

ओएनजीसी ने दिखाया नेट जीरो लक्ष्य का खाका

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती
नई दिल्ली, 9 जुलाई

देश की सबसे बड़ी तेल एवं गैस उत्पादक कंपनी ओएनजीसी ने नेट जीरो उत्सर्जन की रूपरेखा के तहत कंपनी 2038 तक 90 लाख टन कार्बन डाई ऑक्साइड के बराबर उत्सर्जन घटाने की योजना की आज घोषणा की। इस योजना को अंजाम देने के लिए कंपनी कुल 2 लाख करोड़ रुपये खर्च करेगी। इसके साथ ही ओएनजीसी एक तय समय अवधि में ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन को कम करने के लिए विस्तृत रूपरेखा तैयार करने वाली देश की पहली जीवाश्म ईंधन कंपनी बन गई है।

नेट जीरो ट्रेकर पोर्टल के अनुसार सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की अन्य कंपनियां जैसे इंडियन ऑयल, भारतीयरेल और कोल इंडिया ने भी नेट जीरो लक्ष्यों की घोषणा की है मगर उन्होंने अभी तक विस्तृत योजना या रूपरेखा जारी नहीं की है।

200 पृष्ठों के 'डीकार्बनाइजेशन रोडमैप' में कंपनी ने कहा है कि उसने वित्त वर्ष 2030 तक 3.80 गीगावाट नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा उत्पादन क्षमता स्थापित करने का लक्ष्य रखा है। इसके तहत महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, आंध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु और असम में पवन ऊर्जा और छोटे जलविद्युत संयंत्र लगाए जाएंगे। वित्त वर्ष 2038 तक कंपनी की नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा उत्पादन क्षमता 6.03 गीगावाट हो जाएगी और कंपनी मौजूदा प्राकृतिक गैस और ग्रिड बिजली का इस्तेमाल नहीं करेगी।

कंपनी ने इस योजना पर निवेश का भी पूरा ब्योरा दिया है। इन परियोजनाओं पर 2030 तक 97,000 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए जाएंगे और 2035 में 65,000 करोड़ रुपये तथा 2038 में 38,000 करोड़ रुपये का अतिरिक्त निवेश

किया जाएगा। 2 लाख करोड़ रुपये के पूंजीगत खर्च में 80,000 करोड़ रुपये ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन पर और ऑफशोर पवन ऊर्जा पर 49,000 करोड़ रुपये और ऑनशोर पवन एवं सौर ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं पर 30,000 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए जाएंगे।

इस योजना से ओएनजीसी को 90 लाख टन कार्बन डाई ऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन घटाने में मदद मिलेगी। इसमें स्कोप 1 उत्सर्जन या कंपनी के नियंत्रण में आने वाला प्रत्यक्ष उत्सर्जन और स्कोप 2 या परोक्ष उत्सर्जन जो बिजली की खरीद, कूलिंग आदि से जुड़ी है में कमी आएगी।

ओएनजीसी का लक्ष्य वित्त वर्ष 2038 तक अतिरिक्त 2.43 करोड़ टन कार्बन डाई ऑक्साइड का उत्सर्जन घटाना है, जो कंपनी के अन्य साझेदारों गैल और आईओसीएल पर निर्भर करेगा। ये कंपनियां ओएनजीसी के उत्पादों का प्रसंस्करण करती हैं और कुल उत्सर्जन में 91 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी इनकी ही है।

नई तकनीक अपनाएगी कंपनी

ओएनजीसी ने अपनी रूपरेखा में नई तकनीक जैसे कार्बन कैप्चर, उपयोगित और भंडारण, बैटरी स्टोरेज प्रणाली एवं इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों को अपनाना शामिल है। कंपनी कंप्रेस्ड बायोगैस की खपत बढ़ाएगी और ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन की क्षमता में भी इजाफा करेगी।

कंपनी ने आंतरिक कार्बन मूल्य निर्धारण लागू करने की भी योजना बनाई है।

ओएनजीसी रोजाना 12.6 लाख बैरल के बराबर तेल का उत्पादन करती है, जो देश के कुल घरेलू उत्पादन का करीब 71 फीसदी है। ओएनजीसी ने वित्त वर्ष 2024 में 20.64 अरब घन मीटर प्राकृतिक गैस और 2.11 करोड़ टन तेल का उत्पादन किया था।



2038 तक नेट जीरो की कार्ययोजना

- वित्त वर्ष 2030 तक 97,000 करोड़ रुपये और वित्त वर्ष 35 में 65,000 करोड़ रुपये और वित्त वर्ष 2038 में 38,000 करोड़ रुपये का होगा निवेश
- 7 गीगावाट की सोलर और पवन ऊर्जा परियोजना लगेगी
- 25 कंप्रेस्ड बायोगैस संयंत्र लगाना
- 3 गीगावाट क्षमता का पंप स्टोरेज
- 360 किलो टन सालाना क्षमता की ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन इकाई

Divestment, Dividend Targets for FY25 likely to be Retained

Interim budget presented in February had pegged disinvestment and asset monetisation target at ₹50,000 crore and dividend receipt at ₹48,000 crore

Banikinkar Pattanayak

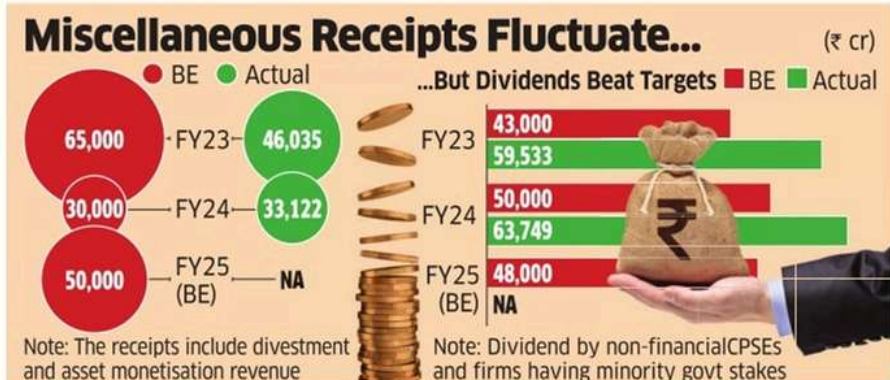
New Delhi: The government is unlikely to alter, in the full budget, its revenue mop-up target of close to ₹1 lakh crore for FY25 from disinvestment & asset monetisation, and dividends from non-financial central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), senior officials said.

In a rare move, the interim budget in February clubbed the government's disinvestment and asset monetisation targets under the 'miscellaneous capital receipts' head, instead of declaring them separately. The combined realisation for this fiscal was pegged at ₹50,000 crore, against the curtailed FY24 revised estimate of ₹30,000 crore.

Another ₹48,000 crore was to come as dividend from the non-financial CPSEs and entities in which the government holds minority stakes.

While actual dividend collections beat initial estimates for a third straight year through FY24 and analysts expect another good year for CPSEs, the government may not raise this target from the interim budget level, one of the officials told ET.

"The idea is not to present estimates that will fall short of actual realisations and upset resource allocation plans," he said. However, a final call, especially on the precise asset monetisation target, will be taken closer to the budget, which will be presented on July 23. The government's disinvestment proceeds totalled ₹16,507 crore and asset monetisation fet-



ched around ₹16,000 crore, beating the combined revised target of ₹30,000 crore for FY24. Dividend collections from the CPSEs and other entities also rose to a fresh peak of ₹63,749 crore in FY24, according to the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)

data. The FY24 dividend revenue was about 27.5% higher than the revised estimate of ₹50,000 crore,

suggesting strong performance by state-run firms across sectors. As for this fiscal, the government has raked in ₹4,918 crore in such dividends so far. It now expects to conclude the privatisation of IDBI Bank and divest stake in Shipping Corporation of India and NMDC Steel, among others, in FY25. This will help it boost its divestment revenue. In a report, analysts at CareEdge Ratings said: "With

a bumper dividend from the RBI (₹2.11 lakh crore), the central government's fiscal position remains comfortable, which may limit the urgency to push hard on divestments". As such, the combined divestment and asset monetisation target accounts for just 1.6% of the government's budgeted non-debt receipts for FY25. It signals the government's diminishing reliance on such revenue to finance its fiscal deficit.

The CareEdge analysts have, however, estimated a huge divestment potential of about ₹11.5 lakh crore at current market capitalisation, assuming the government maintains at least a 51% stake in public firms and offloads excess shares.

DIPAM secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey had earlier told ET that setting a high annual divestment target would potentially create an "overhang in the market" and could be detrimental to the value creation strategy of the CPSEs concerned. So, the government would follow a "calibrated divestment strategy", he said.



Don't Slip Up on Oil Payment Imbalance

Iran, China can be entry points for Russian crude

A key issue in the India-Russia dialogue is a payment mechanism for oil. Trade between the two countries has become lopsided after India stepped up its purchase of Ural crude following a Western blockade of Russia's energy exports. Some of the oil purchases are in local currency. But it leads to a stranding of Russian oil exporters' revenue. This situation can't continue indefinitely, and the two nations must arrive at a workaround. Combining two solutions could lead to an acceptable outcome for both sides. One, find a currency to bypass the sanctions on dollar trade. Two, allow more significant cross-border investments to balance payments. Neither solution is easy nor complete.

The obvious peg for an exchange rate mechanism is the yuan. Russia's oil exports to China are better balanced by merchandise imports, and the yuan can serve as a medium of exchange. However, India runs up an even



bigger trade deficit with China than it does with Russia. From India's standpoint, the yuan has limitations as a market-clearing mechanism. Trying to balance payments through cross-border investments typically involves greater downstream energy investments in refining and distribution by

Russian firms and upstream investments by Indian firms in exploration and production. This option will pull New Delhi into a closer strategic relationship with Moscow and could face pushback from the West. Even Beijing may have concerns over India's access to Russian energy sources. China is the biggest buyer of Russian oil, which ships easily across their common land border.

Yet, Moscow will have to redraw exports as Europe reduces its reliance on Russian gas. This provides India with an opportunity to push its strategic interests for an overland trade route through Iran and a maritime route through Chinese ports. India can leverage Russia's relative proximity to China as leverage with a strategic competitor. India should ideally become more secure once the world energy market finds a new equilibrium.

Europe Guzzles India's Diesel, Again

Fuel shipments to continent rise four times in June as overall exports decline 4%

Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: India's diesel exports to Europe surged fourfold in June over the previous month as refiners profited from better margins available in the continent.

Indian refiners exported 119,400 barrels per day of diesel to Europe in June, up from 24,500 barrels per day in May, according to energy cargo tracker Vortexa. However, India's overall diesel exports fell 4% to 482,400 barrels per day.

Europe alone received a quarter of India's diesel shipments. Supplies to Asia fell 10% to 107,800 barrels per day last month, with nearly 30% cut seen



ISTOCK

in shipments to other markets including Africa.

"India's diesel exports to Europe rebounded in June on impro-

DESTINATION: EUROPE

Indian refiners serve both East & West. Demand, price arbitrage mostly decide destination for the fuel cargoes

ved arbitrage economics to the West, and weaker margins to Asia," said Serena Huang, an analyst at Vortexa.

Overall refined products exports fell 5% in June over the previous month to 1.19 million barrels per day. Europe received 17% of Indian supplies while Asia got 27%.

Indian refiners serve both East and the West, mainly offering diesel, petrol and jet fuel. Demand and price arbitrage in different geographies mostly decide the destination for Indian fuel cargoes. Reliance Industries and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy are the two biggest exporters of diesel.

Indian refiners earned revenues of \$29 billion from diesel exports in 2022-23 as prices spiraled after the Ukraine war. As markets calmed, realisations fell to \$22 billion in FY24. The Ukraine war forced Europe to cut dependence on Russian diesel supplies. Supplies from the Middle East, the US, and India have replaced much of Europe's imports from Russia.

EXECUTION RIGOUR, CRISIS MANAGEMENT SKILLS IN FOCUS

Fit and Disciplined, Ex-servicemen Give India Inc New Edge

RIL, Maruti, ONGC among cos hiring veterans as it helps them meet talent needs in certain areas

Sagar Malviya & Rica Bhattacharyya

Mumbai: An increasing number of large conglomerates and top companies in India are tapping the talent pool of ex-service personnel as they embark upon the next phase of growth.

Reliance Industries hired nearly 2,000 ex-service personnel in FY24, up by a third in one year. At 7,500, it employs the largest number of former defence forces personnel in any Indian company. According to industry sources, several Tata Group companies, automakers such as Maruti Suzuki, and others like the Adani Group, RPG Group, Vedanta, Sodexo and state-run ONGC hire ex-service personnel.

Such employees not only bring unique value through their high level of fitness and discipline, but also execution rigour and crisis management skills, and fortitude to serve in difficult areas and terrains, said a Reliance executive. They also bring an ability to perform in a volatile and uncertain environment, he added.

In FY24, natural resources group Vedanta launched a structured initiative to onboard ex-defence service veterans, instead of the earlier practice of hiring them on a need basis, chief HR officer Madhu Srivastava said. An estimated 55,000-60,000 personnel retire every year from the three services: army, navy and air force. Also, many officers who are superseded when they are 50 plus quit the forces, with a large majority moving to the corporate sector.

“The armed forces have a very steep pyramid and about 30% officers in each rank get superseded and many quit. Large Indian corporates, the likes of Reliance, Adani, L&T, Tatas, hire them in functions such as HR, admin, supply chain, strategy roles, among others,” said Commodore Sudheer Parakala, chief mentor and past president of the Tri-services Ex-servicemen Welfare Association. Of the Asoldiers who retire every year, officers number 1,200-1,300, or around 2%, and the rest are junior commis-

A Top Salute

RIL

Hired **2,000** ex-service personnel in **FY24**, up by a third in a year

Vedanta

In **FY24**, launched structured initiative to onboard ex-defence service veterans

ONGC

Gives relaxation of 5 years to ex-servicemen in executive hiring as per guidelines



VIJAY P

sioned officers and other ranks, he said. Tapping the pool of veterans not only adds to the diversity of the workforce but also helps meet shortage of skills in certain areas, company executives said.

“Ex-servicemen carry several unique skills during their years of work in our defence organisation. Also, they develop very unique capabilities in terms of their approach to problem solving, working in teams, managing multiple stakeholders and project management,” said Aditya Narayan Mishra, chief executive of Ciel HR, which has placed many ex-service personnel with large Indian companies. “We see large employers such as the Tata Group, Aditya Birla Group, Reliance, L&T, Vedanta Group, among others, recruiting such talent from time to time.”

Army veterans are also appointed in logistics, ecommerce, and warehouse industries as they excel in managing crises and their ability to execute is seen to be very high. Sectors such as automobile, manufacturing, power, telecom, logistics and warehouse, are among the ones that appoint defence veterans in areas of engineering, machining, administration, among others.

Sodexo, the world’s largest food and facility management company, hires professionals with armed forces background — many of whom are in leadership roles, spearheading profit centres and as heads at supervisory level.



Gas plan caught in regulatory minefield

New Delhi's ambitious targets to clean its air by decarbonising energy sector will be underpinned by its success in building nascent natural gas segment



S DINAKAR
New Delhi, 9 July

If India is serious about more than doubling the share of natural gas in the country's energy mix by 2030, justifying the billions of dollars of investments being made by the state in a national gas grid, and charting a path towards less polluting fuels, then it needs to review recent actions that threaten to shackle the gas industry and impact energy security.

New Delhi's ambitious targets to clean its air by decarbonising its energy sector will be underpinned by its success in building its nascent natural gas segment — rarely has any large nation directly made the leap from coal to renewables. The road to net zero passes through the gas grids.

However, less than 6 per cent of India's energy mix comes from gas, and a majority from coal — in contrast to over 35 per cent for gas in the US energy mix and 20 per cent in China.

Given the long road ahead, one would expect the government to expand reforms to bring transparency to the gas market. But, on the contrary, since the pandemic, New Delhi has increased its oversight of the gas business, either directly or via regulation.

The pushback against market

reforms began in early 2023 after global gas rates rose, prompting New Delhi to cap domestic prices, hurting investor interest in upstream — the closing date for bids for India's ninth petroleum bidding round has been postponed repeatedly, the latest to August, due to lack of interest, industry officials said. Regulatory actions this year have transmitted conflicting signals to investors in city gas pipelines and LNG import terminals.

Taken together, it is a red flag for investments in new LNG facilities and other gas downstream businesses — less than \$100 million in overseas investments was made into the entire oil and gas sector last fiscal. India imports around 45 per cent of its daily gas needs — around 190 million cubic meters per day — as LNG.

The latest bout of interference emerged from the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), a regulator of pipelines. PNGRB has sought comments from stakeholders on plans to register new LNG terminals and grant permissions for additions to LNG capacity.

"Regulation is required where you give out a monopoly, say like product pipelines," said Prashant Vasisht, vice president & co-head corporate ratings at Icra, a US Moody's affiliate.

"There's open competition in LNG terminals," he added.

PNGRB's contention is that by regulating expansion, it will ensure utilisation of existing LNG import capacity, which is currently underutilised. After excluding Petronet LNG's Dahej terminal, the country's biggest import facility, throughput in fiscal 2023-24 at India's six LNG import facilities was below 30 per cent.

The 17.5 million-tons-a-year Dahej operates at full capacity.

The regulator may have a point as far as utilisation numbers go: Usage in fiscal 2023-24 ranged from 17 per cent to 95 per cent despite a 17 per cent

surge in LNG imports.

But the question remains if PNGRB's interference is warranted or can the market take care of itself. It is unclear if PNGRB has the right to regulate LNG import terminals, two Mumbai-based senior industry officials said. PNGRB did not reply to a mail seeking comments.

Moreover, the draft rules impose onerous regulations on new facilities by introducing layers of bureaucratic oversight. The draft regulations state that the PNGRB must approve new facilities or capacity additions. Promoters must submit a feasibility report and a gas evacuation plan.

The project must have a certification of registration from PNGRB before starting development and developers would need to publicly disclose their regasification tariffs and other levies. Any commissioning delays would invite penalties.

The draft regulations impose fresh costs in the form of a "performance bank guarantee" that amounts to the lower of either 1 per cent of the project cost or ₹250 million (\$3 million).

The attempt to regulate LNG import activity is the second in as many years, a Delhi-based analyst said.

The proposed regulations reflect that investments in the gas business will be subject to greater scrutiny — at a time when an impending glut in LNG production by 2026 may send prices of the fuel lower and affordable for Indian buyers.

India plans to add at least 25 million tons per year of LNG import capacity in the next few years to increase the role of the fuel in the country's energy mix.

Moves to rein in LNG terminal construction come little over a year after New Delhi reintroduced price controls

on a majority of domestic gas supplies, ostensibly to prevent CNG rates from rising. The peg for the formula to calculate domestic gas prices was changed to oil from a cocktail of global gas benchmarks, accompanied by a \$6.5 per million British thermal units cap. Explorers get paid less, hurting investments in upstream and by consequence the country's energy security.

In addition, last month, PNGRB withdrew notices — issued to city gas utilities to open up access to distribution networks to third parties after the expiry of several city gas licences, including lucrative ones in Delhi, Mumbai and parts of Gujarat — closing the doors on competition.

When these areas were awarded, the rules on common carrier were not clearly defined and that led to protracted litigation, said Swamendu Bhushan, co-head institutional equities of Mumbai-based brokerage Prabhudas Lilladher.

Some say that issues with regulation may have to do with an understaffed regulator. In the last few years, PNGRB has functioned with a diminished board strength, complicating matters for the industry. Introduction of contracts for small scale LNG on the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) was delayed by several months because of delays in approvals, industry officials said.

Plans to introduce longer-duration regasified LNG contracts are also pending with PNGRB.

The regulator is typically short of senior staff, delaying approvals, two Mumbai-based market participants said. The board is still short of a member with legal expertise, and the chairman's post was vacant for over a year, government data showed.

Less than 6 per cent of India's energy mix comes from gas, and a majority from coal — in contrast to over 35 per cent for gas in the US energy mix and 20 per cent in China

UNDERSCORING IMMENSE POTENTIAL

'Green Energy may Power Industries' In-house Demand'

Eversource CEO says global climate policy may accelerate this shift in captive power

Mohit Bhalla

New Delhi: India's captive industrial power consumption could be replaced with renewable energy, unlocking potential for further investments in the sector, said Dhanpal Jhaveri, chief executive at Eversource, a green energy investment platform. "The industrial captive power consumption is around 90 gigawatts and it's all fossil fuels. That explains the potential," Jhaveri told ET.

Eversource is a partnership between Singapore-based private equity firm Everstone and Light-source BP, a related undertaking of British energy giant BP.

Jhaveri highlighted that the shift towards renewable energy for captive industrial consumption could be further stimulated by global policies aimed at combating climate change such as imposition of taxes on companies having a large carbon footprint.

"The European Union is set to impose taxes on industrial companies that export into their region if they have a carbon footprint. This is why we are seeing a move towards green steel, for instance, amongst Indian companies," Jhaveri said.

Industrial conglomerates such as ArcelorMittal, JSPL, JSW and



Industrial captive power demand is around 90 gigawatts and it's all fossil fuels, says Eversource CEO Dhanpal Jhaveri

Vedanta have started investing or co-investing with power developers to create captive sources of renewable energy for meeting in-house power demand. This will help them showcase efforts in aligning production with global steps to tackle climate change.

Eversource raised \$741 million through its maiden fund in 2022 from investors such as NIIF and British International Investment. This was the largest fund for India-focused investments in climate friendly businesses at the time.

Eversource is an investor in companies operating in areas of renewable energy generation, electric vehicle fleet management, waste management and water management, among others.

"In India, the need to replace base load demand from coal to renewable sources could also drive investments in the sector," Jhaveri said.

UNDER PLI SCHEME...

H₂GO: India-made Electrolysers Set for an Early Start

En Route the Clean-up

Why Electrolysers?

Core equipment for producing green H₂

This clean fuel is crucial for decarbonising industries

India currently imports electrolysers



Manufacturer under PLI scheme	Capacity (MW)	Electrolyser type
BUCKET 1 (Manufacturing using any tech)		
Reliance Electrolyser	300	Alkaline
John Cockerill Greenko	300	Alkaline
L&T Electrolysers	300	Alkaline
Ohmium Operations	137	PEM
Advait Infratech	100	Alkaline
Matrix Gas	63	Alkaline
Total	1,200	
BUCKET 2 (Manufacturing using local tech)		
Adani New Industries	198.5	Alkaline
homiHydrogen	101.5	AMSE/Solid Oxide
Total	300	

Source: Companies

Reliance, Adani, L&T and John Cockerill will commission factories next year

Kalpana Pathak

Mumbai: Over half the eight companies that won bids in January for electrolyser manufacturing under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, have conveyed to the government that they will be able to commission their units by next year, ahead of the 2026 deadline, said people aware of the development.

This will be a boost to India's green ambitions as electrolysers are essential for green hydrogen production.

John Cockerill Greenko Hydrogen, L&T Electrolysers, Reliance Electrolyser Manufacturing and Adani New Industries see their manufacturing units ready by 2025.

"Most of the allottees will be able to commission their facili-

ties much ahead of the deadline and have conveyed this to the government," said a senior government official. Jindal India, Ohmium Operations, Advait Infratech and homiHydrogen are others that won bids.

Companies mentioned above didn't respond to queries.

Electrolysers split water into oxygen and hydrogen using electricity — a process known as electrolysis. Green hydrogen is a gas made by electrolysers using power from renewable energy sources and is essential for decarbonising industries.

Currently, India is reliant on the global market to source electrolysers for its green hydrogen projects. To counter this, as well as reduce the cost of green hydrogen production, the Solar Energy Corporation of India, in July 2023, issued a request for selection of electrolyser manufacturers to set up 1.5 gigawatts (GW) of capacity.

Prior Tie-ups >>> 11

Scheme expected to lower the price of electrolysers to \$564-570/kW in India

Prior Tie-ups

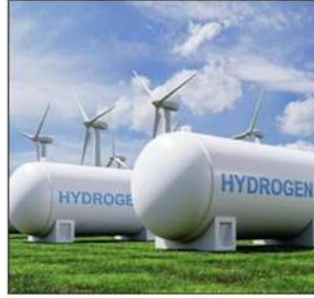
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Industry players said the current price of an electrolyser in the global market is \$600 (₹50,000) per kilowatt (kW). Through the PLI scheme, this price will be brought down to \$564-570 (₹47,000) in India. However, an electrolyser in China is still cheaper at \$400 (₹33,000) per kW.

“Electrolyser manufacturers are projected to achieve a 7-10% reduction in total system costs for the first five years, with ₹2,960/kW (\$36/kW) being the average annual realisable base incentive,” according to a report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

“Most of us who won the bids had prior tie-ups with electrolyser technology companies,” said an executive at one of the participating companies. “Some had even secured technology licence agreements before participating in the tender, so we will be able to launch our electrolysers before the deadline.”

While Greenko partnered with John Cockerill, a global leader in electrolyser manufacturing, Reliance Industries partnered with Danish company Stiesdal for the development and manufacturing of hydrogen electrolysers. Reliance has also entered into a technology licen-



FILE PHOTO

ing agreement with Norway's Nel ASA for its alkaline electrolysers in India.

L&T commissioned its first indigenously manufactured hydrogen electrolyser at the green hydrogen plant in Hazira, Gujarat on March 1. With a power capacity of 1 MW (expandable to 2 MW), the electrolyser is equipped with two stacks and an electrolyser processing unit that's indigenously manufactured and assembled. The company used alkaline electrolyser technology from McPhy Energy, France.

Adani New Industries has tied up with multiple technology partners to build its facility. Ohmium has been operating an electrolyser manufacturing plant since 2021. “With lower cost of electrolysers and India's low-cost renewable electricity, India's green hydrogen production could become competitive with other fuels,” said the company official cited above.

Let Them Bid

Fancy number plates are fun. More seriously, auctions are best way to allocate scarce national resources

Delhi's transport department is raking it in. Its auction for the coveted 0001 vehicle licence plate in March fetched a staggering ₹23.4L. Figures for other fancy registration numbers are almost as impressive. It's time Trai took the cue and sought its pound of flesh from telcos for vanity numbers they have been auctioning.

Auctions make things fair | But auctions do far more than just feed vanities of the rich. They have emerged as the best form of allocation of precious resources for the state. Efficiency and probity are not characteristics we regularly associate with govts. Remember 2G scam? The flawed manner in which telecom licences were handed



out by UPA govt led to SC mandating in 2012 auctions for spectrum allocation. By providing a level playing field, auction of scarce resources maximises revenue for the state, ensures profits for winners and benefits consumers, who gain from private investment and tech upgrade.

Process all-important | But they must be done right. Auction theory has fetched several individuals Nobel prizes. What the 2020 laureates, Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson, said is most important. How auctions are designed is critical to bidding outcomes. Symmetry of info among bidders is another pre-requisite for a fair process. For, there is always the danger of "winner's curse", or a successful bidder overpaying, which can hurt the sector.

Besides telecom, sectors like mineral and oil & gas have seen auctions in India, with some notable results. To take one example, the biggest gas find in India, KG-D6, happened after bidding was introduced under NELP in 1999.

It's true every public good cannot and should not be auctioned. But even for those that can, the state can keep social considerations in mind while hammering out terms and conditions for successful bidders. It is the owner of the resource, after all.



MoPNG clarifies Biometric Aadhaar authentication for LPG consumers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: On Tuesday, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) clarified Biometric Aadhaar authentication for LPG consumers.

The ministry highlighted that Aadhaar-based authentication for Direct Benefit Transfer schemes facilitates accurate, real-time, and cost-effective identification, authentication, and beneficiary de-duplication, ensuring targeted benefits delivery.

According to the Standard Operating Procedure of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), biometric authentication is a prerequisite for applying for a new connection.

During the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camps, many biometric Aadhaar authentica-

tions (over 3.5 million PMUY beneficiaries) were successfully conducted.

These authentication activities are part of ongoing LPG safety inspections and camps.

To further enhance consumer authentication, the MoPNG issued directives in October 2023 to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication for PMUY and PAHAL beneficiaries.

OMCs have been diligently implementing these processes, with more than 55 per cent of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries having already completed their biometric Aadhaar authentication.

The ministry also clarified that no services or benefits have been stopped for consumers who have not completed their biometric authentication.

Domestic LPG consumers can complete the biometric Aadhaar authentication during LPG cylinder deliveries by requesting the delivery personnel to conduct the authentication. Customers can visit their LPG distributor showrooms at their convenience.

OMCs also provide mobile applications that enable customers to complete the authentication process independently.

IOCL App- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cx.indianoil.in>

BPCL App- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cgt.bharatgas>

HPCL App- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.drivetrackplusrefuel>

For any assistance, LPG consumers can contact on Toll-free number: 1800 2333 555

ONGC plans ₹2L-cr renewables spend

**MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
WITH AGENCY INPUTS
NEW DELHI, JULY 9**

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Tuesday said that it would invest about ₹2 lakh crore in setting up renewable energy sites and green hydrogen plants and cutting gas flaring to zero by 2038 in its carbon emission target.

The company also listed clean energy projects even as it looks to boost its hydrocarbon output to



meet India's energy needs.

"ONGC will invest ₹97,000 crore by 2030 in setting up 5 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity, green hydrogen, biogas, pump storage plant and offshore wind project. Another ₹65,500 cr

will be invested by 2035, mostly in a green hydrogen plant, and the remaining ₹38,000 crore by 2038, primarily in setting up 1-GW of offshore wind projects," the company said.

These projects, it said, will help the firm offset 9 million tonnes of carbon emissions it is directly (Scope-1 emissions) or indirectly (Scope-2 emissions) responsible for.

"ONGC will invest ₹5,000 crore to cut gas flaring to zero by 2030 through technological intervention. It

will also spend ₹30,000 crore in setting up 5-GW solar parks. It will add 1-GW of solar and onshore wind capacity by 2035 and 2038 at a cost of ₹5,000 crore each," it said.

ONGC will invest ₹40,000 crore by 2030 and an equal amount by 2035 to set up two 1,80,000 tonnes per annum green hydrogen and/or 1 million tonnes of green ammonia projects.

It is also looking at investing ₹20,000 crore for setting up 3 GW of pump storage plants.

ONGC plans ₹2 tn investment to meet its 2038 net-zero target

PTI

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NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will invest about ₹2 trillion to set up renewable energy sites and green hydrogen plants and cutting gas flaring to zero to achieve its 2038 net-zero carbon emission goal.

The company, which produces about two-thirds of India's crude oil and about 58% of natural gas, on Tuesday released a 200-page document, detailing its path to achieving net zero emissions.

It listed clean energy projects even as it looks to boost its hydrocarbon output to meet the country's energy needs.

ONGC will invest ₹97,000 crore by 2030 to set up 5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity, green hydrogen, biogas, pump storage plant and offshore wind project, according to the document.

Another ₹65,500 crore will be invested by 2035, mostly in a green hydrogen or green ammonia plant, and the



ONGC will add 1GW of solar and onshore wind capacity by 2035 and 2038, respectively.

remaining ₹38,000 crore by 2038, primarily in setting up 1GW of offshore wind projects.

These projects will help the firm offset 9 million tonnes of carbon emissions it is directly (Scope-1 emissions) or indirectly (Scope-2 emissions) responsible for.

ONGC said it will invest ₹5,000 crore to cut gas flaring to zero by 2030 through technological intervention.

The firm released into the atmosphere 554 million cubic metres of methane in 2021-22 (base year), mostly because it was an incidental byproduct of oil or the quantity was not eco-

nomical enough to pipe it to consumers.

ONGC will spend ₹30,000 crore in setting up 5 GW solar parks that will convert sunlight into electricity and turbines that will do the same with wind energy. It will add 1GW of solar and onshore wind capacity by 2035 and 2038, respectively, at a cost of ₹5,000 crore each.

It will invest ₹40,000 crore by 2030 and a similar amount by 2035 to set up two 180,000 tonnes per annum green hydrogen and/or 1 million tonnes of green ammonia projects.

ONGC, which has installations in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal to produce oil and gas from below the seabed, is also looking at installing offshore wind turbines to generate 0.5GW of electricity by 2030 and double it by 2035. The first 0.5GW offshore wind project is likely to cost ₹12,500 crore and the next about ₹12,000 crore. By 2038, it will add another 1GW of offshore wind energy capacity at an investment of ₹25,000 crore, the document said.

ONGC plans to invest ₹2 trillion in green sites

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 9

STATE-OWNED OIL AND Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will invest about ₹2 trillion in setting up renewable energy sites and green hydrogen plants and cutting gas flaring to zero to achieve its 2038 net-zero carbon emission goal.

The company, which produces about two-thirds of crude oil and about 58% of natural gas, on Tuesday released a document, detailing its path to achieving net zero emissions. It listed clean energy projects even as it looks to boost its hydrocarbon output to meet the country's energy needs.

ONGC will invest ₹97,000 crore by 2030 in setting up 5 GW of renewable energy capacity, green hydrogen, biogas, pump storage plant and off-shore wind project, according to the document.

ONGC to invest ₹2 lakh cr to meet net zero emission target

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will invest about Rs 2 lakh crore in setting up renewable energy sites and green hydrogen plants and cutting gas flaring to zero to achieve its 2038 net-zero carbon emission goal.

The company, which produces about two-thirds of India's crude oil and about 58 per cent of natural gas, on Tuesday released a 200-page document, detailing its path to achieving net zero emissions.

It listed clean energy projects even as it looks to boost its hydrocarbon output to meet the country's energy needs. ONGC will invest Rs 97,000 crore by 2030 in setting up 5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity, green hydrogen, biogas, pump storage plant and offshore



wind project, according to the document. Another Rs 65,500 crore will be invested by 2035, mostly in a green hydrogen or green ammonia plant, and the remaining Rs 38,000 crore by 2038, primarily in setting up 1 GW of offshore wind projects. These projects will help the firm offset 9 million tonnes

of carbon emissions it is directly (Scope-1 emissions) or indirectly (Scope-2 emissions) responsible for. ONGC said it will invest Rs 5,000 crore to cut gas flaring to zero by 2030 through technological intervention. The firm released into the atmosphere 554 million cubic metres of methane in

2021-22 (base year), mostly because it was an incidental by-product of oil or the quantity was not economical enough to pipe it to consumers.

ONGC will spend Rs 30,000 crore in setting up 5 GW solar parks that will convert sunlight into electricity and turbines that will do the same with wind energy. It will add 1 GW of solar and onshore wind capacity by 2035 and 2038 at a cost of Rs 5,000 crore each.

It will invest Rs 40,000 crore by 2030 and a similar amount by 2035 to set up two 1,80,000 tonnes per annum green hydrogen and/or 1 million tonnes of green ammonia projects.

ONGC, which has installations in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal to produce oil and gas from below the seabed, is also looking at installing offshore wind turbines to generate

0.5 GW of electricity by 2030 and double it by 2035. The first 0.5 GW offshore wind project is likely to cost Rs 12,500 crore and the next about Rs 12,000 crore.

By 2038, it will add another 1 GW of offshore wind energy capacity at an investment of Rs 25,000 crore, the document said.

The company is also looking at investing Rs 20,000 crore for setting up 3 GW of pump storage plants to meet electricity requirements when renewable sources like sunlight and wind energy are not available. The remaining investment will be in biogas, carbon capture and other clean energy projects. All this while it continues to hunt and produce more oil and gas.

Crude oil, which companies like ONGC pump out from below the seabed and from underground reservoirs, is a primary source of energy. It

is processed in oil refineries to produce petrol, diesel and jet fuel. With the world looking to transition away from fossil fuels, companies around the globe are looking at new avenues to use crude oil.

Gas produced in a similar fashion is used to generate electricity, produce fertiliser or convert into CNG to power automobiles or into PNG to fire kitchen stoves.

Scope 1 emissions are from directly emitting sources that are owned or controlled by a company. Scope 2 emissions are from the consumption of purchased electricity, steam, or other sources of energy generated upstream from a company's direct operations.

ONGC produced 21.14 million tonnes of oil in 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024) and 20.648 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas.



ONGC to invest ₹2 lakh crore for net-zero target

New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation will invest about Rs 2 lakh crore to set up renewable energy sites and green hydrogen plants to meet net-zero carbon emission goal. **PTI**



ONGC to invest ₹2 lakh crore to meet net zero emission target

Press Trust of India

New Delhi

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will invest about ₹2 lakh crore for setting up renewable energy sites and green hydrogen plants and cutting gas flaring to zero to achieve its 2038 net-zero carbon emission goal.

The company, which produces about two-thirds of India's crude oil and about 58 per cent of natural gas, on Tuesday released a 200-page document, detailing its path to achieving net zero emissions.

It listed clean energy projects even as it looks to boost its hydrocarbon output to meet the country's energy needs. ONGC will invest ₹97,000 crore by 2030 to set up 5 GW of renewable energy capacity, green hydrogen, biogas, pump storage plant and offshore wind project, according to the document.

PM indicates import of fertilisers & crude oil unlikely to stop

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In a clear indication of India continuing import of fertiliser and crude from Russia, PM Modi said Tuesday that the India-Russia friendship ensured farmers faced no shortage of the soil nutrient and protect the common man from difficulties.

PM said the bilateral cooperation has played a huge role in ensuring adequate availability of fertiliser and “we are committed to the interest of farmers”. Russia emerged as a major supplier of fertiliser to India with the import increasing by more than 300% in the past three years—from 1.26 MT in 2021-22 to 5.23 MT in 2023-24. In value terms, the fertiliser imported during the last financial year was around \$2.1 billion, compared to \$773.5 million in 2021-22.

Import data also show that the quantity of value of shipment of crude has increased 10 times in the past three years, from \$5.2 billion to \$54.5 billion. Even in quantity, there has been a 45% increase in import of crude

last year compared to 2022-23.

Officials said the import of fertiliser from Russia helped govt to ensure enough availability of the soil nutrient during the Covid-19 pandemic when the global supply chain was disrupted. Indian companies have continued importing the soil nutrients from the country even after the war in Ukraine and insulated farmers from additional financial burden.

The PM's remarks come a day after the United States

MONEY MATTERS

raised concerns with India about its relationship with Russia. Govt is also looking at the option to increase the import of muriate of potash (MOP) from Russia as the Red Sea crisis continues and has pushed up freight charges for fertilisers imported from Jordan and Israel. Sources said talks are on with Russia and Belarus to import more MOP to meet any fall in shipment from the Middle East. Russia is the largest supplier of MOP to India.

Russia sweetens crude oil deal with India

Rituraj Baruah &
Subhash Narayan

NEW DELHI

Russia has decided to sweeten India's purchases of crude oil by offering to lower the transaction fee charged by its banks for converting foreign currencies and remitting payments to suppliers, said two people aware of the developments.

State-owned Sberbank is the first bank to agree to renegotiate the high transaction fee charged on payments made by Indian importers for Russian goods, including oil, based on the quantum of transactions, one of the two people said. Other banks transacting high volumes of Russian goods could follow suit, depending on the direction taken by Sberbank, the person added.

"Sberbank was initially charging a high premium in terms of making rouble payments. Now they have said that they are open for negotiations, depending on the quantum of transactions. It is now flexible regarding negotiating the premium that they charge on the transactions," the first person said.

Indian refiners and traders



India mostly pays for Russian oil imports in dirhams, apart from rupees. Russian banks charge a fee to convert the currency. REUTERS

mostly pay for Russian oil imports in dirhams (the UAE currency), apart from rupees. Russian banks charge a fee to convert the currency paid by Indian importers into roubles and then remit it to Russian suppliers.

The central banks of both nations are yet to set up a rupee-rouble currency conversion mechanism.

Sberbank initially charged an additional premium of about 4% on the transactions.

"Sberbank is ready to display flexibility in pricing of transac-

tion fees for imports of the Russian raw materials to India, thus contributing to the development of the India-Russia trade relations," the Russian bank said in response to a mailed query from *Mint*.

As the Ukraine war escalated, in July 2022, the Reserve Bank of India said that it would put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment and settlement of exports

and imports in rupees.

The RBI's move was aimed at promoting trade in rupees and to help ease settlements with

Russia. However, the move did not gain momentum, the problem being that neither the Indian rupee nor the Russian rouble is fully convertible. Additionally, the volume of trade is skewed in favour of Russia because of oil, with Indian imports far higher than its exports.

Queries sent to the Union ministry of petroleum and natural gas remained unanswered till press time. The ministry, in response to queries from a parliamentary standing committee, has noted that no crude oil imports by state-run oil companies were settled in Indian rupees in FY23. "Crude oil suppliers (including Abu Dhabi National Oil Company) continue to express their concern on the repatriation of funds in the preferred currency and also highlighted high transactional costs associated with conversion of funds along with exchange fluctuation risks," the ministry told the panel. It said suppliers expressed concern over repatriation of funds in the preferred currency and highlighted the high transactional costs of conversion of funds along with exchange fluctuation risks.

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Sberbank is ready to renegotiate transaction fee on payments made by Indian importers for Russian goods

Untether the Fuel Nozzle



Sanjeev Choudhary

When Narendra Modi took the prime ministerial office for the first time in 2014, he set clear goals for the oil and gas sector. Strong policy support and close oversight helped boost fuel access in a decade.

- ▶ Households' access to cooking gas has since become nearly universal.
 - ▶ Network of petrol pumps has expanded by about three-fourths, and cooking gas distributors by about 80%.
 - ▶ Natural gas pipelines have grown by half, and LNG import facilities more than doubled in capacity.
 - ▶ Average ethanol blending in petrol has gone beyond 12% from 1.5% a decade ago.
 - ▶ Fuel subsidies have shrunk, and state oil firms' finances look strong — both strengthening GoI's balance sheet.
- While access to fuels has risen, consumer affordability is lower than a decade earlier due to a decline in subsidies, increase in taxes and higher margins of oil companies. In Delhi, petrol is a third more expensive than it was in June 2014. Diesel is 50% dearer. Most cooking gas consumers no longer receive subsidies and end up paying double the price they did in 2014.

Despite the PM's call in 2015 to cut oil and gas import dependence by a tenth by 2022, it has risen in a decade to 88% from 77% in oil, and to 46% from 29% in gas. Domestic production has dropped by about a fifth for crude oil and risen barely 3% for natural gas in a decade. Meanwhile, consumption of

refined products has increased by about half and that of natural gas by about a third.

Foreign investors have shown little interest in the Indian exploration sector despite policy reforms. Set in the first term of the government, the goal of increasing the share of natural gas in the energy mix to 15% by 2030 from 6% hasn't gotten nearer. The share is below 7%.

The plan to build a \$44 bn refinery with Saudi Aramco hasn't happened. And the jury is still out on the benefits of building a mega state oil company by getting ONGC to acquire HPCL.

GoI's determination to build a competitive fuel retail market suffered a setback in the early days of the Ukraine war as the goal of providing affordable fuels powered the instinct to keep a tight control on domestic prices. GoI has since shown little sign of loosening its grip. Failure to find a buyer for state refiner BPCL further diminished the chances of a larger role for the



Right steps to tap into the pool

private sector.

Now in its third term, the BJP-led NDA government should focus on the following:

▶ **Curb demand** Officials often interpret rising domestic oil demand as a recognition that the economy is being managed well. Expanding economies need energy, not necessarily oil whose heavy import makes our economy vulnerable to global market shocks and geopolitics. The country needs massive investments in electrified public transport, and big incentives for faster adoption of EVs. China's roaring success — 38% of new cars sold were electric in 2023, up from a mere 5% in 2018 — shows how quickly consumers can shift to EVs.

▶ **Cut exploration uncertainty** Reform laws or licensing contracts to assure explorers that their return from a project will not be affected by future government action. This is essential to draw in investors scared by retrospective and windfall taxes.

▶ **Reform gas sector** Include natural gas in GST, unbundle carriage and content, and end marketing exclusivity of city gas distributors where it's due.

▶ **Rules for energy emergency** Bring in practical rules to deal with special situations, such as the one witnessed in the early days of the Ukraine war when global supply became difficult and prices skyrocketed.

▶ **End price control** Wars are still raging, but the energy market has stabilised. A genuinely competitive market would serve people better than the ones dependent on the state.

▶ **Stop vacillating on SPRs** Allocate funds to help build new strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) and to fill them up, as it's important for managing short-term supply problems.

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ओएनजीसी शुद्ध शून्य उत्सर्जन के लिए निवेश करेगी

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) 2038 तक शुद्ध शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन के लक्ष्य को पाने के लिए लगभग दो लाख करोड़ रुपए का निवेश करेगी। इस पहल के तहत ओएनजीसी नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा स्थलों और हरित हाइड्रोजन संयंत्रों की स्थापना करेगी। देश के लगभग दो-तिहाई कच्चे तेल और लगभग 58 प्रतिशत प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन करने वाली कंपनी ने मंगलवार को 200 पन्नों का एक दस्तावेज जारी किया, जिसमें शुद्ध शून्य उत्सर्जन के लक्ष्य को हासिल करने की योजना का ब्योरा दिया गया है। इसमें देश की ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए हाइड्रोकार्बन उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के साथ ही स्वच्छ ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं का उल्लेख भी किया गया है। दस्तावेज के अनुसार,



ओएनजीसी 2030 तक पांच गीगावाट नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता, ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन, बायोगैस, पंप स्टोरेज संयंत्र और अपतटीय पवन परियोजना स्थापित करने के लिए 97,000 करोड़ रुपए का निवेश करेगी। इसके अलावा हरित अमोनिया संयंत्र की स्थापना करने का प्रस्ताव भी है। ओएनजीसी ने कहा कि वह तकनीकी हस्तक्षेप के जरिए 2030 तक गैस दहन को शून्य करने के लिए 5,000 करोड़ रुपए का निवेश करेगी।