-scale geothermal power project

<https://www.besinesstoday.in/latest/corporate/story/india-a-step-closer-to-its-first-demonstration-scale-geothermal-power-project-543731-2026-07-17>

ONGC has completed two wells in Ladakh to harness geothermal power as part of the Puga Geothermal Project.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) Energy Centre has completed geothermal wells at the Puga Geothermal Project, Ladakh, advancing the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Geothermal energy is heat energy within Earth that can be captured and harnessed for electrical power generation, space heating and cooling, and various direct uses.

The milestone advances the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga and opens new possibilities for clean, dependable and round-the-clock energy in Ladakh. The project shall help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters.

Beyond electricity generation, geothermal energy has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism, and sustainable livelihoods. These applications could contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives. The initiative is being advanced jointly by the ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and LAHDC-Leh under a five-year collaboration, renewed in June 2026.

The Government of India has notified the National Policy on Geothermal Energy (2025), reinforcing its commitment towards achieving the ambitious 2070 Net Zero Goal and strengthening the country's energy security through diversified renewable energy sources.

India, with its untapped geothermal resources, is poised to leverage this clean and reliable energy source for power generation and direct-use applications such as district heating, agriculture, aquaculture, and space cooling and heating via Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs). The newly unveiled policy provides a comprehensive framework to promote exploration, development, and utilization of geothermal energy in India.

Headline	Time Technoplast wins major HPCL order for composite LPG cylinders		
Publication	Business Upturn	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Time Technoplast wins major HPCL order for composite LPG cylinders

<https://businessupturn.com/business/time-technoplast-wins-major-hpcl-order-for-composite-lpg-cylinders/>

Business Desk Time Technoplast Limited has announced the securing of a significant order from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) through

the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). This contract involves the supply of 140,000 composite liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, each with a 10 kg capacity. The order carries an estimated value of 38.14 crore.

The contract highlights the increasing adoption of composite LPG cylinders by leading oil marketing companies in India, driven by these cylinders' superior safety features, lightweight design, and enhanced convenience for consumers. Time Technoplast's latest achievement underscores its leadership standing within the composite cylinder market. Furthermore, it aligns with the current shift towards customer-centric and modern LPG distribution methods throughout the nation.

The order is particularly significant as HPCL has recently launched an innovative distribution model for composite LPG cylinders through popular quick-commerce platforms. This model facilitates on-demand delivery to customers, marking an important advance in enhancing convenience and accessibility in LPG distribution. Time Technoplast's involvement in this initiative demonstrates its steadfast commitment to providing innovative and sustainable packaging solutions that meet the evolving demands of India's energy sector.

According to the details outlined in the SEBI circular dated July 13, 2023, the order is classified as a domestic contract that needs to be executed within a period of six months. The total consideration for this order is approximately 38.14 crore. Time Technoplast has also confirmed that neither the promoter group nor any related parties have an interest in this transaction, ensuring it does not fall under related party transactions.

Time Technoplast continues to focus on strengthening its position in the composite LPG cylinder industry and advancing its growth trajectory by participating in projects that support the transition to more efficient and modern LPG distribution systems. This order further establishes the company's dedication to fostering innovative solutions within India's ever-evolving energy landscape.

Disclaimer: This article is based on a regulatory filing submitted to the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE).

Headline	Crude Oil Set For Biggest Weekly Gain In Months As Middle East Tensions Escalate		
Publication	Business World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Crude Oil Set For Biggest Weekly Gain In Months As Middle East Tensions Escalate

<https://www.businessworld.in/article/crude-oil-set-for-biggest-weekly-gain-in-months-as-middle-east-tensions-escalate-615204>

Global crude oil prices were on track for their biggest weekly gain in several months on Friday as escalating military tensions between the United

States and Iran heightened fears of supply disruptions from the Middle East. Brent crude and US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) benchmarks extended gains as traders priced in growing geopolitical risks and potential disruptions to key oil shipping routes.

The rally comes amid renewed military exchanges in the region, with investors closely monitoring developments around critical energy transit corridors, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea. Any prolonged disruption could tighten global oil supplies and increase inflationary pressures across major importing nations, including India.

Middle East Crisis Raises Energy Security Concerns

Oil markets have climbed steadily this week as fears intensified that the conflict could impact crude production and transportation from one of the world's largest oil-producing regions. Analysts noted that geopolitical uncertainty has added a significant risk premium to oil prices, with Brent crude nearing \$85 a barrel while WTI approached \$80. Some market experts believe prices could move even higher if hostilities continue or if key maritime routes face disruptions.

For India, which imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil requirement, sustained high prices could increase the country's import bill, widen the current account deficit and put pressure on retail fuel prices. Higher energy costs may also affect sectors such as aviation, logistics, manufacturing and chemicals, where fuel remains a major operating expense.

Market participants are also assessing the possible impact on global inflation and monetary policy, as rising energy prices could complicate efforts by central banks to manage price stability. Investors will continue to watch geopolitical developments, supply updates from major producers and shipping activity through the Gulf region for further direction in oil markets.

Share

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Chhattisgarh Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.chhattisgarhtoday.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	LG commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Daily Excelsior	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

LG commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/lg-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/>

LEH, July 17: In a landmark milestone in India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, today commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre. The development is a big stride towards the establishment of India's first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in Ladakh.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, L-G personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

"This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," L-G said.

Headline	India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG Saxena hails historic feat		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG Saxena hails historic feat

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/indiatvnews-epaper-intvnews/indias+first+geothermal+wells+commissioned+in+ladakhs+puga+valley+lg+saxena+hails+historic+feat-newsid-n720001143>

Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday inaugurated India's first and deepest geothermal wells in the Puga Valley of the Union Territory (UT), which were executed by the ONGC Energy Centre.

This was a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clean energy vision.

The two 1,000-meter-deep wells were drilled at a high altitude of over 14,000 ft and will pave the way for the establishment of India's first 1-megawatt pilot geothermal power project in Ladakh.

In a statement on X (previously Twitter), Saxena congratulated the engineers and technical experts involved in the project. He said the project will "catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth".

"A historic and proud moment in India's journey towards green, renewable energy!" the Ladakh LG said. "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

All about the project

The project had been delayed for several months after the expiry of the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), and the ONGC Energy Centre. However, Saxena intervened and ensured that the MoU was renewed for another five years in June this year.

The successful completion of the project will facilitate the evaluation of the geothermal reservoir and pave the way for the commercial development of geothermal energy in Ladakh.

Project Engineers said that a maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters. Further testing is underway, and engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project.

"This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," Saxena said.

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Publication	Delhi Live News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

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<https://www.delhilivenews.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	ONGC Recruitment 2026: Geoscientists & Engineers (E1 Level) – 52 Vacancies Salary Up to ₹1.80 Lakh Per Month		
Publication	Dmc Education	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Recruitment 2026: Geoscientists & Engineers (E1 Level) – 52 Vacancies | Salary Up to ₹1.80 Lakh Per Month

<https://dmc-education.com/2026/07/17/ongc-recruitment-2026-geoscientists-engineers-e1-level-52-vacancies-salary-up-to-%e2%82%b91-80-lakh-per-month/>

ONGC Recruitment 2026 Notification released for Geoscientists & Engineers (E1 Level). Check eligibility, qualification, experience, salary, important dates, selection process, CBT exam, and application details.

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) , India's leading Maharatna Public Sector Enterprise (PSU) , has announced the ONGC Recruitment 2026 for Geoscientists and Engineers (E1 Level) through a Computer Based Test (CBT) followed by an Interview. This recruitment offers an excellent opportunity for talented engineering and geoscience graduates who want to build a long-term career in India's energy sector.

Selected candidates will receive an attractive pay scale of 60,0001,80,000 , along with an approximate CTC of 26 lakh per annum , medical facilities, career growth opportunities, and the chance to work on some of India's largest oil and gas exploration and production projects.

1 About ONGC

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is India's largest crude oil and natural gas producer. It contributes significantly to the country's energy security through exploration, drilling, production, refining support, and advanced energy technologies.

? Why Choose ONGC?

? Maharatna Government Company

? Excellent Salary Package

? Fast Career Growth

? Opportunities to Work Across India

? Exposure to Onshore & Offshore Projects

?? Professional Training Programs

? Medical & Retirement Benefits

? Secure Government Career

2 Recruitment Overview

? Organization: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

? Post Name: Geoscientists & Engineers

? Level: E1

? Job Location: Across India

? Pay Scale: 60,0001,80,000

? Approximate Annual CTC: 26 Lakhs

? Selection Mode: CBT + Interview

? Total Vacancies: 52

3 Important Dates

? Online Application Starts: 17 July 2026

? Last Date to Apply: 31 July 2026 (11:59 PM)

? Computer Based Test (Tentative): 06 September 2026

? Interview: To be notified after CBT.

Candidates are advised to complete the online application well before the closing date to avoid last-minute technical issues.

4 Vacancy Details

ONGC has announced 52 vacancies for various Geoscientist and Engineering disciplines.

The vacancies are distributed among different reservation categories as per Government of India rules for:

General (UR)

Other Backward Classes (OBC)

Scheduled Caste (SC)

Scheduled Tribe (ST)

Economically Weaker Section (EWS)

Candidates should check the detailed notification for the discipline-wise and category-wise breakup.

5 Opening Positions

The recruitment includes the following disciplines:

? 1. Petroleum Engineering

Petroleum Engineers are responsible for oil and gas production, drilling operations, reservoir optimization, and production planning.

Educational Qualification

B.E./B.Tech in Petroleum Engineering from a recognized university.

Experience

Freshers are eligible where specified.

Candidates with internships or industrial training in drilling, production, reservoir engineering, or oil & gas operations will have an added advantage.

2. Mechanical Engineering

Mechanical Engineers play a vital role in maintaining drilling equipment, compressors, pumps, turbines, pipelines, and production facilities.

Educational Qualification

B.E./B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering.

Experience

Fresh graduates can apply where eligible.

Experience in maintenance, rotating equipment, pipeline engineering, or oil & gas projects is desirable.

? 3. Chemical Engineering

Chemical Engineers manage process plants, refinery operations, production optimization, and quality control.

Educational Qualification

B.E./B.Tech in Chemical Engineering.

Experience

Freshers are eligible for applicable posts.

Experience in petrochemical plants, refineries, process engineering, or gas processing is an added advantage.

? 4. Geoscience Disciplines

ONGC also recruits professionals in Geology and Geophysics for exploration and resource evaluation.

Educational Qualification

Master's Degree (M.Sc./M.Tech or equivalent) in the relevant Geoscience discipline from a recognized university.

Experience

Freshers can apply where permitted.

Candidates with fieldwork, seismic interpretation, geological mapping, or exploration project experience may receive preference where applicable.

6 Eligibility Criteria

Candidates should:

Be Indian citizens.

Possess the required educational qualification in the relevant discipline.

Meet the age criteria specified in the official notification.

Satisfy ONGC's medical fitness standards.

Produce all original certificates during document verification.

7 Key Highlights

52 Vacancies

Maharatna PSU Job

Salary up to 1.80 Lakh Per Month

Approximate 26 Lakh Annual CTC

Computer Based Test

Personal Interview

Government Job Security

Excellent Career Growth

Training by Industry Experts

Opportunity to Work on India's Major Energy Projects

1 Geologist

? Qualification: M.Sc./M.Tech in Geology, Applied Geology or equivalent from a recognized university.

? Experience: Freshers can apply where eligible. Candidates with exploration, basin analysis, sedimentology, petroleum geology, or field mapping experience will have an advantage.

? Job Role: Hydrocarbon exploration, reservoir studies, geological mapping, drilling support.

2 Geophysicist (Surface)

? Qualification: M.Sc./M.Tech in Geophysics or equivalent.

? Experience: Freshers are eligible. Experience in seismic data acquisition, interpretation, and processing is desirable.

? Job Role: Seismic surveys, exploration planning, subsurface interpretation.

3 Geophysicist (Wells)

? Qualification: Master's Degree in Geophysics or related specialization.

? Experience: Well logging or formation evaluation experience is preferred but not mandatory where freshers are allowed.

? Job Role: Well log interpretation, reservoir evaluation, drilling support.

4 Petroleum Engineering

? Qualification: B.E./B.Tech in Petroleum Engineering.

? Experience: Fresh graduates are eligible. Internship or industry exposure in drilling, production, or reservoir engineering is beneficial.

Job Role: Drilling operations, production optimization, reservoir management.

5 Mechanical Engineering

? Qualification: B.E./B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering.

? Experience: Freshers may apply. Experience with rotating equipment, pipelines, maintenance, or oil & gas projects is an advantage.

? Job Role: Plant maintenance, equipment reliability, offshore and onshore operations.

6 Chemical Engineering

? Qualification: B.E./B.Tech in Chemical Engineering.

? Experience: Freshers are eligible. Experience in refinery, petrochemical, process engineering, or gas processing is desirable.

? Job Role: Process optimization, production facilities, refinery operations.

9. Salary & Benefits ?

Selected candidates will receive:

? Pay Scale: 60,000 1,80,000

? Approximate Annual CTC: 26 Lakhs

? Medical Facilities

? HRA/Accommodation (as applicable)

??? Provident Fund

? Performance Related Pay

? Transport Benefits

? Training & Development

? Career Growth Opportunities

? Paid Leave & Other PSU Benefits

? Selection Process

The recruitment process includes:

? Computer Based Test (CBT)

? Personal Interview

? Document Verification

? Medical Examination

Final Merit List

11 Documents Required

? 10th & 12th Mark Sheets

? Degree Certificates

? Semester Mark Sheets

? Passport Size Photograph

Signature

? Aadhaar/PAN

? Category Certificate (if applicable)

? Experience Certificate (if applicable)

12 Why Join ONGC? ?

Maharatna PSU

India's Leading Energy Company

Excellent Work Culture

High Salary Package

Job Security

International Exposure

Promotion Opportunities

Advanced Technology Projects

Learning & Development Programs

13 Career Growth

After joining at E1 Level , employees can progress through executive grades based on performance, experience, and organizational requirements. ONGC offers structured training, leadership development, and opportunities to work on offshore, onshore, and international energy projects.

14 How to Apply

Visit the official ONGC Careers portal.

Register with your email ID and mobile number.

Complete the online application form.

Upload the required documents.

Pay the application fee (if applicable).

Submit the application before the closing date.

Download the confirmation page for future reference.

15 Preparation Tips

? Revise core engineering/geoscience subjects.

? Practice previous CBT papers.

Attempt online mock tests.

? Stay updated with current affairs.

? Improve reasoning, aptitude, and English.

16 Important Dates

? Application Starts: 17 July 2026

? Last Date: 31 July 2026

? CBT (Tentative): 06 September 2026

? Interview: To be announced after CBT

17 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can freshers apply?

Yes, eligible fresh graduates can apply for E1-level positions where specified.

What is the salary?

? 60,0001,80,000 per month, with an approximate annual CTC of 26 lakh.

What is the selection process?

? CBT followed by an Interview, Document Verification, and Medical Examination.

What is the last date to apply?

? 31 July 2026

? Conclusion

ONGC Recruitment 2026 is an excellent opportunity for talented engineers and geoscientists to begin their careers with one of India's most prestigious Maharatna PSUs. With a salary of 60,0001,80,000 , an estimated 26 lakh annual CTC , career advancement opportunities, and exposure to world-class energy projects, this recruitment drive is highly attractive. Candidates should complete their applications before 31 July 2026 and prepare well for the Computer Based Test (CBT) and interview.

Headline	ONGC completes 2 deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing Ladakh's demonstration project		
Publication	Energywatch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC completes 2 deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing Ladakh's demonstration project

<https://www.energywatch.in/oil-and-gas/ongc-completes-2-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-advancing-ladakh-demonstration-project>

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Puga Geothermal Project site on Friday, marking the completion of geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre, the state-run explorer said in a statement.

ONGC described the milestone as advancing the development of what it called India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga. The company said the project opens up possibilities for round-the-clock clean energy in Ladakh, and could help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support power availability through the region's severe winters.

What the project is meant to do

Beyond electricity generation, ONGC said geothermal energy at the site has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism and sustainable livelihoods. According to the company, these applications could contribute to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its stated aspiration to become a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, ONGC said the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives.

Who is building it

The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and LAHDC-Leh, under a five-year collaboration that was renewed in June, the statement said.

Who was present

The event was attended by Administrative Secretary Himanshu Gupta, IAS; Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Shashanka Ala, IAS; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Rajora; and Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbas Jaffari.

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The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the project's national and regional significance and commended the ONGC Energy Centre team, according to the statement. Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Vikram Saxena said the achievement reaffirmed the company's commitment to innovation, energy security and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

Headline	LG Ladakh commissions India's first 2 geothermal wells in Puga Valley		
Publication	Greater Kashmir	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

LG Ladakh commissions India's first 2 geothermal wells in Puga Valley

<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/ladakh/lg-ladakh-commissions-indias-first-2-geothermal-wells-in-puga-valley-12174939>

Leh, Jul 17: In a landmark milestone in India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

The development is a big stride towards the establishment of India's first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in Ladakh.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The project also fulfils the PM's vision of Carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources for our future security.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, LG Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters.

Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22, 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3, 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1000 metres depth on 08 July 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, LG Saxena said.

Saxena lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

He also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Gujarat Samachar News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.gujaratsamachar.news/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Gujarat Varta	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.gujaratvarta.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G commissions India's first geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	HT Syndication	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G commissions India's first geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://htsyndication.com/kashmir-images/article/l-g-commissions-india-s-first-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh-s-puga-valley/102346405>

Leh, July 18 -- Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a

significant step towards the country's first geothermal power project and the Union Territory's transition to clean energy.

The two wells, each drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet by the ONGC Energy Centre, are expected to support the proposed 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power plant.

Officials said the project is aimed at advancing Ladakh's renewable energy capacity and aligns with the Centre's vision of promoting carbon-neutral development in the region.

According to the administration, th...

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	HT Syndication	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://htsyndication.com/early-times/article/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-india-s-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/102345135>

Leh, July 17 -- In a landmark milestone in India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor, Shri VK Saxena, today commissioned India's first and

deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre. The development is a big stride towards the establishment of India's first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in Ladakh.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The project also fulfils the Hon'ble PM's vision of Carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources f...

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Haryana Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.haryanatoday.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

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An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Himachal Patrika	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.himachalpatrika.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	ONGC Completes Two Deep Geothermal Wells at Puga, Taking India Closer to Its First Geothermal Power Project		
Publication	INDIAN PSU	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Completes Two Deep Geothermal Wells at Puga, Taking India Closer to Its First Geothermal Power Project

<https://indianpsu.com/ongc-completes-two-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-indias-first-geothermal-power-project/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) Energy Centre has successfully completed geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 at the Puga Geothermal Project, advancing the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Puga Geothermal Project site to mark the successful completion of geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre, a milestone in the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

The milestone advances the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga and opens new possibilities for clean, dependable and round-the-clock energy in Ladakh. The project will help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters.

Beyond electricity generation, geothermal energy has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism and sustainable livelihoods. These applications could contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy security and Net Zero objectives. The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh and LAHDC-Leh under a five-year collaboration renewed in June 2026.

The occasion was attended by Administrative Secretary Himanshu Gupta, IAS; Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Shashanka Ala, IAS; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Rajora; and Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbas Jaffari.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena highlighted the project's national and regional significance and commended the ONGC Energy Centre team. Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Vikram Saxena said the achievement reaffirmed ONGC's commitment to innovation, energy security and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

Headline	India Keeps Russia as Top Crude Oil Supplier		
Publication	India Seatrade News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India Keeps Russia as Top Crude Oil Supplier

<https://indiaseatradenews.com/india-keeps-russia-as-top-crude-oil-supplier/>

Russia is expected to remain India's largest crude oil supplier during July and August, accounting for nearly half of the country's total crude

imports despite evolving geopolitical developments and tighter international sanctions. The continued dominance of Russian crude reflects Indian refiners' preference for competitively priced cargoes that help manage input costs and sustain refining margins.

Since Western sanctions reshaped global oil trade flows, India has significantly increased purchases of Russian crude, making Russia its primary supplier ahead of traditional exporters such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The availability of discounted grades, coupled with established shipping and payment mechanisms, has enabled Indian refiners to maintain strong import volumes.

Industry analysts expect Russian crude to contribute around 50% of India's total oil imports through July and August, with both state-owned and private refiners continuing to secure long-term and spot cargoes. The steady inflow is expected to support refinery operations amid robust domestic fuel demand and healthy export opportunities for refined petroleum products.

The sustained import volumes also highlight India's strategy of diversifying energy sources while ensuring affordable crude supplies. Refiners continue to balance purchases from Russia with imports from the Middle East, the United States, and other producing nations to maintain supply security and operational flexibility.

Market participants said future buying patterns will depend on crude price movements, freight costs, sanctions-related developments, and global supply dynamics. However, Russia is expected to retain its leading position in India's crude import basket in the near term, reinforcing the strong energy trade relationship between the two countries.

Headline	India's first two geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG Saxena hails historic feat		
Publication	India TV News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's first two geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG Saxena hails historic feat

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/india-s-first-two-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-s-puga-valley-lg-saxena-hails-historic-feat-2026-07-17-1048608>

After the commission of the two geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley, LG VK Saxena hailed the achievement and said this project will catalyze the Union Territory's holistic development.

Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday inaugurated India's first and deepest geothermal wells in the Puga Valley of the Union Territory (UT), which were executed by the ONGC Energy Centre. This was a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clean energy vision.

The two 1,000-meter-deep wells were drilled at a high altitude of over 14,000 ft and will pave the way for the establishment of India's first 1-megawatt pilot geothermal power project in Ladakh.

In a statement on X (previously Twitter), Saxena congratulated the engineers and technical experts involved in the project. He said the project will "catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth".

"A historic and proud moment in India's journey towards green, renewable energy!" the Ladakh LG said. "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

All about the project

The project had been delayed for several months after the expiry of the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), and the ONGC Energy Centre. However, Saxena intervened and ensured that the MoU was renewed for another five years in June this year.

The successful completion of the project will facilitate the evaluation of the geothermal reservoir and pave the way for the commercial development of geothermal energy in Ladakh.

Project Engineers said that a maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters. Further testing is underway, and engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project.

"This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," Saxena said.

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Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

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(Image Source : SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT)

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	India's News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.indiasnews.net/news/279194544/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-india-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 (ANI): In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, 'Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time.'

'I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth', he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, 'This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region.'

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Indian Economic Observer	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.indianeconomicobserver.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

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The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

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Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Indian News Network	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.indiannewsnetwork.net/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	Hormuz closure: Why crude oil prices haven't spiralled out of control		
Publication	InkBrief News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Hormuz closure: Why crude oil prices haven't spiralled out of control

<https://inkbrief.in/article/hormuz-closure-why-crude-oil-prices-havent-spiralled-out-of-1804836>

Brent crude prices in the spot market briefly surged to around \$144 per barrel before easing as markets adjusted.

Yet as ADB notes in its report - despite this unprecedented supply shock, crude oil prices did not reach levels seen during the 1973 Arab oil embargo or even the 1990 Gulf war, if one were to inflation-adjust the prices.

Headline	India's First Deep Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh, Paving Way for 1 MW Pilot Power Plant		
Publication	Jammu Links	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's First Deep Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh, Paving Way for 1 MW Pilot Power Plant

<https://www.jammulinksnews.com/indias-first-deep-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-paving-way-for-1-mw-pilot-power-plant/>

LEH: In a major milestone for India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Thursday commissioned the country's first and deepest

geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a significant step towards establishing India's first geothermal power plant.

The two geothermal wells, each drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet, have been executed by the ONGC Energy Centre. The development is expected to accelerate Ladakh's transformation into a renewable energy hub and support the vision of making the Union Territory carbon-neutral.

The wells are a key component of the proposed 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will serve as India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power plant.

The project had faced delays after the expiry of the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ladakh Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and ONGC Energy Centre. The project resumed after the MoU was renewed for another five years in June following the intervention of Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

Officials said the successful completion of the wells would facilitate reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and future commercial development of geothermal resources in the region. Engineers have recorded a maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius at a depth of 400 metres and are continuing further tests in the hope of achieving higher temperatures required for operating the 1 MW pilot project and future commercial exploitation.

The project has been executed under challenging conditions, including extreme weather, rugged terrain and a short annual working season. Despite complex subsurface conditions and geothermal activity, the first well reached its target depth on May 22, 2026, while the second well, drilled after spudding on June 3, was completed to 1,000 metres on July 8 in just over a month.

Addressing the commissioning ceremony, VK Saxena described the project as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

He said the geothermal power project would strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to the region's socio-economic development. He added that the achievement at Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero ambitions and support the development of Ladakh as an environmentally sustainable region.

The Lieutenant Governor also praised the ONGC engineers, technicians and workers involved in the project, describing the successful execution under difficult conditions as a testament to their skill, determination and perseverance.

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Jharkhand Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.jharkhandtimes.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Karnataka Live	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.karnatakalive.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Kashmir Breaking News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.kashmirbreakingnews.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	Deepest Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh, Paving Way for First Geothermal Power Plant		
Publication	Kashmir Life	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Deepest Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh, Paving Way for First Geothermal Power Plant

<https://kashmirlife.net/deepest-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-paving-way-for-first-geothermal-power-plant-443561/>

SRINAGAR: India on Friday achieved a major milestone in its clean energy programme with the commissioning of the country's first and deepest geothermal

wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, a development expected to accelerate the establishment of India's first geothermal power plant.

The two geothermal wells, each drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet, were commissioned by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena. Executed by the ONGC Energy Centre, the wells will support the country's first 1 MW demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Project engineers said a temperature of 135 degrees Celsius has already been recorded at a depth of 400 metres, with further testing underway. They expect higher temperatures that could support electricity generation and future commercial exploitation of geothermal resources in the region.

The project is considered a significant step towards harnessing geothermal energy in India and advancing Ladakh's goal of becoming a clean energy hub powered by renewable sources.

The geothermal project had faced delays after the expiry of an earlier tripartite memorandum of understanding involving the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Leh) and the ONGC Energy Centre. The agreement was renewed for another five years in June, allowing drilling work to resume.

The first well reached its target depth on May 22, while the second, which was spudded on June 3, was completed on July 8 in just over a month despite difficult geological conditions.

Located in one of the world's harshest operating environments, the project involved drilling through complex subsurface formations amid extreme weather, rugged terrain and a short working season.

The wells are expected to facilitate reservoir evaluation, detailed power plant planning and eventual commercial development of geothermal energy in Ladakh.

Speaking after commissioning the wells, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena described the achievement as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

He said the geothermal power project would strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to the region's socio-economic development. He added that the initiative could serve as a model for India's broader net-zero ambitions and help realise the vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh.

Saxena also praised the ONGC engineers and workers involved in the project, saying the successful drilling of the wells under extreme conditions reflected the capability of Indian engineering and the determination of the project team.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Kashmir Newsline	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.kashmirnewsline.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

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Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh		
Publication	Kashmir Vision	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh

<https://kashmirvision.in/2026/07/18/lg-saxena-commissions-indias-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh/>

Leh: In a landmark milestone for India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest

geothermal wells at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said.

Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over 14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said.

He said the project, which is a big stride towards setting up of India's first-ever geothermal power plant, also fulfils the prime minister's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

The Lt Governor termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development.

What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said.

He lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

The Lt Governor also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the spokesperson said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, the Lt Governor personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed for completion of the two geothermal wells, the spokesperson said.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh, the spokesperson said.

The official said the project engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful of achieving even higher temperatures for the operation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22.

Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000 metres depth on July 8, the spokesperson said.

Headline	India's current account deficit will increase due to crude oil prices, estimated to reach 1.5%. India's Current Account Deficit To Widen To 15 Percent In FY27 Crisil		
Publication	Khelja	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

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<https://khelja.in/indias-current-account-deficit-will-increase-due-to-crude-oil-prices-estimated-to-reach-1-5-indias-current-account-deficit-to-widen-to-15-percent-in-fy27-crisil/>

A CRISIL report estimates India's current account deficit (CAD) to widen to 1.5% of GDP by FY2027. The main reason for this has been said to be the increase in the prices of crude oil and commodities.

New Delhi [July 17 (ANI): India's current account deficit (CAD) is expected to widen to 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in FY 2026-27 as higher crude oil and commodity prices put pressure on the country's external balance, according to CRISIL's Trade First Cut' report for July 2026. It was 0.6 percent in the last financial year.

We expect the current account deficit (CAD) to widen to 1.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) in FY2027 from 0.6% in FY2026, Crisil said in the report.

Crude oil prices will increase losses

The ratings and analytics firm cited oil as the main reason for India's goods trade deficit. Oil remains the main driver of the merchandise trade deficit. Higher year-on-year crude and commodity prices will put downward pressure on the CAD, the report said.

CRISIL estimates that crude oil prices will average between \$ 82 and 87 per barrel this financial year, which is higher than the average of \$ 70.3 per barrel last financial year.

However, the report indicated uncertainty over oil prices amid geopolitical events in West Asia. Given recent geopolitical tensions in West Asia, the sustainability of the interim agreement needs to be monitored, it said.

Trade deficit increased in June

Trade data released earlier this week showed India's goods trade deficit widened to \$30.4 billion in June, from \$19.1 billion a year earlier and \$28.2 billion in May. This happened because imports grew at a much faster rate than exports.

Sharp increase in imports

Merchandise imports rose 31 percent year-on-year to \$70.8 billion in June, compared to 20.6 percent in May. CRISIL attributed the increase to a sharp rise in core imports, which exclude oil and gems and jewellery. Core imports rose 31.4 percent, led by electronic goods, machinery and chemicals, while crude oil imports rose 40 percent despite lower prices.

slow pace of exports

Meanwhile, the growth rate of merchandise exports slowed to 15.5 percent year-on-year in June, taking exports to \$40.4 billion. In comparison, the growth in May was 18 percent and exports stood at \$45.2 billion. Petroleum exports almost halved sequentially to \$4.9 billion, as average Brent crude prices fell 20.3 percent month-on-month.

No relief even from service sector

Services provided some support to the external balance, but their surplus also declined. Preliminary estimates showed that services exports rose 2.9 percent year-on-year in June, while imports rose 12.7 percent. As a result, the services trade surplus declined to \$15.1 billion from \$16.2 billion a year ago.

Meanwhile, goods exports will continue to face persistent global trade headwinds, partially offset by stronger services, CRISIL said. (ANI)

(Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by Asianetnews Editorial staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)

Headline	India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	Khelja	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's first geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://khelja.in/indias-first-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley/>

LG VK Saxena commissioned India's first and deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley.

Executed by ONGC, this project is a major step towards a 1 MW pilot power project and making Ladakh a carbon-neutral clean energy hub.

In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

A Catalyst for Ladakh's Development

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time.

I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth, he added. He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region.

Project Overcomes Delays

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Technical Achievements in a Challenging Environment

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added. The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

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Publication	Latest LY	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India News | L-G VK Saxena Commissions India's First Two Geothermal Wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/india-news-l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh-7521116.html>

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Lokmat Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.lokmatimes.com/national/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/>

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Headline	Strait of Hormuz closure: Why crude oil prices haven't spiralled out of control amid US-Iran conflict		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Strait of Hormuz closure: Why crude oil prices haven't spiralled out of control amid US-Iran conflict

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/economy/strait-of-hormuz-closure-why-crude-oil-prices-haven-t-spiralled-out-of-control-amid-us-iran-conflict/ar-AA287oFR>

Smriti Jain The Middle East conflict and the closure of Strait of Hormuz led to the biggest oil supply shock and disruption in recent times.

Global oil supply fell by 13.6 million barrels per day, which is around 13% of the 2025 global output according to the latest report by Asian Development Bank.

In fact, the losses exceeded every previous oil crisis. By comparison, the 1973 Arab oil embargo and the 1990 Gulf War removed 46 million barrels per day at their peaks, and the initial loss following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 was about 1 million barrels per day.

Yet as ADB notes in its report - despite this unprecedented supply shock, crude oil prices did not reach levels seen during the 1973 Arab oil embargo or even the 1990 Gulf war, if one were to inflation-adjust the prices.

Brent crude prices in the spot market briefly surged to around \$144 per barrel before easing as markets adjusted. Why did crude oil prices not rise as much as expected and what will be the likely trend in future? Let's take a look:

What has changed this time?

The market's fundamental structure is different, and importantly, more resilient.

During the 1970s, crude benchmarks rose nearly tenfold by the decade's end and stayed elevated for years. Today's moves have been faster but less persistent. The market structure has fundamentally changed, says Pranav Master, Director, Crisil Intelligence.

In the 1970s, OPEC controlled more than half of global production, tightening supply and sustaining price pressure. Now, non - OPEC sources - including US shale as well as production from Brazil, Russia and Canada - can ramp up output within months, blunting the length and intensity of price spikes.

Sourav Mitra, Partner Oil & Gas, Grant Thornton Bharat believes that the global oil market has achieved a profound structural shift in resilience since the supply shocks of the 1970s.

This transformation is rooted primarily in global macroeconomic diversification: the oil intensity of global GDP has declined by over 50% over the last five decades. Today's advanced and developing economies are far less reliant on crude oil per unit of economic output due to the dominance of service-oriented sectors, stringent vehicle fuel efficiency mandates, and alternative energy integration across power generation, he explains.

The ADB report notes that not all Middle Eastern oil exports were lost. For example, some producers bypassed the Strait of Hormuz, opting for alternative export routes. Saudi Arabia increased its shipments from Red Sea terminals and the UAE exported through Fujairah.

This rerouting mitigated the supply shock. Finally, higher output and exports from producers outside of the Middle East offset some losses. US crude exports reached a record 5.6 million barrels per day in May, while a temporary waiver of sanctions on Russian oil shipments further widened access to alternative supplies and helped redirect crude to affected importers, the ADB report says.

And then there is the supply side diversification globally. Countries are no longer dependent on just OPEC members for their crude stock.

A greater share of global crude production now comes from non-OPEC producers, reducing reliance on a smaller group of suppliers and improving the market's ability to respond when prices rise, Pranav Master tells TOI.

Adding to this broader shift is China's rapid domestic energy pivot.

As the world's largest importer, China's aggressive domestic rollout of electric vehicles (EVs) and high-speed rail networks has substantially dampened its incremental demand growth. To further bolster these aspects, China now also had massive crude oil reserves which allowed it to act as a balancing force to the factors that were pushing crude oil prices upwards, says Sourav Mitra.

Role of Strategic Reserves

Strategic petroleum reserves further strengthen this buffer. IEA member countries are required to maintain emergency oil stocks of at least 90 days of net imports. What this does is simple: it enables coordinated releases during major disruptions. This helps in easing immediate supply pressures and also calms the market sentiment.

In this case too, strategic petroleum reserves, commercial inventories, and coordinated IEA stock releases played a critical stabilizing role in preventing a much sharper oil price spike during periods of supply disruption.

By rapidly injecting additional barrels into the market, these mechanisms helped offset supply deficits, ease market tightness, and reassure traders that physical shortages could be managed. The historic 2026 coordinated action by IEA members, which made an unprecedented 400 million barrels of emergency oil stocks available, provided vital incremental supply to counter severe supply losses stemming from the Middle East conflict and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, explains Sourav Mitra.

In fact, according to Mitra, building upon the precedents of the 2022 interventions, this 2026 response stands as the largest coordinated release in IEA history.

Not just that, elevated commercial inventories also acted as a buffer against short-term disruptions, reducing panic buying and speculative price pressures.

Together, these inventory-based interventions strengthened market confidence and demonstrated that strategic stockpiles remain a key tool for energy security and price stabilization during geopolitical crises, Mitra says.

According to Pranav Master, during the Russia - Ukraine conflict, IEA member countries jointly committed to release 240 million barrels - the largest coordinated action at the time - helping to ease immediate fears about tight supplies.

As non - OPEC output rose, Russian exports were rerouted, and global demand softened, the market gradually moved back toward balance.

Still, these releases are meant to buy time, not replace the underlying supply. Longer - term stability depends on the recovery of physical supply and the market's ability to rebalance through shifts in production, trade routes, and demand, the Crisil expert cautions.

China acts as a shock absorber, market expectations help

Analysts also see China's muted oil demand as a factor that helped. Why did that happen? Because China's quiet utilization of its own domestic stockpiles provided a massive secondary shock absorber.

By counter-cyclically drawing down its expansive domestic inventories, China voluntarily curbed its seaborne import demand during critical weeks. The combined force of official Western IEA liquidity injections and non-Western commercial inventory management prevented localized panic buying, proving that modern global inventory coordination extends far beyond the traditional IEA framework, says Mitra.

The ADB report points to another interesting trend: While spot prices surged as refiners competed for immediate supplies, longer-dated futures rose by far less.

Through April and May, Brent spot prices remained above \$100/barrel, yet futures contracts for delivery in late 2026 traded below \$100 and declined further into 2027. With the far end of the curve pricing in normalization, holders had little incentive to stockpile barrels for later resale, so oil flowed into the spot market rather than into storage, easing pressure on prompt supply, it explains.

Is there no fear of oil touching \$200?

The Strait of Hormuz crisis, while exposing supply chain vulnerabilities and chokepoints, also highlighted the ability of major economies to quickly adapt to the situation to ease pressures. Hence, analysts don't think that the chances of crude oil prices touching \$200 per barrel due to future disruptions are real.

The likelihood of crude oil prices reaching and sustaining levels above \$200 per barrel has decreased as global oil markets have become more flexible and resilient. Moreover, periods of elevated oil prices tend to accelerate the adoption of alternative technologies such as green hydrogen and electric vehicles, reducing dependence on oil. This could lead to earlier than expected commercial viability of these technologies, says Pranav Master.

While crude oil markets can still experience sharp short - term spikes during severe physical supply disruptions, a \$200-per-barrel environment is less probable, he adds.

Over the past two decades, the emergence of US shale production, diversified crude and LNG trade flows, expanded strategic petroleum reserves, and improved supply chain infrastructure have collectively strengthened the market's ability to respond to disruptions.

Another reason extreme oil price spikes are becoming harder to sustain is the growing flexibility of major consumers, particularly China. China's strategic transition from an aggressive spot buyer to an inventory optimizer. Rather than chasing expensive seaborne cargoes during spikes, China's utilization of its vast commercial storage networks to temporarily pull back from the global purchase market removes immense pressure from the spot trade, says Sourav Mitra.

What if the Hormuz closure extended for longer?

But even as the global economy is notably less vulnerable to oil supply shocks, the length of the conflict and closure of Hormuz are also important.

The factors restraining prices so far may not hold if the disruption proves more prolonged. Buffers are already thinning on several fronts. Global inventories fell by about 330 million barrels from March to May as governments and refiners drew down strategic and commercial stocks. Floating storage has also declined from its preconflict high, reducing one of the market's key sources of short-term flexibility. Demand-side relief may also fade, the ADB report says.

As the conflict recedes, refiners and governments will move to rebuild depleted inventories, possibly to above pre-conflict levels as a precaution against renewed shocks, the report adds.

But a broader disruption would also lead to a long-term readjustment, believe experts.

If for example, Hormuz had been closed for six months in a go, experts say the shock would have extended beyond a temporary energy shock and accelerated structural shifts in the global energy system.

Faced with sustained supply shortages, major importing economies in Europe and Asia would be compelled to implement emergency demand-management measures, prioritize critical industries, and fast-track energy efficiency initiatives. More broadly, a prolonged disruption would strengthen the economic case for supply diversification, strategic stockholding, renewable energy deployment, electrification, and alternative fuel pathways, Sourav Mitra tells TOI.

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Headline	India a step closer to its first demonstration-scale geothermal power project		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India a step closer to its first demonstration-scale geothermal power project

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/india-a-step-closer-to-its-first-demonstration-scale-geothermal-power-project/ar-AA2888SY>

Richa Sharma Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) Energy Centre has completed geothermal wells at the Puga Geothermal Project, Ladakh, advancing

the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Geothermal energy is heat energy within Earth that can be captured and harnessed for electrical power generation, space heating and cooling, and various direct uses.

The milestone advances the development of India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga and opens new possibilities for clean, dependable and round-the-clock energy in Ladakh. The project shall help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters.

Beyond electricity generation, geothermal energy has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism, and sustainable livelihoods. These applications could contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives. The initiative is being advanced jointly by the ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and LAHDC-Leh under a five-year collaboration, renewed in June 2026.

The Government of India has notified the National Policy on Geothermal Energy (2025), reinforcing its commitment towards achieving the ambitious 2070 Net Zero Goal and strengthening the country's energy security through diversified renewable energy sources.

India, with its untapped geothermal resources, is poised to leverage this clean and reliable energy source for power generation and direct-use applications such as district heating, agriculture, aquaculture, and space cooling and heating via Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs). The newly unveiled policy provides a comprehensive framework to promote exploration, development, and utilization of geothermal energy in India.

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The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

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Naseer Ganai SRINAGAR: In a major step towards India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena Friday commissioned

the country's first and the deepest geothermal wells at Puga valley. ONGC Energy Centre would execute two geothermal wells in the Union Territory.

What has been achieved in Puga valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said.

The commissioning of the two 1,000m-deep wells, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, officials said. The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the officials added.

Project engineers said that successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning, and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

They said that the maximum temperature of 135 celsius was recorded at the depth of 400m. Further testing is on and they are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The engineers said that despite encountering geothermal activities, complex subsurface conditions, and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000m on May 22, 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000m depth on July 8.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Saxena then intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed, officials said.

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Headline	India's first and deepest geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first and deepest geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/india/india-s-first-and-deepest-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-s-puga-valley/ar-AA289bgs>

Fayaz Wani SRINAGAR: In a major boost to India's clean energy mission, the country's first and deepest geothermal wells were commissioned at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh on Friday.

The two geothermal wells, executed by the ONGC Energy Centre, were commissioned by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

The wells are critical to the implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

The commissioning of the two 1000-metre-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Saxena said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback after the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in delays of several months.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, Saxena facilitated the renewal of the MoU for another five years in June, following which work resumed on the completion of the two geothermal wells.

The successful completion of the wells will facilitate reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

According to project engineers, a maximum temperature of 135C was recorded at a depth of 400 metres.

They said further testing was under way and expressed hope of recording even higher temperatures to support the operation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project and the eventual commercial exploitation of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

According to officials, despite geothermal activity, complex subsurface conditions and operational challenges, the first well was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22, 2026.

The second well was spudded on June 3 and, in just over a month, was drilled and completed to a depth of 1,000 metres on July 8.

Saxena described the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, he said.

Saxena also praised the ONGC engineers, saying Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world and capable of accomplishing some of the most challenging engineering feats, symbolising India's growing stature in global engineering.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Maharashtra Samachar	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.maharashtrasamachar.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	India Proposes Stricter Vehicle Emission Rules To Cut Oil Consumption - Crude Oil Prices Today OilPrice.com		
Publication	Markets Mojo	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India Proposes Stricter Vehicle Emission Rules To Cut Oil Consumption - Crude Oil Prices Today | OilPrice.com

<https://www.marketsmojo.com/news/across-the-web/india-proposes-stricter-vehicle-emission-rules-to-cut-oil-consumption-4106806>

India Proposes Stricter Vehicle Emission Rules To Cut Oil Consumption - Crude Oil Prices Today | OilPrice.com

Headline	Ladakh L-G commissions India's 1st geothermal wells at Puga Valley		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

Ladakh L-G commissions India's 1st geothermal wells at Puga Valley

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/ladakh-l-g-commissions-indias-1st-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-668611>

Leh: India on Friday commissioned its first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a major step towards establishing the country's first geothermal power plant.

Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena inaugurated the two 1,000-metre-deep wells, developed by ONGC Energy Centre at an altitude of over 14,000 feet.

The wells will support the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project, India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, and advance Ladakh's goal of becoming a carbon-neutral clean energy hub.

The project had faced delays after the expiry of the tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre.

The pact was renewed for five years in June following the Lieutenant Governor's intervention, allowing work to resume.

The completed wells will enable reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and future commercial development of geothermal resources.

Engineers have recorded temperatures of up to 135 degrees Celsius at a depth of 400 metres and are continuing tests in the hope of finding higher temperatures needed for power generation. Mpost

Headline	Puri Reviews India's Overseas Oil Portfolio Spanning 20+ Nations		
Publication	Nation Press	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Puri Reviews India's Overseas Oil Portfolio Spanning 20+ Nations

<https://www.nationpress.com/national/puri-reviews-india-20-nation-oil-portfolio>

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on 17 July 2026 reviewed the overseas upstream E&P portfolios of five Indian energy PSUs ONGC Videsh, IOCL, BPRL, OIL and GAIL spanning 20-plus countries, with active assets in Mozambique, Brazil, UAE, Venezuela and Libya.

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri reviewed India's overseas upstream E&P portfolio on 17 July 2026 .

Five PSUs ONGC Videsh, IOCL, BPRL, OIL and GAIL collectively operate in more than 20 countries across six regions.

Key active and development assets are located in Mozambique, Brazil, UAE, Venezuela and Libya .

Cumulative PSU investments in overseas assets run into billions of dollars , according to the minister.

India imports over 80 percent of its crude requirements, making overseas equity stakes central to energy security.

The review signals continued government intent to expand India's international upstream footprint under PM Narendra Modi .

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday, 17 July 2026 , reviewed the overseas upstream exploration and production (E&P) portfolio of India's state-owned energy companies, reaffirming the country's strategy of securing long-term, diversified energy supplies through equity stakes and strategic partnerships across more than 20 countries

Context

Posting on X, Minister Puri stated that India's energy public sector undertakings (PSUs) are 'pursuing global assets including equity oil, dividend models and strategic partnerships alike, to secure long-term, diversified energy supplies for the country.' The review covered the combined international footprint of ONGC Videsh Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) Bharat PetroResources Limited (BPRL) Oil India Limited (OIL) , and GAIL (India) Limited

Together, these entities hold equity in active producing assets and key development projects in countries including Mozambique Brazil UAE Venezuela , and Libya , with the minister noting that 'cumulative investments running into billions of dollars' have been committed across these geographies.

Policy Backdrop

India's push for overseas equity oil dates to the early 2000s. ONGC Videsh acquired a stake in Russia's Sakhalin-I project in , establishing the template for state-led international E&P investments. The Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 document, released in , formally recommended that Indian PSUs pursue overseas opportunities to reduce the country's dependence on crude imports.

India currently imports over 80 percent of its crude oil requirements, making supply diversification a structural imperative. In , India signed an MoU with Mozambique for development of the Rovuma LNG project , in which both ONGC Videsh and OIL hold stakes one of the most significant African upstream commitments by Indian PSUs.

The geographic spread reviewed by the minister spanning North America Latin America , the CIS region , the Middle East Africa , and Asia Pacific mirrors strategies adopted by other large Asian importers competing for upstream acreage globally.

Stakeholders and Impact

The five PSUs under review collectively represent India's primary vehicle for acquiring 'equity barrels' crude oil produced from assets in which Indian companies hold an ownership stake, as distinct from spot or term purchases on the open market. Equity oil provides a degree of price insulation and supply predictability that market purchases cannot guarantee.

For domestic crude importers and refiners, a robust overseas portfolio translates into greater negotiating leverage and supply chain resilience. IOCL and BPRL , in particular, complement their refining operations with upstream equity

positions, creating an integrated supply model. GAIL 's international stakes extend India's reach into LNG supply chains critical for the country's gas-based transition ambitions.

What's Next

The Petroleum Ministry is expected to conduct quarterly portfolio reviews of PSU overseas assets, with fresh bidding opportunities in Brazil's pre-salt rounds and UAE offshore blocks being closely watched by Indian energy planners. Minister Puri framed the review as 'a clear reaffirmation that India's energy security strategy extends confidently beyond our shores,' signalling continued government appetite for expanding the international upstream footprint.

As global energy markets remain volatile, India's ability to grow its equity oil base and reduce reliance on price-exposed spot purchases will be a key metric of the country's long-term energy security posture under the Modi government

Modi-era strategic doctrine rather than a legacy inheritance. By naming five PSUs and six global regions in a single post, Puri is consolidating a narrative of proactive energy diplomacy ahead of what could be a competitive bidding cycle in Brazil and the UAE. The equity-oil model has bipartisan roots going back to the early 2000s, but the current government is clearly invested in claiming ownership of its expansion. Crucially, the absence of specific production or revenue figures keeps the communication aspirational the harder test will come when quarterly reviews translate into verifiable new acreage wins.

Which Indian PSUs hold overseas oil and gas assets?

What is equity oil and why does India pursue it?

Where are India's major overseas oil investments located?

What is ONGC Videsh and what does it do?

What did Hardeep Singh Puri announce about India's energy policy in July 2026?

Headline	India completes 1st deep geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	New Bytes	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India completes 1st deep geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://www.newsbytesapp.com/news/india/india-completes-1st-deep-geothermal-wells-in-ladakhs-puga-valley/tldr>

India just hit a big milestone: its first deep geothermal wells are done in Ladakh's Puga Valley.

ONGC Energy Centre drilled two wells, each 1,000 meters deep, to kickstart the country's very first geothermal power plant.

At over 14,000 feet high, this plant is set to deliver steady renewable energy and push Ladakh closer to becoming carbon-neutral.

Wells hit 135C, powering 1MW pilot

Getting here wasn't easy: the project faced delays and tricky geology, plus seismic activity slowed things down.

Thanks to a fresh five-year agreement signed in June 2026, work picked up pace and drilling wrapped up on July 8.

The wells reached thermal activity of 135 degrees Celsius at 400 meters and will power a pilot 1-megawatt plant.

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena praised the team for their hard work under extreme conditions, calling it a huge step for India's clean energy future.

Headline	India's First Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh by L-G VK Saxena		
Publication	New Kerala	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's First Geothermal Wells Commissioned in Ladakh by L-G VK Saxena

<https://www.newkerala.com/news/all-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-910.htm>

Leh, July 17 In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Naredhra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant

Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth - VK Saxena"

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

ANI

Headline	E20 Fuel Debate Explodes: Maruti Challenges Engine Damage Verdict Hardeep Puri Nitin Gadkari		
Publication	News 18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

E20 Fuel Debate Explodes: Maruti Challenges Engine Damage Verdict | Hardeep Puri | Nitin Gadkari

<https://www.news18.com/videos/plain/e20-fuel-debate-explodes-maruti-challenges-engine-damage-verdict-hardeep-puri-nitin-gadkari-10218878.html>

that linked engine damage to fuel compatibility issues. The controversy has sparked a nationwide discussion among vehicle owners, automobile

companies, and policymakers over the impact of ethanol-blended petrol on existing vehicles. The E20 fuel transition, which aims to increase ethanol blending in petrol and reduce dependence on imported crude oil, has faced questions from consumers who claim that older vehicles may experience performance issues. While some surveys have highlighted concerns among pre-2023 vehicle owners, studies including research from institutions like IIT Kanpur have added another dimension by suggesting no significant engine damage due to E20 fuel. n18oc_plain_speakNews18 Mobile App - <https://onelink.to/desc-youtube>

Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan has found himself at the centre of a political controversy following his visit to the Mookambika Temple. The temple visit has triggered sharp reactions from political opponents, with debates intensifying over faith, secularism, and the role of religion in public life. Satheesan defended the visit, stating that worship is a personal right and should not be viewed through a political lens. However, critics have questioned the timing and political implications of the move, leading to a wider discussion over whether religious visits by political leaders should be interpreted as political messaging. n18oc_plain_speakNews18 Mobile App - <https://onelink.to/desc-youtube>

The Karnataka High Court has delivered a major legal setback to the state government by staying its decision to withdraw 52 criminal cases. The interim order comes after concerns were raised over the legality, justification, and procedure followed in seeking the withdrawal, setting the stage for a significant legal and political battle. The court's intervention has triggered intense political reactions, with opposition parties questioning the government's intent, while legal experts debate the broader implications for the criminal justice system and the rule of law. The case is expected to have far-reaching consequences as the matter proceeds through the judicial process. n18oc_plain_speakNews18 Mobile App - <https://onelink.to/desc-youtube>

Headline	Ladakh Unveils India's First & Deepest Geothermal Wells in Puga Valley		
Publication	News 18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

Ladakh Unveils India's First & Deepest Geothermal Wells in Puga Valley

<https://one.news18.com/english/article/india/ladakh-unveils-indias-first-and-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-puga-valley-eng-9910219360>

Ladakh successfully commissioned India's first and deepest geothermal wells in Puga Valley, a landmark for the renewable energy sector.

Two 1,000-meter-deep wells were drilled by the ONGC Energy Centre at an altitude exceeding 14,000 feet, paving the way for India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, hailed the achievement as a historic moment for India's green energy journey.

The project overcame challenging conditions including high altitude, extreme cold, and complex geology, completed in record time.

This development is expected to accelerate geothermal energy in Ladakh, reduce reliance on diesel, and support a carbon-neutral Ladakh and Net-Zero India.

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Headline	Ladakh Drills Into History: India's First & Deepest Geothermal Wells Go Live At Puga		
Publication	News 18	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

Ladakh Drills Into History: India's First & Deepest Geothermal Wells Go Live At Puga

<https://www.news18.com/india/ladakh-drills-into-history-indias-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-go-live-at-puga-10219360.html>

The two 1,000-metre-deep wells, drilled by ONGC Energy Centre at over 14,000 feet, mark a big step towards creating India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project in the region

In a landmark achievement for India's renewable energy sector, the Union Territory of Ladakh on Friday successfully commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley.

The two 1,000-metre-deep wells, drilled by the ONGC Energy Centre at an altitude exceeding 14,000 feet, mark a major step towards establishing India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project in the region.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena announced the milestone in an official post, calling it a historic and proud moment in India's journey towards green, renewable energy".

Successfully commissioned India's first and deepest, two geothermal wells, today at Puga Valley in Ladakh. Drilled at a high altitude of over 14,000 ft, these two 1000-meter-deep wells by the ONGC Energy Centre also pave the way for setting up of India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project in Ladakh," he said on X.

The project overcomes some of the most challenging conditions in the countryhigh altitude, extreme cold, unpredictable geothermal activity, and complex subsurface geologyand was completed in record time by the engineering teams.

Officials say the successful drilling is expected to accelerate the development of geothermal energy in Ladakh, reduce dependence on diesel-based power in remote areas, and support the broader national goal of a carbon-neutral Ladakh and Net-Zero India.

The Puga Valley has long been identified as one of India's most promising geothermal sites. The commissioning of these deep wells is being viewed as a critical breakthrough that could open the door for geothermal power generation in the Himalayas.

Geothermal energy development in Ladakh is expected to reduce dependence on diesel-based power in remote areas and support the goal of a carbon-neutral Ladakh. India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power project is being established in the region.

The commissioning of India's first and deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley could pave the way for geothermal power generation in the Himalayas. This pilot project is seen as a critical breakthrough.

The next steps for India's 1 MW pilot geothermal power project include setting up the plant and developing geothermal resources for reliable baseload electricity for Ladakh. The project aims to provide clean energy and potentially pave the way for commercial exploitation of geothermal energy.

Headline	India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh

<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/india/indias-first-2-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh-toi/articleshow/1450482099646b310d487473d313948b95f44ba0>

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena Friday commissioned the country's first and the deepest geothermal wells at Puga valley. ONGC Energy Centre would execute two geothermal wells in the Union Territory.

What has been achieved in Puga valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said.

The commissioning of the two 1,000m-deep wells, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, officials said. The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the officials added.

Project engineers said that successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning, and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

They said that the maximum temperature of 135 celsius was recorded at the depth of 400m. Further testing is on and they are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Northeast Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.northeasttimes.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	ONGC Energy Centre Completes Geothermal Wells GT#02 & GT#03 at Puga Valley, Ladakh		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC Energy Centre Completes Geothermal Wells GT#02 & GT#03 at Puga Valley, Ladakh

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-energy-centre-completes-geothermal-wells-gt-02-gt-03-at-puga-valley-ladakh>

ONGC Energy Centre successfully completes GT#02 and GT#03 geothermal wells at Puga Valley, Ladakh. This advances India's first 1 MWe geothermal pilot power plant. Full details here.

In a significant milestone for India's renewable energy sector, the ONGC Energy Centre has successfully completed drilling of two geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 at Puga Valley in Ladakh.

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, unveiled the commemorative plaque and graced the completion ceremony.

Key Highlights:

Depth of each well : 1,000 metres

Altitude : Over 14,000 feet

Project : Puga Geothermal Project

The wells were drilled under challenging high-altitude conditions and mark a major step forward in India's indigenous geothermal exploration capabilities.

Attendees:

Shri Himanshu Gupta, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Power Development Department

Ms Shashanka Ala, IAS, Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

Shri Nitish Rajora, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Changthang

Senior officials from UT Administration and ONGC leadership, including Director (Technology & Field Services) Vikram

This achievement paves the way for the proposed 1 MWe pilot geothermal power plant at Puga envisaged as India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Analysis: The Puga Geothermal Project is strategically important for providing round-the-clock renewable energy in the difficult Himalayan terrain. Geothermal energy, being baseload and clean, can play a vital role in India's energy security and clean energy transition goals. ONGC Energy Centre's success at such high altitude demonstrates India's growing technical capability in geothermal development.

Headline	ONGC completes 2 deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing Ladakh's demonstration project		
Publication	PSU Watch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC completes 2 deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing Ladakh's demonstration project

<https://psuwatch.com/newsupdates/ongc-completes-2-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-advancing-ladakhs-demonstration-project>

ONGC has completed two deep geothermal wells at Puga in Ladakh, moving its demonstration-scale power project closer to first output. Published on

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Puga Geothermal Project site on Friday, marking the completion of geothermal wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre, the state-run explorer said in a statement.

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ONGC described the milestone as advancing the development of what it called India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project at Puga. The company said the project opens up possibilities for round-the-clock clean energy in Ladakh, and could help strengthen energy access in remote areas, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and support power availability through the region's severe winters.

What the project is meant to do

Beyond electricity generation, ONGC said geothermal energy at the site has the potential to support space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism and sustainable livelihoods. According to the company, these applications could contribute to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its stated aspiration to become a carbon-neutral region.

At the national level, ONGC said the project strengthens India's clean-energy portfolio, advances technological self-reliance and supports the country's long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives.

Who is building it

The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and LAHDC-Leh, under a five-year collaboration that was renewed in June, the statement said.

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Who was present

The event was attended by Administrative Secretary Himanshu Gupta, IAS; Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Shashanka Ala, IAS; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Rajora; and Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbas Jaffari.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the project's national and regional significance and commended the ONGC Energy Centre team, according to the statement. Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Vikram Saxena said the achievement reaffirmed the company's commitment to innovation, energy security and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

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Headline	J-K LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh		
Publication	PTI	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

J-K LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh

<https://www.ptinews.com/story/national/j-k-lg-saxena-commissions-india-s-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh/3870623>

LEH: (Jul 17) In a landmark milestone for India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first

and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said.

Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over 14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said.

He said the project, which is a big stride towards setting up of India's first-ever geothermal power plant, also fulfils the prime minister's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

Headline	UPES, ONGC partner on AI innovation agenda		
Publication	Pioneer Edge	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

UPES, ONGC partner on AI innovation agenda

<https://pioneeredge.in/upes-ongc-partner-on-ai-innovation-agenda/>

PIONEER EDGE NEWS SERVICE/ Dehradun UPES and the Keshava Deva Malaviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration (KDMIPE), ONGC will jointly explore

opportunities for long-term collaboration in AI-driven energy innovation and clean energy research and also to identify opportunities in multidisciplinary research and emerging energy technologies. Things were finalised during an interaction held between the seniors of both the institutions. The key areas included Natural Hydrogen, Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), unconventional energy resources, and Artificial Intelligence-enabled solutions for energy exploration and production.

Organised under the leadership of the vice- chancellor, UPES, Dr. Sunil Rai, the interaction focused on strengthening industryacademia partnerships that can drive scientific advancement and support India's transition towards a more sustainable energy future. Among those who representedKDMIPE, ONGC was the Executive Director and Chief of Institute (COI), Tarun Kumar Mathuria He highlighted ONGC's contributions to hydrocarbon exploration, its growing role in the clean energy transition and the increasing adoption of advanced technologies to drive innovation across the energy sector.

In his address, Rai said that the future of energy would be shaped by meaningful collaboration between academia and industry.

During the visit, the ONGC delegation toured UPES' state-of-the-art facilities, including the Bajaj Engineering Skills and Training Centre (BEST), and reviewed ongoing research initiatives focused on advancing future energy technologies.

Headline	Clean Energy: Ladakh Gets India First Deep Geothermal Wells		
Publication	Power Corridors	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Clean Energy: Ladakh Gets India First Deep Geothermal Wells

<https://powercorridors.in/clean-energy-ladakh-gets-india-first-deep-geothermal-wells/>

The 1,000-metre-deep wells, drilled at over 14,000 feet by ONGC Energy Centre, are expected to advance Ladakh's goal of becoming a carbon-neutral region.

BY PC Bureau

New Delhi, July 17: India on Thursday achieved a major milestone in its clean energy ambitions with the commissioning of the country's first and deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley, a breakthrough expected to accelerate the development of India's first geothermal power plant.

Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena inaugurated the two 1,000-metre-deep wells, drilled by the ONGC Energy Centre at an altitude of over 14,000 feet. The project marks a significant step towards transforming Ladakh into a renewable energy hub and advancing the Centre's vision of making the Union Territory carbon neutral.

The newly commissioned wells will supply crucial data and geothermal resources for the proposed 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga , India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power initiative.

The project had remained stalled after the expiry of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and the ONGC Energy Centre. The initiative was revived after the MoU was renewed for another five years in June this year following the intervention of Lieutenant Governor Saxena, allowing drilling operations to resume and reach completion.

READ: Land Ownership Doesn't Establish Citizenship: Calcutta HC

According to project engineers, temperatures of up to 135 degrees Celsius have already been recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is underway, with officials optimistic that even higher temperatures at greater depths will be sufficient to operate the planned pilot power plant and support future commercial-scale geothermal energy production.

The drilling campaign was carried out under some of the world's harshest conditions, including sub-zero temperatures, rugged Himalayan terrain, an altitude exceeding 14,000 feet, and a narrow annual construction window. Despite these challenges, the first well reached its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22, 2026 , while the second well, spudded on June 3 , was completed in a record five weeks on July 8

Describing the achievement as a landmark in India's clean energy journey, Saxena said the geothermal project would become a catalyst for Ladakh's long-term development.

This geothermal power project will strengthen energy security, promote environmental sustainability and accelerate socio-economic development in Ladakh. The success achieved in Puga Valley will serve as a blueprint for India's journey towards net-zero emissions, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the ONGC engineers and technical teams for executing one of the country's most challenging drilling projects and praised the workers for their perseverance in the difficult high-altitude environment.

Once operational, the Puga geothermal project is expected to demonstrate the viability of geothermal energy as a dependable, round-the-clock renewable power source in India, reducing dependence on fossil fuels while supporting the country's broader clean energy transition.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Rajasthan Ki Khabar	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.rajasthankikhabar.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Rising Kashmir	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://risingkashmir.com/jammu-and-kashmir/lg-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-geothermal-wells-puga-valley-ladakh-12174593>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

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It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season. (ANI)

Headline	ONGC completes two deep geothermal wells at Puga in Ladakh		
Publication	Scanx	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

ONGC completes two deep geothermal wells at Puga in Ladakh

<https://scanx.trade/stock-market-news/companies/ongc-completes-two-deep-geothermal-wells-at-puga-in-ladakh/45843386>

Oil & Natural Gas Corporation completed two deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. The initiative, led by ONGC Energy Centre in collaboration with the UT Administration of Ladakh and LAHDC-Leh, aims to provide round-the-clock clean energy. The project supports energy security, reduces dependence on conventional fuels, and aids Ladakh's goal of becoming a carbon-neutral region.

Oil & Natural Gas Corporation marked the completion of two deep geothermal wells at Puga, advancing India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. The successful drilling of wells GT#02 and GT#03 by ONGC Energy Centre was commemorated by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, on July 17, 2026. This milestone opens new avenues for clean, dependable, and round-the-clock energy in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The project is expected to strengthen energy access in remote areas and reduce dependence on conventional fuels. It is designed to support reliable power availability during the region's severe winters. Beyond electricity generation, the geothermal energy potential at Puga extends to space heating, greenhouse cultivation, year-round agriculture, food processing, geotourism, and sustainable livelihoods.

Strategic Collaboration and Objectives

The initiative is being advanced jointly by ONGC Energy Centre, the UT Administration of Ladakh, and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Leh. The collaboration operates under a five-year partnership that was renewed in June 2026. The project aligns with India's clean-energy portfolio, technological self-reliance, and long-term energy-security and Net Zero objectives.

Regional and National Impact

The development is anticipated to contribute significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic development and its aspiration to emerge as a carbon-neutral region. At the national level, it strengthens the country's clean energy capabilities. The occasion was attended by key officials, including Administrative Secretary Shri Himanshu Gupta, IAS, and Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Ms Shashanka Ala, IAS.

Representing ONGC, Director (Technology and Field Services) Shri Vikram Saxena stated that the achievement reaffirmed the organization's commitment to innovation, energy security, and a sustainable future for Ladakh and India.

Historical Stock Returns for Oil & Natural Gas Corporation

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Headline	Time Technoplast secures ₹38.14 crore HPCL order for composite LPG cylinders		
Publication	Scanx	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

Time Technoplast secures ₹38.14 crore HPCL order for composite LPG cylinders

<https://scanx.trade/stock-market-news/companies/time-technoplast-provides-type-iv-composite-lpg-cylinders-to-hpcl-for-joint-pilot-project-with-swiggy/45752973>

Time Technoplast secured a 38.14 crore order from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for supplying 1,40,000 Type IV Composite LPG Cylinders. The order, received via the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), is to be executed within six months and supports HPCL's new distribution model involving quick-commerce platforms.

Time Technoplast has secured a Government e-Marketplace (GeM) contract from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for the supply of 1,40,000 numbers of 10 kg Composite LPG Cylinders, valued at approximately 38.14 crore. This order underscores the accelerating adoption of composite LPG cylinders by India's leading oil marketing companies, driven by their superior safety, lightweight construction, and enhanced consumer convenience. The contract reinforces the company's leadership position in the composite cylinder business and supports the transition towards modern, customer-centric LPG distribution across the country.

The order assumes added significance as HPCL has recently introduced an innovative distribution model for composite LPG cylinders through leading quick-commerce platforms, enabling on-demand delivery to consumers. This customer-centric initiative marks an important advancement in LPG distribution by enhancing convenience and accessibility while supporting the rapid adoption of next-generation composite LPG cylinders. Time Technoplast's participation in this initiative underscores its continued commitment to delivering innovative and sustainable packaging solutions aligned with the evolving needs of India's energy sector.

Order Details

The following table outlines the key parameters of this order:

Parameter

Details

Company:

Time Technoplast

Order Value:

38.14 Crore (Approx.)

Product:

Type IV Composite LPG Cylinders

Quantity:

1,40,000 numbers of 10 kg cylinders

Ordered By:

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

Nature of Order:

Supply of Product TYPE IV Composite LPG Cylinder

Execution Period:

Within six months

Regulatory and Classification Details

The order was awarded by a domestic entity and is classified as a supply contract. It does not fall within related party transactions, and the promoter group has no interest in the entity awarding the order. The disclosure was made pursuant to Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Historical Stock Returns for Time Technoplast

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	South India News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.southindianews.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Telangana Journal	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.telanganajournal.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	E20: Amid Social Media Controversies, IOC, BPCL, HPCL Intensify Quality Checks At Petrol Pumps		
Publication	Tezzbuzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

E20: Amid Social Media Controversies, IOC, BPCL, HPCL Intensify Quality Checks At Petrol Pumps

<https://tezzbuzz.com/e20-amid-social-media-controversies-ioc-bpcl-hpcl-intensify-quality-checks-at-petrol-pumps/>

Reports about E20 fuel, contaminated petrol, and ethanol-blended fuel allegedly causing vehicle issues have been circulating widely on the internet over the last couple of weeks. Amid the growing concerns, state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have intensified quality checks at petrol pumps across the country.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) said it has conducted surprise inspections at nearly 10,000 fuel stations and carried out over 8,500 quality tests across its retail outlets during the past week.

The company deployed hundreds of dedicated teams to verify that fuel stations were dispensing petrol that met the prescribed quality standards. In an official statement, IOC said: Fuel quality is a matter of utmost importance for IndianOil. Every day, our teams work across the country to ensure that customers receive fuel that meets all prescribed quality standards. Regular inspections, surprise checks and scientific testing are carried out as part of a rigorous quality assurance system.

IOC also stated that it has a zero-tolerance policy towards fuel adulteration and that strict action would be taken against any dealer found violating fuel quality norms.

Apart from IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) conducted surprise inspections at 932 retail outlets between July 3 and July 13. The company's Quality Control team carried out another 111 inspections, while its Quality Assurance Department conducted 50 surprise fuel sampling and on-site testing exercises using its mobile laboratory network.

According to BPCL, the inspections did not uncover any cases of adulteration, contamination, critical irregularities, or compliance lapses.

Similarly, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) conducted surprise inspections at 2,173 retail outlets between July 7 and July 13. The company also verified compliance with ethanol blending norms during these inspections. This was in addition to 1,385 routine inspections carried out between July 3 and July 13. HPCL's Quality Control Cell also conducted 93 surprise inspections and tested 49 fuel samples using mobile laboratories.

Despite these inspections, several videos have surfaced online in which vehicle owners have alleged that ethanol-blended fuel has caused damage to their vehicles. Even leaders from petrol pump dealers' associations have urged the government to reconsider the ethanol blending programme, claiming that customers often blame petrol pumps for vehicle issues and create disturbances at fuel stations.

Recently, another report surfaced in which a petrol pump owner claimed that the hygroscopic nature of E20 petrol (its tendency to absorb moisture) is contributing to problems, particularly during the monsoon season and at fuel stations located in coastal areas. According to him, the existing underground storage tanks at many fuel stations were originally designed for regular petrol and not for higher ethanol blends.

Public concern over the E20 fuel policy also appears to be reflected in a recent CVoter survey. According to the survey, a majority of respondents said they do not prefer using E20 petrol in their vehicles. Many respondents also said they want the government to offer consumers a choice between regular petrol and ethanol-blended petrol instead of making E20 the only available option.

The debate surrounding the E20 fuel policy continues, with vehicle owners, fuel dealers, and industry stakeholders expressing differing views. Whether the government revises the policy or continues with the current implementation remains to be seen.

Headline	Petrol Diesel Rates: Crude oil becomes expensive again! Are the prices of petrol and diesel going to increase now? Know today's latest rate		
Publication	Tezzbuzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Petrol Diesel Rates: Crude oil becomes expensive again! Are the prices of petrol and diesel going to increase now? Know today's latest rate

<https://tezzbuzz.com/petrol-diesel-rates-crude-oil-becomes-expensive-again-are-the-prices-of-petrol-and-diesel-going-to-increase-now-know-todays-latest-rate/>

New Delhi: The effect of increasing military tension between America and Iran in the Middle East is now clearly visible on the oil market all over the world.

Amidst the continuous attacks and increasing concerns about oil supply, a rise in the prices of crude oil has been recorded in the international market. Along with this, oil import has also become expensive in India, due to which the question has started rising in the minds of people that what effect will it have on the prices of petrol and diesel in the coming days. At present, oil companies have released new rates, in which slight differences are visible in different cities.

After the conflict between America and Iran intensified, the prices of crude oil have gone up in the global market. The fear of breaking the ceasefire and affecting oil supplies from the Strait of Hormuz has increased the concern of investors. Apart from this, market instability has further increased after Iran indicated to put pressure on the Houthi group on oil exports through the Red Sea. The price of Brent crude increased by about 1.25 percent to \$ 85.28 per barrel. At the same time, American West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was also seen trading at \$ 79.98 per barrel with an increase of about 1.3 percent. In the last one week, both the major benchmarks have registered a rise of about 12 percent.

Oil import becomes costlier in India too

The effect of the boom in the international market is becoming visible in India also. In the last five to six days, the purchase of crude oil has become costlier for India by about 13 percent. However, at present government and private oil companies have not announced any change in the prices of petrol and diesel. According to the new rates released for July 17, the prices of petrol and diesel across the country are applicable as before. There is a difference in prices due to local tax and VAT in different states.

Latest prices of petrol in major cities of the country

Delhi: Rs 102.12 per liter

Mumbai: Rs 111.21 per liter

Kolkata: Rs 113.51 per liter

Bengaluru: Rs 110.93 per liter

Chennai: Rs 107.77 per liter

Patna: Rs 113.35 per liter

Chandigarh: Rs 101.51 per liter

Hyderabad: Rs 115.69 per liter

Bhubaneswar: Rs 108.97 per liter

Latest prices of diesel in major cities of the country

Delhi: Rs 95.20 per liter

Mumbai: Rs 97.83 per liter

Kolkata: Rs 99.82 per liter

Bengaluru: Rs 98.80 per liter

Chennai: Rs 99.55 per liter

Patna: Rs 99.36 per liter

Chandigarh: Rs 89.47 per liter

Hyderabad: Rs 103.82 per liter

Bhubaneswar: Rs 100.68 per liter

Increased concern over oil supply

Ongoing military activities in the Middle East have created new concerns about global oil supply. America has carried out air strikes in various areas of Iran for several consecutive days. According to the US Central Command, the aim of these operations is to weaken Iran's military capability. On the other hand, Iran has also retaliated by targeting American military bases in the area through missiles and drones. According to reports, an American airbase located in Jordan also came under attack.

Crisis increases on Red Sea and Hormuz

Experts believe that if there is a disruption in oil supply through the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, it could have an impact on the energy market of the entire world. It is being told that Iran has indicated to its ally Houthi group that if attacks on its energy infrastructure continue then pressure on the Red Sea oil route can be increased.

Market analysts say that if the price of WTI crude does not go down from the current level and remains above \$70, then in the coming time it may reach \$80 to \$85 per barrel. In such a situation, its economic impact can also be seen on big oil importing countries like India.

Headline	14,000 feet up: Deep well drilling completed for India's first geothermal plant in Puga Valley		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

14,000 feet up: Deep well drilling completed for India's first geothermal plant in Puga Valley

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/14000-feet-up-deep-well-drilling-completed-for-indias-first-geothermal-plant-in-puga-valley/articleshow/132465622.cms>

In a groundbreaking move, India has initiated its first-ever geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley, delving deep at 1,000 meters. This marks a monumental step towards establishing the nation's first geothermal power station. After overcoming administrative challenges, the project is back on track with a fresh agreement. Engineers have reported exciting thermal activity with temperatures hitting 135 degrees Celsius.

India entered the global geothermal energy map on Friday as Lieutenant Governor commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at in Ladakh- one of the highest altitude facility in the world.

Executed by the , the successful completion of these two 1,000-meter-deep wells clears the path for constructing India's first-ever Geothermal Power Plant.

Situated at an extreme altitude of over 14,000 feet, the wells are critical infrastructure for an upcoming 1 MW pilot project. This demonstration-scale facility aligns with the larger governmental vision of a , positioning the border region-often at sub zero temperatures- as a futuristic hub for sustainable, round-the-clock renewable energy.

The project recently overcame administrative gridlock following the expiration of a previous tripartite agreement between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh, and the ONGC Energy Centre. Recognizing its strategic importance for national energy security, the new dispensation led by LG Saxena is learnt to have intervened to facilitate a new five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June, immediately restarting stalled field operations.

The project required braving complex sub-surface anomalies, high seismic activity, and a severely restricted annual working window. Despite all odds, the first well hit its 1,000-meter target on May 22, 2026. The second well was spudded on June 3 and completed in a record time of just over a month on July 8, 2026.

Project engineers reported promising thermal activity, recording a maximum temperature of 135C at a depth of just 400 meters. Ongoing reservoir evaluations are expected to yield even higher temperatures as testing progresses to the lower limits.

Terming the launch a defining moment, LG Saxena praised the grit of the technical teams working in one of the world's most hostile environments. "Beyond its immense scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security and promote vital regional socio-economic development," Saxena stated, adding that the Puga Valley project will serve as an operational blueprint for Indias broader net-zero journey.

Headline	L-G commissions India's first geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	The Kashmir Images	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G commissions India's first geothermal wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://thekashmirimages.com/2026/07/18/l-g-commissions-indias-first-geothermal-wells-in-ladakhs-puga-valley/>

Leh: Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Friday commissioned Indias first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a significant step towards the countrys first geothermal power project and the Union Territorys transition to clean energy.

The two wells, each drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet by the ONGC Energy Centre, are expected to support the proposed 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be Indias first demonstration-scale geothermal power plant.

Officials said the project is aimed at advancing Ladakhs renewable energy capacity and aligns with the Centres vision of promoting carbon-neutral development in the region.

According to the administration, the project had faced delays after the expiry of a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) involving the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Leh) and the ONGC Energy Centre. The MoU was renewed for another five years in June, allowing work on the geothermal wells to resume.

Officials said the completion of the wells would facilitate reservoir evaluation, planning of the pilot power plant and future commercial development of geothermal resources in the region.

Project engineers informed that temperatures of up to 135 degrees Celsius had been recorded at a depth of around 400 metres during drilling. Further testing is underway to assess the resources suitability for power generation.

The project was executed under challenging conditions, including extreme weather, rugged terrain and a short working season. The first well reached its target depth on May 22, while the second was completed on July 8, just over a month after drilling commenced.

Addressing the gathering, Saxena described the commissioning of the wells as a milestone in Indias clean energy journey and said the project would strengthen Ladakhs energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to the regions socio-economic development.

He also commended the engineers, technicians and workers associated with the project for completing the work under difficult high-altitude conditions.

Headline	India's first and deepest geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	The New Indian Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first and deepest geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/india/2026/Jul/17/indias-first-and-deepest-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley>

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to India's clean energy mission, the country's first and deepest geothermal wells were commissioned at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh on Friday.

The two geothermal wells, executed by the ONGC Energy Centre, were commissioned by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

The wells are critical to the implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

The commissioning of the two 1000-metre-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Saxena said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback after the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in delays of several months.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, Saxena facilitated the renewal of the MoU for another five years in June, following which work resumed on the completion of the two geothermal wells.

The successful completion of the wells will facilitate reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

According to project engineers, a maximum temperature of 135C was recorded at a depth of 400 metres.

They said further testing was under way and expressed hope of recording even higher temperatures to support the operation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project and the eventual commercial exploitation of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

According to officials, despite geothermal activity, complex subsurface conditions and operational challenges, the first well was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22, 2026.

The second well was spudded on June 3 and, in just over a month, was drilled and completed to a depth of 1,000 metres on July 8.

Saxena described the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, he said.

Saxena also praised the ONGC engineers, saying Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world and capable of accomplishing some of the most challenging engineering feats, symbolising India's growing stature in global engineering.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	The News Mill	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://thenewsmill.com/2026/07/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh/>

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh on Friday, marking a significant

advancement in the region's transition to clean energy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clean energy mission. The wells were developed by the ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement noted that the first well was successfully drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres on May 22, 2026, while the second well was spudded on June 3, 2026, and completed to the same depth by July 8, 2026, within just over a month.

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena said on X, Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time. He added, I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyse Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth. He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The official statement emphasised that these two geothermal wells are crucial for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which is set to become India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking at the commissioning, LG VK Saxena remarked, This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region.

The statement also acknowledged that the project faced significant delays due to the expiry of a previous tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and the ONGC Energy Centre, which resulted in several months of postponed execution.

Project engineers reported a maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is ongoing, with hopes of achieving even higher temperatures to facilitate the operation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project and future commercial geothermal energy exploration.

The statement concluded by highlighting that the project is being undertaken in one of the world's most challenging environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh		
Publication	The News Now	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

LG Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh

<https://www.thenewsnow.co.in/lg-saxena-commissions-indias-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh/>

Leh: In a landmark milestone for India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in the Union Territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said.

Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over 14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said.

He said the project, which is a big stride towards setting up of India's first-ever geothermal power plant, also fulfils the prime minister's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

The Lt Governor termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development.

What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said.

He lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

The Lt Governor also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the spokesperson said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, the Lt Governor personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed for completion of the two geothermal wells, the spokesperson said.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh, the spokesperson said.

The official said the project engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful of achieving even higher temperatures for the operation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22.

Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000 metres depth on July 8, the spokesperson said.

Leave a Comment

Headline	India's 1st geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	The Pioneer	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's 1st geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/indias-1st-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley>

India is gradually inching closer to realising its dream of establishing the first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in the cold desert region of Ladakh.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development.

What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, LG Saxena said.

LG VK Saxena lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

He also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

The project also fulfils the PM's vision of Carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources for our future security.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, LG Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters.

Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on 22 May 2026.

Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on 03 June 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1000 metres depth on 08 July 2026.

Headline	India's 1st geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley		
Publication	The Pioneer	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

India's 1st geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh's Puga Valley

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/slug-lite/indias-1st-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakhs-puga-valley>

India is gradually inching closer to realising its dream of establishing the first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in the cold desert region of Ladakh. Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday commissioned Indias first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

The commissioning of the two 1000-meter-deep wells, at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet, would significantly advance Ladakhs journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be Indias first demonstration-scale geothermal power project. History

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in Indias clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakhs transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

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What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for Indias net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, LG Saxena said.

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Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, LG Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells. History

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters.

Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on 22 May 2026.

Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on 03 June 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1000 metres depth on 08 July 2026.

Headline	LG Saxena commissions landmark geothermal wells, fuels carbon-neutral Ladakh vision		
Publication	The Statesman	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

LG Saxena commissions landmark geothermal wells, fuels carbon-neutral Ladakh vision

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/lg-saxena-commissions-landmark-geothermal-wells-fuels-carbon-neutral-ladakh-vision-1503617955.html>

In a major boost to India's clean energy ambitions, Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a significant step towards establishing India's first geothermal power plant and advancing the vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh.

In a major boost to India's clean energy ambitions, Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Friday commissioned the country's first and deepest geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a significant step towards establishing India's first geothermal power plant and advancing the vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh.

The commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at a high altitude of over 14,000 feet will significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources. The project also fulfils the PM's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years in June this year, following which work resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.

The successful completion of the two wells will facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Project engineers reported that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is underway, and the engineers hope to achieve even higher temperatures for the operation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project and the eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions, and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on 22 May 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on 3 June 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1,000 metres on 8 July 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development, Saxena said.

Saxena lauded the ONGC engineers, saying Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in global engineering.

Related posts

Headline	India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

India's first, 2 geothermal wells commissioned in Ladakh

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indias-first-2-geothermal-wells-commissioned-in-ladakh/articleshow/132468253.cms>

Naseer Ganai / TNN / Jul 18, 2026, 00:29 IST

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards India's clean energy mission, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena Friday commissioned the country's first and the deepest geothermal wells at Puga valley. ONGC Energy Centre would execute two geothermal wells in the Union Territory. What has been achieved in Puga valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region, Saxena said. The commissioning of the two 1,000m-deep wells, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, officials said. The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the officials added. Project engineers said that successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning, and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. They said that the maximum temperature of 135 celsius was recorded at the depth of 400m. Further testing is on and they are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy. The engineers said that despite encountering geothermal activities, complex subsurface conditions, and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000m on May 22, 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000m depth on July 8. The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh and the ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution. Saxena then intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed, officials said. Get the latest India News and Live updates. Download the TOI app.

Headline	L-G Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh		
Publication	The Tribune	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	18 Jul 2026		

L-G Saxena commissions India's first, deepest geothermal wells in Ladakh

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/j-k/l-g-saxena-commissions-indias-first-deepest-geothermal-wells-in-ladakh/>

Developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and powered by renewable sources, the commissioning of the two 1,000-metre-deep wells at an altitude of over

14,000 feet would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spokesman said.

He said the project, which is a big stride towards setting up of India's first-ever geothermal power plant, also fulfils the prime minister's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call for harnessing alternative, renewable energy sources for future security.

The Lt Governor termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

"This geothermal power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development.

"What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," Saxena said.

He lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering.

The Lt Governor also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, the spokesperson said.

The geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution.

Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, the Lt Governor personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, following which works resumed for completion of the two geothermal wells, the spokesperson said.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh, the spokesperson said.

The official said the project engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 metres. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful of achieving even higher temperatures for the operation of the 1-MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite encountering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1,000 metres on May 22.

Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1,000 metres depth on July 8, the spokesperson said.

Headline	Indian Imports of Russian Crude Oil Expected to Surpass Five Million Barrels Per Day in July		
Publication	The Wire	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Indian Imports of Russian Crude Oil Expected to Surpass Five Million Barrels Per Day in July

<https://thewire.in/energy/russian-crude-oil-imports-india-five-million-barrels>

While prior to the West Asia crisis, almost 50% of India's crude oil imports came from West Asia via the Strait of Hormuz, after the crisis started in February end, West Asia's share dropped to 30%, resulting in more imports of Russian crude.

Listen to this article:

New Delhi: Indian imports of Russian crude oil in July are expected to surpass five million barrels per day (mb/d) and maintain the import level in June, when crude oil barrels from Russia accounted for half of the country's crude imports, reported The Hindu Business Line

July imports will surpass 5 million barrels per day (mb/d) with Russia accounting for around 2.6-2.7 mb/d. August can also follow the same trajectory as first half supplies are largely done. West Asian producers' share is rising with suppliers using alternate routes such as Sohar port in Oman and the UAE's Fujairah and Khor Fakkan ports. However, they are yet to pick up steam, Business Line quoted a senior official with a refiner as saying.

While prior to the West Asia crisis, almost 50% of India's crude oil imports came from West Asia via the Strait of Hormuz, after the crisis started in February end, West Asia's share dropped to 30%, resulting in more imports of Russian crude.

Russian crude imports rose to around 2.6 mbd in June, accounting for more than 50 per cent of India's crude imports, and have been steadily increasing since March. July arrivals are also tracking at healthy levels and could match or even exceed June's volumes, said Sumit Ritolia, Kpler's Lead Research Analyst for Refining & Modeling.

The Wire had earlier reported that as per a latest analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), crude oil accounted for 83% of India's total Russian fossil fuel imports. Crude oil imports from Russia amounted to 4.8 billion (\$5.55 billion) in May alone. Among other fossil fuel imports, oil products contributed 550 million, while coal imports were around 429 million.

Mostly due to the high imports of Russian crude, India's overall crude import volumes rose to 8% month-on-month during May.

Last year, the Trump administration had imposed a 25% penalty' tariff on Indian exports citing the purchase of Russian crude, atop an already heavy 25% reciprocal' tariff. This penalty was withdrawn earlier this year but Trump had said that his government could consider re-imposing the levy were New Delhi to directly or indirectly resume intake.

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 Ritolia.

This article went live on July seventeenth, two thousand twenty six, at thirteen minutes past three in the afternoon.

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Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Vanakkam Tamil Nadu	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://www.vanakkamtamilnadu.com/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

Leh (Ladakh) [India, July 17 : In a significant step towards making Ladakh a clean energy hub under Prime Minister Narednra Modi's clean energy

mission, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday commissioned India's first and deepest two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh, which were executed by ONGC Energy Centre.

An official statement mentioned that the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on May 22 2026, and the other geothermal well was spudded on June 3 2026. In a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to a depth of 1000 metres on July 8 2026.

Mentioning the project, the Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, on X said, "Braving extreme weather, unpredictable geothermal activities and complex subsurface conditions, our engineering teams completed the drilling of wells in a record time."

"I am confident that this geothermal project will catalyze Ladakh's holistic development, strengthening energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to socio-economic growth", he added.

He also congratulated all the engineers and technical experts involved in the project.

The statement also highlighted that these two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Speaking on the occasion, LG VK Saxena said, "This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region."

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution, the statement mentioned.

Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters, it added.

The statement also mentioned that futher testing is on and the project engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

It was also highlighted in the statement that the project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Headline	L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh		
Publication	Web India 123	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

L-G VK Saxena commissions India's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh

<https://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20260717/4476053.html>

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Publication	West Bengal Khabar	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

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<https://www.westbengalkhabar.in/news/l-g-vk-saxena-commissions-indias-first-two-geothermal-wells-at-puga-valley-in-ladakh20260717212429/>

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Headline	Crude Oil Nears \$85 as Iran-US Tensions Threaten Supply		
Publication	Whalesbook	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Crude Oil Nears \$85 as Iran-US Tensions Threaten Supply

<https://www.whalesbook.com/news/English/commodities/Crude-Oil-Nears-dollar85-as-Iran-US-Tensions-Threaten-Supply/6a599057fe1c9287f4726d1d>

Brent crude is approaching \$85 per barrel as geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran heighten risks for global oil transit.

This rally, following a period of falling prices, threatens to tighten fuel supplies and push up costs for refiners and consumers. Investors are now tracking potential disruptions at critical shipping lanes like the Strait of Hormuz.

Global crude oil markets are experiencing a sharp upward trend, with Brent crude nearing \$85 per barrel and West Texas Intermediate moving above \$79 per barrel. This rally is driven by rising geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran, which have triggered concerns over the safety of critical maritime energy transit routes.

Risks to Key Global Shipping Lanes

The current anxiety centers on the potential for restricted access to major shipping chokepoints, specifically the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb passage. Nearly one-fifth of the world's daily oil traffic moves through the Strait of Hormuz. Recent reports suggest that regional groups aligned with Iran may block these routes if energy or electrical infrastructure faces direct strikes. Such disruptions would significantly impact the global flow of crude, as seen by tankers already attempting to mitigate risk through ship-to-ship transfers off the Omani coast.

Impact on Refiners and Fuel Costs

For investors, the most immediate consequence of this supply uncertainty is its effect on refinery operations. While higher crude prices often increase input costs, the current market dynamic has led to record-high profit margins for many refiners in the US and Europe. This is due to a severe shortage of refined products like gasoline and diesel, which are essential for industrial and consumer use. This scarcity is being compounded by supply limitations from other regions, including a recent ban on diesel exports by Russia following damage to its domestic facilities.

Historical and Sector Context

This price surge marks a significant reversal from the second quarter, during which oil prices had declined by approximately 30%. The sudden shift underscores how sensitive energy markets remain to geopolitical events, particularly in the Middle East. For Indian investors, the rise in global crude prices is a significant factor to monitor, as India imports a substantial portion of its oil requirement. Higher crude costs often put pressure on the country's import bill and can influence domestic fuel pricing and inflation expectations.

Investor Monitorables

The next important updates for investors to track include reports on the actual flow of tankers through the Strait of Hormuz and any further announcements regarding export policies from major producing nations. Additionally, investors should watch for the next set of quarterly earnings from oil marketing and refining companies, as these reports will clarify whether the rise in refinery margins can be sustained amid the volatile raw material pricing environment.

Headline	Time Technoplast gains after securing Rs 38.14 crore HPCL order		
Publication	adityabirlacapital	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Time Technoplast gains after securing Rs 38.14 crore HPCL order

<https://stocksandsecurities.adityabirlacapital.com/news-details/Hot-Pursuit/1710940>

The order was awarded through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and is scheduled to be executed within six months, the company said.

Time Technoplast said the contract reflects the accelerating adoption of composite LPG cylinders by India s oil marketing companies, driven by their enhanced safety, lightweight construction and improved consumer convenience. The company added that the order reinforces its leadership in the composite cylinder segment and supports the transition towards modern, customer-centric LPG distribution.

The company noted that the order assumes added significance as HPCL has recently introduced a distribution model for composite LPG cylinders through leading quick-commerce platforms, enabling on-demand deliveries to consumers. Time Technoplast said its participation in the initiative underscores its focus on delivering innovative and sustainable packaging solutions for India s energy sector.

Time Technoplast is a global manufacturer of polymer products with operations across multiple countries. Its portfolio spans industrial packaging solutions, lifestyle products, automotive components, infrastructure / construction related products, material handling solutions & composite cylinders.

Time Technoplast has reported 20.4% rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 131.84 crore on a 14.2% increase in revenue from operations to Rs 1,676.67 crore in Q4 FY26 over Q4 FY25.

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Headline	Crude Oil Prices Surge Amid US-Iran Tensions: Weekly Gains Explained		
Publication	dekoder	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	17 Jul 2026		

Crude Oil Prices Surge Amid US-Iran Tensions: Weekly Gains Explained

<https://latest.dekoder.com/crude-oil-prices-surge-amid-us-iran-tensions-weekl-4f47e69f325a49a8bd5f9cf3cee0291c>

This article explores the recent surge in crude oil prices due to escalating military tensions between the US and Iran, highlighting key market impacts and geopolitical concerns.

Listen to Article

Oil prices have surged significantly this week amid escalating military tensions between the US and Iran, raising concerns about potential disruptions in supply. Brent crude reached \$85.34 per barrel, while WTI crude traded at \$80.08, marking the largest weekly gain in months.

The Big Picture

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East is creating a volatile environment for global oil markets. The recent US military strikes aimed at degrading Iranian military capabilities have heightened fears of a broader conflict, particularly regarding the crucial shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz.

Top 5 Things to Know

Brent crude oil prices rose to \$85.34 per barrel, reflecting a significant increase due to geopolitical tensions.

WTI crude oil prices reached \$80.08 per barrel, marking a substantial weekly gain.

The US conducted airstrikes targeting Iranian military assets in the region.

Iran has threatened to inflict widespread damage to infrastructure if the US continues its military actions.

Concerns about potential disruptions in oil supply have intensified, particularly regarding the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route.

The situation underscores the fragility of global oil supply chains and the potential for escalated military actions to impact energy prices significantly.