



ONGC News as on 28 July 2026 (Print & Online)

3D SEISMIC SURVEYS MAY ALSO BE PARTLY FUNDED

₹80kcr Sops Likely to Push Foreign Flows into Oil & Gas Exploration

Govt may bear up to 50% of cost of drilling wells

Breaking Cost Barriers

High costs, modest exploration success have kept foreign majors away

Drilling a single deepwater well can cost ₹1,000-1,200 cr

ONGC spudded its first deepwater exploratory well on Saturday



18 deepwater/ultra-deepwater blocks being auctioned under OALP

Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: The petroleum and natural gas ministry is drawing up an ₹80,000-crore incentive package to attract foreign investment into India's deepwater oil and gas exploration by bearing up to half the cost of drilling exploratory wells, according to people familiar with the matter.

The initiative, under the National Deepwater Exploration Mission, goes further than the

series of upstream reforms over the past decade, which failed to attract significant investment from global oil firms, by directly funding part of exploration costs.

Under the proposal, the government will reimburse up to 50% of the cost of drilling deepwater exploratory wells, the people said. The proposal is being discussed with other ministries and could change before it is placed before the cabinet.

Deepwater Expertise ►► 12

Deepwater Expertise

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Funding per well will be capped to prevent cost overruns. The government may also partly fund 3D seismic surveys, according to one of the persons, who did not wish to be identified.

The support is aimed at reducing exploration risk and attracting global companies with deepwater expertise and advanced technologies.

High costs and India's modest exploration success have long kept foreign firms away. Drilling a single deepwater well can cost Rs 1,000-1,200 crore, depending on geological complexity. An ultra-deepwater well can cost a few hundred crore more. The incentives will be available to both state-run and private explorers.

ONGC on Saturday spudded its first deepwater exploratory well under the Samudra Manthan programme.

India is also auctioning 18 deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks

under the Open Acreage Licensing Programme. The bid deadline has been extended to September 17, by when the government expects to finalise the incentive package.

The proposal marks a significant departure from the existing exploration regime where companies with awarded blocks are required to complete a minimum work programme, including seismic surveys and exploratory wells, or face penalties.

Explorers sometimes choose not to drill after seismic data points to a low probability of a commercial discovery. Many surrender blocks rather than invest hundreds of crores in a high-risk well.

Alongside the incentive scheme, the government has been improving the quality of geological data available to explorers. It has invested heavily in acquiring offshore 2D seismic data and is now looking to bring in private companies to reprocess legacy datasets using advanced technologies.

IndianOil launches express delivery of 10 kg, 5 kg LPG cylinders

EOI CORRESPONDENT

PUNE, JULY 27: A. S. Sahney, Chairman, IndianOil, launched Indane XTRALITE NOW, an innovative 10 kg composite LPG cylinder offering with an express delivery service, in the presence of Saumitra P. Srivastava, Director (Marketing) and senior officials of the Corporation. Designed to meet the evolving expectations of modern households, Indane XTRALITE NOW combines lightweight, rust-free composite cylinder technology with a digitally enabled service ecosystem to deliver greater convenience, safety and transparency. The cylinder features a translucent body for easy LPG level monitoring and is supported by express delivery within four hours of booking, preferred time delivery, and minimal documentation. During the event, Chairman, IndianOil also launched express home delivery service for the popular 5 Kg Chhotu cylinder, which will now be delivered within four hours of booking. This initiative further strengthens IndianOil's commitment to providing flexible, convenient LPG solutions tailored to the needs of urban

households, professionals, and small families.

Speaking on the occasion, Sahney said: "Innovation is meaningful only when it enriches the lives of our customers. Indane XTRALITE NOW combines advanced composite cylinder technology with a seamless and enhanced service model to offer a smarter, safer and more convenient LPG experience. The launch reaffirms IndianOil's commitment to delivering future-ready energy solutions while setting new benchmarks in customer service."

Saumitra P. Srivastava, Director (Marketing), IndianOil, added: "Consumers today expect speed, convenience and a seamless experience. Indane XTRALITE NOW reflects IndianOil's customer-centric approach by combining innovative technology with swift, reliable delivery."

It marks another significant step in redefining the domestic LPG experience. The offering will initially be available in



Pune, Gurugram, Indore and Coimbatore, before expanding to 25 additional cities by mid-August 2026 and major cities across the country by the end of October 2026.

Customers can register for new connections and book refills through the IndianOil ONE App and the IndianOil Customer website (<https://cx.indianoil.in>) with WhatsApp (7588888824) booking facility to be introduced shortly. The new offering will be available through IndianOil's extensive Indane distributor network and select IndianOil Retail Outlets, ensuring wide accessibility and unmatched convenience.

E20 petrol improves performance, lowers emissions: Govt

NEW DELHI

The government on Monday said E20 petrol offers better acceleration, improved ride quality and nearly 30 per cent lower carbon emissions than E10 fuel, while extensive studies and real-world data have found no evidence of ethanol-induced engine corrosion, abnormal wear or reduction in vehicle life, including in millions of legacy vehicles operating on higher ethanol blends.

Responding to a question



The government also said higher ethanol blends enable cleaner and combustion, resulting in near-zero particulate matter emissions.

in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said E20 fuel provides im-

proved ride quality and approximately 30 per cent lower carbon emissions compared to E10 petrol.

"E20 fuel provides better acceleration, improved ride quality and approximately 30 per cent lower carbon emissions compared to E10 fuel. Higher ethanol blends also enable cleaner and more complete combustion, resulting in near-zero particulate matter emissions and improved urban air quality," the ministry mentioned.

The government also said higher ethanol blends enable cleaner and more complete combustion, resulting in near-zero particulate mat-

ter emissions and improved urban air quality. According to the reply, extensive laboratory studies and field trials conducted by ARAI, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, Indian Oil Corporation, IIP and automobile manufacturers evaluated engine durability, drivability, startability, corrosion resistance, material compatibility, emissions and fuel efficiency before the rollout of E20 fuel.

These studies confirmed that E20 is safe for use under prescribed standards. IANS

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Date :28 July 2026	Page : 1, 7

E20 petrol improves performance: Govt in RS

Says no assessment done on percentage of vehicles fully compliant with E20 petrol

NEW DELHI: The Union government on Monday told the Rajya Sabha that E20 petrol provides better acceleration, smoother ride quality and nearly 30% lower carbon emissions compared with E10 petrol, while extensive scientific studies and real-world vehicle data have found no evidence of engine damage, corrosion or reduced vehicle life.

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E20 petrol improves performance: Govt in RS

Continued from P1

Responding to a question in Parliament, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said the higher ethanol blend enables cleaner and more complete combustion, contributing to near-zero particulate matter emissions and improved urban air quality. The country achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol last year and at present, the E20 fuel — 80 parts petrol and 20 parts ethanol — is the standard petrol variant across the country.

The minister also said that no assessment has been done on the percentage of petrol vehicles in India that are fully compliant with E20

fuel. The information was provided by the minister in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

"Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) have informed that no such assessment has been done by them," Gopi said in a written response to a question in the Upper House.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries is the nodal ministry for the automobile sector in India. According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, E20 fuel underwent comprehensive evaluation before its nationwide rollout. The assessment included laboratory studies and field trials conducted by the Automotive Research Association of

India (ARAI), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and leading automobile manufacturers.

The studies examined engine durability, drivability, cold start performance, corrosion resistance, material compatibility, fuel efficiency and emissions, concluding that E20 petrol is safe for use under prescribed standards.

The government also clarified that legacy vehicles, which were not originally certified for E20 fuel, have shown no significant variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear. Supporting this claim, it

cited data from a leading automobile manufacturer that serviced 2.84 crore vehicles during FY 2025-26, including nearly 1.5 crore vehicles not initially designed for E20 compatibility, without reporting any E20-related corrosion, abnormal engine wear or reduction in component life.

A leading two-wheeler manufacturer reported similar findings, while another major original equipment manufacturer (OEM) monitored 1.4 crore vehicles operating on E20 fuel and found no evidence of ethanol-induced corrosion over an extended period.

The ministry added that ARAI continues to validate vehicles through rigorous

international-standard testing before they reach consumers, ensuring safety and performance.

The government's findings reinforce India's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme, which aims to reduce dependence on imported crude oil, lower greenhouse gas emissions, support farmers through increased ethanol production and promote cleaner, more sustainable transportation across the country. There has been a public backlash over the E20 fuel, with claims ranging from notable reduction in mileage and engine component wear and tear in older vehicles whose engines were not designed for higher ethanol blends.

Mumbai Port mulls new oil jetties, specialised cargo terminals: Angamuthu

G Naga Sridhar
Hyderabad

The Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA) is examining a slew of expansion proposals, including additional crude-oil jetties, petroleum product & chemical berths and facilities. "Based on an internal study on potential areas for expansion, we are examining the feasibility of augmenting our petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) infrastructure to handle incremental refinery output from BPCL, HPCL and upcoming refinery expansions in Maharashtra," MbPA Chairperson Angamuthu said.

The authority would adopt a collaborative approach with various stakeholders in the proposed expansion.

POL cargo remains the backbone of Mumbai port, accounting for nearly three-fifths of its overall traffic. Vessel-borne crude-oil volumes increased 52 per cent to 26.24 million tonnes in 2025-26 from 17.22 mt in 2011-12. A 10 per cent increase could add about 4.5 mt to the annual throughput.

"Mumbai has tremendous potential to promote LNG bunkering due to its proxim-



MbPA Chairperson
M Angamuthu

ity to the maritime route connecting the mid-east to the far-east. Since the propensity for LNG conversion is more visible in container ships and with JNPA in its backyard, Jawahar Dweep is most suited to act as the future LNG bunker hub" Angamuthu said.

PORT EYES GROWTH

Mumbai port can handle roll-on/roll-off vessels, and during FY 2025-26, it handled about 0.81 lakh EXIM automobiles.

The port's proximity to the auto major OEMs within the State, as well as road and rail connectivity to the auto-manufacturing clusters of Pune, Chakan and Sanand, offers a locational advantage.

The cargo basket itself is changing in step with the

economy it serves. "In a recent roll-on, roll-off call, we discharged 861 heavy-duty electric trucks from the *MV Grande Shanghai* in a single operation, an early and concrete sign that the vehicles, machinery and equipment of the energy transition will increasingly move through our berths. The composition of what we handle is not merely the tonnage, it is being reshaped by where the economy is going," he said.

The port is actively considering creating a storage facility within its docks to accommodate about one lakh automobiles. With auto majors setting up plants at Aurangabad, Mumbai port will be the automatic choice for shipment of their EXIM automobiles.

NEW FOCUS AREAS

The port is also considering setting up 2 mt cement silos to store stocks received by rail for distribution throughout Mumbai.

"Mumbai port has handled an all-time high of 75.15 mt in 2025-26, compared with 53.32 mt in 2020-21. This represents a compound annual growth rate of about 7 per cent over 5 years," Angamuthu said.

Publication : The Tribune

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IndianOil unveils Darpan campaign

IndianOil has launched its Darpan feedback campaign from Punjab, enabling customers at 3,014 outlets to rate toilet cleanliness and free air facilities.

Falling oil helps mkts snap losing streak

SUNDAR SETHURAMAN
Mumbai, 27 July

Indian equities rose on Monday, with the benchmark indices snapping their five-day losing streak, as a sharp fall in Brent crude prices boosted investor sentiment.

The benchmark Sensex on Monday ended the session at 76,836, a gain of 776 points or 1.02 per cent.

The Nifty, meanwhile, ended the session at 23,996, a gain of 229 points or 0.96 per cent. The total market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms rose by ₹5 trillion to ₹481 trillion.

Brent crude prices declined 5.5 per cent — the biggest fall since May 25, 2026, — and were at \$87.3 per barrel. This was after the pause in military action between the United States and Iran reduced fears of an immediate disruption to global energy supplies.

Lower oil prices are particularly supportive for India because the country depends heavily on imported energy.

A sustained fall in crude can ease inflationary pressures, reduce the import bill, improve the current account position, and limit pressure on the rupee.

The rupee was the best-performing currency among its Asian peers on Monday, rising 0.71 per cent against the dollar to end the session at 95.89.

A pause in military action between the United States and Iran brought relief to global markets after nearly two weeks of escalating strikes. Washington suspended its airstrikes late on Friday, and no further American attacks were reported over the weekend. Iran also held back, indicating that it would stop its attacks as long as the US did the same.

Going forward, investors will continue to closely monitor events in West Asia to assess market trajectories.

"Indian equities are witnessing a short-term relief, as de-escalation in West Asia and the resultant fall in crude oil prices provided interim support. Going ahead, geopolitical developments and direction in crude oil prices are likely to be key drivers in the near term," said Siddhartha Khemka, head of research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Khemka added that the earnings season is expected to drive stock-specific action, alongside increased activity in the primary market.

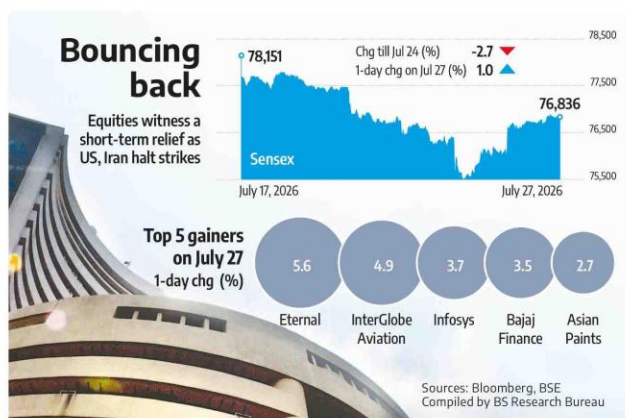
"Investors will closely monitor the US Federal Reserve's (Fed's) policy decision on Wednesday, followed by Fed Chair's commentary for cues on the future interest rate path," said Khemka.

The market breadth was strong, with 2,720 stocks advancing and 1,638 declining. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) remained net sellers of ₹1,688 crore, while domestic institutional investors were net buyers of ₹2,329 crore.

Barring two, all Sensex stocks gained. Infosys, which rose 3.6 per cent, was the biggest contributor to Sensex gains, followed by Eternal, which rose 5.6 per cent.

Index contributions depend on the weightage of a particular constituent and its movement on a given day.

"Going forward, the zone of 24,120-24,150 is expected to act as an immediate hurdle for the index. A decisive move above the 24,150 mark could trigger a fresh upswing, paving the way for a rally towards 24,300. On the downside, the 23,900-23,880 zone remains a crucial support area. As long as the index holds above this support band, the undertone is likely to remain positive," said Sudeep Shah, head — technical and derivatives research at SBI Securities.



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MRPL seeks crude via tender avoiding Red Sea and Hormuz

The state-owned Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) is seeking crude cargoes that sidestep the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz. The refiner is looking for 1 million barrels for delivery until early September to New Mangalore port on the southwestern coast, according to *Bloomberg*. Nearly 300 crude grades are eligible under the tender, including some West Asian varieties, which may face loading disruptions due to US-Iran hostilities. Refiners in India, the world's third-largest crude importer, are racing to secure alternative supplies amid uncertainty over the arrival of West Asia cargoes. **BLOOMBERG**

Now, AI-powered system can make solar power plants smarter, efficient

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
Bhubaneswar, 27 July

As India races towards achieving 500 gigawatt (Gw) of non-fossil fuel power capacity by 2030, researchers at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela, have developed an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered autonomous system that can significantly improve the efficiency and economics of solar power plants.

The patented technology addresses the challenge of maintaining clean solar plants to ensure peak power generation without regular human intervention. It identifies only the portions of solar panels that

THE TECHNOLOGY, DEVELOPED AT NIT ROURKELA, HELPS TO MAINTAIN SOLAR PLANTS WITHOUT REGULAR HUMAN INTERVENTION

require cleaning, monitors their health in real time and performs selective cleaning, reducing water consumption, lowering maintenance costs, and maximising electricity generation.

Conventional maintenance practices generally rely on periodic cleaning schedules irrespective of the actual condition of the panels. Besides being labour-intensive, these

methods consume enormous quantities of water and increase operational costs while often resulting in unnecessary cleaning of already efficient panels.

The researchers have achieved a breakthrough in addressing this challenge. "Our system replaces this conventional approach with an intelligent decision-making framework. Instead of cleaning every panel at fixed intervals, the AI analyses the operational condition, detects faults or contamination and determines whether cleaning is actually required," said Arun Kumar, assistant professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

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Crude dips 8% as geopolitical tensions ease

AGENCIES

27 July

Oils sank as the US paused daily strikes against Iran and tankers sailed to load at a recently disrupted Kazakh export terminal, easing supply pressures in a market squeezed on multiple fronts.

Brent crude futures for September fell \$7.66, or 8 per cent, to \$89.12 per barrel on the Intercontinental Exchange. The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for the September delivery declined \$6.93, or nearly 8 per cent, to \$82.38 per barrel. "Crude has fallen sharply, with Brent dropping as much as 7 per cent to below \$90, and WTI near \$85 per barrel, after the US quietly suspended its strike campaign late on Friday and Iran indicated over the weekend that it would also hold its attacks," said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities.

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कच्चे तेल में 7 फीसदी की गिरावट, एक हफ्ते के निचले स्तर पर भाव

रॉयटर्स

लंदन, 27 जुलाई

तेल की कीमतों में सोमवार को 7 फीसदी की गिरावट आई और कीमतें एक हफ्ते के निचले स्तर पर पहुंच गईं। इसकी वजह दो हफ्ते तक चले हमलों के बाद सप्ताहांत पर अमेरिका और ईरान का एक दूसरे पर हमले रोकना था। इस कारण कूटनीतिक समाधान की भी उम्मीद जगी है। इससे तनाव कम हो सकता है और होमुंज स्ट्रेट में परिवहन फिर से शुरू हो सकता है। ब्रेंट क्रूड फ्यूचर्स 7.55 डॉलर यानी करीब 7.8 फीसदी गिरकर 89.23 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर आ गया।

यूएस वेस्ट टेक्सस इंटरमीडिएट क्रूड की कीमत 6.01 डॉलर यानी करीब 6.73 फीसदी गिरकर 83.30 प्रति बैरल हो गई। दोनों अनुबंध 20 जुलाई के बाद से अपने सबसे निचले स्तर पर ट्रेड कर रहे हैं। ब्रेंट क्रूड 100 डॉलर तक पहुंच गया था क्योंकि इस कारण होमुंज स्ट्रेट से तेल की आवाजाही घट गई थी। अब यह जंग लाल सागर तक फैल गई है। इससे दुनिया के सबसे बड़े निर्यातक सऊदी अरब को बाब अल-मंदेब स्ट्रेट से होकर एशिया जाने वाले निर्यात में बाधा आ रही है।



संयुक्त राष्ट्र में अमेरिकी राजदूत माइक वाल्टज ने फॉक्स न्यूज सेंडे और अन्य अमेरिकी मीडिया को बताया कि राष्ट्रपति डॉनल्ड ट्रंप ने कूटनीति के लिए और समय देने के मकसद से अमेरिकी हमलों को रोकने का फैसला किया है।

पीवीएम विश्लेषक जॉन इवांस ने कहा, ऐसा लगता है कि बाजार हमेशा ऐसी जगह से अच्छी खबरों की तलाश में रहता है, जहां से कोई अच्छी खबर नहीं मिल रही है।

सैन्य हमले रुकने से भले ही हालात बेहतर लगें, लेकिन इसकी कोई गारंटी नहीं है कि उस इलाके से जल्द ही तेल की आपूर्ति शुरू हो जाएगी। कीमतें तभी कम बनी रहेंगी, जब ऊंची कीमतों की वजह से मांग पर असर पड़े, न कि किसी संदिग्ध छोटे-मोटे युद्धविराम से।

एसईबी रिसर्च के बाजार विश्लेषक ओले ह्याल्बी ने कहा, हस्ताक्षर वाला कोई डांचा, कोई वेरिफिकेशन मैकेनिज्म और कोई तय समय-सीमा नहीं है। ऐसा लगता है कि दोनों पक्षों ने शुक्रवार से गोलीबारी बंद कर दी है। केप्लर के शिपिंग डेटा से पता चला है कि सप्ताहांत के दौरान रोजाना 10 से भी कम कमांडिटी जहाज होमुंज स्ट्रेट से गुजरे।

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CENTRE DEFENDS ETHANOL MIX FOR VEHICLES

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

The Central government on Monday maintained that the ethanol-blending scheme is backed by scientific studies and consultations with automobile manufacturers and technical institutions.

The statement comes a day after a new social media-led campaign by the E20 Janta Party demanded that vehicle owners should be given an option to purchase ethanol-free petrol alongside E20 fuel. The E20 Janta Party also sought the resignation of road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari.

The rollout of E20 petrol or 80 per cent petrol and 20 per cent ethanol has drawn criticism from consumer groups, who have raised concerns about its impact on older vehicles not designed for 20 per cent ethanol blends.

Oil prices ease after US and Iran pause their attacks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK, JULY 27:

Oil prices eased in early trading Sunday, falling further from a two-month high set last week, after the United States and Iran refrained from launching military strikes in the Persian Gulf for a second straight day. The price for a barrel of Brent crude oil to be delivered in September dropped 4.9 per cent to USD 92.02 shortly after trading resumed. The decline followed a 3.9 per cent drop on Friday. Brent crude, the international standard, briefly hit USD 102 a barrel last week. That was USD 30 more than the most actively traded contract in the Brent market was going for early in the month, and the highest it had been since May. Oil prices surged this month because of increased fighting in the Middle East and worries a return to all-out war would further slow the global flow of crude. The ability of tankers to pass safely through the Strait of Hormuz has been the central concern for the oil market since the US and Israel attacked Iran in late February. The narrow strip of water off Iran's coast is the route through which a

fifth of the world's oil typically leaves the Persian Gulf and heads to customers worldwide, and the conflict has largely halted shipping traffic.

Oil producers have since searched for alternative routes, but those are under pressure too. Last week, attacks hit Saudi oil tankers that were using the Red Sea to leave the region. When less oil is available for customers to buy, the price goes up and fuel prices do as well. In the United States, the average price for a gallon of regular gasoline on Sunday was USD 4.11, up from USD 3.90 a month ago and just USD 3.15 a year ago, according to motor club AAA. If oil prices stay elevated, it could lead to higher prices for every product that gets shipped, trucked or flown around the world, including groceries. Although the US economy continues to grow, the ongoing conflict with Iran has dragged consumer confidence in it lower. The reacceleration of oil prices this month took place just as inflation had begun to slow more than economists expected. Now, traders believe inflation pressures have grown enough that they're betting on a 36 per cent chance the Federal

Reserve will hike its main interest rate at an upcoming meeting, according to data from CME Group. Higher interest rates would help keep a lid on inflation, but they could also slow the economy by making it more expensive for all kinds of Americans and businesses to borrow.

Long-term US mortgage rates have already hit their highest levels in nearly a year, for example, chilling the housing industry. And more expensive borrowing could slow the boom in building artificial-intelligence data centers, which have become a big engine for the US economy's growth.

While oil prices have given back some of their big July gains, much uncertainty still remains. The price for a barrel of benchmark US oil to be delivered in September fell 5.6 per cent to USD 84.34 on Sunday.

It dropped 3.1 per cent on Friday. In the oil market, traders are buying and selling contracts for barrels of oil to be delivered many months in the future. The price for a barrel of Brent crude to be delivered in October, which is now the most actively traded part of the market, fell 4.6 per cent to USD 87.48.

Tier-II cities drive rooftop solar rush

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, July 27

INDIA'S ROOFTOP SOLAR expansion is being driven by regional cities rather than the country's largest metros, with Lucknow and Nagpur each crossing the 100,000-installation mark. Surat, Ahmedabad and Rajkot completes the top five district markets.

The nationwide rollout has now crossed 4 million rooftop solar installations, covering nearly 4.9 million households and adding 14,416.51 MW of decentralised solar capacity. The Centre has disbursed ₹27,343.9 crore in subsidies so far, accounting for more than 36% of the ₹75,021-crore outlay for the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. The scheme is now about 137,000 households short of the

GOING GREEN

(July 27, 2026)



5-million beneficiary milestone.

Lucknow leads the district rankings with 124,387 installations, followed by Nagpur with 101,560. Surat has recorded 93,886 installations, Ahmedabad 87,764 and Rajkot 83,689,

according to the latest data from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The rankings underscore the growing role of state capitals, industrial hubs and tier-II cities in the Centre's drive to solarise 10 million

households.

At the state level, Gujarat remains the largest market with 766,278 installations, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 703,661 and Maharashtra with 692,853. Together, the three states account for 2,162,792 installations, or more than 53% of the national total.

Kerala has emerged as a key southern market, ranking fourth with 305,977 installations. Rajasthan rounds out the top five with 272,818 systems. Collectively, the five leading states account for 2,741,587 installations, representing nearly 68% of the nationwide total. While the figures underscore the scale achieved by the early adopters, they also point to growth potential in states that have yet to match the pace of the leaders.

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PAUSE IN WAR POWERS RELIEF RALLY

THE US AND IRAN extended a pause in strikes to a third consecutive day on Monday, sending oil prices sliding and stock markets soaring, reports **Kishor Kadam**. The pause followed two weeks of renewed attacks. US President Donald Trump said he is giving diplomacy "some space" and that talks between the two sides are ongoing. ■ **REPORTS ON PAGES 6**



A billboard on a building in Iran's capital on Monday REUTERS

Brent tanks around 6%

(\$ per barrel)



Rupee Asia's best on record gains



Markets snap losing streak of 5 sessions



India VIX



Crude crash sparks relief rally

EQUITY BENCHMARKS LOG 1% GAIN

Nifty Intra-day on (₹), July 27



Indices snap five-day losing streak; investors richer by ₹5.1 L cr

KISHOR KADAM
Mumbai, July 27

THE BENCHMARK EQUITY indices rebounded nearly 1% on Monday, snapping a five-session losing streak, as Brent crude prices plunged nearly 10% (about \$9) to \$87.6 a barrel after the US paused its strikes on Iran. A sharp 67-paise appreciation in the rupee against the US dollar further lifted investor sentiment.

The Sensex surged 776.01 points, or 1.02%, to close at

76,835.78, while the Nifty advanced 228.50 points, or 0.96%, to settle at 23,995.95.

The rally added ₹5.10 lakh crore to investors' wealth, taking the BSE's total market capitalisation to ₹480.80 lakh crore.

"Investors cheered the sharp fall in global crude oil prices, triggering a strong rally in Indian equities after five consecutive sessions of decline. Recovery in global markets and the rupee's appreciation against the dollar also spurred buying in IT, banking and realty stocks," said Ankur Punj, managing director and business head, Equirus Wealth.

"Indian equities are witnessing a short-term relief rally as easing tensions in West Asia and the consequent decline in crude

oil prices have provided interim support. Going forward, geopolitical developments and the trajectory of crude prices will remain the key drivers for the market," said Siddhartha Khemka, head of research, wealth management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Market breadth was firmly positive, with 2,779 stocks advancing against 1,579 declining on the BSE. The BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices outperformed the benchmarks, rising 1.15% and 1.31%, respectively.

According to provisional exchange data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold shares worth ₹1,688.23 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) bought shares worth ₹2,329.14 crore.

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Date :28 July 2026	Page : 2

Headline: AAP opposes E-20 petrol

ई-20 पेट्रोल के विरोध में उतरी आप

नया मोर्चा

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। पेपर लीक मामले के बाद अब फिर से ई-20 पेट्रोल का मुद्दा तुल पकड़ने लगा है। ई-20 पेट्रोल के मुद्दे पर आम आदमी पार्टी ने देशभर के लोगों को एकजुट करने के लिए एक अगस्त शनिवार को 'नेशनल टाउनहॉल अगैस्ट ई-20' के आयोजन का फैसला किया है।

दिल्ली के कॉन्स्टीट्यूशन क्लब में सुबह 11:30 बजे होने वाले इस टाउनहॉल कार्यक्रम में लोग मौके पर पहुंचकर या ऑनलाइन माध्यम से भी जुड़ सकेंगे। आप के राष्ट्रीय संयोजक अरविंद केजरीवाल ने सोमवार को पार्टी मुख्यालय पर प्रेसवार्ता के दौरान एक मोबाइल नंबर 8588833212 जारी किया। उन्होंने बताया कि इस नंबर पर



पेपर लीक नहीं हुआ : केजरीवाल

पंजाब में पेपर लीक के भाजपा के आरोप पर केजरीवाल ने कहा कि भाजपा पंजाब में पेपर लीक का झूठा आरोप लगा रही है। केजरीवाल ने कहा कि जिस पेपर के बारे में आरोप लगाया जा रहा है, उसमें दो सेंटर के अंदर कुछ बच्चे स्मार्ट पेन लेकर अंदर चले गए थे। स्मार्ट पेन के जरिए उन्होंने पेपर की स्कैनिंग करके फोटो बाहर भेजने की कोशिश की, ताकि बाहर से उनके उत्तर आ सकें। उन्होंने नकल करने की कोशिश की थी। वे 10-11 बच्चे जो भी थे, वे उसी समय पकड़े गए। कोई पेपर लीक नहीं हुआ है।

व्हाट्सएप करने वाले लोगों को कार्यक्रम से एक दिन पहले ऑनलाइन लिंक भेज दिया जाएगा। इसके जरिए देश के किसी भी कोने से लोग जुड़ सकेंगे।

उन्होंने बताया कि टाउन हॉल कार्यक्रम में ऑटोमोबाइल विशेषज्ञ, वाहन मालिक और ई-20 के मुद्दे पर रुचि रखने वाले लोग अपने विचार

रखेंगे और इसके आधार पर आगे की रणनीति बनाई जाएगी।

केजरीवाल ने धर्मेंद्र प्रधान के इस्तीफे पर लोगों को बधाई दी और कहा कि देश के युवाओं ने अहंकार वाली सरकार को झुका दिया और अब प्रधानमंत्री से निवेदन है कि ई-20 का भी मामला हल कर दें। इथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल से लोग बहुत परेशान हैं।

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Date :28 July 2026	Page : 12

Headline: Crude oil prices fell 4.9% as attacks in Hormuz ceased

होर्मुज में हमला रुकने से 4.9% गिरे कच्चे तेल के दाम

अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच संघर्ष थमने से राहत की उम्मीद

न्यूयार्क, 27 जुलाई (एपी)।

अमेरिका और ईरान द्वारा लगातार दूसरे दिन भी फारस की खाड़ी में कोई सैन्य हमला न किए जाने के बाद कच्चे तेल (ब्रूड आयल) की कीमतों में रविवार को गिरावट दर्ज की गई और पिछले सप्ताह बने दो महीने के उच्चतम स्तर से तेल के दाम और नीचे आ गए। सितंबर की आपूर्ति वाले ब्रेट ब्रूड की कीमत शुरुआती कारोबार में 4.9 फीसद गिरकर 92.02 डॉलर प्रति बैरल रह गई। इससे पहले शुक्रवार को भी इसमें 3.9 फीसद की गिरावट आई थी। पिछले सप्ताह ब्रेट ब्रूड की कीमत कुछ समय के लिए 102 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच गई थी।

यह महीने की शुरुआत की तुलना में लगभग 30 डॉलर अधिक थी और मई के बाद का सबसे ऊंचा स्तर था। पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव और व्यापक युद्ध की आशंका के कारण तेल की कीमतों में इस महीने उछाल आया। निवेशकों को चिंता थी कि यदि संघर्ष और बढ़ा, तो वैश्विक स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति और प्रभावित हो सकती है।

अमेरिका और इजराइल की ओर से फरवरी के अंत में ईरान पर किए गए हमलों के बाद से होर्मुज जलमार्ग से तेल टैंकरों की सुरक्षित आवाजाही तेल

अमेरिका में रविवार को साधारण तेल की औसत कीमत 4.11 डॉलर प्रति गैलन रही, जो एक महीने पहले 3.90 डॉलर और एक वर्ष पहले 3.15 डॉलर प्रति गैलन थी। जानकारों का कहना है कि यदि तेल की कीमतें लंबे समय तक ऊंची बनी रहती हैं, तो दुनिया भर में ट्रक, जहाज और हवाई मार्ग से भेजे जाने वाले लगभग सभी सामान महंगे हो सकते हैं।

बाजार की सबसे बड़ी चिंता बनी हुई है। तेल उत्पादक देशों ने वैकल्पिक मार्ग तलाशने शुरू किए हैं, लेकिन उन पर भी दबाव बढ़ रहा है। पिछले सप्ताह लाल सागर के रास्ते जा रहे सकंदी अरब के तेल टैंकरों पर भी हमले हुए। जब बाजार में तेल की उपलब्धता कम होती है, तो उसकी कीमत बढ़ती है और साथ ही पेट्रोल-डीजल जैसे ईंधनों के दाम भी बढ़ जाते हैं।

मोटर क्लब 'एएए' के अनुसार अमेरिका में रविवार को साधारण तेल की औसत कीमत 4.11 डॉलर प्रति गैलन रही, जो एक महीने पहले 3.90 डॉलर और एक वर्ष पहले 3.15 डॉलर प्रति गैलन थी। यदि तेल की कीमतें लंबे समय तक ऊंची बनी रहती हैं, तो दुनिया भर में ट्रक, जहाज और हवाई मार्ग से भेजे जाने वाले लगभग सभी सामान महंगे हो सकते हैं।

Publication : Millennium Post	Editions : Kolkata
Date :28 July 2026	Page : 9

India's average crude oil basket price falls to \$77.6/bbl in July from \$114.5 in April: Govt

NEW DELHI: India's average crude oil basket price has declined sharply to \$77.6 per barrel in July (up to July 22) from \$114.5 per barrel in April 2026, easing pressure on the country's crude oil import bill and supporting the external sector, the government informed Parliament on Monday.

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the recent geopolitical developments in West Asia had adversely affected countries globally, with major implications for crude-oil-importing emerging economies.

"The average Indian crude



oil basket prices have eased significantly from \$114.5 per barrel in April 2026 to \$77.6 per barrel in July 2026 (up to 22nd July). The decline in crude oil prices, together with sustained growth in services exports and remittance receipts, is expected to support the external sector and mitigate pressures on the current account," the minister replied.

According to the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report (June 2026), the geopolitical developments in West Asia led to an increase in international crude oil prices, widening India's crude oil import bill and having implications for the current account deficit, similar to previous oil price shocks.

The government added that recent measures announced by it and the Reserve Bank of India are expected to bolster capital inflows and help meet India's external financing requirements.

The government said that despite elevated global uncertainties, high-frequency indi-

cators for the first quarter of 2026-27 point to sustained momentum in economic activity and domestic demand.

It noted that average Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation remained moderate at 3.9 per cent during April-June 2026, reflecting price stability. Consistent with these trends, the RBI has projected real GDP growth at 6.6 per cent and CPI inflation at 5.1 per cent for 2026-27.

The government, however, said the RBI has noted that global commodity price movements and prolonged supply chain disruptions continue to pose challenges to the growth and inflation outlook. ANI

Publication : Mint	Editions : New Delhi
Date :28 July 2026	Page : 2

MRPL seeks crude via tender avoiding Red Sea and Hormuz

New Delhi/Singapore Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) is seeking to import oil via a spot tender and has, for the first time, asked suppliers to avoid using the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz, a tender document showed on Monday. Red Sea traffic has been disrupted off the coast of Yemen since last week by the Tehran-aligned Houthis, who want to blockade Saudi exports, expanding the US-Iran conflict.

REUTERS

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Crude oil eases on US-Iran pause, but India remains edgy

Indian refiners got some breathing room on Monday after crude prices tumbled more than 9%, slipping below \$90 a barrel as the US and Iran paused strikes over the weekend following two weeks of attacks.

>P9

Crude oil eases on US-Iran pause, but India remains edgy

Decline eases immediate concerns over oil import bill, but supply risks persist

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NEW DELHI

Indian refiners got some breathing room on Monday after crude prices tumbled more than 9%, slipping below \$90 a barrel as the US and Iran paused strikes over the weekend following two weeks of attacks. The decline eases immediate concerns over India's oil import bill, although traders and analysts caution that supply risks across key shipping routes remain unresolved.

Brent crude for September delivery fell to an intraday low of \$87.64 a barrel. By around 5.15pm, the September Brent contract on the Intercontinental Exchange was trading at \$89.21, down 7.6% from its previous close. The September West Texas Intermediate contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) was at \$83.17 a barrel, down 6.87%.

The price decline reflected signs of a temporary de-escalation in the conflict, with no attacks reported by either side for the third straight day on Monday. A *Reuters* report, citing an Iranian official, said Iran would halt its attacks as long as the US does the same. Mike Waltz, the US ambassador to the United Nations, said the US president decided to pause attacks to allow more time for diplomacy.

Markets also drew comfort from Russian deputy prime minister Alexander Novak's statement on Saturday that curbs on diesel sales from the country would be lifted, helping



prevent surplus build-up at Russian refineries. Lower crude prices are positive for India, which imports nearly 90% of its requirement.

Ponmudi R., CEO of Enrich Money, said, "Crude prices have retreated sharply from their recent highs easing concerns over global inflation and providing a favourable backdrop for major oil-importing economies such as India."

The conflict has already raised concerns over inflation and higher import costs. India's crude

oil import bill for April-June has hit \$49.8 billion, up 61% on-year, 40% of FY26 oil bill. The recent relief has, however, not eliminated concerns over physical supplies. Refiners and traders warn that slower deliveries, freight cost rise and lower discounts on Russia crude could still inflate India's oil import bill, especially with the rupee remaining weak against the US dollar.

For an extended version of the story, go to live-mint.com.

AFP

West Asia tensions ease as the US and Iran pause strikes

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The US and Iran held off on attacks for a third straight night, helping lift global stock and bond markets and push down oil prices. US President Donald Trump, who last week threatened to intensify strikes against the Islamic Republic, is instead giving diplomacy "some space," Mike Waltz, Washington's ambassador to the United Nations, said on Sunday.

Talks are "ongoing" between the sides on a technical basis and at the leadership level, he added, without giving details. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Esmail Baghaei, said Monday that while "it's possible

that mediators share messages from the US side about current developments," no negotiations are currently taking place.

The *New York Times* reported that Trump and his advisers decided to hold off on escalation plans in part because of diminishing stockpiles of air defenses such as Patriot interceptors. Waltz, speaking to *NBC*, said American forces had all the weaponry they needed.

Trump has consistently said "he prefers a diplomatic solution, but he continues to retain all options if Iran continues terrorist activities in the Strait of Hormuz or against allies," a White House spokesman said in a statement.

Iran's army said it halted its retaliation against US bases and



Iran's army said it halted its retaliation against the US. AFP

troops as a result of Trump's decision to hold off strikes. The Islamic Republic had been attacking likes of Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan on a near-daily basis in the two weeks before the US's pause on Friday.

Brent crude fell over 6% in early trading on Monday to under \$91 a barrel after climbing 10% last week on worsening fighting. US Treasury yields also dipped, while S&P 500 futures rose 1%.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to meet Trump in Washington on Tuesday. He said he plans to press the US leader on keeping a "constant watch" on Iran's nuclear program, one of many issues now in limbo following the breakdown of an interim peace deal agreed last month.

Tensions remain high and

Iran said there's no change to the status of the Strait of Hormuz, meaning it may continue targeting commercial ships that don't get its permission to transit. Traffic through the

waterway — through which one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas flowed before the war — is negligible.

On Monday, Iranian state TV said Tehran forced six ships going through the southern corridor near the Omani coast to turn around. One of the ships suffered an "incident," according to the reporting, which cited an Iranian official with

knowledge of the matter.

"We have never allowed, and will never allow, the United States to determine the timing of the war," an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman said separately on Monday. "We will defend ourselves whenever our interests require it, and we will certainly use diplomatic tools whenever we feel it is appropriate." The US, meanwhile, is maintaining its blockade on Iran's ports.

The lull in fighting came as Iranian and Omani officials met over the weekend in a fresh attempt to resolve shipping through Hormuz. Iran said the talks were constructive and some progress was made, though gave no details, adding consultations were continuing.

The lull in fighting came as Iranian and Omani officials met over the weekend to resolve shipping through Hormuz



While global refining capacity has continued to expand, nearly all of the new plants have been built in Asia and the Middle East.

Global fuel markets out of slack as wars push prices higher

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Massive metal towers rising more than 100 feet are pumping out gasoline, diesel and jet fuel at break-neck rates around the world. Those refineries now have little margin for error.

The fuels that drive the global economy are increasingly in short supply as wars in the Middle East and Europe roll markets and refineries are pushed to the limit, increasing the risk that even brief outages send prices soaring to new peaks.

"We are in short supply globally; there is zero slack in the system," said Anirita Sen, co-founder and director of market intelligence at London consultancy Energy Aspects. "We don't have enough refining capacity. The only way to balance is through supply and demand."

The US and Israel's war on Iran ushered in the biggest oil supply disruption in history. But as oil prices rose, it was the refined products made from crude oil that saw an outsized jump.

The global fuel crisis has shown up in many ways, from depleted inventories to rationing. In the US, gas prices in many states are back above \$4 dollars a gallon and rising. Diesel is above \$5. In Russia, people can wait in line for gasoline for hours. The French government even suspended weekend driving restrictions for fuel tankers to keep diesel and gas flowing to service stations.

Now, more obstacles. The Iran war is expanding. Ukraine is hammering Russian refineries and global fuelmakers are running plants flat out, risking outages. Demand is outstripping supply, especially when it comes to diesel, the workhorse of the global economy. To experts, that means a tipping point: either the Iran conflict ends or fuel prices spike, spurring a pullback in buying known as demand destruction.

For fuelmakers, it's been a profit bonanza. In the US, refineries are turning more oil into fuel than they have at this time of year since 2018. That is

happening even as refining capacity has shrunk by almost 600,000 barrels a day over the same period.

Incentivized by record profits, refineries have been running so hard for so long that they're increasingly vulnerable to equipment breakdowns, storms and heat waves.

The pace is unsustainable, analysts and traders say.

While global refining capacity has continued to expand, nearly all of the new plants have been built in Asia and the Middle East. These sprawling industrial complexes run around the clock and house miles of pipeline connecting enormous storage tanks to towering processing units that effectively heat up crude and turn it into a range of fuels.

Since 2025's start, nearly 1 million barrels of crude capacity were lost to the market from plant closures in the US and Europe. Adding to that, Russia and China's export quotas since the Iran war began took 2.5 million to 3 million barrels of product exports

off the market, according to Energy Aspects.

"There's no real solver that's waiting in the wings," Macquarie Group global oil and gas strategist Vikas Dwivedi said of

gasoline. "There's no big surge of imports, there's no big refinery out that's going to come back and help resupply the market, and demand has held up exceptionally well."

A refinery's profit is commonly measured using what's known as the "crack spread." It compares the cost of buying three barrels of crude oil with the revenue from selling the fuel made from it—typically two barrels of gasoline and one barrel of diesel. The difference is the refinery's theoretical profit margin.

In the middle of July that margin in the US came just shy of \$70, the highest level in history and more than double than before the start of Iran war in late February.

India is running refineries at full capacity, flush with Russian crude good for diesel and with domestic demand cut by the seasonal monsoon.

No estimates of vehicles fully compatible with E20 fuel: Govt

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

The Centre has not yet estimated the number of vehicles in India fully compatible with E20 fuel, the government informed Parliament on Monday, while maintaining that the ethanol-blending programme was implemented after scientific studies and consultations with automobile manufacturers and technical institutions.

Minister of state for petroleum and natural gas Suresh Gopi said the ministry of heavy industries had not conducted any assessment of the percentage of vehicles currently compatible with E20, which contains 20 per cent ethanol.

His statement came after the E20 Janta Party, a social media-led cam-



paign, demanded that vehicle owners be given the option to buy ethanol-free petrol alongside E20 fuel. It also sought the resignation of Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari, a key proponent of the ethanol-blending policy.

Gopi said the ethanol-blended petrol (EBP) programme had been implemented through a phased and scientifically validated process involving Niti Aayog, automobile manufacturers and industry

bodies, oil marketing companies, and the Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and others.

"Laboratory studies and field trials covering engine durability, drivability, startability, corrosion resistance, material compatibility, emissions and fuel efficiency had confirmed that E20 was safe for use. These studies also established that legacy vehicles do not exhibit any significant variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear due to E20," he said.

The rollout of E20 has drawn criticism from opposition parties and consumer groups over its impact on older vehicles, with concerns about compatibility, fuel efficiency, maintenance costs and liability for engine or fuel-system problems.

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CNG, LNG adoption in commercial vehicle industry may reach 35%: ICRA

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

CNG and LNG penetration in the commercial vehicles (CV) industry in India is expected to increase to 30-35 per cent by 2029-30, up from 25 per cent in 2025-26, according to a report by rating agency ICRA. Overall alternative fuel penetration across commercial vehicles, covering CNG, LNG, and electric powertrains, is projected to touch 40-45 per cent by FY30, rising from

27 per cent in FY26.

The ICRA report noted that CNG and LNG adoption in commercial vehicles grew from 7 per cent in 2020-21 to 25 per cent in 2025-26, emerging as a practical alternative to conventional fuels. Electric vehicle penetration is expected to rise to 10-15 per cent by 2029-30, driven primarily by buses in the medium and heavy commercial vehicle category.

At the same time, diesel's share in the commercial vehicle market declined from

86 per cent in 2020-21 to 67 per cent in 2025-26 due to stricter emission rules and favourable total cost of ownership for alternative fuels. Petrol usage remained limited to less than 10 per cent in 2025-26, mostly within light commercial vehicles.

Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head at ICRA, said, "While the focus remains on increasing alternative fuel penetration, adoption in the Indian CV industry continues to face key challenges in-



cluding high upfront vehicle costs and infrastructure gaps. TCO remains a key factor for fuel technology adoption in a cost-sensitive

market like India." At the sub-segment level, alternative fuel penetration is anticipated to reach 50-55 per cent in light commercial

vehicles by FY30, compared to 25-30 per cent in medium and heavy commercial vehicles.

Operating economics vary across categories: total cost of ownership for 11-12 tonne electric trucks is 15-25 per cent lower than diesel or CNG trucks. For 55-tonne electric trucks, total cost of ownership is 10-15 per cent lower than diesel but 15-20 per cent higher than LNG trucks. Procurement incentives under the PM E-Drive Scheme continue to reduce

upfront acquisition costs for electric trucks.

"Domestic CV original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are stepping up research and development investments across multiple fuel platforms to align their product portfolios with emerging alternative fuel technologies," Shah said.

"They are also focussing on modular vehicle architecture, which enables them to make more efficient transition across fuel technologies by standardising core

components while integrating fuel-specific systems through interchangeable modules," Shah added.

Manufacturers face potential risks regarding stranded capacity for diesel powertrains as alternative fuels gain traction over the medium term. Existing facilities can be realigned, though transition costs remain moderate for CNG and LNG platforms and higher for electric, hydrogen internal combustion, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

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Date :28 July 2026	Page : 11

Global oil prices dip as US-Iran pause strikes

Global crude oil prices witnessed heavy selling pressure on Monday, with key oil benchmarks plunging up to 7% after the United States and Iran paused military strikes over the weekend. International benchmark Brent crude fell more than 7%, or about \$7, to hover around the \$91-a-barrel mark. US West Texas Intermediate crude also declined over 7%, shedding around \$6.4 to trade below \$85 a barrel. The sharp decline came after Iran indicated it would refrain from further attacks as long as the US also halted military operations, fuelling expectations that the conflict could move towards a diplomatic resolution. Experts stated that attacks claimed by Iran-backed Houthi forces on Saudi Aramco facilities at the Red Sea ports of Jizan and Yanbu underscore that geopolitical risks remain elevated. **-IANS**

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :28 July 2026	Page : 11

Gilts sharply up as crude oil tumbles, US yields fall

Government bond prices ended sharply higher on Monday as Brent crude futures tumbled nearly 10% from Friday and US Treasury yields fell as hostilities between the US and Iran eased, dealers stated. Most traders bet on demand for gilts exceeding supply in the September quarter due to better-than-expected inflows into foreign currency deposits by banks, they stated. After surging in early trade, bonds traded in a relatively narrow band, with gains capped on

profit booking.

The 10-year benchmark 6.94% 2036 bond ended at ₹101.36, up from ₹100.80 on Friday. It opened at ₹101.07, which was the day's low, before climbing as Brent for September delivery continued its overnight fall and remained below \$90 a barrel by the end of Indian market hours. The 10-year benchmark gilt yield fell to 6.7739% on Monday from 6.8253% the previous day, marking its biggest single-day fall in over a month.

-Informist

Falling crude oil lifts equities, rupee and bonds

Our Bureau
Mumbai

A sharp fall in crude oil prices after the US and Iran paused military strikes lifted sentiment across India's financial markets on Monday, helping equities snap a five-day losing streak, strengthening the rupee and pushing bond yields lower.

Strong buying in the final hour lifted the BSE Sensex 776 points to 76,836, while the Nifty gained 228 points to close just shy of 24,000. Despite the rally, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers at ₹1,688 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) bought shares worth ₹2,329 crore, adding about ₹5.1 lakh crore to investors' wealth.

CRUDE SLIPS

Brent crude tumbled 4.1 per cent to around \$92.82. Lower oil prices are a major positive for India, the world's third-largest crude importer.

"The decline in crude prices provided near-term relief to equities, especially after markets had entered oversold territory," said Kranthi Bathini, Director-Equity Strategy at

Bulls gain control

	Today's close	% Change
Gold (995)	₹1,43,888	₹683 ↑
Crude	\$92.82	-4.1 ↓
Sensex	76,835.78	1.02 ↑
Nifty	23,995.95	0.96 ↑
Rupee	95.91	0.65 ↑

WealthMills Securities. However, he cautioned that the rally's sustainability would hinge on geopolitical developments and uninterrupted crude shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

The positive sentiment spilled over to the currency market, with the rupee posting its biggest single-day gain in seven weeks.

Investor sentiment also drew support from RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra's interview with *businessline*, in which he said banks had mobilised nearly \$32 billion, largely through FCNR(B) deposits, while maintaining that the rupee was not overvalued and remained aligned with economic fundamentals.

The bond market rallied as well, with the benchmark 10-year government bond yield easing five basis points to 6.78 per cent from 6.83 per cent.

Exporters seek govt intervention as W. Asia crisis disrupts shipping

GROWING CONCERN. FIEO flags fewer mother vessel calls, surging freight costs; carriers roll out new surcharges

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

Escalating shipping disruptions triggered by the continuing crisis in West Asia have prompted Indian exporters to seek urgent government intervention, amid warnings that soaring freight rates, fewer direct calls by mother vessels at Indian ports and increasing dependence on foreign transshipment hubs are hurting India's export competitiveness.

In a letter last week to Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) sought an urgent meeting with the Ministry to discuss immediate and long-term measures to address the disruptions.

KEY DEMANDS

"We want to take up with the Shipping Ministry the escalation in shipping related problems being faced by exporters and look for some solutions," FIEO DG Ajay Sahai told *businessline*.



TRADE TURBULENCE. The continuous rise in freight charges is taking place as shipping lines are rerouting services and adjusting capacity in response to security concerns in the Red Sea region

Key demands include rationalisation and greater transparency in freight and contingency charges, restoration of more direct mother vessel calls at Indian ports, measures to ensure adequate vessel capacity and schedule reliability, and the creation of contingency mechanisms to minimise disruptions during future geopolitical crises.

"The concerns have been reinforced by continued freight hikes by global shipping lines, the latest being

French carrier CMA CGM's announcement of a fresh Peak Season Surcharge (PSS) effective August 15 on cargo originating from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Middle East Gulf and Red Sea ports and bound for the US East Coast, Gulf Coast and inland destinations," Sahai said.

FRESH SURCHARGES

The surcharge has been fixed at \$5,000 per container across major categories.

In its letter, FIEO highlighted that the West Asia crisis had disrupted shipping networks, resulting in fewer direct calls by mainline vessels at Indian ports and forcing a larger share of export cargo to be routed through overseas transshipment hubs such as Colombo, Singapore and Jebel Ali.

The increased reliance on feeder services has increased transit time, cargo handling costs and overall logistics expenses, while irregular sail-

ing schedules and container shortages have added to uncertainty.

The continuous rise in freight charges is taking place as shipping lines are rerouting services and adjusting capacity in response to security concerns in the Red Sea region.

"These developments are particularly concerning at a time when India is pursuing an ambitious export growth strategy and has set its sights on achieving merchandise and services exports of \$2 trillion by 2032. Reliable, predictable and cost-efficient maritime connectivity is indispensable for achieving this national objective," the letter noted.

FIEO also urged the government to work with shipping lines and port authorities to restore direct mainline connectivity, improve schedule reliability and strengthen India's maritime resilience against future geopolitical disruptions.

It said timely intervention would help contain logistics costs and safeguard the competitiveness of Indian exports.

Open fresh short positions in natural gas futures

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Natural gas futures, which were charting a sideways trend recently, have breached the nearest notable support, opening the door for a further decline. July futures are now trading at ₹263/mmBtu, and the August contract at ₹268. Since the July contract will expire on Tuesday (July 28), we shall consider the August futures for analysis.

COMMODITY CALL.

August futures breached a support at ₹272 on Monday after witnessing a consolidation between ₹272 and ₹285 in the preceding sessions. Thus, they are likely to see another leg of decline. The nearest support level can be spotted at ₹255, followed by another at ₹250.



In case the contract rallies, it will face resistance at ₹272 and ₹285. For natural gas futures (Aug) to turn the outlook positive, it ought to break out of ₹285. In this case, it could rise to ₹300, a barrier. Overall, as it stands, the outlook is bearish.

TRADE STRATEGY

We had suggested shorting natural gas futures at an average price of ₹280. Since the July contract is set to expire, traders can exit and open a fresh short position in August futures at ₹268. Target and stop-loss can be ₹255 and ₹268, respectively.

LPG-DME blending has downsides of material compatibility, safety: Govt

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Even as there are some commercial applications of blending dimethyl ether (DME) with LPG globally, there are certain downsides such as material compatibility, safety and lower calorific value of the former, Parliament was informed on Monday.

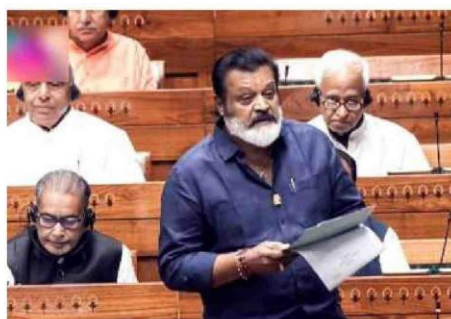
The government is aware of a potential pathway of blending of DME with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), said the Minister of State for the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) Suresh Gopi in a written response in the Rajya Sabha.

"While some experiments, pilot projects and limited commercial applications of DME-LPG blending have been undertaken globally, there are downsides of material compatibility, safety, handling, and regulatory requirements and lower calorific value than LPG," the Minister added.

PROCUREMENT PLAN

Presently, there is no proposal under consideration to formulate a national DME blending policy or to provide fiscal incentives or viability gap funding specifically for DME production for LPG blending, Gopi said.

"Similarly, no procure-



CAUTIOUS STANCE. MoS Suresh Gopi speaking in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session on Monday ANI

ment programme for DME by PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs) has been finalised," the Minister added.

According to the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), DME is a promising fuel that is both sustainable and eco-friendly. It is a synthetically produced alternative fuel that can be directly used in specially designed compression ignition diesel engines for various purposes. Under normal atmospheric conditions, DME is a colourless gas.

DME can be considered as a 'Second Generation fuel/bio-fuel' with a slight etheral odour. It is used extensively in the chemical industry and as an aerosol propellant, solvent, fuel, and refrigerant. DME exhibits

comparable calorific value and similarity of its thermal efficiency to traditional fuels. It is a clean-burning fuel with low emission and low particulate matter.

LPG CONSUMPTION

India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG consumption, out of which about 90 per cent transits through the Strait of Hormuz. In view of the conflict in West Asia, the availability of imported LPG in the country has been impacted. LPG prices are linked to its prices in the international market. While prices of commercial LPG are set by LPG marketing companies independently, the government continues to modulate the effective price to consumers for domestic LPG.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :28 July 2026	Page : 10

Crude oil slides as supply threats ease in West Asia

Bloomberg

Crude oil sank as the US paused almost two weeks of daily strikes against Iran and tankers sailed to load at Kazakh export terminal, easing supply pressures.

Brent crude steadied around \$90 a barrel after tumbling more than 9 per cent early in the session to trade below \$88 a barrel. West Texas Intermediate also declined.

Oil markets dipped as the US has apparently held off on new strikes since late Friday, following 13 straight nights of attacks aimed at degrading Iran's ability to disrupt commercial shipping.

Iran signalled it was refraining from any retaliation and held talks with Oman over the Strait of Hormuz, though Saudi Arabia said it intercepted drones from Iraq targeting its oil facilities.

Publication : The Indian Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :28 July 2026	Page : 13

‘No assessment done on share of vehicles fully compliant with E20’

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, July 27

NO ASSESSMENT has been done on the percentage of petrol vehicles in India that are fully compliant with E20 fuel, petrol blended with 20% ethanol, the government informed the Parliament on Monday. The information was provided by Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha. It comes amid a public backlash on ethanol-blended petrol.

“Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) have informed that no such assessment has been done by them,” Gopi said in a written response in the Upper House. The MHI is the nodal ministry for the automobile sector in India. The country achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol last year and at present, the E20 fuel — 80 parts petrol and 20 parts ethanol — is the standard petrol variant. There has been a public backlash over the E20 fuel, with claims ranging from notable reduction in mileage and engine component wear and tear in older vehicles whose engines were not designed for higher ethanol blends. As per

auto industry insiders, petrol vehicles manufactured and sold after April 2023 are considered fully E20-compliant as this was mandated under Bharat Stage 6 phase two emission norms. This means that all vehicles currently being sold by manufacturers are fully compliant with E20, but most vehicles that were sold prior to 2023 are not. The permissible life of a petrol vehicle in NCR is 15 years, which means that cars manufactured in 2022 can be in use till 2037, as per the current norms.

As per the government, E20 fuel can reduce fuel economy by 3-5% in older vehicles whose engines are not designed for this blend, it is cleaner and superior in other performance parameters vis-a-vis pure petrol and lower ethanol-petrol blends. On its part, the Centre has been trying to allay fears, saying that the drop in mileage in older vehicles will be marginal, and be outweighed by benefits like higher octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, faster combustion, better pickup, smoother acceleration and cleaner engine operation.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



Publication : The Times of India	Editions : New Delhi
Date :28 July 2026	Page : 14

As oil cools, gold rises to \$4.1k per/oz

Gold rose on Monday as a pause in hostilities between United States and Iran sent crude oil prices to a one-week low, easing inflation concerns ahead of the US interest rate decision this week. Spot gold was up 0.9% at \$4,0901 per ounce while US gold futures for Aug delivery rose 0.5% to \$4,093. REUTERS

Online

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 launches deepwater well drilling for 1st time		
Publication	Bizz Buzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC launches deepwater well drilling for 1st time

<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/industry/ongc-launches-deepwater-well-drilling-for-1st-time-1398785>

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has started drilling its first deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin, marking the start

Deepwater drilling rig at sea

26 July 2026

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has started drilling its first deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin, marking the start of an ambitious campaign to tap India's deep and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon resources.

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

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

The drilling campaign forms 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 one million square kilometres 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).

Headline	Oil Prices Sink as US-Iran Pause Fuels Fresh Hormuz Hopes		
Publication	Deccan Chronicle	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

Oil Prices Sink as US-Iran Pause Fuels Fresh Hormuz Hopes

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/business/oil-prices-sink-as-us-iran-pause-fuels-fresh-hormuz-hopes-1974216>

After 13 days of attacks on sites in the Islamic republic, the United States held fire over the weekend

HONG KONG: Oil prices tumbled Monday as a pause in tit-for-tat strikes between the US and Iran boosted hopes for a return to their ceasefire and negotiations on reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

After 13 days of attacks on sites in the Islamic republic, the United States held fire over the weekend and Donald Trump's UN envoy said the US president was "giving talks some space".

Tehran in turn said it would stop its retaliatory attacks on regional neighbours, handing Gulf shipping and the oil industry a respite.

Andhra Pradesh: Big Goals, Smart Work Key To Success, Gopichand Tells BNI Conclave

Advertisement

The two resumed hostilities this month, breaking a fragile truce, after Iran attacked ships passing through Omani waters in the Strait of Hormuz, sparking a pattern of escalation.

That derailed diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran, but the conflict then expanded beyond the vital energy corridor, and saw Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen strike Saudi vessels in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, a crucial passage into the Red Sea.

Telangana: Country Club Launches Trkiye Holiday Card

Crude prices soared on the flare-up, with Brent breaking back above \$100 a barrel last week for the first time since May. News that shipping continued in the Red Sea helped investors pare the gains Friday.

However, Trump's decision to hold off more strikes and Iran's claims Sunday that it had made progress in talks with Oman on management of the Strait of Hormuz provided some much-needed relief.

Honda Brings Premium SUV ZR-V To Woo Millennials

The discussions focused on "common principles and operational mechanisms" for ensuring the safe passage of shipping through the strait while respecting the sovereign rights of the two states, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said.

Meanwhile, a report said Pakistan was looking at resuming US-Iran peace talks, following a push initiated by China.

Both main oil contracts sank Monday, with Brent shedding more than seven percent at one point to briefly drop back below \$90.

ONGC Kicks Off Landmark Deepwater Drilling in Mahanadi Basin

"It looks as if developments in the Middle East have moved in a positive direction over the weekend, adding some credibility to the notion that oil above \$100 a barrel seems to induce de-escalatory behaviour from both sides," wrote National Australia Bank's Sally Auld.

The positive developments eased worries about a reignition of inflation and a fresh round of interest rate hikes, in turn helping most equity markets higher.

However, concerns about the sustainability of the AI boom and questions over the eye-watering sums pumped into the sector continue to dog traders, as tech firms bear the brunt of selling.

Seoul again led the losses, shedding more than one percent with chip giants SK hynix and Samsung in the firing line once more.

Taipei and Singapore fell, with Jakarta also in retreat following the surprise resignation of Indonesian central bank boss Perry Warjiyo citing personal reasons.

Tokyo rose, though tech firms Advantest, Kioxia and Tokyo Electron suffered more hefty selling pressure.

Hong Kong, Sydney, Shanghai, Wellington and Manila were also up.

Traders will be keenly awaiting the release of earnings from SK hynix, Samsung and Japan's Kioxia report this week, while US titans Microsoft, Meta, Apple and Amazon are also due, with focus on their outlooks and spending plans.

Tim Waterer, of KCM Trade, said: "Traders remain somewhat nervy about the scale of the capex being committed, given lingering concerns over how long the return-on-investment phase may take to fully materialise."

Also in view this week is the Federal Reserve's latest policy decision in light of the latest US-Iran flare-up and recent data indicating inflation easing.

Bets on a hike have risen over the past week, though analysts expect officials to stand pat on Wednesday.

However, Jenny Zeng at Allianz Global Investors warned: "While the (policy board) is likely to remain on hold in July, we continue to expect 50 basis points of tightening by year-end."

In company news, China's leading memory chipmaker CXMT jumped 470 percent on its market debut in Shanghai, briefly surpassing megabank ICBC as the mainland's most valuable company.

The breathtaking surge came after the Anhui-based company had raised \$9.8 billion in a blockbuster initial public offering, Bloomberg News reported, making it China's biggest ever mainland tech share sale.

Headline	Govt plans ₹80,000 crore package to attract deepwater oil explorers		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	28 Jul 2026		

Govt plans ₹80,000 crore package to attract deepwater oil explorers

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/govt-plans-80000-crore-package-to-attract-deepwater-oil-explorers/132673582>

The initiative, under the National Deepwater Exploration Mission, or Samudra Manthan, goes further than the series of upstream reforms over the past

decade, which failed to attract significant investment from global oil firms, by directly funding part of exploration costs.

Alongside the incentive scheme, the government has been improving the quality of geological data available to explorers. The petroleum and natural gas ministry is drawing up an 80,000-crore incentive package to attract foreign investment into India's deepwater oil and gas exploration by bearing up to half the cost of drilling exploratory wells , according to people familiar with the matter.

The initiative, under the National Deepwater Exploration Mission, or Samudra Manthan , goes further than the series of upstream reforms over the past decade, which failed to attract significant investment from global oil firms, by directly funding part of exploration costs.

Advt Under the proposal, the government will reimburse up to 50% of the cost of drilling deepwater exploratory wells, the people said. The proposal is being discussed with other ministries and could change before it is placed before the cabinet.

Funding per well will be capped to prevent cost overruns. The government may also partly fund 3D seismic surveys, according to one of the persons, who did not wish to be identified.

The support is aimed at reducing exploration risk and attracting global companies with deepwater expertise and advanced technologies.

High costs and India's modest exploration success have long kept foreign firms away. Drilling a single deepwater well can cost 1,000-1,200 crore, depending on geological complexity. An ultra-deepwater well can cost a few hundred crore more. The incentives will be available to both state-run and private explorers.

ONGC on Saturday spudded its first deepwater exploratory well under the Samudra Manthan programme.

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India is also auctioning 18 deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks under the Open Acreage Licensing Programme . The bid deadline has been extended to September 17, by when the government expects to finalise the incentive package.

The proposal marks a significant departure from the existing exploration regime where companies with awarded blocks are required to complete a minimum work programme, including seismic surveys and exploratory wells, or face penalties.

Explorers sometimes choose not to drill after seismic data points to a low probability of a commercial discovery. Many surrender blocks rather than invest hundreds of crores in a high-risk well.

Alongside the incentive scheme, the government has been improving the quality of geological data available to explorers. It has invested heavily in acquiring offshore 2D seismic data and is now looking to bring in private companies to reprocess legacy datasets using advanced technologies.

Headline	ONGC ने ओडिशा में गहरे समुद्र में खोज का काम शुरू किया		
Publication	Janta Se Rishta	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC ने ओडिशा में गहरे समुद्र में खोज का काम शुरू किया

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/odisha/ongc-starts-deepwater-exploration-in-odisha-4807947>

ओडिशा भारत के ऑफशोर एनर्जी एक्सप्लोरेशन (समुद्र में ऊर्जा की खोज) के अगले चरण का केंद्र बन गया है। सरकारी कंपनी ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ONGC) ने महानदी ऑफशोर बेसिन में देश का पहला डीपवॉटर एक्सप्लोरेटरी ड्रिलिंग अभियान शुरू किया है। इस प्रोजेक्ट से यह पता चलने की उम्मीद है कि क्या भारत के सबसे अच्छे ऑफशोर इलाकों में से एक, घरेलू तेल और गैस उत्पादन को काफी बढ़ा सकता है।

इतिहास

यह ऑपरेशन 'MN-DW18-1-H-D' नाम के एक्सप्लोरेटरी कुएं पर केंद्रित है, जो ओडिशा तट के पास ONGC की 'कोणार्क' खोज से लगभग 23 नॉटिकल मील दूर है। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने शनिवार को नई दिल्ली से वर्चुअली ड्रिलिंग की शुरुआत की। उन्होंने औपचारिक रूप से उस प्रोग्राम को लॉन्च किया जिसे कंपनी देश के सबसे तकनीकी रूप से चुनौतीपूर्ण एक्सप्लोरेशन प्रोग्राम में से एक बताती है।

Balasore में शिव मंदिर में जलाभिषेक के लिए पानी लेने के दौरान एक नाबालिग लड़की नदी में डूबी

यह प्रोजेक्ट ONGC की हालिया 'उत्कल' और 'कोणार्क' खोजों से बनी गति पर आधारित है, जिन्होंने महानदी ऑफशोर बेसिन में हाइड्रोकार्बन की संभावनाओं पर भरोसा काफी मजबूत किया है। कॉरपोरेशन का मानना है कि नया कुआं महत्वपूर्ण जियोलॉजिकल डेटा देगा, बेसिन की ज़मीन के नीचे की संरचनाओं की समझ को बेहतर बनाएगा और अगर सफल रहा, तो भविष्य में कमर्शियल प्रोडक्शन का रास्ता साफ करेगा।

यह ड्रिलिंग केंद्र सरकार के 'समुद्र मंथन अभियान' का एक अहम हिस्सा भी है। इस पहल का मकसद भारत के डीपवॉटर और अल्ट्रा-डीपवॉटर हाइड्रोकार्बन भंडार का पता लगाना है। यह अभियान तब तेज़ हुआ जब सरकार ने 'ओपन एकरेज लाइसेंसिंग पॉलिसी' (OALP) के तहत एक्सप्लोरेशन के लिए पहले से प्रतिबंधित लगभग दस लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर ऑफशोर क्षेत्र को खोल दिया, जिससे एनर्जी कंपनियों के लिए नए बेसिन में खोज करने के नए मौके बने।

Baleshwar के पास पुरी-हावड़ा धौली एक्सप्रेस में आग लगी, किसी के हताहत होने की खबर नहीं

'बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड' की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, ONGC का कहना है कि भारत के पूर्वी और पश्चिमी ऑफशोर सेडिमेंट्री बेसिन, जो 3,000 मीटर तक की गहराई तक फैले हैं, में 5,600 मिलियन टन ऑयल इक्विवैलेंट (MTOE) से ज़्यादा हाइड्रोकार्बन संसाधन होने का अनुमान है। कंपनी इन भंडारों को भारत का अगला बड़ा एनर्जी फ्रंटियर मानती है, क्योंकि देश आयातित कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस पर अपनी निर्भरता कम करना चाहता है।

कॉरपोरेशन ने कहा कि हर आंकी गई एक्सप्लोरेशन संभावना, खोदा गया हर कुआं और की गई हर खोज भारत की घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाने, आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने और लंबे समय की एनर्जी सिक्योरिटी और आत्मनिर्भरता को बेहतर बनाने की क्षमता को मजबूत करती है।

इस साल दूसरी बार बाढ़ का पानी माँ भट्टारिका मंदिर परिसर तक पहुँचा

ऐसे जटिल ऑफशोर ऑपरेशन की तैयारी के लिए, ONGC ने इस साल की शुरुआत में मुंबई में अपना समर्पित 'डीपवॉटर एक्सप्लोरेशन मिशन सेंटर' (DeepX) स्थापित किया। 5 जनवरी को शुरू की गई यह सुविधा, कंपनी की "एक कंपनी, एक डेटा" (One Company, One Data) सोच के तहत एडवांस्ड जियोसाइंटिफिक इंटरप्रिटेशन, सिस्मिक एनालिसिस, खास तकनीकी विशेषज्ञता, इंटीग्रेटेड डेटा एनालिटिक्स, ट्रेनिंग की क्षमताएं और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग को एक साथ लाती है।

हिंडोल में जंगली हाथियों के अलग-अलग हमलों में दो महिलाएं गंभीर रूप से घायल

कंपनी ने कहा कि DeepX को भारत की उस क्षमता को बढ़ाने के लिए बनाया गया है, जिससे वह एडवांस्ड सिस्मिक इंटरप्रिटेशन और इंटीग्रेटेड सब-सरफेस स्टडीज़ के ज़रिए तकनीकी रूप से मुश्किल ऑफशोर संभावनाओं का आकलन कर सके। इससे भविष्य में गहरे पानी में खोज (एक्सप्लोरेशन) अभियानों की सफलता दर बेहतर होगी।

तत्काल ड्रिलिंग प्रोग्राम से आगे बढ़कर, यह पहल सरकार की घरेलू तेल और गैस उत्पादन बढ़ाने की व्यापक रणनीति के अनुरूप है, खासकर ऐसे समय में जब भारत अपनी ऊर्जा ज़रूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए आयात पर बहुत ज़्यादा निर्भर है। गहरे पानी वाले बेसिन से होने वाली खोजों से देश के ऊर्जा स्रोतों में विविधता आने की उम्मीद है, साथ ही अंतरराष्ट्रीय सप्लाई में रुकावट और कच्चे तेल की अस्थिर वैश्विक कीमतों से होने वाले जोखिम भी कम होंगे।

इंडस्ट्री के जानकारों का कहना है कि गहरे पानी में खोज के लिए भारी पूंजी निवेश और एडवांस्ड टेक्नोलॉजी की ज़रूरत होती है, क्योंकि वहां पानी की गहराई बहुत ज़्यादा होती है, रिज़र्वॉयर में दबाव बहुत अधिक होता है और काम करने की स्थितियां बहुत कठिन होती हैं। फिर भी, सफल खोजें लंबे समय में किसी देश के हाइड्रोकार्बन उत्पादन को बदल सकती हैं, जिससे जटिल होने के बावजूद ऐसे प्रोजेक्ट रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण हो जाते हैं।

ओडिशा के लिए, ड्रिलिंग की शुरुआत महानदी बेसिन के एक रणनीतिक ऑफशोर ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरने की दिशा में एक और अहम पड़ाव है। हाल के वर्षों में उत्साहजनक भूवैज्ञानिक नतीजों के बाद राज्य के तट के साथ खोज गतिविधियां तेज़ हो रही हैं, और इस बेसिन को भविष्य में हाइड्रोकार्बन की खोज के लिए भारत के सबसे आशाजनक स्थलों में से एक के रूप में देखा जा रहा है। ONGC ने गहरे पानी को भारत का "अगला फ्रंटियर" (next frontier) बताकर इस मिशन के महत्व को समझाया, जो ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता हासिल करने के लिए ज़्यादा मुश्किल ऑफशोर इलाकों में खोज करने की देश की तैयारी को दर्शाता है।

Headline	MRPL seeks crude via tender avoiding Red Sea and Hormuz, document shows		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	28 Jul 2026		

MRPL seeks crude via tender avoiding Red Sea and Hormuz, document shows

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/mrpl-seeks-crude-via-tender-avoiding-red-sea-and-hormuz-document-shows/ar-AA28M9wv>

NEW DELHI/SINGAPORE: India's state-owned Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd is seeking to import oil via a spot tender and has, for the first

time, asked suppliers to avoid using the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz, a tender document showed on Monday.

Red Sea traffic has been disrupted off the coast of Yemen since last week by the Tehran-aligned Houthis, who want to blockade Saudi exports, expanding the U.S.-Iran conflict that has already choked oil supply through the Strait of Hormuz.

"Crude loading/transit via Red Sea route or SoH to be avoided," MRPL said in a tender document seeking up to 1 million barrels of oil on a delivered basis during August 25 to September 6.

The company, which did not award its previous tender seeking oil, is the first Indian refiner to include such a clause in its spot crude import tenders.

MRPL did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

MRPL has taken a "precautionary view" as it wants to avoid a potential supply disruption along two of the world's key maritime oil trade routes, said a source familiar with the matter.

The new clause would continue to be a part of future import tenders if the situation in the Middle East does not improve, the source added.

MRPL, a subsidiary of state-run explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corp, operates a 300,000 barrels per day refinery in the southern Indian state of Karnataka.

Headline	CM Majhi Hails ONGC Deepwater Drilling Off Odisha Coast		
Publication	Nation Press	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

CM Majhi Hails ONGC Deepwater Drilling Off Odisha Coast

<https://www.nationpress.com/national/cm-majhi-backs-ongc-odisha-deepwater-drill>

Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi on 27 July 2026 hailed ONGC's first deepwater exploratory drilling in the Mahanadi offshore basin as a strategic milestone, crediting PM Modi's leadership and congratulating Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for advancing the Samudra Manthan campaign to cut India's import dependence.

Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi welcomed ONGC's first deepwater exploratory drilling in the Mahanadi offshore basin on 27 July 2026 .

The drilling builds on prior 'Utkal' and 'Konark' hydrocarbon discoveries by ONGC in the same basin.

The initiative is part of the #SamudraManthan campaign led by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri to boost domestic energy output.

India currently imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil, making deepwater exploration a national strategic priority.

The Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) , introduced in 2016 , underpins the current licensing and exploration framework for frontier basins.

Commercial viability of the Mahanadi block will depend on forthcoming ONGC disclosures and appraisal well results.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday, 27 July 2026 , welcomed the commencement of ONGC's first deepwater exploratory drilling in the Mahanadi offshore basin , calling it a landmark step in India's energy self-reliance mission and positioning Odisha as a strategic energy hub for the country.

Context

Writing in Odia on X, CM Majhi stated that 'Odisha aji eka gurutvapurna raanaitika kendra bhabe ubha heucha' Odisha is today emerging as an important strategic centre in India's energy security and Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign. He credited the initiative to the 'far-sighted leadership' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and congratulated Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and the entire ONGC team for advancing the #SamudraManthan campaign and building Odisha into India's next major energy centre.

The drilling marks a new chapter in hydrocarbon exploration along the Odisha coast, building on the earlier 'Utkal' and 'Konark' discoveries made by ONGC in the same basin, which had already demonstrated the region's significant hydrocarbon potential.

Policy Backdrop

India imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements, making domestic exploration a strategic priority across successive governments. The Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) , introduced in , replaced the earlier New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) regime and opened frontier basins including deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks along both coasts to accelerated exploration.

The Samudra Manthan campaign, spearheaded by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas under Hardeep Singh Puri , has been the operational vehicle for this eastward expansion of exploration priorities. After earlier successes in the Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basins on the east coast, the Mahanadi offshore basin has emerged as a high-priority frontier block for ONGC's capital deployment.

Stakeholders and Impact

A successful deepwater find in the Mahanadi basin would have significant implications for Odisha's coastal economy , potentially generating employment in offshore services, port logistics, and downstream refining. For ONGC , the drilling represents a material expansion of its east-coast deepwater portfolio at a time when the corporation faces pressure to replace ageing onshore and shallow-water reserves.

The broader energy sector including private exploration firms and gas infrastructure developers will watch closely, as a commercial discovery could trigger fresh licensing rounds under HELP and attract additional investment to the Odisha coast. Local fishing communities and marine stakeholders in the Mahanadi coastal belt are also key stakeholders whose interests will need to be factored into any expanded offshore operations.

What's Next

The immediate focus will be on results from the current exploratory well and any subsequent appraisal drilling in the Mahanadi block . Commercial viability and reserve estimates will depend on future ONGC disclosures, which are expected to inform the corporation's capital expenditure plans for east-coast deepwater projects in coming budget cycles.

If the exploration yields positive results, Odisha could be positioned for a new round of offshore licensing, potentially drawing in both domestic and international oil majors. The state government's active endorsement signals that Bhubaneswar is prepared to facilitate the regulatory and infrastructure groundwork needed to convert exploration success into commercial production.

Majhi is staking a claim for Odisha's centrality in India's energy transition story, a positioning that could translate into greater federal investment and infrastructure priority for the state. The eastward shift of exploration focus from the Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basins to the Mahanadi block reflects a maturing of India's deepwater strategy, and Odisha's emergence as a focal point marks a significant geographic diversification of the country's hydrocarbon portfolio. Whether exploration success follows will determine how durable this political-energy alignment proves to be.

What is ONGC's deepwater drilling in Odisha about?

What is the Samudra Manthan campaign?

What are the Utkal and Konark discoveries?

Why is the Mahanadi basin important for India's energy security?

What policy governs deepwater oil exploration in India?

Headline	Odisha CMO Hails ONGC Deepwater Drilling in Mahanadi Basin		
Publication	Nation Press	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

Odisha CMO Hails ONGC Deepwater Drilling in Mahanadi Basin

<https://www.nationpress.com/national/ongc-drills-deep-in-mahanadi-basin>

The Chief Minister's Office of Odisha has highlighted ONGC's deepwater exploratory drilling in the Mahanadi offshore basin as a landmark step under the SamudraManthan mission, aimed at cutting India's crude import dependence and advancing energy self-reliance on the east coast.

The Chief Minister's Office of Odisha announced ONGC's deepwater exploratory drilling in the Mahanadi offshore basin in the Bay of Bengal .

The initiative is positioned under the SamudraManthan mission, the government's dedicated deepwater hydrocarbon exploration programme.

India imports over 80 percent of its crude oil, making domestic frontier-basin exploration a strategic priority.

Policy enablers include the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) of 2016 and the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) of 2017 .

ONGC , founded in 1956 , is expanding its exploration footprint from traditional western offshore fields to the eastern seaboard.

Commercial discoveries in the basin could benefit Odisha's economy, coastal communities, and India's national energy accounts.

The Chief Minister's Office of Odisha, on Monday, 28 July 2026 , announced that ONGC has commenced its first deepwater exploratory drilling in the Mahanadi offshore basin , describing the development as a strategic milestone in India's pursuit of energy security and self-reliance under the SamudraManthan mission. Context

The CMO's post stated that ' Odisha is emerging as a strategic centre in India's pursuit of energy security and self-reliance,' positioning the state at the forefront of the country's offshore hydrocarbon agenda. The drilling in the Mahanadi offshore basin a sedimentary basin in the Bay of Bengal off Odisha's coast represents a shift in domestic exploration toward frontier deepwater areas on India's east coast. The announcement was addressed to @PMOIndia , signalling coordination between the state government and the Centre on the energy security agenda.

Policy Backdrop

India imports more than 80 percent of its crude oil requirements, making domestic exploration in frontier basins a national priority. The government has progressively opened up deepwater and ultra-deepwater areas through the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) , introduced in , and the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) of , which allows companies to nominate blocks for exploration including offshore areas such as the Mahanadi basin. These reforms were designed to move exploration beyond mature fields like Mumbai High toward untapped east coast basins. The SamudraManthan mission, cited in the post, is the government's dedicated initiative for deepwater hydrocarbon exploration aimed at boosting domestic production and reducing import dependence, aligned closely with the broader Atmanirbhar Bharat framework.

ONGC , India's largest public sector oil and gas exploration company, established in , has historically anchored domestic production. Its deepwater push into the Mahanadi basin marks a geographic expansion of its exploration portfolio from traditional western offshore areas to the eastern seaboard.

Stakeholders and Impact

A commercial discovery in the Mahanadi offshore basin could have significant implications for Odisha's economy and for national energy accounts. Coastal communities along Odisha's seaboard, as well as downstream industries dependent on domestically produced hydrocarbons, stand to benefit if exploratory drilling yields viable reserves. For the state government, a successful offshore energy corridor would reinforce Odisha's positioning as an industrial and energy hub

on India's eastern coast. For the Centre, any addition to domestic production directly reduces the foreign exchange burden of crude imports, a persistent macroeconomic pressure.

The initiative also carries employment and infrastructure implications, as deepwater operations typically require specialised onshore logistics, port infrastructure, and skilled technical personnel areas where Odisha has been investing in recent years.

What's Next

The immediate focus will be on results from the ongoing exploratory drilling campaign in the Mahanadi basin . Should the initial wells indicate commercially viable hydrocarbon accumulations, further block auctions and appraisal drilling under OALP rounds are likely to follow. The SamudraManthan mission's broader ambition to systematically survey and develop India's deepwater sedimentary basins means that the Mahanadi basin could become a template for similar east coast exploration drives. Progress on this front will be closely watched by energy analysts and investors tracking India's upstream sector reform trajectory.

Addressed directly to the PMO, is a deliberate signal of state-Centre alignment on the energy security agenda framing Odisha not merely as a beneficiary but as an active strategic node in India's hydrocarbon map. The invocation of SamudraManthan ties the development to a national mission narrative, lending it political weight beyond a routine exploration update. This fits a broader pattern in which eastern India's frontier basins are being repositioned as the next frontier of domestic energy production, compensating for declining output from mature western fields. If the Mahanadi basin yields commercial results, it could accelerate OALP bidding rounds and deepen Odisha's profile as an energy-industrial corridor.

What is ONGC's deepwater drilling in the Mahanadi basin about?

What is the SamudraManthan mission?

Why is the Mahanadi offshore basin important for India's energy security?

What policies support offshore oil exploration in India?

How does this affect Odisha?

Headline	ONGC Spuds First Deepwater Well in Mahanadi Basin under Samudra Manthan Mission		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC Spuds First Deepwater Well in Mahanadi Basin under Samudra Manthan Mission

<https://www.newspointapp.com/english/sports/ongc-spuds-first-deepwater-well-in-mahanadi-basin-under-samudra-manthan-mission-freepressjournal/articleshow/145048208cc3317b6d0213b84333a623825471e8>

In a significant step towards unlocking India's deepwater hydrocarbon potential, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri virtually spudded ONGC's exploratory well, MN-DW18-1-H-D, in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin from New Delhi on 25 July 2026. The spudding marks a major milestone under the Government of India's Samudra Manthan Campaign and the beginning of an ambitious programme to explore India's deep and ultra-deepwater energy resources.

Headline	ONGC Stands with Flood-Affected Families in Assam		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC Stands with Flood-Affected Families in Assam

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-stands-with-flood-affected-families-in-assam>

ONGC reaches flood-affected families in Nazira, Sivasagar and Charaideo with food supplies and medical kits, standing as a caring neighbour during the crisis.

When floodwaters rise, humanity must rise higher.

As floods tested the resilience of communities across Nazira, Sivasagar and Charaideo, #ONGC reached out to affected families with food relief supplies and medical kits. The organisation did not act only as a company, but as a caring neighbour standing beside people in their hour of need.

Relief may begin with food and medicines, but hope begins with knowing that you are not alone.

ONGC's support aims to bring immediate help to those facing the impact of the floods. By providing essential supplies, the effort seeks to ease the daily struggles of families dealing with disrupted lives and uncertain conditions.

In times of natural hardship, simple acts of presence and practical help can make a meaningful difference. The message remains clear: Together, we stand. Together, we recover. Together, we rebuild.

This response reflects a commitment to stand with communities when they need it most, offering both material support and a sense of shared strength.

Headline	ONGC Bids Farewell to Executive Director Madhukar Mohan on Superannuation		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC Bids Farewell to Executive Director Madhukar Mohan on Superannuation

<https://www.psuconnect.in/psu-news/ongc-bids-farewell-to-executive-director-madhukar-mohan-on-superannuation>

ONGC celebrates the career of Shri Madhukar Mohan, Executive Director, who retires after more than 35 years of service across production, CBM and international operations.

ONGC proudly celebrates the extraordinary journey of Shri Madhukar Mohan , Executive Director, as he marks his superannuation. This milestone reflects more than three and a half decades of dedicated service to advancing India's energy interests, both in the country and across the globe.

A Mechanical Engineer by training, Shri Mohan joined ONGC in 1989. Over the years, he built a distinguished career spanning production operations, artificial lift systems, asset management, coal bed methane, and international upstream ventures.

His professional journey took him through key locations including Karaikal Mumbai Offshore Nazira Ahmedabad , and Bokaro . He later took up leadership assignments with ONGC Videsh , representing India's energy ambitions on the global stage.

He began his career in production operations at Karaikal and Mumbai Offshore. He steadily progressed through increasingly challenging roles, contributing to field operations, enhanced production techniques, artificial lift systems, and strategic asset management. During his long tenure in Ahmedabad, he played an important role in strengthening production performance and driving operational efficiency across one of ONGC's major onshore producing regions.

His leadership later extended to the CBM Bokaro Project , where he guided surface operations during a crucial development phase. He then took on international responsibilities with ONGC Videsh . As Project Manager in Mozambique, Regional President for Mozambique, and later Country Manager Colombia, Shri Mohan successfully represented ONGC's global interests and helped strengthen India's international energy presence.

Known for his quiet determination, technical acumen, and collaborative leadership, Shri Mohan earned the respect of colleagues across continents. Whether leading complex upstream projects, managing diverse teams, or handling international operations, he consistently demonstrated professionalism, integrity, and excellence.

With every asset strengthened, every project delivered, and every challenge turned into opportunity, Shri Madhukar Mohan has left behind a lasting legacy. His journey stands as a reminder that ONGC's strength lies not only in its reservoirs, but also in the dedication of those who have devoted their careers to building them.

Headline	ONGC Initiates Deepwater Exploration in Mahanadi Basin Under Samudra Manthan Mission		
Publication	PSU India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC Initiates Deepwater Exploration in Mahanadi Basin Under Samudra Manthan Mission

<https://www.psuindia.com/government/energy/ongc-initiates-deepwater-exploration-in-mahanadi-basin-under-samudra-manthan-mission-553351>

In a major push toward domestic energy independence, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has spudded its first deepwater exploratory well, MN-DW18-1-H-D, in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin off the Odisha coast.

New Delhi | July 27, 2026

In a major push toward domestic energy independence, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has spudded its first deepwater exploratory well, MN-DW18-1-H-D, in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin off the Odisha coast.

Virtually inaugurated by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, the drilling initiative marks a key milestone under India's flagship Samudra Manthan Mission, designed to tap into high-potential offshore hydrocarbon reserves.

Indian Crude Oil Basket Surges 11% to \$103/Barrel Amid Global Shipping Disruptions

Project Highlights & Basin Overview

Exploratory Well: MN-DW18-1-H-D

Location: Mahanadi Offshore Basin (~23 nautical miles from the recent Konark discovery, off the Odisha coast)

Parent Entity: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)

Key Mission: Samudra Manthan Mission

Operational & Strategic Significance

Unlocking Deepwater Potential: Positioned building on ONGC's recent Utkal and Konark discoveries, the project targets deepwater offshore zones estimated to hold vast undiscovered reserves.

Indian Refiners Diversify Crude Sources as Gulf Conflict Drives Brent Beyond \$100

Support via DeepX Center: Supported by ONGC's newly established Deepwater Exploration Mission Centre (DeepX) in Mumbai, which unifies advanced geoscientific analysis, specialized training, and international technical collaboration.

National Energy Security: Offshore deepwater basins up to 3,000 meters in depth are projected to hold over 5,600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) in potential reserves. The project supports government efforts to decrease import dependency and bolster long-term energy security alongside expanded access under OALP rounds.

Headline	ONGC spuds first deepwater well in Mahanadi basin under Samudra Manthan mission		
Publication	PSU Watch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC spuds first deepwater well in Mahanadi basin under Samudra Manthan mission

<https://psuwatch.com/newsupdates/ongc-spuds-first-deepwater-well-in-mahanadi-basin-under-samudra-manthan-mission>

ONGC began drilling its first deepwater well in the Mahanadi offshore basin on July 25, spudded remotely by minister Hardeep Singh Puri Published on

New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) began drilling its first deepwater exploratory well, MN-DW18-1-H-D, in the Mahanadi offshore basin on July 25, the company said in a statement. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri spudded the well virtually from New Delhi.

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ONGC described the spudding as "a significant step towards unlocking India's deepwater hydrocarbon potential," and said it marked the start of a programme to explore the country's deep and ultra-deepwater resources under the government's Samudra Manthan campaign. The commencement of drilling was "the beginning of one of India's most challenging deepwater exploration campaigns," according to the statement.

Well drilled off the Odisha coast

The MN-DW18-1-H-D well is being drilled about 23 nautical miles from Konark, off the Odisha coast, the statement said. ONGC linked the location to its recent Utkal and Konark discoveries, which it said had strengthened the hydrocarbon prospectivity of the Mahanadi offshore basin.

ONGC said the campaign is aimed at raising domestic production, reducing import dependence and strengthening India's energy security and self-reliance.

Policy push behind the mission

The statement tied the programme to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's August 15, 2025 Independence Day address, which called for harnessing the country's untapped offshore oil and gas potential. In line with this, ONGC said, the government has opened nearly one million square kilometres of previously restricted offshore areas, creating exploration opportunities through forthcoming Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) rounds.

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India's eastern and western offshore basins, extending to water depths of up to 3,000 metres, are estimated to hold over 5,600 MMTOE of hydrocarbon potential, according to the statement. It cited recent exploration in the Cauvery, Mahanadi and Andaman basins as reinforcing the prospects of the offshore frontier.

DeepX centre

ONGC said it launched its Deepwater Exploration Mission Centre, DeepX, in Mumbai on January 5. The centre integrates the company's geoscientific expertise, interpretation capabilities, training and global collaborations under a "One Company, One Data" philosophy, the statement said.

The company said, "The next frontier is deep waters. India is ready to explore it."

Headline	ONGC Assam Asset extends relief to flood-affected communities		
Publication	PSU Watch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC Assam Asset extends relief to flood-affected communities

<https://psuwatch.com/csrwatch/ongc-assam-asset-extends-relief-to-flood-affected-communities>

Even as the ongoing floods have affected ONGC Assam Asset's offices and residential colony, the organisation has continued its humanitarian efforts by extending relief to flood-affected communities across the region.

In an official statement, ONGC said that its Assam Asset distributed essential food items and medicines to affected families to help meet their immediate needs during the flood situation under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative,

The initiative reflects ONGC's commitment to supporting local communities during times of crisis, with employees coming together to ensure timely relief reaches those in need despite the challenges posed by the floods.

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Headline	Govt plans Rs 80,000 crore package to attract deepwater oil explorers		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	28 Jul 2026		

Govt plans Rs 80,000 crore package to attract deepwater oil explorers

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/govt-plans-rs-80000-crore-package-to-attract-deepwater-oil-explorers/articleshow/132670169.cms>

India plans an Rs 80,000-crore incentive package for deepwater oil exploration. The government will fund up to half the cost of drilling exploratory wells. This initiative aims to reduce exploration risks and attract global companies. India is also auctioning eighteen deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks. The bid deadline is September seventeenth for these blocks. The petroleum and natural gas ministry is drawing up an Rs 80,000-crore incentive package to attract into India's deepwater exploration by bearing up to half the cost of drilling, according to people familiar with the matter. The initiative, under the National Mission, or, goes further than the series of upstream reforms over the past decade, which failed to attract significant investment from global oil firms, by directly funding part of exploration costs.

Under the proposal, the government will reimburse up to 50% of the cost of drilling deepwater exploratory wells, the people said. The proposal is being discussed with other ministries and could change before it is placed before the cabinet.

Funding per well will be capped to prevent cost overruns. The government may also partly fund 3D seismic surveys, according to one of the persons, who did not wish to be identified.

The support is aimed at reducing exploration risk and attracting global companies with deepwater expertise and advanced technologies.

High costs and India's modest exploration success have long kept foreign firms away. Drilling a single deepwater well can cost Rs 1,000-1,200 crore, depending on geological complexity. An ultra-deepwater well can cost a few hundred crore more. The incentives will be available to both state-run and private explorers.

on Saturday spudded its first deepwater exploratory well under the Samudra Manthan programme.

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India is also auctioning 18 deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks under the . The bid deadline has been extended to September 17, by when the government expects to finalise the incentive package.

The proposal marks a significant departure from the existing exploration regime where companies with awarded blocks are required to complete a minimum work programme, including seismic surveys and exploratory wells, or face penalties.

Explorers sometimes choose not to drill after seismic data points to a low probability of a commercial discovery. Many surrender blocks rather than invest hundreds of crores in a high-risk well.

Alongside the incentive scheme, the government has been improving the quality of geological data available to explorers. It has invested heavily in acquiring offshore 2D seismic data and is now looking to bring in private companies to reprocess legacy datasets using advanced technologies.

Headline	₹80kcr Sops Likely to Push Foreign Flows into Oil & Gas Exploration		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	28 Jul 2026		

₹80kcr Sops Likely to Push Foreign Flows into Oil & Gas Exploration

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/et-front/80kcr-sops-likely-to-push-foreign-flows-into-oil-gas-exploration/articleshow/132670749.cms>

The petroleum and natural gas ministry is drawing up an 80,000-crore incentive package to attract foreign investment into India's deepwater oil and gas exploration by bearing up to half the cost of drilling exploratory wells, according to people familiar with the matter.

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Publication	The Machine Maker	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

ONGC Begins First Deepwater Exploration Well in Mahanadi Basin Under Samudra Manthan Mission

<https://themachinemaker.com/news/ongc-begins-first-deepwater-exploration-well-in-mahanadi-basin-under-samudra-manthan-mission/>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has commenced drilling its first deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin, marking a major milestone in India's efforts to expand domestic oil and gas exploration. The exploratory well, MN-DW18-1-H-D, was virtually spudded by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri from New Delhi under the Government of India's Samudra Manthan Mission.

The drilling campaign represents an important step in exploring India's deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon resources and supports the country's goal of strengthening energy security through increased domestic production. The initiative follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call, made during his Independence Day address on August 15, 2025, to unlock India's untapped offshore oil and gas reserves. In line with this vision, the Government has opened nearly one million square kilometres of previously restricted offshore areas for exploration, creating new opportunities through upcoming Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) bidding rounds.

India's offshore basins along the eastern and western coasts, extending to water depths of up to 3,000 metres, are estimated to contain more than 5,600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) of hydrocarbon resources. Recent exploration successes in the Cauvery, Mahanadi and Andaman basins have further strengthened confidence in the country's offshore energy potential.

To accelerate deepwater exploration, ONGC established its dedicated Deepwater Exploration Mission Centre (DeepX) in Mumbai on January 5, 2026. The centre brings together the company's geological expertise, advanced data interpretation capabilities, specialised training programmes and international collaborations under its One Company, One Data approach. The integrated platform is designed to improve exploration efficiency and support complex offshore operations.

The newly launched exploratory well is located approximately 23 nautical miles from ONGC's Konark discovery off the Odisha coast. The drilling programme builds on the company's earlier Utkal and Konark discoveries, which have significantly improved the hydrocarbon prospects of the Mahanadi Offshore Basin.

The drilling of MN-DW18-1-H-D marks the beginning of one of India's most technically demanding offshore exploration programmes. Operating in deepwater conditions requires advanced drilling technology, specialised equipment and detailed geological analysis to evaluate potential hydrocarbon reserves safely and efficiently.

The Government believes that every successful exploration campaign will contribute to increasing India's domestic oil and gas production, reducing dependence on imported energy and supporting long-term energy security. Expanding exploration into deepwater regions is also expected to create new opportunities for investment, technology development and employment across the country's energy sector.

With the launch of this well, ONGC has taken another significant step in advancing India's offshore exploration programme. The deepwater campaign reflects the country's commitment to developing its own energy resources while supporting economic growth and enhancing self-reliance in the energy sector. As exploration activities continue across offshore basins, ONGC aims to unlock new hydrocarbon reserves that will help meet India's growing energy demand and strengthen the nation's position as it moves towards a more secure and sustainable energy future.

Headline	3i Infotech Secures 3-Year IT Infrastructure Contract from ONGC Petro Additions		
Publication	Trade Brains	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

3i Infotech Secures 3-Year IT Infrastructure Contract from ONGC Petro Additions

<https://tradebrains.in/3i-infotech-secures-3-year-it-infrastructure-contract-from-ongc-petro-additions/>

Synopsis: 3i Infotech Limited has secured a fresh service order from ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL) for managing the company's IT and non-IT infrastructure across multiple locations. The three-year engagement strengthens 3i Infotech's managed services portfolio while reinforcing its presence in enterprise digital infrastructure and mission-critical IT support services.

As enterprises continue to modernise their digital infrastructure, the demand for managed IT services has significantly increased. Large industrial companies are increasingly outsourcing the management of critical IT assets, cybersecurity infrastructure, and enterprise networks to specialised technology service providers, allowing them to improve operational efficiency while reducing infrastructure management complexity. Against this backdrop, 3i Infotech has secured a new long-term services contract from ONGC Petro additions Limited.

were trading at Rs 20.25, up by 2.74%. The stock opened at Rs 19.9, reached a day's high of Rs 20.45, and has so far recorded a day's low of Rs 19.5. The company's current market capitalisation is Rs 423 crore, and it is trading at a P/E ratio of 11.2, which is lower than the industry peer median of 21.28.

3i Infotech Wins 3-Year OPaL IT Infrastructure Contract

3i Infotech Limited has received a Service Order from ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL) for providing Facility Management Services (FMS) covering both IT and non-IT infrastructure, along with Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) services for the company's IT assets.

The order carries a value of approximately Rs. 4.83 crore, excluding applicable taxes, and has a fixed tenure of three years, commencing from 1 August 2026 and continuing until 31 July 2029. Although the agreement contains an optional two-year extension, the company clarified that the extension period has not been included while calculating the disclosed contract value.

The filing said that OPaL's digital infrastructure at all its locations will be managed and maintained. Support of end-user computing devices, servers, storage systems, network infrastructure, cybersecurity infrastructure, communication systems, CCTV systems and other IT assets. The contract includes not only day-to-day maintenance, but also continuous monitoring and facility management to keep critical technology infrastructure running smoothly.

A Facility Management Service (FMS) is a long-term outsourced service in which a technology company manages an organisation's IT infrastructure, monitors systems, resolves technical issues, and ensures smooth day-to-day operations. An Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) is a service agreement through which equipment and technology assets receive regular maintenance, repairs, and technical support for a specified period.

Order Strengthens Managed Services Portfolio

The order covers computing devices, servers, storage, networking, security systems, and communication infrastructure, indicating that the company will help OPaL's technology operations throughout the contract. Such engagements usually generate long-term service revenue, strengthen client relationships, and lead to more digital transformation projects.

The inclusion of cybersecurity infrastructure, communication systems and CCTV support also broadens the scope beyond traditional IT maintenance, reflecting the increasing convergence of physical and digital infrastructure management within large industrial enterprises.

The company reported a strong sequential recovery in Q1 FY27 (June 2026) compared with Q4 FY26 (March 2026). Revenue increased 1.2% QoQ to Rs. 177.94 crore from Rs. 175.78 crore, while operating performance improved significantly. Operating profit turned positive to Rs. 5.07 crore from an operating loss of Rs. 9.63 crore, leading to OPM improving to 2.85% from -5.48%, reflecting better cost management and improved execution during the quarter.

At the profitability level, Profit Before Tax (PBT) declined marginally by 5.0% QoQ to Rs. 5.86 crore from Rs. 6.17 crore, primarily due to a sharp fall in other income, which declined to Rs. 6.39 crore from Rs. 21.97 crore.

Consequently, net profit moderated 10.3% QoQ to Rs. 6.52 crore from Rs. 7.27 crore, while EPS eased to Rs. 0.31 from Rs. 0.35. Despite lower earnings, the return to positive operating profitability indicates an improvement in the core business.

The balance sheet remained stable with cash and cash equivalents of Rs. 77.6 crore, working capital of Rs. 32.4 crore, and a low debt-to-equity ratio of 0.16, reflecting a conservative capital structure, while delivering ROCE of 13% and ROE of 11.1%. Although 3-year sales CAGR remains negative at -2%, the 3-year profit CAGR of 133% highlights a strong recovery in profitability over the medium term.

Strategic Insight and Industry Analysis

While the contract value is not significant in isolation, the order reinforces 3i Infotech's positioning in the managed IT services segment, where long-term maintenance contracts provide stable and recurring revenue streams. Enterprise customers increasingly prefer outsourcing infrastructure management to specialised service providers, allowing them to focus on core operations while ensuring high system availability, cybersecurity, and operational efficiency.

For 3i Infotech, continued wins in infrastructure management, digital support services and enterprise technology outsourcing can strengthen its order pipeline and deepen relationships with large industrial clients. Investors are likely to monitor whether the company converts such long-term managed services engagements into larger digital transformation, cloud migration, cybersecurity or enterprise technology projects in the future.

3i Infotech Limited is a global information technology company providing digital transformation, cloud, cybersecurity, managed infrastructure, enterprise applications and business technology solutions. The company serves clients across banking, financial services, manufacturing, healthcare, retail, government and other industries through technology consulting, software solutions and managed IT services.

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Headline	Assam CM, Union Petroleum Minister discuss strengthening state's energy sector, review key energy projects		
Publication	ANI News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

Assam CM, Union Petroleum Minister discuss strengthening state's energy sector, review key energy projects

<https://www.aninews.in/news/business/assam-cm-union-petroleum-minister-discuss-strengthening-states-energy-sector-review-key-energy-projects20260727204713>

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday met Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi to discuss strengthening the state's energy sector and expanding its role in India's energy security. The meeting, held at Kartavya Bhawan, reviewed developments in Assam's petroleum and natural gas sector and explored ways to further strengthen the state's contribution to the country's energy ecosystem through closer cooperation between the Centre and the state government. Sharing details of the meeting on social media platform X, Puri said he was "very happy" to welcome the Assam Chief Minister and described the discussions as productive.

Bollywood

News

According to the Union Minister, the discussions focused on Assam's energy sector and the state's growing role in shaping India's energy future. He added that the North Eastern Region, including Assam, will continue to be a key driver in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The meeting comes as the Centre continues to expand energy infrastructure across Assam, a key oil and gas-producing state. According to recent government initiatives, the Numaligarh Refinery expansion from 3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 9 MMTPA is expected to significantly boost fuel supplies in the North East, while the recently inaugurated Phase-I of the North East Gas Grid and the enhanced Numaligarh-Siliguri pipeline are aimed at improving regional gas connectivity and supporting the refinery expansion. An official release said the discussions underscored the Government of India's continued emphasis on leveraging Assam's strategic location, hydrocarbon resources and expanding energy infrastructure to drive sustainable growth and strengthen the North East's role in India's energy landscape.

Headline	E20 Janta Party campaign demands choice of ethanol-free petrol		
Publication	Auto Car India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

E20 Janta Party campaign demands choice of ethanol-free petrol

<https://www.autocarindia.com/industry/e20-janta-party-campaign-demands-choice-of-ethanol-free-petrol-440302>

Not long after the success of the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protests, a new social media-led campaign calling itself the E20 Janta Party has cropped up.

It demands that Indian vehicle owners be given the option to purchase ethanol-free petrol alongside E20 fuel, as well as the resignation of Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, who is a major proponent of the government's ethanol blending policy

For context, the E20 rollout started in April 2025, and it was mandated as the baseline petrol blend exactly one year later all in an effort to reduce dependence on crude oil imports. This is despite the fact that E20 compliance was mandated in April 2023 as part of the BS6 Phase 2 emission norms , which means a hefty chunk of vehicles plying on Indian roads are not E20-compliant.

E20 Janta Party wants more transparency and options for fuel

No demands for E20 to be discontinued

Inspired by the CJP's satirical, meme-driven approach, E20 Janta Party declared itself as a consumer rights movement that is not seeking the withdrawal of E20 petrol, but instead greater transparency and freedom of choice at fuel stations. Although ethanol-free fuel has been available in the form of 100-octane premium petrol (XP100, Speed100, and Power100), it's sold only at select fuel stations and costs significantly more than standard E20, limiting its feasibility for most motorists.

"Our demand is very clear. E20 Janta Party is a people-powered movement demanding transparency, accountability, and the right of every Indian to know how the E20 policy affects their vehicles, wallets, and consumer rights," the group said in a social media post. The campaign even referenced CJP's initial call to mobilisation with a post stating, "What if all bike/car owners come together?"

The E20 Janta Party says it is not opposed to ethanol blending, nor is it asking for subsidies or free fuel. Instead, it wants fuel stations to offer consumers the choice between unblended petrol and ethanol-blended fuel. E20 Janta Party is also demanding transparent fuel labelling, publication of government data on the costs and benefits of different fuel blends, and independent scientific studies into mileage, engine performance, emissions, and maintenance costs, with the findings made publicly available.

Support pouring in for E20 Janta Party

At the time of writing, E20 Janta Party's Twitter and Instagram accounts have attracted over 31,000 followers cumulatively, and the campaign has even begun attracting support beyond social media. Political commentator Tehseen Poonawalla announced a "Gaadi March" on July 31 against the E20 policy, while the Delhi Taxi and Tourist Transporters and Tour Operators Association planned a march to Parliament on August 4. The taxi association has raised concerns over fuel efficiency, maintenance costs and engine performance, particularly in older vehicles.

Govt continues to stand strong on ethanol blending policy

In recent months, motorists have expressed heightened acrimony surrounding the impact of E20 petrol on fuel efficiency and vehicle durability, whereas the government remains steadfast in its defence of the policy, saying E20 is a safe and cleaner fuel backed by scientific evaluation. A few weeks ago, prominent manufacturers like Maruti Suzuki, Toyota, and Hero Motocorp also backed E20 at a government briefing , notably claiming that they have found no significant concerns regarding accelerated wear and tear in older, non-compliant vehicles.

Petroleum Minister previously ruled out offering pure petrol or E10 alongside E20

Replying to a question in Parliament last week, Minister of State for Petroleum Suresh Gopi said the government had not received any "widespread or substantiated" complaints linking E20 petrol to vehicle performance issues. Petroleum

Minister Hardeep Singh Puri earlier shot down the prospect of offering unblended and E10 petrol alongside E20 , citing tremendous logistical issues like separate storage, transportation, and dispensing infrastructures.

Ethanol content in petrol could increase; diesel likely to be blended with isobutanol

The government is even looking to increase the baseline ethanol blend in petrol, with the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) tasked to examine the effects of E25 on existing E10- and E20-compliant vehicles . Plans are also underway to blend ethanol-derived isobutanol into diesel in the near future, even though the government has not laid out any isobutanol compliance framework for any diesel-powered passenger vehicle in India.

Headline	Uttar Pradesh Congress Demands Accountability Over Ethanol Blended Petrol Policy		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

Uttar Pradesh Congress Demands Accountability Over Ethanol Blended Petrol Policy

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/gyan+hi+gyan+english-epaper-ghigen/uttar+pradesh+congress+demands+accountability+over+ethanol+blended+petrol+policy-newsid-n721145764>

Congress Calls for Ministerial Accountability Lucknow, July 27 - Ajay Rai, the president of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee, has

written to the Prime Minister, citing the alleged failure of the ethanol blended petrol policy and the rising public discontent.

He has called for the immediate removal of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, along with a fair investigation into the matter. According to a statement released by the party, Rai emphasized that he had previously requested necessary actions considering the scientific, economic, environmental, and consumer interests associated with the ethanol policy, demanding full transparency and independent scientific testing.

He noted that there has been no public response or decision regarding these concerns. Rai pointed out that instead of addressing these issues, the government appears to be advancing towards policies like E85 and E100 following E20. This has led to a perception that the government is prioritizing the continuation of this policy, disregarding the concerns of consumers with over 350 million registered vehicles in India.

The state president remarked that the rationale behind the ethanol blending policy was to reduce dependence on imported oil, benefit farmers, and provide consumers with cheaper fuel. However, currently, ethanol blended petrol is available at prices comparable to regular petrol.

In his letter, Rai highlighted a common belief that if petrol was found to be mixed with water, kerosene, or other substances, the petrol pump would be held accountable. However, since the blending is now conducted by oil companies, there is no clear accountability for any technical issues, reduced mileage, or engine damage that may arise in vehicles. This situation has led to disputes regarding insurance claims and vehicle warranties.

Rai stated that while his earlier correspondence focused solely on the need for independent scientific testing, transparency, and public interest, the issue has now escalated to one of ministerial accountability. He accused the relevant ministries of failing to provide satisfactory answers to these serious questions, protect public interest, and establish full transparency in policy-making.

He reiterated his demand for the immediate removal of Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Singh Puri from their positions and called for an impartial investigation into the matter, including an independent inquiry into potential conflicts of interest related to the ethanol policy.

Headline	Assam CM, Union Petroleum Minister discuss strengthening state's energy sector, review key energy projects		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

Assam CM, Union Petroleum Minister discuss strengthening state's energy sector, review key energy projects

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/ani+english-epaper-anieng/assam+cm+union+petroleum+minister+discuss+strengthening+states+energy+sector+review+key+energy+projects-newsid-n721158078>

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday met Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi to discuss strengthening the state's energy sector and expanding its role in India's energy security.

The meeting, held at Kartavya Bhawan, reviewed developments in Assam's petroleum and natural gas sector and explored ways to further strengthen the state's contribution to the country's energy ecosystem through closer cooperation between the Centre and the state government. Sharing details of the meeting on social media platform X, Puri said he was "very happy" to welcome the Assam Chief Minister and described the discussions as productive.

According to the Union Minister, the discussions focused on Assam's energy sector and the state's growing role in shaping India's energy future. He added that the North Eastern Region, including Assam, will continue to be a key driver in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The meeting comes as the Centre continues to expand energy infrastructure across Assam, a key oil and gas-producing state. According to recent government initiatives, the Numaligarh Refinery expansion from 3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 9 MMTPA is expected to significantly boost fuel supplies in the North East, while the recently inaugurated Phase-I of the North East Gas Grid and the enhanced Numaligarh-Siliguri pipeline are aimed at improving regional gas connectivity and supporting the refinery expansion. An official release said the discussions underscored the Government of India's continued emphasis on leveraging Assam's strategic location, hydrocarbon resources and expanding energy infrastructure to drive sustainable growth and strengthen the North East's role in India's energy landscape.

Headline	Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hardeep Puri meet to boost Assam's energy role		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hardeep Puri meet to boost Assam's energy role

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/himanta-biswa-sarma-hardeep-puri-meet-to-boost-assam-s-energy-role/ar-AA28Nfle>

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday met Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi to discuss strengthening the state's energy sector and expanding its role in India's energy security.

The meeting, held at Kartavya Bhawan, reviewed developments in Assam's petroleum and natural gas sector and explored ways to further strengthen the state's contribution to the country's energy ecosystem through closer cooperation between the Centre and the state government.

Sharing details of the meeting on social media platform X, Puri said he was "very happy" to welcome the Assam Chief Minister and described the discussions as productive. According to the Union Minister, the discussions focused on Assam's energy sector and the state's growing role in shaping India's energy future. He added that the North Eastern Region, including Assam, will continue to be a key driver in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Energy Infrastructure Expansion

The meeting comes as the Centre continues to expand energy infrastructure across Assam, a key oil and gas-producing state. According to recent government initiatives, the Numaligarh Refinery expansion from 3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 9 MMTPA is expected to significantly boost fuel supplies in the North East, while the recently inaugurated Phase-I of the North East Gas Grid and the enhanced Numaligarh-Siliguri pipeline are aimed at improving regional gas connectivity and supporting the refinery expansion.

An official release said the discussions underscored the Government of India's continued emphasis on leveraging Assam's strategic location, hydrocarbon resources and expanding energy infrastructure to drive sustainable growth and strengthen the North East's role in India's energy landscape.

Headline	Congress writes to PM, seeks removal of Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Singh Puri over ethanol blending policy		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	28 Jul 2026		

Congress writes to PM, seeks removal of Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Singh Puri over ethanol blending policy

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/congress-writes-to-pm-seeks-removal-of-nitin-gadkari-and-hardeep-singh-puri-over-ethanol-blending-policy/ar-AA28NMSK>

Times Now Digital Lucknow: Soon after the former union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned from his post, the opposition have

now trained their guns at two other union ministers and have sought the removal of both the ministers. The UP Congress has written a letter seeking removal of Union minister of Road Transport and Highways and Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister.

Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee President Ajay Rai has written to PM Modi demanding the immediate removal of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri over the alleged failure and corruption in the ethanol-blended fuel policy.

In his letter, Rai has said that the Congress had earlier written to the PM on July 7, raising scientific, economic, environmental and consumer concerns related to ethanol blending. He alleged that the government has neither responded to those concerns nor ordered any independent scientific review of the policy.

Rai further claimed that the Centre is aggressively pushing towards higher ethanol blending targets such as E85 and E100 while ignoring the interests of over 35 crore registered vehicle owners in the country.

He alleged that the promises of reduced fuel prices, lower dependence on imported crude oil and benefits to farmers have not materialised, claiming that ethanol-blended petrol is being sold at nearly the same price as regular petrol.

He also questioned accountability in cases where vehicle owners allegedly face engine damage, mileage issues or warranty disputes due to ethanol-blended fuel. He also said that while oil companies are promoting the policy, consumers are left without clarity on responsibility if technical problems arise.

Rai also mentioned the NEET examination controversy and said that the ministerial accountability should also apply in the ethanol policy issue. He alleged that just as the Education Minister was held responsible during the NEET row, the Road Transport and Petroleum Ministers must also be held accountable.

The UPCC chief has demanded the immediate dismissal of Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Singh Puri from the Union Cabinet and called for an independent inquiry into the ethanol blending policy and any potential conflict of interest associated with its implementation. He urged the PM to take immediate action in the interest of transparency and public accountability.

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Headline	Biofuel to play key role in India's energy transition: Puri		
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Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

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

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/new-delhi/biofuel-to-play-key-role-in-indias-energy-transition-puri-1101680>

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri highlights India's strides in energy transition, with ethanol blending saving 1.90 lakh crore in foreign exchange and renewable capacity hitting 288.58 GW by mid-2026.

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.

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.

Headline	World Record Bid Against E20: Anti-Ethanol Team Bharat to Hold Massive Car March Against Gadkari, Puri		
Publication	The Statesman	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Jul 2026		

World Record Bid Against E20: Anti-Ethanol Team Bharat to Hold Massive Car March Against Gadkari, Puri

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/world-record-bid-against-e20-anti-ethanol-team-bharat-to-hold-massive-car-march-against-gadkari-puri-1503621313.html>

Through the Gaadi March,' Tehseen Poonawalla stated that Team Bharat is demanding Nitin Gadkari's resignation, adding that he must be held accountable.

Team Bharat, a citizens' initiative, is all set to organise a road rally in the national capital on July 31 to raise concerns regarding the implementation of the E20 ethanol-blended petrol policy of the central government. They have called for greater consumer choice in fuel options.

Political analyst Tehseen Poonawalla, in a video, stated that the proposed Gaadi March' will kickstart from India Gate on July 31 and then proceed on a route passing by the offices and residences of Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Singh Puri before concluding at the Parliament Street.

On July 31, Team Bharat is organising a Gaadi March under the theme, Aapki gaadi, aapka adhikar'. We are going to go from India Gate to Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Singh Puri's residence and offices. From there, we are going to march towards Parliament Street without vehicles. The right to fuel for our tax-paid vehicles is our fundamental right, Poonawalla said.

He further highlighted that government records show that absolutely refined petrol with all taxes and dealer commission paid cost the central government around 60 per litre.

On the other hand, it cost about 70-72 a litre to procure ethanol. So, ethanol is more expensive than petrol. Then why is the government forcefully blending more expensive' ethanol in our cars with petrol, which is cheaper, he asked.

He added, Secondly, pure petrol that currently is available in retail for about 165-170 a litre costs the government not more than 60 per litre. Even if we add 30 per cent tax to it, that takes it to around 78 per litre. If we add 5 more towards contingency, then also it should not cost more than 85-90 a litre.

Through the Gaadi March,' Poonawalla stated that Team Bharat is demanding Nitin Gadkari's resignation, adding that he must be held accountable.

There is no way he can stay in this position, he said.

Notably, the rally on July 31 is not against the ethanol blending policy and demands greater transparency and consumer choice for vehicle owners in the country.

They have demanded the availability of E10 petrol for vehicles manufactured to run on E10 fuel, a reduction in the price of petrol (without ethanol blending) as well as the disclosure of documents related to the E20 policy.

Headline	UPCC chief seeks independent inquiry into ethanol-blended fuel rollout		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	28 Jul 2026		

UPCC chief seeks independent inquiry into ethanol-blended fuel rollout

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/upcc-chief-seeks-independent-inquiry-into-ethanol-blended-fuel-rollout/articleshow/132669484.cms>

Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi , seeking the removal of Union ministers Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Singh Puri over the Centre's ethanol-blended fuel policy. He also demanded an independent probe into the policy. In the letter, Rai alleged that the policy had failed to deliver on its promises and increased the burden on consumers. He claimed the Centre had ignored earlier demands for an independent scientific assessment of ethanol-blended fuel and its impact on vehicles. Rai said the govt was now moving towards higher ethanol blends such as E85 and E100, even as concerns over E20 fuel remained unresolved. He said that the concerns of 35 crore vehicle owners of the country were being overlooked. Rai said the ethanol blending programme was introduced with the promise of reducing crude oil imports, benefiting farmers and providing cheaper fuel. However, he alleged that ethanol-blended petrol was being sold at almost the same price as conventional petrol, without any visible benefit for consumers. He raised concerns over reduced mileage, possible engine damage and disputes over insurance claims and vehicle warranties. Demanding action, Rai urged the Prime Minister to order an independent inquiry into the policy and examine any possible conflict of interest in its implementation. He also sought the removal of Gadkari and Puri pending the outcome of the investigation. Stay updated with the latest Lucknow news. Download the TOI App.