

Capex spend by CPSEs, 4 organisations touches over 17% of FY27 target

GROWTH PUSH. More than ₹1.44 lakh crore spent in April-May; GAIL (India) tops the table

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

GAIL (India) Ltd leads 63 central public sector enterprises and four other organisations in spending more than one-fourth of the annual target of capital expenditure in first two months of the fiscal year 2026-27 (FY27), data from Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) showed.

The overall target for capital expenditure in FY27 is over ₹8.43 lakh crore, while actual expenditure was over ₹1.44 lakh crore, which is over 17 per cent. However, while actual spending was over ₹81,000 crore in April, which came down to over ₹63,500 crore in May.

During the two-month period, Railway Board stood second with achieving over 25 per cent of the annual target. It was followed by NTPC, NHAI and ONGC

PROFITABLE GROWTH CPSEs are encouraged to



The overall target for capital expenditure in FY27 is over ₹8.43 lakh crore

take up capex to achieve profitable growth in their business. A large capex creates growth opportunities and further employment. Several key performance indicators (KPIs) have been included in the annual MoU framework for CPSE evaluation.

This includes capex, return on networth or return on capital employed, export and import as per cent of rev-

Capital expenditure

(in ₹ crore)

CPSE/Organisation	Target for FY27	Actual (Apr-May)	% of target
GAIL	11,518	3,279	28.5
Railway Board	2,92,001	73,662	25.2
NTPC	31,000	5,672	18.3
NHAI	1,87,293	31,310	16.7
ONGC	30,000	4,546	15.1
Coal India	16,500	1,988	12
NPCI	18,287	2,079	11.4
SAIL	15,000	1,670	11.1
POWERGRID	37,000	3,410	9.2
IOC	32,700	2,637	8.07

Source: DPE

enue, EBIDTA as per cent of revenue and asset turnover ratio.

This data has come at a time when capex of the Central government surged by over 18 per cent in April compared to the corresponding month of FY26 as reported by Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

Key contributions came from railway (19 per cent of the Budget Estimates) and

road (19 per cent of the Budget Estimates)

The government has set the capital expenditure during current fiscal to ₹12.21 lakh crore of which over ₹1.89 lakh crore has been spent during April. Higher spending by infrastructure ministries is expected to have a positive impact on the overall growth number.

Higher spending by CPSEs and government or-

ganisations are critical as not much improvement is seen in the private capex.

It may be noted that a forward looking survey on private capex investment intentions by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed moderation in capex during FY27, with aggregate intentions falling 16.5 per cent to ₹9.55 lakh crore from the provisional ₹11.44 lakh crore estimated for 2025-26 (FY26).

ASSET SPENDING

This is, according to the second forward-looking survey on private corporate sector capex investment intentions, covering October–December 2025.

The implied 16.5 per cent decline in planned new-asset spending among the 5,366 large enterprises surveyed signals a more cautious investment stance, even as per-enterprise capex on new assets is projected to edge up from ₹79.4 crore in FY26 to ₹85.2 crore in FY27.

Govt exempts higher ethanol fuel blends from excise duty

Move follows the Centre's approval of standards for petrol with ethanol blends up to 30%

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NEW DELHI

The government has extended central excise duty exemptions to petrol blended with 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% ethanol, a significant policy step aimed at supporting higher ethanol blending levels beyond the existing E20 programme.

The move follows the government's approval of standards for ethanol-blended petrol containing up to 30% ethanol, paving the way for the commercial adoption of higher-blend fuels.

In a set of notifications issued late Wednesday, the department of revenue amended multiple central excise notifications to grant nil excise duty rates and related exemptions for ethanol-blended petrol containing 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% ethanol by volume, provided the blends conform to the Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) specification IS 19850.

The notifications provide a nil excise duty rate for E22, E25, E27, as well as E30 fuel blends that conform to BIS standards.

Beyond E20

The move comes as India has already achieved its target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol ahead of schedule and is exploring higher



The government has repeatedly indicated that it intends to raise blending levels further after achieving the E20 milestone.

MINT

blending levels to reduce crude oil imports, cut carbon emissions and boost demand for domestically produced biofuels.

Under the notifications, E22 fuel will comprise 78% petrol and 22% ethanol, while E25, E27 and E30 fuels will contain 25%, 27% and 30% ethanol respectively.

The exemptions apply where appropriate duties have been paid on motor spirit and applicable goods and services tax (GST) has been paid on ethanol used in the blend.

The amendments have been made to Notification No. 11/2017-Central

Excise and Notification No. 28/2002-Central Excise, while separate notifications also exempt these higher blends from additional excise duties and road and infrastructure cess.

Energy security

India is currently implementing E20 fuel adoption nationwide, while industry bodies and biofuel manufacturers have urged a shift towards E22 and higher blends, citing surplus ethanol availability and the need to reduce oil import dependence.

The move also comes as the country grapples with a crude supply squeeze

and volatile prices triggered by the West Asia war. Concerns over potential disruption to traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for about 20% of global oil supplies, have sharpened the focus on reducing dependence on imported crude.

Industry experts say higher blending could raise ethanol production capacity utilization from the current 50%.

Technical groundwork

India's ethanol blending programme has expanded rapidly in recent years, with ethanol procurement by oil marketing companies rising sharply on the back of increased production from sugarcane-based and grain-based distilleries.

The Centre has repeatedly indicated that it intends to raise blending further after achieving the E20 milestone, although a formal roadmap for E25 or E30 adoption is yet to be announced. *Mint* reported on 19 May that India has laid the technical groundwork for petrol blended with up to 30% ethanol, signalling the government's intent to move beyond the ongoing E20 rollout as geopolitical tensions and volatile oil prices sharpen energy security concerns.

In an 18 May circular, the BIS notified norms for E22, E25, E27 and E30 fuel blends, which refer to petrol blended with 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% ethanol, respectively.

20%

Share of world's oil passing through Strait of Hormuz

50%

India's current ethanol production capacity utilization



OPEC cuts 2026 oil demand outlook

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Thursday lowered its forecast for world oil demand growth in 2026 to 970,000 barrels per day, the producer group said in its monthly report, marking the second straight downward revision. The group continues to see a smaller impact on consumption since the Iran war started than other forecasters such as the US energy information administration and the international energy agency. OPEC said consumption would rebound later and raised its demand growth forecast for 2027.

The current forecast reduced the expected oil demand growth this year from 1.17 million barrels per day seen previously.

REUTERS

Indian refiners boost crude, LPG supplies despite Iran conflict

NEW DELHI/SINGAPORE: Indian refiners have secured enough crude to meet their needs through at least August despite disruptions from the Iran war after stepping up purchases in recent weeks from Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) and other sellers, industry sources said.

Refiners in the world's third-largest oil-importing and consuming nation have been lifting ADNOC crude and liquefied petroleum gas cargoes via ship-to-ship transfer on a free-on-board basis, the sources said.

ADNOC is offering crude cargoes from Fujairah storage, Zirku or Das Island, as well as via ship-to-ship transfer in the Fujairah to Sohar area and Malaysia. LPG is mostly sold from Sohar, *Reuters* reported.

"We are well covered on



LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) front at least till mid-July, and crude is not a problem," an Indian refinery source said, declining to be named as they were not authorised to speak with media.

State-run Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) has purchased 4 million barrels of Murban crude from the United Arab Emirates for August delivery from Totsa, the trading arm of TotalEnergies, and Mercuria, trade sources said on Thursday.

The crude was priced at a

premium of about 40 cents per barrel to the July Dated Brent benchmark, one of the sources said.

Last week, HPCL bought 2 million barrels of crude from Brazil and West Africa for its 180,000-barrel-per-day Rajasthan refinery, traders said.

Other Indian refiners, including Indian Oil Corp (IOC) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), have also purchased crude through spot tenders in recent weeks.

After supplies from the Middle East were disrupted as the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran in late February restricted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, Indian refiners turned to imports from Latin America and Africa. The refiners also got some supplies from Saudi Arabia. AGENCIES

Govt exempts excise duty on higher ethanol-petrol blends

The CBIC issued notifications exempting ethanol blended petrol (EBP) grades E22, E25, E27 and E30 from applicable central excise duties

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The government has exempted higher ethanol-blended petrol grades from central excise duty to prevent double taxation on fuel blending activities, according to official notifications.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) issued notifications exempting ethanol blended petrol (EBP) grades E22, E25, E27 and E30 - containing 22 per cent, 25 per cent, 27 per cent and 30 per cent ethanol, respectively - from applicable central excise duties, subject to excise duty having already been paid on petrol and GST having been paid on the ethanol used for blending.

"Ethanol blending with petrol is a manufacturing activity which can be subjected to excise duty. Petrol bears excise duty, and ethanol bears GST at their respective stages. When the two are blended, the resulting product may attract excise duty once again on the full quantity," an official statement said.

For ethanol blends of up to 20 per cent, excise duty on the blended petrol was exempted by the Ministry of Finance. The exemption ensures that the duties already paid are not



charged a second time on the blend.

Government sources said the move is intended solely to remove a provision under the Central Excise law that could otherwise treat ethanol blending as a manufacturing activity and result in excise duty being levied a second time on the blended fuel. "The objective is to avoid any incidence of double taxation," a government source said.

The exemption mirrors the tax treatment already available to existing ethanol-blended petrol grades such as E5, E10 and E20, and does not amount to a reduction in excise duty on

petrol sold for domestic consumption, officials said. The notifications came into force on June 10, the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Officials said the tax exemption is a regulatory measure that would facilitate the introduction of higher ethanol blends in the future if required, but does not by itself signal any immediate rollout of E22, E25, E27 or E30 fuels in the retail market.

The move, they said, should not be interpreted as an immediate rollout of higher ethanol blends in the retail market. The exemption is a regulatory requirement because blend-

Key Points

- » 'Ethanol blending with petrol is a mfg activity which can be subjected to excise duty'
- » 'Petrol bears excise duty & ethanol bears GST at their respective stages'
- » 'When the two are blended, the resulting product may attract excise duty once again on the full quantity,' an official statement said

ing ethanol with petrol at fuel depots is considered a manufacturing activity that could otherwise attract excise duty.

BIS standards for higher ethanol blends (E22, E25, E27 and E30) have recently been issued in May 2026. The same excise duty waiver has now been extended to E22, E25, E27 and E30 vide notification dated June 10, 2026.

"This is a preliminary prerequisite for higher blends, but doesn't convey anything about roll out of higher blends, which will only be done after extensive testing and consultation," the statement said. "The sole pur-

pose of this notification is to avoid double levy of excise duty on ethanol-blended petrol."

The extension of the tax waiver to E22 (blend of 22 per cent ethanol and 78 per cent petrol), E25, E27 and E30 blends is a preliminary step that would facilitate any future introduction of higher ethanol-content fuels, officials said, adding any rollout would be subject to extensive testing and consultations before implementation.

India has accelerated ethanol blending in petrol as part of efforts to reduce crude oil imports, cut emissions and support the agricultural sector. Ethanol blending by state-run oil marketing companies has risen from 1.53 per cent in the ethanol supply year (ESY) 2014-15 to 20 per cent in ESY 2025-26, according to the statement.

The programme has generated payments of about Rs 1.62 lakh crore to farmers since 2014-15, while helping save more than Rs 1.91 lakh crore in foreign exchange through reduced crude oil imports. It has also resulted in crude oil substitution of about 31 million tonnes and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 93.1 million tonnes, it added.

THE COMPASS

Higher gas costs may keep city gas distribution margins under pressure

DEVANGSHU DATTA

The city gas distribution (CGD) sector is impacted heavily by the West Asia conflict and faces an administered pricing mechanism (APM) gas phase-out. This means margin pressure and an uncertain future outlook. The April 26 APM deallocation has been deferred. Recent petrol and diesel hikes have come alongside compressed natural gas (CNG) hikes, leaving the CNG-liquid fuel arbitrage unchanged in favour of gas.

India imported about 80 per cent of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from West Asia before the war. Loss of that supply has been partly offset by liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from US, Nigeria, and Angola. Imports from the US have risen by multiples, but total LNG imports in May were down 40 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y).

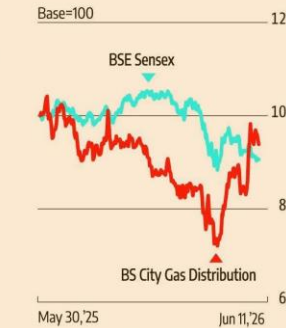
In industrial demand, the arbitrage favours gas over alternate fuels. CGDs may retain margins by partially rolling back hikes, after supply and prices normalise. But infra damage implies higher prices are likely, with possible LNG supply disruptions for at least 12-18 months. In May, Indraprastha Gas (IGL) and Gujarat Energy (GEL) saw 27.2 per cent and 34.8 per cent Y-o-Y growth, respectively, in CNG registrations. Mahanagar Gas also posted a 1.4 per cent increase. Penetration was up by 580 basis points Y-o-Y for IGL and 410 basis points for GEL, while MGL saw a 350 basis points decline. Potential growth in CNG volumes over the next 12 months is projected to be 15 per cent for GEL, 8 per cent for MGL and 9 per cent for IGL.

Price hikes have offset some costs. But May saw higher Brent prices

(11.4/bbl in the last three months), new well gas prices (1.0/metric million British thermal unit or mmbtu) and rupee depreciation. IGL faces margin pressure due to its higher exposure to Brent-linked gas. GEL may pass on blended cost rise to industrial consumers.

MGL's fourth quarter (Q4) adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) was ₹260 crore, down 26 per cent quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) due to higher gas costs at ₹35.2 per standard cubic metre (scm). Other operating expenses increased 8 per cent Q-o-Q.

Net realisation was at ₹48.8/scm and total sales volume of 4.7 million standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) was up 6 per cent Y-o-Y. MGL is somewhat insulated due to having no spot LNG or Brent linkage. MGL took price hikes in the domestic PNG and CNG



segments in April. Unit Ebitda of ₹6.2/scm was down 25 per cent Q-o-Q, and adjusted net profit of ₹130 crore decreased 35 per cent Q-o-Q. Overall

volume at 4.7 mmscmd was up 1 per cent Q-o-Q. GEL benefited as Morbi industrial volumes surged from 0.4 mmscmd in mid-March to 8 mmscmd currently, driven by propane unavailability. The company has guided for 7-8 mmscmd through June, and Q1FY27 volumes are likely to be 12-13 mmscmd. Non-Morbi growth could be 9 per cent annually over FY26-28.

The merger and restructuring makes it hard to compare financials. The Q4FY26 volumes at 8.8 mmscmd was down 5 per cent Y-o-Y. Consolidated net profit was ₹150 crore with power segment losses (Ebit loss of ₹120 crore in Q4), regasification losses (₹20 crore) among others. High LNG prices and rupee depreciation will compress Q1 margins. GEL has raised CNG pricing by ₹2.5/kg with more hikes signalled.

Restructuring effective from May

consolidates CGD, gas trading, exploration and production, and wind power under GEL, with a tax benefit of ₹7,200 crore of accumulated losses unlocked through merger, with ₹1,900 crore of write-offs still available.

Balance sheet also has ₹5,000 crore of cash equivalents. But sustained high LNG prices and losses in power and regasification are concerns. IGL reported volume growth in Q4FY26 offset by low margins. Net revenue rose 5.5 per cent Y-o-Y, with growth in both CNG & PNG segments. Total sales volumes increased to 9.7 mmscmd, up 5.6 per cent Y-o-Y. Ebitda came at ₹420 crore, up 10.4 per cent Y-o-Y.

IGL expects 350,000 more billed connections in FY27 and guides for over 20 per cent growth for domestic PNG volume. But price rise and potential supply disruptions are concerns. Q1FY27 is projected to witness near-term headwind.

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Higher ethanol-blended petrol exempted from excise duty

**MONIKA YADAV
& SHUBHANGI MATHUR**
New Delhi, 11 June

The Centre has exempted petrol blended with higher proportions of ethanol from central excise duty, in a move aimed at promoting the use of cleaner fuels and accelerating the country's ethanol blending programme.

According to a notification issued by the Department of Revenue, petrol containing 22-30 per cent ethanol will attract nil excise duty. The notification inserted separate entries for E22, E25, E27 and E30 petrol blends and prescribed a nil duty rate for such fuels, subject to specified conditions and compliance with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications.

The decision comes after India achieved its target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol and is now exploring the adoption of higher blends. The rollout of higher blended fuels, however, would only be initiated after extensive testing and consultation, the government clarified.

"Blending of ethanol with petrol at the depot level is theoretically a manufacturing activity which can be subjected to excise duty. E20 was exempted by the Ministry of Finance. The same clarification has been issued for higher blends and there is nothing

Oil prices could reach \$150 if war with Iran heats up again: Rystad Energy

The latest escalation between the US and Iran has brought the April ceasefire to its most difficult moment so far, with crude prices rising and financial markets, including US equities, falling, according to Rystad Energy.

If hostilities were to resume in earnest, prices could move towards \$150 per barrel, the Oslo-headquartered energy research and intelligence firm estimates.

With 11.8 million barrels per day (bpd) shut across six Gulf producers, the conflict has become the most severe supply disruption in the modern oil era.

"At this stage, it is too early to say whether the current escalation marks a full resumption of hostilities or a dangerous but still containable episode," said Jorge Leon, senior vice president and head of geopolitical analysis at Rystad Energy. **BS REPORTER**

new. With higher BIS standards available, the same excise duty waiver has been extended to E22, E25, E27 and E30," said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary at Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

"This is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, but doesn't convey anything about roll out of higher blends as of now, as that will only be done after extensive testing and consultation," Sharma added.

Another senior official clarified that the decision exempts Ethanol

Blended Petrol (EBP) blends E22, E25, E27 and E30 containing 22 per cent, 25 per cent, 27 per cent and 30 per cent ethanol, respectively, from the applicable central excise duties, subject to the condition that appropriate central excise duties have already been paid on petrol and appropriate goods and services tax (GST) has been paid on the ethanol used for blending.

"The objective is only to remove the deeming fiction under the Central Excise law that could otherwise result in levy of excise duty again upon the activity of blending of

ethanol with petrol, thereby, avoiding any incidence of double taxation. The exemption has been provided on the same lines as is already existing for EBP blends such as E5, E10, E20 etc. There is no change in the central excise duty rate on petrol for domestic consumption," the official said.

The exemption is expected to benefit sugar mills and grain-based distilleries, which have emerged as key suppliers of ethanol under the blending programme. India has significantly increased ethanol blending in petrol over the past few years through a combination of incentives, procurement programmes and regulatory measures.

Industry bodies welcomed the decision, stating the move signals policy stability and addresses the issue of current surplus of ethanol. For the distilling industry, the exemption is a powerful demand-side signal, which creates a clear commercial pathway to deploy surplus ethanol production capacity, which currently stands well above E20 programme requirements, said Bharati Balaji, deputy director general, All India Distillers Association (AIDA). "Fiscal incentives must keep pace with blending ambitions, and today's announcement does exactly that," Balaji said.

More on business-standard.com



Hindustan Times

Excise relief for higher ethanol petrol blends

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NEW DELHI: The government has exempted excise duty on up to 30% ethanol component in blended petrol, which, according to experts, will proportionately reduce India's energy imports and may also improve margins of stressed fuel retailers as oil companies may not pass the benefit to the consumer.

According to a finance ministry's notification related to the central excise on June 10, which contained four orders to exempt various elements of levies, the current waiver is applicable for four variants of ethanol-blended petrol (EBP) - 22% ethanol with 78% petrol (or E22), 25% or E25, 27% or E27 and 30% or E30.

The duty exemption is subject to conformity to quality standards specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the notification said, which came into force from Wednesday.

Although the four EBP blends, as mentioned in the latest notification, have been exempted from the applicable central excise duties, appropriate central excise duties will be applicable on the petrol component and ethanol component will face appropriate Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"The objective is only to remove the deeming fiction under the central excise law that could otherwise result in levy of excise duty again upon the activity of blending of ethanol with petrol, thereby avoiding any incidence of double taxation," one official said, requesting anonymity.

There is no change in the central excise duty rate on petrol for domestic consumption, the official said.

"The exemption has been provided on the same lines as is already existing for EBP blends such as E5, E10, E20 etc,"



The waiver is applicable to four variants of ethanol-blended petrol - E22, E25, E27 and E30.

according to the official.

"Blending of ethanol with petrol at the depot level is theoretically a manufacturing activity which can be subject to excise duty," a petroleum ministry's official said.

Same clarification has been issued for higher blends and there is nothing new, the official said. "With higher BIS standards available, the same excise duty waiver has been extended to E22, 25, 27 and E30," the official said.

"This is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends but doesn't convey anything about roll out of higher blends as of now as that will only be done after extensive testing and consultation," according to the petroleum ministry official.

Bipin Sapra, tax partner at EY India said that the move by the government to expand excise exemption on EBP up to 30% ethanol content "strengthens India's clean energy transition" efforts.

"The move removes tax cascading, reduces crude oil consumption, supports flex-fuel adoption, and promotes a shift towards sustainable fuel consumption," he said.

Higher Ethanol Mix Tax Cut a Good Drive

It can curb fuel import, spur biofuel export

Tax exemption for petrol with higher ethanol content than is available is a forward-looking measure with little impact on consumption during the current oil crisis. Thursday's announcement of central excise exemption for petrol laced with 20-30% ethanol follows recently announced fuel standards for various grades in this band. Indian refiners blend 20% ethanol into petrol, and automakers are also on board. Adding more ethanol involves getting oil refiners and car manufacturers to make adjustments. The tax exemption ought to facilitate the transition to higher levels of ethanol blending. This is a follow-up action to India bringing forward its ethanol-blending programme for petrol.

Ethanol's import-substitution argument, however, runs into several criticisms. One, blending is restricted to petrol. A proposal to blend diesel, which makes up most of the refinery output, with isobutanol is under consideration. Two, ethanol's energy efficiency does not match that of petrol. So, more blended fuel must be burnt to travel the same distance. Three, ethanol is produced from water-intensive sugarcane and grain, which could limit the country's fuel-doping ambitions. Finally, India episodically controls sugar exports — such as it is doing currently — when the season's closing stocks fall below official comfort levels.



India has major overcapacity in ethanol, while its excess capacity in refined petroleum is modest. The country has recently allowed the export of ethanol. Petroleum products, on the other hand, are a principal export item and will benefit from ethanol overcapacity if fuel-blending levels increase. The contention that India may be trading fuel inflation for food inflation does not stand up to scrutiny. Ethanol production relies heavily on agri-waste. A combination of import substitution and export competitiveness will push India's fuel-doping plans. The implicit carbon tax on fuel will serve as a consistent policy tool to lower India's dependence on imported energy.

Oil India, Canada's PTRC sign clean energy collaboration pact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Canada's Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC) have signed a collaboration framework to jointly explore carbon capture, geothermal energy and other clean energy technologies, the companies said.

The agreement aims to deepen energy cooperation between India and Canada as both countries pursue energy transition and sustainability goals. The framework was signed on June 10 in Calgary between PTRC, a



Saskatchewan-based not-for-profit energy research organisation, and OIL, a Maharatna public sector enterprise under India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas,

the Indian firm said in a statement. The collaboration will focus on carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS), geothermal energy, subsurface energy technologies,

and innovation-led research, including engagement with mC2+, India's startup platform backed by the petroleum ministry.

Areas of cooperation include utilisation and permanent storage of captured carbon dioxide through geological sequestration and mineralisation, development of enhanced oil recovery technologies aimed at reducing the environmental footprint of oil and gas production, and identification of business opportunities in both countries through industry partnerships and research networks.

Centre lifts excise duty on higher ethanol-blend petrol

Union government exempts E22, E25, E27, and E30 variants from central excise duty; clarifies that the latest reduction does not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Aiming to popularise the uptake of bio-fuels in the country, the Union government late on Wednesday removed central excise duty on petrol blended with higher quantum of ethanol. Following the move, petrol blended with ethanol at 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% would be exempted from central excise duties.

In a statement, the government clarified that the latest reduction did not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends.

“This is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, but doesn’t convey anything about roll out of higher blends as of now as that will only be done after extensive testing and consultation,” the government stated.

The government clari-



In the pipeline: The move is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, the government stated. ANI

fied that the exemption specifically concerned the blending activity of ethanol with petrol, which is essentially a manufacturing activity. The objective is to avert the possibility of a dual levy.

“Petrol bears excise duty and ethanol bears GST at their respective stages. When the two are blended, the resulting product may attract excise duty once again on the full quantity,”

the Centre clarified.

“For ethanol blends of petrol up to 20%, excise duty on the blended petrol was exempted by the Ministry of Finance. The exemption ensures that the duties already paid are not charged a second time on the blend,” it added.

The gazette notification comes days after India formally launched the E85 variant of petrol, that is 85% ethanol blended with

15% gasoline, on June 5.

Industry associations across the ethanol blending value chain have welcomed the move to remove excise levy.

C.K. Jain, President of the Grain Ethanol Manufacturers Association (GEMA) said that the move indicated a “strong signal of policy stability and long-term commitment”.

“It is essential for attracting fresh investments across the ethanol value chain, including production capacity, logistics, storage, fuel retailing and flex-fuel mobility solutions,” he said.

Welcoming the move, Bharati Balaji, Deputy Director General at the All-India Distillers Association (AIDA) added, “We urge the state governments to complement this measure with aligned tax structures so that the full benefit reaches both industry and consumers at the pump.”

Crude oil slips nearly 2% in futures trade on profit-booking

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Mumbai

Crude oil prices declined nearly 2 per cent to ₹8,575 per barrel in futures trade on Thursday as traders booked profits after the recent rally, tracking a weak trend in the global markets.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil contracts for June delivery fell by ₹151, or 1.73 per cent, to ₹8,575 per barrel in a business turnover of 8,887 lots.

Similarly, the July contract declined by ₹145, or 1.69 per cent, to ₹8,442 per barrel in



2,900 lots. Market participants said both contracts opened on a firm note but later slipped into the negative territory as investors locked in gains after the recent surge in prices. Analysts said the

correction in domestic futures mirrored the weakness in overseas markets, though concerns over global energy supplies continued to keep traders cautious.

In the international markets, Brent crude futures for August delivery declined 0.58 per cent to USD 92.56 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) slipped 0.4 per cent to USD 89.67 per barrel on the NYMEX. Despite the decline, crude oil prices remained elevated amid lingering geopolitical tensions and uncertainty over supply from the Gulf region.

तनाव बढ़ तो कूड ऑयल 150 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच सकता है

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

एक नई रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यदि अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच संघर्ष दोबारा गंभीर रूप लेता है, तो वैश्विक कच्चे तेल की कीमतें बढ़कर 150 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच सकती हैं। नॉर्वे की राजधानी ओस्लो स्थित ऊर्जा रिसर्च और इंटेलिजेंस फर्म रयस्टैड एनर्जी की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच हालिया तनाव ने अप्रैल में हुए युद्धविराम को अब तक की सबसे कठिन स्थिति में पहुंचा दिया है, जिसके चलते कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में तेजी आई है और अमेरिकी शेयर बाजार समेत वैश्विक वित्तीय बाजारों में गिरावट देखने को मिली है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, खाड़ी क्षेत्र के छह प्रमुख उत्पादक देशों में प्रतिदिन 1 करोड़ 18 लाख बैरल तेल उत्पादन अब भी बंद पड़ा है, जिसे आधुनिक ऊर्जा बाजारों के इतिहास में सबसे



बड़ी आपूर्ति बाधाओं में से एक माना जा रहा है। रयस्टैड एनर्जी के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष और भू-राजनीतिक विश्लेषण प्रमुख जॉर्ज लियोन ने कहा कि अभी यह कहना जल्दबाजी होगी कि मौजूदा तनाव पूर्ण युद्ध की वापसी है या फिर एक ऐसा संकट जिसे अब भी नियंत्रित किया जा सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस अनिश्चितता का असर तेल बाजार में साफ दिखाई दे रहा है। ब्रेंट वरूड का अग्रिम अनुबंध तेजी से बढ़कर लगभग 94.5 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच गया था, हालांकि बाद में यह घटकर करीब 93 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर आ गया।

देश में दो माह के लिए कच्चे तेल, एलपीजी व एलएनजी का पर्याप्त भंडार : मंत्रालय

नई दिल्ली, एएनआई : भारत के पास कच्चे तेल, रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) और एलएनजी का पर्याप्त भंडार है। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने ईंधन की उपलब्धता को लेकर उपभोक्ताओं और उद्योगों को भरोसा दिलाते हुए गुरुवार को कहा कि लगभग दो महीने तक इनकी सप्लाई का इंजाम हो चुका है।

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने अंतर-मंत्रालयी ब्रीफिंग में कहा, कच्चे तेल, पेट्रोल, डीजल, एलपीजी और नैचुरल गैस की सप्लाई स्थिर बनी हुई है। हमारी रिफाइनरियां पूरी क्षमता से काम कर रही हैं। ईंधन के भंडार के बारे में सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा, मुझे लगता है कि पिछले तीन महीनों से हमारे सामने यही सवाल है, और हम हर बार यही कह रहे हैं कि हमारे पास पर्याप्त स्टॉक है। सरकार की कोशिश है कि सभी ग्राहकों को पेट्रोल, डीजल, एलपीजी और नैचुरल गैस की सप्लाई बिना किसी रुकावट के और कम से कम परेशानी के मिलती रहे।

देश में दो महीने के लिए कच्चे तेल, एलपीजी, एलएनजी का पर्याप्त भंडार: पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय

नई दिल्ली, एएनआइ : भारत के पास कच्चे तेल, रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) और एलएनजी का पर्याप्त भंडार है। सरकार ने ईंधन की उपलब्धता को लेकर उपभोक्ताओं और उद्योगों को भरोसा दिलाते हुए गुरुवार को कहा कि लगभग दो महीने तक इनकी सप्लाई का इंतजाम हो चुका है।

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ईंधन के भंडार के बारे में सवालियों का जवाब देते हुए सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा, मुझे लगता है कि पिछले तीन महीनों से हमारे सामने यही सवाल है, और हम हर बार यही कह रहे हैं कि हमारे पास पर्याप्त स्टॉक है। सरकार की कोशिश है कि सभी ग्राहकों को पेट्रोल, डीज़ल, एलपीजी और नैचुरल गैस की सप्लाई बिना किसी रुकावट के और कम से कम परेशानी के मिलती रहे। हालांकि, सुजाता शर्मा ने ईंधन की कीमतों के बारे में टिप्पणी करने से इन्कार कर दिया।

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने डाटा भी साझा किए कामकाज से जुड़े आंकड़े भी शेयर किए। सुजाता ने बताया कि पिछले तीन

ईंधन की उपलब्धता को लेकर दिलाया भरोसा, अपनी पूरी क्षमता से काम कर रही रिफाइनरियां



सुजाता शर्मा | फाइल

दिनों में घरेलू एलपीजी सिलेंडर की लगभग 1.40 करोड़ बुकिंग की गई, जबकि 1.49 करोड़ सिलेंडर डिलीवर किए गए। इसी दौरान लगभग 22,340 टन कमर्शियल एलपीजी बेची गई। पांच-किलो वाले एलपीजी सिलेंडर की बिक्री लगभग 1.91 लाख यूनिट रही। मार्च से अब तक, लगभग 9.42 लाख पीएनजी (घाइड नैचुरल गैस) कनेक्शन चालू किए गए हैं, 3.12 लाख कनेक्शन के लिए इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर तैयार किया गया है।

सरकार ने राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को भी पत्र लिखकर स्थानीय अधिकारियों से कहा है कि वे शहर में गैस वितरण करने वाली कंपनियों के साथ मिलकर एलपीजी उपभोक्ताओं को पीएनजी अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करें।

खरीफ सीजन के लिए उर्वरक का पर्याप्त स्टॉक

आइएएनएस के अनुसार सरकार ने गुरुवार को स्पष्ट किया कि देश में वर्तमान खरीफ बोआई सत्र के दौरान मांग को पूरा करने के लिए उर्वरकों का पर्याप्त स्टॉक है। सरकार ने यह भी संकेत दिया कि वैश्विक यूरिया कीमतों में तेज गिरावट के बाद इस वित्तीय वर्ष के लिए उर्वरक सब्सिडी की समीक्षा की जा सकती है। पश्चिम एशिया में हालिया घटनाक्रम पर अंतर-मंत्रालयी ब्रीफिंग में रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय की अतिरिक्त सचिव अपूर्णा एस. शर्मा ने कहा कि देश की उर्वरकों के भंडार की स्थिति संतोषजनक है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत ने ओमान, मलेशिया, वियतनाम, जार्जिया, नाइजीरिया, रूस, फिनलैंड, मिस्र, अल्जीरिया, तुर्किये और नीदरलैंड जैसे देशों से यूरिया की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की है। डीएपी और एनपीके उर्वरक रूस, मोरक्को, मिस्र, अमेरिका, जार्डन, दक्षिण कोरिया, ट्यूनीशिया और सऊदी अरब जैसे देशों से मिले हैं।

सुजाता शर्मा ने उपभोक्ताओं से अपील की कि वे घबराहट में खरीदारी न करें और ईंधन का इस्तेमाल जिम्मेदारी से करें।

एथेनाॅल मिले पेट्रोल पर उत्पाद शुल्क खत्म

सरकार का बड़ा फैसला तेल की कीमत स्थिर रखने की कोशिशों में यह एक बहुत बड़ा कदम सिद्ध होगा

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): सरकार ने ज्यादा एथेनाॅल मिले पेट्रोल पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी खत्म कर दी। अब 22% से 30% एथेनाॅल वाले पेट्रोल पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी नहीं लगेगी। सरकार ने इस बारे में एक नोटिफिकेशन जारी किया है। जानकारों का कहना है कि सरकार के इस फैसले से भविष्य में तेल की कीमतें स्थिर रखने में मदद मिल सकती है। साथ ही इससे एथेनाॅल की मांग बढ़ेगी जिससे किसानों को भी फायदा होगा। ईरान युद्ध के कारण कच्चे तेल की कीमत में काफी तेजी आई है।

यह 114 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच गया था। इससे सरकार का आयात बिल बढ़ गया है और चालू खाते का घाटा बढ़ रहा है। इसका असर रुपये पर भी दिख रहा है और डॉलर के मुकाबले इसमें काफी गिरावट आई है। भारत दुनिया में कच्चे तेल का तीसरा बड़ा आयातक और उपभोक्ता है। यही वजह है कि सरकार वैकल्पिक ईंधन पर जोर दे रहा है ताकि आयात में कमी की जा सके। अब ई 20 से ज्यादा

इथेनाॅल मिक्सड पेट्रोल पर कोई एक्साइज ड्यूटी नहीं लगेगी। इसके दायरे ई-22, ई-25, ई-27 और ई-30 स्तर के पेट्रोल आएंगे। इन सभी में 20 फीसदी से

ज्यादा इथेनाॅल मिक्स होता है। भारत अपनी ईंधन की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए बड़ी मात्रा में कच्चे तेल का आयात करता है। भारत में इसका उत्पादन सीमित होता है ऐसे में उसे इसकी पूर्ति के लिए विदेशों पर निर्भर रहना होता है। यह देश के सबसे ज्यादा खर्चे वाले आइटम में से एक है। सरकार ने इस चुनौती का सामने करने में इथेनाॅल को एक रणनीतिक टूल बनाने का फैसला किया। सरकार ने इस



उम्मीद की जा रही है इस फैसले से ज्यादा से ज्यादा इथेनाॅल-ब्लेंडेड पेट्रोल को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। भारतीय उपभोक्ताओं का हमेशा इस बात पर जोर रहा है कि जब वह इथेनाॅल मिक्सड पेट्रोल का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं तो उन्हें यह सामान्य पेट्रोल से सस्ता मिलना चाहिए। सरकार ने हायर एथेनाॅल वाले पेट्रोल पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी खत्म कर दी है लेकिन टीओआई की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक यह

फैसले से फिलहाल आउटलेट्स पर बिकने वाले पेट्रोल की कीमतों में कि सी बदलाव के संकेत नहीं हैं। हालांकि

संभव है कि एथेनाॅल ब्लेंडिंग का लेवल बढ़ाने का आदेश न दे, बल्कि फ्लेक्स पेट्रोल गाड़ियों के बारे में फैसला खरीदारों पर छोड़ दे। इसकी वजह यह है कि कई लोगों ने चिंता जताई है कि ई20 से ई25 पर तेजी से जाने से मौजूदा गाड़ियों के इंजन खराब हो सकते हैं। 2012 और मार्च 2023 के बीच बनी ज्यादातर कारें और दो-पहिया गाड़ियां ई10 के अनुकूल थीं। इसी तरह अप्रैल 2023 से बनी गाड़ियां ई20 के अनुकूल थीं।

यानी उन्हें 20% तक एथेनाॅल मिले पेट्रोल के साथ चलने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया है। लेकिन अप्रैल 2025 से बेची जाने वाली गाड़ियां ही पूरी तरह से ई20 के अनुकूल हैं। सरकार ई22, ई25, ई27 और ई30 के लिए भी स्टैंडर्ड तैयार कर रही है, जिससे पेट्रोल में 30% तक एथेनाॅल मिलाने की इजाजत मिल सकेगी। इसके अलावा ई25 गाड़ियों के लिए ड्रायल भी शुरू किए जा रहे हैं।

खनिज तेल की खोज के लिये केंद्र, असम और नगालैंड के बीच तीन-पक्षीय समझौता

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने बृहस्पतिवार को कहा कि अगले साल एक या दो राज्यों को छोड़कर पूरे पूर्वोत्तर से सशस्त्र बल (विशेष शक्तियां) अधिनियम (अफ़स्या) हटा लिया जाएगा। असम-नगालैंड सीमावर्ती इलाकों में खनिज तेल से जुड़े कामकाज को आसान बनाने के लिए केंद्र, असम और नगालैंड के बीच तीन-पक्षीय समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर के दौरान शाह ने कहा कि अफ़स्या के दायरे में आने वाले इलाकों का कम होना शांति का संकेत है। उन्होंने कहा कि मुझे भरोसा है कि एक-दो राज्यों को छोड़कर, हम अगले साल पूरे पूर्वोत्तर से अफ़स्या हटा लेंगे। इस एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर को एक 'ऐतिहासिक पल' बताते हुए शाह ने कहा कि इसने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के विकसित पूर्वोत्तर के लक्ष्य में आ रही आखिरी बाधा को

- अगले साल एक-दो राज्यों को छोड़ कर अफ़स्या को सभी राज्यों से हटा लिये जाएगा

- देश में उपलब्ध खनिज तेल भंडार को निकाल कर देश की जरूरतों को पूरा किया जा सकता है



दूर कर दिया है। इस एमओयू का मकसद असम-नगालैंड सीमा पर विवादित क्षेत्र (डीएबी) में तेल और खनिजों की खोज करना है। अधिकार-क्षेत्र से जुड़े मतभेदों के कारण इस इलाके में तीन दशकों से ज्यादा समय तक खोज का काम रुका रहा। शाह ने कहा कि सिर्फ एक एमओयू से रोजाना 1,000-

1,500 बैरल निकालने की क्षमता को 10 गुना बढ़ाया जा सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि सिर्फ एक ही क्षेत्र से 15,000 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा का तेल निकालने की संभावना है। अगर हम नगालैंड में फैले तेल के भंडार को निकालें, तो हम अपनी तेल की जरूरतों के लिए दूसरे देशों पर निर्भरता कम कर पाएंगे।

त्रिपक्षीय समझौते से असम-नगालैंड सीमा पर तेल खोज होगी तेज : शाह

गृह मंत्री बोले-अगले साल तक पूर्वोत्तर के अधिकतर राज्यों से हटेगा अपस्पा

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने बृहस्पतिवार को कहा कि केंद्र सरकार, असम और नगालैंड के बीच तेल की खोज को लेकर हुए त्रिपक्षीय समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) से पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में हाइड्रोकार्बन खोज और उत्पादन को नई गति मिलेगी। यह समझौता प्रतिदिन 1,000 से 1,500 बैरल की मौजूदा उत्पादन क्षमता को 10 गुना तक बढ़ाने की क्षमता रखता है। शाह ने विश्वास जताया कि एक-दो राज्यों को छोड़कर अगले वर्ष पूरे पूर्वोत्तर से सशस्त्र बल विशेष अधिकार अधिनियम (अपस्पा) हटा लिया जाएगा।

अमित शाह ने यह बात असम-नगालैंड सीमा के विवादित क्षेत्र में खनिज तेल से जुड़े कार्यों को आसान बनाने के लिए आयोजित एमओयू हस्ताक्षर कार्यक्रम में कही। यह समझौता असम और नगालैंड की सीमा से लगे विवादित क्षेत्र में तेल और खनिज संसाधनों की खोज के लिए किया गया है। शाह ने कहा कि यह ऐतिहासिक क्षण है, जिसने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के विकसित पूर्वोत्तर के विजन की दिशा में अंतिम बाधा को दूर कर दिया है। क्षेत्र में तेल और गैस के साथ-साथ खनिज संपदा भी मौजूद है, लेकिन कानून-व्यवस्था से जुड़ी चुनौतियों के कारण उनका



दोहन नहीं हो सका। शाह के अनुसार एक ही क्षेत्र में 15,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक मूल्य के संसाधनों की संभावित रिकवरी हो सकती है।

मतभेदों के कारण 3 दशक से रुकी थीं अन्वेषण गतिविधियां... असम सरकार ने कहा है कि इसके तहत 1,000 वर्ग किलोमीटर से अधिक क्षेत्र में अन्वेषण और उत्पादन गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा। माना जाता है कि इस क्षेत्र में ऊर्जा और खनिज संसाधनों का बड़ा भंडार मौजूद है। अधिकारियों के मुताबिक क्षेत्राधिकार संबंधी मतभेदों के कारण यहां तीन दशक से अधिक समय से अन्वेषण गतिविधियां रुकी हुई थीं। एमओयू पर केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह, केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी, नगालैंड के मुख्यमंत्री नेफियू रियो और असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत की मौजूदगी में हस्ताक्षर किए गए। एजेसी



एलपीजी कनेक्शन न छोड़ने वाले पीएनजी धारकों पर होगी कार्रवाई

ग्रेटर नोएडा। पीएनजी धारकों को अब तीन महीने में एलपीजी कनेक्शन छोड़ना होगा। अगर तीन महीने में ऐसा नहीं किया तो तेल कंपनियां उन पर कार्रवाई करेंगी। उनका एलपीजी कनेक्शन रद्द किया जाएगा। अफसरों का कहना है कि पूर्व में भी समय दिया गया था लेकिन किसी ने कनेक्शन सरेंडर नहीं किया।

दो माह पहले तेल कंपनियों को उन उपभोक्ताओं को चिह्नित करने का आदेश दिया था जिनके पास पीएनजी के साथ एलपीजी कनेक्शन भी है। ऐसे

उपभोक्ता को एलपीजी कनेक्शन सरेंडर करना था लेकिन आधार कार्ड अपडेट नहीं होने के कारण कंपनियां ऐसे उपभोक्ताओं को चिह्नित नहीं कर सकी। अब तेल और गैस कंपनियों से ऐसे उपभोक्ताओं को तीन माह का समय दिया है।

जिला पूर्ति अधिकारी स्मृति गौतम का कहना है कि तीन माह के अंदर पीएनजी कनेक्शन धारक को एलपीजी कनेक्शन सरेंडर करना होगा। उन्होंने बताया कि इस पर तेल कंपनियों व आईजीएल के बीच सहमति बन गई है। ब्यूरो