Statesman, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 33.05cm × 16.46cm

Delhi signs MoU for compressed bio-gas plants to handle city's waste, boost livestock farmers' income

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 15 July

To ensure the proper disposal of cow dung, which contributes to the pollution of the Yamuna River, Delhi has geared up to establish Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for the construction of the plants.

According to officials from the Ministry, the MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Delhi Lieutenant Governor

Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Union Home Secretary, the Union Cooperation Secretary, and several senior officials from the Central and Delhi governments.

"The agreement will serve as a model for making all major cities of the country clean," Shah said after the signing of the MoU. He added that the initiative would not only increase the income of livestock farmers but also improve cleanliness, generate Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), and provide a major boost to organic farming.

Shah said that every citizen of the country wants the

> **SHAH SAID THAT EVERY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTRY WANTS THE YAMUNA RIVER TO BE CLEAN, BUT THIS GOAL CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT STOPPING THE DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE AND OTHER WASTE INTO THE RIVER.**

Yamuna River to be clean, but this goal cannot be achieved without stopping the discharge of sewage and other waste into the river. He added that the agreement is an important step towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to clean the Yamuna.

Highlighting the progress made so far, the Home Minister said work had already begun on around 80 treatment plants in Delhi for the treatment of sewage and industrial waste.

He said arrangements were being made to ensure that not even a small amount of cow dung enters the Yamuna River in the future. He added that this would not be possible without the proper disposal of waste generated by nearly 1.25 lakh cattle.

Shah said the government aims to ensure that not a single litre of untreated water enters the Yamuna River by December 2028.

He further said that cow dung would be processed at the Nangli, Ghoga-Goyla and Ghazipur waste disposal plants. According to Shah, the agreement will serve as a model for metropolitan cities across the country and, in the future, the processing of cow dung will also benefit livestock farmers in rural India.

MCD, NDDB sign MoU to set up CBG plants in Capital

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants in the Capital for the scientific processing of cow dung. Union home minister Amit Shah called upon the initiative for developing a clean and green city.

The event was held in the presence of Union minister of state for animal husbandry and dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lallan Singh), Delhi LG Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, and several other officials from the centre and the state government.

Addressing the gathering, Amit Shah said that the project will not only help in making the city clean but also promote organic farming, produce clean fuel in the form of compressed biogas and add to the income of cattle owners. Shah also added that the project will serve as a role model for other metro cities in the country.

Speaking on the development of the Yamuna river, Shah said that the river can only be cleaned when the sewage and waste thrown in it are properly treated. He added that nearly 80 treatment plants have been proposed in the national capital for the treatment of sewage and effluents.

The home minister said that arrangements have been made so that the dung of 1.25 lakh cattle does not get mixed with the Yamuna river. He further added that he is confident that not a single drop of untreated waste water will enter the river by December 2028.

As per the plan, the dung will be processed at Nangli, Ghoga-Goyla and Ghazipur waste management centres. The home minister announced that cattle owners will get one rupee per kg of dung. He said that the initiative would benefit the cattle owners by giving them an additional source of income.

Civic body & national dairy board join hands to set up bio-gas plants

ANSHITA MEHRA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with CM Rekha Gupta and others in New Delhi on Wednesday.

NEW DELHI, JULY 15

In a bid to tackle cattle waste and accelerate the Yamuna clean-up, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to establish compressed bio-gas (CBG) plants for the scientific processing of cow dung in the national capital.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, Union Animal Husbandry Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Mayor Pravesh Wahi and senior officials from the Centre and the Delhi government.

Addressing the gathering, Shah described the agreement as a major step towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to cleaning the Yamuna and said it would serve as a model for other cities across the country.

"All citizens want the Yamuna river's water to be clean, but this dream cannot be realised without stopping the discharge of filth and sewage into the river. This agreement is an important step in that direction," Shah said.

He said the government was making arrangements to ensure that cattle waste no longer find its way into the river and announced that the processing of cow dung would be carried out at Nangli, Ghoga-Goyla and Ghazipur waste disposal facilities.

Shah said nearly 1.25 lakh cattle in Delhi generate a substantial quantity of dung every day, making scientific processing essential. He added that livestock farmers would be paid Rs 1 per kilogram of cow dung, a move aimed at encouraging proper disposal while providing them an additional source of income.

The Union Home Minister also said work had already begun on around 80 treatment plants for sewage and industrial waste in Delhi and reiterated the government's target of ensuring that not a single litre of untreated wastewater enters the Yamuna by December 2028.

According to the government, the CBG plants will convert cattle dung into compressed bio-gas and organic manure, promoting clean energy, improving urban sanitation and supporting organic farming. Officials said the initiative is expected to reduce pollution caused by indiscriminate dumping of cattle waste while creating a sustainable waste-management model that can be replicated in other metropolitan cities.

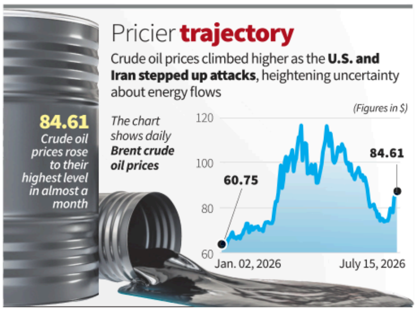
Iran threatens regional oil blockade over U.S. actions

Oil and gas 'will either be for everyone or no one', says Iran as U.S. claims 'wave of strikes'; U.S. blockade has 'dismantled' the peace MoU, says Tehran; Brent crude price nears $85 a barrel

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

Returning to war nearly a month after signing a memorandum of understanding towards peace in West Asia, the U.S. and Iran on Wednesday launched strikes on targets across the region.

While the U.S. Central Command said it launched "a wave of strikes... designed to further degrade military capabilities Iranian forces have used to attack commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz", Iranian state media reported explosions near the port city of Bandar Abbas, on the island of Qeshm, and on Bandar Imam Khomeini. Iranian media later said new U.S. strikes hit the southern port city of Bushehr, home to the country's only civilian nuclear plant.



Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they targeted the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, where the military said it had intercepted attacks against civilian targets, while Jordan's armed forces said they had downed three missiles from Tehran. Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said the renewed U.S. blockade on Iranian ports "has, in a way, dismantled the Islamabad memorandum", referring to the interim deal reached last month to halt hostilities and pursue peace talks.

The Guards also threatened on Wednesday to halt all energy exports from West Asia over the blockade. "The export of oil and gas from the region will be either for everyone or for no one," it said.

The Brent crude oil, the international standard, traded close to $85 a barrel on Wednesday – more than 15% higher than the price before the war, but still below the nearly $120 reached at the height of the conflict. Analysts with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have warned that while a surplus of oil had kept prices low, "much of that room has now been used up".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
TRUMP'S WARNING
» PAGE 14

Iran warns of blockade over U.S. actions

"As tensions flare again in the Strait of Hormuz, that room [from oil surplus] is now smaller and shrinking further as spare capacity has been deployed, demand has compressed, and inventories have been drawn down," Azim Sadikov and Jean-Marc Natal from the IMF wrote in a blog post. "Unless inventories are replenished, the world will start from a weaker position when the next shock comes."

At the heart of the resumption of hostilities has been the dispute over the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway that is crucial for global oil and gas flows.

Iran blockaded Hormuz after the U.S. and Israel launched their massive attack on February 28, using it for leverage against its foes for months before briefly reopening it, and then again vowing it would be closed "until the U.S. ends its aggression".

The U.S., in turn, has reimposed its own blockade of Iran's ports, though Mr. Trump has backed down on a planned 20% levy on ships using the strait.

Since the war began, Iran has asserted its control over the strait and opened fire on ships for taking routes it says are unauthorised.

"The retaliatory operations of the fighters will continue, and the strait will remain closed until the U.S. ends its acts of aggression," the Guards have said.

Recent escalations

A Norwegian tanker was hit by an explosion caused by an unidentified device off the Omani coast early on Tuesday, the crisis response company MTI Network said.

Kuwait said one of its naval vessels was struck during an Iranian missile and drone barrage, wounding four crew members.

Since last week, renewed U.S. attacks have killed at least 30 people in Iran, a government spokesperson said. Separately, the military announced that seven of its personnel were killed in Wednesday's strikes on the southeast.

Pioneer, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 12.89cm × 15.88cm

MCD, NDDB sign MoU to set up CBG plants for cow dung utilisation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants in the national Capital for the scientific utilisation of cow dung, in a move aimed at reducing pollution in the Yamuna River and promoting waste-to-energy solutions.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah. Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lallan Singh, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Union Home Secretary, the Cooperation Secretary, and senior officials from the Centre and the Delhi Government also attended the event.

Addressing the gathering, Shah described the agreement as a model that could be replicated in major cities across the country. He said the initiative would improve urban cleanliness, generate Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), promote organic farming, and enhance the income of livestock farmers.

He said the agreement marks an important step towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to clean the Yamuna River. According to Shah, preventing the discharge of waste and sewage into the river is essential for restoring its water quality.

The Home Minister said work has already begun on around 80 treatment plants in Delhi for the treatment of sewage and industrial waste.

He added that arrangements are being made to ensure that no cow dung enters the Yamuna in the future, noting that proper disposal of waste generated by nearly 1.25 lakh cattle is critical to achieving that objective.

Shah said the Government aims to ensure that not a single litre of untreated wastewater enters the Yamuna by December 2028.

Further, Amit Shah said cow dung collected under the initiative will be processed at the Nangli, Ghoga-Goyla and Ghazipur waste disposal plants.

Calling the project a significant step for urban sanitation and rural livelihoods, the Home Minister said it has the potential to become a model for metropolitan cities across India before being expanded to benefit livestock farmers in rural areas.

Pioneer, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 7.54cm × 10.11cm

Crude oil futures rally as US-Iran conflict deepens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Crude oil futures extended gains for the third straight session on Wednesday, rising ₹105 to ₹7,689 per barrel, as traders priced in mounting supply risks following another round of US strikes on Iran.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil futures for July delivery rose ₹105, or 1.38 per cent, to ₹7,689 per barrel in a business turnover of 10,458 lots.

The August contract also went up by ₹91, or 1.2 per cent, to ₹7,665 per barrel in 8,798 lots on the MCX.

Traders said mounting geopolitical tensions in West Asia drove the latest gains after the US intensified its military operations against Iran, raising concerns over crude shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial artery for global oil trade.

Pioneer, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 23.60cm × 22.94cm

India's refining rise: From oil importer to global fuel supplier

RUPAK CHATTOPADHYAY

India's transformation into a major refining power represents one of the most significant developments in the global downstream energy landscape over the past three decades. For decades, the country's energy story was defined by dependence: a rapidly growing economy with limited domestic crude production and heavy reliance on imports. Today, that narrative is changing. India is emerging as one of the world's most important processors and exporters of refined petroleum products.

Just three decades ago, India's refining sector was largely inward-looking, focused primarily on meeting domestic shortages rather than competing in global markets. The transformation began with economic liberalisation in the 1990s and accelerated with the development of large, export-oriented refineries such as the Jamnagar complex. Since then, India has evolved from a country that was periodically dependent on imported refined fuels to supplement domestic supply into one of the world's largest exporters of petroleum products, supplying markets across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

The scale of this transformation is considerable. India currently has approximately 258 million tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of refining capacity, equivalent to around 5.2 million barrels per day (bpd). This makes India the world's third-largest refining hub after the United States and China. Government and industry plans envisage expanding refining capacity to approximately 300 MMTPA by the end of the decade, although several major projects remain subject to investment decisions, financing, and implementation timelines. Even with these uncertainties, India's refining footprint is expected to continue expanding, strengthening its position in global fuel markets.

The importance of India's refining sector is not measured only by domestic consumption. It is increasingly reflected in its export performance. According to data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC), India exported approximately 64.7 million tonnes of petroleum products in FY2024–25, equivalent to more than one million barrels per day. The country ships gasoline, diesel, aviation turbine fuel, fuel oil, and petrochemical feedstocks to markets across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Maritime intelligence firm Kpler reported that India's fuel exports reached a record 1.28 million bpd in 2025.

The significance of India's refining sector becomes even clearer when exports are measured relative to total production rather than simply to installed capacity. Indian refineries typically operate at utilisation rates of around 100-105 per cent of nameplate capacity through operational optimisation, producing approximately 250-270 million tonnes of petroleum products annually. Of this output, roughly one-quarter — around 64-65 million tonnes — is exported. This makes India one of the world's most export-oriented major refining centres.

This export orientation gives India a distinctive position in global energy markets. The United States exports larger absolute volumes of refined products, but its enormous domestic market absorbs much of its refining output. China has built one of the world's largest refining systems, but refined product exports are managed through State-controlled quota mechanisms and are closely linked to domestic industrial policy. India occupies a different position: it combines a massive and rapidly growing domestic market with a refining sector capable of

consistently supplying international consumers.

India's competitiveness has also been strengthened by changes in global crude markets. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Indian refiners substantially increased purchases of discounted Russian crude. While operating within prevailing international sanctions frameworks governing maritime trade and price restrictions, Indian refiners benefited from access to lower-cost feedstock, improving refinery margins and enhancing the competitiveness of exported petroleum products. This helped India expand its role as a supplier of diesel, gasoline, aviation fuel, and other products during a period of significant disruption in global energy markets.

India's export capability changes its role in the global energy system. Unlike traditional oil powers that derive influence from controlling crude reserves, India's influence increasingly comes from its ability to transform crude sourced from multiple countries into products required by global consumers. Indian refiners can process crude from the Middle East, Russia, Africa, and the Americas, allowing them to optimise procurement according to price, quality, and market conditions.

A key source of India's competitive advantage is not only scale but also technological sophistication. Many Indian refineries rank among the most complex in the world, with high refining complexity that allows them to process a wide range of crude grades, including heavier and more challenging feedstocks. This flexibility enables refiners to maximise production of higher-value products such as transportation fuels, petrochemical feedstocks, and speciality products. In a volatile global oil market, the ability to adapt crude inputs and optimise output has become a major strategic advantage.

This creates a distinct competitive position. The United States remains the world's largest refining power, supported by abundant domestic crude production, extensive pipeline networks, and deeply integrated energy infrastructure. China has built one of the world's largest refining systems through sustained state-backed investment in refining and petrochemicals. Gulf producers, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, are also moving further downstream, investing in large export-oriented refineries to capture more value from their hydrocarbon resources.

India's model is different. The country has emerged as a global-scale refining power without being a major crude producer while simultaneously developing one of the world's most export-oriented downstream sectors. Its competitive advantage lies in the combination of a vast domestic market, strategic geography, sophisticated refining capabilities, high operational utilisation, modem port infrastructure, and the ability to connect suppliers and consumers across multiple regions.

The Jamnagar refining complex operated by Reliance Industries exemplifies this transformation. With a refining capacity of approximately 1.24 million barrels per day, it is the world's largest refining complex and has played a central role in establishing India as a major exporter of transportation fuels and petrochemical products.

It is also significant that successive US administrations have generally accepted India's expanding role as a supplier of refined petroleum products to global markets, including Europe, even as India increased purchases of Russian crude after 2022. Under prevailing sanctions frameworks, refined products processed in India continued to reach international markets, providing European consumers with an additional source of fuel supplies at a time when energy security had become a central concern. For the United States, India's emergence as a major refining hub has broadly aligned with wider strategic objectives by increasing flexibility in global energy markets and reinforcing India's role as a key partner in the Indo-Pacific.

The episode underscores a broader shift in global energy power. Influence is no longer determined solely by control over crude oil reserves; it increasingly rests with countries that possess the infrastructure and capability to process, store, and redistribute energy at scale.

The India–UAE crude storage partnership further demonstrates how major producers increasingly view India not only as a consumer market but also as a strategic energy platform. By placing crude inventories in India, producers gain closer access to Asian demand centres, while India gains greater supply flexibility, improved energy security, and deeper strategic relationships with major producers.

The combination of refining capacity, strategic petroleum storage, ports, and export infrastructure creates a new form of energy influence. This strategic value becomes even clearer during periods of geopolitical disruption, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz. Any disruption to Gulf shipping routes would affect not only crude availability but also refined product flows across Asia. Countries with flexible refining systems, diversified crude sourcing, and sophisticated logistics networks are better positioned to manage volatility.

India's expanding refining footprint provides precisely that flexibility. The country can diversify crude sourcing, adjust refinery operations, and continue supplying both domestic and international markets. Its role as a major exporter of refined products gives India influence well beyond its own borders, particularly among energy-importing economies across South Asia, Africa, and the wider Indo-Pacific.

This represents a fundamental shift in India's global energy position. The country is moving from being a vulnerable buyer of crude to becoming an increasingly important participant in the global energy value chain. Producers are seeking deeper access to India's market, while consumers are increasingly relying on India's refining capacity.

The future of energy influence will not be determined solely by who controls the largest oil reserves. It will also be shaped by who controls the infrastructure that transforms raw resources into the fuels, chemicals, and products that modern economies require. India has spent three decades building that infrastructure — and continues to expand it. In doing so, it is emerging not simply as one of the world's largest oil consumers, but as one of the world's most consequential refining and fuel-exporting powers.

Rupak Chattopadhyay has served as President and CEO of the Forum of Federations since 2011

Indian Express, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 13, Size: 29.95cm × 23.76cm

INDIA IS THE SECOND-BIGGEST EXPORT MARKET FOR RUSSIAN CRUDE

US bill proposes 100% tariffs on top five buyers of Russian energy

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, July 15

A REWORKED bill, backed by a bipartisan group of US senators, proposes up to 100% tariffs on the top buyers of Russian oil and natural gas, which include India and China. The move comes amid renewed Gulf crisis with experts calling it impractical. The bill, initially backed by the late US senator Lindsey Graham, was aimed at squeezing Russia's revenue from oil and gas exports. Following Graham's sudden demise last week, the group of US senators on Tuesday unveiled the revised version of the Russia sanctions bill.

Although it remains to be seen whether the bill will turn into law in its current form — considering the original bill failed to move beyond the initial phases for over a year — the proposed legislation would certainly be a cause of concern for New Delhi. Notably, the new bill is a watered-down version of the original, and does offer some room for workarounds and concessions from Washington. India is expected to push for those, if at all, the bill is enacted, according to industry experts and analysts.

The new bill proposes tariffs of up to 100% on the top five buyers of Russian oil and natural gas, against the proposal of a blanket 500% tariff on buyers of Russian energy in the original version that had been hanging fire. While this reduction in proposed tariffs appears meaningful on paper, the cap is still too high for India, which is also working to finalise a trade deal with the US. Importantly, from New Delhi's perspective, the new bill gives powers to the US president to issue waivers on its provisions.

"India would almost certainly push for it (waiver), and it would make sense for the US to agree as a friendly concession, especially given how serious the situation is for New Delhi," Abu Dhabi-based energy analyst Natalia Katona told *The Indian Express*. She added that the bill "risks colliding" with the India-US trade talks.

That would be counterproductive for both Washington and New Delhi, which have made progress in negotiations after initial setbacks and hiccups. The use of tariffs under

The new bill is a watered-down version of the original, and does offer some room for workarounds. REUTERS

the proposed law as leverage by Washington cannot be ruled out. Any such ploy by the US would create additional pressure on India. Even for Washington, taking away millions of barrels of Russian oil from the market when energy flows from West Asia remain stifled wouldn't be prudent. That would worsen an already worrying supply situation, sending oil prices soaring, something that the Donald Trump administration wouldn't want ahead of the US midterm polls.

Meaningfully reducing Russian oil imports is just not an option in the prevailing circumstances of global supply tightness amid the West Asia crisis. As per Kpler data, India's Russian oil imports rose to 2.6 million barrels per day (bpd) in June, accounting for over half of New Delhi's oil imports. July could match or even exceed June's volumes.

"From India's perspective, Russian crude has become the country's strongest energy security hedge, particularly since the Strait of Hormuz disruptions. Russian barrels have enabled Indian refiners to maintain high refinery run rates, ensure uninterrupted fuel supplies, and avoid the disruptions experienced by several other Asian refining systems," said Sumit Ritolia, modelling and refining manager at Kpler.

While there are calls from some US lawmakers to expedite the bill's passage, the prevailing energy market dynamics add an element of uncertainty. Nonetheless, India is expected to communicate its energy concerns to Washington, as was done last year as well when the original bill was mooted. Experts are also sceptical about the bill's prospects.

"The question is whether this bill is economically real at all. I simply do not see this bill passing, or remaining in its current form. It has already been diluted from a 500% tariff threat against virtually all buyers of Russian oil and gas to a maximum of 100% aimed at only the five largest. European exemptions and presidential waivers have also been added. That tells you the political slogan is already being adjusted to economic reality," said Katona.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Crude oil prices rise as W. Asia hostilities escalate

Reuters
London

Crude oil extended gains as the US said it had begun a new wave of strikes against Iranian military installations on Wednesday, aiming to limit Tehran's ability to strike commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

Washington earlier reimposed a naval blockade of Iranian ports and launched overnight strikes, prompting the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to threaten to close "all other export corridors that benefit the US and its allies".

SUPPLY FEARS

Brent futures gained 18 cents, or 0.2 per cent, to $84.91 a barrel at 1214 GMT. West Texas Intermediate futures rose 26 cents, or 0.3 per cent, to $79.60 a barrel.

Crude oil prices settled up 2 per cent at a one-month high on Tuesday as attacks exacerbated a supply disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passed before the war's outbreak.

The hostilities between Iran and the US reignited last week, fraying an already fragile truce reached in June after several months of fighting. Late on Tuesday, the US military said it had hit dozens of military targets near the strategic waterway and Iranian coastal areas in strikes lasting seven hours.

In response, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said on Wednesday it struck US military targets in the region, including in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan. The US military said its fresh strikes on Wednesday against Iran's coastal defence systems and cruise missile storage and launch sites were "designed to further degrade military capabilities Iranian forces have used to attack commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz".

Analysts have said Iran has been signalling it may use its Houthi allies in Yemen to shut the Bab el-Mandeb gateway to the Red Sea, opening a new front against Washington and putting two of the world's most vital energy arteries at risk. Further strengthening oil prices was a US naval blockade of ships coming and going to Iranian ports, said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo.

Economic Times, Delhi, 16/07/2026

Page No: 3, Size: 14.66cm × 30.43cm

AMID CONCESSIONS FOR EUROPE'S RUSSIAN GAS BUYS

US Bill's 100% Tariff Threat Over Russian Oil May Strain Ties

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

New Delhi: India's ties with the US could be adversely impacted if the Trump administration imposes 100% tariffs on countries purchasing Russian crude while simultaneously giving concessions to Europe for importing natural gas from Moscow.

The Modi government has taken strong note of a bill that threatens to impose sweeping sanctions on Russia, while naming India among five countries that could face 100% tariffs for continuing to buy Russian oil, ET has learnt.

"The US is not taking the right approach. These are double standards vis-a-vis Europe and may not achieve the desired result. The move has the potential to damage relations with India even further," a senior source told ET. "Making India a punching bag for US foreign policy failures will be counterproductive," the source said, adding, "China will find a way to continue importing Russian oil notwithstanding any sanctions."

The bill comes at a time when India and the US are working to finalise a trade deal. The US move is not prudent at a time when the Strait of Hormuz crisis has disrupted energy supply chains from the Gulf, and squeezing Russian oil out of the global market could have a negative impact. India's imports of Russian crude rose to a record high in June, increasing 34% from the previous month. Imports of Russian crude by India have increased since the Iran war.

A bipartisan group of US senators has unveiled a long-awaited bill imposing sweeping sanctions on Russia. The legislation, titled the 'Lindsey Graham Russia Accountability Bill', was formally announced on Capitol Hill on Tuesday by senators Richard Blumenthal and Jeanne Shaheen, along with more than a dozen other lawmakers from both parties.

The US bill comes at a time when India and the US are working on a trade deal

The bill authorises the administration to impose tariffs set at a rate above zero but capped well below the full value on countries identified as the largest buyers of Russian oil. **Blumenthal named five countries — China, India, Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan.**

A related provision targets buyers of Russian natural gas, but exempts countries importing less than 15% of their gas from Russia if they are already reducing purchases, a carve-out that shields most European allies.

Economic Times, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 5, Size: 22.17cm × 18.28cm

Russian Crude Key Energy Security Hedge, says Kpler

New Delhi: Proposed US tariffs targeting countries that buy Russian crude could inject fresh volatility into global oil markets, but replacing Russian supply would be difficult given limited spare production capacity and ongoing geopolitical risks, according to a Kpler analyst.

"Russian crude has become the country's strongest energy security hedge, particularly since the Strait of Hormuz disruptions," according to Sumit Ritolia, an analyst at Kpler.

US senators on Tuesday unveiled a revised bipartisan Russia sanctions bill that would impose sanctions on Russian officials while softening proposed tariffs on countries importing Russian oil and gas. The measure lowers the maximum tariff on the five largest buyers of Russian energy, including China and India, to 100% from the 500% proposed in the original bill introduced in April 2025. It exempts countries importing less than 15% of Russia's natural gas if they are taking significant steps to reduce purchases.

Russia supplied around 2.6 million barrels per day (mbd) of crude to India in June, accounting for more than half of the country's total crude imports, Ritolia said. Imports have risen steadily since March, while July arrivals are on track to match or exceed June's volumes. –PTI

'Russian Firms Seeking more Gasoline from India'

New Delhi: Top Russian energy companies have approached Indian refiners for more gasoline after Ukrainian strikes knocked out a significant portion of Russia's refining capacity, two sources familiar with the matter said Wednesday. India is the biggest buyer of Russian seaborne crude oil, making Moscow's bid to secure Indian gasoline an unusual reversal in the countries' energy trade relationship, highlighting the extent of the disruption caused by the Ukrainian attacks. –Reuters

Financial Express, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 20.80cm × 16.62cm

US' 100% tariff threat tests India's Russia oil strategy

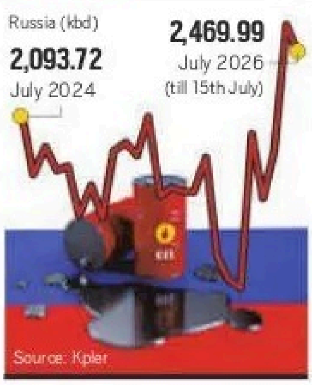
SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, July 15

INDIA'S RUSSIAN CRUDE strategy faces a fresh challenge, with US senators proposing tariffs of up to 100% on major buyers of Moscow's oil. The move comes at a time when Russian supplies have surged to 2.6 million barrels per day, accounting for more than half of India's crude imports.

The revised bill scales back an earlier 500% blanket tariff threat but narrows its focus to the world's five largest buyers of Russian oil or natural gas, placing India and China directly in its crosshairs.

This raises risks for India's refinery operations, fuel security and replacement crude costs. For India, the proposal also threatens a supply source that has emerged as its strongest energy-security hedge amid disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. Russian crude imports rose to around 2.6 million barrels per day in June, accounting for more than 50% of India's total crude imports, according to Kpler.

SUPPLY RISK



Continued on Page 7

India's Russia oil strategy

JULY ARRIVALS ARE also tracking at healthy levels and could match or exceed June volumes, reflecting a steady rise in Russian supplies since March.

"The proposed US tariffs on countries buying Russian crude should be viewed in the context of today's exceptionally volatile global oil market," said Sumit Ritolia, lead analyst for refining supply and modelling at Kpler.

"From India's perspective, Russian crude has become the country's strongest energy security hedge, particularly since the Strait of Hormuz disruptions," he said. Russian barrels have enabled Indian refiners to maintain high refinery run rates, ensure uninterrupted domestic fuel supplies and avoid the disruptions experienced by several other Asian refining systems, excluding China.

The tariff threat comes when alternative crude supplies remain constrained. India would need to replace a large part of the 2.6 million bpd sourced from Russia if the proposed measure materially discourages purchases.

Ritolia said Russian crude has also acted as a stabilising force for the global market. The original sanctions framework was redesigned to keep Russian oil flowing because removing millions of barrels per day would tighten global crude balances and push prices higher, an outcome the US would not want.

"If secondary tariffs of 100%, or any number, were implemented in a way that reduced purchases of Russian crude, the market would first need to answer a question: where would the replacement barrels come from" Ritolia said.

"With spare production capacity limited, Strait of Hormuz risks still elevated, and alternative supplies constrained, replacing Russian volumes at scale would be extremely challenging without triggering a sharp increase in oil prices," he added.

Hindustan Times

Swiggy, HPCL to pilot cooking gas delivery

Swiggy and Hindustan Petroleum Corp said on Wednesday they will partner for doorstep deliveries of cooking gas cylinders in India, marking the country's first such delivery service through a quick-commerce app.

The launch, coming a few months after reports of severe cooking gas supply concerns during the Iran conflict, will initially offer doorstep delivery of smaller cylinders sized 5 kilograms and 10 kilograms, as opposed to the standard ones sized 14.2 kilograms, the companies said.

Customers will not need an existing HP Gas connection to buy the cylinders, the companies said, adding that the service will initially pilot in Bengaluru before expanding to other cities. They did not disclose pricing.

India is the world's second-largest LPG consumer, with cooking gas supplied mainly by state-run retailers Indian Oil , Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum. **REUTERS**

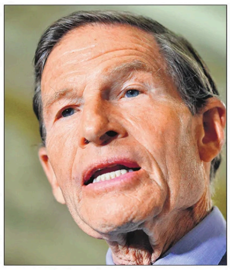
MCD plans to set up bio-gas plants

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the National Dairy Development Board signed an agreement on Wednesday to set up compressed bio-gas plants for the utilisation of cow dung and to prevent the dung from entering the Yamuna river.

Hindustan Times

US senators propose tariffs up to 100% on top Russian oil buyers

Shashank Mattoo
letters@hindustantimes.com

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

WASHINGTON: A bipartisan group of US senators on Tuesday unveiled a new sanctions bill that proposes tariffs of up to 100% on exports from India, China, Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan for purchasing Russian oil, in the latest effort to throttle Moscow's energy revenues and force an end to the war in Ukraine.

The bill — a softened version of the Sanctioning Russia Act introduced in the Senate in April 2025, which proposed tariffs as high as 500% but failed to advance to a vote — could be passed before August, according to its backers. The US Trade Representative (USTR) would determine the exact tariff rate imposed on each country.

The threat of renewed tariffs comes at a time when India's purchases of Russian crude have surged — primarily because the disruption of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz after Iran retaliated against US-Israeli military strikes choked off Gulf crude supplies that previously accounted for roughly 40-50% of India's oil imports, forcing refiners to turn to Russian crude as the main alternative source.

Washington itself facilitated this pivot through a series of OFAC general licences — the last of which expired on June 17 — that temporarily waived sanctions on Russian oil transactions to stabilise global energy markets during the crisis.

Indian imports of Russian crude oil rose 34% in June 2026 to record levels, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, and were valued at €4.5 billion, accounting for roughly 36% of Russia's crude oil export revenues. India was the second largest buyer behind China.

The new bill also lands at a time both sides are engaged in trade talks. A framework in February had settled on an 18% rate for Indian goods, but that arrangement was overtaken when the Supreme Court ruled later the same month that President Donald Trump's use of emergency powers under IEEPA to impose tariffs was unlawful. Indian goods currently enter the US under a flat 15% tariff imposed under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 — a temporary authority due to expire on July 24, with the broader bilateral trade agreement between the two countries still unfinished.

"It imposes tariffs that are targeted, narrowly limited to the five major purchasers, up to 100%, with waiver authority that is narrowly tailored and constricted. And those five major purchasers right now of oil are China, India, Slovakia, Hungary, Azerbaijan," Senator Richard Blumenthal said at a press conference in Washington on Tuesday.

The bill makes an exception for countries purchasing Russian natural gas if they are buying less than 15% of total Russian gas imports and are taking significant steps to reduce their purchases. It includes additional sanctions against Russia's energy, defence, financial and industrial sectors.

Blumenthal said the USTR would set tariff levels appropriate to discourage purchases by the five targeted nations. "The decision about the exact rate will be determined by the United States Trade Representative. We've had extensive discussions with him. I think it will be set at an appropriate level to discourage China, India and other major purchases of Russian oil and gas. Remember that there are reporting and certification requirements from the US Trade Representative to the Congress if the rate is lowered," he said.

Democratic Senator Jeanne Shaheen, who is also backing the bill, said it would have "much narrower" tariff provisions than the original Sanctioning Russia Act, which stalled in the Senate owing to concerns over its extreme provisions and a lack of support from President Donald Trump.

The original bill was spearheaded by Senator Lindsey Graham, who died suddenly on Saturday after an aortic dissection. Legislators at Tuesday's press conference paid tribute to Graham's role in advancing the legislation. Trump said the bill had been brought forward in Graham's honour and hinted that sanctions against Iran could also be included.

Times of India, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 5, Size: 26.17cm × 15.27cm

MCD, dairy board sign biogas MoU

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi and National Dairy Development Board signed a memorandum of understanding for establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants in Delhi for proper utilisation of cow dung.

Union home minister Amit Shah said that the agreement signed Wednesday would serve as a model for making all major cities of the country clean. He added that this initiative would not only increase the income of livestock farmers but also improve cleanliness, generate CBG, and give a boost to organic farming.

"All citizens want the water of Yamuna to be clean, but this dream cannot be realised without stopping the discharge of sewage into the river. This agreement is an important step towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to purify the Yamuna."

He said that work had already started on 80 treatment plants for the purification of sewer water and industrial waste. "Arrangements are being made to ensure that not even a small amount of cow dung enters the Yamuna," he added. TNN

Amit Shah said the agreement will serve as a model for making all major cities of the country clean

Business Standard Hindi, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 39.71cm × 60.54cm

रूसी तेल खरीद पर 100% अमेरिकी शुल्क की आशंका

कृति अंबे, शुभांगी माथुर और असित रंजन मिश्र
नई दिल्ली, 15 जुलाई

अमेरिका में दोनों दलों के सीनेटरों के एक समूह ने रूस पर प्रतिबंध विधेयक का एक संशोधित मसौदा पेश किया है जिसमें रूस के कच्चे तेल एवं गैस के 5 सबसे बड़े खरीदारों पर 100 फीसदी शुल्क लगाने का प्रस्ताव है। इन 5 बड़े खरीदारों में भारत भी शामिल है।

सबसे पहले सीनेटर लिंडसे ग्राहम ने 11 जुलाई को अपने निधन से पहले इस विधेयक की पहल की थी। इसमें रूस से ऊर्जा के सभी संभावित खरीदारों पर 500 फीसदी शुल्क लगाने का प्रस्ताव था। मगर संशोधित विधेयक में भारत, चीन, हंगरी, स्लोवाकिया और अजरबैजान जैसे रूस से ऊर्जा खरीदने वाले 5 सबसे बड़े देशों को निशाना बनाया गया है। इसमें ज्यादातर यूरोपीय देशों को शामिल नहीं किया गया है।

पश्चिम एशिया से आपूर्ति बाधित होने और रूसी तेल पर छूट के कारण जून में रूस से भारत का कच्चे तेल का आयात बढ़कर 25.8 लाख बैरल प्रति दिन हो गया। मैरीटाइम इंटेलिजेंस फर्म केप्लर के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जून में भारत के कुल कच्चे तेल के आयात में रूस का योगदान करीब 50 फीसदी रहा। अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच फिर तनाव बढ़ने के कारण आपूर्ति बाधित होने की आशंका है। ऐसे में जुलाई में भी रूसी तेल की खरीद दमदार रहेगी।

संशोधित कानून राष्ट्रपति डॉनल्ड ट्रंप को प्रतिबंध हटाने का भी अधिकार देता है। अगर उन्हें लगता है कि ऐसा करना अमेरिका के राष्ट्रीय हित में है तो वह पहल कर सकते हैं। यह विधेयक ऐसे समय में लाया गया है जब भारत और अमेरिका अंतरिम व्यापार समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए अभी भी जूझ रहे हैं। भारत अपने समकक्ष देशों के मुकाबले शुल्क में लाभ की मांग कर रहा है। वाणिज्य सचिव राजेश अग्रवाल ने सोमवार को कहा था कि यह समझौता सही वक्त पर हो जाएगा।

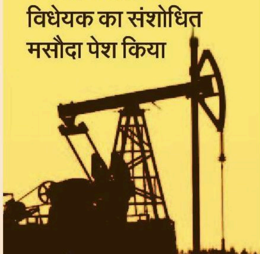
एक सरकारी अधिकारी ने अपनी पहचान जाहिर न करने की शर्त पर कहा कि भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार वार्ता में अब तक इस अमेरिकी विधेयक पर चर्चा नहीं हुई है। उन्होंने कहा, 'व्यापार समझौते में इस विधेयक के साथ-साथ शुल्क संबंधी तमाम चिंताओं के दूर होने उम्मीद है।'

जीटीआरआई के संस्थापक अजय श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि भारत को अपनी ऊर्जा नीति को राष्ट्रीय हित और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा पर आधारित रखना जारी रखना चाहिए क्योंकि अमेरिकी सीनेट में पारित होने के बावजूद इस विधेयक के लागू होने की आशंका नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा, 'भारत को चीन की तरह रूसी तेल खरीदना जारी रखना चाहिए। चीन के आर्थिक एवं रणनीतिक महत्त्व को देखते हुए ऐसा कोई भी प्रयास निश्चित तौर पर जवाबी कार्रवाई को आमंत्रित करेगा।'

विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि रूसी कच्चे तेल की खरीद पर अतिरिक्त शुल्क भारत के लिए चुनौती होगी क्योंकि भारत कच्चे तेल की करीब 50 फीसदी जरूरतें रूस से खरीद के जरिये पूरी कर रहा है। अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच तनाव बढ़ने के बाद 15 जुलाई को ब्रेंट क्रूड 85 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच गया।

अमेरिकी विधेयक का नया मसौदा

- अमेरिका में दोनों दलों के सीनेटरों के एक समूह ने रूस पर प्रतिबंध विधेयक का संशोधित मसौदा पेश किया



- मसौदे में भारत सहित 5 खरीदारों पर 100 फीसदी शुल्क लगाने का प्रस्ताव है
- जून में रूस से कच्चे तेल का आयात बढ़कर 25.8 लाख बैरल प्रति दिन हो गया

DJ Rashtriya Sanskaran, Delhi, 16/07/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 34.16cm × 36.70cm

ट्रंप की नई धमकी–रूस से तेल खरीदा तो 100% टैरिफ लगाएंगे

अमेरिकी सांसदों का प्रस्ताव, गैस खरीद में यूरोपीय देशों को दी छूट

व्यापार समझौते के कई बिंदुओं पर भारत का ठंडा रुख हो सकता है इसकी वजह

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

हाल के महीनों में रूस से जमकर तेल की खरीद कर रहे भारत को अमेरिका ने एक बार फिर धमकी दी है। यह धमकी रूस से तेल खरीदने वाले भारत समेत अन्य देशों को दी गई है कि ऐसा करने पर उन पर 100 प्रतिशत तक टैरिफ (आयात शुल्क) लगाया जा सकता है। इस बारे में अमेरिकी सांसदों ने नए बिल का प्रस्ताव दिया है, जिसे राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने समर्थन दिया है।

उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसा करने का यह सही समय है। ट्रंप का यह रुख भारत-अमेरिका के बीच व्यापार समझौते को लेकर चल रही बातचीत की पेचीदगी बढ़ाने वाला साबित हो सकता है। वैसे, इस धमकी को ट्रंप प्रशासन की तरफ से भारत पर जल्द-से-जल्द व्यापार समझौता करने के लिए दबाव बनाने की कोशिश के तौर पर भी देखा जा रहा है। ऐसी सूचना है कि व्यापार समझौते को लेकर अमेरिका के कई प्रस्तावों पर भारत तैयार नहीं है और इस नए बयान के जरिये दबाव बनाया जा रहा है। दूसरी तरफ, भारत रूस से लगातार कच्चे तेल की खरीद कर रहा है और इसमें फिलहाल कोई बदलाव होता नहीं दिख रहा। मंगलवार को सीनेटर रिचर्ड ब्लूमेंथल ने प्रेस कान्फ्रेंस में रूस से तेल खरीदने वाले देशों पर नया टैरिफ लगाने का प्रस्ताव रखते हुए कहा कि यह व्यवस्था पहले के मुकाबले ज्यादा प्रभावी है, क्योंकि इसमें रूस से कच्चा तेल खरीदने वाले सिर्फ पांच प्रमुख देशों को शामिल किया गया है। इन पर अधिकतम 100 प्रतिशत टैरिफ लगाने की बात है। इन देशों में चीन, भारत, स्लोवाकिया, हंगरी और अजरबैजान शामिल हैं। उन्होंने यह भी साफ किया है कि गैस खरीद के मामले में यूरोपीय देशों को छूट दी गई है, क्योंकि उनकी खरीद कुल रूसी गैस आयात के 15 प्रतिशत से कम है। साथ ही वे अपनी निर्भरता घटा रहे हैं। बिल को अगस्त से पहले पारित किए जाने की संभावना है। पिछले साल भी इसी तरह का एक बिल अमेरिकी संसद में पेश किया गया था, जिसमें रूस से तेल खरीदने पर 500 प्रतिशत तक टैरिफ लगाने का प्रस्ताव था। उस बिल को ज्यादा समर्थन नहीं मिल पाया था।

प्रतीकात्मक

प्रस्तावित टैरिफ पर भारत ने आधिकारिक रूप से कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं जताई है, लेकिन कूटनीतिक गलियारों में इस बयान को द्विपक्षीय संबंधों की मौजूदा स्थिति को देखते हुए सही नहीं बताया जा रहा है। पूर्व विदेश सचिव कंवल सिब्बल ने कहा-ऐसा लगता है कि राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप बिना किसी वजह से भारत को अलग-थलग करने का निश्चय कर चुके हैं। ट्रंप ने अतीत में भी भारत के रूसी तेल खरीद पर कई बार चेतावनी दी और कार्रवाई की है।