

Rs 1.23 Lakh Crore In 78 Days: Sources On Support To Oil Firms After Iran War

Leh, 9 June : The Centre provided Rs 1.23 lakh crore to oil marketing companies as financial support in the first 78 days since the war started in the Middle East and crude oil prices increased significantly, government sources told NDTV on Tuesday.

This was done to ensure that the prices of petrol and diesel were not increased during the Middle East crisis and that common people were cushioned from its impact, they said, adding that the figure was inclusive of the reduction in excise duty on

According to a senior government representative, despite the price hikes implemented over the past few weeks, state-owned oil companies are still incurring a daily financial loss of approximately Rs 652 crore. A recent report by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (under the Ministry of Petroleum) indicates that the average price of crude oil (Indian basket) remained high, at \$114.48 per barrel in April and \$106.23 per barrel in May.

Even now, the price of crude oil in the international

6.9%.

While releasing the Monetary Policy Statement, the RBI Governor noted that crude oil prices (Indian basket) have averaged \$110 per barrel over the last two months. The impact of high global crude oil prices on retail petrol and diesel prices in India began to be felt in May. Taking all these factors into account, the RBI has projected the CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation rate for the year at 5.1%, which is 50 basis points higher than the earlier estimate.

India imports over 85% of its crude oil requirements and approximately 60% of its LPG from international markets. Of this, about 40% of the crude oil and 90% of the LPG typically reached India via the Strait of Hormuz.

Consequently, petrol and diesel prices in India have already been raised four times since May 15, 2026. On Sunday, state-owned oil companies decided to hike domestic LPG prices by Rs 29.

To mitigate the impact of the crisis in the Middle East, sources said, the Indian government, in collaboration with oil companies, has significantly diversified its LPG import sources, and stocks are now being imported from new markets across the globe. However, this has led to a substantial increase in the cost of LPG imports.

According to the Ministry of Petroleum, even after the price hike on Sunday, oil companies face an under-recovery of Rs 600 to Rs 700 per domestic LPG cylinder. The cost of supplying a single



petrol and diesel.

However, after compensating state-owned oil companies for their losses over those 78 days, the Ministry of Finance determined that extending further financial support to a single sector would not be appropriate, the sources said.

Consequently, the government decided that state-owned oil companies would need to pass on a portion of the rising crude oil and gas costs to consumers. The companies then began raising the prices of petrol, diesel, and LPG starting May 15.

market hovers around \$93-94 per barrel. During this period, international LPG prices have also surged by more than 46%.

On Friday, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra warned, "The global economic situation is deteriorating. Prolonged supply chain disruptions and elevated energy prices are likely to impact both the growth rate and the inflation rate."

Malhotra said India's real GDP growth rate for the current financial year is projected at 6.6%, against the RBI's previous estimate of

Punjab Emerging as India's Next Startup Powerhouse, Says Bhagwant Mann

Chandigarh, 9 June : Punjab is steadily transforming into a vibrant center for entrepreneurship and innovation, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said, asserting that the state is on course to become one of India's leading startup destinations. Highlighting the government's focus on fostering a business-friendly ecosystem, Mann said Punjab is encouraging young entrepreneurs through policy support, skill development initiatives, and improved access to funding opportunities.

He emphasized that startups are playing a crucial role in generating employment and driving economic growth across the state. The Chief Minister noted that efforts are underway to strengthen innovation infrastructure, promote technology-driven enterprises, and create an environment where new businesses can thrive. He also stressed the importance of empowering youth to become job creators rather than job seekers.

According to Mann, Punjab's growing startup ecosystem is attracting investment and opening new avenues in sectors such as technology, agriculture, manufacturing, and services.

The government remains committed to supporting innovators and ensur-



ing that the state emerges as a major hub for entrepreneurship in the coming years. The remarks reflect Punjab's broader push to position itself as a competitive destination for startups, innovation, and sustainable economic development.

"He's my friend, all problems will be sorted out. Don't create unnecessary

stories; they will all fall flat. Yes, he sent his resignation on WhatsApp, but now things have been settled," DK Shivakumar stated.

On Friday night, Shivakumar held a two-hour-long meeting with Ramalinga Reddy following the latter's resignation. The late-night discussions were seen as an effort by the leadership to resolve the emerging political rift. Ramalinga Reddy's resignation on Friday has set out a storm within the new government with more ministers expressing their displeasure over their ministries.

Soon, a second minister in the new government, KH Muniyappa, voiced his dissatisfaction with the ministry he has been allocated. Speaking to , Muniyappa, who has been given Food and Civil Supplies portfolio, said that as the "senior-most" leader he deserved a better portfolio. "I have told the leadership that as a senior-most member of the Cabinet, I should get an important portfolio," Muniyappa told .

'India Is My Second Home': Iranian Engineer Praises Zojila Tunnel Project

Srinagar, 9 June : An Iranian engineer working on the strategically important Zojila Tunnel project has described India as his "second home," highlighting the strong professional and cultural bonds he has developed during his years of work in the country. Speaking about his experience on one of India's most ambitious infrastructure projects, the engineer said he feels deeply connected to the country and its people.

He praised the hospitality extended by local communities and expressed pride in contributing to a project that is expected to significantly improve connectivity in the Himalayan region. The Zojila Tunnel, being constructed between the Kashmir Valley

and the Ladakh region, is designed to provide all-weather road connectivity through the challenging mountain pass. Once completed, the tunnel is expected to reduce travel time, enhance transportation, and strengthen economic and strategic links in the region.

The engineer noted that working alongside Indian colleagues has been both professionally rewarding and personally enriching. He said the collaborative spirit on the project has helped overcome technical and geographical challenges associated with high-altitude construction.

His remarks come as work continues at a rapid pace on the tunnel, which is considered a landmark engineering undertaking and a

key component of India's efforts to improve infrastructure in border and remote areas.

Under the revised setup, the former chief ministers were to receive security from the Bihar Special Armed Police, including house guards, bodyguards, and a pilot vehicle, replacing the earlier Z-plus category cover. The controversy intensified when RJD supporters assembled outside the family's residence after appeals from party leaders, alleging that the security downgrade was politically motivated. Visuals showed workers standing guard at the bungalow, turning the security issue into a major political flashpoint ahead of crucial electoral battles in the

state. The dispute comes amid another ongoing tussle over the government bungalow at 10 Circular Road in Patna, which has been allotted to a state minister.

Rabri Devi has publicly refused to vacate the residence, accusing the government of targeting her family. With opposition leaders accusing the ruling alliance of political vendetta and the government insisting the move is purely administrative, the security controversy has added another layer to Bihar's increasingly heated political landscape.

The operation ended without any arrest as Majithia was reportedly not present at his home when the police teams arrived.

Amid TMC Rift Rumours, Dev and June Maliah Attend Mamata Banerjee's Administrative Meeting

Kolkata, 9 June : In a significant political development amid speculation of internal differences within the Trinamool Congress (TMC), party MPs Dev and June Maliah attended an administrative review meeting chaired by Mamata Banerjee, signaling efforts to project unity within the ruling party. The presence of the two leaders at the high-level government meeting comes against the backdrop of reports suggesting discontent among certain sections of the TMC over organizational and political issues.

Their participation is being viewed as an attempt to dispel speculation of a widening divide within the party ranks. Sources indicated that the meeting focused on development projects, administrative performance, and preparations for upcoming government initiatives across various districts. Senior ministers, legislators, and party representatives were also present during the discussions. Political observers noted that the attendance of Dev and June Maliah carries symbolic significance at a time when opposition parties have sought to highlight alleged factionalism within the TMC.

The ruling party, however, has repeatedly dismissed claims of a major split, maintaining that internal discussions are a normal part of a large political organization. The development is expected to strengthen the leadership's message of cohesion and collective responsibility as the party prepares for future electoral and administrative challenges in the state.

Former Indian Army Chief M. Naravane has downplayed Pakistan's claims of playing a key diplomatic role in ongoing US-Iran negotiations, describing the country as merely a "courier service" rather than a genuine mediator. His remarks come amid Islamabad's efforts to project itself as a bridge between Washington and Tehran during a period of heightened regional tensions.

Speaking in Kolkata, Gen. Naravane asserted that Pakistan's involvement is limited to relaying messages between the two sides and does not amount to meaningful diplomatic engagement. He stressed that true mediation requires influence, trust, and the ability to shape outcomes—qualities he suggested Pakistan lacks in the current context.

The former Army chief also highlighted the close link between national security and economic resilience, emphasizing the need for India to strengthen domestic production and diversify supply chains to withstand global geopolitical shocks. He noted that international crises, including developments in West Asia, can have far-reaching economic consequences.

Naravane's comments come as Pakistan seeks to enhance its international profile through involvement in discussions aimed at easing tensions between the United States and Iran. While some international reports credit Islamabad with facilitating communication channels, the retired Indian Army chief maintained that Pakistan's role should not be overstated.

He concluded by urging policymakers to remain focused on India's long-term strategic interests and adapt to an increasingly volatile global landscape without losing sight of national priorities. Former Indian Army chief, General (Retired) MM Naravane, on Saturday said that Pakistan is hardly an interlocutor and is merely

acting as a "courier service" amid its attempts to position itself as a mediator between the United States and Iran.

His remarks come at a time when Pakistan has been trying continuously to project itself as a mediator in the US-Iran war and had facilitated interactions between the two countries a few months ago.

Speaking to reporters, Gen (Retd) Naravane said, "There is no question of anybody being overlooked or not overlooked. And Pakistan is hardly an interlocutor; they are just a courier service." Commenting on the Iran-US conflict and its potential impact on global trade and security, Gen Naravane said that national security and economic security are closely interconnected.

"National security has always been linked to economic security. In fact, it is the economy that drives everything else. Therefore, our effort has always been to be self-sufficient and self-reliant, of course within the context of global trade. It is not possible to completely isolate ourselves from the shocks that occur across the world.

Howrah Infiltration Case Triggers Political Storm, Police Probe Widens

Kolkata, 9 June : The arrest of a Bangladeshi couple allegedly residing illegally in Howrah for more than a decade has sparked a major political controversy in West Bengal, with investigators now probing how the duo allegedly obtained multiple Indian identity documents and integrated themselves into local civic systems. According to police, the couple had reportedly been living in the Jagacha area of Howrah for nearly 14 years after allegedly entering India through illegal channels. Investigators claim they secured documents such as Aadhaar cards, voter IDs, ration cards, PAN cards and even passports using forged credentials, raising serious questions about administrative lapses and possible local support networks.

The case has now expanded beyond illegal immigration, with authorities examining whether middlemen or organized groups facilitated the procurement of official documents. Political parties have seized on the issue, accusing each other of failing to curb infiltration and protect the integrity of voter rolls. Police officials say the investigation is focused on identifying all individuals involved in helping the couple establish a long-term presence in the district.

The arrests have renewed debate over border security, verification of identity documents, and the detection of undocumented migrants in the state. As the probe deepens, authorities are expected to scrutinize document issuance records and possible links to broader networks operating across the border, making the Howrah case one of the most closely watched immigration investigations in recent months.

The minister's remarks are expected to reignite the debate over administrative reorganization in North Bengal. While supporters believe district status would accelerate development and improve public services, the proposal is likely to trigger political discussions between the Centre and the state government over jurisdiction, governance priorities, and regional planning. As demands for greater administrative autonomy gain momentum, Siliguri's strategic location and economic importance are once again at the center of a debate that could shape the future of North Bengal's governance landscape.

Officials said the goal is to minimize damage to life and property through early intervention and coordinated disaster management efforts. As monsoon clouds gather over eastern India, the state administration has urged residents to remain alert, follow official advisories, and report any signs of flooding, embankment breaches, or landslides to local authorities without delay. The state irrigation department will activate its flood control room for north Bengal on Monday, ahead of the onset of the southwest monsoon in the region.

"The flood control room will be activated in Jalpaiguri on June 1 and stay operational till October 31," an irrigation department official said. "Besides collecting its own data, the department will compile and disseminate weather and rainfall updates from the India Meteorological Department, the Central Water Commission, the Teesta Barrage authorities and Bhutan sources," the official said.

Although monsoon has yet to set in, north Bengal has received between 25 and 28 per cent of its average annual rainfall between January 1 and May 31 due to multiple low-pressure systems. According to departmental sources, rainfall between January 1 and May 31 stood at 810mm in and around Jalpaiguri town, 820mm in Malbazar, 751.54mm in Maynaguri, 646mm in Mathabhangga, 704mm in Siliguri, 1,013mm in Alipurduar, 754mm in Cooch Behar, 797mm in Tufanganj and 691mm in Gajoldoba. Banarhat in Jalpaiguri district clocked the highest rainfall, 1,552mm.

As the southwest monsoon approaches, the West Bengal government has stepped up its disaster preparedness measures by establishing a 24x7 flood control centre in North Bengal. The move aims to ensure swift monitoring, coordination and response to potential flood situations across the region, which is particularly vulnerable to heavy rainfall and overflowing rivers during the monsoon season. The control centre will function round the clock, tracking weather forecasts, river water levels, embankment conditions and rainfall data from various districts.

Monsoon Advances Into North Bengal and Northeast, Heavy Rain Alert Issued Till June 13

Kolkata, 9 June : The southwest monsoon has advanced into North Bengal and large parts of the Northeast, bringing widespread rainfall and offering relief from soaring temperatures. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall across several districts and northeastern states through June 13.

According to weather officials, favorable atmospheric conditions have accelerated the monsoon's progress, leading to increased rainfall activity in the Himalayan foothills and adjoining plains. Districts in North Bengal are expected to experience intermittent downpours, thunderstorms, and gusty winds over the coming days. The IMD has warned of possible waterlogging in low-lying areas, localized flooding, and disruptions to transport services, particularly in regions vulnerable to landslides and overflowing rivers.

Residents have been advised to remain cautious and follow weather advisories issued by local authorities. Agriculture experts have welcomed the timely arrival of the monsoon, noting that the rainfall could benefit sowing activities and improve soil moisture levels ahead of the kharif cultivation season. With rain intensity expected to remain high until June 13, disaster management

teams and district administrations have been placed on alert to respond swiftly to any weather-related emergencies.

The current rebellion in Trinamool is seen as more of a revolt against Abhishek Banerjee than Mamata Banerjee per se. At a meeting soon after the Assembly election loss, Mamata Banerjee reportedly asked leaders to applaud her nephew's role in elections. The move, sources said, angered many as they saw Abhishek Banerjee's style of functioning as the main reason for party's unpopularity. That was the first trigger. From that point on, cracks began to appear in the Trinamool legislative party. At another meeting held at Kalighat on May 19, "rebel" leaders Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha openly voiced their dissent for the first time.

In other major appointments, Senior leader Chandrima Bhat-tacharya has been elevated as the new state president, signaling a generational and organisational reset. Subrata Bakshi continues as vice-president in National Working Committee.

New faces have been brought in all the party wings. Sajda Ahmed, Mamata Thakur, Nayana Bandyopadhyay and Swati Khandekar have been appointed vice presidents of West Bengal Pradesh Trinamool Congress.

MP Saayoni Ghosh will continue to head the Trinamool's youth wing.

Mamata Banerjee has allocated responsibilities to her loyalists and old timers, who are still sticking with 'didi' amid fierce revolt in the party. On Friday, TMC MLA Kunal Ghosh snapped at the "rebels" saying that they are breaking away under "administrative pressure".

"It has barely been a month. Even the election ink on their (rebels) fingers has not faded, and BJP has not even allocated portfolios to its ministers, and they are doing this," he said. "They won because of Mamata Banerjee's name. Their actions speak volumes about their character. But the party workers are still with us".

The NIA has expressed confidence that the former legislator will be traced soon. The latest development marks a major escalation in the Bhargar blast investigation, which has already led to multiple arrests and seizures of documents, electronic devices, and other evidence. With Molla now officially declared absconding, the case is expected to intensify political and legal pressure on the ruling Trinamool Congress ahead of the next phase of the probe.

Officials stressed that unauthorized structures posed safety concerns and hindered planned development projects around the busy transport

Emergency Nos.

Airlines
Air India : 2211-6869 Dum Dum airport : 2511-8787

Railway
Howrah Station Old Complex : 2638-7412 New Complex : 2638 2217 Sealdah Station : 2350 3535/3537 Reservation : 139, Women Security : 182

Emergency Services
Lalbaraz Police Control Room : 2214-3230 Bengal Police : 2214 3230 South 24 Parganas Police : 2479 1870 Fire Brigade: 2252 6666 Bhabani Bhavan : 2479 1761 Missing : 2450-6100

Night Medicine, Oxygen
Life Care : 2475 4628 Nandan Medical : 2358 1723 Jivandwip : 2455 0962 South Kolkata Bureau : 2484 4322.

Nurses / Nurse Assistant
South Kolkata Nurses : 2484 4322 City Point : 2567 4113 Janakalyan : 2867 5012 Health Care : 2416 4675 Alo : 2472 1039 Sister: 2442 6385 Loknath : 2372 2763 Life Care : 2578 8720 Nivedita : 2284 7810 Anandamoyee : 2464 7294 Relief : 2289 7362 Care : 2334 7068 Sanjibani : 2360 7881 Trend Nurses : 2554 2757 Nurses Association : 2241 682

Ambulance
Garpar Srijan : 2354 5847 South and Polyclinic : 2466 2433 Life Care : 2475 4628 Okhard : 2475 4320 Diganta : 2474 5455 Sisir Kumar Institute : 2533 0382 Rani Rashmoni Mission : 2431 9885 Janmangal : 2466 2879 Medical Bank : 2554 0084 Alipore Chetla Basti Unnayan : 2449 0286 Meera Seva : 2411 8316 Matri Sangha Janakalyan Ashram : 2475 4527 Dr. Bidhan Roy Memorial : 2574 9738 Kumartuli Institution : 2530 5561 Taltala People : 2265 3239 MAR Care : 2320 3181

Blood Bank
Central Blood Bank : 2351 0619 Peoples Blood Bank : 2455 5164 Lions : 2248 5780 Life Care : 2284 6940 Ashok Lab : 2472 0333 Hemophilia Society : 2426 3739 Ramkrishna Seva Pratishthan : 2475 3636-9

Hospital
SSKM : 2204 1100 Vision Hospital : (033) 71-222-000 R N Tagore : 2436 4000 Thakurpukur Cancer Research : 2453 2781 CMRI : 2456 7700 NRS : 2265 3214 Ram Krishna Mission Seva Pratishthan : 2475 3636 National Medical College : 2289 7122 R G Kar : 2555 7675 Shambhunath Pandit : 2302 2800 Nitangle : 2282 7462 Peerless : 2462 2394 Priyambada Birla Aravind Eye : 2289 4433 Ruby General : 3987 1800 B M Birla : 2456 7890 Renaissance : 4014 4014 Medical College : 2241 4901 Matribhavan : 2464 4189 Kalpataru : 2562 2280 West Bank : 2644 5516 Bangur : 2473 3354 Balananda Brahmachari : 2478 7801 Sushrut : 2358 0201 Apollo Glanigles : 2320 2122 Eye Care : 2287 2809 North City : 2321 1101 B P Poddar : 2445 8901 Barasat Cancer Research : 2552 2222 Escag Sanjiboni : 2554 1818 Medi Rehab : 2281 7881 Vinayak Health World : 2532 9950 Dafodil : 2534 6649 Mission Hospital, Durgapur : (0343) 2535 555

Nursing Home
EEDF : 2473 3601 Speed Edge : 2534 3170 Repose : 2287 1442 Mind Care : 2534 6220 Belle View : 2287 2321 New Life : 2570 8090 Woodlands : 2456 7079 Capital : 2350 7272 Ekbulpore : 2449 5151 Medica ENT : 2426 4901-03 Dr. Nihar Munshi Eye Foundation : 2461 8733

Dead body Carriage
Hindu Satkar : 2241 3849 New Alipore Suruchi Sangha : 2400-9950 Garpar Srijan : 2354 5847 Park Circus Puja : 2287 1793 Sarkar Bagan. : 2554 1881 Baranagar Karmisangha : 2558 7526 Meera : 2411 8316 Rajib Memorial : 2454 9550 Lake Town Committe : 2521 9578 Kumartuli Institute : 2530 5561 Sribhumi Sporting : 534 0002 Udayer Pathe : 3250 1089

Burning Ghat
Keoratala : 2466 6602 Sirti : 2403 2013 Kashipore R K Mahasana : 2558 3484 Kashi Mitra : 2554 2967 Nimtala : 2269 1955