



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

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Headline: Artists gave a magnificent performance at the event held in the capital

राजधानी में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में कलाकारों ने शानदार प्रस्तुति की

नई दिल्ली (वी.ए.)। राजधानी में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में कलाकारों ने शानदार प्रस्तुति की। इस प्रस्तुति में सात वर्ष से लेकर वरिष्ठ कलाकारों तक, 70 से अधिक कलाकारों ने भाग लिया और कथक, भरतनाट्यम, कुचिपुड़ी, वाद्यवृंद एवं समूह गायन के माध्यम से अपनी-अपनी शैली में वंदे मातरम् की भावना को प्रस्तुत किया। (संपूर्ण कार्यक्रम का कलात्मक निर्देशन विदुषी रुचि शर्मा ने किया, जिनकी दृष्टि ने इस बहु-विधा प्रस्तुति को एक सूत्र में पिरोया। एक कलाकार के रूप में भी वे संध्या की सबसे उल्लेखनीय प्रस्तुति रही, जिन्होंने शिव स्तुति एवं झपताल में शुद्ध नृत्य प्रस्तुत किया, जिसमें उनकी लयकारी एवं अभिनय विशेष रूप से सराहे गए। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में केंद्रीय कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री के निजी सचिव श्री आशुतोष कुमार तथा विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की संस्कृति परिषद की संयुक्त डीन प्रो. दीप्ति तनेजा उपस्थित रही। संगीत नाटक अकादमी पुरस्कार विजेता गुरु पसुमर्थी विठल एवं भारती विठल के साथ-साथ गुरु रुचि शर्मा एवं गुरु कल्पना शर्मा को भी सम्मानित किया गया, साथ ही शिक्षिकाओं श्रीमती तमन्ना बांगा, श्रीमती सुलना सेन एवं सुश्री आरती अय्यंगर को भी सम्मानित किया गया। अतिथियों एवं गुरुजनों का सम्मान श्री ललित नारंग तथा ओएनजीसी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी श्री शंकर सरन एवं श्रीमती अमिता टंडन सहित अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्तियों द्वारा किया गया।



India to keep up diesel exports as US ban talk roils market

The Centre has confirmed that India, the second-largest exporter of seaborne diesel this year, has no plans to follow suit if the United States imposes a ban on overseas sales.

"We honour our commitments," Oil Minister Hardeep Puri said of export contracts at an event in New Delhi on Thursday. The industry is well positioned as refining has expanded in recent years, with investments in capacity, he said.

The global diesel market has been squeezed this year by the combined impact of the US-Iran war in West Asia as well as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with Moscow already curbing most overseas sales. The industrial fuel—vital for trucking, agriculture and construction—has rallied much more than crude oil, hurting businesses, farmers and consumers, while fanning inflation.

US crackdown amid high pump prices

Pump prices in the US have jumped to a record, spurring speculation that Washington may impose an export ban to keep supplies at home and bring local prices back down. President Donald Trump said this week he has encouraged his team to support a restriction on diesel



shipments, and the proposal is being studied by his economic advisers.

Given Moscow's curbs, India has overtaken Russia this year as the top supplier after the US, accounting for about 10% of global diesel shipments, according to trade intelligence platform Kpler. That has made the country an increasingly important source of the fuel.

The European Union has expressed concern about the potential US curb, which has spurred gains in local futures in expectation of a tighter market. Still at

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present, there's no certainty Washington will follow through with restrictions.

Undermining buyers' trust

Puri pointed to Indian Oil Corporation's recent five-year agreement to supply fuel products to Mauritius, saying reneging on such commitments would undermine buyers' trust in Indian shippers. The first cargo delivered as part of the deal has arrived in the island nation, Puri said in a post on X.

India has about 5.4 million barrels a day of refining capacity and imports about 90% of the crude it processes. Its large processing system and growing domestic capacity allow it to export more than one million barrels a day of fuels.

Investments in refining to continue

The South Asian country will continue investing in refining even as plants shut in parts of Europe, Puri said, positioning India to meet rising domestic demand, while remaining a major supplier to global markets. Crude producers including Saudi Aramco and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co are also interested in investing in Indian refining and are in talks, according to Puri.

—Bloomberg

Oil shock threatens to widen India's trade deficit

August gap narrows to \$27 billion, but higher crude prices could reverse the improvement

MAJOR global agencies have recently upgraded India's FY 2026-27 (FY 2027) GDP growth forecasts to around 6.9% to 7.1%. It is in the background of stronger than expected GDP growth of 7.8% in the first quarter of the current year (June 2026-27) This was a strong start to 2026-27 with real GDP growth accelerating to 7.8% in Q1 riding on manufacturing and services. It is to be appreciated that despite geopolitical tensions and uncertainties around global trade, real GDP growth rate of 7.8% in Q1 2026-27 is the highest Q1 real GDP growth during the four year period from 2023-24 to 2026-27.

Accordingly major global agencies updated FY 27 growth projections. OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) raised its forecast by 80 basis points to 7.1%, which is highest amongst major international agencies, citing resilient domestic demand. Moody's Ratings upgraded its projection to 7.0% from 6.0% , 100 basis points jump, positioning India as the fastest growing G20 economy. S&P global Ratings increased its estimate to 7% from 6.6%. Earlier in August 2026, S&P global Ratings affirmed India's 'BBB/A-2' sovereign ratings with a Stable Outlook. This followed the upgrade of its long term rating to 'BBB' in 2025 after an 18 year gap. Asian Development Bank (ADB) too raised its forecast to 7% from 6.6%, citing by strong investment and robust service exports. Another global Ratings Agency Fitch revised its projection upward to 6.9% from 6.4%, noting robust economic dynamism despite external shocks like oil price volatility.

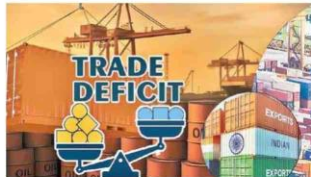
However it is to be noted that international geo political

tensions both at Ukraine Russia war and US recent passing of Graham Bill with the power to US President Donald Trump to charge more than 100% extra tariffs for such countries importing Russian oil and US Iran conflict now spreading further with Houthi launching attack on Saudi Arabia pipeline and thereby there is complete standstill in respect of movement of ships and supply chain disturbances for oil, natural gasses, fertilizer etc which will have big further negative impact of Indian economy with energy prices going high which will increase in substantial import bill and full pass on of the increase to consumers in India will have a big impact on domestic inflation.

On the oil supply front, further difficulties and challenges are likely to arise and that will have a definite impact on our external oil payments being go high and consequently domestic inflation may go up. India imports roughly 85% of its crude oil. Renewed escalation in September 2026 have spiked oil prices and the latest average landed Free on Board (FOB) cost of the Indian crude oil basket for September 2026, is \$ 115.48 per barrel. This reflects a staggering 28% to 30% surge compared to August

monthly average of \$90.19 per barrel. Driven entirely by escalating West Asia conflicts including the closure of the strait of Hormuz, Houthi maritime disruptions in the Red Sea and a 400% surge in regional freight insurance rates- the daily pricing has seen massive intraday volatility: September 14/15 peak: spiked to a record high of \$128.70 to \$131.20 per barrel September 23/24 position: stood at \$ 123.67 per barrel.

Currently the domestic retail fuel prices have been kept



completely frozen to insulate consumers, refining and marketing margins have aggressively fallen into negative territory, petrol under recovery - a loss of Rs8 per litre and diesel under recovery - a loss of Rs9 per litre and domestic LPG Cylinders - a loss of nearly Rs300 per 14.2 kg gas cylinder . Either these under recoveries will have to be cushioned by direct central government financial grants or likely to be passed on to consumers which will have inflationary impact.

Moreover, in the current macroeconomic environment of high energy prices and escalating import bill, India's current account deficit (CAD) is projected to widen to 1.5% to 2.0% of GDP for FY 2027 which will be significantly higher from the 0.6% of GDP recorded in FY 26. On the other side, in spite of exports doing well, merchandise trade deficit is widening aggressively and the goods trade deficit for the April - August period expanded to \$147.1 billion from \$123.9 billion last year. Higher landed costs for crude, fertilizers and global logistics are expanding imports faster than outbound goods can scale. Services and Remittances act as a softening cushion. India's invisible earnings provide a major safety net. The services surplus (IT, consulting and global business capability hubs) remains robust, standing at \$ 51.6 billion in Q1, complemented by a secondary income/ remittance cushion of \$40.8 billion.

According to the RBI Bulletin released in September 2026, foreign portfolio invest-

ment (FPI) registered net outflows during September 2026 due to rising global bond yields and the re-escalation of the West Asia crisis, reversing earlier positive momentum. India experienced net inflows through June, July and August 2026, however September 2026 registered net outflows as global investors pulled back from domestic financial markets. Rising sovereign bond yields in advanced economies (like US) have led to global risk aversion. Consequently, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) pulled money out of India's equity markets in September 2026, leading to capital outflows.

On the FDI, April -July cumulative inflows Gross FDI rise to 12.6% year-on-year to \$43.9 billion while cumulative net FDI inflows reached \$13.4 billion (up 38% compared to the same period previous fiscal year).

In periods of global uncertainties, geo political tensions, war, conflicts and greater climate change risks etc, Resilience of the economy in terms of strong macro-economic fundamentals, enough cushion in terms of fiscal position by following judicious fiscal path, quality and prioritisation of expenditure, rationalisation of expenditure, curtailing unnecessary uneconomical expense, enhancing productivity, monitoring outcome on a constant basis, ensuring project of prime importance on Infrastructure, government and private public partnership on infrastructure, efficient project execution, taking stride

steps on emerging technologies including democratic use of Artificial intelligence, equal priority to Innovation research and development, are the factors will keep the economy resilient and endurance. It is glad that India has been resilient and India due to its positive policies and reforms, proactive and prioritisation actions, has been able to achieve one of the fastest growing economy in the global stage.

Despite global challenges, India's economic resilience is actively shielding it's domestic market from global shocks, enabling a robust 7.8% Real GDP growth in the first quarter of FY 26-27. Strong private household spending keeps factories and business busy even though there is global slowdown. Large government and private Investments in roads, transport and public works keeps the wheel of economy moving forward. UPI which has completed 10 years of successful in operations makes digital payment so easy, fast, transparent and efficient. The pro-activeness in bringing substantial FCNR B deposits enhanced the forex reserves record high ensuring stability to our reserves. Expanding exports to diversified market and entering into Free trade agreements with key nations has kept our exports on strong note. Up to now India has followed best fiscal path and has a clear path ahead to bring down the government borrowings and expand domestic tax revenues. The strong belief in path towards Viksit Bharat and quite a lot of vision path drawn towards Developed India by 2047 has given a definite roadmap to take our nation on the developed path. We must be confident that India due to its resilience will navigate the challenging period successfully and keep the growth momentum in full swing.

(The author is former Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Overseas Bank)



Dr M Narendra

Renewable Energy Expo likely to attract ₹2,800-cr investments

NEW DELHI

THE Indian Biogas Association (IBA) on Sunday said the Renewable Energy India Expo (REI) 2026, scheduled for next month, is poised to unlock over Rs 2,800 crore in fresh investment for India's bioenergy sector.

This year, the spotlight is firmly on biogas as a game-changer for India's green growth, an IBA statement said.

This momentum was further strengthened by the Union Cabinet approval of the Rs 23,731 crore GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) National Circular Bioenergy Scheme in August 2026, which took effect on September 1, 2026.

The REI 2026 is scheduled from October 22 to 24, 2026, at the India Expo Mart & Centre, Greater Noida. The Rs 2,800 crore investment pipeline expected from the Expo represents nearly 12 per cent of the Rs 23,731 crore GOBARdhan scheme outlay.

By bringing together investors, developers, technology providers and policy makers, REI 2026 can help turn policy momentum into

scalable projects and support the government's ambition of nearly ten-fold growth in domestic CBG production, the statement added.

This year's Bio-Energy Pavilion, powered by the IBA, is set to be the largest ever, featuring 35 per cent more exhibitors than 2025 and strong participation from global technology leaders, startups, and policy-makers.

Supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), the pavilion will showcase innovations in waste-to-energy, CBG technologies, co-digestion models, and digital monitoring solutions, the statement said.

"India is no longer looking at biogas as just a rural solution. It is now a cornerstone of the clean energy economy, reducing carbon emissions, supporting farmers, fuelling transport, and enabling green hydrogen. With the GOBARdhan scheme providing long-term pricing certainty and offtake assurance, REI 2026 will demonstrate how the sector is scaling from pilot projects to nationwide impact," said A R Shukla, President, Indian Biogas Association.



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Page : 4

Shah flags off India's 1st LNG train; launches ₹1.5K cr railway projects



India's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel train at Sabarmati Railway Station in Ahmedabad on Sunday

PHOTO: @DRMKOTA/X

Speaking at a gathering after flagging off the country's first LNG (liquified natural gas) train from Sabarmati station in Gujarat, Union Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Congress did nothing apart from scams during its tenure, whereas "no one has been able to accuse Modi of corruption of even four annas in 12 years". He also flagged off WAG-12 electric locomotive from Sabarmati station apart from dedicating to the nation, inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of major

railway projects costing more than ₹1500 crore. Among these are line doubling works, the Kavach train protection system, automatic signalling system. Shah said the trial of the first long double stack container train from Mumbai to Vadodara has been successfully completed, which would help India tide over the lack of tracks for goods movement, resulting in doubling of vehicle capacity and ensuring that requirements are met by 2040.

pti

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India to set up first port-based e-methanol facility at Kandla

The government on Saturday laid the foundation stone for its first port-based e-methanol production facility at Kandla, involving an investment of ₹2,300 crore. The 150-tonne-per-day green fuel plant — a joint venture between the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) and Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd (APCL) — will supply cleaner fuel to international vessels navigating the busy Asia-Europe trade corridor. India is moving up as the world's leading maritime power and it will now power the world's ships with green energy, Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said. According to the statement, the plant produce green methanol just at \$750 per tonne, against a global rate of \$1,300 per tonne.

PTI

A tipping point in Indian energy

There will be a nonlinear adjustment in India's shift to renewables

ILLUSTRATION: AJAYA MOHANTY



AJAY SHAH, NIKIT ABHYANKAR & AMOL PHADKE

First we got a revolution in the prices of solar panels. Now solar generation delivers at ₹2.5 per kWh (kilowatt hour). But the sun shines only for a few hours a day in India. Traditionally this has implied a strong case for coal-thermal plants. Then we got a revolution in the prices of batteries.

Policymakers in India recently asked a remarkable and unusual question by global standards. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) ran an auction to buy electricity capacity where they (SECI) demanded the availability of a thermal generator. A bidder who plans to use solar or wind is then forced to load up with the batteries required, to charge in the day, so as to deliver thermal-style availability. This auction discovered a price of ₹5.25 per kWh, guaranteed for 25 years (<https://bit.ly/RElikecoal>).

It is hard to identify a single comparable price for coal thermal in India because coal-extraction rights are given by the state in non-market ways. But if we look at recent new coal-power contracts in India, they are priced at ₹5.38-6.30 a unit. The SECI-discovered thermal-mimicking price for renewable power is now 10 per cent cheaper than that for new coal.

This is a historic milestone. Every buyer of electricity in India will now look for ways to replace expensive coal power. The government-controlled electricity system creates friction against this process. It imposes cross-subsidies, levies transmission charges, and

erects administrative barriers that protect coal. But a 10 per cent pricing advantage creates the incentive required for firms to find their way out.

The traditional view was that there is not much give when it comes to buying electricity. You whined about the problems of the grid and left things at that. Now, every buyer has the incentive to think about how to make or buy solar energy and get it transported to the point of use, so as to reduce direct or indirect purchase from coal-thermal plants.

The most remarkable feature of this situation is that, as they say in American, "You ain't seen nothing yet." There are four additional factors that favour the solar path.

First, the thermal-mimicking price of ₹5.25 per kWh is fixed in nominal rupees for 25 years. It gets cheaper by the Indian inflation rate of 4 per cent every year. The world price of coal (in rupees) grew by about 9 per cent per year in rupees over the last 20 years. The world is rapidly switching to renewables, and therefore there will be a glut of coal. So let us assume that in the future, the price of coal will go up by only 2 per cent per year in rupees. Then we are comparing the 2 per cent cost increase annually, for 50-60 per cent of the cost of thermal electricity, versus a zero per cent price rise for solar. Every year, the coal path becomes more uncompetitive.

Second, energy-system thinkers never envisaged that the future of electricity involved thermal-mimicking production. Every country is moving

towards a market-determined price for electricity, first for commercial and industrial users, and then for all. Under market pricing, the evening price of electricity is higher. The demand side will adjust, so that the coal-style base load is not required. The SECI tender answers an extreme question: Do solar and batteries beat coal at a game defined on the terms of coal? We now know this answer is "Yes". But the future definitely involves dynamically fluctuating prices in the day. The economic superiority of solar is then even higher.

Third, the cost gains on batteries and solar panels, through "Wright's law", are not finished. In coming years, these price gains will continue. The capital cost of new solar and battery capacity will drop, and the superiority of solar over coal will grow.

Fourth, firms exporting destinations that have a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism will find the superiority of solar to be greater than 10 per cent owing to the wider use of carbon pricing outside India.

We are all used to the long journey of renewables and decarbonisation. This has slowly moved forward in past decades. While a lot of solar capacity has come up in India, its impact on the energy-generation mix is as yet limited. India remains a country in which about 74 per cent of the electricity generated is based on fossil fuels. The weary, wise, experienced, powerful people believe they have heard the renewables story all their life and things haven't changed much.

We have crossed the tipping-point and now things will change. The key thing is economic superiority. As long as solar was expensive, its growth was limited. But now, the economics of solar power has comprehensively beaten that of fossil fuels. Now we will get nonlinear adjustment in prices of financial assets and in the real economy. Now, it is about business sense and not about exhortation. It is not about the terrible carbon-dioxide emission associated with coal. It is not about the terrible air pollution that goes with coal. Every buyer in India that cares about reducing cost will doggedly find ways to get out of buying coal-thermal power and switch to solar power.

What does this milestone imply for finance and industry?

First, for firms that buy electricity, energy procurement should not be viewed as a passive administrative function. This now requires attention from boards, business leaders and consulting firms. There are opportunities to navigate grid-access rules to bypass the government system. This may involve mechanisms such as captive generation, group captive structures, routing through the Inter-State Transmission System, etc.

Second, there are possibilities of investment and growth for renewable-energy firms. Capital will flow to these ventures, driving a boom in finance and economics.

Third, the value of coal-thermal firms has changed. New investment in coal and some of the existing high-cost coal plants are increasingly priced out and will face declining utilisation and reduced margins. Lenders and equity investors need to reprice these exposures.

Shah is a researcher at XKDR Forum; Abhyankar and Phadke are with the India Energy and Climate Centre, University of California, Berkeley

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Date :28 September 2026	Page : 15

STREET VIEW

“Oil price decline has helped equities ignore the rise in long-term rates. But if the 10-year yield holds above 5% into October, the headwinds for stocks will grow stronger. Investors are going to have to remain very nimble”

Matt Maley, Chief Market Strategist, Miller Tabak & Co



TRANSIT | UPGRADE Home minister credits Modi with transforming railways Shah flags off India's first LNG train

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AHMEDABAD,
SEPT. 27

Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had transformed the railways and urged the public to challenge the Congress to a debate based on facts and figures.

Addressing a gathering after flagging off the country's first LNG train from Sabarmati station in Gujarat, Shah accused the Congress of corruption during its tenure and claimed that no one had been able to accuse Modi of



Union home minister Amit Shah during the inauguration and foundation laying ceremony of various important projects for Gujarat railway, in Ahmedabad. — PTI

corruption in 12 years.

"Before 2014, this country was ruled by one family. I want to talk only about

railways. Dedicated freight corridor, rapid rail system, premium stations, all these have been started by

Modiji. And by inaugurating a train running on hydrogen, he has placed India among just 4 countries in the world," he said. "The Congress speaks nonsense. The people of the country should ask them to discuss figures. You (Congress) did nothing except fraud, scams and corruption worth Rs 12 lakh crore. But no one has been able to accuse Modi of corruption of even four annas in 12 years," Shah said.

During the programme, Shah also flagged off a WAG-12 electric locomotive and inaugurated, dedi-

cated to the nation or laid foundation stones for railway projects worth more than ₹1,500 crore. These included line-doubling works, the Kavach train protection system, automatic signalling and a maintenance shed for WAG-12 electric locomotives.

Shah said the trial of the first long double-stack container train from Mumbai to Vadodara had been completed successfully. He said it would help address constraints on freight movement, double carrying capacity and meet requirements up to 2040.

Inflation, crude oil may push RBI to revise rates

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, SEPT. 27

Rising inflation, higher global crude oil prices and monetary tightening by major central banks have increased expectations of a possible rate revision by the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its October 5-7 review, economists said.

Economists expect a cumulative 50-75 basis points rate revision across the October and December policy meetings.

At its August meeting, the RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent and maintained a cautious stance, flagging the risk of broader supply-side inflation.

According to an SBI Research study, the number of commodities accounting for 90 per cent of the Consumer Price Index's weighted contribution rose to 51 in August 2026 from 22 in January, indicating a wider spread of inflation.

Brent crude has risen from \$80 a barrel to \$102, above the RBI's FY27 assumptions of \$95 a barrel in its June policy and \$90 in August.

Retail inflation rose to 4.82 per cent from 4.45 per cent in July, while food inflation reached 5.66 per cent. Core inflation, excluding food and fuel, rose to 4.44 per cent from 4.16 per cent.

Economists said higher food and energy prices could push CPI inflation above 6 per cent in the third quarter of FY27, beyond the RBI's upper tolerance threshold. Q1 FY27 GDP growth, however, remained at 7.8 per cent.

The global economy is also moving towards higher interest rates and more expensive capital. The US Federal Reserve,



European Central Bank and Bank of Japan raised rates in September, while the Bank of England kept its rate unchanged. China continues to follow a supportive monetary policy.

According to Motilal Oswal Financial Services' report, the shift is tightening financial conditions. The 10-year Indian government bond yield has moved above 7 per cent, while higher US bond yields, elevated crude prices and RBI liquidity measures could limit any significant decline in Indian bond yields.

"The Reserve Bank of India may not wait for the full broadening of inflation to become visible in 3Q data, particularly given the lag in monetary transmission. An October rate hike is a possibility if crude remains elevated and inflation expectations begin to rise," said Radhika Piplani, research analyst at Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"Growth momentum is moderating, rainfall deficits are more damaging to rural incomes than inflation, and the oil shock itself is demand-destructive. Leveraged households and capex are particularly exposed to higher rates. We expect any tightening cycle to continue, with little merit in using policy rates to defend the rupee," said Apoorva Javadekar, chief economist at Shriram Finance.

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BIOGAS BIZ EXPECTS TO SEE ₹2,800-CR FRESH INVESTMENTS

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 27

The Indian Biogas Association on Sunday said that they expect to unlock over ₹2,800 crore in fresh investment for India's bioenergy sector. "This year, the spotlight is firmly on biogas as a game-changer for India's green growth," the IBA said.

The industry body is planning to hold the Renewable Energy India Expo (REI) 2026 from October 22 to 24, at the India Expo Mart & Centre, Greater Noida. "The ₹2,800 crore investment pipeline expected from the Expo represents nearly 12 per cent of the ₹23,731 crore GOBARdhan scheme outlay," the IBA said.

IBA president A R Shukla said that India is no longer looking at biogas as just a rural solution. It is now a cornerstone of the clean energy economy, supporting farmers, fuelling transport. "With the scheme providing long-term pricing certainty, REI 2026 will show how the sector is scaling from pilot projects to nationwide impact," he said.

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Page : 11

'India's energy transition is about building the whole energy value-chain'

India's push towards net-zero carbon emissions by the year 2070 will require an energy system that goes beyond renewable power, with technologies such as energy storage, hydrogen, biofuels, AI and robotics, alongside stronger infrastructure and efficiency measures. The challenge is taking these technologies from experimentation to commercial scale. **Ajay Mehta**, VP, Research & Innovation, Shell India, tells *Dif's Tejaswini S* how rising energy demand and startups are shaping India's energy ecosystem, in this interview. *Edited excerpts:*

What has changed the most in India's energy innovation landscape, particularly in terms of the need for energy storage?

India's energy landscape has changed dramatically, particularly over the last five years. There is a rising demand

from the manufacturing sector and growing computing needs, alongside the rapid build-out of solar and wind in the country. Increasing energy generation is one part of the transition. However, India also needs energy transmission infrastructure and energy storage to move and balance that power. The focus, therefore, has to extend from generation to delivery to the end-customer.

Is this shift also creating a larger opportunity for energy startups?

It is! Climate-tech funding in India rose to \$2.6 billion in 2025, from \$315 million in 2020. The opportunity is not limited to software and AI. While these areas are drawing significant capital, hard engineering remains harder to finance because startups must prove that physical technologies can be de-risked for industrial use. Hydrogen, robotics,

biofuels and AI-enabled industrial applications are also attracting attention.

What is driving this interest, and where do you see the most immediate opportunities?

There is no single driver. Economics, regulation, energy demand, technology and investor interest all play a role, although their importance varies across sectors. AI is spreading rapidly as computing capacity improves and companies find more uses for large amounts of data. Within the energy sector, mobility is attracting attention, while energy efficiency allows companies to improve the operation of existing facilities,

without necessarily making large, fresh capital investments.

What separates a promising technology from one that can actually become a commercial product?

The biggest challenge is often scale-up. A technology that works in a laboratory or at a small demonstration scale cannot work in the same way on a large scale. In the case of electrolyzers, testing may occur at around 1 MW, while the market is looking at systems of 250 MW, 500 MW and even gigawatt-scale.



Ajay Mehta

What opportunities does India's energy landscape

create for startups and investors?

The opportunity is broader than renewable power generation alone. India needs energy storage and grid modernisation, along with infrastructure to move energy from where it is produced to the end-user. It also needs technologies that can improve industrial efficiency, safety and reliability. India cannot rely on a single technology. Solar will continue to expand, while hydrogen, biofuels and other technologies take time to reach volumes large enough to materially affect overall energy demand. The larger opportunity, therefore, lies across multiple parts of the energy value-chain.

What role does Shell play in helping energy startups move from proof of concept to deployment?

Shell's E4 programme has supported more than 40 startups since its launch

in 2017, across areas including energy access, mobility, industrial efficiency, digitalisation and decarbonisation.

More than half of the startups supported remain active, while several have moved from proof-of-concept work into pilots and deployment opportunities. Some have also secured follow-on funding, including Detect Technologies, Magenta Power, Ossus Bio and Rezlytix. Shell's role is to give startups access to technical experts, laboratories, practitioners and operating environments so technologies can be tested and de-risked. But commercialisation can remain a multi-year process, and startups still need investors and the ability to scale. The areas of focus include AI applications in energy, robotics, carbon capture, digitalisation of energy assets & asset integrity and safety, which can address evolving challenges across the energy sector.

Publication : Deccan Herald

Editions : Bangalore

Date : 28 September 2026

Page : 4

Experts moot plan for bioenergy, waste-to-energy projects at airports

BENGALURU, DHNS

A potential collaboration in the areas of bioenergy, waste-to-energy, sustainable energy solutions for airport infrastructure and circular economy models was extensively discussed by stakeholders at a meeting.

The meeting between SE Sudheendra, chairman of Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBDDB) and V Prem Watsa, founder, chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, revolved around the formulation of the new bioenergy policy and expected investment in bioenergy sector.

He briefed Watsa on the various initiatives being undertaken in Karnataka to promote the

production and utilisation of biofuels by making effective use of different types of feedstocks and bio-resources available.

Sudheendra particularly highlighted sustainable utilisation of bio-resources, compressed biogas, biodiesel, other biofuels and renewable energy solutions.

The meeting explored the potential for waste-to-energy projects at airports, involving scientific management of waste generated on airport premises and conversion of suitable organic and other waste streams into energy.

These initiatives could reduce the quantity of waste sent to landfills while promoting efficient resource utilisation, energy recovery and development of environmentally sustainable

airports.

Sudheendra proposed the development of an 'airport bio-energy and circular economy model', under which resources generated within airport ecosystems could be integrated into a comprehensive sustainable energy framework.

He said used cooking oil generated by restaurants, hotels and canteens at airports could be collected and utilised for biodiesel production, while food waste and other suitable green waste could be scientifically processed for production of compressed biogas.

The discussions covered various dimensions of airport-based biofuel and waste-to-energy projects, including investment opportunities, technology col-

laboration, project development and knowledge exchange.

The possibility of developing pilot models that could be implemented in Karnataka and subsequently replicated at other airports across the country was also explored.

The chairman emphasised that Karnataka had immense potential in bioenergy sector.

Strategic partnerships with global investors and organisations having experience in airport and infrastructure sectors could accelerate development of clean-energy projects, circular economy initiatives and sustainable energy systems, he said.

Fr Victor Lobo, vice-chancellor, St Joseph's University, and Dancil Lobo, pro-vice-chancellor were present on the occasion.



Fr Danzil Lobo S J, pro vice-chancellor St Joseph's University, V Prem Watsa, founder, chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings, and SE Sudheendra, chairman of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board, and Fr Victor Lobo S J, vice chancellor of St Joseph University, at a meeting in Bengaluru.

Publication : Eastern Chronicle	Editions : Kolkata
Date :28 September 2026	Page : 1, 5

'Diesel to hit zero by 2030': Shah flags off first LNG-powered train

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Narendra Modi government had transformed the Indian Railways, highlighting the expansion of electrification, reduction in diesel consumption and modernisation of railway infrastructure, while accusing the Congress of doing little beyond scams and corruption during its tenure.

Shah was speaking at Sabarmati Railway Station in Gujarat after flagging off the country's first LNG-powered trainPg 5

Publication : Eastern Chronicle	Editions : Kolkata
Date :28 September 2026	Page : 1, 5

'Diesel to hit zero by 2030': Shah flags off first LNG-powered train

and a WAG-12 electric locomotive, besides inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for several railway projects in the Sabarmati division.

According to PTI, Shah said initiatives such as dedi-

cated freight corridors, rapid rail systems and premium stations had been started under the Modi government.

He also said India had joined a select group of countries with the introduction of hydrogen-powered trains.

Headline: Oil prices will determine market movements

तेल के दाम तय करेंगे बाजार की चाल

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। स्थानीय शेयर बाजार में आगामी कम कारोबारी सत्रों वाले सप्ताह के दौरान निवेशकों की नजर भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रमों, कच्चे तेल की कीमतों, वैश्विक बाँण्ड प्रतिफल और प्रमुख आर्थिक आँकड़ों पर रहेगी। बाजार विश्लेषकों के मुताबिक, अमेरिका-ईरान के बीच कूटनीतिक बातचीत और कच्चे तेल की कीमतें वैश्विक बाजारों की दिशा तय करने में अहम भूमिका निभाएंगी।

'गांधी जयंती' के मौके पर शुक्रवार

बाँण्ड रिटर्न से पूंजी प्रवाह प्रभावित होगा

अमेरिकी फेडरल रिजर्व के सितंबर के नीतिगत फैसले के बाद वैश्विक बाँण्ड प्रतिफल भी महत्वपूर्ण रहेगा। प्रतिफल और डॉलर में बढ़ोतरी से उभरते बाजारों में पूंजी प्रवाह प्रभावित हो सकता है। वहीं, प्रतिफल में नरमी से बाजार को कुछ राहत मिल सकती है। उन्होंने कहा कि रुपये की चाल भी महत्वपूर्ण होगी। कच्चे तेल की खरीद के लिए डॉलर की मांग और विदेशी निवेशकों की लगातार बिकवाली से रुपये पर दबाव बना रह सकता है। हालांकि, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के हस्तक्षेप से अत्यधिक उतार-चढ़ाव पर अंकुश लगने की संभावना रहती है।

दो अक्टूबर को शेयर बाजार में अवकाश रहेगा। जानकारों ने कहा, अमेरिका-ईरान बातचीत में प्रगति और होमुज जलडमरूमध्य को फिर से

खोलने से जुड़ी किसी रूपरेखा से ऊर्जा कीमतों में नरमी आ सकती है। इससे भारत के आयात बिल और रुपये पर भी दबाव कम हो सकता है।

Publication : Punjab Kesri (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :28 September 2026	Page : 6

Headline: India is becoming a global energy power: Puri

भारत वैश्विक ऊर्जा की ताकत बन रहा है : पुरी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : केटीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने रविवार को कहा कि भारत वैश्विक ऊर्जा परिदृश्य को आकार देने वाली एक प्रमुख ताकत के रूप में उभर रहा है।



अगले दो दशकों में दुनिया की ऊर्जा मांग में होने वाली वृद्धि का करीब एक-चौथाई हिस्सा भारत से आने की उम्मीद है। रशियाई लीडर्स प्रोग्राम के प्रतिभागियों के साथ हुई अपनी बातचीत का विवरण साझा करते हुए

पुरी ने कहा कि उन्होंने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के करीब 70 युवा पेशेवरों और शोधकर्ताओं के साथ भारत के ऊर्जा परिवर्तन, लचीलेपन और वैश्विक मामलों में बढ़ते प्रभाव पर चर्चा की। इस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन आईलीड ग्लोबल फाउंडेशन और इंडिया ऑफिस ऑफ कोनराड एडेनजायर स्टिफ्टुंग ने किया था।

Inflation, crude oil may push RBI to revise rates

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, SEPT. 27

Rising inflation, higher global crude oil prices and monetary tightening by major central banks have increased expectations of a possible rate revision by the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its October 5-7 review, economists said.

Economists expect a cumulative 50-75 basis points rate revision across the October and December policy meetings.

At its August meeting, the RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent and maintained a cautious stance, flagging the risk of broader supply-side inflation.

According to an SBI Research study, the number of commodities accounting for 90 per cent of the Consumer Price Index's weighted contribution rose to 51 in August 2026 from 22 in January, indicating a wider spread of inflation.

Brent crude has risen from \$80 a barrel to \$102, above the RBI's FY27 assumptions of \$95 a barrel in its June policy and \$90 in August.

Retail inflation rose to 4.82 per cent from 4.45 per cent in July, while food inflation reached 5.66 per cent. Core inflation, excluding food and fuel, rose to 4.44 per cent from 4.16 per cent.

Economists said higher food and energy prices could push CPI inflation above 6 per cent in the third quarter of FY27, beyond the RBI's upper tolerance threshold. Q1 FY27 GDP growth, however, remained at 7.8 per cent.

The global economy is also moving towards higher interest rates and more expensive capital. The US Federal Reserve,



European Central Bank and Bank of Japan raised rates in September, while the Bank of England kept its rate unchanged. China continues to follow a supportive monetary policy.

According to Motilal Oswal Financial Services' report, the shift is tightening financial conditions. The 10-year Indian government bond yield has moved above 7 per cent, while higher US bond yields, elevated crude prices and RBI liquidity measures could limit any significant decline in Indian bond yields.

"The Reserve Bank of India may not wait for the full broadening of inflation to become visible in 3Q data, particularly given the lag in monetary transmission. An October rate hike is a possibility if crude remains elevated and inflation expectations begin to rise," said Radhika Piplani, research analyst at Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"Growth momentum is moderating, rainfall deficits are more damaging to rural incomes than inflation, and the oil shock itself is demand-destructive. Leveraged households and capex are particularly exposed to higher rates. We expect any tightening cycle to continue, with little merit in using policy rates to defend the rupee," said Apoorva Javadekar, chief economist at Shriram Finance.

Publication : The Economic Times

Editions : Mumbai

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Page : 8

AS GOVT TARGETS 10X CBG GROWTH

RE Expo may Unlock ₹2.8k cr Investment in Bioenergy

New Delhi: The Indian Biogas Association (IBA) on Sunday said the Renewable Energy India Expo 2026, scheduled for next month, is poised to unlock over ₹2,800 crore in fresh investment for India's bioenergy sector. This year, the spotlight is firmly on biogas as a game-changer for India's green growth, an IBA statement said.

This momentum was further strengthened by the Union Cabinet approval of the ₹23,731 crore GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) National Circular Bioenergy Scheme in August 2026, which took effect on September 1, 2026. The REI 2026 is scheduled from October 22 to 24, 2026, at the India Expo Mart & Centre, Greater Noida. The ₹2,800 crore investment pipeline expected from the Expo represents nearly 12% of the ₹23,731 crore GOBARdhan scheme outlay.

By bringing together investors, developers, technology providers and policy makers, REI 2026 can help turn policy momentum into scalable projects and support the government's ambition of nearly ten-fold growth in domestic CBG production, the statement added.

This year's Bio-Energy Pavilion, powered by the IBA, is set to be the largest ever, featuring 35 per cent more exhibitors than 2025 and strong participation from global technology leaders, startups, and policy-makers.

Supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), the pavilion will showcase innovations in waste-to-energy, CBG technologies, co-digestion models, and digital monitoring solutions, the statement said. **PTI**

Tremors from AI to Oil Boost Popular Hedge Fund Dispersion Trade



Bloomberg

Wild gyrations in individual stocks on a punchy cocktail of AI euphoria and fear, a tumbling bond market and geopolitical drama bode well for a long-favored trade among hedge fund managers.

Optimism swirling around advances including Meta Platforms' new Muse AI agent has been countered by concern that rapid growth in the sector could harm businesses from banks to travel agents. That's sent stocks swinging in opposite directions, as has a stream of headlines from wars in Iran and Ukraine that whipsawed shares of oil producers and refiners. Meanwhile, Treasury yields reached the highest in two decades, driving up borrowing costs.

"One thing that clients have been inquiring about as of late has been this agentic AI winner-and-loser narrative," said Alex Kosoglyadov, head of flow equity-derivatives sales at Nomura Holdings. "Who benefits from growth of the agentic AI revolution, or if you will, who's vulnerable to that?"

The winners versus losers scenario around AI, oil and rates sets up an ideal situation for the dispersion trade, as stocks within a gauge such as the S&P 500 Index heading in different directions dampens its swings.

Single-stock implied volatility has contracted since late July — especially for high-flying technology names — making the dispersion trade more attractive to enter.

"From an entry standpoint, things are relatively on sale versus where they were not so long ago as single stock vols have compressed," said Matthew Davis, director of flow derivatives trading at RBC Capital Markets.

The spread between single-stock volatility and the S&P 500 is beginning to widen again as traders buy options on individual stocks while selling contracts on the index to profit from the divergence. That may continue with earnings season coming up, a time when stocks tend to move idiosyncratically based on their own stories, rather than all together in response to some macro catalyst.

There was a wave of options buying seen in AI-related names over the past couple of weeks, a sign of investors reloading for further action.

Realized one-month absolute return for S&P 500 members versus the index increased to the 95th percentile over the past 30 years, according to a note from Charlie McElligott, a cross asset strategist at Nomura. Cboe Global Markets Inc.'s one-month correlation index, which had been climbing from July's record low, has fallen back over the past week.

Investors can find dispersion trade opportunities within tech, as well as within the energy sector between refiners and oil producers. Shares of software companies and AI firms have been seesawing as the narrative on disruption has shifted.



The spread between single-stock volatility and the S&P 500 is beginning to widen again

COP31 hosts Australia and Türkiye face the fossil-fuel question

There is likely to be pressure on the COP31 presidencies to include fossil fuel language as part of the agenda. The catastrophic floods in Nepal on August 26 and the damage they wrought are also set to add momentum to both mitigation action, including the language surrounding fossil fuels at COP31

Rishika Pardikar
TRAIZON, TÜRKIYE

The next United Nations climate change conference, COP31, will be held in Antalya in Türkiye in November this year. Türkiye will be hosting the event, with its Minister of Environment Murat Kurum serving as COP31 President. Australia will oversee the negotiations process, with its Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen as the Vice-President of COP31.

This is a novel arrangement – a result of both Australia and Türkiye not being willing to concede their demand to host, and where both countries share crucial responsibilities. In previous editions, the COP's physical host has differed from the President only for logistical reasons. A pre-COP event will be held in Fiji on October 5-8, where Pacific Island countries and Australia will discuss preparations for the main event, including what to negotiate. These pre-COPs are a routine affair before the annual summits.

Domestic fossil reliance

Both Türkiye and Australia are heavy users of fossil fuels. Australia is the world's third-largest fossil fuels exporter, after Russia and the U.S. Domestically, Australia as well as Türkiye rely on coal, gas, and oil to generate respectively around 90% and 80% of their energy needs. Three weeks ago, Australia also came under fire from climate groups for approving the expansion of a coal mine.

The primary goal at COP31 is a target to electrify industry and vehicles and in turn "to raise the share of final energy demand met by electricity from just over 20% today to 35% by 2035".

'Oceans and Seas' are also a priority agenda: Türkiye hosted a 'Blue Dialogue' on September 10-11 whose focus was on protecting marine resources.

However, none of the themes listed as a priority for the event make direct reference to transitioning away from fossil fuels.

That said, various industries in Australia, including iron-ore mining, are trying to decarbonise by investing in hybrid or electric heavy machinery. Local governments are also pushing for electric vehicles (EVs), which recently overtook petrol car sales for the first time in Australia.

Türkiye, on the other hand, is working to augment recycling and so eventually reduce methane emissions. In fact, the country has listed 'zero waste and a circular economy' on the COP31 priority list. The fortunes of a local EV brand,



An oil rig is visible in the distance near Cape Town harbour. ALPHA PERSPECTIVE/UNISPLASH

Togg, has ballooned so much that the government hopes it will herald a new era in the automobiles market.

Loss and damage financing

At the COP30 in Belém, Brazil, last year, the European Union pushed for a "fossil fuel roadmap" to help countries worldwide transition away from fossil fuels. While many countries supported the call, observers have said it took the focus away from developing countries' calls to triple adaptation finance and developed countries' resistance to that.

That said, most countries involved in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) did not oppose the call for the "fossil fuel road map" at COP30.

India did not oppose either, on the condition that it incorporate the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and that countries are not expected to follow uniform energy transition pathways. Beyond the UNFCCC framework as well, and partly because of the slow pace of negotiations at the COP summits, there have been calls for concrete action to transition away from fossil fuels. In April this year, the first conference on 'Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels' was held in Santa Marta in Colombia, co-hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands.

The second conference is scheduled

for 2027, to be co-hosted by Tuvalu and Ireland.

Given such momentum, there is likely to be pressure on the COP31 Presidencies to include fossil fuel language as part of the agenda. The catastrophic floods in Nepal on August 26, boosted no doubt by climate change, and the damage they wrought are also set to add momentum to both mitigation action, including the language surrounding fossil fuels at COP31, and to loss and damage financing. But as with their not mentioning the transition away from fossil fuels, the joint Australia-Türkiye presidents have also included no loss and damage financing, or even the broader climate finance question, among the priority topics.

"We know there are strong views on all sides of this topic," the Türkiye Presidency said in response to questions from the author about whether this will change. "We will create space for Parties to discuss the transition and listen carefully to the positions they bring forward to see what we can agree by consensus. But listening to Parties' views on negotiations does not mean we are standing still. We are taking the next logical steps in the energy transition by making electrification the flagship thematic priority of the COP31 Presidency's Action Agenda, because electrifying buildings, transport and industry is key to reducing emissions and

should be accompanied by complementary efforts to expand renewable energy.

Likewise, the reply said on mitigation financing, "we have been clear that we need to close the climate finance chasm, and we are holding donors to the financial commitments made at past COPs, while also introducing innovative new mechanisms, such as the 'Climate Implementation Bridge', to address the gap between ambitious climate plans and the finance needed to make them a reality."

The Australian Presidency did not respond.

Countries participating at COPs can propose new agenda items for consideration during negotiations. For example, the European Union introduced the "road map" in the formal negotiations agenda at the last minute at COP30. That said, it remains to be seen whether countries will do so at COP31, and if so what the items will be – and ultimately how the event's two fossil fuel-heavy stardom will navigate negotiations.

The author was in Türkiye September 8-13 at the invitation of the government for a COP31-themed media tour. She also visited Australia in October 2025 on a similar official tour.

(Rishika Pardikar is a freelance journalist. rishika.s.pardikar@gmail.com)

THE GIST

▼ Australia and Türkiye are heavy users of fossil fuels; both countries rely on coal, gas, and oil to generate respectively around 90% and 80% of their domestic energy needs; Australia is the world's third-largest fossil fuels exporter

▼ The primary goal at COP31 is a target to electrify industry and vehicles and in turn 'to raise the share of final energy demand met by electricity from just over 20% today to 35% by 2035'; 'Oceans and Seas' are also a priority agenda

▼ At COP30, the EU advocated a global fossil fuel roadmap 'to guide the transition away from fossil fuels; critics said it diverted attention from developing nations' demand for tripling adaptation finance

Amit Shah flags off India's first LNG train; targets zero diesel use in Railways by 2030

Our Bureau
Ahmedabad

Indian Railways' push to phase out diesel gained fresh momentum on Sunday, with Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah flagging off the country's first LNG-powered train from Sabarmati station and setting a 2030 deadline for eliminating diesel use.

Shah said diesel consumption by the Railways had fallen from 293 crore litres in 2015-16 to 108 crore litres in 2024-25, a reduction of about 63.1 per cent.

He said the government aims to bring diesel consumption down to zero by 2030, adding that the reduction would also help save foreign exchange.

DIESEL CUT

"During 2015-16, Indian Railways used to consume

293 crore litres of diesel. By 2024-25, this had reduced to 108 crore litres, and by 2030, we will reduce it to zero and save forex. This is a big achievement that is seldom noticed," Shah said at the launch event.

The LNG train launch marks a further step in the Railways' efforts to reduce its dependence on conventional diesel and diversify its fuel mix. The LNG system has been introduced in the train's driving power cars (DPCs), with the engines capable of running on both LNG and diesel.

CLEANER TRACTION

Under the project, two 1,400-HP DPCs have been converted to LNG-diesel dual-fuel systems.

More than 2,000 km of field trials have been completed on the converted DPCs to test the technology's performance and reliability.



FUEL FORWARD. The LNG system has been introduced in the train's driving power cars, with the engines capable of running on both LNG and diesel. [X.COM/RAILMININDIA](https://x.com/RAILMININDIA)

ability. The system can replace up to around 40 per cent of diesel consumption with LNG, according to the Railways.

'DUAL-FUEL'

The dual-fuel configuration allows the engine to switch

between LNG and diesel depending on fuel availability, ensuring that train operations can continue even when LNG is unavailable. The Railways expects the LNG system to lower fuel costs and emissions while retaining the power and oper-

ating performance of conventional diesel engines. Each DPC has been fitted with an LNG tank with a capacity of around 2,200 litres.

The move comes alongside a broader electrification drive that has significantly reduced the Railways' reliance on diesel traction. Shah said 99.6 per cent of India's broad-gauge railway network has been electrified, with work underway on the remaining network.

ELECTRIC PUSH

Shah also sought to place India's electrification progress in a global context. "In China, electrification is 92 per cent; in Spain, it is 68 per cent; in France, it is 60 per cent; and in a small country like Britain, it is 49 per cent. Only Sweden has completed 100 per cent electrification, but our railway network is 10 times bigger than that of Sweden," he said.

‘US trade deal could shield India from 100% tariff risk’

TOUGH ROAD. Uncertainty over American action grows after Trump signs Graham tariff Act

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

An India-US trade deal could protect India from the full 100 per cent tariff authorised under the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, while also shielding it from potential action in the ongoing Section 301 investigation into excess capacity, sources close to the negotiations said.

“The legislation authorises the US President to impose the tariff but does not enforce it, giving him a lot of room to negotiate trade. Any negotiated trade deal would cap the amount mentioned in the Bill,” a source tracking the matter told *businessline*.

Uncertainty over further US trade action has grown since President Donald Trump signed the Graham Act, which allows tariffs of up to 100 per cent on the largest buyers of Russian oil and gas—a list that includes India.

The source said that while the Graham legislation aimed to address Russia’s revenues and its ability to continue the war in Ukraine,



FRESH IMPLICATIONS. Similar protection could apply to the outcome of the USTR’s Section 301 investigation into excess capacity, a source said REUTERS

it would not supersede a trade deal. “In terms of the bilateral tariffs and the trade deal, it doesn’t supersede,” the source underlined.

TRADE RISKS

Delaying a trade deal may also leave India increasingly exposed to other pending US trade actions, the source added. “There are consequences. Every week that there’s no trade deal, India may be a little bit more vulnerable to other pending actions,” the source noted.

Had a trade agreement already been concluded, In-

dia’s position following the passage of the sanctions legislation would have been clearer.

“Even before the Graham Bill was passed, the potential for the Graham Bill was there. And if there had been trade deal, while India would have been reported as a top buyer, it could have been protected because of the deal,” the official said.

DEAL PROTECTION

Similar protection could apply to the outcome of the USTR’s Section 301 investigation into excess capacity, the

source said. “Everyone’s waiting for the Section 301 results. But if India had a trade deal, we wouldn’t need to worry about whenever it comes out. The agreement would have accorded protection.”

While New Delhi has been saying that the trade deal has mostly been negotiated, it maintains that it will finalise it only if guaranteed an edge over competing economies such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

The source said Washington has the ability to adjust existing arrangements as needed, pointing to the Section 301 forced-labour case as precedent: India was initially slated for the higher 12.5 per cent tariff but ultimately secured the lower 10 per cent rate, gaining an edge over China, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines, which remained at 12.5 per cent. “Something similar can always be worked out,” the source said.

On Russian oil, India has indicated that it has no intention to stop its purchase as it was essential for the energy security of its 1.4 billion population.

Clean energy transition promises growth, greener future



SHRIPAD
YESSO NAIK

These achievements are outcomes of policy reforms, transparent auctions, investor-friendly regulations, and a stable governance framework that has inspired confidence among domestic and international investors.

OVER THE past 12 years, India has seen a remarkable energy transformation. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has moved from being heavily dependent on conventional fuels to emerging as a global leader in clean energy and sustainable development. What was once considered an ambitious aspiration has become a national movement reshaping our economy, strengthening energy security, protecting the environment, and creating new opportunities for millions of Indians. India has responded to the climate challenge by adhering to a powerful principle: Economic growth and environmental responsibility must move together.

India's renewable energy (RE) capacity has crossed the landmark figure of 200 GW, driven primarily by expansion in solar and wind power. RE now accounts for nearly 45 per cent of total installed electricity capacity, placing the country among the fastest-growing renewable energy markets in the world.

These achievements are outcomes of policy reforms, transparent auctions, investor-friendly regulations, and a stable governance framework that has inspired confidence among domestic and international investors. At the same time, thermal and nuclear power continue to play a crucial role in meeting the country's growing baseload electricity demand.

Perhaps the most visible success story has been India's solar revolution. Programmes such as PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and PM Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM) are transforming lives across rural and urban India. The Indian farmer, once dependent on uncertain electricity supply and rising diesel costs, is now emerging as an energy producer. Rooftop solar installations are helping urban households significantly reduce electricity bills while contributing to the clean energy transition. Large-scale solar parks, floating solar installations, offshore wind projects, and hybrid RE systems are further expanding India's clean energy capacity at an unprecedented pace.

Under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, India has developed a rapidly expanding manufacturing ecosystem for solar modules, photovolt-

aic cells, inverters, battery storage systems, wind turbines, and associated equipment. Production Linked Incentive schemes and supportive industrial policies have accelerated domestic manufacturing capacity while reducing dependence on imports. This industrial expansion has generated thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities, particularly for young engineers, technicians, researchers, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers.

The next frontier of India's clean energy journey lies in green hydrogen. The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to make India a global hub for the production, utilisation, and export of green hydrogen. This mission has the potential to fundamentally transform sectors that are otherwise difficult to decarbonise, including steel, fertilisers, refineries, shipping, and heavy transport.

Equally important has been India's leadership on the international stage. Through the International Solar Alliance, conceived under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has demonstrated that climate leadership is not limited to developed economies. Developing countries, too, can offer innovative, affordable, and scalable solutions for sustainable development.

Today, India's climate commitments enjoy global credibility because they are backed by measurable progress. Our achievements have strengthened the country's standing in international climate negotiations.

The social dimension of India's energy transformation is equally important. Clean energy provides reliable electricity for education, healthcare, digital connectivity, and rural enterprises. Women are benefiting from improved access to energy, while rural communities are finding new opportunities for income generation through decentralised renewable energy systems.

Our ambitions extend beyond current milestones. We remain committed to achieving our national climate goals, strengthening energy independence, accelerating innovation, expanding domestic manufacturing, and creating a resilient, sustainable energy ecosystem.

The writer is Union Minister of State for New, Renewable Energy and Power

Publication : Virat Vaibhav (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :28 September 2026	Page : 9

Headline: 25% of global energy demand growth in next two decades will come from India: Puri

अगले दो दशकों में वैश्विक ऊर्जा मांग की 25 प्र. वृद्धि भारत से आएगी : पुरी

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

केन्द्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने रविवार को कहा कि भारत वैश्विक ऊर्जा परिदृश्य को आकार देने वाली एक प्रमुख ताकत के रूप में उभर रहा है। अगले दो दशकों में दुनिया की ऊर्जा मांग में होने वाली वृद्धि का करीब एक-चौथाई हिस्सा भारत से आने की उम्मीद है। राइजिंग लीडर्स प्रोग्राम के प्रतिभागियों के साथ हुई अपनी बातचीत का विवरण साझा करते हुए पुरी ने कहा कि उन्होंने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के करीब 70 युवा पेशेवरों और शोधकर्ताओं के साथ भारत के ऊर्जा परिवर्तन, लचीलेपन और वैश्विक मामलों में बढ़ते प्रभाव पर चर्चा की। इस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन आईलीड ग्लोबल फार्मेशन और इंडिया ऑफिस ऑफ कोनराड एडनोयर स्टिफ्टुंग ने किया था। उन्होंने कहा, राइजिंग लीडर्स प्रोग्राम के तहत विभिन्न विषयों के करीब 70



प्रतिभाशाली युवा पेशेवरों और शोधकर्ताओं के साथ बातचीत की। पुरी ने कहा, दुनिया के तीसरे सबसे बड़े ऊर्जा उपभोक्ता, तीसरे सबसे बड़े कच्चे तेल आयातक और चौथे सबसे बड़े रिफाइनर के रूप में भारत वैश्विक ऊर्जा परिदृश्य को आकार देने वाली एक प्रमुख ताकत बनकर उभर रहा है। अगले दो दशकों में वैश्विक ऊर्जा मांग में होने वाली वृद्धि का करीब 25 प्रतिशत हिस्सा भारत से आने की उम्मीद है। चर्चा के दौरान मंत्री ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में भारत की ऊर्जा क्षेत्र की उपलब्धियों पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा कि देश ने अपने ऊर्जा स्रोतों में सफलतापूर्वक विविधता लाई है, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत किया है।

Online

Headline	Petronet to pay 1% of profit as commission to its directors for 5 years		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Sep 2026		

Petronet to pay 1% of profit as commission to its directors for 5 years

https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/petronet-to-pay-1-of-profit-as-commission-to-its-directors-for-5-years-126092700169_1.html

Petronet LNG Ltd, India's biggest gas importer, has sought shareholders' approval to continue payment of commission to its directors, capped at 1 per cent of annual profits, for another five years from financial year 2026-27 to 2030-31. The proposal, contained in the notice for the company's forthcoming general meeting, seeks approval for distribution of a sum not exceeding 1 per cent per annum of profits calculated under Section 198 of the Companies Act, 2013, among the directors in such amounts and proportions as may be decided by the board from time to time. Shareholders had last approved the commission arrangement at the annual general meeting held on September 28, 2021, for FY22 to FY26. The earlier approvals for similar payments were granted in 2007, 2011 and 2016, according to the shareholder notice. The company said the proposed continuation was being sought in view of its "healthy financial position". For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2026, Petronet paid its CEO Akshay Kumar Singh and other directors a commission of Rs 26.5 lakh each, according to the annual report. They had received a commission of Rs 25.5 lakh in the previous fiscal year. The commission took Singh's total remuneration in 2025-26 to Rs 3.64 crore, up from Rs 3.03 crore in the previous financial year. Independent directors on the company board also got Rs 10 lakh each as commission on profit, besides the sitting fees. They were paid Rs 9.75 lakh commission in previous 2024-25 fiscal. The actual commission paid to whole-time directors, including the managing director and CEO, and independent directors has remained well below the statutory ceiling, according to the company. In FY26, whole-time directors, including the MD and CEO, were eligible for a maximum commission of Rs 79.5 lakh, while independent directors were eligible for Rs 55 lakh, taking the combined maximum to Rs 134.5 lakh, it said. The company said the commission, as a percentage of profit before tax, was "marginal" and within the overall limits prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013. Petronet had reported a net profit of Rs 3,843 crore on a revenue of Rs 43,495 crore in 2025-26. This compared with Rs 3,926 crore profit on a revenue of Rs 50,980 crore in the previous 2024-25 fiscal year. Section 197 of the Companies Act governs managerial remuneration, while its provisions cap remuneration payable to non-executive directors, including independent directors, at 1 per cent of net profits where the company has a managing or whole-time director or manager. Singh last year got a 15-month extension till May 2027 as the managing director and chief executive officer of the country's biggest liquefied natural gas importer. Singh, 65, who took over as Petronet CEO on February 1, 2020, for an initial five-year term, will now superannuate on May 12, 2027. While the superannuation age in public sector companies is 60 years, Petronet, though headed by the government's top bureaucrat in the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, is registered as a private limited company. Petronet is not under any government watchdog like CAG or CVC and is beyond the purview of RTI. Its board executives enjoy higher remuneration than PSUs and also retire at the age of 65 years. A process to find a replacement for Singh has already started. Appointments to the board are made by a search-cum-selection committee of the board. It is made up of representatives of lead shareholders in the company, an independent director and an outside expert. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), GAIL (India) Ltd, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) hold a 12.5 per cent stake each in the company. The heads of the four blue-chip oil firms, who sit on the board of Petronet, superannuate at the age of 60 years. A mechanical engineer from MIT, Muzaffarpur (Bihar), and a post-graduate from South Gujarat University, Singh came to Petronet from Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), where he was Director (Pipelines). Prior to joining the IOC board in 2018, Singh was an executive director at state-owned gas utility GAIL India Ltd.

Headline	Bokaro News: तेनुघाट पर्यटन स्थल पर ओएनजीसी द्वारा स्वच्छता अभियान		
Publication	Hindustan	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	28 Sep 2026		

Bokaro News: तेनुघाट पर्यटन स्थल पर ओएनजीसी द्वारा स्वच्छता अभियान

<https://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/bokaro/story-ongc-launches-cleanliness-campaign-at-tenughat-tourism-site-201790534773637.html>

तेनुघाट पर्यटन स्थल पर ओएनजीसी द्वारा स्वच्छता अभियान चलाया गया। इस दौरान विभिन्न प्रकार के कचरे की सफाई की गई, जिसमें शराब की खाली बोतलें भी शामिल थीं। स्थानीय नागरिकों से स्वच्छता बनाए रखने की अपील की गई। अभियान में स्कूलों में रंगोली, क्रिज और कबाड़ से जुगाड़ प्रतियोगिताएं भी आयोजित की गईं।

स्वच्छता ही सेवा अभियान-2026 के तहत ओएनजीसी सीबीएम परिसम्पत्ति, बोकारो द्वारा तेनुघाट पर्यटन स्थल एवं आसपास के क्षेत्रों में विशेष स्वच्छता अभियान चलाया गया। विभिन्न प्रकार के कचरे की सफाई कर उसका उचित जगह पर नष्ट किया गया। सफाई के दौरान बड़ी संख्या में शराब की खाली बोतलें मिलीं। अभियान का संचालन हस्तशिल्प विकास संस्थान द्वारा किया गया। वहीं आम नागरिकों से सार्वजनिक एवं पर्यटन स्थलों पर शराब का सेवन नहीं करने तथा स्वच्छता बनाए रखने की अपील की गई। वहीं इस अभियान के तहत ओएनजीसी द्वारा विद्यालयों में पेंटिंग, क्रिज एवं 'कबाड़ से जुगाड़' प्रतियोगिताओं के साथ-साथ वर्षों से जमा कचरे की सफाई भी कराई जा रही है। संचालन परिसम्पत्ति प्रबंधक राजीव कुमार सिन्हा के दिशा-निर्देश में किया जा रहा है। ओएनजीसी सीएसआर टीम के दयानंद कालुंडिया, डॉली कुमारी एवं शशि कुमार सहित हस्तशिल्प विकास संस्थान के सचिव नरेश ठाकुर, अध्यक्ष उमा कुमारी, संजय गोप, जीवन ज्योति जनकल्याण केंद्र के सचिव सूरज कुमार यादव, दिनेश कुमार तथा अन्य सहयोगियों और 50 से अधिक स्थानीय ग्रामीणों ने भाग लिया।

Headline	ONGC sees new avenues for gas exploration at Amraghat in Assam's Cachar		
Publication	India Today NE	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Sep 2026		

ONGC sees new avenues for gas exploration at Amraghat in Assam's Cachar

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/video/ongc-sees-new-avenues-for-gas-exploration-at-amraghat-in-assams-cachar-1455824-2026-09-27>

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is stepping up exploration and development activities at Amraghat in Assam's Cachar district following the discovery of gas at the site, ONGC Director (Investigation) Om Prakash Sinha said. Sinha made the statement during a visit to the Amraghat Gas Extraction Plant under ONGC's Cachar Forward Base, where he reviewed the progress of exploration work, the hydrocarbon potential of the area and technical aspects of the project. Gas has been found at Amraghat and work on the project is progressing rapidly, Sinha told reporters. He said more than one lakh units of gas were being extracted daily from the plant. He said ONGC's geoscientists had assessed the potential of the area and that a pipeline would be essential for transporting the gas. Work related to the project was continuing round the clock, he said. The Amraghat project has been under development for several years. Environmental clearance has been obtained for the exploration, development and production of oil and gas in the area. Sinha said the Barak Valley had been associated with gas production for nearly five decades and that the Amraghat project could open up further avenues for exploration in the region. He also highlighted the potential for local employment and investment associated with the project and said ONGC was working with people in the area. Sinha said the company was also undertaking initiatives in the health and education sectors through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes. Sinha was accompanied by Basin Manager K. Karvannan, General Manager and Head of ONGC's Silchar Forward Base A.K. Walia and GM-LMDS S.K. So.

Headline	पर्यटन स्थल पर ओएनजीसी सीबीएम परिसम्पत्ति बोकारो का स्वच्छता अभियान		
Publication	Jagat Prahari	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	28 Sep 2026		

पर्यटन स्थल पर ओएनजीसी सीबीएम परिसम्पत्ति बोकारो का स्वच्छता अभियान

<https://jagatprahari.com/%e0%a4%aa%e0%a4%b0%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%af%e0%a4%9f%e0%a4%a8-%e0%a4%b8%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%a5%e0%a4%b2-%e0%a4%aa%e0%a4%b0-%e0%a4%93%e0%a4%8f%e0%a4%a8%e0%a4%9c%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%b8%e0%a5%80/>

स्वच्छता ही सेवा अभियान के तहत ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) सीबीएम परिसम्पत्ति बोकारो द्वारा 27 सितंबर को जिला के हद में तेनुघाट पर्यटन स्थल एवं आसपास के क्षेत्रों में विशेष स्वच्छता अभियान चलाया गया। अभियान के दौरान विभिन्न प्रकार के कचरे की सफाई कर उसे उचित जगह पर नष्ट किया गया। बताया जाता है कि पर्यटन स्थल की सफाई के दौरान बड़ी संख्या में शराब की खाली बोतलें मिलीं। अभियान का संचालन हस्तशिल्प विकास संस्थान द्वारा किया गया। इस अवसर पर आम रहिवासियों से सार्वजनिक एवं पर्यटन स्थलों पर शराब का सेवन नहीं करने तथा स्वच्छता बनाए रखने की अपील की गई। ओएनजीसी ने आमजनों से अपील की है कि सार्वजनिक स्थलों को स्वच्छ रखना प्रत्येक देशवासी की जिम्मेदारी है। स्थानीय ग्रामीणों ने ओएनजीसी के इस अभियान की सराहना करते हुए आभार व्यक्त किया। स्वच्छता ही सेवा अभियान के तहत ओएनजीसी द्वारा विद्यालयों में पेंटिंग, क्रिज एवं कबाड़ से जुगाड़ प्रतियोगिताओं के साथ-साथ वर्षों से जमा कचरे की सफाई भी कराई जा रही है। अभियान का संचालन परिसम्पत्ति प्रबंधक राजीव कुमार सिन्हा के दिशा-निर्देश में किया जा रहा है। कार्यक्रम में ओएनजीसी सीएसआर टीम के दयानंद कालुंडिया, डॉली कुमारी एवं शशि कुमार सहित हस्तशिल्प विकास संस्थान के सचिव नरेश ठाकुर, अध्यक्ष उमा कुमारी, संजय गोप, जीवन ज्योति जनकल्याण केंद्र के सचिव सूरज कुमार यादव, दिनेश कुमार तथा अन्य सहयोगियों और 50 से अधिक स्थानीय ग्रामीणों ने भाग लिया। अभियान के माध्यम से रहिवासियों को संदेश दिया गया कि स्वच्छ पर्यटन स्थल, स्वच्छ पर्यावरण और स्वस्थ समाज के लिए सभी की सहभागिता आवश्यक है।

Headline	He failed Python once, then earned an S grade: Kaushal Prajapati's journey from ONGC to AI-ML		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	27 Sep 2026		

He failed Python once, then earned an S grade: Kaushal Prajapati's journey from ONGC to AI-ML

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/he-failed-python-once-then-earned-an-s-grade-kaushal-prajapati-s-journey-from-ongc-to-ai-ml/ar-AA2d2Dgx>

For nearly eight years, Kaushal Prajapati worked in the petrochemical industry, handling responsibilities as a production supervisor at ONGC Petro additions Ltd. His routine involved night shifts and a daily commute of around six hours. Alongside his job, he pursued a degree in data science, gradually preparing for a transition into artificial intelligence and machine learning. By May 2026, Prajapati had completed the Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Applications programme from IIT Madras. Within a month, he moved into a full-time AI-ML engineering role at Newral in Noida, marking a shift from his earlier career in the chemical and petrochemical sector. From petrochemical operations to data science Prajapati's professional journey began in the petrochemical industry after he completed a diploma in chemical and petrochemical engineering. He joined ONGC Petro additions Ltd as a production supervisor in 2017 and continued working there until May 2026. The job required him to manage industrial responsibilities, including night shifts. With a commute of approximately six hours a day, finding time for formal education was a challenge. However, he enrolled in IIT Madras' online BS programme in Data Science and Applications in 2022. The programme allowed him to continue his employment while studying subjects related to programming, mathematics, statistics and computing. He also pursued a minor in Economics as part of his academic journey. He failed Python once, then earned an S grade Learning programming while working full-time came with its own difficulties. Python, one of the foundational subjects in data science, proved challenging for Prajapati during his first attempt. He did not clear the course initially. Rather than abandoning the programme, he attempted it again and subsequently secured an S grade, the highest grade category in the institute's grading system. His academic record also included project work. He received recognition for a multi-layer perceptron (MLP) project in May 2024 and a software engineering project in September 2025. These projects formed part of his progression from a conventional engineering background towards practical computing and machine learning skills. How IIT Madras helped him make the career switch Prajapati completed the BS programme in May 2026 with a CGPA of 7.60. His coursework included data science, programming and related technical subjects, while his minor in Economics added another area of study. The degree was pursued alongside his job rather than after leaving the workforce. This meant that his transition involved balancing industrial responsibilities with academic assignments, examinations and projects. His experience also illustrates how online degree programmes can offer working professionals an opportunity to pursue formal technical education without immediately giving up their existing employment. From ONGC to an AI-ML engineering role According to his LinkedIn profile, Prajapati joined Newral as a full-time AI-ML Engineer in June 2026, based in Noida. He has also undertaken freelance AI-ML engineering work since May 2025. His current areas of work include agentic AI, reinforcement learning and AI evaluation tasks. The move represents a change in both his professional domain and the technical skills he uses at work. From supervising production operations in the petrochemical industry, he has moved towards developing and evaluating AI-based systems. His journey involved a demanding commute, night shifts, an initial setback in programming and several years of part-time study. The transition was built around continuing his job while acquiring new qualifications and technical experience. Disclaimer: This article is based on publicly available information and details from the individual's professional profile. TOI Education has not independently verified all claims.

Headline	Petronet LNG Ltd to pay 1% of its profit as commission to directors		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	28 Sep 2026		

Petronet LNG Ltd to pay 1% of its profit as commission to directors

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/petronet-lng-ltd-to-pay-1-of-its-profit-as-commission-to-directors-677591>

Petronet LNG Ltd, India's biggest gas importer, has sought shareholders' approval to continue payment of commission to its directors, capped at 1 per cent of annual profits, for another five years from financial year 2026-27 to 2030-31. The proposal, contained in the notice for the company's forthcoming general meeting, seeks approval for distribution of a sum not exceeding 1 per cent per annum of profits calculated under Section 198 of the Companies Act, 2013, among the directors in such amounts and proportions as may be decided by the board from time to time. Shareholders had last approved the commission arrangement at the annual general meeting held on September 28, 2021, for FY22 to FY26. The earlier approvals for similar payments were granted in 2007, 2011 and 2016, according to the shareholder notice. The company said the proposed continuation was being sought in view of its healthy financial position. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2026, Petronet paid its CEO Akshay Kumar Singh and other directors a commission of Rs 26.5 lakh each, according to the annual report. They had received a commission of Rs 25.5 lakh in the previous fiscal year. The commission took Singh's total remuneration in 2025-26 to Rs 3.64 crore, up from Rs 3.03 crore in the previous financial year. Independent directors on the company board also got Rs 10 lakh each as commission on profit, besides the sitting fees. They were paid Rs 9.75 lakh commission in previous 2024-25 fiscal. The actual commission paid to whole-time directors, including the managing director and CEO, and independent directors has remained well below the statutory ceiling, according to the company. In FY26, whole-time directors, including the MD and CEO, were eligible for a maximum commission of Rs 79.5 lakh, while independent directors were eligible for Rs 55 lakh, taking the combined maximum to Rs 134.5 lakh, it said. The company said the commission, as a percentage of profit before tax, was marginal and within the overall limits prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013. Petronet had reported a net profit of Rs 3,843 crore on a revenue of Rs 43,495 crore in 2025-26. This compared with Rs 3,926 crore profit on a revenue of Rs 50,980 crore in the previous 2024-25 fiscal year. Section 197 of the Companies Act governs managerial remuneration, while its provisions cap remuneration payable to non-executive directors, including independent directors, at 1 per cent of net profits where the company has a managing or whole-time director or manager. Singh last year got a 15-month extension till May 2027 as the managing director and chief executive officer of the country's biggest liquefied natural gas importer. Singh, 65, who took over as Petronet CEO on February 1, 2020, for an initial five-year term, will now superannuate on May 12, 2027. While the superannuation age in public sector companies is 60 years, Petronet, though headed by the government's top bureaucrat in the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, is registered as a private limited company. Petronet is not under any government watchdog like CAG or CVC and is beyond the purview of RTI. Its board executives enjoy higher remuneration than PSUs and also retire at the age of 65 years. A process to find a replacement for Singh has already started. Appointments to the board are made by a search-cum-selection committee of the board. It is made up of representatives of lead shareholders in the company, an independent director and an outside expert. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), GAIL (India) Ltd, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) hold a 12.5 per cent stake each in the company. The heads of the four blue-chip oil firms, who sit on the board of Petronet, superannuate at the age of 60 years. A mechanical engineer from MIT, Muzaffarpur (Bihar), and a post-graduate from South Gujarat University, Singh came to Petronet from Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), where he was Director (Pipelines). Prior to joining the IOC board in 2018, Singh was an executive director at state-owned gas utility GAIL India Ltd.

Headline	ONGC Ramps Up Gas Exploration in Assam's Amraghat Site		
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ONGC Ramps Up Gas Exploration in Assam's Amraghat Site

<https://newire.in/articles/ongc-ramps-up-gas-exploration-in-assam-s-amraghat-site>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is pushing hard to boost development at Amraghat in the Cachar district of Assam. This follows a fresh discovery of gas at the site. ONGC Director Om Prakash Sinha visited the Amraghat Gas Extraction Plant to inspect the project. He reviewed the hydrocarbon potential, technical specifications, and general progress of the site work. "Gas has been found at Amraghat and work on the project is progressing rapidly," Sinha said. The plant currently pumps out more than one lakh units of gas every single day. Operations at the site run around the clock to meet demands. ONGC geoscientists determined that the site needs a dedicated pipeline to transport the extracted gas. The project holds the necessary environmental clearances for oil and gas production. While the Barak Valley has a five-decade history of gas production, Sinha believes this site creates new opportunities for the region. He expects the project to draw in investment and create local jobs. The company is also running health and education initiatives through corporate social responsibility programs. Sinha toured the facility with several top officials. These included Basin Manager K. Karvannan, Silchar Forward Base Head A.K. Walia, and GM-LMDS S.K. So. They focused on maintaining momentum for this ongoing expansion.

Headline	India to drive nearly 25 pc of global energy demand growth over next 2 decades: Hardeep Puri		
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India to drive nearly 25 pc of global energy demand growth over next 2 decades: Hardeep Puri

<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/lokmatimes+english-epaper-lokmaten/india+to+drive+nearly+25+pc+of+global+energy+demand+growth+over+next+2+decades+hardeep+puri-newsid-n2000135200>

India is emerging as a major force in shaping the global energy landscape, with nearly one-fourth of the world's energy demand growth expected to come from the country over the next two decades, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Sunday. Sharing details of his interaction with participants of the Rising Leaders Programme here, Puri said he engaged with nearly 70 young professionals and researchers from diverse fields to discuss India's energy transformation, resilience and growing influence in global affairs. The programme was organised by the ILead Global Foundation and the India Office of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. "Engaged with nearly 70 bright young professionals and researchers from diverse disciplines as part of the Rising Leaders Programme," he said. "As the world's 3rd largest energy consumer, 3rd largest crude oil importer and 4th largest refiner, India is emerging as a key force shaping the global energy landscape, with nearly 25 per cent of global energy demand growth expected to come from India over the next two decades," Puri added. During the discussion, the minister highlighted India's energy achievements under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that the country has successfully diversified its energy basket, strengthened energy security and ensured uninterrupted fuel supplies despite global geopolitical uncertainties. Puri said India has focused on making energy accessible, affordable and sustainable for its citizens while navigating a period marked by geopolitical tensions and volatility in global energy markets. Emphasising India's increasing importance in the global energy ecosystem, the minister noted that the country is currently the world's third-largest energy consumer, the third-largest importer of crude oil and the fourth-largest oil refiner. These factors, he said, position India as a key stakeholder in shaping future global energy trends and policies. He expressed confidence that the country's young professionals and researchers would play an important role in shaping the India of tomorrow and driving innovation across sectors, including energy and sustainability.

Headline	Puri hails LNG train launch from Ahmedabad's Sabarmati		
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Puri hails LNG train launch from Ahmedabad's Sabarmati

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Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri endorsed the launch of an LNG-powered train from Sabarmati, Ahmedabad, on September 27, 2026, saying the move will cut diesel dependence, save foreign exchange, and advance India's green railway goals under PM Modi's guidance. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri publicly backed the launch of an LNG-based train from Sabarmati, Ahmedabad on September 27, 2026 . LNG adoption in rail is positioned to reduce diesel dependence and generate foreign exchange savings by cutting crude oil imports. Indian Railways has a stated target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 , combining electrification with alternative-fuel adoption. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been expanding LNG's role across heavy transport sectors, with rail now an active frontier. The Sabarmati launch is framed as part of a broader, diversified clean-energy strategy not a replacement for electrification, but a bridge for non-electrified corridors. Further rollout of LNG or dual-fuel locomotives on other routes is the key metric to watch for real-world impact. India's railways just got a greener gear. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday, September 27, 2026 , championed the launch of an LNG-based train from Sabarmati, Ahmedabad framing it as a critical step in India's push to wean its national rail network off diesel and cut crude oil import bills. Posting in Hindi, Minister Puri wrote: ' Green Energy !' 'The speed of the railway, now with green energy!' crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi 's guidance for steering Indian Railways toward a cleaner, more environment-friendly future, not just a faster and more modern one. Why LNG, and why Sabarmati Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) burns significantly cleaner than diesel, producing lower particulate matter and carbon emissions per unit of energy. For Indian Railways one of the world's largest rail networks even a partial shift from diesel traction on non-electrified corridors carries outsized environmental and economic weight. Sabarmati , the Ahmedabad railway hub, serves as a symbolically fitting launchpad: Gujarat has been at the centre of India's city gas distribution expansion and infrastructure push for over a decade. Minister Puri specifically highlighted two advantages: reducing dependence on diesel a refined petroleum product heavily tied to crude oil imports and saving foreign exchange. Every barrel of crude oil India does not import is a direct relief on the current account, a pressure point that policymakers have flagged consistently as global energy prices remain volatile. Green Rail and the 2030 net-zero target Indian Railways has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 , a target that rests on two pillars: aggressive electrification of its route network and selective adoption of alternative fuels like LNG on corridors where overhead electrification is not yet viable. The LNG move fits squarely into the second pillar a bridging strategy that delivers emission cuts without waiting for full electrification. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas , which Puri heads, has been actively promoting LNG as a transport fuel beyond just passenger cars and trucking. Testing LNG on heavy-haulage rail where diesel engines are large and fuel-hungry represents a logical extension of that mandate, aligning the petroleum ministry's energy-security agenda with the railways ministry's green commitments. What this means for India's energy transition calculus India's broader transport decarbonisation strategy has never been a single-fuel bet. Electric traction dominates the long-term plan, but LNG, compressed natural gas, and eventually green hydrogen are positioned as parallel tracks for segments of the fleet that cannot be electrified quickly. The Sabarmati launch, if it expands to other routes, could accelerate the case for dedicated LNG refuelling infrastructure at major rail yards a supply-chain build-out that would benefit domestic gas distributors and reduce the stranglehold of imported diesel. The watch now is on whether additional LNG or dual-fuel locomotives roll out on other non-electrified corridors, and how swiftly the refuelling logistics can be standardised across the network. A pilot that stays a pilot changes little. One that scales rewrites the fuel map of Indian Railways. Championing this move is also a strategic alignment of the petroleum ministry's energy-security mandate with the railways' green commitments, reinforcing the government's narrative of simultaneous modernisation and sustainability. The foreign-exchange-saving angle is politically potent given persistent pressure on India's current account from crude import bills. The real test, however, is scale: a single pilot at Sabarmati matters far less than a documented plan to replicate LNG traction across dozens of diesel-dependent corridors in the next 24 months. What is the LNG train launched from Sabarmati, Ahmedabad? Why is LNG being used in Indian Railways instead of diesel? What is Indian Railways' net-zero carbon emissions target? What did Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri say about the LNG train? Will LNG trains be expanded to other railway routes in India?