

● RAJNEESH NARANG, CHAIRMAN & MD, HPCL

# 'Aim to invest ₹90,000 cr by 2030'

*State-owned Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) has charted out plans to invest ₹90,000 crore by 2030, with a significant portion to be allocated for building a green energy portfolio, CMD Rajneesh Narang tells Arunima Bharadwaj. It is also exploring opportunities for oil and gas deals with US entities. With rising domestic demand, HPCL is also looking to increase the capacity of its Vizag refinery by 20%. Excerpts:*

**How would the latest US sanctions on Russia impact HPCL's crude imports?**  
Last year, Russian crude had accounted for 35-40% of our total crude imports. Even before the Russian-Ukraine war, our refineries were operating. So, there is sufficient crude available. Russia fit into the entire scheme of things when they started giving discounts...  
Now, after the US sanctions, we have already tied up our crude supplies up to February. Since the sanctions had come up, the availability of Russian crude had declined. But we need to give them time to settle down...  
We have tied up (for crude volumes) as far as the crude requirement for April and May

is concerned. And as and when an opportunity comes out, tomorrow, and if Russian crude is available, we will go for it.  
Of late, the discount had also narrowed down. So, it is not going to significantly impact the performance of the company, or profitability.

**Are you looking at more term deals with the US for crude or LNG?**  
When we finalise strategies, we evaluate all the crudes and the crude which gives us greater value is the one we tie up for. We do it on a term or spot basis and keep on evaluating the pros and cons. As far as the US is concerned, going forward, there's going to be an opportunity to buy oil and gas and for tying up for LNG supplies.

**What are the capex plans for FY26?**  
This year, we are targeting between ₹12,000-14,000 crore. And that would be the range for the next fiscal too. Up to 2030, we have plans to spend almost ₹90,000 crore. Of this, almost 30-35% would be for clean energy.

**What are the**

**SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA ARE NOT GOING TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMPANY**

**upcoming projects?**  
The Mumbai refinery was expanded to 9.5 million tonne and are already running it at 9.8 million tonne. Our Vizag refinery was expanded from 8.3 million tonne to 15 million tonne. We have already been operating it at 15 million

tonne. The third major thing was the bottoms upgrade at Vizag refinery. The mechanical completion for our residue upgraded unit has already been achieved and we are in the process of commissioning this facility by March or April. Once that is in place, we'll be able to improve our margins and the distillate yield. We are also increasing the capacity of the Vizag refinery by almost 20% from 15%.

We are undertaking the lube expansion at Mumbai refinery at a cost of ₹4,700 crore and are also setting up a de-asphalting plant, which will make more Bitumen. India is consuming almost 8.6 million tonne bitumen, whereas the refineries produce only 5.2 million tonne. The balance is getting imported. Not only will it lead to more import substitution, but will also improve my distillate of the refinery and we may add around \$3 per barrel as margin. We expect this to come up by FY27.

The Barmer refinery has already achieved physical progress of over 84% and we will be commissioning this facility this calendar year.

**How much total capacity do you envisage after all the refinery expansions?**  
We also market HMEL's (HPCL-Mittal Energy) products. Their throughput is more than 12.5 million tonne. After adding that, our name plate cumulative capacity is 46 million tonne, but we can make up to 50 million tonne.

**Please give details about the upcoming marketing projects.**  
In regard to marketing, the major project which we have taken is a recent commissioning of our 5 MTLNG facility in Gujarat. This will give us a strong foothold in the gas market. Today, we are buying gas domestically, and this will give us an opportunity to tie up long-term sources and bring LNG into the country. We are already in the market exploring opportunities for tying up a long-term LNG deal.

**What is the renewable energy capacity target till 2030?**  
We ended FY24 with 200 MW RE capacity. This financial year, we may end up at 400 MW. By next year (2025-26), we will be crossing 1 GW, and by 2030, our ultimate plan is to have a portfolio of 10 GW renewable energy capacity. In terms of biofuels, we have plans to touch 1 million tonne.





**PM, AMIR HOLD TALKS**

# India and Qatar elevate ties in trade, energy and investment



President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi receive Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Tuesday. *Renuka Puri*

## Strategic partnership, doubling of bilateral trade in 5 years announced

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

AS PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani held talks in New Delhi Tuesday, India and Qatar decided to elevate their ties to a "strategic partnership", double the target of bilateral trade to USD 28 billion in the next five years, and bring Qatari investment of USD 10 billion to India.

Modi, in a post on X, said,  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**EXPLAINED** **E** **Why Qatar matters**

QATAR IS a key player and mediator in the on-going conflict between Israel and Hamas. Delhi buys a massive amount of natural gas from Qatar and has a large Indian community there. It also wants Doha to invest in India's infrastructure.

## Trade, energy, investment: India, Qatar elevate ties

"Had a very productive meeting with my brother, Amir of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, earlier today. Under his leadership, Qatar has scaled new heights of progress. He is also committed to a strong India-Qatar friendship. This visit is even more special because we have elevated our ties to a Strategic Partnership."

They also discussed exploring a Free Trade Agreement between India and Qatar, elevating ties while focusing on trade, investment and energy. Trade between the two countries is \$14 billion annually, and they set a target to double it to \$28 billion by 2030.

Qatar's sovereign wealth fund has \$1.5 billion FDI in India, and the joint statement said that the Qatar side announced a commitment to invest USD 10 billion in India.

On Sheikh Al Thani's second visit to India, both countries signed two agreements and five MoUs, covering areas like economic cooperation, youth affairs and a double taxation avoidance agreement.

Within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), India has signed strategic partnerships with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Kuwait; Qatar is the latest to join that club.

Arun Chatterjee, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, briefing reporters on the bilateral talks, said, "Trade, investment and energy were among the major topics of discussion between the two leaders today. The trade today between India and Qatar is about US \$14 billion annually. Both sides have agreed to set a target to double this in the next five years."

On the investment by Doha, he said Qatar's Sovereign Wealth Fund, the Qatar Investment Authority, currently has about US\$1.5 billion FDI in India in sectors like retail, power, IT, education, health, affordable housing.

"Both leaders today identified a number of areas in which the Qatar Investment Authority can increase investments in India. This includes infrastructure, ports, ship-building, en-

### THE OUTCOMES

- Expedite negotiations on the India-Qatar Bilateral Investment Treaty.
- Explore a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- Qatar's commitment to invest USD 10 billion.
- Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) to open an office.
- Nationwide rollout of UPI acceptance in Qatar.
- Celebrate India-Qatar Year of Culture, Friendship and Sports in the near future.
- Extension of e-visa facility to Qatari nationals.

ergy including renewable energy, smart cities, food parks, start-ups, and new technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and machine learning," he said. The emphasis on new tech is significant, with the world looking at AI as the new frontier of tech.

On energy ties, Chatterjee said, "India and Qatar share a very vibrant partnership in the area of energy. Qatar is a major source of LNG for India. Both leaders today noted that in February 2024, Qatar Energy and Petronet LNG Limited had signed an agreement for supply of 7.5 million metric tonnes per annum of LNG from Qatar to India for 20 years starting 2028."

Asked about the FTA between India and the GCC and India and Qatar, he said, "On India and the Gulf Cooperation Council, we are at this moment negotiating about having a free trade agreement. As far as Qatar is concerned, both sides are exploring the possibility of signing a free trade agreement in future and that was one of the discussions that took place in this round of talks."

The two leaders also discussed the situation in West Asia where a ceasefire and hostage-prisoner swap deal has paused the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

"In today's meeting regarding whether Israel-Hamas was discussed... both the leaders talked about the regional and international issues of mutual interest. Naturally, the Middle East situation and the evolving situation over there came up for discussions. Both sides conveyed

their mutual positions that we have on the Israel-Hamas issue. India conveyed its own position, the Qatari side conveyed their own position and we exchanged views. Both the leaders had discussions on that," Chatterjee said.

One of the issues pending between India and Qatar is the return of a former Indian Navy officer. "Regarding the Navy official who is still over there, I would like to just mention that his matter still remains subjudice in the local courts in Qatar... the Prime Minister appreciated the work that the Amir and his government are doing for the protection and the welfare of our Indian citizens," he said.

In August 2022, eight former Navy personnel were arrested in Qatar on charges of espionage. They were initially handed death sentences. Following diplomatic intervention by New Delhi, the death sentence was commuted in December 2023. They were released in February 2024, and seven of the eight men have since returned to India – the eighth, retired Commander Purnendu Tiwari, is yet to be sent back.

Acknowledging the people-to-people ties, the joint statement said that the "Qatari leadership expressed deep appreciation for the role and contribution made by the Indian community in Qatar for the progress and development of their host country, noting that Indian citizens in Qatar are highly respected for their peaceful and hard-working nature. The Indian side conveyed deep appreciation to the leadership of

Qatar for ensuring the welfare and well-being of this large and vibrant Indian community in Qatar".

On terrorism, the joint statement said, "The two leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism and agreed to cooperate in combating this menace through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. They agreed to enhance cooperation in information and intelligence sharing, developing and exchanging experiences, best practices and technologies, capacity building and to strengthen cooperation in law enforcement, anti-money laundering, drug-trafficking, cybercrime and other transnational crimes."

"The two leaders also discussed ways and means to promote cooperation in cybersecurity, including prevention of use of cyberspace for terrorism, radicalisation and for disturbing social harmony. They emphasized the importance of holding regular meetings of the Joint Committee on Security and Law Enforcement."

Earlier in the day, the Amir was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan where President Droupadi Murmu welcomed the visiting leader. Modi was also present on the occasion.

India and Qatar also exchanged an agreement on establishment of strategic partnership between the two countries and a Revised Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol.

They also signed 5 MoUs on economic collaboration, youth and sports, archives, investments and between business chambers.

The documents were exchanged between Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and the Amir.

# India, Qatar elevate ties to strategic partnership

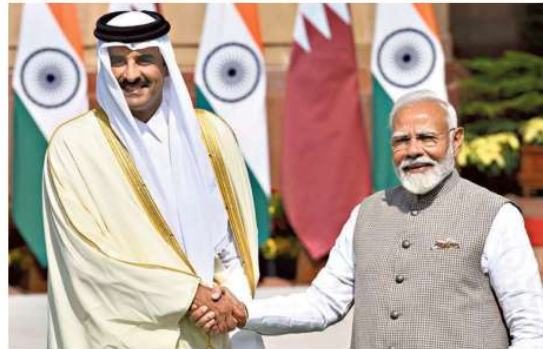
Modi, visiting Emir of Qatar discuss possibility of a bilateral FTA, and West Asian developments; both sides sign double taxation avoidance pact, agree to deepen relations in trade and security

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

**Q**atar, a major energy supplier to India, on Tuesday signed an agreement to elevate India-Qatar relationship to the level of a strategic partnership, officials here said.

The Ministry of External Affairs announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the visiting Emir, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, discussed multiple issues, including the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict in the Gaza Strip. Both sides are also exploring the possibility of finalising a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

“Strategic partnership elevates the present state of bilateral relation to the strategic level. We are look-



**Warmer ties:** Narendra Modi with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ing at deepening cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, energy, security as well as in the regional and international fora,” said Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary (CPV&OIA), while briefing the media following the bilateral discussion. The two sides also signed a double taxation

avoidance treaty.

“India and GCC are negotiating about having an FTA. Both India and Qatar are (also) exploring the signing of a FTA in the future,” said Mr. Chatterjee, announcing that India is considering going ahead with a bilateral FTA with Qatar as discussion for an

India-GCC FTA continues.

The Indian side also said that the strategic partnership would have a security component, though a clear timeline for such a process was not articulated.

## Bilateral trade

A total of 38 Qatari entities representing retail, finance, and energy sector participated in the deliberations where the two sides resolved to double bilateral trade to \$28 billion.

The visit also presented a challenge for both sides, as Purnendu Tiwary, an ex-Indian Navy commander, remains in Qatari custody, even though seven other detainees from the same 2022 case were repatriated in February 2024.

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## India, Qatar elevate ties to strategic partnership

“His matter still remains subjudice in the local courts,” said Mr. Chatterjee elaborating on the condition of Commander Tiwary. *The Hindu* had reported on Monday that the seven former Indian navy officials who returned in February 2024 has written to the Qatari authorities seek repatriation of Commander Tiwary.

Mr. Chatterjee informed that the Indian diaspora is the largest working force in Qatar and that at present around 600 Indians are in Qatari prisons. “About 85 Indians have received such pardons during 2024,” he said, highlighting that Qatar has the provision of granting pardon.

India already has now signed strategic partnerships with Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia within the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.

The official also confirmed that the situation in the West Asian region featured in the official talks saying, “both sides conveyed their mutual positions on Israel-Hamas issue. India conveyed its own position, the Qatari side conveyed their own position.”

The visit of the Qatari Emir has drawn attention as it is being held just two days prior to the five Arab states summit in the Saudi capital Riyadh which will take up the new proposals from the United States following the arrival of President Donald Trump. Mr. Trump’s proposal that the Palestinians of the region should be shifted out to neighbouring countries like Egypt and Jordan has drawn attention. India has not so far made its position on this new approach. MEA officials also avoided giving a clear answer to this approach which has drawn criticism as it would tantamount to ethnic cleansing.

India supports two-state solution in bringing an end to the Israel-Palestinian crisis and had welcomed the ceasefire that currently holds that was announced shortly before the swearing-in ceremony of President Trump on January 20.

The Qatari side also participated in a Joint Business Forum which drew participation of top business entities of Qatari and Indian sides.

# India, Qatar Forge Strategic Partnership, Set \$28B Trade Goal at Modi-Al Thani Summit

Sign 2 agreements and 5 MoUs; explore signing a bilateral free trade agreement

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

**New Delhi:** India and Qatar on Tuesday elevated their ties to strategic partnership and decided to double the current trade of \$14 billion in the next five years at the summit held here between PM Narendra Modi and Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani.

Two agreements and five memorandums of understanding were signed during the visit. The first agreement is on the establishment of a bilateral strategic partnership. A revised double taxation avoidance agreement was also signed. Both the sides also signed MOUs during the visit, including on economic partnership, cooperation in the area of archives and documentation and youth affairs and sports.

Trade, investment and energy were among the major topics of discussion between the two leaders. The



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani at Hyderabad House, New Delhi—IANS**

Middle East situation also came up for discussion, officials here informed. Both sides conveyed their mutual positions that they have on the Israel-Hamas issue.

### **BOOSTING TRADE AND INVESTMENTS**

The trade between India and Qatar stands at about \$14 billion annually, with both sides targeting to double it in the next five years, Arun Chatterjee, Secretary (CPV & OIA) MEA, told the media.

**investment, Trade and energy focus of Summit; Qatar Sovereign Fund to increase investments in India**

Both leaders identified areas for

Qatar is also a key investment partner, with its Sovereign Wealth Fund — the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) — holding about \$1.5 billion in FDI across sectors like retail, power, IT, education, and health.

further QIA investment, including infrastructure, shipbuilding, renewable energy, smart cities, and emerging technologies like AI and robotics.

A Joint Business Forum was held under the co-chairmanship of the commerce ministers of both nations, where leading industrialists and institutions engaged in discussions. The two sides also agreed to

explore the possibility of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and elevate the Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce into a Joint Commission.

On the sidelines, Invest India and Invest Qatar signed an MOU to boost mutual investments, while the CII and the Qatar Businessmen Association formalized a partnership to enhance business networks.

### **STRENGTHENING ENERGY AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

India and Qatar share a strong energy partnership, with Qatar being a major LNG supplier to India. In February 2024, Qatar Energy and Petronet LNG signed a 20-year deal for the supply of 7.5 million metric tonnes of LNG annually, starting in 2028.

The leaders discussed expanding energy ties, including potential mutual investments. They also condemned terrorism in all forms, including cross-border terrorism, and pledged to enhance cooperation in intelligence sharing and counterterrorism efforts through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

**'We want to increase and diversify India-Qatar trade linkages. Our nations can also work closely in energy, tech, healthcare, food processing and pharma'**  
**NARENDRA MODI**

# India, Qatar to double trade in 5 yrs as strategic partners

Nations keen to double bilateral trade to \$30 bn by 2030, enhance trade, energy cooperation

Rezaul H Laskar  
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NEW DELHI

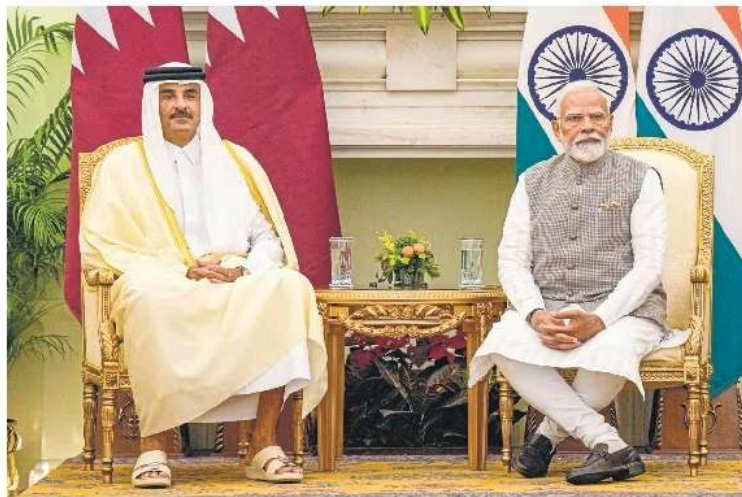
India and Qatar on Tuesday elevated their ties to a strategic partnership and agreed to double bilateral trade to almost \$30 billion by 2030 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Qatari Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, focused on ways to enhance trade and energy cooperation.

The two leaders met to discuss bilateral relations and regional issues, including the Israel-Hamas conflict, shortly after President Droupadi Murmu accorded Sheikh Tamim a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Modi personally received the Amir on his arrival in New Delhi on Monday, signalling the importance India attaches to the bilateral relationship.

Modi said on X that he had a "very productive meeting with my brother", Sheikh Tamim, who is "committed to a strong India-Qatar friendship".

He added, "Trade featured prominently in our talks. We want to increase and diversify India-Qatar trade linkages." The two sides can work closely in energy, technology, healthcare, food processing, pharmaceuticals and green hydrogen, he said.

In addition to signing an agreement



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani during an exchange of MoUs at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI

to upgrade ties, the two sides set a target of doubling annual trade, currently worth \$14.08 billion, over the next five years. They also agreed to begin negotiations on a bilateral trade deal and address market access issues related to trade in goods and services.

The Qatari side committed to investing \$10 billion in India. The Qatar Investment Authority, the country's sovereign wealth fund, has invested about \$1.5 billion in the country so far in sectors such as retail, power, IT, and affordable housing.

Modi and Sheikh Tamim held wide-

ranging talks at Hyderabad House and decided to focus on trade, investments, energy, technology, and food security, external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

The areas identified by the two leaders for potential investments by the Qatar Investment Authority are infrastructure, ports, shipbuilding, renewable energy, food parks, startups, and new technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics.

During their talks at Hyderabad House, Modi and Sheikh Tamim identified areas for potential investments by the Qatar Investment Authority,

including infrastructure, ports, shipbuilding, renewable energy, food parks, startups, and new technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics.

The two sides also signed a revised agreement to avoid double taxation and prevent fiscal evasion on income taxes and five memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on economic partnership and cooperation in archives and documentation, youth affairs, and sports.

"We already have institutional mechanisms in place, and [the] Amir's visit should lead to further growth in mutual investments," Arun Chatterjee, secretary (overseas Indian affairs) in the external affairs ministry, told a media briefing.

Modi and Sheikh Tamim also focused on strengthening and broadening the energy partnership, including exploring mutual investments. Qatar is the largest provider of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to India, supplying 10.91 million metric tonnes of LNG and

4.92 million metric tonnes of LPG in FY 2023-24.

Qatar Energy and Petronet LNG Ltd signed an agreement in February 2024 to supply 7.5 million metric tonnes of LNG annually to India for 20 years, beginning in 2028.

The Israel-Hamas conflict, the evolving situation in West Asia and the ongoing peace process also figured in the talks between the two leaders.

**\$10 bn**  
Investment Qatar has committed to make in India

**Hindustan Times**

# India, Qatar to double trade to USD 28 Billion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

India and Qatar on Tuesday here agreed to double bilateral trade to USD 28 Billion over the next five years and announced elevation of their relationship to the level of strategic partnership as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani. The two sides also signed two agreements - one on establishing strategic partnership and another on Revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and signed five memoranda of understanding to strengthen economic partnership, step up ties in areas such as management of archives, and cooperation in youth affairs and sports. "The strategic partnership agreement actually elevates the present state of bilateral relationship to a strategic level. What we are looking at is deepening cooperation in fields of trade, energy security, as well as in regional and international fora," Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, told reporters here. He said Modi and the Qatari



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani shake hands before a meeting at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi, Tuesday.  
Photos by: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

Amir also decided to set a target to double bilateral trade from the current USD 14 billion to USD 28 Billion over the next five years. Last year, during Modi's visit to

Qatar, India had signed a USD 78 billion deal to extend LNG imports from the Gulf nation by another 20 years till 2048 at rates lower than the then prevailing prices.

Modi and the Amir held wide-ranging talks with focus on trade, investments, technology, energy and people-to-people ties, further cementing the "deep and traditional relation-

ship" between the two countries. They also exchanged views on "regional and global issues" of mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs said. Earlier in the day, the Amir of Qatar was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at the Rashtrapati Bhavan as President Droupadi Murmu welcomed the visiting leader. Modi was also present on the occasion. India and Qatar have deep-rooted historical ties of friendship, trust and mutual respect. In recent years, the ties between the two countries, including in the areas of trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people relations, have continued to strengthen, the MEA earlier said. The Amir of Qatar arrived here on Monday evening, his visit coming almost a year after Modi had visited the Gulf nation in February 2024. Extending a rare gesture of hospitality, Modi received the Amir at the Delhi airport on Monday evening. He welcomed him with a warm handshake and hug, displaying the bonhomie between the two leaders.



# Mahanagar Gas to scout for more contracts by 2025-end as consumption increases

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**  
New Delhi

Buoyed by rising consumption of natural gas, Mahanagar Gas (MGL), which retails the commodity for vehicles and households in Mumbai and adjoining areas, will start scouting for contracts by 2025-end.

“Right now, we are conformable with the existing arrangements. We have already added one contract. So maybe by 2025-end or next financial year (FY26), we will look for more contracts,” MGL Managing Director Ashu Singhal told *business-line* on sidelines of the India Energy Week (IEW).

MGL supplies compressed natural gas (CNG) to around 10.97 lakh vehicles in Mumbai, Thane, Mira-Bhayander, Navi Mumbai, etc, through 366 stations. It also provides piped natural gas (PNG) to around 26.82 lakh households in the region.

## **MORE SUPPLIES**

MGL has secured the availability of domestically-pro-



Ashu Singhal, Managing Director, Mahanagar Gas

duced administered price mechanism (APM), high pressure high temperature (HPHT) and term Regasified LNG at applicable price for catering to CNG and PNG customers as well as through term contracts for other customers.

“Currently, on an average for 9M FY25, it’s around 4.05 million standard cubic meters per day (mscmd). But going forward, we are seeing a growth of 10 per cent, at least. So, 0.4 mscmd will be added every year. There is an expected reduction of APM of around 7 per cent. Effectively, we have to take every year almost 0.8 mscmd,”

Singhal explained.

MGL is the sole authorised distributor of CNG and PNG in Mumbai, Thane urban including adjoining areas and Raigad. In its Q3FY25 earnings call, MGL management told analysts that post Q3 it has hiked Henry Hub contracts to almost 1.45 mscmd. Besides, a few bids of HPHT are also expected to happen, likely in April 2025 by Reliance Industries, of around 5-6 mscmd.

## **GAS CONSUMPTION UP**

The company is witnessing an uptick in gas consumption. “For 9MFY25, we clocked a growth of 12 per cent (y-o-y). If we take into account three more months, we may get around 13-14 per cent,” Singhal noted.

“Main driver, as of now this year, is industrial and commercial, where we clocked 14 per cent (growth). We are adding more pipelines in new industrial and commercial areas. In CNG, we are promoting several schemes. Our CNG rates are very low, but more vehicles are getting added up.

In CNG, we are seeing a growth of around 10 per cent,” he pointed out. In PNG, MGL added 3.3 lakh connections last year, the highest in India by a single entity, helping it to clock a growth of around 7-8 per cent (y-o-y).

“Overall, we are getting around 13 per cent this year (FY25)... Infrastructure is expanding. For instance, we used to have 25-30 stations every year, but this year we are adding 80, of which 15 are in our geographies and 30 in Unison Enviro (subsidiary),” Singhal opined.

MGL is also opening stations for LNG-powered heavy commercial vehicles. “We have opened a joint venture company for LNG retail outlets with Baidyanath LNG. One LNG station was already operational with MGL and one was recently started in Aurangabad by the JV. We already have 3-4 plots in pipeline. So maybe in 7-8 months, we will be commissioning another 3-4 stations in Maharashtra, and one in Madhya Pradesh,” he added.

# Navigating depths: ONGC's deepwater exploration challenges & innovations

‘The differences are stark when you compare the Arabian Sea with the Bay of Bengal’

**SIMONTINI BHATTACHARJEE**

**NEW DELHI:** In an exclusive interview with *Millennium Post*, Ratnesh Kumar, Asset Manager, Eastern Offshore (Kakinada Asset), ONGC, sheds light on the key challenges of deepwater exploration, the role of technology, and the company's vision for sustainable energy security.

**DEEPWATER EXPLORATION: THE KEY CHALLENGES**

**Q: ONGC has been operating in deepwater exploration for years. What are the primary challenges in this domain, and how is the company leveraging technology to overcome them?**

If you look at Mumbai High, we have been operating there for over 50 years and are well-versed in its geology and operational challenges. However, the differences are stark when you compare the Arabian Sea with the Bay of Bengal. In the Arabian Sea, even up to 100 kilometres offshore, the water depth is only around 100 meters. But in the Eastern Offshore, the seabed drops drastically. For instance, our Central Processing Platform is located just 5-6 nautical miles from the shore at a depth of 27-30 meters. Meanwhile, our Floating Production, Storage, and Offloading (FPSO) unit, only 7 nautical miles away, is positioned in waters over 413 meters deep. This steep slope presents significant challenges in laying subsea pipelines and

infrastructures, such as the 400 kilometres of subsea pipelines and 110 kilometres of umbilicals required for operations.

**Q: Could you elaborate on the technological advancements ONGC has adopted to tackle these challenges?**

Given the complexities, we have integrated advanced subsea architecture and pipeline technologies. The FPSO—a converted large crude carrier—acts as a mini refinery at sea, permanently stationed to handle production. However, Eastern Offshore operations are highly vulnerable to cyclones, experiencing four to five cyclonic conditions during a project's lifespan. This drastically limits our working window to just four months a year, compared to eight months in the western offshore. To mitigate this, we pushed the boundaries by working in July and August, despite adverse weather conditions.

Additionally, subsea currents and fishing net entanglements pose operational risks. Last time, our FPSO's risers got entangled in fishing nets, and the thruster had to be replaced—imported from England. The Indian Navy was mobilised four times to help clear the nets. We finally used an innovative "scissor" mechanism inserted from the top of the FPSO to cut through and remove the entangled nets.

Another challenge is subsea temperatures, which are close to zero degrees. This necessitates the use of thermoplastic umbil-



**Ratnesh Kumar, Asset Manager, Eastern Offshore (Kakinada Asset), ONGC**

**“GIVEN THE COMPLEXITIES, WE HAVE INTEGRATED ADVANCED SUBSEA ARCHITECTURE AND PIPELINE TECHNOLOGIES”**

icals containing 14 hydraulic lines for controlling well operations. We inject four key chemicals—corrosion inhibitors, scale inhibitors, methanol, and pour point depressants—to ensure smooth flow through pipelines.

For the first time in India, we have deployed Pipe Support Vessels to transport these chemicals in specially cleaned hulls, enhancing efficiency.

**ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY IN DEEPWATER DRILLING**

**Q: With the global focus on sustainability, how does ONGC balance deepwater drilling with environmental responsibility?**

Sustainability and energy security go hand in hand. One

of the major steps we have taken is achieving near-zero gas flaring, except for necessary safety flaring during process upsets. The turbines deployed at our sites incorporate the latest technology to minimize NOx and SOx emissions.

Our Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) team rigorously monitors operations, and third-party safety audits are conducted regularly.

We also leverage predictive technologies to detect potential leaks, ensuring marine ecosystems remain unharmed. Interestingly, fishermen have reported an increase in fish catch near our FPSO, as marine life is attracted to the lights of the structure.

**THE ROLE OF AI AND DATA ANALYTICS IN DEEPWATER OPERATIONS**

**Q: How is ONGC integrating artificial intelligence and data analytics into deepwater exploration?**

We have set up an Integrated Operations Center (IOC) in Kakinada, the first and largest of its kind in India. This centre brings together geologists, geophysicists, reservoir engineers, project teams, and production teams under one digital ecosystem.

The real-time data from our fields is fed into an Information Management System (IMS), which works alongside our Production Management System and Reservoir Management System. These systems continu-

ously analyze incoming data, refining our geological models and optimizing production strategies.

AI and machine learning play a crucial role in predictive maintenance. With over 200 subsea assets weighing between 80 to 250 tons each, failures can be costly. Our AI-powered asset management system predicts equipment failures months in advance, allowing us to proactively procure spare parts and schedule maintenance, thereby reducing downtime.

Moreover, our leak detection systems now provide early warnings, preventing potential environmental hazards. Subject matter experts stationed at the IOC can monitor and analyze operations remotely, ensuring swift decision-making.

**EXPANDING DEEPWATER CAPABILITIES IN INDIA**

**Q: What are ONGC's plans for expanding deepwater capabilities in high-potential basins like Kaveri, Godavari, and Mahanadi?**

After successfully executing Project 98/2(KG-DWN-98/2)—one of ONGC's most complex deepwater projects—the team is now highly experienced in tackling similar challenges. We are currently exploring the Mahanadi and Andaman basins. However, deepwater projects require significant hydrocarbon reserves to be financially viable.

With the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH)

opening multiple offshore blocks under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), exploration activities have ramped up. More exploratory rigs have been deployed, and as we assess the resource potential, our experienced team will leverage its expertise to develop these basins.

**THE ROLE OF DEEPWATER EXPLORATION IN ONGC'S LONG-TERM ENERGY STRATEGY**

**Q: Given the global shift towards renewable, how does deepwater exploration fit into ONGC's long-term energy vision?**

The energy transition is inevitable, but energy security remains a priority. India requires a mix of energy sources—fossil fuels, renewable, and emerging alternatives.

ONGC has already taken significant strides in renewable through ONGC Green Limited (OGL). Recently, in partnership with NTPC, we acquired Ayana Renewable Power, expanding our green energy portfolio to 3 GW, with plans for further growth. However, the transition requires substantial investment, and oil and gas revenues provide the financial foundation for this shift.

Our leadership, including the Chairman and Directors, is fully committed to balancing conventional energy production with green initiatives, ensuring a smooth and sustainable transition.

## इंडियनऑयल ने इनडोर सोलर कुकिंग सिस्टम के लिए कॉर्पोरेट भागीदारी को उत्प्रेरित करने पर कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया

नई दिल्ली। इंडियनऑयल ने फिनोविस्टा के सहयोग से नई दिल्ली में इंडोर सोलर कुकिंग सिस्टम के लिए कैटालाइजिंग कॉर्पोरेट पार्टनरशिप पर एक कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया। कार्यशाला सरकारी योजनाओं, कॉर्पोरेट फाउंडेशनों और समाज की पहल के साथ एकीकृत करके इनडोर सौर खाना पकाने के उपकरण सूर्य नूतन तक पहुंच बढ़ाने पर केंद्रित थी। सूर्य नूतन, इंडियनऑयल द्वारा विकसित एक अभिनव हाइब्रिड इनडोर सौर खाना पकाने का उपकरण है। इस उपकरण को भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह 2023 के दौरान राष्ट्र के सामने पेश किया गया था। इस प्रणाली को खाना पकाने की विभिन्न जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है। इसका उद्देश्य भारत में स्वच्छ खाना पकाने की प्रथा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए लंबे समय तक चलने वाला, कम रखरखाव और टिकाऊ समाधान प्रदान करना है। इस कार्यशाला में भारत सरकार के नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय (एमएनआरई) के वरिष्ठ निदेशक/वैज्ञानिक-एफ श्री जे के जेठानी, द एनर्जी एंड रिसोर्सेज इंस्टीट्यूट (टीईआरआई) की महानिदेशक डॉ. विभा धवन, ऊर्जा दक्षता ब्यूरो (बीईई) के सचिव श्री मिलिंद देवरे, क्लाइमेट पार्लियामेंट के मुख्य नीति सलाहकार और भारत के पूर्व वन महानिदेशक, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और वन संरक्षण डॉ. संजय कुमार, डॉ. उमिश श्रीवास्तव कार्यकारी निदेशक (एई&आईओटीडीडी), अनुसंधान एवं विकास, इंडियनऑयल और श्री संदीप शर्मा, कार्यकारी निदेशक (विपणन रणनीति), इंडियन ऑयल ने भाग लिया।

## इंडियन ऑयल ने इनडोर सोलर कुकिंग सिस्टम के लिए कार्यशाला आयोजित की



वैभव न्यूज ■ नई दिल्ली

इंडियनऑयल ने फिनोविस्टा के सहयोग से नई दिल्ली में इंडोर सोलर कुकिंग सिस्टम के लिए कैटालाइजिंग कॉर्पोरेट पार्टनरशिप पर एक कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया। कार्यशाला सरकारी योजनाओं, कॉर्पोरेट फाउंडेशनों और समाज की पहल के साथ एकीकृत करके इनडोर सौर खाना पकाने के उपकरण सूर्य नूतन तक पहुंच बढ़ाने पर केंद्रित थी। सूर्य नूतन, इंडियनऑयल द्वारा विकसित एक अभिनव हाइब्रिड इनडोर सौर खाना पकाने का उपकरण है। इस उपकरण को भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह 2023 के दौरान राष्ट्र के सामने पेश किया गया था। इस प्रणाली को खाना पकाने की विभिन्न जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है। इसका उद्देश्य भारत में स्वच्छ

खाना पकाने की प्रथा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए लंबे समय तक चलने वाला, कम रखरखाव और टिकाऊ समाधान प्रदान करना है। इस कार्यशाला में भारत सरकार के नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के वरिष्ठ निदेशक/ वैज्ञानिक-एफ जे के जेठानी; द एनर्जी एंड रिसोर्सेज इंस्टीट्यूट (टीईआरआई) की महानिदेशक डॉ. विभा धवन; ऊर्जा दक्षता ब्यूरो (बीईई) के सचिव मिलिंद देवरे; क्लाइमेट पार्लियामेंट के मुख्य नीति सलाहकार और भारत के पूर्व वन महानिदेशक, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और वन संरक्षण डॉ. संजय कुमार, डॉ. उमिश श्रीवास्तव कार्यकारी निदेशक , अनुसंधान एवं विकास, इंडियनऑयल और संदीप शर्मा, कार्यकारी निदेशक (विपणन रणनीति), इंडियनऑयल ने भाग लिया।

# कतर से निकटता सफल विदेश नीति का प्रमाण

## साझेदारी

### मदन जैड़ा

नई दिल्ली। भारत और कतर के राजनयिक रिश्ते हालांकि 52 साल पुराने हैं लेकिन पिछले कुछ सालों में दोनों के रिश्तों में प्रगाढ़ता आई है। आश्चर्यजनक रूप से भाजपा सरकार के कार्यकाल में न सिर्फ कतर बल्कि तमाम इस्लामिक देशों के साथ भारत के रिश्ते मजबूत हुए हैं। इसे पश्चिम एशिया में भारत की सफल विदेश नीति का उदाहरण माना जा रहा है।

इससे जहां भारत को कारोबारी फायदा हुआ है, वहीं इस्लामिक देशों के बीच भारत की छवि बिगाड़ने की कोशिश करने वाला पाकिस्तान अलग-थलग पड़ गया है। पिछले दस सालों में कतर के अमीर शेख तमीम बिन अल थानी ने दो बार भारत की यात्रा है और प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी भी दो बार कतर गए हैं। पूर्व राजदूत अनिल त्रिगुनायत के अनुसार प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी अरब

## विश्व को संदेश



इस्लामिक देशों के साथ लगातार अपने रिश्तों को मजबूत कर भारत दुनिया को यह संदेश दे रहा है कि उसकी नीति सबका साथ और सबका विकास की है। यह पाकिस्तान समेत उन तमाम देशों को भी जवाब है जो भारत में मुस्लिमों या कश्मीर के मुद्दे पर सवाल उठाते हैं।

## विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में निवेश

देशों के सर्वोच्च सम्मान से सम्मानित होने वाले विश्व नेताओं में से एक हैं। पिछले एक दशक में यदि भारत की विदेश नीति पर नजर डालें तो पश्चिम एशिया नीति सर्वाधिक रणनीतिक उपलब्धियों में से एक है। भारत और कतर के रिश्ते ऐतिहासिक और रणनीतिक हैं।

## ऊर्जा भागीदार



कतर भारत का प्रमुख ऊर्जा भागीदार है। कतर से भारत को सर्वाधिक 11 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन एनएनजी तथा 5 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी की आपूर्ति होती है। पूर्व के एक समझौते के तहत 2028 तक आपूर्ति में और बढ़ोतरी होनी है। गेल इंडिया और हल्दिया पेट्रोकेमिकल्स भी कतर से खरीद कर रहे हैं।



कतर का भारत में दूरसंचार, रियल एस्टेट, हेल्थकेयर, आईटी आदि क्षेत्रों में 1.5 अरब डॉलर का निवेश है। कतर निवेश बोर्ड भारत में निवेश बढ़ाने की संभावनाएं तलाश रहा है। भारतीय कंपनियों ने भी वहां 35 करोड़ से भी अधिक का निवेश किया है। कतर में 19 भारतीय स्कूल संचालित हैं।

## व्यापारिक साझेदार



दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय कारोबार 14 अरब डॉलर से भी अधिक है। जहां भारत कतर से पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की खरीद करता है, वहीं भारत उसे खाद्यान्न, ज्वेलरी, फल सब्जियां आदि निर्यात करता है।

ट्रांजिट हब : दोहा भारत की विमान सेवाओं के लिए ट्रांजिट हब के रूप में उभरा है। भारत के दर्जन भर शहरों से सप्ताह में 200 से ज्यादा फ्लाइट दोहा पहुंचती हैं।

भारत अपनी जरूरत की 70 फीसदी गैस अकेले कतर से आयात करता है। हाल में 28 अरब डॉलर के दीर्घकालिक गैस आपूर्ति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर हुए हैं। कतर के राष्ट्र निर्माण में भी भारतीय कामगार अहम हैं। इस यात्रा से भी दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार बढ़ेगा। भारत और कतर क्षेत्रीय शांति

और स्थिरता के लिए मिलकर कार्य कर सकते हैं क्योंकि कतर वैश्विक खिलाड़ी के रूप में उभरा है। कतर में 8.30 लाख भारतीय रहते हैं। इनमें अल्प प्रशिक्षित कामगार से लेकर उच्च शिक्षित पेशेवर शामिल हैं। अनुमान है कि कतर की कुल आबादी में 27% भागीदारी भारतीयों की है।

नई उम्मीद

डीपीडीए ने डीजल व पेट्रोल पर लगाने वाला वैट कम करने की मांग की, पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर वैट की दर केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों के अनुरूप करने को कहा

# नई सरकार से पेट्रोल-डीजल विक्रेताओं को उम्मीदें

अमित कुमार

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली में नई सरकार के गठन को लेकर



निश्चल सिंघानिया

समाज के सभी वर्गों में उत्पुङ्कता है। हर वर्ग अपने लिए सरकार से कोई न कोई उम्मीद लगाए बैठा है। दिल्ली के पेट्रोल व

डीजल विक्रेताओं ने सरकार से पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर वैट की दर कम करके इन पर टैक्स की दरों को केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश के टैक्स ढांचे के अनुसार करने की मांग की है।

दिल्ली पेट्रोल डीलर्स एसोसिएशन (डीपीडीए) के अध्यक्ष निश्चल सिंघानिया ने कहा कि दिल्ली को केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश से राज्य बनने के बाद से ही यहां पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर सबसे कम वैट लागू रहा है। अधिकतर पुरानी



सरकारों ने भी इस प्रवृत्ति को बनाये रखते हुए पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर सबसे कम वैट लगाया लेकिन दस साल में दिल्ली की सरकार ने कई बार वैट में बढ़ोतरी करके दिल्ली के वाहन चालकों की जेब पर बोझ बढ़ाया है। इसके चलते न केवल पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की बिक्री में गिरावट आई,

बल्कि राज्य को राजस्व का भी बड़े पैमाने पर नुकसान हुआ। उन्होंने कहा कि क्योंकि वैट बढ़ोतरी के चलते वाहन चालकों व वाहन मालिक पड़ोसी राज्यों से डीजल-पेट्रोल भरवाने के लिए मजबूर हुए हैं।

भौगोलिक रूप से दिल्ली एक छोटा राज्य है जो कभी ईंधन की

केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश	पेट्रोल (रु.)	डीजल (रु.)
दिल्ली	94.77	87.67
अंडमान व निकोबार	82.46	78.05
जम्मू	95.48	81.32
चंडीगढ़	94.30	82.45
पुडुचेरी	96.26	86.47
दमन व दीव	92.37	87.87

कीमतों के मामलों एक लाभकारी स्थिति में था। इससे उपभोक्ताओं को शहर में ईंधन भरने का लाभ मिलता था और इससे शहर की आर्थिक वृद्धि में योगदान होता था। लेकिन पिछली सरकार के कार्यकाल में वैट की दरों में उतार-चढ़ाव ने पेट्रोल पंप डीलरों को नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित किया है। इससे बिक्री में भारी गिरावट आई और पड़ोसी राज्यों में बिक्री जाने से व्यापार का नुकसान हुआ।

ऐसे में डीपीडीए दिल्ली में नई गठित होने वाली सरकार से अपील

करता है कि दिल्ली में फ्यूल पर लगाने वाले वैट को केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश के टैक्स ढांचे के अनुरूप करने के लिए कदम उठाये।

सरकार के इस फैसले से ग्राहकों को दिल्ली में फ्यूल भरवाना सस्ता पड़ेगा साथ ही बिक्री में वृद्धि होने से राज्य सरकार के लिए राजस्व में भी बढ़ोतरी होगी। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार के इस निर्णय से न केवल आम लोगों को फायदा मिलेगा बल्कि पेट्रोल पंप डीलरों और राज्य सरकार के लिए भी लाभकारी स्थिति बनेगी।

# भारत और कतर के बीच पांच साल में दोगुना होगा व्यापार

मोदी और कतर के अमीर के बीच वार्ता, संबंध रणनीतिक भागीदारी के स्तर तक ले जाएंगे

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती

**भा**रत और कतर ने आपसी संबंधों को रणनीतिक साझेदारी के स्तर तक ले जाने का फैसला किया है। साथ ही अगले 5 साल में निवेश को दोगुना करने का भी लक्ष्य रखा गया। कतर के अमीर शेख तमीम बिन हमद अल-सानी दो दिन के भारत दौरे पर आए हैं। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के साथ मंगलवार को उनकी व्यापक बातचीत हुई। दोनों नेताओं ने व्यापार, निवेश, प्रौद्योगिकी, ऊर्जा और लोगों से लोगों के संबंधों समेत कई महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर चर्चा की।

विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि उन्होंने आपसी हितों से जुड़े क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक मुद्दों पर भी विस्तृत वार्ता की। कांसुलर, पासपोर्ट और वीजा डिवाजन और प्रवासी भारतीय मामलों के सचिव अरुण कुमार चटर्जी ने कहा कि दोनों पक्षों ने द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को मौजूदा 14.08 अरब डॉलर से बढ़ाकर दोगुना करने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई।

कतर के साथ भारत के संबंध तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी), तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (एलपीजी) आपूर्ति से कहीं आगे तक विस्तारित हो चुके हैं। भारत को सबसे ज्यादा एलएनजी और एलपीजी कतर से ही आती है। अब कतर भी रणनीतिक साझेदारी के मामले में यूएई, सऊदी अरब, ओमान और कुवैत के बराबर खड़ा होगा, जिन्होंने पहले ही भारत के



प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और कतर के अमीर शेख तमीम बिन हमद अल-सानी

साथ रणनीतिक साझेदारी का स्तर हासिल कर लिया है।

भारत कतर के साथ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (एफटीए) की संभावना भी तलाश रहा है। सरकार अलग से गल्फ सहयोग परिषद के साथ एफटीए के लिए बातचीत कर रही है, जिसमें बहरीन,

कुवैत, ओमान, कतर, सऊदी अरब और संयुक्त राज्य अमीरात (यूएई) जैसी तेल संसाधनों से समृद्ध छह अर्थव्यवस्थाएं शामिल हैं। कतर की संप्रभु एजेंसी कतर इन्वेस्टमेंट अथॉरिटी (क्यूआईए) मौजूदा समय में भारत के रिटेल, ऊर्जा, आईटी, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और किरायाती

आवास जैसे क्षेत्रों में 1.5 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर निवेश के साथ काम कर रही है। दोनों पक्षों ने बुनियादी ढांचा, बंदरगाह, जहाज विनिर्माण, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, स्मार्ट सिटी परियोजना, फूड पार्क और स्टार्टअप के साथ-साथ आर्टिफिशल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई), रोबोटिक्स और मशीन लर्निंग जैसे कई और क्षेत्रों को चिह्नित किया है, जिनमें क्यूआईए का निवेश बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

कतर के अमीर के साथ बड़ा कारोबारी प्रतिनिधिमंडल आया है, जिसने मंगलवार को बिजनेस फोरम में हिस्सा लिया। इस बैठक में दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय निवेश बढ़ाने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई गई। इस दौरान संशोधित दोहरा कराधान बचाव समझौते (डीटीएए) पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं। आर्थिक साझेदारी, अभिलेखागार और दस्तावेजीकरण, युवा मामलों और खेल में सहयोग पर भी समझौता हुआ है। इन्वेस्ट इंडिया ने निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपने कतर समकक्ष के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। दोनों नेताओं की बैठक में गाजा, अफगानिस्तान के हालात और अन्य वैश्विक मुद्दों पर भी चर्चा हुई।

कतर के अमीर की यह दूसरी राजकीय यात्रा है। इससे पहले उन्होंने मार्च 2015 में भारत का दौरा किया था। विदेश मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को शुरू हुई यात्रा से पहले कहा था कि उनकी यात्रा हमारी मजबूत होती बहुआयामी साझेदारी को और गति प्रदान करेगी।

# रणनीतिक साझेदार बनेंगे भारत-कतर

**आपसी हितों से जुड़े क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक मुद्दों पर चर्चा, 5 सालों में व्यापार 28 अरब डालर करने का लक्ष्य**

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और कतर के अमीर शेख तमीम बिन हम्माद अल-सानी के बीच मंगलवार को व्यापक वार्ता हुई। इस दौरान दोनों देशों ने अगले पांच साल में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को दोगुना कर 28 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर तक पहुंचाने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई और संबंधों को रणनीतिक साझेदारी के स्तर तक ले जाने की घोषणा की।

यहां मोदी और अमीर की मौजूदगी में दोनों पक्षों ने दो समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर भी किये। पहला समझौता रणनीतिक साझेदारी कायम करने को लेकर जबकि दूसरा संशोधित दोहरे कराधान से बचने को लेकर है। दोनों पक्षों ने आर्थिक साझेदारी को मजबूत करने, अभिलेखागार के प्रबंधन और युवा मामलों और खेल जैसे क्षेत्रों में संबंधों को प्रगाढ़ बढ़ाने के लिए पांच सहमति पत्रों (एमओयू) पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए।

विदेश मंत्रालय के सचिव अरुण कुमार चटर्जी ने यहां संवाददाताओं से कहा, "रणनीतिक साझेदारी समझौता द्विपक्षीय संबंधों की वर्तमान



स्थिति को रणनीतिक स्तर तक बढ़ाएगा। हम व्यापार, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के साथ ही क्षेत्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंचों पर सहयोग बढ़ाना चाहते हैं।"

एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा कि रणनीतिक साझेदारी समझौता सभी तरह के द्विपक्षीय संबंधों पर लागू होगा। सचिव ने कहा, निश्चित रूप से, भविष्य में सहयोग के लिए एक रोड मैप तैयार किया जाएगा और फिर दोनों पक्ष रणनीतिक साझेदारी समझौते को लागू करने की दिशा में काम करेंगे। सुरक्षा संबंधी

मुद्दे एजेंडे में शामिल होने पर निश्चित रूप से रणनीतिक साझेदारी समझौते के तहत चर्चा की जाएगी।

विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि मोदी और अमीर ने व्यापार, निवेश, प्रौद्योगिकी, ऊर्जा और लोगों से लोगों के संबंधों पर चर्चा की।

चटर्जी ने कहा कि मोदी और कतर के अमीर ने अगले पांच वर्षों में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को मौजूदा 14 अरब डॉलर से दोगुना करके 28 अरब डॉलर करने का लक्ष्य भी तय किया है।

## एलपीजी मामले में कतर-भारत पार्टनर हैं

भारत-कतर पर बहुत हद तक एलएनजी (लिक्विफाइड नेचुरल गैस) और एलपीजी (लिक्विफाइड पेट्रोलियम गैस) के लिए निर्भर है। वहीं सन 2024 के इंटरनेशनल एनर्जी एजेंसी के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत में वर्तमान में 65 अरब घन मीटर गैस की खपत हो रही है, और अगले 6 बरसों में यह आंकड़ा बढ़ कर 120 अरब घन मीटर तक पहुंच सकता है। ऐसे में कतर एक विश्वस्त पार्टनर बन कर भारत की गैस की जरूरतें पूरी करता है। एक और बात, सन 2022-23 में भारत ने कतर से 10.74 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन एलएनजी मंगवाई थी, जिसकी कीमत 8.32 अरब डॉलर थी। इसके अलावा, एलपीजी के मामले में भी कतर भारत का प्रमुख पार्टनर है, और 2022-23 में भारत ने कतर से 5.33 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी मंगवाई थी, जिसकी कीमत 4.04 अरब डॉलर थी।

## भारत-यूएई व्यापार 21.35 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 80.51 अरब डॉलर

भारत और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) के बीच द्विपक्षीय व्यापार चालू वित्त वर्ष की अप्रैल-जनवरी अवधि में 21.35 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 80.51 अरब डॉलर हो गया। वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के आंकड़ों में यह जानकारी दी गई। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, इस वित्त वर्ष के पहले 10 महीनों के दौरान संयुक्त अरब अमीरात को भारत का निर्यात 6.82 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 30 अरब डॉलर हो गया, जबकि इस दौरान आयात 35.58 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 50.51 अरब डॉलर हो गया।

