



ONGC News as on 31 July 2026 (Print & Online)

Headline: Apart from being expensive, pure petrol is available at limited petrol pumps

ई 20 पेट्रोल पर जारी चिंताओं के बीच शुद्ध पेट्रोल की बिक्री में तेजी

महंगा होने के साथ ही सीमित पेट्रोल पंप पर मिलता है शुद्ध पेट्रोल

■ कुछ ही दिनों में 100-ऑक्टेन प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की बिक्री दोगुनी से ज्यादा हुई आज समाज नेटवर्क

नई दिल्ली। ए20 पेट्रोल को लेकर जारी विवाद के बीच देश में शुद्ध पेट्रोल यानी 100-ऑक्टेन प्रीमियम की बिक्री में दोगुना से ज्यादा उछाल आई है। महंगा होने के कारण इसकी मांग अब तक बहुत कम है।

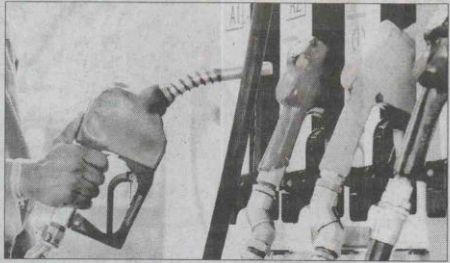
देश के 1% से भी कम पेट्रोल पंपों पर 100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल मिलता है। इनमें से ज्यादातर पेट्रोल पंप बड़े शहरों तक ही सीमित हैं।

लेकिन ए20 पेट्रोल को लेकर जिस तरह हाल के दिनों में विवाद बढ़ा है, उससे इसी मांग में इजाफा हुआ है। बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड की एक रिपोर्ट में सूत्रों के हवाले से दावा किया गया है कि हाल के महीनों में 100-ऑक्टेन प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की बिक्री दोगुनी से ज्यादा हो गई है।

एथेनॉल-ब्लेंडेड फ्यूल से गाड़ियों को संभावित नुकसान की बढ़ती चिंताओं के बीच इसकी बिक्री बढ़ी है। सरकारी तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियां अलग-अलग ब्रांड के तहत 100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल बेचती हैं। इनमें इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन का P100, बीपीसीएल का रस्सी100 और एचपीसीएल का डब्ल्यू100 शामिल हैं। दिल्ली में एथेनॉल-फ्री 100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल की खुदरा कीमत लगभग Rs.160 प्रति लीटर है जबकि ए20 पेट्रोल की कीमत Rs.102.12 प्रति लीटर है।

इस तरह 100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल की कीमत आम पेट्रोल से करीब 57 फीसदी महंगा है। दिल्ली में ए20 प्रीमियम ग्रेड XP95, Speed97 और Power95 की कीमत लगभग Rs.111-112 प्रति लीटर है। इसी तरह मुंबई में 100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल की खुदरा कीमत लगभग Rs.167.35 प्रति लीटर है, जबकि आम पेट्रोल की कीमत Rs.111.21 प्रति लीटर है। 100-ऑक्टेन फ्यूल को मुख्य रूप से सुपरकार, लक्जरी सेडान और सुपरबाइक जैसी हाई-परफॉर्मंस गाड़ियों के लिए बनाया गया है। एक सूत्र ने कहा कि हाल के महीनों में एथेनॉल-फ्री पेट्रोल की मांग में काफी तेजी आई है। सोशल मीडिया पर एथेनॉल-ब्लेंडिंग से गाड़ियों को नुकसान होने के दावों की वजह से यह बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

100-ऑक्टेन की सबसे ज्यादा मांग दिल्ली में दिख रही है। 100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल का रिसर्च ऑक्टेन नंबर (RON) 100 होता है। इससे यह आम पेट्रोल के मुकाबले इंजन नॉकिंग को बेहतर तरीके से रोकता है। ज्यादा ऑक्टेन रेटिंग की वजह से यह फ्यूल इग्निशन से पहले ज्यादा तापमान और कम्प्रेसन को झेल सकता है। यही कारण है कि यह हाई-परफॉर्मंस और हाई-कम्प्रेसन वाले इंजनों के लिए सही रहता है।



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Headline: Waste to be turned into gas and fertilizer as two bio-CBG plants come up in Tehkhanda, Okhla

कचरे से बनेगी गैस और खाद, तेहखंड ओखला में लगेंगे दो बायो-सीबीजी प्लांट

एमसीडी और ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड के बीच दो संयंत्र स्थापित करने का समझौता

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली में कचरे के पहाड़ और लैंडफिल के बढ़ते दबाव को कम करने के लिए एमसीडी ने बड़ा कदम उठाया है। मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता और महापौर प्रवेश वाही की मौजूदगी में बृहस्पतिवार को एमसीडी और ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड (ओआईएल) के बीच गीले कचरे से कम्प्रेस्ड बायो-गैस (सीबीजी) बनाने वाले दो संयंत्र स्थापित करने के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। तेहखंड और ओखला में बनने वाले इन दोनों संयंत्रों की संयुक्त क्षमता 800 टन प्रतिदिन होगी।

एमओयू के तहत तेहखंड में 10 एकड़ जमीन पर 500 टीपीडी और ओखला में सात एकड़ में 300 टीपीडी क्षमता का संयंत्र लगाया जाएगा। यहां स्रोत पर अलग किए गए गीले कचरे का वैज्ञानिक तरीके से प्रसंस्करण कर सीबीजी और जैविक उर्वरक तैयार किया जाएगा। इससे गीले कचरे का उपयोग ऊर्जा और कृषि उपयोगी संसाधन में करने के साथ लैंडफिल पर जाने वाले



मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता, महापौर प्रवेश वाही की उपस्थिति में एमसीडी और ऑयल लिमिटेड के बीच एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर। संवाद

कचरे की मात्रा घटाने का लक्ष्य है। एमसीडी के अनुसार करीब 7,500 टन कचरे का मौजूदा समय में चार वेस्ट-टू-एनर्जी संयंत्रों और इंद्रप्रस्थ गैस लिमिटेड के बायोगैस संयंत्र के जरिए प्रसंस्करण हो रहा है। नए संयंत्र गीले कचरे के प्रसंस्करण की क्षमता बढ़ाएंगे।

मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने कहा कि ठोस कचरा प्रबंधन दिल्ली की पुरानी शहरी चुनौतियों में शामिल है और इसके समाधान के लिए केंद्र, दिल्ली सरकार, स्थानीय निकाय,

सार्वजनिक उपक्रम, निजी क्षेत्र और नागरिक समाज को मिलकर काम करना होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि एनडीडीबी के साथ गोबर के वैज्ञानिक प्रबंधन के बाद ओआईएल के साथ यह समझौता गीले कचरे के बेहतर उपयोग की दिशा में अगली कड़ी है।

महापौर प्रवेश वाही ने कहा कि तेहखंड और ओखला के संयंत्र लैंडफिल का दबाव कम करने के साथ स्वच्छ ईंधन और जैविक खाद के उत्पादन में मदद करेंगे।

E20 blending reduces fuel economy by 2-6%: Gadkari

E20 petrol vehicle tests have not shown any failures, says Minister

NO NEGATIVE IMPACT?

- Ethanol blended petrol (EBP) programme began as pilot project in 2001
- E5 was introduced in 2006 but blending stood at 1.53% till 2013-14
- E15+ fuel has been in use for over 3 yrs and E20 for more than 2 yrs
- At present, over 20 crore 2-wheelers and over 3 crore 4-wheelers using E20 fuel

NEW DELHI

PETROL blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 2 to 6 per cent depending on the vehicle category and vintage, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Parliament on Thursday.

The Union Minister, however, argued that tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and on-road vehicle tests have not shown any failures due to E20.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Gadkari said E20 fuel provides better acceleration, improved ride qual-



E20 fuel introduced only after scientific validation: Suresh Gopi

NEW DELHI

THE government informed Parliament on Thursday that the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has been implemented through a phased, scientifically validated and consultative process involving NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, oil marketing companies (OMCs), Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and other technical institutions.

ity and approximately 30 per cent lower carbon emissions compared to E10 fuel.

Gadkari said a study to



The rollout of higher ethanol blends was undertaken only after extensive consultation with automobile manufacturers, SIAM, ARAI, component manufacturers, testing agencies and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Suresh Gopi, said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

evaluate the effect of E20 on BS-III, BS-IV and BS-VI E10 (Gasoline) two-wheelers and four-wheelers was carried

Gadkari said a study to evaluate the effect of E20 on BS-III, BS-IV and BS-VI E10 (Gasoline) two-wheelers and four-wheelers was carried out jointly by ARAI, SIAM and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL).

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He said the study comprised of standard testing as per the respective certification requirements & customized test protocols developed along with the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

"The fuel efficiency of vehicles may be reduced by 2 to 6 per cent depending on the vehicle category and vintage. The tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and vehicle tests on road have not shown any failures due to E20," the minister said.

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

— TENDER CARE —

— Advertorial

LIC OF INDIA HANDS OVER DIVIDEND CHEQUE TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Shri R. Doraiswamy, CEO & MD, LIC of India, presented the Dividend cheque of ₹ 12,207.25 Crore to Honourable Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, as the Government of India's share of Dividend, approved by the Shareholders in the Annual General Meeting held on 27th July, 2026.



Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Secretary, Dept. of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India was present along with the officials from Life Insurance Corporation of India, Shri Ratnakar Patnaik, MD, Shri R. Chander, MD and Shri N.S. Raghava, ZM (I/C), Northern Zone. LIC is completing 70 glorious years since its incorporation and as at 31.03.2026 has an asset base of ₹ 59.03 Lakh Crore. It continues to be the market leader in the Indian Life Insurance market.

GAIL AND RCF SIGN MOU FOR SETTING UP GAS-BASED FERTILIZER PROJECT IN MAHARASHTRA



GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly establish a gas-based fertilizer project in the state of Maharashtra through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

The proposed urea production facility, with a planned capacity of 1.27 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA), is envisaged to be established in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra along GAIL's Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda Natural Gas Pipeline (MNJPL). To facilitate the implementation of the project, GAIL has entered a strategic partnership with RCF, with both organizations working collaboratively to take the project from conceptualization to successful implementation.

The MoU was signed by Shri Sanjay Agarwal, ED (BD & Start-up) of GAIL and Ms. Jyoti Patil, Executive Director (Project, Corporate & Co-ordination) of RCF, in the august presence of Shri Deepak Gupta, CMD, GAIL and Shri S. Shivakumar, CMD, RCF.

Senior management from both the companies, Shri R.K. Singhal, Director (BD), GAIL, Ms. Nazhat J. Shaikh, Director (Finance), RCF and Ms. Ritu Goswami, Director (Technical), RCF, were present during the MoU signing ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Deepak Gupta, CMD, GAIL (India) Limited, said: "The proposed fertilizer project aligns with GAIL's strategy of creating long-term value through natural gas utilization and contributing to India's energy security objectives. We are pleased to partner with RCF, a leading fertilizer company with proven expertise in the sector. This collaboration combines GAIL's strengths in the natural gas value chain with RCF's rich experience in fertilizer manufacturing and project execution.

GUJARAT ENERGY LIMITED (GEL) HOSTS "CNG MEET" TO DRIVE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION IN TRANSPORTATION AT AMRITSAR - PUNJAB

Gujarat Energy Limited (GEL) successfully hosted a comprehensive CNG Stakeholder Meet in Amritsar on 29th July '26 at Hotel Le Meridien - Amritsar - Punjab. The event focused on expanding CNG adoption and strengthening clean energy infrastructure across the region.

The CNG Meet brought together key ecosystem players to discuss strategic growth, refuelling infrastructure, and the economic benefits of switching to CNG.

CNG Meet witnessed active participation of around 160 nos. of persons from diverse sectors instrumental to the clean energy transition - OEM CNG Vehicles, OMC, Fleet Operators, School Bus Operators, CNG Kit retro-fitters, etc. Participants have represented their view through PPT followed by Q & A session.



RECPDCL HANDS OVER BHADLA RAMGARH POWER TRANSMISSION LIMITED TO POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED AND SHONGTONG POWER TRANSMISSION LIMITED TO TERRALIGHT SOLAR ENERGY TINWARI PRIVATE LIMITED

REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, handed over two project-specific Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) for inter-state transmission projects to the respective successful bidders on 29 July 2026.

The SPVs handed over were Bhadla Ramgarh Power Transmission Limited to M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and Shongtong Power Transmission Limited to M/s Terralight Solar Energy Tinwari Private Limited. Both successful bidders were selected through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process conducted by RECPDCL as the Bid Process Coordinator, and the projects will be developed on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis.

Bhadla Ramgarh Power Transmission Limited pertains to the inter-state transmission project "Augmentation at Bhadla-III, Ramgarh PS and Kanpur (PG)". The SPV was handed over by Shri Ratnesh Kumar, GM (Engg.), RECPDCL, to Mr. Arup Samanta, Company Secretary, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, in the presence of Shri Rajkumar Sonkar, HoD (CS), RECPDCL, and other senior officials from RECPDCL, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and Central Transmission Utility of India Limited.

The Bhadla Ramgarh project broadly envisages augmentation of the 400/220 kV Bhadla-III Pooling Station, 765/400 kV Ramgarh Pooling Station and 765/400 kV Kanpur Pooling Station, along with associated works. The project is scheduled for implementation by 20 January 2029 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,035 crore.



E20 petrol can reduce fueleconomy by 2-6 pc: Nitin Gadkari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 30: Petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 2 to 6 per cent depending on the vehicle category and vintage, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Parliament on Thursday. The Union Minister, however, argued that tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and on-road vehicle tests have not shown any failures due to E20. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Gadkari said E20 fuel provides better acceleration, improved ride quality and approximately 30 per cent lower carbon emissions compared to E10 fuel. Gadkari said a study to evaluate the effect of E20 on BS-III, BS-IV and BS-VI E10 (Gasoline) two-

wheelers and four-wheelers was carried out jointly by ARAI, SIAM and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL). He said the study comprised of standard testing as per the respective certification requirements & customized test protocols developed along with the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

"The fuel efficiency of vehicles may be reduced by 2 to 6 per cent depending on the vehicle category and vintage. The tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and vehicle tests on road have not shown any failures due to E20," the minister said. The rollout of E20 petrol (80 per cent petrol, 20 per cent ethanol) has drawn criticism from opposition parties and some consumer groups, who have raised concerns about its impact on older vehicles not

specifically designed for 20 per cent ethanol blends. Critics have questioned whether all vehicles are fully compatible with E20, flagged the possibility of reduced fuel efficiency and higher maintenance costs, and sought clarity on liability if engine or fuel-system problems arise.

The government has maintained that the transition has been phased and backed by extensive testing, while automobile manufacturers have said they continue to honour warranty claims for vehicles using E20 fuel. Opposition parties have repeatedly sought greater transparency on vehicle compatibility and consumer safeguards. The minister explained that the Ethanol blended petrol (EBP) programme has been implemented through a phased, scientifically validated and consultative

process involving NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and other technical institutions.

In India, he said the ethanol blended petrol (EBP) programme commenced with a pilot in 2001, E5 was introduced in 2006, and although blending remained around 1.53 per cent in 2013-14, it has since been increased progressively in a calibrated manner after creating the necessary production capacity, infrastructure and regulatory framework. According to him, E15+ blended petrol has been in widespread use for over three-and-a-half years

and E19-E20 fuel for over two-and-a-half years. Gadkari noted that more than 20 crore two-wheelers and over 3 crore petrol cars have been operating on these blends without any verified evidence of widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending. "Manufacturer service data confirm that there is no abnormal corrosion, wear or reduction in vehicle life due to E20 fuel," he said, adding that manufacturers continue to honour warranty obligations for vehicles using E20 fuel, providing further confidence in its safety and reliability. BS, or Bharat Stage, refers to India's vehicle emission standards that set limits on pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), hydrocarbons (HC) and particulate matter (PM).

Headline: Oil India signs MoU with Municipal Corporation of Delhi

एमसीडी और ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड के बीच हुआ समझौता

‘तेहखंड और ओखला में लगेंगे 800 टीपीडी क्षमता के बायो-गैस प्लांट’

हरिभूमि न्यूज ॥ नई दिल्ली

राजधानी में कचरे के वैज्ञानिक निस्तारण और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा उत्पादन की दिशा में दिल्ली सरकार ने एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल की है। मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता के नेतृत्व में गुरुवार को नगर निगम दिल्ली (एमसीडी) और ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड के बीच एक महत्वपूर्ण समझौता (एमओयू) हुआ।

इस मौके पर दिल्ली के महापौर प्रवेश वाही, निगम आयुक्त संजीव खिरवार व संबंधित अधिकारी उपस्थित रहे। जानकारी के अनुसार, इस समझौता ज्ञापन के तहत तेहखंड और ओखला में प्रतिदिन 800 टन (टीपीडी) क्षमता वाले आधुनिक 'कम्प्रेस्ड बायो-गैस (सीबीजी) प्लांट' स्थापित किए जाएंगे। मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता



ने इस पहल को दिल्ली के सतत विकास और स्वच्छ भविष्य की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम बताते हुए

कहा कि सरकार राजधानी को कूड़े के पहाड़ों से मुक्ति दिलाने, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा को बढ़ावा देने और पर्यावरण

संरक्षण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। यह परियोजना 'वेस्ट टू वेल्थ' की सोच को व्यवहारिक रूप देने के

कचरे का वैज्ञानिक तरीके से किया जाएगा निस्तारण

दिल्ली सरकार का कहना है कि यह परियोजना 'वेस्ट टू वेल्थ' की अवधारणा को जमीन पर उतारने की दिशा में बड़ा कदम साबित होगी। इन संयंत्रों में शहर से निकलने वाले जैविक कचरे का वैज्ञानिक तरीके से निस्तारण किया जाएगा और उससे स्वच्छ ईंधन के रूप में कम्प्रेस्ड बायो-गैस तैयार होगी। इससे न केवल कचरे का बोझ कम होगा, बल्कि स्वच्छ ऊर्जा उत्पादन को भी बढ़ावा मिलेगा। सरकार के अनुसार, यह परियोजना राजधानी को कचरा मुक्त और प्रदूषण रहित बनाने की दिशा में चलाए जा रहे अभियान को नई गति देगी। विशेष रूप से भलन्सा, गाजीपुर और ओखला जैसे कचरे के पहाड़ों को कम करने के प्रयासों को इससे मजबूती मिलेगी।

पर्यावरण संरक्षण होगा मजबूत

मुख्यमंत्री का कहना है कि लैंडफिल स्थलों पर कचरे की मात्रा घटने से पर्यावरण संरक्षण, वातावरण गैस उत्सर्जन में कमी और नागरिकों के स्वास्थ्य पर भी सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ेगा। मुख्यमंत्री का कहना है कि आधुनिक तकनीक आधारित यह पहल ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन को अधिक प्रभावी बनाएगी और कचरे को समस्या के बजाय संसाधन में बदलने की दिशा में एक नया मॉडल प्रस्तुत करेगी। इससे स्वच्छ दिल्ली, हरित दिल्ली और ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता के लक्ष्य को भी बल मिलेगा।

साथ-साथ आने वाले वर्षों में की तस्वीर बदलने में अहम दिल्ली के ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन भूमिका निभाएगी।

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Date :31 July 2026	Page : 4

Headline: Two biogas plants to be built in the capital

राजधानी में दो बायोगैस संयंत्र बनेंगे

नई दिल्ली, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। राजधानी में दो नए कंप्रेस्ड बायोगैस संयंत्र स्थापित होंगे। मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता और महापौर प्रवेश वाही की उपस्थिति में गुरुवार को एमसीडी और ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड के बीच इन संयंत्रों के निर्माण को लेकर समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर हुए। एमसीडी आयुक्त संजीव खिरवार, ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड के अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक डॉ. रंजीत रथ भी शामिल हुए। मुख्यमंत्री ने बताया कि आठ सौ मीट्रिक टन प्रतिदिन की क्षमता

एक वर्ष में दोनों का निर्माण कार्य पूरा करने का लक्ष्य



महापौर प्रवेश वाही ने बताया कि दोनों बायोगैस संयंत्र को अगले एक वर्ष में तैयार कर लिया जाएगा। निगम प्रशासन मौजूदा समय में इस तरह के विभिन्न संयंत्रों जैसे ऊर्जा संयंत्र, बायोगैस संयंत्र के जरिए कूड़े का निस्तारण कर रहा है। साथ ही, इन संयंत्रों के जरिए कूड़े से नई वस्तुएं जैसे टाइल्स, बायोगैस और सीपनजी भी तैयार कर रहे हैं।

वाले दो कंप्रेस्ड बायोगैस संयंत्रों का निर्माण होगा। इसमें तेहखंड में दस एकड़ भूमि पर पांच सौ मीट्रिक टन प्रतिदिन क्षमता का संयंत्र बनाया जाएगा। ओखला में सात एकड़ भूमि पर तीन सौ मीट्रिक टन प्रतिदिन क्षमता के

बायोगैस संयंत्र का निर्माण होगा। इन दोनों संयंत्रों के स्थापित होने से दिल्ली में कूड़ा निस्तारण में सहयोग मिलेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि दिल्ली में प्रतिदिन लगभग 13 हजार 500 मीट्रिक टन ठोस अपशिष्ट (कूड़ा) उत्पन्न होता है।

In LS, Centre backs E20, says no proof of adverse impacts

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday again defended the nationwide rollout of 20% ethanol blended petrol (E20), telling Parliament there is no verified evidence of widespread engine failures or vehicle breakdowns linked to the fuel, despite concerns over its impact on older vehicles.

In reply to separate questions in the Lok Sabha, the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) said more than 200 million two-wheelers and over 30 million petrol cars have been running on E15+ and E20 fuel for more than two-and-a-half years without any verified evidence of ethanol-related engine damage.

Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari said manufacturers' service data also showed "no abnormal corrosion, wear or reduction in vehicle life" due to E20 fuel, and automobile companies continue to honour warranty claims for vehicles using specification-compliant E20 petrol. He said a leading manufacturer serviced 28.4 million vehicles in 2025-26, including about 15 million legacy vehicles, without finding any E20-linked engine damage or abnormal component wear.

The government acknowledged that a 2021 study by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) had examined the possibility of degradation in rubber fuel system com-

ponents such as O-rings, gaskets and hoses in older E10-compliant vehicles. However, it said subsequent lab studies, field trials and real-world operating experience had not established any adverse impact on vehicle performance from E20 fuel.

The ministry said tests conducted by ARAI, SIAM, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd and automobile manufacturers found no engine durability failures attributable to E20. While fuel efficiency in some older vehicles could decline by 2-6%, depending on vehicle type and age, E20 offers higher octane, cleaner combustion and lower emissions, it said.

Highlighting the benefits of the ethanol blending programme, the government said it has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by about 952 lakh metric tonnes, saved nearly ₹1.98 lakh crore in foreign exchange by cutting crude oil imports, and generated more than ₹1.66 lakh crore in additional income for farmers.

The ministry also defended petrol pricing, saying ethanol blending reduced dependence on imported crude. On demands for greater transparency, the government said separate labelling of ethanol content at retail outlets or on fuel receipts is unnecessary because E20 is now the standard petrol sold across the country. It added that only E85 fuel, meant exclusively for flex-fuel vehicles, is prominently labelled at dispensing stations.

Two tankers carrying Saudi Arabian oil for India exit Red Sea route by going 'dark'

Reuters

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NEW DELHI: Two tankers carrying Saudi crude for Indian refiners have exited the Red Sea through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait by sailing "dark" after Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis announced a blockade on Saudi shipments, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The Suezmax tanker Amazon, chartered by Indian Oil Corp, loaded 1 million barrels of oil and Aframax Rodos lifted 700,000 barrels of crude for Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) at Saudi Arabia's Yanbu port around July 20 and briefly turned north towards the Suez Canal.

However, the Amazon and

Rodos then switched off their Automatic Identification System transponders around July 22, preventing public tracking of their moves, and headed south to exit the Red Sea through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the sources said.

The tankers are the first evidence of vessels carrying Saudi crude for India going dark by turning off their transponders, which the sources said is normal practice in war zone areas, since the blockade began. "The owner had shut the transponders on the vessels for safety purposes, and the vessels are now heading to India," one of the sources told Reuters.

The Rodos is expected to arrive at India's Mangalore port on August 1, while the Amazon is

scheduled to reach Chennai in early August, both sources said.

Both vessels are managed by Greece-based Dynacom Tankers. India's foreign ministry, Indian

Oil and MRPL did not respond to emails seeking comment.

The vessels switched off their transponders after two other Dynacom ships, Malta-flagged Panamax-sized tanker Kavomaleas and Liberian-flagged VLCC Acheloos, were hit by projectiles.

Indian refiners have switched to cargoes from the Middle East on a delivered basis since the Houthi attacks on several Saudi tankers.

MRPL said in its latest tender it will only buy oil shipped on routes avoiding the Red Sea and Strait of Hormuz.

It was not immediately clear if the Indian government talked to the Houthis or Iranian authorities to gain safe passage for the vessels after refiners in India approached it for help.



MCD & OIL ink deal for 2 Bio-CBG plants

ANAMTA FATIMA

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil India Limited (OIL) to establish two Bio-Methanation-based Compressed Bio-Gas (Bio-CBG) plants, marking a significant step towards scientific waste management and the city's 'Waste-to-Wealth' initiative.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Mayor Pravesh Wahi. MCD Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar, Oil India Chairman and Managing Director Ranjit Rath, and senior officials from both organisations were also present.

Under the first phase of the project, a 500-tonnes-per-day (TPD) Bio-CBG plant will be developed at Tehkhand on 10 acres of land, while a 300 TPD facility will be set up at Okhla on seven acres. Together, the plants will process 800 TPD of segregated organic waste to

produce compressed bio-gas and organic fertiliser.

According to the MCD, Delhi generates around 13,500 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste every day, of which nearly 7,500 tonnes are currently processed through waste-to-energy facilities and a biogas plant. The new plants are expected to enhance the city's wet waste processing capacity, reduce the burden on landfill sites, and strengthen source-level waste segregation.

Addressing the event, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the project reflected the government's commitment to sustainable urban development and scientific waste management. She said converting wet waste into clean energy and bio-fertiliser would not only reduce environmental pollution but also support the circular economy.

Mayor Pravesh Wahi said the project would improve resource recovery, generate clean fuel, and contribute to a cleaner and greener Delhi through sustainable waste management practices.

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GAIL enters prestigious FTSE4Good Index Series

NEW DELHI: GAIL (India) Ltd, India's integrated energy major, has entered into the globally recognised FTSE4Good Index Series. The company has been awarded the FTSE4Good Index Certificate of Membership, following the June 2026 review by FTSE Russell.

The recognition underscores GAIL's unwavering commitment to maintaining high standards of Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) performance.

It reflects the company's continued focus on environmental stewardship, social responsibility and robust

corporate governance, while aligning its sustainability initiatives with globally accepted ESG benchmarks.

The FTSE4Good Index Series is a leading global sustainable investment index that identifies companies demonstrating strong ESG practices based on internationally recognised standards.

FTSE Russell is a trading name of FTSE International Limited, Frank Russell Company, Refinitiv Benchmark Services (UK) Ltd and their respective group undertakings, all of which are members of the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG).

MPOST

Govt defends E20 rollout, says no evidence of engine wear, corrosion or reduced vehicle life

NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday defended its ethanol blending programme, saying extensive testing and large-scale field experience had found no evidence that E20 petrol causes abnormal engine wear, corrosion or reduced vehicle life, while arguing that the programme has strengthened India's energy security and helped cushion consumers from global oil price volatility.

In a written reply to Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme had been implemented through a phased and scientifically validated process in consultation with NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), the Society of Indian Automobile Manufac-

turers (SIAM), Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

The minister said extensive laboratory studies and field trials conducted by ARAI, SIAM, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the Indian Institute of Petroleum and automobile manufacturers had confirmed that E20 fuel was safe for use under prescribed standards.

"These studies also established that legacy vehicles do not exhibit any significant variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear due to E20," he said, adding that laboratory studies, field validation and real-world operating experience had not established any widespread adverse impact on vehicle performance.

The government said E15+ petrol (15 per cent ethanol doped in petrol) had been in widespread use for more than

three-and-a-half years and E19-E20 (19/20 per cent ethanol in petrol) fuel for more than two-and-a-half years, with over 20 crore two-wheelers and more than three crore petrol cars operating on these blends "without any verified evidence of widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending."

Gopi said manufacturer service data also showed no abnormal corrosion, wear or reduction in vehicle life due to E20 fuel, while manufacturers continued to honour warranty obligations for vehicles using the fuel.

The minister cited data from a leading automobile manufacturer, which serviced 2.84 crore vehicles during 2025-26, including about 1.5 crore vehicles that were not originally certified as E20-compatible, and reported

no E20-linked corrosion, abnormal wear or reduction in component life.

A leading two-wheeler manufacturer had reported similar field experience, while another original equipment manufacturer found no evidence of ethanol-induced corrosion after tracking 1.4 crore E20-operated vehicles over an extended period, he said.

Meanwhile, the Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that Petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 2 to 6 per cent depending on the vehicle category and vintage.

The Union Minister, however, argued that tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and on-road vehicle tests have not shown any failures due to E20.

PTI

Publication : Telangana Today

Editions : Hyderabad

Date : 31 July 2026

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‘E20 can cut mileage by 6%’

NEW DELHI

Petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 2 to 6 per cent depending on the vehicle category and vintage, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Parliament on Thursday.

The Union Minister, however, argued that tests for engine durability on a

dynamometer and on-road vehicle tests have not shown any failures due to E20. Gadkari said E20 provides better acceleration, improved ride quality and approximately 30 per cent lower carbon emissions compared to E10 fuel.

Gadkari said a study to evaluate the effect of E20 on BS-III, BS-IV and BS-VI E10 (Gasoline) two-wheelers and four-wheelers was car-

ried out jointly by ARAI, SIAM and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL).

He said the study comprised of standard testing as per certification requirements & customised test protocols developed along with Original Equipment Manufacturers. He said the EBP programme has been implemented through a phased and scientifically validated process. PTI

IOC Board Revamp to Add Four MDs

Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: The government is planning to overhaul the board structure of Indian Oil Corp (IOC) by introducing four managing director (MD) positions, replacing the existing structure that has none, according to people familiar with the matter.

India's largest refiner and fuel retailer currently has a sanctioned strength of eight functional direc-

tors, including an executive chairman, apart from independent and government nominee directors.

Under the proposed restructuring, the oil ministry has suggested reducing the number of functional directors to five by abolishing separate director positions for human resources, pipelines and R&D. Functional directors are part of the company's executive management.

The new structure would comprise an executive chairman and four managing directors responsible

for finance, subsidiaries and alliances; refineries and pipelines; strategy, planning, business development, HR and R&D; and marketing, the people said.

The ministry believes bringing the R&D function under the MD overseeing business development would help accelerate the commercialisation of innovations, they said. The proposal, which has been under discussion for several months, will require approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

E20 petrol can reduce vehicle mileage by up to 6%: Gadkari

Petrol blended with 20% ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 2 to 6% depending on the vehicle category and vintage, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Parliament on Thursday. The Union minister, however, argued that tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and on-road vehicle tests have not shown any failures due to E20.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Gadkari stated that E20 fuel provides better acceleration, improved ride quality and approximately 30% lower carbon emissions compared to E10 fuel. Gadkari noted that a study to evaluate the effect of E20 on BS-III, BS-IV and BS-VI E10 gasoline two-wheelers and four-wheelers was carried out jointly by ARAI, SIAM and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

He stated that the study comprised standard testing as



per respective certification requirements and customized test protocols developed along with original equipment manufacturers. "The fuel efficiency of vehicles may be reduced by 2 to 6% depending on the vehicle category and vintage. The tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and vehicle tests on road have not shown any failures due to E20," the minister stated.

The rollout of E20 petrol, consisting of 80% petrol and 20% ethanol, has drawn criticism from opposition parties and consumer groups raising concerns about its impact on older vehicles not specifically designed for 20% ethanol blends.

-PTI

E20 can reduce fuel economy by 2%-6%, says Nitin Gadkari

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petrol blended with 20% ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 2% to 6% depending on the vehicle category and vintage, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Parliament on Thursday, citing a study commissioned by the Centre.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gadkari said that "tests for engine durability on dynamometer and vehicle tests on road have not shown any failures due to E20".

The study for evaluation of the effect of E20 on BS-III, BS-IV, and BS-VI E10 (Gasoline) two-wheelers and four-wheelers was carried out jointly by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL).



Nitin Gadkari

This study also found that E20 fuel provides better acceleration, improved ride quality, and approximately 30% lower carbon emissions compared with E10 fuel. "Higher ethanol blends also enable cleaner and more complete combustion," Mr. Gadkari's reply stated.

The replies were given in response to questions raised by Lok Sabha member Chandra Sekhar. However, the Minister did not answer queries on why the study has not been placed in the public domain.

Publication : The Indian Express

Editions : New Delhi

Date :31 July 2026

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MCD signs deal with OIL to set up 2 compressed biogas plants

Mishal Mussaddique
New Delhi, July 30

TO CONVERT 800 tonnes per day (TPD) of wet waste into biogas and organic fertilisers, the Municipal Corporation Delhi (MCD) and the Oil India Limited (OIL) on Thursday signed an MoU in the presence of the Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Mayor Pravesh Wahi for the establishment of two bio-methanation based compressed biogas (CBG) plants, officials said.

According to an official statement, two Bio-CBG plants with a combined processing capacity of 800 TPD will be established in the first phase. A 500-TPD plant will be developed on 10 acres of land at Tehkhand, while a 300-TPD plant will be set up on seven acres at Okhla, an official said.

These facilities will scientifically process segregated organic waste to produce CBG and organic fertiliser, contributing to cleaner and more sustainable waste management, the official added.

Gupta said that addressing Delhi's civic challenges "requires coordinated efforts by the Centre, the Delhi government, local bodies, public sector enterprises, the private sector and civil society".

"Delhi generates nearly 13,500 metric tonnes of solid waste every day, while the existing processing capacity remains inadequate, leading to the accumulation of landfill mountains over the years. The two CBG plants with a combined capacity of 800 TPD will provide a sustainable solution by converting wet waste into biogas and organic fertiliser, benefiting the environment, promoting clean energy, and supporting the agricultural sector," Gupta also said.

Wahi said, "Not a single rupee will be spent by the MCD. The cost of around 400 crores and operation of the plants will be borne by OIL and MCD will provide land for the plant site."

GAIL (India) Limited enters FTSE4Good Index Series



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

GAIL (India) Limited, India's integrated energy major, has entered the globally recognised FTSE4Good Index Series. The company has been awarded the FTSE4Good Index Certificate of Membership, following the June 2026 review by FTSE Russell.

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Urea plant on cards

GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly establish a gas-based fertiliser project in the state of Maharashtra through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The proposed urea production facility, with a planned capacity of 1.27 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA), is envisaged to be established in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra along GAIL's Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda Natural Gas Pipeline (MNJPL). To facilitate the implementation of the project, GAIL has entered a strategic partnership with RCF, with both organisations working collaboratively to take the



project from conceptualisation to successful implementation. The MoU was signed by Sanjay Agarwal, ED (BD & Start-up) of GAIL and Jyoti Patil, Executive Director (Project, Corporate & Co-ordination) of RCF, in the august presence of Deepak Gupta, CMD, GAIL and S Shivakumar, CMD, RCF.

Publication : BizzBuzz

Editions : Hyderabad

Date : 31 July 2026

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TODAY'S QUOTE
E20 fuel introduced only after scientific validation
 “The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme had been implemented through a phased and scientifically validated process in consultation with NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, SIAM, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and other technical institutions. Extensive testing and large-scale field experience had found no evidence that E20 petrol causes abnormal engine wear, corrosion or reduced vehicle life.”

- Suresh Gopi, Union Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas

PM reviews W Asia situation, orders steady fertiliser supply

ARCHIS MOHAN
New Delhi, 30 July

At a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to review challenges posed by the conflict in West Asia, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on Thursday directed government departments to take all measures to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilisers for the ensuing rabi season.

The PM also instructed that a mechanism to provide timely information, emergency assistance, and counselling to seafarers and their families be set up. He said that a unified coordinated mechanism be put in place for regular monitoring of all the developments to ensure expeditious implementation of appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of the citizens, the Press Information Bureau said in a press release.

Chaired by the PM, this was the CCS' fourth special meeting on evaluating the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked for a mechanism to provide aid to seafarers and their kin

challenges that the conflict in West Asia has posed to India's energy security and also to the safety and security of the country's seafarers, several of whom have lost their lives.

Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan briefed the CCS about the initiatives taken to ensure adequate supply of petroleum products, including liquefied natural gas

(LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and fertilisers. He said that sources for procurement of LPG have already been diversified, and the overall stock and supply position of major petroleum products remain adequate. Somanathan said the availability of adequate crude oil has enabled Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) refineries to operate at utilisation levels exceeding 100 percent, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products, a government press statement said.

Initiatives have also been taken to expand piped natural gas (PNG) connections. The government is also facilitating industrial substitution of LPG through expansion of the National Gas Grid, augmentation of LNG import and regasification infrastructure, expansion of city gas distribution networks, and time-bound pipeline and last-mile

connectivity approvals under the Pipeline Infrastructure Order, 2026, Somanathan said.

During the meeting, requirements for fertilisers for the ensuing rabi season was assessed and alternative sources discussed. The PM said that all measures should be taken for ensuring uninterrupted supply of fertilisers.

The situation of seafarers serving on domestic as well as foreign-flagged vessels in conflict zones was deliberated upon. The PM said all efforts must be made to safeguard the citizens as well as the Indian diaspora from the impact of this conflict. He said that in order to ensure energy independence, emphasis should be placed on renewable energy sources, including solar and other non-fossil fuels. He said that the whole-of-government approach should be continued to be adopted to tackle the challenges arising from the crisis.



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Ethanol levels
on petrol bills
not necessary:
Nitin Gadkari

Ethanol levels on receipts not necessary: Gadkari

SHUBHANGI MATHUR
New Delhi, 30 July

There is no need to mention ethanol-blending levels on customer receipts at petrol stations as the 20 per cent blend is the only kind of petrol widely available across the country, Nitin Gadkari, Union minister of road transport and highways, told the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

"Public-sector OMCs (oil marketing companies) have informed that currently normal petrol sold at their retail outlets across the country is E20. Since E0 or E10 petrol is not marketed at retail outlets, separate display of lower ethanol blends or printing of ethanol percentage on customer receipts has not been considered necessary," Gadkari said in a written reply.

The minister said retail outlets, however, prominently label dispensing units that sell E85 petrol (85 per cent ethanol blended with 15 per cent petrol).

E85 was launched in June by Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, but it can only be used in flex-fuel



Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said retail outlets, however, prominently label dispensing units that sell E85 petrol

vehicles (FFVs). Out of an estimated 100,000 fuel outlets in India, only around 48 sell E85.

Ethanol blending with petrol is being widely criticised by customers over concerns that some vehicles, particularly older models, could face faster component wear, lower fuel efficiency and higher maintenance costs, as they were not designed for E20 fuel.

Meanwhile, the government has ruled out selling pure petrol or E10 alongside E20 on

account of the huge investments made in the sector by public sector banks and other related industries.

The government also denied claims that automobile manufacturers were being forced to support E20 or had privately indicated that E20 was undesirable. Senior executives from Toyota Kirloskar, Maruti Suzuki, Hero Moto Corp, Hyundai Motor India, TVS Motor Company and Bajaj Auto have showed confidence in E20, it added.

"They (automobile manufacturers) cannot conceal widespread vehicle defects without exposing themselves to warranty claims, product liability, regulatory action and serious reputational damage. Manufacturers continue to honour warranties for E20-compatible vehicles, something they would not do if they believed E20 was causing systemic engine damage. Warranty decisions are based on engineering validation and field experience and not political considerations," the government said in a press release.

In a written reply to a ques-

tion in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme had been implemented through a phased and scientifically validated process in consultation with the NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and other technical institutions.

Gopi said extensive laboratory studies and field trials have confirmed that E20 is safe for use under prescribed standards, adding that legacy vehicles do not exhibit any significant variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear due to E20.

The government has acknowledged that E20 petrol reduces vehicle mileage by 3-5 per cent compared with conventional petrol. It said, however, that the blend offers a higher octane rating, better anti-knock performance, faster combustion, improved pickup, smoother acceleration and cleaner engine operation.

Green hydrogen hub in Andhra a huge opportunity for industry: NGEL CEO

NANDINI KESHARI
New Delhi, 30 July

The projected investment of ₹1.85 trillion in the green hydrogen hub planned in Pudimadaka, near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, will be a big opportunity for the industry, said NTPC Green Energy (NGEL) Chief Executive Officer Sarit Maheshwari said at an industry event on Thursday.

The project, being developed jointly by NGEL, the

renewable arm of NTPC, and the New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh, will have almost 20 gigawatt of renewable energy development and will produce green ammonia, green methanol, green urea and sustainable aviation fuel. He said that the next phase of growth would be driven by four interconnected pillars, including renewable energy at scale, energy storage and grid flexibility, and digital transforma-

tion of power systems.

Speaking at the same event, Central Electricity Authority Chairman Ghanshyam Prasad said a committee has been constituted to look into the problem of grid oscillations.

"The last event that happened in Khavda renewable energy park was alarming as we lost around 9,000 megawatt at a single location. If a similar event occurs then, the grid will face a very serious challenge," he said.

Egypt port hit as US-Iran war spreads

REUTERS
Dubai, 30 July

A drone strike on gas vessels in Egypt's Mediterranean port of Damietta signalled a potential new front in the US-Iran war, raising the prospect of threats to navigation through the Suez Canal, a last remaining safe export route for Saudi oil.

The Egyptian cabinet said on Thursday that an initial investigation showed that an unidentified drone caused a fire on Wednesday on two vessels at Damietta port, near the Suez Canal, which links the Mediterranean with the Red Sea. No group has claimed responsibility, the cabinet said, adding that authorities were taking measures to protect Egypt's national security.

Trading sources familiar with the incident said the drone hit US-owned gas storage tanker Energos Winter, causing a fire that spread to another vessel. Overnight, the US military said it struck Iran's Revolutionary Guards' command centres and drone facilities after Tehran fired at US forces in the region.

Iranian state media, quoting the Guards, said three civilians were killed and two children wounded in US strikes on Qeshm Island, while three Guards members were killed in Zanjan province. The governor of Khuzestan province, cited by Iranian state media, said two student dormitory complexes in the southwestern city of Ahvaz were damaged in the overnight attacks. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it struck the US-run Azraq base in Jordan in response to the US strikes. "With the help of God, the aggressor will be punished today," it said earlier in a statement

carried by state media. The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment about damage at the Azraq base.

US bases in Jordan have lately become primary Iranian targets. Jordan's armed forces said earlier on Thursday they had intercepted five Iranian missiles. An Iranian attack also hit a building owned by a Chinese company in northern Kuwait, killing a worker and inflicting significant damage, Kuwait's Defence Ministry said.

The latest strikes in Iraq and Egypt threatened to draw more Middle Eastern countries into the conflict after the Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen declared a naval blockade last week on Saudi Arabia, threatening the alternative Red Sea route for its oil to Asia. Attacks on ships by the Houthi militants prompted London's marine insurance market to widen its "high risk" zone in the Red Sea to include more of the coast adjacent to Saudi Arabian ports.

Qatar LNG tanker crosses Hormuz, first in over 2 weeks

A QatarEnergy-controlled liquefied natural gas tanker exited the Strait of Hormuz overnight, the first such vessel recorded by ship-tracking data leaving the waterway since July 11, data from analytics firms showed on Thursday.

The Al Areesh, which loaded a cargo at Qatar's Ras Laffan terminal around July 4 to July 6, sailed on July 29 from the strait blockaded in the Iran war, data from Kpler showed. LSEG data shows it is currently heading to Port Qasim in Pakistan, estimated to arrive on July 31.



Smoke rises after multiple US strikes in Ahvaz, in Iran's Khuzestan province, on Thursday

PHOTO: REUTERS



Map not to scale

Potential new front threatens Suez shipping

- Drone strike on a US-owned gas vessel in Egypt's Damietta signals a potential new front in the US-Iran war
- The attack raises the prospect of threats to navigation through the Suez Canal, one of the last remaining safe routes for Saudi oil
- Egypt, a close US ally and regional mediator in conflicts including the Israel-Hamas war, is one of the only countries in the region to have been spared direct military action during the war
- US President Donald Trump hinted at the attack being an Iranian act, adding that the US would be "hitting them very hard because it's our turn to hit them."

AGENCIES

STATE STATS

Petroleum exports cut both ways in Gujarat

Despite its investor-friendly reputation, state's economy faces a slump driven by heavy oil-refining reliance and falling global shipments

YASH KUMAR SINGHAL

Gujarat has historically been India's economic powerhouse, both in terms of economic might and exports. Yet, despite remaining India's top exporter overall, the state is facing a growing real-world slump — with outbound shipments declining for three consecutive years starting in FY24.

Maharashtra was the country's leading export state until FY20, with Gujarat ranking second; however, these positions flipped starting in FY21. In FY22, Gujarat's exports more than doubled to \$124.41 billion — up from \$60.59 billion the previous year — driven largely by a surge in petroleum product shipments, and they further peaked at \$146.49 billion in FY23.

Since the start of FY24, the state's outward shipments have declined by 24.5 per cent to reach \$110.58 billion in FY26. Consequently, Gujarat's share in India's total exports has dropped from the peak of 32.74 per cent in FY23 to 25.57 per cent in FY26.

Gujarat's export performance is linked to its petroleum product exports. A heavy concentration in petroleum products — where Gujarat claimed nearly 71 per cent of India's \$33.8 billion petroleum product exports

24.5%
Decline in Gujarat's outward shipments since FY24, reaching \$110.58 bn in FY26

25.57%
state's share in India's total exports in FY26, compared to 32.74% in FY23

HIT BY ENERGY MARKET VOLATILITY, GUJARAT MUST DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMY TO SAFEGUARD ITS NATIONAL EXPORT DOMINANCE

in FY26 — has caused the state's overall share in national exports to slip. The dip occurred even before US President Donald Trump levied additional tariffs on the purchase of Russian crude oil, a major input for keeping Gujarat's crude oil refineries running.

Petroleum products comprised 34.5 per cent of all exports from Gujarat in FY26, while the share touched 49 per cent in FY23 when the state's exports had peaked.

On the contrary, from FY22 to FY26, Gujarat's non-petroleum exports remained flat between \$72 billion and \$75 billion, while petroleum exports fluctuated considerably. Total exports from Gujarat fell by \$35.91 billion from FY23 to FY26. Petroleum product exports fell by \$33.72 billion during the same period, largely explaining the decline in the overall export value.

Among Gujarat's non-petroleum outward shipments, precious and semi-precious stones were the largest commodity group exported at \$6.1 billion in FY26. Pharmaceutical drug formulations exports were worth \$4.37 billion. Both these product groups registered a fall in export value by 7.3 per cent and 5.8 per cent, respectively, in FY26 year-on-year.

Dependence on the petroleum sector usually upsets export performance when global energy prices are volatile, explaining Gujarat's status in recent years.

Trump's additional tariffs on the purchase of Russian crude are likely to further hamper Gujarat's export prospects, if the state's non-petroleum exports don't pick up.

Maharashtra, too, saw a small but consistent decline in its exports — from \$72.86 billion in FY22 to \$65.86 billion in FY25. However, its exports rose to \$70.11 billion in FY26, which led to a rise in its export share in India's total exports from 15.06 per cent in FY25 to 16.21 per cent in FY26. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, which are the next best states (in terms of export value), have also increased their share in India's total exports.

Tamil Nadu's share increased from 0.8 per cent in FY18 to 13.71 per cent in FY26. Karnataka's share improved from 5.95 per cent in FY18 to 7.95 per cent in FY26. The top five states contributed almost 70 per cent of India's total exports in FY26, explaining the concentrated nature of India's export basket.

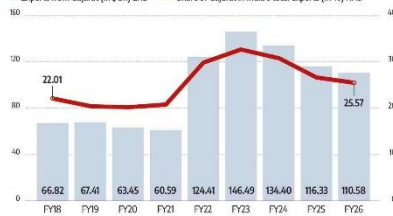
The roadmap is clear: Gujarat must improve its exports of products whose global demand-supply and price dynamics are relatively stable.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

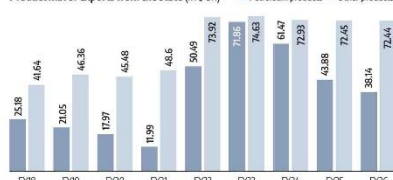
Gujarat's share in India's outward shipments declines

Exports from Gujarat (in \$ bn) LHS — Share of Gujarat in India's total exports (in %) RHS



Non-petroleum exports by Gujarat stagnant since FY22

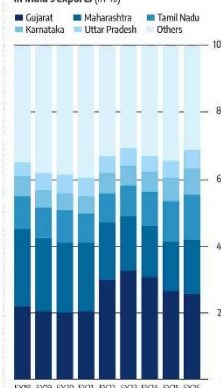
Product mix of exports from the state (in \$ bn) — Petroleum products — Other products



Note: Exports of goods under the code 1527 for crude oil and petroleum products have been taken as a proxy for petroleum products for FY26

Top 5 exporting states account for two-thirds of India's exports

Contribution of different states in India's exports (in %)



Source: NRVAT portal, Department of Commerce, Business Standard calculations

US, Iran trade missile barrages as hopes dim for quick resolution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, JULY 30: The US and Iran each fired barrages of missiles Thursday, as the pattern of back-and-forth strikes took hold again and hope dimmed for any quick resolution. After a brief respite, the risk of a return to all-out war emerged once more, with the fighting threatening to engulf even more countries: Jordan said Thursday it intercepted Iranian missiles for the second consecutive day, while Kuwait said a strike in the northern part of the country killed one person. Also this week, drones caused fires on ships at an Egyptian port, and Saudi Arabia said it came under fire from Iran-backed militias in Iraq. The spiralling violence underscored the difficulty of winding down a five-month conflict that has sent the price of fuel and other basics soaring, jolted the world economy, and added to concerns about American stockpiles of weapons needed to defend its bases and allies. After an earlier hiatus had given hope that diplomatic efforts were moving

forward, there was no public sign of progress.

An Iranian strike hit a Chinese firm's building in Kuwait on Thursday, severely damaging the structure and killing a worker, Kuwait's military said, hours after Jordan's air defences shot down five missiles launched from Iran. No casualties were reported from Jordan's interception, Jordan's state-run Petra news agency said, quoting the spokesman for the country's armed forces. Both countries are US allies and host American troops. The attacks came after the US military said it completed a heavy wave of strikes against Iran, conducted in response to an earlier Iranian missile attack on a US base in Jordan. President Donald Trump vowed to hit Iran very hard after it targeted the base. The military's Central Command said in a social media post that the US struck dozens of targets belonging to Iran's Revolutionary Guard, including military command centres as well as missile and drone facilities, and coastal surveillance and defence sites.

Iran's official IRNA news agency said three people were killed and two were wounded in a strike on the island of Qeshm, which lies just off the Iranian mainland in the Strait of Hormuz a crucial waterway for the world's energy supplies that has been at the centre of the conflict. The latest barrage came after the US partnered with Saudi Arabia to strike Iran-backed militias in Iraq, killing at least 20 fighters and six Iranian advisers on Wednesday. Before the latest eruption, mediators had expressed optimism about bringing the US and Iran back to the negotiating table. A regional official said Wednesday that mediators are still trying with both sides to restore calm and get an interim agreement to end the war back on track. He gave no details on whether progress was being made and spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door diplomacy.

Elsewhere, British maritime security firm Ambrey said drone strikes ignited fires on two natural gas vessels at the Egyptian port of Damietta on Wednesday. It was not

immediately clear who was responsible for the strikes on a US-owned floating storage facility and a Greek-owned tanker. No injuries were reported. The office of the Egyptian prime minister said initial investigations showed the fires on the two vessels had been caused by a drone. Egypt, a close US ally and regional mediator, is one of the only countries in the Middle East to have been spared direct military action during the war. A strike by Iran or its allies, if confirmed, would mark a significant widening of the conflict. Asked during an Oval Office event if Iran was responsible for the strikes on the vessels, Trump responded: It's a little more of the same. The Damietta Port Authority said in a statement on Facebook on Thursday that the facility was fully operational.

Since Iran began threatening and firing on ships in the Strait of Hormuz early in the war, the conflict has wreaked havoc on the global economy as energy shipments through the waterway ground to a near halt. Much of the diplomacy around ending

the war has focused on reopening the strait, through which 20 per cent of oil and natural gas shipments passed in peacetime. The strait is once again effectively closed and in recent weeks, fighting elsewhere has squeezed energy supplies further. Saudi Arabia has accused the Iraqi militias of firing drones against its oil facilities over the past few days. An umbrella group of Iraqi militias initially denied the allegations, while another Iran-backed group - the Houthis in Yemen - said they had attacked Saudi energy facilities as part of a separate but related conflict.

The Houthis have declared a blockade of Saudi shipping and threatened to choke off another crucial Middle East trade route, the Bab el-Mandeb strait from the Red Sea into the Gulf of Aden. That route became even more important during the war, as Saudi Arabia used it to bypass the Strait of Hormuz. On Monday, the Houthis said they had launched drones targeting oil facilities used to transport oil across Saudi

Arabia to the Red Sea port of Yanbu. The rebels said the attack was in response to a Saudi drone they said breached Yemen's airspace. Planet Labs satellite imagery from Monday, analysed by The Associated Press, showed damage to Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq oil-processing facility, which is capable of processing approximately 7 million barrels of crude oil per day.

Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman met separately on Wednesday with Trump and Vice President JD Vance, according to two people familiar with the matter who were not authorised to comment publicly about the private meetings. They said the Saudi decision to join the US attacks against the Iraqi militias was meant to send a message to Iran that it wouldn't tolerate Iran or its proxies targeting the Saudi oil industry and other critical infrastructure. At the same time, the defence minister underscored to Trump and Vance that the Saudis want to see a de-escalation in the war and for Washington and Tehran to return to negotiations.

India's Russian nuclear plant cost spikes 55%

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH
July 30

THE COST OF Adding four Russian-designed nuclear reactors at the Kudankulam plant in Tamil Nadu has surged by more than half after the war in Ukraine pushed back construction by almost three years.

The four reactors of 1 gigawatt each are now estimated to cost ₹1.38 lakh crore (\$14.4 billion), according to a written reply to parliament by Atomic Energy Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday. That is 55% more than the estimates published in 2024.

Steep cost escalations and holdups are symptomatic of the challenges faced by the sector. Similar projects from the US and the UK to Bangladesh have also suffered due to a sharp increase in expenditure after construction delays. Georgia's Vogtle plant, the first nuclear project built in the US in decades, was delivered years behind schedule at more than double its original budget.

The projected expenditure for two of the new Kudankulam reactors has risen by 73% while the estimate for the remaining increased by 40%, government

SLOW PROGRESS



■ The four reactors in Tamil Nadu are now estimated to cost **₹1.38 lakh cr**

■ The projected spend for two reactors has risen by 73% while it has spiked 40% for the others

■ The cost overruns will make power generated by these plants expensive, posing hurdles for expansion

data showed. The cost overruns will make electricity generated by these plants more expensive, posing hurdles for nuclear expansion in India's price-sensitive power market.

"While nuclear is important for climate risk mitigation and energy security, costs need to be contained," said Rupesh Sankhe, senior vice president for research

at Elara Capital India, adding that this may dent the plant's competitiveness compared to other sources of power. "Very high costs only enforce the anti-nuclear argument and can create further opposition to projects."

India has installed two Russian reactors of 1-gigawatt capacity each at Kudankulam, a coastal town near the southern most tip of the country, and construction is ongoing for four more. The new reactors will be commissioned through March 2030, with the first expected to start operations in June next year, according to Singh. The government had earlier said that all these reactors will be completed by 2027.

The costs for building four 700-megawatt domestic reactors, two each at Kaiga in Karnataka and Gorakhpur in Haryana, are also set to be revised, Singh said on Wednesday.

India currently has 8.8 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity which contributes to about 3% of the country's power output. Last year, the government opened up the sector to private firms, pursuing an ambitious goal of expanding the country's nuclear generation capacity eleven-fold by 2047.

—BLOOMBERG

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ECONOMY **PAGE 2**

PM CALLS FOR UNINTERRUPTED FUEL SUPPLIES



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Thursday issued directions for the establishment of a unified mechanism for regular monitoring of the West Asia conflict and stressed that all measures be taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of fuel and fertilisers, reports **Saurav Anand**.

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PM CALLS FOR UNINTERRUPTED FUEL SUPPLIES



PRIME
MINISTER
NARENDRA
Modi on
Thursday
directed the

government to establish a unified mechanism for regular monitoring of the West Asia conflict as India stepped up measures to protect petroleum, cooking gas and fertiliser supplies and assist seafarers and citizens exposed to the crisis. "Availability of adequate crude oil has enabled Central Public Sector Enterprise refineries to operate at utilisation levels exceeding 100%, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products," the government statement said. "All measures be taken for ensuring uninterrupted supply of fertilisers," PM said. The review assumes significance as the conflict threatens energy flows from West Asia, a key sourcing region for India.

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Oil drops on Hormuz talks

OIL PRICES FELL on Thursday, as investors weighed talks between Oman and Iran over the Strait of Hormuz even as Washington and Tehran exchanges strikes again. Brent futures were down \$1.42, or 1.56%, at \$89.32 a barrel at 13:24 GMT (18:54 IST) after touching a high of \$93.31. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down \$1.14, or 1.35%, at \$83.32. —REUTERS

MAKE UP 55% OF JULY BASKET AMID WEST ASIA CRISIS

Russian oil imports reach all-time high

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, July 30

INDIA'S IMPORTS OF Russian crude rose to a record high of 2.78 million barrels per day (mbd) in July, accounting for 55.3% of the country's total purchases of 5.03 mbd till July 29. Strong supplies of Russian Urals crude helped refiners navigate continuing volatility in West Asia, even as Moscow sharply cut discounts to \$2-3 a barrel recently.

"India's crude imports have remained resilient, reaching a seasonal five-year high, supported by ample availability of Russian crude," Nikhil Dubey, lead analyst for oil markets at Kpler, said.

"Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian refining infrastructure left more crude available for export, while cargoes stranded in the Persian Gulf were released during the brief US-Iran ceasefire, further supporting supplies for Indian buyers," Dubey said.

The conflict in West Asia also triggered extreme swings in the price of Russia's flagship Urals grade. Crude that had been available to Indian refiners at modest discounts before hostilities rose to a premium of \$15-20 a barrel over benchmark Brent when fears of a supply squeeze peaked.

Continued on Page 6

URALS SHARE ON THE RISE



Russian oil imports reach all-time high

THE BRIEFCEASEFIRE reversed the move, widening Urals discounts to \$8-10 a barrel before prices tightened towards parity after fighting resumed. Cargoes for late-August and early-September delivery were offered in India at discounts of \$2-3 a barrel late this month.

Russian inflows increased 1.8% from 2.73 mbd in June, while India's overall imports edged up just 0.1% from 5.02 mbd. Moscow's share rose from 54.4%, cementing its position as India's dominant supplier. It has more than doubled from 23.4% in January, illustrating how rapidly the country's crude basket has changed during the conflict.

West Asian barrels returned during July, but their recovery did not dislodge Russia. UAE was a distant second, supplying 488,900 bpd, or 9.7% of India's crude basket. Its shipments declined 4.6% from June, widening the gap with Russia.

Combined shipments from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the Saudi-Kuwaiti Neutral Zone rose 15.8% month-on-month to nearly 1.2 mbd. Their share climbed to 23.8% from 20.6% in June.

Saudi Arabia recorded the sharpest increase among major suppliers, with volumes jumping 55% to 453,500 bpd and its share rising to 9% from 5.8%. The rebound, however, may be difficult to sustain if disruptions in the Red Sea and around the Babel-Mandeb Strait delay Asia-bound cargoes and raise shipping risks.

The UAE remained India's second-largest supplier at 488,900 bpd, although shipments declined 4.6% and its



share slipped to 9.7%. Oman's flows surged 45% to 183,900 bpd, lifting its share to 3.7%, while Iraqi supplies rose 4.9% to 70,400 bpd, or 1.4% of the basket.

The sourcing mix shifted away from several Atlantic suppliers. Venezuelan shipments fell 14.8% to 239,300 bpd, reducing its share to 4.8%. Brazil declined 16.4% to 192,100 bpd, or 3.8%, while US supplies dropped 18.2% to 128,400 bpd, accounting for 2.6%.

Nigeria was an exception, with inflows rising 28.4% to 88,700 bpd and its share reaching 1.8%. Angolan supplies fell 47.2% to 33,900 bpd.

The availability of feedstock also lifted India's refined-product trade. "Ample crude availability, coupled with an exceptionally strong refining margin environment and seasonally weak domestic demand during the monsoon, supported India's product exports, which reached a seasonal five-year high," Dubey said.

"The completion of maintenance at Nayara Energy and Reliance Industries in previous months boosted refinery runs and further supported export volumes," he added.

Combined shipments from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the Saudi-Kuwaiti Neutral Zone rose 15.8% M-o-M to nearly 1.2 mbd

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US strikes Iran again

THE US AND Iran exchanged airstrikes as fighting in the five-month war flared up once again, with hostilities now spreading across West Asia. Washington hit dozens of Iranian military targets in an early Thursday operation aimed at degrading Tehran's ability to threaten US troops, its Arab allies and commercial shipping in the region, the US Central Command said. ■ **PAGE 10**

IRAN'S RETALIATION MAINLY ON ARAB STATES

US strikes Iran again as W Asia conflict widens

JEN JUDSON, OMAR TAMO & MOIRA WARBURTON
July 30

THE US LAUNCHED a fresh wave of strikes on Iran in response to an attack on American forces in Jordan, escalating a conflict that's now spreading across West Asia.

Washington hit dozens of military targets in an operation early on Thursday aimed at degrading Tehran's ability to threaten US troops, its Arab allies and commercial shipping in the region, US Central Command said in a post on X.

Iran targeted a building in northern Kuwait, killing one worker and causing "significant" material damage, the Kuwait Army said, while Jordan said it intercepted five missiles from the Islamic Republic.

Two liquefied natural gas vessels at an Egyptian port on the Mediterranean Sea were struck by drones, according to the North African nation's cabinet, causing fires but no injuries. No party has yet claimed responsibility.

The tanker strikes were the first in Egyptian waters since the US-Israeli war on Iran began just



A US military aircraft takes off from an unknown location during what US Central Command says are strikes on Iran, in this screengrab from a handout video released on July 29

REUTERS

over five months ago. For much of the conflict, Iran's retaliation has centered on Arab states in the Persian Gulf and Jordan.

Saudi Arabia and Iraq have now also been drawn into the fray, with Riyadh this week joining the US in attacking Tehran-backed militias in Iraq to response to attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

Iran-backed Houthi mili-

itants in Yemen have also attacked Saudi vessels in the Red Sea after announcing a blockade targeting the kingdom.

The US and Iran had paused an exchange of strikes at the end of last week to give a chance to diplomacy and bring an end to the war. That lull ended on Tuesday night when Tehran carried out what US President Donald Trump called a surprise

attack, firing multiple ballistic missiles at an American military base in Jordan. The assault sent oil prices soaring. "We're going to be hitting them very hard because it's our turn to hit them," Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday, two days after playing down the prospect of a renewed escalation. "They know what's coming." —BLOOMBERG

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NO SHORTAGE OF FUEL, FERTILISERS AMID WEST ASIA CONFLICT, CCS TOLD

**Smriti Kak Ramachandran
and Rezaul H Laskar**

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) was informed on Thursday that there is no shortage of diesel, petrol, urea or fertilisers amid the West Asia conflict, as the government has made alternative arrangements to deal with any contingency, people familiar with the matter said. In a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the committee reviewed the fallout of the conflict. →P6

{ **AMID W ASIA CONFLICT** } 'ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS MADE'

No shortage of fuel, fertilisers, CCS told

**Smriti Kak Ramachandran
and Rezaul H Laskar**

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday to review the fallout of the West Asia conflict was informed that there is no shortage of diesel, petrol, urea and fertilisers as the government has made alternative arrangements to deal any contingency, people familiar with the matter said.

The meeting, which focused on ensuring uninterrupted fuel and fertiliser supplies and the safety of seafarers in conflict zones, was also told that there is sufficient availability of fertilisers to meet requirements until the next Rabi crop season, a person privy to the details said on condition of anonymity.

An official readout said Modi backed a "whole of government" approach to tackle the challenges arising from the crisis. He said a unified and coordinated mechanism should be put in place to regularly monitor all developments to ensure the "expeditious implementation of appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of the citizens".

The meeting, the fourth special gathering of the CCS since the start of the West Asia conflict in February, was held at a time when the ceasefire between Iran and the US is on the verge of collapse as the two sides ramp up military strikes in the region.



Narendra Modi

India's oil, gas and fertiliser supplies have been impacted by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The CCS meeting reviewed the preparations of key ministries to face the challenges brought on by the West Asia crisis, the people said, adding key ministers briefed the meeting about the steps taken by their ministries and outlined their strategies going forward.

As the meeting discussed the situation of seafarers serving on domestic and foreign-flagged vessels in conflict zones, Modi issued directions for establishing a mechanism to provide timely information, emergency assistance and counselling to seafarers and their families.

He also said all efforts must be made to safeguard Indian citizens and the diaspora from the impact of the conflict.

A total of 16 Indian nationals, including 10 seafarers, have been killed and 75 more injured in the West Asia conflict, according to information provided by the government in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Another 12 Indians died in an accidental explosion in a gas facility in Qatar in June.

West Asia is also home to

more than 10 million Indian nationals, a majority of them concentrated in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The person cited above said that India has taken a firm stance on the safety of its nationals in West Asia and will continue to push for safeguarding its people and their interests.

The CCS meeting assessed the requirement of fertilisers for the ensuing Rabi season and discussed alternate sources for the commodity, according to the readout. Modi said all measures be taken for "ensuring uninterrupted supply of fertilisers". He further said that in order to ensure energy independence, emphasis should be placed on renewable energy sources, including solar energy and other non-fossil fuel based sources.

Cabinet secretary TV Somanathan briefed the CCS on the geopolitical situation and the initiatives taken to ensure adequate supply of petroleum products, including LNG, LPG and fertilisers, according to the readout.

Somanathan said sources for procuring LPG have been diversified and the overall stock and supply position of major petroleum products remains adequate. "Availability of adequate crude oil has enabled Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) refineries to operate at utilisation levels exceeding 100%, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products," the readout said.



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**QATAR LNG TANKER
EXITS HORMUZ FOR 1ST
TIME IN NEARLY 3 WEEKS**

SINGAPORE: A QatarEnergy-controlled LNG tanker has exited the Strait of Hormuz, the first such vessel leaving the waterway since July 11, data from analytics firms Kpler and LSEG showed on Thursday. The Al Areesh, which loaded LNG at Qatar's Ras Laffan terminal around July 4-6, sailed on July 29 from the strait blockaded in Iran war. It is heading to Port Qasim in Pakistan and estimated to arrive on Friday. **REUTERS**

{ AMID W ASIA CONFLICT } 'ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS MADE'

No shortage of fuel, fertilisers, CCS told

Smriti Kak Ramachandran
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NEW DELHI: A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday to review the fallout of the West Asia conflict was informed that there is no shortage of diesel, petrol, urea and fertilisers as the government has made alternative arrangements to deal any contingency, people familiar with the matter said.

The meeting, which focused on ensuring uninterrupted fuel and fertiliser supplies and the safety of seafarers in conflict zones, was also told that there is sufficient availability of fertilisers to meet requirements until the next Rabi crop season, a person privy to the details said on condition of anonymity.

An official readout said Modi backed a "whole of government" approach to tackle the challenges arising from the crisis. He said a unified and coordinated mechanism should be put in place to regularly monitor all developments to ensure the "expeditious implementation of appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of the citizens".

The meeting, the fourth special gathering of the CCS since the start of the West Asia conflict in February, was held at a time when the ceasefire between Iran and the US is on the verge of collapse as the two sides ramp up military strikes in the region.



Narendra Modi

India's oil, gas and fertiliser supplies have been impacted by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The CCS meeting reviewed the preparations of key ministries to face the challenges brought on by the West Asia crisis, the people said, adding key ministers briefed the meeting about the steps taken by their ministries and outlined their strategies going forward.

As the meeting discussed the situation of seafarers serving on domestic and foreign-flagged vessels in conflict zones, Modi issued directions for establishing a mechanism to provide timely information, emergency assistance and counselling to seafarers and their families.

He also said all efforts must be made to safeguard Indian citizens and the diaspora from the impact of the conflict.

A total of 16 Indian nationals, including 10 seafarers, have been killed and 75 more injured in the West Asia conflict, according to information provided by the government in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Another 12 Indians died in an accidental explosion in a gas facility in Qatar in June.

West Asia is also home to

more than 10 million Indian nationals, a majority of them concentrated in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The person cited above said that India has taken a firm stance on the safety of its nationals in West Asia and will continue to push for safeguarding its people and their interests.

The CCS meeting assessed the requirement of fertilisers for the ensuing Rabi season and discussed alternate sources for the commodity, according to the readout. Modi said all measures be taken for "ensuring uninterrupted supply of fertilisers". He further said that in order to ensure energy independence, emphasis should be placed on renewable energy sources, including solar energy and other non-fossil fuel based sources.

Cabinet secretary TV Somanathan briefed the CCS on the geopolitical situation and the initiatives taken to ensure adequate supply of petroleum products, including LNG, LPG and fertilisers, according to the readout.

Somanathan said sources for procuring LPG have been diversified and the overall stock and supply position of major petroleum products remains adequate. "Availability of adequate crude oil has enabled Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) refineries to operate at utilisation levels exceeding 100%, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products," the readout said.

Scripting an endgame in the Russia-Ukraine war

Ukraine and its western partners can take a few concrete steps to make it harder for Putin to continue to underestimate Ukraine's resilience

Russia has taken heavy losses over the last couple of months in its war with Ukraine. Russian advances in Donetsk and Luhansk have largely stalled and, in some cases, even reversed. Ukrainian drone attacks have degraded Russia's naval capabilities in the Black Sea and caused an acute fuel crisis in Crimea. Similar drone attacks have reached St. Petersburg and Moscow, bringing the war home to Russia's elite, while strikes on petroleum infrastructure across the country have created nationwide fuel shortages.

Given these major losses, why is Russian President Vladimir Putin so obdurate when faced with ending the war in Ukraine? His intransigence is puzzling for a few reasons. Increasing economic and psychological impacts on the Russian elite and citizenry could weaken his hold on power. States and leaders are typically more risk-averse when taking actions that change the status quo — such as seizing territory from a neighbour — than when defending it. The minor territorial gains that now seem realistic for Russia in Eastern Ukraine would have minimal strategic or economic benefit for Moscow.

Two factors combine to influence Putin's decision-making. First, he is worried about the domestic political

implications of ending the war without making notable territorial gains. Second, he believes that he can outlast Ukraine, eventually taking additional territory in the Donbas by force or through a negotiated settlement.

Ending the war without a way to claim victory poses two domestic threats to his regime. Ending the war could upset members of the military and security services, especially those who have fought in the war. Putin has already seen security forces challenge the regime due to failures in Ukraine with the Prigozhin mutiny in 2023. Additionally, an unadulterated failure could erode his regime's legitimacy, breaking the foundations upon which it is built. Such a failure could lead to fractures in the country's elite or make mass mobilisation against the regime easier. Either would weaken Putin's grip on power.

The second factor dissuading Putin from ending the war in Ukraine is that he believes Russia can outlast Ukraine. Even if Russia may not be able to accomplish its original war aims, the Kremlin likely believes that it can keep fighting long enough to either take the remainder of Donetsk and Luhansk by force or inflict enough pain on Ukraine to take them through a negotiated settlement.

While Ukraine has enjoyed more recent military success than Russia, several factors exist that contribute to this line of thinking on Moscow's part. First, Russia has a major population

advantage over Ukraine and may think that it can absorb more battlefield losses and mobilise more forces to bring to bear on the battlefield.

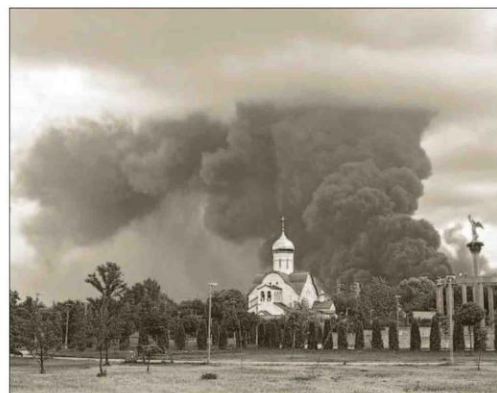
Second, increasing global oil prices in the wake of the Strait of Hormuz's closing — coupled with a growing willingness in several western countries to ease sanctions against Russian oil and gas to lower energy prices — should improve Russia's economic standing and aid its war effort.

Third, Ukrainian Patriot missile stores are fast depleting, and competition from the US, Israel and the Gulf States due to the Iran War is preventing them from being restocked. Even a recent US announcement hinting at a potential licensing deal that will allow Ukraine to produce Patriot systems indigenously would not have an operational impact for at least a year, and Franco-Italian efforts to boost SAMP/T production and exports may be too little, too late. Russia has adapted to this strategic reality by launching large ballistic missile barrages against

Ukrainian population centres, knowing that Kyiv has limited means to intercept these attacks.

Finally, mixed signals from Washington likely bolster Russia's belief that it can outlast Ukraine. President Donald Trump has shown a desire to end the war and has put greater pressure on Ukraine to accept concessions than on Russia, giving the Russians hope that they could gain territory in Eastern Ukraine through a negotiated settlement.

What does this mean for the



The best way to bring Putin to the bargaining table is to change his calculation about his ability to outlast Ukraine.

REUTERS

prospects of ending the war? The best way to bring Putin to the bargaining table is to change his calculation about his ability to outlast Ukraine. This may be easier said than done. Putin and Russian leaders have underestimated Ukrainian resolve and ability since they began planning for the full-scale invasion.

Ukraine and its western partners can take a few concrete steps to make it harder for Putin to continue to underestimate Ukraine's resilience. First, continued drone strikes against the Russian military and military-supporting industry — including Russian energy infrastructure — would help Ukraine balance Russia's population advantage, degrade Russian military capabilities, and prevent Russia from capitalising on potential economic gains from increasing oil prices.

Second, the US should reaffirm its commitment to supporting Ukraine. Some recent actions by the Trump administration — mainly Trump's comments about allowing Ukraine to develop Patriot missiles — suggest that it may be more inclined to increase support than it was previously. How-

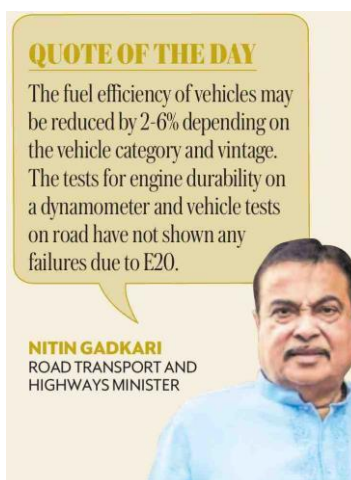
ever, the US needs to take tangible steps in the form of military aid to improve Ukraine's battlefield circumstances and alter Russia's strategic calculus.

Finally, the US and its European allies need to ramp up production of interceptors. Doing so would be important for both Ukraine and for their own strategic needs. The US has already begun increasing Patriot production, although this increase is likely insufficient to meet American, Ukrainian, Israeli, and Gulf States' demands. France and Italy's SAMP/T production boost is a good start for the Europeans, and Paris and Rome must ensure that new interceptors are produced and sent to Ukraine in a timely manner. If such concerted actions are taken, this sanguinary war may be brought to a close.

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Brent tops \$90 a barrel amid fresh US-Iran flare-up

Brent crude climbed above \$90 a barrel on Thursday as the latest escalation between the US and Iran renewed fears of supply disruptions in West Asia, sharpening concerns over India's import bill, inflation and energy security.

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India is the world's third-largest crude importer. REUTERS

Crude sways around \$90 amid West Asia war volatility

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In a day of volatile trade, Brent crude oil prices breached \$93 a barrel intraday on Thursday amid further escalation between the US and Iran and renewed fears of supply disruptions in West Asia.

After hitting a high of \$93.31 a barrel, the September contract on the Intercontinental Exchange, eased to \$89.50 at around 10.30pm, 1.4% lower than the previous close on reports of talks between Iran and Oman on reopening of the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

Prices had surged nearly 8% in the previous session to an intraday high of \$90.8 a barrel, before settling at \$90.74.

Prices rocketed amid US strikes on Iran in retaliation of Tehran's attacks on American military assets in Jordan, heightening fears that the conflict could spill over into the region's energy infrastructure.

AlJazeera reported that US forces bombed Iran, striking a residential building on Qeshm Island and killing a couple and their two-year-old child. Explosions were also heard on Kish Island, in Bushehr and at four locations in Khuzestan province, the hub of Iran's oil industry, it reported.

Separately, Israel's chief of staff Eyal Zamir said on Wednesday that Israeli troops would not withdraw from occupied territory in southern Lebanon until the country's security is assured.

Taken together, the US strikes, attacks involving Iran-backed groups in Iraq and Israel's stance on southern Lebanon suggest regional tensions are unlikely to ease soon.

For India, the concern extends beyond market volatility. As the world's third-largest oil importer, sustained high prices threaten to widen the import bill, fuel inflation and complicate the macroeconomic outlook.

A sustained \$1-a-barrel rise in crude oil prices over a year could add ₹18,000 crore to its import bill, according to Bank of Baroda's estimates.

Climate risk in boardrooms as firms rethink resilience

The shift is making climate resilience a business imperative rather than an ESG objective

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Climate resilience is moving from the sustainability function to the boardroom as companies confront rising costs from extreme weather, forcing them to rethink capital allocation, supply chains and infrastructure rather than treat climate action as a compliance exercise.

"Sustainability is no longer something which is good to do, but now becoming a must to do because if not done, it has become a business risk," Tejashree Joshi, head-environmental sustainability, Godrej Enterprises Group, said at the *Mint Sustainability Summit 2026*, held on Wednesday.

She said the company has "identified climate risk as one of the top 10 enterprise level risks", ensuring it is embedded across procurement, production and project execution.

Joshi said climate disruptions are already affecting factories and supply chains, particularly because many of Godrej's suppliers are MSMEs vulnerable to extreme weather. Climate risk is now factored into annual business planning by analysing changing weather patterns, worker availability and physical risks to assets.

"Corrective actions... is a lesser price than inaction because the amount of disruption it creates and disruption in the business continuity amounts to much larger business pressures and non-revenue generation," she said.

For renewable energy companies, the assets built to combat climate change are themselves becoming more vulnerable to extreme weather.

Vinay Rustagi, chief business officer at Premier Energies, said climate risk



(Clockwise from top left) Vinay Rustagi of Premier Energies, Avinash Rao of Mahindra Susten, Tejashree Joshi of Godrej Enterprises Group, and Ajey Hegde of Zurich Kotak General Insurance

differs fundamentally from conventional business risks because it cannot be assessed using historical data alone. "The challenge with climate risk is

For renewable energy firms, the assets built to combat climate change are becoming more vulnerable to extreme weather

we are dealing with something that we have not experienced before," he said. "It is a non-linear risk, and things are actually expected to get worse."

That uncertainty is forcing companies to reassess risks more frequently than traditional operational reviews, Rustagi said.

"We have a pretty comprehensive risk assessment and a business continuity plan in place. But I think we have to revisit this every year, maybe even more frequently than that," he said.

He cited one of the company's construction sites near Chennai, where exceptionally heavy monsoon rains delayed work by nearly three months, illustrating how climate events can quickly translate into project delays and higher costs.

"The risk is very real... and we have to be really on top of our game to make sure that we prepare ourselves and we are protected from it," Rustagi said.

Avinash Rao, managing director and chief executive of Mahindra Susten, said resilience must be engineered into projects from the outset rather than addressed after construction. "Anything that you build has to make a business case, and it has to last its useful life," Rao said.

Renewable energy projects, he noted, are designed to operate for 25-30 years and should be engineered to withstand "one in a 50-year climate event" through rigorous assessments of hydrology, drainage, wind, earthquakes and other site-specific risks.

"When you design it with all these considerations, there is no reason why these projects cannot operate over their useful life, notwithstanding temporary disruptions," Rao said, adding that insurance should protect against exceptional events rather than compensate for weak project design.

The insurance industry warned that climate resilience also requires a significant expansion in risk coverage, with most climate-related losses in India still uninsured.

Ajey Hegde, head-commercial insurance at Zurich Kotak General Insurance, said insurers are increasingly pricing risk based on future climate vulnerability rather than historical loss experience.

"The pricing of the risk will depend on where the project or the operational risk is and how vulnerable it is to future losses, and not typically dependent on what was the scenario 10 years back because the risks are changing," he said.

For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.

Oil shocks reinforce energy security push, reshape green

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Industry leaders and economists said successive crises—from the Russia-Ukraine war to the recent tensions in West Asia—have strengthened the case for renewable energy while underscoring that fossil fuels will remain integral to India's energy mix for years.

Speaking at the *Mint Sustainability Impact Summit 2026*, executives from the energy, logistics and manufacturing sectors said investment decisions are being driven by economics and energy security rather than environmental commitments alone.

Reducing dependence on imported fuels, strengthening supply chains and improving competitiveness are now becoming as critical as cutting emissions.

"Sustainability as a word has shifted towards the concept of having a reliable and resilient energy supply," said Suhas Donthi, chief executive, Emmvee Photovoltaic.

He said the country's long-term objective is to reduce dependence on imported fuels by expanding domestic renewable energy capacity. "Renewables are becoming an answer to energy security. Sustainability remains a factor, but resilience has become equally important."

Gaura Sen Gupta, chief economist at IDFC First Bank, said recent geopolitical crises have highlighted the importance of diversification. "Countries will have to focus on both fossil fuels as well as renewables because the risks are immediate while sustainability is a long-term journey."



(Clockwise from top left) Akanksha Sharma of DP World, Gaura Sen Gupta of IDFC First Bank, Gurpratap Boparai of Suzlon Energy, and Suhas Donthi of Emmvee Photovoltaic

As India's economy expands, energy demand is expected to rise sharply, making an immediate shift away from conventional fuels difficult, the panelists said.

Coal continues to dominate India's electricity mix, accounting for nearly 68% of total electricity generation.

Gupta noted that although India is the world's third-largest energy consumer after the US and China, its per-capita energy consumption remains relatively low.

"As India urbanizes and incomes rise, energy requirements will continue to grow. That means both fossil fuels and renewable sources will be required simultaneously," Gupta said.

Gurpratap Boparai, chief executive-manufacturing, Suzlon Energy, said that while technology and policy remain important, economics ultimately drives sustainability.

"The conversations are shift-

ing. Sustainability is becoming a competitive advantage," said Akanksha Sharma, vice president, sustainability, subcontinent, Central Asia, Levant & Egypt, DP World.

According to Sharma, companies are commercializing sustainability through low-carbon logistics solutions, carbon insetting programmes, emission-tracking services, reverse logistics, biofuel-based transport, fleet electrification, as well as shipment-wise emission certificates, integrating sustainability into core business offerings.

Boparai said Suzlon has largely avoided major operational disruptions by diversifying sourcing across multiple geographies instead of relying on a single country. "There have been some disruptions and slightly higher costs, but our supply chain has remained resilient."

For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.



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US, Iran trade missiles as hopes dim for quick resolution to conflict

Fears of a wider war have grown as renewed fighting threatens to engulf even more countries

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The United States and Iran each fired barrages of missiles Thursday, as the pattern of back-and-forth strikes took hold again and hopes dimmed for a quick end to the five-month conflict.

Following a few days of respite, fears of a wider war have grown, with renewed fighting threatening to engulf even more countries: Jordan said Thursday it intercepted Iranian missiles for the second consecutive day, while Kuwait said a strike in the northern part of the country killed one person. Also this week, drones caused fires on ships at an Egyptian port, and Saudi Arabia said it came under fire from Iran-backed militias in Iraq.

The war—which in its early days President Donald Trump said would last four to five weeks, although he warned it could take longer—has caused the price of fuel to spike and roiled the global economy. As months have passed, concerns have deepened about using up the stockpile of weapons the US needs to defend its bases and allies.

The recent pause in fighting, which began over the weekend and spurred hopes among mediators of diplomatic progress, ended with increasing missile and drone attacks across many countries in the Middle East.

"We note with concern that the security situation remains precarious," said Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tahir Andrabi, whose country has been a key mediator, adding that diplomats were still seeking an end to the fighting.

Talks "are ongoing to normalize the situation, particularly the situation in the Strait of Hormuz," he told reporters.

An Iranian strike hit a Chinese firm's building in Kuwait on Thursday, severely damaging the structure and killing a worker, Kuwait's military said, hours after Jordan's air defenses shot down five missiles launched from Iran.

No injuries were reported from Jordan's interception, Jordan's state-run Petra news agency said, quoting the spokesman for the country's armed forces. Both countries are US allies and host American troops.

The attacks came after the U.S. military said it completed "a heavy wave of strikes against Iran," in response to an earlier Iranian missile attack on a U.S. base in Jordan.

The military's Central Command said in a social media post that the US struck dozens of targets belonging to Iran's Revolutionary Guard, including military command centres, missile and



The latest barrage came after the US partnered with Saudi Arabia on Wednesday to strike Iran-backed militias in Iraq. **AFP**

drone facilities, and coastal surveillance and defense sites.

Iran's official IRNA news agency said three people were killed and two were wounded in a strike on the island of Qeshm, which lies just off the Iranian mainland in the Strait of Hormuz—a crucial waterway for the world's energy supplies that has been at the centre of the conflict.

The latest barrage came after the US partnered with Saudi Arabia on Wednesday to strike Iran-backed militias in Iraq, killing at least 20 fighters and six Iranian advisers.

Also on Wednesday, British maritime security firm Ambrey said drone strikes ignited fires on two natural gas vessels at the Egyptian port of Damietta. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the strikes on a US-owned floating storage facility and a Greek-owned tanker. No injuries were reported.

The office of the Egyptian prime minister said initial investigations showed the fires on the two vessels had been caused by a drone.

Egypt, a close US ally and regional mediator, is one of the only countries in the Middle East to have been spared direct military action during the war. A strike by Iran or its allies, if confirmed, would mark a significant widening of the conflict.

Asked during an Oval Office event if Iran was responsible for the strikes on the vessels, Trump responded: "It's a little more of the same." The Damietta Port Authority said Thursday in a statement on Facebook that the facility was fully operational. The Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen denied they were behind the attack.

Since Iran began threatening and firing on ships in the Strait of Hormuz early in the war, the conflict has wreaked havoc on the global economy as energy shipments through the waterway ground to a near halt. Much of the diplomacy around ending the war has focused on reopening the strait, through which 20% of oil and natural gas shipments passed in peacetime.

The strait is once again effectively closed—and in recent weeks, fighting elsewhere has squeezed energy supplies further.

Saudi Arabia has accused the Iraqi militias of firing drones against its oil facilities over the past days. An umbrella group of Iraqi militias initially denied the allegations, while the Houthi rebels said they had attacked Saudi energy facilities as part of a separate but related conflict.

The Houthis have declared a blockade of Saudi shipping and threatened

to choke off another crucial Middle East trade route, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait from the Red Sea into the Gulf of Aden. That route became even more important during the war, as Saudi Arabia used it to bypass the Strait of Hormuz.

On Monday, the Houthis said they had launched drones targeting facilities used to transport oil across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea port of Yanbu. The rebels said the attack was in response to a Saudi drone they said breached Yemen's airspace.

Planet Labs satellite imagery from Monday analyzed by *The Associated Press* showed damage to Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq oil-processing facility, which is capable of processing approximately 7 million barrels of crude oil per day.

Saudi defence minister Khalid bin Salman met Wednesday with Trump and Vice President JD Vance, according to two people familiar with the matter who were not authorized to comment publicly about the private meetings.

They said the Saudi decision to join the US attacks against the Iraqi militias was meant to send a message to Iran that the kingdom would not tolerate Iran or its proxies targeting the Saudi oil industry and other critical infrastructure. At the same time, the defence minister underscored to Trump and Vance that the Saudis want to see a de-escalation in the war and for Washington and Tehran to return to negotiations.

The recent pause in fighting ended with increasing missile and drone attacks across many countries in the Middle East

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American oil majors trying to get into Venezuela hit a wall

Collin Eaton & Kejal Vyas

Seven months after the U.S. deposed strongman Nicolás Maduro, Big Oil has yet to make any big moves in Venezuela.

ExxonMobil, Chevron and other major oil companies are fighting for a small number of the country's most attractive drilling spots, but some of the talks with Venezuelan leaders recently hit an impasse, according to people familiar with the negotiations.

President Trump and his lieutenants had high hopes that big U.S. oil companies would quickly sign investment

deals to kick-start production in Venezuela, home to some of the world's largest reserves. They see the country's rising oil exports as a boon to U.S. supplies while Iran hobbles shipping lanes in the Middle East that typically carry 20% of the world's oil and gas.

The administration is also putting pressure on interim President Delcy Rodríguez to boost Venezuela's production quickly—before the end of Trump's second term.

Among the issues that have handicapped any big deals: Major U.S. oil producers are interested in many of the same prized assets, including fields



ExxonMobil, Chevron and others are fighting for a small number of the country's most attractive drilling spots. REUTERS

in eastern Venezuela's Orinoco Belt and the northeastern state of Monagas—and they want to secure the most favorable fiscal and regulatory terms possible. The devastat-

ing earthquake that shook the country last month also slowed the progress.

"Few of them are really jumping into the water," said José Ignacio Hernández, a law

professor and consultant at advisory firm Aurora Macro Strategies. "It's like when you're trying to sell your house. You have a very successful open house with 100 people attending, but then nobody calls."

The negotiations are largely being led by state-run Petróleos de Venezuela, which is holding separate meetings with companies and making private offerings. Some of the American companies, which are more accustomed to public bidding processes, have requested U.S. officials intervene. So far, the administration has let the process play out without choosing any winners.

Some U.S. executives worry

their long-term investments could be undermined by political instability in the future and say PdVSA isn't in a position to assuage those fears, the people familiar with the talks say. In some cases, debt repayments, tied to the expropriation of their assets two decades ago under Hugo Chávez, have yet to be resolved.

White House spokeswoman Taylor Rogers said the Energy Department is "facilitating unprecedented investment in Venezuela to restore its energy infrastructure."

Despite their reluctance to move quickly in Venezuela, many executives say the potential prizes are huge, par-

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American oil majors trying to get into Venezuela have hit a wall

FROM PAGE 1

ticularly for companies that typically drill in places that can pump oil for decades.

Among the sites Exxon, Chevron and others are studying most closely is the Carabobo oil region in the Orinoco Belt, the people said. The area has massive reserves of heavy, viscous crude that U.S. refineries greatly prefer over other kinds of oil.

In the state of Monagas, the companies are vying for access to two fields—one near the town of El Furrial and another near Punta de Mata—that produce a type of lighter crude that they could use as a diluent to blend with the heavier crude produced across Venezuela.

Exxon, whose CEO Darren Woods called Venezuela “uninvestable” in January, has run both hot and cold in Venezuela deal talks, the people said. The company pursued acquiring rights to several attractive fields but pulled back when Venezuela offered only a few of the fields it wanted to invest in, one of the people said.

Exxon has run into myriad challenges. It found devastating damage to Cerro Negro, the project it operated before 2007 when its infrastructure was nationalized. Restarting the field is projected to cost



Carabobo has massive reserves of heavy, viscous crude.

REUTERS

billions of dollars.

Meanwhile, Chevron—the only U.S. oil major currently active in Venezuela—is advocating that the country keep pushing to create a more competitive landscape for foreign investments. It has boosted production to a record of nearly 300,000 barrels a day since Maduro’s ouster but is doing so via efficiencies within its reach, rather than new billion-dollar investments.

In total, Venezuela’s production climbed to 1.07 million barrels a day in June, up from 937,000 barrels on average last year, according to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. It peaked at 3.4 million barrels a day in 1998, according to Rice

University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy.

Senior Trump administration officials say they still believe Big Oil will play an important role in boosting Venezuela’s production long term. Meanwhile, though, they are turning their attention to a group of smaller private companies that they think can get oil pumping more quickly.

Some of those are companies led by fierce allies of Trump, such as billionaires Harold Hamm, Jeff Hildebrand and Ross Perot Jr. Perot’s HKN Energy signed a preliminary deal to invest in Venezuela, as did privately held Hunt Oil and Crossover Energy.

For Venezuela’s interim government, those wildcatters are seen as being able to offer what it needs most: quick access to cash.

Administration officials seem “open to the idea that anyone who wants to do it should do it,” said Schreiner Parker, an analyst at consulting firm Rystad Energy. “The issue is these Orinoco Belt heavy oil projects are like deep water developments. They are capital intensive and require long-term planning, and an ability to hold your breath for a while.”

PdVSA recently circulated among industry participants a list of two dozen produc-

tion-sharing agreements it was deliberating with foreign oil companies, according to a person close to the situation. Such deals are more attractive to smaller wildcatters than big oil companies, which are more interested in securing reserves.

Among those on the list was Pacific Coast Energy, a little-known California firm that invests in mature onshore fields. The arrangement would give Pacific Coast Energy access to several oil fields, including some identified as among the country’s most prized, the person said.

For Big Oil, the past still looms large. Exxon and ConocoPhillips sued Venezuela after the country nationalized their assets. Conoco is still seeking \$12 billion in restitution; Exxon, \$1 billion. Venezuela also nationalized Exxon’s assets there in 1976.

“They have been burned twice,” said Francisco Monaldi, director of the Latin America energy program at the Baker Institute. “I imagine this getting to the board and people saying, ‘Didn’t we learn our lesson here?’ The only way management can sell this is if, you know, you’re getting the asset that nobody thought they could get.”

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Indo-German collaboration to drive innovation, AI and clean energy

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

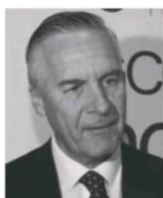
India and Germany can unlock significant opportunities in innovation, research and development (R&D), artificial intelligence (AI) and green hydrogen through deeper collaboration between businesses and startups, Jan Noether, Director General, Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC), said.

Speaking to ANI on the sidelines of Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) Industry Dialogue 2026, Noether high-

lighted the growing engagement between the two countries across emerging technologies and clean energy.

He said the IGCC recently hosted a startup competition in Bengaluru that saw participation from around 90 startups, showcasing innovative products and ideas. "... Two days ago we had a startup competition in Bengaluru where we had 90 participants, and this competition was really spurred by wonderful, very innovative products..." he said.

Apart from this, Noether highlighted that AI has emerged as a



key area of interest in the German Global Capability Centre (GCC) ecosystem.

"Half of our energy generation comes from renewable energy. We want to enhance the renewable energy sector when it comes to green hydrogen and India is a very strong partner in the pipeline," he said.

He said, "AI is a particular topic when it comes to the German GCC setup..." stressing, "There is a cooperation very much geared towards research and development..."

Noether said greater collaboration between the two countries

could result in highly competitive projects and innovations. "If the German-Indian partners come together and develop their ideas, the projects and the results of these projects are going to be unbeatable," he said.

He also highlighted green hy-

drogen as another major area of potential cooperation, particularly given Germany's growing demand for clean energy and India's competitive production capabilities. "Half of our energy generation comes from renewable energy. We want to enhance the renewable energy sector when it comes to green hydrogen and India is a very strong partner in the pipeline," he said.

He added that Germany's demand for green hydrogen remains substantial and India could play an important role as a supplier due to its competitive

production capabilities.

"India produces green hydrogen at a very competitive level, and that is what the Germans are looking at," he said.

According to data from Destatis, Germany's Federal Statistical Office, bilateral trade between India and Germany reached a record USD 33.40 billion in calendar year 2024. India ranked as Germany's 23rd-largest trading partner in 2024. Germany was India's eighth-largest trading partner in 2024-25, improving from 12th place in 2023-24 and 11th in 2022-23.

Crude rebounds as West Asia tensions escalate

Crude oil futures rebounded on Thursday after early losses, supported by fresh concerns over supply disruptions in West Asia following renewed US airstrikes on Iran.

On the MCX, the August crude contract rose ₹110, (1.36%) to ₹8,224/barrel, while the September contract gained ₹75, or 1%, to ₹7,973 per barrel. Global benchmarks also advanced, with Brent crude for September delivery climbing nearly 2% to \$92.33 per barrel and WTI rising nearly 1% to \$85.03/barrel.

Traders built fresh positions amid fears that escalating geopolitical tensions could disrupt oil supplies. Reduced product flows through the Strait of Hormuz and Russian refinery outages continued to support prices.

However, gains remained limited as reports of ongoing US-Iran negotiations eased concerns over a prolonged disruption to global crude supplies.

—PTI



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Editions : New Delhi

Date :31 July 2026

Page : 1, 3

STEPPING ON THE PEDAL.

Petrol would have cost 125/litre in March-April without ethanol blending, says Nitin Gadkari **p3**

'Petrol would have cost ₹125/litre during March-April without ethanol blending'

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Emphasising that ethanol blending helped save almost 32 million tonnes of crude oil, Road & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari told Parliament on Thursday that petrol would have cost ₹125 per litre during the peak of the West Asia conflict had ethanol blending not been carried out.

The government has been reiterating that the objective behind the ethanol-blended petrol (EBP) programme is to reduce India's almost 88 per cent import dependence on crude oil.

Responding to a starred question in the Lok Sabha, Gadkari said: "During the recent West Asian crisis, despite sharp increases in global crude prices, India was able to shield consumers through calibrated government interventions, diversified



Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways

sourcing and the increasing contribution of domestically produced biofuels."

Since February 2026, even though global crude prices rose by around 70-80 per cent, domestic fuel prices increased only by about 7-8 per cent, he emphasised.

"During the peak of West Asia crisis, the market price of petrol could have been around ₹125 per litre, however Indian consumers continued to pay only ₹94.77 per litre (ex-Delhi) also because

OMCs could procure ethanol at around ₹70 per litre," he noted.

By replacing a part of imported petrol with domestically produced ethanol, India reduced its exposure to international crude oil price volatility and exchange-rate fluctuations, he pointed out.

"This demonstrates that ethanol blending is a strategic investment in energy security, price stability, farmer welfare and foreign exchange savings, rather than a revenue-generating exercise for the oil marketing companies," Gadkari stressed.

E20 PETROL PRICE

The retail selling price of E20 petrol is market-determined, and public sector OMCs determine petrol prices after considering international crude oil prices, exchange rates, freight, taxes, ethanol procurement costs and other operational expenses.

For instance, he said during February-March 2026, the retail selling price of petrol remained below the market determined level, resulting in an under-recovery of around ₹21,300 crore for public sector OMCs on account of petrol.

"The EBP has resulted in forex savings of ₹1.98 lakh crore, substitution of nearly 317 lakh tonnes of crude oil, reduction of around 952 lakh tonnes of CO₂ emissions and additional income of over ₹1.66 lakh crore for farmers," Gadkari noted.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas Suresh Gopi emphasised that the government's assessment is based not only on laboratory research but also on large-scale experience after nationwide implementation. Roughly 8 crore vehicles visit fuel retail outlets every day (of this around 80 per cent are petrol vehicles).

THE WIDER
ANGLE.



PARAG BALAKRISHNAN

It was a deal that rang alarm bells across the Middle East, India and far beyond. US President Donald Trump stunned allies and foes alike when he announced an agreement allowing Saudi Arabia to enrich uranium on its own soil. Adding to the controversy, the kingdom's facilities would not be subject to the kind of full international inspections normally demanded under nuclear agreements.

No country was watching more nervously than Iran.

Many analysts have long argued that, despite decades of suspicion, Tehran has been careful not to cross the line into building a nuclear bomb. The reasoning is simple: an Iranian bomb would almost certainly trigger a nuclear arms race across the Middle East, with Saudi Arabia and potentially others seeking their own deterrents, creating a far more dangerous and unpredictable region.

That's precisely why Trump's Saudi deal caused such unease.

Yet by this week, Trump appeared to be having second thoughts. In characteristic fashion, he tossed a new card onto the table, declaring Riyadh would first have to sign the Abraham Accords and recognise Israel before moving ahead.

The Saudi response was swift and dismissive.

"If Saudi recognition of Israel had been a formal condition for the nuclear deal, it would have been negotiated before the agreement was signed and explicitly included in its terms," Saudi geopolitical analyst Mohammed Alhamed told *The Hill*. He added bluntly that Trump's fresh demands "do not change the substance of the agreement."

MIDDLE EAST RESHAPED

The episode is the latest twist in a region turned upside down over the past year. Trump, backed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has reshaped the Middle East with a series of dramatic interventions that have left allies, rivals and oil markets struggling to keep up.

This week Netanyahu arrives in Washington for his first visit since the US-Israel-Iran conflict erupted. One question hangs over the trip: will he try to persuade Trump to resume military action against Iran? The answer is almost certainly yes.

The timing could hardly be worse. Even as Netanyahu lands in the US capital, the Gulf is again sliding deeper into turmoil. Yemen's Houthi

Unease over Trump's nuke deal with Saudi Arabia

The Saudi pact and Netanyahu's Washington visit stoke fears of escalating conflict with Iran



REUTERS

movement has re-entered the conflict and is threatening tankers loading crude at Saudi Arabia's Yanbu export terminal on the Red Sea before they pass through the vital Bab el Mandab strait, the gateway linking the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean.

For India, there has at least been one stroke of good fortune. Russian oil tankers appear to have been spared Houthi attacks. That matters because India's appetite for Russian crude keeps growing. In June, Russia supplied a record 52 per cent of India's oil imports. July's figure will be even higher.

WHO'S FEELING THE HEAT?

All of this raises an obvious question: does Trump care about the turmoil his

Many analysts have long argued that, despite decades of suspicion, Tehran has been careful not to cross the line into building a nuclear bomb

actions are causing?

Apparently not as much as many other countries would like.

American motorists are paying significantly more at the pump than a year ago, something that could become a political headache ahead of the midterms. But the US imports only a small share of its oil from the Gulf. The countries facing the real headaches are in Asia. India, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines have been forced to scramble for alternative supplies and rethink energy security calculations.

China, traditionally one of the Gulf's biggest customers, has also surprised traders by sharply reducing purchases. Some oil industry analysts speculate Washington wanted to remind Beijing that the US remains the world's dominant energy power and could disrupt Chinese supplies if it chose. If so, China may already have short-circuited the strategy.

Whatever Trump's objective, one thing is evident: the region is growing more volatile by the day and the margin for error is shrinking.

Iran has stepped up attacks and pressure campaigns against multiple Gulf states, including the UAE, with which it has traditionally maintained relatively workable relations.

Bahrain has also found itself in the firing line because it hosts a major US naval base.

Israel's campaigns, meanwhile, have sent shockwaves through Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. For decades, Israeli leaders have viewed Iran as their most formidable regional adversary and sought to weaken its influence.

Yet Iran is not some minor regional player that can simply be wished away. It's a nation of 93 million people, an old civilisation, and woven into the Middle East's political, religious and economic fabric.

The uncomfortable reality is that after months of wars, threats, sanctions and brinkmanship, nobody has solved the Iran problem. They may simply have made it bigger. And in a Middle East already crowded with fault lines, the next spark could ignite a fire nobody can control.

TWENTY YEARS AGO **TODAY.**

July 31, 2006

RIL 'misleading' Govt on gas price issue, says RNRL

The Anil Dhirubai Ambani Group (ADAG) controlled Reliance Natural Resources Ltd (RNRL) has alleged that Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) was "deliberately misleading" the Petroleum Ministry by withholding the full facts of the gas price case. RNRL said the full facts of the case were being withheld by RIL to enable it to renege its binding gas supply arrangement with RNRL.

Monsanto monopoly over Bt cotton ends

Monsanto's monopoly over Bt cotton technology in the country is finally over. During the current planting season, two new players — the Hyderabad-based JK Agri-Genetics Ltd and Nath Seeds Ltd of Aurangabad — have launched hybrids based on alternate technologies ('constructs') for incorporating genes from the soil bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt.

ITL in talks to offload 10 pc stake

International Tractors Ltd (ITL), manufacturer of the Sonalika brand of tractors, is in an advanced stage of negotiations to offload 10 per cent stake to a private equity firm. It already has strategic investments by three firms, including two private equity firms, which collectively hold 32 per cent in ITL.

Crude oil down in choppy trade amid geopolitical tensions

Reuters

Crude oil prices were volatile as investors weighed talks between Oman and Iran over the Strait of Hormuz and escalating tensions between the US and Iran.

Brent futures were down 36 cents at \$90.38 a barrel as of 1111 GMT after touching a high of \$93.31. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down 72 cents at \$83.74, after hitting a high of \$85.94.

The Strait of Hormuz, which normally handles around a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flows, has remained a focal point for oil markets since the Iran war began on February 28.

PM E-Drive yet to fuel e-bus adoption, charging infra lags

GROWTH GAP. 14,000 e-buses allocated, but concessions signed for 1,515 only: MHI data

Amit Vijay Mohile
Mumbai

The flagship PM E-Drive scheme has significantly accelerated electric vehicle adoption, supporting more than 23 lakh electric two- and three-wheelers and helping EV penetration rise from 0.7 per cent in FY20 to 8.2 per cent in FY26. However, the progress update from the Ministry of Heavy Industries reveals slower implementation across key supporting infrastructure, including electric buses, charging networks and battery manufacturing.

Data released by the Ministry on Tuesday showed that 23.23 lakh electric two- and three-wheelers received incentives between April 1, 2024, and July 22, 2026, with manufacturers reimbursed ₹2,281.94 crore. Of this, electric two-wheelers accounted for 20.57 lakh vehicles and ₹1,505.3 crore in incentives, while 2.61 lakh L5 (high speed, heavy duty) electric three-wheelers received ₹769.02 crore. An additional ₹7.61 crore was disbursed for 5,082 e-rickshaws and e-



SLOW ROLLOUT. Of the ₹2,000 crore earmarked for charging facilities, ₹689 crore was approved for deploying 6,562 chargers

carts. The two-wheeler segment has achieved around 83 per cent of its target of 24.79 lakh vehicles under the scheme, making it the strongest-performing component of PM E-Drive.

Incentives for electric two-wheelers are set to end on July 31, 2026, although the government is considering an extension. Any continuation would require fresh budgetary support, as the scheme's ₹10,900 crore allocation has already been committed.

SLOW DEALS

While vehicle adoption has increased, progress in electric bus deployment remains limited. Letters of confirma-

tion of demand and quantity have been issued for 13,800 e-buses across Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune and Surat. An additional 200 buses have been sanctioned for Jammu & Kashmir, taking total allocations to 14,000 against a target of 14,028.

However, concession agreements have been signed for only 1,515 buses so far, comprising 915 in Hyderabad and 600 in Surat. That represents just about 11 per cent of the buses allocated to the seven major cities, highlighting the gap between allocations and actual deployment.

Successful bidders must still secure prototype approvals before buses can be

rolled out. The bus and truck segment is also facing supply-chain challenges, with manufacturers seeking relaxation of localisation norms due to difficulties in sourcing heavy rare-earth magnets used in traction motors.

Progress in charging infra remains in its early stages. Of the ₹2,000 crore earmarked for public charging facilities, ₹689 crore had been approved by July 1 for deploying 6,562 chargers through three oil marketing companies and nine State governments. As of March 24, no funds had been disbursed for charging infra under the scheme. The government is also attempting to build domestic battery manufacturing capacity. On July 29, the Ministry held a pre-bid meeting for the final 10 GWh of capacity under the ₹18,100-crore Advanced Chemistry Cell PLI scheme, attracting 29 prospective bidders.

Yet, implementation remains slow. While 40 GWh of the scheme's 50 GWh target has already been awarded, official data show only 1 GWh of installed capacity; also, no beneficiary had claimed incentives as of February 2026.

Natural gas' supply share stood at 7.12% in FY25

New Delhi: The share of natural gas in India's primary energy supply has risen, albeit marginally, to 7.12 per cent on a provisional basis in FY25, as per Energy Statistics 2026 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said in a written response in the Lok Sabha. The share of natural gas was 7 per cent in FY24 and it was 6.7 per cent in FY23. The demand is projected to grow to 260-300 million standard cubic meters per day by 2030 under the base case scenario, he said.

OUR BUREAU

Publication : The Indian Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :31 July 2026	Page : 6

E20 petrol can reduce fuel economy by 2-6%: Gadkari

New Delhi: Petrol blended with 20% ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 2 to 6% depending on the vehicle category and vintage, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Parliament on Thursday.

The Union Minister, however, argued that tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and on-road vehicle tests have not shown any failures due to E20.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Gadkari said E20 fuel provides better acceleration, improved ride quality and approximately 30% lower carbon emissions compared to E10 fuel.

"The fuel efficiency of vehicles may be reduced by 2 to 6% depending on the vehicle category and vintage. The tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and vehicle tests on road have not shown any failures due to E20," the minister said. PTI

GLOBAL

How US-Iran conflict is forcing Gulf states to rethink their security strategies



EXPERT EXPLAINS

BASHIR ALI ABBAS

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, COUNCIL FOR STRATEGIC AND DEFENSE RESEARCH, DELHI

AFTER NEARLY two weeks of the Iran war, of US strikes on Iran and Iranian retaliation against targets in Gulf Arab states, both sides ceased their attacks by July 25.

The region is now coming up with strategies to deal with this conflict's fallout.

Kuwait ratified a June 2023 Defence Co-operation Agreement (DCA) with Pakistan on July 26 for a five-year period, while Qatar committed to deepening its security cooperation with Pakistan during bilateral

talks in Doha the following day.

Meanwhile, the US-Iran war has also reignited the war between the Yemeni Houthis and Saudi Arabia, which had been dormant since 2022. The subsequent Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping have meant that both the sea and the strait flanking the Arabian Peninsula were simultaneously under fire, for the first time in history, until the US-Iran exchanges ceased on July 25.

US-Iran: State of play

On July 27, Washington's UN Ambassador said President Donald Trump wanted to give negotiations a chance again, with Trump himself stating "friendly negotiations" were underway on Iran's request. Tehran rejected this characterisation.

Since early July, as Iran rejected American efforts to push through a new shipping channel through Omani waters and targeted ships that did not coordinate with Iran, the US resumed kinetic action with a focus on degrading Iran's ability to enforce the Memorandum of Understanding's Ar-

ticle 5, which allowed joint Iranian and Omani administration of the Strait. This was supposed to weaken Iran's bargaining power during nuclear negotiations.

Neither has occurred. Iran's control of Hormuz remains, Tehran and Muscat have continued holding negotiations to finalize arrangements to enforce Article 5, and Iran has broadened talks to include Saudi Arabia. Moreover, Iran would deem its own case for nuclear enrichment to be strengthened by Saudi Arabia's pact with the US on July 22 to begin nuclear energy cooperation.

So, the US will likely be again incentivised to hit Iranian nuclear targets as well as its Hormuz infrastructure until it is satisfied with the degradation of Iranian capabilities.

Fallout one: Kuwait-Pakistan

The recurring fighting between the US and Iran, as well as pauses between kinetic action, have reinforced an old learning in key Arab states, that regardless of their current dependence on foreign arms, internal capability development as well as improved mili-

tary training is an inescapable long-term need. Hence, Kuwait's DCA with Pakistan focuses on military training, education, intelligence sharing, logistics, defense technology, research and exchanges of expertise.

The agreement does not mimic the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SIDMA), signed in September 2025, given that it does not bind either party to the other's defence when attacked.

But SIDMA has also shown that true mutual defence commitments are not the main objective of Arab states with Pakistan — neither has Pakistan struck Iran or Houthi territories nor has Saudi Arabia struck Afghanistan. Rather, it is meant to entrench Pakistan's role in Saudi capability build-up in the long term, while Riyadh adopts a mix of means to tackle present threats.

For Kuwait and Qatar (along with other GCC states), intra-Gulf geopolitical divergences are secondary to the objective of securing long-term defence partners whose expertise can be used to build up domestic capability. This means even if Pakistan is

viewed differently by each of these states, its value as a security partner overrides these differences. That Pakistan is reliant on these states for economic stability adds a unique layer of assurance and leverage.

Fallout two: Houthi-Saudi

Among the most crucial fallouts of the US-Iran war is the return of Saudi-Houthi fighting since July 14, when the Saudi-based Yemeni government in exile bombed the Houthi-controlled Sana'a Airport to reportedly prevent an Iranian plane from landing. In response, the Houthis fired ballistic missiles into Saudi territory and declared a naval blockade of Saudi Arabia in the Bab-el-Mandeb strait. Both sides have since targeted each other's infrastructure.

Despite this US-Iran triggered Saudi-Houthi escalation, it is unlikely that Riyadh wants to proactively return to full-scale fighting in Yemen. It was Houthi attacks against Aramco facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais in 2019 that had prompted a shift in Saudi strategy towards both Yemen and Iran, prioritising

engagement as the path to stability.

For perspective, despite the Yemeni Houthis claiming responsibility for the 2026 Aramco attack, Riyadh participated in US strikes on Iran-backed militias in Iraq on July 29. This reflects the Saudi desire to satisfy its deterrence needs by acting against other parts of Iran's Axis of Resistance, instead of risking a larger war with the Houthis.

Now, Riyadh's need for regional stability increases significantly due to the 123 Agreement and its long-due quest for nuclear power. A Houthi attack on a future Saudi nuclear power plant could be more dangerous than strikes on oil facilities.

What now

The Donald Trump administration is seemingly focused on preventing Iran from materially gaining from the MoU's provisions, which leaves room for more strike exchanges before substantial negotiations for a final deal begin. For regional states, this predicament is as untenable as a potential return to full-scale war.

For renewable energy answers, ask the right questions



SANJIV SAHAI

INDIA'S RENEWABLE energy sector is facing institutional challenges that need flexible solutions. Propelled by falling solar module prices and government policy, solar capacity has expanded to 162 GW by June 2026. Yet at the very moment this transformation demands smarter, more flexible market products, India's regulator is moving the opposite way, proposing to hand control of the power exchanges to Grid-India, a government utility whose institutional DNA is built for managing transmission systems, not commercial decisions.

Between May and December last year, over two billion units of solar electricity, enough to power several million homes, were curtailed because the grid could not absorb them. The solution requires transmission investment to convey electricity, flexible power plants that can ramp quickly, battery storage to absorb excess generation and discharge during lean hours, and above all, well-designed electricity markets that send the right price signals to the right players at the right time.

Surplus generation in one region can be traded to regions facing shortage. A robust, functional electricity market, one with products that sellers and buyers want, is essential to manage this. Prices should fall when power is abundant at noon and rise when it is scarce in the evening, attracting whatever flexible generation or storage can respond. Good market-design is what keeps a complex, renewable-heavy grid balanced without wasting energy or overloading equipment.

Contrary to this need, in July 2025 and January 2026, CERC proposed that Grid-India become Market Coupling Operator (MCO), pooling bids from all three exchanges — IEX, PXIL and HPX — into a single clearing algorithm that would produce a uniform national price. The stated logic is that the market is fragmented and consumers are losing out. What does the data say?

Most electricity is traded in the Day-Ahead Market (DAM) and Real-Time Market (RTM), both short-term spot products. IEX handles roughly 80-85 per cent of trading volumes which is hardly a fragmented market. CERC's own shadow pilot recorded a welfare improvement of just 0.3 per cent over four months; a longer da-

taset puts the gain at only 0.013 per cent.

Behind CERC's stated reasons lies the question of IEX's dominance. But dominance is not the same as abuse: There is no documented allegation of excessive fees, discriminatory access, predatory pricing, or manipulation of price discovery against IEX. So which problem is CERC actually solving?

The real danger is not IEX's market share but what happens to market innovation once a government-owned entity controls the central clearing algorithm. For example, when exchanges developed user-defined hourly contracts in the Term-Ahead Market, matched to the variable generation profile of solar and wind assets, CERC ordered them discontinued within a week in April last year.

In July 2025, CERC suggested a round-robin model under which exchanges would take turns as Market Coupling Operators month to month. By April 2026, its draft second amendment regulations abandoned this in favour of Grid-India as sole MCO. Grid-India itself, in a submission dated June 8, has urged CERC to reconsider and has asked for a round-robin system, institutional ring-fencing and a steering committee to guard against single-point failures, even though round-robin approach would force every exchange to duplicate the capital cost of a central algorithm and add to the regulator's oversight burden.

Grid-India's preference for administrative simplicity is rational for a system operator: Its job is to balance the grid in real time, not to compete for customers or bear commercial risk. But under full coupling, every new trading product will require rewriting an algorithm Grid-India controls, tethering market innovation to the pace of a public utility — a pace the TAM episode shows is slow and tilted towards uniformity.

India's renewable sector needs a market architecture that rewards flexible capacity with real-time pricing, opens competitive markets for frequency-regulation services, and lets storage investors price their business case. These are the real regulatory priorities rather than imagined problems of market dominance.

The writer is former secretary, Ministry of Power

The real danger is not IEX's market share but what happens to market innovation once a government-owned entity controls the central clearing algorithm

Publication : The Statesman	Editions : New Delhi
Date :31 July 2026	Page : 1

Govt defends ethanol blends:

New Delhi: The government on Thursday said E20 offers a "higher-octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, cleaner combustion and smoother engine performance," but also admitted a 2-6 per cent "reduction in fuel efficiency in certain E10-designed vehicles". More than 20 crore two-wheelers and over 3 crore petrol cars have been operating on ethanol-blended fuel without any verified evidence of widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari told the Lok Sabha. He also said that studies by government agencies indicate that the "reduction in fuel efficiency in certain E10-designed vehicles is limited to about 2-6 per cent," adding that "the same is influenced by several factors, including driving conditions, driving habits and vehicle maintenance."

Russian oil could hit record 3 million barrels per day in India's import basket if disruptions persist: Report

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 30 July

India's crude oil imports from Russia could climb to a record 3 million barrels per day (bpd) if supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea continue, according to a new analysis by global commodities intelligence firm Kpler.

The report said Russian crude remains India's most important supply buffer during periods of geopolitical uncertainty, despite the country's efforts to diversify its crude import basket over the past few years.

According to Kpler, Indian

refiners have built greater flexibility into their sourcing strategy by increasing purchases from Russia, Venezuela, Africa and other Atlantic Basin producers. This diversified procurement strategy has helped reduce the risk of severe supply disruptions.

However, the outlook could change if security conditions in the Red Sea deteriorate further. While Saudi Arabia's East-West (Yanbu) pipeline has recently supplied between 300,000 and 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude to India, allowing cargoes to bypass vulnerable shipping routes, prolonged disruptions could



force refiners to seek alternative supplies.

Kpler said that if Red Sea shipments are affected in August, Indian refiners are expected to increase

purchases of Russian crude, secure additional spot cargoes from West Africa wherever available and draw down commercial crude inventories to bridge any

short term supply gap. The analysis noted that Russia remains India's most effective hedge against supply shocks, provided it can maintain export

availability. Under favourable market conditions, Russian shipments to India could rise to around 3 million bpd or even higher, offsetting potential disruptions from other regions.

Even so, Kpler cautioned that Russia's ability to raise exports is not guaranteed. The country's upstream and downstream energy infrastructure continues to face attacks linked to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, while Russian crude exports in July were estimated to be around 400,000 bpd lower than the previous month.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, remains an important supplier but on a much

smaller scale. Its crude exports to India have averaged roughly 400,000 bpd in recent months—well below volumes imported from Russia. As a result, any interruption to Saudi shipments through the Red Sea is likely to have a more limited impact on India's overall crude supply than a prolonged disruption to Russian exports.

Kpler's Lead Crude Analyst, Sumit Ritolia, noted that while cargoes moving through the Red Sea can often be rerouted via the East West pipeline, the Suez Canal or around the Cape of Good Hope, export routes from Russia's Black Sea are

far less flexible.

He added that the Novorossiysk export terminal plays a critical role not only in shipping Russian Urals crude to India but also in exporting Kazakhstan's CPC crude to Europe. Any prolonged disruption at the Black Sea port could tighten global crude supplies, reshape trade flows and directly affect India's largest source of imported oil.

Despite the geopolitical risks, Kpler believes India's diversified sourcing strategy and strong dependence on Russian crude should help refiners manage supply challenges without triggering a severe shortage in the near term.

Online

Headline	Garden Reach Shipbuilders Share Price in Focus After ONGC Awards ₹1,032.07 Crore Vessel Construction Contract		
Publication	Angel One	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

Garden Reach Shipbuilders Share Price in Focus After ONGC Awards ₹1,032.07 Crore Vessel Construction Contract

<https://www.angelone.in/news/stocks/garden-reach-shipbuilders-share-price-in-focus-after-ongc-awards-1-032-07-crore-vessel-construction-contract>

GRSE has received a 1,032.07 crore ONGC order to build four Platform Supply Vessels, with the project to be completed in 48 months.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has received a Notification of Award (NOA) from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) for the construction of four Platform Supply Vessels (PSVs).

The order, valued at 1,032.07 crore, including GST, was awarded on 30 July 2026. The company disclosed the development to the stock exchanges through an exchange filing dated July 30, 2026.

Four Vessels to Be Delivered Within 48 Months

The contract covers the construction and delivery of 4 Platform Supply Vessels, which are used to transport equipment, supplies and personnel to offshore oil and gas installations.

According to the filing, the project is to be completed within 48 months from the date of the Notification of Award. ONGC has awarded the contract as a domestic order, and the vessels will be built by GRSE under the agreed timeline.

Key Details of the Award

GRSE said the total contract value stands at 1,032.07 crore, including GST. The company identified ONGC as the awarding entity and stated that the scope of work is limited to the construction and delivery of the vessels.

No additional commercial terms or phased execution schedule were disclosed in the regulatory filing.

Regulatory Filing Includes Governance Disclosures

As part of the mandatory disclosure, GRSE confirmed that none of its promoters, promoter group entities or group companies have any interest in ONGC in connection with the contract.

About the Project

Platform Supply Vessels support offshore exploration and production by carrying cargo, machinery, drilling materials and crew to offshore installations. The latest order adds another commercial vessel project to GRSE's order pipeline.

The company is a public sector shipbuilder under the Ministry of Defence and undertakes both defence and commercial shipbuilding projects.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) Share Price Performance

As of July 30, 2026, at 3:30 pm, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) share price closed at 2,581.50, a 1.70% decrease from the previous closing price.

Conclusion

The 1,032.07 crore order from ONGC adds four Platform Supply Vessels to GRSE's execution pipeline. The project is scheduled for completion within 48 months from the award date.

For daily market updates and regular stock market news in Hindi, stay tuned to Angel One's share market news in Hindi

Headline	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited to review quarterly results at August meeting		
Publication	Balaji Equities	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited to review quarterly results at August meeting

<https://www.balajiequities.com/Market/News/News-details/5000573>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited will hold a board meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, to consider and approve the unaudited financial results

for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, and trading window for company insiders will remain closed until Thursday, August 6, 2026, as per SEBI regulations.

Headline	NTPC Green Energy Commissions Additional 50 MW Solar Capacity in Rajasthan		
Publication	CSR News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

NTPC Green Energy Commissions Additional 50 MW Solar Capacity in Rajasthan

<https://csrnews.in/ntpc-green-energy-commissions-additional-50-mw-solar-capacity-in-rajasthan/>

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has commissioned an additional 50 MW solar power capacity in Rajasthan, further strengthening its renewable energy portfolio and taking the group's total installed capacity to 10,836.56 MW

The company announced that the third 50 MW phase of the cumulative 150 MW solar component , which forms part of a 100 MW Renewable Energy Round-The-Clock (RTC) project , has commenced commercial operations with effect from 00:00 hours on July 31, 2026

Part of ONGC NTPC Green Joint Venture

The project has been developed by Project Eleven Renewable Power , a step-down subsidiary of ONGC NTPC Green Private Limited (ONGPL) , the joint venture between NTPC Green Energy and ONGC

The solar project is located in Rajasthan and forms part of the partners' strategy to expand clean energy generation while supporting India's renewable energy and decarbonisation goals.

Installed Capacity Rises to 10.84 GW

Before the latest commissioning, the NTPC Green Energy Group had an operational renewable energy capacity of 10,786.56 MW

With the addition of the new 50 MW solar capacity, the group's total installed capacity has increased to 10,836.56 MW , reinforcing its position as one of India's leading renewable energy companies.

The phased commissioning of the project reflects the company's continued focus on expanding utility-scale renewable energy assets to meet the country's growing clean power demand.

Supporting India's Clean Energy Transition

NTPC Green Energy continues to expand its renewable energy portfolio through large-scale solar, wind and hybrid projects across the country.

The commissioning of the additional capacity aligns with India's broader objective of increasing renewable energy generation, strengthening grid reliability and accelerating the transition towards a low-carbon energy system.

About the Author

Leave a Reply

Headline	Jindal Drilling gets Notification of Award from ONGC		
Publication	Citrus Interactive	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

Jindal Drilling gets Notification of Award from ONGC

<http://www.citrusinteractive.in/News/OpenNewsContent.aspx?SecId=7&SubSecId=15&NewsID=1257098>

Jindal Drilling & Industries has received Notification of Award from Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for deployment of rig Jindal Pioneer for

a period of 3 years at Effective Day Rate (EDR) of Rs 45.83 lakh equivalent to \$47,893.99. Rig Jindal Pioneer is currently under refurbishment and contract is expected to commence in Q3 FY27.

Jindal Drilling & Industries is one of the leading drilling contractor in India providing service to national and international E&P companies.

Headline	Jindal Drilling ONGC Order: Wins 3-Year Rig Deployment Contract		
Publication	Innovacia	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

Jindal Drilling ONGC Order: Wins 3-Year Rig Deployment Contract

<https://innovacia.in/jindal-drilling-ongc-order/>

Order Win NSE JINDRILL BSE Jindal Drilling & Industries Limited has received a Notification of Award (NoA) from Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for the deployment of its offshore rig Jindal Pioneer . The contract has a tenure of 3 years with an Effective Day Rate (EDR) of 45.83 lakh (USD 47,893.99) per day . The rig is currently undergoing refurbishment, with operations expected to commence in Q3 FY27

PRICE-SENSITIVE TRIGGER

Event: Jindal Drilling ONGC Order

Type: Order Win

Impact: Positive

Immediate Effect: The ONGC award strengthens Jindal Drilling's contract pipeline, provides long-term revenue visibility through a three-year deployment, and improves fleet utilization with the commencement of operations expected in Q3 FY27.

highlights

Contract:

3-Year ONGC Rig Deployment

What Happened ?

Jindal Drilling & Industries Limited informed the stock exchanges that ONGC has issued a Notification of Award (NoA) for the deployment of its offshore drilling rig Jindal Pioneer . The contract will run for three years , with the rig currently undergoing refurbishment before commercial operations begin in Q3 FY27 . The contract will generate revenue based on an Effective Day Rate (EDR) of 45.83 lakh (USD 47,893.99) per day

key details

Key Highlights

Notification of Award received from Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)

Contract awarded for deployment of offshore rig Jindal Pioneer

Contract tenure of 3 years

Effective Day Rate (EDR):

45,83,215.16 per day

Equivalent to USD 47,893.99 per day

Rig Jindal Pioneer is currently under refurbishment.

Commercial operations are expected to commence in Q3 FY27

Award received from a domestic entity

The company confirmed: The promoters have no interest in ONGC.

The contract is not a related-party transaction

Business Impact:

The three-year ONGC contract improves long-term revenue visibility and supports higher fleet utilization once the refurbishment of Jindal Pioneer is completed. The award also strengthens Jindal Drilling's relationship with India's largest upstream oil and gas producer while enhancing earnings stability through recurring day-rate income.

Risk Analysis

Summary:

Although the contract provides long-term revenue visibility, revenue generation will begin only after refurbishment is completed and the rig commences operations in Q3 FY27.

Key Risks:

Contract commencement depends on successful completion of rig refurbishment.

Revenue recognition will begin only after deployment.

Offshore drilling operations remain exposed to operational and technical risks.

Delays in mobilisation could postpone contract execution.

Future earnings depend on maintaining operational uptime throughout the contract period.

Worst Case:

If refurbishment or mobilisation is delayed, commencement of the three-year contract and associated revenue recognition could be postponed.

Risk Level Medium

Company Commentary

According to Jindal Drilling & Industries:

ONGC has awarded a three-year contract for the deployment of Jindal Pioneer

The contract carries an Effective Day Rate (EDR) of 45.83 lakh (USD 47,893.99) per day

The rig is currently under refurbishment and is expected to begin operations in Q3 FY27

The company confirmed that the award is not a related-party transaction , and neither the promoters nor promoter group has any interest in the awarding entity.

Official Exchange Filing: Jindal Drilling & Industries Limited

Support our work by sharing

Headline	Jindal Drilling soars on getting Notification of Award from ONGC		
Publication	Money Works 4 Me	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

Jindal Drilling soars on getting Notification of Award from ONGC

<https://www.moneyworks4me.com/company/news/index/id/828956>

Jindal Drilling & Industries is currently trading at Rs. 595.85, up by 17.05 points or 2.95% from its previous closing of Rs. 578.80 on the BSE.

The scrip opened at Rs. 572.60 and has touched a high and low of Rs. 610.00 and Rs. 572.60 respectively. So far 29804 shares were traded on the counter.

The BSE group 'B' stock of face value Rs. 5 has touched a 52 week high of Rs. 693.95 on 19-May-2026 and a 52 week low of Rs. 440.00 on 02-Mar-2026.

Last one week high and low of the scrip stood at Rs. 620.00 and Rs. 572.60 respectively. The current market cap of the company is Rs. 1726.69 crore.

The promoters holding in the company stood at 66.78%, while Institutions and Non-Institutions held 0.43% and 32.79% respectively.

Jindal Drilling & Industries has received Notification of Award from Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for deployment of rig Jindal Pioneer for a period of 3 years at Effective Day Rate (EDR) of Rs 45.83 lakh equivalent to \$47,893.99. Rig Jindal Pioneer is currently under refurbishment and contract is expected to commence in Q3 FY27.

Jindal Drilling & Industries is one of the leading drilling contractor in India providing service to national and international E&P companies.

*Color code for outperformance consistency

*Number is average 3 year rolling returns

Headline	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Shares Gain 2.07% to Rs 243.24- Moneycontrol.com		
Publication	Moneycontrol	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Shares Gain 2.07% to Rs 243.24- Moneycontrol.com

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/stocks/oil-and-natural-gas-corporation-shares-gain-2-07-to-rs-243-24-alpha-article-13987979.html>

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation shares gained 2.07% to trade at Rs 243.24 at 9:31 am on Thursday. The stock, a constituent of the Nifty 50 index, has shown an upward movement in early trade today.

Quarterly Financial Performance (Consolidated)

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation reported a consolidated revenue of Rs 173,805.19 Crore for the quarter-ending March 2026, marking an increase from Rs 167,422.93 Crore in the December 2025 quarter. Net Profit for the March 2026 quarter stood at Rs 10,884.95 Crore, a decline from Rs 11,849.18 Crore in the previous quarter. The Earnings Per Share (EPS) for the March 2026 quarter was Rs 8.60, compared to Rs 7.96 in the December 2025 quarter. Quarter

Revenue (in Crore)

Net Profit (in Crore)

EPS Mar 2025

170,811.73

8,217.12

5.82 Jun 2025

163,108.12

11,782.10

7.79 Sep 2025

157,911.08

12,274.96

8.58 Dec 2025

167,422.93

11,849.18

7.96 Mar 2026

173,805.19

10,884.95

8.60 Annual Financial Performance (Consolidated)

The company's annual consolidated revenue rose to Rs 662,247.32 Crore in the year-ending March 2026, up from Rs 612,065.37 Crore in March 2025. Net Profit also increased to Rs 46,791.19 Crore in March 2026 from Rs 37,293.02 Crore in March 2025. Basic EPS for the year-ending March 2026 was Rs 32.93, an increase from Rs 28.80 in March 2025. The Debt to Equity ratio improved slightly from 0.45 in March 2025 to 0.38 in March 2026. The Return on Networth / Equity (ROE) for March 2026 was 11.14%, up from 10.54% in March 2025. Year

Revenue (in Crore)

Net Profit (in Crore)

EPS

BVPS (in Crore)

ROE (%)

Debt to Equity 2022

491,269.80

47,830.13

36.19

225.22

17.54

0.42 2023

632,325.97

32,743.55

28.17

239.47

12.62

0.46 2024

591,447.12

54,704.81

39.13

290.21

14.60

0.36 2025

612,065.37

37,293.02

28.80

273.00

10.54

0.45 2026

662,247.32

46,791.19

32.93

295.52

11.14

0.38 Cash Flow Statement (Consolidated)

The company's cash flow from operating activities increased from Rs 90,868 Crore in March 2025 to Rs 112,719 Crore in March 2026. However, net cash flow for the year-ending March 2026 was -Rs 1,030 Crore, a decrease from Rs 59 Crore in March 2025. Cash Flow From

Mar 2026 (in Crore)

Mar 2025 (in Crore)

Mar 2024 (in Crore)

Mar 2023 (in Crore)

Mar 2022 (in Crore) Operating Activities

112,719

90,868

99,262

84,211

78,000 Investing Activities

-57,675

-43,021

-57,266

-73,209

-40,477 Financing Activities

-56,330

-47,907

-45,650

-12,916

-35,979 Others

256

120

63

410

132 Net Cash Flow

-1,030

59

-3,591

-1,503

1,676 Balance Sheet (Consolidated)

As of March 2026, the company's total assets stood at Rs 791,905 Crore, an increase from Rs 758,723 Crore in March 2025. Total Liabilities also increased to Rs 791,905 Crore in March 2026 from Rs 758,723 Crore in the previous fiscal year. Reserves & Surplus grew to Rs 365,477 Crore in March 2026 from Rs 337,150 Crore in March 2025. Equities & Liabilities

Mar 2026 (in Crore)

Mar 2025 (in Crore)

Mar 2024 (in Crore)

Mar 2023 (in Crore)

Mar 2022 (in Crore) Share Capital

6,290

6,290

6,290

6,290

6,290 Reserves & Surplus

365,477

337,150

330,780

274,357

253,212 Current Liabilities

168,888

166,842

151,277

132,270

127,424 Other Liabilities

251,248

248,440

221,845

201,611

198,522 Total Liabilities

791,905

758,723

710,192

614,528

585,449 Assets

Mar 2026 (in Crore)

Mar 2025 (in Crore)

Mar 2024 (in Crore)

Mar 2023 (in Crore)

Mar 2022 (in Crore) Fixed Assets

448,523

439,771

402,339

352,730

349,915 Current Assets

141,939

134,796

133,341

114,150

106,059 Other Assets

201,442

184,154

174,512

147,647

129,474 Total Assets

791,905

758,723

710,192

614,528

585,449 Other Info

Mar 2026 (in Crore)

Mar 2025 (in Crore)

Mar 2024 (in Crore)

Mar 2023 (in Crore)

Mar 2022 (in Crore) Contingent Liabilities

0

146,705

151,807

133,738

155,100 Corporate Actions

The company announced an interim dividend of Rs 6.25 per share (125%) on February 6, 2026, with an effective date of February 18, 2026. Another interim dividend of Rs 6.00 per share (120%) was announced on October 31, 2025, with an effective date of November 14, 2025. A final dividend of Rs 1.25 per share (25%) was declared on May 21, 2025, with an effective date of September 4, 2025.

Recent Announcements

The Board of Directors of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, at its meeting on July 28, 2026, approved a proposal to provide a Parent Company Guarantee (PCG) of USD 500 million in favour of Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) for the period of September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2028. Additionally, on July 25, 2026, ONGC announced spudding its first deepwater well in the Mahanadi basin under its Samudra Manthan Mission.

With the stock trading at Rs 243.24, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation continues to be an important player in the energy sector, balancing its financial performance with strategic corporate actions and new project developments.

Headline	NTPC Group Crosses 90 GW Commercial Capacity With 50 MW Solar Commissioning In Rajasthan		
Publication	Solar Quarter	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

NTPC Group Crosses 90 GW Commercial Capacity With 50 MW Solar Commissioning In Rajasthan

<https://solarquarter.com/2026/07/30/ntpc-group-crosses-90-gw-commercial-capacity-with-50-mw-solar-commissioning-in-rajasthan/>

NTPC Limited has announced the commercial operation of an additional 50 MW solar power capacity through its green energy business, marking another step in the company's renewable energy expansion.

The development was disclosed in an official filing made under Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

According to the disclosure dated July 29, 2026, the newly commissioned capacity is the third part of a 150 MW solar project located in Rajasthan. The solar project forms part of a 100 MW Renewable Energy Round the Clock (RTC) project being developed by Project Eleven Renewable Power Private Limited. The company is a step-down subsidiary of ONGC NTPC Green Private Limited, a joint venture involving NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), the renewable energy arm of NTPC.

The company stated that the commercial operation date (COD) for the newly added 50 MW capacity will take effect from 00:00 hours on July 31, 2026. The commissioning strengthens NTPC's growing renewable energy portfolio and supports its long-term clean energy goals.

Following the addition, the total installed capacity of the NTPC Green Energy Limited group has increased to 10,836.56 MW from the earlier 10,786.56 MW. The latest commissioning also boosts the overall installed capacity of the NTPC Group to 91,080 MW.

With this milestone, the NTPC Group's total commercial capacity has crossed the significant 90,000 MW mark, reflecting the company's continued expansion across both conventional and renewable power generation.

The regulatory disclosures were submitted to the stock exchanges by NTPC Company Secretary and NTPC Green Energy Limited Company Secretary. The filing confirms the successful commissioning of the latest solar capacity and highlights NTPC's continued progress in expanding India's renewable energy infrastructure.

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Headline	Garden Reach Shipbuilders secures Rs 1032.07 crore contract from ONGC for four Platform Supply Vessels		
Publication	Steel City Securities Limited	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

Garden Reach Shipbuilders secures Rs 1032.07 crore contract from ONGC for four Platform Supply Vessels

http://pdf2html.opoint.com/?pdf_url=https://www.steelcitynettrade.com/News/NewsDetails/5000524/Garden_Reach_Shipbuilders_secures_Rs_1032_07_crore_contract_from_ONGC_for_four_Platform_Supply_Vessels

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited announced it has received a Notification of Award (NOA) on July 30, 2026, for the construction of four Platform Supply Vessels for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC). The order, valued at Rs 1032.07 Crore including GST, requires the company to complete the project within 48 months and does not involve any related party transactions, according to a regulatory filing.

Headline	Garden Reach Shipbuilders secures Rs 1032.07 crore contract from ONGC for four Platform Supply Vessels		
Publication	adityabirlacapital	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

Garden Reach Shipbuilders secures Rs 1032.07 crore contract from ONGC for four Platform Supply Vessels

<https://stocksandsecurities.adityabirlacapital.com/news-details/Hot-Pursuit/5000524>

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited announced it has received a Notification of Award (NOA) on July 30, 2026, for the construction of four

Platform Supply Vessels for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC). The order, valued at Rs 1032.07 Crore including GST, requires the company to complete the project within 48 months and does not involve any related party transactions, according to a regulatory filing.

Headline	PM Modi holds high-level meeting with Cabinet Ministers in Parliament office		
Publication	Bizz Buzz	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

PM Modi holds high-level meeting with Cabinet Ministers in Parliament office

<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/national/pm-modi-holds-high-level-meeting-with-cabinet-ministers-in-parliament-office-1399166>

New Delhi, July 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting of his Cabinet ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, at his office in Parliament on Thursday.

The meeting was also attended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

Other ministers at the meeting included Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Health Minister J.P. Nadda, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, and Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

According to sources, the meeting was held to review the situation in West Asia and its impact on India's energy and fuel supplies. The Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil and gas is exported, continues to remain choked, which has led to a shortfall of petroleum products in global markets and a spike in prices.

The situation has become more complicated with commercial ships coming under attack in the region. The deaths of Indian seafarers have also emerged as a major concern, with the government taking up the issue with Iran and the USA.

The government informed the Parliament this week that it has undertaken a range of measures to ensure availability of critical industrial inputs including energy, ease input cost pressures, facilitate trade, support industrial activity and safeguard macroeconomic stability in the wake of supply chain disruptions due to the West Asia crisis.

The government has also ensured adequate availability of fertilisers and other essential agricultural inputs through assured gas supplies, diversification of import sources, advance procurement, and maintenance of buffer stocks.

The recent geopolitical developments in West Asia have adversely affected countries globally, with major implications for crude-oil-importing emerging economies. The conflict has led to an increase in international crude oil prices, which has widened the crude oil import bill for India.

However, the average Indian crude oil basket prices have eased significantly from \$114.5 per barrel in April 2026 to \$77.6 per barrel in July 2026 (up to 22nd July).

The government further stated that temporary customs duty exemption was provided on selected petrochemical feedstock. Further, the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool RELIEF(Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) Scheme was introduced to support businesses. RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) benefits were restored to mitigate higher freight, insurance and war-risk costs. Besides, liquidity support was also extended through the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0.

Headline	Displaying ethanol levels not 'considered necessary' on receipts: Gadkari		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

Displaying ethanol levels not 'considered necessary' on receipts: Gadkari

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/displaying-ethanol-levels-not-considered-necessary-on-receipts-gadkari-126073001386_1.html

Road Transport Minister says E20 is the only petrol sold at retail outlets nationwide, making separate display of ethanol blending levels unnecessary

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways (Photo: PTI)

New Delhi

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A separate mention of ethanol blending levels in petrol on customer receipts and at fuel dispensing stations was not considered necessary as 20 per cent ethanol-blended petrol (E20) is the only fuel available across the country, Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Public sector OMCs (oil marketing companies) have informed that currently normal petrol sold at their retail outlets across the country is E20. Since E0 or E10 petrol is not marketed at retail outlets, separate display of lower ethanol blends or printing of ethanol percentage on customer receipts has not been considered necessary, Gadkari said. The minister said retail outlets prominently label dispensing units that sell E85 petrol (85 per cent ethanol blended with 15 per cent petrol). In June, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched E85 fuel, which can only be used in flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs).

Ethanol blending with petrol has been widely criticised by consumers over concerns that some vehicles, particularly older models, could face faster component wear, lower fuel efficiency and higher maintenance costs, as they were not designed for E20 fuel. Meanwhile, the government has ruled out selling pure petrol or E10 alongside E20, citing the huge investments made in the sector by public sector banks and related industries.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme had been implemented through a phased and scientifically validated process in consultation with NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), oil marketing companies (OMCs) and other technical institutions.

Gopi said extensive laboratory studies and field trials had confirmed that E20 is safe for use under prescribed standards, adding that legacy vehicles do not exhibit any significant variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear due to E20.

The government has acknowledged that E20 petrol reduces vehicle mileage by 3-5 per cent compared with conventional petrol. It said, however, that the blend offers a higher octane rating, better anti-knock performance, faster combustion, improved pick-up, smoother acceleration and cleaner engine operation.

First Published: Jul 30 2026 | 7:20 PM IST

Headline	PM Modi chairs emergency CCS meeting on West Asia crisis: Fertiliser stocks reviewed, QRTs to be deployed across ministries, say sources		
Publication	ET Now	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

PM Modi chairs emergency CCS meeting on West Asia crisis: Fertiliser stocks reviewed, QRTs to be deployed across ministries, say sources

<https://www.etnownews.com/news/pm-modi-chairs-emergency-ccs-meeting-on-west-asia-crisis-fertiliser-stocks-reviewed-qrts-to-be-deployed-across-ministries-say-sources-article-155218271>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security to assess the impact of the West Asia crisis on India's energy security, trade and supply chains.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security on Wednesday to review the rapidly evolving situation in West Asia and its implications for India's energy security, supply chains and broader economic preparedness. The meeting, held during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, brought together the country's top security, diplomatic, economic and energy leadership in a comprehensive assessment of India's readiness to handle any further escalation in the region.

Who was in the room

The

CCS

meeting was attended by Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh

, Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman

and External Affairs Minister

S Jaishankar

. Beyond the core CCS members, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister

Hardeep Singh Puri

, Ports,

Shipping

and Waterways Minister

Sarbananda Sonowal

and Commerce Minister

Piyush Goyal

were also invited to participate. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and JP Nadda were also present. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval attended alongside other senior government and security officials.

The presence of the shipping and commerce ministers alongside the core security cabinet signals that the government's concerns extend beyond immediate military or diplomatic developments to the practical impact on trade routes, freight movement and commodity supply chains.

What was discussed and decided

According to sources, the Prime Minister reviewed the preparedness of all concerned ministries to deal with any scenario arising from the West Asia situation. Every ministry presented its Emergency Action Plan and expressed readiness to handle any emergency that may arise.

The supply situation of key raw materials was reviewed in detail. The Prime Minister was specifically apprised of the adequate availability of fertilisers across the country. The government has confirmed it holds sufficient fertiliser stocks to cover the current year's Rabi sowing season as well as next year's Kharif crop, providing reassurance to the agricultural sector at a time when global fertiliser supply chains have been under pressure.

Quick Response Teams will be deployed across all ministries to ensure swift action can be taken during any emergency, signalling that the government is moving beyond contingency planning to active operational readiness.

The Indian seafarers commitment

In a notable statement that emerged from the meeting, the Prime Minister conveyed that the government will stand firmly with Indian seafarers serving on cargo vessels anywhere in the world. The commitment is significant given that the Strait of Hormuz, currently under effective closure amid the US-Iran conflict, is one of the world's most critical shipping lanes for cargo movement. Thousands of Indian nationals work on commercial vessels that transit the region, and the government's explicit assurance signals active diplomatic and logistical monitoring of their situation.

Why the meeting matters

West Asia accounts for a significant share of India's crude oil, petroleum product and liquefied natural gas imports. The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly 20 percent of global oil supplies pass, and the collapse of the US-Iran interim peace deal have created conditions of considerable uncertainty for energy-importing nations, with India particularly exposed given its historic dependence on Gulf energy.

The discussions in the CCS meeting are understood to have covered crude oil and LPG imports, contingency measures for uninterrupted energy supplies, and broader trade and shipping exposure to any further deterioration in the regional security environment. The meeting follows

PM Modi

's earlier interventions during the West Asia crisis earlier this year, when India diversified its energy import sources from 25 to 26 countries to more than 40 countries and rapidly scaled up domestic LPG production to prevent supply disruptions.

An official statement on the full outcome of the meeting is awaited.

Saptadeepa Bhattacharjee

Headline	High-level security meeting led by PM Modi addresses regional tensions and energy security		
Publication	MSN India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	30 Jul 2026		

High-level security meeting led by PM Modi addresses regional tensions and energy security

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/general/high-level-security-meeting-led-by-pm-modi-addresses-regional-tensions-and-energy-security/ar-AA2941LT>

Cabinet Committee on Security Meeting Overview A significant meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) took place under the leadership

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, attended by key ministers and security officials. According to sources, the discussions focused on the evolving situation in West Asia and its implications for India's energy security and fuel supply. Notable attendees included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Kiren Rijiju, and J.P. Nadda. Additionally, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal were present.

Geopolitical Tensions and Security Implications

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval participated in the meeting alongside other senior officials from the government and security sectors. The backdrop of the meeting included rising tensions between Iran and the United States, particularly following a fragile ceasefire that was disrupted. This escalation began during the funeral of former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, where Tehran vowed to retaliate against U.S. President Donald Trump. Additionally, disputes over the Strait of Hormuz were highlighted, with the U.S. seeking a return to pre-conflict shipping conditions, while Iran insisted on tolls for passage through this vital international route.

Military Actions and Legislative Developments

Consequently, the U.S. and Israel launched extensive airstrikes on Iranian infrastructure, prompting Iran to respond with drone and missile attacks targeting U.S. bases in the Gulf region. In response, Trump threatened severe retaliatory strikes. In a separate legislative development, Union Minister Jitendra Singh introduced the 'Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026' in the Rajya Sabha for consideration and passage. This bill aims to strengthen the legal framework against examination malpractices, including increasing penalties for paper leak incidents, establishing a special task force for investigations, and ensuring timely hearings through special fast-track courts.

Stay Updated with National News

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Headline	PM orders coordinated plan to protect fuel supplies, Indians		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	31 Jul 2026		

PM orders coordinated plan to protect fuel supplies, Indians

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/big-stories/pm-orders-coordinated-plan-to-protect-fuel-supplies-indians-670423>

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired the fourth special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on the West Asia

conflict, directing a coordinated government response to protect India's energy security, supply chains, citizens and diaspora as escalating hostilities continue to disrupt key global shipping routes. The high-level meeting reviewed the country's preparedness to ensure uninterrupted supplies of petroleum products, natural gas and fertilisers, assessed the safety of Indian seafarers in conflict zones, and examined the wider impact of tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Black Sea. Officials informed the CCS that there is no shortage of fuel or fertilisers and that contingency measures have been put in place to maintain supplies despite the crisis.

Advertisement

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, the meeting reviewed the evolving geopolitical situation and the steps taken by various ministries and departments in response to the conflict. It was the fourth special CCS meeting on the issue since the West Asia conflict began earlier this year.

The extended meeting was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister JP Nadda, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval was also present.

Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan briefed the CCS on the geopolitical situation and outlined measures taken to ensure adequate availability of petroleum products, including LNG and LPG, as well as fertilisers. He informed the meeting that LPG procurement sources have been diversified and that stocks and supplies of major petroleum products remain adequate.

Officials said sufficient crude oil availability has enabled Central Public Sector Enterprise refineries to operate at more than 100 per cent capacity, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products. The meeting was also informed that there is adequate availability of fertilisers to meet requirements until the upcoming Rabi season.

The CCS assessed fertiliser requirements for the next Rabi crop and discussed alternative procurement sources. Modi directed that all necessary steps be taken to ensure uninterrupted fertiliser supplies.

The Prime Minister also called for a whole of government approach to deal with challenges arising from the crisis and directed that a unified and coordinated mechanism be established to regularly monitor developments and ensure quick implementation of measures to safeguard citizens and national interests.

The situation of Indian seafarers serving on domestic and foreign-flagged vessels operating in conflict zones also came under review. Modi instructed the ministries concerned to establish a mechanism for providing timely information, emergency assistance and counselling to seafarers and their families.

He further directed that every effort be made to safeguard Indian citizens and the Indian diaspora from the impact of the conflict. Government data presented in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday showed that 16 Indian nationals, including 10 seafarers, have been killed and 75 injured in the West Asia conflict. Separately, 12 Indians died in an accidental explosion at a gas facility in Qatar in June.

West Asia is home to more than 10 million Indians, most of them living and working in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Officials said India will continue to prioritise the safety of its nationals and protect their interests.

The meeting also reviewed measures aimed at strengthening long-term energy security. The government highlighted expansion of piped natural gas connections, growth of the National Gas Grid, increased LNG import and regasification capacity, wider City Gas Distribution networks and faster approvals for pipeline and last-mile connectivity under the Pipeline Infrastructure Order, 2026. Modi also called for greater reliance on renewable energy, including solar and other non-fossil fuel sources, to improve energy independence.

India imports more than 88 per cent of its energy requirements, making uninterrupted shipping routes critical. Before the US-Israel conflict with Iran, around 40 per cent of India's energy imports passed through the Strait of Hormuz. The continuing conflict has disrupted these supplies, while the Bab al-Mandab, linking the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, has also come under pressure after Yemen's Houthi militia threatened to target Saudi oil tankers and attacked several ships. Shipping through the passage has fallen to an average of 31 vessels a day over the past three days, down from 43 daily during the first half of July. At the same time, attacks linked to the intensifying Russia-Ukraine war have added pressure on oil shipments through the Black Sea, further complicating global supply chains.

Headline	West Asia Crisis: PM Modi Reviews Emergency Preparedness Across Ministries at CCS Meeting		
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West Asia Crisis: PM Modi Reviews Emergency Preparedness Across Ministries at CCS Meeting

<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/west-asia-crisis-pm-modi-reviews-emergency-preparedness-across-ministries-at-ccs-meeting>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a special Cabinet Committee on Security meeting to assess India's preparedness for the ongoing West Asia crisis, with ministries presenting contingency plans covering multiple scenarios.

The government reviewed the safety of Indian seafarers, energy security, trade disruptions and fertiliser availability, while reaffirming support for sailors affected by attacks on commercial vessels in the region.

Officials said India has adequate fertiliser stocks through the 2027 cropping seasons and has introduced measures to mitigate the economic impact of disruptions to global oil supplies caused by the Strait of Hormuz crisis.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday convened a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to review preparations across government departments and ministries amid the ongoing West Asia crisis. The meeting took place at the Prime Minister's Office in Parliament.

Sources within the government said the administration is ready to face any challenge in the coming period, with the West Asia conflict and its impact on trade and the supply of petroleum products being central to the discussion.

New Delhi has previously voiced deep concern over the escalation of the security situation in the region. It had called for the matter to be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy rather than escalating hostilities.

The meeting was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

Among the other ministers present were Health Minister JP Nadda, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, was also present.

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Sources said each ministry presented projections keeping all possible scenarios in mind and that emergency response plans were laid out ministry-wise, with quick response teams to be constituted for each.

By

Seafarer safety takes centre stage

The prime minister reiterated that the government stands by every seafarer, regardless of which country's flag the cargo vessel they serve on is registered under. Several many in the crossfire of the Iran-Israel-US conflict.

According to the Directorate General of Shipping, Indian sailors have been killed and wounded in a series of strikes on commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman, including attacks on tankers such as the Settebello, GFS Galaxy, Mombasa, Al Bahiyah, MT Wedyan, and Al Rekayyat.

To date, a total of 18 Indian seafarers have lost their lives and two remain missing since the conflict escalated. It includes 13 in West Asian waters and five in the Black Sea.

The Ministry of External Affairs had summoned the diplomats from the United States, Iran, Russia and Ukraine and registered its strong protest against the killing of Indian

By

Fertiliser stocks and energy security

The prime minister also reviewed the availability of fertilisers in the country and the steps being taken to secure supply through the Kharif and Rabi seasons. The ministry informed the meeting that the country holds sufficient stock to last through both cropping seasons until 2027.

On the energy front, the crisis has had wider economic reverberations. The choking of the Strait of Hormuz has led to a shortfall of petroleum products in global markets and a spike in prices.

To reduce the impact, the government has rolled out measures including customs duty exemptions and the RELIEF scheme aimed at easing supply-chain disruptions, alongside steps to safeguard industrial input costs and macroeconomic stability.

Headline	E20 can cut mileage: Gadkari		
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E20 can cut mileage: Gadkari

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/e20-can-cut-mileage-gadkari>

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday clarified that ethanol blended petrol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by two to six per cent depending on the vehicle category and vintage.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Gadkari said E20 fuel provides better acceleration, improved ride quality and approximately 30 per cent lower carbon emissions compared to E10 fuel. Gadkari said a study to evaluate the effect of E20 on BS-III, BS-IV and BS-VI E10 (Petrol) two-wheelers and four-wheelers was carried out jointly by ARAI, SIAM and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL).

The fuel efficiency of vehicles may be reduced by 2 to 6 per cent depending on the vehicle category and vintage. The tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and vehicle tests on road have not shown any failures due to E20, the minister said.

Meanwhile, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri met representatives of Team Bharat, an outfit that is spearheading the protests against the alleged rushed implementation of E20 petrol on July 31.

Critics have questioned whether all vehicles are fully compatible with E20, flagged the possibility of reduced fuel efficiency and higher maintenance costs, and sought clarity on liability if engine or fuel-system problems arise.

Gadkari, in his written reply, claimed that ethanol blended petrol programme commenced with a pilot in 2001, E5 was introduced in 2006, and although blending remained around 1.53 per cent in 2013-14, it has since been increased progressively in a calibrated manner after creating the necessary production capacity, infrastructure and regulatory framework.

The minister explained that the Ethanol blended petrol (EBP) programme has been implemented through a phased, scientifically validated and consultative process involving NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and other technical institutions.

According to him, E15+ blended petrol has been in widespread use for over three-and-a-half years and E19-E20 fuel for over two-and-a-half years.

Manufacturer service data confirm that there is no abnormal corrosion, wear or reduction in vehicle life due to E20 fuel, he said, adding that manufacturers continue to honour warranty obligations for vehicles using E20 fuel, providing further confidence in its safety and reliability.