



ONGC News as on 25 April 2026 (Print & Online)

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Mock fire drill conducted at BHEL Tiruchy

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHY, APRIL 24

A mock fire drill was conducted at unit II of the high pressure boiler plant (HPBP) of BHEL Tiruchirappalli on Friday to check the emergency preparedness of various safety, security and rescue operations at the factory.

The drill was conducted in the presence of R. Rajasekaran, Joint Director, Industrial Safety and Health, Tiruchirappalli and observers from Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Valavanthakottai, Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli, Airports Authority of India, Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services and High Energy Projectile Factory.

The drill simulated an emergency situation in the LPG yard of unit II which has two LPG bullets of 50 tons each.



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IndianOil assures uninterrupted availability of petroleum products across the country

MUMBAI, APRIL 24/--/IndianOil assures all citizens that the availability of Petrol (MS) and Diesel (HSD) remains normal and uninterrupted across all our supply channels nationwide.

Petrol (MS) and diesel (HSD) sales through retail outlets recorded growth exceeding 13 % during 1st-21st April 2026. This increased demand has been efficiently met through our extensive distribution network of over 42,000 fuel stations backed by robust logistics and supply chain capabilities, enabling us to consistently meet the nation's energy requirements without any disruption. Customers are requested to rely only on official communications. (EOIC)



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BPCL Confirms Adequate LPG Supply

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) confirmed that LPG supply across the country remains stable and aligned with consumption trends, supported by sustained dispatches across domestic, commercial and bulk segments over the past 10 days. Between April 12 and April 21, BPCL delivered 11,395,564 domestic cylinders, 2,87,867 commercial cylinders, and 2,22,444 FTL supplies, indicating steady movement of LPG across the supply chain and continued availability across markets.

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>> SPORTSTAR FOCUS BIHAR CONCLAVE

'For Olympic success, develop athletes as humans first'

— Abhinav Bindra



Team Sportstar

Beijing Olympics gold medalist and former shooter Abhinav Bindra said that India needs a holistic approach that synergizes sports with education to improve its Olympic success. During the Fireside Chat at the *Sportstar Focus Bihar Conclave* in Patna on March 22, speaking with Sportstar Editor, Ayon Sengupta and Raveendran Sankaran, Director General cum CEO, Bihar State Sports Authority, Bindra shared what sport taught him, how India's sporting aspirations can benefit from its Olympics bid for 2036, and what it takes to get sustained participation in sports.

Can an Olympic bid change a nation's sporting culture?

The ambition is wonderful. We are seeing early signs of legacy of the bid. We had the National Governance Act enacted, it would not have been so quick otherwise. The funding has increased. There is enough money in sport in India. There is so much going into grassroots athlete training. That has been accelerated due to the bid and we can explore other areas as well. We can go beyond just sports performance with this, in terms of what it can do for the society and act as a catalyst for change.

So you are saying it can lead to more participation in schools?

It is great that the conversations are starting. We must put together a strategy thoughtfully, because otherwise it can go the other way. I will give you an example from the

Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics. Norway won 41 medals. India has 41 medals across all Olympics. Norway has an interesting strategy, which is the children's rights to play. The exact policy is, 'Sport in childhood should be inclusive, enjoyable, development focused and not selection driven too early. In Denmark, for kids below 11, there are no rankings in sport'. What can we learn from this? We must ensure kids play sport. How many of our kids have access to play sports? That number is less. What is the first experience for a child? It is in school. If that experience in school is not pleasant, you have lost that kid. We have a shortage of physical education (PE) teachers in India. There are estimates of over a million but we do not have more than a couple hundred thousand in proper jobs. We need proper teachers in India. The PE teacher lies lowest in the hierarchy in a school in India. Children should look up to them. That is the fundamental start.

What you experienced as an athlete, in terms of challenges, has that changed over the years?

It is a new world from when I started. I started shooting under a mango tree. Now, the sort of infrastructure the young athletes have access to is unbelievable. We are working on improving capacity and quality of coaches, funding at the elite level in unbelievable. The amount of money spent on athletes' preparation in India does not exist anywhere in the world. In terms of funding and capacity, there is a world of difference. Sport is much more mainstream now. It is a completely different era. But that does not mean

we are there yet. We should never be satisfied, we have a lot to achieve. We should work to get better and get closer to our future aspirations.

Why do we not have enough success despite enough facilities and backing?

It is not about difficulty. The sports performance cannot be a transaction. It is never going to be that you put in an amount of money and get a vending machine with assured returns. It is far more fundamental. We must not look at it from a lens of performance. We have to look at it from an aspect of change in society. We have to improve the depth of participation and competition. The school structure has to work to get the kids to experience sport and be physically literate. That is the fundamental to sports performance. We are too focussed on the top level right now, but until we have the base of the pyramid strong, which is not based on results, and getting kids active, we won't be able to make a difference. We are a large country and have aspirations. But the foundation has to be strong and cannot be results driven. We cannot ask kids at 10, 11 to get medals. It has to be about creating a relationship with movement. I was an athlete but I was not strong, had no physical literacy. I had no access to it. So, we have to look at the base. Without it, you can create as much infrastructure but we will always be limited in terms of returns.

Was the Beijing Olympics gold medal built on your failures earlier in your career?

There are two aspects. The societal

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Olympic gold medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra (centre) in conversation with Raveendran Sankaran, DG of the Bihar State Sports Authority, and Sportstar Editor Ayon Sengupta at the Sportstar Focus Bihar Conclave in Patna. R.V. MOORTHY

aspect; we look at failure in a very poor way. It is all about success. If you win, you are good. If you fail, you are useless. Our relationship with failure needs work. It has to be about letting go of the unwanted baggage and learning from each event. Because most athletes will fail. And there comes another point; we have come at a stage where more athletes are going to participate in sports. It is wonderful to see that. But that means more young people are going to fail in sport. So what are you going to do? So, a robust school and university system, a dual career, education are an absolute must. Right now, put everything on the line. I understand why it is that way. For a lot of them, it is a way to better life. But if we give them a chance to build some other skill, it may take longer, they will build some capacity for life after sport. This will build sporting success as well. The mindset is not just the athlete, it is also the human, if you put everything on the line you are not going to be balanced. When athletes fail, they have something to fall back onto.

Can India have a unified pipeline for talent instead of fragmented schemes like Khelo India?

It is an opportunity. Sport is always developed in silos in India. It has the potential to draw unified effort where priorities are set in place and everyone has to follow that. India has 30 odd States and every State is almost like a country. Sport is a State matter and it eventually comes down to that in how we develop sport. Maybe every State can adopt a sport but that will be challenging. Suppose, if Bihar picks shooting, but then what happens to shooters in Tamil Nadu or Telangana? Do they move to Bihar to develop further?

I believe there can be centres of excellence at some places. I believe that the role that different governments play is immense. It cannot, however, be about one or two sports. If we stick to the sports we are good at, we are not winning more than 15 medals. But if the aspiration is to win 50 medals, then we need to win at swimming, rowing, athletics, and so on. How do we achieve that is the question. Every

government has to play a role in that.

How do you look back on your sporting career without the gold medal?

My worth is not dependant on that gold medal. I think is not the only aspect about me. I do not look back at my years in sport, I do not look back at that gold medal I won or the others that hang on my wall. I look back at the relationships I was able to build through sports, with my family, with my coaches, with competitors. I look back at what sports taught. It taught me a thing or two about winning and about losing, respecting outcomes and competitors and most importantly myself, dealing with internal conflict. Sport has given me some many memories and lessons. That left me in good stead to face the greater test called life.

The Sportstar 'Focus Bihar' Conclave is presented by the Bihar Sports Authority and Department of Sports, Government of Bihar. The Associate Sponsor is Indian Oil Corporation Limited, while State Bank of India is the Banking Partner.

Is development worth risking lives?

DR MUCHUKOTA
SURESH BABU

INDIA'S development story is often told through the language of speed, scale, and investment. Yet, an uncomfortable question persists: can development that places human lives at risk truly be called progress?

The recent fire at the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL) in Balotra district, just a day before its scheduled inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a stark reminder of the risks embedded in large-scale industrial expansion. Built at a cost of ₹79,459 crore, the refinery is comparable in scale to the proposed Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) project in Andhra Pradesh. The incident raises critical questions about the adequacy of safety systems, environmental oversight, and regulatory accountability.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Rapid Risk Assessments are meant to serve as safeguards, ensuring that industrial projects do not compromise ecological balance or human safety. However, the gaps that are evident in such reports for refinery projects are deeply concerning. Risk mitigation measures appear inadequate, and emergency preparedness frameworks remain underdeveloped. For communities living in the shadow of such facilities, this translates into constant vulnerability. Independent estimates by civil society groups suggest that fugitive emissions from such projects could reach a high of 7,500 tonnes per annum. Yet, official EIA reports often

remain silent on the nature and long-term impact of toxic emissions—particularly those that could prove fatal. This silence is not merely a technical omission; it is a failure of governance.

Equally troubling is the erosion of the Precautionary Principle, a cornerstone of environmental policy that mandates preventive action in the face of uncertainty. In high-risk industries such as petrochemicals, where the consequences of failure can be catastrophic, this principle should guide every stage of decision-making. Its apparent neglect reflects a shift from public welfare to project expediency.

The push for "Ease of Doing Business" and, increasingly, "Speed of Doing Business," has introduced a culture of haste into regulatory processes. Nowhere is this more evident than in the clearance processes for large industrial projects.

The proposed BPCL refinery in Nellore illustrates this trend. With a projected capacity to produce massive quantities of hazardous chemicals, including chlorine gas, the project is being advanced in a region prone to cyclones and seismic activity. Such decisions demand rigorous scrutiny and not accelerated approvals.

History offers sobering lessons. The LG Polymers Gas Leak in Visakhapatnam demonstrated how lapses in safety and preparedness can devastate lives within minutes. Reports indicate that even a minor chlorine leak in a refinery could spread toxic gas across several kilometres, endangering thousands. Without robust emergency response systems and community awareness mechanisms,

such risks become unmanageable.

There are also troubling signs of procedural dilution. Environmental reports running into hundreds of pages are often made available only in technical English, effectively excluding local communities from meaningful participation. Baseline health data is either incomplete or absent, making it difficult to establish accountability in the event of future health crises. Surveys meant to assess ecological impact sometimes rely on questionable methodologies, undermining their credibility.

At its core, this is not merely an environmental issue, it is a constitutional one. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life, which the Supreme Court has repeatedly interpreted to include the right to a safe and healthy environment. Land acquisition without informed consent, inadequate rehabilitation plans for displaced communities, and the absence of transparent public consultation processes all point to a troubling disregard for this fundamental right.

Development is undeniably essential. But development that discounts human safety, marginalises communities, and compromises environmental integrity is neither sustainable nor just. The old engineering wisdom "measure twice, cut once" remains relevant. Thorough evaluation and cautious planning are not obstacles to progress; they are its foundation.

As India continues its march toward economic growth, it must resist the temptation to equate speed with success. The true measure of development lies not in how quickly projects



A major fire broke out at Rajasthan's Pachpadra refinery

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Rapid Risk Assessments are meant to serve as safeguards, ensuring that industrial projects do not compromise ecological balance or human safety. However, the gaps that are evident in such reports for refinery projects are deeply concerning. Risk mitigation measures appear inadequate, and emergency preparedness frameworks remain underdeveloped. For communities living in the shadow of such facilities, this translates into constant vulnerability.

are completed, but in how safely and equitably they are executed. Regulatory institutions must reaffirm their commitment to scientific rigor, transparency, and public accountability. The civil society, scientific communities, and informed citizens must con-

tinue to ask difficult questions.

Because eventually, development that comes at the cost of human lives is not progress, it is a warning.

(The writer is President of Praja Science Vedika)

CPCL triples Q4 net profit at ₹1,400 crore

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL), a subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), reported a sharp surge in profitability for the fourth quarter ended March 31, with net profit more than tripling to ₹1,400 crore, compared with ₹450 crore in the year-ago period, even as revenue remained flat at



H Shankar, MD, CPCL. BUJOY GHOSH

₹20,455 crore in Q4FY26 versus ₹20,581 crore in Q4FY25.

Its net profit jumped over 17x to ₹3,062 crore from ₹174 crore in the previous fiscal. Revenue for the fiscal rose 9 per cent to ₹78,611 crore, up from ₹71,050 crore.

SUPPLY CHAIN

H Shankar, Managing Director, CPCL, told *business-*

line that despite the West Asia situation, the company managed to maintain near-full capacity operations, aided by support from IOC.

The refinery temporarily halted Russian crude processing following sanctions, before resuming limited crude processing. Alternative supplies were secured from Sudan, Ghana and Gabon, besides occasional cargoes from the US, he said.

Traditionally, around 55 per cent of CPCL's crude is sourced through term contracts — largely from West Asia — with the rest coming from spot purchases and domestic supply.

CPCL processed 2.93 million tonnes (mt) of crude during the quarter, marginally lower than 2.97 mt in the year-ago period. Capacity utilisation stood at a robust

112 per cent. For the full year, crude throughput rose to 11.71 mt from 10.45 mt a year earlier.

To manage price volatility and supply uncertainty, CPCL adopted a dynamic inventory strategy, reducing stock levels during periods of rising crude prices and blending available grades to sustain operations, he noted.

The refinery is also exploring additional sourcing options routed via the Red Sea, said Shankar.

RETAIL EXPANSION

On the downstream front, CPCL has begun expanding into fuel retailing, commissioning its first outlet at Nemam, near Chennai. It is targeting around 100 retail outlets during the current fiscal, with ₹400 crore earmarked for the same.

Demand for petrol, diesel surges in UP districts bordering Nepal

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Lucknow, 24 April

A sudden surge in demand for petrol and diesel in Uttar Pradesh districts bordering Nepal has raised concerns among the administration and oil companies.

Officials here on Friday say this situation is not due to any actual shortage, but rather to "demand distortion" caused by rumors, strict anti-hoarding measures, and cross-border price differences.

According to officials, since the price of petrol in Nepal is approximately ₹60 per litre higher than in India, there is a possibility of small-scale cross-border transportation of fuel in border areas. Although no organised smuggling has been confirmed, the administration has tightened surveillance.

The greatest impact is being



felt in districts like Bahraich, Lakhimpur, Gonda, Maharajganj, and Basti, where sales have surged in a short period of time.

Petrol pumps in areas surrounding Lucknow are also experiencing higher-than-normal footfall. Anti-

hoarding measures by oil companies are also complicating the situation. In many places, fuel limits have been set to around 20 litres per day.

This is causing problems for rural areas, especially farmers, who typically store diesel in 200-litre drums.

They are now forced to make multiple small transactions, further straining petrol pumps.

Furthermore, rumours on social media about a possible increase in fuel prices after the elections and discussions about global crude oil prices have increased public anxiety.

As a result, people are buying more fuel than they need, further increasing congestion at pumps.

Ranjeet Singh, president of the Uttar Pradesh State Petroleum Dealers Association, also stated that this situation is a combination of logistical timing, rumours, and panic buying and not a sign of any supply crisis.

Officials have appealed to people to ignore rumours and purchase fuel as normal, as there is adequate availability of petrol and diesel in the state. Oil companies say supplies are completely normal.

According to IOCL state head Sanjay Bhandari: "There is no shortage of petrol and diesel. The current surge is the result of panic buying fuelled by rumours."

He added that supplies have been increased in border districts, with deliveries nearly doubling in some places.

Headline: Sufficient quantity of petroleum production in Union Territories, people need not panic: Sanjib Kumar Baihra

કેન્દ્રશાસિત પ્રદેશોમાં પેટ્રોલિયમ ઉત્પાદનનો પૂરતો જથ્થો, લોકોએ ગભરાવાની જરૂર નથી: સંજીવ કુમાર બૈહરા

(પ્રતિનિધિ)સેલવાસ, પશ્ચિમ એશિયાની હાલની પરિસ્થિતિને ધ્યાનમાં રાખીને, કેન્દ્ર અને રાજ્ય સરકારો પેટ્રોલિયમ ઉત્પાદનનો તેમજ અન્ય આવશ્યક વસ્તુઓની ઉપલબ્ધતા અને કિંમતો પર સતત નજર રાખી રહી છે. સામાન્ય નાગરિકોને આ આવશ્યક વસ્તુઓ સરળતાથી ઉપલબ્ધ રહે તે માટે સરકાર દ્વારા તમામ જરૂરી પગલાં લેવામાં આવી રહ્યા છે. આ સંદર્ભમાં દાદરા અને નગર હવેલી જિલ્લાના સિલવાસામાં જિલ્લા સચિવાલય ખાતે પ્રેસ ઈન્ફોર્મેશન બ્યુરો, અમદાવાદ દ્વારા મહત્વપૂર્ણ પ્રેસ બ્રિફિંગનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. સંજીવ કુમાર બૈહરા, ED & SH, ગુજરાત રાજ્ય અને શ્રી અમિત કુમાર પમાસી, ડિરેક્ટર ફૂડ & સિવિલ સપ્લાય, DNHH & DDએ સંબોધિત કરી હતી. પ્રેસ બ્રિફિંગ દરમિયાન અધિકારીઓએ CNG અને PNGની ઉપલબ્ધતા, ગુજરાતના ઉદ્યોગો પર પશ્ચિમ એશિયાની પરિસ્થિતિના પ્રભાવ અને આ પરિસ્થિતિનો સામનો કરવા માટે લેવામાં આવેલા પગલાં અંગે વિગતવાર માહિતી આપતાં જણાવ્યું હતું કે, રાજ્યમાં પેટ્રોલિયમ, LPGની પરિસ્થિતિ સંપૂર્ણ નિયંત્રણ હેઠળ છે. તેમણે જનતાને અફવાઓથી દૂર રહેવા અને ગભરાટમાં આવીને વધુ ખરીદી ન કરવા અપીલ પણ કરી હતી. શ્રી સંજીવ કુમાર બૈહરા એ જણાવ્યું કે કેન્દ્રશાસિત પ્રદેશ દાદરા અને નગર હવેલી અને દમણ અને દીવમાં LPG, પેટ્રોલ, ડીઝલ, CNG અને PNGની વર્તમાન સ્થિતિ સ્થિર છે.

તેમણે વધુમાં જણાવ્યું હતું કે, દાદરા અને નગર હવેલી અને દમણ અને દીવ કેન્દ્રશાસિત પ્રદેશમાં કુલ ૭૨ રિટેલ આઉટલેટ્સ કાર્યરત છે,



(તસ્વીર: અરોહ ખોષી)

જેમાંથી 65 PSU OMCs દ્વારા અને ૭ ખાનગી કંપનીઓ દ્વારા સંચાલિત છે. કોઈપણ સમયે કોઈ આઉટલેટ પર પુરવઠો ખૂટી ગયો નથી અને આગળ પણ આવું જ રહેશે. માસિક સરેરાશ વેચાણ પેટ્રોલ માટે ૫,૬૦૦ KL અને ડીઝલ માટે ૧૬,૫૦૦ KL છે, જ્યારે દૈનિક સરેરાશ વેચાણ પેટ્રોલ માટે ૧૮૭ KL /દિવસ અને ડીઝલ માટે ૫૮૦ KL /દિવસ છે. હાલના ટ્રેન્ડ મુજબ પેટ્રોલ ૨૨૬ KL /દિવસ અને ડીઝલ ૬૬૦ KL /દિવસ છે. માંગમાં થોડો વધારો થયો છે, પરંતુ કોઈ કતાર કે વિક્ષેપ નથી અને તમામ આઉટલેટ્સ પાસે પૂરતો જથ્થો ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ગુજરાતના ૧૭ સપ્લાય પોઈન્ટ્સ દ્વારા UT ને પુરવઠો આપવામાં આવે છે, જ્યાં પૂરતો સ્ટોક ઉપલબ્ધ છે અને ચિંતાનો કોઈ વિષય નથી. LPG પુરવઠા અંગે વાત કરતાં તેમણે કહ્યું કે, UTમાં કુલ ૮ LPG વિતરકો છે, જેમાં ૧ ઈન્ડિયન ઓઈલ, ૨ ભારત પેટ્રોલિયમ અને ૫ HPCLના છે. તાજેતરના ભૂ-રાજકીય પરિસ્થિતિ પછી પણ એક પણ વિતરક પાસે પુરવઠો ખૂટ્યો નથી. ઘરેલું LPG પુરવઠો સંપૂર્ણ રીતે સામાન્ય છે અને કોઈ ફરિયાદ નોંધાઈ નથી. માર્ચ ૨૦૨૬માં ૧,૧૧,૨૩૦ સિલિન્ડરની બુકિંગ અને ૧,૧૨,૦૦૦ સિલિન્ડરની ડિલિવરી કરવામાં આવી, જ્યારે ૧.૭૫ લાખ સક્રિય ગ્રાહકો છે. શરૂઆતનો ગભરાટ ઓછો થયો છે અને પુરવઠો માંગ કરતા વધુ છે. તાજેતરના

આંકડાઓ મુજબ ગયા અઠવાડિયે ૨૫,૪૭૫ બુકિંગ અને ૨૬,૦૬૫ ડિલિવરી થઈ, જ્યારે ગઈકાલે ૩,૩૮૧ બુકિંગ અને ૩,૪૮૮ ડિલિવરી થઈ. ૯૯.૧% બુકિંગ ડિજિટલ છે અને ૯૬.૪% ડિલિવરી ઓથેન્ટિકેશન કોડ દ્વારા થાય છે, જે પારદર્શિતા અને ગેરકાયદે વેચાણ અટકાવે છે. તેમણે જણાવ્યું કે ઉજ્જવલા યોજનાના અંતર્ગત કુલ ૧૮,૩૩૫ કનેક્શન આપવામાં આવ્યા છે અને પુરવઠો નિયમિત છે. કેન્દ્ર સરકારની પ કિલો મફત LPG સિલિન્ડર યોજના હેઠળ કોઈ દસ્તાવેજોની જરૂર નથી અને આધાર આધારિત સુવિધા ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ગત રોજ ૧૪૦, ગત સપ્તાહે ૧૭૫૩. ગત મહિનામાં કુલ ૬૬૬૨ સિલિન્ડર વિતરિત કરવામાં આવ્યા છે. વાણિજ્યિક LPG પુરવઠા અંગે, ૨૫ માર્ચ ૨૦૨૬ના સરકારી માર્ગદર્શિકા મુજબ પ્રાથમિકતા આપવામાં આવી રહી છે, અમિત કુમાર પમાસી, ડિરેક્ટર ફૂડ & સિવિલ સપ્લાય, DNHH & DDએ જણાવ્યું હતું કે તમામ માંગ સફળતાપૂર્વક પૂર્ણ કરવામાં આવી છે. આ સમયગાળા દરમિયાન ૮ની અછત ન થાય તે માટે પ્રયત્નો કરવામાં આવ્યા છે. તેમણે વધુમાં ઉમેર્યું કે જનતામાં ગભરાટ, સંગ્રહખોરી અથવા કાળા બજારને રોકવા માટે પગલાં લેવામાં આવ્યા છે. જિલ્લા પ્રશાસનના સહકારથી ફ્લાઈંગ સ્કવોડ અને નિરીક્ષણ ટીમો તેનાત કરવામાં આવી છે.



Publication : Echo of India	Editions : Kolkata
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LPG for migrants boosted

KHARAGPUR, APRIL 24/--/ The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas doubles 5 kg cylinder supply. More than 8.9 lakh cylinders distributed till now. Aadhaar or PAN card enough to get one. This move aims to ensure clean cooking fuel access for migrant workers and vulnerable groups. The step also simplifies the process, promoting ease of living. Commercial LPG allocation maintained at 70% to support industries. (EOIC)

Publication : Echo of India	Editions : Kolkata
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95% LPG bookings shift online

ALIPURDUAR, APRIL 24/
 --/The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) has assured that LPG supplies across India remain stable and adequate, even as the sector witnesses a sharp rise in digital adoption for cylinder bookings. The Ministry urged consumers to avoid panic buying and adhere to responsible consumption practices to maintain smooth distribution. In a statement, MoPNG said the country's existing LPG distribution network is robust and well-equipped to handle current demand. Authorities are closely monitoring supply chains to ensure uninterrupted access for households nationwide, reflecting strong operational efficiency in the sector. (EOIC)



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Govt tightens LPG supply chain

MALDA, APRIL 24/—The Government of India has stepped up efforts to strengthen the clean cooking fuel ecosystem, with a focus on consumer protection, transparency, and system integrity. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has launched a coordinated nationwide drive to curb malpractices such as hoarding and diversion of LPG cylinders, while ensuring uninterrupted supply across the country. Officials said technology-led interventions and enhanced monitoring of distribution networks are improving accountability and service delivery. These measures are aimed at reinforcing public trust in the LPG system. (EOIC)

Publication : Hindustan Times

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Date : 25 April 2026

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Trump dispatches envoys to Pakistan

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

ISLAMABAD: President Donald Trump is sending his envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Pakistan, the White House said Friday, just hours after Iran's top diplomat headed to the South Asian nation where officials have been trying to get the United States and Iran to convene for a second round of ceasefire negotiations.

The trip comes as much of the world is on edge over a war that has snarled crucial energy exports through the Strait of Hormuz, clouded the global economic picture and left thousands dead across the Middle East.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in an interview on Fox News Channel that the two will have talks with Ira-



Israeli tanks at Israel-Lebanon border on Friday. Israeli military killed six Hezbollah fighters on Friday even as the two countries agreed to extend a fragile ceasefire. Related story on page 13. REUTERS

nian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday.

"We're hopeful that it will be a productive conversation and hopefully move the ball forward to a deal," Leavitt said.

She said Vice President JD Vance would not be traveling but that he remains "deeply involved." She said he will be in the U.S., along with Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

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Publication : Hindustan Times	Editions : Mumbai
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US ENVOYS GO TO PAK

State Marco Rubio and the president's national security team, on "standby" to fly to Pakistan "if necessary."

Earlier Friday, Araghchi wrote on X that he was on his way to Pakistan, Oman and Russia on a trip focused on "bilateral matters and regional developments."

Islamabad has sought to reinject momentum into the negotiations between Iran and the United States, which did not resume this week as had been expected.

Separately Friday, the White House said President Donald Trump issued a 90-day extension to the Jones Act waiver, making it easier for non-American vessels to transport oil and natural gas.

Trump first announced a 60-day waiver in March in a move intended to stabilize energy prices and ease oil and gas shipments to the U.S. following the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

"New data compiled since the initial waiver was issued revealed that significantly more supply was able to reach U.S. ports faster," the White House post on social media said.

The price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, retreated on the news, vacillating between \$103 a barrel and more than \$107 — still early 50% higher than where it was on Feb. 28, when the Iran war began.

The squeeze on shipments through the strait has rippled through global maritime trade flows, including through the Panama Canal nearly halfway around the world.

Pakistan has been trying to get U.S. and Iranian officials back to the table after Trump this week announced an indefinite extension of the ceasefire with Iran, honoring Islamabad's request for more time for diplomatic outreach. That hasn't lowered tensions in the strait, a strategic waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas is shipped during peacetime.

Iran has kept its stranglehold on traffic through the strait, attacking three ships earlier this week, while the U.S. is maintaining a blockade on Iranian ports.

"Iran has an important choice, a chance to make a deal, a good deal, a wise deal," U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters on Friday.

India needs a supply chain strategy

Disruptions in maritime chokepoints like Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb expose India's supply chain vulnerabilities



JAYANT CHANDEL

The turbulence the world has experienced this decade indicates larger structural shifts. The current Israel-US-Iran war and instability across West Asia since the October 7 attacks, along with the Russia-Ukraine war, symbolise shifting contours of the international order. The US-dominated unipolar era is over.

Abroad, the Trump administration's aggressive and hyper-militaristic policies cannot hide the fact that the world is no longer Pax Americana. At home, there's little appetite for large-scale wars like Iraq. Without a large-scale troop deployment in West Asia, Iran cannot be restrained. Iran is not Venezuela. Air campaigns and targeted assassinations of the Iranian leadership have failed to deliver the desired strategic end.

These changes highlight India's strategic vulnerability. Two events in West Asia — the disruption of sea lanes through Bab-el-Mandeb in 2023 and the Strait of Hormuz in 2026 — clearly reveal our supply chain vulnerabilities. The Houthis and Iran successfully disrupted these straits for weeks, with the Americans struggling to keep these lanes open. Rising middle powers like India, located at the centre of the Indian Ocean, require a long-term supply chain strategy — not just for West Asia but for the entire Indian Ocean. By adopting such a strategy, India can protect itself against vulnerabilities while also leveraging its locational advantages in the Indian Ocean Region.



Dependence on IOR

According to data from the government of India, maritime trade accounts for almost 95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value. India depends heavily on oil and natural gas that passes through the Straits of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb. The country imported 4.5 million barrels per day of crude oil and condensate in 2023, with 45% of its crude imports still coming from West Asia even after Russia's rise as a supplier. India was among the main Asian destinations for Hormuz crude flows in 2024. Roughly 90% of Indian LPG passed through Hormuz before the war. Qatar alone accounted for nearly 50% of LNG imports.

Apart from energy security, India's overall trade is heavily dependent on these strategic chokepoints. India-Europe trade is deeply reliant on the Red Sea, with almost 80% of Indian exports to Europe passing through this route.

The Iran-US war and the Red Sea crisis instigated by the Houthis have highlighted the vulnerability of India's oceanic trade. In response to these crises, India sought to diversify its sources. However, such ad hoc responses are insufficient and often too late. The question now is: how can

India prepare for such future shocks, and what should a long-term supply chain strategy entail?

Long-term Thinking

Strategic autonomy lies at the core of India's strategic orientation and major power ambitions in the 21st century. This entails avoiding military alliances with any great power, pursuing multi-alignment with like-minded states on specific issues, and maintaining overall strategic independence. In this context, the vulnerability of India's global maritime supply chains is a key impediment. This requires prudent, long-term thinking about global supply chains. India's major power ambitions require sustained economic growth and domestic political stability.

India must combine reshoring, decoupling, and strategic partnerships to secure supply chains, vital for supporting its ambitions as a major Indian Ocean power

These vulnerabilities create challenges on both fronts. A nation's grand strategy, according to scholars like Barry Posen, is "theory about how to produce security for itself." This involves the prudent use of economic, political, military, and diplomatic means to achieve the desired end.

For almost two decades, strategic thinkers have called for a grand strategy for India. Any long-term strategic document must take maritime security into account. In this context, the security of the supply chain is fundamental for an aspiring major power that depends on the Indian Ocean for the majority of its trade.

As part of this supply chain strategy, Indian policymakers need to prudently combine reshoring, decoupling, and interest-based coupling. First and foremost, India should decouple its strategic industries from vulnerable regions and states with which its security interests do not align. Economic logic alone should not shape the supply chain for such industries. Strategic industries include core defence manufacturing, semiconductors, defence-related electronics systems, and pharmaceuticals. Reshoring such industries should be the next step.

In the case of other strategic sectors, such as energy and critical minerals, where reshoring is not possible, supply chains should be diversified as much as possible, avoiding concentration in any one region. Finally, for manufacturing processes that are not part of core security interests but are important for economic growth, supply chains should be concentrated in economies that do not directly threaten Indian security interests.

Another key feature of the post-Trump era is the decline of liberal ideas, such as the belief that economic interdependence leads to less competition. As China's rise shows, facilitating the economic growth of a potential or real rival can hurt a state strategically in the long term. In the past, Indian policymakers, driven by such liberal logic, considered ideas like gas or oil pipelines from Pakistan, similar to Russian pipelines in Europe. In hindsight, in a world where Europe is struggling due to dependence on Russian energy and faces Trump's tariff wars, such ideas appear naïve.

These grand ideas required a liberal hegemon willing to police the globe, secure the global commons, and promote free trade. In a multipolar world, states aspiring to become major powers must prepare themselves accordingly. For that, India must secure its supply chains and sustain economic growth.

(The author is scholar and writer based in Delhi)

Publication : The Hindu Business Line

Editions : New Delhi

Date : 25 April 2026

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Crude oil slips as Iran-US peace talks likely



London: Crude oil turned negative on Friday after a Pakistani government source said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi was expected to arrive in Islamabad on Friday night with a small team and peace talks with the US were likely to take place. By 1203 GMT, Brent crude futures were down 79 cents at \$104.28. US WTI futures fell 95 cents to \$94.90. REUTERS

Online

Headline	Fortune India Startup Summit 2026: AI, capital and Bharat shape next phase of startups		
Publication	Fortune India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

Fortune India Startup Summit 2026: AI, capital and Bharat shape next phase of startups

<https://www.fortuneindia.com/startups-news/fortune-india-startup-summit-2026-ai-capital-and-bharat-shape-next-phase-of-startups/134080>

The Fortune India Startup Summit 2026 that took place on Thursday in Bengaluru brought together founders, investors, policymakers and operators, with

conversations converging on a clear theme: India's startup ecosystem is moving from scale-first growth to long-term value creation, even as artificial intelligence reshapes industries.

AI shifts from experimentation to execution

A strong thread across sessions was the evolving role of AI not as a future concept, but as a present-day business enabler.

Irina Ghose, India managing director at Anthropic, said enterprises are already deploying AI at scale. India is now our second-largest user base globally and what stands out is the depth of usage, she noted, adding that companies are moving towards mission-critical applications and agentic AI systems.

Echoing the shift towards real-world use cases, Ankush Sabharwal, founder of CoRover.ai, stressed that the next phase of innovation must solve for Bharat, not just India, particularly through language-led and context-aware AI solutions.

Startup ecosystem at an inflection point

At a broader ecosystem level, Shweta Rajpal Kohli of the Startup Policy Forum described the current moment as an inflection point, driven by maturing founders, increasing liquidity events, and stronger institutional participation.

Bain & Company's Aditya Shukla added that the next phase will depend on patient capital, talent availability and enabling infrastructure.

VCs pivot from valuation to value

That shift in capital mindset was reinforced by investors. Mohit Bhatnagar of Peak XV Partners said downturns often create the best opportunities.

You have to measure success over five to ten years, not five or six quarters, he said.

Pranav Pai of 3one4 Capital argued that AI is fundamentally changing how value is defined. It's less about 2021 and more about what 2035 looks like, he said.

Fintech scale vs monetisation gap

However, even as innovation accelerates, monetisation challenges persist in some sectors.

PhonePe co-founder Rahul Chari cautioned against assuming that digital payments in India are a solved problem. Payments itself is not done, he said, pointing to both low penetration and structural monetisation gaps.

Beyond metros: Rise of Bharat-led entrepreneurship

Beyond metros, founders and investors highlighted the growing importance of smaller towns in driving the next wave of growth.

Entrepreneurs such as Satyajit Singh (Shakti Sudha Industries) and Pranav Kapoor (PKapo Perfumes) pointed to localised products scaling globally, supported by rising aspirations and improving access.

Policy push and state-level competition

Policymakers also underscored a shift towards ecosystem-led growth. Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge said states are now fiercely competitive in attracting investment, but emphasised that the focus must go beyond capital.

We pitch Karnataka as a destination for skills, knowledge, collaboration and co-creation, he said.

Industries minister M.B. Patil added that the state is expanding beyond IT into aerospace, electronics, semiconductors and green energy.

Founders bet on patience and resilience

Meanwhile, repeat founders such as Wakefit's Chaitanya Ramalingegowda and Optimist's Ashish Goel highlighted the need for patience, alignment and ground-level learning, as easy capital fades.

Rank

Company Name

Reliance Industries

LIC

Indian Oil Corporation

State Bank of India

ONGC

[View Full List](#)

The overarching message from the summit was clear: India's startup ecosystem has moved beyond proving its potential. The next decade will be defined by execution, resilience, and the ability to build globally relevant, large-scale businesses.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the central theme of the Fortune India Startup Summit 2026?

The summit focused on India's startup ecosystem shifting from scale-first growth to long-term value creation, with artificial intelligence reshaping industries and driving execution.

How is artificial intelligence impacting India's startup ecosystem?

AI is moving from experimentation to execution, with enterprises deploying it at scale for mission-critical applications and agentic AI systems, particularly for Bharat-focused solutions.

How are venture capitalists changing their investment approach in India?

Investors are pivoting from valuation to long-term value, measuring success over five to ten years, and focusing on patient capital and what 2035 looks like.

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Headline	ONGC, MOL deepen maritime logistics tie as ethane shipping JVs move forward		
Publication	Indian Mandarins	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

ONGC, MOL deepen maritime logistics tie as ethane shipping JVs move forward

<https://www.indianmandarins.com/news/ongc-mol-deepen-maritime-logistics-tie-as-ethane-shipping-jvs-move-forward/32391>

New Delhi (24.04.2026): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) said in a post on X that the company and Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL), Japan, advanced

their strategic dialogue on maritime logistics during a meeting between MOL Chairman Takeshi Hashimoto and ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh at ONGC headquarters in New Delhi. The post said the leaders were steering the future of energy across global waters and were exploring new avenues to strengthen cooperation in energy transportation. The company said the discussions focused on building resilient supply chains, enabling efficient logistics frameworks, and unlocking synergies in a rapidly evolving global energy landscape. ONGC said the two sides reviewed progress on Bharat Ethane One IFSC Ltd and Bharat Ethane Two IFSC Ltd, the joint ventures formed earlier this year with MOL. In January, ONGC had acquired 50 percent shareholding in each company through private placement, making it a 50:50 joint venture partner with MOL in both entities. Each JV will own one Very Large Ethane Carrier, or VLEC, for transporting ethane for ONGC Petro Additions Ltd. (OPaL), a subsidiary of ONGC. MOL said in its January 28 statement that the two joint ventures and ONGC had signed a 15-year charter contract for two newbuilding VLECs during India Energy Week 2026. The Japanese shipping company said the vessels would be 100,000 cubic metres each, built by Samsung Heavy Industries, and scheduled for delivery in late 2028 or later, after which they would transport liquefied ethane from the US to India. MOL also said the liquefied ethane would be supplied as feedstock to OPaL's petrochemical plant in Dahej, Gujarat. It added that the contract would expand MOL's VLEC fleet to 16 vessels, which it described as the largest in the world.

Headline	Today's News » United Drilling Tools Limited Secures ₹50.4 Million Order from ONGC for Integral Blade Stabilizer Supply		
Publication	Indian Oil and Gas	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Apr 2026		

Today's News » United Drilling Tools Limited Secures ₹50.4 Million Order from ONGC for Integral Blade Stabilizer Supply

<http://www.indianoilandgas.com/viewnews.php?id=64389>

April 25, 2026: United Drilling Tools Limited announced securing a 50,355,686.80 order from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for supplying Integral Blade Stabilizer equipment including accessories.

The domestic commercial order has a 4-5 month execution timeline and was disclosed under SEBI Regulation 30 compliance requirements. The company confirmed this represents an arm's length transaction with no related party involvement or promoter interests in the awarding entity.

(Source: Scan X)

To download the latest issue 'Volume 33 Issue 1 - April 10, 2026', click [here](#)

Headline	Today's News » ONGC, MOL deepen maritime logistics tie as ethane shipping JVs move forward		
Publication	Indian Oil and Gas	Edition	Online Coverage
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(Source: PSU watch)

To download the latest issue 'Volume 33 Issue 1 - April 10, 2026', [click here](#)

Headline	Race for Shell's Sprng Energy: NIIF may join hands with Temasek; binding bids this week		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

Race for Shell's Sprng Energy: NIIF may join hands with Temasek; binding bids this week

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/news/race-for-shell-s-sprng-energy-niif-may-join-hands-with-temasek-binding-bids-this-week/ar-AA21ub66>

Moneycontrol News National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), an alternative asset manager, anchored by the government of India and

Singapore investment giant Temasek have held talks to submit a joint bid for Shell Plc's Indian renewable energy platform Sprng Energy, multiple industry sources in the know told Moneycontrol. The proposed tie-up comes ahead of the submission of binding bids by multiple parties for the mega deal which is expected by the end of this week, these sources added. NIIF is aggressively chasing this asset and is planning to join hands with Temasek for the deal. This consortium is seen as a strong contender, said one of the persons above. Two other persons confirmed the same. One of them said that the valuation of the deal is likely to be above \$1.6 billion. A fourth person said that private equity major KKR, Actis LLP and Aditya Birla Group are the other suitors expected to put in final bids for the transaction following due diligence. Investment bank Barclays is managing the sale process, according to earlier media reports All the four persons above spoke to Moneycontrol on the condition of anonymity. In response to an email query from Moneycontrol, a Shell spokesperson said , Shell confirms we are reviewing strategic options to unlock long-term value for Sprng. It's too early to comment on an outcome for the review. NIIF did not respond to a request for comment while a query to Aditya Birla Group was left unanswered at the time of publishing this article. KKR, Temasek and Actis declined to comment. Back in 2022, Shell acquired Sprng from Actis for \$1.55 billion. This is the second attempt at a transaction by the global energy major after an earlier attempt at a part stake sale across multiple assets in 2023 did not fructify into an eventual transaction. The strategic review comes as the firm's top brass pivots from low-carbon projects to focus on liquified natural gas trading and upstream. Incidentally, prior to his appointment as the CEO and MD of NIIF, Sanjiv Aggarwal led the energy business of Actis in Asia and drove its clean energy bets in India. Pune-based Sprng Energy is present in solar energy, wind energy, hybrid projects and RTC (round-the-clock) solutions across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. According to the firm, the firm has a contracted (total) capacity of 5026.53 MWp and an operational capacity of 2300.48 MWp. In December 2025, Blackrock arm Global Infrastructure Partners invested 3,000 crore in Aditya Birla Renewables Limited valuing the renewable player at 14,000 crore. KKR backs renewable energy platform Serentica Renewables in India as well as Hero Future Energies and in 2020, launched India's first renewable energy focused InvIT Virescent Infrastructure. On the other hand, Actis launched BluePine Energy in 2022, an Indian renewable independent power producer, targeting 4GW+ of solar, wind, and storage capacity. Reports have suggested the UK investor may now be evaluating an exit. In February 2025, NIIF and other co-investors sold Ayana Renewable Energy to a JV between ONGC and NTPC Green Energy. In March, NIIF secured commitments of \$ 750 million for its second Private Markets Fund (PMF II).

Headline	Global firms eye GIFT City for treasury base		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

Global firms eye GIFT City for treasury base

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/news/global-firms-eye-gift-city-for-treasury-base/ar-AA21vbsg>

Ahmedabad: As geopolitical tensions in West Asia unsettle global markets, Gujarat International Finance-Tec (GIFT) City is fast emerging as an alternate hub for corporate treasury operations.

According to officials, GIFT City is being considered by 15+ global entities to set up treasury operations out of the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), reports Niyati Parikh. Treasury operations typically involve managing a company's cash, funding, hedging and cross-border financial flows from a centralised location. Traditionally anchored in hubs such as Singapore, Dubai, London and Hong Kong, global treasury centres are evincing growing interest in India's IFSC at GIFT City. The momentum has picked up over the past three months amid the escalation of the Middle East crisis, signalling how global corporations are rethinking capital and risk management, GIFT officials say. The IFSC recently hosted the senior leadership team of Evern Renewable Energy, backed by Brookfield Corporation, one of the world's largest alternative investment management firms with over \$1 trillion in assets under management. Separately, GIFT City's outreach in Singapore saw interactions with global institutions across banking, investment, insurance and fintech, including Temasek, Enterprise Singapore, Goldman Sachs, DBS, BNP Paribas, Zurich Insurance, Keppel and Jungle Ventures. "Discussions focused on positioning GIFT City as a platform for international financial and technology services, including global capital flows, treasury operations, insurance and cross-border opportunities, while also strengthening collaboration in key markets such as Singapore and Hong Kong," officials said. "This comes at a time when geopolitical shifts have led to rising interest costs, fragmented liquidity and increasing regulatory complexity. Companies are increasingly exploring alternative locations that offer regulatory stability, cost efficiency and proximity to high-growth markets," said Sanjay Kaul, MD and Group CEO, GIFT City. A diverse mix of companies has already set up treasury entities at GIFT City, including ArcelorMittal, GAIL, Indian Oil Corporation, ONGC Videsh, ReNew Power and Welspun Group, among others. "This growing base is complemented by a strong pipeline, with 15+ additional treasury entities, driven by continued interest from energy and infrastructure majors, global manufacturing groups, and new-age renewable energy companies," Kaul added. Industry sources said that the active pipeline spans a diverse set of global enterprises across sectors. These include an emerging healthcare platform backed by a cross-border joint venture between a Mauritius-based conglomerate and a European medical device firm; a North America-headquartered leader in networking and enterprise technology solutions; a global customer experience and business process outsourcing provider; a large telecom infrastructure company specialising in tower and network solutions in South Asia; and a digital transformation consulting firm focused on financial services. The interest also extends to a clean energy company in renewable power, a diversified natural resources and mining conglomerate, and a leading steel manufacturer that is part of a broader industrial group in South Asia highlighting the cross-sectoral appeal of GIFT City as a treasury and financial operations base. The unified regulator, IFSCA offers a liberal foreign exchange regime, allowing firms to transact in multiple foreign currencies with full capital account convertibility. This enables seamless cross-border fund flows and centralised treasury functions such as liquidity management, hedging and global funding. "Operating outside the direct applicability of FEMA provisions provides greater flexibility to units set up in GIFT-IFSC to undertake global treasury business. The 20-year income tax holiday, recently extended in the Union Budget, further strengthens its appeal as an international treasury hub. The level of serious inquiries has risen sharply amid global uncertainty," said Jaiman Patel, partner, Ernst & Young, GIFT City. "As more firms establish operations, they will increasingly draw on banking, accounting and legal services within the IFSC, benefiting the broader ecosystem. With a growing roster of large corporates already present, GIFT City is clearly being taken far more seriously as a global treasury destination," he added. For Indian corporates, the IFSC offers a gateway to international financial markets without relocating treasury functions overseas. For multinationals, it provides a stable and cost-efficient base to manage regional operations. Stay updated with the latest news on Times of India . Get all the trending City News , India News , Business News , and Sports News . For Entertainment News , TV News , and Lifestyle Tips , visit Etimes .

Headline	India's Crude Oil Production Declines for 11th Straight Year Amid High Import Dependence		
Publication	Observer Voice	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

India's Crude Oil Production Declines for 11th Straight Year Amid High Import Dependence

<https://observervoice.com/indias-crude-oil-production-declines-for-11th-straight-year-amid-high-import-dependence-201199/>

India's Crude Oil Production Declines for 11th Straight Year Amid High Import Dependence

Highlighting the growing dependence on imports, India's crude oil production has experienced a decline for the eleventh consecutive year in 2025-26. Natural gas output has also fallen for the second year in a row, primarily due to the depletion of older fields and a lack of significant new discoveries. As a result, reliance on imports has surged, reaching 89% for crude oil and 51% for natural gas. The ongoing US-Iran conflict has further exacerbated this vulnerability, leading to increased costs and supply shortages for refiners.

Declining Production Trends

India's crude oil production has seen a notable decrease, dropping by 2.5% to 28 million metric tonnes in the fiscal year 2025-26. This decline marks a cumulative reduction of 22% since 2014-15, when the downward trend began. Similarly, natural gas production has decreased by 3.7%, totaling 34,776 million metric standard cubic meters during the same period. Over a longer timeframe, natural gas output has contracted significantly, falling 40% from 47,555 million metric standard cubic meters in 2011-12 to 28,672 million metric standard cubic meters in 2020-21. This decline was notably influenced by a drop in output from the KG-D6 field operated by Reliance Industries.

Despite a brief resurgence in production following the commissioning of new fields in 2021-22, output has since stabilized. The combination of declining yields from legacy fields operated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and the lack of new discoveries has continued to impact overall production levels. Industry experts attribute the ongoing decline to the absence of significant new finds over the past decade, emphasizing that without fresh discoveries, maintaining production becomes increasingly difficult.

Challenges in Exploration and Investment

The Indian government has implemented various reforms aimed at boosting exploration activities in the oil and gas sector. Initiatives include establishing a national geological data repository, simplifying regulatory and environmental approvals, and introducing fiscal frameworks that offer a larger share of returns to explorers. However, despite these efforts, global oil companies have shown limited interest in participating in India's exploration landscape. Most licensing rounds over the past decade have been dominated by domestic public sector firms, limiting the influx of foreign capital and advanced technology.

Industry executives have pointed out that companies have not acted swiftly enough to commercialize identified resources. The slow pace of development has hindered efforts to sustain production levels. Additionally, concerns regarding policy unpredictability and modest resource prospects have discouraged potential investments in the sector. Experts believe that revitalizing oil and gas production in India will necessitate substantial new investments in exploration and development.

Future Outlook and Strategic Needs

The current state of India's oil and gas production raises significant concerns about the country's energy security. With reliance on imports reaching critical levels, the need for strategic planning and investment in domestic production has never been more urgent. Industry insiders stress that without a concerted effort to discover and develop new reserves, India may continue to face challenges in meeting its energy needs.

To address these issues, experts recommend a multi-faceted approach that includes enhancing exploration incentives, fostering partnerships with international oil companies, and streamlining regulatory processes. By creating a more attractive investment climate, India can potentially reverse the declining trends in oil and gas production. The future of

the sector hinges on the ability to adapt to changing market dynamics and invest in sustainable practices that ensure long-term energy security for the nation.

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Headline	ONGC and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Deepen Strategic Maritime Logistics Cooperation		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

ONGC and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Deepen Strategic Maritime Logistics Cooperation

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-and-mitsui-o-s-k-lines-deepen-strategic-maritime-logistics-cooperation>

ONGC and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines discuss expanding cooperation in maritime logistics and review progress of Bharat Ethane joint ventures during a strategic meeting in New Delhi.

New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) have strengthened their strategic engagement in maritime logistics following a high-level meeting at ONGC Headquarters in New Delhi

The meeting brought together MOL Chairman Takeshi Hashimoto and ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh , reflecting the growing collaboration between the two organizations in global energy transportation.

Review of Bharat Ethane Joint Ventures

During the discussions, both leaders reviewed the progress of their joint ventures Bharat Ethane One IFSC Ltd and Bharat Ethane Two IFSC Ltd

The ventures are focused on strengthening energy transportation capabilities and enhancing ONGC's maritime logistics ecosystem.

Focus on Resilient Energy Supply Chains

The dialogue explored new opportunities to expand cooperation in shipping and logistics, with emphasis on:

Building resilient global energy supply chains

Developing efficient maritime logistics frameworks

Unlocking operational synergies in the evolving energy landscape

The engagement highlights a shared commitment to ensuring reliable, efficient, and scalable energy transportation across international waters.

Strengthening Global Energy Logistics

The meeting reinforces ONGC's focus on strategic global partnerships to support India's growing energy needs and reflects a broader vision of creating future-ready maritime logistics solutions.

Headline	Daily News Update from sarkaritel: April 25, 2026		
Publication	Sarkari Tel	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Apr 2026		

Daily News Update from sarkaritel: April 25, 2026

<https://www.sarkaritel.com/media-update-april-25-2026/>

POWER MEDIA UPDATE : 25 April, 2026 (21 News Items) Good Morning REC CMD Highlights Key Milestone in India Energy Stack Initiative Workshop:

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NHPC Achieves Key Milestone at Subansiri Lower Project with Successful Stator Installation in Unit 6: psuconnect

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Heatwave pushes India's power grid toward summer peak as demand tops 240 GW: psuwatch

<https://psuwatch.com/newsupdates/heatwave-pushes-indias-power-grid-toward-summer-peak-as-demand-tops-240-gw>

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OIL MEDIA UPDATE : 25 April, 2026 (17 News Items)

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Headline	ONGC Share Price Live Updates: ONGC Stock Performance Update		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

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<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/stock-liveblog/ongc-stock-price-today-live-24-apr-2026/liveblog/130482100.cms>

Stay up-to-date with the ONGC Stock Liveblog, your comprehensive source for real-time updates and detailed analysis on a prominent stock. Explore the latest information on ONGC, including: Last traded price 286.6, Market capitalization: 361997.53, Volume: 3481500, Price-to-earnings ratio 9.53, Earnings per share 30.15. Our liveblog provides a comprehensive overview of ONGC by integrating fundamental and technical indicators. Stay informed about breaking news that can impact ONGC's performance in the market. Our expert analysis and stock recommendations empower you to make well-informed financial decisions. Join us on this journey as we delve into the exciting world of ONGC and its market potential. The data points are updated as on 10:09:24 AM IST, 24 Apr 2026

Headline	Crude Oil Prices Rise as Brent Tops \$106 Amid Escalating U.S.-Iran Tensions		
Publication	Angel One	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

Crude Oil Prices Rise as Brent Tops \$106 Amid Escalating U.S.-Iran Tensions

<https://www.angelone.in/news/commodities/crude-oil-prices-rise-as-brent-tops-106-amid-escalating-u-s-iran-tensions>

Crude oil prices surged over 1% as Brent crossed \$106 per barrel, driven by concerns over prolonged U.S.-Iran conflict and supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Crude oil prices moved higher in Asian trading on Friday, extending weekly gains as geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran continued to intensify. Markets remained on edge amid fears of prolonged conflict and ongoing disruptions to key global supply routes.

Brent crude futures rose 1.1% to trade above \$106 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 1% to approach \$97 per barrel. Both benchmarks have recorded strong weekly gains of between 15% and 18%, reflecting heightened risk premiums in energy markets.

U.S.-Iran Conflict Fuels Oil Rally

Crude prices received a significant boost after U.S. President Donald Trump indicated that there was no urgency to conclude the ongoing conflict with Iran. His remarks raised concerns that tensions could persist for an extended period, potentially disrupting oil supplies from the Middle East.

Recent reports of air strikes in and around Iran, coupled with political uncertainty in diplomatic negotiations, have further intensified market anxiety. The situation has added to fears of instability in a region that plays a critical role in global oil production.

Strait of Hormuz Disruptions Add to Supply Concerns

The Strait of Hormuz has emerged as a central point of concern, with ongoing disruptions showing little sign of resolution. The waterway, which previously accounted for nearly 20% of global oil supply, remains under strain due to military activity and naval blockades.

Iran has reportedly targeted vessels attempting to pass through the channel, while U.S. forces have intercepted ships in the region. Escalating maritime tensions have heightened the risk of supply shortages, pushing crude prices higher.

Ceasefire Extension Offers Limited Relief

Stalled Negotiations Increase Market Uncertainty

Efforts to revive peace talks have largely stalled, with both the United States and Iran maintaining firm positions. Iran has demanded the lifting of naval blockades, while the U.S. has insisted on the full reopening of the Strait of Hormuz before negotiations can proceed.

This deadlock has reduced expectations of a near-term resolution, further supporting elevated crude oil prices.

Conclusion

Crude oil prices remain firmly supported by geopolitical tensions and supply-side uncertainties. With no immediate resolution in sight for the U.S.-Iran conflict and continued disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, markets are likely to stay volatile, with prices sensitive to any further developments in the region.

Investments in the securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing.

Headline	Petrol-Diesel Price: Shock to the general public! Fear of huge increase in petrol and diesel, know today's latest rates		
Publication	Any Tv News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Apr 2026		

Petrol-Diesel Price: Shock to the general public! Fear of huge increase in petrol and diesel, know today's latest rates

<https://anytvnews.com/business/petrol-diesel-price-shock-to-the-general-public-fear-of-huge-increase-in-petrol-and-diesel-know-todays-latest-rates/>

Today, on April 24, petrol and diesel prices remain stable across the country. However, according to Kotak Institutional Equities, after the ongoing

state elections end on April 29, domestic petrol and diesel prices may see a steep rise of 2528 per litre. The firm warned that financial pressure on refiners is increasing due to the surge in global crude prices.

Increasing burden on refiners

In a recent sector note, the brokerage said it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the current cap on retail fuel prices, as crude oil prices remain high and Indian refiners are incurring huge losses. The brokerage estimates that due to the rising cost of crude oil imports, refiners are currently facing an additional monthly burden of about 270 billion even after taking into account excise duty cuts and limited adjustments in prices of other fuels.

rapidly increasing import bill

The report notes that geopolitical turmoil particularly in West Asia has disrupted the global oil market, leading to a sharp increase in crude oil prices. In recent weeks, the cost of India's crude oil imports has increased significantly; As a result, despite the decline in import volumes, the country's total import bill has increased rapidly. While many countries have already passed on these increased costs to consumers, retail petrol and diesel prices in India remain unchanged.

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Petrol-Diesel Price: Shock to the general public! Fear of huge increase in petrol and diesel

Headline	Crude Oil Prices Rise Up To 2% As Middle East Tensions Keep Markets On Edge		
Publication	Bharat Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

Crude Oil Prices Rise Up To 2% As Middle East Tensions Keep Markets On Edge

<https://english.bharatexpress.com/trending/crude-oil-prices-rise-up-to-2-as-middle-east-tensions-keep-markets-on-edge-267923>

Global crude prices climb as Strait of Hormuz tensions persist, with Brent Crude and WTI Crude gaining, keeping markets volatile.

Written by Mankrit Kaur

April 24, 2026 10:45 am

Global crude oil prices moved higher on Friday, gaining up to 2 per cent as tensions in the Middle East continued to drive uncertainty, even after a ceasefire announcement by the United States.

The international benchmark Brent crude rose about 2 per cent to around \$107 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude also advanced nearly 2 per cent to about \$97.6.

In India, crude futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange were trading lower, slipping about 1 per cent, or close to Rs 100, to Rs 9,077.

Oil prices have seen sharp gains over the past week. Brent crude has climbed nearly 18.83 per cent compared to the previous Friday's close, while WTI has risen around 17 per cent during the same period.

Analysts said volatility remains elevated due to continued disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route. They noted that the near-term outlook remains cautiously positive, depending on geopolitical developments.

From a technical perspective, experts indicated that crude may face resistance around \$99, with a sustained move above that level potentially pushing prices towards \$104.50 and even \$110. On the downside, \$95 is seen as immediate support, with a stronger base in the \$90.80 to \$88.50 range.

Geopolitical Signals and Military Activity

US President Donald Trump said he would not consider using nuclear weapons in the ongoing conflict with Iran, stating that conventional military means had already caused significant damage.

Reports, however, suggest that the US has intensified military activity in the region, including operations targeting Iranian vessels near the Strait of Hormuz, adding to market concerns.

In a separate development, Israel and Lebanon are likely to have extended their ceasefire arrangement by three weeks.

The Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20 per cent of global oil supply passes, remains a critical area of concern as disruptions there continue to influence prices.

Back home, equity markets also reflected the cautious mood, with the BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 trading up to 1 per cent lower in early deals, weighed down by selling in IT and pharmaceutical stocks.

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Headline	OMCs tap crude storage as Hormuz shutdown disrupts supplies: Report		
Publication	Bizz Buzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

OMCs tap crude storage as Hormuz shutdown disrupts supplies: Report

<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/markets/omcs-tap-crude-storage-as-hormuz-shutdown-disrupts-supplies-report-1389421>

Indian oil marketing companies (OMCs) have begun relying on their commercial crude inventories as supply chains tighten following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia, according to a report on Thursday.

The disruption linked to the ongoing US-Israel conflict involving Iran has constrained supplies from the Gulf region, while sharply increasing freight charges, insurance premiums and transit durations, NDTV Profit reported.

Despite the spike in costs, robust domestic demand for fuels has limited the ability of OMCs to fully pass on the burden to consumers, it said. India's crude and petroleum product import bill declined 36 per cent year-on-year to \$12.18 billion in March, compared to \$19 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Moreover, procuring crude from non-Gulf sources has also proven expensive, as global buyers compete for limited alternative supplies. However, the drop was driven by a steep fall in import volumes rather than any softening of prices.

According to the report, monthly crude imports are estimated to have fallen to up to 3 million barrels per day (mbpd), nearly halving from 6.38 mbpd a year ago. This comes at a time when imports typically rise to meet increased demand during the summer months and the kharif agricultural season.

Headline	India's growth story moves past crude		
Publication	Bizz Buzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

India's growth story moves past crude

<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/economy/indias-growth-story-moves-past-crude-1389468>

For an economy that imports nearly 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements, vulnerability to global energy price shocks would seem inevitable. Yet, over the past two and a half decades, India has steadily rewritten that narrative. What once posed a formidable macroeconomic risk has now become a manageable variable in a far more resilient growth story.

A recent analysis by ASSOCHAM offers a compelling lens into this transformation. Between 2000-01 and 2025-26, India not only weathered volatile crude cycles but, in many instances, thrived alongside them. The data is instructive: in 2022-23, the economy expanded by a robust 7.6 per cent even as the Indian crude basket averaged \$93 per barrel. A year later, growth remained strong at 7.2 per cent with oil prices at \$82 per barrel. These are not outliers, but part of a broader pattern.

Contrast this with the earlier decade, particularly 2011-14, when oil prices frequently breached the \$100 mark. Even then, India sustained growth in the range of 5.2 to 6.4 per cent. More striking still is the anomaly of 2020-21, when GDP contracted by -5.78 per cent despite crude prices falling below \$45 per barrel. The message is clear: oil prices alone no longer dictate India's growth trajectory. Structural and domestic factors now play a far more decisive role. At the heart of this resilience lies India's consumption-driven economic model. A virtuous cycle has taken shape: rising incomes fuel demand, which in turn drives industrial expansion, job creation and further income growth. As Nirmal Kumar Minda points out, this dynamic interplay between demand and supply has fortified the economy against external shocks.

Equally critical has been the government's sustained emphasis on infrastructure. Rising capital expenditure has not only stimulated demand but also enhanced productive capacity, cushioning the economy against volatility in global commodity markets. Roads, railways, logistics corridors and digital infrastructure are no longer mere development markers; they are buffers against uncertainty.

On the macroeconomic front, India's toolkit has grown deeper and more sophisticated. Robust foreign exchange reserves, diversified trade partnerships, prudent fiscal management and a broader revenue base have collectively strengthened shock absorption capacity. The country is no longer reacting to crises; it is increasingly pre-empting them.

Inflation management offers another telling indicator of this maturity. In March 2026, India's Consumer Price Index rose modestly to 3.40 per cent from 3.21 per cent in February, a mere 0.19 per cent increase. In a world grappling with persistent inflationary pressures, such stability underscores the effectiveness of monetary and supply-side interventions.

Reforms undertaken in the post-pandemic period have further reinforced this foundation. Production-linked incentive schemes, rationalisation of compliance burdens, and targeted support for MSMEs have enhanced competitiveness and eased the cost of doing business. These measures have not only stimulated investment but also diversified the economic base.

Looking ahead, projections remain encouraging. The RBI estimates growth at 6.9 per cent for 2026-27, while ASSOCHAM expects it to exceed 7 per cent, supported by strong consumption, steady exports and rising capital investment. With the repo rate likely to hover between 5 and 5.25 per cent, the emphasis is on sustaining growth while keeping inflation in check. India's economic journey, once at the mercy of oil shocks, has entered a new phase defined by resilience, adaptability and internal strength.

Headline	Japan securing alternate crude oil supply line amid Middle East conflict		
Publication	IANS Live	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Apr 2026		

Japan securing alternate crude oil supply line amid Middle East conflict

<https://ianslive.in/japan-securing-alternate-crude-oil-supply-line-amid-middle-east-conflict--20260424235525>

Tokyo, April 25 (IANS) Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has held a key meeting on the situation in the Middle East and said Japan expects to secure around 60 per cent of its crude oil needs for May through routes that do not pass the Strait of Hormuz.

The PM's Office of Japan, quoting Sanae Takaichi, wrote on X: "I held a Ministerial Meeting on the Situation in the Middle East. Regarding alternative crude oil procurement that does not pass through the Strait of Hormuz, we have an outlook for securing approximately 60% for May.

During the meeting, she highlighted that in addition to the Middle East and the U.S., supplies will also come from Central Asia, Latin America, and the Asia-Pacific.

We have secured the necessary supply volumes for dialysis tubing, which we rely on imports, through the end of September by prioritising petroleum-based materials for overseas facilities operated by Japanese companies.

She mentioned that she also instructed the minister in charge to fully utilise the POWER Asia framework to ensure stable supply volumes from October onward.

She has confirmed that the quantities needed for plastic agricultural materials, including mulch sheets and rice bags for this spring, have been procured.

"To address concerns about future procurement, we will closely review supply chains and work with raw material manufacturers to ensure stable supply and prevent any disruption to food supply," she added.

Earlier on Friday, the Japanese government announced that it will begin releasing additional oil reserves worth around 20 days from May 1.

The Japanese government's decision comes after the initial release of some 50 days' worth of oil from reserves held by the state and others to stabilise the energy supply in Japan after the conflict erupted in West Asia, Japan-based Kyodo News reported.

According to Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the second release will free up 5.8 million kilolitres worth 540 billion yen (USD 3.4 billion), the report stated.

Japan relies on West Asia for over 90 per cent of its crude oil imports, majority of which passes through the Strait of Hormuz.

IANS

ksk/pgh

Headline	Crude Oil Prices Fall Amid Renewed Hopes for US-Iran Diplomatic Progress		
Publication	IPO Scanner	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Apr 2026		

Crude Oil Prices Fall Amid Renewed Hopes for US-Iran Diplomatic Progress

<https://www.iposscanner.ai/news/crude-oil-prices-fall-amid-renewed-hopes-for-us-iran-diplomatic-progress>

Oil Prices Fall Amid Hopes of US-Iran Peace Talks Oil prices declined on the assumption that peace talks between the US and Iran may

materialize, potentially paving the way for the resumption of energy flows through the vital Strait of Hormuz. West Texas Intermediate futures fell by 1.5% to settle above \$94 a barrel.

The White House announced that it is sending two envoys to Pakistan with the intention of discussing the situation with Iranian officials who are also scheduled to be in Islamabad. However, Tehran has expressed a pessimistic tone regarding the prospects for talks.

The situation has been closely monitored by traders, who are tracking signals on whether peace talks will resume and provide relief as the Strait of Hormuz remains largely shut. Despite conflicting messaging from both sides, WTI futures are still up 13% for the week, the biggest jump since the initial surge triggered by the war in early March.

Read also: Reliance Industries in Discussions for Green Ammonia Offtake with International Partners

Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi Plans to Present a New Written Response to a US Proposal for a Peace Deal

Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi plans to present a new written response to a US proposal for a peace deal while in Pakistan, according to a report by the New York Times. Recent developments suggest that traders are becoming increasingly comfortable with the idea that the kinetic phase of the US-Iran conflict is ending, or has already ended, and that an economic war is becoming entrenched.

US President Donald Trump's actions, including his decision to continue a naval blockade of Iranian ports, have been detrimental to negotiations through mediators such as Pakistan, according to two US officials familiar with the matter. The blockade has choked off Iranian crude exports, which are the only flows out of the Persian Gulf since the war began at the end of February.

Crude Oil Production in the Persian Gulf Will Take Several Months to Restore

Read also: Gold Prices Rise as Investors React to Optimism Over Iran Nuclear Talks and Await Monetary Policy Guidance from the Federal Reserve

A US-sanctioned supertanker laden with Iranian oil appeared to halt its transit through Hormuz on Friday. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth stated that Iran must abandon its nuclear program in meaningful and verifiable ways or face the collapse of its economic state under the pressure of American power.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts, including Daan Struyven, estimate that crude oil production in the Persian Gulf will take "a few months" to mostly restore, assuming a full reopening of Hormuz and no renewed strikes. The bank sees output being curtailed by about 14.5 million barrels a day, or more than 50% in April.

Headline	ONGC, MOL deepen maritime logistics tie as ethane shipping JVs move forward		
Publication	Indian Mandarins	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

ONGC, MOL deepen maritime logistics tie as ethane shipping JVs move forward

<https://www.indianmandarins.com/news/ongc-mol-deepen-maritime-logistics-tie-as-ethane-shipping-jvs-move-forward/32391>

New Delhi (24.04.2026): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) said in a post on X that the company and Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL), Japan, advanced

their strategic dialogue on maritime logistics during a meeting between MOL Chairman Takeshi Hashimoto and ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh at ONGC headquarters in New Delhi. The post said the leaders were steering the future of energy across global waters and were exploring new avenues to strengthen cooperation in energy transportation. The company said the discussions focused on building resilient supply chains, enabling efficient logistics frameworks, and unlocking synergies in a rapidly evolving global energy landscape. ONGC said the two sides reviewed progress on Bharat Ethane One IFSC Ltd and Bharat Ethane Two IFSC Ltd, the joint ventures formed earlier this year with MOL. In January, ONGC had acquired 50 percent shareholding in each company through private placement, making it a 50:50 joint venture partner with MOL in both entities. Each JV will own one Very Large Ethane Carrier, or VLEC, for transporting ethane for ONGC Petro Additions Ltd. (OPaL), a subsidiary of ONGC. MOL said in its January 28 statement that the two joint ventures and ONGC had signed a 15-year charter contract for two newbuilding VLECs during India Energy Week 2026. The Japanese shipping company said the vessels would be 100,000 cubic metres each, built by Samsung Heavy Industries, and scheduled for delivery in late 2028 or later, after which they would transport liquefied ethane from the US to India. MOL also said the liquefied ethane would be supplied as feedstock to OPaL's petrochemical plant in Dahej, Gujarat. It added that the contract would expand MOL's VLEC fleet to 16 vessels, which it described as the largest in the world.

Headline	India's Crude Oil Production Declines for 11th Straight Year Amid High Import Dependence		
Publication	Observer Voice	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Apr 2026		

India's Crude Oil Production Declines for 11th Straight Year Amid High Import Dependence

<https://observervoice.com/indias-crude-oil-production-declines-for-11th-straight-year-amid-high-import-dependence-201199/>

India's Crude Oil Production Declines for 11th Straight Year Amid High Import Dependence

Highlighting the growing dependence on imports, India's crude oil production has experienced a decline for the eleventh consecutive year in 2025-26. Natural gas output has also fallen for the second year in a row, primarily due to the depletion of older fields and a lack of significant new discoveries. As a result, reliance on imports has surged, reaching 89% for crude oil and 51% for natural gas. The ongoing US-Iran conflict has further exacerbated this vulnerability, leading to increased costs and supply shortages for refiners.

Declining Production Trends

India's crude oil production has seen a notable decrease, dropping by 2.5% to 28 million metric tonnes in the fiscal year 2025-26. This decline marks a cumulative reduction of 22% since 2014-15, when the downward trend began. Similarly, natural gas production has decreased by 3.7%, totaling 34,776 million metric standard cubic meters during the same period. Over a longer timeframe, natural gas output has contracted significantly, falling 40% from 47,555 million metric standard cubic meters in 2011-12 to 28,672 million metric standard cubic meters in 2020-21. This decline was notably influenced by a drop in output from the KG-D6 field operated by Reliance Industries.

Despite a brief resurgence in production following the commissioning of new fields in 2021-22, output has since stabilized. The combination of declining yields from legacy fields operated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and the lack of new discoveries has continued to impact overall production levels. Industry experts attribute the ongoing decline to the absence of significant new finds over the past decade, emphasizing that without fresh discoveries, maintaining production becomes increasingly difficult.

Challenges in Exploration and Investment

The Indian government has implemented various reforms aimed at boosting exploration activities in the oil and gas sector. Initiatives include establishing a national geological data repository, simplifying regulatory and environmental approvals, and introducing fiscal frameworks that offer a larger share of returns to explorers. However, despite these efforts, global oil companies have shown limited interest in participating in India's exploration landscape. Most licensing rounds over the past decade have been dominated by domestic public sector firms, limiting the influx of foreign capital and advanced technology.

Industry executives have pointed out that companies have not acted swiftly enough to commercialize identified resources. The slow pace of development has hindered efforts to sustain production levels. Additionally, concerns regarding policy unpredictability and modest resource prospects have discouraged potential investments in the sector. Experts believe that revitalizing oil and gas production in India will necessitate substantial new investments in exploration and development.

Future Outlook and Strategic Needs

The current state of India's oil and gas production raises significant concerns about the country's energy security. With reliance on imports reaching critical levels, the need for strategic planning and investment in domestic production has never been more urgent. Industry insiders stress that without a concerted effort to discover and develop new reserves, India may continue to face challenges in meeting its energy needs.

To address these issues, experts recommend a multi-faceted approach that includes enhancing exploration incentives, fostering partnerships with international oil companies, and streamlining regulatory processes. By creating a more attractive investment climate, India can potentially reverse the declining trends in oil and gas production. The future of

the sector hinges on the ability to adapt to changing market dynamics and invest in sustainable practices that ensure long-term energy security for the nation.

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Publication	Sarkari Tel	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Apr 2026		

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<https://www.sarkaritel.com/media-update-april-25-2026/>

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Publication	Stock Updates Now	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Apr 2026		

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<https://stockupdatesnow.com/crude-oil-tumbles-as-prospects-of-iran-reconciling-with-the-u-s-increase/>

WTI Crude Oil for June month delivery was last seen trading down by \$1.68 (or 1.75%) at \$94.17 per barrel.

Oil traders continued to track the developments in the Middle East, awaiting any breakthrough news that could hint at the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Since the war between the U.S.-Israeli forces against Iran started on February 28, Iran has blocked the Strait of Hormuz, stopping all vessels carrying oil and energy from Arab nations to their destinations, triggering an energy crisis.

On April 8, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a two-week ceasefire on U.S. attacks against Iran and sent his emissaries for peace talks with Iranian counterparts, hosted by Pakistan in Islamabad.

The negotiations were deemed a failure by Trump, who ordered U.S. forces to completely block ship traffic from and to Iranian ports.

Iran was exporting around 1.80 million barrels per day during March, before the blockade. Nearly 10% of Iran's GDP comes from its oil exports.

Persuaded by Arab and Muslim nations, Trump agreed to a second round of peace talks, set to happen earlier this week. However, it did not take off as planned since Iran refused to participate unless the U.S. withdraws the blockade on Iranian ports.

With the ceasefire about to end on April 22, even as the U.S. was preparing to intensify attacks on Iran, Trump agreed (at the request of Pakistan) to extend the ceasefire to allow time for the Iranian regime to come up with a peace plan.

Today, Iran's state-run news media IRNA confirmed a Reuters report that Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will travel to Pakistan and is scheduled to convey to Pakistani mediators Iran's concerns and demands

Araghchi himself mentioned through X that his trip is focused on bilateral matters and regional developments though he did not give much detail.

As reported by CNN, U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner will likely represent the U.S though U.S. Vice President JD Vance will step in if needed.

Separately, Trump also announced the extension of the ongoing ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon for three more weeks, which further brought down the gulf war heat.

However, tensions still remain after the U.S. military confirmed aircraft carrier USS George HW Bush arriving in the Middle East, packed with war planes.

While USS Gerald R. Ford is anchoring in the Red Sea, USS Abraham Lincoln is already in the region.

The day before yesterday, Trump ordered U.S. naval forces to destroy any Iranian-linked ship or boat arriving in the Strait of Hormuz region and suspected of laying sea mines.

Today, U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth stated that Iran still has an open window to strike a deal with the U.S. but warned that clock is not on their side and urged them to speed up the process.

Yesterday, in an interview with CNBC, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency Fatih Birol stated that the closure of the Hormuz Strait has evolved into the largest energy crisis the world has ever faced.

The double-blockade enforced in the Strait of Hormuz by the U.S. and Iran has kept oil and energy prices at exorbitant levels.

Barring Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which have a few alternate ways for their exports, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar are completely reliant on Hormuz strait with a majority of their exports destined to be delivered to China, India, and Japan.

The U.S. Dollar Index was last seen trading down by 0.26 points (or 0.26%) at \$98.56.

Traders are watching how the negotiations evolve over the weekend, and experts feel that the outcome of the talks could direct crude oil prices in the coming days.

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