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IOC to supply entire fuel requirement of Mauritius

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on Saturday signed a five-year agreement with the State Trading Corporation (STC) of Mauritius under which IOC will supply the island nation's entire import requirement of motor spirit, high speed diesel, and aviation turbine fuel. The deal was signed in the presence of Union 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 20 August. This marks the first long-term supply deal concluded by an Indian PSU oil marketing firm outside South Asia in recent years, and positions India as the anchor fuel supplier of Mauritius and strengthens India's strategic and economic footprint in the Indian Ocean region.

BS REPORTER

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Events this week

August 24

- US: Chicago Fed National Activity Index

August 25

- US: ADP Weekly Employment Change, FHFA House Price, Richmond Manufacturing Survey, FHFA House Price, New Home Sales, Building Permits
- AGM: Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, IRFC, REC

August 26

- US: MBA Mortgage Applications, Personal Income, GDP figures, GDP Price Index
- AGM: Eternal, Hyundai Motor, Jio Financial Services

August 27

- US: Initial Jobless Claims, Continuing Claims, MNI Chicago PMI
- China: Industrial Profits figures
- AGM: BPCL, GAIL, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, NTPC

August 28

- India: IIP figures
- Japan: Tokyo CPI, Jobless Rate
- AGM: Bharat Electronics, Hindustan Aeronautics, Jindal Steel

AGM filtered for NSE100 companies
Source Bloomberg/Exchanges
Compiled by BS Research Bureau



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Headline: Bharat Petroleum's name linked with Brazilian company

ब्राजील की कंपनी में जुड़ा भारत पेट्रोलियम का नाम

मुंबई। सार्वजनिक उपक्रम भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) की तेल की खोज और उत्खनन का काम करने वाली अनुषंगी कंपनी भारत पेट्रो रिसोर्सेज लिमिटेड (बीपीआरएल) ने ब्राजील में अपने पुराने संयुक्त उद्यम आईवीबी ब्राजिली पेट्रोलिओ लिमिटेडा (आईवीबी) में वीडियोकॉन की पूरी हिस्सेदारी का सफलतापूर्वक अधिग्रहण पूरा कर लिया है। इसके साथ ही फॉर्च्यून ग्लोबल 500 में शामिल बीपीसीएल का नाम ब्राजील कंपनी से जुड़ गया है। बीपीसीएल महारत्न कंपनी का दर्जा प्राप्त है। बीपीसीएल की शनिवार को जारी एक विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार इस अधिग्रहण के बाद आईवीबी, बीपीआरएल की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली अप्रत्यक्ष सहायक कंपनी बन गई और इसका नाम बदलकर बीपीआरएल ब्राजील लिमिटेडा कर दिया गया है।

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East Bengal end 22-year wait for Durand Cup title

Dhiman Sarkar
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KOLKATA: The ignominy of poor runs in the Indian Super League (ISL) has been erased but East Bengal still needed a statement of intent in a Kolkata derby to show that they were back at the top. They chose the final of the Indian Oil 135th Durand Cup to do that.

The 4-1 win against Mohun Bagan Super Giant was reminiscent of how they had knocked the arch-rivals off their perch with a similar scoreline in another cup competition 29 years ago. Then, it was Bhairu Bhutia who was the cynosure. On Sunday, tournament's Golden Ball winner Edmund Lalrindika joined Bhutia, Edeh Chidi and Kiyan Nas-

siri as the only players with a hat-trick in Asian football most storied rivalry, one that is 101 years old. Never before has a team scored four goals in the first half in this contest so that was another one for the history books and trivia buffs.

This was East Bengal's 17th Durand Cup title and the first since 2004. And it came months after the 106-year-old club had ended another 22-year wait: that of being India's league champions. But the 2025-26 ISL wasn't a full season and didn't include a win against Mohun Bagan. Then, East Bengal lost the derby with which this iteration of Asia's oldest football tournament had begun.

How a season begins is no indication of how it will end but for now, red and gold are colours that evoke envy and awe.

Gulf Oil eyes higher EV charger capacity

Manas Pimpalkhare

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NEW DELHI

Lubricant maker Gulf Oil India Ltd is planning to invest ₹50 crore to nearly double capacity at its Ahmedabad electric vehicle (EV) charger manufacturing facility to around 3,000 DC fast chargers from 1,800, managing director and chief executive, Ravi Chawla, said in an interview.

The move comes as India's e-bus market gains momentum. The world's third-largest e-bus market recorded sales of 5,356 units in 2025-26, up 37% year-on-year.

Gulf Oil makes EV chargers in India through its stake in Ahmedabad-based charger maker Tirex Transmission Pvt. Ltd. The lubricant maker first invested ₹103 crore in Tirex in FY24 to acquire a controlling 51% stake, followed by another ₹38 crore investment in FY26 that raised its stake to 65.18%.

"We have the capacity to make close to 1,500-2,000 chargers. This also we are going to enhance. We are making an investment of ₹50



Gulf Oil India, through Tirex Transmission, holds nearly 40% of the DC fast-charger market, says MD and CEO Ravi Chawla.

crore in the expansion to a new plant in Ahmedabad," he said.

The expansion will initially target doubling manufacturing capacity, Chawla said, adding that the company's Ahmedabad plant was designed to allow gradual further scaling up of production.

Gulf Oil, through Tirex, has roughly 40% of India's DC fast-charger market, Chawla said. India has 67,657 public EV chargers, said state-run Bharat

Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), the nodal agency for EV charging infrastructure under the Centre's ₹11,900-crore PM E-Drive scheme.

Gulf Oil plans to invest ₹50 crore to double Tirex's Ahmedabad EV charger capacity to about 3,000 DC fast chargers

Of these, only 534 (0.7%) have a capacity of 121-240 kilowatts, while just nine (0.01%) have a capacity above 240kW, according to BHEL's dashboard.

The company estimates India's EV charger market will be worth about ₹4,000 crore over the next four years and

aims to capture a 10% share. The AC and DC charger markets are expected to account for ₹2,000 crore each, with Tirex targeting sales of ₹300-400 crore over the period, Chawla said.

AC chargers typically range from 3.3kW to 22kW and are suited to slower charging at homes, workplaces and public parking spaces. DC chargers generally start at around 15kW and can exceed 350kW, enabling much faster charging. They are mainly used for public fast-charging applications such as highways, commercial fleets and buses.

Tirex Transmission's revenue has risen from ₹79 crore in FY25 to over ₹100 crore in FY26, said Chawla, at a time when Gulf Oil is also aiming to increase its localization and domestic value addition to 70% from the current 55%.

However, according to Chawla, the company is importing some Chinese components for EV chargers because they are cost-competitive due to the country's manufacturing scale.

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

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FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 24, 1976

Protection of Taj from damage by effluents

New Delhi, August 23: A series of measures, including a detailed study by an Italian firm are under way to protect the Taj in Agra from possible damage by the effluents of the Mathura refinery.

The services of the Italian firm have been obtained by the Indian Oil Corporation for establishing the concentration of effluents under various meteorological conditions at different distances from the refinery and determining the concentration permissible from the point of view of preservation of monuments.

The firm Tecneco, a subsidiary of the ENI group, will calculate the ground level concentration of effluents, particularly sulphur dioxide, in the region on account of emission from the refinery, determine the existing level of pollution in Agra, examine the present state of preservation of the monuments and determine the permissible concentration of effluents.

The studies will be conducted partly in India and partly in Italy. The important portion of the study relating to the present state of the monument will be carried out by Tecneco under the guidance of the Institute Del Rostaurio Italiano and the International Centre of Conservation, Rome. Indian experts will be associated with these studies.

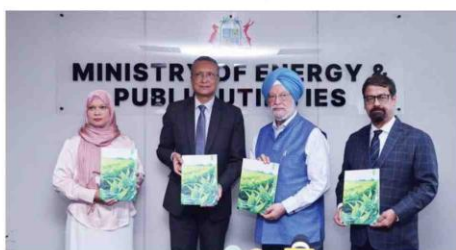
India, Mauritius sign long-term fuel supply pact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

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 Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Mauritius' State Trading Corporation is designed to



Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri signing agreements with Patrick Gervais Assirvaden, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities of Mauritius on Friday in Mauritius

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 USD 25 million. "The facility will significantly boost IOML's bunkering 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 tonnes 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 ministry statement said.

East Bengal beat Mohun Bagan to lift their 17th Durand Cup trophy

AGENCIES

Kolkata, 23 August

Edmund Lalrindika struck a hat-trick as East Bengal FC produced a sensational performance to defeat arch-rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant 4-1 in the final of the 135th Durand Cup at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on Sunday, lifting the historic trophy for the 17th time.

The victory also saw East Bengal draw level with Mohun Bagan on 17 Durand Cup titles.

Mohun Bagan started the final with greater control of the tempo, with Anirudh Thapa and Liston Colaco looking to create openings for Manvir Singh and Jamie Maclaren. But East Bengal struck with devastating efficiency, scoring twice in the space of two minutes to take control of the contest.

In the 10th minute, East Bengal captain Mohamad Basim Rashid produced a wonderful through ball to release Bipin Singh on the left. Bipin made no mistake, finishing brilliantly towards the far post to put the Red and Gold ahead.

Two minutes later, East Bengal doubled their advantage. Edmund Lalrindika picked up the ball outside the box and unleashed a superb strike that flew beyond the reach of Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Vishal Kaith to make it 2-0.

Mohun Bagan tried to respond, with Liston Colaco seeing his cross cleared by the East Bengal defence before a foul on him outside the box presented another opportunity. Colaco's free-kick appeared destined for the target, but East Bengal



goalkeeper Prabhsukhan Singh Gill produced an excellent save to parry it away.

East Bengal were defending deep but remained dangerous whenever they won possession, and their third goal arrived in the 22nd minute.

It was another outstanding team move. Edmund started the move in the centre before the ball was worked towards the left and into the path of Hardik Bhatt. The right-back delivered towards Daniel Ramirez, who then played it into the centre. Edmund continued his run, collected the ball and showed brilliant skill to get past the goalkeeper and defender before calmly finishing into the near post.

Mohun Bagan were suddenly 3-0 down, but they continued to push forward. Anirudh Thapa found Jamie Maclaren with a good ball in the 30th minute, although the Australian's

effort from distance went wide.

The Mariners finally pulled one back in the 33rd minute. Lalengmawia played a wonderful through ball from midfield to Manvir Singh on the right. Manvir raced into the box before cutting inside and producing a superb finish towards the far post to reduce the deficit to 3-1.

Manvir remained a threat, making another dangerous run down the left in the 37th minute before laying the ball off for Maclaren, but the forward could not find the finish.

East Bengal continued to absorb pressure, with Gill showing his confidence as a sweeper-keeper with another timely clearance in the 39th minute.

Just when Mohun Bagan appeared to be gaining momentum, East Bengal struck again before half-time.

In the 44th minute, Basim

Rashid delivered a free-kick from the right towards the far post. Jay Gupta tapped it to redirect it across the face of goal, and Edmund was perfectly placed to finish from close range. The goal completed his hat-trick and restored East Bengal's three-goal advantage.

At half-time, East Bengal led 4-1. Mohun Bagan made changes and continued to attack after the restart, but East Bengal's defence remained organised, and the margin remained the same.

Individual awards:

Golden Glove: Vishal Kaith (Mohun Bagan SG)

Golden Boot: Alaaeddine Ajaraie (North East United FC)

Golden Ball: Edmund Lalrindika (East Bengal FC)

All the award winners were also presented with a Rs 3 lakh cheque, while the Golden Ball winner also received the key to an SUV.

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Headline: Many countries are preparing to import oil from India

भारत से तेल आयात की तैयारी में कई देश

युद्ध के बावजूद दुनिया में भारतीय रिफाइनरियों का डंका...मॉरीशस से समझौता

अजीत खरे

नई दिल्ली। भारत अपनी उच्च तेल परिशोधन क्षमता के बूते तैयार पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद का बड़ा निर्यातक देश बन कर उभर रहा है। निर्यात गंतव्य देशों की सूची में स्पेन, फ्रांस के बाद अब मॉरीशस भी जुड़ गया है। इटली, तंजानिया, जार्डन जैसे देशों ने भी आयात बढ़ा दिया है। भू-राजनीतिक संकट और ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में उथल-पुथल के बीच भारतीय रिफाइनरियों की तकनीकी व शोधन क्षमता दुनिया भर में सराही जाती है।

हाल ही में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने भी कहा था कि 2026 से 2030 के बीच वैश्विक रिफाइनिंग क्षमता विस्तार में भारत की प्रमुख हिस्सेदारी होगी। भारत की रणनीति है कि तमाम देशों से प्रतिस्पर्धी



■ भारत को मिल रहे नए निर्यात बाजार

हाल में भारत और मॉरीशस के बीच पांच साल का ईंधन आपूर्ति समझौता हुआ है। इसके तहत भारत मॉरीशस को पेट्रोल, हाई-स्पीड डीजल और एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल निर्यात करेगी। भारत पहले से ही श्रीलंका, नेपाल और भूटान की पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की आपूर्ति कर रहा है। भारत अमेरिकी दबाव को नजरंदाज कर रूस से कच्चा तेल खरीद रहा है, वहीं अब यूक्रेन युद्ध के चलते ऐसी स्थिति हो गई कि रूस को खुद भारत से तैयार ईंधन मंगाना पड़ रहा है। सिंगापुर, जार्डन, श्रीलंका, नीदरलैंड, यूएई, अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रेलिया, तंजानिया और पूर्वी-पश्चिमी अफ्रीका के कई अन्य देश भी भारत से आयात कर रहे हैं। पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के निर्यात में पिछले साल जुलाई के मुकाबले इस साल जुलाई में 67.64% की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। ईरान युद्ध के दौरान इसमें 42.64% की बढ़ोतरी हुई।

कीमत पर कच्चा तेल लेकर उससे किया जाए ताकि नए बाजारों में पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद तैयार कर निर्यात अपनी पकड़ बढ़ाई जा सके।

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Centre tells states to speed up PNG adoption

NEW DELHI

THE Petroleum Ministry has asked states and Union Territories to provide district-level administrative support to accelerate the shift of households from LPG to piped natural gas (PNG), seeking appointment of nodal officers to coordinate with gas distributors and oil marketing companies.

In an August 21 letter to state chief secretaries, Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal said PNG, as a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, has an important role in advancing India's energy transition while reducing the logistics burden associated with LPG distribution and improving consumer convenience. "PNG brings a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, playing a critical role in advancing the country's energy transition objectives. Its accelerated adoption contributes to reducing the logistics

burden associated with LPG distribution, enhancing consumer convenience, and improving utilisation of CGD infrastructure created through substantial public and private investment," Mittal said in the letter. The ministry is seeking district-level intervention as it moves to implement a regulatory framework aimed at preventing households from retaining both LPG and PNG connections in areas where piped gas is available.

The push for faster adoption of gas piped to households for cooking purposes, called PNG, follows the disruption to India's LPG supply chains during the West Asia crisis earlier this year. LPG was among the fuels most exposed to the conflict because India imports a large share of its cooking-gas requirement, with much of those supplies coming from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait and moving through the Strait of Hormuz.





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Geopolitical &
macroeconomic
developments to steer mkts



P6

Geopolitical & macroeconomic developments to steer markets

West Asia crisis, international crude oil prices, US FOMC minutes and macroeconomic data remain key determinants of markets directions

WEEKLY SNAPSHOT

- BSE-Sensex shed 489.92pts (-0.62%) to 78,009.25
- NSE-Nifty declined 204.65pts (-0.83%) to 24,366
- FII's purchased Rs1,228.24-cr; DII's infused Rs9,285.63-cr

SPOOKED by renewed global uncertainty, elevated crude oil prices and pressure in global bond markets, Indian market remained subdued during the early part of the week and rallied modestly in last two sessions to close on an optimistic note.

For the week, the Sensex declined 489.92 points, or 0.62 per cent, to close at 78,009.25, while the Nifty shed 204.65 points, or 0.83 per cent, to end at 24,366. The broader market was also in consolidation mode with stock specific activity. The Nifty Midcap index ended flat and the Nifty Smallcap 100 index gained 1.2 per cent.

FII's snapped their three-week buying streak, turning net sellers with equity outflows of Rs1,601.65 crore. However, the DII's continued to provide strong support to the market, investing Rs17,316.34 crore in equities. After two weeks of gains, the Indian rupee ended 22 paise lower at Rs 95.43. During the week, the domestic currency traded in a narrow Rs 95.17-95.44 range, with elevated crude prices and geopolitical uncertainty weighing on the rupee.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decision to advance the closure of Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank), or FCNR(B) deposit scheme by a month was supposedly "data-driven and calibrated." Despite RBI claims that FCNR(B) deposits policy plan reflects the country's strong macroeconomic fundamentals and would further strengthen its balance of pay-

ments, skeptics say FCNR(B) deposit drive is flawed step like the earlier SCB issuances.

India-US trade deal is 'almost done' as final legal details are being worked out and only reconfiguring parts of the agreement's text is to be done, say knowledgeable sources. Gold's renewed rally has gathered pace again and stood out as a strong performer, buoyed by safe-haven demand and its appeal as an inflation hedge. The price of 24-carat gold is now around Rs 1.64 lakh per 10 grams, after hovering around Rs 1.5 lakh just a couple of weeks ago. At these prices, gold's recent run is hard to ignore. Some observers suspect this move to be a warning call on possible big "tremors" from West Asia crisis or US economy.

But price appreciation is only one reason investors hold the yellow metal. Gold is also widely seen as a hedge against inflation. Ahead of the US Congress move to pass a "fair version" of the Clarity Act, Bitcoin witnessed one of the strongest rallies in recent times to touch \$80,000. The strong trigger in bitcoin was driven by US Treasury's move to buyback bonds at the longer end of the yield curve. Be cautious at current levels say punters. The coming week is likely to see a quiet to modestly positive start and thereon will be influenced mostly by global cues like developments in West Asia, trends in international crude oil prices, US FOMC minutes and macroeconomic data. A moderation in international crude oil prices and a dovish outlook from US Fed may trigger a short-term recovery in markets.

Merchant Discount Rate: The merchant discount rate (MDR) on UPI transactions is set to make a comeback after nearly six years, with payments worth Rs 2,000 and above likely to face a 0.3 per cent fee. The legal path for its implementation has been cleared after the government



MARKET KHAABREIN

Hormuz deadlock, US Fed pause may trigger two-way volatility in global markets next week. Investors to closely track crude prices, geopolitical developments in Middle East, FOMC minutes and Chinese economic data for further cues on global growth and the Fed's policy outlook

moved an amendment to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act in August that removed the zero-MDR protection. When MDR returns, the fee will be split along the payment chain among four sets of players. A share goes to the issuing bank — the customer's bank — and to the payment service provider (PSP) and its bank handling the transaction. A second portion goes to the acquiring banks and PSPs on the merchant's side: fintechs such as PhonePe, Google Pay and Paytm that provide the app. QR code and onboarding.

Too many investors believe it's not whether you're right or wrong that's important, but how much money you make when you're right and how much you lose when you're wrong — George Soros

come obsessed with being right, even when the gains are small. Winning big and cutting your losses when you're wrong is more important than being right.

FUTURES & OPTIONS / SECTOR WATCH

For better part of the week ended, market traded on a weak note as rising crude oil

prices weighed on sentiment. Nifty ended the week with a loss of nearly half a percent while the Bank Nifty outperformed, gaining around half a percent. After marking a low of 24,025, the Nifty witnessed a minor pullback; however, it ended lower for the second consecutive week. Among the sectors, Capital Market, Metal and Realty were the top performers posting healthy gains during the week. On the other hand, IT, FMCG and Chemicals remained under pressure and ended the week in negative territory. In the options segment, strong Call open interest for Nifty was observed at the 24,500 and 24,300 levels while major Put open interest was concentrated at the 24,000 and 24,200 levels. For Bank Nifty, significant Call open interest was seen at \$8,500 level whereas notable Put open interest was also placed at the 57,000 level indicates an important level for upcoming sessions. Implied volatility (IV) for Nifty's Call options settled at 9.42 per cent while Put options concluded at 10.37 per cent. The India VIX, a key indicator of market volatility concluded the week at 10.75 per cent. The Put-Call Ratio Open Interest (PCR OI) stood at 1.10 for the week. The options setup further reinforces the

Meta's Blockbuster Trial

AHEAD of release of a sequel to "The Social Network", a film about Mark Zuckerberg's founding of Facebook called "The Social Reckoning", the trial is drawing parallels to "big tobacco case". Though investors aren't panicking yet, the verdict will have wide ramifications when it is out say observers. Critics allege that the tech giant hid the fact that its products were harmful. Oral arguments started on August 18th in a federal courtroom in Oakland, California. Reckoning or not, the trial may be a blockbuster. California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey are leading a group of 29 states that are suing Meta over allegations that its platforms developed features harmful to children, and that it violated their privacy. In opening arguments, Megan O'Neill, a deputy attorney-general for California, said that Meta's business model was to "hook the users, hold them for as long as they can, harvest their data and then hide the truth from the public." Rob Bonta, California's attorney-general, has described the case as Meta's "tobacco moment", likening the firm's alleged deceptions to those that led to huge payouts to tobacco firms in the 1990s. Paul Schmidt, a lawyer for Meta, told jurors

that the company took its responsibility to young users seriously, adding that there was no clear link between youngsters' social-media use and ill health. Meta is expected to fight efforts by the plaintiffs to turn the trial into a referendum on the impact of social media on children, focusing instead on the narrow legal issues in dispute. Its lawyers have asked why it is being singled out, when youngsters' use of YouTube, owned by Google, and TikTok, created by China's ByteDance, is even higher than that of Instagram. A lot is at stake. In a similar case brought by the government of New Mexico, a judge this month ordered Meta to pay almost \$950m in penalties. The four states acting as plaintiffs in Oakland appear to be seeking more than 200 times as much if Meta loses the case, putting their estimate at \$193bn—roughly equivalent to the firm's revenue in 2025. If that were a benchmark for other states, it would devastate Meta.

The big question is whether or not Meta deceived the public about the impact of its products. That is similar to the tobacco cases. It also means whistleblower testimony is likely to be more relevant than thorny psychological debates about addiction. Litigation importance of 24,000. Put open interest at the 24,000 strike is nearly three times the Call open interest, highlighting strong support around this level. Hence, 24,000 remains a key near-term level to watch. A decisive breach below this zone could trigger fresh selling pressure. On the upside, 24,500 is the key resistance, with Call open interest around 3.5 times the Put open interest. A decisive move above 24,500 could trigger short covering and give upward momentum to the Nifty. In the near term, the 24,350-24,400 zone will act as a crucial resistance for the index. On the downside, 24,050-24,000 will remain an important support zone. Only a decisive move beyond

risk has weighed on Meta's valuation, contributing to an earnings ratio that is lower than those of its big-tech peers. But rather than fearing a giant payout, shareholders worry more about remedial changes that the prosecutors may seek if Meta loses in court, according. Those include changes to features Meta, Google and TikTok use to keep user engagement high, such as "infinite scroll", which continuously loads new posts. Even if Meta loses, it has scope for appeal. It could, for instance, do so on the grounds that it is protected by Section 230 of the Communications Act, which safeguards internet platforms from legal liability for content posted by third parties. It sought to use that argument to halt the Oakland trial before it started, but the judge ruled that the appeal was premature. Public concern in America about the impact of social media on children is high, and being dragged through the courts may not help Meta's image with parents. In order to head off similar worries about AI, the tobacco industry agreed in a settlement of 1998 to shell out more than \$200bn over 25 years. We can mitigate the harms of industries exploiting addiction, but we have not yet had great success in finding ways to eliminate the harms.

sharply, and maintain a stock-specific approach rather than chasing broad-market moves. Stocks looking good are Colgate, Glenmark, KFin Tech, MFSL, Policy Bazar, Unominda and Vedanta. Stocks looking weak are Aurobindo Pharma, Indus Towers, JSW Energy, Fortis Health, Voltas and Zydus Life.

Usha Martin Limited

THE company is a specialty steel wire rope solutions provider. It is also engaged in the manufacturing of wires, low relaxation prestressed concrete steel strand (LRPC), wires, prestressing solutions, cables, and bespoke end-fittings and accessories. Its segments include Wire and Wire ropes, and Others. The Wire and Wire ropes segment is engaged in the manufacturing and sale of steel wires, strands, wire ropes, cords, related accessories, wire drawing and allied machine, among others. The others segment is engaged in the manufacturing and sale



of jelly filled and optical fiber telecommunication cables. It provides various wire ropes, such as crane rope, mining rope, elevator rope, oil and offshore rope, fishing rope, general engineering rope, aerial transportation rope, struc-

tural rope, and conveyor rope. Its LRPC strands include unbonded polymer coated LRPC strand, bonded polymer coated LRPC strand, compacted LRPC strand, and intended LRPC strand. The company strengthened its presence in key wire rope segments such as mining, oil and gas, infrastructure and industrial use. Growing urbanisation, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, along with increased development of housing, metro rail and commercial infrastructure, is supporting demand for elevator ropes and related applications. Buy on declines for medium term target of Rs800.

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Date :24 August 2026	Page : 8

Geopolitical developments, crude oil prices major drivers for market movement: Analysts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, AUG 23: Crude oil prices and developments in the US-Iran conflict will remain the primary factors influencing stock market movements this week, according to analysts. "Investors will closely monitor the Jackson Hole symposium, particularly comments from the US Federal Reserve Chairman, for indications on the future trajectory of interest rates. US GDP estimates, durable goods orders and consumer confidence will also provide important clues on the strength of the US economy and the Fed's policy outlook," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. On the domestic front, investors will track rupee movement, foreign institutional flows and domestic liquidity conditions, he added. Global markets head into the coming week with investor attention centred on three key themes: the Federal Reserve's policy trajectory, Nvidia's quarterly results and the unresolved US-Iran conflict.

"Against a backdrop of volatile long-dated Treasury yields, Fed Chair Kevin Warsh's address at the Jackson Hole symposium will be closely scrutinised

for clues on how the central bank is weighing persistent inflation risks against signs of a softer labour market ahead of its September policy meeting," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. Crude oil remains the other major external risk, he said. "The 60-day US-Iran agreement expired without a lasting settlement, leaving the Strait of Hormuz at the centre of an unresolved confrontation and normal energy flows through the region disrupted," Ponmudi added. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have accelerated buying in Indian equities this month, infusing Rs 23,544 crore so far in August. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex declined 468.42 points, or 0.60 per cent, and the NSE Nifty dipped 114 points, or 0.46 per cent. "After two weeks of correction in the Nifty, Indian equity markets could consolidate, with marginal recovery expected in the near term. Key monitorables include Brent crude prices, which are anchored above USD 90/ barrel and geopolitical developments," Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.



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Date :24 August 2026	Page : 1, 11

Headline: Preparations: PNG connections will reach every household in every district of the country

घर-घर तक पीएनजी कनेक्शन पहुंचेगा

1 केंद्र सरकार देश के हर
जिले में घर-घर तक
पीएनजी कनेक्शन
पहुंचाने की तैयारी तैयारी
कर रही है। P 11

Publication : Hindustan (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :24 August 2026	Page : 1, 11

Headline: Preparations: PNG connections will reach every household in every district of the country

एलपीजी-पीएनजी कनेक्शन साथ नहीं रख सकेंगे, नोडल अधिकारी इसकी जांच करेगा **तैयारी : देश के हर जिले में घर-घर तक पीएनजी कनेक्शन पहुंचेगा**

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। केंद्र सरकार ने घरों में एलपीजी सिलेंडर की जगह पाइप से मिलने वाली प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) के इस्तेमाल को बढ़ावा देने की तैयारी तेज कर दी है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों से जिला स्तर पर नोडल अधिकारियों नियुक्त करने को कहा है, जो गैस वितरण कंपनियों और तेल कंपनियों के साथ मिलकर पीएनजी कनेक्शन बढ़ाने का काम करेंगे।

पेट्रोलियम सचिव ने हाल ही में राज्यों के मुख्य सचिवों को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि सरकार अब उन क्षेत्रों में एलपीजी से पीएनजी की ओर तेजी से बदलाव करना चाहती है, जहां पाइप वाली गैस पहुंच चुकी है। मंत्रालय चाहता है कि इस मामले में जिला-स्तर पर हस्तक्षेप हो। इसके लिए ऐसा ढांचा तैयार किया गया है, जिसके तहत जिन इलाकों में पीएनजी उपलब्ध है, वहां परिवारों को एक साथ एलपीजी और पीएनजी दोनों कनेक्शन रखने की अनुमति नहीं होगी। पीएनजी उपलब्ध होने के बावजूद नया पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने के लिए आवेदन नहीं करने वाले परिवारों की एलपीजी आपूर्ति बंद की जा सकती है।

विशेष समितियां जिले में जाकर घरों की पहचान करेंगी



इसके लिए अधिकृत शहर गैस वितरण कंपनियां और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में पीएनजी समन्वय समिति बनाएंगी। समिति ऐसे घरों और आवासीय सोसायटियों की पहचान करेगी, जहां पीएनजी कनेक्शन दिया जा सकता है। इसके अलावा नोटिस जारी करने, जागरूकता अभियान चलाने और कनेक्शन देने की प्रक्रिया में मदद करेगी।

जिले के अधिकारियों की होगी अहम भूमिका

मंत्रालय ने राज्यों से खाद्य एवं नागरिक आपूर्ति विभाग के अधिकारियों को इस काम के लिए नामित करने को कहा है। प्रत्येक जिले में कम से कम जिला आपूर्ति अधिकारी स्तर के एक अधिकारी को पीसीसी से जोड़ा जाएगा। साथ ही जिला प्रशासन को आरडब्ल्यूए और आवासीय समितियों से पाइपलाइन बिछाने के लिए रास्ता उपलब्ध कराने, उपभोक्ताओं की शिकायतों के समाधान और पीएनजी आपनाने की निगरानी में मदद करनी होगी।

पश्चिम एशिया संकट के बाद बढ़ा जोर

सरकार का यह कदम ऐसे उठाया आया है जब इस साल पश्चिम एशिया में संकट के दौरान एलपीजी की आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई थी। भारत अपनी घरेलू एलपीजी जरूरत का एक बड़ा हिस्सा आयात करता है और पश्चिम एशिया से आने वाली आपूर्ति समुद्री मार्गों पर निर्भर रहती है। संकट के दौरान घरेलू एलपीजी की आपूर्ति को प्राथमिकता देनी पड़ी थी। इसके मुकाबले घरेलू पीएनजी आपूर्ति पर संकट का असर अपेक्षाकृत कम रहा।

केंद्र सरकार ने एन आदेश अधिसूचित किए

सरकार ने आदेश अधिसूचित किए पीएनजी को तेजी से बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने प्राकृतिक गैस और पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद वितरण (पाइपलाइन बिछाने, निर्माण, परिचालन और विस्तार तथा अन्य सुविधाओं) आदेश 2026 और आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम, 1955 की धारा तीन के तहत एलपीजी नियंत्रण आदेश को अधिसूचित किया है। सरकार का मानना है कि पीएनजी का विस्तार खाना पकाने के लिए एलपीजी पर निर्भरता घटाने के साथ-साथ भारत की ऊर्जा आपूर्ति को अंतरराष्ट्रीय संकट और समुद्री परिवहन में होने वाले व्यवधानों के प्रति अधिक जुझारू बनाएगा। सरकार ने राज्यों से कहा है कि वे इस मामले को प्राथमिकता से लें। सरकार ने राज्यों से स्पष्ट किया है कि वह समयबद्ध तरीके से पीएनजी की स्वीकार्यता बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

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Date :24 August 2026

Page : 10

Iran discovers over 7.5 trillion cubic feet of gas

TEHRAN: Iran has announced a substantial natural gas discovery, with more than 7.5 trillion cubic feet located in the Fars Prov-

ince's southern region, Oil Minister, Mohsen Paknejad, announced on Sunday.

The announcement underscores Iran's position as a significant player in the energy sector.

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad. PIC COURTESY/WIKIPEDIA



Agencies

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'Geopolitics & oil prices to drive mkts this week'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 23

Crude oil prices and developments in the US-Iran conflict will remain the primary factors influencing stock market movements this week, according to analysts.

"Investors will closely monitor the Jackson Hole symposium, particularly comments from the US Federal Reserve Chairman, for indications on the future trajectory of interest rates. US GDP estimates, durable goods orders and consumer confidence will also provide important



clues on the strength of the US economy and the Fed's policy outlook," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

On the domestic front, investors will track rupee movement, foreign institutional flows and domestic liquidity conditions, he added.

SEEKS APPOINTMENT OF NODAL OFFICERS

Centre pushes states, UTs to speed up adoption of piped natural gas

OUR CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi, August 23

The Petroleum Ministry has asked states and Union Territories to provide district-level administrative support to accelerate the shift of households from LPG to piped natural gas (PNG), seeking appointment of nodal officers to coordinate with city gas distributors (CGDs) & oil marketing companies (OMCs).

In an August 21 letter to state chief secretaries, Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal said PNG, as a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, has an important role in advancing India's energy transition while reducing the logistics burden associated with LPG distribution and improving consumer convenience.

"PNG brings a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, playing a critical role in advancing the country's energy transition objectives. Its accelerated adoption contributes to reducing the logistics burden associated with LPG distribution, enhancing consumer convenience, and improving utilisation of CGD infrastructure cre-



ated through substantial public and private investment," Mittal said in the letter.

The ministry is seeking district-level intervention as it moves to implement a regulatory framework aimed at preventing households from retaining both LPG and PNG connections in areas where piped gas is available.

The push for faster adoption of PNG, follows the disruption to India's LPG supply chains during the West Asia crisis earlier this year.

LPG was among the fuels most exposed to the conflict because India imports a large share of its cooking-gas requirement, with much of those sup-

plies coming from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait and moving through the Strait of Hormuz.

The disruption forced the government to prioritise domestic LPG supplies, with commercial and industrial consumers facing restrictions before supplies were progressively restored. India has since moved to diversify its LPG sourcing, including higher purchases from the US and Algeria, as it seeks to reduce its exposure to disruptions in Middle Eastern supplies.

Piped natural gas, by contrast, proved considerably more resilient during the crisis, particularly for domestic household consumers. Domestic PNG supplies received prior-

KEY POINTS

- » The push for faster adoption of gas piped to households, called PNG, follows the disruption to India's LPG supply chains during the West Asia crisis earlier this year
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ity allocation of domestically produced natural gas, insulating the segment from much of the disruption that affected imported LPG and LNG cargoes.

While industrial and commercial gas users with greater dependence on imported LNG faced some exposure, domestic PNG and CNG supplies were expected to remain largely unaffected. The experience has strengthened the case for expanding city-gas infrastructure and shifting households towards piped cooking fuel as part of a broader strategy to reduce India's dependence on imported LPG and make the country's energy system more resilient to geopolitical and

shipping disruptions.

To promote faster PNG adoption, the government has notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (Through Laying, Building, Operation and Expansion of Pipelines and Other Facilities) Orders of 2026 and LPG Control Orders under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

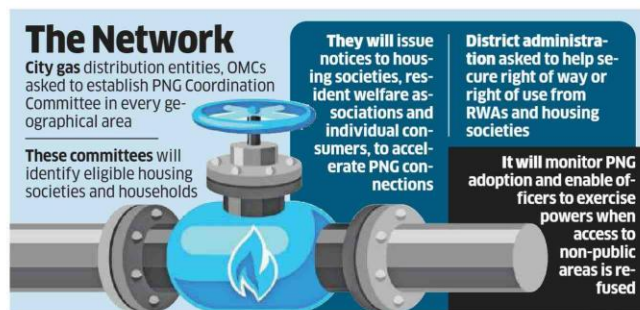
The orders prohibit households from retaining simultaneous LPG and PNG connections and provide for discontinuation of LPG supply to households that fail to apply for a PNG connection despite due notice, wherever PNG supply is available, Mittal said in the letter. The ministry has directed authorised city gas distribution entities and public-sector OMCs to establish a PNG Coordination Committee (PCC) in every geographical area.

The committees will identify eligible housing societies & households, issue statutory notices to housing societies, resident welfare associations and individual consumers, and conduct outreach camps to accelerate PNG connections.

WANTS DISTRICT-LEVEL INTERVENTION

Move aims to prevent households from retaining both LPG and PNG connections in areas where piped gas is available

Petroleum Ministry Seeks State Support for LPG-to-PNG Shift



SIDDHARTH

PTI

New Delhi: The petroleum ministry has asked states and Union territories to provide district-level administrative support to accelerate the shift of households from LPG to piped natural gas (PNG), seeking appointment of nodal officers to coordinate with gas distributors and oil marketing companies.

In an August 21 letter to state chief secretaries, Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal said PNG, as a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, has an important role in advancing India's energy transition while reducing the logistics burden associated with LPG distribution and improving consumer convenience.

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The push for faster adoption of gas piped to households for cooking purposes, called PNG, follows the disruption to India's LPG supply chains during the West Asia crisis earlier this year. LPG was among the fuels most exposed to the conflict because India imports a large share of its cooking-gas requirement, with much of those supplies coming from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait and moving through the Strait of Hormuz. The ministry has directed authorised city gas distribution (CGD) enti-

ties and public-sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) to establish a PNG Coordination Committee (PCC) in all geographical areas.

The committees will identify eligible housing societies and households, issue statutory notices to housing societies, resident welfare associations and individual consumers, and conduct outreach camps to accelerate PNG connections.

The ministry said the PCC mechanism is already operational but its experience so far shows that district-level administrative support is crucial for implementing the transition within prescribed timelines.

The district administration will be expected to help secure right of way or right of use from RWAs and housing societies, facilitate the transition between LPG distributors and CGD entities, support consumer outreach and verification, and resolve consumer grievances.

It will also monitor PNG adoption in notified areas and, where required, enable designated officers to exercise powers under the control orders when access to non-public areas is refused.

The ministry said officials of the Department of Food and Civil Supplies are best placed to provide this support because of their existing regulatory interface with LPG distributors and their field-level administrative reach.

Mittal has, therefore, asked chief secretaries to direct their respective food and civil supplies departments to nominate one nodal officer at the district level, not below the rank of district supply officer, to be formally associated with the local PCC.

MCap of 4 Top 10 Firms Down ₹87K cr in a Week

Bharti Airtel worst
hit as equities turn
bearish

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of four of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by ₹87,960.29 crore last week, with Bharti Airtel taking the biggest hit, in-tandem with a bearish trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex declined 468.42 points, or 0.60%, and the NSE Nifty dipped 114 points, or 0.46%. "Indian equity markets ended the week on a cautious note, extending their recent corrective phase as elevated crude oil prices, rising global bond yields and persistent geopolitical uncertainty weighed on investor sentiment," Ajit Mishra,



High crude oil prices, rising global bond yields and persistent geopolitical uncertainty weighed on investor sentiment

SVP—research, Religare Broking, said. The valuation of Bharti Airtel dropped ₹28,052.96 crore to ₹12,14,963.15 crore, the most among the top-10 firms.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) faced an erosion of ₹22,070.34 crore from its valuation, which stood at ₹8,31,436.51 crore. The market capitalisation (MCap) of the State Bank of India declined ₹20,861.2 crore to ₹9,64,968.76 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever fell ₹16,975.79 crore to ₹4,73,912.56 crore. However, the valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) jumped ₹12,650 crore to ₹5,35,980.31 crore.

The MCap of Reliance Industries surged ₹8,119.53 crore to ₹17,78,175.59 crore and that of Larsen & Toubro climbed ₹3,487.83 crore to ₹5,62,460.94 crore. The market valuation of Bajaj Finance edged higher by ₹3,424.28 crore to ₹6,80,621.62 crore.

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Date :24 August 2026	Page : 10

Iran tensions, oil risks to sway markets

Indian equities are expected to enter a crucial week under heightened geopolitical and macroeconomic pressure, with the escalating US-Iran conflict and elevated crude oil prices likely to dictate market direction.

Iran's warning of "seismic" retaliation against countries joining US economic restrictions has amplified risk-off sentiment. Tehran's threat that oil exports from the Gulf could be disrupted has raised fears of an energy supply shock, with Brent crude remaining above \$90 a barrel. For India, persistently expensive crude could widen the current-account deficit, fuel imported inflation and exert renewed pressure on the rupee, potentially accelerating foreign portfolio outflows. On Dalal St, investors will also assess sentiment following concerns over alleged Sensex manipulation. Analysts expect headline-driven volatility, with geopolitical developments, FII fund flows, and the US Fed's policy trajectory emerging as key triggers.

—FPJ News Service

Geopolitical developments, crude oil prices major drivers for market movement: Analysts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

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"Against a backdrop of volatile long-dated Treasury yields, Fed Chair Kevin Warsh's address at the Jackson Hole symposium will be closely scrutinised for clues



on how the central bank is weighing persistent inflation risks against signs of a softer labour market ahead of its September policy meeting," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

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Headline: Crude oil prices will determine the direction of the local stock market

कच्चे तेल की कीमतों से तय होगी स्थानीय शेयर बाजार की दिशा

एजेंसी। नई दिल्ली

कच्चे तेल की कीमतों और अमेरिका-ईरान संघर्ष से जुड़े घटनाक्रम इस सप्ताह शेयर बाजार की दिशा तय करने वाले प्रमुख कारक होंगे। विश्लेषकों ने यह राय जताई है। रिलायंस ब्रोकिंग लिमिटेड के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष (शोध) अजित मिश्रा ने कहा कि निवेशक जैक्सन होल आर्थिक संगोष्ठी पर करीबी नजर रखेंगे। खासकर अमेरिकी फेडरल रिजर्व के प्रमुख की टिप्पणियों से ब्याज दरों की आगे की दिशा के संकेत मिलने की उम्मीद है।

उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिका के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) के अनुमान, टिकाऊ वस्तुओं के ऑर्डर और उपभोक्ता भरोसे से अमेरिकी अर्थव्यवस्था की मजबूती तथा फेडरल रिजर्व की नीतिगत दिशा के बारे में भी महत्वपूर्ण संकेत मिलेंगे। घरेलू मोर्चे पर निवेशकों की नजर रुपये की चाल, विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों के निवेश प्रवाह और घरेलू बाजार में नकदी की स्थिति पर रहेगी।



ऑनलाइन कारोबार एवं संपत्ति प्रौद्योगिकी कंपनी एनरिच मनी के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) पोनमुडी आर ने कहा कि वैश्विक बाजारों में इस सप्ताह तीन प्रमुख मुद्दे छाए रहेंगे। इनमें अमेरिकी फेडरल रिजर्व की मौद्रिक नीति की दिशा, एनवीडिया के तिमाही परिणाम और अमेरिका-ईरान के बीच जारी तनाव शामिल हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि दीर्घावधि की अमेरिकी प्रतिभूतियों पर प्रतिफल में उतार-चढ़ाव के बीच जैक्सन होल संगोष्ठी में फेड के प्रमुख केविन वॉश के संबोधन पर करीबी नजर रहेगी। इससे सितंबर की नीतिगत बैठक से पहले केंद्रीय बैंक द्वारा लगातार बनी महंगाई के जोखिम और श्रम बाजार में नरमी के संकेतों के बीच संतुलन को लेकर संकेत मिल सकते हैं। पोनमुडी

ने कहा कि कच्चे तेल की कीमतों भी एक बड़ा बाहरी जोखिम बनी हुई है। उन्होंने कहा, अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच 60 दिन का समझौता किसी स्थायी समाधान के बिना समाप्त हो गया है। इससे होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य एक बार फिर जारी तनाव का केंद्र बन गया है और क्षेत्र में ऊर्जा की सामान्य आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई है। विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों (एफपीआई) ने इस महीने भारतीय शेयरों में खरीदारी तेज की है और अगस्त में अब तक 23,544 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश किया है।

पिछले सप्ताह बीएसई के प्रमुख सूचकांक सेंसेक्स में 468.42 अंक की गिरावट रही, जबकि एनएसई का निफ्टी 114 अंक नीचे रहा। मोतीलाल ओसवाल फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज लिमिटेड के शोध प्रमुख (संपत्ति प्रबंधन) सिद्धार्थ खेमका ने कहा कि निफ्टी में लगातार दो सप्ताह की गिरावट के बाद भारतीय शेयर बाजार में इस सप्ताह कुछ स्थिरता आ सकती है और निकट अवधि में मामूली सुधार की उम्मीद है।

Headline: Centre: Appoint nodal officers at the district level to boost PNG usage in the state

राज्य पीएनजी का इस्तेमाल बढ़ाने के लिए जिला स्तर पर नोडल अधिकारी नियुक्त करें:केंद्र

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। केंद्र सरकार ने घरों में पाइप वाली रसोई गैस (पीएनजी) की पहुंच और इस्तेमाल बढ़ाने के लिए राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों से जिला स्तर पर नोडल अधिकारी नियुक्त करने को कहा है। ये अधिकारी गैस वितरण कंपनियों और पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनियों के साथ समन्वय कर उन घरों को पाइप वाली रसोई गैस से जोड़ने में मदद करेंगे, जहां पाइपलाइन की सुविधा उपलब्ध है।

पेट्रोलियम सचिव नीरज मिश्र ने 21 अगस्त को राज्यों के मुख्य सचिवों को भेजे पत्र में कहा कि पीएनजी सुरक्षित, स्वच्छ और अधिक सुविधाजनक ईंधन है। इसका इस्तेमाल बढ़ने से रसोई गैस सिलेंडर यानी एलपीजी की दुलाई का बोझ कम होगा और शहरों में तैयार किए गए गैस वितरण ढांचे का बेहतर उपयोग हो सकेगा। मंत्रालय

चाहता है कि इस मामले में जिला-स्तर पर हस्तक्षेप हो। मंत्रालय एक ऐसा नियामकीय ढांचा लागू करने वाला है जिसके तहत परिवार ऐसे इलाकों में एलपीजी और पीएनजी कनेक्शन दोनों एक साथ नहीं रख सकेंगे जहां पाइप वाली गैस उपलब्ध है। सरकार का यह कदम ऐसे उठाया आया है जब इस साल पश्चिम एशिया में संकट के दौरान एलपीजी की आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई थी। भारत अपनी घरेलू एलपीजी जरूरत का एक बड़ा हिस्सा आयात करता है और पश्चिम एशिया से आने वाली आपूर्ति समुद्री मार्गों पर निर्भर रहती है। संकट के दौरान घरेलू एलपीजी की आपूर्ति को प्राथमिकता देनी पड़ी थी। इसके मुकाबले घरेलू पीएनजी आपूर्ति पर संकट का असर अपेक्षाकृत कम रहा। घरेलू पीएनजी क्षेत्र को घरेलू स्तर पर उत्पादित प्राकृतिक गैस की प्राथमिकता

वाली आपूर्ति मिलने के कारण यह संकट से बचा रहा। सरकार अब उन क्षेत्रों में एलपीजी से पीएनजी की ओर तेजी से बदलाव करना चाहती है, जहां पाइप वाली गैस पहुंच चुकी है। पीएनजी को तेजी से बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने प्राकृतिक गैस और पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद वितरण (पाइपलाइन बिछाने, निर्माण, परिचालन और विस्तार तथा अन्य सुविधाओं) आदेश 2026 और आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम, 1955 की धारा तीन के तहत एलपीजी नियंत्रण आदेश को अधिसूचित किया है। नए अधिसूचित नियमों के तहत ऐसे इलाकों में घरों को एक साथ एलपीजी और पीएनजी कनेक्शन रखने की अनुमति नहीं होगी। नोटिस दिए जाने के बाद पीएनजी कनेक्शन के लिए आवेदन नहीं करने वाले उपभोक्ताओं की एलपीजी आपूर्ति बंद की जा सकती है।

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Date :24 August 2026	Page : 9

Headline: Natural gas and traces of mineral oil found in three new wells in Ashoknagar

অশোকনগরে নয় ৩ কূপে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস, খনিজ তেলের হৃদিশ

নিজস্ব প্রতিনিধি, বারাসত: অশোকনগরের বাইগাছি ওএনজিসি কেন্দ্রে শনিবার রাতে দেখা গেল আগুনের শিখা। তবে এ আগুন কোনো বিপদের ইঙ্গিত নয়, বরং আশার আলো। বাইগাছিতে ওএনজিসি নতুন করে তিনটি কূপ খনন করেছে। তিনটি কূপেই মিলেছে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস ও খনিজ তেলের হৃদিশ। রাতে পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে সেই কূপগুলির মুখে আগুন জ্বালানো হয়েছিল। সেই পরীক্ষা সফল হয়েছে। যার অর্থ, খুব দ্রুত এখানে শুরু হবে খনিজ তেল ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস উত্তোলন। প্রকল্পের কর্মীদের বক্তব্য, সব কিছু পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী এগলে আগস্টের শেষে বা সেপ্টেম্বরে বাণিজ্যিকভাবে শিফটে কাজ করছেন শতাধিক কর্মী। বাণিজ্যিক উৎপাদন শুরুর আগে প্রয়োজনীয় প্রস্তুতি এখন শেষ পর্যায়ে বলেই জানাচ্ছেন কর্মীরা। বাইগাছি থেকে তেল উত্তোলনের প্রসঙ্গটি কিছুদিন আগে লোকসভায় উত্থাপন করেন রাজ্যসভার সাংসদ তথা বিজেপির রাজ্য সভাপতি শমীক ভট্টাচার্য। সেই সূত্রে জানা যায়, জুলাইয়ের শেষেই এখানে তেল উত্তোলনের কাজ শুরু হয়ে যাবে। কিন্তু কিছু যান্ত্রিক সমস্যা ও রাস্তার কাজ বাকি থাকায় তা শুরু করা যায়নি। যদিও ওএনজিসি কর্তৃপক্ষ এখনও তেল উত্তোলনের দিনক্ষণ আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে ঘোষণা করেনি। উল্লেখ্য, বাইগাছিতে তেলের সন্ধান মেলে ২০১৮ সালে। ২০২০ সালে পরীক্ষামূলক উত্তোলনে একটি কূপ থেকে প্রায় ৩৭৫ ব্যারেল অপরিশোধিত তেল পাওয়া যায়। বিশেষজ্ঞদের দাবি, বাইগাছির অপরিশোধিত তেলের এপিআই গ্র্যাডিটি প্রায় ৪০-৪১, যা বম্বে হাইয়ের তেলের সঙ্গে তুলনীয়। দীর্ঘ অপেক্ষার পর অবশেষে এখানে মাটির নীচে থাকা তেল বাণিজ্যিকভাবে উত্তোলন শুরু হতে চলেছে। ওএনজিসি সূত্রে আরও খবর, শুধু বাইগাছি নয়, অশোকনগরের ভুরকুণ্ডা, দৌলতপুরসহ বিভিন্ন এলাকায় এখন ওএনজিসি খননের কাজ চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে। ভবিষ্যতে এসব এলাকা থেকেও তেল ও গ্যাস উত্তোলনের পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে তাদের। পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী, অশোকনগর থেকে উত্তোলিত খনিজ তেল পরিশোধনের জন্য পাঠানো হবে ইন্ডিয়ান অয়েলের হলদিয়া শোধনাগারে। ভবিষ্যতে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের বাণিজ্যিক উৎপাদনের পরিকল্পনাও রয়েছে এখানে। স্থানীয় বিধায়ক সুময় হীরা বলেন, 'অশোকনগর থেকে খনিজ তেল উত্তোলন শুরু হলে শুধু এই এলাকা নয়, গোটা রাজ্যের অর্থনীতিতেই এর ইতিবাচক প্রভাব পড়বে। কর্মসংস্থানে স্থানীয়দের অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।'



পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে একটি কূপের মুখে আগুন জ্বালানো হয়েছে। - নিজস্ব চিত্র

খনিজ তেল উত্তোলন শুরু হবে বাইগাছিতে। প্রায় ২ হাজার ৮৫০ মিটার গভীরতা পর্যন্ত খননের পর তেল ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের স্তরে পৌঁছানো গিয়েছে। তেলের উপরিস্তরে রয়েছে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস। কূপ দিয়ে বেরিয়ে আসা সেই গ্যাসই জ্বালানো হয়েছিল এদিন। তবে আচমকা এভাবে আগুন জ্বলতে দেখে স্থানীয়দের মধ্যে প্রাথমিকভাবে কিছুটা উদ্বেগ তৈরি হয়। বহু মানুষ সেখানে ভিড়ও জমেন। ওএনজিসি ও স্থানীয় সূত্রে খবর, সপ্তাহখানেক আগেই তেল উত্তোলনের জন্য চূড়ান্ত প্রস্তুতি শুরু হয়ে গিয়েছে। পাম্প জ্যাকসহ অত্যাধুনিক যন্ত্রপাতি আনা হয়েছে। দু'টি

Online

Headline	আগুনের শিখা অশোকনগরের ONGC কেন্দ্রে, খনিজ তেল উত্তোলনের আশা জোরালো		
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আগুনের শিখা অশোকনগরের ONGC কেন্দ্রে, খনিজ তেল উত্তোলনের আশা জোরালো

<https://bengalinfo.com/newsdetail.php?newsid=516181>

অশোকনগরের বাইগাছি ONGC কেন্দ্রে দেখা গেল আগুনের শিখা। যে শিখায় আশার আলো দেখলেন এলাকাবাসী। তাঁদের বিশ্বাস, অশোকনগরে খনিজ তেল উত্তোলন এখন শুধু সময়ের

অপেক্ষা। উত্তর ২৪ পরগনার অশোকনগরে বাণিজ্যিক ভাবে খনিজ তেল উত্তোলন করবে ONGC। সূত্রের খবর, নতুন করে খনন করা তিনটি কূপের মধ্যেই মিলেছে খনিজ তেলের সন্ধান। খনিজ তেলের উপরের স্তরে থাকা সেই প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসই জ্বালানো হচ্ছে (পরীক্ষামূলক ভাবে) বলেও জানা গিয়েছে। যদিও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস বা খনিজ তেল উত্তোলন নিয়ে এখনও পর্যন্ত ONGC কর্তৃপক্ষের তরফে কোনও আনুষ্ঠানিক বিবৃতি দেওয়া হয়নি।

সূত্রের দাবি, অশোকনগরে মোট সাতটি কূপ খনন করা হয়েছে। প্রথম পর্যায়ে বাইগাছি কেন্দ্রে জোর কদমে তৎপরতা চলছে। অশোকনগর বিধানসভা এলাকার ভুরকুণ্ডা, দৌলতপুর-সহ বাকি খনিজ তেলের কূপগুলিতেও কাজ চলছে। পরবর্তীতে সেখান থেকেও তেল তোলা হবে। গোটা প্রকল্পে ইতিমধ্যেই প্রায় এক হাজার কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগ হয়েছে বলে জানা গিয়েছে। রাজ্যে পালাবদলের পরে আবারও তেল তোলার অনুকূল পরিবেশ তৈরি হচ্ছে। কাজ চলছে জোর কদমে।

এ বার বাইগাছি কেন্দ্রে ফের আগুন জ্বলার ঘটনা এই প্রকল্প বাস্তবের সম্ভাবনা আরও জোরালো হয়েছে বলে মনে করছেন স্থানীয়রা। শনিবার রাতের অন্ধকারে ওএনজিসি কেন্দ্রে (পরীক্ষার জন্য) আগুনের শিখা দেখা যেতেই বহু মানুষ সেখানে ভিড় জমিয়েছেন। স্থানীয়দের মধ্যে তৈরি হয়েছে উৎসাহ, কৌতূহল। ONGCতে কর্মরত এক কর্মীর দাবি, খনিজ তেলের সন্ধান মিলেছে। তবে তেলের স্তরের উপরে থাকা প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস মাটির নীচ থেকে বেরিয়ে আসার পরে তা পরীক্ষার উদ্দেশ্যে জ্বালানো হয়েছে।

কবে থেকে বাণিজ্যিক ভাবে তেল উত্তোলন শুরু হবে, সেই বিষয়েও সরকারি ভাবে কিছু জানানো হয়নি। তবে প্রকল্পে কর্মরত কর্মীদের সূত্রে খবর, সবকিছু পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী এগোলে অগস্টের শেষেই বাইগাছি প্রকল্প থেকে বাণিজ্যিক ভাবে খনিজ তেল উত্তোলন শুরু হতে পারে।

বাইগাছি কেন্দ্রে নতুন করে তিনটি কূপ খনন করা হয়েছে (news in bengali)। প্রায় ২ হাজার ৮৫০ মিটার গভীর পর্যন্ত খননের পরে সেখানে খনিজ তেল ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের সন্ধান পাওয়া গিয়েছে বলে খবর। তেল উত্তোলনের জন্য পাম্প জ্যাক-সহ অত্যাধুনিক যন্ত্রপাতি নিয়ে আসা হয়েছে। বর্তমানে দুটি শিফটে শতাধিক কর্মী দিনরাত কাজ করছেন।

২০১৮ সালে বাইগাছি এলাকায় প্রথম বিপুল পরিমাণ খনিজ তেল ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের সন্ধান মেলে। এর পরে ২০২০ সালে পরীক্ষামূলক উত্তোলনে বাইগাছি কূপ থেকে প্রায় ৩৭৫ ব্যারেল অপরিিশোধিত তেল পাওয়া যায়। বিশেষজ্ঞদের দাবি, বাইগাছির অপরিিশোধিত তেলের API গ্রেডিটি প্রায় ৪০-৪১। তেলের মানের বিচারে এটি দেশের অন্যতম গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তেলক্ষেত্র বম্বে হাইয়ের তেলের সঙ্গে তুলনীয়। তৎকালীন কেন্দ্রীয় পেট্রোলিয়াম মন্ত্রী ধর্মেন্দ্র প্রধানও অশোকনগরে এসে এখানকার তেলের গুণগত মানের কথা তুলে ধরেছিলেন।

অশোকনগরের বিধায়ক সুময় হীরা জানিয়েছেন, খনিজ তেল উত্তোলন শুরু হলে অশোকনগর-সহ গোটা রাজ্যের অর্থনীতিতে এর ইতিবাচক প্রভাব পড়বে। স্থানীয়দের কর্মসংস্থানের ক্ষেত্রে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়ার পাশাপাশি প্রকল্পের নিরাপত্তার জন্যও বিশেষ পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে বলে দাবি তাঁর। অশোকনগরে খনিজ তেলের সন্ধান মেলায় প্রকল্পটি পরিদর্শনেও আসতে পারেন রাজ্যের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী শুভেন্দু অধিকারী বলে জানা গিয়েছে।

সব মিলিয়ে বাইগাছি ONGC কেন্দ্রের আগুনের শিখা এখন অশোকনগরবাসীর কাছে শুধু পরীক্ষামূলক গ্যাস পোড়ানোর ছবি নয়, বরং বহু বছরের প্রতীক্ষার অবসানের সম্ভাবনার প্রতীক। অশোকনগরে তেল উত্তোলন শুরু হলে দেশের মানচিত্রে অশোকনগরের গুরুত্ব যে অনেকটাই বাড়বে, তা বলার অপেক্ষা রাখে না।

Headline	ONGC gives Transocean \$300m India contract that could keep KG2 busy into 2031 August 23, 2026		
Publication	Business News Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	23 Aug 2026		

ONGC gives Transocean \$300m India contract that could keep KG2 busy into 2031 August 23, 2026

<http://business-news-today.com/ongc-gives-transocean-300m-india-contract-that-could-keep-kq2-busy-into-2031/>

Transocean has secured a \$300 million two-year award from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation for Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2, with priced options potentially extending the drillship's Indian deployment into 2031. Share this: [Share on Facebook](#) (Opens in new window) [Facebook Share on X](#) (Opens in new window) [X Print](#) (Opens in new window) [Print Email](#) a link to a friend (Opens in new window) [Email Share on LinkedIn](#) (Opens in new window) [LinkedIn Share on Reddit](#) (Opens in new window) [Reddit Share on Tumblr](#) (Opens in new window) [Tumblr Share on Pinterest](#) (Opens in new window) [Pinterest Share on Telegram](#) (Opens in new window) [Telegram Share on Threads](#) (Opens in new window) [Threads Share on WhatsApp](#) (Opens in new window) [WhatsApp](#)

Transocean Ltd. (NYSE: RIG) has secured a two-year binding Letter of Award from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited for the Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2 ultra-deepwater drillship in India, adding approximately \$300 million of contract value and giving the rig a pathway to remain employed into early 2031 if all options are exercised. The programme is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2027 and includes two additional years of priced options. The disclosed \$300 million firm value includes additional services and mobilisation fees, making it inappropriate to treat the headline amount as a pure drilling dayrate multiplied by contract days.

The award is commercially meaningful because Transocean entered August with approximately \$6.7 billion of contracted backlog, excluding a separate conditional \$1 billion Equinor agreement awaiting licence-partner approvals. On that base, the ONGC award is equivalent to roughly 4.5% of Transocean's August 5 reported firm backlog before taking account of any other subsequent changes.

What does ONGC get from the Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2 contract?

Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2 is an ultra-deepwater drillship capable of operating in water depths of as much as 12,000 feet. The rig entered service in 2010 and has previously worked in both India and Brazil, including a period in which it set a world water-depth drilling record while operating for Reliance Industries Limited in Indian waters.

For Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, the two-year term secures access to a high-specification floating rig at a time when offshore operators globally have been competing for modern deepwater equipment. The binding Letter of Award precedes the final contract documentation but establishes the principal commercial commitment and expected first-quarter 2027 start.

How significant is the \$300m award for Transocean's backlog?

Transocean reported \$6.7 billion of backlog at August 5 after adding five firm fixtures worth approximately \$292 million since its previous fleet report. Those contracts included work for Deepwater Conqueror, Deepwater Proteus, Deepwater Skyros, Transocean Norge and Transocean Equinox. The ONGC award announced two weeks later is slightly larger by itself than that entire five-fixture incremental package.

The comparison demonstrates why a two-year programme for a single high-specification drillship can be financially meaningful to an offshore contractor. Floating rigs carry large fixed operating and capital costs, so maintaining utilisation over multi-year periods can be more valuable than securing short contracts at temporarily higher rates if those contracts leave lengthy idle intervals between campaigns.

Transocean also has a conditional agreement with Equinor valued at about \$1 billion for Transocean Enabler, Transocean Encourage and Transocean Endurance. If approved by the relevant licence partners, the Equinor programme plus the new ONGC award would represent approximately \$1.3 billion of prospective or newly awarded work beyond the \$6.7 billion backlog reported on August 5.

Why do the two years of priced options matter almost as much as the firm term?

The firm ONGC programme is expected to run for two years from the first quarter of 2027. Exercising both additional years could keep Dhirubhai Deepwater KG2 working in India into early 2031, extending employment visibility across roughly four years rather than forcing Transocean to remarket the asset after the initial programme.

Options are not guaranteed backlog and should not be valued as firm revenue until exercised. They can nevertheless have substantial strategic value because the customer and contractor establish an agreed commercial framework for extending work without starting a completely new procurement process. If ONGC's drilling programme expands or wells take longer than initially anticipated, retaining the same drillship can also reduce mobilisation and crew-transition disruption.

What does the award reveal about India's ultra-deepwater drilling market?

India has been attempting to increase domestic oil and gas exploration as declining mature-field production leaves the country heavily dependent on imported crude and LNG. Deepwater basins off India's east coast remain a major part of that strategy, but the technical demands require high-specification drilling units, specialised subsea equipment and experienced service contractors.

Transocean already has long operating history in India. Dhirubhai Deepwater KG1 recently completed work for ONGC and has been scheduled for a Reliance Industries Limited programme after contract preparation, while KG2 now has a new ONGC pathway from 2027. Transocean's fleet data therefore point to India becoming a sustained ultra-deepwater market for the contractor rather than a one-off deployment destination.

How strong is Transocean's financial position as backlog grows?

Transocean reported second-quarter contract drilling revenue of \$966 million, adjusted EBITDA of \$312 million and free cash flow of \$212 million. Revenue efficiency was 97%, while the company posted net income of \$170 million. Those figures indicate that improving rig utilisation and higher-specification contracts are increasingly converting into cash flow, although offshore drilling remains a capital-intensive business with substantial financing requirements.

The backlog provides visibility but does not remove execution risk. Rigs must maintain mechanical reliability, mobilisation work must remain on schedule and customers must proceed with planned drilling campaigns. Contract extensions and options are particularly sensitive to drilling results, commodity prices and operator capital budgets

Did the \$300m ONGC award move Transocean shares?

Transocean shares rose 2.91% to \$6.01 on August 20, the day the company announced the ONGC award, on trading volume of more than 36 million shares. The stock closed at \$5.995 on August 21, down 0.25% for the session but still about 4.1% above its August 14 close of \$5.76.

A single contract cannot explain all short-term price movement, particularly when crude markets and offshore-services sentiment are also influential, but the timing indicates a constructive initial market response. The more durable valuation question is whether Transocean can continue adding long-duration work at economic rates while converting backlog into free cash flow.

The ONGC agreement strengthens that case because it combines a meaningful \$300 million firm commitment with options that could provide employment through early 2031. For a drillship owner, four potential years of utilisation are often more strategically valuable than the headline contract amount suggests.

Headline	India Tender Notice: Corrosion Inhibitor for Gas Line (Ongc), Qty: 10000		
Publication	India Gov News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	23 Aug 2026		

India Tender Notice: Corrosion Inhibitor for Gas Line (Ongc), Qty: 10000

<https://www.indiagovnews.com/solicitation/india-tender-notice%3A-corrosion-inhibitor-for-gas-line--ongc-%2C-qty%3A-10000/3334488607>

India, Aug. 22 -- OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED (ONGC) has issued a tender notice titled "Corrosion Inhibitor for Gas Line (Ongc), Qty: 10000" with the tender reference no.: GEM/2026/B/7948593.

The tender details are as follows: Corrosion Inhibitor for Gas Line (ONGC) (Q3)

The expression of interest should be received by Sept. 11.

For more information, contact OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED (ONGC), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas|NA

Jyotish Chandra Rabha 785640, CENTRAL STORES, ONGC,

Assam Mm, nayar_r@ongc.co.in.

Disclaimer: Curated by HT Syndication.

Headline	ONGC To Provide ₹20 Crore CSR Support For Flood-Affected Schools In Assam		
Publication	NKtv	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Aug 2026		

ONGC To Provide ₹20 Crore CSR Support For Flood-Affected Schools In Assam

<https://www.nktv.in/ongc-to-provide-%E2%82%B920-crore-csr-support-for-flood-affected-schools-in-assam/>

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

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

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

Headline	Kakinada Government Hospital to Get Modern Cancer Treatment Facility		
Publication	Deccan Chronicle	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	23 Aug 2026		

Kakinada Government Hospital to Get Modern Cancer Treatment Facility

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/southern-states/andhra-pradesh/kakinada-government-hospital-to-get-modern-cancer-treatment-facility-1981413>

With the intervention of the Deputy Chief Minister, ONGC agreed to provide the dual-energy LINAC machine at a cost of '36.6 crore from its CSR funds, Mr Srinivas said.

Vijayawada :The Kakinada government hospital will be developed as a modern cancer treatment centre with the installation of a dual-energy LINAC machine at a cost of Rs 36.6 crore and a mobile cancer screening vehicle costing '3.5 crore, Kakinada MP Tangella Uday Srinivas said on Saturday.

Srinivas said the hospital currently functioned as a cancer referral centre and would provide modern cancer treatment to patients from Dr B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Anakapalli, Polavaram and other areas after the installation of the equipment.

Srinivas said he had been making efforts for the past two years to secure a modern cancer treatment facility at the hospital. He had discussed the issue with doctors, raised it in Parliament and explained the need for the facility to Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan.

With the intervention of the Deputy Chief Minister, ONGC agreed to provide the dual-energy LINAC machine at a cost of Rs 36.6 crore from its CSR funds, Mr Srinivas said.

He added that the Indian Red Cross had taken up construction of a modern cancer treatment building at a cost of Rs 7 crore and the work was nearing completion.

Srinivas said the government hospital, which had lacked such a facility for two decades, would soon have modern cancer treatment services.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for their support to the project.