Business Line, Delhi, 02/06/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 38.39cm × 11.72cm

'After PM's call to limit fossil fuel vehicles, demand up for CNG/EVs'

S Ronendra Singh
New Delhi

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to use alternative modes of transport such as EVs and CNG, the sales of these vehicles have grown sharply. May witnessed sales of around 78,000 units and two-fold growth in EV bookings, said Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.

"After the mandate given by our Prime Minister that we all need to focus more on EVs and CNG vehicles, we are happy to share that we have been focusing on the CNG vehicles, and in May we recorded the highest-ever sales of 78,000 CNG vehicles. In EVs also, the bookings have increased two-fold after the announcement by the PM on May 11, and we are seeing healthy traction of our e-Vitara also," Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, MSIL, told *businessline*.

He said Victoris has become the fastest vehicle to achieve 1 lakh sales in India within nine months of launch. Targeted at Gen Z and youth, 40 per cent of the sales come from them, and 35 per cent of SUV sales come from first-time buyers.

According to Jato Dynamics, before Victoris it was Fronx by Maruti Suzuki that achieved 1 lakh sales in 10 months. Earlier, Tata Punch achieved the milestone in 11 months and Hyundai Grand i10 in 12 months.

"Victoris has been the fastest model to reach 1 lakh sales in just nine months — not just within the SUV segment but across all segments — and it has been certified by Jato Dynamics as well," Banerjee noted.

TWO NEW PLANTS

On the growth of small cars and overall demand, he said the company was constrained by production even after full utilisation of the existing plants, but after the opening up of two new plants — one each in Kharkhoda (Haryana) and Hansalpur (Gujarat) — the company has been able to supply vehicles on time. "We were short of vehicles till March, but as soon as we started getting vehicles from the two new plants, we could sell over to our customers. But still we have pending bookings of 17 days with around 1.5 lakh units," Banerjee noted.

FUEL PRICE HIKE

On fuel price hikes, he said consumers choose Maruti vehicles because they provide better mileage compared to the competitors.

"We are doing well in all our segments, not just a few models...Fuel price hike has an impact on car sales, but we are focusing more on CNG and electric vehicles, and furthermore our fuel efficiency is the best in the industry. So, when the market is tough, the market leader always shows the strength and we are living to it. There is a huge market for small cars, too, because several two-wheeler customers are upgrading to cars, and Indian car penetration is still at 34 per 1,000. So, there is a huge opportunity," Banerjee added.

Mint, Delhi, 02/06/2026
Page No: 14, Size: 29.98cm × 42.55cm

India has reimagined coal usage for the age of net-zero targeting

The Centre's coal gasification plan offers secure energy supply without compromising climate goals

S. MAHENDRA DEV
is chairperson, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India

Images generated by US National Aeronautical Space Agency (Nasa) satellites have been able to conclusively measure changes in the intensity of artificial light at night (Alan)—which bears a direct correlation with human activity and is one of the fundamental indicators of modern societal development. Globally, one of the biggest changes could be seen in India—a direct result of increased urbanization in the southern and western regions of India and increased access to electricity in northern India. This is not surprising; over the last decade, India has provided electricity access to 30 million households that were previously deprived of access; close to 15 million of these households belong to the northern states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand. Today, 99% of Indian households have access to electricity, compared to less than 70% a decade ago.

This electrification push was achieved on the shoulder of India's coal-powered thermal plants—the mainstay of our electricity generation, even though renewable energy sources such as hydroelectric, solar and wind power have evolved from alternative sources into economic necessities and hold over 50% of India's power generation capacity. India has a colossal 400 billion tonnes of coal resources, which gives us roughly 100 years of coal available at our current production capacity. As the world's second-largest producer and consumer of coal with more than 70% of our power dependent on this vital resource, India has a unique strategic position. This also makes it imperative for us to turn this traditionally high emission resource into an enabler of India's 2070 net-zero commitment.

It is in this direction that a national push for coal gasification serves as our dual vehicle to secure our strategic autonomy and at the same time use this vital resource without reneging on our global leadership in climate commitments. The National Coal Gasification Mission intends to convert 100 million tonnes of coal into synthetic gas (syngas) by 2030. A pilot incentive programme of $1 billion was rolled out in 2024. Building on this momentum, the Narendra Modi government has now approved another $4 billion. This will facilitate nearly $30 billion of investment, enable utilization of around 75 million tonnes of coal annually and generate nearly 80 billion cubic metres of syngas every year.

By prioritizing coal gasification, India is moving away from the linear 'extract-and-burn' approach to a highly sustainable, zero-waste coal circular economy. This transition is vital because India currently imports a massive share of the industrial inputs that can be derived from gasification. Commercial scale gasification will also lay down greenfield infrastructure for local chemical manufacturing, further encouraging local industries and self-reliance. We can scale high-value commodities such as methanol, ammonia, green hydrogen, olfins and petrochemicals that feed vital industries and reduce (to eventually eliminate) India's dependence on imports—estimated at a whopping $30 billion. Capturing and utilizing every single chemical byproduct from gasification allows us to build an ironclad shield of energy sovereignty.

The national gasification push also presents India with an opportunity for technological upgradation, innovation and global collaboration. We are focusing on developing gasification models for India's high-ash-content coal. Indian engineers and corporate partners are developing custom gasification systems to handle high-ash coal. As we strive to master this chemical extraction process on a commercial scale, we will also be able to export this high-ash cleantech to other developing countries throughout the Global South facing similar challenges.

This coal gasification initiative needs to be viewed in the larger global context of energy security and energy independence. In January 2025, as critical mineral supply chains were being recognized as the lifelines of modern economies, the government committed about $4 billion dollars to secure the supply of 24 critical minerals. The National Critical Minerals Mission aims to increase the local exploration and mining of these critical minerals, set up mineral processing parks, ramp up recycling efforts and focus on research and sustained scientific excellence in this field.

At the heart of these rapid structural transformations is a 'whole-of-government' approach for creating a lucrative, low-risk greenfield investment ecosystem. Over the past decade, the government has systematically dismantled bureaucratic and financial barriers to make clean-coal conversion highly competitive for private and public capital alike. However, this is not just a single-field effort, but a structural shift across all sectors. India has moved towards transparent governance, structural reforms, technology-driven policymaking and long-term strategic planning across sectors that were once seen as opaque and inefficient.

By using carbon-tapping innovation to transform our vast geological wealth into energy, India is setting a global example of how to achieve energy sovereignty while simultaneously moving forward as a sustainably low-carbon fast-growing economy.

Tribune, Delhi, 02/06/2026

Page No: 9, Size: 22.41cm × 5.11cm

Oil firms suffer ₹650 loss on each domestic LPG refill: Govt

NEW DELHI, JUNE 1

The state-run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are facing significant under-recoveries on the sale of domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), due to rising international energy prices, a senior government official said on Monday.

Speaking during the Inter-ministerial briefing on the West Asia development, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas said the OMCs were currently incurring an under-recovery of approximately Rs 650 per domestic LPG cylinder. The losses have widened as global LPG prices have increased, while domestic retail prices have remained relatively stable. —TNS

OMCs grappling with ₹650 under recovery per domestic LPG cylinder amid geopolitical headwinds

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

State-controlled oil marketing companies (OMCs) are facing an under recovery of around ₹650 per 14.2 kg cylinder of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for domestic consumers.

Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, said, "There is an under recovery of ₹650 per cylinder on domestic LPG."

The current demand for the critical cooking fuel, which is used by more than 33 crore households, is around 72,000 tonnes per day (TPD), lower than the normal demand of around 80,000 TPD, as LPG consumption generally declines during summers.

LPG SUPPLY HIT

"LPG supply continues to be affected by the prevailing geopolitical situation. Supply of LPG to domestic households has been prioritised. No dry-outs have been reported at LPG distributorships. Online LPG cylinder bookings increased to about 99 per cent on an industry basis on Sunday," she added.

There is also a positive development on migrating consumers from LPG to domestic piped natural gas (D-PNG). Since March 2026, about 8.56 lakh PNG connections have been gasified and infrastructure has been created for additional 2.96 lakh connections, taking the total to 11.52 lakh connections.

SEASONAL DIP. The current demand for the critical cooking fuel is around 72,000 tonnes per day, as LPG consumption generally declines during summer REUTERS

Besides, around 8.78 lakh customers have been registered for new connections. As of May 2026, more than 77,800 PNG consumers have surrendered their LPG connections.

The prices of 5 kg FTL (free trade LPG) cylinders has been hiked by ₹11 to ₹821.50 per cylinder in Delhi, effective June 1, 2026.

The government has set up a three-member committee of executive directors of the three PSU OMCs in consultation with States and industry bodies to finalise the plan for the sale of commercial LPG in the States/UTs. During May 2026, a total of 2,09,353 tonnes of commercial LPG was sold, Sharma noted.

Similarly, about 8,382 tonnes of auto LPG was sold by PSU OMCs in May 2026, which is a 170 per cent increase over February 2026.

RECORD OUTPUT

India's production of LPG hit a record 52,000 TPD last week from roughly 46,000 TPD at the beginning of May 2026 as refineries such as Vadinar resumed operations following a maintenance shut down in April 2026.

India's average LPG production had declined to around 46,000-47,000 TPD in the first week of April 2026 compared to 50,000 TPD achieved in the last week of March.

Business Line, Delhi, 02/06/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 25.43cm × 22.33cm

Gujarat Energy's PNG demand jumps 20x with the reopening of Morbi ceramic hub

Avinash Nair
Ahmedabad

India's largest city gas distribution company, Gujarat Energy Ltd (GEL) has reported a dramatic revival in gas demand from India's biggest ceramic cluster at Morbi in Gujarat with consumption jumping more than 20-fold in less than three months between March-May 2026, marking a sharp turnaround for a market where the company had been steadily losing volumes to alternative fuels.

The company — formerly known as Gujarat Gas Ltd — on Monday said the gas consumption from ceramic units in Morbi surged from 0.36 million metric standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) in March to 8 mmscmd by late May. The number of gas-consuming units in Morbi also increased eight-fold, rising from 83 to 710 during this three-month period.

"Morbi ceramic cluster remains our largest partner in the PNG industrial segment. Our successful supply strategy has provided significant support to the ceramic industry in Morbi during the crisis period of March to May 2026. The number of units off taking gas increased from 83 units with gas consumption of 0.36 MMSCMD in March 2026 to 710 units with gas consumption reaching approximately 8 MMSCMD by the last week of May 2026," Avantika Singh Aulakh, Managing Director of the company, told investors.

BACK FROM THE BRINK. The sharp swing in volumes comes against the backdrop of disruption earlier this year M A SRIRAM

The sharp swing in volumes comes against the backdrop of extreme disruption earlier this year, when over 700 ceramic units — accounting for nearly 80 per cent of India's ₹65,000 crore ceramic tile production base in Morbi — were forced to shut operations for close to a month after natural gas supplies ran dry following West Asia-related supply constraints.

DIFFERENT CONTRACTS

With fuel unavailable, the cluster's gas consumption collapsed to just 0.36 MMSCMD by March-end.

Industry sources said that the ceramic units, have increasingly shifted to shorter, month-long contracts with GEL for PNG rather than long-term commitments, reflecting uncertainty around fuel availability.

The price of PNG supplied to Morbi industrial users has also risen from ₹41.6 per scm (standard cubic metres) earlier to ₹75 per scm currently, reflecting tighter supply conditions and higher input costs. In comparison, GEL is supplying PNG at ₹68 per scm to non-Morbi industrial customers.

SHARP TURNAROUND

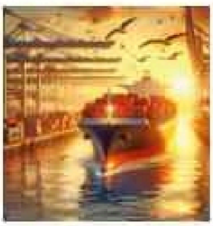
The rebound nevertheless marks a significant relief for GEL, which had been facing pressure to defend market share in a region that accounts for a substantial portion of industrial gas consumption.

The resurgence in Morbi comes amid broader efforts by GEL to deepen natural gas adoption across Gujarat. Between March and May, the company converted 86 residential societies, comprising around 13,000 households, into fully PNG-connected.

Economic Times, Delhi, 02/06/2026
Page No: 6, Size: 10.24cm × 17.57cm

Fuel Duty Cuts Can Power Export Hike

Reductions in export duties on petrol, diesel and jet fuel announced on Sunday should help restore shipments to Europe. Duties were increased to ensure an adequate domestic supply following the war in West Asia. India is a key intermediary in the global oil trade, and its exports should benefit from high crude oil prices and a depreciating rupee. Fuel shortages are forcing the EU and Britain to soften their stance on not importing Russian crude refined in India. Exports to West Asia, the other significant destination for India's refined petroleum products, will struggle till the Hormuz Strait is closed. The higher export value can partly offset disruption in the volume of India's fuel exports as consuming economies start rebuilding reserves of crude oil and refined petroleum.



Resumption of fuel exports underscores India's efforts to diversify its energy sourcing, an effort that gained momentum from Ukraine and Iran wars. The switch to Russian crude and rising supplies from Africa and North and South America lessen India's reliance on its traditional yet politically sensitive suppliers in the Persian Gulf. This should help with the recovery of India's petroleum exports as crude oil supply from West Asia is restored after the Hormuz Strait reopens. Indian refiners have more secure fuel supplies for clients who will be seeking supply chain resilience in a post-conflict oil market.

The other fallout from global energy conflict is India's tilt towards RE to reduce its import vulnerabilities. This, too, should work in favour of fuel exports over a longer term. The country has an ambitious plan to add petroleum refining capacity, which can feed exports if power grid improvements allow better evacuation of installed solar capacity.

Economic Times, Delhi, 02/06/2026

Page No: 10, Size: 28.89cm × 9.34cm

OMCs Stare at Big Losses Despite Recent Price Hikes

Marketing cos are likely to incur losses of up to ₹84,000 cr in the June quarter, may resort to further price rises

Sachin Kumar

ET Intelligence Group: Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have raised petrol and diesel prices four times since May 15, but the spate of increases may not be over yet. Despite a cumulative rise of nearly ₹7.5 per litre, the increase is insufficient to offset the current per litre loss of ₹12 and ₹21 on petrol and diesel respectively. According to industry estimates, OMCs are likely to incur losses of ₹74,000-84,000 crore on petrol and diesel sales in the June 2026 quarter. An under-recovery is the loss an oil company incurs when it sells fuels for less than what it costs to buy and refine crude to produce them.

"OMCs may incur losses of ₹74,486 crore in the June quarter based on prevailing petroleum product prices and auto fuel prices at retail outlets," Nilesh Ghuge, Institutional Research, HDFC Securities, told **ET**. Given the losses incurred by OMCs currently, He expects OMCs to raise fuel prices further to avoid losses.

Higher under-recoveries will result in a sharp erosion in quarterly profitability and book value of the three state-run OMCs including Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. Including LPG (liquefied petroleum gas), gross under-recoveries are likely to be ₹1.1-1.2 lakh crore in the June quarter in the prevailing pricing environment, according to Equirus Securities. LPG under-recoveries are estimated at ₹32,500 crore due to elevated Saudi contract prices and unchanged retail LPG prices.

"If Brent crude sustains above $100 per barrel, an additional retail fuel price increase of ₹5–6 per litre in petrol and diesel would be required to avoid EBITDA pressure," said Maulik Patel, head of research, Equirus Securities. He expects under recoveries of OMCs to reach ₹84,300 crore in June 2026 quarter.

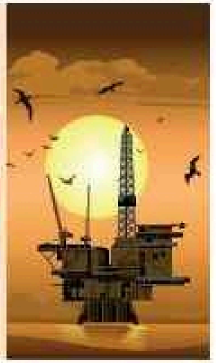
Besides price increases since May 15, the government also lowered excise duty by ₹10 per litre on auto fuels in March. On a positive note, OMCs enter the current tough phase exhibiting balance sheet strength.

Under-Recovery

Financial Performance of Oil Marketing Companies

	Revenue (₹ crore)		Net Profit (₹ crore)	
	FY26	YoY % change	FY26	YoY % change
IOC	8,86,224	4.8	36,802	183.9
BPCL	5,22,668	4.5	23,303	75.5
HPCL	4,78,543	2.6	17,175	133.2

SOURCE: Company data, ETIG



Hindustan Times, Delhi, 02/06/2026
Page No: 14, Size: 14.53cm × 44.37cm

Hindustan Times

Commercial LPG, jet fuel rates revised

Press Trust of India
feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Aviation turbine fuel prices for domestic airlines remained unchanged for a second straight month on Monday, while the rates for international carriers were slashed by 27% in line with easing global benchmarks. At the same time, state-owned fuel retailers raised prices of commercial LPG and market-priced 5-kg cylinders.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for domestic airlines will remain at ₹1,04,927.18 per kilolitre, a level unchanged since April, after oil marketing companies absorbed higher international energy costs to avoid an immediate impact on airfares.

International carriers, which pay market-linked rates, will benefit from a cut of more than $400 per kilolitre, with ATF prices dropping to about $1,100 per kl from $1,511.86 per kl in May, industry sources said. Rates for overseas airlines had more than doubled to $1,435.31 per kl in April amid a spike in global energy prices. In May, prices were raised by $76.55, or 5.33%.

Meanwhile, commercial LPG prices were increased by ₹42 per 19-kg cylinder, taking the rate in Delhi to a record ₹3,113.50 from ₹3,071.50 previously. The increase follows a sharp ₹993 hike effected on May 1.

The higher commercial LPG prices will raise fuel costs for hotels, restaurants and other businesses that rely on the fuel. Prices of 5-kg free-trade LPG cylinders were also raised by ₹11 to ₹821.50 per cylinder.

Household consumers were shielded from the latest increase, with the price of the 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder remaining unchanged at ₹913.

The divergence reflects the government's policy of insulating households from volatility in international LPG markets. While commercial LPG rates are revised monthly in line with global benchmarks, domestic cooking gas prices are administered and supported through subsidies and compensation to state-owned fuel retailers.

The monthly revisions come as international fuel prices ease after recent disruptions in global energy markets pushed costs sharply higher.

At a news briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said state-owned firms were losing ₹30 per litre (₹30,000 per kl) at the current ATF price for domestic carriers.

There was no change in the prices of petrol and diesel after rates went up by about ₹7.50 per litre last month. Petrol currently costs ₹102.12 per litre and diesel ₹95.20 in Delhi.

Household consumers were spared any increase, with the price of the 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder remaining unchanged at ₹913 since early March, when rates were increased by ₹60 per bottle. The revisions are part of the monthly price review undertaken by state-owned oil marketing companies.

Commercial LPG prices were hiked by ₹42 per cylinder, taking the rate in Delhi to a record ₹3,113. SHUTTERSTOCK

Virat Vaibhav, Delhi, 02/06/2026
Page No: 12, Size: 16.25cm × 32.23cm

देशव्यापी एलपीजी संकट के बीच राजकोट मंडल ने रचा इतिहास

मई में सर्वाधिक 2,081 एलपीजी वैगनों की रिकॉर्ड लोडिंग

वैभव न्यूज ■ राजकोट

देशभर में एलपीजी की बढ़ती मांग एवं आपूर्ति संबंधी चुनौतियों के बीच, पश्चिम रेलवे के राजकोट मंडल ने एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि हासिल की है। मंडल ने मई 2026 में अब तक की सर्वाधिक एलपीजी वैगन लोडिंग दर्ज की है। राजकोट मंडल द्वारा केवल एक माह में रिकॉर्ड 2,081 एलपीजी वैगनों की लोडिंग कर राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को मजबूत समर्थन प्रदान किया गया है। राजकोट मंडल के वरिष्ठ मंडल वाणिज्य प्रबंधक सुनील कुमार मीना के अनुसार, इस उपलब्धि ने मंडल के पूर्व के सभी रिकॉर्ड ध्वस्त कर दिए हैं। यह भारतीय रेल की माल परिवहन क्षमता, त्वरित कार्यप्रणाली एवं जनसेवा के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को साबित करता है। मंडल द्वारा इससे पहले अप्रैल 2026 में 1,527 एलपीजी वैगनों की लोडिंग का रिकॉर्ड बनाया गया था, जिसे मई 2026 में पीछे छोड़ते हुए 2,081 वैगनों की ऐतिहासिक लोडिंग दर्ज की गई। यह पिछले रिकॉर्ड की तुलना में लगभग 36.28 प्रतिशत की उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि है। यह रिकॉर्ड लोडिंग राजकोट मंडल के कानालुस स्थित रिलायंस रेलवे टर्मिनल से की गई, जहाँ से एलपीजी रेकों को हरियाणा, उत्तर प्रदेश, दिल्ली, मध्य प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, छत्तीसगढ़ एवं ओडिशा सहित देश के विभिन्न राज्यों के लिए रवाना किया गया। इस त्वरित परिवहन ने देशव्यापी एलपीजी आपूर्ति को सुचारु बनाए रखने में राजकोट मंडल की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका को रेखांकित किया है। इस अवसर पर पश्चिम रेलवे के राजकोट मंडल के मंडल रेल प्रबंधक श्री गिरिराज कुमार मीना ने कहा, ÷देशव्यापी एलपीजी आपूर्ति को सुचारु बनाए रखने में राजकोट मंडल महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहा है। कानालुस स्थित रिलायंस रेलवे टर्मिनल से यह रिकॉर्ड लोडिंग भारतीय रेल की माल परिवहन क्षमता, टीम वर्क एवं बेहतर समन्वय का उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है। राजकोट मंडल द्वारा माल ढुलाई के क्षेत्र में लगातार नई ऊँचाइयाँ प्राप्त की जा रही हैं। आवश्यक वस्तुओं की समयबद्ध एवं सुरक्षित आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित कर राजकोट मंडल राष्ट्र की प्रगति एवं आर्थिक गतिविधियों को गति प्रदान करने में निरंतर अपना महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दे रहा है।