

At Dec meeting, GST Council may set date for tax on natural gas

Shishir Sinha
Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

The GST Council, at its December 21 meeting in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, may consider fixing the date for applying GST on natural gas.

“A request has been made to the Finance Ministry,” a senior government official told *businessline*. It is expected that this will be included in the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Council.

A provision in the 101st Constitution Amendment Act says the GST Council will recommend the date on which the goods and services tax will be levied on petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit (commonly known as petrol), natural gas and aviation turbine fuel. Natural gas, along with



CURRENT STATUS. As of now, natural gas attracts nil central excise duty for gaseous and 14 per cent for compressed REUTERS

crude, petrol and diesel, is under GST. What is to be decided is the date from which GST is to be levied. Till this happens, these continue to be part of old taxation system, i.e. Central Excise Duty and VAT/sales tax. Some of these products attract levies at ad valorem (percentage of

value) and some at specific rate (fixed amount irrespective of base value).

EXCISE DUTY

As of now, natural gas attracts nil central excise duty for gaseous and 14 per cent for compressed. However, VAT/sales tax differ from

State to State. It is 3 per cent in Maharashtra while 15 per cent in Gujarat.

Similarly, while central excise duty on petrol and diesel are ₹19.9 and ₹15.8 respectively, rate of VAT/sales tax varies from State to State, ranging between 1 per cent and 35.2 per cent. Once the dates are finalised for GST, prices of these products could come down.

The GST Council, in its 45th meeting on September 17, 2021, had considered inclusion of petrol/diesel and petroleum products under the GST regime but the matter was deferred till detailed deliberations on the account of substantial repercussions on the State and Central exchequers were held. The issue has not been taken up by the Council as an agenda item for any further deliberation till date.

Countering China's African influence



PARUL CHANDRA

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Nigeria highlights India's bid to rejuvenate ties with the African nation and counter China's growing influence through partnerships

A little over two months after China's assiduous wooing of Nigeria, India sought to do the same during PM Narendra Modi's recent visit to the African nation. The prime ministerial visit, coming after a gap of 17 years, should inject fresh momentum into bilateral ties. It should also, hopefully, help a bit in countering Beijing's growing influence in Nigeria, a country with whom India has enjoyed close and robust ties for decades but now finds itself in competition with China.

While India and Nigeria have 'a strategic partnership', the African nation and China elevated their ties to 'a comprehensive strategic partnership' this year. The courting of Nigeria as well as dozens of other African countries was done bilaterally as well collectively at the ninth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit in early September in Beijing. These summits have been held regularly since the first one in 2006, with one even being held virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic. India, however, has floundered in not being able to organise an African summit since the last one in 2015, ostensibly due to the pandemic and geopolitical tensions, but amounts to a lack of strategic foresight.

China is making deeper inroads into the African continent for both strategic as well as economic reasons. Strategically, it can project itself as a geopolitical force countering arch foe US. Moreover, strengthening its foothold in the world's second most populous continent comes with the lucrative advantage of having access to the huge market as well as the rich mineral resources there. For many cash-strapped African nations, China has been a pivotal lender of loans for much-needed infrastructure construction, but it comes with the perils of running up huge debts.

Africa is a vital part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with 53 nations having signed onto the endeavour that India views with deep suspicion given Beijing's hegemonic intentions. Under the BRI, China is assist-



ing Nigeria in its connectivity efforts by building railway lines and a deep sea port in Lagos.

China is also Nigeria's biggest bilateral lender and the two sides decided to forge close economic ties when Chinese President Xi Jinping and Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu met in Beijing ahead of the FOCAC Summit. It's in the backdrop of all this that PM Modi's recent visit to Nigeria assumes even greater significance. While he made it clear that India gives "high priority" to its strategic partnership with Nigeria, the visit yielded only three pacts – on survey cooperation, cooperation in customs matters and culture exchange programmes.

India will have to do some real heavy lifting in the coming years if the 14 areas of bilateral cooperation identified in the joint statement are to come to fruition. Among these are the Bilateral Investment Treaty, the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty and the Agreement on repurposed Line of Credits. India's outreach to Nigeria at the highest level was required given that Africa's most populous nation enjoys much left in the region and beyond. It's a founding member of the



AFRICA IS A VITAL PART OF CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI), WITH 53 NATIONS HAVING SIGNED ONTO THE ENDEAVOUR THAT INDIA VIEWS WITH DEEP SUSPICION GIVEN BEIJING'S HEGEMONIC INTENTIONS

African Union (AU), which India helped bring into the G-20's fold last year. Nigeria is now also a BRICS partner state. The country is also a member of OPEC, with President Tinubu also being the current chair of ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). A fresh push to boost bilateral trade and investments by Indian companies in Nigeria is imperative.

There are already over 200 Indian companies in the manufacturing sector with investments worth \$27 billion in Nigeria. While India remains among the top 5 trading partners of Nigeria, bilateral trade unfortunately decreased to \$7.89 billion in 2023-24 from \$14.95 billion in 2021-22.

This is attributed to a reduction in Indian oil imports from Nigeria as it chose to import oil from Russia, taking advantage of the cheaper rates being offered due to the conflict with Ukraine.

With the joint statement with Nigeria talking about India's willingness to go in for long-term contracts for crude and LNG purchases, bilateral trade might pick up once again. Significantly, India has also evinced interest in investing in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. Terrorism and piracy also

figured as areas of cooperation in the joint statement. Nigeria for many years has been battling the Islamic radical group Boko Haram, which has also been attacking oil and gas infrastructure in the country. India, interestingly, has offered technical know-how on security for pipelines in Nigeria.

Maritime domain cooperation is also of crucial importance to combat piracy. Nigeria abuts the Gulf of Guinea through which passes crucial sea lanes for transporting crude oil. India had deployed at least two warships, INS Sumedha in 2022 and INS Tarkash in 2023, in the piracy-prone Gulf of Guinea. With Chinese vessels on the prowl across the oceans, these deployments were not without strategic significance.

Overall, India needs to move and move fast, delivering on its promises made during PM Modi's visit to Nigeria. It has no time to lose in majorly upscaling its traditional robust ties with African nations, especially with China increasingly grabbing strategic space in the continent. The writer is a senior journalist who writes on foreign affairs.

(The writer is a senior journalist who writes on strategic affairs; views are personal)

December GST meet may consider plan to include natural gas

PRIYANSH VERMA &
ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, November 28

THE UNION FINANCE ministry has received a proposal from the petroleum ministry for inclusion of natural gas under the ambit of the goods and services tax (GST), and will likely take it to the GST Council as it meets in Jaisalmer on December 21. The GST Council includes the state governments too, and it typically takes decisions via consensus.

The petroleum ministry is pushing for the inclusion of natural gas in GST, as it feels it will be beneficial for the petrochemical value chain. The current structure of paying multiple taxes on gas, the incidence of which differs across the states, is seen to have a cascading nature.

Natural gas is a major industrial feedstock, besides its use as fuel. It is used to produce urea, a common fertiliser, and fed into capital-intensive crackers to produce olefins (ethylene/propylene), inputs for a wide range of industries.

TAXING TIMES

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- A decorative graphic of a yellow gas tap with a red handle is positioned in the center of the 'TAXING TIMES' section. It is surrounded by a yellow border that forms a partial frame around the text boxes.
- Firms that are producing and using it are subject to two layers of taxation — central excise duty and VAT at state level
 - This complicates the taxation process and denies them the benefit of claiming input tax credit too
 - The union government imposes a central excise duty of 14% on CNG
 - VAT on natural gas ranges from as low as 3% (Maharashtra) to as high as 15% (in Gujarat)

Separately, the finance ministry is also reviewing the windfall tax, which is currently levied on petroleum products.

Continued on Page 11

'FinMin evaluating removal of windfall tax'



New Delhi: The Finance Ministry is evaluating the relevance of windfall tax, a government source said on Thursday. Imposed in July 2022, the windfall tax is a special levy on domestic crude oil production, introduced after rising global crude prices, to capture revenue from windfall gains made by producers. The government also imposed special taxes on exports of diesel, petrol, and aviation turbine fuel. REUTERS



FinMin may end windfall tax as oil prices stabilise

The Ministry of Finance is reconsidering the windfall tax on the export of petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) as global crude oil prices have stabilised, a senior government official said.

According to sources, the FinMin is reviewing the relevance and effectiveness of the windfall tax, which is levied as special additional excise duty and updated fortnightly based on average oil prices over the preceding two weeks. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has already recommended a review in a letter to FinMin.

In September, the government eliminated the tax on domestically produced crude, reducing it to zero per tonne. Similarly, the tax on the export of petrol, diesel, and ATF was removed on September 18. The windfall tax was introduced in July 2022 in response to significant profits made by oil refiners exporting fuel at the expense of domestic supply. It imposed an additional duty on both domestic crude oil production and the export of petrol, diesel, and jet fuel.

HARSH KUMAR



Finmin may review windfall tax efficacy

New Delhi: The finance ministry would review the efficacy of windfall tax on the export of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) as global crude oil prices have stabilised, sources said. AGENCIES



FinMin to review efficacy of windfall tax on crude oil and fuel exports

PTI

NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry would review the efficacy of windfall tax on the export of petrol, diesel and ATF as global crude oil prices have stabilised, sources said.

Phenomenal profits made by some oil refiners on exporting fuel at the expense of domestic supplies had prompted the government to introduce an export tax on petrol, diesel and ATF in July 2022. The finance ministry is going to review the windfall tax and tax being mobilised out of this, sources said.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has already written to the Finance Ministry in this regard, sources said.



Five Adani cos settle higher, Adani Total Gas soars nearly 16%

NEW DELHI: Shares of five of the 11 listed Adani Group firms ended higher on Thursday, with Adani Total Gas soaring nearly 16 per cent.

The stock of Adani Total Gas surged 15.69 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions zoomed 10 per cent, Adani Green Energy soared 10 per cent, Adani Power jumped 6.95 per cent, and Adani Enterprises climbed 1.63 per cent on the BSE. Adani Energy Solutions and Adani Green Energy (AGEL) hit their highest trading permissible limit for the day.

However, shares of Adani Ports declined 2.73 per cent, NDTV went lower 2.03 per cent, ACC skidded 0.75 per cent, Ambuja Cements dipped 0.48 per cent, Adani Wilmar (0.44 per cent) and Sanghi Industries (0.17 per cent).

Gautam Adani and his aides have not been charged under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, an Adani Group entity said on Wednesday, adding that they faced three other charges, including securities and wire fraud that are punishable with monetary fines. The US DoJ's indictment filed in a New York Court last week does not mention Gautam Adani, founder chairman of the ports-to-energy conglomerate, his nephew Sagar, or Vneet Jaain in any count related to conspiracy to violate the FCPA, AGEL said in a stock exchange filing. PTI



GOVT SEEKS GST ON NATURAL GAS

Gireesh Chandra Prasad

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NEW DELHI: The petroleum and natural gas ministry has recommended the inclusion of natural gas in the goods and services tax (GST) framework to the finance ministry, an official aware of the development said on Thursday.

However, it has not yet been decided whether it will be part of the agenda of the GST Council's next meeting scheduled in December, the official said on the condition of anonymity.

The petroleum ministry favours including natural gas in GST as it will make the taxation of the product more efficient, benefitting user industries like fertilizers and steel.

Since natural gas is currently taxed under the regime of central excise duty and state-level value-added tax (VAT), businesses producing and using it are subject to two different taxation streams, as they have to pay GST on all other goods and services used in their operations. This makes the tax regime complex and breaks the chain of input tax credits for businesses. The inclusion of natural gas, crude oil, petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) in GST has been a long-standing demand from the industry as well as from the petroleum ministry. However, state governments have to agree to this proposal for it to get the GST Council's approval.

Minister highlights India's energy sector growth

“Government of India has undertaken landmark reforms in the upstream, midstream, and downstream sectors of hydrocarbon industry in India,” said Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, while speaking at an event. These reforms, which include the diversification of crude supplies, gas pricing reforms, and the opening up of NO-GO areas, Puri said, aim to create a sustainable, affordable, and secure



energy future for India.

He was addressing the FIPI Oil and Gas Awards 2023 ceremony, which celebrated excellence, innovation, and leadership across more than 20 award categories, including “Digitally Advanced Company of the Year,” “Sustainably Growing Corporate of the Year,” “Innovator of the Year,” and “Best Startup in the Energy Sector.”

MoF Rethinks Windfall Tax; Oil Ministry for NatGas Under GST

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The finance ministry is evaluating windfall tax levied on export of petrol, diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), amid stable global crude prices, besides bringing natural gas under the ambit of the Goods and Services Tax. This follows a request from the oil ministry to scrap the windfall tax.

"No call on windfall tax is taken, yet one idea is to keep it zero, while keeping a provision of raising it if the government wishes," a government official told reporters.

The finance ministry would take a final decision after considering forecasts for global crude oil prices, the official added.

India introduced the windfall tax on crude oil producers in July 2022, and extended the levy to exports of gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel.



GST ON NATURAL GAS

The finance ministry received a formal request from the oil ministry seeking inclusion of natural gas within GST, and a proposal could be placed before the GST Council, the apex decision making body for the indirect tax.

"We have received a formal request....," a senior government official said, adding it could be included in the agenda for the upcoming council meeting on December 21. Bringing petroleum products under GST would ease the tax burden, resulting in lower prices for consumers and boosting consumption.

Article 279A (5) of the Constitution provides that the GST Council shall recommend the date on which GST shall be levied on petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel. While petroleum products are constitutionally included under GST, the date on which the tax will be levied on such goods will be as per the council's decision.



ONGC makes 4 oil discoveries in West Bengal

STATE-OWNED OIL AND Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has made four more discoveries since it first made an oil field near Asokenagar in West Bengal six years back but is still awaiting the state government's nod for a petroleum mining lease to develop them, oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday.

ONGC notified the first Asokenagar discovery on September 24, 2018, Puri said in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

The discovery, he said, was the outcome of continuous exploration efforts of ONGC in the Bengal sedimentary basin over five decades.

Under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, the state governments are empowered to grant PML with the prior recommendation of the central government.

—PTI



ONGC makes four oil discoveries in WB

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ONGC strikes oil in Bengal, is awaiting State clearance

Press Trust of India

New Delhi

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ONGC notified the first Asokenagar discovery in Block WB-ONN-2005/4 on September 24, 2018, Puri said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

EXPLORATION EFFORTS

The discovery, he said, was the outcome of continuous exploration efforts of ONGC in the Bengal sedimentary basin over five decades. As per initial laboratory studies, crude oil, which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel, discovered in Ashokenagar, is a light variety with American Petroleum Institute (API) gravity

of 40-41 degrees and is almost similar to Bombay High and Brent Crude.

“ONGC, accordingly, applied on September 10, 2020, to the Government of West Bengal for a grant of Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) for an area of 5.88 square kilometres (sq km) in North 24 Parganas District for the early monetisation of Asokenagar-1 discovery under Early Development Plan (EDP),” he said.

GRANT OF PML

A month later, the central government also recommended the State government for a grant of PML. “The grant of this PML is still awaited from the State government of West Bengal,” he said. Under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, the State governments are empowered to grant PML with the prior recommendation of the Central government. “As the PML was awaited from the state government, EDP could not be implemented thereby affecting production of oil and gas,” Puri said.



Petroleum ministry may seek GST on gas

Gireesh Chandra Prasad

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NEW DELHI

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For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.

PSU-run hospitals to be expanded, opened to public

● Capacity addition under PPP mode

PRASANTA SAHU
New Delhi, November 28

WITH THE CENTRE aiming for at least one major hospital in each of the 761 districts, it has roped in public sector undertakings (PSUs) and other government agencies to expand their hospital capacity in partnership with the private sector and throw them open to the general public as well.

Currently, PSU-run hospitals operate within the premises of the entities and the facilities are largely restricted to the staff and their close relatives, although there are cases where the public has restricted access to out-patient counters and pharmacies, and for emergency reasons.

Recently, the government gave the nod to the entities in the port sector, including Paradip Port, Chidambaranar Port Trust (formerly Tuticorin Port), Visakhapatnam Port and Mumbai Port, to expand their hospital capacities.

Under the public-private partnership (PPP), Paradip Port will establish a 400-bed super-specialty hospital at Paradip with the option of developing a medical college. Besides the port staff and their families, the general public would also be given access to the services in the hospital on a chargeable basis. Mumbai Port Trust is converting its 241-bed hospital into a 600-bed facility to provide improved facilities to some 45,000 port employees and dependents and the general public in the catchment area on a PPP basis with an investment of about ₹700 crore.

"Besides PSUs in the port sector, other state-run firms and agencies like the railways are likely to expand their hospitals on PPP mode to cater to the general public as well," a senior

HEALTHY MOVE



■ Paradip Port will establish a 400-bed super-specialty hospital

■ Mumbai Port Trust is converting its 241-bed hospital into a 600-bed facility

■ India currently has 1.3 hospital beds per 1,000 population

■ India needs an additional 2.4 million beds to reach the recommended ratio of 3 beds per 1,000 people

official said. Some are in the bidding stage, some are awarded, some are being appraised, the official added.

India needs an additional 2.4 million hospital beds to reach the recommended ratio of 3 beds per 1,000 people, fuelling the demand for healthcare-related real estate space, Knight Frank said in a report. India's existing bed-to-population ratio is 1.3/1,000 population (both private and public hospitals included).

The Centre has plans to build at least one major hospital in each of India's 761 districts to improve healthcare access in smaller towns. There was a nearly 80% shortage of surgeons, physicians, gynaecologists and paediatricians at community health centres in rural India as of March 2022, according to a government report.





Windfall tax on crude oil likely to end

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

The Union finance ministry is likely to discontinue the revision of the windfall tax on the export of petrol, diesel, and avia-

tion turbine fuel (ATF) as global crude oil prices have stabilised to some extent. The finance ministry, in consultation with the oil ministry, will make a decision soon and review the efficacy of the

windfall tax, a top ministry source said.

In September, the government slashed the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to 'nil' per tonne. The tax is levied as a Special

Additional Excise Duty (SAED) and is notified fortnightly based on average oil prices over two weeks.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022.



अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर की समीक्षा होगी

नई दिल्ली। वित्त मंत्रालय पेट्रोल, डीजल और विमान ईंधन के निर्यात पर अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर की समीक्षा करेगा क्योंकि वैश्विक स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतें स्थिर हो गई हैं। घरेलू आपूर्ति की कीमत पर ईंधन के निर्यात पर कुछ तेल रिफाइनरियों द्वारा अर्जित मुनाफे पर सरकार ने जुलाई 2022 में पेट्रोल, डीजल और एविएशन टर्बाइन ईंधन पर निर्यात कर लगाने का फैसला किया था।

इंडियन ऑयल ने जीर्णोद्धार के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए

तेभत न्यूज़ ■ नई दिल्ली

पर्यावरण संरक्षण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाते हुए, इंडियनऑयल ने उत्तर प्रदेश के मथुरा में पांच ऐतिहासिक जलाशयों के पारिस्थितिकी कार्याकल्प के लिए चैतन्य स्वास्थ्य और देखभाल ट्रस्ट के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए। यह पहल इंडियनऑयल की कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी के तहत सतत विकास के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाती है। समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर इंडियनऑयल के विपणन मुख्यालय, मुंबई में आयोजित समारोह में श्री वी. सतीश कुमार निदेशक (विपणन) इंडियनऑयल और इस्कोन के शासी निकाय के सदस्य गौरांग दास की उपस्थिति में किये गए। यह पहल बरसाना, नंदगांव और वृंदावन में स्थित पांच प्रतिष्ठित जलाशयों - प्रेम सरोवर, विभाल कुंड, पवन सरोवर,



जल विहार कुंड और कृष्ण कुंड का पारिस्थितिकी कार्याकल्प सुनिश्चित करेगी। इन जलाशयों का बहुत अधिक ऐतिहासिक, सांस्कृतिक और आध्यात्मिक महत्व है किन्तु प्रदूषण और कुप्रबंधन के कारण इनका क्षरण हुआ है। इस अवसर पर बोलते हुए, निदेशक (विपणन) श्री वी. सतीश कुमार ने कहा कि जलाशय मानव जाति और पशु जगत दोनों के अस्तित्व में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। उन्होंने चिंता व्यक्त की कि उनकी पर्याप्त देखभाल नहीं की गई है और उन्हें पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए इंडियनऑयल को अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है।

इंडियन ऑयल ने मथुरा के जलाशयों के जीर्णोद्धार के लिए समझौता किया

नई दिल्ली (वि)। पर्यावरण संरक्षण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाते हुए इंडियन ऑयल ने उत्तर प्रदेश के मथुरा में पांच ऐतिहासिक



जलाशयों के पारिस्थितिकी कार्याकल्प के लिए श्री चैतन्य स्वास्थ्य और देखभाल ट्रस्ट (एससीएचसीटी) के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए। कंपनी के विपणन मुख्यालय, मुंबई में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में वी सतीश कुमार निदेशक (विपणन) और

इस्कॉन के शासी निकाय के सदस्य गौरांग दास की उपस्थिति में समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। यह पहल बरसाना, नंदगांव और वृंदावन स्थित पांच जलाशयों - प्रेम सरोवर, विभाल कुंड, पवन सरोवर, जल विहार कुंड और कृष्ण कुंड का कार्याकल्प सुनिश्चित करेगी।

ओएनजीसी ने अशोकनगर में चार अन्य तेल क्षेत्र खोजे

एजेसी ►► नई दिल्ली

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं गैस कंपनी ओएनजीसी ने पश्चिम बंगाल में अशोकनगर के पास पिछले छह साल में चार और तेल क्षेत्रों की खोज की है लेकिन उनके खनन पट्टे के लिए राज्य सरकार की मंजूरी का अभी भी इंतजार है। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने बृहस्पतिवार को लोकसभा में एक सवाल के जवाब में यह जानकारी दी। ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) ने 24 सितंबर, 2018 को ब्लॉक डब्ल्यूबी-ओएनएन-2005/4 में अशोकनगर की पहली खोज को अधिसूचित किया था। पुरी ने कहा कि यह खोज पांच दशकों से अधिक समय से बंगाल तलछटी बेसिन में ओएनजीसी के निरंतर अन्वेषण प्रयासों का परिणाम है। प्रारंभिक अध्ययनों के अनुसार अशोकनगर तेल क्षेत्र में खोजा गया कच्चा तेल एक हल्की किस्म है और यह बॉम्बे हाई



तेल और ब्रेट क्रूड के लगभग समान है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्री ने कहा, /"ओएनजीसी ने 10 सितंबर, 2020 को प्रारंभिक विकास योजना (ईडीपी) के तहत अशोकनगर-1 खोज के प्रारंभिक मौद्रिकरण के लिए उत्तर 24 परगना जिले में 5.88 वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र के लिए पेट्रोलियम खनन पट्टा (पीएमएल) के अनुदान के लिए पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार को आवेदन किया था। इसके एक महीने बाद केंद्र सरकार ने भी राज्य सरकार को पीएमएल के अनुदान के लिए सिफारिश की। उन्होंने कहा, /"पश्चिम बंगाल की राज्य सरकार से इस पीएमएल के अनुदान का अभी भी इंतजार है।/"



ओएनजीसी ने अशोकनगर में चार अन्य तेल क्षेत्र खोजे

नई दिल्ली। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं गैस कंपनी ओएनजीसी ने पश्चिम बंगाल में अशोकनगर के पास पिछले छह साल में चार और तेल क्षेत्रों की खोज की है लेकिन उनके खनन पट्टे के लिए राज्य सरकार की मंजूरी का अभी भी इंतजार है। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने बृहस्पतिवार को लोकसभा में एक सवाल के जवाब में यह जानकारी दी। ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) ने 24 सितंबर, 2018 को ब्लॉक डब्ल्यूबी-ओएनएन-200514 में अशोकनगर की पहली खोज को अधिसूचित किया था। उन्होंने कहा कि यह खोज पांच दशकों से अधिक समय से बंगाल तलछटी बेसिन में ओएनजीसी के निरंतर अन्वेषण प्रयासों का परिणाम है। प्रारंभिक अध्ययनों के अनुसार अशोकनगर तेल क्षेत्र में खोजा गया कच्चा तेल एक हल्की किस्म है।



कच्चे तेल पर अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर की समीक्षा होगी

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। वित्त मंत्रालय पेट्रोल, डीजल और विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) के निर्यात पर अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर की प्रभावशीलता की समीक्षा करेगा क्योंकि वैश्विक स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतें स्थिर हो गई हैं। सूत्रों ने यह जानकारी दी। घरेलू आपूर्ति की कीमत पर ईंधन के निर्यात पर कुछ तेल रिफाइनरियों द्वारा अर्जित अभूतपूर्व मुनाफे के मद्देनजर सरकार ने जुलाई 2022 में पेट्रोल, डीजल और एटीएफ पर निर्यात कर लगाने का फैसला किया था।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि वित्त मंत्रालय अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर तथा इससे जुटाए जाने वाले कर की समीक्षा करने जा रहा है। सरकार ने सितंबर में घरेलू स्तर पर उत्पादित कच्चे तेल पर प्रति टन अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर को घटाकर "शून्य" कर दिया था। यह कर विशेष अतिरिक्त उत्पाद शुल्क (एसएईडी) के रूप में लगाया जाता है और तेल की दो सप्ताह की औसत कीमतों के आधार पर हर पखवाड़े अधिसूचित किया जाता है।

आखिरी बार 31 अगस्त को इसकी समीक्षा की गई थी। तब कच्चे पेट्रोलियम पर अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर 1,850 रुपये प्रति टन निर्धारित किया गया था। डीजल, पेट्रोल और विमान ईंधन एटीएफ के निर्यात पर एसएईडी को 18 सितंबर से 'शून्य' पर यथावत रखा गया है। भारत ने पहली बार एक जुलाई 2022 को अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर लगाया था।

ठगों ने गैस कनेक्शन सही करने के नाम पर व्यक्ति से 1.88 लाख ठगे

जागरण संवाददाता, गुरुग्राम: साइबर ठगों ने गैस कनेक्शन में समस्या होने का झांसा देकर उसे सही करने के नाम पर एक लिंक भेजकर व्यक्ति के खाते से एक लाख 88 हजार रुपये उड़ा दिए। व्यक्ति ने साइबर थाना वेस्ट में मामला दर्ज कराया है।

सेक्टर-22बी के कमल यादव ने साइबर पुलिस को बताया कि बीते दिनों उनके पास एक फोन आया। फोन करने वाले ने खुद को गैस कंपनी से बताया और कहा कि गैस कनेक्शन में समस्या आ रही है। इसे सही करने के नाम पर एक लिंक भेजा और फर्म भरने के लिए कहा। इसके बाद उनसे सात रुपये देने की मांग की। लिंक ओपन करते हुए ही उनका मोबाइल फोन हैक हो गया। इसके बाद ठगों ने उनके खाते से कई बार में एक लाख 88 हजार रुपये

महिला से रिचार्ज कूपन के नाम पर ठग लिए 56 हजार रुपये

जासं, गुरुग्राम: साइबर ठगों ने रिचार्ज कूपन के नाम पर एक महिला से 56 हजार रुपये की ठगी कर ली। महिला ने साइबर थाना पूर्वी में मामला दर्ज कराया है।

मूल रूप से झारखंड के गोमिया जिले की पूनम मिंज ने साइबर पुलिस को बताया कि वह गुरुग्राम के सेक्टर 51 स्थित एक मकान में सहायिका हैं। बीते दिनों उनके पास

एक नंबर से फोन आया। फोन करने वाले ने खुद को बैंक अधिकारी बताया और कहा कि उनके नाम से रिचार्ज कूपन निकला है। किसी भी एप पर वह इस कूपन का लाभ ले सकती हैं। उन्होंने इस लिंक को फोन-पे एप पर खोला। उसके बाद उनके खाते से 56 हजार रुपये निकल लिए। पुलिस जांच कर रही है।

निकाल लिए। कमल ने बताया कि जब पहली बार रुपये निकाले गए तब वह बैंक पहुंचे, उन्होंने खाते को फ्रीज

करने के लिए कहा। इसी दौरान तीन-चार और ट्रांजेक्शन की गईं। पीड़ित ने मामला दर्ज कराया है।

बोलीविया में ईंधन संकट



एल आल्तो (एपी)।

बोलीविया में ईंधन तेजी से सबसे दुर्लभ वस्तुओं में से एक बनता जा रहा है। दक्षिण अमेरिका में प्राकृतिक गैस के दूसरे सबसे बड़े उत्पादक बोलीविया में पेट्रोल पंपों के बाहर कई किलोमीटर तक वाहनों की लंबी कतारें लगी रहती हैं। कुछ वाहन तो कई दिनों तक कतारों में खड़े नजर आते हैं।

लोगों के बीच निराशा बढ़ती जा रही है। आलम यह है कि विक्टर गार्सिया जैसे चालक अब अपने कतारों में खड़े ट्रकों के आसपास ही खाते-पीते तथा सोते हैं। गार्सिया (66) ने कहा, 'हमें नहीं पता कि क्या होगा? यकीनन हमारी स्थिति

और भी खराब होने वाली है।' अन्य चालक रामिरो मोरालेस (38) ने कहा, 'कतारें लगातार लंबी होती जा रही हैं।' उन्होंने बताया कि मंगलवार को चार घंटे कतार में खड़े रहने के बाद उन्हें शौचालय जाना था लेकिन उन्हें डर था कि कतार से हटने पर उनको अपनी जगह खोनी पड़ सकती है।

मोरालेस ने कहा, 'लोग अब थक चुके हैं।' बोलीविया में ईंधन

■ पेट्रोल पंपों के बाहर कई किलोमीटर लंबी कतारें
 ■ कुछ वाहनों को तो कई दिन लगी पड़ रही है लाइन
 ■ देश के विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार में भी लगातार गिरावट
 ■ इसकी वजह से देश में डालर का भी पैदा हुआ संकट
 ■ आयातकों को भी नहीं मिल पा रहे हैं डालर

की कमी की समस्या ऐसे समय में उत्पन्न हुई है जब देश का विदेशी



मुद्रा भंडार घट रहा है। इस कारण बोलीविया के लोगों को अमेरिकी डालर नहीं मिल पा रहे

हैं। आयातित सामान जो कभी आम थे, अब दुर्लभ हो गए हैं। सांता क्रूज के पूर्वी प्रांत में गेन्नियल रेने मोरेनो

स्वायत्त विश्वविद्यालय के 'वाइस-रेक्टर' रोनेरियो वर्गास ने कहा, 'हम ईंधन, डॉलर की कमी और खाद्य कीमतों में वृद्धि से निपटने के लिए

प्रभावी समाधान चाहते हैं।' इन तमाम परेशानियों का सामना कर रहे आम नागरिकों ने राजधानी ला पाज़ में

पिछले सप्ताह सड़कों पर मार्च किया और 'सब कुछ महंगा है' के नारे लगाए। इस बीच अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री मार्सेलो मोंटेनेग्रो ने मंगलवार को कहा, 'डॉलर की विक्री सामान्य होने की प्रक्रिया में है।'

बोलीविया के राष्ट्रपति लुइस आर्से ने भी बार-बार ईंधन की कमी को खत्म करने के लिए बुनियादी वस्तुओं की कीमतें कम करने का आश्वासन दिया है।

हालांकि बोलीविया के लोगों का कहना है कि आर्से की छवि केवल मौजूदा संकट के कारण खराब नहीं हुई बल्कि सरकार द्वारा संकट को स्वीकार न करने की वजह से अधिक खराब हुई है।

आर्से ने 10 नवम्बर को भी एक बार फिर देशवासियों से वादा किया था कि वह 10 दिन में 'इस मुद्दे को हल करेंगे।' बार-बार ऐसी समय-सोमार्ण आती-जाती रहती हैं, लेकिन समस्या का कोई हल नहीं निकल पाया है। हालात पहले से अधिक खराब ही हुए हैं।

आर्से के कार्यालय से साक्षात्कार का अनुरोध किया गया, लेकिन उनकी ओर से अभी तक कोई जवाब नहीं मिला है।