

'May Raise Ethanol Blend Goal to 20%+'

Bikash Singh

Guwahati: Union petroleum minister Hardeep S Puri Wednesday said India will reach its 2026 target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol next month and that a committee is now looking into increasing the target further.

The country has already achieved a 19.6% ethanol blending rate, Puri said at Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit here. "We are considering blending more than 20% biofuel. A group under NITI Aayog has already been established to explore this possibility."

The minister also said all fossil fuel production companies in the country are expected to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. He said the country is working to bring down the price of green hydrogen to \$2.5 per kilogram from \$4.5 now, which can trigger "a massive shift to green hydrogen." "I foresee that India will be consuming 6.5-7 million barrels in the short to medium term."

Puri said one million square km will be opened for Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), out of



ANI

around 3.5 million sq km of sedimentary basin in the country. Already, 200,000 sq km is under OALP — a mechanism that allows investors to bid for blocks of their choice based on E&P data without waiting for an official auction.

Assam contains 12% of the country's natural gas reserves and produces half of India's onshore natural gas, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. The state also has refining capacity of 7.45 million metric tonnes across four operational refineries.

By 2030, crude oil availability in the state is projected to double, and natural gas production is set to increase to 6.3 billion cubic metres from 3.2 BCM, Sarma said.

BP cuts renewable investment, boosts oil and gas funds to \$10 bn

BP slashed planned investment in renewable energy and said on Wednesday it would increase annual oil and gas spending to \$10 billion, in a major strategy shift aimed at boosting earnings and shareholder returns.

The oil major cut planned annual investment in energy transition businesses by more than \$5 billion, from its previous forecast, to between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion per year.

“We will grow upstream investment and production to allow us to produce high margin energy for years to come. We will focus our downstream on markets where we have leading integrated positions,” CEO Murray Auchincloss said in

a statement.

Under Auchincloss’ predecessor, Bernard Looney, BP pledged in 2020 to cut oil and gas output by 40 per cent while rapidly growing renewables by 2030. BP lowered the reduction target to 25 per cent in 2023. BP now aims to grow

oil and gas production to between 2.3 million and 2.5 million barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd) in 2030.

Across the energy sector, major firms that shifted their position in response to the need to lower carbon emissions and curb climate change have returned the focus to oil and gas. BP also said it was reviewing its lubricants business, Castrol, and targeting \$20 billion in divestments by 2027.

REUTERS





BP TO BOOST OIL & GAS INVESTMENT TO \$10 BILLION

Reuters

feedback@livemint.com

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BP to boost oil and gas investment to \$10 bn

Reuters

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"We will be very selective in investments in the transition, including through innovative capital-light platforms. This is a reset BP, with an unwavering focus on growing its long-term shareholder value," Auchincloss said.

Crown LNG banks on India-US energy ties to expand ops

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NEW DELHI

Crown LNG, a Nasdaq-listed LNG infrastructure firm, is looking at accelerating and expanding its operations in India to leverage prospects of growing energy trade between India and the US, co-founder and CEO Swapan Kataria said.

The company, with expertise in gravity-based structures for offshore LNG terminals, is building an offshore terminal along the coast of Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh and is considering setting up another in Haldia in West Bengal, Kataria said in an interview to *Mint*.

Crown is counting on rising energy trade between the two countries after US President Donald Trump said during PM Narendra Modi's recent visit to Washington that US will be the top energy supplier to India.

"I think it's a happy marriage between 'Drill, baby, drill' and 'build baby build' because that's what India would need," he said, referring to the remarks made by Trump (on drilling for more oil) and UK Premier Keir Starmer (on building mini-nuclear power stations).

Kataria said with Trump coming in, expectations are that there will be more oil and natural gas in the market, and it will lead to additional infrastructure projects being developed for the commodities and higher exports from the US.

While US is the fifth-largest supplier of oil to India, it is the second largest LNG supplier. It sold LNG worth \$2.15 billion to India in April-November.



Swapan Kataria, CEO, Crown

Crown plans to start construction of an LNG export plant in the US before Trump's second term ends in 2029, Reuters reported in November, citing Kataria. "So, we are now starting on a 10 million tonne export licensing development in the US we have just announced 5-6 months back. Now we're finalizing the site. Once we finalize, we will next go to the supply arrangements of gas," Kataria told *Mint*.

India, the third-largest energy consumer, wants to leverage LNG use as a fuel to lower carbon dioxide emissions and increase the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix to 15%

In India, Crown is set to complete an initial capacity of 4 mn tonnes at the Kakinada LNG terminal and then raise it to 7.2 mt

by 2030. The Centre has identified LNG as a transport fuel that can help reduce vehicular pollution and import bills.

In India, Crown is looking at completing an initial capacity of 4 million tonnes at the Kakinada LNG terminal and subsequently raising it to 7.2 million tonne. It has been licensed to operate 365 days, a first for the harsh weather-prone area.

For an extended version of the story go to livemint.com

Don't expect cheaper energy from a Trump deal with Putin

US sanctions did not curtail Russia's hydrocarbon supplies much



JAVIER BLAS
is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering energy and commodities.



A Trump-Putin deal might lift sanctions on Russia but oil prices may not budge **AFP**

The return of Russian commodities to the global market isn't a question of if, but when—and under which conditions. That moment is approaching, yet the lifting of sanctions by the West and the normalization of trade won't be as bearish for prices as it looks at first sight.

As US-Russia negotiations over the Ukraine-Russia war start, there are two competing views in the market. One says the talks will be long and winding, thus, sanctions will remain in place for months, perhaps years. The other says that relief is around the corner.

I believe the latter is more likely. Moreover, what really matters is not the sanctions, but their enforcement. And after last week, does anyone really believe the US Treasury will prioritize policing, say, Russia oil exports? Or that US diplomats are lobbying Asian countries to avoid commodity imports from Russia? Or that the White House isn't looking forward to the return of American oil companies to Russia? The US-led sanctions regime is crumbling—in reality if not in law yet.

The stakes are huge. Russia is a commodities superpower, ranking among the top five in many markets, from crude oil to aluminium to wheat, and is a key supplier to its neighbours. Before Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine in 2022, disrupting flows, Russia supplied Europe with 25% of its oil, another 50% of its coal, plus nearly 40% of its gas.

The war turned that trade upside down, but Russian commodity production didn't change much. In a few cases, output today is higher than in 2021.

That was, in part, by design. Washington, London and Brussels faced an ugly choice: Embargo Russian commodities and witness sky-high inflation, or allow the trade to continue, financing the Kremlin in its war against Ukraine.

Instead, they took an impossible third way: Impose sanctions but with enough loopholes so the flow continues.

Hence, lifting sanctions may not drive down prices—at least, not in the very short term. Take oil. Russian crude production isn't constrained by Western sanctions, but rather by its own choices as a member of the Opec+ cartel. True, Russian oil output is lower than it was in late 2021, running at about 9.7 million barrels a day, compared to 10.6 million barrels. But the output of other leading Opec+ nations, such as Saudi Arabia, is down by a similar amount, if not even more.

Agricultural commodities are another example of a corner of the commodity mar-

ket that won't be affected. Beyond the friction created by banking sanctions, Russia has been able to export as much of its crops as it wanted. In effect, wheat exports in 2023-24 reached an all-time high of 55 million metric tonnes, up 60% from 2021-22.

The metallurgical sector is similar. Russian aluminium production rose last year to 3.8 million tonnes, the highest in more than a decade.

The exception is natural gas. Ironically, current sanctions on gas are Russian—not Western. It was Moscow that, by and large, stopped selling its gas to Europe. Wherever the commodity is still available, such as in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG), Europe remains a willing buyer. In fact, some European countries are buying Russian LNG in record amounts, more than 1,000 days after the invasion.

While I don't expect Europe to ever buy as much Russian gas as once it did, it's clear that when it flows again, even if only to a small group of countries, the impact would be large. European benchmark wholesale natural gas prices could drop 25%, if not more, by next year if Russian gas is available. That, in turn, will push electricity prices also down. I have consistently anticipated that Germany and others will again buy Russian gas, even if Putin remains in the Kremlin. Nothing so far makes me think that's not the case.

For every other commodity, the biggest change wrought by the Russia-Ukraine war wasn't in its production, but in its destination. Rather than flow to their natural buyers, based on geographical proximity, Russian commodities went mostly to China and India.

If lifting sanctions won't change supply for commodities immediately, it does open the door for future hikes. First, a deal could alter Moscow's stance versus Opec+. For now, all suggest that the Russia-Saudi oil alliance is strong. But Putin himself has advocated including the US in tri-party talks on the energy market, alongside Riyadh and Moscow. US President Donald Trump has asked Opec+ to lift output.

Beyond that, lifting sanctions—and particularly, the return of US money—could boost Russian production capacity, particularly for oil. But that's the stuff of years, rather than weeks.

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ONGC, COAL INDIA AMONG TOP CONTRIBUTORS

FY25 CPSE dividends to beat target by ₹10K cr

● Dividends from govt-owned firms already at ₹60,000 cr

PRASANTA SAHU
New Delhi, February 26

THE CENTRE'S DIVIDEND receipts from the companies it owns have exceeded the revised estimate of ₹55,000 crore for FY25 by ₹5,000 crore and may well reach ₹65,000 crore by the end of the financial year, according to official sources.

Dividend receipts from central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) is one of the components of the Centre's non-tax receipts along with other heads like "surplus" transferred by the Reserve Bank of India, and telecom spectrum receipts.

In FY25, the RE for non-tax receipts is pegged at ₹5.31 lakh crore, with a record amount of ₹2.11 lakh crore received from the Reserve Bank of India, and ₹1.23

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Centre's dividends from CPSEs (₹ cr)



lakh crore as spectrum revenues.

Robust dividends from energy sectors like Coal India and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have boosted non-tax receipts.

So far in FY25, Coal India is the top dividend payer to the government with ₹10,252 crore compared with ₹9,532 crore in the previous year.

Similarly, top state-run explorer ONGC has paid ₹10,002

crore compared with ₹7,594 crore in FY24.

With margins improving due to lower crude prices during the year, the petroleum sector as a whole has paid ₹21,443 crore to the government so far in FY25, 11% more than ₹19,353 crore in FY24.

In the Budget presented on February 1, the government marginally revised dividend receipts

from CPSEs to ₹55,000 crore from ₹56,260 crore in the Budget estimate.

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

Given the trends so far, the FY25 CPSE dividend receipts will likely set a new record.

For FY26, the Centre has estimated dividend receipts at ₹69,000 crore assuming benign crude and other global commodity prices.

Higher dividend receipts from CPSEs and the Reserve Bank of India have cushioned the government's fiscal deficit in recent years.

Thanks to the RBI dividend of ₹2.11 lakh crore as against the Budget estimate of ₹80,000-90,000 crore, the fiscal deficit for FY25 has been pegged at 4.8% of GDP in a revised estimate from 4.9% estimated earlier.





Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri (right) with Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at the Assam investors summit, in Guwahati on Wednesday

PTI

Govt considers hiking ethanol blending with petrol to over 20%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Guwahati, February 26

INDIA IS LOOKING at increasing its target to blend ethanol with petrol to more than 20% and has formed a committee under the NITI Aayog for this, petroleum minister Hardeep S Puri said on Wednesday.

Addressing the Advantage Assam 2.0 business summit in Guwahati, he said 19.6% blending has already been achieved.

"We will be looking at more than 20% blending of biofuel. Already a NITI Aayog group has been set up and they are looking into it," he said.

"We had set a target of 20% blending by 2026, but already achieved 19.6%. I am sure we will touch 20 per cent next month," he added.

Puri said that the country has a capacity of 1,700 crore litre of blending, and already 1,500 crore litre are being utilised.

With India spending USD 150

billion on different types of fuel imports, he said that one area where the attention is lacking is green hydrogen.

Investments worth ₹4.78L cr announced in Assam business summit

Investment announcements worth around ₹4.8 lakh crore were made at the Assam government's two-day business summit, chief secretary Ravi Kota said on Wednesday.

During the valedictory function of the 'Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit', around 270 agreements worth ₹2.75 lakh crore were signed among the state government and various companies, he said.

"We have received a total investment proposal of around ₹4.78 lakh crore so far. This includes MoUs and announcements by top industry leaders," Kota said.



India imported a record 27 mt LNG in 2024: Shell

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

A searing summer that fired up electricity demand, coupled with expanding industrial and commercial operations, pushed India to import record volumes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the last calendar year, accounting for 7 per cent of imports worldwide.

Shell, in its LNG outlook, said India increased annual imports to a record high of 27 million tonnes (mt) in the 2024 calendar year (CY), a 20 per cent y-o-y growth.

“India bought record volumes to help meet stronger power demand due to hotter weather in early summer. India imports LNG to increase its natural gas supply, which is used for power-generation, cooking and heating purposes, and to meet industrial demand

around the country,” the report said.

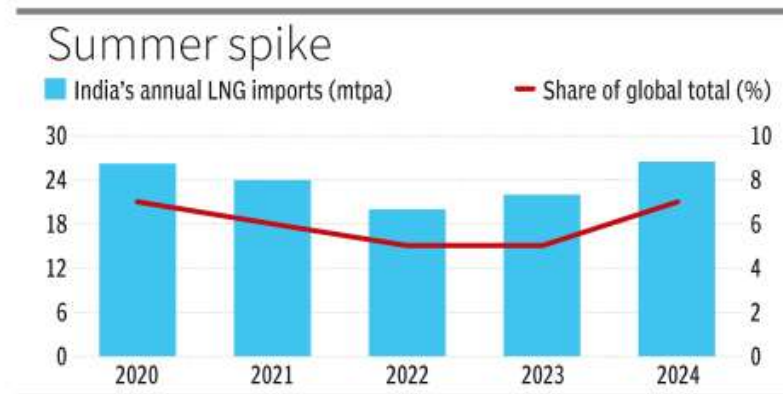
The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its gas market report for Q1 2025 CY pointed out that LNG cargoes by the world’s fourth largest importer grew by a record of over 6 billion cubic metres (BCM), or 21 per cent Y-o-Y, in 2024.

The agency attributed the development to robust demand for RLNG (regasified LNG) in the city gas distribution (CGD) and oil refining sectors, as well as softer domestic gas production dynamics.

HIGHER IMPORTS

Going ahead, Shell projected that the demand for gas continues to gather pace across Asia, with China and India significantly increasing their regasification and downstream infrastructure.

India is also moving ahead with building natural gas in-



Source: Shell

frastructure and adding gas connections to 30 million people over the next five years, it added. India remains an attractive market for long-term suppliers, said IEA adding, just over 15 BCM per year of new sales and purchase agreements were signed in 2024, including the renewal for 20 years of Qatar’s 10 BCM per year contract starting from 2028.

According to a recent report by Wood Mackenzie, falling production amidst rising demand for LNG —

considered the best transition fuel — is expected to push up imports, with India likely to become the world’s third largest importer, after China and Japan by 2032, with in-bound cargoes accounting for 75 per cent of its gas consumption.

“We expect LNG demand to continue to grow in the coming years, exceeding 37 mtpa by 2030 and 88 mtpa by 2050, as India’s demand for gas rises, while its domestic production shrinks. By 2032 already, LNG should account

for around two-thirds of India’s gas consumption and will become the third largest importer of LNG after China and Japan,” Wood Mac said.

INCREASING SUPPLIES

Besides, more LNG supply is expected to come online globally in the next 4-5 years, which will soften prices favouring more Indian purchases. “More than 170 million tonnes of new LNG supply is set to come on to the market by 2030, helping to meet growing long-term global demand for gas. But project start-up timings remain uncertain,” Shell said in its report.

Significant growth in LNG supply will come from Qatar and the US. The US is set to extend its lead as the world’s largest LNG exporter, potentially reaching 180 mt a year by 2030 and accounting for a third of global supply, it added.

India may increase ethanol blending with petrol: Puri

PTI



Guwahati: India is looking at increasing its target to blend ethanol with petrol to more than 20% and has formed a committee under the NITI Aayog for this, petroleum minister Hardeep S. Puri said on Wednesday. With India spending \$150 billion on different types of fuel imports, the minister said that one area where attention is lacking is green hydrogen.

PTI

India planning to raise ethanol blending by 20 per cent: Hardeep Singh Puri

AGENCIES

GUWAHATI, 26 FEBRUARY

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri stated on Wednesday that India is considering raising its goal to blend ethanol with gasoline to more than 20 per cent.

He stated that 19.6 per cent blending has already been accomplished while speaking at the Advantage Assam 2.0 investment summit in Guwahati today.

"We'll be considering blending more than 20 per cent biofuel. An NITI Aayog group has already been established, and they are investigating," he stated.

Despite India's developmental hurdles, all fossil fuel production businesses will reach net zero by 2045, Union Minister Puri said.

Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa



Sarma said, "The Ministry of Petroleum also announced at the last Advantage Assam Summit that they will bring a gas grid from Barauni to Numaligarh, again 1600 km gas grid."

"Even though Assam accounts for 14 per cent of India's total gas production, our domestic output may only meet 7-8 per cent of the country's needs due to the state's increasing industrialisation and City Gas's dedication. You have therefore dispelled the notion that

Assam gas is being used elsewhere in the nation by completing the 1600 km pipeline and northeast gas grid in record time. For Assam's development, we are instead importing gas from other parts of the nation and the global market," he added.

Notably, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has acted quickly and decisively in the last 10 years when it comes to the development of Assam and all Northeastern states.

This session was organised as a strategic forum to advance Assam's role in India's Act East Policy, focusing on enhancing regional connectivity, boosting trade, and strengthening cross-border collaboration emphasised Assam's position as the gateway to India's Act East Policy.

India targeting 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol, says Hardeep Puri

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

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"We had set a target of 20 per cent blending by 2026, but already achieved 19.6 per cent. I am sure we will touch



Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit 2025 in Guwahati

presently \$4.5. If you can bring it closer to \$2.5, there will be a revolution.

We will see a massive shift to green hydrogen from traditional fuel," the minister told leaders of PSU and private energy firms present at the session on hydrocarbons.

He said that every country is moving towards clean energy, but it has to be done by surviving the challenges and demands of the economy.

"For an economy like India growing at six-seven per cent, it needs fuel. We need to survive the present for a cleaner future," he added.

Puri said all the fossil fuel production companies will achieve net zero by 2045, even though India has developmental challenges.

20 per cent next month," he added.

Puri said that the country has a capacity of 1,700 Crore litre of blending, and already 1,500 Crore litre are being utilised.

With India spending \$150 Billion on different types of fuel imports, he said that one area where the attention is lacking is green hydrogen. "The green hydrogen price is

Oil at 2-month low on rising supply concerns

REUTERS

26 February

Oil prices held at two-month lows on Wednesday as a potential peace deal between Russia and Ukraine continued to weigh on prices while lower US crude stockpiles provided some support.

Brent crude was down 19 cents at \$72.83 a barrel by 1256 GMT and US West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures fell by 13 cents to \$68.80.



Prospects for a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine are improving, ING commodities strategists said in a note on Wednesday, adding that the market was also watching for potential implications of a minerals deal between the

U.S. and Ukraine. "This would take us a step closer to Russian sanctions being lifted, removing much of the supply uncertainty hanging over the market," the note said.

The US and Ukraine agreed terms of a draft minerals deal central to Trump's efforts to bring a swift end to the war in Ukraine, sources familiar with the matter told on Tuesday.

Supporting prices on Wednesday, US crude stocks fell by 640,000 barrels in the week ended February 21, market sources said on Tuesday, citing American Petroleum Institute data.

Official U.S. stockpile data is due later on Wednesday. "If confirmed by the EIA later today, it would mark the first decline in US crude oil inventories since mid-January," said ING.



Oil India plans new blocks, global tie-ups

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delh, February 26

STATE-OWNED OIL INDIA (OIL) has drawn up a plan to augment its production of crude oil and natural gas with several new blocks expected to start production in the coming months.

The company is targeting to produce 4 million tonne (MT) of domestic crude oil and 5 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas in the next couple of years, and hopes to start drilling operations in the Kerala-Konkan region by October this year, a top company executive told FE.

The company presently is operating around 20 rigs and aims to increase this count to 24 within the next six months.

PRODUCTION RAMP-UP

■ Targeting to produce 4 MT of domestic crude oil and 5 bcm of gas in the next couple of years

■ Hopes to start drilling operations in the Kerala-Konkan region by October this year

■ Currently operates around 20 rigs and aims to increase this count to 24 in six months



■ For FY25, OIL is looking at 3.8 MTOE crude oil and 3.8 bcm of natural gas

■ In talks with TotalEnergies, Chevron, PTTEP and Petronas for tie-ups in exploration of offshore hydrocarbon blocks

"Currently our acreage is about 60,000 sq kilometres and under OALP (Open Acreage Licensing Policy) 9th round, we will get an additional 50,000 sq km of area, crossing 1 lakh sq km," the source said, adding that exploration of offshore blocks

would be OIL's major focus area going forward.

In the current fiscal, OIL is targeting to produce 3.8 mtoe crude oil and 3.8bcm of natural gas. Oil India's annual production growth rate has been increasing by 5-6% annually in

the last few years.

In addition to the increase in acreage and production, the company is also in discussions with several international oil companies, including TotalEnergies, Chevron, PTT Exploration and Production Public Com-

pany, and Petronas for partnerships in exploration of offshore hydrocarbon blocks.

"We will be doing a lot of seismic studies and we are interacting with a lot of international oil companies like TotalEnergies, Chevron, Petronas, PTTEP for tie-ups," the official said. "A lot of them are showing interest to partner with us for offshore blocks won under the OALP 9th round and for the latest OALP 10th round of bidding."

For new overseas ventures, OIL plans to partner other local peers, including ONGC Videsh and Indian Oil Corp. "If we are going with an international company, we would prefer them to take operatorship of the block," said the official.





DHIRAJ NAYYAR

SECURING THE NEW OIL

India must open up exploration of critical minerals to protect its interests

A RESOLUTION OF the Russia-Ukraine war seems imminent. The contours of the peace may depend on Volodymyr Zelenskyy's final offer of American access to his country's considerable critical mineral resources. Not long ago, America's involvement in foreign wars or conflicts centred around the geoeconomics of oil. The technologies of the "future" — electric vehicles, renewable energy, high-tech semiconductors, etc — all are critical-mineral-intensive. Critical minerals — copper, lithium, cobalt, graphite, nickel, rare earths among others — are the new oil with great influence on not just economics but over war and peace. India must take note.

In the second half of the 20th century, America's involvement in foreign conflicts and wars was influenced partly by ideology, but also by geoeconomic interests, particularly oil. Think back to the first Gulf War. At that time, the US was import-dependent for oil. Since then, the US left no stone unturned to become self-sufficient in oil and gas, becoming the largest producer in the world. Import dependence on something as fundamental as oil is a strategic vulnerability.

The reason why Vladimir Putin's Russia can fight protracted wars despite a middling economy is its self-sufficiency in oil and gas and defence equipment. But without the former, having the latter would not be enough. Abundant, affordable fuel is necessary to run the war machinery. Putin also knows that Europe's import dependence on energy, particularly gas, is what makes its response to

For the US, the present scenario around critical minerals is not dissimilar to the situation in oil three decades ago. It may be more acute. The US is heavily import-dependent. Worse, the greatest concentration of many critical minerals, particularly rare earths, is in the hands of its greatest rival, China. Imagine the Cold War if the USSR had control over much of the world's oil.

Russia's moves more complicated.

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President Donald Trump's interest in "acquiring" Greenland or suggestion to make Canada the 51st state of the US is driven by the huge potential these lands have in critical minerals. Ukraine is also well endowed. It has one-third of the estimated lithium reserves in all of Europe. Its reserves of graphite, a key input in batteries, are among the top 5 in the world. It has significant reserves of 17 rare earths in which China controls about 75 per cent of global deposits. And in recent months, it has not hesitated to ban or restrict exports.

The US is locked in a tight race with China on the technological frontier. Overall, one would assume that the US is ahead, but China's dominance of the global electric vehicle industry (the US only has Tesla in the top league of EVs), its catch-up in AI with Deepseek, its ability to manufacture cutting-edge military hardware including sixth-generation fighter jets, suggests that US leadership isn't as certain or secure as it may have been a decade ago.

The last thing the US would want in such

a scenario is to be vulnerable in the supply chain for raw materials which underlie many of these technologies. For now, the US may not achieve self-sufficiency, but it will want to ensure zero dependence on China or any other country that is not friendly to US interests. Therefore, Ukraine's resources are important. And the war gives the US more leverage with Ukraine than it has with Greenland or Canada.

There are lessons for India. India may not be in the same league as the US and China in terms of technology and cutting-edge manufacturing. It may not even feel the pressure on critical minerals because a lot of things including batteries and components of solar and wind power infrastructure are imported today. But the government aspires to make India a manufacturing hub and all of these should be made in India soon.

India's import dependence for critical minerals is even more than for oil. The government is actively searching for assets overseas and signing supply agreements with friendly countries. However, there is no substitute for producing more domestically. India has a very rich geology but there is insufficient exploration. It is time to completely liberalise exploration and let those who make discoveries monetise their find. That is the global practice. That is the path to a vulnerability-free future.

The writer is Chief Economist, Vedanta Ltd

पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिश्रण को 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक करने पर विचार : हरदीप पुरी

गुवाहाटी, (पंजाब केसरी): पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने बुधवार को कहा कि भारत पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिश्रण के अपने लक्ष्य को बढ़ाकर 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक करने पर विचार कर रहा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस पर विचार करने के लिए नीति आयोग के तहत एक समिति गठित की गई है। 'एडवांटेज असम 2.0 व्यापार शिखर सम्मेलन' में पुरी ने कहा कि 19.6 प्रतिशत सम्मिश्रण पहले ही हासिल किया जा चुका है।

उन्होंने कहा, हम 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक जैव ईंधन मिश्रण पर विचार कर रहे हैं। नीति आयोग समूह का गठन पहले ही किया जा चुका

● देश में 1,700 करोड़ लीटर मिश्रण की क्षमता है और पहले से ही 1,500 करोड़ लीटर का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है



हैं और वे इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं। पुरी ने कहा, "हमने 2026 तक 20 प्रतिशत मिश्रण का लक्ष्य रखा था, लेकिन हम पहले ही 19.6 प्रतिशत हासिल कर चुके हैं। मुझे यकीन है कि हम अगले महीने 20

प्रतिशत तक पहुंच जाएंगे।" उन्होंने कहा कि देश में 1,700 करोड़ लीटर मिश्रण की क्षमता है और पहले से ही 1,500 करोड़ लीटर का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है। मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत विभिन्न प्रकार के ईंधन आयात

पर 150 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर खर्च कर रहा है और एक क्षेत्र जहां ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है.. वह है हरित हाइड्रोजन।

पुरी ने हाइड्रोजन पर सत्र में उपस्थित सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों और निजी ऊर्जा कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों से कहा, "हरित हाइड्रोजन की कीमत वर्तमान में 4.5

अमेरिकी डॉलर है।

यदि आप इसे 2.5 अमेरिकी डॉलर के करीब ला सकें, तो क्रांति आ जाएगी। हम पारंपरिक ईंधन से हरित हाइड्रोजन की ओर बड़े पैमाने पर बदलाव देखेंगे।"

पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिश्रण को 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक करने पर विचार : हरदीप सिंह पुरी

वैभव न्यूज़ ■ गुवाहाटी

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने बुधवार को कहा कि भारत पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिश्रण के अपने लक्ष्य को बढ़ाकर 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक करने पर विचार कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस पर विचार करने के लिए नीति आयोग के तहत एक समिति गठित की गई है। एडवांटेज असम 2.0 व्यापार शिखर सम्मेलन में पुरी ने कहा कि 19.6 प्रतिशत मिश्रण पहले ही हासिल किया जा चुका है। उन्होंने कहा, हम 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक जैव ईंधन मिश्रण पर विचार कर रहे हैं। नीति आयोग समूह का गठन पहले ही किया जा चुका है और वे इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा, हमने 2026 तक 20 प्रतिशत मिश्रण का लक्ष्य



रखा था, लेकिन हम पहले ही 19.6 प्रतिशत हासिल कर चुके हैं। मुझे यकीन है कि हम अगले महीने 20 प्रतिशत तक पहुंच जाएंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में 1,700 करोड़ लीटर मिश्रण की क्षमता है और पहले से

ही 1,500 करोड़ लीटर का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है। मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत विभिन्न प्रकार के ईंधन आयात पर 150 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर खर्च कर रहा है और एक क्षेत्र जहां ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है वह है हरित

हाइड्रोजन। पुरी ने हाइड्रोजन पर सत्र में उपस्थित सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों और निजी उर्जा कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों से कहा, हरित हाइड्रोजन की कीमत वर्तमान में 4.5 अमेरिकी डॉलर है। यदि आप इसे 2.5 अमेरिकी

डॉलर के करीब ला सकें, तो क्रांति आ जाएगी। हम पारंपरिक ईंधन से हरित हाइड्रोजन की ओर बढ़े पैमाने पर बदलाव देखेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि हर देश स्वच्छ ऊर्जा की ओर बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन इसके लिए अर्थव्यवस्था की चुनौतियों से निपटना होगा और मांगों को पूरा करना होगा। उन्होंने कहा, भारत जैसी अर्थव्यवस्था जो छह से सात प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ रही है, उसे ईंधन की जरूरत है। स्वच्छ भविष्य के लिए हमें वर्तमान में टिके रहने की जरूरत है। पुरी ने कहा कि भले ही भारत के सामने विकास संबंधी चुनौतियां हैं लेकिन सभी जीवाश्म ईंधन उत्पादन कंपनियां 2045 तक शुद्ध शून्य उत्सर्जन हासिल कर लेंगी। हाइड्रोजन के अन्वेषण और उत्पादन (ईएंडपी) पर पुरी ने कहा कि 2030 तक उत्पादन 50 लाख टन तक पहुंचने की संभावना है।

पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिश्रण को 20% से अधिक करने पर विचार कर रहा है भारत : हरदीप पुरी

सवेरा न्यूज/एजेंसी

गुवाहाटी, 26 फरवरी : पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने बुधवार को कहा कि भारत पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिलाने के अपने लक्ष्य को बढ़ाकर 20% से अधिक करने पर विचार कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस पर विचार करने के लिए नीति आयोग के तहत एक समिति गठित की गई है। 'एडवांटेज असम 2.0 व्यापार शिखर सम्मेलन' में पुरी ने कहा कि 19.6% सम्मिश्रण पहले ही हासिल किया जा चुका है। पुरी ने कहा कि भले ही भारत के सामने विकास संबंधी चुनौतियां हैं लेकिन सभी जीवाश्म ईंधन उत्पादन कंपनियां 2045 तक शुद्ध शून्य उत्सर्जन हासिल कर लेंगी।

उन्होंने कहा कि देश में 1,700 करोड़ लीटर मिश्रण की क्षमता है और पहले से ही 1,500 करोड़ लीटर का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है। पुरी ने हाइड्रोकार्बन पर सत्र में उपस्थित सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों और निजी ऊर्जा कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों से ● शेष पृष्ठ 4 पर



हरदीप पुरी

पेट्रोल में एथनॉल मिश्रण...

कहा, 'हरित हाइड्रोजन की कीमत वर्तमान में 4.5 अमरीकी डॉलर है। यदि आप इसे 2.5 अमरीकी डॉलर के करीब ला सकें, तो क्रांति आ जाएगी। हम पारंपरिक ईंधन से हरित हाइड्रोजन की ओर बड़े पैमाने पर बदलाव देखेंगे।' उन्होंने कहा कि हर देश स्वच्छ ऊर्जा की ओर बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन इसके लिए अर्थव्यवस्था की चुनौतियों से निपटना होगा और मांगों को पूरा करना होगा।