

China Pips India in Buying Sea-borne Russian Crude

Sanjeev.Choudhary@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India is no longer the largest buyer of seaborne Russian oil as it has been forced to reject certain cargoes due to sanctions, allowing China to lap up the commodity at deeply discounted prices.

China imported 1.82 million barrels a day (mb/d) of Russian crude by sea in March, a third more than India's 1.36 mb/d, according to energy cargo tracker Vortexa. China also receives Russian oil through pipelines. India's monthly imports of seaborne Russian crude exceeded that of China for about one and a half years. In February, however, China's 1.3 mb/d of imports from Russia, marginally surpassed India's 1.27 mb/d. In March, the gap substantially widened.

"Russian Sokol cargoes, which were previously rejected by Indian refiners due to concerns of the cargoes being loa-

ded on sanctioned vessels, were sold at heavy discounts to Chinese refiners, which explains the sharp rise in volumes into China," said Serena Huang, an analyst at Vortexa.

Stricter enforcement of the sanctions on Russian ships has meant that some of the cargoes meant for Indian refiners are being turned away. Receiving Russian oil is easy but paying for it is difficult if that



oil has been carried by a sanctioned ship, said a senior government official.

Any Indian bank involved in paying to a sanctioned entity can attract secondary sanctions.

India's imports of Russian oil, however, increased 7% month-on-month in March, showing increased inclination to source discounted barrels at a time when the benchmark Brent has risen to \$89 per barrel. If prices continue to rise, India's appetite for Russian oil will go up further, said an industry executive.

Crude at \$90 may push OMCs to losses

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, April 3

SPIRALLING CRUDE OIL prices on the back of escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia has again caused concerns over the marketing margins of the state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) in the beginning of the new financial year 2024-25.

The state owned OMCs have announced retail auto fuel price cuts just last month taking a hit of ₹1.5 per litre on margins. As crude oil prices hover close to \$90 per barrel, OMCs face a threat of underrecoveries similar to that incurred in FY23.

If crude prices touch \$90 per barrel, then diesel can see heavy under recoveries, marking losses, according to an analysis by Icra. Petrol, however, is likely to be just about positive, said Prashant Vasisht, senior vice president and Co-Head, Corporate Ratings, Icra. "Currently, the under-recoveries are marginal or there's break-even for diesel. Petrol sales aren't loss-making yet, although the margins are low. If crude oil prices continue to rise or remain elevated at \$87-\$90 per barrel, then under-recoveries could start again and stay through FY25 as in FY23," said Vasisht.

Nomura had earlier noted that diesel margins of the public downstream companies have declined to below normative levels to ₹0.9 per litre and gasoline margins have declined to below normative levels of ₹1.7 per litre after the auto fuel price cut.

Brent crude prices on the Intercontinental exchange rose to \$89 per barrel on Wednesday after Ukraine



RIPPLE EFFECT

■ If crude prices touch **\$90 per barrel**, then diesel can see heavy under recoveries, marking losses

■ The OMCs have announced retail auto fuel price cuts just last month taking a hit of **₹1.5 per litre** on margins

attacked Russia's largest oil refineries. Escalating conflict in the Middle East has added to the price concerns. Iran has said that it would retaliate against Israel for an airstrike at its embassy in Damascus killing two of its generals and five military advisors.

"The current geopolitical developments in the Middle East and the conflict in Ukraine are having a particularly strong impact on supply concerns in the oil market, supporting prices," said Commerzbank Research in a note on Wednesday.



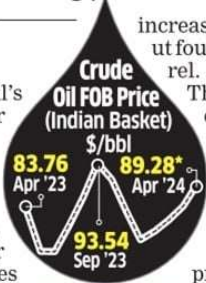
Crude on Bouncy Wicket NERVOUS 90s LOOM

Petro secy says rising price a matter of anxiety

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Crude oil's climb towards \$90 per barrel is a matter of anxiety for India, said Pankaj Jain, secretary, petroleum and natural gas ministry. "Whenever prices go up, it does cause anxiety and concern," Jain said on Wednesday.

The price of Brent, the international crude benchmark, has



*As of April 2; rest of the figures are average for each month

increased \$15 per barrel in about four months to \$89 per barrel. "Does it stop at \$90? That's the matter of anxiety," he said.

India is the third-largest importer of crude oil in the world and ships in 88% of its requirements.

The impact of high prices can be gauged only if they are sustained for long, Jain said.

Cos will Respond if Prices Stay Elevated, says Jain ▶▶ 8

Response if Prices Stay Elevated, says Jain

▶▶ **From Page 1**

The secretary added that if prices stay this way for a month or longer, companies will respond appropriately. Geopolitics and traditional summer demand were driving up prices, he said.

An Israeli attack on the Iran embassy in Syria on Monday, which killed some senior Iranian military officers, is threatening to widen the conflict in West Asia.

Fuel prices get a boost during summer, helped by increased holiday travel and air-conditioning demand. "Either crude prices go up or cracks go up (in summer). This year so far, crude prices have gone up, cracks haven't gone up," Jain said.

Refiners are expected to regularly align domestic prices of fuel with international rates. After extreme volatility hit the global oil markets in 2022, state oil companies stopped regular revision of prices. They have recently cut retail prices of petrol and diesel by ₹2 per litre each.



Crude prices a cause for concern, says oil secretary

FE BUREAU

New Delhi, April 3

RISING GLOBAL CRUDE oil prices are a cause of concern and anxiety for India, said oil secretary Pankaj Jain on Wednesday.

"Whenever prices go up, it does cause anxiety, cause concern. Does it stop at \$90 per barrel? That's the matter of anxiety," Jain said.

The secretary's comments come on the backdrop of oil prices having risen to \$89 per barrel on Wednesday due to rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

When asked whether retail fuel prices can see an uptick considering the rising oil prices, Jain said that the country's oil marketing companies will take an appropriate decision if crude prices continue to stay higher for a month longer.

Jain noted that geopolitics and traditional summer demand have been driving up prices. On Wednesday, Ukraine attacked Russia's largest oil refineries. Iran also said that it will retaliate against Israel's attack on its embassy that killed its senior military officers.

India imports about 88% of its crude requirements. Refiners are supposed to revise retail fuel prices on a regular basis tracking international prices. However, the practice was suspended after the extreme volatility in global oil markets in 2022. Indian refiners have recently announced a cut in retail fuel prices by ₹2 per litre after two years.

GH2, Green Ammonia to Drive \$125 B Investments in India by 2030: Aventus

Kalpana.Pathak@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Green hydrogen (GH2) and green ammonia segments are estimated to drive investments of \$125 billion (about ₹10.43 lakh crore) in India by 2030, according to a report by investment banking firm Aventus Capital.

The report, titled 'Green Hydrogen, The Next Frontier In Energy Transition', said the growth would be driven by an increasing focus on sustainability, demonstrated commercial viability, ever-expanding use cases and a strong regulatory push.

GH2 is made by electrolysis of water, using power from renewable energy sources. It does not emit any greenhouse gases. Efforts are on globally to make green hydrogen the fuel that can help countries attain their net-zero emission targets.

"India is home to one of the cheapest renewable electricity costs globally, has abundant availability of fresh water and is emerging as a global manu-



facturing hub – three essential elements required for the production of green hydrogen at a competitive cost," said Prateek Jhavar, managing director, Aventus Capital.

He said there is an emergence of the first set of serious standalone and integrated participants forging partnerships to aggregate capabilities and infrastructure to tap into GH2 derivatives.

"While the commercial and industri-

al business model for domestic consumption of green hydrogen will drive the first set of investments in the sector, the steel industry will form the largest share of off-take contracts in the near term with the imposition of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism in the EU," Jhavar said.

GH2 is being touted as the fuel of the future, with massive research and development investments in establishing the commercial viability of hydrogen in transport, power, aviation, shipping and other industrial uses. Significant push is also substantiated by the clean attributes of hydrogen and its high energy content.

The report said green hydrogen is becoming increasingly competitive with the current production forms of hydrogen as production costs have plummeted more than 40% in the past eight years and is expected to reduce further and reach parity with blue hydrogen in the near future. Blue hydrogen is produced mainly from natural gas.



Govt hikes windfall tax on petroleum crude

New Delhi: The government has raised its windfall tax on petroleum crude to Rs 6,800 a tonne from Rs 4,900 with effect from April 4. **REUTERS**

Govt invites bids for first commercial crude oil storage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 3 April

The government is planning to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage as part of efforts to shore up stockpiles as insurance against any supply disruption.

Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle created by the government for building and operating strategic petroleum reserves in the country, has invited bids for constructing 2.5 million tonnes (mt) of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka, according to the tender document. ISPRL had in the first phase built a strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns for storage of 5.33 mt of crude oil at three locations Visakhapatnam (1.33 mt) in Andhra Pradesh and Mangalore (1.5 mt) and Padur (2.5 mt) in Karnataka.

Under Phase-II, it intends

to build a commercial cum strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns with associated above ground facilities, including dedicated SPM and associated pipelines for storage of 2.5 mt of crude oil at Padur-II at a cost of ₹5,514 crore.



High crude oil prices a cause for concern, says official

Reuters

NEW DELHI

Rising crude oil prices are a cause for concern for the world's third-largest importer of the commodity, India's Oil Secretary Pankaj Jain said on Wednesday.

'Geopolitical premium'

As a consuming nation, any increase in prices will cause concern and anxiety, Mr. Jain said at an industry event, referring to the "geopolitical premium" in crude prices.

If oil prices continue to stay higher for a month longer, oil marketing companies will take an appropriate decision, the Secretary said, when asked if there is a case for increasing retail fuel prices.

QUICKLY.

High crude prices a cause for concern: Oil Secretary



New Delhi: Rising crude oil prices are a cause for concern for the nation, Oil secretary Pankaj Jain said on Wednesday. Referring to the “geopolitical premium” in crude prices. If prices continue to stay high for a month longer, oil marketing companies will take an appropriate decision, he said, when asked if there is a case for increasing retail fuel prices. REUTERS

India gets more West Asia crude as sanctions tighten on Russia

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

India's crude oil imports from its traditional source, the West Asia, have been inching up in the last six months, since the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) began sanctioning vessels transporting Russian crude oil above the coalition-agreed price cap of \$60 a barrel in October last year.

According to energy intelligence firm Vortexa, Indian refiners topped up on crude oil cargoes from Iraq, the UAE and Qatar last month amidst tightening tonnage supply available for moving Russian cargoes on non-sanctioned vessels.

Vortexa's Head of APAC Analysis, Serena Huang told *businessline* that despite the decline in Sokol imports, Indian cargoes of Russian crude totalled 1.36 million barrels per day mb/d in March, up 7 per cent m-o-m. However, on an annual basis shipments fell by almost 19 per cent.

Trade sources and refiners said that Russian shipments, except Sokol, have not witnessed much resistance. However tightening restrictions on freight compliance could skew supply dynamics going ahead.

GROWING SHIPMENTS

On the other hand, India imported 1.09 mb/d of crude oil from Iraq, higher by 39 per cent m-o-m and 30 per cent y-o-y. This is the second time in the 2024 calendar year (CY) that Iraqi shipments have surpassed 1 mb/d after importing 1.18 mb/d in January 2024.

India also sourced more crude from Qatar and the UAE. Shipments from Qatar were up 18 per cent m-o-m and 26 per cent y-o-y to 45,000 b/d. While, cargoes from the UAE rose 42 per cent m-o-m and 38 per cent y-o-y to 4,42,000 b/d.

However, shipments from Saudi Arabia, India's third largest supplier, fell by 8 per cent m-o-m and 21 per cent y-o-y to 7,68,000 barrels per day

Shifting ports

Month/Year	Russia		Middle East		Total Imports
	Thousand barrels per day - kb/d	% of Total	Thousand barrels per day - kb/d	% of Total	
Oct-23	1,459	33.5	2,017	46.3	4,359
Nov-23	1,620	35.2	2,137	46.4	4,604
Dec-23	1,327	30.6	2,038	47.0	4,332
Jan-24	1,303	26.9	2,479	51.0	4,851
Feb-24	1,271	31.8	2,100	47.1	4,456
Mar-24	1,362	27.8	2,365	48.3	4,893

Source: Vortexa; Middle East: Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar

(b/d). "Indian refiners are likely turning towards more Middle East crude if they are unable to secure the previous volumes of Russian crude that they have been importing," Huang said.

As per Vortexa data, Russia accounted for roughly 28 per cent of India's cumulative imports of 4.89 mb/d last month. Middle Eastern suppliers Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar collectively accounted for 48.3 per cent. In February 2024, Russia accounted for 31.8 per cent of total shipments, while Middle East's share came at 47.1 per cent.

In January 2024, the share of Middle Eastern suppliers rose

to around 51 per cent of India's total crude imports of 4.85 mb/d, whereas Russia accounted for roughly 27 per cent.

Huang pointed out that Indian refiners have "almost completely" halted imports of Sokol, likely due to concerns of repercussions from the US sanctions.

"More EU operators are leaving the Russian crude trade, and with growing sanctions on shipping companies carrying Russian crude above the price cap, there is a risk that logistics could become a constraint on Russia's crude exports to India," Huang anticipated.

India to build first commercial crude oil strategic storage

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

India, the world's third biggest oil consumer and importer, plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage as part of efforts to shore up stockpiles as insurance against any supply disruption. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle created by the government for building and operating strategic petroleum reserves in the country, has invited bids for constructing 2.5 million tonnes (mt) of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka, according to the tender document.

ISPRL, had, in the first phase, built a strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock

caverns for storage of 5.33 mt of crude oil at three locations Visakhapatnam (1.33 mt) in Andhra Pradesh and Mangalore (1.5 mt) and Padur (2.5 mt) in Karnataka.

Under phase-II, it intends to build a commercial cum strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns along with associated above ground facilities, including dedicated SPM and associated pipelines for storage of 2.5 mt of crude oil at Padur-II at a cost of ₹5,514 crore. In the tender, ISPRL said the Padur-II will be constructed in a public-private partnership model where private parties will design, build, finance, and operate the storage. Bids are due by April 22 and the tender is to be awarded by June 27, the document said.



India plans to build first commercial crude storage

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

India plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage as part of efforts to shore up stockpiles as insurance against any supply disruption.

Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL), an SPV created by the government for building and operating strategic petroleum reserves in the country, has invited bids for constructing 2.5 million tonnes of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka, according to the tender document.

ISPRL had in the first phase built a strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns at three locations.

India to build 1st commercial crude oil strategic reserve

NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

India, the world's third biggest oil consumer and importer, plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage as part of efforts to shore up stockpiles as insurance against any supply disruption.

Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle created by the government for building and operating strategic petroleum reserves in the country, has invited bids for constructing 2.5 million tonnes of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka, according to the tender document. The ISPRL had in the first phase built a strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns for storage of 5.33 million tonnes of crude oil at three locations — Visakhapatnam (1.33 million tonnes) in Andhra Pradesh, and Mangalore (1.5 million tonnes) and Padur (2.5 million tonnes) in Karnataka.

Under Phase-II, it intends to build a commercial-cum strategic-petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns along with associated above ground facilities, including

Bids invited by April 22, tender to be given by June 27



PROJECT ALLOTMENT

- Bidders have been asked to quote the financial grant they require for the building of the reserves or the premium/fee they want to offer to the authority
- The project will be awarded to entities that offer the highest premium. Where no bidder is offering a premium, it would go to the one seeking the lowest grant, the tender document said

dedicated single-point mooring and associated pipelines (offshore and onshore) for storage of 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil at Padur-II at a cost of Rs 5,514 crore.

The Phase-I storages were built at government expense.

In the tender, the ISPRL said the Padur-II will be constructed in a PPP (public-private partnership) model where private parties will design, build, finance, and operate the storage.

"Maximum quantum of grant to be quoted for the project shall be capped to Rs 3,308 crore," the ISPRL said. "A bidder who seeks a grant cannot offer any premium."

The operator of Padur-II will lease out the storage to any oil company wishing to store oil and charge a fee. The companies storing oil can sell it to domestic refiners. But in case of an emergency, India will hold the first right on oil usage. Bids are due by April 22 and the tender is to be awarded by June 27, the document said. The ISPRL is acquiring about 215 acres of land for Padur-II. India, which meets over 85 per cent of its oil needs through imports, will use the strategic reserves in any emergency situation like supply disruption or war.

Of the Phase-I reserves, UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil

Company (Adnoc) has hired half of the 2.5 million tonnes storage capacity at Padur and 1.5 million tonnes facility at Mangalore. While the remaining 1.25 million tonnes at Padur has been filed by the ISPRL, the 0.75 million tonnes of vacant storage at Mangalore is to be leased out.

Out of the 1.33 million tonnes of storage built at Visakhapatnam, 0.33 million tonnes was a space that was built at the expense and for Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL). Of the remaining, HPCL has hired 0.3 million tonnes more and the rest of the storage is to be leased out. — PTI



India to build 1st commercial crude oil strategic storage

PTI / New Delhi

India, the world's third biggest oil consumer and importer, plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage as part of efforts to shore up stockpiles as insurance against any supply disruption.

Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle created by the government for building and operating strategic petroleum reserves in the country, has invited bids for constructing 2.5 million tonnes of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka, according to the tender document.

ISPRL had in the first phase built a strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns for storage of 5.33 million tonnes of crude oil at three locations Visakhapatnam (1.33 million tonnes) in Andhra Pradesh and Mangalore (1.5 million tonnes) and Padur (2.5 million tonnes) in Karnataka.

Under Phase-II, it intends to

ISPRL has invited bids for constructing 2.5 million tonnes of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka

build a commercial cum strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns along with associated above ground facilities, including dedicated SPM and associated pipelines (offshore and onshore) for storage of 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil at Padur-II at a cost of Rs 5,514 crore.

The Phase-I storages were built at government expense.

In the tender, ISPRL said the Padur-II will be constructed in a PPP (public-private partnership) model where private parties will design, build, finance, and operate the storage.

Bidders have been asked to quote the financial grant they require for the building of the reserves or the premium/fee they want to offer to the authority.

India to build 1st commercial crude oil strategic storage

2.5 mn tonnes of underground storage will be constructed at Padur in Karnataka

NEW DELHI: India, the world's third biggest oil consumer and importer, plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage as part of efforts to shore up stockpiles as insurance against any supply disruption.

Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle created by the government for building and operating strategic petroleum reserves in the country, has invited bids for constructing 2.5 million tonnes of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka, according to the tender document.

ISPRL had in the first phase built a strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns for storage of 5.33 million tonnes of crude oil at three locations Visakhapatnam (1.33 million tonnes) in Andhra Pradesh and Mangalore (1.5 million tonnes) and Padur (2.5 million tonnes) in Karnataka.

Under Phase-II, it intends to build a commercial cum strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns along with associated above ground facilities, including dedicated SPM and associated pipelines (offshore and onshore) for storage of 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil at Padur-II at a cost of Rs 5,514 crore.

The Phase-I storages were built at government expense.

In the tender, ISPRL said the Padur-II will be constructed in a PPP (public-private partnership) model where private parties will design, build, finance, and operate the storage.



Bidders have been asked to quote the financial grant they require for the building of the reserves or the premium/fee they want to offer to the authority.

The project will be awarded to entities that offer the highest premium. Where no bidder is offering a premium, it would go to the one seeking the lowest grant, the tender document said.

"Maximum quantum of grant to be quoted for the project shall be capped to Rs 3,308 crore," ISPRL said. "A bidder who seeks a grant cannot offer any premium."

The operator of Padur-II will lease out the storage to any oil company wishing to store oil and charge a fee. The companies storing oil can sell it to domestic refiners. But in case of an emergency, India will hold the first right on oil usage.

Bids are due by April 22 and the tender is to be awarded by June 27, the document said.

ISPRL is acquiring about 215 acres of land for Padur-II.

India, which meets over 85 per cent of its oil needs through imports, will use the strategic reserves in any emergency situation like supply disruption or war.

Of the Phase-I reserves, UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) has hired half of the 2.5 million tonnes storage capacity at Padur and 1.5 million tonnes facility at Mangalore. While the remaining 1.25 million tonnes at Padur has been filed by ISPRL, the 0.75 million tonnes of vacant storage at Mangalore is to be leased out.

Out of the 1.33 million tonnes of storage built at Visakhapatnam, 0.33 million tonnes was a space that was built at the expense and for Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL). Of the remaining, HPCL has hired 0.3 million tonnes more and the rest of the storage is to be leased out.

The government had in the 2023-24 budget provided for Rs 5,000 crore for filling the vacant slots in the caverns but

Bidders have been asked to quote the financial grant they require for the building of the reserves or the premium/fee they want to offer to the authority

mid-year that plan was deferred. In the interim budget for 2024-25, presented in February, no allocation has been made for the purpose.

Companies like Adnoc use the strategic storages to hold oil for further sale to users.

Last month, the government allowed Adnoc to export crude oil it has stored in Mangalore reserves to give operational flexibility to the foreign firm.

At present, crude oil, which is the raw material for producing fuels like petrol and diesel, is not allowed to be exported except through state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

In an order, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on March 23 said the condition of export being allowed only through IOC will continue but "AMI (Adnoc Marketing International (India) RSC Limited India) is exempted from STE conditions and is allowed to re-export crude oil from their commercial stockpile at Mangalore strategic petroleum reserve, at their own cost."

AGENCIES

India to build 3rd strategic crude oil storage in Padur

New Delhi, April 3: India, the world's third biggest oil consumer and importer, plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage as part of efforts to shore up stockpiles as insurance against any supply disruption.

Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle created by the government for building and operating strategic petroleum reserves in the country, has invited bids for constructing 2.5 million tonnes of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka.

ISPRL had in the first phase built a strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns for storage of



5.33 million tonnes of crude oil at three locations Visakhapatnam (1.33 million tonnes) in Andhra Pradesh and Mangalore (1.5 million tonnes) and Padur (2.5 million tonnes) in Karnataka.

Under Phase-II, it intends to build a commercial cum strategic petroleum reserve in underground unlined rock caverns along with associated above ground facili-

ties, including dedicated SPM and associated pipelines (offshore and onshore) for storage of 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil at Padur-II at a cost of ₹5,514 crore.

The Phase-I storages were built at government expense.

ISPRL said the Padur-II will be constructed in a PPP (public-private partnership) model where private parties will design, build, finance, and operate the storage.

"Maximum quantum of grant to be quoted for the project shall be capped to ₹3,308 crore," ISPRL said.

The operator of Padur-II will lease out the storage to any oil company wishing to store oil and charge a fee.

—PTI



India to build first commercial crude oil strategic storage

New Delhi: India plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage as part of efforts to shore up stockpiles as insurance against any supply disruption. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle created by the government to build and operate strategic petroleum reserves in the country, has invited bids to build 2.5mt of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka, a tender document showed. **PTI**



IOC IN TALKS WITH NPCIL TO BUILD NUCLEAR UNITS

New Delhi, April 3: State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is in talks with Nuclear Power Corp. of India Ltd. (NPCIL) to build small nuclear units, an early-stage technology seen as a cost-effective alternative to larger plants.

The IOC is exploring a partnership with state-controlled NPCIL to use small modular reactors in its refineries for clean power, Alok Sharma, Indian Oil's director for research and development, said at a conference in New Delhi Wednesday.

As several bigger projects face delays, policymakers are promoting small-scale nuclear technology with a capacity of up to 300 megawatts.

— *Bloomberg*



OPEC sticks with supply cuts for H1

Bloomberg

OPEC+ chose to stick with oil supply cuts for the first half of the year, keeping global markets tight and potentially sending prices higher.

A panel of key members led by Saudi Arabia recommended no policy changes at an online review meeting on Wednesday, according to a statement posted on the group's website. That means roughly 2 million barrels a day of output curbs will remain in place until the end of June. The cuts by the Organization of Petroleum Ex-

porting Countries and its partners, combined with surprisingly resilient fuel demand, have helped push crude prices to almost \$90 a barrel in London, the highest level this year. Ongoing conflict in the Middle East is also propping up crude futures.

By keeping the curbs in place, OPEC+ looks set to ensure that global oil markets remain in a slight deficit during the second quarter, according to the International Energy Agency in Paris. The shortfall could send oil prices toward \$100 a barrel, JPMorgan Chase & Co has warned.

Opec+ supply cuts stay, crude hits \$90

Bloomberg
feedback@livemint.com

Opec+ chose to stick with oil supply cuts for the first half of the year, keeping global markets tight and potentially sending prices higher.

A panel of key members led by Saudi Arabia recommended no policy changes at an online review meeting on Wednesday, according to delegates who asked not to be identified. That means roughly 2 million barrels a day of output curbs will remain in place until the end of June.

The cuts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and its partners, combined with surprisingly resilient fuel demand, have helped push crude prices to almost \$90 a barrel in London, the highest level this year. Ongoing conflict in the Middle East is also propping up crude futures.

Brent crude edged higher to \$89.67 a barrel by 12:32 p.m. in London.

By keeping the curbs in place, Opec+ looks set to ensure that global oil markets remain in a slight deficit during the second quarter, according to the International Energy Agency in Paris. The shortfall could send oil prices toward \$100 a barrel, JPMorgan Chase & Co. has warned.

That could spell discomfort for consumers still smarting from years of rampant inflation and complicate the job of central banks seeking to loosen monetary policy.



Roughly 2 million barrels a day of output curbs will remain in place till June end. BLOOMBERG

However, for the Saudis and its allies, the rally shores up vital government revenues.

The group's supply cuts have managed to tighten the market even though some key members—notably Iraq and Kazakhstan—haven't implemented their agreed reductions.

The two countries have promised to make additional cutbacks to compensate, but they have a patchy track record when it comes to delivery. Baghdad has often chafed against Opec+ output limits as it seeks revenues to rebuild a shattered economy.

Russia, which jointly leads Opec+ with the Saudis, has also shown a mixed performance. The country belatedly implemented crude oil production cuts promised a year ago, but its delivery of export reductions agreed for this year is less clear. While its shipments of fuels like diesel have fallen, this may be linked to Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian refineries.

RIL, TaMo and IOC to be Key Bidders for Pilot GH2 Project

GREEN & BEAR IT Bid for ₹496-crore project closes today; plan is to identify operational issues with regard to use of green/grey hydrogen in transport sector

ET EXCLUSIVE

Shally Seth Mohile & Kalpana Pathak

Mumbai: Reliance Industries (RIL), Tata Motors and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will be the key bidders for the government's pilot project for the use of green/grey hydrogen (H2) in the transport sector, according to people who are aware of the development. The initiative is in line with the government's aim to decarbonise the economy, reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports, and enable India to assume technology and market leadership in green hydrogen.

"The pilot projects will help to identify operational issues (with regards to H2) and gaps in terms of current technology readiness, regulations, implementation methodologies, infrastructure, and supply chains," stated the revised request for proposal (RFP) document reviewed by ET.

The bid for the ₹496-crore project which opened in February, closes on Thursday. It is part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission which was launched in January 2023 with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore. One of the key criteria from the bidders is participation as a consortium or partners to ensure the entire value chain — from making hydrogen and dispensing it and running vehicles fuelled by hydrogen. The bidding consortium should include a vehicle manufacturer, hydrogen fuel supplier distributor, and other partners as required.



ZAHID

While RIL is partnering with Ashok Leyland and Daimler India, Tata Motors is joining hands with IOCL. Ashok Leyland is also partnering with NTPC: Sources

same. Queries sent to RIL, NTPC and IOCL remained unanswered till press time.

To be sure, most of the automakers have been running pilots on hydrogen-fuelled trucks and buses for energy companies such as RIL and NTPC for some time now. Spokespersons at Tata Motors and Ashok Leyland were not immediately available for a comment. A DICV spokesperson confirmed that it has given "letter of sup-

port" to RIL for the project.

Among the bidders for the tender, RIL—which is also a participant in the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the electrolyzer and green H2, is the only one that can be an end-to-end service provider for the pilot project—from H2 manufacturing and dispensing the fuel to running an H2-powered vehicle.

The oil-to-telecom conglomerate which has been building the new energy business for the past few years, will be a big beneficiary if it wins the bid for the project. It would pave the way for the mass scale hydrogen production in the coming years in line with the government's intent, said a person familiar with the project.

The H2 corridor project seeks to support the deployment of hydrogen-powered buses, trucks, and cars, in a phased manner on a pilot basis. The winners of technical followed by the commercial bid, will be provided funds to close the viability gap due to the relatively higher capital cost of hydrogen-powered vehicles in the initial years. The learnings from the pilot projects will help inter-city bus and truck operators (including State Transport Undertakings), and private car users in gaining experience with the deployment and usage of hydrogen-powered vehicles and refueling technologies, according to the RFP.

Industry sources added that piloting the project with grey hydrogen will allow companies time to set up the infrastructure and ensure smooth functioning of the same. Grey hydrogen is produced by natural gas or coal.



कच्चे तेल का रणनीतिक भंडार बनाएगा भारत

नई दिल्ली: आपात स्थिति में आपूर्ति दिक्कतों से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए भारत कच्चे तेल का अपना पहला वाणिज्यिक रणनीतिक भंडार बनाएगा। सरकार ने रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार तैयार करने और उसके परिचालन के लिए इंडियन स्ट्रैटेजिक पेट्रोलियम रिजर्व लिमिटेड का गठन किया है। कर्नाटक के पादुर में 25 लाख टन भूमिगत भंडारण बनाने के लिए 22 अप्रैल तक बोलियां मंगाई गई हैं। (प्र.प्र.)

सुविधा

साल के आखिर तक दिल्ली में 573 जगहों पर मिलेगी सुविधा

बाजार, मॉल, अस्पताल में भी होंगे ईवी चार्जिंग स्टेशन

आदित्य पाण्डेय

नई दिल्ली। आने वाले समय में वाहन चालकों को अपार्टमेंट, ग्रुप हाउसिंग सोसाइटी, अस्पताल, कॉलेज, संस्थागत भवन, किराना स्टोर, बाजार, दुकान, मॉल और कैफेटेरिया के आसपास ईवी चार्जिंग स्टेशन आसानी से मिल जाएंगे।

इस साल के आखिर तक निगम की ओर से 573 ईवी चार्जिंग स्टेशन खोले जाएंगे। इनमें से 275 स्टेशन खुल चुके हैं। इस महीने के आखिर तक और 25 स्थानों पर नए स्टेशन खुल जाएंगे।



25 स्थानों पर इस महीने के आखिर तक नए स्टेशन खुलेंगे

अधिकारियों के मुताबिक, दिल्ली में ई-चार्जिंग स्टेशन खोलने के लिए एमसीडी ने जो पॉलिसी बनाई है, उसके तहत हर तीन किलोमीटर की पर

ईवी का चलन बढ़ा

दिल्ली में करीब 80 लाख वाहन पंजीकृत हैं। इसमें आधे दोपहिया हैं। सिविक एजेंसी एक्सपर्ट्स कहना है कि दिल्ली में हर साल करीब एक लाख वाहन ईवी में बदल रहे हैं। सोसाइटियों में ईवी का चलन तेजी से बढ़ा है। आने वाले समय में संख्या और तेजी से बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। इससे प्रदूषण कम होगा। दिल्ली सरकार के दिशा-निर्देशों पर निगम जमीनी स्तर पर कार्ययोजना बनाकर काम कर रहा है।

एक ई-चार्जिंग व बैटरी स्वैपिंग स्टेशन बनाने का फैसला किया गया है। एमसीडी के साथ 11 कंपनियों ने ई-चार्जिंग स्टेशन खोलने के हाथ मिलाया है। इनमें टीसीआईएल, बेसिल,

ईईएसएल, आईजीएल, बीपीसीएल, एचपीसीएल, सीईएसएल व डिम्स शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा विद्युत वितरण कंपनियां जिनमें डीपीडीडीएल, बीवाईपीएल व बीआरपीएल भी

शामिल हैं। कैफेटेरिया और मॉल्स के आसपास सबसे ज्यादा चार्जिंग स्टेशन खोले जा रहे हैं।

दिल्ली बनेगी ईवी राजधानी : एमसीडी के अलावा दिल्ली सरकार और एनडीएमसी भी ईवी चार्जिंग स्टेशन बनाने के लिए काम कर रहे हैं। एमसीडी ई-चार्जिंग स्टेशन बनाने के लिए अभी भी नए स्थान चिन्हित कर रही है। बंद ढलाव घरों में भी ई-चार्जिंग स्टेशन खोले जा रहे हैं। आने वाले समय में दिल्ली को भारत की इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन राजधानी के रूप में पहचान मिलेगी।

भारत अपना पहला वाणिज्यिक कच्चा तेल रणनीतिक भंडारण बनाएगा

■ नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

दुनिया का तीसरे सबसे बड़ा तेल उपभोक्ता और आयातक देश भारत कच्चे तेल का अपना पहला वाणिज्यिक रणनीतिक भंडारण बनाने की योजना बना रहा है। किसी भी आपात स्थिति में आपूर्ति बाधा से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए यह कदम उठाया जा रहा है।

सरकार ने देश में रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार तैयार करने और उसके परिचालन के लिए विशेष इकाई इंडियन स्ट्रैटेजिक पेट्रोलियम रिजर्व लिमिटेड (आईएसपीआरएल) का गठन किया है। इस इकाई ने कर्नाटक के पादुर में 25 लाख टन भूमिगत भंडारण बनाने के लिए बोलियां आमंत्रित की हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज से यह जानकारी मिली है।

आईएसपीआरएल ने पहले चरण में तीन स्थानों पर 53.3 लाख टन का भंडारण बनाया था। ये तीन जगह आंध्र प्रदेश में विशाखापत्तनम (13.3 लाख टन) कर्नाटक में मेंगलोर (15 लाख टन) तथा पादुर (25 लाख टन) हैं। तेल के भंडारण के लिए ये भूमिगत चट्टानी गुफाएं हैं। दूसरे चरण के तहत, आईएसपीआरएल की पादुर-दो में

5,514 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से वाणिज्यिक सह रणनीतिक भूमिगत पेट्रोलियम भंडार तैयार करने की योजना है। इसमें जमीन के ऊपर संबंधित सुविधाएं भी शामिल हैं। इस निर्माण कार्य में 25 लाख टन कच्चा तेल के रणनीतिक भंडार के लिए एसपीएम (सिगल पॉइंट मूरिंग) और संबद्ध पाइपलाइन (तट पर और अपतटीय) का निर्माण शामिल हैं। पहले

चरण के तहत भंडारण का निर्माण सरकारी खर्च पर किया गया है।

आईएसपीआरएल ने निविदा में कहा कि पादुर-दो का निर्माण पीपीपी (सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी) मॉडल में किया जाएगा। इसमें निजी इकाइयां भंडारण का डिजाइन, निर्माण, वित्तपोषण और परिचालन करेंगी।

बोलीदाताओं से कहा गया है कि वे भंडारण के निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक वित्तीय अनुदान या उस प्रीमियम/शुल्क का बतायें जो वे प्राधिकरण को देना चाहते हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज में कहा गया है कि यह परियोजना उन इकाइयों को दी जाएगी, जो अधिक प्रीमियम/शुल्क देंगे। जहां कोई भी बोली लगाने वाला प्रीमियम की पेशकश नहीं कर रहा है, यह सबसे कम अनुदान चाहने वाले को दी जाएगी।

■ किसी भी आपात स्थिति में आपूर्ति बाधा से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए उठाया जा रहा कदम

भारत अपना पहला वाणिज्यिक रणनीतिक कच्चा तेल भंडारण बनाएगा

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा तेल उपभोक्ता और आयातक देश भारत कच्चे तेल का अपना पहला वाणिज्यिक रणनीतिक भंडारण बनाने की योजना बना रहा है। किसी भी आपात स्थिति में आपूर्ति बाधा से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए यह कदम उठाया जा रहा है। सरकार ने देश में रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार तैयार करने और उसके परिचालन के लिए विशेष इकाई इंडियन स्ट्रैटेजिक पेट्रोलियम रिजर्व लि. (आईएसपीआरएल) का गठन किया है इस इकाई ने कर्नाटक के पादुर में 25 लाख टन भूमिगत भंडारण बनाने के लिए बोलियां आमंत्रित की हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज से यह जानकारी मिली है। आईएसपीआरएल ने पहले चरण में तीन स्थानों पर 53.3 लाख टन का भंडारण बनाया था। ए तीन जगह आंध्र प्रदेश में विशाखापत्तनम (13.3 लाख टन), कर्नाटक में मंगलोर (15 लाख टन) तथा पादुर (25 लाख टन) हैं। तेल के भंडारण के लिए ए भूमिगत चट्टानी गुफाएं हैं। दूसरे चरण के तहत, आईएसपीआरएल की पादुर-दो में 5,514 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से वाणिज्यिक सह रणनीतिक भूमिगत



पेट्रोलियम भंडार तैयार करने की योजना है। इसमें जमीन के उम्र संबंधित सुविधाएं भी शामिल हैं। इस निर्माण कार्य में 25 लाख टन कच्चे तेल के रणनीतिक भंडार के लिए एसपीएम (सिंगल पॉइंट मूविंग) और संबद्ध पाइपलाइन (तट पर और अपतटीय) का निर्माण शामिल हैं। पहले चरण के तहत भंडारण का निर्माण सस्कारी खर्च पर किया गया है। आईएसपीआरएल ने निविदा में कहा कि पादुर-दो का निर्माण पीपीपी (सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी) मॉडल में किया जाएगा। इसमें निजी इकाइयां भंडारण का डिजाइन, निर्माण, वित्तपोषण और परिचालन करेंगी। बोलीदाताओं से कहा गया है कि वे भंडारण के निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक वित्तीय अनुदान या उस प्रीमियमाशुल्क का बताएं जो वे प्राधिकरण को देना चाहते हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज में कहा गया है कि यह

परियोजना उन इकाइयों को दी जाएगी, जो अधिक प्रीमियमाशुल्क देंगे। जहां कोई भी बोली लगाने वाला प्रीमियम की पेशकश नहीं कर रहा है, यह सबसे कम अनुदान चाहने वाले को दी जाएगी। आईएसपीआरएल ने कहा, परियोजना के लिए अनुदान की अधिकतम सीमा 3,308 करोड़ रुपए होगी। एक बोली लगाने वाला जो अनुदान चाहता है वह कोई प्रीमियम नहीं दे सकता है। पादुर-दो का संचालक तेल भंडारण की इच्छुक किसी भी तेल कंपनी को भंडारण क्षेत्र पट्टे पर देगा और उसके लिए शुल्क लेगा। तेल का भंडारण करने वाली कंपनियां इसे घरेलू रिफाइनरी कंपनियों को बेच सकती हैं। लेकिन आपात स्थिति में तेल के इस्तेमाल पर पहला अधिकार देश का होगा। दस्तावेज में कहा गया है कि बोलियां 22 अप्रैल तक जमा की जानी हैं और निविदा 27 जून तक प्रदान की जाएगी।

भारत ने किया तेल का खेल

रूस पर नए अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों से इस बात की आशंका व्यक्त की जा रही थी कि भारत को रूसी तेल की बिक्री कम हो सकती है, जो समुद्र के द्वारा ट्रांसपोर्ट किए जाने वाले रूसी कच्चे तेल का सबसे बड़ा खरीदार है। पहले ऐसा डर जताया गया था कि रूसी टैंकर समूह पर लगे प्रतिबंध के कारण भारत को तेल आयात करने के लिए संघर्ष करना पड़ेगा। पश्चिमी देशों की कोई भी टैंकर कम्पनी रूसी तेल को नहीं ढोएगी। वहीं, तीसरे देशों की कम्पनियां अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के डर से रूसी तेल को ट्रांसपोर्ट नहीं करेंगी। अगर कोई कम्पनी तैयार भी हुई तो वह ज्यादा भाड़ा वसूल करेगी जिससे भारत को रूस से तेल की खरीद में ज्यादा मुनाफा नहीं होगा। अगर ऐसा होता है तो भारत को तेल की खरीद के लिए किसी और देश का रुख करना होगा। हालांकि, यह चिंता बेकार साबित हुई और भारत लगातार रूस से तेल का आयात कर रहा है।

अमेरिका ने यूक्रेन पर रूस के हमले की दूसरी वर्षगांठ मनाने और विपक्षी नेता एलेक्सी नवलनी की मौत का बदला लेने के लिए फरवरी में प्रतिबंधों का ऐलान किया था। अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के निशाने पर रूस का प्रमुख टैंकर समूह सोवकॉम्प्लोट था। अमेरिका ने इस रूसी टैंकर समूह पर रूसी तेल पर जी-7 की मूल्य सीमा का उल्लंघन करने में शामिल होने का आरोप लगाया था। सोवकॉम्प्लोट के पास 14 कच्चे तेल टैंकर का बेड़ा है। अमेरिका को उम्मीद थी कि रूसी टैंकरों पर लगे प्रतिबंध से

उसके तेल निर्यात पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा लेकिन भारत ने न तो पहले अमेरिकी और उसके पिटू देशों के प्रतिबंधों की परवाह की है और न ही नए प्रतिबंधों से डरा है। मार्च महीने में भारत का रूस से तेल आयात 6 प्रतिशत बढ़ गया है। तेल से भरे रूसी टैंकर भारतीय बंदरगाहों पर पहले की तरह पहुंच रहे हैं। इससे पहले भारतीय तेल कम्पनियों ने कहा था कि वे रूस से तेल के आयात में अमेरिका द्वारा प्रतिबंधित कम्पनी के टैंकरों का इस्तेमाल नहीं करेंगे लेकिन अब भारतीय कम्पनियों ने अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों की धज्जियां उड़ा दी हैं। इससे साफ है कि भारत अपने हितों की रक्षा अच्छी तरह से कर रहा है। फरवरी 2022 में यूक्रेन-रूस जंग शुरू होने पर अमेरिका और यूरोपीय देशों ने रूस पर आर्थिक प्रतिबंध लगाए तो यूरोपीय देशों ने रूस से तेल खरीदना बंद कर दिया।

अमेरिका ने भारत पर भी रूस पर अपनी निर्भरता कम करने के लिए बहुत दबाव बनाया। किसी दबाव में न आते हुए भारत ने कूटनीति से काम लिया। भारत ने दो टूक शब्दों में अपने हितों का हवाला देकर रूस से कच्चे तेल का आयात जारी रखने का फैसला किया। रूस ने भी भारत को सस्ता तेल देने की पेशकश की और भारत ने इसका पूरा लाभ उठाया। भारत को 60 डॉलर से भी कम मूल्य पर रूस से तेल हासिल हुआ। भारत पहले इराक से सबसे

अमेरिका ने भारत पर भी रूस पर अपनी निर्भरता कम करने के लिए बहुत दबाव बनाया। किसी दबाव में न आते हुए भारत ने कूटनीति से काम लिया। भारत ने दो टूक शब्दों में अपने हितों का हवाला देकर रूस से कच्चे तेल का आयात जारी रखने का फैसला किया। रूस ने भी भारत को सस्ता तेल देने की पेशकश की और भारत ने इसका पूरा लाभ उठाया। भारत को 60 डॉलर से भी कम मूल्य पर रूस से तेल हासिल हुआ। भारत पहले इराक से सबसे ज्यादा तेल खरीदता था लेकिन अब इराक को पछाड़ कर रूस सबसे बड़ा देश बन गया है। सस्ता तेल मिलने से भारतीय रिफाइनरियों को बहुत लाभ हुआ। भारतीय रिफाइनरियों ने यूरोपीय बाजार के बड़े हिस्से पर कब्जा कर लिया।

ज्यादा तेल खरीदता था लेकिन अब इराक को पछाड़ कर रूस सबसे बड़ा देश बन गया है। सस्ता तेल मिलने से भारतीय रिफाइनरियों को बहुत लाभ हुआ। भारतीय रिफाइनरियों ने यूरोपीय बाजार के बड़े हिस्से पर कब्जा कर लिया। हुआ यूं कि जिस यूरोपीय कम्पनियों ने रूस पर आर्थिक प्रतिबंध लगाए थे उन्हीं देशों को भारत ने तेल का निर्यात किया। पाकिस्तान ने भी भारत की तरह रूस से कच्चा तेल खरीदने की कोशिश की लेकिन अमेरिका के दबाव के आगे उसकी एक न चली। भारत की सफल कूटनीति के चलते कोरोना काल में और

जंग से पहले घाटे में चल रही भारतीय तेल कम्पनियों की भरपाई हुई और भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था पटरी पर आ गई। जबकि दुनिया के कई देशों की अर्थव्यवस्था डांवाडोल चल रही है और वहां महंगाई से हा-हाकार मचा हुआ है।

भारत यह अच्छी तरह जानता है कि रूस पर अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों से भारत की आर्थिक स्थिरता को खतरा है। भारत की घरेलू मुद्रास्फीति और पेट्रोल कीमतों का प्रबंधन नरेन्द्र मोदी सरकार की बड़ी उपलब्धि है। भारत विश्व की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बनने की दहलीज पर है। भारत के बढ़ते आर्थिक कद को रोकने में अमेरिका का निहित स्वार्थ है। अमेरिका की नीति एक दुश्मन को निशाना बनाना और अन्य देशों को उस दुश्मन के खिलाफ मिलकर काम करने के लिए उकसाना है। यूरोप में अमेरिका ने रूस को दुश्मन के रूप में चित्रित किया है तो पूर्वी एशिया में चीन को दुश्मन के रूप में चित्रित किया है। यूक्रेन अमेरिकी भूराजनीतिक हितों का एक उपकरण बन गया है। अमेरिका, रूस और चीन के खिलाफ भारतीय कंधों का इस्तेमाल कर बंदूक चलाना चाहता है लेकिन भारत ने अमेरिकी दबाव को दरकिनार कर अपने राष्ट्रीय हितों को सर्वोपरि रखा है।

आदित्य नारायण चोपड़ा

Adityachopra@punjabkesari.com

Thu, 04 April 2024

<https://mpaper.punjabkesari.com/c/74851547>



योजना

भारत बनाएगा अपना पहला वाणिज्यिक कच्चा तेल रणनीतिक भंडारण

विशेष प्रतिनिधि

नई दिल्ली। दुनिया का तीसरे सबसे बड़ा तेल उपभोक्ता और आयातक देश भारत कच्चे तेल का अपना पहला वाणिज्यिक रणनीतिक भंडारण बनाने की योजना बना रहा है। किसी भी आपात स्थिति में आपूर्ति बाधा से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए यह कदम उठाया जा रहा है।

सरकार ने देश में रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार तैयार करने और उसके परिचालन के लिए विशेष इकाई इंडियन स्ट्रैटेजिक पेट्रोलियम रिजर्व लि. (आईएसपीआरएल) का गठन किया है। इस इकाई ने कर्नाटक के पादुर में 25 लाख टन

भूमिगत भंडारण बनाने के लिए बोलियां आमंत्रित की हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज से यह जानकारी मिली है। आईएसपीआरएल ने पहले चरण में तीन स्थानों पर 53.3 लाख टन का भंडारण बनाया था। ये तीन जगह आंध्र प्रदेश में विशाखापत्तनम (13.3 लाख टन) कर्नाटक में मंगलोर (15 लाख टन) तथा पादुर (25 लाख टन) हैं। तेल के भंडारण के लिए ये भूमिगत चट्टानी गुफाएं हैं। दूसरे चरण के तहत, आईएसपीआरएल की पादुर-दो में 5,514 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से वाणिज्यिक सह रणनीतिक भूमिगत पेट्रोलियम भंडार तैयार करने की योजना है। इसमें जमीन के ऊपर संबंधित सुविधाएं भी शामिल हैं। इस निर्माण कार्य में

▶ आपात स्थिति में आपूर्ति बाधा से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए उठाया जा रहा है यह कदम

25 लाख टन कच्चा तेल के रणनीतिक भंडार के लिए एसपीएम (सिंगल पॉइंट मूरिंग) और संबद्ध पाइपलाइन (टट पर और अपतटीय) का निर्माण शामिल है। पहले चरण के तहत भंडारण का निर्माण सरकारी खर्च पर किया गया है। आईएसपीआरएल ने निविदा में कहा कि पादुर-दो का निर्माण पीपीपी (सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी) मॉडल में किया जाएगा। इसमें निजी इकाइयां भंडारण का डिजाइन, निर्माण, वित्तपोषण

और परिचालन करेंगी। बोलीदाताओं से कहा गया है कि वे भंडारण के निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक वित्तीय अनुदान या उस प्रीमियम/शुल्क का बतायें जो वे प्राधिकरण को देना चाहते हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज में कहा गया है कि यह परियोजना उन इकाइयों को दी जाएगी, जो अधिक प्रीमियम/शुल्क देंगे। जहां कोई भी बोली लगाने वाला प्रीमियम की पेशकश नहीं कर रहा है, यह सबसे कम अनुदान चाहने वाले को दी जाएगी। आईएसपीआरएल ने कहा, परियोजना के लिए अनुदान की अधिकतम सीमा 3,308 करोड़ रुपये होगी। एक बोली लगाने वाला जो अनुदान चाहता है वह कोई प्रीमियम नहीं दे सकता है। पादुर-दो का

संचालक तेल भंडारण की इच्छुक किसी भी तेल कंपनी को भंडारण क्षेत्र पट्टे पर देगा और उसके लिए शुल्क लेगा। तेल का भंडारण करने वाली कंपनियां इसे घरेलू रिफाइनरी कंपनियों को बेच सकती हैं। लेकिन आपात स्थिति में तेल के इस्तेमाल पर पहला अधिकार देश का होगा। दस्तावेज में कहा गया है कि बोलियां 22 अप्रैल तक जमा की जानी हैं और निविदा 27 जून तक प्रदान की जाएगी। आईएसपीआरएल पादुर-दो के लिए लगभग 215 एकड़ भूमि का अधिग्रहण कर रही है। भारत अपनी 85 प्रतिशत से अधिक कच्चे तेल जरूरतों को आयात के माध्यम से पूरा करता है।