



ONGC News as on 23 August 2026 (Print & Online)

Publication : Millennium Post	Editions : New Delhi
Date :23 August 2026	Page : 3

Kolkata to host India Energy Week 2027

OUR CORRESPONDENT
Kolkata, August 22

Kolkata is set to host the next edition of India Energy Week (IEW) from January 28 to 31, 2027, with the event scheduled at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town.

The move marks another major international event for the city after the International Yoga Day celebrations and comes after the BJP-led government at the Centre stepped up its focus on Kolkata. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reportedly favoured Kolkata as the venue for the energy gathering.

IEW brings together industry leaders, policymakers, investors, innovators and technology pioneers to discuss the global energy landscape. The 2027 edition is expected to focus on clean-energy transition and India's push for energy self-reliance. ONGC announced the event on social media, saying India's biggest energy conversations would be heading east to the "City of Joy".

The Biswa Bangla Conven-

THE EVENT

» IEW brings together industry leaders, policymakers, investors, innovators and technology pioneers to discuss the global energy landscape

» The 2027 edition is expected to focus on clean-energy transition and India's push for energy self-reliance

tion Centre, inaugurated by then chief minister Mamata Banerjee in October 2017, was built to host major international summits, business meets and cultural events. The 18-storey facility has a 3,200-seat auditorium, exhibition centre, seminar rooms, banquet spaces, multi-level parking and an adjoining 100-room hotel block.

The 2025 IEW was held in Delhi, while Goa hosted the 2026 edition at a newly built convention and exhibition facility. Kolkata's selection for 2027 will bring the energy sector's flagship gathering back to the east, placing the city on the global energy map.

Publication : Echo of India	Editions : Kolkata
Date :23 August 2026	Page : 8

India, Mauritius sign long-term fuel supply pact; IOC to meet entire import requirement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, AUG 22: India and Mauritius have deepened their energy partnership with a five-year agreement under which Indian Oil Corporation will supply the island nation's entire import requirement of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel, strengthening New Delhi's role as a key energy-security partner in the Indian Ocean.

The agreement was exchanged during Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's official visit to Mauritius on August 20-21, alongside a government-to-government memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand cooperation in oil and gas, including petroleum product supplies, training and capacity building, and biofuels.

The long-term sales and purchase agreement between IOC and Mauritius'

State Trading Corporation is designed to provide Mauritius with assured supplies and reduce its exposure to price volatility, an official statement said. This, it said, was the first long-term supply agreement concluded by an Indian public-sector oil marketing company outside South Asia in recent years. Under the pact, "IOC will supply the entire import requirement of Mauritius of motor spirit (petrol), high speed diesel (diesel) and aviation turbine fuel (ATF)."

The agreement comes as countries seek to strengthen energy security against disruptions in global fuel markets, particularly amid continuing instability in the West Asia region. India, which has emerged as a major refining hub, produces about 267 million tonne of refined petroleum products annually from 23 refineries and is a net exporter of refined fuels. It already supplies petroleum

products to neighbouring Nepal and Bhutan and exports significant volumes to other markets in the region and beyond. The ministry said India continued to meet its supply commitments to Nepal and Bhutan even during the ongoing West Asia crisis, underscoring its position as a reliable supplier to the region.

"The agreement with Mauritius positions India as the country's anchor fuel supplier and strengthens India's strategic and economic footprint in the Indian Ocean region," the statement said. The pact also institutionalised the broader energy relationship between India and Mauritius, with the MoU providing a framework for cooperation across conventional fuels and emerging areas such as biofuels.

Puri met Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam on August 20, with the two

sides exchanging the oil and gas MoU and witnessing the IOC-STC agreement. During the visit, Puri also held meetings with Energy and Public Utilities Minister Patrick Gervais Assirvaden, Commerce and Consumer Protection Minister John Michael Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen, and Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Minister Dhananjay Ramful. Puri and Assirvaden also participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for India Oil (Mauritius) Ltd's 27,500-tonne marine bunker fuel storage facility at Mer Rouge in Port Louis.

The facility is expected to strengthen Mauritius' marine fuel infrastructure and further expand India's presence in the island nation's energy supply chain.

The oil and gas MoU also provides for cooperation in biofuels through exchanges of knowledge, research and

training. Mauritius is a founding member of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), an initiative piloted by India and launched during New Delhi's G20 presidency. As part of its country engagement programme, the GBA Secretariat has partnered with Mauritius' Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities to develop a Biofuels Country Landscape Policy framework for the country.

Puri and Assirvaden jointly witnessed the launch of the framework on August 21, marking a step towards exploring the role of biofuels in Mauritius' energy transition. The agreements broaden India's role in Mauritius beyond individual fuel shipments to a longer-term partnership covering supply security, infrastructure, capacity building and alternative fuels, as New Delhi seeks to expand its energy and economic engagement across the Indian Ocean region.

LPG pipeline network across India to expand by 1,800 km

THE OIL SECTOR regulator has authorised the development of nearly 1,800 km of new LPG pipelines at an estimated investment of ₹7,000 crore, expanding the country's common-carrier LPG pipeline network by almost a quarter as it seeks to make fuel supplies more resilient and reduce dependence on road transport.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has approved three strategically important LPG pipeline projects across Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa, the regulator said in a statement.

The projects, to be developed by GAIL (India), will take the

**Projects will take PNGRB-
authorised common-
carrier LPG pipeline
network from about
7,700 km to 9,500 km**

PNGRB-authorized common-carrier LPG pipeline network from about 7,700 km to nearly 9,500 km, an increase of around 23.5%. The expansion comes as India relies heavily on imported LPG, with bulk supplies arriving at coastal import terminals and then being transported to consumption centres across the country.

A larger pipeline network is expected to improve the effi-

ciency and reliability of moving LPG inland.

The newly authorised projects are 556-km Cherlapally (Telangana) to Nagpur line, 611-km Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) to Sitarganj (Uttarakhand) pipeline and 633-km Shikrapur (Maharashtra) to Goa and Hubli (Karnataka) line.

PTI

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :23 August 2026	Page : 3

Mauritius, India sign long-term fuel supply pact

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 22

INDIA AND MAURITIUS have deepened their energy partnership with a five-year agreement under which Indian Oil will supply the island nation's entire import requirement of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel, strengthening New Delhi's role as a key energy-security partner in the Indian Ocean.

The agreement was exchanged during Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's official visit to Mauritius on August 20-21, alongside a government-to-government memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand cooperation in oil and gas, including petroleum product supplies, training and capacity building, and biofuels.

The long-term sales and purchase agreement between IOC and Mauritius' State Trading Corporation is designed to provide Mauritius with assured supplies and reduce its exposure to price volatility, an official statement said.

This, it said, was the first long-term supply agreement concluded by an Indian public-sector oil marketing company outside South Asia in recent years.

Under the pact, "IOC will supply the entire import requirement of Mauritius of motor spirit (petrol), high speed diesel (diesel) and aviation turbine fuel (ATF)." Separately, IOC said the 27,500 tonne bunker fuel storage facility at MAP Land in Mer Rouge, Mauritius has been built at an investment of \$25 million.

Publication : Hindustan Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :23 August 2026	Page : 22



BPCL established Satna as a district-level gas ecosystem where the energy requirements of PNG domestic and commercial customers, as well as automobiles using CNG, are being met through CBG generated from waste.

PNGRB allows 1,800-km LPG pipeline network in ₹7K cr push for energy security

OUR CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi, August 22

Oil sector regulator has authorised the development of nearly 1,800 km of new LPG pipelines at an estimated investment of Rs 7,000 crore, expanding the country's common-carrier LPG pipeline network by almost a quarter as it seeks to make fuel supplies more resilient and reduce dependence on road transport.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has approved three strategically impor-

tant LPG pipeline projects across Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa, the regulator said in a statement.

The projects, to be developed by state-run GAIL (India) Ltd, will take the PNGRB-authorised common-carrier LPG pipeline network from about 7,700 km to nearly 9,500 km, an increase of around 23.5 per cent.

The expansion comes as India relies heavily on imported LPG, with bulk supplies arriving at coastal

import terminals and then being transported to consumption centres across the country.

A larger pipeline network is expected to improve the efficiency and reliability of moving LPG inland.

The three newly authorised projects are 556-km Cherlapally (Telangana) to Nagpur (Maharashtra) line, 611-km Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) to Sitarganj (Uttarakhand) pipeline and 633-km Shikrapur (Maharashtra) to Goa and Hubli (Karnataka) line.

The projects build on

the earlier authorisation of the 2,757-km Kandla-Gorakhpur LPG pipeline, the longest LPG pipeline in the country.

PNGRB said the new infrastructure would help accelerate a shift away from road-based transportation of LPG to pipelines, reducing the movement of LPG tankers and improving road safety while cutting logistics costs, traffic congestion and carbon emissions. Pipeline transportation is considered a safer and more economical mode of moving LPG over long distances.

IOC TO MEET ENTIRE IMPORT REQUIREMENT

India, Mauritius deepen energy ties with 5-year fuel supply agreement

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, August 22

India and Mauritius have deepened their energy partnership with a five-year agreement under which Indian Oil Corporation will supply the island nation's entire import requirement of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), strengthening New Delhi's role as a key energy-security partner in the Indian Ocean.

The agreement was exchanged during Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's official visit to Mauritius on August 20-21, alongside a government-to-government memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand cooperation in oil and gas, including petroleum product supplies, training and capacity building, and biofuels.

The long-term sales and purchase agreement between IOC and Mauritius' State Trading Corporation is designed to provide Mauritius with assured supplies and reduce its exposure to price volatility, an official



statement said.

This, it said, was the first long-term supply agreement concluded by an Indian public-sector oil marketing company outside South Asia in recent years.

Under the pact, "IOC will supply the entire import requirement of Mauritius of motor spirit (petrol), high speed diesel (diesel) and ATF."

Separately, IOC said the 27,500 tonne bunker fuel storage facility at MAP Land in Mer Rouge, Mauritius has been built at an investment of \$25 million. "The facility will significantly boost IOML's bun-

kering capabilities and Mauritius' ambitions as a strategic bunkering hub. As Mauritius charts new horizons in its Blue Economy, IndianOil is proud to power the journey ahead."

The agreement comes as countries seek to strengthen energy security against disruptions in global fuel markets, particularly amid continuing instability in the West Asia region.

India, which has emerged as a major refining hub, produces about 267 million tonne of refined petroleum products annually from 23 refineries and

KEY POINTS

- » The agreement was exchanged during Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's official visit to Mauritius on August 20-21
- » The long-term sales & purchase pact between IOC & Mauritius' State Trading Corporation will provide Mauritius with assured supplies & reduce its exposure to price volatility

is a net exporter of refined fuels. It already supplies petroleum products to neighbouring Nepal and Bhutan and exports significant volumes to other markets in the region and beyond.

The ministry said India continued to meet its supply commitments to Nepal and Bhutan even during the ongoing West Asia crisis, underscoring its position as a reliable supplier to the region.

"The agreement with Mauritius positions India as the country's anchor fuel supplier and strengthens India's strategic and eco-

nomie footprint in the Indian Ocean region," the ministry statement said.

The pact also institutionalised the broader energy relationship between India and Mauritius, with the MoU providing a framework for cooperation across conventional fuels and emerging areas such as biofuels.

Puri met Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam on August 20, with the two sides exchanging the oil and gas MoU and witnessing the IOC-STC agreement.

During the visit, Puri also held meetings with Energy and Public Utilities Minister Patrick Gervais Assirvaden, Commerce and Consumer Protection Minister John Michael Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen, and Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Minister Dhananjay Ramful. Puri & Assirvaden also participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for India Oil (Mauritius) Ltd's 27,500-tonne marine bunker fuel storage facility at Mer Rouge in Port Louis.

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :23 August 2026	Page : 7

Govt clears 1,800-km LPG pipeline network worth ₹7K cr

Oil sector regulator has authorised the development of nearly 1,800 km of new LPG pipelines at an estimated investment of ₹7,000 crore, expanding the country's common-carrier LPG pipeline network by almost a quarter as it seeks to make fuel supplies more resilient and reduce dependence on road transport.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has approved three strategically important LPG pipeline projects across Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa, the regulator said in a statement.

The projects, to be developed by state-run GAIL (India) Ltd, will take the PNGRB-authorised common-

carrier LPG pipeline network from about 7,700 km to nearly 9,500 km, an increase of around 23.5%.

The expansion comes as India relies heavily on imported LPG, with bulk supplies arriving at coastal import terminals and then being transported to consumption centres across the country. A larger pipeline network is expected to improve the efficiency and reliability of moving LPG inland.

The three newly authorised projects are 556-km Cherlapally (Telangana) to Nagpur (Maharashtra) line, 611-km Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) to Sitarganj (Uttarakhand) pipeline and 633-km Shikrapur (Maharashtra) to Goa and Hubli (Karnataka) line.

-PTI

Publication : The Indian Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :23 August 2026	Page : 1

India and Mauritius sign five-year fuel supply pact

New Delhi: India and Mauritius have deepened their energy partnership with a five-year agreement under which Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will supply the island nation's entire import requirement of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel, strengthening New Delhi's role as a key energy-security partner in the Indian Ocean.

The agreement was exchanged during Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's official visit to Mauritius on August 20-21, alongside a government-to-government memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand cooperation in oil and gas, including petroleum product supplies, training and capacity building, and biofuels. The

long-term sales and purchase agreement between IOC and Mauritius' State Trading Corporation is designed to provide Mauritius with assured supplies and reduce its exposure to price volatility, an official statement said. This, it said, was the first long-term supply agreement by an Indian public-sector oil marketing company outside South Asia in recent years. Under the pact, "IOC will supply the entire import requirement of Mauritius of motor spirit (petrol), high speed diesel (diesel) and aviation turbine fuel (ATF)." Separately, IOC said the 27,500 tonne bunker fuel storage facility at MAP Land in Mer Rouge, Mauritius has been built at an investment of \$25 million. **PTI**

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
Date :23 August 2026	Page : 10

Bharatgas Lite ZIP Marks 100-City Milestone, Expands BPCL's LPG Reach

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Fortune Global 500 company and a Maharatna PSU, has expanded Bharatgas Lite ZIP, its premium LPG offering, to 100 cities across India, significantly widening the reach of its convenience-led LPG proposition. The 100-city rollout covers the following markets, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Bharatgas Lite ZIP was launched in Mumbai on July 18, 2026 by the Chairman & Managing Director, BPCL, in the presence of the Director (Marketing), BPCL, and the LPG team. Premium LPG offering expands its reach, bringing greater convenience and choice to consumers across the country.

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
Date :23 August 2026	Page : 10

PRSI PR Manager of the Year award



Shri Saikat Chakraborty, Chief Manager (Corporate Communications), GAIL (India) Limited (third from left), has been conferred the prestigious Dr CVN-Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) 'Best PR Manager of the Year (2025-26)' Award. The award was presented by Dr G. Vivek Venkataswamy, Hon'ble Minister for Labour, Employment, Training & Factories, and Mines & Geology, Government of Telangana, at a special ceremony held in Hyderabad. The event was attended by Dr Ajit Pathak, National President, PRSI, along with senior dignitaries of PRSI and the Dr CVN Reddy PR Foundation. Chakraborty was recognised for his exemplary contributions as Lead - Corporate Communications at GAIL Gas Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of GAIL (India) Ltd.

Publication : The Statesman

Editions : New Delhi

Date :23 August 2026

Page : 10

Indian Oil's 'Energy Soldiers' to strengthen Nation's Energy Security, says Director (Refineries) Arvind Kumar

Arvind Kumar, Director (Refineries), IndianOil, led the 80th Independence Day celebrations at Indian Oil Township, Noida, joined by Team Indian Oil and their families. The event opened with a rendition of the Rashtra Geet, marking 150 years of Vande Mataram, followed by the National Anthem and flag hoisting by Mr Kumar. In his address, he reflected on India's journey since Independence and called on employees to help build a nation that is economically resilient, technologically advanced, environmentally responsible and energy self-reliant. "We inherited a free India. Let us leave behind a stronger one—stronger in energy security, innovation, self-reliance and character," he said.



US, Iran up hostile rhetoric ahead of newest sanctions

Tehran flays new curbs that could further strain Islamic Republic's economy

Cairo, Washington, Aug. 22: The United States and Iran exchanged defiant messages ahead of Monday's scheduled announcement of new US economic sanctions that could impact the Islamic Republic and Tehran's most important trading partners, including China.

As the war neared six months old, the two sides were not exchanging fire but also not pursuing peace talks. All the while, oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have virtually halted as Tehran clings to its leverage by threatening to strike any unauthorized oil tankers that attempt to transit the narrow waterway.

US treasury secretary Scott Bessent will hold a press conference at 2 p.m. EDT (1800 GMT) on Monday amid promises to reveal "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran while also urging China to cooperate with Washington. China buys more than 80% of Iran's shipped oil, according to 2025 data from analytics firm Kpler. Beijing urged diplomacy.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on Saturday that the imminent US announcement of new economic sanctions on Iran



Palestinians search through a garbage dump for combustible materials to use as fuel due to a shortage of cooking gas, in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, on Saturday. — AP

was an "assertion of extraterritorial sovereignty over every independent member state of the United Nations."

"Such secondary sanctions find no foundation in international law," he said in a post on X.

US President Donald Trump, who has warned of economic consequences against any country that provides "any type of lifeline to Iran," said on

Friday that Washington was observing "what happens" in the conflict.

"They would love to make a deal, but they're not ready to make the right deal, in my opinion," Trump said of Iran.

Oil shipments are at a virtual standstill in the Strait of Hormuz, with Tehran threatening to strike any unauthorized oil tankers that try to transit the vital waterway, and

Iran's economy is already under immense pressure from sanctions.

While the US has blockaded Iranian vessels in their ports, the Strait of Hormuz remained bottled up with thousands of seafarers stranded on hundreds of vessels. Only four commodity ships sailed along the strait on Thursday, none of them large crude carriers or liquefied natural gas tankers. — Reuters

ETHANOL BLENDING CUTS FOSSIL FUEL USE, PRODUCES LOWER CARBON EMISSIONS, REDUCES DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS, SAVES PRECIOUS FOREIGN EXCHANGE, AND INSULATES THE COUNTRY FROM THE VAGARIES OF GEO-POLITICS THAT AFFECT SUPPLIES

About E20: Why choice, pricing matter

OFF THE
RECORD

P VAIDYANATHAN IYER

THE ETHANOL-PETROL DEBATE refuses to abate on the streets, and just like the Cockroach Janta Party's Jantar Mantar protest, it is getting traction on Instagram, and other social media platforms. The government is finding it challenging to quell public disenchantment and turn opinion in favour of E20 (petrol blended with 20% ethanol). There are reasons beyond politics why reasoned communication by the government is being disregarded by people, and there are possible solutions, which are being resisted by the government due to big implementation hurdles.

But some in the government have their ears to the ground, are filtering the noise, and picking the right signals. They are looking behind to see what could have been done to incentivise those who feel shortchanged on mileage due to E20 rollout. And now, thinking ahead, if something is still

possible to win them back. In India, they understand mileage and price are two key aspects that influence decision-making in lower and middle-income families.

All along, the NDA government has defended the blending programme and rightfully so, while simultaneously emphasising that it did not begin under the present government. Indeed, the pilot was launched during AB Vajpayee's government in 2001, and the E5 roll out across several states was attempted in 2006 under the UPA. But it gathered momentum after the present government assumed charge in 2014. Ethanol blending reached 10% in 2021-22, and gradually rose to 19.2% in 2024-25, and is now set at 20%.

There is no doubt, ethanol blending has many advantages. It cuts fossil fuel use, produces lower carbon emissions, reduces dependence on imports, saves precious foreign exchange, and insulates the country from the vagaries of geopolitics that affect supplies. While this may be appreciated by those affected, they are not convinced how all this translates into benefits for them.

They don't get it, because as a government officer explains, the consumer is not seeing a tangible price benefit despite bearing the cost of a lower mileage. And this is because the consumer does not have a choice. For



example, when petrol pumps started dispensing E5, could they have offered it alongside petrol? Consumers then have a choice. they could be incen-

tivised to transition to E5 by being charged lower than petrol for this blended fuel. Similarly, for E10, and now E20. Differential pricing becomes

an incentive; consumers would make peace with a 3-5% lower mileage because of a lower priced E20 compared with E10.

This can be best explained by what the government did following changes in the income tax regime, points out another officer. A new tax regime with lower taxes but no major exemptions was introduced in April 2020. It was voluntary. As the new tax regime evolved over the years, the Finance Ministry continued to offer tax payers the option to file returns under the old tax regime. The old regime offers exemptions, but tax rates are high. It has been six years, and the two systems continue alongside. But almost 90% of all individuals have shifted to the new tax regime.

To be fair, the government has tried to explain the advantages of E20 by comparing India's retail fuel prices with that of other countries in South Asia and Europe. The petrol price hike in India between June 2022 and June 2026 was in the lower single digits, at less than 6%, whereas it was more than 15% in European countries, and more than 20% in South Asian countries.

Be that so, it is tough to make the Indian consumers believe the counterfactual. What did not happen, but could have happened, is a concept that does not stick easily. The fact that E20 was a reason why the government could keep

petrol prices low despite the Indian crude oil basket averaging over \$100 a barrel is still lost on most consumers.

The transition from E10 to E20 happened in four years. Given the West Asia crisis, it is possible the government was worried about its impact on oil prices in the long term. It is possible prices could remain higher for longer. It has not played out that way, but uncertainty prevails in the region, and the motivation for transitioning to E20 could be many. When global crude oil is at \$70 a barrel or less, E20 is costlier to produce than pure petrol, according to government estimates. ethanol becomes much cheaper at relatively high global crude oil prices of \$120-130 a barrel.

Clearly, for many reasons, moving away from fossil fuels is a long-term strategic imperative. ethanol blended fuel is definitely an alternative, but requires behavioural changes among consumers. It is here that public policy gets interesting, and challenging. Offering consumers a choice of fuel and making them see a price advantage will make a difference. What can't be done about mileage, can choice and differential pricing cover for that?

The writer is Managing Editor, The Indian Express, Off the Record is a fortnightly column

1
FUEL.
ONE DEBATE

2
FUELS.
TWO GAMBLERS

35 CR
ENGINES
WINCE

India Playing with ICE

From E20 in petrol to isobutanol in diesel, India is changing the fuels that power internal combustion engines. Does India really know what it is playing with here?

AUTHOR



RAJEEV NARAYAN



fuel experiment.
This is not an argument against changing fuel policy; it is one seeking responsibility while changing it. If a Government mandates a fuel, it must ensure that vehicle compatibility is demonstrable and enforceable. If a transition adds maintenance costs, somebody must answer for them. If there is uncertainty, consumers deserve information and choice rather than reassurance after the fact.

The principle should be simple. The person who owns the machine should not be the person carrying the risk of changing the fuel.

The Hidden Irony
The irony is that India wants fewer ICE vehicles anyway, and is pushing EVs. Carmakers are investing in EVs, hybrids and alternative powertrains. The global auto sector is moving towards lower-carbon options. But that does not give anyone a license to make existing ICE ownership uncertain.

An Indian who bought a petrol or diesel vehicle yesterday cannot be expected to wake up tomorrow and discover that the rules governing its fuel have changed. Nor can the ecosystem built around those vehicles simply be whisked away because the industry has been given a new destination. Sure, India is entitled to change direction. But it is not entitled to make its citizens the guinea pigs of that change.

Playing with Fire
There is a larger lesson here. A responsible transition is not about announcing a target, achieving a blending percentage or celebrating the reduction in crude imports. It is about carrying the citizen along with the policy. Biofuels may reduce imports, create rural incomes, lower emissions and strengthen energy security. All of that deserves consideration. But so does the car sitting in an Indian driveway. The question is not whether we should move beyond fossil fuels. We must. The question is whether, in trying to reach that destination, we are making the journey uncertain for the people who have already paid for the vehicles that take us there. India is playing with ICE. And there is nothing wrong with playing with technology. But when cores of people's money, mobility and machines are involved, playing with fire is not a strategy. It is a responsibility.

India is playing with fire by playing with ICE. In its relentless pursuit of biofuels, energy security and lower dependence on imported crude, India is changing what comes out of the fuel nozzle and goes into cores of engines. E20 petrol is already here, with a new generation of vehicles being designed to accommodate it. Now, there is talk of adding isobutanol into diesel. The intent may be laudable. The consequences, however, deserve more scrutiny than just another glorified headline and camera bytes.

Because fuel is not just fuel. It is a chemical cocktail designed to work within a precisely-engineered mechanical ecosystem. Change the cocktail and you change the conditions of the entire ecosystem. The uncomfortable question is not whether India should pursue cleaner, domestically produced fuels. It should. The question is whether we are asking the consumer to bear the risks of a transition whose costs and consequences have not been understood well, if at all.

And that is where India's ICE story gets interesting. It is also getting evenly uncomfortable.

E20 Has Arrived
E20 is not an experiment anymore. It is the fuel motorists have no choice but to buy. The authorities claim the nationwide rollout has been tested, validated and lowered crude oil imports. But there is another side to the story. Motorists are complaining about mileage and performance, particularly with older vehicles, while the industry has spent the past few months trying to put down a controversy that refuses to disappear. In July, E20 became the only petrol largely available at 90,000 fuel stations, while consumers were demanding clarity over compatibility and fuel choice.

This is not a social media scare. In July, a consumer court ordered Maruti Suzuki to replace a Grand Vitara for pay Rs 20 lakh in a case in which the owner alleged E20-related damage. Maruti denied responsibility and said it would appeal, but the case is significant because it puts the question of fuel-related vehicle damage into a courtroom rather than a WhatsApp group.

Not Sitting Silently
To be fair, the Government has not been sitting silently while the controversy rages. It has rejected claims of E20 engine damage and says real-world service data does not support them - that automakers have serviced millions of vehicles, including older cars not certified for E20, without finding a pattern of fuel-related damage. Vehicles designed for E20 can see a 2-5 per cent reduction in fuel economy because ethanol contains less energy than petrol, it has been admitted.

That distinction matters. There is no case to be made that every E20-fuelled car is about to destroy its engine. The available evidence simply does not support such a claim. But neither should consumers be expected to shrug off every concern as misinformation. Therefore, the sensible position lies somewhere between panic and propaganda. And that is precisely where policy ought to operate.

And Now, Diesel
Even as the debate over petrol gets squawky, the next experiment is already being discussed. For diesel - and the plan is to blend up to 15 per cent isobutanol with diesel. Isobutanol is being promoted as a next-generation biofuel, with 'experts' viewing it as a way of reducing fossil-fuel dependence while making use of biofuels. E20 projects have been cited as "evidence of technical feasibility".

There is nothing inherently wrong with researching it. In fact, India should research every credible alternative to imported fossil fuel. But research is one thing. Putting a new fuel into the tanks of cores of private vehicles is quite another. The first question should not be "How quickly can we blend it?" It should be: "What does it do to every component of the vehicle ecosystem it enters?"

And Who Pays?
We have to rise above ethanol, isobutanol, octane numbers and calorific values. India has spent decades building an ICE ecosystem - cars, motorcycles, trucks, tractors and commercial vehicles. Behind them are auto firms, workshops, mechanics, spare-parts businesses, insurers, financiers and used-vehicle markets. At the end of this chain is the consumer, who bought a vehicle believing it would run on the fuel legally sold at filling stations. He did not sign up for a

E20 IS HERE. ISOBUTANOL IS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR. THE INTENT IS GREAT, BUT THE REPERCUSSIONS NEED MORE SCRUTINY THAN JUST ANOTHER GLORIFIED HEADLINE



US, Iran Trade Barbs Ahead of New Economic Sanctions

As the war nears 6 months, the two sides are not exchanging fire but are also not pursuing peace talks

Reuters

Cairo: The United States and Iran exchanged defiant messages ahead of Monday's scheduled announcement of new US economic sanctions that could impact the Islamic Republic and Tehran's most important trading partners including China.

As the war neared six months old, the two sides were not exchanging fire but also not pursuing peace talks. All the while, oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have virtually halted as Tehran clings to its leverage by threatening to strike any unauthorised oil tankers that attempt to transit the narrow waterway. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will hold a press conference at 2 pm EDT (1800 GMT) on Monday amid promises to reveal "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran while also urging China to cooperate with Washington. China buys more than 80% of Iran's shipped oil, according to 2025 data from analytics firm Kpler. Beijing urged diplomacy.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said on Saturday that the imminent US announcement of new economic sanctions on Iran was an "assertion of extraterritorial sovereignty over every independent member state of the United Nations." "Such secondary sanctions find no foundation in international law," he said in a post on X. US President Donald Trump, who has warned of economic consequences against any country that provides "any type of lifeline to Iran," said on Friday that Washington was observing "what hap-



A drone view shows vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman

FILE PHOTO/ REUTERS

pens" in the conflict. "They would love to make a deal, but they're not ready to make the right deal, in my opinion," Trump said of Iran.

HORMUZ TRAFFIC HALTED

While the US has effectively blockaded Iranian vessels in their ports, the Strait of Hormuz remained bottled up with thousands of seafarers stranded on hundreds of vessels.

Only four commodity ships sailed along the strait on Thursday, none of them large crude carriers or liquefied natural gas tankers, ship-tracking data showed.

However, Iran has granted permission

for a number of Iraqi oil tankers to pass through the Strait following repeated requests from Baghdad, Iran's state news agency IRNA reported on Saturday.

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said the US military helped move a seven-day average of 8 million barrels a day of oil through the strait. That's down from more than 20 million per day before the war or about one of every five barrels consumed worldwide. US attacks have severely diminished Iran's economy and devastated its navy and air force, but Tehran maintains enough missile and drone capability to impede oil tanker traffic and attack regional rivals.

Rally may extend

CRUDE CHECK. Participants can buy the dips

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Oil prices extended the gain last week. Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (\$94.40/barrel) and crude oil futures in the domestic market (₹8,359/barrel) gained 6.6 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively.

BRENT FUTURES (\$94.40)

Brent crude futures broke out of the resistance at \$91 early last week.

It gained further to mark a high of \$94.83 on Friday before ending the week a little lower at \$94.40.

The price action suggests that the uptrend is steady and the likelihood of further gains is high.

While \$98 is the nearest hurdle, Brent crude futures can surpass this to move up to \$101.

On the other hand, if there is a decline, leading to a fall below \$91, the contract might drop to \$87.60 and \$86. So as long as these levels hold, the outlook will be positive.

MCX Crude Oil (₹8,359)

Crude oil futures (Sep) sur-



passed the resistance at ₹8,000 last week. It rose to hit an intra-week high of ₹8,404 on Thursday before wrapping up the week at ₹8,359.

The chart shows that the bulls are in a good position to push the contract further higher from the current level. The nearest resistance is at ₹8,600. But crude oil futures can rise above this and touch ₹9,000.

On the other hand, if the contract falls from the current level, the support at ₹8,000 can arrest the decline.

In case this is breached, the downtick can extend to ₹7,600.

Nevertheless, the bias is positive at the moment.

Trade strategy: Buy crude oil futures (Sept) at ₹8,200. Place stop-loss at ₹7,900. Book profits at ₹8,800.

Online

Headline	Impact of Usa–iran War on Indian Petroleum Businesses		
Publication	IJFMR	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	22 Aug 2026		

Impact of Usa–iran War on Indian Petroleum Businesses

<https://www.ijfmr.com/research-paper.php?id=86352>

Author(s) Mr. Kush Dahima Dr. Devendra Shrimali Country India Abstract

The outbreak of armed hostilities between the United States and Iran in late February 2026 has precipitated what the International Energy Agency has characterised as the most severe global energy security crisis in recorded history. For India a country that relies on imports for approximately 8890 percent of its crude oil requirements this geopolitical rupture arrived at a moment of considerable structural vulnerability. This paper examines the cascading consequences of the USAIran conflict on India's petroleum businesses, with focused attention on the oil marketing companies (OMCs) Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) as well as on the upstream and refining operations of Reliance Industries.

Drawing on secondary data sourced from the Reserve Bank of India, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, World Bank commodity reports, Bloomberg terminals, and credible financial journalism spanning MarchApril 2026, this study employs trend analysis, a structured pre-war versus post-war comparison, and a correlation-based review of oil price movements against company equity performance. The principal findings reveal that Brent crude prices surged from approximately USD 72 per barrel before the conflict to a peak of nearly USD 120 per barrel in March 2026, the Indian rupee depreciated to record lows beyond INR 95 per USD, and the stocks of downstream OMCs fell 1014 percent within weeks. While upstream producers such as ONGC benefited from enhanced realisations, the broader macroeconomic consequences encompassing imported inflation, a widening current account deficit, and suppressed consumer spending pose substantial medium-term risks to the Indian economy. The paper concludes with evidence-based policy recommendations directed at source diversification, expanding India's strategic petroleum reserve, rupee internationalisation in oil trade, and an accelerated transition toward renewable energy.

Keywords

USA Iran War, Oil Price Shock, Indian Petroleum Sector, Strait of Hormuz, IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, Reliance Industries, Rupee Depreciation, Energy Security

Headline	ONGC links Khoraghat gas to North East Grid to open up 1 lakh SCM/day supply		
Publication	Indian Chemical News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	22 Aug 2026		

ONGC links Khoraghat gas to North East Grid to open up 1 lakh SCM/day supply

<https://www.indianchemicalnews.com/gas/ongc-links-khoraghat-gas-to-north-east-grid-to-open-up-1-lakh-scmday-supply-31600>

ONGC is also moving to bring more producing fields into the network By ICN Bureau | August 22, 2026

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has commissioned gas evacuation facilities at Khoraghat GGS-1 in Assam's Golaghat district, paving the way for surplus gas from the Upper Assam Shelf to enter the North East Gas Grid (NEGG).

The new facility, developed to connect ONGC's production with the NEGG operated by Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL), will enable the utilisation of nearly 1 lakh Standard Cubic Metres (SCM) of gas per day from ONGC's Jorhat asset.

The development comes alongside the commissioning of the DergaonDimapur Pipeline, which has connected Nagaland with both the North East Gas Grid and the National Gas Grid.

ONGC is also moving to bring more producing fields into the network. Hook-up facilities are being developed at Jantapathar and Kasomarigaon, which will connect additional fields of the Jorhat Asset to the NEGG.

The expanded network is expected to boost regional gas availability, curb flaring and strengthen the foundation for a gas-based economy across the North-East.

Greater access to natural gas could benefit a wide range of sectors, including households, industry, transport and power, while supporting infrastructure and economic growth in Assam and neighbouring states.

The projects collectively strengthen gas connectivity across the region and support the broader push to position the North-East as a key growth engine for India and deepen its integration into the country's gas economy.

Headline	India LNG Prices Surge Above \$23/MMBtu As Iran War Disrupts Supplies		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	22 Aug 2026		

India LNG Prices Surge Above \$23/MMBtu As Iran War Disrupts Supplies

<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/business/india-lng-prices-surge-above-23mmbtu-as-iran-war-disrupts-supplies-freepressjournal/articleshow/145048208feeb92e6031f94127f333443d686023>

India's energy companies are facing a sharp increase in liquefied natural gas (LNG) costs as geopolitical tensions surrounding the Iran war disrupt global supplies and intensify competition for cargoes.

According to a report by Bloomberg, state-run GAIL India recently paid more than \$23 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) for an LNG shipment scheduled for September, according to people familiar with the transaction. Gujarat State Petroleum Corp also reportedly paid in the mid-\$23 range for a similar cargo.

These prices are among the highest India has paid for spot LNG since 2022, highlighting the growing pressure on the country's energy import bill. ONGC, Shell Energy India Sign MoU To Explore Deepwater Offshore Blocks And LNG Opportunities Indian state-backed companies have increasingly turned to the spot market as the government seeks to ensure adequate gas supplies for sectors such as fertiliser production, which relies heavily on natural gas.

Global supply disruptions raise competition

India traditionally relies on long-term LNG contracts, particularly with Qatar, one of the world's largest LNG suppliers.

However, disruptions to Qatar's export infrastructure following Iranian attacks in March, coupled with continued shipping difficulties through the Strait of Hormuz, have constrained available supplies.

At the same time, Indian buyers are competing with European importers, where natural gas prices have climbed to their highest levels in about five months.

The tighter market has prompted additional Indian purchases. Bharat Petroleum Corp. has also reportedly agreed to buy an LNG cargo from the spot market this week, although the price of that shipment was not immediately known.

The elevated LNG prices could increase costs for Indian industries and put further pressure on sectors dependent on imported natural gas, particularly fertiliser producers, while geopolitical uncertainty continues to weigh on global energy markets.

Headline	ONGC Ltd extends financial support to Govt of Assam for restoration of flood affected schools		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	22 Aug 2026		

ONGC Ltd extends financial support to Govt of Assam for restoration of flood affected schools

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-ltd-extends-financial-support-to-govt-of-assam-for-restoration-of-flood-affected-schools>

ONGC Ltd extends financial support to Govt of Assam for restoration of flood affected schools

The initiative will help restore critical school infrastructure damaged by the recent floods, creating safer and more conducive learning environments for the children in the affected communities. The project has to be completed within seven months from the release of CSR funds.

A significant step toward enhancing resilience in flood-hit communities in Assam through restoration of educational infrastructure.

Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at ASDMA Conference Hall, Janata Bhawan, Dispur, for providing CSR support of 20 crore for reconstruction and restoration of around 650 flood-affected schools across Assam, especially in Sivasagar and Charaideo districts.

The initiative will help restore critical school infrastructure damaged by the recent floods, creating safer and more conducive learning environments for the children in the affected communities. The project has to be completed within seven months from the release of CSR funds.

Follow PSU Connect:

WhatsApp

According to the Memorandum of Agreement, the state-run firm ONGC Ltd. would support the government of Assam with financial assistance of Rs 20 crore for rebuilding and restoration of around 650 flood-affected schools in Assam, especially in Sivasagar and Charaideo districts, which have been severely affected by the recent floods. The project shall be completed in 07 months from the date of release of CSR funds.

Headline	ONGC promises ₹36.6 crore aid for cancer treatment equipment in Kakinada Government hospital		
Publication	The Hindu	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	22 Aug 2026		

ONGC promises ₹36.6 crore aid for cancer treatment equipment in Kakinada Government hospital

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/ongc-promises-366-crore-aid-for-cancer-treatment-equipment-in-kakinada-government-hospital/article71376980.ece>

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has permitted the installation of a radiotherapy bunker in the cancer block of GGH-Kakinada, said Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has pledged 36.6 crore to procure a Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machine for radiotherapy for cancer treatment in the Government General Hospital (GGH) in Kakinada city.

Funded by the Indian Red Cross , an exclusive cancer block is being built with 7 crore in Kakinada under the aegis of the GGH-Kakinada.

In an official release, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has stated: The ONGC has promised to give 36.6 crore for a LINAC machine under Corporate Social Responsibility for cancer treatment for patients from the Godavari and Visakhapatnam regions.

A mobile cancer screening vehicle worth 3.5 crore would also be launched soon by the GGH-Kakinada.

AERB's approval

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has permitted the installation of a radiotherapy bunker in the cancer block, in which the LINAC machine will be installed for radiotherapy treatment for cancer patients, claimed Mr. Kalyan.

Mr. Kalyan has thanked ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh for the support for the infrastructure required for cancer treatment in Kakinada city.

Headline	Inflated oil price after US Iran talks ends stock market flat		
Publication	Webdunia	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	22 Aug 2026		

Inflated oil price after US Iran talks ends stock market flat

https://english.webdunia.com/article/business/inflated-oil-price-after-us-iran-talks-ends-stock-market-flat-126082200008_1.html

The Indian Stock Market on Friday ended flat extending losses for the second consecutive session. The pressure was seen by elevated oil prices, stalled US-Iran talks, and rising US bond yields. At close, the Sensex was up 3.11 points at 77,540.83, and the Nifty was up 20.15 points or 0.08 percent at 24,252. The Nifty Midcap 150 index climbed 0.08pc, while the Nifty Smallcap 250 rose by 0.41pc. For the week, the 30-share pack slipped 0.60pc, while the Nifty 50 declined 0.50pc.

Indian rupee ended flat at 95.70 per dollar on Friday versus previous close of 95.71. Among the sectors, buying was seen in the metal, realty names. Selling seen in the auto, FMCG, IT, media and pharma names. On Nifty, Maruti, Infosys, ITC, HCL Tech, and Trent ended as the top drags on the Nifty index. However, Maruti, Trent, HCL Tech, IndiGo, and ONGC ended as the top losers in the index. On the other hand, Power Grid, HDFC Life, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Nestle ended as the top gainers in the index.

Among other notable gainers, Urban Company, IIFL Finance, NCC, Reliance Power, JBM Auto, CarTrade Tech, Aegis Logistics, PTC Industries, Prime Focus, and Transformers & Rectifiers India advanced more than 5pc. Britannia Industries witnessed renewed selling pressure, falling 3.3pc to Rs 5,365 apiece. GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals also extended its decline for a second consecutive session, slipping 3.25pc to Rs 2,902.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited said, The elevated global bond yields continue to cause worry in the market. The recent US Treasury's move to ease the bond yields failed to provide lasting comfort, given surging crude prices and persistent inflation fears. Domestically, the RBI's hawkish meeting minutes have pushed India's 10-year yield to a two-month high, driven by local inflation risks and tighter liquidity. Meanwhile, the recent services PMI data shows domestic resilience amidst an uncertain global environment.

However, strong value buying in financial heavyweights fuelled by robust credit growth and attractive valuations after the recent correction is helping the market trade flat. Stable metal prices are also providing crucial support to commodity stocks.

Headline	Transocean Secures ONGC Contract for Ultra-Deepwater Drillship Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2 - iMarine		
Publication	imarineneews	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	23 Aug 2026		

Transocean Secures ONGC Contract for Ultra-Deepwater Drillship Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2 - iMarine

<https://www.imarineneews.com/38234.html>

Swiss offshore driller Transocean has recently been awarded a contract by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for its ultra-deepwater drillship Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2, which will operate offshore India. No details regarding the contract value have been released.

Since the expiration of its long-term operating contract with Petrobras in May 2026, the “Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2” has been idle. Under the latest charter agreement, the vessel is set to resume operations within three to four months.

The “Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2” is a sixth-generation ultra-deepwater drilling vessel built by Samsung Heavy Industries. Commissioned in 2010, it is 228 meters long, 42 meters wide, and 19 meters deep, and is equipped with a DP-3 dynamic positioning system.

It is understood that this is the second ultra-deepwater drilling rig ONGC has chartered this year. In February of this year, ONGC signed a three-year charter agreement with Vantage Drilling to charter the “Platinum Explorer,” built in 2010, for a total of \$261 million.

Headline	"Sabhyata, Sanskriti and Srijan": World's first IVF female calf of Assam's indigenous Lakhimi breed born, CM Sarma hails historic milestone		
Publication	ANI News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	23 Aug 2026		

"Sabhyata, Sanskriti and Srijan": World's first IVF female calf of Assam's indigenous Lakhimi breed born, CM Sarma hails historic milestone

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/sabhyata-sanskriti-and-srijan-worlds-first-ivf-female-calf-of-assams-indigenous-lakhimi-breed-born-cm-sarma-hails-historic-milestone20260823030212>

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday hailed the birth of the world's first IVF female calf of the indigenous Lakhimi breed, describing it as a historic achievement and a significant milestone for livestock conservation, dairy production and biotechnology in the state.

In a post on X, Sarma said the achievement represented a convergence of "Sabhyata, Sanskriti & Srijan" and highlighted the potential of the breakthrough for Assam's livestock and dairy sector.

"Today Assam has achieved something historic - a beautiful convergence of Sabhyata, Sanskriti & Srijan. The world's first IVF female calf of the Lakhimi breed - native to Assam - has been born at the Assam Veterinary and Fishery University," Sarma said.

He said the development could help in conserving indigenous breeds, improving disease control and enhancing milk productivity, thereby contributing to higher incomes for farmers.

"My heartiest congratulations to all the veterinary scientists and professionals behind this historic achievement. Their work has the potential to usher in a new era for Assam's dairy sector. She may be a tiny calf, but she carries a huge milestone for biotechnology in our State," he added.

The development comes as Assam also moves to strengthen its position in the energy sector with the implementation of the Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production and Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy, 2026.

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri welcomed the policy, describing it as a significant step towards strengthening India's energy security and advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an energy self-reliant India.

Assam, which gave birth to India's petroleum industry, now stands ready to power the next chapter of India's energy journey towards Aatmanirbharta," Puri said in a post on X.

Puri thanked Sarma for leading the initiative and said the policy would help attract investment and accelerate oil and natural gas exploration and production in Assam.

The policy seeks to create an investor-friendly framework by facilitating clearances, reducing procedural hurdles and encouraging advanced exploration technologies. It will remain in force for 10 years from the date of notification unless modified, superseded or withdrawn earlier.

Responding to Puri, Sarma said Assam would continue to build on its hydrocarbon legacy through innovation.

Assam's first-mover advantage in hydrocarbon exploration gave us a head start, but we don't intend to rest on it - continuous innovation is what will keep us ahead," Sarma said.

He added that Assam would continue contributing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Headline	Indian Oil to supply entire petroleum imports requirement of Mauritius		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	22 Aug 2026		

Indian Oil to supply entire petroleum imports requirement of Mauritius

https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/indian-oil-to-supply-entire-petroleum-imports-requirement-of-mauritius-126082200547_1.html

Indian Oil will supply Mauritius' entire import requirement of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel under a long-term agreement with the State Trading Corporation

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has signed an agreement with the State Trading Corporation (STC) of Mauritius for the supply of petroleum products, under which IOC will meet the country's entire import requirement of motor spirit (MS), high-speed diesel (HSD) and aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

The agreement was signed in the presence of India's Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Puri was on a two-day visit to Mauritius starting August 20.

The five-year agreement between Indian Oil Corporation and STC is an assured long-term supply commitment to Mauritius, providing the country with security of supplies and shielding it from price volatility, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in a statement. This is the first long-term supply agreement concluded by an Indian public sector undertaking (PSU) oil marketing company outside South Asia in recent years. The agreement positions India as the anchor fuel supplier to Mauritius and strengthens its strategic and economic footprint in the Indian Ocean region.

India has emerged as a major global refining hub, with an annual output of 267 MMT of refined petroleum products across 23 refineries, making it a net exporter of refined products, the petroleum ministry said.

It added that India already meets the petroleum demand of Nepal and Bhutan and supplies significant quantities to other countries in the region and beyond. Even during the West Asia crisis, India fulfilled its supply commitments to Nepal and Bhutan, making it a dependable energy security provider for the region.

During the visit, Puri also held bilateral meetings with Patrick Gervais Assirvaden, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities; John Michal Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection; and Dhananjay Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

Puri also participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of Indian Oil (Mauritius) Ltd's 27.5 thousand metric tonne bunker marine fuel storage facility at Mer Rouge, Port Louis.

Headline	Hardeep Singh Puri visits Mauritius; IOC bags 5-year petroleum supply deal with STC outside South Asia		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	23 Aug 2026		

Hardeep Singh Puri visits Mauritius; IOC bags 5-year petroleum supply deal with STC outside South Asia

<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/zee+business-epaper-zbusnes/hardeep+singh+puri+visits+mauritius+ioc+bags+5year+petroleum+supply+deal+with+stc+outside+south+asia-newsid-n724257844>

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri made an official visit to the Republic of Mauritius from August 20 to 21. On Thursday, August 20, Puri called on Mauritius Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam. India and Mauritius exchanged a government-to-government (G2G) memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the oil and gas space. A long-term sales and purchase agreement was entered into by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Mauritius's State Trading Corporation (STC) for the supply of petroleum products. As part of the deal, IOCL - India's largest oil marketing company (OMC) -- will fulfill Mauritius's motor spirit (MS), high speed diesel (HSD) and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) import requirements by supplying the products.

This marks the first long-term supply agreement concluded by an Indian PSU OMC outside South Asia in recent years.

India's long-term fuel supply pact with Mauritius strengthens bilateral energy ties and expands India's strategic footprint in the Indian Ocean. The five-year agreement between Indian Oil Corp and STC will ensure reliable supplies of petrol, diesel and jet fuel, while the broader pact deepens cooperation in capacity building, biofuels, research and energy security. The MoU on oil and gas cooperation institutionalises the longstanding energy partnership between the two countries, covering petroleum products supply, training and capacity building for Mauritian officials and biofuels cooperation, according to a Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas statement.

The five-year agreement between IOCL and STC is an assured long-term supply commitment to Mauritius, providing the country with security of supplies and shielding it from price volatility.

During the visit, Puri held productive bilateral meetings with Mauritius's Minister of Energy and Public Utilities Patrick Gervais Assirvaden, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection John Michael Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Dhananjay Ramful.

He participated in a ground breaking ceremony of India Oil (Mauritius) Ltd's 27.5 TMT bunker marine fuel storage facility at Mer Rouge, Port Louis.

India has emerged as a major global refining hub, with an annual output of 267 MMT of refined petroleum products across 23 refineries, making it a net exporter of refined products.

The country already meets the petroleum demand of Nepal and Bhutan and supplies significant quantities to other countries in the region and beyond.

During the ongoing West Asia crisis, India fulfilled its supply commitments to Nepal and Bhutan, making it a dependable energy security provider for the region. The agreement with Mauritius positions India as the country's anchor fuel supplier and strengthens India's strategic and economic footprint in the Indian Ocean region.

India-Mauritius cooperation in biofuels

The MoU provides for cooperation in biofuels through exchange of knowledge, research and training. Mauritius is a founding member of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), an initiative piloted by India and launched during India's G20 Presidency. As part of its country engagement programme, the GBA Secretariat has partnered with Mauritius' Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities in developing a Biofuels Country Landscape Policy framework for the country.

Headline	Assam welcomes birth of world's first IVF female calf of Lakhimi breed		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	23 Aug 2026		

Assam welcomes birth of world's first IVF female calf of Lakhimi breed

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/newsmill-epaper-newsmil/assam+welcomes+birth+of+worlds+first+ivf+female+calf+of+lakhimi+breed-newsid-n724263413>

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has hailed the birth of the world's first in vitro fertilisation (IVF) female calf of the indigenous Lakhimi breed as a historic achievement for the state.

The calf was born at Assam Veterinary and Fishery University.

In a post on X, Sarma described the milestone as a convergence of "Sabhyata, Sanskriti & Srijan," emphasising its potential to benefit livestock conservation, dairy production, and biotechnology in Assam. He stated that the development could improve disease control and milk productivity, leading to higher income for farmers.

"My heartiest congratulations to all the veterinary scientists and professionals behind this historic achievement. Their work has the potential to usher in a new era for Assam's dairy sector. She may be a tiny calf, but she carries a huge milestone for biotechnology in our State," Sarma added.

The announcement coincides with Assam's efforts to strengthen its energy sector through the Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production and Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy, 2026.

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri welcomed the policy, calling it a significant step towards enhancing India's energy security and supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an energy self-reliant India. Puri noted Assam's historical role in India's petroleum industry and expressed confidence the policy would attract investment and accelerate oil and gas exploration and production in the state.

The policy aims to create an investor-friendly framework by facilitating clearances, reducing procedural hurdles, and encouraging advanced exploration technologies. It will remain effective for ten years unless modified or withdrawn earlier.

Responding to Puri, Sarma said Assam would continue to build on its hydrocarbon legacy through innovation. "Assam's first-mover advantage in hydrocarbon exploration gave us a head start, but we don't intend to rest on it - continuous innovation is what will keep us ahead," he said, adding that Assam would contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Headline	Hardeep Puri hails Assam Hydrocarbon Policy as landmark initiative; policy comes into force		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	22 Aug 2026		

Hardeep Puri hails Assam Hydrocarbon Policy as landmark initiative; policy comes into force

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/hardeep-puri-hails-assam-hydrocarbon-policy-as-landmark-initiative-policy-comes-into-force/133416627>

Welcoming the policy, Puri said the initiative would put the Northeast on the path of fast-paced development while helping unlock Assam's untapped hydrocarbon potential.

Puri said the initiative would put the Northeast on the path of fast-paced development while helping unlock Assam's untapped hydrocarbon potential. The Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production and Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy, 2026 came into force on Friday, with Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri hailing the initiative as a significant step towards strengthening India's energy security and advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an energy self-reliant India.

Welcoming the policy, Puri said the initiative would put the Northeast on the path of fast-paced development while helping unlock Assam's untapped hydrocarbon potential.

Advt Assam, which gave birth to India's petroleum industry, now stands ready to power the next chapter of India's energy journey towards Aatmanirbharta, Puri said in a post on X.

The Union Minister thanked Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for leading the initiative and said the policy would attract investment and accelerate exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the State.

Investor-friendly framework The policy seeks to create an investor-friendly framework by facilitating clearances, reducing procedural hurdles and encouraging the adoption of advanced exploration technologies. These measures are aimed at accelerating the development of discoveries and creating a more conducive business environment for oil and gas companies.

The policy is expected to help boost domestic energy production and strengthen India's energy security while creating significant direct and indirect employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled youth.

It will also contribute to greater economic activity in Assam and further strengthen the State's role in meeting India's growing energy requirements.

Policy to remain in force for 10 years The Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production and Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy, 2026 shall remain in force for a period of 10 years from the date of notification, unless modified, superseded or withdrawn earlier by the Government.

Advt The policy marks an important step in Assam's efforts to build on its historic position in India's petroleum sector and establish a modern, competitive and investment-friendly upstream ecosystem.

CM thanks Puri Responding to Puri's post, Chief Minister Sarma thanked the Union Minister for his appreciation and said Assam was determined to build on its legacy in hydrocarbon exploration through continuous innovation.

Assam's first mover advantage in hydrocarbon exploration gave us a head start, but we don't intend to rest on it - continuous innovation is what will keep us ahead, Sarma said.

The Chief Minister said Assam was determined to build on its hydrocarbon legacy and ensure that the State plays a contributory role in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Headline	India, Mauritius discuss biofuels cooperation for energy security		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	23 Aug 2026		

India, Mauritius discuss biofuels cooperation for energy security

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/india-mauritius-discuss-biofuels-cooperation-for-energy-security/ar-AA2aG8Ys>

Asianet News Central Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday held a "fruitful meeting" with Mauritius Minister of Energy and Public Utilities Patrick Gervais Assirvaden and discussed India-Mauritius cooperation in biofuels and energy security. "Had a very fruitful meeting with H.E. Mr. Patrick Gervais Assirvaden, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities of Mauritius. We discussed how India continues to be a dependable partner and trusted friend of Mauritius, including during times of crisis, and how biofuels can play a central role in strengthening energy security and supporting rural livelihoods," Puri said in a post on X. He welcomed the cooperation between the Global Biofuels Alliance Secretariat and Mauritius in developing the Biofuels Country Landscape - Policy Framework, calling it an important step towards advancing Mauritius' energy transition through biofuels. "Welcomed the cooperation between the Global Biofuels Alliance Secretariat and Mauritius in developing the Biofuels Country Landscape - Policy Framework, which is an important step towards advancing Mauritius' energy transition through biofuels," Puri wrote. The Union Minister said both sides also explored sharing India's experience in ethanol blending, SATAT/GOBARdhan initiatives and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), while inviting a technical delegation from Mauritius to visit operational biofuel and Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants in India. "Also explored sharing India's experience in ethanol blending, SATAT/GOBARdhan and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), and invited a technical delegation from Mauritius to visit operational biofuel and CBG plants in India," the post concluded.

Had a very fruitful meeting with H.E. Mr. Patrick Gervais Assirvaden, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities of Mauritius. We discussed how India continues to be a dependable partner and trusted friend of Mauritius, including during times of crisis, and how biofuels can play a pic.twitter.com/bM6sX6N0YL Hardeep Singh Puri (@HardeepSPuri) August 21, 2026

New MoU on Oil and Gas Cooperation

The development comes after India and Mauritius signed a Government-to-Government Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on oil and gas cooperation, along with a five-year agreement between Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IndianOil) and the State Trading Corporation (STC) of Mauritius for assured supply of petroleum products.

Under the agreement, IndianOil will supply petrol, diesel, marine gas oil and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to Mauritius, ensuring long-term supply certainty, greater price stability and enhanced energy security.

Puri said India's energy strength, including its refining capacity and position as a net exporter of refined petroleum products, is allowing the country to support the energy security of partner nations.

"India's energy strength is now a strength for our friends as well," he said.

He added that India currently has 23 refineries processing around 270 million metric tonnes of crude oil annually, and its refining capacity is being expanded to meet growing global energy needs.

"India's refining power is now not just our strength, but also our responsibility and our global credibility," Puri said.

The minister said the India-Mauritius partnership reflects a shift from meeting immediate fuel requirements towards long-term cooperation in energy security and cleaner alternatives.

"This G2G and B2B agreements mark a new chapter in India-Mauritius energy cooperation," Puri said, adding that Mauritius' new biofuel policy framework opens the way for deeper collaboration beyond crude oil and refined petroleum products.

Headline	'Assam Ready To Power Next Chapter Of India's Energy Journey': Hardeep Puri Hails New Hydrocarbon Policy To Boost Exploration, Investment		
Publication	The Free Press Journal	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	22 Aug 2026		

'Assam Ready To Power Next Chapter Of India's Energy Journey': Hardeep Puri Hails New Hydrocarbon Policy To Boost Exploration, Investment

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/business/assam-ready-to-power-next-chapter-of-indias-energy-journey-hardeep-puri-hails-new-hydrocarbon-policy-to-boost-exploration-investment>

The Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production and Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy 2026 has come into force to attract investment, simplify clearances and boost oil and natural gas exploration. Hardeep Singh Puri hailed the policy as a major step towards energy security and Aatmanirbharta, while Himanta Biswa Sarma said Assam would build on its hydrocarbon legacy through innovation.

New Delhi: The Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production and Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy, 2026 came into force, with Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri hailing it as a significant step towards strengthening India's energy security and advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an energy self-reliant India.

What type of content would you like to see from us this year? HubSpot (@HubSpot)

Welcoming the policy, Puri said the initiative would help put the Northeast on the path of faster development while unlocking Assam's untapped hydrocarbon potential.

"Assam, which gave birth to India's petroleum industry, now stands ready to power the next chapter of India's energy journey towards Aatmanirbharta," Puri said in a post on X.

The Union Minister also thanked Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for leading the initiative and said the policy would help attract investment and accelerate oil and natural gas exploration and production in the state.

The policy aims to establish an investor-friendly framework by facilitating clearances, reducing procedural hurdles and encouraging the adoption of advanced exploration technologies.

These measures are expected to accelerate the development of hydrocarbon discoveries and create a more conducive business environment for oil and gas companies operating in Assam.

The policy is also expected to boost domestic energy production and strengthen India's energy security while generating direct and indirect employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled youth.

It is further aimed at increasing economic activity in Assam and strengthening the state's role in meeting India's growing energy requirements.

The Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production and Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy, 2026 will remain in force for 10 years from the date of notification, unless modified, superseded or withdrawn earlier by the state government.

The policy marks an important step in Assam's efforts to build on its historic position in India's petroleum sector and develop a modern, competitive and investment-friendly upstream ecosystem.

Let us know! ?

What type of content would you like to see from us this year? HubSpot (@HubSpot)

Responding to Puri's post, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma thanked the Union Minister for his appreciation and said Assam was determined to build on its legacy in hydrocarbon exploration through continued innovation.

"Assam's first-mover advantage in hydrocarbon exploration gave us a head start, but we don't intend to rest on it - continuous innovation is what will keep us ahead," Sarma said.

The Chief Minister said Assam would continue to build on its hydrocarbon legacy and contribute towards realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat.

