

# Safety must get highest priority while constructing roads: Gadkari

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Union minister Nitin Gadkari has drawn attention to the rising number of road accidents and consequent deaths, and stressed on giving safety the highest priority while constructing pathways in the country. Addressing the 83rd annual session of the Indian Roads Congress at Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium here on Friday, he said if anyone dies in an accident due to road engineering fault in the future, then he will hold himself guilty for it. Highlighting the Centre's

efforts to prevent road accidents, he urged government engineers to quit their jobs and start a good DPR (detailed project report) making company, assuring them to give work on a priority basis. The Minister of Road Transport and Highways emphasized on production of bitumen and CNG from stubble in agriculture-dominated Chhattisgarh, arguing the move will cut dependence on fossil fuels and check pollution. He announced a slew of road projects for Chhattisgarh and said he believes the state will have a road network

similar to that of America in the next two years. "Every year 1.50 lakh deaths due to road accidents are reported which has now increased to 1.68 lakh. Efforts are on to improve the shortcomings in road engineering and automobile engineering but defective DPR has created a major problem," the minister maintained. He advised government engineers to quit their jobs and start a good DPR-making company. "We have been making serious efforts to prevent road accidents. Nearly 60 per cent victims of road



accidents are aged between 18 and 34 years. I would like to urge you to build roads where no accidents take place (due to defective engineering works)," he said.

Improvement in road engineering will curb accidents and save lives, Gadkari asserted. "We have made rules in automobile engineering. If anyone dies in an accident due to road engineering in the future, then I will feel that I am guilty for it," he told participants at the event. Pointing at the gathering of officials and engineers, the minister said no tenders should be issued without carefully examining DPR for projects. Road safety should be given the highest priority to prevent accident deaths, he added.

Gadkari emphasized the significance of waste-to-energy technologies and urged Chhattisgarh to work on producing CNG and bitumen using paddy straw. The Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) and the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, have developed bio-bitumen from paddy straw and it is being used in Meghalaya, he told the gathering. "It (paddy straw) can be used up to 35 per cent in bitumen. The country's requirement of bitumen is 90 lakh metric tonnes and capacity of refinery is 40-50 lakh metric tonnes. We are importing 50

lakh metric tonnes," Gadkari said. If Chhattisgarh starts producing bitumen from stubble, it will be a waste-to-wealth move, he said. Similarly, 400 projects for producing bio-CNG and bio-LNG from paddy straw have started in Punjab and Haryana. If Chhattisgarh will do the same, no petrol and diesel will be required in the state, the Union minister opined. Gadkari underlined the need to develop robust infrastructure to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India).

## 'India says Oil prices would have rocketed without its imports from Russia'



**NEW DELHI:** Global oil prices "would have hit the roof" if big importer India had not bought oil from Russia following the Ukraine war, India's oil minister said, adding that prices would determine where the country buys oil from.

India, the world's third largest oil importer and consumer, has become the top buyer of discounted Russian sea-borne oil shunned by Western countries since Ukraine's invasion began in early 2022. Before that, India bought little oil from its long-running defence partner, Russia.

"What many around the world don't seem to realise is that global oil prices would have hit the roof if India had not bought oil from Russia," India's oil minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, wrote on X late on Friday. "We owe it to our citizens - India will buy oil from wherever our companies get the best rates."

India's crude oil imports from Russia rose by 11.7 per cent to about 1.9 million barrels per day in September, accounting for about two-fifths of the South Asian nation's overall crude imports in the month. Russia was followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia as India's biggest suppliers. **AGENCIES**

# No clarity in trend

## **CRUDE CHECK.** Avoid new positions

**Akhil Nallamuthu**

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The Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) gained 1.1 per cent and ended the week at \$73.9 per barrel. Similarly, the crude oil futures on the MCX was down 0.5 per cent and it closed the week at ₹5,956 a barrel.

### **BRENT FUTURES (\$73.9)**

The chart of Brent Crude futures shows that it has largely been fluctuating in the range of \$73-76.

But in the preceding week, the price rose. So, the recovery now seems to be blocked by the barrier at \$76.

If the contract breaches the support at \$73, the price can decline further to \$71, a support. Subsequent support is at \$68.50.

But if Brent futures surpass the barrier at \$76, it can establish a fresh leg of uptrend. This can take the contract to \$80, a notable barrier.

### **MCX-CRUDE OIL (5,956)**

The November crude oil futures rallied past the key level of ₹6,050 on Thursday. However, the rally could not sustain, leading to a drop on Friday.

That said, a recovery is still



possible. Particularly if we consider that the contract is showing a positive bias. That is, it has been forming higher lows since September.

However, as it stands, the contract lacks the thrust to decisively break past the resistance at ₹6,050.

Considering the recent price action, the price band of ₹6,000-6,100 is a resistance band.

If the crude oil futures surpass ₹6,100, it can appreciate to ₹6,450.

But if it slips below the nearest potential support at ₹5,950, it can decline to ₹5,700, a trendline support.

**Trade strategy:** There are several variables in the equation which makes the projection of the next leg of trend difficult. Given the prevailing price action, our advice would be to stay out.

# भारत ने रूस से तेल खरीदकर दुनिया का भला किया: पुरी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा है कि भारत ने रूस से तेल खरीदकर पूरी दुनिया का भला किया है, क्योंकि अगर भारत ऐसा नहीं करता, तो वैश्विक तेल की कीमतें 200 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक बढ़ जातीं। अबू धाबी में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि अगर भारत सरकार ने रूसी तेल नहीं खरीदा होता तो वैश्विक तेल की कीमत 200 डॉलर तक बढ़ जाती। इसलिए भारत ने ऐसा कर हर किसी पर एहसान किया है।

इसके अलावा पुरी ने एक्स पर ट्वीट किया कि भारत ने रूसी तेल खरीदकर पूरी दुनिया पर एहसान किया क्योंकि अगर हमने ऐसा नहीं किया होता तो वैश्विक तेल की कीमतें 200 अमेरिकी डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक बढ़ जाती।



रूसी तेल कभी भी किसी प्रतिबंध के अधीन नहीं था और केवल एक मूल्यसीमा थी, जो भारतीय संस्थाओं ने भी इसका अनुसरण किया। एक्स पर अपनी पोस्ट में पुरी ने लिखा है कि दुनिया भर में कई लोग यह महसूस नहीं कर रहे हैं कि यदि भारत ने रूस से तेल नहीं खरीदा होता तो वैश्विक तेल की कीमतें आसमान छू रही होतीं। इससे ऐसा महसूस होता है कि वे इस तथ्य को समझ नहीं पा रहे हैं कि जब दुनिया भर के देश ऊर्जा आपूर्ति और कीमतों से जूझ

● भारत रूस से तेल नहीं खरीदता तो वैश्विक स्तर पर तेल की कीमतें बढ़ जाती

रहे थे, तब भारत ने पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी के गतिशील नेतृत्व में ऊर्जा की उपलब्धता, सामर्थ्य और स्थिरता की त्रिविधता को सफलतापूर्वक पार किया।

पुरी ने आगे लिखा कि हम अपने नागरिकों के प्रति जवाबदेह हैं और भारत उन जगहों से तेल खरीदेगा जहां हमारी कंपनियों को सबसे अच्छी दरें मिलती हैं। उन्होंने लिखा हम उन लोगों से ऊर्जा खरीदना जारी रखेंगे जो हमारी तेल कंपनियों को सबसे अच्छी दरें प्रदान करते हैं।