

Govt to review petrol pump licensing norms

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The government is considering further easing the norms for setting up petrol pumps in the world's fastest-growing fuel market, in light of the evolving energy security paradigm and commitment to decarbonisation, according to an official order.

The government had in 2019 relaxed the norms for setting up petrol pumps, opening the door for non-oil companies to enter the fuel retailing business.

At that time, companies with a net worth of Rs 250 crore were permitted to sell petrol and diesel, provided they committed to setting up infrastructure for at least one new-generation alternative fuel, such as CNG, LNG, biofuels, or EV charging, within three years of beginning their operations. For companies wanting to sell petrol and diesel to retail and bulk consumers, the networth criteria was set at Rs 500 crore.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has now con-



stituted an expert committee to review the 2019 guidelines for granting authorisation to market transportation fuels.

The expert committee will "assess the effectiveness of the framework envisaged in Resolution dated November 8, 2019, in ensuring energy security and market efficiency; align the policy framework with national commitment towards decarbonisation, electrical mobility and promotion of alternative fuel; and address issues in implementation of existing guidelines," the order said.

The committee is headed by Sukhmal Jain, former direc-

tor (marketing) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL). Other members of the four-member committee are Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) Director General P Manoj Kumar, FIPI member PS Ravi and Arun Kumar, Director (Marketing) in the ministry. An August 6 notice of the ministry sought stakeholder/general public comments/suggestions on the matter within 14 days.

Prior to the 2019 change, to obtain a fuel retailing license in India, a company had to invest or commit to invest Rs 2,000 crore in either hydro-

carbon exploration and production, refining, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals.

This norm was relaxed in 2019. That year, the government allowed any entity with a net worth of Rs 250 crore to get a licence to retail petrol and diesel to either bulk or retail consumers. For those seeking authorisation for both retail and bulk, the minimum networth was set at Rs 500 crore at the time of application.

For retail authorisation, the entities are required to set up at least 100 retail outlets. Also, retailers are required to establish 5 per cent of the total outlets in rural areas within five years.

Global energy giants have been eyeing the Indian fuel market for a long time.

French energy giant TotalEnergies, in partnership with Adani Group, had in November 2018 applied for a licence to retail petrol and diesel through 1,500 outlets. BP too has formed a partner-

ship with Reliance Industries to set up petrol pumps.

While oil trader Trafigura's downstream arm, Puma Energy, had applied for a license, Saudi Arabia's Aramco has been in talks to enter the sector.

State-owned oil marketing companies Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) currently own most of the 97,804 petrol pumps in the country. Reliance Industries, Nayara Energy (formerly Essar Oil), and Royal Dutch Shell are the private players in the market, but with limited presence.

The joint venture of Reliance, which operates the world's largest oil refining complex, and BP has 1,991 outlets. Nayara has 6,763 pumps, while Shell has just 355. Currently, IOC is the market leader with 40,666 petrol pumps in the country, followed by BPCL with 23,959 outlets, and HPL with 23,901 fuel stations.

Air India to upgrade avionics, critical components of Dreamliners to reduce operational issues



STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Air India on Sunday said it will upgrade the avionics and other critical components of its 26 legacy B787-8 Dreamliner aircraft to reduce operational disruptions as well as improve overall reliability.

In recent times, the airline has faced operational issues with some of its planes, including the

Dreamliner. Air India's Dreamliners -- 26 legacy 787-8s and seven 787-9s -- had undergone checks, including that of fuel switches, after the fatal crash of a London Gatwick-bound 787-8 plane soon after take off from Ahmedabad that killed 260 people on June 12.

Under the USD 400 million fleet retrofit programme announced in December 2022, the Tata Group-owned airline has now started the retrofit of the first legacy Dreamliner, which was flown to a Boeing facility in Victorville, California in July 2025. "A second aircraft is scheduled to depart for the same facility in October 2025, with both expected to return to service in December 2025," the carrier said in a statement on Sunday. As part of a Reliability Enhancement Programme, the airline said it will be upgrading the avionics and other critical components of the 26 legacy B787-8 aircraft up to the latest industry standards, thus improving their reliability. "The programme entails the analysis of maintenance and configuration records for these aircraft, followed by the implementation of recommended modifications based on Boeing's service informa-

tion bulletins. "This is intended to reduce operational disruptions for both Air India and its customers," the statement said. Additionally, the airline said seven of the 26 B787-8s will undergo heavy, scheduled maintenance (D-checks) at Victorville, ensuring the fleet's long-term operational excellence.

The retrofit of the legacy Dreamliners is expected to be completed by mid-2027 and the retrofitted planes will have a three-class configuration -- Business, Premium Economy and Economy Class seats.

"Starting in early 2027, Air India will additionally retrofit 13 of its legacy Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, aiming for completion by October 2028, with the timeline having shifted due to supply chain delays," the statement said. Air India has around 190 narrow-body and wide-body planes.

The airline's retrofit programme for 27 legacy A320neo aircraft that commenced last September is expected to be completed in September this year.

So far, 16 A320neo aircraft have been retrofitted.

Air India has also decided to retrofit its 13 legacy A321ceo planes that were earlier planned to be taken out of service.

India's rise as global power evident from defence, economic achievements: Arunachal BJP

STATE TIMES NEWS
ITANAGAR: BJP's Arunachal Pradesh unit general secretary Tadar Niglar on Sunday said that India's rise as a global power under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership is evident in its defence, agriculture, and economic achievements.

Speaking at the launch of the party's week-long Independence Day celebrations with tree plantation at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) headquarters here, Niglar cited Operation Sindoor, the development of next-generation BrahMos missiles under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' programme, and the IMF's revised GDP growth forecast at 6.4 per cent for FY'26 and FY'27.

He asserted that even the recently imposed 50 per cent US tariff will not dent India's growth, describing the country's progress as a "testament to resilience since Independence and part of Modi's vision for a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, a party communiqué said.

Led by state secretary-cum-convenor Lori Mugli, the launch event saw participation from ITBP jawans, state office-bearers, newly appointed morcha heads, and IMC corporators.

As part of the celebrations, the BJP will organise the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign from August 11 to 14, conduct cleanliness drives at historic sites, and hold a Tiranga Yatra bike rally to honour soldiers and martyrs.

the adjoining Kullu district on Sunday, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC).

So far, 112 people have died in rain-related incidents this monsoon, while 37 remain missing. In addition, 145 power transformers and 520 water supply schemes have been affected, the SEOC said.

Since the onset of the monsoon on June 20, Himachal Pradesh has reported losses amounting to Rs 1,988 crore. The state has witnessed 58 flash floods, 30 cloud-bursts, and 53 major landslides so far.

During the ongoing monsoon season, the state has received 507.3 mm of rainfall against a normal of 445.5 mm - an excess of 11 per cent from June 1 to August 10, the MeT office said.

Orange warning for heavy rain in Himachal; 360 roads closed



STATE TIMES NEWS
SHIMLA: The MeT office on Sunday issued an orange warning for heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places in Himachal Pradesh for four days, from Monday to Thursday.

According to the MeT Centre in Shimla, light to

moderate rainfall continued to lash parts of the state.

Kangra received 68.4 mm of rain since Saturday night, followed by Murari Devi (52.6 mm), Palampur (52 mm), Sarahan (25 mm), Jubbarhatti (17 mm), Dharamshala (16.8 mm),

Pandoh and Bajura (11.5 mm each), Kufri (11.2 mm), Bilaspur (10.4 mm), and Kasauli (10 mm).

A total of 360 roads, including the Aut-Sainj road, part of NH-305, were closed for vehicular traffic. Of these, 214 were blocked in Mandi district and 92 in

Sanatan teaches love and non-violence: Digvijaya

STATE TIMES NEWS
GWLAIOR: Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Sunday said Sanatan Dharma teaches love and non-violence while assuring equal rights for all citizens under the Constitution.

Addressing an event, he said India and Sanatan Dharma follow a tradition that anyone born in this land is entitled to all rights.

"Sanatan Dharma has followed the path of love, truth, and non-violence, and based on these principles, the Constitution has given equal rights to every citizen. Christianity, Islam and



many other faiths came here," he added.

"There were political wars but no religious wars in this country. This is the tradition and history of India, as Swami Vivekananda also said," said the former chief

minister of Madhya Pradesh.

He said that when India became independent, Mahatma Gandhi had advised the Congress to focus on constructive work.

"Sanatan Dharma is based on the principle of live and let live. These are India's values. Unfortunately, religion is being used as a political weapon across the country," he said.

When religion is used to seize power, it is "adharna", he said, adding that hatred is being spread in the name of religion.

"There is a difference

between religion and religious bigotry. While religion shows the path of humanity, bigotry teaches hatred. Harmony is the only way to keep the country united," the Rajya Sabha member added.

He said Mahatma Gandhi devoted his life to the freedom struggle and achieved independence through truth and non-violence.

"On the day the country attained freedom, Gandhi was not in Delhi but in Noakhali, trying to persuade Hindus and Muslims to maintain peace during riots," Singh added.

Govt to extend full support for treatment of serious ailments: UP CM

STATE TIMES NEWS
GORAKHPUR (UP): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday assured that the state government would provide full financial assistance for the treatment of serious illnesses.

According to an official statement, the chief minister made the remarks while interacting with people seeking aid for critical medical treatment during the Janata Darshan at the Gorakhnath temple.

He urged them to get treated at the best hospitals without worry, stating that the government would bear the entire cost of treatment.



Adityanath directed officials to expedite the preparation of medical estimates for those in need and send them to the government so that adequate funds could be released from the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund.

During the Janata Darshan, held at

the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan auditorium, the chief minister met nearly 200 people, listening to their grievances one by one and handing over their applications to officials for prompt redressal.

He instructed officials to resolve public grievances with seriousness and sensitivity, ensuring timely and satisfactory solutions so that no one faces unnecessary hardship.

In cases related to land grabbing or intimidation, the chief minister directed strict legal action.

Responding to a woman's request, he also directed officials to allot her a land lease.

New India roars like a lion, says Union minister; hails role of indigenous weapons in Op Sindoor

STATE TIMES NEWS
INDORE: New India roars like a lion and looks straight into the eyes of the most powerful leaders and talks, Union minister Sanjay Seth said on Sunday while hailing Operation Sindoor for bringing Pakistan to its knees in 22 minutes.

He also said Operation Sindoor was a big win for indigenous weapons and that its impact has resonated across the world.

Operation Sindoor, which was launched on May 7 to

avenge the horrific April 22 Pahalgam attack that saw terrorists gunning down 26 persons, resulted in massive damage to terror infrastructure in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Pakistan. Pakistan's counter-attack caused no impact and the two nations decided to cease hostilities on May 10.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told the nation from Bihar's sacred land that terrorists who harm our daughters

will be reduced to ashes. During Operation Sindoor, our valiant soldiers brought Pakistan to its knees in just 22 minutes," the Union minister of state for defence told reporters.

Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) surrendered before his Indian counterpart after the operation, he added.

"Operation Sindoor is a big victory for India. It is a big win for our indigenous weapons. I salute the Indian Army," said Seth.

Addressing a gathering as part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, during which he planted saplings at Pitru Parvat, Seth said Operation Sindoor's impact resonated across the world.

"New India roars like a lion. New India looks straight into the eyes of the most powerful world leaders and talks," Seth asserted.

Madhya Pradesh minister Kailash Vijayvargiya also attended the sapling plantation programme.

NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY

ELIMINATE STH: INVEST IN A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN

All children and adolescents aged 1-19 years will be dewormed free of cost in Schools/ Anganwari Centres on



11th AUGUST 2025

Mop up Day
18th August 2025



Wash your hands with soap, especially before eating and after using the toilet.



Drink clean water



Deworming with Albendazole

Do not defecate in the open Always use a toilet



Wash fruits and vegetables with clean water



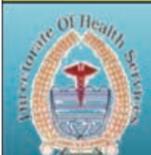
Keep nails clean and short



Wear Footwears



DIP/J-4495/25



Health Education Bureau

Directorate of Health Services Jammu

