

Vice President confers SCOPE Awards on PSEs

Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, conferred the SCOPE Awards on PSEs at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, during the event organised by Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE). Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE; Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE; and Brajesh Kumar Updadhay, Vice Chairman, SCOPE, were also present on the dais. The function was attended by senior government officials from various ministries and departments of government,



senior officials from PSEs, and national, international associates of SCOPE. The programme was attended both physically and virtually by a large number of participants. SCOPE Awards commemorate the innovative, development driven and entrepreneurial spirit of public sector enterprises. Speaking on the occasion, the vice-president commended the potential and capability of the PSEs by calling them the pride of the nation and spine of the Indian economy.

POWERGRID inks pact with DC, Faridabad

POWERGRID, NR-I, signed an MoU on January 9, 2024, with DC, Faridabad, under Corporate Social Responsibility initiative of POWERGRID. The MOU was signed by Ashok Kumar Mishra, General Manager (HR-CSR) on behalf of POWERGRID, and Vikram, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Faridabad, in presence of S. K. Verma, GM(HR) POWERGRID; Gaurav Singh, Add. CEO, Haryana CSR Trust; and Vinay Gupta, CMO, Civil Hospital, Faridabad. As per



the MoU, POWERGRID will provide medical equipment to Civil Hospital, Faridabad, and its attached PHCs to the tune of Rs 1.68 crore, which shall be of immense benefit to the hospital in providing effective treatment to patients. This project is an initiative of POWERGRID towards promoting health infrastructure. On this occasion CMO, Faridabad thanked POWERGRID for taking up this CSR initiative for providing this infrastructure to the hospital.

EIL bags SCOPE Eminence Award

Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, presented the SCOPE Eminence Award to RailTel. The company won the award in Institutional Excellence (Miniratna I & II) category for overall outstanding performance during the year 2019-20. The award was presented in a grand ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The SCOPE awardees were



selected by a panel of eminent jury under the chairmanship of Justice T.S. Thakur, former Chief Justice of India. Sanjai Kumar, CMD/ RailTel, said, 'The RailTel family is deeply honoured to receive the prestigious SCOPE award. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to SCOPE and the distinguished members of the jury for acknowledging the relentless efforts and commitment demonstrated by the entire RailTel team. The credit of the award goes to the RailTel family, and this recognition serves as a motivating force, inspiring us to extend our limits and propel RailTel to greater heights.'

EIL CONFERRED WITH SCOPE EMINENCE AWARD



Engineers India Limited (EIL) has been conferred with the prestigious SCOPE Eminence Award in the category of Women Empowerment for the period 2019-20. The award was presented to EIL by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar and was received by Shri Sanjay Jindal, Director (Finance) and Shri Atul Gupta, Director (Commercial) on January 18, 2024, during an award ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The award recognises EIL's exemplary commitment to fostering an inclusive & diverse work environment and celebrates the outstanding achievement of its women workforce.

"It is a proud moment for EIL to receive this prestigious award. This award is a testament of progressive culture in the company to foster an inclusive workplace fully aligned with the DEI principles." C&MD EIL, Ms Vartika Shukla stated while lauding the efforts of female workforce in leading the company through its services at various leadership positions.

REC RECEIVES SCOPE EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honored with the prestigious Scope Excellence Award in the category of Special Institutional Category (Digitalization).



The award was presented by Honourable Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, at ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi.

Shri Ajoy Choudhury, Director (Finance), and Shri Saurabh Rastogi, Executive Director (BDM) of REC Limited, graciously accepted the award from the Honourable Vice President of India at the ceremony.

The award acknowledges RECLimited's unwavering commitment to the digitalization of its workplace and the promotion of best practices in establishing a paperless office. This accomplishment underscores REC Limited's dedication to embracing technological advancements and fostering a culture of innovation within the organization.

SCOPE was established in 1973 as an apex body of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), and is dedicated to promoting competitiveness and excellence within the PSE sector. The Scope Excellence Award recognizes and commemorates exemplary performances of Public Sector Enterprises.

Cheaper Venezuelan crude may return to India from Feb

Rajeev Jayaswal

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NEW DELHI

Cheaper Venezuelan crude oil may start flowing to India from next month—a gap of three years—as domestic refiners move away from Russia to cheaper energy imports after sanctions-hit Moscow drastically reduced discounts to around \$2 per barrel, three people aware of the development said.

In contrast, Venezuelan crude can be bought with effective discounts of around \$8-10 per barrel after the US eased sanctions against the country mid-October, they said, requesting anonymity. Discounts are generally with reference to the benchmark Brent crude, which fell about 1% to \$78.56 a barrel on Friday. The downward trend continued on Monday as Brent fell by 0.22% at \$78.39 in morning trade.

In order to secure India's growing energy needs, New Delhi has not only diversified its crude oil imports but also made efforts to resume



India imports more than 87% of its requirements. **REUTERS**

imports from old suppliers such as Venezuela, said one of the people cited above, a company executive.

India, the world's third-largest crude oil consumer, imports more than 87% of its requirements. It is willing to secure supply contracts with any producer at economical rates, he added.

"Refiners have purely commercial considerations while importing crude. A while before the US sanctions actually hit India in 2020, Venezuela was among the key crude oil suppliers. It had become

India's the third largest supplier of crude oil in 2012 with new refineries as key takers, configured to process cheap but low-quality waxy Venezuelan crude," said the second person, a government official.

Reliance Industries' Jamnagar plants and Essar (now Nayara) were the two main buyers of Venezuelan crude at that time. Later some state-run refiners also entered into long-term crude supply contracts with PDVSA, the Venezuelan state oil company.

Due to the US sanctions, imports from Venezuela dipped sharply from \$6.05 billion 2019-20 to \$714 million in 2020-21.

"With Venezuelan crude available in the market and some Indian refiners expressing interest in purchasing discounted Venezuelan crude to diversify their imports and capitalize on refining margins at the expense of some sour Middle Eastern grades, India's crude import strategy is at a crucial and intriguing phase," said Sumit Ritolia, refinery economics analyst at S&P Global Commodity Insights, an information provider.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Q3 profit more than doubles to ₹360 cr

Our Bureau

Chennai

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL) has more than doubled its standalone net profit at ₹360 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2023, when compared to ₹143 crore in the year-ago quarter, aided by an increase in topline.

Revenue from operations was higher at ₹20,454 crore in Q3 of this fiscal, against ₹19,214 crore in Q3 FY23, an increase of 6.5 per cent.

Total expenses were also higher at ₹19,975 crore, when compared to ₹19,030



crore in the year-ago quarter.

Profit before exceptional and tax stood at ₹481 crore against ₹186 crore.

CRUDE THROUGHPUT

In the December 2023 quarter, crude throughput

stood at 2.829 MMT (million metric tonnes) as against 2.MMT in the year-ago period.

For the nine months ended December 31, 2023, CPCL's net profit was lower at ₹2,099 crore, when compared to ₹2,530 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal.

Revenue was lower at ₹58,449 crore against ₹69,558 crore in the year-ago period

The average gross refining margin stood at \$8.98 per bbl during the April-December 2023 period, when compared to \$112.70 per bbl in the year-ago period.

Crude oil down due to economic headwinds



New Delhi: Oil prices lost more ground on Monday as economic headwinds pressured the global oil demand outlook and offset geopolitical concerns in the Middle East and an attack on a Russian fuel export terminal over the weekend. Brent crude fell 23 cents, or 0.3 per cent, to \$78.33 a barrel by 0732 GMT after settling down 54 cents on Friday. REUTERS

From Feb, cheaper Venezuelan crude may return to India

Rajeev Jayaswal

rajeev.jayaswal@livenint.com

NEW DELHI: Cheaper Venezuelan crude oil may start flowing to India from next month after three years as domestic refiners are moving away from Russia to more economical energy imports after sanction-hit Moscow drastically reduced discounts to around \$2 a barrel, three people aware of the development said.

In contrast, Venezuelan crude can be bought with effective discounts of around \$8-10 per barrel after the US eased sanctions against the country mid-October, they said, requesting anonymity. Discounts are generally with reference to the benchmark Brent crude, which fell about 1% to \$78.56 a barrel on Friday. The downward trend continued on Monday as Brent fell by 0.22% at \$78.39 in morning trade.

In order to secure India's growing energy needs, New Delhi has not only diversified its crude oil imports but also made efforts to resume imports from old suppliers such as Venezuela, said one of the people, a company executive. India, the world's third largest crude oil consumer, imports more than 87% of its requirements. It is willing to secure supply contacts with any producer at economical rates, he added.

"Refiners have purely commercial considerations while importing crude. A while before the US sanctions actually hit India in 2020, Venezuela was among the key crude oil suppliers. It had become India's the third largest supplier of crude oil in 2012 with new refineries as key takers, configured to process cheap but low-quality waxy Venezuelan crude," said the second person, a government official.

Reliance Industries' Jamnagar plants and Essar (now Nayara) were the two main buyers of Venezuelan crude at that time and later some state-run refiners also contracted long-term crude supply contracts with PDVSA, the Venezuelan state oil company.

India's imports from Venez-



Due to the US sanctions, imports from Venezuela saw a sharp fall.

REUTERS

uela surged to \$11,729.89 million in 2014-15, mainly on purchase of crude oil, according to data submitted in the Lok Sabha on July 31, 2017. The imports subsequently fell to \$5,701.81 million in 2015-16 because of a steep decline in global crude oil prices. Average crude oil import price of the country (the Indian basket), which was \$86.14 a barrel in 2014-15, dipped to \$46.17 in 2015-16, an over 46% fall.

Due to the US sanctions, imports from Venezuela (over 90% of crude supplies) saw a sharp fall from \$6.05 billion 2019-20 to \$714 million in 2020-21. It plunged further to \$334 million and \$178 million in 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively. Other than crude oil, India imported dye intermediates, iron, copper and lead from the Latin American country.

Both public and private sector refiners have started negotiating long-term, large volume contracts with PDVSA. Some have also contracted immediate supplies and they are on the way, the third person said.

"With Venezuelan crude available in the market and some Indian refiners expressing interest in purchasing discounted Venezuelan crude to diversify their imports and capitalise on refining margins at the expense of some sour Middle Eastern grades, India's crude import strategy is at a crucial and intriguing phase," said Sumit Ritolia, refinery economics analyst at S&P Global Commodity Insights, an information provider.

India likely to resume Iran oil imports amid Houthi threat

Houthis are also allies of Iran and not expected to go against trade

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 22 January

India is considering the reinstatement of crude oil shipments from Iran as Houthi insurgents step up attacks on maritime trade in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden regions off the coast of Yemen, sources in the know said.

The issue may have been discussed during recent bilateral meetings between the countries last week when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar travelled to Iran.

Shipments from Iran take place through the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, where the Houthis have a limited presence. The Houthis are also allies of the Iranian regime and are not expected to go against trade deemed important by Tehran, they said.

India has so far not bought crude from any country under global sanctions. The government opened up on importing Venezuelan oil only after the US removed sanctions on the South American nation.



SANCTION SHADOW

Crude oil imports from Iran (\$ bn)



Note: Imports stopped in early 2020

Source: Commerce department

“We are always monitoring the situation when it comes to crude flows. However, there have been proposals to resume crude oil imports from Iran. We are studying them,” an official said.

Iran was one of the largest sources of crude oil for India until 2018-19. In June 2019, the US administration under Donald Trump placed sanctions on Iran due to its nuclear programme. The US removed an exception for countries like India to source oil from Iran, thereby cutting off India and Iran from accessing US dollars to pay for the trade.

As a result, Iran went from becoming the ninth-largest crude oil exporter in 2018 to the 71st as of 2021, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting

Countries figures show.

Iran is willing

“The Iranian side has been keen on resuming oil exports to India. It is badly trying to expand the small set of buyers for its oil. Also, after the impact of the pandemic, the economy is struggling,” a diplomatic source said.

In the absence of buyers, an increasing share of Iranian crude has diverted towards China, feeding nearly 10 per cent of China’s crude requirements, *Reuters* has reported.

China bought a record 1.05 million barrels per day in the first 10 months of 2023, according to estimates made by the London-based commodity data analytics provider Vortexa, which tracks ship

movements to estimate imports. The exports have, however, hit a hurdle over Tehran now lowering its discounts to \$5-6 per barrel below Brent crude prices, down from \$10 prices per barrel offered earlier to China, Iranian media reported earlier this month.

While Indian refiners are yet to negotiate spot purchases from the country, Iranian crude is increasingly being offered by traders under the garb of Malaysian oil, *Business Standard* has earlier reported.

Reasons to import

With the wars in Ukraine and Gaza already keeping tensions elevated and the oil trade volatile, the latest Houthi threat has come as a major headache for the government.

‘Red Sea disruptions may dent India growth forecast’

Amid rising hostilities in the Red Sea due to Houthi attacks, the Fitch Group said India’s economic forecast faces a “significant” risk in the event of a prolonged spell of disruptions. “If Red Sea disruptions were to persist, the resulting downward revisions to our India and Bangladesh forecasts will probably be significant and would dent our 4.0 per cent growth forecast for Asia in 2024,” BMI, a unit of the Fitch Group, said. It said South Asian economies would be the most affected.

DHRUVAKSH SAHA

The group has so far attacked at least three India-linked ships and nearly a dozen ships with Indian crew. Crude oil freight charges have doubled in the past month, officials from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said.

“Oil shipments to India are set to be affected in the short term if the spate of attacks increases,” they added. Imports from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Oman traverse the Gulf to reach the Arabian Sea, and on to West Coast ports.

The US has so far conducted six airstrikes on the group, the latest being on January 19. On Monday, the US Department of Defense said two soldiers are now feared dead after a mission against the Houthis.



MRPL reports Q3 net profit of ₹387 crore

Our Bureau

Mangaluru

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL) registered a net profit of ₹387.06 crore in the third quarter of 2023-24 against a loss after tax of ₹187.96 crore in the corresponding period of 2022-23.

The gross refining margin (GRM) of the company increased to \$5 a barrel during Q3FY24 against a GRM of \$3.88 a barrel in Q3FY23. (GRM is the difference between the price of crude oil and the end products).

The company informed

MRPL board has approved an interim dividend of 10 per cent, that is, ₹1 on each equity share of ₹10

stock exchanges on Monday that the board has approved an interim dividend of 10 per cent, that is, ₹1 on each equity share of ₹10.

The total payout on this account will be ₹175.26 crore. The record date for the distribution of dividends has been fixed for February 2.

Revenue from operations

of the company was at ₹28,383.41 crore in Q3FY24 against ₹30,966.16 crore in Q3 of 2022-23. The company said there was a reduction of ₹3,238 crore in interest-bearing long-term borrowings during the first nine months of 2023-24. Interest-bearing long-term borrowings came down from ₹14,837 crore as on March 31, 2023, to ₹11,599 crore as on December 31, 2023.

DEBT EQUITY RATIO

It said that the debt equity ratio of the company improved from 2.28 as of December 31, 2022, to 1.14 as of December

31, 2023. The total throughput of the refinery was 4.42 million tonnes (mt) during October-December 2023-24, compared with 4.48 mt in the corresponding period of 2022-23.

The company said the phase-3 units and HCU-1 (hydro cracking unit) were safely re-started post-mandatory maintenance and inspection shutdown.

The refinery achieved its highest ever monthly gross crude input during December 2023 at 1,558 TMT (thousand metric tonne). The previous highest was at 1,557.3 TMT in January 2016.

RIL Rides PLI Schemes to Close in on \$1-1.5/kg Green H2 Target

Co has won incentives under schemes for solar modules, green hydrogen and electrolysers

Kalpna Pathak

Mumbai: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is getting closer to its target of producing green hydrogen for \$1-1.5 per kilogramme on the back of multiple product-linked incentives (PLIs) it has won in the green energy segment, an analyst report said.

“These incentives are likely to assist RIL achieve GH2 (green hydrogen) cost of \$1-1.5/kg,” Nuvama Research said in a report dated January 20.

The cost of GH2 is around \$3/kg at present.

The country’s largest private sector company has secured sops under both rounds of solar modules PLIs — \$300 million for 4 gigawatt (GW) in round one and \$400 million for 6GW in round two. The company also won PLI under advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery storage for 5 GW capacity.


Recently, RIL won incentives of \$0.23/kg for green hydrogen (GH2) capacity of 90,000 metric tonnes per year and \$0.3/kg for an electrolyser capacity of 300 megawatt. This sums up to an incentive of \$0.5/kg, subsidising 13% of current G H2 manufacturing cost, Nuvama said in its report.

At the International Climate Summit in 2021, RIL chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani had outlined his company’s vision to bring down the cost of hydrogen

RIL Incentives & Targets

RIL has received PLIs of **\$0.3bn** for **4GW** (round one) and **\$0.4bn** for **6GW** (round two) in solar modules

Mukesh Ambani, outlined the company’s vision to bring down the cost of hydrogen to under **\$1 per kg** within 10 years, known as the “**1-1-1 target**” for **GH2**

RIL is targeting 100GW of solar energy by 2030, representing 36% of the total India solar capacity of 280GW

VIJAY P

to less than \$1 for one kg in 10 years – the ‘1-1-1 target’ for GH2.

Last week, Ambani said the company’s ‘new energy giga complex’ in Jamnagar is all set to be commissioned in the second half of calendar 2024. “I am confident that Reliance’s new energy business will play a pivotal role in the global movement for adoption of cleaner fuels,” he said.



PLIs are likely to assist RIL achieve GH2 cost of \$1-1.5/kg, says Nuvama Research report

ET had on August 22 reported that RIL will commission 5 GW of its 20 GW solar modules capacity next year. The company is planning to enter solar manufacturing and generation with a target of 100 GW of solar energy by 2030.

“For solar, RIL can reach 100 GW of installation by 2030, which is 36% of the total 2030 India solar capacity of 280 GW,” Bernstein Research had said in a report dated December 4.

RIL has signed a supply agreement with China-based Suzhou Maxwell

Technologies to buy a high-efficiency production line for HJT cells for 5 GW capacity.

“RIL will commission 5GW of HJT modules and 5GWh of LFP (lithium iron phosphate) battery capacity by 2QFY25. The company intends to use most of the initial production for captive set up of 20 GW of renewable capacity — enough to meet its annual energy requirement,” Jefferies India had said in a research report dated December 5.

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Russia Becomes Top China Oil Supplier for First Time Since '18

Moscow: Russia blew past Saudi Arabia to become the biggest source of Chinese oil imports last year, highlighting the ineffectiveness of Western efforts to deprive the Kremlin of funds for its war in Ukraine.

The world's biggest oil importer bought a record 107 million tons of crude from Russia in 2023, almost a quarter more than the year before, according to customs data released Monday. That compared with just under 86 million tons from Saudi Arabia. It's the first time Russia has been China's No. 1 supplier since 2018, and translates to around 2.15 million barrels a day.

Chinese refiners have been eagerly snapping up cut-price Russian crude, despite it being sold at levels above a \$60 a barrel Western-imposed price cap. ESPO cargoes from the Russian Far East continue to be popular in China due to the relatively short shipping route. Higher official selling prices have seen processors take fewer Saudi term cargoes, while a recent disagreement with Iranian exporters is further boosting demand for Russian crude.



China's oil imports from Russia last year were worth \$60.6 billion, which equates to an average price of about \$77 a barrel, according to Bloomberg calculations based on the customs data.

Iraq and Malaysia were third- and fourth-biggest crude suppliers to China last year, the data show. Crude and fuel from sanctioned exporters — such as Iran — is often classified as coming from the Southeast Asian nation in Chinese government figures.

Russia was also top supplier of fuel oil to China last year, shipping 9.6 million tons. Malaysia being the next-biggest exporter, supplying 6.93 million tons. **Bloomberg**

Russia pips Saudi Arabia to become top China oil supplier for first time since 2018

Bloomberg

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SHORT ROUTE

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ईरान से तेल आयात पर विचार

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती
नई दिल्ली, 22 जनवरी

लाल सागर व अदन की खाड़ी में जहाजों पर हमले का असर

भारत ईरान से कच्चे तेल का आयात बहाल करने पर विचार कर रहा है, क्योंकि हूती विद्रोहियों ने लाल सागर और अदन की खाड़ी वाले इलाकों में व्यापारिक जहाजों पर हमले तेज कर दिए हैं। इस मामले से जुड़े कई सूत्रों ने यह जानकारी दी। विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर की पिछले हफ्ते की ईरान यात्रा के दौरान संभवतः इस मसले पर द्विपक्षीय बातचीत हुई थी। ईरान से आने वाला तेल फारस की खाड़ी और ओमान की खाड़ी के रास्ते आ सकता है, जहां हूती विद्रोहियों की उपस्थिति बहुत सीमित है।

सूत्रों ने कहा कि हूतियों के ईरानी प्रशासन के साथ अच्छे संबंध रहे हैं और ईरान के लिए महत्वपूर्ण व्यापार के खिलाफ उनके कदम की उम्मीद नहीं की जाती। भारत ने अब तक ऐसे किसी देश से तेल नहीं खरीदा है, जिस पर वैश्विक प्रतिबंध लगा हो। सरकार ने वेनेजुएला से तब तेल आयात शुरू किया, जब अमेरिका ने इस दक्षिण अमेरिकी देश से प्रतिबंध हटा लिया। अधिकारी ने कहा, 'जब कच्चे तेल का मसला आता है तो हम लगातार स्थिति पर नजर रखते। लेकिन ईरान से कच्चे तेल का आयात फिर से शुरू करने के प्रस्ताव आए हैं। हम उनका अध्ययन कर रहे हैं।'

2018-19 तक ईरान भारत के



■ अमेरिका द्वारा नए सिरों से प्रतिबंध लगाए जाने के पहले 2019 तक भारत में कच्चे तेल के आयात का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा स्रोत था ईरान

■ हूतियों का अभी भी ईरानी प्रशासन से अच्छे संबंध है और ईरान के लिए महत्वपूर्ण व्यापार के खिलाफ उनके कदम की उम्मीद नहीं है

लिए कच्चे तेल के बड़े स्रोतों में से एक था। जून 2019 में डॉनल्ड ट्रंप के शासन में अमेरिका ने परमाणु ऊर्जा कार्यक्रम को देखते हुए ईरान पर नए सिरों से प्रतिबंध लगा दिए। अमेरिका ने भारत जैसे देशों को ईरान से तेल खरीदने के लिए छूट दी है, लेकिन ईरान को डॉलर में भुगतान करने में दिक्कत हो रही है। ओपीईसी के आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि इसकी वजह से जो ईरान 2018 में भारत का नवां सबसे बड़ा निर्यातक था, 2021 में 71वां निर्यातक बन गया है।

तेल निर्यात को इच्छुक ईरान

राजनयिक सूत्र ने कहा, 'ईरानी पक्ष भारत को तेल निर्यात बहाल करने को इच्छुक है। वह अपने तेल खरीदारों के समूह का विस्तार देने

की कड़ी कवायद कर रहा है। साथ ही कोविड महामारी के असर के बाद अर्थव्यवस्था भी प्रभावित है।' हार्वर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी द्वारा तैयार किए गए व्यापार संबंधी आंकड़ों 'एटलस ऑफ इकॉनॉमिक कॉम्प्लेक्सिटी' के अनुसार ईरान के निर्यात में कच्चे तेल की हिस्सेदारी अहम है।

खरीदार न होने के कारण ईरान के कच्चे तेल का बड़ा हिस्सा चीन भेजा जा रहा है। रॉयटर्स की एक खबर के मुताबिक इस समय चीन की भारी भरकम तेल की मांग का 10 प्रतिशत ईरान आपूर्ति कर रहा है। लंदन के कर्मांडिटी डेटा एनालिटिक्स प्रोवाइडर वोटेंक्सा के मुताबिक 2023 के शुरुआती 10 महीनों में चीन ने रिकॉर्ड 10.5 लाख बैरल प्रति दिन (बीपीडी) खरीदारी की है।

इस महीने की शुरुआत में ईरान की मीडिया में आई खबरों के मुताबिक ईरान ने अब छूट घटाकर 5 से 6 डॉलर प्रति बैरल कर दिया है, जो चीन के लिए शुरुआती पेशकश 10 डॉलर प्रति बैरल की तुलना में कम है। इसकी वजह से निर्यात प्रभावित हुआ है।

बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड ने खबर दी थी कि भारत की रिफाइनरियां हाजिर खरीद के लिए अभी बातचीत नहीं कर रही हैं, वहीं व्यापारियों द्वारा मलेशियाई तेल की आड़ में ईरानी कच्चे तेल की पेशकश तेजी से की जा रही है।

आयात की वजह

यूक्रेन और गाजा में जंग के कारण अभी तनाव बना हुआ है। तेल का कारोबार हाल हूती हमलों के कारण

और बाधित हुआ है, जो सरकार के लिए सिरदर्द है। इस समूह ने अब तक भारतीय कू वाले 3 जहाजों पर हमला किया है। इसकी वजह से पिछले एक महीने में कच्चे तेल की दुलाई की लागत दोगुनी हो गई है।

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने कहा, 'अगर हमले बढ़ते हैं तो कम अवधि के हिसाब से भारत का तेल आयात प्रभावित होगा।' सऊदी अरब, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, कुवैत और ओमान से आयात खाड़ी से होकर अरब सागर और पश्चिमी तट के बंदरगाहों तक पहुंचता है।

अमेरिका ने अब तक इस समूह पर 6 हवाई हमले किए हैं। हाल में 19 जनवरी को हमला हुआ था। सोमवार को अमेरिकी रक्षा मंत्रालय ने कहा था कि हूतियों के खिलाफ मिशन में 2 सैनिकों के मारे जाने की संभावना है।

एक साल से ज्यादा समय से रूस से भारत को बड़ी मात्रा में कच्चा तेल मिल रहा है। अब भारत पश्चिम एशिया के परंपरागत आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से फिर संबंध बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रहा है। वोटेंक्सा के मुताबिक दिसंबर तक ईराक और सऊदी अरब भारत को कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति के दूसरे और तीसरे बड़े स्रोत थे।

दिसंबर में भारत को रूस से मिल रही छूट घटकर 2 से 4 डॉलर रह गई है, जो नवंबर में 9 से 11 डॉलर प्रति बैरल थी।