India Today, Delhi, 20/02/2026
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OIL & PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Shifting Barrels

India's pivot from Russian oil may be manageable operationally, but brings the threat of costlier imports and a more delicate geopolitical balance

India's gradual move away from Russian crude—a condition of the interim India-US trade pact—is unlikely to trigger an immediate supply shock. Yet the shift could inflate the country's import bill over time and introduce fresh complexity into a long-standing diplomatic partnership with Moscow.

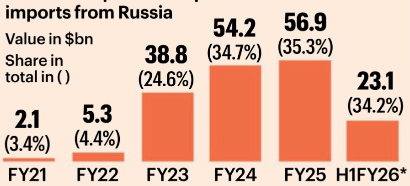
The stakes are substantial. India imports nearly 90 per cent of its crude requirement and purchased $161 billion (Rs 14.6 lakh crore) worth of oil in FY25. Russia alone accounted for $56.9 billion (Rs 5.2 lakh crore), making it the country's largest supplier. But imports are already tapering under US pressure: in the first half of FY26, purchases from Russia stood at $23.1 billion (Rs 2.1 lakh crore), a 14 per cent year-on-year fall.

The US had imposed a 25 per cent penalty on Indian exports for continuing to receive Russian oil, on top of the 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs that President Donald Trump had announced in early 2025. Under the interim arrangement, those penalties have been withdrawn and tariffs reduced to 18 per cent—conditional on India halting Russian imports while expanding purchases from the US, which has also pledged to channel Venezuelan crude into global markets. Domestically, the Opposition has seized upon the issue. Rahul Gandhi argued on February 11 that India should have prioritised energy security rather than yielding to external pressure.

CHANGING CRUDE REALITIES

Having risen sharply on discounted rates, crude imports from Russia are beginning to taper under US pressure, as West Asian and other suppliers move to fill the gap

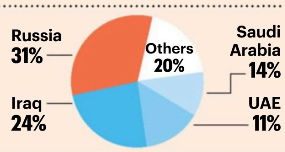
India's oil & petroleum products imports from Russia



*The first half of FY26 saw a 14 per cent year-on-year decline
Sources: Ministry of Commerce; Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell*

India's top oil suppliers in Dec. 2025

Source: Kpler



"Which country we will buy oil from will depend on the economics of that time—who is offering us what at what price"

—PRASHANT VASISHT
Senior Vice-President & Co-Group Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA

From an operational standpoint, analysts see manageable risks. Prashant Vasisht, senior vice-president and co-group head for corporate ratings at ICRA, says that replacing Russian barrels would not be difficult "since we are the third largest importer and most of our refineries are able to process any type of crude".

Geography, too, works in India's favour, he adds. Potential alternatives include West Asian nations such as Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, African exporters like Nigeria, Brazil, and finally the US, which already supplies about 6 per cent of India's crude. American shipments have in fact been rising—$14.3 billion (Rs 1.3 lakh crore) in FY25 and $8.3 billion (Rs 75,200 crore) so far in FY26. Ultimately, Vasisht adds, purchasing decisions will hinge on "the economics of that time—who is offering us what at what price".

THE COST CONCERN

Cost, however, remains the central concern. Data and analytics firm Kpler estimates that eliminating Russian crude could raise India's annual import bill by $9-11 billion (Rs 81,500 crore-Rs 1 lakh crore). The country had already spent $80.9 billion (Rs 7.3 lakh crore) on crude between April and November 2025. Companies heavily exposed to discounted Russian oil, notably Reliance, are navigating a more constrained trading environment.

The reversal is striking when viewed against recent history. Before FY22, Russia accounted for barely 3 per cent of India's imports. After US sanctions followed the Ukraine invasion, Moscow offered steep discounts, pushing its share to about 25 per cent in FY23 and nearly 35 per cent thereafter. Those concessions—averaging 14 per cent in FY23 and 10.4 per cent in FY24—saved India roughly $5 billion (Rs 45,300 crore) annually, about 3-4 per cent of its crude bill. By October 2025, however, the discount had narrowed to just $2 (Rs 181) a barrel. For India, the emerging equation is about preserving strategic autonomy while navigating an increasingly polarised energy landscape.

—M.G. Arun

Mint, Delhi, 20/02/2026
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As demerger nears, Vedanta races to shore up oil output

After spin-off, oil & gas unit will lose cushion of group's cash-rich aluminium, zinc businesses

Dipali Banka & Nehal Chaliawala
MUMBAI

Ahead of its upcoming demerger into five separately listed companies, Vedanta Ltd is in a race against time to shore up production levels at its oil and gas business that have declined in each of the past 10 years.

Higher production levels could bolster the business's financials, helping it fend for itself when it is housed in an independent company named Vedanta Oil & Gas Ltd.

Over the past decade, ageing oil blocks have more than halved production at Vedanta's oil and gas vertical from 211 thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day (kboepd) in FY15 to 103.2 kboepd in FY25. During the first nine months of FY26, average output stood at 89.1 kboepd—below the 95–100 kboepd guidance given by the company at the beginning of the year.

Reliance Industries and Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) also face production decline at ageing blocks. But the problem takes centre stage at Vedanta as the business is about to demerge into a standalone company and it will no longer have the comfort of being part of a conglomerate with cash-rich aluminium and zinc businesses.

A spokesperson for Vedanta said the oil and gas business will be a sustainable and expanding enterprise as an independent company. "Vedanta's oil and gas business continues to deliver strong earnings and healthy cash flows," the spokesperson said in an email.

But when Vedanta Oil & Gas is born on 1 April, shareholders, at least temporarily, will see a company whose main business is shrinking and in need of significant capital investment.

The oil and gas business reported revenues of ₹6,999 crore in the first three quarters of 2025-26, accounting for 6% of the company's top line, down from about a fifth a decade ago. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) stood at ₹3,285 crore, or 9% of the company's consolidated Ebitda, again down from a fifth a decade ago. In fact, between FY15 and FY25, the oil and gas business's revenue has shrunk by a quarter.

Vedanta entered the oil and gas business in 2011 after buying a majority stake in Cairn India from Capricorn Energy PLC (formerly Cairn Energy PLC).

A much touted process to boost production from its key block in Rajasthan called alkaline-surfactant-polymer (ASP) flooding is months behind schedule. The company said at the beginning of FY26 that the ASP flooding would start from July and would meaningfully add to production levels by December. However, as disclosed in the 29 January investor call, the process at the Mangala fields hasn't commenced.

"The main reason why volumes are not coming to the level that we expected is actually delaying [sic] of the project ASP commissioning and start up, which is enhanced oil recovery, one of the largest in the world and very expensive technology," Jasmin Sahurity, COO of Vedanta's oil and gas business, said on the investor call. The commissioning of the ASP process and early contributions from the reservoir are expected in the next three months, the COO added.

Additionally, the company is looking to access "tight oil"—reserves deeply embedded in rocks—by drilling new wells, Sahurity said. These two measures will take production closer to 90 kboepd in FY27, before gradually increasing to the company's long-term target of 150 kboepd, he said.

However, analysts at JP Morgan, with a 'neutral' outlook on the stock, in a note dated 30 January priced in production levels of only 95 kboepd until FY28.

"Reversing production decline in mature oil and gas assets is neither swift nor straightforward; it is an exercise in strategic patience. It demands patient capital, technological sophistication and disciplined execution sustained over years rather than quarters," said Monish G. Chatrath, managing partner of MGC Global Risk Advisory.

Meanwhile, when apportioning its ₹60,624-crore net debt among the five independent companies, Vedanta looked at the value of assets and cash generation abilities of each business, as approved by lenders, CFO Ajay Goel said on the 29 January call. While the aluminium and base metal businesses will take bulk of the debt, "oil and gas post demerger will practically be debt-free and a very small debt in iron and steel," the CFO said.

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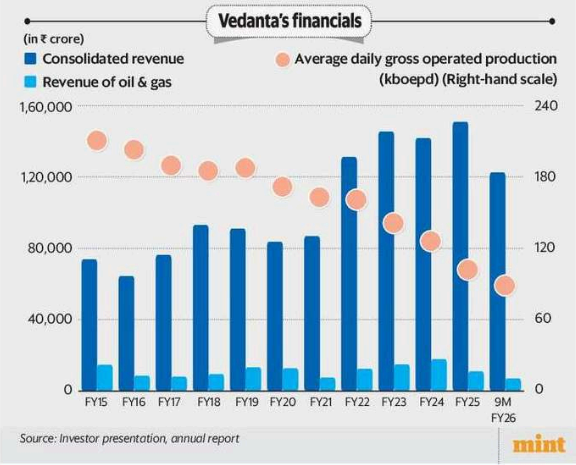
For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.

Output secured

Even if Vedanta's daily production hits the stated target of 150 kboepd tomorrow, the reserves would last for over 25 years.



VERTICAL SUPPORT

VEDANTA'S oil and gas production has more than halved over the past ten years

ITS oil and gas production dropped from 211 kboepd in FY15 to 103.2 kboepd in FY25

THE oil and gas vertical of Vedanta now contributes just 6% of the top line and 9% of Ebitda

BETWEEN FY15 and FY25, the revenue of Vedanta's oil and gas business has shrunk by a quarter

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Talks on India's full IEA membership underway

Rituraj Baruah
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NEW DELHI

Talks on India's full membership of the International Energy Agency (IEA) are underway as part of the efforts to strengthen global energy governance, said the intergovernmental organization.

IEA ministers welcomed progress by countries seeking closer cooperation with the agency, as per an official statement Thursday. Colombia would be the next member country, while Vietnam has joined as an associate country, it said.

"They also welcomed recent developments in discussions with India following the Indian government's request to become a full IEA Member," the statement said.

India first joined the IEA as an associate country in 2017. In February 2024, ministers from the IEA's member countries agreed to start discussions with India on the government's October 2023 request to become a full member.

"In a strong step forward for global energy governance, key countries such as Brazil, Colombia, India and Vietnam are strengthening their ties with the IEA. This puts the IEA family's share of global energy use is at more than 80%, up from less than 40% ten years ago," said IEA executive director Fatih Birol. "With major energy issues high on the international agenda, we stand ready to support governments with the insights they need to plan for the future, helping leaders deliver on their goals of ensuring greater energy security, affordability and sustainability."

India, the world's third-largest crude importer, seeks energy security while pursuing its transition goals

India, world's third-largest crude oil importer, seeks to ensure energy security while pursuing its ambitious energy transition goals. IEA said the ministers noted energy security was integral to national security, while energy transition is key to climate change combat.

The statement comes a day after US Energy secretary Chris Wright had said that the US is not satisfied with the operations of the IEA and sought scaling back efforts to curb climate change, and rather focus on energy security for the US to remain a long-term member of the organization.

"Ministers reaffirmed the IEA's central role in energy security. Its all-fuels and all-technologies approach, grounded in robust energy data and analysis, remains as crucial as ever, including for the shift to more domestically produced, electrified and sustainable energy systems," the statement said.

Birol said the IEA's ministerial meeting was its largest ever.

Spike in Venezuela crude output could stimulate US oil firms

Grant Smith
Nayla Razzouk

Venezuela can bolster oil production by 30-40 per cent this year, an increase of roughly 300,000 to 400,000 barrels a day, according to US Energy Secretary Chris Wright.

There's "enormous" interest among companies seeking to enter the Latin American country, Wright said in an interview in Paris, where he is attending the ministerial meeting of the International Energy Agency. Such a boost would equate to about a third of global oil demand growth this year, he added. The Trump administration recently issued licences allowing a handful of Western oil firms to operate in Venezuela. The US is trying to stimulate the nation's oil industry and revive its economy following the capture of leader Nicolás Maduro earlier this year. The country's oil production has fallen by about half since 2017, when Washington first imposed financial sanctions on the country.

ConocoPhillips has previously said it prefers to recoup the billions it's owed by Venezuela rather than drilling new wells. Wright said that a range of "creative deals" could help resolve the situation, such as converting those debts into equity ownership.

HUGE INTEREST. In Venezuelan oil

Oil prices are trading near a six-month high in London amid concern that President Trump could attack OPEC member Iran to contain its nuclear programme. Prices have also been buoyed by an array of supply disruptions, including the impact of US-led sanctions on Iran and Russia.

Wright said that Trump's pursuit of "energy dominance" — including growing domestic production, and rebuilding alliances in the Middle East and beyond — has freed US foreign policy from some of the concerns over energy prices it has been constrained by in recent decades.

A short-lived "blip" in oil prices during last year's 12-day conflict between Israel and Iran — in which the US attacked Iranian nuclear facilities — is a good illustration of the changed dynamic, he added. BLOOMBERG

Business Standard Sec -II, Delhi, 20/02/2026
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THE COMPASS

Uptick in crude oil prices, expansion to weigh on OMCs

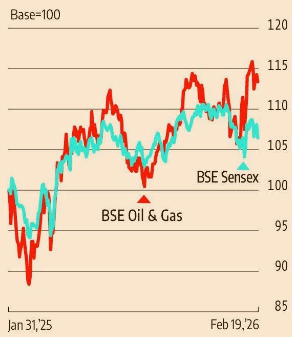
DEVANGSHU DATTA

The Q3FY26 saw crude oil producers like ONGC suffering low crude realisation in the range of \$61-\$62 per barrel. Downstream refiners and oil marketing companies (OMCs) gained and delivered good results in Q3. Commodity advisories indicate crude oil may climb in the short-term and an enforced shift away from discounted Russian crude will also push up costs for Indian refiners.

All the OMC majors are undergoing major capex for expansion projects which could impact debt profiles. Downstream moves into petrochemicals may not be profitable given global oversupply. But OMC marketing margins on diesel and petrol are healthy. Ind-Ra's calculations indicate OMCs earned a gross margin of ₹9-₹10/litre on diesel and ₹11-₹12/litre on petrol during Q3FY26. The marketing operating profit of OMCs is being aided by demand growth. The government is also partially compensating OMCs for LPG under-recoveries. Refinery capacity may reach 310 million metric tonnes (MMT) by FY30-end from 258 mmt currently, given ongoing projects by OMCs. Consumption of petroleum products rose to 181.6 mmt during year-to-date April-December 2025 versus 178.6 mmt between April-December 2024. Brent crude oil prices averaged \$63.7 per barrel during Q3FY26 down from Q2FY26 levels of \$69.1 per barrel and \$74.7 per barrel levels in Q3FY25. But Brent was again above \$70 by February 20, amidst tense Iran-US negotiations and there was a small selloff in OMC stocks.

Geopolitics apart, given slow global economic growth, there is likely to be crude oversupply through CY26. There may be a big surge in oversupply if there is a peace deal in Ukraine and Russian oil is out of sanction. It would also take outright conflict in West Asia to lead to supply disruptions though there is a "tension premium". If an Iran-US deal is reached, prices may drop again, maybe to \$55 levels. Hence, most analysts and commodity traders expect OMCs to continue doing well, though geopolitics remains an overhang.

OMCs reported aggregated operating profit and net profit of ₹39,500 crore and ₹23,740 crore respectively for Q3FY26 – up 91 per cent and 140 per cent respectively (up 13 per cent Q-o-Q and 17 per cent Q-o-Q respectively). Much lower LPG under-recovery of ₹1,940 crore (Q3FY25 loss was ₹11,670 crore) and higher gross refining margins or GRMs drove profits. But rising gas prices implies under-recoveries could rise



again. According to HPCL, LPG under-recoveries went from ₹35/cylinder in Q3FY26 to ₹95 per cylinder in January this year and may rise till ₹120 per cylinder. HPCL's GRM at \$8.85 per barrel was dragged down by a crude contamination incident in the Mumbai refinery. But the Vizag residue upgradation facility (RUF) unit is fully commissioned and may add \$2.5 per barrel to GRMs once it is stabilised in FY27. The Barmer refinery is near complete with first production this month and full capacity by Q1FY27 with petchem integration by FY28.

The gross debt is down 10 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹48,700 crore and standalone debt to equity is at 0.85 times with management saying further deleveraging is a priority. In Q3FY26, HPCL's refining segment recorded inventory loss of ₹540 crore, while marketing recorded an inventory gain of ₹14 crore. The government's LPG subsidy of ₹7,900 crore may offset some LPG losses. The company has received LPG subsidy of ₹1,320 crore as part of ₹7,900 crore compensation, to be disbursed in equal monthly instalments.

BPCL's Q3FY26 operating profit was ₹11,700 crore, up 54 per cent Y-o-Y and 19 per cent Q-o-Q, with strong GRMs, and higher throughput partly offset by subdued marketing margins. There was a marketing inventory loss of ₹500 crore. The GRM was at \$13.3 per barrel, up 130 per cent Y-o-Y and 23 per cent Q-o-Q. The net profit at ₹7,500 crore was up 62 per cent Y-o-Y and 17 per cent Q-o-Q. BPCL received LPG subsidy of ₹1,300 crore, while Q3FY26 LPG under recoveries were ₹470 crore with cumulative LPG under-recoveries of ₹12,900 crore.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) reported GRM at \$12.2 per barrel, up 300 per cent Y-o-Y and 15 per cent Q-o-Q, along with a huge refining inventory gain of \$2.8 per barrel (₹3,600 crore). Crude throughput grew 7 per cent Y-o-Y (over 10 per cent Q-o-Q). Chemical division saw segment loss at ₹360 crore versus loss of ₹159 crore Y-o-Y and positive segment profit of ₹170 crore sequentially. Despite LPG subsidy of ₹2,400 crore, IOCL's cumulative LPG under-recoveries remain at ₹24,300 crore with Q3 under-recovery of ₹1,000 crore. Gross debt at ₹1.16 trillion fell 12 per cent Y-o-Y.

₹491 cr approved for Tripura-Mizo gas pipeline

Mizoram Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister B Lalchhanzova informed the state assembly on Thursday that the Centre has allocated Rs 491 crore for the implementation of the Tripura-Mizoram natural gas pipeline project. The entire 119.5-km project is expected to be completed by December 2027, officials said. PTI

Economic Times, Delhi, 20/02/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 19.90cm × 28.34cm

INDIA'S OIL PURCHASES ENSURE GLOBAL ENERGY SECURITY: RUSSIA

Moscow Claims India-US Understanding on Crude Import Volumes

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

New Delhi: India's oil purchases ensure global energy security, the Russian foreign ministry has affirmed, indicating that New Delhi continues to purchase oil from Moscow.

"India has repeatedly expressed its position to the leaders of this state and in contact with Russian colleagues," Russian foreign ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said.

"Oil purchases are guided exclusively by national interests, taking a sovereign decision based on commercial feasibility," she said on Wednesday evening. "I think that neither we nor you have a reason to believe that India has revised its approach."

There are reports that India will continue to purchase certain volumes of Russian crude rather than halting imports entirely, in an understanding with Washington. India has reduced imports of Russian oil while it negotiates the legal text of the trade deal with the US. India may still maintain minimum Russian crude oil imports of around one million barrels per day. During the Biden administration, the US was of the opinion that Indian Russian oil imports help to maintain global energy stability.

Earlier, New Delhi defended its oil trade with Russia, arguing that its decisions are guided by national interests and the need to ensure energy security for its population of 1.4 billion.

In his X post following the phone call with US President Donald Trump, Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not make any mention of Russian crude purchases.

A joint statement by the US and India on a trade framework also made no mention of Russian oil.

Moscow has no information about India halting purchases of Russian oil, foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said earlier this month. Russia continues to be the largest oil supplier to India, Denis Alipov, Moscow's envoy in New Delhi, has said.

Economic Times, Delhi, 20/02/2026

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India's Spend on Russian Oil Falls to €2B, Half of China's €4B in Jan

Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: India paid €2 billion for Russian crude in January, half of the €4 billion spent by China during the month, according to the Helsinki-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Chinese purchases have climbed 29% over the past two months, while India's have fallen 23%, highlighting how Chinese refiners are absorbing Russian cargoes that Indian buyers are stepping back from.

China's January purchases rose from €3.1 billion in November and €3.6 billion in December. India's spending has declined from €2.6 billion in November. It, however, increased from December's €1.8 billion, likely reflecting firmer average prices even as import volumes fell. Prices are influenced by movements in benchmarks as well as changes in discounts. Brent averaged $66.6 per barrel in January, up from $62.54 in December.

India has been under pressure from the US to curb its oil imports from Russia

India imported fossil fuels worth €2.2 billion in January, including coal and refined oil products. China imported €6 billion of fossil fuels from Russia, including pipeline gas, LNG, coal and refined oil products.

"Imports of Urals grade crude—previously disfavoured by Chinese refiners—doubled in volumes in January 2026," CREA said in its report. Urals is the main Russian crude grade imported by India.

India has been under pressure from the US to curb its oil imports from Russia. After Washington sanctioned Rosneft and Lukoil, Moscow's two largest crude exporters, late last year Indian refiners began cutting Russian imports significantly. US President Donald Trump recently said India had agreed to halt imports of Russian oil, though the Indian side has yet to confirm this.

Economic Times, Delhi, 20/02/2026
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It's Oil About Economic Sense

Sanjeev Choudhary

A decade ago, when a rickshaw-wala learnt I wrote about oil, he waved it away, 'Sab Khaadi se aata hai' — It all comes from the Gulf. For most Indians, crude oil meant West Asia. That was broadly true. The Gulf dominated India's crude basket, and few cared about the details of sourcing. Today, that has changed. Everyone knows Russia supplies a large share of India's oil.

So, over the past year, even well-informed executives outside the energy sector have worried aloud: what happens if US pressure forces India to stop buying Russian crude? To assess that anxiety, it helps to revisit how India's oil map shifted — first with the US shale boom, then with the Ukraine war.

In 2015, the US lifted its crude export ban. Production was surging and Washington was eager to find buyers. Trump 1.0 pressured countries like India and China to buy US oil. India received its first cargo in 2017, and by 2021, the US had become India's 5th-largest supplier.

Then came Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Europe sharply reduced Russian purchases, forcing Moscow to seek new markets. India stepped in, drawn by steep discounts that more than offset higher freight. Russian crude, once negligible in India's mix, rose to as much as 40% of imports.

Another shift had already prepared the ground. The 2014-16 Opec-shale price war triggered a supply glut, giving Indian refiners greater flexibility. State-run refiners reduced reliance on long-term Gulf contracts and tapped cheaper spot barrels. Sourcing became more opportunistic. In the current context, the right question is not 'Is Russian oil good or bad for India?' but 'Who gains, and who loses?'

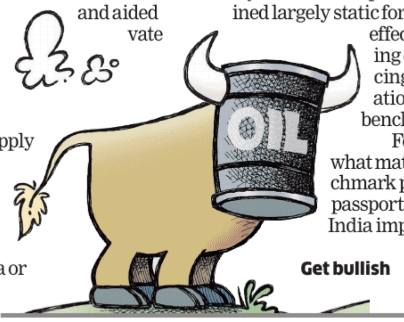
Let's start with refiners. They run complex models factoring in crude costs, refinery constraints and product prices to determine the most profitable mix. They are agnostic about geography but sensitive to compliance risks. Most importantly, refiners care about margins. Discounted Russian barrels widened margins and aided complex private refiners' profitable exports to Europe.

If Russian supply halts, refiners will re-optimise. Oil is fungible, and barrels from the Gulf, Africa or elsewhere can replace Russian crude. So, expect no physical shortage, only margin compression.

For GoI, discounted crude strengthened state refiners' profits and dividends, offering some fiscal comfort. If Russian imports decline or stop, that windfall narrows or disappears. But the macro impact — on the import bill, current account or currency — is likely to be limited.

Much of the rhetoric around diversification — sourcing from 40-plus countries — is political theatre. In reality, the top 5 suppliers account for about 80% of imports. Yet, this concentration is not inherently dangerous. Major producers jealously guard their reputations as reliable suppliers, while a vast network of traders works relentlessly to steer flows to meet demand worldwide.

Now, consider consumers. When India ramped up discounted Russian imports, many expected pump prices to fall. They didn't. Retail prices have remained largely static for around 3 yrs, effectively delinking domestic pricing from fluctuations in global benchmarks.



Get bullish

For consumers, what matters is the benchmark price, not the passport of each barrel India imports. Until there's a sharp rise in Brent, the average driver need not worry. Except for a major geopolitical event, probability of Brent pole-vaulting appears limited in an oversupplied global market.

So, why is cutting Russian imports such a national debate?

In 2018, when the US sanctioned Iran, India protested, but eventually stopped importing Iranian crude. Refiners adjusted. Public debate faded. The difference today is optics. The perception is that Washington is singling out India, linking Russian oil to trade negotiations and tariffs. The issue has shifted from supply economics to sovereignty.

Oil markets have never been fully free. Opec influences output. Sanctions shape flows. Insurance and dollar clearing systems impose constraints. No importer operates in a geopolitical vacuum. Should India treat a halt in Russian oil as a crisis? No. Indian refiners operated for decades without Russian crude. They can do so again.

If India cuts Russian imports under pressure, it shouldn't replace them with uneconomic US cargos. Not all US barrels are uncompetitive despite the distance. But any uneconomic purchases would largely burden state refiners.

The principle should be simple: no barrel — Russian, American or Venezuelan — enters India unless it makes economic sense. That would be energy security in practice.

sanjeev.choudhary@timesofindia.com

Aaj Samaj, Delhi, 20/02/2026

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पाइपलाइन क्षति के बाद थिंक गैस ने तेजी से बहाल की शहर की गैस आपूर्ति

बरनाला। संघेड़ा क्षेत्र में सेंट जोसेफ कॉन्वेंट स्कूल के पास थिंक गैस की एक पाइपलाइन को पानी की बोरिंग के लिए की जा रही खुदाई के दौरान नुकसान पहुंचा। खुदाई के समय लापरवाही बरतने के कारण गैस का रिसाव हुआ। थिंक गैस की इमरजेंसी रेस्पॉन्स टीम ने तुरंत कार्रवाई करते हुए प्रभावित हिस्से को अलग किया और कम समय में ही गैस आपूर्ति बहाल कर दी। इससे लोगों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित हुई और स्थानीय निवासियों को होने वाली असुविधा भी कम रही। थिंक गैस ने बरनाला जिले में घरों के लिए पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) और वाहनों के लिए कंप्रेस्ड नेचुरल गैस (सीएनजी) की आपूर्ति हेतु मजबूत पाइपलाइन नेटवर्क स्थापित किया है। पाइपलाइन मार्ग पर स्पष्ट रूट मार्कर्स, चेतावनी बोर्ड और इमरजेंसी कांटेक्ट बोर्ड्स लगे होने के बावजूद खुदाई करने वाले ठेकेदार ने काम शुरू करने से पहले थिंक गैस को कोई सूचना नहीं दी और न ही घटना के बाद कोई रिपोर्ट सौंपी। सरकारी नियमों के अनुसार, किसी भी तीसरे पक्ष को खुदाई कार्य शुरू करने से पहले नगर निगम या सिटी गैस डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कंपनी को 'डायल बिफोर यू डिग' नंबर के माध्यम से जानकारी देना अनिवार्य है। बिना पूर्व सूचना के हुई इस घटना के बाद थिंक गैस ने संबंधित पक्ष के खिलाफ आधिकारिक शिकायत दर्ज कराई है। वर्तमान कानूनी प्रावधानों के तहत आईपीसी की धारा 285 और 336 के अनुसार इस तरह की अनधिकृत क्षति दंडनीय अपराध है जिसमें 3 साल तक की कैद और 25 करोड़ रुपए तक का जुर्माना हो सकता है। थिंक गैस सभी ठेकेदारों, एजेंसियों और आम नागरिकों से इस सुरक्षा नियम का पालन करने की अपील करता है। किसी भी प्रकार की खुदाई से पहले थिंक गैस से संपर्क करने के लिए टोल-फ्री नंबर 1800-202-2999 पर संपर्क करें।