

# Crude import bill declines 11%

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ  
New Delhi, December 19

**INDIA'S CRUDE IMPORT** bill declined by 11% to \$80.9 billion during April-November of FY26, compared with \$91.9 billion in the year-ago period thanks to lower prices, according to data from the government's petroleum planning and analysis cell (PPAC). The country imported 163.4 million tonne (MT) of crude oil during April to November, up from 159.5 MT in the same period of previous fiscal.

India's reliance on crude oil imports increased to 80.2% during the period, up from 79.8% in April-November, 2024 amid rising demand. While the dependency increased, the country's domestic production of oil declined marginally by 1.5% during the period at 18.8 MT.

## BARREL BENEFIT



Crude oil import Apr-Nov

(in mmt)

Apr-Nov '24	159.5
Apr-Nov '25	163.4

Apr-Nov '24      Apr-Nov '25

(in \$ bn)

91.9      80.9

Source: PPAC

In November, the country imported 21.1 MT of crude oil, against 18.9 MT in the year-ago period. The import bill for

last month stood at \$9.9 billion, unchanged from the same period last year.

Although steep discounts on Urals seen in early 2022 have narrowed over time, Russian crude still ranks among the most economically attractive grades in India's import portfolio. The purchases of Russian oil turned stronger and hit a five-month high of 1.8 million BPD in November ahead of the deadline for the US sanctions on two large Russian oil firms — Rosneft and Lukoil — to take effect. Refiners accelerated scheduling and speeded up vessel turnarounds, particularly for Rosneft- and Lukoil-linked cargoes.

Shipments of Russian grade accounted for over 35% of the country's total crude import mix in the month, as per data from Kpler.

## ONGC issues public notice against fraudulent use of its name

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has issued a stern public notice, cautioning the general public, vendors, financial institutions and all other stakeholders against a fraudulent entity operating under the name "ONGC INDIA".

The Maharatna public sector undertaking (PSU) has clarified unequivocally that the unauthorised entity has no relationship, affiliation, or association whatsoever with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited or any of its subsidiaries or Group companies. ONGC stated that the impersonation, which uses the name "ONGC INDIA" and



related representations, appears to be with a "malafide intent to mislead stakeholders and cause wrongful gain.

"The Corporation has strongly advised all stakeholders to immediately desist from dealing with the said entity or with any individual or organisation claiming association with ONGC under the aforesaid fraudulent name.

The public notice warns that any transactions or dealings undertaken with such entities shall be entirely at the risk, cost and consequences of the concerned parties. ONGC further stressed that it shall not, under any circumstances, be held liable for any loss, damage, or consequences arising from such dealings.

ONGC has requested that any person or organisation

that has come across or engaged in such unauthorised dealings should report the same to the Corporation immediately, along with relevant documentary evidence.

This will enable ONGC to take appropriate action in accordance with law. The PSU affirmed that it reserves the right to initiate stringent civil and criminal proceedings against the fraudulent entity and all other persons involved in acts of impersonation, misrepresentation, cheating and fraud.

The Corporation concluded by reasserting its commitment to safeguarding the interests of its stakeholders and upholding the highest standards of transparency and integrity.

# Ethanol blending with petrol touches 20% in November

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**

New Delhi

The ethanol supply year 2025-26 (November-October) commenced on a positive note for the Oil Ministry, with the blending percentage of the commodity with petrol hitting 20 per cent last month.

India has targeted to hit a cumulative 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol by October 2026 when the current supply year ends. The National Policy on Biofuels, after being amended in 2022, advanced the target of 20 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol from 2030 to ethanol supply year 2025-26.

Ethanol blending in petrol in November 2025 stood at 20 per cent, compared to 19.97 per cent in October 2025. While PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs) received 45.5 crore litres of ethanol last month, the volume of commodity in storage stood at 77.8 crore litres.

PSU OMCs received around 1,003 crore litres of



ethanol during ESY2024-25, with roughly 1,022 crore litres of the commodity being consumed to achieve 19.2 per cent blending with petrol.

## RICE-BASED ETHANOL

In ESY2025-26, OMCs invited bids for the supply of 1,050 crore litres of ethanol. The government has increased the prices of FCI rice-based ethanol in the current supply year.

The price of ethanol produced from surplus rice sourced from FCI has been fixed at ₹60.32 per litre for ESY2025-26, compared to ₹58.50 per litre for ESY2024-25, an increase of around 3 per cent. The revision corresponds to the increase in the rate of surplus rice for ethanol from FCI. According

to the supply schedule, 100 crore litres are to be supplied in November 2025, and 200 litres in December 2025 and January 2026. The remaining is divided into three quarters — February-April 2026 (280 crore litres), May-July 2026 (250 crore litres) and August-October 2026 (220 crore litres).

To ensure the availability of feedstock for ethanol production to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending target by October 2026, the government approved allocation of 52 lakh tonnes of surplus rice from Food Corporation of India (FCI) for ethanol production, each for ESY2024-25 and ESY2025-26 (up to June 30, 2026), and diversion of 40 lakh tonnes of sugar for ethanol production in ESY2024-25.

The price of ethanol produced from sugarcane juice/syrup was ₹65.61 per litre in ESY2024-25. The rate of ethanol produced from B heavy molasses and C heavy molasses was ₹60.73 per litre and ₹57.97 per litre, respectively.

**Crude oil set for second straight weekly decline**

**London:** Crude oil prices rose but were poised for a second straight weekly decline as a potential supply glut and prospects of a Russia-Ukraine peace deal limited gains. Brent crude futures were up 52 cents at \$60.34 a barrel by 1357 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate rose 51 cents to \$56.66. REUTERS

# PUC centres remain crowded for 3rd day

**Snehil Sinha**

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**NEW DELHI:** Serpentine queues continued outside pollution-under-control (PUC) certification centres across the Capital for a third consecutive day on Friday, as vehicle owners scrambled to get their papers in order to procure fuel, as mandated under the latest set of curbs to cut air pollution.

The surge in numbers, however, caused temporary glitches at some centres, exacerbating the wait times for vehicle owners.

Environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, meanwhile, said that the government has stepped up its crackdown on polluting and non-compliant vehicles, and 11,776 challans on Friday. "Teams from multiple departments, along with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), are working round-the-clock to ensure compliance with pollution norms. The government has adopted a coordinated approach covering vehicular emissions, dust control, waste management and traffic regulation," said Sirsa.

On the traffic and transport front, enforcement teams stopped and diverted 542 non-destined trucks away from the Capital. Authorities also worked to decongest 34 identified traffic choke points. Traffic police and transport department teams



Queue outside a PUC centre at Mayur Vihar.

RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

were deployed at city entry points, toll plazas and petrol pumps to check pollution certificates and BS-VI compliance.

A day after the enforcement of mandatory PUC certification and BS-VI norms at petrol pumps and border points, awareness among commuters has increased, as a majority of motorists at fuel stations were seen voluntarily producing documents while refuelling.

Nischal Singhania, president of the Delhi Petrol Dealers' Association, said queues at PUC centres remained largely unchanged, while fuel sales had declined at some border-area petrol pumps. He said uncertainty earlier about the duration of the 'No PUC, No Fuel' rule

had eased, with clarity that the measure would remain in force as long as GRAP-IV restrictions were in place.

"Petrol pumps in areas such as Badarpur are reporting a dip in sales, a trend that continued on Friday. Compliance levels have improved, with customers proactively showing their PUC certificates before refuelling now. However, enforcement is not uniform across all locations. At a few petrol pumps, commuters reported that no verification was carried out during their visits," said Singhania.

Commuters, meanwhile, said that while the chaos due to checking at the borders had reduced, fuel stations remained busy, mostly for PUC issuance.

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**LARGE VOLUMES SHIPPED TO INDIA IN DEC**

# Despite US Curbs, Rosneft Supplies Most Russian Oil

No crude imported from sanctioned Lukoil; lesser-known cos emerge new exporters

**Sanjeev Choudhary**

**New Delhi:** Rosneft remains the largest supplier of Russian crude to India despite US sanctions taking effect last month, with Moscow's top exporter continuing to ship large volumes to Reliance Industries, Indian Oil, and Nayara Energy in December.

Rosneft supplied 820,000 barrels per day (bpd) to Indian refiners in the first fortnight of December, according to Kpler, a global real-time data and analytics provider. It accounted for about 70% of India's total oil imports of 1.15 million barrels per day (mbd) from Russia in the same period.

Indian refiners didn't procure any crude from Lukoil, another sanctioned entity. Lesser-known Russian suppliers RusExport, MorExport, Zarubezhneft, and Rusvietpetro emerged as new exporters, together supplying 330,000 bpd in December.

Among the refiners, state-run Indian Oil was the largest buyer of Russian crude in December, importing 400,000 bpd, followed by Reliance Industries at 366,000 bpd. Nayara bought 228,000 bpd, while state-run BPCL received 155,000 bpd. HPCl, HMEl, and MRPL did not procure any Russian volumes. Indian buyers, mostly Reliance Industries, have indeed been buying a larger share of Rosneft's supply compared to Nayara, according to Kpler.

**Deep Discounts >> 8**


## Deep Discounts Fuel Appeal

**>> From Page 1**

"These are part of pre-existing transactions which are getting wound down in a sanction-compliant manner," said a spokesperson for RIL. A person familiar with RIL's crude sourcing plans, however, said the company has not lo-

ded any Russian cargoes after 12 November. Indian Oil and Nayara did not respond to ET's queries.

Rosneft's continued supply to Nayara is anticipated, as Russian crude has been the Gujarat-based refiner's sole source since facing EU sanctions from last July over its 49% Rosneft ownership. The US imposed sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil from October 22, allowing a month to conclude all cargo receipts and payments.

Following the announcement, several Indian refiners said they would not transact with the sanctioned entities. Plentiful supplies from Rosneft this month would test US resolve to enforce sanctions—key to President Donald Trump's plan to push for a Ukraine peace deal.

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"Looking ahead, we see the US not enforcing the sanctions on India and China too strongly, especially with President Trump's desire to keep gasoline prices low next year," said Navneet Das, senior crude oil analyst at Kpler.

At 1.15 mbd, Russian oil imports in the first half of December are sharply lower than 1.8 mbd in November. "This shift would effectively reduce the share of Russian crude in India's overall slate to around 25%, a level last seen in 2022 when Western countries first began to eschew Russian barrels following the outbreak of the Ukraine war," said Das.

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## सेक्टर-102एमें पीएनजी सप्लाईटप

गुरुग्राम। पीएनजी सप्लाई नहीं मिलने की वजह से सेक्टर-102 और 102ए पर विकसित रिहायशी सोसाइटियों में रह रहे करीब साढ़े छह हजार परिवार परेशान हैं। इस सिलसिले में शुक्रवार को जीएमडीए के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी पीसी मीणा को पत्र लिखकर हस्तक्षेप करने का आग्रह किया है।

सेक्टर-102 स्थित इम्पीरियल गार्डन सोसाइटी की आरडब्ल्यूए के उपग्राधान सुनील सरीन और कमल मल्होत्रा के मुताबिक स्थानीय निवासियों ने हरियाणा सिटी गैस लिमिटेड के साथ सभी आवश्यक औपचारिकताओं को पूरा कर दिया है, लेकिन फिर भी पीएनजी की सुविधा नहीं मिल रही है। व्यक्तिगत मीटर कनेक्शन के बारे में जब गैस कंपनी से बात की गई तो उनकी तरफ से जवाब दिया गया कि जीएमडीए से मुख्य गैस पाइप लाइन बिछाने की अनुमति नहीं मिली है।

# दो साल से पीएनजी आपूर्ति के इंतजार में हैं सेक्टर-102 के 6,474 प्लैट

संवाद सहयोगी. जागरण वादशाहपुर : सेक्टर-102 और 102ए की हाई-राइज आवासीय सोसायटियों में रहने वाले हजारों लोग पिछले दो वर्षों से पाइप नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) जैसी बुनियादी सुविधा से वंचित हैं। इन दोनों सेक्टरों में लगभग 6,474 प्लैट हैं। इनमें रहने वाले लोगों ने हरियाणा सिटी गैस लिमिटेड (एसीजीएल) के साथ सभी आवश्यक औपचारिकताएं समय पर पूरी कर दी थीं। इसके बावजूद अब तक गैस आपूर्ति शुरू नहीं हो सकी है। निवासियों ने जीएमडीए के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी पीसी मीणा से हस्तक्षेप कर जल्द सेवा शुरू कराने की मांग की है।

निवासियों का कहना है कि बिल्डिंग के भीतर गैस पाइपलाइन स्टैक पहले ही लगाए जा चुके हैं। तकनीकी रूप से सोसायटियां

जीएमडीए-एसीजीएल के बीच फंसा है मामला, सेक्टर-102 व 102ए में रहने वाले हजारों लोग मूलभूत सुविधा से वंचित हैं

पीएनजी आपूर्ति के लिए तैयार हैं। समस्या मुख्य गैस पाइपलाइन बिछाने की अनुमति को लेकर है। जो गुरुग्राम महानगर विकास प्राधिकरण से मिलनी है। एचसीजीएल का कहना है कि अनुमति न मिलने के कारण वह आगे कार्य नहीं कर पा रहा। जिससे दोनों एजेंसियों के बीच समन्वय की कमी दिख रही है।

इस प्रशासनिक गतिरोध का सीधा असर आम नागरिकों पर पड़ रहा है। ऊंची इमारतों में रहने वाले परिवारों को मजबूरी में एलपीजी सिलेंडर ऊपर की मंजिलों तक ले जाने पड़ रहे हैं। जो बेहद असुविधाजनक होने के साथ-साथ गंभीर सुरक्षा जोखिम

भी पैदा करता है। बुजुर्गों, महिलाओं और बच्चों के लिए यह स्थिति और भी चिंताजनक है।

निवासियों का कहना है कि पीएनजी शहरी जीवन की एक आवश्यक, सुरक्षित और पर्यावरण के अनुकूल सुविधा है। दो वर्षों से जारी यह देरी प्रशासनिक उदासीनता को दिखाती है। जबकि सभी नियमों का पालन करने के बावजूद नागरिकों को इसका खामियाजा भुगतना पड़ रहा है।

द्वारका एक्सप्रेस आरडब्ल्यूए के संयोजक संजय सरीन का कहना है कि इस मुद्दे को लेकर सेक्टर 102 व 102ए के निवासियों ने जीएमडीए के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी पीसी मीणा से तुरंत हस्तक्षेप की मांग की है। जी एमडीए और एचसीजीएल के बीच समन्वय स्थापित कर आवश्यक अनुमतियों को शीघ्र स्वीकृति दी जाए।



गंगा तटवर्ती क्षेत्र में तेल-गैस की संभावना  
**बक्सर के 30 गांव में गैस व  
कूड ऑयल की खोज होगी**

दुमरांव/बक्सर | केंद्र सरकार की अधिकृत एजेंसी अल्फाजियो ईंडिया लिमिटेड सिमरी अंचल के गंगा तटवर्ती क्षेत्र में कूड ऑयल और गैस की संभावनाओं को लेकर खोज कार्य की तैयारी कर रही है। हैदराबाद की इस एजेंसी ने प्रारंभिक सर्वेक्षण के बाद सिमरी अंचल के 30 गांवों को चिह्नित किया है। इन गांवों में तेल और गैस के भंडार होने की संभावना जाताई गई है। यह खोज कार्य अन्वेषण योजना के तहत किया जाएगा। इस आल्फाजियर भारत पहल के लिए अहम माना जा रहा है। दुमरांव के एसडीप्पम राजेश कुमार ने कहा कि गंगा तटीय इलाकों में अनुबंधित

एजेंसी सर्वे कर रही है। कूड ऑयल और गैस की संभावनाओं पर काम चल रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि संभावनाएं मजबूत होने पर यह क्षेत्रीय विकास के लिए मौत का पथर साबित होगा। इस क्षेत्र में कूड ऑयल और गैस की संभावना ओएनजीसी के हवाई सर्वेक्षण के बाद जताई गई थी। इन गांवों का सर्वे होगा: चौरानित गांवों में सिंहनुपुर, बरवलतग, केशोपुर, मनिकपुर, पुरदरापुर, राजपुर कला, लक्ष्मीपुर, नाणपुरा, डुमरी, चुनीटाड, गाप भरौली, फैबरपुर, खरगपुर, नारायणपुर, किसेन, रानीपट्टी, रामपुर, कठार, मरंगा और सिमरी सहित अन्य गांव शामिल हैं।