



## ■ ₹263-cr Block Deal in Gulf Oil Lubricants



**MUMBAI:** Promoter Gulf Oil International Mauritius sold shares of Gulf Oil Lubricants India worth ₹263.44 crore in a

block deal on BSE Thursday. The promoter sold 19.5 lakh shares at ₹1,351 apiece.

Gulf Oil International Mauritius held a 71.76% stake in the company as of June 30. Axis Securities, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance, ITI Mutual Fund, JM Financial MF and Societe Generale were among some of the buyers in the deal. Shares of Gulf Oil Lubricants India slumped 4.88% to close at ₹1370.95 on Thursday. In the last month, the company's shares fell 1.13% against an up-move of 2.25% in the BSE SmallCap Index.



# Challenge for oil PSUs: how to get \$900 mn dividends out of Russia

SUKALP SHARMA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

IT IS A billion-dollar question, literally, that India's public sector oil companies and the government are struggling to find an answer to.

For two and a half years, the dividend income of Indian oil companies — ONGC Videsh (OVL), Oil India (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), and Bharat PetroResources (BPRL) — from investments in upstream projects in Russia have been piling up in that country.

The cumulative value of the dividends has now reached around \$900 million, according to latest estimates.

The companies have taken up the issue repeatedly with their Russian partners, and it has featured in government-to-government discussions between New Delhi and Moscow, but a mechanism to move the

money — or use it in the bilateral trade between the countries — remains elusive.

## Restrictions on Russia

The main challenge in repatriating the income — which is sitting in the companies' accounts in the Commercial Indo Bank (CIBL), an affiliate of State Bank of India (SBI), in Moscow — lies in the complications arising out of Western sanctions imposed on Russia, including the restrictions put on payment channels, after the war broke out in February 2022.

Soon after Russia invaded Ukraine, major Russian banks were shut out of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) financial transaction processing system, which seriously dented Russia's ability to access the global payments system.

The Indian companies face additional complexities related to international jurisdic-

tions as some of the vehicles used by them to make investments in Russian oil and gas assets are based in countries such as Singapore.

## Investments in Russia

Over the years, Indian public sector companies have spent billions of dollars to pick up stake in oil and gas projects in Russia as part of the energy security strategy of the country, which is heavily dependent on oil imports.

According to one estimate, the total investments by Indian companies in Russia amount to more than \$6 billion.

OVL, the overseas investment arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), holds a 20% stake in the Sakhalin-1 project and 26% in the Vankor project. A consortium of IOC, OIL, and BPRL — the upstream arm of refining major Bharat Petroleum Corporation

(BPCL) — has 23.9% share in Vankor and 29.9% in the Taas-Yuryakh project.

The dividend income is being deposited into the CIBL accounts in rubles, where they are earning a nominal interest. Dividends of around \$600-650 million belonging to the IOC-OIL-BPRL consortium, and around \$250 million belonging to OVL, are stranded.

**EXPLAINED ECONOMICS**

## No easy options available

With the money stuck in Russia, it could have been theoretically used for payments there, to increase investments, and to fund operational and capital expenditure requirements of existing projects. None of these options are, however, currently feasible.

This is because the dividend payments are being released after deduction of operational expenses, and there is no plan at present to invest more capital into ongoing proj-

ects. These assets are past their major capital expenditure cycle, which means that major cash calls, or demand for more investment in the projects, are highly unlikely in the near-to-medium term.

The only exception is OVL, which is required to pay around \$600 million to be renominated as a shareholder in the Sakhalin-1 project. The company is in talks with Russian authorities to use its stranded dividend income to partly settle this payment.

The Indian companies are also not exploring investments in any other project in Russia. This means the only option left is to use the money for payments in Russia.

The question then arises: why can't the money be used to partly pay for the copious volumes of Russian oil that is flowing into India? The short answer: while the Indian companies would love to do that, it is fraught with several challenges and complications.

First, while IOC and BPCL do buy Russian

oil, OIL does not.

Second, the investments in Russian projects are through special purpose vehicles registered in overseas territories such as Singapore. This means that any payment would also come under the jurisdiction of these overseas territories, not just Russia's and India's.

Given the various Western sanctions against Russia and its energy sector, cross payments for Russian oil using the dividend income could end up becoming an extremely complex exercise with regard to taxation and accounting. The companies have been seeking the opinion of legal and international accounting experts to find a way to do this.

The bottom line: any feasible and workable solution is likely to emerge only through a combination of effective diplomacy and smart commercial negotiations with stakeholders in Russia and elsewhere.



● UP FROM 1,300 TO 5,000 IN A YEAR

# Jio-bp unveils 500th EV charging station

FE BUREAU

Mumbai, September 26

JIO-BP, A FUELS and mobility joint venture between Reliance Industries (RIL) and bp, inaugurated its 500th EV-charging station at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai on Thursday. The station was officially opened by Anant Mukesh Ambani, director of RIL, and Murray Auchincloss, CEO of bp.

This new EV charging station will serve guests visiting the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Jio World Plaza and Jio World Convention Centre in BKC, Mumbai. The milestone marks the installation of Jio-bp's 5,000th Jio-bp pulse charging point in India.

Jio-bp has rapidly expanded its network, growing from 1,300 to 5,000 EV-charging stations in just one year. With 95% of its network consisting of fast-charging stations—the highest in the industry—the company is poised to deliver high-speed



Reliance Industries director Anant Ambani and bp CEO Murray Auchincloss (left) during the inauguration of the EV charging station at Jio World Centre, in Mumbai

electronics with unmatched industry leading uptime of 96%, according to a joint statement from RIL and bp.

The joint venture is also a pioneer in deploying top-rated 480 KW chargers, backed by unique customer value propositions (CVPs), ensuring an efficient and fast charging experience. These chargers are available at key locations such as malls, public parking lots,

corporate parks, hotels, and wayside amenities.

"Jio-bp is playing a pioneering role in accelerating EV adoption in India. With the largest network share of fast-charging stations, the fastest growth in EV-charging infrastructure, and the highest reliability, Jio-bp is offering a well-packaged, digitised charging solution to millions of Indians," said Anant M Ambani during the launch.



# Scope to cut petrol, diesel prices: Icra

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ  
New Delhi, September 26

**AGAINST THE BACKDROP** of weak crude oil prices and a range-bound refining margins environment, analysts see marketing margins of the state-owned oil marketing companies remaining strong. Additionally, there is headroom for the downward revision of retail fuel prices if crude prices remain stable at current levels, they say.

Icra estimates that the OMCs' net realisation was higher by ₹15 per litre for petrol and around ₹12 per litre for diesel vis-à-vis international product prices in September 2024. "The retail selling price of these fuels have been unchanged since March 2024 and there appears to be headroom for their downward revision by ₹2-3 per litre, if crude prices remain stable," said Girishkumar Kadam, senior vice president and group head-corporate ratings, Icra.

Ahead of the key state elections, analysts at Motilal Oswal believe that the central government may urge individual states to reduce state taxes to provide relief to consumers. While OMCs appear to be trading at the higher end of the historical range, street earnings estimates are building in only ₹3-4 per litre marketing margin, it said. According to

the brokerage, the Singapore gross refining margin in the first half of FY25 till date has averaged only \$3.6 per barrel, reflecting the effects of a subdued oil demand environment.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has reduced its global oil demand estimate to 900,000-950,000 barrels per day in 2024 and 2025. According to the IEA, global oil demand growth continues to slow down, with an increase of 800,000 barrels per day in the first half of 2024, amid muted demand from China, the world's top consumer of crude oil.

"However, key product inventories globally remain at the lower to mid-range of the last five years. We anticipate limited downside for refining margins from current levels as we approach the seasonally stronger winter months," Motilal Oswal said.

Kadam said, "OMCs reported healthy operating margins in FY24, recouping the losses incurred during FY23. Despite moderation in gross refining margins, the improvement in marketing margins is likely to result in the OMCs maintaining their profitability in H1 FY25."

Crude prices have witnessed a sharp decline in the past few months, primarily due to weak global economic growth and high US production.

## GreenLine, Sterlite Copper join hands to enhance sustainable logistics

**MUMBAI:** GreenLine Mobility Solutions Ltd, a key player in Essar's Green Mobility initiative, has announced its partnership with Sterlite Copper, a unit of Vedanta Ltd, to advance the deployment of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) powered vehicles and further decarbonise Sterlite Copper's transportation operations.

The partnership was initiated with the flag-off of LNG trucks at Vedanta's Sterlite Copper Plant in Silvassa.

These LNG vehicles will be transporting finished goods to the northern region, utilising a reverse logistics model. GreenLine's LNG trucks, capable of carrying a 40-tonne payload and traveling up to 1,200 kilo-



meters on a single tank, will enhance logistics efficiency while significantly reducing carbon emissions.

Commenting on the partnership, Anand Mimani, CEO, GreenLine Mobility Solutions Ltd said, "Our partnership with Sterlite Copper marks an important milestone in

our commitment to sustainable logistics. By integrating our LNG technology into their operations, we not only enhance our service offerings but also set a standard for decarbonisation in the transportation sector. Together, we are taking significant steps towards a cleaner, greener future." MPOST

# bp board meets in India reflecting the importance of the country

Board of bp began 5-day visit on Sept 23, holding board sub-committee meetings as well as meeting government leaders & business partners

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

**NEW DELHI:** The board of global energy giant bp plc is holding its meeting in India, reflecting the importance of the country and its confidence in the opportunities it presents, the firm said on Wednesday.

The board of bp began a 5-day visit on September 23, holding board sub-committee meetings as well as meeting government leaders and business partners. In between, it will hold its full board meeting. This is the second time that the bp board is holding its meeting in India. The firm's board had visited India in May 2013, two years after the firm spent \$7.2 billion in buying a 30 per cent stake in 23 oil and gas blocks of Reliance Industries Ltd.

Just like 2013, the bp board met Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri over dinner on Tuesday evening, flew to Gadimoga in Andhra Pradesh for a visit to the landing point of gas produced from deepsea in Krishna Godavari basin, and will meet partner Reliance Industries officials in Mumbai. It will also visit bp's global business services centre in Pune. In 2013, the bp board including the then chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg and then CEO Bob Dudley dined



**'bp is committed to working closely with the government of India to support its changing energy needs**

with the then Oil Minister M Veerappa Moily and partner Reliance Industries officials including chairman Mukesh Ambani, visited their flagship KG-D6 fields in Bay of Bengal and called on the then President Pranab Mukherjee.

"The 5-day visit of the bp board reflects bp's significant and growing presence in India and its commitment to further develop its businesses in and with the country," the company said in a statement on Wednesday. Recognising India's key role in global energy demand, during their visit the board will also hold meetings with the Indian

**Highlights**

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government and bp's business partners, as well as visiting key bp India locations.

The statement, however, did not elaborate on the meetings or the venue of the board meeting.

On meeting Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri, bp chair Helge Lund commented, "bp is committed to working closely with the government of India to support its changing energy needs. By leveraging our combined experience and expertise with our partners, we aim to facilitate the secure, affordable, and lower carbon growth of India's energy resources to meet the increasing demand".

bp chief executive Murray Auchincloss added: "There is huge potential for bp to work even more closely with India. We see growing business opportunities, including through our world-class partnership with Reliance (Industries Ltd), producing the country's gas and growing our joint retail presence. In turn, India's highly skilled engineering and scientific talent can help us deliver our targets more effectively, efficiently and rapidly."

Kartikeya Dube, bp's Head of Country said, "India is an important part of bp's strategy as we transform into an integrated energy company. Building on the century-old legacy with India through our Castrol brand, our presence across the gas value chain, mobility retail businesses and our global business and technology centre, we expect to grow a material business here, and help support India's aspiration for energy independence by 2047."

bp is one of the largest international energy companies in India, with a century-long business presence and having invested over \$12 billion across the energy value chain in the country. It has in partnership with Reliance brought onstream three new deepwater natural gas

projects that account for a third of India's gas production. bp and Reliance have also joined hands to create a major retail, aviation fuels and mobility alliance, Jio-bp, now with close to 1,900 retail sites across the country and over 4,900 charging points.

bp's activities in India also include Castrol lubricants, oil and gas trading, and clean energy projects through Light-source bp.

"India's highly-skilled talent pool also offers huge potential for bp, with a global business and technology centre in Pune that will support bp's businesses worldwide," the company said in the statement.

Puri also posted on X about his meeting with the bp board.

"Delighted to host the entire board of @bp\_plc cover dinner at my residence," he said. "I am sure that the robust partnership between the global energy major and India which spans across the entire energy value chain including exploration & production, biofuels, fuel retail & other emerging areas will continue to grow further. It was remarkable that all the members of the board were distinguished leaders from different walks of life and the board had a strong presence of empowered and accomplished women."

# Weak gross refining margins to bottom out soon: Analysts

**SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY**

New Delhi, 26 September

Weak gross refining margins (GRMs) that have dragged down profits of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in FY25 will soon reach their lowest levels before rising again, fuelled by stronger winter months and higher availability of Russian crude, analysts said.

GRM is the difference between the total value of petroleum products coming out of an oil refinery and the price of the raw material, which is crude oil.

In the first half of FY25, the benchmark Singapore GRM averaged only \$3.6/bbl, reflecting the effects of a subdued oil demand environment. In the second quarter (April-June) of FY25, state-run Indian Oil Corporation saw its consolidated net profit fall steeply by 75 per cent to ₹3,528 crore, while Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation net profit dipped by 73.2 per cent and 90 per cent, respectively.

“However, key product inventories globally remain at the lower to mid-range of the last five years. We anticipate limited downside for refining margins from current levels as we approach the seasonally stronger winter months,” a research note by Motilal Oswal said on Thursday. Elara Securities also expects better GRM in the Q2 on higher availability of Russian crude.

Against the backdrop of weak crude oil prices and a range-bound refining GRM environment, the outlook for marketing margins remains strong, said the research note.



## Govt mulls hiking ethanol prices, sugar MSP & review exports

**NEW DELHI:** The government is considering increasing ethanol prices, raising minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar, and reviewing sugar exports for the 2024-25 season, Food Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Thursday.

“The petroleum ministry is seized of the matter. We are in touch with petroleum ministry. It is well under consideration to hike the ethanol price,” Joshi told reporters on the sidelines of an industry conference here.

Regarding sugar exports, Joshi stated, “We will take a decision after looking into next year’s production and availability of sugar.”

The minister also said a committee of secretaries is deliberating on a proposal to increase the minimum selling price of sugar, which has remained unchanged at Rs 31 per kg since February 2019. Joshi was optimistic about sugar production for the 2024-25 season starting October, citing favourable monsoon conditions. PTI





## **Crude oil slides on reports of more OPEC+ oil**

**London:** Crude oil prices slipped by more than three per cent as Saudi Arabia prepared to abandon its price target and raise output, with OPEC+ set to increase production in December. Brent crude futures were down \$2.26 to \$71.20, while US WTI fell \$2.31 to \$67.38 per barrel. REUTERS

# Crude cargo declines amid falling shipments from top suppliers

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**

New Delhi

Lower crude oil shipments from India's top suppliers, Russia and Saudi Arabia, who collectively account for more than half of the cargo, dragged down India's imports for the second consecutive month in August.

According to energy intelligence firm Vortexa, India's crude oil imports last month fell 4 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to 4.18 million barrels per day (mb/d). The fall in shipments on a monthly basis was steeper, at 7 per cent. The numbers are on a provisional basis.

Analysts and trade sources attributed this decline in crude oil cargo to lower production and domestic demand from the world's top two exporters.

## IRAQ STEPS UP

India's imports of Iraqi crude grew month-on-month (m-o-m), while imports of Saudi crude fell in the same period. Imports of Russian crude are also down on a monthly basis in August, though smaller in percentage than Saudi, but higher in absolute volume, Vortexa's Head of APAC Analysis, Serena Huang, told *businessline*.

On import momentum going ahead, Huang said, "India's imports of Russian crude could remain flat to lower in September off the back of lower Russian crude exports in August. We expect the imports of Russian crude to rebound in October, with supplies of Russian crude returning."

Besides, upcoming refinery maintenance in India will also have a bearing on crude supplies. For instance, State-run Bharat Petroleum Corporation's (BPCL) Kochi

refinery will undergo maintenance during September-October and Bina refinery during August-September 2024.

While imports from Russia and Saudi Arabia declined, the cargo from Iraq, the UAE and the US rose on a monthly basis.

Crude oil imports from Russia fell by around 17 per cent m-o-m to 1.65 mb/d during August. On an annual basis, the shipments were higher by more than 12 per cent. In the case of Saudi Arabia, the imports fell by 22.5 per cent m-o-m and 38 per cent y-o-y to around 5,05,147 barrels per day (b/d).

On the other hand, crude oil imports from Iraq — India's second largest supplier — rose by almost 14 per cent m-o-m to 7,78,262 b/d last month. On an annual basis, the shipments were down by 10 per cent.

Crude oil cargo from the UAE, which recently inked a free trade agreement with India, rose by 11 per cent m-o-m and 36 per cent y-o-y to around 371,195 b/d in August 2024. Similarly, in the case of the US as well, the cargo rose by 60 per cent m-o-m to 3,67,119 b/d. On an annual basis, the imports more than doubled.

## CARGO DECLINES

Jay Maroo, Vortexa's Head of Market Intelligence & Analysis, in a September 4 commentary said the cumulative combined crude exports from the Big-3 (Saudi Arabia, Russia and the US) stood at 12.7 mb/d in August 2024, down almost 7,00,000 b/d m-o-m.

Saudi exports fell somewhat predictably in August given that the month falls within the period of seasonally high domestic oil demand, he added.



# Capacity utilisation by gas-based power plants falls in July

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**

New Delhi

The capacity utilisation or plant load factor (PLF) of gas-based power plants, with 23.64 gigawatts (GW) capacity under operation, fell in July 2024 after clocking multi-year highs during April to June.

Monsoon rains during July brought down the power demand to some extent, which also reflected in the lower requirement for cooling.

According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) data, the PLF of gas-based power plants stood at 15.2 per cent in July 2024, compared to 27.1 per cent in June 2024 and 12.4 per cent in July 2023. The decline in capacity utilisation by such thermal power plants (TPPs) comes after a record breaking performance during April to June 2024. During Q1FY25,

gas-based plants clocked a capacity utilisation of 25.8 per cent generating 13,338.23 million units (MU) on a provisional basis, which is the second highest after Q1FY21.

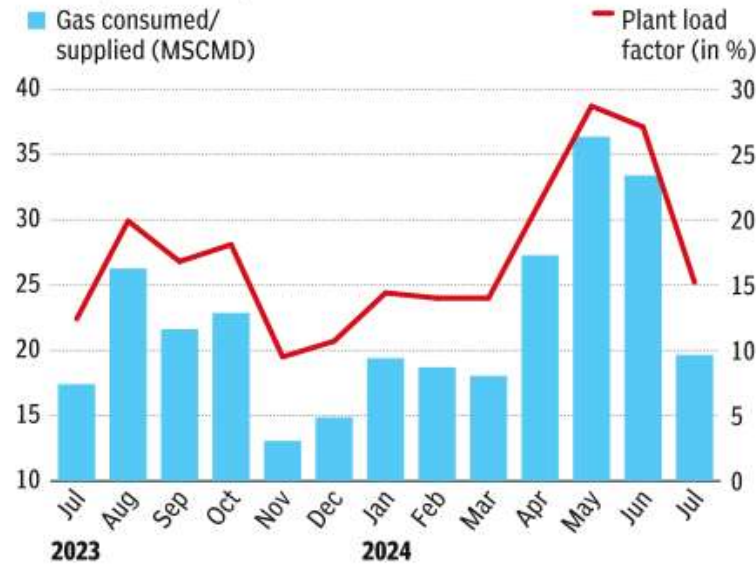
The world's fourth largest LNG importer consumed 97.01 million standard cubic metres per day (MSCMD) of natural gas in Q1FY25, up 53 per cent year-on-year. This is the third highest consumption so far.

Besides, gas-based power plants clocked a PLF of 28.7 per cent, generating 5,053.41 MU of electricity in May 2024, which is the third highest on record after May 2020 and June 2020.

Consequently, India's natural gas consumption is also expected to rise in the current calendar year.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has revised upwards the growth rate in India's gas demand to 8.5 per

## Gas power plants' rollercoaster ride



Million standard cubic metres per day - MSCMD

Source: Central Electricity Authority

cent from 7 per cent y-o-y in 2024. Similarly, the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GCEF) predicts usage to grow at 6 per cent y-o-y.

### JULY BLUES

Higher gas consumption for

power generation is one of the factors fuelling this growth. During July 2024, gas-based power plants consumed 19.65 MSCMD of natural gas and produced 2,674.24 MU.

India's cumulative electri-

city generation rose by 9 per cent y-o-y to 160.90 billion units (BU) in July this year.

While thermal power generation grew by 8 per cent y-o-y (111.41 BU), the growth in nuclear power was higher, at more than 25 per cent on an annual basis (4.80 BU). Power generation from renewable energy sources, including small hydro power, rose by almost 20 per cent y-o-y to 25.97 BU.

In July this year, the country's cumulative energy requirement stood at 150.21 BU against an availability of 149.85 BU. Against this, last year in July, the requirement stood at 140.62 BU against an availability of 140.42 BU.

Peak demand during July 2024 was 227.48 gigawatts (GW) against which the demand met was 226.63 GW. In the year-ago period, the peak demand stood at 209.04 GW and demand met of 208.95 GW.

# Headroom to cut petrol, diesel prices by ₹2-3/litre, says ICRA

**Press Trust of India**

New Delhi

A reduction in crude oil prices in recent weeks has improved margins on retail auto fuels, providing state-owned firms a headroom to cut petrol and diesel prices by ₹2-3 per litre, rating agency ICRA said on Thursday. The price of a basket of crude oil India imports averaged \$74 per barrel in September, down from about \$83-84 a barrel in March when petrol and diesel prices were last cut by ₹2 per litre.

## IMPROVED MARGINS

In a note, ICRA said the marketing margins on retail sales of auto fuels for the Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have improved in recent weeks with the reduction in crude prices.

Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said: "ICRA estimates



**READY FOR A THAW.** A fall in crude oil prices has rekindled hopes of a reduction in petrol and diesel rates that have been on a freeze for over two years now ANI

that the OMCs' net realisation was higher by ₹15 per litre for petrol and ₹12 a litre for diesel vis-à-vis international product prices in September 2024 (till September 17). The retail selling price of these fuels have been unchanged since March 2024 and there appears to be headroom for their downward revision by ₹2-3 per litre, if crude prices remain stable".

Crude prices have witnessed a sharp decline in the last few months, primarily due

to weak global economic growth and high US production and the OPEC+ has pushed the rollback of its production cuts by two months to combat the declining prices.

A decline in the price of crude oil — which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel at refineries — had rekindled hopes for a reduction in petrol and diesel rates that have been on a freeze for over two years now barring a pre-election reduction in March.

# Corporate Affairs Ministry shortens window for filing of CSR return

**KR Srivats**

New Delhi

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has tightened its oversight on corporate India's CSR compliance by shortening the window for filing the CSR return with the government.

They have now been mandated to file their CSR return (CSR-2) for 2023-24 by December 31, 2024. This has to be filed separately independent of AOC-4, which is the annual return form to be filed within 30 days of an AGM (annual general meeting). For the earlier fiscal, 2022-23, corporates were allowed to file the CSR return (CSR-2) till March 31, 2024.

Company law experts highlight that there have been cases where the CSR numbers exhibited in financial statements (in AOC 4) do not match with the subsequent figures posted in CSR return (CSR-2).



Anjali Jain, Partner, Areness, a law firm, said, this MCA notification would help the regulator (government) analyse and assess such malpractices, considering a lower window for such compliance is introduced.

## **FOR TRANSPARENCY**

Manmeet Kaur, Partner - Karanjawala & co, said, "making CSR filing under standalone form will bring transparency and accuracy with regard to CSR activities

as companies need to maintain records/data for both AOC-4 and CSR-2 filing separately".

Kaur noted that the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014, were amended in 2022 to mandate that CSR-2 must also be filed as an addendum to AOC-4. This requirement was subsequently amended in 2023 whereby a separate CSR-2 was to be filed (before March 31, 2024) after filing of the AOC-4 for FY22-23.

The latest amendment prescribes separate filing of form CSR-2 for FY23-24 before December 31, 2024, Kaur added.

Vanita Bhargava, Partner at Khaitan & Co, said that Form CSR-2 was introduced in 2022 in which the companies are required to report details regarding their CSR initiatives such as details of projects undertaken, CSR committee, CSR spending and unspent CSR funds among other.



## 'डीजल-पेट्रोल के दाम कम हो सकते हैं'

■ पीटीआई, नई दिल्ली : त्योहारी सीजन में आम लोगों को बड़ी राहत मिलने की उम्मीद है। पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में 2-3 रुपये प्रति लीटर कटौती संभव है। दरअसल, कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में हाल के हफ्तों में आई कमी से पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों के वाहन ईंधन पर मुनाफे में सुधार हुआ है। इससे तेल कंपनियों को पेट्रोल, डीजल की कीमतों में दो से तीन रुपये प्रति लीटर की कटौती करने की गुंजाइश मिली है। रेटिंग एजेंसी इक्रा ने गुरुवार को यह बात कही।

# पेट्रोल, डीजल की कीमतों में दो से तीन रुपए प्रति लीटर की कटौती की गुंजाइश

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में हाल के सप्ताहों में आई कमी से पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों के वाहन ईंधन पर मुनाफे में सुधार हुआ है। इससे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों को पेट्रोल तथा डीजल की कीमतों में दो से तीन रुपए प्रति लीटर की कटौती करने की गुंजाइश मिली है। रेटिंग एजेंसी इक्रा ने बृहस्पतिवार को यह बात कही। भारत द्वारा आयातित कच्चे तेल की कीमत सितंबर में औसतन 74 अमेरिकी डॉलर प्रति बैरल थी, जो मार्च में 83-84 अमेरिकी डॉलर प्रति बैरल थी। पेट्रोल और डीजल की



कीमतों में आखिरी बार दो रुपए प्रति लीटर की कटौती की गई थी। इक्रा ने एक नोट में कहा, कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में कमी के साथ हाल के सप्ताहों में भारतीय पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) के लिए मोटर वाहन ईंधन की खुदरा बिक्री पर विपणन मुनाफे में सुधार हुआ है। रेटिंग एजेंसी का अनुमान है कि यदि कच्चे

तेल की कीमतें वर्तमान स्तर पर स्थिर रही तो खुदरा ईंधन कीमतों में कमी की गुंजाइश है। इक्रा के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष एवं समूह प्रमुख गिरीश कुमार कदम ने कहा, इक्रा का अनुमान है कि सितंबर, 2024 (17 सितंबर तक) में अंतरराष्ट्रीय उत्पाद कीमतों की तुलना में ओएमसी की शुद्ध प्राप्ति पेट्रोल के लिए 15 रुपए प्रति लीटर और डीजल के लिए 12 रुपए प्रति लीटर अधिक रही। इन ईंधन के खुदरा बिक्री मूल्य (आरएसपी) मार्च, 2024 से यथावत हैं (15 मार्च, 2024 को पेट्रोल तथा डीजल के दाम में दो रुपए प्रति लीटर की कटौती की गई थी) और ऐसा प्रतीत होता है।

## कच्चे तेल के दाम में गिरावट से पेट्रोल-डीजल की कीमतों में तीन रुपये तक कटौती की है गुंजाइश

नई दिल्ली। कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में गिरावट से घरेलू बाजार में पेट्रोल और डीजल के दामों में दो से तीन रुपये प्रति लीटर कटौती की गुंजाइश है। रेटिंग एजेंसी इक्रा ने कहा, पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों के ईंधन पर मुनाफे में सुधार हुआ है। इससे सरकारी तेल कंपनियां चाहें तो कीमतें घटा सकती हैं।

इक्रा ने बृहस्पतिवार को कहा, भारत के आयातित कच्चे तेल की कीमत मार्च में 83-84 डॉलर प्रति बैरल थी। सितंबर में यह औसत 74 डॉलर प्रति बैरल हो गई। यदि कच्चे



तेल की कीमतें वर्तमान स्तर पर स्थिर रहें तो खुदरा ईंधन कीमतों में कमी की गुंजाइश है। इस साल 17 सितंबर तक अंतरराष्ट्रीय उत्पाद कीमतों की तुलना में तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों की शुद्ध प्राप्त पेट्रोल के लिए 15 रुपये प्रति लीटर और डीजल के लिए 12 रुपये प्रति लीटर अधिक रही। एजेंसी

15 मार्च को हुई थी दो रुपये की कमी : रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, इस साल 15 मार्च को पेट्रोल तथा डीजल के दाम में दो रुपये प्रति लीटर की कटौती की गई थी। तब से कीमतें यथावत हैं। ऐसा अनुमान है कि अगर कच्चे तेल की कीमतें स्थिर रहती हैं तो दो से तीन रुपये प्रति लीटर की कमी करने की गुंजाइश बनी रहेगी। नवंबर, 2021 की शुरुआत में तेल के दैनिक मूल्य संशोधन को रोक दिया गया था।



## दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा इथेनॉल उत्पादक व उपभोक्ता देश बना भारत : प्रह्लाद जोशी

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्री प्रह्लाद जोशी ने कहा कि नीतिगत बदलावों के कारण भारत दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा इथेनॉल उत्पादक और उपभोक्ता देश बन गया है। वे भारत सरकार एवं जैव ऊर्जा सम्मेलन को संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार ने इथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल (ईबीपी) कार्यक्रम चलाया है। इसमें इथेनॉल उत्पादन क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए कई कदम उठाए गए हैं। पिछले 10 साल में इथेनॉल की बिक्री से सबसे अधिक राजस्व चीनी मिलों को प्राप्त हुआ है। जोशी ने कहा, इथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल के उपयोग से ग्रीन हाउस गैसों (जीएचजी) का उत्सर्जन कम हो रहा है, इससे निवेश के अधिक अवसर सामने आ रहे हैं। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में नई डिस्टलरी की स्थापना की गई है। इससे देश में प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से रोजगार सृजन में भी बढ़ोतरी हो रही है। व्यूरो

# बायोमास और ईंधन का अधूरा दहन वायु प्रदूषण का प्रमुख कारण

## केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण को अपनी रिपोर्ट में दी जानकारी

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) को केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) ने दिल्ली में वायु प्रदूषण होने का मुख्य कारण बताया है। बोर्ड ने अधिकरण को सूचित किया है कि बायोमास और जीवाश्म ईंधनों का अधूरा दहन (जिसमें यातायात में उपयोग ईंधन भी शामिल है,) राजधानी में वायु प्रदूषण का प्रमुख कारण है।

एनजीटी ने इससे पहले बोर्ड से जवाब मांगा था। इसमें दिल्ली में



सांकेतिक

**सीएक्यूएम ने जारी किए थे निर्देश**

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि एनसीआर और आसपास के क्षेत्रों में वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (सीएक्यूएम) ने कुछ निर्देश जारी किए थे। इसमें दिल्ली के 300 किमी के भीतर स्थित ताप विद्युत संयंत्रों और एनसीआर में स्थित औद्योगिक इकाइयों के कैप्टिव पावर प्लांटों में कोयले के साथ 5-10 प्रतिशत बायोमास का सह-प्रज्वलन था। इसके अलावा एनसीआर में उद्योगों में ईंधन के रूप में बायोमास की अनुमति है। साथ ही, कोयले के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया (सीएक्यूएम ने पंजाब, हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकारों को पराली जलाने को खत्म करने और नियंत्रित करने के लिए संशोधित कार्य योजना को सख्ती व प्रभावी ढंग से लागू करने का निर्देश दिया है।

विभिन्न ईंधनों के अधूरे दहन, बायोमास जलने, वाहनों से होने वाले प्रदूषण (विशेषकर पुराने और खराब रखरखाव वाले वाहनों) और कोयले के उपयोग से होने वाला वायु प्रदूषण शामिल था। सीपीसीबी ने 18 सितंबर की अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा कि उसने

एक अध्ययन किया है, इसमें बायोमास और जीवाश्म ईंधन के अधूरे दहन (जिसमें यातायात में उपयोग ईंधन भी शामिल है) को कणीय पदार्थों की ऑक्सीडेंटिव क्षमता (ओपी) के लिए प्रमुख योगदानकर्ता बताया गया है। ओपी वायुजनित

कणीय पदार्थ (पीएम) के संपर्क में आने से होने वाले स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों को दर्शाता है, जो ठोस पदार्थों, रसायनों, तरल पदार्थों और एरोसोल का मिश्रण है।

अध्ययन के मुताबिक अमोनियम क्लोराइड, यातायात के धुरं से

निकलने वाले कार्बनिक एरोसोल, आवासीय हीटिंग व जीवाश्म ईंधन से असंतृप्त वाष्पों (किसी खास तापमान पर हवा में मौजूद जलवाष्प की मात्रा, जो उसकी अधिकतम सीमा तक न पहुंचे) का ऑक्सीकरण दिल्ली के अंदर पीएम 2.5 के प्रमुख स्रोत हैं।

**वाहनों से होने वाले उत्सर्जन को रोकने के लिए किए गए प्रयास**

सीपीसीबी ने अध्ययन का हवाला देते हुए कहा कि वाहनों से होने वाले उत्सर्जन को रोकने के लिए प्रयास किए गए हैं। इसमें अधिकारियों ने अपनी कार्रवाई में बीएस-VI अनुरूप इंजनों को शामिल किया है। इससे ईंधन दहन और इंजन दक्षता में सुधार करने में मदद मिली है। बोर्ड ने कहा कि इसमें एनसीआर के 3,256 पेट्रोल पंपों पर वाष्प रिकवरी सिस्टम (वीआरएस) की स्थापना भी शामिल है। इससे परिवेशी वातावरण में वाष्पों के उत्सर्जन और द्वितीयक कार्बनिक एरोसोल के निर्माण में कमी आएगी। यही नहीं, रिपोर्ट में फसल अवशेष जैसे बायोमास को अधूरे रूप से जलाने के संबंध में भी कहा गया है। कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय ने फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन मशीनरी की खरीद के लिए सब्सिडी प्रदान करने व पंजाब, हरियाणा, उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश और दिल्ली में कस्टम हार्बरिंग केंद्रों की स्थापना के लिए एक योजना कार्यान्वित की जा रही है।

# 25 प्रतिशत एथनॉल मिश्रण के लिए संपर्क

संजीव मुखर्जी

नई दिल्ली, 26 सितंबर

खाद्य मंत्री प्रह्लाद जोशी ने गुरुवार को बताया कि खाद्य मंत्रालय ने पेट्रोल में 20 फीसदी एथनॉल मिश्रण के लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के करीब पहुंचने के बाद अब नीति आयोग से अगले वर्षों में 25 फीसदी मिश्रण का खाका तैयार करने का अनुरोध किया है।

उन्होंने बताया कि एथनॉल आपूर्ति वर्ष 2023-24 अक्टूबर में समाप्त होगा। अभी तक देश पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिश्रण के 14 फीसदी राष्ट्रीय औसत के करीब पहुंच चुका है। जोशी ने कहा कि केंद्र घरेलू चीनी क्षेत्र की अन्य मांगों पर भी विचार कर रहा है। इन मांगों में चीनी का न्यूनतम बिक्री मूल्य 31 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम से बढ़ाना भी शामिल है।

जोशी ने इस्मा द्वारा आयोजित भारतीय चीनी और जैव ऊर्जा सम्मेलन के इतर कहा, 'हम अक्टूबर से शुरू होने वाले 2024-25 के सत्र में चीनी के उत्पादन के आंकड़ों को देखना चाहेंगे। इसके बाद ही निर्यात के किसी निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचेंगे। उद्योग ने हमें कुछ आंकड़े दिए हैं जबकि हमारे अपने इनपुट पर भी कुछ अनुमान हैं।' भारत ने सत्र 2022-23 में बड़े स्तर पर चीनी निर्यात की अनुमति दी थी, उस समय 64 लाख टन चीनी का निर्यात हुआ था। इससे

## नीति आयोग से अनुरोध

■ एथनॉल व चीनी की कीमत बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रहा है केंद्र

■ गन्ना उद्योग की मांगों पर कर रहा है विचार

पहले 2021-22 में चीनी का निर्यात सर्वाधिक 1.1 करोड़ टन हुआ था।

जोशी ने कहा कि अच्छे मौसम के कारण सत्र 2024-25 (अक्टूबर से सितंबर) के लिए चीनी उत्पादन का आसार अच्छा नजर आता है। एथनॉल आपूर्ति वर्ष 2022-23 में (नवंबर-अक्टूबर) में दाम तय किए जाने के बाद इसके दाम में वृद्धि नहीं की गई है। अभी गन्ने के रस से तैयार एथनॉल का मूल्य 65.61 लीटर है जबकि बी हैवी शीरे का मूल्य 60.73 रुपये लीटर और सी हैवी शीरे का मूल्य 56.28 रुपये लीटर है।

इससे पहले खाद्य सचिव संजीव चोपड़ा ने कहा था कि मौसम अच्छा रहने के कारण उद्योग 2024-25 में गन्ने की अच्छी फसल की उम्मीद कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार और चीनी उद्योग की पहले से तैयार नीतियों के कारण सत्र 2023-24 में गन्ना का बकाया अपने सर्वकालिक निचले स्तर पर पहुंच गया है और 99 फीसदी बकाया का निपटान हो चुका है।

# ₹ 2 से 3 घट सकते हैं पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में हाल के सप्ताहों में आई कमी से पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों के वाहन ईंधन पर मुनाफे में सुधार हुआ है। इससे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र



की कंपनियों को पेट्रोल तथा डीजल की कीमतों में 2 से 3 रुपये प्रति लीटर की कटौती करने की गुंजाइश मिली है। रेटिंग एजेंसी इक्रा ने गुरुवार को यह बात कही।

भारत द्वारा आयातित कच्चे तेल की कीमत सितंबर में औसतन 74 अमेरिकी डॉलर प्रति बैरल थी, जो मार्च में 83-84 अमेरिकी डॉलर प्रति बैरल थी। पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में आखिरी बार दो रुपये प्रति लीटर की कटौती की गई थी।

इक्रा ने एक 'नोट' में कहा, कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में कमी के साथ हाल के सप्ताहों

में भारतीय पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) के लिए मोटर वाहन ईंधन की खुदरा बिक्री पर विपणन मुनाफे में सुधार हुआ है। रेटिंग एजेंसी का अनुमान है यदि कच्चे तेल

की कीमतें वर्तमान स्तर पर स्थिर रहें तो खुदरा ईंधन कीमतों में कमी की गुंजाइश है।

इक्रा के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष एवं समूह प्रमुख गिरीश कुमार कदम ने कहा-इक्रा का अनुमान है कि सितंबर, 2024 (17 सितंबर तक) में अंतरराष्ट्रीय उत्पाद कीमतों की तुलना में ओएमसी की शुद्ध प्राप्त पेट्रोल के लिए 15 रुपये प्रति लीटर और डीजल के लिए 12 रुपये प्रति लीटर अधिक रही। और ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि अगर कच्चे तेल की कीमतें स्थिर रहती हैं तो उनके दो से तीन रुपये प्रति लीटर की कमी करने की गुंजाइश है।



## पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम घटने की गुंजाइश

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में हाल के सप्ताहों में आई कमी से पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों के वाहन ईंधन पर मुनाफे में सुधार हुआ है। इससे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों को पेट्रोल तथा डीजल की कीमतों में दो से तीन रुपये प्रति लीटर की कटौती करने की गुंजाइश मिली है।

कच्चे तेल की कीमत सितंबर में औसतन 74 अमेरिकी डॉलर प्रति बैरल थी, जो मार्च में 83-84 अमेरिकी डॉलर प्रति बैरल थी। पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में आखिरी बार दो रुपये प्रति लीटर की कटौती की गई थी।