

# Modi to launch projects in Odisha, Assam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
 NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Odisha and Assam on February 3-4 to lay the foundation stone of multiple infrastructure and connectivity projects. On Saturday, the PM will dedicate to the nation projects worth over ₹68,000 crore during a public programme in Sambalpur, Odisha before travelling to Assam on Sunday to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various development initiatives worth more than ₹11,000 crore during a public programme in Guwahati.

In Sambalpur, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the 'Dhamra — Angul Pipeline Section' (412 Km) of the 'Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline Project (JHBDPL)'. Built at a cost of

more than ₹2,450 crore under the 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga', the project will connect Odisha with the National Gas Grid.

He will also lay the foundation stone of 'Nagpur Jharsuguda Natural Gas Pipeline Section' (692 Km)' of the Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda Pipeline. The project to be developed at a cost of more than ₹2,660 crore will improve the availability of natural gas to states like Odisha, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

During the programme, PM Modi will also dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of multiple power projects worth about 28,980 crore. He will lay the foundation stone of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) Talabira Thermal power project worth more than 27000 crore. Strengthening the PM's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat,



File Photo

this state-of-the-art project will provide reliable, affordable and round-the-clock power contributing significantly to the nation's energy security and playing a vital role in the country's economic growth and prosperity. The prime minister will also inaugurate coal infrastructure projects of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited including

First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects — Bhubaneswari Phase-I in Talcher Coalfields in Angul district and Lajkura Rapid Loading System (RLS). Further, Prime Minister will dedicate to nation and lay the foundation stone of railway projects worth about ₹2146 crore. He will lay the foundation stone for redevelopment

of Sambalpur Railway Station, whose architecture is inspired from the Sailashree Palace. He will also dedicate the Sambalpur-Talcher Doubling Railway Line (168 Kms) and Jhartarbha to Sonepur New Railway line (21.7 kms), enhancing the rail network capacity in the region. Prime Minister will also flag off Puri-Sonepur-Puri Weekly Express, which will improve connectivity for the rail passengers in the region.

In Guwahati, the PM will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of projects worth ₹11,000 crore.

Providing world-class amenities to people visiting pilgrim sites has been a key focus area of the PM. In yet another step in this endeavour, one of the key projects for which the foundation stone will be laid by him includes Maa Kamakhya Divya Pariyojana

(Maa Kamakhya Access Corridor), which has been sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE) scheme. It will provide world-class amenities to pilgrims visiting the Kamakhya temple. Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of multiple road upgradation projects worth over ₹3,400 crore, under which 43 roads including 38 bridges will be upgraded as part of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Corridor Connectivity.

Prime Minister will inaugurate two 4-laning projects, namely Dolabari to Jamuguri and Biswanath Chariali to Gohpur. These projects will help improve the connectivity to Itanagar and boost the overall economic development of the region.



## Modi to visit Odisha, Assam over weekend

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will travel to Odisha and Assam over the weekend to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of various projects.

He will be in Odisha Saturday to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of infrastructure projects worth over Rs 68,000 crore in Sambalpur, a PMO statement said. The next day, he will unveil and lay the foundation stones of various development initiatives worth over Rs 11,000 crore in Guwahati.

The initiatives include upgrading Nehru stadium in Guwahati as a FIFA-standard football stadium to harness the "tremendous sports potential of the region" and laying the foundation stone for Maa Kamakhya Divya Pariyojana (Maa Kamakhya Access Corridor) in a continued emphasis on amenities in pilgrimage sites under the Development Initiative for North Eastern Region.



# PM to unveil ₹68K-cr Odisha projects today

## *Launch Assam infra works Sunday*

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 2

On a two-state tour over this weekend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch development projects worth ₹68,000 crores in Odisha on February 3 and projects worth ₹11,000 crores in Assam on February 4.

In Sambalpur, Odisha, the Prime Minister on Saturday will lay the foundation stone for several projects aimed at boosting the country's energy security. Among the projects to be inaugurated are the 412 km Dhamra-Angul pipeline section of the Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra project built at a



Narendra Modi

■ **IN SAMBALPUR**, Odisha, the Prime Minister on Saturday will lay the foundation stone for projects aimed at boosting the country's energy security

cost of over ₹2,450 crores under the "Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga". The project will connect Odisha with the national gas grid.

The Prime Minister will

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# PM to unveil ₹68K-cr Odisha projects today

■ Continued from Page 1

also lay the foundation stone for the 692 km Nagpur-Jharsuguda natural gas pipeline section of the Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda pipeline. The project, which will be developed at a cost of more than ₹2,660 crores, will improve the natural gas availability in states like Odisha, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Mr Modi will also lay the foundation stone for Neyveli Lignite Corporation's (NLC) Talabira thermal power project worth more than ₹27,000 crores.

"This state-of-the-art project will provide reliable, affordable and round-the-clock power, contributing significantly to the nation's energy security and playing a vital role in the country's economic growth and prosperity," the PMO said, adding that several road and rail sector projects will also be launched.

During the visit, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the permanent campus of IIM Sambalpur. He will lay the foundation stone for railway projects worth about ₹2,146 crores.

In Assam, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of the Maa Kamakhya access corridor, which has been sanctioned under his development initia-

tive for the north-eastern region (PM-DevINE).

The PMO statement said the project, once completed, will provide world-class amenities to pilgrims visiting the famous Kamakhya temple.

In Guwahati, Mr Modi will also lay the foundation stone for multiple road projects worth over ₹3,400 crores, under which 43 roads, including 38 bridges, will be upgraded as part of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) corridor connectivity.

The Prime Minister will inaugurate two 4-laning projects, namely Dolabari to Jamuguri and Biswanath Chariali to Gohpur. These projects will help improve connectivity with Itanagar and boost the overall economic development of the region, the PMO statement said.

Mr Modi will also inaugurate several initiatives to boost sports infrastructure in the state, including an international-standard sports stadium in Chandrapur and the upgrade of the Nehru stadium as a FIFA-standard football stadium.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for the development of the infrastructure at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital. And also lay the foundation stone for the development of a medical college at Karimganj.



# PM to unveil ₹68K cr projects in Odisha today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sambalpur where he would unveil infrastructure projects worth a whopping ₹68,000 crore on Saturday has charged the pre-election atmosphere as he is also slated to address a rally in the western Odisha town, kickstarting the BJP's campaign in the state.

This will be the Prime Minister's first political rally in the country before the elections and after the Centre presented

the interim budget in Parliament. His visit to the town also has political significance as it is speculated that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is likely to contest the next election from Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituency.

The PM had last addressed a political rally in the state at Kendrapara on April 23, 2019 during the fourth phase of elections. Sources said the Modi' speech at the public meeting will set the tone for BJP's approach to the ensuing elections in Odisha.

Besides addressing a public meeting at Remed, he will also inaugurate and lay foundation for multiple projects worth ₹68,000 crore during his visit to Sambalpur. The Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation and lay foundation of power projects worth around ₹28,980 crore to boost energy sector. He will also lay the foundation of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC)'s thermal power project worth more than ₹27,000 crore at Talabira.

Other major projects to be launched by the PM include the 412 km long 'Dhamra-Angul pipeline section of Jagdishpur-



Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline project (JHB-DPL). Modi also will inaugurate coal infrastructure projects of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited including First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects - Bhubaneswari Phase-I in Talcher Coalfields in Angul district and Lajkura Rapid Loading System (RLS) built at a cost of around ₹2,145

crore. Pradhan who has been camping at Sambalpur to take stock of the preparations said the Prime Minister had laid foundation stone of IIM campus at Sambalpur three years back through video conferencing during the Covid-19 pandemic. The project has now been completed at a cost of ₹400 crore and it proves the Centre finishes what it starts.

The Union minister said that in the last 10 years IIM Sambalpur has established itself as one of the top educational institutions of the state.

# PM to launch key connectivity & infra projects in Odisha, Assam

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 2 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Odisha and Assam on 3-4 February to lay the foundation stone of multiple infrastructure and connectivity projects.

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Project (JHBDPL)'. Built at a cost of more than Rs 2450 crore under the 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga', the project will connect Odisha with the National Gas Grid.

He will also lay the foundation stone of 'Nagpur Jharsuguda Natural Gas Pipeline Section' (692 Km)' of the Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda Pipeline. The project to be

developed at a cost of more than Rs 2,660 crore will improve the availability of natural gas to states like Odisha, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

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He will lay the foundation stone of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) Talabira Thermal power project worth more than 27000 crore. Strengthening the PM's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, this state-of-the-art project will provide reliable, affordable and round-the-clock power contributing significantly to the nation's energy security and playing a vital role in the country's economic growth and prosperity.

Mr Modi will also inaugurate coal infrastructure projects of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited including First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects - Bhubaneswari Phase-I in Talcher Coalfields in Angul district and Lajkura Rapid Loading System (RLS).

He will dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of railway projects worth about Rs. 2,146 crore aimed at enhancing the rail network in the region. The PM will also flag off Puri-Sonepur-Puri Weekly Express, which will improve connectivity for rail passengers.

He will also inaugurate the permanent campus of IIM Sambalpur. Further, he will dedicate the Jharsuguda Head Post Office Heritage Building to the nation.





## ओडिशा और असम को करोड़ों की सौगात देंगे

प्रधानमंत्री शनिवार और रविवार को ओडिशा और असम के दौरे पर रहेंगे। इस दौरान वे करोड़ों की परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास करेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री तीन फरवरी को दोपहर सवा दो बजे ओडिशा के संबलपुर में एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान 68 हजार करोड़ से अधिक की कई परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास करेंगे।



## ओडिशा में 2,145 करोड़ की परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन आज

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी)। ओडिशा में महानदी कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड की 2,145 करोड़ रुपये की चार पर्यावरण-अनुकूल और तेज कोयला परिवहन परियोजनाओं का पीएम मोदी 3 फरवरी को शुभारंभ करेंगे। कोयला मंत्रालय ने कहा कि दक्षता बढ़ाकर लॉजिस्टिक्स लागत को कम करने के लिए मल्टी-मॉडल कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करने के लिए पीएम गतिशक्ति राष्ट्रीय मास्टर प्लान के तहत परियोजनाएं शुरू की गई हैं।

मंत्रालय ने कहा, परियोजनाओं से ओडिशा में कोयला उद्योग को महत्वपूर्ण लाभ होने और देश की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा में योगदान मिलने की उम्मीद है।

इसमें कहा गया है कि उद्घाटन की जाने वाली परियोजनाओं में 335 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से निर्मित अंगुल जिले के तालचेर कोलफील्ड्स में भुवनेश्वरी चरण-I फर्स्ट माइल कनेक्टिविटी (एफएमसी) परियोजना शामिल है।

## ओडिशा में 68 और असम में 11 हजार करोड़ के प्रोजेक्ट होंगे लांच

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी तीन व चार फरवरी को दो दिनी दौरे पर ओडिशा व असम जाएंगे। वह ओडिशा के लिए 68 हजार करोड़ रुपये और असम के लिए 11 हजार करोड़ रुपये की बहुआयामी विकास परियोजनाओं को लांच करेंगे। वह ओडिशा के संबलपुर में 2400 के मेगा थर्मल पावर प्लांट एनएलसी इंडिया लिमिटेड की आधारशिला रखेंगे। अन्य परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन करेंगे। असम में कामाख्या दिव्य परियोजना (मां कामाख्या एक्सेस कारिडोर) का शिलान्यास करके श्रद्धालुओं के लिए कई विश्वस्तरीय सुविधाओं के लिए आधारशिला रखेंगे।

ओडिशा को नेशनल गैस ग्रिड से जोड़ने को 2450 करोड़ रुपये की पीएम ऊर्जा गंगा योजना का उद्घाटन होगा जो 412 किमी लंबी धामरा-अंगुल पाइपलाइन खंड को जगदीशपुर-हल्दिया व बोकारो-धामरा प्रोजेक्ट से जोड़ रही है। मोदी 2,045 करोड़ की तीन परिवर्तनकारी राजमार्ग परियोजना का भी लोकार्पण करेंगे। संबलपुर में आइआइएम कैम्पस का उद्घाटन करेंगे।

पीएम शनिवार शाम गुवाहाटी में 11,599 करोड़ की परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास करेंगे। पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के लिए पीएम-देवीएनई स्कीम के तहत 498 करोड़ रुपये की मां कामाख्या दिव्य परियोजना की नींव रखेंगे। गुवाहाटी एयरपोर्ट के नए टर्मिनल को जुलाई तक पूरा किया जाएगा। इससे मंदिर धाम को छह लेन की सड़क से जोड़ने को 358 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजना शुरू होगी। असोम माला-2 के तहत 3446 करोड़

आज दो दिवसीय दौरे पर ओडिशा और असम जाएंगे प्रधानमंत्री मोदी

कामाख्या दिव्य परियोजना व थर्मल पावर प्लांट का होगा शिलान्यास

### कामनवेल्थ सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करेंगे पीएम

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी शनिवार को दिल्ली स्थित विज्ञान भवन में कामनवेल्थ लीगल एजुकेशन एसोसिएशन (सीएलईए)-कामनवेल्थ अटार्नी और सालिसिटर जनरल कांफ्रेंस (सीएएसजीसी) 2024 का उद्घाटन करेंगे। पीएमओ के मुताबिक, इस अवसर पर मोदी उपस्थित जनसमूह को संबोधित भी करेंगे। इस सम्मेलन का विषय 'न्याय वितरण में सीमा-पार चुनौतियां' है। इसमें कानून और न्याय से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों जैसे न्यायिक परिवर्तन और कानूनी कार्य प्रणाली के नैतिक आयाम, कार्यकारी जवाबदेही और अन्य बातों के अलावा आधुनिक कानूनी शिक्षा पर पुनः ध्यान देने के बारे में विचार-विमर्श किया जाएगा।

रुपये से बनी 43 सड़कों का उद्घाटन होगा। मोदी 300 करोड़ की काझीरंगा कुठोरी से दिफू तक चार लेन की सड़क की आधारशिला रखेंगे। चंद्रपुर में स्पोर्ट्स स्टेडियम व नेहरू स्टेडियम को फीफा स्तरीय फुटबल स्टेडियम बनाने की शुरुआत करेंगे। गुवाहाटी मेडिकल कालेज के ढांचागत विकास परियोजना की आधारशिला रखेंगे।

## ओडीशा-असम जाएंगे मोदी, देंगे करोड़ों की योजनाओं की सौगात

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 2 फरवरी।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शनिवार और रविवार को ओडीशा और असम का दौरा करेंगे और इस दौरान करोड़ों रुपए की बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन व शिलान्यास करेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय (पीएमओ) के मुताबिक ओडीशा के संबलपुर में एक सार्वजनिक कार्यक्रम के दौरान 68,000 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक की कई बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास करेंगे। असम यात्रा में प्रधानमंत्री 11,000 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक की विभिन्न विकास पहलों का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास करेंगे।

प्रधानमंत्री जगदीशपुर-हल्दिया और बोकारो-धामरा पाइपलाइन परियोजना (जेएचबीडीपीएल) के धामरा-अंगुल पाइपलाइन खंड (412 किलोमीटर) का उद्घाटन करेंगे। 'प्रधानमंत्री ऊर्जा गंगा' के तहत 2,450 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक की लागत से निर्मित यह परियोजना ओडीशा को राष्ट्रीय गैस ग्रिड से जोड़ेगी। प्रधानमंत्री मुंबई-नागपुर-झारसुगुड़ा पाइपलाइन के ह्यनागपुर झारसुगुड़ा प्राकृतिक गैस पाइपलाइन खंड (692 किलोमीटर) की आधारशिला भी रखेंगे। 2,660 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की लागत से विकसित होने वाली यह परियोजना ओडीशा, महाराष्ट्र और छत्तीसगढ़ जैसे राज्यों को प्राकृतिक गैस की उपलब्धता में सुधार करेगी। संबलपुर में प्रधानमंत्री लगभग 28,980 करोड़ रुपए की बिजली परियोजनाओं की आधारशिला रखेंगे और कुछ को राष्ट्र को समर्पित करेंगे।



# पीएम आज ओडिशा को 68,000 व असम को 11,000 करोड़ की परियोजनाओं की देंगे सौगात

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शनिवार और रविवार को ओडिशा और असम का दौरा करेंगे। इस दौरान वह दोनों राज्यों में कुल 79,000 करोड़ रुपये की बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन व शिलान्यास करेंगे।

प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय के मुताबिक, पीएम तीन फरवरी को ओडिशा के संबलपुर में एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान 68,000 करोड़ की विभिन्न परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास करेंगे। वहीं, पीएम चार फरवरी को गुवाहाटी में एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान 11,000 करोड़ की विभिन्न विकास योजनाओं की शुरुआत करेंगे।



**मुंबई कोस्टल रोड के पहले चरण का उद्घाटन 19 को मुंबई।** प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी 19 फरवरी को मुंबई कोस्टल रोड के पहले चरण का उद्घाटन करेंगे। साथ ही पीएम गोरेगांव-मुलुंड लिंक रोड की आधारशिला भी रखेंगे। नगर निगम कमिश्नर इकबाल सिंह चहल ने बताया कि 13,983 करोड़ की कोस्टल रोड पर 84% काम पूरा हो चुका है। एजेंसी

**सीएलईए-कॉमनवेल्थ अटॉर्नी कांफ्रेंस का भी करेंगे उद्घाटन**

नई दिल्ली। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शनिवार को राजधानी स्थित विज्ञान भवन में कॉमनवेल्थ लीगल एजुकेशन एसोसिएशन (सीएलईए)-कॉमनवेल्थ अटॉर्नी और सॉलिसिटर जनरल कांफ्रेंस (सीएसजीसी) 2024 का उद्घाटन करेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय (पीएमओ) ने एक बयान में शुक्रवार को कहा कि इस अवसर पर पीएम मोदी उपस्थित जनसमूह को संबोधित करेंगे। इस सम्मेलन का विषय 'न्याय करने में सीमा-पार की चुनौतियां' है। इसमें कानून और न्याय से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों जैसे न्यायिक परिवर्तन और कानूनी कार्यप्रणाली के नैतिक आयाम, कार्यकारी जवाबदेही और आधुनिक कानूनी शिक्षा के बारे में विचार-विमर्श किया जाएगा। एजेंसी

## पीएम आज से ओडिशा व असम के दौरे पर

नई दिल्ली (विप्र)। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी शनिवार और रविवार को ओडिशा और असम का दौरा करेंगे और इस दौरान करोड़ों रुपये की बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन व शिलान्यास करेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय (पीएमओ) ने शुक्रवार को एक बयान में यह जानकारी दी। उसके मुताबिक, प्रधानमंत्री तीन फरवरी को दोपहर दो बज कर लगभग 15 मिनट पर ओडिशा के संबलपुर में एक सार्वजनिक कार्यक्रम के दौरान 68,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की कई बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास करेंगे।

इसके बाद प्रधानमंत्री असम की यात्रा करेंगे जहां वह चार फरवरी को 11 बज कर लगभग 30 मिनट

पर गुवाहाटी में एक सार्वजनिक कार्यक्रम के दौरान 11,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की विभिन्न विकास पहलों का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास करेंगे। पीएमओ ने कहा कि देश की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के प्रधानमंत्री के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप ओडिशा के संबलपुर में सार्वजनिक कार्यक्रम में ऊर्जा क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से कई परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन, लोकार्पण किया जाएगा और कुछ की आधारशिला रखी जाएगी। प्रधानमंत्री जगदीशपुर-हल्दिया और बोकारो-धामरा पाइपलाइन परियोजना (जेएचबीडीपीएल) के धामरा-अंगुल पाइपलाइन खंड (412 किलोमीटर) का उद्घाटन करेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री ऊर्जा गंगा के तहत 2,450 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की लागत से निर्मित यह परियोजना ओडिशा को राष्ट्रीय गैस ग्रिड से जोड़ेगी।



## तेल क्षेत्र

# तेल फर्मों के विपणन बजट में मजबूती

### तेल क्षेत्र में कुल पूंजीगत खर्च 18.6 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी के साथ 1.33 लाख करोड़ रुपये पर पहुंचा

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती और शाइन जैकब  
नई दिल्ली/चेन्नई, 2 फरवरी

गुरुवार को पेश अंतरिम बजट में वित्त वर्ष 2025 में तेल कंपनियों की रिफाइनरी व विपणन की गतिविधियों को मजबूती मिली है जबकि एक साल पहले खर्च घटा था। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तीन तेल विपणन कंपनियों (आईओसी, बीपीसीएल और एचपीसीएल) के हाथों में और वित्त मुहैया कराया गया है और यह आवंटन आम चुनाव से ठीक पहले देखने को मिला है।

इस क्षेत्र में आवंटन वित्त वर्ष 25 के लिए 4.91 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी के साथ 57,451 करोड़ रुपये पर पहुंच गया, जो वित्त वर्ष 24 के लिए संशोधित अनुमान 54,758 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा है। हालिया बढ़ोतरी इसलिए अहम हो जाती है क्योंकि वित्त वर्ष 24 में रिफाइनरी व विपणन खर्च वित्त वर्ष 23 के मुकाबले 9.5 फीसदी घटा था। ओएमसी केंद्र सरकार की सस्मिडी वाली योजना प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के लिए समर्पित एजेंसियां भी हैं। इस योजना का दायरा बढ़ा है और अब लाभार्थियों में खास तौर से ज्यादा महिलाएं हैं, ऐसे में अनुमान है कि ज्यादातर विपणन बजट उज्ज्वला योजना को लेकर जागरूकता अभियान को लक्षित होगा।

10.3 करोड़ कनेक्शन के साथ इस योजना



तेल क्षेत्र में आवंटन वित्त वर्ष 25 के लिए 4.91 फीसदी बढ़ाया गया है

के लाभार्थी देश भर में 31.4 करोड़ घरों में एलपीजी कनेक्शन का करीब एक तिहाई बैठते हैं। साथ ही अक्टूबर में कैबिनेट ने इस योजना का कवरेज तीन साल में 75 लाख नए एलपीजी कनेक्शन के साथ बढ़ाया था और इस पर 1,650 करोड़ रुपये की लागत आएगी।

**तेल की खोज में मामूली बढ़ोतरी**

इस बीच गहन पूंजी वाले एक्सप्लोरेशन एंड प्रॉडक्शन क्षेत्र में (जिसमें ओएनजीसी व ऑयल इंडिया शामिल हैं) आवंटन में मामूली

इजाफा हुआ है। वित्त वर्ष 25 के लिए सरकार का आवंटन ईएंडपी की खातिर 50,382 करोड़ रुपये है जबकि वित्त वर्ष 24 के लिए संशोधित अनुमान 48,658 करोड़ रुपये का है। यह 3.5 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी दर्शाता है।

इंडसलॉ के पार्टनर दीपक चौधरी ने कहा, यह बजट केंद्र सरकार का ध्यान ऊर्जा की जरूरतें खुद के दम पर करने पर हासिल करना बताता है। इस अवधि में ओएनजीसी अपने पूंजीगत खर्च में मामूली बढ़ोतरी देखेगी और यह 30,125 करोड़ रुपये होगा। विशेषज्ञों के मुताबिक, यह कदम तेल कंपनियों की तरफ

से भारी भरकम विस्तार की बनाई योजना के मुताबिक है।

इसमें आईओसी का 4 लाख करोड़ रुपये का रोडमैप शामिल है, जिसमें ऊर्जा संक्रमण परियोजनाओं पर जोर और रिफाइनिंग व पेट्रोकेमिकल क्षमता का विस्तार भी होगा, जिसका अनावरण पिछले साल किया गया था।

दूसरी ओर, बीपीसीएल ने भी अगले पांच साल के लिए 1.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये के पूंजीगत खर्च का अनुमान जताया था। बीपीसीएल ने 2024-25 के लिए निवेश के आंकड़ों में 88 फीसदी की वृद्धि देखी है और यह 9,000 करोड़ रुपये पर पहुंच गया, जो वित्त वर्ष 24 के लिए संशोधित अनुमान में 7,350 करोड़ रुपये था।

अब वित्त वर्ष 25 में सभी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र वकी कंपनियों में बड़े निवेश की उम्मीद है। पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस में पूंजीगत खर्च के तौर पर कुल आवंटन इस बजट में 18.6 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी के साथ 1.33 लाख करोड़ रुपये पर पहुंच गया। जबकि वित्त वर्ष 23-24 के लिए संशोधित अनुमान 1.12 लाख करोड़ रुपये का था।

बजट दस्तावेज से संकेत मिलता है कि गेल व इंजीनियर्स इंडिया जैसी कंपनियां 2023-24 में 2,940 करोड़ रुपये के बोनस शेयर जारी करेंगी, जिसमें से गेल का शेयर 2,840 करोड़ रुपये का होगा।



भारत मंडपम में चल रहे भारत मोबिलिटी ग्लोबल एक्सपो में बोले पीएम मोदी

# 2047 तक विकसित होगा भारत, मोबिलिटी सेक्टर की भूमिका 'विकास' में होगी अहम



एजेसी नई दिल्ली

पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी शुरुवार को दिल्ली के भारत मंडपम में चल रहे भारत मोबिलिटी ग्लोबल एक्सपो 2024 में लगे स्टॉल्स पर पहुंचे और गाड़ियों का जायजा लिया। पीएम ने ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर के उद्यमियों को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि आज का भारत 2024 तक विकसित भारत बनने के लक्ष्य के साथ आगे बढ़ रहा है। इस लक्ष्य को हासिल करने में मोबिलिटी सेक्टर बहुत अहम भूमिका अदा करेगा।

पीएम ने कहा कि मैंने जो लाल किले से कहा था वही आज भी दोहरा रहा हूं, भारत के लिए यही समय है, सही समय है। भारत के मोबिलिटी सेक्टर के लिए गोलडन पीरियड शुरू हो रहा है। यह मंत्र मोबिलिटी सेक्टर पर बिल्कुल फिट है। आज भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था कार तेजी से विस्तार हो रहा है।

## देश में मिडिल क्लास की इनकम बढ़ी

पीएम मोदी ने कहा कि भारत में करीब 25 करोड़ लोग गरीबी से बाहर आए हैं। भारत में बड़ी संख्या में नियो मिडिल क्लास खने हैं। इस क्लास की अपनी आकांक्षाएं हैं। जैसे व्यक्ति का जीवन में 14 से 20 का कालखंड अलग होता है। उसी तरह नियो मिडिल क्लास की आकांक्षाएं होती हैं। वह तेजी से आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं। इसके साथ ही भारत में मिडिल क्लास का दायरा भी तेजी से बढ़ रहा है।

## इलेक्ट्रिक गाड़ियों की बिक्री भी बढ़ रही

पीएम ने कहा कि भारत की बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था और मिडिल क्लास की बढ़ती इनकम मोबिलिटी सेक्टर का हैसला बढ़ाने वाली है। 2014 के पहले दस सालों में 12 करोड़ के आसपास गाड़ियों की बिक्री हुई थी। 2014 के बाद से देश में अब तक 21 करोड़ से ज्यादा गाड़ियों की बिक्री हो चुकी।

## फिर दोहराया- भारत के लिए यही समय है, सही समय है



## भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था में आज तेजी से विस्तार हो रहा

## आज से दो दिनी ओडिशा और असम का करेंगे दौरा

पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी 3 और 4 फरवरी को ओडिशा और असम का दौरा करेंगे। वे ओडिशा के संबलपुर में 68,000 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक मूल्य की परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन, समर्पण और शिलान्यास करेंगे। गुवाहाटी में 11,000 करोड़ से अधिक के विभिन्न विकास कार्यों का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास करेंगे। कामाख्या मंदिर में आने वाले तीर्थयात्रियों को विश्व स्तरीय सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए मां कामाख्या दिव्य परियोजना (मां कामाख्या एक्सेस कॉरिडोर) की आधारशिला रखेंगे।



## मुंबई कोस्टल रोड के पहले चरण को 19 को दिखाएंगे हरी झंडी

पीएम मोदी 19 फरवरी को मुंबई कोस्टल रोड के पहले चरण का उद्घाटन करेंगे। बृहन्मुंबई नगर निगम ने इस धारे में जायकारी दी। कोस्टल रोड पहले फेज की शुरुआत फरवरी के मध्य तक हो जायेगी। इसके चालू हो जाने के बाद मुंबईवासियों को ट्रैफिक से निजात मिल जायेगी। मुंबई की यह ड्रीम परियोजना अपने अंतिम चरण में है। इसके हकके से 10 किलोमीटर से ज्यादा का सफर 10-12 मिनट में तय किया जा सकेगा।

## मां कामाख्या दिव्य परियोजना की रखेंगे आधारशिला



# Energy transition calls for holistic approach

The interim Budget has several positive steps, but to ensure success the govt must work on the energy ecosystem in totality

## CAPITAL IDEAS.



RICHA MISHRA

“Global affairs are becoming more complex and challenging with wars and conflicts. Globalisation is being redefined with re-shoring and friend-shoring, disruption and fragmentation of supply chains, and competition for critical minerals and technologies. A new world order is emerging after the Covid pandemic,” Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her interim Budget, which she presented on February 1.

She went on to say, “India assumed G20 Presidency during very difficult times for the world. The global economy was going through high inflation, high interest rates, low growth, very high public debt, low trade growth, and climate challenges. The pandemic had led to a crisis of food, fertilizer, fuel and finances for the world, while India successfully navigated its way...”

The statement from the Finance Minister assumes significance as India meets close to 88 per cent of its crude oil requirements through imports. And any fluctuations in crude oil price, which is highly volatile and unpredictable, impacts the fiscal math of the country.

This is one of the reasons why India has been focusing on energy transition. In fact, in her Budget last year (2023-24) she had provided for ₹35,000 crore for priority capital investments towards energy transition and net zero objectives, and energy security by the Ministry for Petroleum and Natural Gas. Of this, ₹30,000 crore was towards capital

support to public sector oil marketing companies — Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum — for green energy and net zero initiatives and the remaining for purchase of crude oil for caverns at Mangalore and Visakhapatnam. Subsequently, based on the recommendations of the Expenditure Finance Committee the support to oil companies was halved and plans to fill the strategic reserves deferred. A reason for this could be the changing dynamics in the oil world.

But continuing with the energy transition story in the latest interim Budget, she announced:

**Commitment to meet net zero by 2070** — viability gap funding for wind energy (offshore); setting up of coal gasification and liquefaction capacity, phased mandatory blending of CNG, PNG and compressed biogas; and financial assistance for procurement of biomass aggregation machinery.

**Rooftop solarisation** — one crore households will be enabled to obtain up to 300 units of free electricity.

**Adoption of e-buses** for public transport, and strengthening the e-vehicle ecosystem.

**A new scheme** of bio-manufacturing and bio-foundation.

On paper, all this sounds good. But in the energy space, States also play a vital role and not all of them will follow this narrative.

According to Gaurav Kedia, Chairman Indian Biogas Association, “Agriculture residue like paddy straw, often burned,

**To ensure smoother implementation of the PM Suryodaya scheme,** the government should constitute a body on the lines of the GST Council.

holds immense potential for bioenergy and soil health. Yet, procurement faces hurdles, including unattractive economics, due to which farmers would rather burn in order to dispose of the straw from the field in a timely manner.”

Investing in logistics would also not be an option due to the straw’s low density, which makes collection, storage and transport expensive, he said, adding, “The government intervention is crucial to incentivise the required machinery, e.g., subsidise combine-harvester, which can efficiently collect straw. Further support for balers and storage units would facilitate efficient transportation and storage.”

Still, the proper mechanism for buyback programmes is lacking, which can offer guaranteed, fair prices to incentivise the sale of biomass over burning. Investing in the right machines is key to unlocking paddy straw’s potential, creating a win-win for farmers, the government, environment, and energy security, he added.

### KEY CHALLENGES

While the Budget has several positive steps towards green energy, some key challenges remain:

Despite increased allocation, the Budget needs to ensure long-term financing solutions to bridge the investment gap for large-scale renewable energy projects, he said, adding that while PLI schemes exist, further incentives are needed to boost domestic manufacturing of critical components, reducing dependence on imports.

He also pointed out that: “The Market Development Assistance scheme is supporting the fermented organic manure coming out of biogas plants, but a scheme similar to SATAT for biofertilizer is still missing. At this crucial juncture, it’s quintessential to value the green component of CBG in form of

tradable CBG certificate too.”

The National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) CEO, Subrahmanyam Pulipaka, said: “The announcement of solarisation of 1 crore houses will create a vibrant ecosystem for rooftop solar installers, vendors and technicians. India’s emerging solar manufacturing industry of solar modules will also get a much-needed push thereby making India truly Aatmanirbhar.”

But in order to ensure a smoother implementation of the PM Suryodaya scheme, the government should constitute a body on the lines of the GST Council with States as members so that uniformity in terms of regulations and policies is in place. This is needed to accelerate India’s energy transition, he said.

Many in the industry feel that the market has moved beyond viability gap funding. The key will be implementation.

“The residential rooftop solar programme has always got the push from the government but solar has to grow beyond that and penetrate into the commercial space,” an industry observer pointed out.

In a way the government is trying to solve the huge subsidy which the category gets with schemes like Kusum for farmers. But till open access does not become a complete success, the solar sector will not grow at the desired pace.

While the government has been working towards enhancing the country’s energy ecosystem on the ground, challenges remain. These are mainly infrastructural — for example, in solar it is about storage and grid. Pricing of these energy sources is also an issue which the government will need to address.

For India, a way out will be to work on the entire ecosystem in totality instead of working on each aspect of the energy sector in isolation.





# Exxon beats estimates, ends 2023 with \$36 billion profit

Exxon Mobil on Friday posted a better-than-expected \$36 billion profit for 2023, lifted by fuels trading and higher oil and gas production.

Profits from oil majors have been down in 2023 by about a third from record levels in 2022, pressured as oil and gas prices retreated after spiking when Russia invaded Ukraine.

Exxon Chief Executive Darren Woods said the industry "saw energy prices and refining margins start to normalize in 2023." Exxon's earnings in the latest quarter still beat estimates and Woods signaled optimism about the coming year. He raised Exxon's spending target after boosting capital spending in the most recent quarter by 4 per cent from a year ago. Full-year capital expenditures in 2023 were \$26.32 billion. Exxon, he said, "opportunistically accelerated drilling activity" in its two core oil production areas.

**REUTERS**



# Green signals

*Certain announcements in Interim Budget 2024-25 are in line with India's 2021 Glasgow commitments, and can set the blueprint for India's New Green Deal*



**ROHIT PATHANIA**

**The allocation of Rs 8,500 crore for grid-connected solar initiatives will have a transformative impact on India's energy landscape**

India's interim budgets have traditionally offered little from a policy perspective. However, it is encouraging to note that the incumbent government has made the most of it by outlining the contours of a New Green Deal for India under the interim budget for 2024-25. The signs of this deal have gradually emerged through the various announcements over the years and this time has been no different.

The Modi government has stated its commitment to green growth and sustainable development, arising from India's commitments to the global efforts to combat the effects of climate change. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcements are in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Glasgow speech in 2021, when the declaration on Net Zero by 2070 was first made.

While the big focus on green energy generation has always been around, in recent years, the wind energy sector has started to see growth challenges. The announcement of viability gap funding for harnessing offshore wind energy potential for an initial capacity of 1 gigawatt is a game changer that will significantly boost the growth of this industry.

From a clean fuel perspective, market creation has evolved through the phased mandatory blending of compressed biogas (CBG) in compressed natural gas for transport and cooking. This, in particular, is a long-standing demand of the CBG industry, and supporting it helps unlock a new phase of green growth for India.

Biomass aggregation



**The announcement of viability gap funding for harnessing offshore wind energy potential for an initial capacity of 1 gigawatt is a game changer**

machinery has been a big roadblock for the bio-energy industry as a whole, preventing it from achieving its full potential. The Rs 100-crore announcement for it is a step forward in this regard.

In this spirit, the focus on moving away from dependence on crude oil for key industries is welcome. The government has promised a new scheme of bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry to provide environment-friendly alternatives such as biodegradable polymers, bio-plastics, bio-pharmaceuticals and bio-agri-inputs. This scheme has the potential, if implemented right, to transform today's consumptive manufacturing paradigm.

Similarly, coal gasification targets of 100 tonnes also

contribute to using coal in a more sustainable manner to replace petroleum products. This creates an important effect — ringfencing India from the shocks of petroleum price hikes, a significant chunk of which goes for refining and producing these products.

This continues from last year's budget, where the government showed its intent to diversify India's fuel basket via announcements supported by budgetary allocations, be it Rs 600 crore for National Green Hydrogen Mission or Rs 117 crore for Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana for bioethanol.

On clean transport, as the government committed to the significant expansion of metro and Namoo Bharat rapid rail transit systems, we

also saw impetus to support the expansion and strengthening of the electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem. Support for manufacturing and charging infrastructure has been promised, while a payment security mechanism for greater adoption of e-buses for public transport networks will help expand the market significantly.

The government also displayed its intent to continue supporting EV adoption via the FAME Scheme, for which Rs 2,761 crore have been allocated.

The interim budget also gave an insight into the government's thinking on critical minerals and the geopolitics around them. The focus on securing supply chains, and addressing the issues of competition for critical minerals

and technologies has been acknowledged. Additionally, the announcement of creating rail corridors for critical minerals enables faster access internally, enabling increased competitiveness in this new green economy segment.

Additionally, the government's rooftop solarisation to support EV charging is welcome. Charging of EVs using coal-based grids has been a significant concern due to its potential impact on increasing greenhouse gas emissions arising from increased electricity demand.

The penetration of solar energy at this stage aids the process of high decarbonisation for the EV sector. The allocation — Rs 8,500 crore for grid connected solar initiatives — will definitely have a transformative impact.

The overarching nature of green growth is clear with the reference to a blue economy. To ensure that blue economy activities are resilient to climate change impacts, a scheme for restoration and adaptation measures and coastal aquaculture and mariculture with an integrated and multi-sectoral approach has been announced. This benefits the large number of people living along India's coastline who depend on fishing for livelihoods and are directly impacted.

India's focus must remain on balancing environmental awareness with economic development. A green growth model tailored to the country's needs that aims to generate employment for the country's multi-talented youth can make it a leading player in the global effort against climate change.

**DTE**  
Views expressed are personal



# ‘Moving away from a disinvestment target’

It is important to keep in mind that disinvestment should be a gradual, calibrated process, rather than a big-bang one, and that’s why the government is shunning the ‘targeting’ approach from next year, **TUHIN KANTA PANDEY**, secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam), told **Shreya Nandi** in an interview in New Delhi. Edited excerpts

**Can you help us understand the breakup of the receipts of ₹30,000 crore in the current financial year?**

There has been a shift in our approach in terms of a standard target fixation for disinvestment. (In the FY24 Budget Estimates) out of ₹61,000 crore, ₹51,000 crore was for disinvestment and ₹10,000 crore was for asset monetisation. To put it together, it was a part of miscellaneous capital receipts, which is a part of non-debt receipts. So the question is why are we not upfront telling the disinvestment receipts? If you were to ask me, I would say there is no specific disinvestment target.

**According to FY24 BE, the government had estimated ₹10,000 crore from asset monetisation. How much have we achieved till now?**

In the Revised Estimates (RE) for FY24, we are likely to get about ₹12,000 crore from asset monetisation in this financial year, and about ₹18,000 crore from disinvestment. (Of the ₹18,000 crore, the government has already raised ₹12,054 crore as disinvestment receipts).

**What about the next financial year’s disinvestment and asset monetisation target? How much can we expect from disinvestment?**

Capital receipts could also include items, which are not classified elsewhere. In the case of asset monetisation, the proceeds from the national asset monetisation pipeline go to the public sector unit, and not to the government. However, when departments such as the Housing and Urban Development Department, mining, or the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) (which is not a PSU) monetise assets, there will be clear receipts to the consolidated fund of India.

We are shunning this targeting approach precisely for this. A single number for disinvestment targets is problematic because it is



also in some sense, opportunistic. It’s not really hamstrung on a Budget. Unlike taxes, which are predictable, based on legislation, disinvestment is not a legislative exercise that you have to disinvest, come what may. GST has to be paid in income tax estimates. So those receipts are estimates, but they are far more predictable because they’re backed up by legislation. So you have to get it and the public is bound to give it to you.

Disinvestment is voluntary. Suppose, the market is not good, then you don’t go ahead with it.

Suppose the market is good, but you may think that it would be better. We also need to take cognisance of the dividends received and it’s also a sustainable revenue because we get dividends year after year after year, and retain the profitability. Disinvestment is a one-time thing. In my opinion, we should take a holistic approach to disinvestment dividends put together. Secondly, we should always keep in mind that it should be a gradual, calibrated process rather than a big-bang process.

**How much of the monetisation receipts have come from NHAI?**

This information flow actually goes to DEA (Department of Economic Affairs under the finance ministry) and we will sort

it out and get that flow also. Right now, the advantage is that with disinvestment, you get real-time data, but on asset monetisation, we don’t have the accounting data. For instance, if the mining department has done some asset monetisation, it is not clearly receipts. It’s based on the future flows and the present value of that. The visibility will take time, we are working on that.

**Could you give us the roadmap for the remaining months of this financial year? How do you aim to garner around ₹6,000 crore through disinvestment by March-end? What will be the priority for next year?**

I won’t be able to share the road map. We don’t want to disclose the timing of the transaction. We may even get more or even less than ₹18,000 crore. But overall, let us not get into an unnecessary desperate situation because desperation will mean that the market overhang will come and will depress the stock, except when it is privatisation, when we will make an announcement.

**What is the progress on the IDBI deal? What is the road ahead for BPCL?**

Discussions are going on at the level of the Reserve Bank of India. The examination is on. We can expect it next year. It’s in the pipeline. In the case of BPCL, we had made it clear that an announcement would be made when we decided to go ahead with the launch. So, we will have to make a fresh launch.

**What are the timelines for long-pending stake sales in Shipping Corporation of India, BEML, NMDC Steel, CONCOR?**

These stake sales will spill over into next year. The listing process for Shipping Corporation of India demerger is going on. CONCOR’s expression of interest is yet to be launched. Even if it is launched next year, it cannot be concluded. It will take at least 1.5 years. Clearances from the state government are still pending in the case of BEML. We are pursuing that. In between, there was an election, as well.





**AFTER A SLUGGISH DECEMBER**

# Petrol Sales Rise 9.3%, Diesel 3.1% in January

Pickup in economic activity results in higher fuel sales

**Our Bureau**

New Delhi: Consumption of petrol soared 9.3% in January from a year earlier and that of diesel rose 3.1% after a sluggish December as people returned from their holiday breaks to the office and economic activity picked up.

Sales of petrol and diesel are up 6.1% and 4.3%, respectively, in the April-January period, according to the provisional sales data published by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of the oil ministry. Revised data will be published next week.

State refiners sold 8% more petrol and 1.8% less diesel in January than a year earlier, signalling market share gains for the private sector. For months, private players have been recovering the fuel market share they had lost in the previous financial year.

Jet fuel sales rose 6.2% in January from a year earlier. So far this fiscal year, it has grown by 11.8%. Lower sales growth in January was mainly on account of a spate of flight cancellations due to fog in north India. For state-run companies, the sales growth in January was just 1.7%.

Cooking gas consumption ex-

## Jet Fuel Sales Rise 6.2% in Jan

Sales of petrol and diesel are up **6.1%** and **4.3%**, respectively, in the April-January period, according to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of the oil ministry

State refiners sold **8%** more petrol and **1.8%** less diesel in January than a year earlier, signalling market share gains for the private sector



Jet fuel sales rise 6.2% in January from a year earlier

Cooking gas consumption expanded **6.9%** in January and **2.8%** in the Apr-Jan period

**PETROL SALES ACCOUNT FOR 15% OF TOTAL REFINED PRODUCTS DEMAND IN THE COUNTRY WHILE DIESEL MAKES UP 38%**

panded 6.9% in January and 2.8% in the April-January period. The cooking gas supply is almost entirely controlled by state-run companies.

Petrol sales account for 15% of total refined products demand in the country while diesel makes up 38%.

Demand for diesel had fallen 2.5% in December over last year while that for petrol had remained nearly unchanged.

Petrol demand is almost entirely dependent on mobility, with two-wheelers accounting for nearly 60% of total petrol sales in the country. Monthly new vehicle sales are also a key contributor to petrol sales growth.

In December, the sales of petrol and diesel were affected by cyclone Michaung in the southeastern part of the country, a truck-

ers' strike, and expectations of a price drop encouraging dealers to maintain lower stock.

Diesel is mainly used for long-haul transport, mining, farming and backup generators. Sales of new commercial vehicles add to diesel demand. The sales of the fuel tend to taper off in winter after a strong showing in the run-up to the festive season. Trucks are heavily deployed to ferry goods from factories to retail stores ahead of the big shopping season around Navratri and Diwali.

The harvest season and rains have their own effect on diesel demand with the former boosting sales while the latter slows fuel demand for irrigation. The increased adoption of solar pumps and solar lighting has been progressively lowering the overall demand for diesel in the country.



# PM: Ensure made-in-India vehicles running across globe

**New Delhi:** Calling it the 'golden period' for India's mobility sector, PM Narendra Modi said the country's growing and aspirational middle class will fuel vehicle sales across the country and asked automakers to ensure that there is a made-in-India vehicle running across most of the markets globally, reports Pankaj Doval.

There was a strong message for tyre makers with Modi



suggesting that they source rubber locally, by engaging more with the farming communities. "Think out of the box and think in collaboration," he told a gathering of businessmen and executives at Bharat Mobility Global Expo. The PM said India stands at the cusp of a massive demand curve which should lead to greener and cleaner vehicles.

► **Green hydrogen, P 25**

# Auto cos should research in green hydrogen, ethanol: PM

► From P 1

PM Narendra Modi said, “India is on the move and is moving fast... You should make sure that there is no street in the world where Made in India is not running.”

He underlined that the Indian economy is expanding at a fast pace and the country is set to become the third-largest economy in the world. “During the last decade, approximately 25 crore people have risen out of poverty. When a citizen breaks out of poverty, the means of transportation — be it a cycle, two-wheeler or a four-wheeler — becomes their first requirement.”

Highlighting the emergence of a neo-middle class, the PM underscored the need to fulfil their mobility aspirations to open up a massive market. “The growing income of the middle class will give strength to the mobility sector of India. The numbers of the growing economy and the growing income are bo-

und to infuse new confidence in the mobility sector.”

The PM also encouraged the industry to explore research avenues that use India's abundant raw materials for battery manufacturing and delve into areas such as green hydrogen and ethanol. “Why not conduct research to manufacture batteries using raw materials available in India? The auto sector should also explore research in green hydrogen and ethanol.”

He said that in the last 10 years, the number of passenger vehicles saw an increase of 60% while two-wheelers went up by 70%. “Car sales in January broke all previous records. The mobility sector is witnessing an unprecedented atmosphere in the country and you must capitalise on it.”

He said that India is now on the threshold of becoming a global economic powerhouse, with the auto and automotive component industry playing a significant

role. “Today, India is the world's third-largest market for passenger vehicles and among the top three countries globally manufacturing commercial vehicles. The govt is committed to supporting the sector through initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes, including that for batteries.”

Modi said that the National Electric Mobility Mission is aimed at pushing the manufacturing of electric vehicles. “The govt has invested Rs 10,000 crore for creating demand for electric vehicles. FAME scheme has led to electric buses in the capital as well as in many other cities.”

Making a reference to the Bharat Mobility Expo's tagline ‘Beyond Boundaries’, he said that it showcases the spirit of India. “Today, we want to break old barriers and bring the whole world together. We want to expand India's role in the global supply chain. There is a sky of possibilities in front of the Indian auto industry.”



## Public sector sale targets thing of past: Dipam secy

Gulveen Aulakh & Rhik Kundu

NEW DELHI

**T**he government will no longer include disinvestment and asset sales targets in the Union budget in future, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, secretary in the department of investment and public asset management (Dipam), said in an interaction on Friday. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's interim budget, presented on Thursday, was the first such instance.

He also noted that the government will look at disinvestment and dividend holistically, since dividends from public sector stocks that would otherwise have been sold would add to the government's overall receipts.

"There is no specific target for disinvestment. Going forward also, there will be nothing called disinvestment target specifically. That is a changed paradigm. Disinvestment is volatile and binary, you either get the full amount or nothing at all. We are more looking at as a capital management point of view," he said.

Pandey clarified that the ₹50,000 crore categorized under 'miscellaneous capital receipts' in the interim budget was not solely a disinvestment

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# 'No PSE sale targets in future'

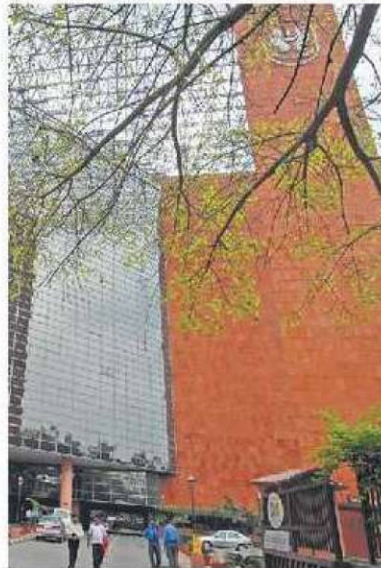
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target. It would include receipts that the government expects from asset monetization and disinvestments.

In the interim budget, the government announced revised estimates of ₹30,000 crore from disinvestment in FY24, from budget estimates of ₹51,000 crore. The new figure includes expectations of ₹18,000-20,000 crore as disinvestment proceeds, and the rest from asset monetization.

As of 2 February, proceeds from disinvestment stand at ₹12,504 crore, with nearly two months to go for FY24 end. However, for FY25, the share of proceeds may not be in the same mix, Pandey said.

The government will take a "pragmatic and calibrated approach" towards disinvesting public sector enterprise (PSE) stocks by taking them to the markets at the right time to ensure that they get good value, while keeping the interest of minority shareholders in focus, the senior-most official in the disinvestment department said. The government will continue with its ongoing strategy of privatization and strategic disinvestment within the changed paradigm of



The govt has no plans of further diluting its shareholding in LIC.

HT

focusing on wealth creation and creating value for shareholders. "Our policy of privatization is also for growth and efficiency. Again, we should not look at it from the prism of fiscal deficit," Pandey said.

In the interim budget for FY25, the government expects dividends from state-owned firms at ₹50,000 crore in FY24, up from the budget estimates of ₹43,000 crore. As of 1 February, the government has already received ₹44,060 crore as dividend from PSEs.

Pandey added that the government has no plans of further diluting its shareholding

in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India in FY25. "We are under no pressure on a timeline to bring any further dilution. The stock has performed very well of late, touching the IPO price," he said.

On the strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank, the top official at DIPAM noted that it was likely to pick up in the second half of FY25.

"First, the RBI clearance has to come, then there will be due diligence, followed by us calling for financial bids and then condition precedent, among other processes," he said, indicating that the latter half of FY25 could see things moving.

The government and LIC are together selling nearly 61% stake in IDBI Bank; currently they hold 94.71% stake as of December 2023. The government had sought expressions of interest from prospective bidders in October 2022.

Among other ongoing strategic disinvestments, the government feels that the sale of its stake in NMDC Steel could be among the other big-ticket transactions that may get done in FY25.

However, some delays were being faced there as well due to elections.

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# Russian Crude Oil Share in Imports Dips to 25% in Jan

At 1.2 mbpd, India purchases 9% less Russian oil in Jan

**Sanjeev Choudhary**

**New Delhi:** The share of Russian oil in India's crude imports fell to 25% in January from 31% in December 2023 and an all-time high of 44% in May last year as price discounts narrowed, the Red Sea attacks drove up freight and US sanctions hurt shippers.

India imported 1.2 million barrels per day (mbd) of Russian crude in January, 9% less than in December, according to energy cargo tracker Vortexa. India's import volumes were the same as China's seaborne import of Russian oil. Indian state refiners imported 21% less Russian crude in January while private sector refiners took 10% more.

"The narrowing of Russian crude discounts versus Middle Eastern crude, recent US sanctions on shippers carrying Russian crude above the price cap and rising tanker premiums as a result of the Red Sea attacks have made Russian crude less attractive for Indian refiners in recent months," said Serena Huang, an analyst at Vortexa.

Attacks in the Red Sea by Yemen-based Houthi Rebels haven't had much effect on Russian barrels on that route. Freight and insurance

## Basket Breakup

Share of top suppliers in India's crude imports in Jan Dec (in %)



rates, however, have gone up in general and many ships are taking the longer alternative route to avoid trouble.

All key Russian crude grades are trading above the \$60 per barrel cap, making it harder for Indian refiners to receive cargoes or pay for them. Urals, the flagship Russian crude which has been the mainstay of Indian imports, is trading near \$70 per barrel while international benchmark Brent is around \$80.

Other Russian grades are even more expensive.

Crude oil imports from the US fell to zero in January. The US oil had a 3% share in December and 9% a year earlier in India's imports.

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## Steel, Port Ministries issue norms to incentivise hydrogen usage

**Abhishek Law**

New Delhi

The Steel and Port Ministries on Friday announced a scheme worth ₹570 crore to promote the use of hydrogen towards making green steel and as use of fuel in ships. The aim is towards reducing carbon footprints.

The schemes are part of the ₹19,477-crore National Green Hydrogen Mission.

The Budgetary outlay for projects under the Steel Ministry will be ₹455 crore till 2029-30.

The Steel Ministry will incentivise the push for the use of hydrogen in Direct Reduced Iron-making process; use of Hydrogen in blast furnace; and substitution of fossil fuels with Green Hydrogen in a gradual manner.

The scheme will also support pilot projects involving any other innovative use of hydrogen for reducing carbon emissions in iron and steel production, it was said in a statement.

The scheme envisages that considering the higher

costs of green hydrogen at present, steel plants could begin by blending a small percentage of green hydrogen in their processes, and increasing the blending proportion progressively, with improvement in cost-economics and advancement of technology.

### THE GUIDELINES

The guidelines also note that upcoming steel plants should be capable of operating with green hydrogen, thus ensuring that these plants are able to participate in future global low-carbon steel markets.

The scheme will also consider greenfield projects aiming at 100 per cent green steel.

Incidentally, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has also come up with similar guidelines whereby it will promote use of green hydrogen to replace fossil fuels. There is a Budget outlay of ₹115 crore til FY26.

Two areas have been identified as thrust areas under the pilot projects.

**CUTTING DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL FUEL IMPORTS**

# Support for Ports and Portability to Green Hydrogen

## Scheme to aid retrofitting of ships

**Our Bureau**

**New Delhi:** The Centre will support retrofitting existing ships to run them on green hydrogen under a new scheme for the sector. Provisions will also be made for developing bunkering and refuelling facilities in ports on international shipping lanes for fuels based on green hydrogen.

An official statement said the scheme for implementing pilot projects using green hydrogen in the shipping sector entails a budgetary outlay of ₹115 crore till fiscal 2025-26.

This scheme falls under the ₹19,744 crore National Green

Hydrogen Mission which was launched in January 2023. The Mission aims for significant decarbonization of the economy along with reduced dependence on fossil fuel imports.

“The Centre will implement pilot projects in the shipping sector, for replacing fossil fuels and fossil fuel-based feedstock with Green Hydrogen and its derivatives under the mission,” an official statement said,

while adding that these pilot projects will be implemented through the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Projects with an intention to develop Pilot Scale or Demonstration Plants for replication of technology will be supported. Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) or its successor, in case of disinvestment, will be the Scheme Implementing Agency (SIA) for retrofitting of the existing ships.

The Scheme aims to leverage existing resources and infrastructure available with the Shipping Ministry and its agencies for transport, storage and use of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives. Capital expenditure on retrofitting of existing ships with Green Hydrogen based propulsion system and creating bunkering and refuelling facilities



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on port will be funded under the scheme. But expenses due to production of Green Hydrogen or its derivatives, and land among others, will not be funded.



## महानगर गैस लिमिटेड ने अपना पहला अधिग्रहण पूरा किया

मुंबई। भारत की सबसे बड़ी नगरीय गैस वितरण कंपनियों में से एक, महानगर गैस लिमिटेड (एमजीएल) ने यूनिसन एनवायरो प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (यूईपीएल) में 100% इक्विटी हिस्सेदारी के अधिग्रहण की घोषणा की है। एमजीएल के इतिहास में यह पहला रणनीतिक अधिग्रहण है, यह कंपनी की दीर्घकालिक विकास रणनीति के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता मजबूत करता है। इस अधिग्रहण को 13 दिसंबर 2023 को पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड (पीएनजीआरबी) से अनुमोदन मिलने के बाद, 1 फरवरी 2024 को पूर्ण किया गया। हस्तांतरण से पहले, यह इक्विटी यूईपीएल में अशोका बिल्डकॉन लि. (एबीएल) और मॉर्गन स्टेनली



इंडिया इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर द्वारा प्रबंधित निवेश कोष (एमएसआईआई) के पास थी। महानगर गैस लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक आशु सिंघल ने कहा, “यूनिसन एनवायरो प्राइवेट लिमिटेड हमारा पहला अधिग्रहण है। एमजीएल के लिए यह महत्वपूर्ण अवसर है, जो हमारे कॉर्पोरेट इतिहास में महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है। यूईपीएल का अधिग्रहण हमारी दीर्घकालिक विकास योजनाएं साकार करने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता के अनुरूप है।

# विकसित भारत की दीर्घकालिक योजना

**पि**छले दस वर्षों में मोदी सरकार द्वारा किए गए संरचनात्मक सुधारों के अर्थव्यवस्था पर पड़ने वाले सकारात्मक परिणामों का ब्योरा प्रस्तुत करते हुए वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने अंतरिम बजट में 2047 तक देश को विकसित बनाने की एक दीर्घकालिक योजना का रोडमैप प्रस्तुत किया है। वैश्विक आर्थिक चुनौतियों, जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों और मुद्रास्फीति के दबावों जैसी तात्कालिक चुनौतियों के बीच भी वित्त मंत्री राजकोषीय घाटे को 5.8 प्रतिशत तक संतुलित करने, पूंजीगत व्यय को प्राथमिकता देने, हरित और समावेशी विकास पर बल देने में सफल रही हैं। देश को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए उन्होंने गरीबों, महिलाओं, युवाओं और किसानों के कल्याण को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता देने की बात कही है। विकसित देश की तरफ कदम बढ़ाते हुए पूंजीगत व्यय पर फोकस किया है। पूंजीगत परिव्यय में लगभग 11 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की राशि रखी गई है, जो जीडीपी का 3.4 प्रतिशत है। इसके अंतर्गत तीन प्रमुख आर्थिक रेलवे कारिडोर बनाए जाएंगे। यात्रियों की सुरक्षा, सुविधा और आराम बढ़ाने के लिए चालीस हजार सामान्य रेल बोगियों को वंदे भारत मानकों के अनुरूप परिवर्तित किया जाएगा। विमानन क्षेत्र एवं मेट्रो का विस्तार होगा।

देश के विकास में महिलाओं की बढ़ती भूमिका का असर भी अंतरिम बजट में दिखा। इसी दिशा में लखपति दीदी कार्यक्रम के लक्ष्य को दो करोड़ से बढ़ाकर तीन करोड़ करने का निर्णय लिया गया है। उल्लेखनीय है कि नौ करोड़ महिलाओं के साथ 83 लाख स्वयं सहायता समूह ग्रामीण सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिदृश्य को बदल रहे हैं। वहीं सर्वाइकल कैंसर की रोकथाम के लिए नौ से 14 वर्ष की आयु की लड़कियों के टीकाकरण की बात कही गई है। सक्षम आंगनबाड़ी और पोषण 2.0 के तहत मातृ एवं शिशु देखभाल के लिए विभिन्न योजनाओं को एक व्यापक कार्यक्रम के तहत लाने की बात कही गई है। निश्चित रूप से इससे बेहतर पोषण वितरण और प्रारंभिक बचपन देखभाल कार्यक्रम में तेजी आएगी। आयुष्मान भारत योजना के तहत अब स्वास्थ्य देखभाल कवर करने वाली सभी आशा कार्यकर्ताओं, आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं और सहायिकाओं का सशक्तीकरण किया जाएगा।

कृषि क्षेत्र की तीव्र वृद्धि सुनिश्चित करने के लिए



डा. सुरजीत सिंह

**अंतरिम बजट बहुत विस्तार वाला नहीं है। इसके बावजूद वह विकास की महत्वाकांक्षाओं को बल देने वाला है**



सबके विकास की चिंता करता अंतरिम बजट ● फाइल

निजी और सार्वजनिक निवेश को बढ़ावा देने की बात भी अंतरिम बजट में कही गई है। विभिन्न फसलों पर नैनो डीएपी के प्रयोग को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा। तिलहन उत्पादन में आत्मनिर्भरता हासिल करने के लिए व्यापक प्रयास किए जाएंगे। दुधारू पशुओं की उत्पादकता को बढ़ाने के लिए बुनियादी ढांचा विकास निधि बनाई जाएगी। प्रधानमंत्री मत्स्य संपदा योजना के अंतर्गत जलीय कृषि उत्पादकता को मौजूदा तीन से बढ़ाकर पांच टन प्रति हेक्टेयर तक किया जाएगा। हालांकि प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह के बढ़ने एवं रिटर्न दाखिल करने वालों की संख्या में तेज बढ़ोतरी के बाद भी कर के स्लैब में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया है। बस मौजूदा घरेलू कंपनियों के लिए कारपोरेट टैक्स की दर 30 प्रतिशत से घटाकर 22 प्रतिशत और कुछ नई विनिर्माण कंपनियों के लिए 15 प्रतिशत की गई है। साथ ही नवाचार को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए पचास साल के लिए ब्याज मुक्त ऋण से एक लाख करोड़ रुपये का कोष स्थापित होगा।

वर्ष 2070 तक नेट-जीरो की प्रतिबद्धता पूर्ति की दिशा में भी कदम बढ़ाया गया है। इसके लिए पवन ऊर्जा क्षमता के दोहन के लिए सहायता

प्रदान की जाएगी। परिवहन के लिए सीपनजी और घरेलू उद्देश्यों के लिए पीपनजी में बायोगैस का चरणबद्ध मिश्रण अनिवार्य किया गया है। घर की छतों पर सोलर ऊर्जा को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए एक करोड़ परिवारों को हर महीने 300 यूनिट तक मुफ्त बिजली देने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। वहीं धार्मिक पर्यटन सहित पर्यटन में स्थानीय उद्यमिता के अवसरों का दोहन करने के लिए राज्यों को प्रतिष्ठित पर्यटन केंद्रों का विकास करने, वैश्विक स्तर पर उनकी ब्रांडिंग और मार्केटिंग करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने की बात कही गई है। सुविधाओं और सेवाओं की गुणवत्ता के आधार पर केंद्रों की रेटिंग के लिए एक रूपरेखा स्थापित की जाएगी। इसके लिए राज्यों को दीर्घकालिक ब्याज मुक्त ऋण भी प्रदान किया जाएगा। घरेलू पर्यटन के उभरते क्षेत्रों में बंदरगाह कनेक्टिविटी, बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास और सुविधाएं बढ़ाने के लिए परियोजनाएं शुरू की जाएंगी। इससे रोजगार सृजन में भी मदद मिलेगी। यह भी सच है कि बिना राज्यों के सहयोग के भारत को 2047 तक विकसित बनाना मुश्किल होगा। इसके लिए राज्य सरकारों को पचास वर्षीय ब्याज मुक्त ऋण के रूप में 75 हजार करोड़ रुपये का प्रविधान किया गया है। राज्यों को पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए पचास वर्षीय ब्याज मुक्त ऋण की योजना इस वर्ष भी जारी रहेगी, जिसका कुल परिव्यय 1.3 लाख करोड़ रुपये होगा। पीएम आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) के अंतर्गत अगले पांच वर्षों में दो करोड़ और घर बनाए जाएंगे। किराये के घरों, झुग्गियों, चालों और अनधिकृत कालोनियों में रहने वाले मध्यम वर्ग के योग्य लोगों को अपना घर खरीदने या बनाने में मदद करने की बात भी कही गई है। जनसंख्या वृद्धि और जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तनों से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए भी एक उच्चाधिकार प्राप्त समिति का गठन किया जाएगा।

यद्यपि यह अंतरिम बजट बहुत विस्तार वाला नहीं है। इसके बावजूद यह लोकलुभावन योजनाओं से परहेज करने और विकास की महत्वाकांक्षाओं को अधिक मजबूत करने वाला है। कुल मिलाकर, मोदी सरकार अपनी प्रतिबद्धताओं के माध्यम से सबका साथ, सबका विकास और सबके विश्वास पर खरी उतरती दिख रही है।

(लेखक अर्थशास्त्री हैं)

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## सरकार एसबीआई, ओएनजीसी में भी हिस्सेदारी 50% से कम करने के लिए तैयार: वित्त मंत्री

बिजनेस संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमन ने कहा है कि सरकार ने ब्ल्यूचिप कंपनियों में भी विनिवेश यानी हिस्सेदारी बेचने का विकल्प खुला रखा है। इनमें भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (एसबीआई) और ओएनजीसी शामिल हैं। सीतारमन ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि सरकार सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की प्रमुख कंपनियों में भी अपनी हिस्सेदारी 50% से नीचे लाने के आइडिया के खिलाफ नहीं है। एक इंटरव्यू में उन्होंने कहा, 'हम ये सुनिश्चित करने के लिए काम कर रहे हैं कि बड़ी सरकारी कंपनियों का जोरदार वैल्युएशन बना रहे।' फिलहाल सरकार की एसबीआई में 57.49% और ओएनजीसी में 58.89% हिस्सेदारी है।