Millennium Post, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 12, Size: 34.42cm × 10.32cm

GAIL, RCF ink pact to develop gas-based urea plant in Maharashtra

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: State-run GAIL (India) Ltd and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCF) have signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly develop a gas-based fertiliser plant in Maharashtra through a special purpose vehicle, the companies said on Wednesday.

The proposed plant, with a capacity of 1.27 million tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of urea, will be located in the Vidarbha region along GAIL's Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda natural gas pipeline. Under the agreement, GAIL and RCF will collaborate on taking the project from the conceptual stage through implementation.

"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. Further, this partnership between GAIL & RCF is aligned with Government of India's recently approved National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026) towards Atmanirbhar Bharat," GAIL Chairman and Managing Director Deepak Gupta said.

RCF Chairman and Managing Director S. Shivakumar said: "RCF is delighted to collaborate with GAIL for the development of this important gas-based fertilizer project in Maharashtra. The proposed project is expected to contribute significantly towards meeting the growing fertilizer demand in the country, reducing import dependence and promoting industrial development in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

"Leveraging RCF's extensive experience in fertilizer plant operations, project development and marketing, together with GAIL's robust gas infrastructure and energy expertise, this partnership has the potential to create a world-class fertilizer facility."

The memorandum of understanding was signed by GAIL Executive Director (Business Development & Start-up) Sanjay Agarwal and RCF Executive Director (Project, Corporate & Coordination) Jyoti Patil in the presence of senior executives from both companies.

Pioneer, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 14, Size: 12.75cm × 16.99cm

GAIL and RCF join hands to set up gas-based fertilizer plant in Maharashtra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

GAIL (India) Limited and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly establish a gas-based fertilizer project in 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 expected to be set up in the Vidarbha region along GAIL's Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda Natural Gas Pipeline (MNJPL).

Under the agreement, GAIL and RCF will work together to take the project from the conceptual stage through to implementation, combining their respective expertise in natural gas infrastructure and fertilizer manufacturing.

The MoU was signed by Sanjay Agarwal, Executive Director (Business Development & Start-up), GAIL, and Jyoti Patil, Executive Director (Project, Corporate & Coordination), RCF, in the presence of GAIL Chairman and Managing Director Deepak Gupta and RCF Chairman and Managing Director S Shivakumar.

Senior officials from both companies, including GAIL Director (Business Development) RK Singhal, RCF Director (Finance) Nazhat J Shaikh and RCF Director (Technical) Ritu Goswami, also attended the signing ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, GAIL CMD Deepak Gupta said the proposed fertilizer project aligns with the company's strategy of creating long-term value through the use of natural gas while 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. Further, this partnership between GAIL and RCF is aligned with the Government of India's recently approved National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026) towards Atmanirbhar Bharat," Gupta said.

RCF CMD S. Shivakumar said the project is expected to help meet the country's growing fertilizer demand while reducing import dependence and promoting industrial development in the Vidarbha region.

"Leveraging RCF's extensive experience in fertilizer plant operations, project development and marketing, together with GAIL's robust gas infrastructure and energy expertise, this partnership has the potential to create a world-class fertilizer facility," he said.

The companies said the proposed project is expected to strengthen domestic urea production capacity and support the government's objective of achieving greater self-reliance in fertilizer production under the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026.

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 30/07/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 20.69cm × 15.24cm

GAIL, RCF ENTER INTO MoU FOR 1.27 MTPA UREA PLANT IN MAHA

PTI
NEW DELHI

State-run GAIL (India) Ltd and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCF) have signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly develop a gas-based fertiliser plant in Maharashtra through a special purpose vehicle, the companies said on Wednesday.

The proposed plant, with a capacity of 1.27 million tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of urea, will be located in the Vidarbha region along GAIL's Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda natural gas pipeline.

Under the agreement, GAIL and RCF will collaborate on taking the project from the conceptual stage through implementation.

"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. Further, this partnership between GAIL & RCF is aligned with Government of India's recently approved National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026) towards Atmanirbhar Bharat," GAIL Chairman and Managing Director Deepak Gupta said.

Amar Ujala, Delhi, 30/07/2026

Page No: 7, Size: 10.50cm × 15.74cm

गेल और आरसीएफ महाराष्ट्र में गैस आधारित उर्वरक संयंत्र लगाएंगे

नई दिल्ली (वि)। गेल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड और राष्ट्रीय केमिकल्स एंड फर्टिलाइजर्स लिमिटेड (आरसीएफ) ने महाराष्ट्र में एक गैस आधारित उर्वरक परियोजना स्थापित करने के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। यह परियोजना एक स्पेशल पर्पस व्हीकल (एसपीवी) के माध्यम से स्थापित की जाएगी। प्रस्तावित यूरिया उत्पादन सुविधा की क्षमता 1.27 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन प्रति वर्ष होगी। यह सुविधा महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ क्षेत्र में गेल की मुंबई-नागपुर-झारसुगुड़ा प्राकृतिक गैस पाइपलाइन के किनारे स्थापित की जाएगी। समझौता ज्ञापन पर गेल के ईडी (बीडी एंड स्टार्ट-अप) संजय अग्रवाल और आरसीएफ की एग्जीक्यूटिव डायरेक्टर (प्रोजेक्ट, कॉर्पोरेट एंड को-ऑर्डिनेशन) ज्योति पाटिल ने हस्ताक्षर किए। इस अवसर पर गेल के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक दीपक गुप्ता और आरसीएफ के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक एस शिवकुमार उपस्थित थे। गेल के निदेशक (बीडी) आरके सिंघल, आरसीएफ की निदेशक (वित्त) नजहत जे शेख और आरसीएफ की निदेशक (तकनीकी) रितु गोस्वामी भी मौजूद थीं। गेल के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक दीपक गुप्ता ने कहा कि यह उर्वरक परियोजना प्राकृतिक गैस के उपयोग और भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के उद्देश्यों में योगदान देगी। आरसीएफ के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक एस शिवकुमार ने बताया कि यह देश में बढ़ती उर्वरक मांग को पूरा करने में सहायक होगी।

Statesman, Delhi, 30/07/2026

Page No: 10, Size: 10.50cm × 10.93cm

GAIL, RCF ink fertiliser MoU

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 29 July

GAIL (India) Limited and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) have signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly develop a gas-based fertiliser project in Maharashtra through a special purpose vehicle. The proposed plant, with an annual urea production capacity of 1.27 million metric tonnes, will be established in the Vidarbha region along GAIL's Mumbai–Nagpur–Jharsuguda Natural Gas Pipeline.

The project aligns with the Centre's National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 and aims to boost domestic fertilizer production, reduce import dependence and support industrial growth. GAIL and RCF will jointly take the project from planning to implementation, leveraging GAIL's gas infrastructure and RCF's expertise in fertilizer manufacturing and project execution.

Asian Age, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 7, Size: 6.11cm × 8.49cm

RCF, Gail ink MoU for urea plant in Maharashtra

State-owned Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) on Wednesday said it has signed an MoU with Gail to set up a urea plant in Maharashtra with an annual capacity of 1.27 million tonnes. According to a regulatory filing, RCF and Gail (India) Ltd have entered into a MoU on July 29 for establishing a gas-based fertiliser project in Maharashtra. The plant will be established jointly through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

Business Standard, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 9.29cm × 12.44cm

RCF, Gail sign pact for 1.27 mtpa urea plant in Maharashtra

State-owned Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCF) on Wednesday said it had signed an MoU with Gail (India) to set up a urea plant in Maharashtra with an annual capacity of 1.27 million tonnes.The plant will be established jointly through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). "The proposed urea production facility, with a planned capacity of 1.27 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), is envisaged to be established in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra along GAIL's Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda Natural Gas Pipeline (MNJPL)," RCF said. The company did not disclose the investment to set up this plant. India's urea production fell to 29.32 million tonnes in 2025-26 from 30.66 million tonnes in the preceding year. PTI

Economic Times, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 12, Size: 8.92cm × 17.17cm

GAIL, RCF Ink Pact for Gas-based Fertiliser Plant in Vidarbha

Our Bureau

New Delhi: GAIL has signed a preliminary agreement with Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) to form a joint venture to set up a gas-based fertiliser plant in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, the two companies said in a statement.

The proposed urea plant will have a production capacity of 1.27 million tonnes per annum and will be located near GAIL's Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda natural gas pipeline.

"The proposed project is expected to contribute significantly towards meeting the growing fertiliser demand in the country, reducing import dependence and promoting industrial development in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra," said S Shivakumar, chairman, RCF.

Economic Times, Mumbai, 30/07/2026

Page No: 14, Size: 8.07cm × 11.67cm

GAIL, RCF Ink Pact for Gas-based Urea Plant

Our Bureau

New Delhi: GAIL has signed a preliminary agreement with Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) to form a joint venture to set up a gas-based fertiliser plant in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, the two companies said in a statement.

The proposed urea plant will have a production capacity of 1.27 million tonnes per annum and will be located near GAIL's Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda natural gas pipeline.

GAIL

Business Line, Delhi, 30/07/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 18.94cm × 26.06cm

Sustained oil price surge could pressure twin deficits: FinMin

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

With crude oil prices heating up again, the Finance Ministry has cautioned that a sustained rally could pressure both the fiscal and current account deficits, while simultaneously fuelling inflation and slowing economic growth.

Oil prices jumped nearly 7 per cent on Wednesday as major airstrikes resumed in West Asia and dashed hopes for an early end to the US/Israeli war with Iran. During mid-trading session, Brent futures rose $5.84, or 6.9 per cent, to $89.93 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude also gained $5.34, or 6.7 per cent, to $84.60 a barrel.

RESILIENT EXPORTS

Per the latest *Monthly Economic Review*, prepared by the Ministry's Economic Affairs Department, even as geopolitical frictions persist and impact trade and cross-border capital flows, India's external sector exhibits notable resilience.

Strong export performance, a services trade surplus and consistent remittance flows strengthened the current account. Further, recent policy measures will provide an impetus to capital inflows in the near term. Together with adequate foreign exchange reserves, these factors are expected to reinforce the external sector's resilience.

Nevertheless, "the recent resurgence in global oil prices, if sustained, could re-emerge as a source of pressure on financing of both the fiscal deficit and the current account balance," it said.

The *Review* said that while crude price fluctuations and potential El Nino weather patterns are being carefully monitored, the domestic inflation outlook remains cautious and structurally well-supported, anchored by active measures to support price stability, robust agricultural commodity procurement and targeted contingency plans in place.

Internationally, the IMF projects global headline inflation at a manageable 4.7 per cent for 2026, while the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee maintains an unchanged policy repo rate of 5.25 per cent with a neutral stance, forecasting FY27 CPI inflation at a manageable 5.1 per cent

TOLERANCE BAND

The *Review* noted the continued rise in retail inflation as it touched 4.38 per cent in June from 3.93 per cent in May. Though it is within the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance band of 2-6 per cent, it is expected to go up.

"Two factors underlie current inflationary pressures — unfavourable weather conditions and the transmission of elevated global fuel prices to energy commodities at the retail level," it said.

Meanwhile, the core inflation (derived after excluding food, household and transport fuel, and representing 53 per cent of the CPI basket) indicates underlying inflationary trends stabilising around 3.9 per cent in June.

Overall, according to the *Review*, despite heightened global uncertainties, India's economic outlook remains underpinned by resilient domestic fundamentals, continued policy support and strengthening structural drivers of growth.

Business Standard, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 46.43cm × 56.01cm

100-octane petrol sales double amid E20 fears

SHUBHANGI MATHUR
New Delhi, 29 July

Sales of 100-octane premium petrol, the only grade exempt from ethanol blending, have more than doubled in recent months amid mounting concerns over potential vehicle damage from ethanol-blended fuel, according to people familiar with the matter. The increase was especially sharp in July as the debate over ethanol blending intensified, they said.

State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) market 100-octane petrol under different brands, including Indian Oil Corporation's (IOCL's) XP100, Bharat Petroleum Corporation's (BPCL's) Speed100 and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation's (HPCL's) poWer100.

This grade of fuel is designed primarily for high-performance vehicles, including supercars, luxury sedans and superbikes. Demand, however, remains niche, accounting for just 0.1 per cent of India's total petrol sales because of its significantly higher price than regular petrol, people cited above said.

"We have seen a noticeable surge in demand for ethanol-free petrol in recent months. Social media claims around vehicle damage due to ethanol blending have driven this increase. The highest demand has come from Delhi," one of the people said.

Queries sent to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), IOC, BPCL and HPCL remained unanswered at the time of publication.

In Delhi, ethanol-free 100-octane petrol retails at around ₹160 a litre, roughly 57 per cent more than regular petrol. Regular petrol, blended with 20 per cent ethanol, costs ₹102.12 a litre, while E20 premium grades — XP95, Speed97 and poWer95 — are priced at about ₹111-112 a litre.

In Mumbai, 100-octane petrol retails at around ₹167.35 per litre, while regular petrol costs ₹111.21 per litre. E20 premium grades are priced at around ₹120-121 per litre.

Because of its limited demand, fewer than 1 per cent of the country's fuel stations stock 100-octane petrol, with availability largely confined to metro cities, the sources said.

Officials expect the recent jump in demand to prove temporary, with sales likely to ease once concerns over ethanol-blended fuel subside. "This fuel is meant for super-premium vehicles. Looking at the current trend, it appears some owners of regular vehicles are also buying it. That is unlikely to be sustainable because their fuel bills will shoot up substantially," a senior official said.

Last week, the government said premium grades of petrol sold by state-run fuel retailers would continue to be supplied without ethanol blending. It also clarified that no decision has been taken to raise ethanol blending beyond 20 per cent, and that there is no proposal to reintroduce E0 or E10 petrol.

100-octane petrol has a Research Octane Number (RON) of 100, giving it greater resistance to engine knocking than regular petrol. The higher octane rating allows the fuel to withstand higher temperatures and compression before ignition, making it suitable for high-performance, high-compression engines.

Turn to Page 6

Premium shift

- July demand surged, with Delhi leading the spike
- Demand remains niche at just 0.1% of petrol sales
- Costs 57% more than regular petrol; available at fewer than 1% of fuel stations
- Officials expect the recent surge to fade as costs deter regular motorists
- Government will retain ethanol-free 100-octane fuel; no E0 or E10 revival planned
- Centre has acknowledged that E20 lowers mileage by 3-5%, while highlighting its performance benefits

Business Standard, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 26.14cm × 46.09cm

FROM PAGE 1

100-octane petrol sales double amid E20 fears

"The 100-octane fuel is very expensive, almost 45 per cent more than E20 petrol. So the economics of any mileage benefit do not work out. The only advantage is that any perceived engine harm from ethanol-blended fuel can be avoided by using 100-octane," said a customer who recently bought the fuel.

The controversy over E20 petrol stems from concerns that some vehicles, particularly older models not designed for this kind of fuel, could face faster component wear, lower fuel efficiency and higher maintenance costs.

Earlier this month, the government 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.

It also ruled out selling pure petrol or E10 alongside E20, saying public sector banks have financed nearly ₹1 trillion annually in ethanol production and related infrastructure.

Financial Express, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 17.22cm × 14.13cm

ANALYSTS' ESTIMATE BASED ON CLOSURE OF TWO ROUTES FOR WEEKS

Hormuz, Red Sea blockade may push crude oil to $135

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, July 29

A SIMULTANEOUS DISRUPTION at the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb has stoked fresh fears that Brent might climb to much higher levels with serious implications for government finances and corporate balance sheets. Analysts peg that if the blockage of both waterways persists for a few weeks, Brent could potentially rise to $120-135 a barrel.

"A simultaneous closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, even for a few weeks, could trigger a sharp surge in global energy prices, with Brent crude potentially rising to $130–135 per barrel and LNG supplies across Asia and Europe coming under significant strain," said Priti Agarwal, senior director, CareEdge Ratings. This, she said, could deepen credit stress for Indian companies through higher energy, freight, insurance and working-capital costs.

Manas Majumdar, leader, oil & gas, fuels & resources, PwC India, said: "It is difficult to speculate how high they can go. It could be $100-plus or even $120. However, the increase in crude is not as fast as some of it has been factored in by markets, as the crisis is continuing and alternative avenues had already been explored and are being reactivated." CareEdge estimates Brent at $95 a barrel under partial disruption, $120 under a four-week full closure and $135 if both routes remain shut for eight weeks. Brent had earlier climbed from around $70 to nearly $115, eased towards $70 and has since returned to about $100.

JP Morgan analysts said Brent could average $94 if the conflict is contained to one month. Each additional month could add $7–8 a barrel, lifting the monthly average to about $114 if disruption extends to three months.

VOLATILE TIMES

- CareEdge estimates Brent at $95 under partial disruption, $120 under a four-week full closure
- Brent had earlier climbed from around $70 to nearly $115 and has since returned to about $100
- JP Morgan said Brent could average $94 if the conflict is contained to one month

- Maritime traffic data showed 53 confirmed vessel crossings across the two chokepoints on July 28

Morning Standard, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 9.60cm × 17.70cm

ENERGY SOURCING

US ACCOUNTS FOR 50% OF INDIA'S LPG IMPORTS

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

INDIA significantly increased its LPG imports from the US during the West Asia crisis, with American supplies accounting for as much as 50% of the country's total LPG imports as it sought to offset disruptions from its traditional suppliers in the Gulf, according to official sources.

India has a term contract to import 2.2 million metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LPG from the US for the 2026 contract year, which accounts for around 10% of the country's annual LPG import requirement. However, during the crisis, state-run oil companies sharply increased spot purchases from the US to meet domestic demand, taking the American share of total LPG imports to nearly half.

LPG cargoes from the US take around 35-40 days to reach India. The term contract requires about 38-40 Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC) cargo discharges annually, with around half of those cargoes originating from the US. An official said India's strategy of diversifying crude oil and LPG sourcing has helped shield the country from disruptions caused by tensions in the Strait of Hormuz and the ongoing security situation in the Red Sea.

With the diversification of our purchase of oil and gas, there is no impact on India's supply of crude or gas right now

Govt official

"With the diversification of our purchase of oil and gas, there is no impact on India's supply of crude or gas right now. Currently, the US is the largest supplier of LPG to the country," the official said.

During the West Asia crisis, cargo movement via the Strait of Hormuz—a key global energy chokepoint—was impacted. The strait handles about 40% of India's crude imports, 60% of its LNG imports and about 90% of its LPG imports.

Mint, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 21.22cm × 25.14cm

Oil prices surge over 6% on fresh escalation in West Asia

Rituraj Baruah
rituraj.baruah@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Crude prices jumped over 6% on Wednesday amid fresh attacks on Iraq by the US and Saudi Arabia and Iran's strikes on US military assets in Jordan, reviving concerns over a wider conflict in West Asia.

At around 7pm, the September contract of Brent on the Indian Energy Exchange was trading at $89.44 a barrel, up 6.4% from its previous close.

The attacks, which have resumed after a gap of four days, have resulted in about 20 casualties in Iraq.

Adding to the supply concerns, the US Senate advanced a Bill to impose more restrictions and tariffs on the top five buyers of Russian energy, including India.

The Bill, if implemented, would provide US President Donald Trump the authority to impose heavy sanctions on Russian officials as well as up to 100% tariffs on nations such as India and China to deter them from buying Russian oil and gas. This is significant for India as Russian oil currently accounts for over 50% of India's total crude imports.

Indian refiners are expected to continue procuring from Russia in the near term. AFP

Despite the proposed legislation, Indian refiners are likely to continue procuring Russian oil in the near term.

"Refiners are procuring oil from non-sanctioned entities in Russia and it would continue. It will have to be looked at how the developments evolve regarding the Bill in US. Right now, it is not a matter of concern," said an official on the condition of anonymity.

Queries emailed to the ministries of petroleum and natural gas and external affairs, as well as Indian refiners were not immediately answered.

India imported about 2.6 million barrels per day of Russian crude in July, accounting for more than half its crude imports. However, Russian suppliers are currently offering little or no discount amid tightening global supplies.

Rising crude prices are a concern for India, which imports nearly 90% of its oil requirements. A sustained $1 per barrel rise in crude prices over a year could add ₹18,000 crore to India's import bill. The country's annual oil import bill of around $120 billion, accounting for 17-25% of overall merchandise imports. India's oil import bill for April-June was $49.8 billion, up 61% year-on-year.

Higher oil prices are also putting pressure on inflation. Retail inflation rose to 4.3% in June, breaching RBI's 4% mid-point target for the first time since January 2025..

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

Economic Times, Delhi, 30/07/2026

Page No: 12, Size: 22.97cm × 22.70cm

POLICY PIVOT

PNGRB Plans to Open City Gas for External Investors

Expired exclusivity zones to see fresh capital, competition

Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) plans to enable third-party capital investment in city gas distribution (CGD) areas where infrastructure exclusivity has expired.

The downstream regulator has identified expanding the reach of natural gas, accelerating the shift of petroleum products from road and rail to pipelines, and promoting transparency and competition in petroleum and gas infrastructure among its priorities in its action plan for this financial year. The regulator describes its annual action plan as a "comprehensive roadmap of strategic priorities, regulatory commitments, and institutional vision for the year ahead".

"Enable competition and infusion of capex through third parties in the geographical areas where pipeline and infrastructure exclusivity has expired," the regulator said in the action plan. It also aims to "improve visibility of infrastructure capacity, unbundling of functions, and creation of an independent Transmission System Operator (TSO)".

Ending the exclusivity of city gas distributors and unbundling gas transmission and marketing have long been among the regulator's most complex challenges, with affected parties often stalling its efforts through litigation.

India has also been considering setting up an independent transmission system operator to ensure non-discriminatory third-party access to pipelines, but has made little progress.

This year, PNGRB plans to review the natural gas pipeline authorisation regulations to "assess capex-based bidding". It also plans to revise the city gas authorisation regulations to enable connectivity between city gas distributors and facilitate infrastructure sharing.

The regulator also plans to build support for city gas policies across states and promote liquefied petroleum gas-free zones to stimulate demand for piped natural gas.

It also aims to enable trading of compressed biogas and booking of capacity at regasified liquefied natural gas terminals on the gas exchange.

The launch of an integrated digital PNGRB consumer portal is also on the agenda to facilitate the registration, tracking and resolution of consumer grievances.

Indian Express, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 17.20cm × 34.13cm

FINANCE MINISTRY'S ECONOMIC REVIEW REPORT FOR JULY

'Oil price surge could be a strain for financing fiscal deficit & current account'

ENS Economic Bureau
New Delhi, July 29

IN THE wake of persistent stand-off in West Asia, the Indian economy continues to face an upside risk to inflation, fiscal and current account deficits and downside risk to growth, the Ministry of Finance said on Friday.

The recent resurgence in global crude oil prices, if sustained, could "reemerge as a source of pressure on financing of both the fiscal deficit and the current account balance", the ministry said in its monthly economic review for July. Prices of industrial commodities, including critical minerals and rare earth elements, have stayed elevated throughout the month. "Instances such as flooding in Chile, one of the key copper suppliers, illustrate the concentration risk embedded in India's industrial metal supply chains," the ministry said.

Despite heightened global uncertainties, the ministry said India's economic outlook remains underpinned by resilient domestic fundamentals, continued policy support, and strengthening structural drivers of growth.

"Structural reforms of the last decade and infrastructure investments are contributing to growth resilience as is evident in the data for the months of March to June 2026," the review stated.

On the external sector front, the ministry said strong export performance, a sustained services surplus and robust remittance inflows have supported the current account, while recent policy measures are expected to strengthen capital inflows in the coming months. Along with comfortable foreign exchange reserves, these developments are expected to help preserve external sector stability amid an uncertain global environment, it said.

To achieve long-term resilience and strategic leverage, swifter policy responses and their implementation are vital to encourage foreign and domestic investment in the Indian economy, it said.

"Global developments related to AI and weaponisation of supply chains in general are reminders of the distance India needs to travel to achieve long-term resilience and strategic leverage...recent years have been a time for hunkering down and battening down the hatches. Coming years will be no exception," it said.

• THE POSITIVES

STRONG EXPORT performance, a sustained services surplus and robust remittance inflows have supported the current account, while recent policy measures are expected to strengthen capital inflows in the coming months

TO ACHIEVE long-term resilience and strategic leverage, swifter policy responses and their implementation are vital to encourage foreign and domestic investment in the economy

Commodity prices, crude oil

Commodity prices, particularly crude oil, which had declined below pre-conflict levels, have risen again this month. However, the increase remains contained compared with the sharp spike witnessed during the initial phase of the conflict, the ministry said.

India's crude oil import bill surged by over 60% on a year-on-year basis in April-June FY27 even as import volumes dipped slightly amid supply tightness and elevated prices due to the West Asia crisis and stifled energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz.

The increase in retail fuel prices in India, following the partial pass-through of higher global crude oil prices since mid-May 2026, was evident in June, with inflation in diesel, petrol and CNG rising further to 8.4%, 7.5% and 6.2%, respectively, the finance ministry said.

However, the pass-through to passenger transportation services such as bus, taxi, auto-rickshaw fares remained moderate, the ministry said. Airfare inflation moderated in June after the sharp rise recorded in May, it said. Citing a note by SBI Research on the West Asia crisis and India's declining oil intensity, the ministry said the country's oil consumption-to-GDP ratio and crude oil imports-to-GDP ratio has declined from FY14 to FY26, a trend partly attributable to accelerating EV adoption and broader structural factors such as energy efficiency gains and a shift in the composition of GDP growth.

Average monthly EV registrations increased to 2.3 lakh in March-June, around 1 lakh higher than the 2025 monthly average. EV penetration—which has crossed 8% of total vehicle registrations in 2026 so far — could reduce India's annual oil import bill by around Rs 1 lakh crore once it reaches 20% by 2030, the review said citing the SBI note. Higher commodity prices are expected to interrupt the global disinflation process, the ministry said.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Economic Times, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 12, Size: 19.61cm × 17.17cm

Indian Interests Should Guide Oil Imports, Not Tariff Threats: GTRI

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Decisions on crude oil imports should be guided by India's economic interests, energy security and strategic autonomy, rather than the threat of additional US tariffs, think tank GTRI said on Wednesday.

Commenting on the development that the US Senate voted to advance a Russia sanctions bill that could authorise US President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100% on countries buying Russian oil, including India, it said that as long as Russian crude remains commercially viable, New Delhi should continue sourcing it while managing differences with Washington through dialogue and negotiation rather than making unilateral concessions under pressure.

Washington is steadily expanding its use of trade and economic measures to pursue strategic objectives, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

"India should avoid recalibrating its policies in response to every new US action. Decisions on crude oil imports must be driven by India's economic interests, energy security, and strategic autonomy, not by the threat of additional US tariffs," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said.

India should avoid recalibrating its policies in response to every new US action, said GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava

Although China is the world's largest buyer of Russian crude oil, India could face greater pressure under the proposed legislation, he said.

As per the think tank, Russia supplied 30.3% of India's crude oil imports in FY26 worth $40.8 billion out of total crude imports of $134.7 billion, making it India's largest oil supplier.

"Access to discounted Russian crude has significantly lowered India's import bill, supported energy security, and helped contain inflation," he said. —**PTI**

Economic Times, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 12, Size: 16.43cm × 21.59cm

Russian Urals Discount to India Shrinks to $1-2/bbl

Supply worries, Iran tensions lift Russian crude prices

Reuters

Moscow: Discounts on Russian Urals crude oil delivered to India have dropped to between $1 and $2 a barrel against the dated Brent benchmark this week because of supply concerns, three trade sources said.

Stronger demand from Indian refiners was linked to renewed hostilities in the Iran war and disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

The sharp rebound for Russia's flagship grade marks a significant change from early July, when Urals cargoes were trading at discounts of more than $10 a barrel in India, pressured by abundant Middle Eastern supplies and weaker buying interest from China.

China and India remain the largest buyers of Russian crude, which has been redirected from Europe to Asia since Western sanctions and embargoes were imposed in response to Russia's war in Ukraine.

Cargoes of Urals crude for delivery in late August and early September were offered in India at discounts of $1 to $2 a barrel this week, the sources said.

Indian refiners have stepped up purchases of Russian oil as concerns over Middle Eastern supply security resurfaced after renewed U.S. military action against Iran and fresh disruptions to tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, they said.

"Indian refiners have been buying large volumes of Russian oil this year because it has proved to be a stable feedstock," one source said, adding that prices remained highly volatile because of the geopolitical tensions influencing markets.

Chinese refiners also turned to Russian oil this week because of Middle East supply disruptions.

India's imports of crude oil from Russia and Latin America surged in the second quarter while imports from the Middle East declined as flows through the Strait of Hormuz were constrained, according to trade data and market participants.

Indian Express, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 15, Size: 34.34cm × 33.02cm

• ECONOMY

As conflict expands to Red Sea, India's crude options

India faces fresh oil supply risks as the Houthis threaten Saudi shipments via Red Sea. Russian crude and alternative sources could cushion the impact

SUKALP SHARMA

THE THEATRE of the West Asia conflict, earlier limited to the Strait of Hormuz from the perspective of India's crude oil imports, has now widened. Last week, the Yemen-based Houthi militia announced it would target Saudi Arabian tankers attempting to cross the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and indeed attacked a few ships.

Like the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb — which connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea — is another critical chokepoint for global trade, and energy supplies in particular.

Saudi Arabia was using the route to export its oil, including to India, as Strait of Hormuz traffic fell to a trickle. The Houthi impact is already visible, with vessel crossings via Bab el-Mandeb slumping to an average of 31 per day over the past three days from 43 per day in the first half of July, according to S&P Global data from July 27.

The Houthi blockade could delay oil shipments to Asia by forcing tankers to sail through the Suez Canal and then taking the circuitous route around Africa. This would add up to four weeks to the journey, and keep oil prices elevated. This matters for India, which depends on imports to meet over 88% of its oil requirement. But according to analysts, the current risks appear manageable despite the concerns.

The first and the most obvious fall-back for the country is Russian crude, the mainstay of its oil imports. So far, Russian oil appears to be safe from Houthi attacks, as it was in earlier Bab el-Mandeb blockades by the Iran-backed militia.

Russian oil exports are also under pressure amid Ukraine's strikes against energy export infrastructure. But the expectation is that while this may restrict the availability of Moscow's crude, and thus drive up prices, any material impact on India would be limited from a supply security perspective.

The Russian option

"As per the predictions, if Russian oil (coming through the Red Sea route) is not affected and the blockade is targeted only against Saudi Arabia, we don't see a very big challenge. We expect the movement of Russian to increase, which would compensate for any loss in Saudi volumes and cover the requirement. But many ifs and buts are still there, so maybe in another week or 10 days' time, there would be more clarity," state-owned Bharat Petroleum's Chairman and Managing Director Sanjay Khanna told *The Indian Express* last week. The Suez Canal-Red Sea route is the primary route for Russian oil to reach Indian ports.

Industry analysts said that if Saudi Arabian oil supplies to India are disrupted, Indian refiners are likely to further increase purchases of Russian oil barrels, while also drawing on commercial crude inventories to bridge temporary supply gaps. Moreover, India's increasingly diversified crude slate — which includes dozens of suppliers from across the world — provides greater flexibility than in previous years, reducing the risk of a severe supply disruption.

"If Red Sea transit remains uninterrupted, Indian refiners retain an important supply buffer through Saudi Arabia's East-West (Yanbu) pipeline, which has recently supplied roughly 300,000–500,000 bpd (barrels per day) of crude. However, if the security situation deteriorates and Red Sea imports become unavailable during August, refiners will need to replace those barrels from alternative sources. Indian refiners are likely to increase purchases of Russian spot barrels where available, while also drawing on commercial crude inventories to bridge any temporary supply gaps," said Sumit Ritolia, manager, refining and modelling at commodity market analytics firm Kpler.

Amid the Strait of Hormuz crisis, India's Russian crude imports have increased from around 1 million bpd in February to record highs of about 2.6 million bpd in June, accounting for over 50% of India's overall oil imports. July oil imports from Russia are also tracking at similar levels, as per ship-tracking data. Before the war, over 40% of India's oil imports came from West Asia via the Strait of Hormuz.

According to Ritolia, Russian crude remains India's strongest supply hedge, and imports could potentially rise toward or even above 3 million bpd if market conditions and Russian export availability permit. He added that the situation would become tighter if Red Sea flows are disrupted, but it is unlikely to become critical.

"Russian oil will provide some relief for India and China. Urals was offered at around \$7/barrel discount to Dubai (crude grade) before the latest escalation; those discounts have now disappeared, and Russian barrels are now moving at premiums as Indian refiners compete for supply. However, as India will try to absorb as much Urals (Russia's flagship crude grade) as possible, its incremental availability is limited as China and Turkey are competing for the same barrels," Abu Dhabi-based energy analyst Natalia Katona told *The Indian Express*.

The risks to Russia's oil exports

According to industry experts and analysts, a key uncertainty from India's point of view is whether Russia can sustain higher export availability, given the impact of continued Ukrainian attacks on parts of its upstream and downstream oil infrastructure.

"While the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea remain strategically important, the uninterrupted operation of Russian export infrastructure — particularly Black Sea terminals such as Novorossiysk — has become equally, if not more, critical for India's crude supply...any disruption to Saudi exports via the Red Sea would have a relatively smaller impact on India's overall crude availability than a sustained disruption to Russian Black Sea exports," said Ritolia.

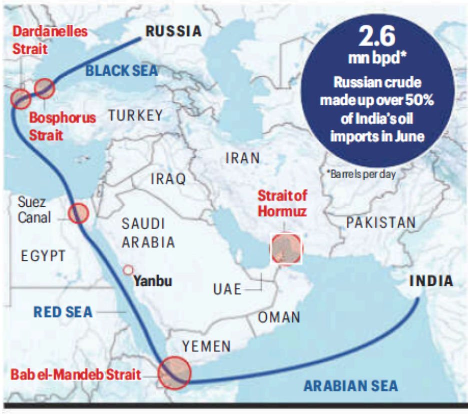
Unlike the Red Sea, where some cargoes can be rerouted around Africa, export alternatives for oil exported from Black Sea ports are limited. Any prolonged disruption there could tighten global crude availability, disrupt trade flows, and directly affect India's largest source of imported crude.

According to Katona, the larger immediate concern is Novorossiysk's Sheskharis terminal, which halted operations last week following Ukrainian attacks on regional oil infrastructure. The terminal is particularly important for India, as of the 1.1 million bpd crude loaded there in June, around 840,000 bpd went to India. Overall, the Novorossiysk complex supplied about 28% of India's Russian crude imports in June.

Russia had recently increased crude exports as Ukrainian attacks sent several refineries offline for repairs, which freed additional barrels for the export market — mainly China and India. In the medium term, the return of the affected Russian refining capacity is also a risk for India, particularly if the Hormuz crisis doesn't abate.

"As more refineries return, fewer barrels will be available for export. Given Russia's recent fuel shortages, Moscow is likely to reduce the record 4.5 million bpd of crude exported in June, of which about 55% went to India. If all major refineries resume normal operations, Russian crude exports could fall by as much as 1 million bpd," said Katona.

• RUSSIAN OIL FLOWS TO INDIA VIA RED SEA UNAFFECTED SO FAR



Dual chokepoints

- With traffic through the Strait of Hormuz down to a trickle, Saudi Arabia was using the Bab el-Mandeb to export its oil, including to India.
- Now, the Houthi blockade on Saudi-linked shipping and energy supplies would force tankers to sail westward instead, through the Suez Canal, and then taking the circuitous route around Africa.
- The Suez Canal-Red Sea route is also the primary route for Russian oil to reach Indian ports.
- So far, Russian oil appears to be safe from Houthi attacks as it was in earlier Bab el-Mandeb blockades by the Iran-backed militia.
- But Russian exports are also under pressure amid Ukraine's strikes.

Emergency options, beyond Russia

West Asian crude that can bypass regional chokepoints are practical emergency options for Indian refiners.

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There are also options to increase purchases of American and South American oil, but the long voyage times are a challenge.

Mint, Delhi, 30/07/2026

Page No: 13, Size: 6.80cm × 9.68cm

Aramco mulls new oil pricing for Asia

Saudi Aramco is preparing a new selling price for oil loaded at Egypt's Mediterranean port of Sidi Kerir for delivery to Asia after attacks by Iran-backed Houthi militants elevated risks in the Red Sea.

The producer has informed at least two Chinese refiners that it may introduce a separate official selling price for oil shipped from Sidi Kerir, the traders said, asking not to be named as they're not allowed to speak to the media.

State-run Aramco has been asking Asian customers to take oil deliveries from the Egyptian port, near the Suez Canal exit from the Red Sea, as some shipowners are avoiding Yanbu fearing Houthi attacks. Meanwhile, Asian refiners are pressing Saudi Arabia for discounts to offset the higher freight costs and longer transit times required for these cargoes that need to sail around Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. BLOOMBERG

Hindustan Times, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 16, Size: 67.31cm × 45.46cm

Hindustan Times

Crude rise may strain fiscal balance

Rajeev Jayaswal
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's economic outlook remains underpinned by resilient domestic fundamentals, but resurgence in global crude oil prices, if sustained, could re-emerge as a source of pressure on financing of both the fiscal deficit and the current account balance, the finance ministry said on Wednesday in its monthly report.

India, which is the world's third biggest oil consumers after the US and China, imports over 88% crude it processes and pays in dollar. An international oil price volatility was triggered since the war between the US and Israel on the one side and Iran on the other broke out on February 28. Despite the government's efforts to shield customers from a global spike in fuel prices by slashing excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 each on March 27, refiners were forced to raise their retail prices by nearly ₹7.50 per litre in four instalments between May 15 and May 25.

Although international oil prices subsided from June onwards, the recent escalation of conflict in West Asia again saw an upward movement of energy prices. Benchmark Brent crude that fell below $70 a barrel in the first week of July from $103.54 a barrel on May 22, again inched up to nearly $97 last week. Brent crude was trading at $89.71 a barrel on Wednesday with a gain of 6.68%.

"The global macroeconomic environment remains characterised by elevated uncertainty. Following a brief period of respite, geopolitical tensions in West Asia have re-emerged, leading to renewed upward pressure on global energy prices," the Monthly Economic Review said.

The report pointed at inflationary impact of high fuel prices. The increase in retail fuel

Brent crude traded at $89.71 a barrel on Wednesday with a gain of 6.68%. REUTERS

prices, following the partial pass-through of higher global crude oil prices since mid-May 2026, was evident in June, with inflation in diesel, petrol and CNG rising further to 8.4%, 7.5% and 6.2%, respectively, it said.

Although global economic uncertainty resurfaced in July as geopolitical tensions in West Asia escalated, the increase remains well below the sharp spike witnessed during the initial phase of the conflict, it said pointing at the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) July 2026 World Economic Outlook that projects global growth to moderate from 3.2% in 2025 to 3% in 2026.

"While risks are more balanced than in the April 2026 WEO, they remain tilted to the downside, with renewed conflict in the Middle East, trade fragmentation, a correction in technology-driven expectations and limited policy buffers posing key risks to global growth," the report said.

The global economy continues to face heightened uncertainty amid geopolitical tensions and evolving trade and financial conditions, with risks to the outlook remaining tilted to the downside. Against this backdrop, India's macroeconomic fundamentals and domestic demand are expected to continue supporting economic activity, the report said.

Economic Times, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 12, Size: 16.43cm × 29.32cm

IndianOil Eyes Stakes in Gas Carriers for Higher US Imports

Reuters

New Delhi: India's top refiner, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), is looking to acquire a 50% stake in very large gas carriers (VLGCs), according to a tender document, as it prepares to increase imports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from the United States.

IOC would be the first Indian refiner seeking ownership of VLGCs. The company currently relies mainly on time-chartered LPG and crude tankers.

IOC did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Indian state fuel retailers are set to increase purchases of U.S. LPG, used mainly as cooking gas, from 2027.

U.S. LPG is typically more expensive for Indian buyers because of the longer voyage and higher freight costs, an Asian LPG trader said.

"The biggest challenge in buying U.S. LPG is not availability but freight rates," the trader said.

IOC is seeking VLGCs with a capacity of 80,000 to 93,500 cubic metres that are no more than 12 years old, according to the tender document, which was issued to a limited number of companies.

Bidders may offer up to two VLGCs, the document showed, although IOC did not specify how many vessels it intends to acquire.

IndianOil LNG, an IOC joint venture, reserves the right to acquire one or more vessels under the tender, the document said.

IOC will hold a pre-bid meeting on August 5, while commercial and technical bids are due by September 7.

The vessels will be reflagged to India after the acquisition, the document added.

Hindustan, Delhi, 30/07/2026
Page No: 6, Size: 9.39cm × 3.31cm

हाइड्रोजन वाहनों की 12 परियोजनाएं मंजूर

नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन के तहत 70 हाइड्रोजन चालित वाहनों की तैनाती के लिए 12 पायलट परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी है। इन परियोजनाओं के लिए 410.77 करोड़ रुपये की वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की जा रही है। नवीन एवं नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा राज्य मंत्री श्रीपद येसो नाईक ने लोकसभा में बताया कि इन परियोजनाओं में 27 बसें और 43 ट्रक शामिल हैं।

ऑयल ट्रेड वॉर • सीनेट में वोटिंग के दौरान जेलेंस्की भी मौजूद

रूसी तेल; भारत पर 100% टैरिफ वाला बिल अमेरिकी संसद में चर्चा के लिए बढ़ा

भास्कर न्यूज़ | वॉशिंगटन/नई दिल्ली

अमेरिकी सीनेट (संसद) ने रूस पर प्रतिबंधों की दिशा में बड़ा कदम उठाया है। रूस से तेल खरीदने वाले भारत-चीन समेत पांच देशों पर 100% टैरिफ वाला बिल चर्चा के लिए पास हो गया है। बिल के समर्थन में 86 जबकि विपक्ष में 12 वोट पड़े। सीनेट में 100 सदस्य हैं। बिल पर वोटिंग के दौरान यूक्रेनी राष्ट्रपति वोलोदिमीर जेलेंस्की भी सीनेट की दर्शक दीर्घा में मौजूद थे। इन दिनों जेलेंस्की अमेरिकी की यात्रा पर हैं। उन्होंने कहा, रूसी तेल खरीद रुकने से यूक्रेन युद्ध की समाप्ति की ओर बड़ी पहल होगी।

रूस पर प्रतिबंधों वाला ये बिल द. कैरोलाइना के रिपब्लिकन सीनेटर लिंडसे ग्राहम ने तैयार किया था। ग्राहम की 11 जुलाई को आकस्मिक मृत्यु हो गई थी। बिल को रिपब्लिकन और डेमोक्रेट्स का समर्थन है। रूसी तेल खरीदने वाले 5 देशों- भारत, चीन, स्लोवाकिया, अजरबैजान और हंगरी पर 100% टैरिफ का प्रस्ताव है। रूस से गैस खरीदने वाले चीन, फ्रांस, बेल्जियम, जापान और हंगरी पर भी 100% टैरिफ लगेगा।

भास्कर एक्सपर्ट | नरेंद्र तनेजा, ऑक्सफर्ड इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर एनर्जी स्टडी

तेल खरीद हमारी स्वतंत्र पॉलिसी है, टैरिफ से अमेरिका में 10 गुना महंगाई

• बिल से क्या असर पड़ेगा?
ये बिल अभी सीनेट में चर्चा के लिए पास हुआ है। अंतिम रूप से पारित नहीं हुआ है। भारत-चीन पर यदि 100% टैरिफ लगता है तो ये तय है कि अमेरिका में 10 गुना तक महंगाई बढ़ेगी। अमेरिकी इकोनॉमी चीन पर आयात टिकी है। भारत का भी बड़ा मार्केट है।

• क्या इससे रूस पर दबाव बढ़ेगा?
रूस तेल के साथ-साथ हथियारों की बिक्री से भी एक भारी रकम जुटाता है। रूस बरसों से प्रतिबंधों को झेल रहा है। रूसी शैडो फ्लीट यानी खुले में मिलने वाला बेनामी रूसी तेल मौजूद है।

• ट्रम्प का क्या रवैया रहेगा?
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प मूलतः बिजनेसमैन हैं। बिल पास होने के बाद भी उनके पास ये अधिकार है कि वे किस देश पर कितना टैरिफ लगाएंगे। आने वाले समय में ही ये तय होगा कि ट्रम्प भारत पर 100% टैरिफ की दिशा में आगे बढ़ते हैं या नहीं।

• ट्रेड डील पर क्या असर?
बिल अभी भारत के लिए चिंता का विषय नहीं है। ट्रेड डील अन्य कारणों पर निर्भर होगी। तेल खरीद के मामले में भारत पहले ही स्पष्ट कर चुका है कि यह उसकी स्वतंत्र पॉलिसी का हिस्सा है।

रूस से 50% तेल खरीद... ट्रेड डेटा फर्म केप्लर के अनुसार भारत ने 15 जुलाई तक अपनी कुल तेल खरीद का 50% हिस्सा रूस से खरीदा है। औसत आयात करीब 2.5 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन (एमबीपीडी) रहा। जून में रूस से आयात रिकॉर्ड 2.6 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन था। फरवरी 2022 से पहले रूसी तेल का हिस्सा 1% ही था।

गैल GAIL

Business Standard Hindi, Delhi, 30/07/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 58.68cm × 52.15cm

प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की बिक्री दोगुनी

ई20 पेट्रोल से वाहनों को नुकसान की आशंका से बढ़ी 100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल की मांग

शुभांगी माथुर
नई दिल्ली, 29 जुलाई

एथनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल से गाड़ियों को नुकसान पहुंचने की बढ़ती चिंता के बीच हाल के महीनों में 100-ऑक्टेन प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की बिक्री दोगुनी से ज्यादा हो गई है। इसमें एथनॉल नहीं मिलाया जाता है। मामले से अवगत लोगों ने बताया कि जुलाई में यह बढ़ोतरी खास तौर पर ज्यादा देखी गई क्योंकि उस समय पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिश्रित करने पर विवाद बढ़ गया था।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियां इंडियन ऑयल एक्सपी100, भारत पेट्रोलियम (बीपीसीएल) स्पीड100 और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम (एचपीसीएल) के पावर100 ब्रांड के तहत 100-ऑक्टेन प्रीमियम पेट्रोल बेचती हैं।

100-ऑक्टेन रेटिंग वाला पेट्रोल मुख्य रूप से सुपरकार, लक्जरी सिडैन और सुपरबाइक जैसी हाई-परफॉर्मेंस गाड़ियों के लिए बनाया गया है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक देश में इस ईंधन की मांग कम है और यह कुल पेट्रोल बिक्री का महज 0.1 फीसदी है। प्रीमियम पेट्रोल सामान्य पेट्रोल के मुकाबले काफी महंगा होता है।

मामले के जानकार एक व्यक्ति ने कहा, 'हाल के महीनों में एथनॉल मुक्त पेट्रोल की मांग में काफी बढ़ोतरी देखी गई है। एथनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल से वाहनों को नुकसान पहुंचने के बारे में सोशल मीडिया पर किए जा रहे दावों की वजह से यह बढ़ोतरी हुई है। प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की सबसे ज्यादा मांग दिल्ली में देखी गई।'

इस बारे में जानकारी के लिए पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय, आईओसी, बीपीसीएल और एचपीसीएल को ईमेल किया गया मगर खबर लिखे जाने तक जवाब नहीं आया।

दिल्ली में एथनॉल मुक्त 100-ऑक्टेन प्रीमियम पेट्रोल लगभग 160 रुपये प्रति लीटर बिकता है जो सामान्य पेट्रोल से करीब 57 फीसदी महंगा है। सामान्य पेट्रोल में 20 फीसदी एथनॉल मिला होता है और उसकी कीमत 102.12 रुपये प्रति लीटर है जबकि ई20-मिश्रित प्रीमियम ग्रेड (एक्सपी 95, स्पीड97 और पावर95) की कीमत लगभग 111–112 रुपये प्रति लीटर है।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक कम मांग की वजह से देश के 1 फीसदी से भी कम पेट्रोल पंपों पर 100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल मिलता है और यह ज्यादातर महानगरों तक ही सीमित है।

अधिकारियों का मानना है कि एथनॉल-मुक्त प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की मांग में हालिया उछाल कुछ समय के लिए ही है। एथनॉल मिश्रित ईंधन को लेकर चिंता कम होने पर बिक्री सामान्य हो जाएगी। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा, 'यह ईंधन सुपर-प्रीमियम गाड़ियों के लिए है। मौजूदा रूझान को देखें तो लगता है कि सामान्य वाहनों के कुछ मालिक भी यह ईंधन खरीद रहे हैं। लंबे समय में यह टिकाऊ नहीं होगा क्योंकि इससे वाहन मालिक का ईंधन बजट काफी बढ़ सकता है।'

पिछले हफ्ते सरकार ने कहा कि तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों की ओर से बेचे जाने वाले प्रीमियम ग्रेड पेट्रोल की आपूर्ति बिना एथनॉल मिश्रण के जारी रहेगी। सरकार ने कहा कि पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिश्रण को 20 फीसदी से ज्यादा बढ़ाने का कोई फैसला नहीं लिया गया है और ई0 या ई10 पेट्रोल फिर से शुरू करने का प्रस्ताव नहीं है। (शेष पृष्ठ 6 पर)

पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिलाने का मामला

- एथनॉल-मुक्त 100-ऑक्टेन प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की मांग कुल पेट्रोल बिक्री का महज 0.1 फीसदी है
- देश के 1 फीसदी से भी कम पेट्रोल पंपों पर 100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल मिलता है
- 100-ऑक्टेन प्रीमियम पेट्रोल लगभग 160 रुपये प्रति लीटर बिकता है जो सामान्य पेट्रोल से लगभग 57 फीसदी महंगा है
- सरकार ने कहा कि प्रीमियम ग्रेड पेट्रोल की आपूर्ति बिना एथनॉल मिश्रण के जारी रहेगी

ग्राफिक्स: दीपक शर्मा

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प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की बिक्री हुई दोगुनी

पृष्ठ 1 का शेष

हाल ही में प्रीमियम पेट्रोल खरीदने वाले एक ग्राहक ने कहा, '100-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल बहुत महंगा है यह ई20 पेट्रोल से लगभग 45 फीसदी ज्यादा महंगा है इसलिए इसे इस्तेमाल करने से मिलने वाले माइलेज के फायदे का गणित सही नहीं बैठता। इसका एकमात्र लाभ यह है कि 100-ऑक्टेन का इस्तेमाल करके एथनॉल मिश्रित ईंधन से इंजन को होने वाले संभावित नुकसान से बचा जा सकता है।'

पेट्रोल में 20 फीसदी एथनॉल मिलाने पर विवाद की मुख्य वजह यह है कि कुछ वाहनों, खास तौर पर ई20 के लिए न बने पुराने मॉडलों में पुर्जों के घिसने, माइलेज कम होने और रखरखाव से जुड़ी समस्याएं आ सकती हैं।

इस महीने की शुरुआत में सरकार ने माना था कि पेट्रोल में 20 फीसदी एथनॉल मिलाने से गाड़ियों का माइलेज सामान्य पेट्रोल के मुकाबले 3 से 5 फीसदी कम हो जाता है

लेकिन यह भी कहा कि इस मिश्रण से ऑक्टेन रेटिंग काफी बेहतर होती है, एंटी-नॉक गुण बेहतर होते हैं और पिकअप बेहतर होता है।

सरकार ने 20 फीसदी एथनॉल मिश्रण (ई20) के साथ शुद्ध पेट्रोल या 10 फीसदी एथनॉल मिले ईंधन (ई10) की बिक्री की संभावना को खारिज कर दिया। सरकार का कहना है कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों ने एथनॉल उत्पादन और उससे जुड़े बुनियादी ढांचे में सालाना लगभग 1 लाख करोड़ रुपये का निवेश किया है।

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प. एशिया में हवाई हमले से कच्चे तेल में बड़ी उछाल

रॉयटर्स
लंदन, 29 जुलाई

तेल की कीमतों में बुधवार को करीब 7 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई क्योंकि पश्चिम एशिया में बड़े पैमाने पर हवाई हमले फिर से शुरू हो गए और ईरान के साथ अमेरिका-इजरायल युद्ध के जल्द खत्म होने की उम्मीदें समाप्त हो गईं। साथ ही, उद्योग के आंकड़ों से पता चला कि अमेरिका में कच्चे तेल का स्टॉक कम हुआ है। ब्रेंट फ्यूचर्स $5.70 यानी 6.8 फीसदी बढ़कर 89.79 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर जा पहुंचा। अमेरिकी वेस्ट टेक्सास इंटरमीडिएट क्रूड 6.2 फीसदी बढ़कर 84.20 डॉलर प्रति बैरल हो गया।

यूबीएस के विश्लेषक जियोवानी स्टौनोवो ने कहा, पश्चिम एशिया में फिर से हुए सैन्य हमलों और ईरान के अधिकारियों के इस बयान से कि वे होर्मुज स्ट्रेट से होने वाली शिपिंग गतिविधियों पर नियंत्रण करना चाहते हैं, तेल की कीमतें फिर से बढ़ रही हैं। अमेरिका और सऊदी अरब ने बुधवार को इराक में ईरान समर्थित समूहों पर हमले किए। उन्होंने सऊदी अरब की तेल सुविधाओं पर हुए ड्रोन हमलों के लिए इन समूहों को जिम्मेदार ठहराया।

ये हमले तब हुए जब अमेरिकी सेना ने कहा कि उसने इलाके में अमेरिकी सैनिकों पर ईरान के अचानक हमले को रोक दिया है। ईरान ने कहा कि उसने होर्मुज स्ट्रेट

में जहाजों और जॉर्डन में अमेरिकी ठिकानों पर हमले किए हैं। फॉक्स न्यूज को दिए एक इंटरव्यू में राष्ट्रपति डॉनल्ड ट्रंप के ईरान के खिलाफ जवाबी हमले का वादा करने के बाद कीमतें और बढ़ गईं।

इस बीच, ईरान के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बुधवार को रॉयटर्स को बताया कि तेहरान ने होर्मुज स्ट्रेट के क्षेत्रीय संयुक्त प्रबंधन के लिए ओमान के प्रस्ताव को खारिज कर दिया है, जिससे उस गतिरोध के समाधान की उम्मीदें खत्म हो गई हैं जिसने महीनों से खाड़ी व्यापार को ठप कर रखा है।

इस हफ्ते अब तक होर्मुज स्ट्रेट से बहुत कम कमोडिटी जहाज गुज़रे हैं जबकि बुधवार को 5 और मंगलवार को 39 जहाज बाब अल मंदेब स्ट्रेट से गुज़रे, जो एशिया को सऊदी तेल की आपूर्ति के लिए एक वैकल्पिक रास्ता है। यह संख्या 19 जुलाई के बाद सबसे ज्यादा थी, जब यमन में ईरान समर्थित हूती विद्रोहियों ने सऊदी अरब की समुद्री नाकेबंदी का ऐलान किया था।

मामले की जानकारी रखने वाले क्षेत्रीय सूत्रों ने रॉयटर्स को बताया कि यमन का हूती समूह दक्षिणी लाल सागर से गुजरने वाले वाणिज्यिक जहाजों पर फीस लगाने पर भी विचार कर रहा है। मामले की जानकारी रखने वाले छह सूत्रों ने बताया कि चीन ने इस समूह के साथ सीधी बातचीत की है ताकि उसके टैंकर बिना किसी हमले के इस इलाके से गुजर सकें।

डीबीएस बैंक में ऊर्जा शोध के प्रमुख सुवरो सरकार ने कहा, हमें लगता है कि पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे टकराव में उतार-चढ़ाव के कारण निकट भविष्य में ब्रेंट की कीमतें 80-100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के दायरे में ऊपर-नीचे होती रहेंगी।