



ONGC News as on 27 July 2026 (Print & Online)

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 4

ONGC starts drilling India's first deepwater well off Odisha coast

In a major push towards unlocking India's offshore hydrocarbon potential and reducing dependence on imported crude oil and natural gas, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has begun drilling its first deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin off the Odisha coast. The exploratory well, named MN-DW18-1-H-D, is located around 23 nautical miles from ONGC's Konark discovery, marking the beginning of one of the country's most ambitious and technically challenging deepwater exploration campaigns. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri spudded the deepwater exploratory well from New Delhi on Saturday.

BS REPORTER

Publication : Dainik Jagran (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 13

Headline: Drilling begins in the first well in the Mahanadi offshore basin

महानदी अपतटीय बेसिन में पहले कुएं में खुदाई शुरू

नई दिल्ली, वि. : भारत की गहरे पानी में मौजूद हाइड्रोकार्बन क्षमता का पता लगाने की दिशा में एक अहम कदम उठाते हुए पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने 25 जुलाई को वर्युअल तरीके से महानदी अपतटीय बेसिन में ओएनजीसी के खोज वाले कुएं एमएन-डीडब्ल्यू 18-1 एच डी में खुदाई की शुरू की। भारत सरकार के 'समुद्र मंथन' अभियान के तहत यह एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है और भारत के गहरे और बहुत गहरे पानी में मौजूद ऊर्जा संसाधनों का पता लगाने के एक महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत है।

Publication : Dina Malar (Tamil)	Editions : Chennai
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 12

Headline: ONGC begins deep -sea hydrocarbon exploration

ஆழ்கடலில் ஹைட்ரோகார்பன்
ஆய்வை தொடங்கியது ஓ.என்.ஜி.சி.,

புதுடி, ஜூலை 27-
ஒடிஷா கடற்கரையை ஒட்டிய மகாந்தி கடற்
படுகையில், முதல் ஆழ்கடல் ஆய்வுக் கிணறு
தோண்டும் பணியை, ஓ.என்.ஜி.சி., நிறுவனம்
தொடங்கியுள்ளது.

மத்திய அரசின், 'சமுத்ர மந்தன்' திட்டத்தின்
கீழ், 'எம்.என்.டி.டபிள்யூ.181எச்டி' என்ற கிணறு
தோண்டப்படுகிறது. இது, கோனார்க் கண்டுபி
டிப்பு பகுதியிலிருந்து 23 கடல் மைல் தொலை
வில் அமைந்துள்ளது.

நாட்டின் கிழக்கு மற்றும் மேற்கு கடல் பகுதி
களில், 3,000 மீட்டர் ஆழம் வரையிலான பகுதி
களில், 560 கோடி மெட்ரிக் டன் எண்ணெய்க்கு
இணையான ஹைட்ரோகார்பன் வளம் இருப்ப
தாக மதிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. முன்பு ஆய்வு நடத்த
அனுமதி இல்லாத கிட்டத்தட்ட, 10 லட்சம் சதுர
கி.மீ. கடல் பகுதிகளில் தற்போது ஆய்வு மேற்
கொள்ள மத்திய அரசு அனுமதி வழங்கியுள்ளது.

இந்த ஆய்வின் வாயிலாக, உள்நாட்டு எண்
னெய் மற்றும் இயற்கை எரிவாயு உற்பத்தியை
அதிகரித்து, இறக்குமதி சார்பை குறைத்து, நாட்
டின் எரிசக்தி பாதுகாப்பை வலுப்படுத்த முடியும்
என, ஓ.என்.ஜி.சி. தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

Publication : The Statesman

Editions : New Delhi

Date : 27 July 2026

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Experts chart roadmap for strengthening project execution across energy and mining CPSEs

AGENCIES

Vadodara, 26 July

The three-day third edition of Bharat CPSEs' Consultative Conclave 2026 on Project and Asset Management successfully concluded on Sunday here with experts charting out a roadmap for strengthening project execution, asset management and organisational excellence across Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in the energy and mining sectors a day before at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara, after insightful deliberations on strengthening project execution, asset management and organisational excellence.

The event was organised jointly by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and the Department of Public Enterprises



(DPE) under the Union Ministry of Finance with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) as the strategic knowledge partner. The conclave brought together policy-makers, industry leaders, academia as well as senior CPSE executives to exchange best practices and chart the way forward in support of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Detailed discussions were held on planning, detailed project report, contracting, land acquisition, asset life cycle management, deep tech

technology adoption and use of PM Gati Shakti platform in formulating an implementable CPSE Reform Agenda.

A total of 39 delegates from NTPC, Coal India, Bharat Coking Coal, BPCL, HPCL, Indian Oil, ONGC, ONGC Videsh, Oil India, MRPL, GAIL, SAIL, MECON, NMDC, Hindustan Copper, NALCO, NHPC, SJVN and Power Grid Corporation of India participated in the Conclave.

Mangu Singh (Former DMRC Managing Director) was the Chief Guest during the inauguration and focused on contract management as an important aspect for success of the projects.

K. Moses Chalai (DPE Secretary), as the Guest of Honour, highlighted the need for innovative and data-driven approaches for asset and project management.

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
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PARADIP PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX

Odisha begins land acquisition for IOC's ₹61,077 cr plant

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
New Delhi, 26 July

More than a year after Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) signed a deal with the Odisha government for its biggest-ever single-location investment, the ₹61,077-crore Paradip Petrochemical Complex saw the commencement of land acquisition for the mega project. The state government has started the mandatory Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for

acquiring private land for the integrated petrochemical complex. This project is expected to transform Paradip into one of India's largest petrochemical manufacturing hubs.

The complex will be anchored by a world-scale 1.5 million tonnes per annum dual-feed naphtha cracker and a host of downstream petrochemical units, besides the proposed Paradip plastic park.

The revenue and disaster management department has issued a

notification for the acquisition of 219.617 acres of private land at Badakantakandha village under Erasama tehsil of Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district. The private land parcel is part of 2,200 acres required for the project and is located adjacent to IOC's existing Paradip refinery.

The land acquisition will be carried out through the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation. "The SIA process is expected to be completed within

four months. The project work will commence soon once the land acquisition is over," a senior official told *Business Standard*.

According to IOC's plans, a wide range of products, including polypropylene, high-density polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, phenol, and isopropyl alcohol will be produced at the complex, providing key feedstock for sectors like pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, paints, adhesives, packaging and plastics.

IndianOil Durand Cup 2026 kicks off at Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, JULY 26: The 135th edition of the IndianOil Durand Cup football tournament commenced in Kolkata on 25th July, 2026 at Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan. This year's tournament is named the "IndianOil Durand Cup" as

AVSM, YSM, GOC-in-C, Eastern Command & Patron, DCOC, Lt Gen Gambhir Singh, UYSM, AVSM, YSM-Chief of Staff, HQ Eastern Command & Chairman, DCOC, Avandira Singh, IAS-Secretary, Department of Youth Services & Sports and Department of Cooperation, Government of West Bengal, Kalyan Chaubey-President, AIFF, Jitendra Kumar, ED RS & State Head, West Bengal, IndianOil and other dignitaries were also present.

Featuring a blockbuster opening of the IndianOil Durand Cup, in the Kolkata Derby match between Mohun Bagan SG and East Bengal FC on 25th July, Mohun Bagan emerged victorious with 1-0.

IndianOil's commitment to sports is guided by a comprehensive sports policy that aims to reshape the sporting culture in India and elevate the nation's position in sports across multiple disciplines. The company has taken several initiatives for sports promotion, including recruitment,



IndianOil is the title sponsor. Organized by the Indian Armed Forces and supported by the Governments of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Manipur & Assam, this is the third oldest football tournament in the world, being held across five states- Guwahati in Assam, Ranchi in Jharkhand, Shillong in Meghalaya, Imphal in Manipur and Kolkata in West Bengal. All six venues across five states have been meticulously prepared to provide a world-class experience to football enthusiasts.

The inaugural ceremony of the IndianOil Durand Cup at Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata, was graced by Dr Indranil Khan, Minister-in-Charge, Dept of Youth Services, Sports & Department of Consumer

Affairs who also made the inaugural ball-kick. Tapas Roy, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Industry; Dr. Sharadwat Mukherjee, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Lt Gen VM Bhuvana Krishnan, PVSM,

scholarships, awards, incentives, organizing sporting events, sponsorship of sports tournaments, development/ maintenance of sports infrastructure, and support to prestigious sports academies. The IndianOil Durand Cup is a significant part of these efforts to promote sports on a grand scale.

The Durand Cup stands as the flag bearer of India's long and rich footballing legacy. Established in 1888 by Sir Mortimer Durand, Foreign Secretary of British India,



this tournament continues to captivate millions of football lovers in India. This year, a total of 43 matches will be played in IndianOil Durand Cup across 5 cities - Kolkata, Ranchi, Shillong, Imphal and Guwahati. (Photo: Arijit Ganguly)

Headline: Where can profits be made in oil and gas stocks?

ब्रैट क्रूड में उछाल के दौर में समझिए किन कंपनियों पर बढ़ेगा दबाव और कहाँ बन सकते हैं मौके ऑयल-गैस शेयरों में कहाँ बनेगा मुनाफा?

सेक्टर स्कैन



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पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव से कच्चा तेल 100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के पार पहुँच गया है। इसका असर भारतीय ऑयल-गैस कंपनियों की लागत और मुनाफे पर पड़ सकता है। ऐसे माहौल में किन शेयरों में निवेश का मौका है, कौन से जोखिम हैं और किन बावों पर नजर रखनी चाहिए, सबकुछ जानिए।

(यह लेख केवल जानकारी के लिए है। किसी भी शेयर में निवेश करने से पहले अपने वित्तीय सलाहकार की राय जरूर लें।)

वैश्वक अनिश्चितताओं के कारण पिछले कुछ महीनों में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में उबाल देखा जा रहा है। रिफाइनिंग मार्जिन और सरकारी नीतियों में बदलाव का सीधा असर ऑयल और गैस क्षेत्र की कंपनियों के शेयरों पर देखने को भी मिला है। ऐसे में खुदरा निवेशकों के सामने यह सवाल है कि इस संस्करण की कमाई किन कारकों पर निर्भर करती है और अगर किस तरह के अवसर और जोखिम हो सकते हैं।

पिछले हफ्ते पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव के कारण एक ओर अहम समुद्री व्यापार मार्ग बंद हो गया, जिसके कारण ब्रैट क्रूड की कीमत एक बार फिर 100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के पार पहुँच गई। ऐसे में भारतीय रिफाइनर दूसरे देशों से कच्चा तेल खरीदने के विकल्प तलाश रहे हैं और खाड़ी देशों से आने वाले तेल के लिए नए समुद्री रास्तों पर भी विचार कर रहे हैं।

कई कारक दिखाते हैं असर
क्रिसिल रेटिंग्स के निदेशक आदित्य झावर का कहना है कि भारत अपनी जरूरत का करीब 85% कच्चा तेल विदेश से खरीदता है। इसलिए, दुनिया में कच्चे तेल में उबाल आने का असर या रुपये में गिरावट का सीधा प्रभाव भी इस सेक्टर पर पड़ता है। अगर पश्चिम एशिया जैसे बड़े तेल उत्पादक क्षेत्रों में तनाव बढ़ता है, तो कच्चा तेल महंगा हो जाता है। ऐसे में IOC, BPCL और HPCL, जैसे ऑयल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों की लागत बढ़ जाती है। अगर ये कंपनियाँ तुरंत पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम नहीं बढ़ा पाती, तो उनके मुनाफे पर दबाव पड़ता है। आदित्य के मुताबिक, ऑयल कंपनियों की कमाई कच्चे तेल की कीमत के साथ सरकार की ईंधन नीति, टैक्स, सब्सिडी और रुपये की चाल पर भी निर्भर है। लागत बढ़ने पर कीमतें न बढ़ा पाने से मुनाफा घट सकता है, इसलिए निवेशकों को इन कारकों पर भी नजर रखनी चाहिए।

फायदा तभी जब...
क्या एनर्जी ट्रांजिशन और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों का बढ़ता चलन ऑयल कंपनियों के लिए खतरा है या निवेश का नया अवसर है? आदित्य के अनुसार, यह पारंपरिक ऑयल कंपनियों के लिए केवल चुनौती नहीं, नया अवसर भी है। अब ये कंपनियाँ सिर्फ पेट्रोल-डीजल की रिफाइनिंग और बिक्री तक सीमित नहीं हैं, बल्कि बायोमैथेन, EV चार्जिंग, रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी, पेट्रोकेमिकल्स और कार्बन उत्सर्जन घटाने वाली परियोजनाओं में बड़े निवेश कर रही हैं। उनका उद्देश्य भविष्य के लिए नए कमाई के स्रोत तैयार करना है। हालाँकि, दीर्घावधि निवेशकों को तभी बेहतर रिटर्न मिल सकता है, जब कंपनियाँ सही क्षेत्रों में निवेश करें, नई तकनीक अपनाएँ और बदलते ऊर्जा बाजार में लगातार प्रतियोगी बनी रहें।

कंपनियों को इनसे मिलेगा बल

- भारत में ऊर्जा की बढ़ती मांग
- ऊर्जा डिपेंडेंसी और मजबूत नकदी प्रवाह
- ग्रीन एनर्जी क्षेत्र में कंपनियों की विस्तार योजना

ये कारक थाम सकते हैं रफ्तार

- कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में उतार चढ़ाव
- सरकारी नीतियों का असर
- भू-राजनीतिक तनाव और रुपये में कमजोरी

क्या है विश्लेषकों का नज़रिया?

कंपनी	मौजूदा	लक्ष्य	बदलाव	रेटिंग
रिलायंस इंड.	1,278	1,490	16%	Buy
ONGC	249	290	16%	Buy
IOC	138.80	150	8%	Neutral
BPCL	310	415	34%	Buy

नोट : मौजूदा कीमत 24 जुलाई, 2026 शेयर बाजार बंद होने तक का है।

स्रोत : इन्वेस्टिंग डॉट कॉम पर मैकेसेरी और आईसीआईआई सिस्कोरिटीज की ब्रोकरेज रिपोर्ट

कहते हैं एक्सपर्ट

भारत अपनी जरूरत का अधिकांश कच्चा तेल आयात करता है। इसलिए कच्चे तेल की कीमत, रुपये की चाल और सरकारी नीतियों में बदलाव का सीधा असर ऑयल कंपनियों के मुनाफे पर पड़ता है। निवेशकों को इन सभी कारकों पर लगातार नजर रखनी चाहिए।
-आदित्य झावर, निदेशक, क्रिसिल रेटिंग्स



निवेशकों के लिए कुछ अहम बातें

भारत 85% कच्चा तेल आयात करता है, कीमतों का सीधा असर ऑयल कंपनियों पर पड़ता है।

रिलायंस, ONGC और BPCL पर ब्रोकरेज सकारात्मक, जबकि IOC को लेकर राय बंटी हुई है।

ग्रीन एनर्जी, EV चार्जिंग और बायोफ्यूल में निवेश से कंपनियाँ भविष्य की कमाई के नए रास्ते बना रही हैं।

इन कंपनियों पर नज़रें

रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज

देश की सबसे बड़ी ऑयल और पेट्रोकेमिकल कंपनी रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज की मजबूती बरकरार रहने के संकेत हैं। मार्केट रिसर्च प्लेटफॉर्म investing.com पर ऑस्ट्रेलियाई फाइनेंशियल सर्विस ग्रुप मैकेसेरी का कंपनी पर सकारात्मक नज़रिया है। 24 जुलाई को बाजार बंद होने तक कंपनी के एक शेयर की कीमत 1,278 रुपये थी, लेकिन मैक्वेरी ने कहा कि आने वाले समय में यह 16% चढ़कर 1,490 रुपये हो जाएगा। 31 में से 30 विश्लेषकों ने कंपनी के शेयर को बाय रेटिंग दी है।

ONGC

भारत की सबसे बड़ी सरकारी तेल और गैस खोज कंपनी ऑयल नैचरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ONGC) के शेयर में भी तेजी की उम्मीद है। 3.17 लाख करोड़ मार्केट कैप वाली इस कंपनी का शेयर शुक्रवार को भले ही लाल निशान में बंद हुआ, लेकिन पिछले 6 महीने में कंपनी के शेयर की कीमत 5% चढ़ी है।

IOC

पिछले साल 68% कम मुनाफा कमाने वाली इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (IOC) को लेकर विश्लेषकों की राय अलग-अलग है। इसके शेयर की कीमतों में इस साल अब तक 27% की भारी गिरावट हुई है। 31 में से 15 विश्लेषकों ने शेयर को बाय रेटिंग दी है, जबकि 9 ने सेल और 7 ने होल्ड करने को कहा है।



BPCL

भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (BPCL) को लेकर विश्लेषकों का नज़रिया सकारात्मक है। ICICI सिस्कोरिटीज ने अपनी ब्रोकरेज रिपोर्ट में इसे बाय रेटिंग दी है। फिलहाल, कंपनी के एक शेयर की कीमत 310 रुपये है, लेकिन ब्रोकरेज फर्म को लगा है कि आने वाले दिनों में शेयर की कीमत करीब 34% मजबूत होकर 415 रुपये हो सकती है। लेकिन, चालू वित्त वर्ष की जून तिमाही में कंपनी को 1,873 करोड़ रुपये का भारी भरकम नुकसान हुआ है।



Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 10

IndianOil launches express delivery of 10 & 5 kg LPG cylinders:

Pune: IndianOil has launched Indane XTRALITE NOW, a lightweight 10 kilograms composite LPG cylinder with express delivery within four hours, aiming to offer a smarter and more convenient cooking fuel experience. The new cylinder features a rust-free, translucent design that allows customers to easily monitor LPG levels. The company has also introduced four-hour home delivery for its popular 5 kilograms 'Chhotu' cylinder. The service debuts in Pune, Gurugram, Indore and Coimbatore, with expansion to 25 more cities by mid-August and nationwide rollout by October 2026. Bookings can be made through the IndianOil ONE app and customer portal.

Headline: Crude oil price falls below \$100 per barrel

ट्रंप के ईरान पर बड़े हमले टालने से अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों को राहत की उम्मीद

100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल से कम हुई क्रूड ऑयल की कीमत

■ भविष्य में और भी कम हो सकती हैं क्रूड की कीमतें

आज समाज नेटवर्क

नई दिल्ली। ईरान-अमेरिका में चल रहे युद्ध के बीच एक बड़ा अपडेट सामने आया है। अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने ईरान के खिलाफ चल रहे सैन्य हमलों पर फिलहाल रोक लगाने का फैसला किया है। लगातार 13 दिनों तक हर दिन हवाई हमले करने के बाद शुक्रवार को पहली बार ट्रंप ने अमेरिकी सेना को नए हमले नहीं करने का आदेश दिया। माना जा रहा है



कि यह फैसला ईरान के साथ बातचीत को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए लिया गया है। यह दावा अमेरिकी न्यूज चैनल Axios की एक रिपोर्ट में किया गया है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, शुक्रवार को ओमान का एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ईरान की राजधानी

तेहरान पहुंचा। इस दौरान दोनों देशों के बीच दुनिया के सबसे अहम समुद्री व्यापार मार्गों में से एक होर्मुज स्ट्रेट को दोबारा पूरी तरह खोलने को लेकर बातचीत हुई। सूत्रों का कहना है कि बातचीत में अच्छी प्रगति हुई है।

ओमान और ईरान के बीच सप्ताहांत तक एक समझौता हो सकता है। इसके बाद राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप तय करेंगे कि इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार किया जाए या नहीं। हालांकि अमेरिका ने फिलहाल नए हवाई हमले नहीं किए हैं, लेकिन उसकी सेना पूरी तरह तैयार है। अगर भविष्य में राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप आदेश देते हैं तो अमेरिकी सेना बहुत कम समय में दोबारा सैन्य कार्रवाई शुरू कर सकती है। यानी हमले केवल रोके गए हैं, पूरी तरह खत्म नहीं किए गए हैं। इससे युद्ध का खतरा कुछ कम हुआ और तेल बाजार को राहत मिली है। असर यह हुआ कि रविवार तक ब्रेंट क्रूड ऑयल 3.88% गिरकर 96.78 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर आ गया। वहीं अमेरिकी हल्क क्रूड भी 3.12% की गिरावट के साथ

89.31 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर पहुंच गया। हालांकि, इंडियन बास्केट की कीमत 103.3 डॉलर प्रति बैरल बनी हुई है। इंडियन बास्केट भारत की ओर से अलग-अलग जगह से आयात किए जाने वाले कुल कच्चे तेल की औसत कीमत को दिखाता है। एक्सपर्ट्स का मानना है कि अगर होर्मुज स्ट्रेट फिर से खुलता है तो कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में और नरमी आ सकती है। भारत के लिहाज तेल की कीमतें इसलिए मायने रखती हैं क्योंकि भारत अपनी जरूरत का 80 फीसदी तेल विदेशों से आयात करता है। ऐसे में मिडिल ईस्ट में शांति की संभावना तेल कीमतों में गिरावट की वजह बन सकती है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, पिछले दो हफ्तों से हर दिन अमेरिकी सैन्य अधिकारी ट्रंप के सामने

हमलों की योजना पेश कर रहे थे और कुछ ही घंटों में उन पर कार्रवाई हो जाती थी। लेकिन शुक्रवार को जब सेना ने नई कार्रवाई का प्रस्ताव रखा, तो ट्रंप ने उसे मंजुरी नहीं दी और हमले रोकने का निर्देश दिया।

व्हाइट हाउस में पत्रकारों से बात करते हुए ट्रंप ने कहा कि अमेरिका के पास ईरान पर और भी बड़े हमले करने की पूरी क्षमता है। उन्होंने कहा कि अगर जरूरत पड़ी तो अमेरिका ईरान की सैन्य ताकत को पूरी तरह खत्म कर सकता है। हालांकि उनका मानना है कि युद्ध से बेहतर रास्ता बातचीत और समझौता है। ट्रंप ने कहा, 'हम इस समय ईरान से बातचीत कर रहे हैं। मुझे लगता है कि वे पहले से ज्यादा गंभीर हो रहे हैं।'

Oil near \$100 puts Fed, peers in rate spotlight

CRAIG STIRLING
26 July

From Washington to London to Tokyo, central bankers are set to reveal just how worried they are about a return of oil to about \$100 a barrel.

Three days of Group of Seven rate decisions, starting with the Federal Reserve on Wednesday, followed by peers at the Bank of England and Bank of Japan, may show varying degrees of vigilance at the prospect of more energy-driven inflation, even if none is predicted to act on that for now.

Together with the European Central Bank's signal of its readiness to hike interest rates again, investor bets point to possible moves as soon as September within much of that club, even if economists are less sure.

Crude oil's brief foray above the \$100 level it last exceeded two months ago is just one of the potential inflation risks confronting policymakers.

Aside from gains in other energy categories such as gas, investors are honing in on the implications of massive investment in artificial intelligence, as well as US President Donald Trump's bid to rebuild a wall of tariffs after setbacks at the Supreme Court.

Global bond markets point to some alarm among investors, with yields having jumped across the G7. On Friday, the US 30-year yield was just below its highest since 2007.

Revealing worries

- G7 rate decisions show vigilance toward energy-driven inflation risks
- Investor bets target potential September monetary policy moves
- Investors honing in on implications of massive investment in AI
- Global bond markets point to alarm among



investors, with yields having jumped across the G7

- Other ripples from renewed cost-of-living hit may be seen in central bank decisions around the world

Other ripples from the renewed cost-of-living hit may be seen in central bank decisions around the world, with more than a dozen scheduled for the coming week.

Elsewhere, euro-zone growth and inflation numbers, Tokyo consumer prices, and South Korean exports will be among the highlights.

US and Canada

The Fed's July 29 rate decision is approaching with more suspense than many anticipated after June consumer price data in the US came in much cooler than expected. That's been overtaken, however, by renewed hostilities in the West Asia.

The resulting surge in oil prices has boosted expectations for dissent from some officials — possibly Dallas Fed President Lorie Logan and Cleveland's Beth Hammack — who favor a rate

increase now. It's also sparked widespread discussion over whether new Chairman Kevin Warsh might surprise investors with a hike.

We expect a hawkish hold. Warsh is likely to stress that inflation remains too high and keep a September hike in play, but the soft CPI data should be enough to prevent action this month.*

Asia

It's another busy week for the Asia-Pacific region, with several important monetary policy decisions and trade releases. First up is a rate decision from Singapore's central bank, a chance to dust off your protractors so you can check the slope of the currency band which is their policy tool. Friday morning brings a data dump from Japan, with industrial output, retail sales and jobless data for June as well as inflation in Tokyo for July.

BLOOMBERG



GUEST COLUMN
SHASHENDRA NATH

Green taxonomy urgently needs green capital

India's proposed Climate Finance Taxonomy will bring clarity to the capital market, guide green investments and provide a credible framework for channelising green investments. But India's taxonomy will face challenges because of its narrow focus. The tax challenge is to ensure that the capital market is able to absorb the green investments, and that the investments are not diverted to other sectors.

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WITH OVER 86 MILLION REGISTERED MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING NEARLY 45% OF MANUFACTURING OUTPUT, THIS SECTOR IS CENTRAL TO OUR CLIMATE STRATEGY

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Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 10

Oil, West Asia crisis, US Fed rate decision to drive mkts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 26 July

Developments around the West Asia conflict, crude oil prices and the US Fed interest rate decision would be the key drivers for market movement this week, analysts said. Besides, quarterly earnings would drive sentiments in the market, they added.

"Developments surrounding the US-Iran conflict, shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz, and movements in crude oil prices will remain key drivers of global risk sentiment. In addition, investors will closely monitor the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting, where interest rate guidance and commentary on inflation will be critical for global markets," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking, said.

On the domestic front, market participants will track June Industrial Production (IIP) data, he added.

Major companies reporting earnings this week include Coal India, BEL, Larsen & Toubro, Hindustan Unilever, Adani Enterprises, Asian Paints, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Maruti Suzuki, ITC, and Sun Pharma, Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart, said.

Publication : Business Standard (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 4

एलएनजी आयात बढ़ाना नाकाफी : रिपोर्ट

भारत में प्राकृतिक गैस की दीर्घकालिक मांग बढ़ाने के लिए केवल तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी) आयात क्षमता बढ़ाना ही पर्याप्त नहीं होगा। इसके साथ-साथ गैस पाइपलाइन और वितरण नेटवर्क का विस्तार, गैस आधारित उद्योगों में निवेश और बाजार, नियमन और मूल्य निर्धारण प्रणाली में व्यापक सुधार भी जरूरी होंगे। यह बात अंतरराष्ट्रीय गैस संघ (आईजीयू) की एक रिपोर्ट कही गई है।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि भारत ने एलएनजी री-गैसीफिकेशन टर्मिनल की क्षमता तो बढ़ाई है, लेकिन गैस के परिवहन और वितरण से जुड़ा बुनियादी ढांचा उसी गति से विकसित नहीं हो पाया है। इससे देश की गैस खपत बढ़ाने की क्षमता पर सीधा असर पड़ा है। भाषा

Publication : Echo of India	Editions : Kolkata
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 8

Oil prices, US Fed rate decision, West Asia crisis to drive mkts: Analysts

NEW DELHI: Developments around the West Asia conflict, crude oil prices and the US Fed interest rate decision would be the key drivers for market movement this week, analysts said. Besides, quarterly earnings would drive sentiments in the market, they added. "Developments surrounding the US-Iran conflict, shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz, and movements in crude oil prices will remain key drivers of global risk sentiment. In addition, investors will closely monitor the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting, where interest rate guidance and commentary on inflation will be critical for global markets," Ajit Mishra SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. On the domestic front, market participants will track June Industrial Production (IIP) data, he added. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 2,091.68 points, or 2.67 per cent, and the NSE Nifty declined 566.85 points, or 2.32 per cent.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 1, 4

LPG crisis shows up in Zomato's restaurant base



THE NUMBER OF restaurants active on Zomato fell for the first time on record in the June quarter, as a months-long squeeze on commercial LPG forced kitchens across India to ration operations, cut menus, or shut altogether, reports **Anees Hussain.** ■ PAGE 4

LPG shortage weighs on Zomato's restaurant base

ANEES HUSSAIN
Bengaluru, July 26

THE NUMBER OF restaurants active on Zomato fell for the first time on record in the June quarter, as a months-long squeeze on commercial cooking gas forced kitchens to ration operations, cut menus, or shut altogether.

Eternal's food delivery platform ended the quarter with about 328,000 average monthly active restaurant partners, down from 344,000 in the March quarter, according to its Q1FY27 disclosures. It was the first sequential fall in the metric in the company's disclosed history, which had climbed steadily from 313,000 a year earlier. Chief Executive Albinder Singh Dhindsa told analysts that the decline reflected restaurants going offline because of the LPG situation during the quarter, rather than a deliberate pruning of the platform.

The disruption began in March, when the closure of the Strait of Hormuz choked India's LPG imports and a government order directed oil marketing companies to prioritise households over commercial users. Commercial supply to restaurants was cut sharply, restored in stages through the following months, with

UNUSUAL TREND

■ Zomato's average monthly active restaurant partners fell to **328,000** in Q1FY27 from 344,000 in Q4FY26, marking the first sequential decline in the platform's history

■ Monthly transacting customers, however, rose to **27.2 mn**, indicating healthy demand

■ Divergence between a shrinking restaurant base and a growing customer base suggests supply-side stress

■ The trend points to increasing pressure on smaller restaurant partners due to rising operating costs, leading some to shut operations



restrictions lifted fully only in late June. For most of April-June, restaurants ran on rationed and costlier gas.

Prices climbed alongside the shortage and have stayed high. A 19-kg commercial cylinder, the size restaurants use, rose steeply through the first half of 2026, with the single largest increase coming in May, after the supply squeeze began to ease. A first price cut of the year in July brought only partial relief, with prices yet to recover to pre-war levels. The burden fell hardest on the smallest kitchens. Industry bodies said during the crisis, around a fifth of restaurants had curtailed operations, and small and mid-sized eateries, which run on the thinnest margins

and the smallest gas reserves, were the most exposed. For many such outlets, weeks of lost trade followed by a higher fuel bill can be the difference between a temporary and a permanent shutdown. Larger chains, which had built gas buffers and shifted some cooking to electric, were better placed to ride it out.

The fall in restaurant partners came even as Zomato's food delivery business grew net order value 20.1% year-on-year to ₹10,769 crore and lifted monthly transacting customers to 27.2 million. A shrinking supplier base alongside a growing customer base is unusual for the platform, and points to stress on the supply side rather than any softening of demand.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 2

Solar, wind power generation jumps over 25%

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, July 26

INDIA'S SOLAR AND wind electricity generation rose by more than 25% in the first half of 2026, raising their share in the country's power mix to 16.5% from 14% a year earlier, as renewables overtook coal to become the world's largest source of electricity genera-

**Power demand rose
11% y-o-y in May,
when solar generation
reached 60 GW**

tion, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Solar power generation in India increased by more than 30% during January-June,

while wind generation grew by just under 10%. The expansion came alongside a 3.5% increase in coal-fired generation as the country met stronger electricity demand and a record peak load of 270.8 GW in late May.

At the same time, gas-fired power generation declined by about 15% compared to H1 2025 and was more than 40%

lower than H1 2024 levels.

India's electricity consumption grew by around 6% in the first half, driven by stronger industrial and services activity and heatwaves between mid-April and early June. Power demand rose 11% year-on-year in May, when solar generation reached 60 GW, accounting for 22% of the daytime peak load.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 2

Gas growth hinges on infra, reforms: Report

INDIA'S LONG-TERM NATURAL gas growth will depend not only on expanding LNG import capacity but also on accelerating investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure, gas-intensive industries, and reforms to market design, regulation and pricing, according to a report of International Gas Union (IGU).

‘Oil prices, US Fed rate decision & West Asia crisis to drive markets’

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Besides, quarterly earnings would drive sentiments in the market, they added.

“Developments surrounding the US-Iran conflict, shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz, and movements in crude oil prices will remain key drivers of global risk sentiment. In addition, investors will closely monitor the US Federal Reserve’s policy meeting, where interest rate guidance and commentary on inflation will be critical for global markets,” Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

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June Industrial Production (IIP) data, he added.

Major companies reporting earnings this week include Coal India, BEL, Larsen & Toubro, Hindustan Unilever, Adani Enterprises, Asian Paints, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Maruti Suzuki, ITC, and Sun Pharma, Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

“Investor attention in the week ahead is expected to remain firmly anchored on

developments in the Middle East, with the escalating conflict between the US and Iran continuing to dominate global market sentiment. The sharp rise in crude oil prices has revived concerns over inflation, economic growth and the outlook for monetary policy, keeping investors in a defensive, risk-averse stance,” Ponmudi R, CEO - Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

The US Federal Reserve’s policy meeting will be the defining macro event of the week. While markets overwhelmingly expect policymakers to leave interest rates unchanged, the recent surge in energy prices has prompted some investors to question whether inflation risks could remain elevated for longer, he said.

PTI

Publication : Mint

Editions : New Delhi

Date :27 July 2026

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Oil's brief foray over \$100 it last exceeded two months ago is just one of the potential inflation risks confronting policymakers. **AP**

Oil near \$100 puts Fed, central banks in rates spotlight

Bloomberg
feedback@bloomint.com

From Washington to London to Tokyo, central bankers are set to reveal just how worried they are about a return of oil to about \$100 a barrel.

Three days of Group of Seven rate decisions, starting with the Federal Reserve on Wednesday, followed by peers at the Bank of England and Bank of Japan, may show varying degrees of vigilance at the prospect of more energy-driven inflation, even if none is predicted to act on that for now. Together with the European Central Bank's signal of its readiness to hike interest rates again, investor bets point to possible moves as soon as September within much of that club, even if economists are less sure. Crude oil's brief foray above the \$100 level it last exceeded two months ago is just one of the potential inflation risks confronting policymakers.

Aside from gains in other energy categories such as gas, investors are honing in on the implications of massive investment in artificial intelligence, as well as U.S. President Donald Trump's bid to rebuild a wall of tariffs after setbacks at the Supreme Court.

Global bond markets point to some alarm among investors, with yields having jumped across the G7. On Friday, the U.S. 30-year yield was just below its highest since 2007.

Other ripples from the renewed cost-of-living hit may be seen in central bank decisions around the world, with more than a dozen scheduled for the coming week.

Elsewhere, euro-zone growth and inflation numbers, Tokyo consumer prices, and South Korean exports will be among the highlights.

The Fed's 29 July rate decision is approaching with more suspense than many anticipated after June consumer price data in the U.S. came in much cooler than expected. That's been overtaken, however, by renewed hostilities in West Asia.

The resulting surge in oil prices has boosted expectations for dissent from some officials

possibly Dallas Fed president Lorie Logan and Cleveland's Beth Hanman — who favour a rate increase now. It's also sparked widespread discussion over whether new chairman Bevin Wasek might surprise investors with a hike. On Thursday, a day after the decision, investors and policymakers will get an updated look at the state of economic activity, the Fed's preferred inflation gauge, and consumer spending.

Government data is projected to show gross domestic product rose at an annualized 2.1% pace in the second quarter, fuelled by consumer and business investment. A separate report is forecast to show a key inflation measure slowed in June and lower gasoline prices that have since turned higher. It's another busy week also for the Asia-Pacific region, with several important monetary policy decisions and trade releases. First up is a rate decision from Singapore's central bank, a chance to dust off your protractors so you can check

the slope of the currency band which is their policy tool. Pakistan's central bank will also announce its policy rate.

Friday morning brings a data dump from Japan, with industrial output, retail sales and jobless data for June as well as inflation in Tokyo for July.

The latter figure is a leading indicator for the nation and should give some guidance about what the Bank of Japan will decide later the same day. Taiwan will also announce second-quarter GDP on Friday.

Earlier in the week Australia reports June consumer inflation, and on Thursday its reserve bank of Australia Deputy Governor Sarah Hunter is scheduled to speak. That comes after June data showed the labor market still going strong, upping expectations for more rate hikes.

It's a big week for trade data, with South Korea releasing its July trade stats on Saturday. Before that comes June figures for Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Thailand. Asian countries have been reporting record export numbers almost every month due to the soaring AI trade, and July looks like it will be more of the same.

Ripples from the renewed cost-of-living hit may be seen in central bank decisions around the world

Publication : Punjab Kesri (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 27 July 2026	Page : 8

Headline: Biofuel to play a pivotal role in India's energy transition: Hardeep Puri

भारत के ऊर्जा परिवर्तन में बायोफ्यूल निभाएगा अहम भूमिका : हरदीप पुरी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने रविवार को कहा कि बायोफ्यूल मिशन, ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन मिशन और समुद्र मंथन जैसी परिवर्तनकारी पहलें भारत को ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता के नए युग की ओर ले जा रही हैं। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि बायोफ्यूल भारत के टिकाऊ ऊर्जा भविष्य की मजबूत नींव हैं। यह किसानों को सशक्त बनाता है, आयातित ईंधन पर निर्भरता घटाता है और पर्यावरण संरक्षण को नई गति प्रदान करता है। उन्होंने कहा कि अगले पांच वर्षों में घरेलू ऊर्जा उत्पादन के विस्तार, नई प्रौद्योगिकियों के समावेश और 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' के संकल्प के बल पर भारत वैश्विक ऊर्जा महाशक्ति के रूप में और अधिक मजबूत होकर उभरेगा। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व में भारत आज पूरे आत्मविश्वास के साथ ऊर्जा परिवर्तन की दिशा में तेजी से आगे



बढ़ रहा है। आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, वर्ष 2014-15 से मई 2026 तक पेट्रोल में एथेनॉल मिश्रण कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से 310 लाख मीट्रिक टन आयातित कच्चे तेल के स्थान पर एथेनॉल के उपयोग से देश ने विदेशी मुद्रा में 1.90 लाख करोड़ रुपए से अधिक की बचत की है। इसके साथ ही किसानों को 1.6 लाख करोड़ रुपए से अधिक की अतिरिक्त आय प्राप्त हुई है और 930 लाख मीट्रिक टन से अधिक कार्बन उत्सर्जन में कमी आई है। आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया है कि भारत अपनी खपत का लगभग 88.5 प्रतिशत कच्चा तेल आयात

● यह किसानों को सशक्त बनाता है, आयातित ईंधन पर निर्भरता घटाता है

● देश की नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता में सबसे बड़ा योगदान सौर ऊर्जा का है

करता है। यही कारण है कि एथेनॉल मिश्रण सरकार की नीति में प्रमुख प्राथमिकताओं में शामिल है। विदेशों से खरीदा जाने वाला प्रत्येक बैरल कच्चा तेल भारत को अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव और आपूर्ति संबंधी जोखिमों के प्रति संवेदनशील बनाता है। वहीं, भारत में गन्ने, मक्का और चावल से उत्पादित एथेनॉल घरेलू संसाधनों के जरिए इस निर्भरता को कम करने का प्रभावी विकल्प प्रदान करता है। इसके अतिरिक्त, सरकार द्वारा

पिछले सप्ताह संसद में दी गई जानकारी के अनुसार, 30 जून 2026 तक भारत की स्थापित नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता 2014 के 76.38 गीगावाट से लगभग चार गुना बढ़कर 288.58 गीगावाट हो गई है। देश की नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता में सबसे बड़ा योगदान सौर ऊर्जा का है, जिसकी स्थापित क्षमता 162.15 गीगावाट है। इसके बाद पवन ऊर्जा 57.44 गीगावाट और जलविद्युत 57.24 गीगावाट पर है। शेष 11.75 गीगावाट क्षमता बायो पावर की है।

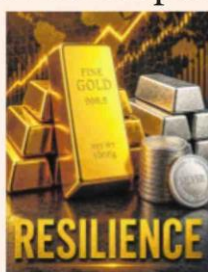
नई और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा राज्य मंत्री श्रीपद येस्सो नाइक ने राज्यसभा में एक प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर में बताया कि 30 जून 2026 तक देश में गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन आधारित कुल 297.36 गीगावाट विद्युत क्षमता स्थापित की जा चुकी है। इसमें 288.58 गीगावाट नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता और 8.78 गीगावाट परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षमता शामिल है।

US Fed verdict, oil volatility to set bullion's near-term price direction

Gold and silver are expected to remain volatile as investors assess the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, crude oil price movements and escalating tensions in West Asia, factors analysts say will shape bullion's near-term direction, PTI reported on Sunday.

The Federal Reserve's policy announcement will be the key trigger for precious metals, with markets watching Chair Kevin Warsh's remarks for clues on the future interest-rate path.

Investors will also track US Consumer Confidence, Core PCE inflation, weekly jobless claims, and policy decisions by the Bank of England and the



Bank of Japan. Analysts said developments involving Iran and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remain critical, as any disruption could lift crude oil prices, stoke inflation concerns and boost demand

for safe-haven assets. Domestic bullion prices ended the previous week higher.

On the MCX, August gold futures rose ₹2,200 (1.6%) to ₹1.43 lakh per 10 grams, while September silver futures gained ₹5,735 (2.7%) to ₹2.22 lakh per kg.

Analysts expect bullion to remain range-bound but highly sensitive to Fed signals, oil price volatility and geopolitical risks, with investors likely to remain cautious ahead of key policy announcements, while continued central bank buying, particularly by China, is expected to provide longer-term support.

—Business Desk

Publication : The Hans India	Editions : Hyderabad
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 1, 7



Biofuel to play key role in India's energy transition: Puri

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, said on Sunday that transformative initiatives like the Biofuel Mission, Green Hydrogen Mission, and Samudra Manthan are steering India towards a new era of energy self-reliance.

The Union Minister highlighted that biofuel forms a crucial foundation of India's sustainable energy future, empowering farmers, reducing dependence on imported fuels, and giving fresh momentum to environmental conservation.

Continued on Page 7

Publication : The Hans India	Editions : Hyderabad
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Biofuel to play key role in India's energy transition: Puri

Continued from P1

He said that in the next five years, the expansion of domestic energy production, integration of new technologies, and the resolve for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' will make India even stronger as a global energy power.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is today advancing rapidly with full confidence towards energy transition," the Union Minister added.

"From 2014-15 up to May 2026, the ethanol blending with petrol programme has resulted in a saving of more than Rs 1.90 lakh crore in foreign exchange by substituting 310 lakh metric tonnes of imported crude oil and has generated additional earnings for farmers

of more than Rs 1.6 lakh crore. Besides it has cut carbon emissions of more than 930 lakh metric tonnes," according to official figures.

"India imports close to 88.5 per cent of the crude oil it consumes which explains a great deal about why ethanol blending sits so high on the policy agenda. Every barrel of oil bought from abroad exposes the country to price swings and supply shocks that are entirely outside its control. Ethanol produced from Indian sugarcane, maize and rice offers a way to blunt that exposure using resources grown at home," according to an official statement.

Meanwhile, India's installed renewable energy capacity has increased nearly fourfold from 76.38 GW in 2014 to

288.58 GW as on June 30, 2026, according to information tabled by the government in Parliament last week. Solar power leads in the country's renewable energy segment with an installed capacity of 162.15 GW followed by wind power at 57.44 GW and hydro power with 57.24.

The remaining 11.75 GW is accounted for by bio power. As of now, a total of 297.36 GW non-fossil fuel sources-based electricity capacity has been installed in the country as on June 30, 2026.

This includes 288.58 GW renewable energy capacity and 8.78 GW nuclear power capacity, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik said in a written reply to a query in the Rajya Sabha.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :27 July 2026	Page : 5

thehindu**businessline.**

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY.

July 27, 2006

Govt does not endorse RIL gas price formula

The Government did not agree with the Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries' proposed valuation formula for gas sales to Reliance Natural Resources Ltd belonging to Anil Ambani Group. The Petroleum Ministry said it has not been derived on the basis of competitive arm's length sale pricing.

CBI awaits Govt nod to book officials in corruption cases

The Central Bureau of Investigation has stepped up its anti-corruption drive in the past three-and-a-half years with the number of corruption cases registered by it going up significantly each year since 2003. . According to the rules, the CBI needs the sanction from the Ministry concerned to initiate proceedings in case of officials in the rank of Joint Secretary and above.

Street vendors demand to be organised

The roadside hawker is no insignificant entity. In a rough estimate, they contribute ₹86,000-crore annually to the country's GDP. Demanding the creation of a Task Force to implement the street vendor national policy, over 270 hawkers from all over the country congregated at the All India Street Vendors Jansunwayi (public hearing).

Russian supply disruption poses fresh risk to India's crude imports

RISING UNCERTAINTY. Ukrainian attacks on key export infrastructure could inflate freight costs

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Crude oil imports in August face a fresh risk from Russia, with uncertainty mounting over crude loadings from the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk following Ukrainian attacks on key export infrastructure. The volume of imports during the month will also depend on the safe passage of Saudi Arabian barrels through the Bab el-Mandeb (BeM) strait.

While refiners and traders do not expect an outright supply disruption, they warn that slower deliveries, higher freight costs and shrinking discounts on Russian crude could inflate India's oil import bill, particularly at a time when the rupee remains weak against the US dollar.

Russia has emerged as India's largest crude supplier over the past three years, accounting for as much as 50 per cent of the country's imports as refiners increasingly rely on discounted Urals crude because of the Western sanctions.

Any disruption to these supplies, therefore, carries outsized implications for In-



STRATEGIC RELIANCE. Russia has emerged as India's largest crude supplier over the past three years, accounting for as much as 50 per cent of the country's imports REUTERS

dian refiners, many of whom have reconfigured their sourcing around Russian barrels.

"As we speak, there are two developing scenarios important to track. First, crude oil (Urals grade) loadings from Novorossiysk port, considering the attacks by Ukraine on the Sheskhari terminal. Besides, traders are not offering discounts for September loadings. So, barrels will be there, but there will be a price," said a trade source.

KEY UNCERTAINTY

According to Kpler, the key uncertainty is whether Rus-

sia can sustain export volumes amid continued Ukrainian attacks on its upstream and downstream infrastructure.

Russia's crude exports in July declined by around 4,00,000 barrels per day month-on-month.

Sheskhari, Russia's largest crude export terminal, accounts for nearly 20 per cent of its seaborne crude shipments.

The concern for India is less about physical availability than pricing. If Russian exporters trim discounts or shipments, Indian refiners will either have to pay more for Russian crude or replace

some of those barrels with costlier cargoes from other suppliers, pushing up procurement costs and the country's import bill.

The second variable is the continuing threat by Houthi rebels to Saudi Arabian crude exports transiting the Bab el-Mandeb strait.

"The threat has already impacted supply from there. Although the Saudis are using Egypt's Sidi Kerir terminal on the Mediterranean coast, it also increases costs," the same source said.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

According to Equirus Securities, tankers can avoid the Bab el-Mandeb by taking alternative routes through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean, but doing so could add nearly a month to voyage times.

Longer journeys keep vessels tied up for extended periods, reduce tanker availability and significantly raise freight and insurance costs. Freight and insurance charges, which averaged \$4-5 per barrel before the conflict, have now climbed to \$13-15 per barrel.

An official with a domestic refiner said the expectation

is that both Russian and Saudi barrels will continue to be available, but the logistics are becoming increasingly "tricky". "Saudi Arabia usually supplies crude through VLCCs, but bypassing the traditional Red Sea route and exporting via Sidi Kerir adds to both voyage time and transportation costs," the official said.

Geopolitical tensions have already begun influencing global oil prices.

According to S&P Global Commodity Insights, mounting concerns over disruptions to Red Sea shipping helped push Brent crude futures above \$100 per barrel on July 23.

Kpler said that if Red Sea transit remains uninterrupted, Indian refiners will continue to have an important supply buffer through Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline to Yanbu, which recently supplied around 3,00,000-5,00,000 barrels per day of crude.

"However, if the security situation deteriorates and Red Sea imports become unavailable during August, refiners will need to replace those barrels from alternative sources," it said.

India-US trade talks likely to gather pace only after Section 301 excess capacity investigations

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) negotiations are unlikely to see meaningful progress until the US concludes its pending Section 301 investigations into alleged structural excess capacity even though Washington has already announced the outcome of its separate forced labour probe, sources said.

The outcome of the excess capacity investigations is expected to have a greater bearing on the contours of the trade agreement as it could result in additional trade measures, including higher tariffs, on a wide range of products such as steel, auto-

mobiles, textiles, medical devices, solar panels and petrochemicals, shaping the overall negotiating environment between the two countries.

"The forced labour investigation has provided some clarity on the emerging US trade regime, but it is only one part of the larger Section 301 exercise. The excess capacity investigations are likely to have much broader implications for trade flows and market access. Meaningful movement in the BTA is expected only after those findings are out," a source tracking the matter told *businessline*.

BIGGER CONCERN

Last week, the US announced an additional 10 per



cent tariff on imports from India under its new Section 301 forced labour regime.

The additional forced labour tariffs would be imposed on about 55 per cent of India's exports as an estimated 45 per cent of exports fall under various exempted categories, according to the Indian government's calculations.

The bigger concern, however, is that India and 15 other countries are awaiting the outcome of the investigations into alleged excess capacities in several sectors, as the findings could result in further trade actions or tariffs affecting a broader range of imports. Others being investigated include China, the EU, Singapore, Switzerland, Norway, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Mexico and Japan.

EXCESS CAPACITY

"Unless the Section 301 tariffs on excess capacity are decided, there can be no further progress on India-US BTA. Let's wait for final decision on 301 excess capacity

tariffs," pointed out Pankaj Chadha, Chairman, EEPIC India. Engineering goods, including steel and automobile products, are among the target products in the excess capacity investigations.

As per the USTR notification on the Section 301 excess capacity investigations, "India's global goods trade surplus sectors include textiles, health, construction goods and automotive goods. For example, evidence suggests the solar module sector is plagued by excess capacity, including that India's current module manufacturing is nearly triple the annual domestic demand. India also has created significant excess capacity in petrochemicals, steel and other industries."

Publication : The Hindu Business Line

Editions : New Delhi

Date :27 July 2026

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Additive steps up lubrication

Scientists have shown, for the first time, that borophene — an ultra-thin, two-dimensional nanomaterial — can be used as an effective



additive to improve the performance of castor oil as a lubricant. The discovery could help develop greener lubricants for industries such as renewable energy, marine

transport and sustainable manufacturing.

Researchers at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, found that adding a tiny amount of borophene — 0.1 per cent by weight — to castor oil can significantly improve its performance. The modified oil reduced friction by about 42 per cent, compared with ordinary castor oil.

The research was carried out under the guidance of Prof Devasish Chowdhury, with INSPIRE senior research fellow Ujjibit Boruah as the first author. The findings could lead to the development of environment friendly lubricants that make machines run more efficiently, reduce damage and lower energy consumption.

"Two-dimensional materials have attracted huge interest because of their unique properties. Borophene, in particular, has shown promise in areas such as batteries, supercapacitors and fuel cells. However, its use as a lubricant additive had not been explored until now," said Prof Chowdhury.

The researchers found that borophene mixes evenly with castor oil without needing any chemical treatment. When the lubricant is used inside machines, the borophene particles help form a thin protective layer, called tribofilm, on metal surfaces. This layer contains iron oxides, carbon-based compounds and boron compounds. It reduces friction between moving surfaces, allows machines to handle higher loads and protects against wear.

Oil prices, US Fed rate decision, West Asia crisis to drive market: Analysts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Developments around the West Asia conflict, crude oil prices and the US Fed interest rate decision would be the key drivers for market movement this week, analysts said. Besides, quarterly earnings would drive sentiments in the market, they added.

"Developments surrounding the US-Iran conflict, shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz, and movements in crude oil prices will remain key drivers of global risk sentiment.

In addition, investors will closely monitor the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting, where interest rate guidance and commentary on inflation will be critical for global markets," Ajit Mishra—SVP, Research, Religare



Broking Ltd, said. On the domestic front, market participants will track June Industrial Production (IIP) data, he added.

Major companies reporting earnings this week include Coal India, BEL, Larsen & Toubro, Hindustan Unilever, Adani Enterprises, Asian Paints, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Maruti Suzuki, ITC, and Sun Pharma, Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

"Investor attention in the week ahead is expected to remain firmly anchored on developments in the Middle East, with the escalating conflict between the US and Iran continuing to dominate global market sentiment. The sharp rise in crude oil prices has revived concerns over inflation, economic growth and the outlook for monetary policy," Ponmudi R, CEO — Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Climate Stress

Water conservation must move beyond rhetoric. India's urban story is one of vanishing ponds, neglected lakes, and encroached wetlands. Historically, every community maintained tanks, stepwells, and ponds that harvested rainwater and sustained life through dry months. These structures were not only utilitarian but cultural, serving as gathering places and symbols of collective responsibility



It is time we realise the need to stop ignoring the glaring mismatch between our excellence in economic progress and technological advances on one hand, and our neglect to achieve similar excellence in adapting our cities to climate realities on the other. Excessive temperatures, floods, pollution, and unchecked migration are steadily pushing urban centres to the brink. The warning signs are visible everywhere: indiscriminate felling of trees for construction, cement landscapes that trap heat, air conditioners multiplying and throwing hot air into congested spaces, dust swirling on broken roads, rivers turning toxic, and water shortages looming as aquifers run dry.

This fragility is not abstract - it is lived reality, felt in the suffocating air, the parched taps, and the chaos of traffic where private vehicles dominate because public transport is inadequate. Unless infrastructure is aligned with climate realities, the mismatch between urban growth and environmental resilience will only deepen.

Nineteen of the world's twenty hottest cities are in India, with summer temperatures touching 42-45°C and humidity compounding the danger of heat-related illness. The urban heat island effect is intensified by the loss of trees and the spread of cement landscapes, while the surge in air conditioners provides temporary indoor relief but throws heated emissions into the streets and strains fragile power systems. Dust from construction sites and broken roads mixes with this heat, creating a toxic cocktail that citizens breathe daily. The irony is striking - the very machines meant to cool us are heating our cities further, even as the green cover that once moderated temperatures vanishes.

Urban planning has rarely acknowledged the ecological service of trees, treating them as obstacles rather than essential infrastructure. Every new flyover, mall, or housing complex seems to come at the cost of hundreds of trees, erasing shade, biodiversity, where birds and small animals lose their habitats, and citizens lose the cooling effect of green corridors. Cement cities rise in their place, trapping heat and magnifying dust, while the absence of trees reduces rainwater

absorption and worsens floods when heavy rains arrive. Another overlooked dimension of urban fragility is the material with which our cities are built. The dominance of cement and glass has created landscapes that radiate heat rather than absorb or moderate it. Housing colonies, office towers, and malls are designed for speed of construction, not for climate resilience.

Traditional Indian architecture once relied on mud, lime, stone, and shaded courtyards that kept interiors cool without mechanical intervention. Today's concrete blocks and glass façades trap heat, forcing residents to depend on air conditioners, which in turn worsen emissions. It is time to rethink housing materials and design, to develop alternatives that do not radiate heat and to revive architectural wisdom that worked with, rather than against, the climate.

Water scarcity is the other looming crisis. India is living beyond its hydrological limits: rivers are drying before reaching the sea, aquifers are collapsing, and wetlands are disappearing. One third of monitored river stretches fail water quality standards, with the Yamuna and other rivers critically degraded by untreated sewage and industrial waste.

Floods compound the crisis - satellite data shows nearly 900 sq km of urban land sinking in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, and Bangalore, putting thousands of buildings at risk. Subsidence worsens flood vulnerability, turning every monsoon into a civic emergency. The paradox is cruel: cities swing between drought and deluge, unable to store water when it comes, and unable to supply it when it is needed most.

Water conservation must move beyond rhetoric. India's urban story is one of vanishing ponds, neglected lakes, and encroached wetlands. Historically, every community maintained tanks, step wells, and ponds that harvested rainwater and sustained life through dry months. These structures were not only utilitarian but cultural, serving as gathering places and symbols of collective responsibility.

Modern cities have erased this heritage,

filling ponds with debris and building over lakes. The result is water bankruptcy: taps run dry in summer, while monsoon floods overwhelm drainage systems. Reviving ponds and lakes, enforcing rainwater harvesting, and protecting wetlands are not luxuries but necessities if cities are to survive climate stress.



S. S. SAXENA

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also cultural and ecological lifelines. Transport is a major contributor to this crisis. India registered over 25 million vehicles in FY 2024-25, with nearly 90 per cent being personal cars and two wheelers. Public transport's share is only 25 per cent, leaving cities choked with emissions and congestion. India is a signatory to global emission policies, including the Paris Agreement, and has pledged net zero by 2070. Yet the seriousness of this commitment is tested daily in our cities.

While pledges are made in international forums, the lived reality is that millions of private vehicles continue to throw heated emissions if not fatal fumes into the air. The absence of efficient, clean, affordable, and punctual public transportation leaves citizens with little choice but to rely on personal vehicles. An efficient public transport system could take the load off millions of vehicles, cutting emissions drastically and restoring some balance to urban life. Yet investment remains inadequate, and the gap between

promises and practice grows wider.

The fragility is not only environmental but social. The collapse of urban resilience is not a distant threat; it is already shaping behaviour, fraying social fabric, and eroding trust in governance. The heritage of Indian community living offers lessons for resilience. Villages and small towns once thrived on collective practices - shared water sources, community festivals, and cooperative farming - that built social bonds and distributed resources. Urbanisation has fragmented this heritage, replacing community with anonymity and shared responsibility with individual struggle resulting in civic indiscipline, impatience, and aggression.

Restoring some sense of community - through participatory governance, neighbourhood associations, and collective stewardship of resources - could strengthen resilience against climate shocks. Cities must rediscover the spirit of collective living that sustained India for centuries.

Decongestion is the other urgent requirement. Indian cities are choking under the weight of unchecked migration, inadequate infrastructure, and unplanned growth. The dream of urban prosperity has turned into a nightmare of congestion, pollution, and stress. It is time to disperse growth, to invest in smaller towns and rural centres with affordable housing, healthcare, and education.

By creating opportunities outside the metros, migration pressure can be reduced, and cities can breathe again. Decongestion is not only about traffic management; it is about rebalancing the geography of opportunity so that health, education, and livelihood are not privileges of a few urban centres.

Global warming and El Niño add a dangerous external layer. Rising Pacific sea temperatures point to a strong or even "super" El Niño developing in mid-2026, similar to the deadly 1877-78 event that killed millions worldwide. For India, this means weaker monsoons, prolonged heat waves, drought, and crop losses. Forecasts suggest rainfall may fall to 92 per cent of the long period average, threatening food security and water supply.

Globally, 2026 is projected to be the second warmest year on record, with 2027 potentially surpassing all previous highs. India's urban fragility will be magnified under these conditions, as cities already struggling with heat, floods, and pollution face intensified climate shocks. The danger is not distant; it is already visible in the impatience, aggression, and civic indiscipline that mark everyday life. Unless governance adapts, India's urban dream may collapse under its own weight.

The call is clear: disperse climate resilient infrastructure, restore green buffers, invest in public transport, revive ponds and lakes, rethink housing materials, and enforce environmental norms.

Without such measures, imbalance will sharpen and the promise of sustainable urban living will remain elusive. As Bill McKibben aptly said "Global warming is no longer a philosophical threat, no longer a future threat, no longer a threat at all. It's our reality."

Online

Headline	*समुद्र मंथन:ओएनजीसी नेपहले डीप एक्सप्लोरेटरी वेल की ड्रिलिंग शुरू की*		
Publication	Agni Alok	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

समुद्र मंथन:ओएनजीसी नेपहले डीप एक्सप्लोरेटरी वेल की ड्रिलिंग शुरू की

<https://agnialok.com/samudra-manthanongc-starts-drilling-of-first-deep-exploratory-well%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%93%E0%A4%8F%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%9C/>

नई दिल्ली: सरकारी कंपनी ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ONGC) ने महानदी ऑफशोर बेसिन में अपने पहले गहरे पानी वाले खोज कुएं (एक्सप्लोरेटरी वेल) की ड्रिलिंग

शुरू की है। यह भारत के गहरे और बहुत गहरे पानी वाले हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधनों का पता लगाने के बड़े कैपेन की शुरुआत है।

कंपनी ने एक बयान में कहा कि ओएनजीसी ने सरकार के 'समुद्र मंथन' मिशन के तहत MN-DW18-1-H-D नाम का एक्सप्लोरेटरी वेल (खोज कुआं) खोदना शुरू किया है।

कहां है कुआं?

यह कुआं ओडिशा तट के पास 'कोणार्क' खोज स्थल से लगभग 23 नॉटिकल मील दूर खोदा जा रहा है। ONGC की हालिया 'उत्कल' और 'कोणार्क' खोजों को यह आगे बढ़ाता है। इन्होंने महानदी ऑफशोर बेसिन में हाइड्रोकार्बन की संभावनाओं को मजबूत किया है।

यह ड्रिलिंग कैपेन भारत के ऑफशोर (समुद्र में स्थित) तेल और गैस भंडार की खोज में तेजी लाने की कोशिश का हिस्सा है। पिछले साल 15 अगस्त को स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अपने भाषण में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने देश की अब तक इस्तेमाल न की गई ऑफशोर हाइड्रोकार्बन क्षमता का फायदा उठाने का आह्वान किया था।

सरकार ने उठाया है यह कदम

इसी सोच के अनुरूप सरकार ने खोज के लिए पहले से प्रतिबंधित लगभग दस लाख वर्ग किमी के ऑफशोर इलाकों को खोल दिया है। इससे 'ओपन एकरेज लाइसेंसिंग पॉलिसी' (OALP) के अगले दौर में नए इलाकों (एकरेज) की पेशकश का रास्ता साफ हो गया है।

भारत के पूर्वी और पश्चिमी ऑफशोर बेसिन में 5,600 मिलियन टन ऑयल इक्विवैलेंट (MMTOE) से ज्यादा हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधन होने का अनुमान है। ये 3,000 मीटर तक की गहराई तक फैले हैं।

बयान के अनुसार, कावेरी, महानदी और अंडमान बेसिन में हालिया खोज की सफलताओं ने ऑफशोर खोज की संभावनाओं को और मजबूत किया है।

गहरे पानी में खोज के कार्यक्रम को समर्थन देने के लिए ONGC ने इस साल जनवरी में मुंबई में अपना प्रमुख 'डीपवाटर एक्सप्लोरेशन मिशन सेंटर', 'DeepX' शुरू किया।

क्या है ड्रिलिंग का मकसद?

कंपनी ने कहा कि ड्रिलिंग की शुरुआत भारत के सबसे चुनौतीपूर्ण गहरे पानी वाले खोज अभियानों में से एक की शुरुआत है। इसका मकसद घरेलू तेल और गैस उत्पादन को बढ़ाना, आयात पर निर्भरता कम करना और देश की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है।

बयान में कहा गया है, 'ड्रिलिंग शुरू होने के साथ ही भारत के सबसे मुश्किल डीपवाटर एक्सप्लोरेशन अभियानों में से एक की शुरुआत हो गई है। हर संभावित क्षेत्र के मूल्यांकन, कुएं की ड्रिलिंग और नई खोज से घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाने, आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने और भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और आत्मनिर्भरता को मजबूत करने में मदद मिलेगी।'

Headline	ONGC ने महानदी बेसिन में शुरू की डीपवॉटर कुएं की खुदाई, तेल और गैस भंडार की खोज हुई तेज		
Publication	Agni Ban	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

ONGC ने महानदी बेसिन में शुरू की डीपवॉटर कुएं की खुदाई, तेल और गैस भंडार की खोज हुई तेज

<https://www.agniban.com/ongc-begins-deepwater-well-drilling-in-mahanadi-basin-search-for-oil-and-gas-reserves-intensifies/>

नई दिल्ली। पब्लिक सेक्टर की तेल और गैस कंपनी ओएनजीसी ने शनिवार को ओडिशा तट के पास महानदी अपतटीय बेसिन में अपने पहले गहरे समुद्री खोजी कुएं की खुदाई

शुरू कर दी है। इसे भारत में गहरे और बहुत गहरे समुद्री हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधनों के दोहन के लिए एक महत्वाकांक्षी अभियान की शुरुआत माना जा रहा है।

ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ONGC) ने एक बयान में कहा कि उसने सरकार के 'समुद्र मंथन' मिशन के तहत MN-DW18-1-H-D नामक खोजी कुएं की ड्रिलिंग शुरू की है। ये कुआं ओडिशा तट से दूर कोणार्क खोज क्षेत्र से लगभग 23 समुद्री मील की दूरी पर स्थित है। हाल के उत्कल और कोणार्क खोजों ने महानदी अपतटीय बेसिन में हाइड्रोकार्बन संभावनाओं को मजबूत किया है और ये ड्रिलिंग अभियान उसी दिशा में आगे की कड़ी है।

सरकारी कंपनी ने कहा कि ये पहल देश के अपतटीय तेल और गैस भंडार की खोज को तेज करने की कोशिशों का हिस्सा है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 15 अगस्त, 2025 को अपने स्वतंत्रता दिवस संबोधन में देश की अप्रयुक्त अपतटीय हाइड्रोकार्बन क्षमता के दोहन पर जोर दिया था। जिसके बाद सरकार ने करीब 10 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर अपतटीय क्षेत्रों को गैस और तेल की खोज के लिए खोल दिया है, जिससे मुक्त क्षेत्र लाइसेंस नीति (OALP) के आगामी चरणों में नए ब्लॉकों की पेशकश का रास्ता साफ हुआ है।

ऐसा अनुमान है कि देश के पूर्वी और पश्चिमी अपतटीय बेसिन में 560 करोड़ टन तेल समतुल्य (MMTOE) से ज्यादा हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधन मौजूद हैं। कावेरी, महानदी और अंडमान बेसिन में हाल की खोजों ने अपतटीय खोज की संभावनाओं को और मजबूत किया है। कंपनी ने कहा, "ये ड्रिलिंग भारत के सबसे चुनौतीपूर्ण गहरे समुद्री खोज अभियानों में से एक की शुरुआत है। प्रत्येक खोज और उत्पादन देश में घरेलू आपूर्ति बढ़ाने, आयात निर्भरता घटाने और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने में योगदान देगी।" बताते चलें कि ONGC ने अभी हाल ही में लद्दाख में दूसरे 'जियोथर्मल' कुएं की खुदाई पूरी की थी।

Headline	Drilling of first appraisal well started in Mahanadi offshore basin, new chapter towards energy security: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	Any Tv News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

Drilling of first appraisal well started in Mahanadi offshore basin, new chapter towards energy security: Hardeep Puri

<https://anytvnews.com/technology/drilling-of-first-appraisal-well-started-in-mahanadi-offshore-basin-new-chapter-towards-energy-security-hardeep-puri/>

The central government on Saturday announced the commencement of drilling of the first appraisal well in the Mahanadi offshore basin, calling it the beginning of a new chapter towards India's energy security.

South Asians & Diaspora

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri said that the commencement of drilling of this first appraisal well is the result of visionary reforms undertaken over the last decade, which have brought about a paradigm shift in India's exploration and production sector.

The MN-DWN18-1-HD' appraisal well is the first of the four proposed deepwater wells commissioned in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin. Through these wells, one of the most promising offshore basins of the country will be assessed in a phased manner.

According to the Petroleum Ministry, this drilling program will use world-class deepwater drilling technology, which will help in discovering new hydrocarbon resources and increasing the country's domestic production capacity.

The Minister said that in the last ten years, the Government has transformed the entire structure of the Exploration and Production sector through landmark policy and regulatory reforms.

Congratulating ONGC, Oil India Limited, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, technical partners and all involved in the entire exploration sector, Hardeep Puri expressed confidence that the commencement of this drilling will further strengthen India's offshore exploration and will play an important role in achieving the country's long-term energy security and energy self-reliance.

South Asians & Diaspora

He said, Today as we start drilling this first well, we are not just drilling the seabed, but strengthening the foundation of India's future energy security. Every meter of drilling will take us closer to reducing import dependence, increasing self-reliance and realizing the vision of a developed India.

The Minister also mentioned key reforms like introduction of Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), introduction of Open Acreage Licensing Program (OALP) instead of nomination based system, adoption of transparent revenue sharing system and opening up of about 99 per cent of previously restricted offshore no-go' areas for exploration.

Hardeep Puri said that about 81 percent of India's total active exploration acreage has been allocated since 2014, which reflects the increased confidence of investors and exploration companies due to these reforms.

He said that under OALP, so far 172 exploration blocks spread over an area of about 3.8 lakh square kilometers have been allotted, in which investment commitments of more than \$4.3 billion have been received.

According to the Minister, during the financial year 2025-26 alone, about 674 wells were drilled, 5 new discoveries were made and commercial exploitation of 7 discoveries was started.

Headline	ONGC starts India's first deepwater exploration well off Odisha coast		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

ONGC starts India's first deepwater exploration well off Odisha coast

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/ongc-starts-india-s-first-deepwater-exploration-well-off-odisha-coast-126072600602_1.html

In a major push towards unlocking India's offshore hydrocarbon potential and reducing dependence on imported crude oil and natural gas, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has begun drilling its first deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin off the Odisha coast.

The exploratory well, named MN-DW18-1-H-D, is located around 23 nautical miles from ONGC's Konark discovery, marking the beginning of one of the country's most ambitious and technically challenging deepwater exploration campaigns. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri spudded the deepwater exploratory well from New Delhi on Saturday.

The drilling assumes significance as India intensifies efforts to tap vast untapped deepwater and ultra-deepwater offshore reserves under the ambitious Samudra Manthan Campaign, following the Centre's decision to open nearly one million square kilometres of previously restricted offshore areas for oil and gas exploration under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).

According to ONGC, India's eastern and western offshore basins, extending to water depths of up to 3,000 metres, are estimated to hold more than 5,600 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MTOE) of hydrocarbon resources, making deepwater exploration the country's next major energy frontier.

The Mahanadi offshore basin has emerged as one of the country's most promising exploration zones following ONGC's recent Utkal and Konark discoveries, which have significantly enhanced the basin's hydrocarbon prospectivity. The corporation said the latest drilling campaign could further improve understanding of the basin's geological potential and pave the way for future commercial production.

"Every prospect evaluated, well drilled and discovery made will contribute towards enhancing domestic production, reducing import dependence and strengthening India's energy security and self-reliance," ONGC said in a statement.

The corporation earlier this year established its flagship Deepwater Exploration Mission Centre (DeepX) in Mumbai to support such technologically demanding exploration programmes. Launched on January 5, DeepX serves as the company's dedicated hub for deepwater exploration by integrating advanced geoscientific interpretation, specialised technical expertise, data analytics, training and global collaborations under the "One Company, One Data" philosophy.

The corporation said DeepX has been designed to strengthen India's capability to evaluate complex offshore prospects using state-of-the-art seismic interpretation and integrated subsurface analysis, thereby improving the success rate of deepwater exploration.

The latest drilling campaign is also expected to complement the government's broader strategy of increasing domestic oil and gas production at a time when India continues to rely heavily on imports to meet its energy demand. Discoveries in deepwater basins could play a crucial role in diversifying India's energy sources while reducing exposure to global supply disruptions and price volatility. Industry experts said deepwater exploration involves substantial technological complexity and investment due to extreme water depths, high-pressure reservoirs and harsh operating conditions. However, successful discoveries can significantly boost long-term domestic hydrocarbon production. With the commencement of drilling in the Mahanadi offshore basin, Odisha assumes greater strategic importance in India's offshore energy landscape. The basin, stretching along the state's coastline, has increasingly attracted exploration interest following encouraging geological findings over the past few years. "The next frontier is deep waters. India is ready to explore it," ONGC said, underscoring the strategic importance of the mission in the country's quest for energy independence.

Headline	ONGC starts drilling first deepwater well in Mahanadi basin under Samudra Manthan mission		
Publication	Ease My Prep	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC starts drilling first deepwater well in Mahanadi basin under Samudra Manthan mission

<https://easemyprep.in/news/3430-ongc-starts-drilling-first-deepwater-well-in-mahanadi-basin-under-samudra-mantha>

Practice PYQs on this topic ? Summary State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on July 25, 2026 commenced drilling its first deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin

The well, MN-DW18-1-H-D, was "spudded" (drilling commenced) under the government's Samudra Manthan mission

It marks the start of an ambitious campaign to tap India's deep- and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon resources

Aim: raise domestic oil-and-gas output and cut India's heavy import dependence for energy

? UPSC Relevance : GS3 (Indian Economy energy/infrastructure, energy security); domestic exploration to reduce the import bill and advance self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in hydrocarbons.

? Prelims Facts

ONGC = Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas)

Well name: MN-DW18-1-H-D; located in the Mahanadi offshore (deepwater) basin, off the eastern (Bay of Bengal) coast

Headline	Oil and gas field service provider's revenue up 55%, EBITDA up 61% YoY		
Publication	HT Syndication	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

Oil and gas field service provider's revenue up 55%, EBITDA up 61% YoY

<https://htsyndication.com/the-sunday-guardian/article/oil-and-gas-field-service-provider-s-revenue-up-55percent%2C-ebitda-up-61percent-yoy/102596971>

Deep Industries Ltd was established in 1991 and is today one of India's leading integrated oil and gas field service providers.

The company has evolved from a gas compression service provider into a diversified energy services company offering drilling, rigs, gas compression, gas dehydration, production enhancement, integrated project management and offshore services.

Its primary clients include ONGC, Oil India Ltd., Vedanta, GAIL and private exploration companies. Deep Industries operates in a niche segment where technical expertise, long-term customer relationships and specialised equipment create high entry barriers.

The company has long duration contracts which provides revenue visibility, strong relationship with ...

Headline	Experts chart roadmap for strengthening project execution across energy and mining CPSEs		
Publication	Hi India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

Experts chart roadmap for strengthening project execution across energy and mining CPSEs

<https://hiindia.com/experts-chart-roadmap-for-strengthening-project-execution-across-energy-and-mining-cpses/>

The three-day third edition of Bharat CPSEs' Consultative Conclave 2026 on Project and Asset Management successfully concluded on Sunday here with experts charting out a roadmap for strengthening project execution, asset management and organisational excellence across Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in the energy and mining sectors a day before at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara, after insightful deliberations on strengthening project execution, asset management and organisational excellence.

The event was organised jointly by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the Union Ministry of Finance with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) as the strategic knowledge partner. The conclave brought together policymakers, industry leaders, academia as well as senior CPSE executives to exchange best practices and chart the way forward in support of Viksit Bharat 2047. Detailed discussions were held on planning, detailed project report, contracting, land acquisition, asset life cycle management, deep tech technology adoption and use of PM Gati Shakti platform in formulating an implementable CPSE Reform Agenda. A total of 39 delegates from NTPC, Coal India, Bharat Coking Coal, BPCL, HPCL, Indian Oil, ONGC, ONGC Videsh, Oil India, MRPL, GAIL, SAIL, MECON, NMDC, Hindustan Copper, NALCO, NHPC, SJVN and Power Grid Corporation of India participated in the Conclave. Mangu Singh (Former DMRC Managing Director) was the Chief Guest during the inauguration and focused on contract management as an important aspect for success of the projects. K. Moses Chalai (DPE Secretary), as the Guest of Honour, highlighted the need for innovative and data-driven approaches for asset and project management. Addressing the valedictory session, Manoj Choudhary, GSV Vice-Chancellor, said the conclave had created a strong momentum for collaborative learning and fostered a culture of informed and data-driven decision-making. He highlighted GSV's growing contribution to capacity building across railways, highways, aviation, maritime, logistics and other infrastructure sectors. Referring to the MoU between GSV and CBC, he reiterated that this event marked the continuation of a long-term CBC-GSV partnership aimed at strengthening professional capacity across the infrastructure ecosystem of the country. Delivering the valedictory address, Alka Mittal, Member (CBC Administration), expressed satisfaction on the candid deliberations that took place between the speakers, industry practitioners and the CPSE participants, as to why some projects run late and how culture, discipline, policy enablement and technology can set them right. She reiterated that CBC along with GSV would publish a Bharat CPSE Compendium of best practices based on the recommendations that have emerged in this event. Mittal appreciated the efforts put in by GSV as a knowledge partner under the tutelage of the Vice-Chancellor Manoj Choudhary and Kaushik Das for making this event a grand success and expressed eagerness to continue the collaborative efforts between CBC and GSV in the march towards infrastructure capacity building for Viksit Bharat 2047'.

Headline	ONGC launches deep-water exploration campaign Samudra Manthan in Mahanadi basin		
Publication	India Business Journal	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

ONGC launches deep-water exploration campaign Samudra Manthan in Mahanadi basin

<https://indiabusinessjournal.com/full-story/2658/ONGC-launches-deep-water-exploration-campaign-Samudra-Manthan-in-Mahanadi-basin>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has commenced drilling its first deep-water exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin.

This marks the start of an ambitious campaign to tap India's deep and ultra-deep-water hydrocarbon resources.

State-owned ONGC has spudded exploratory well MN-DW18-1-H-D under the government's Samudra Manthan mission, the company has said in a statement.

The well is being drilled around 23 nautical miles from the Konark discovery off the Odisha coast, building on the corporation's recent Utkal and Konark discoveries that have strengthened the hydrocarbon prospectivity of the Mahanadi Offshore Basin.

The drilling campaign forms a part of the push to accelerate exploration of India's offshore oil and gas reserves.

In his Independence Day address on August 15, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for harnessing the country's untapped offshore hydrocarbon potential.

In line with that vision, the government has opened nearly 1 million sq km of previously restricted offshore areas for exploration, paving the way for fresh acreage to be offered under upcoming rounds of the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).

India's eastern and western offshore basins, extending to water depths of up to 3,000 metres, are estimated to hold more than 5,600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) of hydrocarbon resources.

Headline	ONGC Assam Asset Extends Relief to Flood-Hit Communities Despite Impact on Its Own Facilities		
Publication	Indian PSU CSR	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

ONGC Assam Asset Extends Relief to Flood-Hit Communities Despite Impact on Its Own Facilities

<https://indianpsucsr.com/ongc-assam-asset-flood-relief-csr-assam-floods/>

The Maharatna Oil PSU demonstrates unwavering commitment to humanitarian service through CSR initiative amid Assam floods

In a remarkable display of resilience and social responsibility, ONGC Assam Asset has continued its relief operations for flood-affected communities even as its own offices and residential colony have been impacted by the ongoing floods in Assam.

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, ONGC Assam Asset distributed essential food items and medicines to families affected by the devastating floods, providing much-needed support during the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

Despite facing operational challenges caused by inundation of its own facilities, the organisation remained steadfast in its commitment to serving the communities in and around its operational areas. Employees of ONGC Assam Asset joined hands to ensure that relief materials reached affected families in a timely manner, reflecting the PSU's dedication to standing with the people during difficult times.

The relief initiative underscores ONGC's long-standing commitment to community welfare and disaster response. By prioritising humanitarian assistance even while dealing with the impact of floods on its own infrastructure, ONGC Assam Asset has demonstrated the spirit of compassion and corporate citizenship.

The initiative highlights the vital role played by public sector enterprises in supporting communities during natural disasters, reaffirming ONGC's resolve to contribute to relief and rehabilitation efforts whenever the need arises.

Headline	Oil and gas field service provider's revenue up 55%, EBITDA up 61% YoY		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

Oil and gas field service provider's revenue up 55%, EBITDA up 61% YoY

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/economy/oil-and-gas-field-service-provider-s-revenue-up-55-ebitda-up-61-yoy/ar-AA28GxfG>

Deep Industries Ltd was established in 1991 and is today one of India's leading integrated oil and gas field service providers.

The company has evolved from a gas compression service provider into a diversified energy services company offering drilling, rigs, gas compression, gas dehydration, production enhancement, integrated project management and offshore services.

Its primary clients include ONGC, Oil India Ltd., Vedanta, GAIL and private exploration companies. Deep Industries operates in a niche segment where technical expertise, long-term customer relationships and specialised equipment create high entry barriers.

The company has long duration contracts which provides revenue visibility, strong relationship with ONGC and other PSU clients, diversified portfolio across upstream oil and gas services and a growing presence in emerging energy segments such as geothermal energy, coal gasification and hydrogen related infrastructure. FY26 was one of the strongest operational years in the company's history with revenue increasing by 55% to about Rs 891 crores, up from Rs 576 crores in FY25.

EBITDA went up by 61% to about Rs 425 crores from Rs 263 crores reflecting strong operating leverage while Profit Before Tax stood at Rs 197 crores. Deep Industries management clarified that the bottom line was impacted by a one time non cash write-off of around Rs 208 crores relating to legacy receivables acquired through earlier mergers. As this exceptional item does not affect operating cash flows or future profitability, hence the operational performance therefore remains significantly stronger than the reported accounting profit.

One of Deep Industries' biggest strengths is its healthy order pipeline of over Rs 3,000 crores providing multi year revenue visibility. It has secured long term ONGC contracts worth over Rs 1,400 crores and continues to receive new orders in drilling, gas processing and production enhancement services.

India's upstream oil and gas services sector is entering a favourable investment cycle with the government continuing to encourage domestic exploration to reduce import dependence. ONGC and Oil India are increasing capital expenditure, while new exploration blocks are creating significant opportunities for specialised service providers like Deep Industries.

Unlike oil producers, service companies such as Deep Industries primarily benefit from higher exploration activity rather than crude oil prices alone. The company Management has guided for a 25-30% revenue growth in FY27, supported by healthy asset utilisation and execution of existing contracts. Deep Industries has transformed itself from a niche gas compression company into an integrated energy services platform with strong execution capabilities and despite the accounting impact of exceptional write offs in FY26, the underlying business continues to demonstrate robust growth, improving profitability and excellent order visibility.

Deep Industries stock currently trading at Rs 480 on the bourses is pegged at a valuation that remains modest relative to its expected future earnings growth and it appears well positioned to benefit from India's expanding upstream energy investments. For long term investors willing to accept small cap volatility, Deep Industries offers an attractive combination of earnings growth, expanding service capabilities and structural tailwinds from India's increasing focus on domestic oil and gas production.

Headline	Samudra Manthan Mission: समुद्र मंथन मिशन के तहत पहले गहरे समुद्री कुएं की ड्रिलिंग शुरू, जानिए क्या है भारत का बड़ा प्लान		
Publication	News Jagran	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

Samudra Manthan Mission: समुद्र मंथन मिशन के तहत पहले गहरे समुद्री कुएं की ड्रिलिंग शुरू, जानिए क्या है भारत का बड़ा प्लान

<https://newsjagran.in/samudra-manthan-mission-ongc-first-deepwater-exploratory-well-drilling-mahanadi-offshore-basin/>

नई दिल्ली: भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने की दिशा में एक बड़ा कदम उठाते हुए सरकारी तेल एवं गैस कंपनी ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ONGC) ने महानदी ऑफशोर

बेसिन में अपने पहले गहरे समुद्री खोज कुएं (Deep Exploratory Well) की ड्रिलिंग शुरू कर दी है। यह ड्रिलिंग केंद्र सरकार के महत्वाकांक्षी 'समुद्र मंथन मिशन' का पहला चरण है, जिसका उद्देश्य समुद्र की गहराइयों में छिपे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस (हाइड्रोकार्बन) के विशाल भंडार की खोज करना है।

देश में ऊर्जा की बढ़ती मांग और कच्चे तेल के आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने के लक्ष्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस मिशन को भारत के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के लिए बेहद अहम माना जा रहा है।

समुद्र मंथन मिशन क्या है?

'समुद्र मंथन मिशन' भारत सरकार की एक रणनीतिक पहल है, जिसके तहत समुद्र के गहरे और अत्यधिक गहरे हिस्सों में मौजूद हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधनों की खोज की जाएगी। इस मिशन का उद्देश्य ऐसे तेल और गैस भंडारों को तलाशना है, जिनका अभी तक दोहन नहीं किया गया है।

ONGC ने इस अभियान के तहत MN-DW18-1-H-D नामक पहले डीप एक्सप्लोरेटरी वेल की ड्रिलिंग शुरू की है। यह मिशन भविष्य में भारत के ऊर्जा उत्पादन को नई दिशा दे सकता है।

ओडिशा तट के पास हो रही है ड्रिलिंग

यह खोज कुआं ओडिशा के तट से दूर महानदी ऑफशोर बेसिन में स्थित 'कोणार्क' खोज क्षेत्र से लगभग 23 नॉटिकल मील की दूरी पर खोदा जा रहा है।

ONGC के अनुसार, इससे पहले 'उत्कल' और 'कोणार्क' क्षेत्रों में हुई खोजों ने इस इलाके में हाइड्रोकार्बन की अच्छी संभावनाओं के संकेत दिए थे। अब उसी कड़ी को आगे बढ़ाते हुए यह नया अभियान शुरू किया गया है।

पीएम मोदी के विजन से जुड़ा अभियान

15 अगस्त को स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने देश की अप्रयुक्त ऑफशोर ऊर्जा क्षमता का पूरा उपयोग करने पर जोर दिया था। उसी दिशा में सरकार ने बड़ा फैसला लेते हुए लगभग 10 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर समुद्री क्षेत्र को, जो पहले खोज के लिए प्रतिबंधित था, अब एक्सप्लोरेशन के लिए खोल दिया है।

इससे Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) के आगामी चरणों में नए क्षेत्रों में तेल और गैस खोज के लिए कंपनियों को अवसर मिलेंगे।

भारत के समुद्र में छिपा है बड़ा ऊर्जा भंडार

सरकारी आकलन के अनुसार भारत के पूर्वी और पश्चिमी ऑफशोर बेसिन में लगभग 5,600 मिलियन टन ऑयल इक्विवैलेंट (MMTOE) से अधिक हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधन मौजूद हो सकते हैं। ये संसाधन समुद्र की सतह से लगभग 3,000 मीटर तक की गहराई में फैले हुए हैं।

विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि यदि इन संसाधनों का सफलतापूर्वक दोहन किया गया तो भारत की ऊर्जा जरूरतों का बड़ा हिस्सा घरेलू स्तर पर पूरा किया जा सकेगा।

DeepX मिशन सेंटर से मिलेगी तकनीकी मदद

गहरे समुद्र में तेल और गैस खोज जैसे जटिल अभियानों को सफल बनाने के लिए ONGC ने जनवरी 2026 में मुंबई में अपना अत्याधुनिक Deepwater Exploration Mission Centre (DeepX) शुरू किया था।

यह केंद्र अत्याधुनिक तकनीक, डेटा विश्लेषण और डीपवॉटर ड्रिलिंग विशेषज्ञता के जरिए समुद्री खोज अभियानों को तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करेगा।

ड्रिलिंग का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

ONGC के अनुसार इस अभियान के प्रमुख लक्ष्य हैं—

समुद्र में नए तेल और गैस भंडारों की खोज करना।

घरेलू कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन बढ़ाना।

कच्चे तेल के आयात पर भारत की निर्भरता कम करना।

ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत बनाना।

ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर भारत के लक्ष्य को गति देना।

भविष्य में ईंधन की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करना।

भारत को क्या होगा फायदा?

भारत अपनी जरूरत का बड़ा हिस्सा आज भी विदेशों से कच्चे तेल के रूप में आयात करता है। यदि समुद्र मंथन मिशन के तहत बड़े हाइड्रोकार्बन भंडार मिलते हैं तो इससे कई महत्वपूर्ण लाभ होंगे।

तेल आयात बिल में कमी आएगी।

विदेशी मुद्रा की बचत होगी।

ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता बढ़ेगी।

उद्योगों को स्थिर ऊर्जा आपूर्ति मिलेगी।

रोजगार और निवेश के नए अवसर पैदा होंगे।

देश की रणनीतिक ऊर्जा सुरक्षा मजबूत होगी।

निष्कर्ष

समुद्र मंथन मिशन केवल एक ड्रिलिंग अभियान नहीं, बल्कि भारत की दीर्घकालिक ऊर्जा रणनीति का अहम हिस्सा है। महानदी ऑफशोर बेसिन में शुरू हुई पहली डीपवॉटर ड्रिलिंग भविष्य में देश के लिए नए तेल और गैस भंडारों का रास्ता खोल सकती है। यदि यह मिशन सफल रहता है, तो भारत आयातित ईंधन पर अपनी निर्भरता घटाकर ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर बनने की दिशा में एक बड़ी छलांग लगा सकता है।

Headline	Bharat CPSEs' Consultative Conclave 2026 concludes with focus on project execution, asset management for Viksit Bharat		
Publication	South India News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

Bharat CPSEs' Consultative Conclave 2026 concludes with focus on project execution, asset management for Viksit Bharat

<https://www.southindianews.in/news/bharat-cpses-consultative-conclave-2026-concludes-with-focus-on-project-execution-asset-management-for-viksit-bharat20260726232757/>

The three-day 3rd edition of Bharat CPSEs' Consultative Conclave 2026 on Project and Asset Management was successfully concluded at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara, after insightful deliberations on strengthening project execution, asset management and organisational excellence across Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) of the Energy and Mining sectors.

According to the Ministry of Railways, the event, on Saturday, was organised jointly by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) as the strategic Knowledge Partner.

The conclave brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and academia, as well as senior CPSE executives, to exchange best practices and chart the way forward in support of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Detailed discussions were held on planning, DPR, contracting, land acquisition, asset life cycle management, deep tech technology adoption, and use of PM Gati Shakti platform in formulating an implementable CPSE Reform Agenda. A total of 39 delegates from NTPC, Coal India, Bharat Coking Coal, BPCL, HPCL, Indian Oil, ONGC, ONGC Videsh, Oil India, MRPL, GAIL, SAIL, MECON, NMDC, Hindustan Copper, NALCO, NHPC, SJVN and Power Grid Corporation of India participated in the Conclave.

Dr Mangu Singh (Former MD, DMRC) was the Chief Guest during the inauguration and focused on contract management as an important aspect for the success of the projects. Shri K. Moses Chalai (Secretary, DPE), as the Guest of Honour, highlighted the need for innovative and data-driven approaches for asset and project management.

Addressing the valedictory session, Prof Manoj Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, GSV, said the conclave had created a strong momentum for collaborative learning and fostered a culture of informed and data-driven decision-making.

He highlighted GSV's growing contribution to capacity building across railways, highways, aviation, maritime, logistics, and other infrastructure sectors. Referring to the MoU between GSV and CBC, he reiterated that this event marked the continuation of a long-term CBC-GSV partnership aimed at strengthening professional capacity across the infrastructure ecosystem of the country.

Delivering the valedictory address, Dr. Alka Mittal, Member (Administration, CBC), expressed satisfaction on the candid deliberations that took place between the speakers, industry practitioners and the CPSE participants, as to why some projects run late and how culture, discipline, policy enablement and technology can set them right.

She reiterated that CBC, along with GSV, would publish a Bharat CPSE Compendium of best practices based on the recommendations that have emerged in this event.

Dr Alka Mittal appreciated the efforts put in by GSV as a knowledge partner under the tutelage of the Vice Chancellor Prof Manoj Choudhary and Prof Kaushik Das for making this event a grand success and expressed eagerness to continue the collaborative efforts between CBC and GSV in the march towards infrastructure capacity building for Viksit Bharat 2047.

Headline	Biofuel to play key role in India's energy transition: Hardeep Singh Puri		
Publication	Bizz Buzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

Biofuel to play key role in India's energy transition: Hardeep Singh Puri

<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/national/biofuel-to-play-key-role-in-indias-energy-transition-hardeep-singh-puri-1398768>

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said biofuels, green hydrogen and domestic energy production will drive India's energy transition, reduce crude oil imports and strengthen energy security

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

New Delhi, July 26: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, said on Sunday that transformative initiatives like the Biofuel Mission, Green Hydrogen Mission, and Samudra Manthan are steering India towards a new era of energy self-reliance.

The Union Minister highlighted that biofuel forms a crucial foundation of India's sustainable energy future, empowering farmers, reducing dependence on imported fuels, and giving fresh momentum to environmental conservation.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is today advancing rapidly with full confidence towards energy transition," the Union Minister added.

"From 2014-15 up to May 2026, the ethanol blending with petrol programme has resulted in a saving of more than Rs 1.90 lakh crore in foreign exchange by substituting 310 lakh metric tonnes of imported crude oil and has generated additional earnings for farmers of more than Rs 1.6 lakh crore. Besides it has cut carbon emissions of more than 930 lakh metric tonnes," according to official figures.

"India imports close to 88.5 per cent of the crude oil it consumes which explains a great deal about why ethanol blending sits so high on the policy agenda. Every barrel of oil bought from abroad exposes the country to price swings and supply shocks that are entirely outside its control. Ethanol produced from Indian sugarcane, maize and rice offers a way to blunt that exposure using resources grown at home," according to an official statement.

Meanwhile, India's installed renewable energy capacity has increased nearly fourfold from 76.38 GW in 2014 to 288.58 GW as on June 30, 2026, according to information tabled by the government in Parliament last week.

Solar power leads in the country's renewable energy segment with an installed capacity of 162.15 GW followed by wind power at 57.44 GW and hydro power with 57.24. The remaining 11.75 GW is accounted for by bio power.

As of now, a total of 297.36 GW non-fossil fuel sources-based electricity capacity has been installed in the country as on June 30, 2026. This includes 288.58 GW renewable energy capacity and 8.78 GW nuclear power capacity, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik said in a written reply to a query in the Rajya Sabha.

Headline	Odisha begins land acquisition for IndianOil's ₹61,077 cr Paradip project		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

Odisha begins land acquisition for IndianOil's ₹61,077 cr Paradip project

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/odisha-begins-land-acquisition-for-indianoil-s-61-077-cr-paradip-project-126072600691_1.html

More than a year after Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) signed a deal with the Odisha government for its biggest-ever single-location investment, the 61,077-crore Paradip Petrochemical Complex saw the commencement of land acquisition for the mega project.

The state government has started the mandatory Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for acquiring private land for the integrated petrochemical complex. This project is expected to transform Paradip into one of India's largest petrochemical manufacturing hubs.

The mega petrochemical complex will be anchored by a world-scale 1.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) dual-feed naphtha cracker and a host of downstream petrochemical units, besides the proposed Paradip plastic park.

The project is expected to catalyse investments in downstream plastics, chemicals and manufacturing industries while creating thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

The revenue and disaster management department has issued a notification for the acquisition of 219.617 acres of private land at Badakantakandha village under Erasama tehsil of Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha.

The private land parcel is part of around 2,200 acres required for the project and is located adjacent to IOC's existing Paradip refinery.

The land acquisition will be carried out through the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Idco). The SIA process is expected to be completed within four months. The project work will commence soon once the land acquisition is over. The petrochemical complex is expected to become the cornerstone of Odisha's ambition to emerge as a major petrochemicals manufacturing hub, a senior official told Business Standard.

In April last year, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed for the project in the presence of Hardeep Singh Puri, Union minister of petroleum and natural gas, and Mohan Charan Majhi, Odisha chief minister, and other senior dignitaries in New Delhi.

According to plans of the state-owned oil major, a wide range of petrochemical products, including polypropylene (PP), high-density polyethylene (HDPE), linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), phenol, isopropyl alcohol (IPA) and butadiene will be produced at the integrated petrochemical complex.

It would provide critical feedstock for sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, paints, adhesives, packaging and plastics.

Officials said the project is expected to reduce import dependence, attract large-scale downstream investments, encourage growth of the proposed Paradip plastic park and generate substantial direct and indirect employment across the region.

Built around the existing 15 MTPA Paradip refinery, the dual-feed cracker will enhance value addition from crude oil while positioning the company as a leading player in India's rapidly growing petrochemicals sector. The project is expected to be completed over the next four to five years after the completion of statutory clearances, land acquisition and construction. "The integrated complex will also strengthen the competitiveness of eastern India's manufacturing sector by ensuring the availability of raw materials for thousands of micro, small and medium enterprises," officials added.

Headline	E20 Petrol Backlash Gains Momentum: Team Bharat announces 'Gaadi March, Gandhi March'		
Publication	CarToq	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

E20 Petrol Backlash Gains Momentum: Team Bharat announces 'Gaadi March, Gandhi March'

<https://www.cartog.com/car-life/india-e20-petrol-backlash-gaadi-march-gandhi-march-rally/>

India's growing backlash against the rollout of E20 petrol is showing no signs of slowing down.

What began as scattered criticism from enthusiasts and owners of older vehicles has now evolved into an organized citizens' movement, with multiple groups rallying around the issue.

The latest development comes from Team Bharat, which has announced a peaceful road rally titled ' Gaadi March, Gandhi March ', scheduled for July 31 in New Delhi . According to the organization, the march will begin at India Gate, pass the residences and offices of Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Singh Puri, and conclude outside Parliament Street.

Team Bharat says the event is not intended as a confrontation against the government or the ethanol blending programme itself. Instead, it describes the rally as a peaceful demonstration seeking greater transparency, consumer choice and solutions for owners of older vehicles affected by the transition to E20 fuel.

Six key demands

In its press release, Team Bharat has laid out six demands. These include restoring the availability of E10 petrol for vehicles designed to run on it, reducing the price of ethanol-free (E0) petrol, offering a 20 percent discount on E20 fuel, making all policy documents related to E20 publicly available, finding solutions for pre-2023 vehicles that may be affected by E20 petrol, and addressing what it calls a conflict of interest involving Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.

Participants have also been encouraged to display slogans such as **"Meri Gaadi, Mera Adhikar," "Meri Bike, Meri Choice,"** and **"Our Vehicles. Our Choice. Our Right."** Team Bharat says only issues relating to fuel and ethanol will be discussed during the rally.

More citizen groups are emerging

The Team Bharat rally comes at a time when opposition to mandatory E20 adoption is increasingly taking shape on social media.

One of the most visible groups is the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), which has repeatedly criticized the government's fuel policy through viral campaigns, memes and owner awareness posts. CJP has now publicly extended its support to another newly formed movement - the Ethanol Janata Party (EJP).

EJP has witnessed rapid growth, crossing 20,000 followers on X within a single day, suggesting that concerns over ethanol-blended petrol are resonating with a growing number of vehicle owners. While these organizations do not represent official political parties, they have emerged as citizen-led campaigns focused primarily on fuel policy and consumer rights.

Why is E20 petrol controversial?

India introduced E20 petrol as part of its broader strategy to reduce crude oil imports, improve energy security and support the country's sugarcane farmers. Ethanol is domestically produced, making it an attractive alternative to imported fossil fuels.

However, the transition has also generated significant criticism. Owners of older motorcycles and cars argue that many vehicles currently on Indian roads were originally engineered for E10 or lower ethanol blends.

They worry that prolonged use of E20 could accelerate wear on rubber seals, fuel lines and certain engine components. Some motorists have also reported reduced fuel economy because ethanol contains less energy per litre than conventional petrol. Another common complaint has been the non-availability of E10 petrol, leaving owners of older vehicles with little practical choice but to use E20.

Supporters of the policy, however, point out that vehicle manufacturers have spent the past few years introducing E20-compatible models. They argue that ethanol blending helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cuts India's dependence on imported oil and creates additional income opportunities for the agricultural sector. Government agencies have also maintained that newer E20-compliant vehicles have been engineered to safely operate on the higher ethanol blend.

With citizen groups becoming more organized and public demonstrations now being planned in the national capital, the debate over India's ethanol fuel transition appears set to become even more prominent in the coming months.

Headline	The next big flashpoint? What demands at CJP's Jantar Mantar protest reveal		
Publication	India Today	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

The next big flashpoint? What demands at CJP's Jantar Mantar protest reveal

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/cjp-protest-jantar-mantar-ethanol-jobs-women-reservation-demands-protesters-2956832-2026-07-27>

Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation has ended the CJP's protest. It wasn't just the NEET-UG paper leak case, the CJP's protest witnessed more than one agitation.

There were multiple issues, from ethanol-blending to women's reservation. Does any of these have the potential to become the next big issue?

"My school tortures me a lot to study," a Class 8 student from Delhi's Patparganj told India Today Digital when asked why he had come to Jantar Mantar. Accompanied by a group of friends, the 14-year-old had little to do with the for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak and irregularities in the education system.

Though the 14-year-old's demand was unique, there were different issues that had been highlighted by protesters at the CJP's protest site at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

By the final days of the month-long agitation, Jantar Mantar was no longer just the epicentre of the CJP protest or . It had evolved into something much larger. It became a magnet for people carrying grievances of every kind, many only loosely connected to the education movement that had first drawn national attention.

Walking through the protest site, the demands changed every few metres. One group sought women's reservation in Parliament. Another protested about the lack of job opportunities. Some campaigned against the rushed implementation of the ethanol-blending programme, claiming it was damaging their vehicles.

Opposition party workers joined students, on the Union government. Alongside them stood first-time protesters, curious visitors and ordinary citizens who believed Jantar Mantar had become the place where the government might finally hear them.

In many ways, the designated protest site had begun to outgrow the movement that revived it. What started as a campaign against the education system had gradually become a platform for every unresolved frustration looking for an audience. By the time (July 25), and the CJP called off its agitation, Jantar Mantar had become more than the venue of a student protest. It had briefly transformed into the country's loudest marketplace of dissent.

With Dharmendra Pradhan resigning as the education minister, the protests have been called off, and now at Jantar Mantar no protests are being held.

But what might be the next big issue that brings protesters to Jantar Mantar? Does the list of demands at the CJP protest give us a glimpse?

CONGRESS AND SAMAJWADI PARTY WORKERS AT JANTAR MANTAR

Among the CJP volunteers serving food, collecting garbage and helping manage the month-long protest were workers from the Indian National Congress's Seva Dal, the party's volunteer wing, who had joined the agitation in solidarity.

"I came from Kochi to take part in the protest," a Congress worker told India Today Digital. "The to raise their voice against irregularities in the education system," he said, highlighting his party's role in the issue.

When asked why the Congress's top leadership had not formally joined the CJP protest, he defended the party's stand.

"Rahul Gandhi ji came out on the streets and condemned the ," he told India Today Digital.

"We are here because of the support and direction of the national leadership," he added.

A little behind the CJP's main stage, another group caught attention. Dozens of people wearing the Samajwadi Party's signature red caps had gathered together.

"We are from Kannauj, the constituency of our leader Akhilesh Yadav," an elderly SP worker told India Today Digital.

"This government must go. Around 200 of us have come to Jantar Mantar," he said, making it clear that for many political workers, the student-led agitation had also become an opportunity to amplify the Opposition's campaign against the Union government.

'WE NEED 33% WOMEN'S RESERVATION IN THE PARLIAMENT'

Just outside Jantar Mantar, near Tolstoy Marg, two elderly women stood holding placards that had little to do with students' rights or the NEET controversy. Their demand was different. They sought 33% reservation for women in Parliament.

"We support the students, but it is equally important to raise the issue of women's equality in this country. Equality begins in politics," a 54-year-old member of the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW), the women's wing of the Communist Party of India (CPI), told India Today Digital.

"Our organisation has mobilised nearly 500 people for this protest. It is high time the government heard our demand and fulfilled it," another NFIW member said.

The call for women's reservation was not confined to the road outside Jantar Mantar. Inside the protest site too, several women's organisations, including the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) India and the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), joined the demonstrations.

Their slogans were different from those of the CJP. While students demanded accountability in the education system, these groups raised their voices for greater political representation and equal rights for women, reflecting how Jantar Mantar had evolved into a platform for multiple causes beyond the student movement.

A BLIND MAN CAME ALONE, HOPING SOMEONE WOULD HEAR HIS PLEA

The demands were not limited to women's reservations either.

Amid the sea of protesters stood 38-year-old Purshottam Puri, a visually impaired man who had travelled alone from Madhya Pradesh with just one demand to get his monthly pension restored.

For the past three months, Puri claimed, his pension had stopped arriving, pushing his family into financial distress. Undeterred, Puri boarded a train to Delhi by himself, believing Jantar Mantar was where unheard voices could finally find an audience.

"I have elderly parents who can no longer work," Puri told India Today Digital. "They receive a pension, and I also depend on my pension. That is how our family survives," he said.

Puri's appeal was simple. "I request the government to hear my case and ensure that my pension is released," he told India Today Digital.

ETHANOL-BLENDING COULD BECOME THE NEXT BIG ISSUE

Around Puri stood people carrying placards demanding more employment opportunities, protesting the government's ethanol-blending programme, or raising entirely different grievances.

One of the demands that had the potential to get a large section of the population to protest is the mandate to sell 20% ethanol-blended petrol.

The Centre's push for mandatory ethanol blending is fast emerging as the next issue around which resistance is beginning to mobilise, with transporters, motorists and activists preparing to take their agitation to the streets.

Resistance to the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme, when Team Bharat, an outfit led by entrepreneur and television personality Tehseen Poonawalla, organised a protest against the policy. Now, with the CJP agitation over, anti-ethanol activists appear keen to occupy the space left behind by the student movement.

Tehseen Poonawalla has announced 'The Gaadi March' in New Delhi on July 31, signalling the beginning of a larger campaign against the Centre's ethanol policy.

The Delhi Taxi and Tourist Transporters and Tour Operators Association has also announced a march to Parliament on August 4. The association on July 24 (Friday) said it would demand an independent scientific review of the ethanol-blending programme involving vehicle owners, consumers, transport operators, automobile manufacturers and technical experts before the policy is expanded further.

The discontent was also visible during the CJP protest. Alongside placards demanding accountability over the education system were posters questioning ethanol-blended fuel, with several protesters arguing that the policy was harming vehicles and increasing maintenance costs.

Some protesters even claimed that after Dharmendra Pradhan, the next political target of public protests should be Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, who has become the face of India's E20 petrol push, and Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, under whose ministry the ethanol-blending programme is being implemented.

Whether the opposition to ethanol gathers the same momentum as the CJP movement remains to be seen. But with protest marches already planned and transport associations joining the campaign, New Delhi might soon witness another agitation, and this time over the fuel in India's vehicles rather than the future of its students.

Today, , no slogans echoing through Tolstoy Marg and no crowds spilling onto the pavements. Yet, for a few weeks, the protest site became more than the headquarters of a student movement. It became a national noticeboard of frustrations, where people arrived believing that if one voice had managed to make the government listen, perhaps theirs could too. Ethanol in petrol has the potential of becoming the next big issue of protest at Jantar Mantar.

Headline	GMPL project: MP seeks regular, permanent jobs for displaced families		
Publication	The Hindu	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Jul 2026		

GMPL project: MP seeks regular, permanent jobs for displaced families

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/gmpl-project-mp-seeks-regular-permanent-jobs-for-displaced-families/article71266087.ece>

Capt. Brijesh Chowta, Member of Parliament for Dakshina Kannada, has urged Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri to intervene and ensure permanent, regular employment for members of 115 project-displaced families (PDFs) who lost their land for a project now operated by GAIL Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited (GMPL).

In a recent letter to the Minister, Capt. Chowta said the issue dates back to 2012, when 115.25 acres of land were acquired from local families for setting up a purified terephthalic acid (PTA) plant by the erstwhile JBF Petrochemicals Limited (JBFPL). Under the original lease deeds signed on September 29, 2012, and December 9, 2012, a binding commitment was made to provide priority for full-time, regular employment to a minimum of 115 members of these displaced families. Following the acquisition of the plant by GAIL (India) Limited through the NCLT resolution plan, the newly formed subsidiary GMPL legally inherited these displacement and rehabilitation obligations.

The letter said that, for a prolonged period, the absorption process remained stalled. As documented in GMPL's internal communication (Letter No. GMPL/MSEZL/15), the management initially resisted direct, permanent engagement. It cited restrictive Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) guidelines on open competitive recruitment, suggesting short-term contract arrangements instead. This was strongly opposed by the local families and the district administration, as the Karnataka government had explicitly clarified that fulfilling the original land-acquisition lease conditions was a mandatory legal obligation arising from the takeover, and not a case of fresh public recruitment.

The letter said that, after Mr. Puri's intervention on August 7, 2024, the ministry swiftly issued an official directive on August 8, 2024 (File No. L-11011/5/2023-GP-II), fast-tracking the recruitment. "Consequently, the GMPL management formally assured my office that all hurdles had been resolved and that the employment process would be completed successfully."

The MP further wrote: "However, a major grievance has now arisen during the actual issuance of the appointment offers. Contrary to the permanent, regular employment that was promised and legally mandated under the original rehabilitation terms, GMPL has started issuing offer letters stipulating that the 'engagement will be initially for a period of five years. Subsequently, the engagement period will continue to be extended further for one or multiple term(s) of up to five years.'

"This unexpected deviation has caused deep distress and widespread dissatisfaction among the PDF families. Having permanently surrendered their ancestral land and livelihoods for the country's industrial development, a temporary five-year contract leaves their future secure-less and volatile. It defeats the very spirit of the historical resolution we achieved under your esteemed guidance."

Capt. Chowta requested the minister to direct the management of GAIL and GMPL to honour their original commitment in letter and spirit.

"The offer letters must be revised to grant permanent, regular employment to the eligible members of these 115 project-displaced families, ensuring complete justice for them," the letter concluded.