

ABCD of the Pipelines Opportunity India Could Unlock



Five 'A's could be the new mantra for pipeline-driven gas economy to serve industrial consumers

Etgreycell@timesgroup.com

The traditional wisdom for energy markets suggests improving the three As - affordability, accessibility, and availability. As India's gas-based economy looks set to take off, two more As could well be added to that - acceptability and adoptability. It could signal a significant change in consumer and business mindset and rewire the markets.

India is looking to enhance the share of gas to 15 percent from current six percent by 2030. Nearly 24,000 km of gas pipeline is operational, and 34,000 km of national gas grid has been committed to be set up. The national gas grid will then be able to feed for industrial consumers, improving accessibility for all.

The spread and availability of gas pipelines could be critical to India's energy mix. With nearly

under 15 percent power being sourced from the renewables sector, powering the transport and some industrial sectors could be the ideal foil. When consumers see the benefits of gas-powered operations, the adoptability could improve too.

Demand for gas has been the highest from the fertiliser sector, city gas distribution companies followed by the power sector. Nearly 87 percent of diesel goes

to India's transport sector and most of it goes to long-haul trucks. That can be addressed with the improved adoptability of gas. There are no examples around the world of mega implementation of gas-based long-haul transport implementation and India could look to rewrite the rules.

Gas and LNG have become an integral part of the global energy mix, serving as a bridge between traditional fossil fuels and renewable energy sources, and offering lower emissions and increased efficiency. The challenge is for industry to address near-term needs and long-range transitions issues with the expansion of gas infrastructure. With the impending gasification of the India market, there is a massive opportunity across the value chain for gas producers and infrastructure developers.

The opportunity and ecosystem for hydrogen is still being reworked for India. While industry debates whether gas is a destination fuel or a transition fuel, the rules of the game are being altered.

Data Efficiency Key to Faster Energy Transition

Varun.Jain@timesgroup.com

Data has been driving today's digital world where it has become the most critical component to drive operational efficiencies across industries. In the energy sector, which is looking to reduce its carbon emissions, the role of data analytics, smart technologies, and advanced monitoring systems has been instrumental in improving power generation, optimising power consumption, maintaining grid stability, and efficient distribution that results in less wastage and improves sustainability efforts of global energy companies.

To achieve global climate goals while managing the continuously rising demand for power globally, policymakers and energy companies will have to devise strategies using new technologies, granular data insights, predictive analysis, and data science to successfully lead the energy transition the world is talking about.

Global energy giants are aggressively using data to track their carbon footprints and understand the viability of developing alternate clean fuels that are required for an efficient energy transition in the long run. While the systems of today are completely



automated to provide safe production and distribution of energy, data is allowing global energy companies to build systems that are important to service the needs of tomorrow.

Experts believe that across the globe not more than 20 percent of data is being deciphered and hence it provides a massive opportunity for industries, especially, in the energy sector to start deciphering the gold mine of data and take data-backed actionable insights to embark on their energy transition journey. Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Additional Director-D& ES, Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas suggests that the energy industry will need to start using data more aggressively to make a meaningful impact on the global energy transition goals.



Exploring the opportunities in natural gas procurement

Due to India's rise to prominence as the world's energy hub, there are prospects for natural gas arbitrage all over the world. Speaking during India Energy Week (IEW) 2024 in Goa, Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, stated at the Spotlight Session titled "India - a blueprint of energy transition for emerging economies." The Secretary added that the opportunities to execute natural gas procurement deals much below the market rate exists, and the government

encourages such sellers to engage in negotiations.

Natural gas, a key component of the energy shift, will continue to be used more widely in India as a result of improvements to the pipeline network and terminal capacity, according to Pankaj Jain. He went on to say that the secret to getting customers access to cleaner natural gas was diversity of fuel sources on a national and international level.

Referring to sectors that can enhance the current level of natural gas usage in

the country, the Secretary said that scaling of gas-based mobility and expansion of piped gas connections to homes would also be demand drivers for natural gas, he added.

Addressing the question of inviting global energy companies to operate in India, the Secretary said that the entities in the energy ecosystem need to be assured that India is a different place to conduct business now. He pointed out that removal of a million square kilometres of no-go zones for exploration and production was one such step in the

direction. Additionally, the Secretary said that IEW 2024 provided an opportunity for exhibitors to showcase unique solutions to energy problems. He pointed to various solutions being developed by start-ups as examples and mentioned the electrolyser displayed by BPCL as a success story for indigenous technology development.

Moreover, Pankaj Jain elaborated that expediting and expanding adoption of biofuels was incumbent on scaling up production of the fuel at an affordable cost. He pointed out that recent progress

in two key areas of biofuel production — feedstock collection and processing facilities — bodes well for the future.

"Some years ago it was unimaginable that municipal solid waste could be segregated. But it's happening now," Jain said. He added that the government was working on mechanisation, infrastructure support and improving local networks to improve aggregation of feedstock.

The secretary also lauded the small and medium enterprises as the unsung heroes of biofuel production enhancement.

Hardeep Singh Puri visits OIL Pavilion at India Energy Week 2024



Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday complimented Oil India Ltd (OIL) and its

subsidiary Numaligarh Refinery Ltd for their strategic work and path breaking initiatives, which are helping India secure its energy requirements. The Minister, who visited Oil India's sprawling pavilion at the ongoing India Energy Week, said while Oil India has taken several laudable steps to enhance India's hydrocarbon output, he specifically congratulated the PSU Maharatna for its Mission 4+ to enhance production and NRL's path-breaking initiative of ethanol production from bamboo at its biorefinery in Assam. Earlier in the day, OIL hosted an international conference titled 'Energizing the Future: CCUS Strategies' on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) that will continue till 9th February, under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at the ongoing India Energy Week in Goa. Hosted in collaboration with ONGC, the conference is aimed at addressing the pressing need for sustainable solutions in the energy sector and promote collaborative efforts towards mitigating carbon emissions and decarbonizing the economy. The opening session was graced by Pankaj Jain, Secretary, MoP&NG, Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman & CEO ONGC, Dr. V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and Dr Ranjit Rath, Chairman and Managing Director, OIL. As part of his opening remarks at the conference, Pankaj Jain said, "Carbon capture and storage is indeed important for the oil & gas industry, especially as the world transitions towards a low carbon future. In decarbonization, the oil and gas companies have to make investments and play crucial role in the broader efforts to combat climate change and achieve global emissions reduction targets".



HPCL's ₹73,000-cr Rajasthan refinery likely to start operations by Jan 2025

SUKALP SHARMA

BETUL (GOA), FEBRUARY 9

PUBLIC SECTOR refiner and fuel retailer Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) plans to start commercial production of fuels at the country's newest refinery in Rajasthan's Barmer by January 2025. The refinery-cum-petrochemicals complex, being built at a cost of nearly Rs 73,000 crore, will have a crude processing capacity of 9 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) and is expected to cater to the rapidly rising fuel demand in the northern parts of the country.

The refinery has achieved 76 per cent mechanical completion and the first refined products are likely to start flowing from the unit by December or January next year, HPCL's Director, Refineries S Bharathan told reporters on the sidelines of the India Energy Week in Goa. It will be the first refinery to be commissioned in India since Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) 15-mtpa unit in Odisha's Paradip.

It will also be the first refinery to come on stream since Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year announced that India aims to increase its total refining capacity to 450 mtpa from 254 mtpa. India is among the top economies that are driving global oil demand growth. According to the International Energy Agency's projections, India will overtake China in 2027 to become the biggest driver of oil demand growth globally.

HPCL's Rajasthan refinery is expected to operate at 75-80 per cent of its 9-mtpa capacity in the first year—2025—as units will get commissioned in a phased manner, Bharathan said, adding that full capacity utilisation is expected to be achieved by 2027. HPCL has two refineries of its own at Mumbai and Visakhapatnam, and a joint-venture unit in Punjab's Bathinda.

The Rajasthan facility's petrochemicals unit is likely to be commissioned around three months after the refinery comes on stream, Bharathan said. The refin-

ery-cum-petrochemicals project is being executed by HPCL Rajasthan Refinery (HRRL), in which HPCL has a 74 per cent stake, while the rest is held by the Rajasthan government.

The project was first announced in 2008, but could not take off for years due to differences with the state government on fiscal incentives. Once the issues were resolved, work on the project site began in 2018.

The refinery will process crude oil produced in Rajasthan, apart from using imported crude. Bharathan said that the facility is a highly complex one and will be able to process nearly all types of crudes. The complex will produce Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) grade petrol, diesel, apart from other fuels and various petrochemical products. Apart from robust fuel demand, demand for petrochemicals in India is slated to rise rapidly in the years to come. Despite its large size and population, the per-capita petrochemical consumption in India is significantly lower than developed economies.





HPCL to commission Barmer refinery by January 2025: Senior executive

BETUL(GOA): Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will commission the country's newest oil refinery at Barmer in Rajasthan by January next year that will help meet rising fuel demand in the north India, a senior company executive said.

"The 9 million tonnes a year refinery is 76 per cent mechanically complete and will be completed by year end or so. First product from the refinery will flow in December or January next year," HPCL director for refineries S Bharathan told reporters on the sidelines of India Energy Week here.

The project is part of India's target of having an installed capacity to turn 450 million tonnes of crude oil into fuels such as petrol and diesel to meet the energy needs of the world's fastest growing major economy.

India's current refining capacity is a shade under 254 million tonnes.

He said the Barmer refinery will operate at 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the capacity in the first year as various units get commissioned. "The full capacity will be reached by 2027."

HPCL currently operates two refineries at Mumbai and

Vizag in Andhra Pradesh. It also has a joint venture refinery at Bhatinda in Punjab.

The Vizag facility has just been expanded to 15 million tonnes from 8.33 million tonnes previously.

The company sells more fuel than it currently produces and the Vizag expansion as well as Barmer refinery will bridge the gap. It controls roughly a fourth of petrol pumps in the country but just 13 per cent of the refining capacity. The Barmer refinery will also have a petrochemical complex, which will be commissioned a little later, he said.

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HPCL TO COMMISSION BARMER REFINERY BY JANUARY 2025



HINDUSTAN
PETROLEUM
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FINANCIAL EXPRESS 
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IGL to set up 19 compressed biogas plants for ₹1,200 crore

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

Betul (Goa): Indraprastha Gas Ltd will set up 19 compressed biogas plants at an estimated investment of up to Rs 1,200 crore to boost feed for its expanding city gas network.

The company on Wednesday signed MoU with two technology partners at the second edition of India Energy Week here.

The company plans to set up these plants with varying capacities will be set up across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

IGL sells gas as automotive and kitchen fuels in these states. Biogas from these 19 plants will be fed into the company's local network.

Addressing the audience on the occasion he appreciated IGL for its role in nation building.

This partnership aims to produce about

IGL sells gas as automotive and kitchen fuels. Biogas from these 19 plants will be fed into the company's local network. The project will benefit CGD entities and farmers

half a million units (Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters) of biogas, equivalent to about 5% of IGL's daily needs. The project will work to the benefit of all stakeholders like municipal authorities, CGD entities and farmers.

While municipal authorities will get rid of municipal waste, farmers will be able to dispose of agricultural waste, consumers will get clean fuel.

IGX, ACME tie up for green hydrogen, ammonia market

Rituraj Baruah

rituraj.baruah@livemint.com

BETUL (GOA): Renewable energy company Acme Group and Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate on developing the green hydrogen and ammonia market in India.

Acme said the MoU was signed by Manoj Kumar Upadhyay, founder and chairman of Acme Group, and Rajesh Kumar Mediratta, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of IGX, at the India Energy Week in Goa.

"Acme Group is a pioneer in the green hydrogen and ammonia space. With the deep experience of IGX in creating a liquid tradeable market for natural gas, the two companies aim to develop a physical trading market for green molecules across the country, starting with regional hubs located near hydrogen and ammonia projects and leading eventually to a nationwide hub," it said.

The MoU covers the entire green hydrogen and ammonia



The MoU covers the entire green hydrogen and ammonia value chain. ISTOCKPHOTO

value chain, from production, logistics and supply to their use in a range of applications.

Ashwani Kumar Dudeja, group president and director of Acme Group, said, "We're excited to collaborate with IGX on developing the market for green hydrogen and its derivatives in India. [We are] aiming to pioneer sustainable energy solutions and create a liquid and transparent market for customers."

Rajesh Kumar Mediratta, managing director (MD) and

CEO, IGX said: "Together, we will develop innovative strategies to accelerate adoption, foster economic growth and advance energy security by creating a short-term tradeable market, leveraging our learnings and experience from developing similar solutions for the natural gas sector."

Acme Group is an independent renewable-power producer in India, with a portfolio of more than 5 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity under operation and in various stages of implementation.

In 2021, it built what was perhaps the world's first green ammonia plant in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

It is developing green hydrogen and ammonia projects in India, Oman and the US and aims to have a portfolio of 10 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) of green ammonia or equivalent hydrogen and derivatives by 2032.

It has offices and representatives in Japan, West Asia, Europe and the US for marketing and supplying green hydrogen and its derivatives to international markets.



India becomes global demand hub for natural gas

India's emergence as the demand centre for energy in the world provides arbitrage opportunities globally for procuring natural gas, Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, said while speaking at the Spotlight Session titled 'India - a blueprint of energy transition for emerging economies' at India Energy Week, 2024 in Goa. The Secretary added that the opportunities to execute natural gas procurement deals much below the market rate exist, and the government encourages sellers to engage in negotiations.

India big on plans for energy transition

On February 6, PM Modi inaugurated India Energy Week 2024 in Goa. He said India is investing in energy like never before to ensure affordable energy

Building on the success of the 2023 edition, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India Energy Week 2024 returned from 6 – 9 February 2024 in Goa, India.

Held under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, and officially supported by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPPI), India Energy Week 2024 is India's largest and only all-encompassing energy exhibition and conference, bringing together the entire energy value chain, and served as a catalyst for India's energy transition goals.

Welcoming over 35,000 attendees, 350 exhibitors, 400 speakers and 4,000+ delegates, from over 100 countries, India Energy Week was a truly global gathering, convening policymakers, business leaders and energy pioneers to collaborate, discover new opportunities and strengthen partnerships.

The Prime Minister expressed delight that the event is taking place in the energetic state of Goa and said that it is the perfect destination for a discussion on a sustainable future and sensitivity towards the environment. He expressed confidence that the

foreign guests who have gathered in Goa for the 'India Energy Week' will take along a lifetime memory of the state.

The Prime Minister noted that India is the world's third largest energy, oil and LPG consumer. He said that India is the fourth largest LNG importer and refiner along with the fourth largest automobile market. He also underlined rising demand of Electric Vehicles in the country.

The Prime Minister mentioned about 11 lakh crore rupees in the recent Budget pledged for infrastructure, a big part of which will go to the energy sector.

Encouraging and fostering startups and integrating them into the energy value chain will be an important focus for India Energy Week 2024. It is expected to witness the participation of around 17 Energy ministers from different countries, 35,000 plus attendees and more than 900 exhibitors. It will have six dedicated country pavilions - Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, the UK and the USA. A special 'Make in India' Pavilion is also being organised to showcase innovative solutions which Indian MSMEs are spearheading in the energy sector.



Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas with others at IEW 2024

'25% of global oil demand will be from India in 20 yrs'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

PETROLEUM minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said India will account for 25% of incremental global oil demand over the next two decades.

The growth will not be restricted to just exploration and production activities but will also be extended to biofuels, said the minister while speaking at the closing ceremony of the India Energy Week (IEW), 2024, in Goa.

The minister also mentioned that this year 30% more exhibitors showcased their prod-



ucts and services in an area spanning over 18,000 square metres from the last edition.

"We couldn't get more than 1.5% biofuel blending up to

2014. Today we've received 12% blending in the entire country, and we're going to take it to 20%. So I think that the best is yet to come," said the minister.

Moreover, Puri said that ethanol, biofuels, compressed biogas and green hydrogen are poised to see immense growth in the country.

"I think, the world is just beginning to see that green hydrogen may not be as distant a story as was initially thought.

And, at least the Indian estimates of 5 million tonnes per

annum by 2030 is very much an underestimation," he added.

The second edition of India Energy Week (IEW), 2024, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The



Prime Minister underlined that the massive government spending in the sector will create new avenues for investment in India. In the event, Petronet LNG Ltd

has signed a long-term deal with Qatar Energy for purchase of about 7.5 million metric tonne of liquified natural gas per annum.

'India can purchase natural gas at below market price'

Petroleum Secretary says that with huge buying power India can execute favourable deals to procure natural gas; piped gas connections to homes would drive demand for natural gas, he adds

Lalatendu Mishra
BETUL, GOA

India's emergence as the demand centre for energy in the world provides arbitrage opportunities around the globe for procuring natural gas, said Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Speaking at an event during India Energy Week in Goa, Mr. Jain said with huge buying power India can execute natural gas procurement deals below market rates and the go-



Arbitrage opportunities: Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Jain. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vernment would encourage such sellers to engage in negotiations.

As a 'bridge-fuel' in the

energy transition, natural gas will see wider adoption in India as terminal capacities and pipeline networks,

are upgraded Mr. Jain said adding that diversification of fuel sources was key to making the 'cleaner' natural gas available to consumers.

He said scaling of gas-based mobility and expansion of piped gas connections to homes would drive demand. Expanding adoption of bio-fuels requires scaling up production of the fuel at an affordable cost, Mr. Jain added.

(This writer was in Goa at the invitation of the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry.)

INDIA DIGS INTO NEXT-GEN FUEL OPTIONS

India Energy Week served as a platform to bring together industry experts, ministers and global leaders to discuss the shift to next generation fuel options such as green hydrogen, ethanol and biofuels

The global energy supply chain and the environment could be greatly impacted by biofuels, and India could serve as a model for other nations on how to achieve this. At a Strategic Conference, it was discussed how the host of India Energy Week, with its big agricultural sector and strong political resolve, could take the lead in this new energy industry.

In reference to India's energy sector accomplishments, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said, "The biofuel story resonates very strongly in the exhibits showcased here." Making sustainable aviation fuel from cooking and vegetable oils is one area that really struck me. Puri praised the innovations and technologies on display at the second India Energy Week in Goa, 2024. Union Minister Puri briefed the reporters on some of the technologies on display, such as diesel engines made specifically for the US market and 'tamper-proof' cooking gas cylinders with QR codes.

The government has advanced the aim of 20 per cent ethanol blending by five years, to 2025, according to the Union Minister, after India achieved 12

per cent ethanol blending with petrol five months ahead of schedule. "Electric and ethanol will be the next generation," he declared.

Puri also declared that Goa is now a state free of kerosene. He remarked, "I want to congratulate the Goa government on getting mukti from kerosene rules." Puri stated that the International Energy Agency's (IEA) forecast, which was made public during India Energy Week 2024, indicated that India will surpass China "to assume the position of the world's largest source of oil demand growth."

Boosting green hydrogen production

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is working on the modalities for promoting the use of green hydrogen in supporting round-the-clock electricity to boost increased adoption of renewable energy and use of green hydrogen as envisaged in the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

The officials were instructed to create the scheme guidelines based on the economics, technologies, and present and future market conditions of the green hydrogen and power sector by the Union Minister for Power and New &

Renewable Energy during a recent meeting. India has a significant advantage in the production of green hydrogen because of its ideal geographic location and plenty of natural resources. The National Green Hydrogen Mission, which aims to establish India as a global hub for the production, use, and export of such technology, was approved by the Union Cabinet in early January 2023.

The objective to promote green hydrogen will eventually result in the decarbonisation of the transportation, energy, and industrial sectors as well as a decrease in reliance on foreign fossil fuel imports. India imports a significant amount of the fuel required to cover a significant portion of its energy needs; the goal of green hydrogen is considered as a way to lessen this reliance.

The government's goal with this mission is to increase the production of green hydrogen to 5 million tonnes per year, add 125 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity, attract over Rs 8 lakh crore in investments, create lakhs of jobs, and, most importantly, reduce the cumulative imports of fossil fuels by over Rs 1 lakh crore. The first green hydrogen fuel cell bus in India was on display



during IEW's opening ceremony.

Unlike internal combustion engines delivering energy by burning fossil fuels, the hydrogen fuel cell converts the chemical energy of fuel into electrical energy through an electrochemical process and thereby produces only water in the exhaust.

On India's green hydrogen ambitions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the country will soon become a green hydrogen production and export hub and will make investors and industry both winners. "India will soon become a green hydrogen production and export hub. I believe India's green energy sector will

make investors and industry both sure-shot winners," said PM Modi. He said that globally, India's carbon emission share is only 4 per cent, and still the country is conscious about using environment-friendly energy sources.

"By 2070, we plan to become net-zero. Today, India stands 4th in renewable energy installed capacity globally. Our installed capacity's 40 per cent share comes from non-fossil fuel capacity. In the past one decade, India's solar energy installed capacity has increased more than 20 per cent," he added. PM Modi added that the energy sector is important for India's growth story.

India's downstream oil and gas demand, upstream output to keep rising in FY24: Fitch Ratings

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 9 FEBRUARY

India's downstream oil and gas sector is poised for continued growth in the financial year ending March 2024 (FY24), with demand for petroleum products expected to rise by a mid-single-digit percentage, according to Fitch Ratings.

According to Fitch Ratings, this follows a robust 5 per cent year-on-year increase in the first nine months of FY24 and a noteworthy 10 per cent post-pandemic recovery witnessed in FY23.

The surge in demand for petroleum products has been fueled by a range of factors, including heightened economic activities in the agri-



culture and power sectors, a surge in holiday travel, and increased auto sales.

Notably, both petrol and diesel sales recorded robust 4 per cent-6 per cent increases in the first nine months of FY24, reflecting the country's economic resurgence.

Looking ahead, Fitch expects Indian refiners' gross

refining margins (GRM) to moderate during FY25 from the strong levels anticipated in FY24, albeit remaining above mid-cycle levels.

By FY26, a gradual shift closer to mid-cycle levels is foreseen, buoyed by escalating demand for end-products. Despite the anticipated normalization of the crude sup-

ply mix away from Russian imports, Fitch projects GRMs to remain robust, supported by the rising demand for end-products.

In the upstream segment, domestic oil and gas production has witnessed a modest increase, driven particularly by a 5 per cent rise in gas production during the first nine months of FY24. Fitch anticipates production to continue to rise moderately, with technological investments in enhanced oil recovery techniques expected to offset natural declines. The oil and gas sector's high capital expenditure (capex) intensity is expected to persist in the medium term, especially with upstream companies focus-

ing on production enhancement initiatives.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), with a credit rating of BBB-/Stable, is expected to maintain higher capex levels due to planned investments by its subsidiary, HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited. Other oil marketing companies, including HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited (BB/Positive), are anticipated to have minimal capex requirements as they have completed their expansion projects. Overall, Fitch's outlook underscores the resilience and growth potential of India's downstream oil and gas sector, driven by rising demand and strategic investments across the value chain.





India Transitioning from Consumer to Nerve Centre for the Energy Industry

The mix for traditional and new fuels are changing as the India story took centre stage in the four-day industry megashow

Etgreycell@timesgroup.com

India's energy transition story and its focus on diversifying its energy sources is reverberating around the world, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, as he addressed a gathering at the concluding session of the India Energy Week (IEW) 2024 in Goa.

As the curtains came down on the second edition of IEW 2024, the conference has become the choice for the industry where, over the course of four days, a wide range of energy professionals exchanged ideas and discussed business.

"India is diversifying its sources of supply of its energy needs and the existing companies are recalibrating their positions," Puri said, as he spoke of exploration & production, upstream, downstream and technology companies from around the world making a beeline to be part of the action.

Companies from around the world want to be part of the innovation and transition efforts of the country, which currently spends nearly \$200 billion annually on the import of energy. From the biggest global companies, Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Kumar Jain



said, "The understanding of India has become multi-dimensional. They are setting up manufacturing facilities here (in India). They are setting up monitoring facilities here. The collaboration that they

are looking for with Indian companies is noticeable." While the larger Indian energy transition story has been getting accolades, the efforts to create a market for hydrogen and the

transitioning efforts on biofuels as clean fuels has been the dominant theme through IEW 2024. Among over 100 countries that participated, the scale of the transition struck a chord with many.

Every conceivable electrolyser manufacturer in the world is today in India either on their own or in collaboration with an Indian company. They have an interest in the Indian market specifically because green hydrogen lends itself to success in India. So, they obviously want to be present here

HARDEEP SINGH PURI
Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas



Several instances of innovative offerings from Indian companies are challenging the rules and redefining opportunities. 400 petrol stations across four states will sell pure ethanol as oil companies try to push it as the fuel of choice. Nearly 9000 petrol stations in several states will soon be selling 20 percent ethanol-blended fuel. The blending

will be increased from the current 12 percent by 2025.

BPCL has developed an electrolyser in partnership with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, which is nearly 30 percent cheaper than the ones that are being imported. The industry is seeing heated action as nearly two dozen companies bid for opportunities to manufacture critical component for the emerging market for hydrogen.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announced that 10 million households will have rooftop solar to drive their homes. The surplus power that these homes could generate could be fed to the grid, giving them income while clean power could be used to power their electric vehicles in the near future.

The Energy Startup Challenge had innovative companies which were recognised by the Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. He awarded cash prizes for the solutions that they have been working on. After the awards, the four-day IEW ended, with the promise to add a fresh spark to India's energy sector.

"The best is yet to come," Puri said, as he announced that the next edition of IEW will take place in Delhi.



With the implementation of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India is poised to become a hub for hydrogen production and export. I am confident that India's green energy sector can deliver assured success to both investors and industries alike

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister



IndianOil-Adani Gas JV to invest \$300 million to double gas sales

Reuters
QUITOL, INDIA

IndianOil-Adani Gas Pvt. Ltd. will invest ₹25 billion (\$301.24 million) over four years as it looks to double

gas sales to small industries and households in India, a company executive said on Friday.

The company, an equal joint venture (JV) of refiner Indian Oil Corp and Adani

Total Gas, daily sells about one million standard cubic metre of gas through its 300 retail outlets, said S.K. Jha, a director in the JV.

Mr. Jha also heads the city gas distribution business

of IndianOil as ED. The JV aims at doubling gas sales in four years and expand infrastructure to more than 600 retail outlets during the period to meet India's rising gas demand.

'Inequality is part of our fossil fuel regime — urban users gain, rural producers pay the cost'

Christopher Jones is Associate Professor of History at Arizona State University. Speaking to **Srijana Mitra Das** at *Times Evoke*, he discusses hidden chapters in America's energy transition:

What is the core of your research?

I am a historian of energy, environment and economics. I'm broadly interested in the relationships between human societies and the energy systems they use and how such modern energy systems fuelled types of economic growth that were never seen before on Earth. I focus also on how these systems can be made more sustainable for a long-term thriving future.



You write of America's unprecedented turn to fossil fuels in the early 20th century — what drove this?

I'd emphasise the role of transport systems here. When I studied the USA's first fossil fuel transition, what stood out was how far most of the places people derived this energy were from where people ended up using it. Secondly, while it wasn't simple to mine or drill, the real struggle was building ways of moving energy in reliable and scalable steps



ROOTS: Once, 'energy' meant plants

to where consumers lived — that came down to canals and pipelines which shipped oil and wires which transmitted electricity. Understanding our energy systems looks different when you put those transport networks front and centre.

You write of energy's benefits in the US being very unequal — why was this?

Inequality has been endemic to our fossil fuel regime — it goes back to where power is extracted and where



OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND: As a planetary crisis driven by fossil fuels intensifies, energy materiality grows central — urban consumers (R) should recognise where gas, oil and coal are mined (L) and see the consequences of doing so

it gets used. The regions which produce energy benefit far less than the places which consume it. The big cities of the US eastern seaboard grew tremendously during the era of fossil fuel expansion — New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore boomed, with many profitable industries benefitting. But people in rural areas bore very real costs of mining, from industrial accidents to health impacts. Bringing coal and oil up from underground leached toxic minerals into their water supplies and damaged their lands. These people had to face much more of the costs of these energy systems than consumers who were far away.

You chronicle America's first energy transition as being marked by 'fraud, failure and frustration' — why so?

I was trying to capture how in the early transition to fossil fuels, it was remarkably hard to get consumers to even want these — I think this is an analogy to today when we are still in the early stages of the renewable energy transition. When coal and oil first emerged, people were quite uncertain about them — they were also very unsure about having constantly running electricity through the walls of their houses. It took a long time to convince people this was safe. Certain coals wouldn't burn well and some opened fire. Switching from woodfire to coal also meant getting costly stoves and abandoning

the pleasant smell and light wood offered. Similarly, oil, used in lanterns, was often poorly refined and exploded. At the start, these energy transitions were not as obvious as they seem in retrospect — people had to work to convince consumers to try them.

I wrote about 'fraud' apropos America's first coal transition which happened with anthracite coal which is very hard to burn. It's above 90% carbon — to light it, you need a very hot fire and air to go through this in a particular way. Since consumers didn't know how to do this, some of the first coal merchants were accused of being fraudsters selling useless black stone.

We imagine energy as being abstract — what does its 'materiality' mean?

Before fossil fuels, almost all our energy came from plants, like those we grew to feed ourselves, our animals — which were then used for labour — or trees which were burnt for heat and cooking. Energy was mostly local — you grew this near you. So, people's connection to it was very different.

With the materiality of fossil fuel systems, there are absolutely enormous networks that are behind the scenes when we press a switch or refuel a car. The modern world has been designed around making energy easy to access — but energy only seems 'invisible' when you've built huge systems of pipes, wires

and terminals across landscapes. Energy can also seem abstract when those using it don't have to see the consequences of producing it — people lighting their homes in New York aren't seeing the West Virginia mountains being cleared for coal.

What does your term 'petromyopia' mean?

Many analysts equate energy only with oil — for much of the 20th century, oil has arguably been the



STARS & PIPES: Oil travels over the US

most attractive energy source. It's dramatic, tied to geopolitics and appears in cultural forms like movies. Yet, I've found oil has never been more than 35% of global energy consumption. Human societies use many other energy sources which are just as foundational to how they live, work and play — petromyopia hides the ways coal, natural gas, biomass, animal power and human labour are essential parts of our energy systems.

READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke,

Thank you for the brilliant articles on 'petro-history' (3rd February) and especially the interview with Simon Pirani. This brought a bigger reflection that with privatisation policies influenced by neoliberalism, energy and other services citizens are entitled to have become commodities. This only exacerbates inequality. Thank you for an excellent page, TE!

— **Richa Joshi**, Pune

TE's spread on the history of fossil fuels was amazing. This in-depth page helped me learn about the history of oil, neoliberal economics linked with fossil fuels, etc. For sustainable living, we must reduce fossil fuels and use solar, wind or hydro. Thanks for such perceptive articles, TE.

— **Ashutosh Mishra**, student, Delhi

TE's articles on fossil fuels were superb! The page looked amazing and was extremely informative. I liked Stephanie LeMenager on 'heroic masculinity' in petro-history. This remains so relevant in South Asia. We must think about how fossil fuels have impacted the way we relate to each other.

— **Arvind Sahu**, Raipur

Fossil fuels is a subject hardly outlined by media, print or visual. Yet, TE wonderfully showcased how these evolved over time. As an avid animal lover, my heart also went out to the ponies and canaries put to barbaric torture in mining work. Thank you for a very thought-provoking page, TE.

— **Sanath Kumar TS**, Thrissur

I loved TE on 'petro-masculinity'! We always consider mining, drilling, oil rigs, etc., as 'men's work'. Women play an equal role but we mostly overlook them. 'Controlling nature is macho' is a toxic mindset many fall for. Thank you for the brilliant discussion, TE!

— **Meghna Prakash**, Hyderabad

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Joint biofuel project with Seychelles soon

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY

Betul (Goa), 9 February

India and Seychelles will undertake a joint project for the introduction of biofuels in the island country in the coming year, Seychelles' Minister of Energy, Climate Change and Agriculture Flavien P Joubert told *Business Standard* on the sidelines of the 2024 India Energy Week here.

While Seychelles joined the India-led Global Biofuel Alliance last year, it has yet to begin using the alternative fuel. "We will have to do an assessment, and make sure the project comes out positive, on an economic note. We will decide whether to import biofuel or produce it from waste products on a national level," Joubert said.

The country is keen on compressed biogas technology, which is expected to help with the waste problem. A total of 40 per cent of the waste in Seychelles is green waste which can be utilised. *Business Standard* reported last year that African nations were keen to replicate India's

ethanol blending and biogas initiatives. Delegations from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were expected to visit India in December, but the visit was postponed.

Oil exploration

Seychelles is also keen on attracting foreign companies for exploration. The country has had discussions with Indian companies for the exploration of oil and gas deposits. Indian companies have been in touch with Petro Seychelles, the country's state-owned oil company, the minister said. "From our point of view, the big question is who is going to fund our energy transition. For us, oil installation could be a source of income for the country since we do not have many resources. Exploration started years ago and is still continuing. There hasn't been any campaign recently but we expect the companies to come back and carry on since there are blocks in the Sey Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that are going to be explored," the minister said.

Maharashtra to probe payment to accused in journalist murder



The Indian Express report published Thursday

VALLABH OZARKAR
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

A DAY after *The Indian Express* reported that Ratnagiri Refinery Petrochemicals Ltd (RRPCL), a company set up by PSUs to execute the Konkan refinery project, had made a payment of Rs 4.44 lakh to Pandharinath Amberkar, prime accused in the murder of journalist Shashikant Warishe, Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Samant said an inquiry would be conducted on why

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

● Journalist murder: Maharashtra to probe payment to accused

the payment was made. "If it has been revealed during the police investigation and contains facts, then action would be taken against those responsible for it. An inquiry will be conducted about everything which is revealed in the investigation," Samant said at a press conference in Thane.

The Indian Express reported on Thursday that Amberkar, the accused in the murder of Ratnagiri-based Warishe, was involved in a slew of land deals in and around the Barsu village in Rajapur. This region was identified

for acquisition of land by the state government.

Asked if there would be any inquiry into RRPCL, Samant said, "Instead of saying the inquiry of RRPCL, the inquiry would be conducted of whoever has paid the money. If it is there in the investigation, then it would be inquired as to why and for what purpose the money was transferred by that person. Everything would be checked and if anyone is found guilty, then action would be taken," Samant said.

The Indian Express investiga-

tion of land records of the past three years in the villages where the refinery was proposed shows that Amberkar, his sister Pratiksha Khadpe and his nephew (cousin's son) Akshay Amberkar are linked to 34 land transactions covering over 10.2 hectares and worth an estimated Rs 2.8 crore.

A scrutiny of the chargesheet filed by the Ratnagiri Police in May 2023 had revealed that RRPCL paid Rs 4.44 lakh to Sai Krupa Travels, a firm owned by Pandharinath Amberkar in December 2022. Amberkar, who

was a supporter of the refinery project, had also been providing logistics services to RRPCL.

In the past three years, Amberkar himself had bought six land parcels, sold one, and held the power of attorney for eight others, representing the buyer or the seller, records show. Total worth of these transactions: Rs 80.64 lakh. Amberkar's nephew Akshay who worked closely with him is also involved in 19 land transactions (8.41 hectares) between October 2021 and April 2023, valued at over Rs 2 crore.

New oil suppliers coming to India, says Puri

Goa, Feb. 9: India's oil minister said the country isn't concerned about OPEC+'s output cuts and Saudi Arabia's recent decision not to expand production capacity.

"There is enough oil in the world and new suppliers are coming in," Hardeep Singh Puri said on the sidelines of India Energy Week in Goa. "You decide, you want to sell it or you want to keep it in the ground."

The world's third-biggest oil importer behind China and the US, India is set to be the single largest source of global oil

demand growth between now and 2030 thanks to a booming economy, growing middle class and youthful demographics, according to the International Energy Agency.

India's oil-buying spree comes as the organization of petroleum exporting countries and its allies, including Russia, are capping their production amid demand concerns. OPEC+ agreed to withhold roughly 2 mn barrels of daily output in the first quarter to avert a glut.

In addition, Saudi Aramco abandoned a plan to boost its oil output

● **INDIA'S OIL-BUYING spree comes as the organization of petroleum exporting countries and its allies, including Russia, are capping their production amid demand concerns.**

capacity to 13 mn barrels a day by 2027, raising further questions about the kingdom's view on future consumption.

"If the Saudis or anyone else say they don't want to produce, I think they have the right to do it," Puri said.

Puri's comments repre-

sent a more relaxed stance toward OPEC+ cuts than New Delhi has shown in the past.

There was a visible rift between the two sides in 2021, when India repeatedly urged the alliance to bolster production and complained during a public conference that OPEC+ policy was "creating confusion for the consuming countries."

India has remained neutral in the West's standoff with Russia following the invasion of Ukraine, seeing it as an opportunity to buy discounted Russian barrels. — *Bloomberg*

● INDIA ENERGY WEEK: DAY 4

Not worried about OPEC cuts, new oil supplies robust: Puri

Opec and Russia had earlier capped their oil production

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
Betul (Goa), February 9

INDIA IS NOT concerned about voluntary output cuts by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) or Saudi Arabia's decision not to expand its production capacity, said Union minister for petroleum and natural gas Hardeep Singh Puri.

"There is enough oil in the world and new suppliers are coming in," Puri said on the sidelines of India Energy Week in Goa. "You decide, you want to sell it or you want to keep it in the ground."

Opec and Russia had earlier capped their production amid demand destruction from the world's top consumers, the US and China.

Additionally, Saudi Aramco last month held back its decision to increase oil production capacity to 13 million barrels a day by 2027.

"If the Saudis or anyone else say they don't want to produce, I think they have the right to do it," Puri said.

India has been diversifying its

HARDEEP SINGH PURI,
UNION MINISTER FOR
PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

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● Saudi Aramco last month held back its decision to increase oil production capacity to 13 million barrels a day by 2027

● India has been diversifying its sources of supply with Russia becoming one of the top three suppliers



sources of supply with Russia becoming one of the top three suppliers. However, this diversification from farther away regions can cause insecurity to Indian crude supplies, Toril Bosoni, Head of Market at IEA had told FE earlier.

Furthermore, speaking about the success of the India Energy Week held in Goa from February 6-9, Puri said that the conference has been a testament to India's emerging leadership in the global energy sector, drawing over

35,000 participants, including 13 energy ministers and more than 900 exhibitors.

With the announcement of India Energy Week 2025 to be held at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in New Delhi from February 11-14, Puri expressed optimism for an even larger and more impactful gathering, underscoring India's commitment to leading the global energy transition.

The minister also said that the India Energy Week for 2026 will again be held in Goa.

Last week, Toril Bosoni, Head of Markets at the International Energy Agency told FE that diverse sourcing of oil might pose a risk to India's energy security.

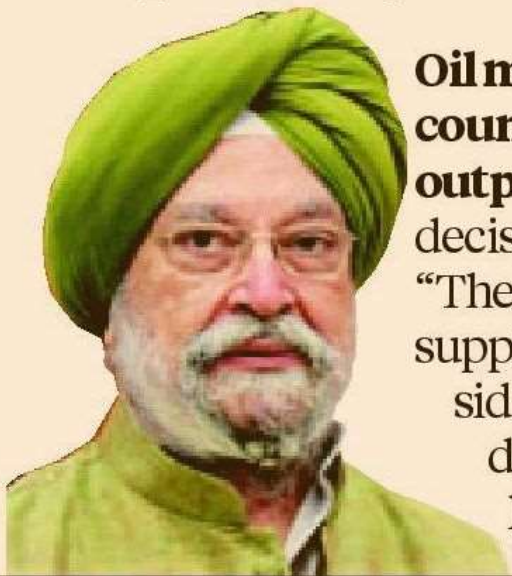
"India's continuous dependence on imports to meet its energy needs and its diversifying of sources of supplies to farther regions are a threat to the country's energy security," she said.

India is set to become the largest source of oil demand during the decade, that is, by 2030.

The country's oil demand is estimated by IEA to reach 1.2 million barrels per day during 2023-2030. With this growth, India will take over China by 2027 in terms of annual growth rate.



Not worried about Opec+ cutting output, says Oil minister Puri



Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the country isn't concerned about Opec+'s output cuts and Saudi Arabia's recent decision not to expand production capacity. "There is enough oil in the world and new suppliers are coming in," Puri said on the sidelines of India Energy Week. "You decide, you want to sell it or you want to keep it in the ground."

BLOOMBERG

Dividend payouts remain strong

Oil companies drag CPSEs down in FY23

PRASANTA SAHU & KISHOR KADAM
New Delhi/Mumbai, February 9

CENTRAL PUBLIC SECTOR enterprises (CPSEs) posted a 15% year-on-year decline in their aggregate net profits to ₹2.12 trillion in FY23, owing mainly to the decline in the earnings of oil marketing and steel companies that are vulnerable to global commodity price cycles, and reduced profitability of steel firms.

But the CPSEs, which withstood the pandemic much better than the broader economy, largely held pace in the last financial year too. Of the ₹38,000-crore annual decline in aggregate CPSE net profits, almost all was attributable to the inability of OMCs to pass on the higher cost of crude oil to the retail consumers of auto fuels.

Also, there wasn't a commensurate annual decline in dividend payouts by the CPSEs in FY23 (down just 8.7%) as the government continued to nudge them to reward it and other shareholders, as it strove to boost non-debt receipts and find resources for the elevated Budget capex (see chart).

It may be noted that calendar year 2023 was best year for CPSE stocks in a decade, with the PSU index, comprising 56 listed firms, rallying over 53%. The other public sector index — BSE CPSE index with 57 stocks — did even better in the year, rising 71.7%. This was when the benchmarks' — Sensex and Nifty — rose 17.3% and 18.4%, respectively, in 2023.

REPORT CARD

CPSEs' net profits
(₹ trillion)



Excluding oil marketing companies, CPSEs reported a flat growth in net profit, at ₹2.01 trn in FY23, compared with ₹2 trn in FY22

Dividends

(₹ cr) ALL OMCs



Source: Public Enterprises Surveys

In fact, the rally in PSU stocks in 2023 was so impressive that out of 84 listed stocks, almost a fourth gave returns of over 100% while another 25 yielded returns between 50% and 100%.

Continued on Page 9

Oil companies drag CPSEs down in FY23

CPSES HAD REPORTED a whopping 51% annual growth in aggregate net profit to ₹2.49 trillion in FY22.

In FY23, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation maintained its standing as the most profitable CPSE with a ₹38,829-crore net profit in FY23 compared with ₹40,306 crore in FY22, despite the imposition of a windfall tax on domestically-produced crude in the wake of a jump in global prices. ONGC was followed by NTPC with a net profit of ₹17,197 crore and Power Grid with ₹15,333 crore in FY23.

However, FY23 was an uninspiring year for state-run fuel retailer-cum-refiners which together reported a 78% fall in their profit at ₹11,013 crore from ₹49,789 crore in FY22, largely due to their inability to pass on the increase in prices to consumers. These retailing losses, however, were mostly recovered by these firms in FY24 as the consumer prices were unchanged when the global process fell.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) was the top loss-maker among CPSEs across

the board with ₹8,974 crore in FY23 compared with a profit of ₹6,383 crore in FY22. BSNL, which was the top loss-maker in FY22 was pushed to the second spot with a loss of ₹8,162 crore in FY23, followed by MTNL (-₹2,911 crore) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (-₹2,859 crore).

As many as 18 CPSEs returned to profit in FY23 by reporting a total profit of ₹2,407 crore in comparison to a total loss of ₹1,692 crore in FY22. These include Eastern Coalfields and MMTC.

As many as 117 companies declared ₹1.05-trillion dividend in FY23, down 8.15% compared with ₹1.15 trillion in FY22.

Total gross revenue from the operations of 254 operating CPSEs during FY23 was ₹37.9 trillion against ₹31.36 trillion in FY22, showing an increase of 21%. Net worth of all CPSEs increased from ₹14.97 trillion as on March 31, 2022, to ₹17.33 trillion as on March 31, 2023, showing an increase of 15.75%.

Reserves and surplus of all CPSEs stood at ₹12.81 trillion as on March 31, 2023, against ₹11.89 trillion as on March 31, 2022, up 7.73%.

ONGC to re-enter Libya, hike output in Venezuela

Quitol, Feb. 9: India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) is in talks to restart its operations in Libya and to increase production in Venezuela, a company executive said on Friday.

"Once it gets started for Oil India, the same applies to us. We are also in the same pact with National Oil Corporation of Libya," Sushma Rawat, director of exploration with ONGC said.

Earlier this week, Reuters reported that Oil India is in talks with stakeholders to restart drilling in Libya, 13 years after the company exited the country due to political instability.

ONGC and Oil India both pulled staff out of



Libya in 2011.

Oil and Natural Gas Corp is also in talks to increase production in Venezuela, Rawat told reporters on the sidelines of India Energy Week event in Goa.

Oil India, too, is in talks with operators to ramp up oil production in the South American nation, Reuters had reported this

week.

The United States had granted sanctions relief for organization of petroleum exporting countries (OPEC) member Venezuela in October last year in recognition of a deal for elections this year.

However, on Jan. 29 the country began reinstating sanctions on Venezuela.

Rawat also said the company will start drilling in Andaman Islands by the end of the year and Cauvery Delta in South India by this month or March.

The official also said the company needs tax rebates and cost benefits when it goes for exploration in the difficult regions. — Reuters

ONGC to start Andaman wells drilling in May

Exploring ultra deep water assets abroad

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
Betul (Goa), February 9

STATE-OWNED OIL and Natural Gas Corporation aims to start the drilling operations in its Andaman wells by May, the company's director-exploration Sushma Rawat told FE.

The country's largest oil exploration and production company had won two blocks in the Andaman basins in the sixth round of bidding under the open acreage licencing programme.

The identified blocks in the Andaman are expected to contain large reserves of hydrocarbons and the company is confident of boosting its domestic production of oil and gas.

Additionally, the company is also looking for potential collaborations across the globe for the development of its rigs and exploration of ultra-deep water basins such as Andaman itself.

ONGC is engaging with numerous technology partners, including Schlumberger and Halliburton, to explore a tie up primarily focusing on offshore rig development owing to the escalating costs.

"Our major experience is on drilling part. We are very comfortable on drilling. We are looking for a reputed partner for technology sharing," the company's director-technical and field services, Om Prakash Singh had earlier said.

ONGC commenced oil production from its much delayed Krishna Godavari basin last month which is expected to increase the company's overall oil

BUSINESS BOOST

■ ONGC had won two blocks in the Andaman basins in the sixth round of bidding under the open acreage licencing programme

■ It is also looking for potential collaborations across the globe for the development of its rigs and exploration of ultra-deep water basins such as Andaman itself

production by 11%.

Moreover, the country's second leading oil exploration and production company, Oil India has also conveyed that it aims to commence the drilling operations in its Andaman block by September of the upcoming financial year.

"By September we plan to deploy the rig. It may happen in August but we plan to do it around Aug-Sep period.

"That's the period during which drilling rig will be mobilised," the company's chairman and managing director Ranjit Rath told FE.

"We have identified three prospects and those locations will be drilled," he said.

Exploration activities in the Andaman have been on a halt awaiting clearances from space agencies, Coast Guard, and DRDO among others. However, the government recently opened up acreages in the area in order to increase domestic oil and gas production.



Inauguration of INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2024

by
Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

6th February 2024 | Goa | India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister, Goa at the inaugural ceremony

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri says India's energy transition part of global story

Hardeep Singh Puri, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas stressed the importance of managing the transition to cleaner fuels while ensuring access to traditional fuels in an orderly manner.

Recent petroleum sector reforms in India, such as diversifying import sources and modifying petrol pricing procedures, have been crucial in reducing the influence of swings in global prices on domestic prices for petrol and diesel. Puri emphasised this when he took part in a ministerial panel at IEW 2024 titled "Ensuring energy security for nations and industry in a VUCA world."

The ministerial panel, also attended by notable figures such as Saad Sherida Al Kaabi, Energy Affairs Cabinet Minister of Qatar, Vickram Bharat, Minister of Natural Resources of the Republic of Guyana, and OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais, delved into discussions regarding the challenges and strategies for ensuring energy security in an era

RECENT PETROLEUM SECTOR REFORMS IN INDIA, SUCH AS DIVERSIFYING IMPORT SOURCES AND MODIFYING PETROL PRICING PROCEDURES, HAVE BEEN CRUCIAL IN REDUCING THE INFLUENCE OF SWINGS IN GLOBAL PRICES ON DOMESTIC PRICES

characterised by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA).

Union Minister Puri emphasised how crucial it is to control the switch to cleaner fuels while making sure that traditional fuels are available in a systematic way. He emphasised the necessity for a gradual transition and argued against demonising fossil fuels in favour of a reasonable and realistic conversation.

The OPEC Secretary General, Haitham Al Ghais, outlined the various avenues for energy transition and underlined the need for ongoing investment in the production of fossil fuels to keep up with the increasing

demand. "There are various ways that energy might transfer. This is the way energy transition should be viewed.

We need to invest hundreds of billions of dollars over the next 20 years at OPEC, and we are investing now," he stated. The Minister of State for Energy Affairs of Qatar, Saad Sherida Al Kaabi, issued a warning against completely ignoring fossil fuels, pointing out that renewable energy sources are insufficient to meet the world's energy needs.

The Republic of Guyana's Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharat, praised the finding of fresh hydrocarbon deposits offshore the country and emphasised how they could spur economic growth. The discovery of a new hydrocarbon off the coast of Guyana has drawn attention to us. We have a pretty straightforward policy. As soon as possible, extract hydrocarbons from the earth and use them to develop traditional sectors. He said, "The window on oil is closing, but not so much for petrol."



Petronet draws Rs 40,000 cr investment plan to treble profit by 2028, expanding import capacity

BETUL(GOA): Petronet LNG Ltd, the operator of the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal, will invest Rs 40,000 crore in expanding import capacity and petrochemicals with a target to treble net profit by 2028, its CEO A K Singh said.

Petronet is making a foray into the petrochemical business by investing Rs 12,685 crore in a propane dehydrogenation plant that will convert imported feedstock into propylene, as well as setting up an LNG import facility at Gopalpur in Odisha at a cost of Rs 2,300 crore, he told reporters on the sidelines of

Key Points

» The strategy started two years back and is for the period up to 2027-28

» Petronet currently has a turnover of Rs 55,000-60,000 crore and an annual net profit of Rs 3,200 crore

India Energy Week here.

The firm, which this week extended a deal to import 7.5 million tonnes a year of LNG from Qatar by 20 years, is also looking at investing in overseas projects such as a floating LNG terminal at Colombo in Sri Lanka. "We have charted a 1-5-10-40 strategy — increasing turnover to Rs 1 lakh crore

in 5 years with a net profit of Rs 10,000 crore from investing Rs 40,000 crore in expansions," he said.

The strategy started two years back and is for the period up to 2027-28. Petronet currently has a turnover of Rs 55,000-60,000 crore and an annual net profit of Rs 3,200 crore.

It operates a 17.5 million

tonnes-a-year flagship import terminal at Dahej in Gujarat and another 5 million tonnes facility at Kochi, Kerala.

Singh said the company is hoping to start shipping LNG in containers to Sri Lanka in the next 18 months and is looking to set up an import terminal at Colombo port in five years. LNG is natural gas cooled to -162 degrees Celsius to turn it into a liquid for ease of transportation via ships. India's domestic natural gas production barely meets half the demand of the power, fertilizer and CNG sectors and the rest is imported in the form of LNG. AGENCIES

Regulators call for regional clean energy agenda among South, S-E Asian nations

WAY FORWARD. Industry leaders underscore the need for inter-connected gas and electricity grids

Rishi Ranjan Kala

Betul (Goa)

Oil and gas regulators from South and South-East Asia met and discussed ways to accelerate clean energy transition via interconnected gas grids during the India Energy Week (IEW) here.

The inaugural edition of the International Conference of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulators was held under the aegis of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

The conference featured energy regulatory authorities from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, as well as international industry leaders.

During the deliberations, industry leaders advocated the need for “a regional clean energy agenda between South and South-East Asian nations via inter-



REGIONAL COOPERATION. Officials and industry leaders from South and South-East Asia at the International Conference of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulators

connected gas and electricity grids.”

GAS TRADE

The meeting also discussed enhancing energy security and accelerating the transition towards cleaner energy sources such as renewable energy and gas, an official said.

Advanced discussions on enhancing electricity trading and feasibility studies are going on for an inter-connected power grid between ASEAN, India, the

UAE and Saudi Arabia, he added. South Asia imports almost two-thirds of its energy requirements and the volatility in oil and gas prices, as has been happening since 2022, affects the countries.

At present, cross-border trade in electricity has been rising in the region – primarily India’s trade with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

USAID’s South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI) in

May 2021 came out with an analytical study to assess the potential of gas/ LNG for regional energy cooperation in the BBINS (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) region. It was conducted by Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe).

The study said that potential fiscal benefits for the intra-regional trade in BBINS have been estimated based on the likely trade volumes for the importing and exporting countries.

The trade benefits can be over \$1.2 billion annually in 2025 and can go up to \$1.9 billion per annum in 2030 and about \$3.6 billion every year by 2040.

NAVIGATING THE PATH

The conference’s overarching theme, “Navigating Pathways for Natural Gas Development”, emphasised natural gas’s role in driving faster and deeper emission

reduction which is vital to meet the climate goals of emerging and developing countries.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

PNGRB Chairman Anil Kumar Jain stressed upon the importance of regional collaboration between South and South-East Asian countries for knowledge sharing to formulate effective regulatory frameworks for natural gas development.

The geopolitical uncertainties impacting energy supply to developing countries and the need for a united front from the global south to secure energy supply were highlighted at the forum.

The dialogue put the spotlight on India’s natural gas regulatory and infrastructure development, especially for overall infrastructure development and the city gas distribution sector to provide reliable and affordable clean energy.

UNFOLDING TRANSITION FOR UPSTREAM & DOWNSTREAM COMPANIES

‘We are Decarbonising its Conventional Business’

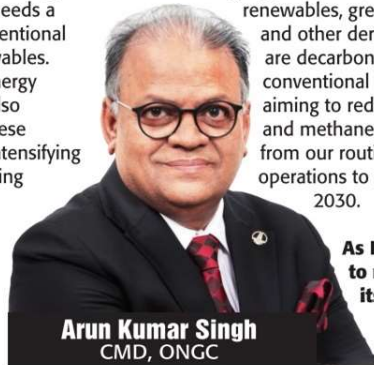
Etgreycell@timesgroup.com

How is ONGC planning to play a pivotal role in the energy transition of India?

ONGC is committed to lead India’s energy transition. Our strategy involves a threefold approach. Growing India needs a balance of conventional fuels and renewables. As a national energy major, we are also walking both these paths. We are intensifying efforts in exploring and producing hydrocarbons from new and mature fields. We are significantly expanding

our footprint in renewable energy, aiming to scale up our renewable portfolio to 10 GW by 2030. We are actively exploring collaborations with leading players in low-carbon energy opportunities, including renewables, green hydrogen, and other derivatives. We are decarbonising our conventional business, aiming to reduce flaring and methane emissions from our routine operations to zero by 2030.

As India looks to redefine its energy



Arun Kumar Singh
CMD, ONGC

consumption, what changes can be expected from the deliberations at India Energy Week 2024?

India Energy Week 2024 presents a unique opportunity for stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogues and share insights on shaping the future of energy consumption in India. We anticipate discussions around innovative technologies, policy frameworks, and collaborative approaches that promote cleaner and more efficient energy practices. The event will likely catalyse partnerships, fostering a collaborative ecosystem for driving sustainable energy solutions and guiding India towards a cleaner and more resilient energy future.

‘Traditional & Green Energy to Coexist’

Etgreycell@timesgroup.com

How is Indian Oil planning to play a pivotal role in India’s energy transition?

India’s future growth must be aligned with the need to decarbonise its energy mix. The nation’s energy transition will be with consideration to making the transition just, orderly, and equitable. The Indian transition has enough scope for traditional and greener energy forms to coexist. Our approach is multi-faceted, focusing on both expanding our non-conventional energy options and strengthening our core business. We are actively expanding into renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and biofuels. Our vision is to achieve

operational net zero by 2046. What changes can be expected from the deliberations at the India Energy Week 2024?

Given India’s unique position as a rapidly developing economy with a significant dependency on fossil fuels, the dialogue will centre on a just and equitable transition to a



Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation

low-carbon future. This involves ensuring energy accessibility and affordability while advancing towards greener energy solutions.

What change in India’s energy scenario is being seen as the role of renewables has increased over the last few years?

The growing role of renewables is reshaping India’s energy scenario, marking a transition towards a more sustainable and diversified energy mix. This shift is significant in enhancing energy security and reducing our carbon footprint. Renewables are not just supplementing our energy needs but fast becoming a crucial part of our strategy.

आईईडब्ल्यू प्रमुख वैश्विक ऊर्जा सम्मेलन के रूप में उभरा : पुरी

■ विनोद श्रीवास्तव

बेतुल (गोवा)। एसएनबी

अगले वर्ष दिल्ली में फिर मिलने की उम्मीद के साथ आज गोवा में भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह का समापन हो गया। चार दिवसीय भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह में दुनिया के तमाम देशों से आए ऊर्जा मंत्रियों और ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के वैश्विक लीडरों के साथ नई ऊंचाइयों को हासिल करने के लिए गहन मंथन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री वैश्विक लीडरों से कहा था कि भारत ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में निवेश का सबसे बड़ा केंद्र होगा।

गोवा में आज केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह 2024 के समापन समारोह को संबोधित किया। उन्होंने वैश्विक ऊर्जा सम्मेलन के बेहद सफल आयोजन की सराहना की। उन्होंने देखा कि आईईडब्ल्यू 2024 ने पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में इस बार उद्घाटन सत्र में 30 प्रतिशत अधिक प्रदर्शकों के साथ 18,000 वर्ग मीटर से अधिक क्षेत्र में अपने उत्पादों और सेवाओं

का प्रदर्शन किया। उन्होंने घोषणा की कि 2025 में आईईडब्ल्यू का तीसरा संस्करण 11 से 14 फरवरी के बीच नई दिल्ली के द्वारका में स्थित भारत के सबसे बड़े सम्मेलन और प्रदर्शनी केंद्र



■ अगले वर्ष दिल्ली में फिर मिलेंगे, की आशा के साथ आईईडब्ल्यू गोवा में सम्पन्न ■ भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह 2025 का आयोजन दिल्ली के यशोभूमि में होगा

यशोभूमि (इंडिया इंटरनेशनल कन्वेंशन एंड एक्सपोजे सेंटर) में आयोजित किया जाएगा। इसके बाद भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह 2026 गोवा वापस आएगा और राज्य के दक्षिणी भाग में स्थित आईपीएसएचईएम- ओएनजीसी प्रशिक्षण संस्थान में आयोजित किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि चार दिवसीय कार्यक्रम की सफलता का उदाहरण सीईओ और बोर्ड के सदस्यों की मजबूत भागीदारी रही है, जो न केवल सबसे बड़ी तेल, गैस कंपनियों बल्कि जैव ईंधन और नवीकरणीय

प्रौद्योगिकी कंपनियों का भी प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। यह दर्शाता है कि आयोजन उपलब्ध प्लेटफार्मों के बीच एक प्रमुख स्थान हासिल करने के लिए आया है, जहां यदि आप जाते हैं और चार दिन बिताते हैं, तो आप विभिन्न वर्गों के लोगों से मिल सकते हैं, जिनके साथ बातचीत करने में आपको आसानी होती है।

पुरी ने कहा कि भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह, 2024 की प्रदर्शनियों में उच्चतम क्रम के तकनीकी नवाचार प्रदर्शित किए गए, जिससे वह गहराई से प्रभावित हुए। देश-विशिष्ट प्रदर्शनी स्टालों और बड़ी कंपनियों से संबंधित स्टालों के अलावा, व्यक्तिगत उद्यमियों ने भी उच्चतम गुणवत्ता के तकनीकी नवाचार को प्राप्त करने में प्रयास का प्रदर्शन किया। उन्होंने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि अगले दो दशकों में वैश्विक तेल की बढ़ती मांग में भारत की हिस्सेदारी 25 प्रतिशत होगी, लेकिन यह

वृद्धि केवल अन्वेषण और उत्पादन गतिविधियों तक ही सीमित नहीं रहेगी, बल्कि जैव ईंधन तक भी बढ़ेगी।

उन्होंने ने कहा कि 2014 तक देश में 1.5 प्रतिशत से अधिक जैव ईंधन मिश्रण प्राप्त नहीं कर सके। आज हमें 12 प्रतिशत मिश्रण मिला है। हम इसे 20 प्रतिशत तक ले जाने जा रहे हैं। इसलिए मुझे लगता है कि सर्वश्रेष्ठ आना अभी बाकी है। इथेनॉल, जैव ईंधन, संपीड़ित बायोगैस और हरित हाइड्रोजन में भारी वृद्धि देखने के लिए भारत तैयार है।

उन्होंने कहा कि भारत के लिए हरित हाइड्रोजन उतनी दूर की कहानी नहीं हो सकती है जितना शुरू में सोचा गया था। अनुमान है कि 2030 तक कम से कम 50 लाख मीट्रिक टन प्रति वर्ष उत्पादन जरूर होगा। केंद्रीय मंत्री और सचिव पंकज जैन ने भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह 2024 के समापन समारोह में एनर्जी स्टार्टअप चैलेंज से विजेताओं को सम्मानित किया। पहला पुरस्कार आयरन टेक्नोलॉजीज को मिला जबकि वासितारा प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ने उपविजेता ट्रॉफी हासिल की।



इंडिया एनर्जी वीक अगले साल दिल्ली में

■ एनबीटी, बेतुल (गोवा) : गोवा में इंडिया एनर्जी वीक 2024 शुक्रवार को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा हुआ। केन्द्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस और आवास और शहरी मामलों के मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने इस दौरान एलान किया कि अगले साल यानी 2025 में 11-14 फरवरी के बीच इंडिया एनर्जी वीक का आयोजन नई दिल्ली के द्वारका स्थित यशोभूमि में होगा।

इंडिया एनर्जी वीक 2024 की शुरुआत प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के हाथों 6 फरवरी को हुई। इसमें तेल, गैस, बायो फ्यूल और अक्षय ऊर्जा से जुड़ी कंपनियों ने 18,000 वर्ग मीटर से अधिक क्षेत्र में अपने प्रॉडक्ट और सेवाओं का शानदार प्रदर्शन किया।

करावल नगर: गैस पाइप लाइन का उद्घाटन



पूर्वी दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): करावल नगर विधानसभा में रहने वाले लोगों को स्थानीय भाजपा विधायक ने गैस पाइल लाइन का तोहफा दिया है। उन्होंने शुक्रवार को भूमिगत पीएनजी गैस पाइप लाइन डालने के कार्य का उद्घाटन किया। इस मौके पर मोहन सिंह बिष्ट ने कहा कि गैस पाइल लाइन बिछाने के बाद क्षेत्रवासियों को काफी राहत मिलने वाली है। उन्हें गैस सिलेंडर बुक करने के बाद कई दिनों तक उसका इंतजार नहीं करना पड़ेगा। सिलेंडर में कम गैस का इंशट ही खत्म हो जाएगा। कपिल बंदूनी ने बताया कि इस मौके पर क्षेत्रीय निगम पार्षद नीता बिष्ट, मण्डल अध्यक्ष कालीचरण शर्मा व आरडब्ल्यू अध्यक्ष गोपाल दत्त बड़ी संख्या में स्थानीय लोग व भाजपा कार्यकर्ता मौजूद रहे।

सवाल जवाब

धामरा एलएनजी टर्मिनल का विस्तार तय: सिंह

इंडिया एनर्जी वीक कार्यक्रम के इतर अदाणी टोटाल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के सीईओ सतिंदर पाल सिंह ने शुभायन चक्रवर्ती को साक्षात्कार में बताया कि भारत का सबसे नया और पूर्वी तट का एकमात्र टर्मिनल धामरा एलएनजी टर्मिनल ऊर्जा गंगा और इंद्रधनुष गैस ग्रिड से लाभान्वित होगा और इस क्षेत्र की सेवा करेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि वैश्विक बाजार में 2025 से पहले विशाल मार्केट तैयार होगा। उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि टर्मिनल्स का कम क्षमता में उपयोग अनिवार्य रूप से खराब नहीं है...



क्या अदाणी टोटाल के लिए निवेश संभावनाएं हैं ?

हमारी पूर्वोत्तर भारत में सबसे सस्ती अतिरिक्त क्षमता उपलब्ध है और इसका दीर्घावधि मार्जिन है। इस क्षेत्र में गैस की मांग तेजी से बढ़ेगी। तटस्थ रूप से कहें तो हम मांग को पूरी करने में सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्थान पर होंगे।

धामरा एलएनजी में भविष्य के विस्तार के लिए पहले से ही निवेश कर दिया गया है। हमारे पास तीसरे टैंक के लिए पर्याप्त स्थान है। हमारी जेटी और पाइप लाइनें 10 टन प्रति साल (एमटीपीए) के लिए हैं। हमारे पास अतिरिक्त वेपराइजर और पॉवरट्रेस के लिए पर्याप्त स्थान है। हम धामरा का विस्तार समुचित ढंग से कर सकते हैं। लिहाजा पाइपलाइन का विस्तार किया गया है। मुझे ऐसा कोई कारण नहीं दिखाई देता है कि क्यों धामरा का शीघ्र विस्तार नहीं होना चाहिए।

क्या टर्मिनल के लिए गैस निकासी मुद्दा है ?

भारत में गैस के आधारभूत ढांचे की कनेक्टिविटी बीते तीन महीनों के दौरान शानदार ढंग से बढ़ी है। ऊर्जा गंगा और इंद्रधनुष पाइप लाइन का विस्तार क्रमशः पूर्वी और उत्तर पूर्व क्षेत्रों में हुआ है। अब हम दक्षिण और पश्चिम की ओर विस्तार कर रहे हैं। यह एक शानदार खबर है कि गैस ग्रिड तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं।

टर्मिनल की लंबे समय से क्षमता उपयोग की दर कम रही है ?

हमें अधिक परिष्कृत खरीदार बनना होगा और इसके लिए भारत को आधारभूत ढांचा बढ़ाने की जरूरत है। यदि कोई सभी एलएनजी टर्मिनल्स की 100 प्रतिशत क्षमता का उपयोग करने का प्रयास कर रहा है तो इसका मतलब यह है कि वह एलएनजी बाजार का प्राइस टेकर है। टर्मिनल पर एलएनजी के इस्तेमाल से अधिक एलएनजी के स्रोत का मूल्य है। यह खराब बात नहीं है कि एलएनजी के आधारभूत ढांचे का पर्याप्त रूप से इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जाता है, जब तक कि जो अतिरिक्त क्षमता विकसित की गई है, उसका स्मार्ट तरीके से इस्तेमाल किया जाए और स्रोत के वाणिज्यिक बढत का लाभ उठाया जाए। प्रमुख खरीदारों जैसे जापान और कोरिया में औसत इस्तेमाल की दर 30 से 35 प्रतिशत है।

क्या यह सही है कि चीन ने आने वाली ज्यादातर वॉल्यूम के लिए दीर्घावधि सौदे कर लिए हैं। क्या हम पीछे रह गए हैं ?

यह साफ नहीं कहा जा सकता कि देर हुई है या नहीं। फिलहाल जो हो गया है, अब उस पर चर्चा करने का कोई फायदा नहीं है। यदि हमें देर हो भी गई है तो आज भी निर्णय लेने के लिए कोई बहाना नहीं है।



एचपीसीएल जनवरी 2025 तक बाड़मेर रिफाइनरी शुरू कर देगी

हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल) अगले साल जनवरी तक राजस्थान के बाड़मेर में देश की सबसे नई तेल रिफाइनरी शुरू कर देगी, जिससे उत्तर भारत में बढ़ती ईंधन मांग को पूरा करने में मदद मिलेगी। एचपीसीएल के निदेशक (रिफाइनरी) एस. भारतन ने इंडिया एनर्जी वीक (आईईडब्ल्यू) के मौके पर पत्रकारों से कहा, '90 लाख टन प्रति वर्ष की रिफाइनरी 76 प्रतिशत यांत्रिक रूप से पूरी हो चुकी है। साल के अंत तक इसका काम पूरा हो जाएगा। रिफाइनरी से पहला उत्पाद दिसंबर या अगले साल जनवरी में आएगा।' यह परियोजना दुनिया की सबसे तेजी से बढ़ती प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्था की ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए 45 करोड़ टन कच्चे तेल को पेट्रोल तथा डीजल जैसे ईंधन में बदलने की स्थापित क्षमता रखने के भारत के लक्ष्य का हिस्सा है। भारत की वर्तमान शोधन क्षमता 25.4 करोड़ टन से कम है।

भाषा



पेट्रोनेट की 40,000 करोड़ की निवेश योजना

बेतुल (गोवा)। पेट्रोनेट एलएनजी लिमिटेड 2028 तक शुद्ध लाभ को तीन गुना करने के लक्ष्य के साथ आयात क्षमता तथा पेट्रो रसायन के विस्तार में 40,000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करेगी। कंपनी ने कहा कि प्रोपेन डीहाइड्रोजनेशन संयंत्र में 12,685 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करके पेट्रो रसासन व्यवसाय में प्रवेश कर रहा है, जो आयातित कच्चेमाल को प्रोपलीन में बदल देगा।

भारत के साथ जैव ईंधन की संयुक्त परियोजनाएं लगाएंगे : सेशेल्स

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती
बेतुल (गोवा), 9 फरवरी

भारत और सेशेल्स आने वाले वर्षों के दौरान इस द्वीपीय देश में संयुक्त परियोजनाएं शुरू करेंगे। यह जानकारी सेशेल्स के ऊर्जा, पर्यावरण और कृषि मंत्री फ्लेवियन पी. जौबर्ट ने इंडिया एनर्जी वीक 2024 के कार्यक्रम के इतर बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड को दी। उन्होंने बताया कि भारत के नेतृत्व में वैश्विक जैव ईंधन गठजोड़ में सेशेल्स बीते वर्ष शामिल हुआ था। लेकिन अभी तक सेशेल्स ने वैकल्पिक ईंधन का इस्तेमाल शुरू नहीं किया है।

जौबर्ट ने बताया, 'हमें आकलन करना होगा और यह सुनिश्चित भी करना होगा कि ये परियोजनाएं आर्थिक रूप से सकारात्मक ढंग से सामने आएँ। हमें यह फैसला लेना होगा कि हम जैव ईंधन का आयात करें या राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अपशिष्ट उत्पादों से जैव ईंधन तैयार करें।'

सेशेल्स कंप्रेस्ड जैव गैस तकनीक को लेकर खासा उत्सुक है। इसका कारण यह है कि इससे अपशिष्ट की समस्या को हल करने में मदद मिलेगी। सेशेल्स के अपशिष्ट में 40 प्रतिशत हरित अपशिष्ट



फ्लेवियन पी. जौबर्ट
ऊर्जा, पर्यावरण और कृषि मंत्री, सेशेल्स

है और इस तकनीक की बदौलत हरित अपशिष्ट का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।

बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड ने बीते वर्ष जानकारी दी थी कि अफ्रीका के देश भारत के एथनॉल मिश्रण और बायोगैस की पहल को दोहराने के इच्छुक हैं। लिहाजा इच्छुक देशों केन्या, तंजानिया और युगांडा के प्रतिनिधियों की भारत दौरा करने की योजना थी लेकिन उनकी यात्रा स्थगित कर दी गई।

तेल की खोज

सेशेल्स अपने देश में तेल की खोज के लिए विदेशी कंपनियों को आकर्षित करने

में खासा इच्छुक है। इस सिलसिले में यह देश भारत से पहले ही बातचीत कर चुका है। मंत्री ने बताया कि भारत की तेल कंपनियां सेशेल्स की सरकारी कंपनी पेट्रो सेशेल्स के संपर्क में है।

उन्होंने कहा, 'हमारे लिए यह सबसे बड़ा सवाल है कि कौन हमारे ऊर्जा संक्रमण के लिए धन मुहैया करवाएगा। हमारे पास ज्यादा संसाधन नहीं हैं लेकिन हमारे लिए तेल के संयंत्र देश के लिए ऊर्जा का स्रोत हो सकते हैं।'

सेशेल्स में बीते साल तेल की खोज शुरू हुई थी और इस सिलसिले में अभी भी काम जारी है। मंत्री ने कहा, 'हाल में कोई अभियान शुरू नहीं किया गया है लेकिन हमें उम्मीद है कि कंपनियां देश की ओर वापस रुख करेंगी। सेशेल्स के समग्र आर्थिक क्षेत्र (ईईजेड) में तेल ब्लॉक हैं और उनमें तेल उत्खनन किया जाना है।'

सेशेल्स में ज्यादातर तेल उथले सागर में हैं। ये कुएं 50 मीटर तक गहरे होते हैं। सेशेल्स का ईईजेड 13.5 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर में फैला है।

जौबर्ट ने बताया कि उनके देश ने सभी अनिवार्य लाइसेंस और भौगोलिक आंकड़ों को मंजूरी दे दी है।

रिफाइनिंग क्षमता बढ़ाने को सिर्फ भारत तैयार

ग्रीन एनर्जी अपनाने के बीच पेट्रोरसायन में देश को एक **बड़ी शक्ति** के तौर पर उभारने का संकल्प

जयप्रकाश रंजन • पणजी

प्रत्येक देश ग्रीन एनर्जी अपनाने के लिए बड़ी-बड़ी योजनाओं पर काम कर रहा है। इस दिशा में भारत भी प्रयास कर रहा है, लेकिन वह एकमात्र ऐसा देश है जो ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन, सौर ऊर्जा, बायोगैस जैसे गैर पारंपरिक ऊर्जा स्रोतों के अलावा रिफाइनिंग क्षमता बढ़ाने का भी रोडमैप तैयार कर चुका है।

हाल ही में अमेरिका व रूस के बाद चीन ने भी अपनी रिफाइनिंग क्षमता को सीमित करने का फैसला किया है। वहीं भारत सरकार का अनुमान है कि क्षमता बढ़ाने से भारत से तैयार पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का निर्यात न सिर्फ तेजी से बढ़ेगा बल्कि पेट्रोरसायन की आपूर्ति में भी देश एक बड़ी शक्ति के तौर पर उभरेगा। इसको देखते हुए पूर्व में जहां पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय मौजूदा रिफाइनिंग क्षमता 25.4 करोड़ टन सालाना से बढ़ाकर वर्ष 2030 तक 40 करोड़ टन सालाना करने की योजना बना रहा था, वहीं प्रधानमंत्री ने इसे बढ़ाकर 45 करोड़ टन

25.4 करोड़ टन सालाना हे देश की मौजूदा रिफाइनिंग क्षमता



पेट्रोरसायन निर्यात में भारत चीन का एक मजबूत विकल्प बनता जा रहा है। घरेलू स्तर पर भी पेट्रोरसायन की मांग भारत में काफी होगी, क्योंकि इसका सीधा संपर्क प्रति व्यक्ति आय के साथ है। जैसे-जैसे आय बढ़ेगी वैसे-वैसे जीवनस्तर सुधरेगा और पेट्रोरसायन से बने उत्पादों की मांग बढ़ेगी। इस हिसाब से भी भारत की रिफाइनरी क्षमता बढ़ाना जरूरी है।

-संजय खन्ना, निदेशक (रिफाइनरी), बीपीसीएल

सालाना करने का लक्ष्य रखा है। पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के निर्यात में भारत पहले ही एक बड़ी शक्ति के तौर पर स्थापित हो चुका है। कुल निर्यात में पेट्रो निर्यात की हिस्सेदारी

सऊदी के सहयोग से लगेगी सबसे बड़ी रिफाइनरी

भारत में अभी 23 पेट्रोलियम रिफाइनरियां हैं। इनमें 18 सरकारी क्षेत्र की कंपनियों (आइओसी, बीपीसीएल, एचपीसीएल, एनआरएल, एमआरपीएल आदि) के पास है, जबकि तीन निजी क्षेत्र की हैं और दो संयुक्त उद्यम में हैं। पश्चिमी तट पर एक नई ग्रीन फील्ड रिफाइनरी बनाने के लिए सऊदी अरब के साथ वार्ता हो रही है। यह देश की सबसे बड़ी रिफाइनरी हो सकती है। इसके लिए भारत व सऊदी अरब के बीच एक संयुक्त कार्य दल का गठन किया गया है। इस बड़ी रिफाइनरी के अलावा छोटी क्षमता की कुछ नई रिफाइनरियों को लगाने पर भी चर्चा हो रही है।

भारत की रिफाइनिंग क्षमता बढ़ाना तर्कसंगत

पेट्रोलियम सचिव पंकज जैन का कहना है कि कच्चे तेल जैसे जीवाश्म ईंधन को खत्म करने की बात तो हो रही है लेकिन यह नहीं सोचा जा रहा है कि इससे जो प्लास्टिक, सुगंध, पेंट, तरह-तरह के रसायन, कपड़े जैसे तमाम औद्योगिक व आम जिंदगी में इस्तेमाल होने वाले जो उत्पाद बनाए जाते हैं, उनका क्या होगा। इन उत्पादों की मांग पूरी दुनिया में बढ़ रही है। ऐसे में भारत की रिफाइनिंग क्षमता बढ़ाना तर्कसंगत है। हम पहले मौजूदा रिफाइनरियों की क्षमता बढ़ाने में जुटे हैं। बरौनी, पानीपत, विशाखापत्तनम, नुमालीगढ़ समेत कई रिफाइनरियों में क्षमता विस्तार का काम चल रहा है।

2020-21 में 10 प्रतिशत थी जो इस साल 13 प्रतिशत रहने वाली है। यूरोपीय देशों को पेट्रो उत्पादों का सबसे ज्यादा निर्यात भारत से होता है। पेट्रोरसायन के लिए कच्चे माल

का मुख्य स्रोत रिफाइनरियां होती हैं। कंपनियों का आकलन है कि भारत में पेट्रोरसायन उद्योग की क्षमता अगले दो दशकों तक सालाना 10 प्रतिशत की रफ्तार से बढ़ती रहेगी।

व्यवस्थित तरीके से ऊर्जा बदलाव की जरूरत: पुरी

नई दिल्ली, एएनआइ: पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने व्यवस्थित ऊर्जा बदलाव की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया है। गोवा में आयोजित इंडिया एनर्जी वीक में पुरी ने जीवाश्म ईंधन को लेकर की जा रही आलोचनाओं को खारिज करते हुए ऊर्जा सामर्थ्य बनाए रखने के महत्व पर जोर दिया। पुरी ने पारंपरिक ईंधन स्रोतों तक पहुंच से समझौता किए बिना नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में सुचारु परिवर्तन करने की चुनौती पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा, "चुनौती यह सुनिश्चित करने की है कि परिवर्तन व्यवस्थित तरीके से किया जाए ताकि हमारी पारंपरिक ईंधन तक पहुंच प्रभावित नहीं हो। इस संबंध में संतुलित और यथार्थवादी रवैया अपनाने की जरूरत न कि जीवाश्म ईंधन की निंदा करने की।" पुरी ने कहा कि ऊर्जा बदलाव महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन जरूरत से ज्यादा नहीं।



2028 तक लाभ तिगुना करेगी पेट्रोनेट

दुनिया के सबसे बड़े तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी) आयात टर्मिनल की संचालक पेट्रोनेट एलएनजी लिमिटेड 2028 तक शुद्ध लाभ को 3 गुना करने के लक्ष्य के साथ आयात क्षमता तथा पेट्रो रसायन के विस्तार में 40,000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करेगी।

कंपनी के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) एके सिंह ने इंडिया एनर्जी वीक (आईईडब्ल्यू) के मौके पर कहा कि पेट्रोनेट प्रोपेन डीहाइड्रोजनेशन संयंत्र में 12,685 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करके पेट्रो रसायन व्यवसाय में प्रवेश कर रहा है, जो आयातित कच्चेमाल को प्रोपलीन में बदल देगा। साथ

ही 2,300 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से ओडिशा के गोपालपुर में एलएनजी आयात सुविधा स्थापित करेगा। इस सप्ताह कतर से प्रति वर्ष 75 लाख टन एलएनजी आयात करने के समझौते को 20 साल के लिए बढ़ाने वाली कंपनी श्रीलंका के कोलंबो में 'फ्लोटिंग एलएनजी टर्मिनल' जैसी विदेशी परियोजनाओं में भी निवेश करने पर विचार कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा, 'हमने 1-5-10-40 की रणनीति बनाई है। विस्तार में 40,000 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश से 10,000 करोड़ रुपये के शुद्ध लाभ के साथ पांच साल में कारोबार को एक लाख करोड़ रुपये तक बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य है।'

भाषा