

## Mahanagar Gas appoints Shivaji Satam as Campaign Ambassador for MGL Sahayogi



Mahanagar Gas Limited, one of the largest city gas distribution companies in India, has re-launched its 'MGL Sahayogi' initiative, which encourages

residents of Mumbai and its adjoining areas to take an active role in protecting accidental damage to the gas pipelines, with a new exclusive helpline number, 1800 2100 2100. CID fame veteran actor, Shivaji Satam, will be the face of the campaign. With him joining this campaign for a vigilant and safe city, MGL aims to boost awareness about safe excavation. Digging activities are frequent due to various ongoing infrastructure development activities, however, unsafe or unplanned digging can cause serious accidents. Therefore, through 'MGL Sahayogi' initiative, MGL urges residents to report any unsafe or unplanned digging activities happening in their vicinity so as to prevent accidental damage to gas pipelines. This can help avoid potential gas leaks, fire hazards and will ensure uninterrupted gas supplies to homes and CNG stations and maintain public safety.

# गैस नेटवर्क की सुरक्षा पर विशेष जोर

■ मुंबई, (सं). भारत की सबसे बड़ी सिटी गैस वितरण कंपनियों में से एक महानगर गैस लिमिटेड ने अपनी 'एमजीएल सहयोग' पहल फिर से शुरू की है, जो मुंबई और उसके आस-पास के क्षेत्रों के निवासियों को गैस पाइपलाइनों को होने वाले आकस्मिक नुकसान से बचाने में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती है, इसके लिए नया विशेष हेल्पलाइन नंबर भी 1800 2100 2100 जारी किया गया है. बता दें कि वर्तमान में



चल रहे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकास गतिविधियों के कारण अक्सर खुदाई होती रहती है, हालांकि, असुरक्षित या अनियोजित खुदाई गंभीर दुर्घटनाओं का कारण बन सकती है.

इसलिए 'एमजीएल सहयोगी' पहल के माध्यम से, एमजीएल निवासियों से आग्रह करता है कि वे अपने आस पास होने वाली किसी भी असुरक्षित या अनियोजित खुदाई गतिविधि की रिपोर्ट करें, ताकि गैस पाइपलाइनों को आकस्मिक क्षति से बचाया जा सके. इससे संभावित गैस रिसाव, आग के खतरों से बचने में मदद मिल सकती है और घरों और सीएनजी स्टेशनों को निर्बाध गैस आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित होगी और सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा बनी रहेगी.

# CPSE dividend receipts at 76% of annual target

PRASANTA SAHU  
New Delhi, December 4

**THE CENTRE'S DIVIDEND** receipts from the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other investments have fetched ₹42,713 crore so far in the current financial year or 76% of the annual target.

With lower crude prices aiding bottomlines, state-run oil and gas companies are the top dividend payers with ₹14,387 crore, followed by coal and mining (₹12,114 crore) and power (₹4,415 crore).

Coal India was the top dividend payer to the government so far in FY25 with ₹8,073 crore, followed by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (₹6,297 crore), Indian Oil (₹5,091 crore), Hindustan Zinc (in which the government owns a 29.54% stake) paid ₹3,619 crore and Telecommunications Consultants India (₹3,443 crore).

Going by the performance of the CPSEs so far, the dividend receipts from these companies may exceed ₹60,000 crore for the second year in a row in FY25 as against the target of ₹56,260 crore.

As against the Budget estimate of ₹50,000 crore, the dividends from CPSEs and other residual stakes in other firms had fetched the Centre ₹63,749 crore in FY24, the highest in any financial year.

These CPSE dividends, other than from the Reserve Bank of India and state-run financial institutions, have been driven by robust performance in a wide spectrum of sectors, including petroleum, energy, mining and commodities.

Higher dividend receipts from CPSEs will further cushion the government's fiscal deficit in FY25.

Thanks to the dividend of ₹2.11 trillion from the RBI as against the Budget estimate of ₹80,000-90,000 crore, the government has pegged the fiscal deficit for FY25 at 4.9% of GDP from 5.1% estimated in the interim Budget.

## GOOD SHOW



Centre's dividends from CPSEs (₹ crore)



- Higher dividend receipts will cushion the government's fiscal deficit in FY25
- Govt has pegged fiscal deficit for FY25 at 4.9% of GDP from 5.1% estimated in interim Budget

Recently, the Centre had tweaked the capital management guidelines, giving the CPSEs more operational and financial flexibility by relaxing the criteria for payment of dividends. According to the revised guidelines, every CPSE would pay a minimum annual dividend of 30% of profit after tax (PAT) or 4% of the net worth, whichever is higher.

Financial sector CPSEs like NBFCs may pay a minimum annual dividend of 30% of PAT.

Earlier norms mandated CPSEs to pay a minimum annual dividend of 30% of PAT or 5% of the net worth, whichever is higher.



# Kuwait explores storing oil in Indian strategic reserves

Gulf nation-run firm expresses interest in leasing space from local entity operating caverns

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NEW DELHI

**K**uwait's state-owned explorer and refiner is evaluating storing crude in Indian underground caverns under the second leg of the government's programme to boost strategic petroleum reserves in the world's third biggest oil importer.

Participation of Kuwait Petroleum Company in phase 2 is one of the new areas of cooperation being explored, the external affairs ministry said in its reply to the parliamentary committee's query on cooperation between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The information was shared with KPC on 10 November 2022 and the company has shown interest in storing its crude in the facilities of state-run Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL), it said.

The status report on action taken by the government on the parliamentary panel's recommendations was submitted on Tuesday.

India's plan to augment strategic reserves is aimed at ensuring energy security during geopolitical tensions which tend to disrupt supplies and drive up prices, as seen in 2022 during the peak of Russia's war in Ukraine. Such reserves can be used in times of emergency.

The Union cabinet approved the construction of caverns along with single-point moorings and pipelines under phase II at Chandikhol, Odisha (4 million metric tonne) and Padur, Karnataka (2.5 mmt) in public-private partnership in 2021. ISPRL has since been engaging with the GCC countries.

The external affairs ministry said that ISPRL has also informed Saudi Aramco



The external affairs ministry said that ISPRL has also informed Saudi Aramco and ADNOC about the opportunity to participate in the second round. AFP

and Abu Dhabi National oil Company (ADNOC), the national oil company of the UAE, about the opportunity to participate in the second round.

ISPRL, the custodian of caverns storing critical sovereign crude oil reserves,

In the first phase, ISPRL created underground rock caverns to store 5.33 million tonne (mt) of crude across three locations: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (1.33 mt), and Mangalore (1.5 mt) and Padur (2.5 mt) in Karnataka.

affairs, in its report in January this year, had suggested that the government should actively engage with the GCC countries to secure their participation in phase II of its strategic petroleum reserve programme as these nations contribute almost 35% of India's oil and 70% of gas imports.

On the panel's recommendation of exploring more long-term contracts for oil and gas, the ministry replied India is also eyeing a term contract with Oman, the nation's 12th largest supplier of oil, apart from existing deals with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

"These strategic engagements underscore India's efforts to secure a stable and diversified energy supply and strengthen diplomatic and economic ties with prominent energy-producing nations in the region," the ministry said, adding that it continues to explore more such opportunities.

The external affairs ministry, in its reply to the parliamentary panel, also said that to broaden the scope of strategic reserves beyond national borders, ISPRL signed an MoU with Oman Tanking Terminal Company LLC (OTTCCO) on 25 June 2023 to conduct feasibility studies for ISPRL's potential involvement in phase I of the Ras Markaz project through equity partnership or leasing storage space.

"This endeavour presents a distinctive opportunity to establish strategic storage beyond India, particularly with an oil-producing nation," it said.

The efforts to get into a term contract with Oman coincide with the free-trade talks between the two countries. Earlier, *Mint* reported that negotiations have concluded, and the signing of the agreement would follow soon.

## ENERGY SECURITY

**INDIA'S** plan to augment strategic reserves is aimed at ensuring energy security

**GEOPOLITICAL** tensions tend to disrupt supplies and drive up the prices, as seen in 2022

**EXTERNAL** affairs ministry said the country is eyeing a term contract with Oman

**INDIA** also has deals with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain

also operates facilities for any other entity approved by the Centre.

It also coordinates for releasing and replenishing strategic crude oil stock during supply disruptions through an empowered committee of the Government of India.

ADNOC joined phase I to store 5.86 million barrels of its crude in Mangalore. In 2018, it signed another memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ISPRL to explore storing crude at its underground facility at Padur.

The parliamentary panel on external

# ONGC, NTPC Green JV Set to Buy Ayana Renewable for \$750 million

Deal pegs enterprise value of Ayana at \$1.7-1.8 b; negotiations almost done on terms of sale

Sanjeev Choudhary


**New Delhi:** ONGC NTPC Green Pvt Ltd (ONGPL), an equal joint venture between ONGC Green and NTPC Green, is set to acquire a 100% stake in Ayana Renewable Power for \$700-750 million, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The JV has nearly completed the negotiations with Ayana's current shareholders—National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) (51%), British International Investment (BII) (32%) and EverSource Capital (17%)—on the terms of the sale, these people said. ONGPL will likely sign the share purchase agreement in a fortnight to purchase Ayana, they said.

The deal pegs the enterprise value of Ayana at \$1.7-1.8 billion, people said. ONGC, NTPC, NIIF, BII and EverSource didn't offer comment for the story.

ONGC Green is a wholly-owned subsidiary of state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp and NTPC Green is

### POWER PACT



**Ayana Renewable Power**

Shareholding

- NIIF 51
- BII 32
- EverSource Cap 17

**Co was launched by BII in 2017, NIIF & EverSource came in 2 years later**

**Ayana consolidated profit for FY24: ₹46 cr on operating income of ₹856 cr**

**ONGC NTPC Green**

**It is an equal JV between ONGC Green & NTPC Green**

**Has 4.6 GW of operational & under-construction renewable energy assets for solar, wind and storage**

**CURRENTLY OPERATES 1.6 GW.**

**ONGC Green is wholly-owned arm of ONGC, NTPC Green a listed unit of NTPC**

a listed subsidiary of NTPC. Ayana's existing shareholders have infused ₹3,700 crore in the renewable energy platform against their capital commitment of \$721 million (about ₹6,100 crore at the current exchange rate), ratings agency ICRA said in a September report. Ayana was launched by BII in 2017. NIIF and EverSource came in two years later. Ayana reported a consolidated profit of ₹46 crore on an operating income of ₹856 crore

for 2023-24, per the report. Ayana has a portfolio of 4.6 GW of operational and under-construction renewable energy assets encompassing solar, wind and storage. It currently operates 1.6 GW. It is expected to add 1 GW by March and another 1.5 GW by the end of the next fiscal year, according to people cited earlier. ONGC, JSW Neo Energy and Sembcorp were shortlisted to submit binding bids for Ayana in August. Sembcorp sought a deviation in the bid-

ding process and went out of the race while JSW and ONGC submitted bids. ONGC emerged as the top bidder and teamed up with NTPC.

ONGC, which has spent over two decades acquiring oil and gas assets worth billions globally, chose a state-run generator as a partner to mitigate the acquisition risks associated with a sector it is less familiar with. The Ayana deal would boost the green ambition of the oil and gas producer, which aims to have a renewable energy portfolio of 10 GW by 2030. In September, ONGC acquired PTC Energy Ltd for Rs 925 crore. PTC Energy has 288 MW wind generation capacity.

The deal would also expand the portfolio of NTPC Green whose shares are making waves on the bourses since they listed last week. Its shares are trading 37% above the issue price.

The Ayana deal would also offer an exit to private equity investors at a time when several renewable energy deals are struggling to close in the country.

# PM internship scheme kicks off

MANU KAUSHIK  
New Delhi, December 4

**TWO DAYS AFTER** its planned launch, the PM internship scheme (PMIS) kicked off as interns from 656 districts started their internships with companies such as IOCL, ONGC, Vedanta, Maruti Suzuki, Titan, NTPC and others.

The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has also started the disbursement of ₹6,000 one-time grant under the direct benefit transfer (DBT) to the selected interns.

While the ministry didn't share the exact number of people who started their internships on Wednesday, the pilot project of the scheme aims to provide 1.25 lakh internship opportunities to people between 21-24 years of age. The interns will get a monthly stipend of ₹5,000 for 12 months.

"The internships under PMIS aim to provide interns with hands-on experience and enhance the employability of India's youth," said an MCA statement.

While companies like ONGC are offering accommodation to interns travelling from different districts -- along with training in soft skills and computer proficiency -- others like Maruti

## PILOT PROJECT



■ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has started disbursement of ₹6,000 one-time grant under the DBT to the selected interns

■ MCA has received more than 650,000 applications for 127,000 opportunities offered by 280 companies

Suzuki have designed a comprehensive 30-day induction programme.

Announced in the Budget 2024-25, PMIS aims to provide internship opportunities to 10 million people in top 500 companies over five years.

MCA had launched the pilot project October this year. Under the pilot project, the MCA has received over 6.5 lakh applications for 1.27 lakh opportunities offered by 280 companies. Initially, the scheme was scheduled to inaugurate on December 2, but it has been deferred.





# Pvt sector refiners cut Russian imports as oil discounts fall

**RAKESH KUMAR** @ New Delhi

PRIVATE sector refiners, including Reliance Industries and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, have reduced their imports of Russian crude by 18% month-on-month in November 2024, as the discount on oil from the country has narrowed.

As per energy cargo tracking firm Vortexa, private refiners imported a total of 726,585 barrels per day (bpd) from Russia in November, down from 885,983 bpd in October and 761,941 bpd in September. Despite reduction in Russian crude imports, private sector refiners saw a 5% month-on-month rise in exports, though the destination has shifted from Europe to Asia. In November 2024, private sector refiners exported 270,300.93 bpd to Asia, followed by 223,363.93 bpd to Africa, 138,121.76 bpd to Oceania and 129,499.30 bpd to Europe. Once a dominant export destination for both private and state-run Indian refineries, Europe now ranks fourth in export volumes.

"India's private refiner's exports grew by 5% MoM, with

more volumes headed for Asia amidst a weaker arbitrage to Europe," said Xavier Tang, Market analyst at Vortexa.

Despite the reduction in imports, Russia continues to be India's largest crude supplier. Overall, Russian crude still accounts for 38% of India's total crude imports, slightly down from 39% in October. Iraq's share of Indian crude imports fell to 17% in November, down from 20% the previous month. The market shares of other major suppliers, including Saudi Arabia (13%), the UAE (9%), and the US (5%), remained relatively stable, with only minor changes month-on-month. The surge in Russian crude imports by Indian refiners began after the Russia-Ukraine war, when Russian oil was offered at significant discounts.

"Russian crude continues to hold the dominant share of India's imports at 38%, down from 39% last month. ..The market share of the rest of the top 5 suppliers, namely Saudi Arabia, UAE and US, remained relatively stable, with around 1% change month-over-month," said Tang.



# Saudi Arabia is losing its grip on global oil markets

Summer Said, David Uberti & Benoit Faucon

**S**audi Arabia's sway over the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries long meant unquestioned dominance of the global oil market. Those days are over, at least for now.

The kingdom is struggling to execute its plan to keep prices elevated. Higher prices would help pay for Saudi's infrastructure-spending

spree, including \$1 trillion of projects designed to rapidly pivot the economy away from oil. It would also pinch drivers at the pump and contribute to risks that inflation could stage a global comeback.

But the cartel's increasingly fractious members are pushing to pump more and maximize short-term profits, in part due to the expectation of growing competition from U.S. shale drillers emboldened by former President Donald Trump's re-election.



The kingdom is struggling to keep prices elevated. AP

"We have more liquid gold than any country in the world," Trump said in his victory speech on Nov. 6. "More

than Saudi Arabia. We have more than Russia."

Ahead of Thursday's scheduled meeting of OPEC+, that creates a dilemma for its de facto leadership in Riyadh: continue defending the price of oil, or fight to take back market share.

It appears the Saudis aren't inclined to start another price war.

Saudi officials say the kingdom is likely to keep the spigots tight on its own production, further pushing back plans to loosen them that were already delayed twice.

"They won't be able to bring

oil back online next year," said a Saudi official.

Yet another major producer, the United Arab Emirates, has been allowed to add more barrels into the market from January. And Iraq and Kazakhstan are also lobbying the cartel to bring more production of their own, which would boost supplies further and likely depress prices.

OPEC+ is comprised of the core Saudi-led cartel as well as a group of other major oil-producing allies, including Russia.

The Saudis tried to fight U.S.

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# Saudi Arabia is losing its iron grip on global oil markets

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shale by waging a price war in 2014 and 2020 but ultimately failed to rein in mounting American production.

This time around, the kingdom's officials are wary of making a bold move before Trump signals where he would like prices to be, they said. While the president-elect has previously said he wanted to ease pain at the pump for consumers, his campaign was funded by oilmen who also benefit from higher prices.

Crude output in the Americas has already helped slash the OPEC+ slice of global supplies to some of its lowest levels since the broader group's 2016 founding.

OPEC+ production cuts, pushed by Saudi Arabia, have made that even more uncomfortable for other members.

"It's really easy to be part of a cartel when a market is growing," said Jorge León, a Rystad Energy analyst who formerly worked for OPEC. "Nobody

wants to be in a cartel where they are cutting production."

The upshot is that OPEC+ has lost some of its geopolitical heft in Washington. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Geoffrey Pyatt said the cartel's market power these days is "less than you would imagine" as oil producers elsewhere—Brazil, Canada and Guyana—pump gushers of crude.

"In the world that I live in, the challenge as we think about strategy is, how does the United States think about its status as an energy superpower?" he said. "We don't have to be so fussed about what OPEC or anybody else is doing, because we can focus on our own story."

OPEC watchers say the shift in power has undermined Saudi Arabia's ability to corral the cartel's members or attract new entrants.

That tension spilled into public view last week, when an Iranian OPEC+ delegate published a commentary on the state-run

news agency arguing that the cartel's Saudi-led policy to keep prices elevated has largely been a failure, in part because it motivated the U.S. and other producers to pump more. The delegate noted that Angola already quit the cartel, and speculated that other countries could soon follow as a result of the policy.

The situation marks a U-turn from just two years ago, when oil traded for more than \$100 a barrel, President Biden pleaded with the Saudis to open the spigots, and some Wall Street investors projected a long run-up in prices similar to the China-driven commodity boom of the 2000s.

Now, with global prices wavering below \$75 a barrel, OPEC+ is staring down a Chinese economy that is growing more slowly than expected and becoming increasingly fuel efficient. Instead of pumping

more oil starting in January, as previously planned, it "may be wiser to wait for the end of the first quarter and higher Chinese demand to hike output," an OPEC delegate said.

The cartel's internal analysts, overseen by a Saudi official, have trimmed their estimated demand growth this year and next for four consecutive months. Those dimming expectations have contributed to the group's loss of credibility—among traders, U.S. officials and even some delegates—to accurately forecast the market.

The International Energy Agency estimates global supplies will outstrip demand by more than one million barrels a day next year if the group doesn't cut output.

"The industry is overinvesting," Torbjörn Törnqvist, chairman of Gunvor Group,

**Crude output in the Americas has already helped slash the OPEC+ slice of global supplies to some of its lowest levels**

one of the world's largest trading houses, told reporters on the sidelines of an Abu Dhabi oil conference. "There is a surplus [of oil] building up now."

Those factors have pushed Wall Street in recent months to bet on weak prices ahead, contributing in September to hedge funds' first net-bearish positioning on Brent crude futures on record.

Some in OPEC+ worry that Trump's pledge to "drill, baby, drill" through looser regulation and expedited leasing of federal lands could add to the downward pressure on prices. At the same time, U.S. oil executives and analysts are wary of quickly increasing production the way Trump has promised.

Federal officials project U.S. production will average 13.2 million barrels a day this year—47% higher than Saudi's October output—growing to 13.5 million barrels a day in 2025. One county in New Mexico alone now pumps more crude than the smallest six of OPEC's core 12 members.

Saudi oil minister Abdulaziz bin Salman has at times appeared openly frustrated at the kingdom's waning influence.

Under his watch, OPEC meetings were often canceled or conveyed at the last minute, and often online to avoid leaks. In September, he warned prices could drop to as low as \$50 per barrel if so-called cheaters within OPEC+ didn't stick to agreed-upon production limits. The Wall Street Journal previously reported.

For some analysts, the strategy for Saudi to continue defending the oil price amounts to a long-term gamble on waiting out U.S. shale's projected peak in the coming years.

Meanwhile, keeping OPEC+ together will be crucial "to sustain themselves through what could be a low-price period," said Karen Young, a senior research scholar at the Columbia University Center on Global Energy Policy.

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## अमेरिका ने ईरान को दिया झटका पैंतीस कंपनियों व जहाजों पर प्रतिबंध, भारत की दो कंपनियां भी शामिल



वाशिंगटन, 4 दिसंबर (भाषा)।

अमेरिका ने ईरान के तेल का अन्य देशों में परिवहन करने वाली 35 कंपनियों और जहाजों पर मंगलवार को प्रतिबंध लगा दिया। इनमें भारत की दो कंपनियां भी शामिल हैं।

भारत की जिन दो कंपनियों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है उनमें 'फोनिक्स' का प्रबंधन और संचालन करने वाली 'विजन शिप मैनेजमेंट एलएलपी' और 'टाइटशिप शिपिंग मैनेजमेंट (ओपीसी) प्राइवेट लिमिटेड शामिल हैं। इसके

**अमेरिका अपने सभी संसाधनों और प्राधिकारों का इस्तेमाल कर इन अवैध गतिविधियों को संरक्षण देने वाले जहाजों को रोकने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।**

अलावा, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, चीन, लाइबेरिया, हांगकांग सहित अन्य देशों की कंपनियों और जहाजों पर भी प्रतिबंध लगाए गए हैं। एक बयान में, वित्त विभाग ने कहा कि एक अक्टूबर को इजराइल के खिलाफ ईरान के हमले के बाद की गई यह कार्रवाई तेहरान पर एक और चोट है।

ईरान ने 11 अक्टूबर को लगाए गए प्रतिबंधों के बाद परमाणु कार्यक्रमों को तेज करने की घोषणा की है। आतंकवाद और वित्तीय खुफिया विभाग के कार्यवाहक अवर

**ईरान तेल व्यापार से कमाए पैसे आतंकवादी समूहों पर करता है खर्च**

आतंकवाद और वित्तीय खुफिया विभाग के कार्यवाहक अवर सचिव ब्रेडली टी स्मिथ ने कहा, 'ईरान अपने तेल व्यापार से जो पैसे कमाता है, उसे अपने परमाणु कार्यक्रम, बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल, ड्रोन तकनीक को फैलाने, और अपने क्षेत्रीय आतंकवादी समूहों को समर्थन देने में खर्च करता है। इससे क्षेत्र और भी अस्थिर हो सकता है।' उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि अमेरिका अपने सभी उपकरणों और अधिकारियों का इस्तेमाल करके इन अवैध गतिविधियों को सुविधाजनक बनाने वाले जहाजों और ऑपरेटरों के गुप्त बेड़े को बाधित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। अमेरिका की ओर से लगाए गए प्रतिबंध में भारत के अलावा, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, चीन, लाइबेरिया, हांगकांग सहित अन्य देशों की कंपनियां और जहाजों शामिल हैं, जिन पर भी प्रतिबंध लगाए गए हैं। एक बयान में, वित्त विभाग ने कहा कि एक अक्टूबर को इजराइल के खिलाफ ईरान के हमले के बाद की गई यह कार्रवाई तेहरान पर एक और चोट है।

सचिव ब्रेडली टी स्मिथ ने कहा, 'ईरान अपने पेट्रोलियम व्यापार से होने वाले राजस्व को परमाणु कार्यक्रम, बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल और ड्रोन के प्रसार तथा आतंकवादियों पर खर्च कर रहा है, जिससे क्षेत्र में और अधिक अस्थिरता पैदा होने का खतरा है।' उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिका अपने सभी संसाधनों और प्राधिकारों का इस्तेमाल कर इन अवैध गतिविधियों को संरक्षण देने वाले जहाजों को रोकने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।



## यूएस ने ईरानी तेल व्यापार से जुड़ी 35 कंपनियां बैन की

**वाशिंगटन, (भाषा):** अमेरिका ने ईरान के तेल का अन्य देशों में परिवहन करने वाली 35 कंपनियों और जहाजों पर मंगलवार को प्रतिबंध लगा दिया। इनमें भारत की दो कंपनियां भी शामिल हैं।

भारत की जिन दो कंपनियों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है उनमें 'फोनिक्स' का प्रबंधन और संचालन करने वाली 'विजन शिप मैनेजमेंट एलएलपी' और 'टाइटशिप शिपिंग मैनेजमेंट (ओपीसी) प्राइवेट लिमिटेड शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, चीन, लाइबेरिया, हांगकांग सहित अन्य देशों की कंपनियों और जहाजों पर भी

- इनमें भारत की दो कंपनियां भी शामिल
- कहा- ईरान परमाणु कार्यक्रमों में कर रहा तेल से होने वाली आय का इस्तेमाल

प्रतिबंध लगाए गए हैं। एक बयान में, वित्त विभाग ने कहा कि एक अक्टूबर को इजराइल के खिलाफ ईरान के हमले के बाद की गई यह कार्रवाई तेहरान पर एक और चोट है। ईरान ने 11 अक्टूबर को लगाए गए प्रतिबंधों के बाद परमाणु

कार्यक्रमों को तेज करने की घोषणा की है। आतंकवाद और वित्तीय खुफिया विभाग के कार्यवाहक अवर सचिव ब्रैंडली टी स्मिथ ने कहा, 'ईरान अपने पेट्रोलियम व्यापार से होने वाले राजस्व को परमाणु कार्यक्रम, बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल और ड्रोन के प्रसार तथा आतंकवादियों पर खर्च कर रहा है, जिससे क्षेत्र में और अधिक अस्थिरता पैदा होने का खतरा है।' उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिका अपने सभी संसाधनों और प्राधिकारों का इस्तेमाल कर इन अवैध गतिविधियों को संरक्षण देने वाले जहाजों को रोकने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।