



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

FOCUS

Tokayev's constitutional gamble in Kazakhstan

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's ongoing political reset in Kazakhstan represents a calculated effort to restructure state power under the narrative of progressive constitutional reform.

Following sweeping amendments to the country's constitutional framework, the establishment of a new unicameral legislature - the Kurultai - marks a defining moment in Central Asian politics. While framed by the administration as a modernisation step to streamline governance and enhance representation, the restructuring reinforces the central authority of the presidency.

At the heart of this strategy is the concept of "managed pluralism." By dismantling former power networks, altering electoral rules, and controlling party registration, Tokayev has effectively insulated the executive branch from authentic opposition. While new legislative structures create the appearance of a broader political debate, systemic barriers continue to block independent and dissident voices from entering the formal political arena.

The transition to a single-chamber legislature - the Kurultai - replaces the previous dual-chamber parliamentary structure, concentrating legislative processes into a more streamlined body. Presented as a move toward greater legislative efficiency and accountability, the constitutional overhaul serves a dual purpose: consolidating President Tokayev's executive authority and dismantling the legacy structures left by his predecessor. Analysts say that by realigning the country's constitutional architecture, Tokayev has methodically dismantled old oligarchic influence networks while positioning himself as an indis-

pensable agent of stability. The restructuring allows the executive branch to exert tighter control over the legislative agenda. Rather than distributing power outward to civil society or local assemblies, the reforms concentrate decisive decision-making mechanisms within the presidential apparatus.

Further reportage describes that despite rhetoric highlighting democratic progress, independent political parties in Kazakhstan face severe administrative and legal barriers to entry. Requirements for political party registration remain strictly controlled, enabling state authorities to filter out genuine opposition groups before campaign periods begin.

As a result, the ballots feature primarily pro-government parties and benign loyalist entities. These approved parties offer minor policy variations on economic or social issues but refrain from challenging the core authority of the presidency or questioning foundational government policy.

The practice of blocking independent opposition and maintaining controlled elections carries significant long-term consequences for Kazakhstan's democratic development across key operational dimensions:

Where democratic systems prioritise transparent elections with diverse choices, Kazakh practice leads to widespread voter apathy and a growing public belief that participating yields little systemic change.

Rather than serving as an independent check on executive oversight, the legislative body functions primarily as a rubber stamp for presidential decrees. In contrast to systems that enable the peaceful transfer of power through competitive contests, closing formal

channels for political grievances creates a heightened risk of unorganised civil unrest over time. Analysts comment that by closing institutional pathways for dissent, the political system risks driving political frustration underground. While "managed pluralism" offers short-term political control for the ruling elite, it deprives the state of genuine feedback loops necessary to address socioeconomic grievances effectively.

Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy - a diplomatic framework originally conceptualised in the post-Soviet era and reinforced in the updated Foreign Policy Concept signed by President Tokayev - serves as the foundation of the country's national security, economic strategy and sovereign autonomy.

Situated at the geopolitical intersection of Eurasia and landlocked between major global powers, Kazakhstan avoids exclusive alignment. Instead, Astana practices a strategy of "strategic hedging", balancing security, economic and energy ties across Moscow, Beijing and Western capitals.

Rather than leaning permanently toward a single bloc, Kazakhstan's foreign relations operate across specialised functional domains: Security cooperation is anchored primarily through regional pacts like the CSTO, while energy development, technology, and commercial partnerships are diversified across Western, Chinese, and Asian markets. Kazakhstan regularly utilises international forums - including the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS) - to assert its voice as a middle-power mediator and ad-

vocate for global non-proliferation. The India-Kazakhstan relationship serves as the anchor of India's foreign policy in Central Asia. Built on historical silk-route linkages and mutual trust, the bilateral framework evolved from traditional diplomacy into a Strategic Partnership.

As Kazakhstan balances relations between China, Russia and the West under its multi-vector strategy, India views Astana as an indispensable partner for energy security, counter-terrorism and trade diversification in Eurasia.

Kazakhstan is India's largest trading partner in Central Asia. In addition, Kazakhstan is also India's largest supplier of natural uranium, playing a critical role in fueling India's civilian nuclear power programme.

Oil and gas cooperation remains a priority. Indian energy state-owned enterprises (such as ONGC Videsh) have historically invested in Kazakh energy exploration (e.g., the Satpayev oil block). Amid shifts in global hydrocarbon routes, both nations routinely negotiate long-term supply deals.

However, direct physical connectivity remains the biggest operational challenge to scaling trade. Both nations leverage multimodal transport networks to bypass geographical barriers:

Kazakhstan is a crucial transit state along the Eastern Route of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) via the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KTI) rail network. Freight moving from western Indian ports (like Mundra or Nhava Sheva) reaches Bandar Abbas in Iran before travelling by rail directly into Central Asia. (IPA)



ASAD MIRZA

The transition to a single-chamber legislature - the Kurultai - replaces the previous dual-chamber parliamentary structure, concentrating legislative processes into a more streamlined body. Presented as a move toward greater legislative efficiency and accountability, the constitutional overhaul serves a dual purpose: consolidating President Tokayev's executive authority and dismantling the legacy structures left by his predecessor.

In step with foreign tunes

CHARU SUDAN KASTURI

While speaking at a business news publication's conclave in New Delhi, the external affairs minister, S. Jaishankar, was asked about India's 'on-off' policy when it comes to energy imports from countries opposed to the United States of America, such as Russia. Jaishankar, quick with words, responded that the country's consumers were always the Indian government's top priority. For the government, he emphasised, Indian citizens were never 'off'.

Irrespective of whether the Indian public believes that, the Narendra Modi government is increasingly 'on' as far as following Washington's unilateral economic threats and actions towards the world — even when they violate long-standing Indian policy. While some of the US's closest traditional allies are pushing back against the Donald Trump administration, India's approach gives Washington a veto over what should be New Delhi's choices.

The specific question Jaishankar was answering in New Delhi related to a bill in the US Congress that threatens to impose massive tariffs on goods from countries that buy Russian oil and gas. The question was legitimate. India had dramatically ramped up its import of Russian oil following the start of the war on Ukraine at a time when Europe decided to wean itself off Russian energy. But in the face of a 50% tariff imposed by Trump on Indian goods last year, half of it as punishment for the Russian energy imports, India cut back on its purchase of oil from Russia just as sharply. Then, as the US-Israel war on Iran led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and spikes in global crude prices, Trump tried to calm markets by issuing sanctions waivers for countries to temporarily purchase Russian oil — so Indian imports went up once more. Will it now turn the tap off again to avoid upsetting the US?

That question is not limited to relations with Russia. Indeed, if there is a redeeming feature in Trump's eccentric diplomacy, it is that he gives countries several chances to stand up to his imperial dictats. Trump's threat to punish countries that continue

to trade or deal in any way with Iran is the Indian government's latest opportunity to show some spine. Already, by kowtowing to Trump's sanctions against Iran during his first term, the Modi government reduced its energy options. Until a decade ago, Iran was India's third-largest source of oil. Today, India imports almost no Iranian crude and their trade is negligible. India has had to give up its stakes in the Chabahar port development project, a critical strategic asset it was developing for economic and national security. Equally critically, it has given up diplomatic equity in its neighbourhood, seen across West Asia as much closer to the US and Israel than to more traditional friends such as Iran. Again, India briefly imported Iranian oil this past summer — when the US allowed it to, as part of the bid to keep crude prices under control.

Then there is Venezuela, another chapter in a now recurring theme. As with Iran, it was a major supplier of oil but India turned the spigot off during Trump's first term, even though Indian State oil companies have major investments in the South American country. Once again, the Indian government has now started buying Venezuelan oil in large quantities because the US is allowing it to after abducting the country's president, Nicolás Maduro, and replacing him with a successor hand-picked by America. Proceeds from the purchase of Venezuelan oil go not to Venezuela but to the US, which then decides how much and for what that money will be used. India's State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation secured a license from the US last week to restart operations in Venezuela. It is classic imperialism, and India is a party to it.

The government and its supporters will no doubt argue that these trade gymnastics actually reflect flexible realpolitik. They will point out that attracting the US's tariff ire would mean job losses in export-oriented Indian businesses, and that compromising is the smart move. Perhaps. But when the adaptability so closely shapes shifts with the fluctuating demands of one country and its leader, it looks and feels like the Indian government is dancing to someone else's tune rather than insulating itself from unjustified pressure. And that someone else is not the Indian consumer.

Charu Sudan Kasturi is a journalist who writes on foreign policy and international relations

Publication : Dinamani (Tamil)	Editions : Chennai
Date :25 August 2026	Page : 13

Headline: ONGC profit is Rs 17,034 crore

ஏப்ரல்-ஜூன் காலாண்டில்...

ஓஎன்ஜிசி லாபம் ரூ.17,034 கோடி

புது தில்லி, ஆக. 24: பொதுத் துறை நிதிநிலையில் சாதனை படைத் திறவனமான எண்ணெய் மற்றும் இயற்கை எரிவாயுக் கழகம் (ஓஎன்ஜிசி), நடப்பு 2026-27 நிதியாண்டின் ஏப்ரல்-ஜூன் காலாண்டில் ரூ.17,033.81 கோடி நிகர லாபத்தைப் பதிவு செய்துள்ளது.

கடந்த 2025-26 நிதியாண்டின் இதே காலாண்டில் நிறுவனம் ஈட்டிய ரூ.8,024.23 கோடியில் இருந்து, இது இரட்டிப்பு வளர்ச்சியாகும். கச்சா எண்ணெய் விலையுயர்வு மற்றும் புதிய எரிவாயுக் கிணறுகள் மூலமாகக் கிடைத்த கூடுதல் வருவாயும் இதற்குக் காரணமாக தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அதேபோல், நிறுவனத்தின் மொத்த வருவாய் முந்தைய ஆண்டின் ரூ.33,213.39 கோடியிலிருந்து, மதிப்பீட்டு காலாண்டில் ரூ.48,321.65 கோடியாக உயர்ந்துள்ளது. வரிக்கு முந்தைய லாபம் காலாண்டு அளவில் முன்னெப்போதும் இல்லாத வகையில் ரூ.22,848 கோடியை எட்டியுள்ளது.

நிதிநிலையில் சாதனை படைத்திருந்தாலும், கச்சா எண்ணெய் மற்றும் இயற்கை எரிவாயு உற்பத்தி இக்காலாண்டில் சற்று சரிவைக் கண்டுள்ளது. கச்சா எண்ணெய் உற்பத்தி 46.8 லட்சம் டன் எனிலிருந்து 44.5 லட்சம் டன்னாகவும், இயற்கை எரிவாயு உற்பத்தி 485 கோடி கன மீட்டரிலிருந்து 476 கோடி கன மீட்டராகவும் குறைந்துள்ளது.

அடுத்த நிதியாண்டு முதல் உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கும் நோக்கில் மேற்கு கடலோரப் பகுதிகளில் ரூ.40,000 கோடிக்கும் மேலான மூலதனத் திட்டங்களைச் செயல்படுத்தி வருவதாக ஓஎன்ஜிசி தெரிவித்துள்ளது.





Annapoorni Super Six and bus ride to cost Rs 10,000 crore annually

3 free cylinders from Pongal, Vettri Payanam from October 2

OTHER SCHEMES

SHINE SMILE

School Education Department will launch the programme to offer dental, eye, and ear health check-ups for government school students in partnership with government, private, and corporate hospitals

TN ARIVU

This is a new curriculum, designed to equip students with future-ready skills in analytical thinking, problem-solving, innovation, entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies. TN Arivu will be implemented across all schools from the 2027-28 academic year

6,000 ASST PROFESSORS

Around 6,000 assistant professors will be appointed to government arts and science, engineering, and polytechnic colleges in three phases

CHENNAI: Continuing his party's and government's focus on women, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday announced two new schemes, Annapoorni Super Six and Vettri Payanam, both of which were part of the poll promises that the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam had given ahead of the Assembly election.

Implementing the two women-centric schemes would cost the exchequer Rs 10,000 crore annually.

Making these announcements in the Assembly under Rule 110, which bars any discussions, Vijay said under the Annapoorni Super Six Scheme, beneficiaries would receive the cost of three LPG cylinders every year under a reimbursement model.

Chief Minister Vijay said that owing to the Gulf war, there had been a severe shortage of gas cylinders over the past four months. "Due to this, people are suffering from steep increases in gas cylinder prices. To avoid this hardship, the government is going to implement the Annapoorni Su-

per Six Scheme," he said.

During the election campaign, Vijay had announced the Annapoorni Super Six Scheme, under which every family was to receive six LPG cylinders free of cost every year. However, the TVK-led government has now announced the tweaked version of scheme with an income criterion and half the number of cylinders.

In the present form, around 1.30 crore families with an annual income of not more than Rs 2.5 lakh will benefit from the scheme. "The new scheme will be implemented from the Pongal festival in January 2026. The government will allocate Rs 4,000 crore for this scheme," the chief minister said.

Another major announcement for women and transgender persons was the extension of free bus travel, a scheme originally initiated by the previous DMK government. Now rechristened as Vettri Payanam, the enhanced scheme will offer free travel to women on Express, Limited Stop Service (LSS), and Deluxe buses, in addition to ordinary buses, from

October 2, which marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Under the extended scheme, women can travel on ordinary-fare mofussil buses operating between districts and in hill areas. Women can travel without income ceiling or any other restrictions. The scheme will cost the government Rs 6,000 crore annually," the chief minister said. He added that the scheme would be extended to other services in the future.

According to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) under the Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry, State-run oil marketing firms - IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL - supply LPG cylinders to 2.39 crore connections across Tamil Nadu.



BPCL brings Bharatgas Lite ZIP to West Bengal

EOI CORRESPONDENT

SILIGURI, AUG 24: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Fortune Global 500 company and a Maharatna PSU, is bringing a new-age LPG experience to consumers across Kolkata, Siliguri, Durgapur, Asansol, and Bardhaman with the rollout of Bharatgas Lite ZIP -- its premium convenience-led LPG offering. Available in Kolkata, Siliguri, Durgapur, Asansol, and Bardhaman in West Bengal, the rollout brings together BPCL's lightweight Bharatgas Lite composite cylinder, Instant New Connection and Express Delivery, creating an integrated proposition designed around the changing lifestyles and expectations of today's LPG consumers. West Bengal forms part of BPCL's landmark expansion of Bharatgas Lite ZIP to 100 cities across India, significantly widening the reach of the premium offering following its launch in Mumbai on July 18, 2026. As West Bengal's Kolkata, Siliguri, Durgapur, Asansol, Bardhaman expand and lifestyles evolve, convenience, speed and ease of access are increasingly influencing everyday consumer choices. Bharatgas Lite ZIP has been designed to respond to this shift by transforming multiple stages of the traditional LPG experience. The Bharatgas Lite composite cylinder is lightweight, corrosion-free and transparent, enabling consumers to conveniently view the LPG level inside the cylinder. Its contemporary

design, enhanced safety and greater ease of handling make it particularly suited to modern households.

This is complemented by two customer-focused services:

#Instant New Connection simplifies the process of obtaining a new Bharatgas LPG connection, making onboarding easier and more convenient.

#Express Delivery is designed to provide faster cylinder delivery, adding greater convenience for consumers who increasingly expect speed and reliability from everyday services.

West Bengal, a part of national consumer transformation The rollout in West Bengal is part of BPCL's larger strategy to evolve its LPG portfolio beyond conventional product delivery and create differentiated offerings around consumer needs. Sanjay Khanna, Chairman & Managing Director, BPCL, said, "Bharatgas Lite ZIP reflects our commitment to making LPG access simpler, faster and more convenient for consumers. By combining the lightweight composite cylinder with Instant New Connection and Express Delivery, we are offering a differentiated customer experience that meets the needs of today's evolving lifestyles. I would also like to thank our distributor partners for their unwavering support and dedication, particularly during the recent supply challenges, which has been instrumental in ensuring uninterrupted service to consumers across the country."

Crude's Hormuz pain deepens

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, August 24

INDIA FACES A prolonged crude shipping cost shock, with freight rates on key supply routes surging 137-411% since late February and war-risk insurance for a single voyage through the Strait of Hormuz climbing to as much as \$7.5-10 million. The sharp increase is pushing up the landed cost of crude at a time when the country's energy import bill and refinery finances are already under pressure.

The biggest jump has been on the Ras Tanura-India route, where freight for Saudi crude on Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) is estimated at \$4.34 a barrel in August, up 411% from \$0.85 in late February.



Freight from Corpus Christi in the US has risen 150% to \$15.86 a barrel from \$6.35, while transportation from

Russia's Ust-Luga on Suezmax tankers has increased 137% to \$19.90 a barrel from \$8.40. The freight escalation comes

on top of a steep rise in crude acquisition costs. India's crude oil import bill surged 56.5% year-on-year to \$63.4 billion during April-July FY27, even as volumes rose just 0.5% to 81.9 million tonne, or about 600 million barrel. The average landed crude price rose to around \$106 a barrel from \$68 a year earlier.

The combined impact of higher crude, freight and insurance costs is particularly significant for domestic refiners. State-run IndianOil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum reported combined net losses of ₹18,149 crore in the June quarter, a sharp reversal from their total net profit of ₹16,184 crore a year earlier.

Continued on Page 17

Crude's Hormuz pain deepens

INDIA'S NET OIL and gas import bill rose 43.4% to \$57.8 billion during April-July from \$40.3 billion a year ago, while crude import dependence remained at 88.3%. LNG import volumes increased 5.3% to 11,867 million standard cubic metres, but their value jumped 24.4% to \$5.6 billion.

Shipping insurance has emerged as another major cost layer. "War risk insurance to transit the Strait of Hormuz was around 0.25% of hull value prior to the war, and is now reported anywhere in the 7-10% range, if you are able to secure coverage at all," said Erik Grundt, senior analyst at Rystad Energy.

This translates into an increase from roughly \$250,000 before the West Asia conflict to \$7.5-10 million for a single voyage, Grundt said. He warned that freight rates remain highly volatile and, in some cases, represent paper values given the limited number of cargoes load-



ing in the Arabian Gulf.

The tanker market was already at a six-year high before the Iran war, driven by strong demand and ownership concentration. The 10 largest operators controlled 57% of the VLCC fleet, allowing owners to maintain pricing power. When Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz on February 28, war-risk and rerouting premiums were added to an already tight freight market.

At various points, around 10% of the mainstream VLCC fleet was trapped inside the Gulf, immediately shrinking available tonnage and sending rates to record levels.

A mid-June ceasefire briefly reopened the Strait and cargo volumes surged, but the market then shifted from scarcity to vessel-positioning pressures. Owners had already shifted around 60 vessels towards the Atlantic to capture rising Western crude exports. Once Hormuz reopened, vessels returned faster than cargo volumes could absorb them, bringing down rates sharply by early July.

The respite did not last. Even at their calmest, freight rates failed to return fully to pre-war levels. When the ceasefire broke down later in July, the market had little spare capacity to absorb another shock, pushing rates back towards their earlier war highs by mid-August.

"The freight rate outlook is

thoroughly linked to the state of the Strait of Hormuz," Grundt said.

The 60-day US-Iran negotiation window has expired without a broader settlement, and vessel traffic remains constrained. Rystad's base case assumes a protracted stalemate, with Hormuz traffic around 3 million barrels per day (bpd) for another two-three months before recovering towards 6 million bpd by year-end and around 12 million bpd by March.

Alternative export corridors are expected to play a much larger role. Saudi flows through Yanbu could rise towards 4.5 million bpd by the first quarter of 2027, taking combined Hormuz and Yanbu flows to around 16.5 million bpd by March.

Even a geopolitical easing may not immediately restore freight rates to pre-conflict levels. Tanker capacity is expected to outpace demand by more than 4 million bpd in 2027, eventually

putting downward pressure on rates. The orderbook-to-fleet ratio stands at around 35% for VLCCs and 45% for the mainstream tanker fleet.

However, ownership concentration and changing shipping patterns could limit the decline. ADNOC's shuttle system, under which cargoes make short Hormuz crossings before being transferred to vessels off Fujairah and Sohar, is expected to remain part of the trade, while Saudi Arabia could adopt a similar model. Such arrangements add transit time and vessel legs, increasing tanker demand for every barrel moved.

For India, this means a recovery in physical crude flows may not immediately translate into lower landed costs. Elevated freight and insurance premiums could continue to amplify the impact of high crude prices on the import bill and refinery economics, even as supply conditions gradually improve.

Publication : The Hindu

Editions : Hyderabad

Date : 25 August 2026

Page : 3



Consumers queue up at an LPG gas agency to complete e-KYC verification in the city. FILE PHOTO

Breather for LPG users as eKYC deadline extended to August 31

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Cooking gas households that missed the August 23 deadline to complete the e-KYC for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections have got a breather, with the last date extended till August 31.

The e-KYC or Aadhaar biometric authentication remains crucial for households, with the three oil marketing companies (OMCs) Indian Oil, HPCL and BPCL urging the consumers in recent weeks to complete the process to continue receiving LPG refills at domestic rate. "The new deadline is August 31. Those who are yet to complete the e-KYC will receive message mentioning the same," a senior official in the oil industry, who did not wish to be named, said.

Of the 32.97 crore active domestic LPG consumers

in the country, 1.26 crore are in Telangana, official statistics show.

About 82% of the consumers in the State have already completed the e-KYC and the extension is expected to further increase the number.

Ahead of the Sunday deadline, cooking gas agencies in Telangana handled unusually high customers. Consumers also had the option of completing e-KYC through the respective company apps, a route chosen by many whose Aadhaar numbers were already linked to their LPG connections. Over the last few days, about 20,000 to 30,000 customers completed eKYC every day, across the State, the official said. Telangana LPG Distributors Association president Jagan Mohan Reddy said the extension of the deadline had also been conveyed orally by OMC officials.

Three shops demolished; we didn't do it, says civic body

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Like the recent "ghost demolitions" in Surat, Ahmedabad too witnessed an unauthorised demolition in the Nana Chiloda area on Monday. Around 2pm, more than 10 persons from a private security agency, falsely identifying themselves as Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) employees, illegally demolished three shops. Stating that it did not initiate the action, AMC said the area falls under GIDC limits, and added that legal proceedings have been initiated.

The men were detained when the affected shop owners contacted police. Naroda resident Nandish Modi (35), whose shop was demolished, said, "My shop was 30 years old. Around 2pm on Monday, I was home for lunch when the neighbouring shopowner called to say that an AMC team was razing shops. I rushed to the spot and found 10 to 12 bo-uncers in black attire from a private security agency with demolition machinery."

Modi said he immediately contacted AMC. "The North Zone estate department told me that no demolition team had been dispatched. I alerted



A group of 10 people, identifying themselves as AMC employees, demolished the shops in the area that falls under GIDC's jurisdiction

police, who arrived, seized the machinery, and took the men into custody. But by that time, three shops — including a garage and stores — had been razed, causing heavy financial losses." An employee of one of the shops demolished said, "We have videographed the incident. The men were actually from a security agency but claimed to be from AMC."

Vikram Kataria, deputy estate officer in the North Zone estate department, said, "On the road leading from Teuram Bridge to Nana Chiloda under Sardarnagar ward, the 60m road limit ends adjacent to a Toyota showroom. GIDC jurisdiction begins from this point. The three shops were lo-

cated within the GIDC boundary, near an Indian Oil petrol pump. AMC received information regarding the demolition. An inquiry revealed that the shops were demolished between noon and 2pm on Monday. AMC took no action to demolish these shops, as any necessary action falls under GIDC's jurisdiction. However, the demolition was carried out using AMC's name. Proceedings to file a police complaint are underway." Sources said videos of the incident that identify the security agency involved have surfaced. It is allegedly linked to a former BJP councillor and supplies manpower to AMC and Auda.

Benchmarks track global **weakness** amid simmering geopolitical conflict

Selling in banking and financial stocks further weighed on investor sentiment

Markets Overview

- BSE-Sensex slips 171.72pts (-0.22%) to 77,369.11
- NSE-Nifty declined 32.95pts (-0.14%) to 24,219.05
- FIIs offloaded equities worth Rs542.71-cr on Friday

MUMBAI

BENCHMARK equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Monday as persistent geopolitical tensions and elevated crude oil prices hampered risk appetite. Investors remained cautious ahead of fresh US sanctions on Iran, experts said.

Despite a positive beginning, the 30-share BSE Sensex failed to carry forward the momentum and declined 171.72 points, or 0.22 per cent, to settle at 77,369.11. During the day, it dropped 339.17 points, or 0.43 per cent, to 77,201.66. The 50-share NSE Nifty slipped 32.95 points, or 0.14 per cent, to end at 24,219.05.



Among the 30 Sensex firms, Adani Ports, Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Trent, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards. Tata Steel, HCL Tech, Infosys, and Hindustan Unilever were among the major winners.

"Indian equity markets ended lower on Monday, tracking weakness across Asian markets as renewed concerns over the Middle East and selling in banking and financial stocks weighed on investor sentiment," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech

firm, said. "Markets remained cautious ahead of fresh US sanctions, with Washington promising an 'economic D-Day' against Iran and its trading partners, while Tehran threatened to halt Gulf oil exports in response, keeping investors wary of further escalation," he added.

The BSE MidCap Select index dipped 0.11 per cent, while SmallCap Select index was flat and ended marginally higher by 0.06 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Insurance declined 0.86 per cent, PSU Bank (0.82 per cent), Housing Finance (0.76 per cent), Financial

Caution dominated market sentiment as investors are awaiting fresh sanctions from the US on Iran later today. Brent crude eased on profit-taking but remained above the \$90/bbl mark, supported by concerns over tighter Iranian oil supplies and ongoing tensions around the Strait of Hormuz

- Vinod Nair, Head-Research, Geojit Investments Ltd

Services (0.39 per cent) and Bankex(0.35 per cent). Metal climbed 1.38 per cent, Telecommunication jumped 1.05 per cent, Commodities (0.55 per cent), Realty (0.43 per cent) and Oil & Gas (0.34 per cent).

"Indian equity benchmarks ended lower on Monday, sur-

rendering their early gains as escalating US-Iran tensions kept investors firmly on the defensive ahead of Washington's announcement of what it has described as its toughest-ever sanctions package against Tehran," Hariselvan Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a Research Analyst firm, said.

"Caution dominated market sentiment as investors are awaiting fresh sanctions from the US on Iran later today. Brent crude eased on profit-taking but remained above the USD 90/bbl mark, supported by concerns over tighter Iranian oil supplies and ongoing tensions around the Strait of Hormuz," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 542.71 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. On Friday, the Sensex ended almost unchanged from the previous close at 77,540.83, up 3.11 points. The Nifty also ended flat, up 20.15 points, or 0.08 per cent, at 24,252.

Brent crude slips to \$93.08/bbl

CRUDE oil prices fell Rs 167 to Rs 8,192 per barrel in the futures trade on Monday amid weak global trends. Crude oil futures for the September delivery slipped 0.2 per cent in 8,897 lots. Analysts said the prices fell after participants offloaded their holdings amid weak demand in the spot market. Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude was trading 1.79 per cent lower at \$85.50 per barrel, while Brent crude declined 1.39 per cent to \$93.08 per barrel in New York.

Publication : Financial Express

Editions : New Delhi

Date : 25 August 2026

Page : 9

Oil falls over \$1 on profit-taking

OIL PRICES SLIPPED more than \$1 a barrel as investors took profits after recent gains and awaited details of expected new US sanctions on Iran, which could further disrupt supplies from West Asia. Brent crude futures were down \$1.01, or 1.1%, to \$93.38 at 1316 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$85.64 a barrel.

Publication : The Economic Times

Editions : Mumbai

Date : 25 August 2026

Page : 11

Oil Falls Ahead of US Plan for Economic War on Iran

Oil prices slipped after strong gains last week while stock markets faltered on Monday as investors awaited details of a US plan to impose massive economic pressure on Iran to end the Middle East war.

Eyes were on US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who is to hold a press conference later Monday to outline new actions against Tehran, as the war drags on with no sign of a deal to reopen the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

Bessent wrote in The Financial Times that Washington was launching the "single greatest financial offensive marshalled against an adversary", calling it an "economic D-Day".

Both main crude contracts were around 2% lower, though the Brent

benchmark was still trading above \$92 a barrel after jumping more than 7% last week.

"The US is changing tactics in its battle against Iran, and its fight to get oil flowing more freely from the region," said Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club.

"There may be some relief that the threats have moved from military strikes to some form of super sanctions, but there is little confidence that a route to a peace deal will open up any time soon," she added.

London edged slightly higher while Frankfurt and Paris were flat.

Asian markets were hit by a fresh wave of pressure on technology stocks, with investors awaiting an



earnings report from Nvidia, a bellwether for the artificial intelligence rollout.

The recurring question for the US chip giant is whether the AI boom will continue to accelerate as the technology spreads into more areas of the broader economy. "These results will also offer insight into demand for AI

infrastructure, how Nvidia is managing Chinese competition and what the future holds" for the sector, said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading group XTB.

South Korea's tech-heavy Kospi fell more than three percent, weighed by a sharp drop in Samsung Electronics shares, and Tokyo and Shanghai also closed lower.

Hong Kong closed nearly 2% down despite fast-fashion giant Shein announcing its market debut will take place in the Chinese financial hub on September 1. The long-awaited listing would value the retailer, known for its vast selection of products at stunningly low prices, at close to \$27 billion. **AFP**

Publication : The Hindu Business Line

Editions : New Delhi

Date : 25 August 2026

Page : 10

Crude oil falls ahead of US' new Iran sanctions



Singapore: Crude oil prices slipped more than \$1 a barrel on Monday as investors took profits ahead of an expected announcement from the US about imposing more sanctions on Iran that may further disrupt supplies from West Asia. Brent crude futures fell \$1.22, or 1.29 per cent, to \$93.17 by 0035 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$85.86 a barrel, down \$1.2, or 1.38 per cent. REUTERS

Publication : The Hindu Business Line

Editions : New Delhi

Date :25 August 2026

Page : 12

Iran warns of penalties for violating Hormuz rules

Iran has issued a warning that vessels violating its arrangements for transiting the Strait of Hormuz could face restrictions, including fines, detention or confiscation, the Persian Gulf Strait Authority wrote in a post on X. Ships seeking the removal of their names from the non-compliant vessels' list must submit a request with explanations to Iran's maritime authorities, it said. REUTERS

Online

Headline	ATASU Suspends ONGC Shutdown		
Publication	Business Express News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Aug 2026		

ATASU Suspends ONGC Shutdown

<https://businessexpressnews.com/atasu-suspends-ongc-shutdown/>

The All Tai Ahom Students' Union (ATASU) has suspended its proposed statewide shutdown of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) installations scheduled for August 25 following discussions with the public sector oil and gas company.

The decision was taken after a four-hour meeting between representatives of ATASU and ONGC authorities, during which several issues concerning Assam, including employment opportunities for local people, the location of company offices and the preservation of historical sites, were discussed.

Speaking to reporters in Sivasagar, ATASU president Basanta Gogoi said the organisation decided to put the shutdown programme on hold after receiving a number of assurances from the ONGC authorities.

According to Gogoi, one of the major issues raised during the meeting was employment for local candidates. He said ONGC has agreed to consider the demand for providing employment opportunities to eligible candidates from Assam.

ATASU had also raised concerns over reports and decisions related to the possible shifting of ONGC offices and certain functions outside the state. The students' body said the company assured its representatives that no ONGC office would be shifted out of Assam.

The discussions also covered concerns regarding the relocation of some of ONGC's financial operations to Delhi. According to the students' organisation, company officials explained that the move was part of an effort to centralise financial processes and did not mean that ONGC was shifting its overall operations away from Assam.

Another issue discussed during the meeting was support for students from Assam preparing for the Union Public Service Commission examinations. Gogoi said ONGC has agreed to arrange training and other forms of support to help students from the state prepare for and appear in the UPSC examinations.

The meeting also addressed the condition and preservation of the historic Pohu Garh site in Sivasagar. ONGC authorities assured ATASU that the site would be developed, beautified and preserved, the organisation said.

ATASU had earlier announced protest programmes against ONGC over a number of issues related to employment, administrative decisions and the protection of historical and cultural sites in Assam. As part of the agitation, the organisation had proposed a statewide shutdown of ONGC operations on August 25.

However, following the discussions and assurances received from the company, the students' body decided to suspend the proposed shutdown for the time being.

Gogoi said the decision should not be seen as the end of the organisation's efforts on the issues raised before ONGC. He said ATASU would closely monitor whether the commitments made during the meeting are implemented.

The students' organisation will take its next course of action based on the progress made by ONGC in fulfilling the assurances given to ATASU, Gogoi added.

Headline	Chandigarh University Provides In-House Training for Civil Services, Defence, Management, Banking & PSUs		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Aug 2026		

Chandigarh University Provides In-House Training for Civil Services, Defence, Management, Banking & PSUs

https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/chandigarh-university-provides-in-house-training-for-civil-services-defence-management-banking-psus-126082500004_1.html

Chandigarh [India, August 24: As the higher education and employment environment in the country becomes increasingly competitive, the traditional equation of a university degree followed by campus placement is gradually getting replaced by a more diversified approach to the preparation for careers across domains. Competitive examinations and entrance tests have become important avenues to some of the country's most aspirational careers varying from UPSC for Civil Services, SSC and Bank PO for government and public sector jobs, GATE for Engineering and PSU opportunities, CAT for premier management education, CDS for defence services, UGC-NET for teaching and research and GRE, GMAT and IELTS for international higher education. This shift in turn has been prompting universities across the nation to look beyond conventional employability and connect academic learning with specific career goals and professional opportunities.

Anticipating this shift, Chandigarh University (CU) is responding to this changing demand by extending its career-development initiatives beyond regular placements with leading MNCs and top Indian and global firms. The Department of Career Planning & Development (DCPD) at CU offering career-oriented courses, competitive examination preparation, expert guidance and exposure to diverse professional opportunities spanning Civil Services, government and PSU jobs, management, defence, teaching, research and international higher education among others. By bringing exam-specific preparation, expert guidance and mentorship, and relevant resources closer to the aspiring students, Chandigarh University empowers them to pursue their career goals alongside their academic journey.

Civil Services: CU Builds a Strong Foundation for UPSC Aspirants

Civil Services still remains among the most sought-after career choices for students who want to serve the nation with the UPSC Civil Services Examination demanding extensive preparation, current-affairs awareness, analytical ability and strategic readiness. Open to graduates from any discipline, this examination offers an opportunity to pursue a career in public administration and nation-building. Chandigarh University's approach goes beyond examination preparation, with CU aiming to develop a premier platform for UPSC aspirants on campus, combining academic learning, expert mentorship, targeted workshops and relevant preparation resources. During 2024-25, CU-DCPD conducted 45 Civil Services workshops, offering students deep insights into the examination pattern, preparation strategies and experiences of eminent civil servants. CU organised a Civil Services preparation workshop on April 17, 2026, featuring Gaurav Krishna, Senior Officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS). Alongside such initiatives, DCPD offers 1.5-year and 3-year UPSC programmes, enabling students to do informed preparation for the competitive examination.

Preparing Students for Government, Public Sector and Banking Careers

The government and public-sector jobs continue to attract graduates with SSC-CGL and Bank PO being among the prominent competitive examinations. DCPD offers dedicated preparation in quantitative aptitude, reasoning, English, general awareness and examination strategy that enable students to prepare alongside their academic programmes. The programmes are relevant for graduates from diverse disciplines, subject to the respective examination eligibility criteria, helping them pursue career opportunities in government departments and the banking sector.

Equips Engineering Students for Higher Studies and PSU Careers through GATE

For engineering students aspiring to pursue advanced technical education or take up jobs in leading PSUs in the country, GATE is certainly the most important steppingstone that opens opportunities for M Tech, M. E. and direct Ph.D. programmes at premier institutes such as IITs, NITs and IIITs as well as PSU recruitment, subject to respective criteria. Organisations such as ONGC, NTPC, BHEL, DRDO and ISRO have offered GATE-linked opportunities for specific roles. It is through its dedicated GATE preparation programme, CU equips students to prepare alongside their degree, with specialised academic inputs and regular preparation. The programme is open to students from eligible disciplines, including B.E./B.Tech, B.Arch, B.Sc., BCA, B.Com and B.A., subject to prevailing GATE eligibility criteria.

Management: Opening Doors to IIMs, Premier B-Schools through CAT Preparation

Management education remains a major aspiration for graduates seeking careers in business, leadership and entrepreneurship domains with CAT serving as a key entrance examination for admission to the IIMs and other premier management institutions across the country. Success in this domain requires proficiency in quantitative ability, data interpretation, logical reasoning, verbal ability and reading comprehension.

Through expert-led CAT, GRE and GMAT seminars and dedicated CAT preparation, CU is helping its students understand examination patterns, preparation strategies, time management, resource selection and performance improvement, empowering them to approach management entrance examinations with greater clarity and confidence. The programme is aimed at eligible undergraduate and graduate students (BA, B.Com, BBA, BCA, B. Tech/BE, B.Sc.) aspiring to pursue MBA and postgraduate management programmes with admission eligibility subject to prevailing CAT and individual institute criteria.

Nurturing Future Armed Forces Leaders for the Nation

For students aspiring to serve in the armed forces, the Combined Defence Services (CDS) examination provides a platform towards officer-level opportunities which is subject to applicable eligibility and selection requirements. CU's CDS preparation programme extends its career-development initiatives to defence services, providing students with an opportunity to undergo a focused preparation for a career that demands academic competence, hard work, discipline and leadership.

Preparing Students for Global Academic Opportunities

The growing interest in postgraduate and doctoral education abroad has caught the fancy of many for decades now and it continues to do so even today which in turn has increased the relevance of GRE, GMAT and IELTS.

Through dedicated preparation and expert-led seminars, CU helps its students understand examination patterns, preparation strategies, resource selection and time management. CAT, GRE and GMAT seminars provide students with expert insights to strengthen their readiness for premier management institutions and higher academic opportunities overseas.

Nurturing Future Academics and Researchers

The career preparation at CU extends to teaching and research with UGC-NET serving as an important examination for making a career in the field of academics. Through UGC-NET Paper 1 preparation, CU-DCPD supports aspiring students to pursue careers in the domains of teaching and research.

About Chandigarh University

Chandigarh University is a NAAC A+ Grade University and QS World Ranked University. This autonomous educational institution is approved by UGC and is located near Chandigarh in the state of Punjab. It is the youngest university in India and the only private university in Punjab to be honoured with A+ Grade by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council). CU offers more than 109 UG and PG programs in the field of engineering, management, pharmacy, law, architecture, journalism, animation, hotel management, commerce, and others. It has been awarded as The University with Best Placements by WCRC.

Website address: <https://www.cuchd.in/>

(ADVERTORIAL DISCLAIMER: The above press release has been provided by PRNewswire. ANI will not be responsible in any way for the content of the same)

Headline	ONGC Strengthens Assam Gas Supply Through North East Gas Grid		
Publication	Chemical Industry Digest	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Aug 2026		

ONGC Strengthens Assam Gas Supply Through North East Gas Grid

<https://chemindigest.com/ongc-strengthens-assam-gas-supply-through-north-east-gas-grid/>

We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience by remembering your preferences and repeat visits. By clicking Accept All, you consent to the use of ALL the cookies. However, you may visit "Cookie Settings" to provide a controlled consent.

Headline	ஏப்ரல் - ஜூன் காலாண்டில் ஓஎன்ஜிசி லாபம் ரூ. 17,034 கோடி		
Publication	Dinamani	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Aug 2026		

ஏப்ரல் - ஜூன் காலாண்டில் ஓஎன்ஜிசி லாபம் ரூ. 17,034 கோடி

<https://www.dinamani.com/trade/2026/Aug/24/ongc-profit-at-rs-17034-crore-for-the-april-june-quarter>

பொதுத் துறை நிறுவனமான எண்ணெய் மற்றும் இயற்கை எரிவாயு கழகம், நடப்பு 2026-27 நிதியாண்டின் ஏப்ரல்-ஜூன் காலாண்டில் ரூ.17,033.81 கோடி நிகர லாபத்தைப் பதிவு செய்துள்ளது.

பொதுத் துறை நிறுவனமான எண்ணெய் மற்றும் இயற்கை எரிவாயு கழகம் (ஓஎன்ஜிசி), நடப்பு 2026-27 நிதியாண்டின் ஏப்ரல்-ஜூன் காலாண்டில் ரூ.17,033.81 கோடி நிகர லாபத்தைப் பதிவு செய்துள்ளது.

கடந்த 2025-26 நிதியாண்டின் இதே காலாண்டில் நிறுவனம் ஈட்டிய ரூ.8,024.23 கோடியில் இருந்து, இது இரட்டிப்பு வளர்ச்சியாகும். கச்சா எண்ணெய் விலையுயர்வு மற்றும் புதிய எரிவாயு கிணறுகள் மூலமாகக் கிடைத்த கூடுதல் வருவாயும் இதற்குக் காரணமாக தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அதேபோல், நிறுவனத்தின் மொத்த வருவாய் முந்தைய ஆண்டின் ரூ.33,213.39 கோடியிலிருந்து, மதிப்பீட்டு காலாண்டில் ரூ.48,321.65 கோடியாக உயர்ந்துள்ளது. வரிக்கு முந்தைய லாபம் காலாண்டு அளவில் முன்னெப்போதும் இல்லாத வகையில் ரூ.22,848 கோடியை எட்டியுள்ளது.

நிதிநிலையில் சாதனை படைத்திருந்தாலும், கச்சா எண்ணெய் மற்றும் இயற்கை எரிவாயு உற்பத்தி இக்காலாண்டில் சற்று சரிவைக் கண்டுள்ளது. கச்சா எண்ணெய் உற்பத்தி 46.8 லட்சம் டன்னிலிருந்து 44.5 லட்சம் டன்னாகவும், இயற்கை எரிவாயு உற்பத்தி 485 கோடி கன மீட்டரிலிருந்து 476 கோடி கன மீட்டராகவும் குறைந்துள்ளது.

அடுத்த நிதியாண்டு முதல் உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கும் நோக்கில் மேற்கு கடலோரப் பகுதிகளில் ரூ.40,000 கோடிக்கும் மேலான மூலதனத் திட்டங்களைச் செயல்படுத்தி வருவதாக ஓஎன்ஜிசி தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

Headline	ONGC Signs MoA for ₹20 Crore CSR Support to Restore 700 Flood-Hit Schools in Assam		
Publication	Indian Master Minds	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Aug 2026		

ONGC Signs MoA for ₹20 Crore CSR Support to Restore 700 Flood-Hit Schools in Assam

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/ongc-rs-20-crore-csr-restore-flood-hit-schools-assam-227025/>

ONGC Signs MoA for 20 Crore CSR Support to Restore 700 Flood-Hit Schools in Assam

Dispur: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) to provide 20 crore in CSR support for the restoration and rebuilding of approximately 650700 schools affected by the 2026 Assam floods.

The agreement was signed on August 21, 2026, at Janata Bhawan, Dispur. The initiative will primarily focus on flood-affected schools in Sivasagar and Charaideo districts, with restoration work targeted for completion within seven months from the release of CSR funds.

Under the CSR initiative, ONGC will provide 20 crore to support the restoration of approximately 650700 schools damaged by the severe floods in Assam. The initiative is aimed at helping affected educational institutions return to a safe and functional condition at the earliest.

Read also: ONGC Commissions Khoraghat Gas Evacuation Facility in Assam to Utilise Nearly 1 Lakh SCM Gas Daily

The restoration programme will particularly focus on schools in Sivasagar and Charaideo, among the areas affected by the floods.

The damage to educational infrastructure disrupted normal schooling for children in several communities. The restoration initiative is expected to help schools resume regular activities in safer and improved facilities.

According to the agreement, the restoration work is envisaged to be completed within seven months from the release of the CSR funds. The initiative will focus on restoring damaged school infrastructure so that students can return to functional learning environments as quickly as possible.

The collaboration between ONGC and ASDMA is expected to support coordinated implementation of the restoration efforts.

ONGC has maintained a longstanding association with Assam and has undertaken various initiatives for communities in the state. The latest CSR support is aimed at contributing to the recovery of communities affected by the 2026 floods, with a particular focus on restoring educational infrastructure.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It is India's leading exploration and production company, engaged in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas in India and overseas.

Headline	REC Limited honoured with GEEF Global CSR Award 2026 for Excellence in Sports Development & Inclusion		
Publication	Just Bureaucracy	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Aug 2026		

REC Limited honoured with GEEF Global CSR Award 2026 for Excellence in Sports Development & Inclusion

<https://justbureaucracy.com/rec-limited-honoured-with-geef-global-csr-award-2026-for-excellence-in-sports-development-inclusion/>

REC Limited, through its CSR arm REC Foundation, has been honoured with the GEEF Global CSR Award 2026 under the category CSR Excellence in Sports

Development & Inclusion 2026, presented during the Global WaterTech Summit 2026 in New Delhi.

The award recognises REC's continued commitment to using sports as a powerful tool for youth empowerment, inclusion and community development, creating opportunities and enabling aspiring talent across the country.

REC's CSR interventions in the sports sector reflect its focus on nurturing talent, promoting inclusivity and creating avenues for youth to realise their potential. By supporting sports development, REC Foundation continues to contribute towards building a more inclusive and empowered society.

Bhaskar Barua, currently serving as Deputy General Manager at Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL), has been chosen as the next Managing

Vikas, Chief General Manager at ONGC, has been selected as Managing Director of Bharat Petro Resources Limited (BPRL) following a

Sunil Kumar Nagdawne, Chairman & Managing Director, Pawan Hans Limited called on G. V. G. Yugandhar, Director General, Aircraft Accident

Headline	Crude oil rally lifts Oil India, ONGC; OMCs slip		
Publication	Multibagg AI	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Aug 2026		

Crude oil rally lifts Oil India, ONGC; OMCs slip

<https://www.multibagg.ai/market-pulse/articles/crude-oil-rally-oil-india-cmt7100wrv7mj0zqlwa14vt19>

Rising crude oil prices have again become the key driver behind sharp, sector-divergent moves in Indian energy stocks, according to market chatter on Reddit and social feeds.

Upstream producers such as Oil India and ONGC have tended to move up with higher crude realisations, while oil marketing companies (OMCs) have often reacted in the opposite direction due to margin concerns. The latest leg of volatility also coincides with policy changes on royalties and a new offshore exploration push, both of which have stayed in focus online. Traders have been mapping each crude spike to intraday moves across upstream, downstream, and oilfield services names. The discussion is less about broad sentiment and more about the near-term linkage between crude prints and stock price reactions. Below is how the market narrative has taken shape across crude prices, upstream rallies, and downstream pressure.

Why crude is moving again

Global crude prices climbed above \$11 a barrel in one of the sessions discussed online, reviving supply-side concerns linked to the Middle East. Brent crude futures rose 39 cents, or 0.4%, to \$11.26 a barrel, while US WTI gained 51 cents to \$15.31 in the same snapshot. In a separate market update circulating on social media, Brent rallied as much as 13% to cross \$12 per barrel before trimming gains. At the time of that report, Brent was up 4.82% at \$16.38 per barrel and WTI was up 4.31% at \$19.91. Another thread linked the move to geopolitical tension after the US revoked a temporary sanctions waiver that had allowed Iranian oil exports. The same posts referenced attacks on multiple tankers near the Strait of Hormuz as a trigger for renewed disruption fears. The key takeaway from these updates is that crude price direction, not just absolute levels, is driving quick rotations in Indian energy stocks. That is why each crude headline has translated into immediate, high-beta action across the sector.

Upstream wins when crude rises

The social discussion repeatedly highlighted a simple relationship: higher crude prices tend to lift sentiment for upstream oil producers because they can benefit from higher oil realisations. This has shown up in the relative performance of ONGC and Oil India during crude upswings. One market recap noted that when crude jumped, upstream names gained nearly 5% even as OMCs fell sharply. Another update said ONGC jumped 4.73% while Oil India surged 4.43% during a day marked by crude anxiety. A separate report described ONGC rising nearly 6.6% and Oil India jumping close to 9% after a royalty-related announcement, reinforcing that policy and crude can stack in the same direction for upstream companies. In Tuesday intraday trade during a weak broader market, Oil India rose 7.5% to 490.9 and ONGC gained more than 5% to close at 295.25 on the BSE. Over calendar year 2026, ONGC (up 22%) and Oil India (up 15%) were said to have outperformed a Sensex decline of 12.5%. For retail traders following the space, these figures are being used as evidence that upstream is where momentum concentrates when crude tightens.

Oil India in focus: price action

Oil India has been a focal point in Reddit threads because it has reacted to both crude moves and company-specific cues. In one widely shared snapshot from August 18, Oil India traded at 481.70, up 1.49% on the NSE at 12:54 pm, after rising as much as 2.01% to 484.20 earlier in the session. The context given was Brent above \$11 a barrel, which was seen as supportive for upstream realisations. Another set of posts described a stronger intraday rally of as much as 7% after brokerages reiterated bullish views following June quarter earnings (Q1FY27). On that day, Oil India opened 3.7% higher at 464.40 and extended gains to hit a high of about 484 on the NSE. The move was described as the second consecutive session of gains, with the stock up 10% over two sessions. These price points became reference levels in social discussions about whether the stock was reacting more to crude or to earnings follow-through. The consistent theme was that Oil India sits at the intersection of crude sensitivity and changing domestic exploration economics.

Broker views after Q1FY27

Broker commentary shared online added a second catalyst alongside crude: expectations of stronger production and drilling activity. Emkay Research upgraded Oil India to 'Buy' from 'Add', citing attractive valuation and a strong production outlook, based on the posts. The same discussion cited crude production rising 11% year-on-year to 0.95 mmt. It also referenced a current run-rate of around 11 ktpd. Another data point highlighted was Oil India targeting 100 wells in FY27, with drilling expected to rise 10% annually and an increasing focus on deepwater. Separately, Elara Capital was said to have maintained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of 672. Social threads treated these broker notes as an explanation for why the stock could rally beyond what crude alone might justify on a given day. The operational roadmap narrative was also amplified by posts claiming exploration activity was being ramped up by over 30%. For traders, the combination of crude leverage and drilling-led volume expectations is the main frame being debated.

Royalty rationalisation: what changed

A major policy driver in the chatter was the government's rationalisation of royalty rates for crude oil and natural gas production. Posts said the announcement boosted investor sentiment across upstream energy, with sharp intraday moves in ONGC and Oil India. CLSA, as cited in the discussion, estimated the effective royalty rate on onshore crude may decline from 16.66% to nearly 10%. For offshore production, the royalty burden was described as reducing from 9.09% to around 8%. Royalty on natural gas production was also said to be lowered from 10% to 8%. Another widely shared table summarised statutory changes across onshore, shallow offshore, deepwater, and ultra-deepwater categories. The policy change was presented as a move to remove inconsistencies under the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act framework and support upstream growth. Market participants online framed this as structurally supportive for exploration economics, especially where deepwater costs are high.

Samudra Manthan offshore scheme: long-term lever

The Union Cabinet's approval of the 84,084-crore Samudra Manthan National Offshore Exploration Scheme also featured in the social narrative. The scheme was described as a five-year push to accelerate oil and gas exploration in India's deepwater and ultra-deepwater basins. One specific detail shared was that the Centre plans to cover up to 50% of deepwater drilling costs, capped at 675 crore per well. Despite that, posts said the announcement did not trigger an immediate sector-wide rally in that instance. The reason given was that Brent crude fell roughly 7% right after the Cabinet approval, which was framed as a bigger near-term driver for upstream earnings than a policy headline. Commentators also pointed to execution risk in deepwater drilling as a factor that can limit knee-jerk optimism. Another point was that the policy had been telegraphed in advance, leaving less new information for markets to price in. The result, according to the discussion, was a muted and sector-divergent reaction rather than a broad-based surge. This contrast has kept attention on the timing gap between policy support and market pricing.

Why downstream OMCs slipped

While upstream names gained in crude upswings, downstream OMCs were repeatedly described as coming under pressure. One market recap stated that Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum, and Reliance Industries came under pressure when crude prices jumped. A specific data point shared was Indian Oil Corporation falling as much as 5.03% on a high-volatility day. Another summary said OMC stocks fell up to 6% as Brent touched above \$12 per barrel. The same set of posts argued that the market was reflecting crude oil anxiety, with investors reacting instantly to the spike. In a related note about sectoral spillovers, oil-sensitive stocks such as Asian Paints were mentioned as slipping up to 4% during a crude rise. The takeaway in these discussions is that higher crude can be a headwind for companies sensitive to input costs or fuel margin dynamics. This is why the same macro trigger can create winners and losers within the energy complex. For investors, the debate is often about whether the crude move is temporary or sustained enough to influence quarterly outcomes.

Drilling and services stocks riding the theme

Social feeds also circulated a snapshot of gains across oil exploration and related names, suggesting a broader interest beyond the two large upstream PSUs. The list included Aban Offshore at 20.10 (+4.91%), Asian Energy Services at 406.70 (+3.84%), and Jindal Drilling India at 638.00 (+3.60%). The same table showed Tamil Nadu Petro Products at 101.35 (+2.71%), placing petrochemicals alongside exploration names in daily movers. Aakash Exploration Services was also listed at 9.02 (+0.33%). These moves were discussed alongside the idea of higher drilling activity and policy support for offshore exploration, even though day-to-day price action remains sensitive to crude. The presence of 52-week highs and lows in the shared table highlights how traders are using technical reference points during volatile phases. The returns columns shared across 1M, 3M, and longer windows also show that performance dispersion is large, particularly in smaller names. The broader message is that crude-linked momentum is not limited to upstream producers, but can extend to drilling and services stocks when activity expectations rise. However, the same discussions also implied that these stocks can be high beta and therefore prone to sharp reversals.

What investors are watching next

Across Reddit and social commentary, the near-term watchlist remains anchored to crude prints and headline risk from West Asia. Traders are tracking whether Brent holds above key levels, since the same threads show how quickly energy stocks react to sharp crude spikes. For Oil India, the discussion is split between crude-linked upside and the company-specific operating roadmap shared online, including the 100-well target in FY27. The posts also referenced a plan to secure 6 million tons of crude imports annually to stabilise the refining value chain and prioritise local market supply, which adds another layer to the story. For ONGC and Oil India, the royalty rationalisation is being treated as an additional supportive factor that could influence cash flows and project economics. On the policy side, Samudra Manthan is viewed as a long-term lever, but one that will be judged on execution given deepwater complexity. For downstream OMCs, investors in these discussions are focused on whether crude remains elevated long enough to keep pressure on stocks like Indian Oil, HPCL, and BPCL. The market setup, as reflected in these online conversations, is therefore a continuous rotation driven by crude direction, policy signals, and activity expectations. Any sustained trend in crude is likely to keep this sector split in place, at least in the short run.

Headline	ATASU Calls Off ONGC Shutdown Following Talks		
Publication	NE Wire	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Aug 2026		

ATASU Calls Off ONGC Shutdown Following Talks

<https://newire.in/articles/atasu-calls-off-ongc-shutdown-following-talks>

Guwahati: The All Tai Ahom Students' Union suspended its planned statewide shutdown of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited. The protest was set for August 25.

ATASU president Basanta Gogoi announced the decision on Sunday, August 23, in Sivasagar. The reversal followed a four-hour meeting between student leaders and ONGC officials.

ONGC committed to hiring local candidates and keeping all regional offices inside Assam. The company addressed fears regarding the relocation of financial operations to Delhi. Officials clarified the move aimed to centralize processes rather than pull operations from the state. "The decision was taken after a four-hour meeting with ONGC authorities, during which several demands concerning Assam were discussed," Gogoi said.

The agreement also covers academic and historical initiatives. ONGC pledged to provide training and support for local students preparing for Union Public Service Commission examinations. Furthermore, the company promised to develop and preserve the historic Pohnu Garh site located in Sivasagar. ATASU intends to watch these promises closely. Future actions will depend on how the company handles these commitments.

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	ONGC Supports MC ² + Ignite Energy Innovation Accelerator at IIT Madras		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Aug 2026		

ONGC Supports MC²+ Ignite Energy Innovation Accelerator at IIT Madras

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-supports-mc-ignite-energy-innovation-accelerator-at-iit-madras>

ONGC backs MC+ Ignite, an IIT Madras-linked energy innovation accelerator focused on taking Indian technologies from pilots to commercial deployment.

New Delhi, August 24, 2026: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has reaffirmed its support for MC+ Ignite , an energy innovation accelerator launched at IIT Madras to help promising technologies move from research and pilot projects to commercial deployment.

The launch was attended by Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Chairman of the MC Foundation , along with leaders from India's oil and gas sector. ONGC Chairman and CEO Arun Singh also participated in the event.

Focus on commercialising energy innovation

MC+ Ignite aims to connect startups, industry and academia and help innovative energy technologies reach real-world applications.

The accelerator plans to support startups through capital, mentorship, infrastructure, pilot sites and industry adoption opportunities

For ONGC, the initiative provides an avenue to support Indian technologies beyond the laboratory by testing and scaling solutions in real operating environments.

The company said its participation reflects its commitment to indigenous innovation, technological self-reliance and India's energy security

The broader objective is to strengthen collaboration between India's research ecosystem and the energy industry, helping promising technologies progress from pilot projects to commercial deployment

Headline	ONGC Gives ₹20 Crore to Rebuild Flood-Hit Schools in Assam		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	24 Aug 2026		

ONGC Gives ₹20 Crore to Rebuild Flood-Hit Schools in Assam

<https://www.psuconnect.in/memorandum-of-understanding/ongc-gives-20-crore-to-rebuild-flood-hit-schools-in-assam>

ONGC signs MoA with Assam State Disaster Management Authority for 20 crore CSR support to restore ~650700 flood-hit schools, mainly in Sivasagar and Charaideo. Work targeted within 7 months.

Guwahati, August 24, 2026: ONGC is giving 20 crore under CSR to rebuild and restore around 650700 schools damaged by the 2026 Assam floods.

Focus is on Sivasagar and Charaideo districts.

What Happened

ONGC and Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement on 21 August 2026 at Janata Bhawan, Dispur.

The project must finish within seven months after funds are released. Goal: make classrooms safe and usable again quickly.

Key Facts

Amount: 20 crore

Schools: approx. 650700

Priority districts: Sivasagar and Charaideo

Timeline: 7 months from fund release

Partner: ASDMA

Why It Matters

The floods in July 2026 hit Upper Assam hard. Hundreds of schools were damaged. Children lost normal classes.

ONGC has long ties with Assam. This support helps communities restart education after the disaster.

Restoring classrooms. Supporting recovery. Standing with Assam.

