

# Govt clears ₹37,500 crore coal gasification scheme

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹37,500 crore coal gasification scheme that aims to convert India's vast coal and lignite reserves into synthesis gas for use as fuel and in the manufacture of fertilisers, chemicals and other products—cutting the country's dependence on costly energy imports.

The scheme targets gasification of approximately 75 million tonnes (MT) of coal and lignite, advancing the national goal of gasifying 100 MT by 2030. India's import bill for key substitutable products — liquefied natural gas (LNG), urea, ammonium nitrate, ammonia, coking coal, methanol, dimethyl ether (DME) and others—stood at approximately ₹2.77 lakh crore in FY25, a vulnerability the government says has been further exposed by the ongoing geopolitical situation in West Asia.

Union information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who briefed the media after the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, called it a "major decision" towards self-reliance in gas. "Coal is abundantly available in India," he said, adding that the country holds 401 bil-



The scheme targets gasification of approximately 75 million tonnes of coal and lignite.

AFP

lion tonnes of known coal reserves—enough for the next 200 years. India currently produces natural gas sufficient to meet only half its requirements, with the rest imported, he said.

India's import dependence for urea stands at 20%, for ammonia at nearly 100%, and for methanol at about 90%. The country imports over 50% of its LNG requirements.

Under the scheme, investors will receive a financial incentive of up to 20% of the cost of plant and machinery, disbursed in four equal instalments tied to project milestones. Eligible investors will be selected through competitive bidding,

with an evaluation framework benchmarking project cost, coal input, and syngas output.

The incentive for any single project is capped at ₹5,000 crore; for any single product—except synthetic natural gas (SNG) and urea—₹9,000 crore; and for any single entity group across all projects at ₹12,000 crore. The scheme is technology-agnostic, though adoption of indigenous technologies is encouraged.

In an accompanying reform, the government has extended coal linkage tenure to 30 years under the "Production of Syngas leading to Coal Gasification" sub-sector of the non-regulated

sector (NRS) linkage auction framework, providing long-term policy certainty for investors.

The government launched its coal gasification mission in 2020, set the 100 MT target for 2030, and approved two flagship joint venture projects—a CIL-GAIL coal-to-SNG plant in West Bengal and a CIL-BHEL coal-to-ammonium nitrate plant in Odisha, together worth over ₹24,000 crore—at a Cabinet meeting in January 2024. Neither has produced commercial output. The entire ₹300 crore allocated for coal gasification in FY26 remained unspent as of January 2026, HT reported on April 14 citing government records.

The government expects the scheme to now mobilise investment of about ₹3 lakh crore and generate approximately 50,000 direct and indirect jobs across 25 projects in coal-bearing regions. Coal and lignite utilisation under the scheme is projected to yield ₹6,300 crore annually in exchequer revenue, in addition to downstream GST and other levies.

India holds one of the world's largest coal reserves—over 401 billion tonnes—alongside lignite reserves of about 47 billion tonnes. Coal accounts for over 55% of the country's energy mix.

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## CNG PRICE GOES UP BY ₹2 TO ₹84 PER KG IN MMR

**Shashank Rao**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** Commuters and public transport operators across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) are set to face higher travel costs after Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) announced a ₹2-per-kg hike in the retail price of compressed natural gas (CNG), citing global energy market disruptions linked to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

The revised rates came into effect from 12 am on May 14. "Starting midnight tonight, the price of CNG will increase by ₹2 per kg, bringing the revised rate to ₹84 per kg in and around the city," said an MGL official on Wednesday evening.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, MGL said, "Due to geopolitical disruptions affecting the global energy supply chain, coupled with increased dependence on expensive gas sources, rising crude oil prices, and rupee depreciation overall, gas procurement costs have risen significantly."

The price hike comes amid volatility in global energy markets triggered by the Iran conflict, which has disrupted supply chains and pushed up energy prices worldwide.

The hike is expected to have an immediate impact on Mumbai's transport ecosystem, which has increasingly shifted towards cleaner and cheaper fuel alternatives like CNG. Around 1.28 million vehicles in MMR run on CNG. This includes roughly 470,000 autorickshaws, over 160,000 taxis, and more than 500,000 private cars.

For the city's autorickshaw operators, the CNG price increase translates to an operational cost jump of approximately ₹1.03 per km. "This shift pushes the estimated per-kilometre running cost to over ₹18.3," said an auto union leader.

Officials said discussions on revising auto and taxi fares could take place soon. Beyond autos and taxis, the revision will also impact thousands of BEST and state transport buses.

**CNG price hiked by ₹2/kg, auto union seeks ₹1 fare increase**

# CNG price up by ₹2/kg, auto union seeks ₹1 fare increase

Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) hiked the retail price of CNG by Rs 2 to Rs 84/kg in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, reports **Somit Sen**. Last month, it was increased by Re1. An MGL official said, "Due to geopolitical disruptions affecting the global energy supply chain, coupled with

► **Amul, Mother Dairy hike milk price by ₹2/litre, P 3**

increased dependence on expensive gas sources, rising crude oil prices, and rupee depreciation, overall gas procurement costs have risen significantly." After MGL's announcement, the city rickshaw union said it would meet the transport commissioner on Thursday and seek a minimum one rupee hike in fares. Taxi unions are demanding a Rs 2 hike, sources said. **P 3**

Somit.Sen@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** Compressed natural gas (CNG) will be costlier across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) from Thursday, with Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) hiking the retail price by Rs 2 per kg, taking the rate from Rs 82 per kg to Rs 84 per kg in Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai and other parts of the region. The revision could impact a large section of daily commuters as autos, taxis and buses continue to rely heavily on the fuel.

Last month, CNG was increased by a rupee per kg across MMR.

The latest revision could be a precursor to more fuel hikes, with experts from the oil industry saying a hike in diesel and petrol prices may be due in the coming days amid the global crude oil crisis.

Mumbai Rickshawmen's Union leader Thampy Kurien said the increase in gas prices will lead to rise in operational costs as the fuel has become expensive in the past one year. He added the union will seek a minimum one rupee hike in autorickshaw fares and will meet transport commissioner Rajesh Narvekar on Thursday in this connection. As per the fare hike formula, after factoring in fuel costs, the hike amount comes to a little over a rupee, Kurien added. Taxi unions are demanding a Rs 2 hike, sources said.

**NO INCREASE IN COOKING GAS PRICE**



**CNG vehicles growing**

► CNG vehicle population in Mumbai region has risen by around two lakh vehicles – a 20% jump – in the last one year, taking the total to over 12 lakh

► CNG fleet in MMR includes about 4.7 lakh autorickshaws and over 1.6 lakh taxis, along with more than five lakh private cars spread across Mumbai, Thane, Mira-Bhayander, Navi Mumbai and Raigad

► On the mass transport front, MGL supplies CNG to 1,969 buses operated by BEST, TMT, MSRTC and NMMT

► It also fuels 51,311 private buses and tempos running on CNG

**Revised CNG prices across MMR from today**

**Previous price ₹82 per kg**  
**Revised price ₹84 kg**

**PNG rate stays the same**

► PNG is cooking gas

**Retail price ₹50 per unit (unchanged)**

The price of domestic piped natural gas (PNG), however, remains unchanged at Rs 50 per unit. This is a relief for 31 lakh households across MMR which have piped cooking gas as they will not face any increase in prices.

An MGL official said, "Due to geopolitical disruptions affecting the global energy supply chain, coupled with increased dependence on expensive gas sources, rising crude oil prices, and rupee depreciation, overall gas procurement costs have risen significantly. This has resulted in the Rs 2 CNG hike." The

official further stated, "Despite the price adjustment, CNG continues to offer significant savings compared to alternative fuels. At the revised price, CNG provides approximately 44% savings compared to petrol and 7% savings compared to diesel, based on current fuel prices in Mumbai." Over the past year, CNG vehicle population in MMR has risen by around two lakh vehicles – a 20% jump – taking the total to over 12 lakh. Vehicle registrations indicate the scale of dependence on CNG in public transport and last-mile connectivity.

**ENSURING ENERGY SECURITY**

# India Working on Subsea Gas Pipeline Project

## Crisis in Numbers

Current Consumption  **192** MMSCMD

Projected demand in '30 – a **54%** rise in 5 yrs | **295** MMSCMD

Global LNG supply loss during Hormuz disruption **20%+**



China's strategic gas storage (by end 2026) **~80 BCM**

India's strategic gas reserve (like crude SPR): **None**

## Oman route plan to help mitigate risks brought to fore by Hormuz Strait block

**Prashant Mukherjee**

**New Delhi:** India is accelerating plans to secure uninterrupted gas supplies from the Gulf through a direct deep-sea pipeline, as the Strait of Hormuz crisis leads the government to prioritise energy security. If cleared, the estimated ₹40,000 crore (\$4.7-4.8 billion) pipeline project

from Oman is expected to take five to seven years to build, said a petroleum ministry official.

The push reflects the country's high exposure to LNG supply shocks and price volatility, and shows how it lags manufacturing rivals such as China.

The ministry is set to direct state-run GAIL, Engineers India and Indian Oil Corp to prepare a detailed feasibility report, senior officials told ET. They said the government is working off a pre-feasibility study submitted by The South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE), a New Delhi-based private sector consortium.

**Stable, Cost-Competitive Supply ▶▶ 15**

# Stable, Cost-Competitive Supply

► From Page 1

A positive detailed feasibility report will pave the way for formal government-level negotiations with Oman on gas supply, financing and project execution.

“India needs to move beyond dependence on LNG spot markets,” one of the officials said. “A dedicated pipeline from West Asia gives us stable, cost-competitive gas without depending on any transit country or maritime choke point.”

India’s natural gas demand is steadily rising as the energy-hungry country attempts to enhance the share of gas in its primary energy mix. Current consumption stands at roughly 190-195 million standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) and is projected to reach nearly 290-300 mmscmd by 2030. Estimates suggest LNG imports alone could reach 180-200 mmscmd by the end of this decade.

## PROJECT DETAILS

The proposed Middle East-India Deep-water Pipeline (MEIDP) will stretch 2,000 km under the Arabian Sea, connecting Oman directly to the Gujarat coast. It will deliver around 31 mmscmd of natural gas.

The route will be designed to pass through the Arabian Sea via Oman and UAE, avoiding geopolitically sensitive regions, and would allow India to access gas from Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Qatar, a region holding 2,500 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves. The pipeline could run at depths of up to 3,450 metres, making it one of the deepest under-



sea pipelines ever attempted globally.

Recent technical studies have confirmed the project as feasible owing to advances in deep-sea pipe-laying and pipe-repair technology. SAGE, per its government submissions, has already laid around 3,000 metres of tactical test pipeline along the route at a cost of around ₹25 crore to study seabed conditions. ET could not independently verify this figure.

## WAKE-UP CALL

Nearly two-thirds of India’s LNG imports transited the Strait of Hormuz in 2025. When Iran effectively shut the route in late February following the conflict with the US and Israel, global LNG supply fell by more than 20%, triggering price spikes.

Asian spot LNG prices, represented by the Platts JKM benchmark, have experienced sharp swings in recent years. Prices that hovered at \$10-12 per MMBtu during stable periods surged to \$24-25 per MMBtu due to the geopolitical crisis.

The Hormuz disruption has underscored India’s vulnerability to both physical supply shocks and price swings. “Dependence on a single maritime chokepoint is no longer viable,” said the official cited above. “This is now a national security imperative.”

Alongside pipelines, policymakers are flagging a critical gap with the absence of gas storage.

Unlike crude, India has virtually no strategic gas reserves, leaving it exposed to volatile spot markets and unable to store cheap gas for times of crises. Currently, India has 22-24 LNG storage tanks across regasification terminals, with an estimated storage capacity of roughly 2-2.5 billion cubic metres (BCM). This volume represents only 10-12 days of national gas consumption.

“India has debated an Oman pipeline for decades,” said Ashutosh Karnatak, former chairman and managing director, GAIL. “The Hormuz crisis

has forced action. A pipeline offers price predictability and supply security that LNG cannot match.”

The move also highlights India’s gap with China in securing pipeline gas and storage. Beijing has spent two decades building multiple overland pipeline corridors—precisely the kind of supply security that insulated it from the Hormuz shock.

China’s Power of Siberia pipeline began operations in December 2019 and delivers up to 38 bcm per year from Siberian gas fields at full capacity. A second pipeline, Power of Siberia 2, with a proposed capacity of 50 bcm per year via Mongolia, is under negotiation. From Central Asia, China already has three parallel pipelines from Turkmenistan. These have a combined capacity of 55 bcm per year. A fourth line is under construction that would take total capacity to 85 bcm per year.

Also, China’s total gas storage capacity is expected to reach 80 bcm by end-2026, covering roughly 20% of its annual consumption. India has no comparable strategic gas reserve.

The proposed Oman pipeline could help bridge key demand gaps. The fertiliser sector alone needs 46-50 mmscmd, while city gas distribution continues to expand rapidly.



## गैस कनेक्शन के नाम पर **SID** की महिला अधिकारी से ठगी

■ **NBT रिपोर्ट, मुंबई:** मुंबई के बांद्रा पश्चिम में रहने वाली राज्य गुप्तवार्ता विभाग (SID) की एक महिला अधिकारी साइबर ठगी का शिकार हो गईं। ठगों ने खुद को महानगर गैस लिमिटेड का प्रतिनिधि बताकर गैस कनेक्शन मंजूर होने का झांसा दिया और बैंक डिटेल हासिल कर उनके खाते से 45 हजार रुपये निकाल लिए। बांद्रा पुलिस ने साइबर धोखाधड़ी का मामला दर्ज कर जांच शुरू कर दी है।

# UAE pacts on strategic oil reserve, LNG likely

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

ENERGY security will emerge as the centrepiece of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-stakes stopover in Abu Dhabi on May 15 for talks with UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, amid escalating tensions in West Asia and shifting global oil equations.

During the three-hour visit to the UAE, en route to his four-nation Europe tour covering the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, India and the UAE are expected to sign two key memoranda of understanding on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supplies and strategic petroleum reserves, further deepening a partnership critical to India's energy needs, sources familiar with the development said.

The visit comes at a time of heightened volatility in global energy markets and renewed focus on supply diversification. Sources said the proposed agreements are aimed at strengthening long-term energy stability for India while expanding the UAE's role as one of New Delhi's most trusted energy partners.

The UAE currently meets nearly 40% of India's LPG requirements, making it the country's largest supplier. It was also India's fourth-largest source of crude oil last year, accounting for nearly 11% of total imports, while ranking as

the third-largest supplier of LNG. Indian companies and ADNOC Gas have signed long-term agreements for cumulative LNG supplies of 4.5 MMT-PA, making India the largest buyer of UAE-origin LNG.

The two sides are also expected to review cooperation on India's strategic petroleum reserves. In 2018, the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) signed an agreement allowing the UAE to store more than five million barrels of crude oil at the Mangaluru reserve facility, the first such arrangement with any country.

Energy ties have evolved into a broader strategic partnership involving upstream investments and clean energy collaboration. In 2018, a consortium of Indian firms, OVL, BPRL and IOCL, ac-

quired 10% stake in Abu Dhabi's Lower Zakum offshore block. A year later, Urja Bharat Pvt Ltd, a joint venture between BPRL and IOCL, secured a stake in Abu Dhabi Onshore Block-1. In January this year, BPRL confirmed an oil discovery in the block, marking one of India's first successful upstream investments in the West Asia region.

Both sides are also enhancing renewable energy ties. UAE's Masdar signed an agreement with the Rajasthan government in 2024 to develop 60 GW of renewable energy capacity.



**DRIVE TO CUT DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED LNG AND FERTILISER**

# Cabinet clears ₹37,500-cr coal gasification scheme

SAURAV ANAND  
New Delhi, May 13

**AMID MOUNTING DISRUPTIONS** in global energy markets and rising risks to oil and gas supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹37,500-crore incentive scheme for coal gasification projects aimed at reducing India's heavy import dependence on LNG, ammonia, methanol, fertilisers and other industrial feedstocks.

The scheme—among the biggest policy interventions in India's coal-to-chemicals sector—is expected to catalyse investments of ₹2.5-3 lakh crore and support gasification of 75 million tonnes of coal as the government seeks to shield the economy from volatile global fuel markets and supply chain disruptions linked to the West Asia war.

Announcing the decision after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Information and Broadcasting Min-

**ENERGY SECURITY**

■ Targets ₹2.5-3 lakh crore investments and 75 MT coal gasification capacity

■ Boosts domestic output of SNG, hydrogen and key chemical feedstocks under Atmanirbhar push

■ Move tied to energy security amid West Asia risks and shipping disruptions



■ Up to 20% capex support via bidding; aims to scale 100 MT gasification by 2030

ister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the move was intended to strengthen India's long-term energy self-reliance.

"We all know about the current geopolitical situation. So we have to take all the decisions to become Atmanirbhar. In this context, a big decision on coal gasification was taken today," Vaishnaw said.

"An outlay of ₹37,500 crore has been kept for this scheme, and there will be an investment of around ₹3 lakh crore in this, and the projects will be put up for gasifying 75 million tonnes of coal," he added.

The government said the programme would help accelerate India's target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by

2030 and boost domestic production of synthetic natural gas (SNG), methanol, ammonia, hydrogen and fertiliser feedstocks. "At present, more than 50% of the LNG is currently imported, it will be reduced. The urea which we import will also start manufacturing in India. Ammonia is 100% imported today. With this development, new avenues for ammonia production will open. Methanol is currently 80-90% imported that will also be made in India," the minister said.

Coal gasification converts coal and lignite into synthetic gas, or syngas, which can then be used to manufacture fuels, fertilisers and industrial chemicals domestically. The incentive scheme will provide financial support of up to 20% of plant and machinery costs through a competitive bidding mechanism linked to project milestones. Financial support for a single project will be capped at ₹5,000 crore, while incentives for anyone product category will be limited to ₹9,000 crore.



# India, UAE may sign pacts on strategic petroleum reserves, LPG during PM visit

Shubhajit Roy  
New Delhi, May 13

**E.** EXPLAINED

AT A time when the Indian government is adopting austerity measures amid the looming energy crisis due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, India and the UAE are likely to sign two pacts in the areas of "LPG and Strategic Petroleum Reserves" during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on May 15, sources said on Wednesday.

During the PM's visit to the UAE, sources stated that one of the key areas of focus will be "energy security". "Two important MoUs in the areas of LPG and Strategic Petroleum Reserves are likely to be concluded during this visit," the sources said.

Underlining that the UAE has been an important partner in India's energy security, sources said that "last year, the UAE was the 4th largest source of crude oil meeting nearly 11% of our requirement". UAE is the largest source of LPG for India, meeting nearly 40 per cent of India's requirement, sources said. Sources said that through the current turmoil, the UAE has remained one of India's most reliable energy partners and continues to be so. "With long term supply agreements in place, India's energy security has been bolstered. Enhancing energy cooperation will be a key agenda of the visit," the source said.

According to the current itinerary, PM Modi will visit the UAE on May 15 to meet the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MBZ). The PM has visited UAE seven times since 2014 and MBZ has visited India five times, last in January this year, accompanied by the next generation of UAE leaders — projected as marking the resilience of the bilateral relationship which has strengthened across generations. At a time when India is navigating secur-

## 2018 pact first on crude reserves

The UAE has been the first country to partner with India in the "Strategic Petroleum Reserves". In 2018, Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company entered into an agreement for the UAE to store over 5 million barrels of crude oil reserves in ISPRL's facility in Mangaluru. ISPRL is a specialised Indian public sector company under the Petroleum ministry, responsible for maintaining the nation's strategic crude oil reserves, holding 5.33 million metric tonnes of crude across three underground facilities to ensure energy security against supply disruptions.

ity and economic challenges amidst the instability in West Asia, the UAE, which has a comprehensive strategic partnership with India and is home to a large Indian diaspora, has been included in the Prime Minister's itinerary at the last minute.

The UAE has been one of the main targets of Iranian missile attacks ever since the start of the West Asia war on February 28. Tehran accuses the emirates of providing safe space to American military bases, facilities and personnel. And amid the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, which has impacted energy supplies to much of the world, including India, the UAE announced it was exiting the OPEC, the bloc of oil-producing exporters headed by Saudi Arabia.

FULL REPORT ON  
[WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

**ENSURING ENERGY SECURITY**

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Source: PNGRB

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The push reflects the country's high exposure to LNG supply shocks and price volatility, and shows how it lags manufacturing rivals such as China.

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## Stable Gas Supply

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"India needs to move beyond dependence on LNG spot markets," one of the officials said. "A dedicated pipeline from West Asia gives us stable, cost-competitive gas without depending on any transit country or maritime choke point."

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UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Qatar, a region holding 2,500 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves. The pipeline could run at depths of up to 3,450 metres, making it one of the deepest undersea pipelines ever attempted globally.

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The Hormuz disruption has underscored India's vulnerability to both physical supply shocks and price swings.

# Behind India's LNG import basket recast amid Qatar, UAE supply loss

Sukalp Sharma  
New Delhi, May 13

THE WEST Asia war has upended the regular flow of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India from its major suppliers like Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), leading to a scramble for LNG cargoes from alternate geographies and a recasting of New Delhi's natural gas import basket.

Supplies from Qatar and UAE pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been blocked since the start of the US-Iran war.

After faltering in March, the country's LNG imports rebounded a bit, as importers turned to suppliers that don't depend on the strait to secure emergency spot cargoes.

As a result, while not one LNG cargo reached Indian shores in March from the country's largest supplier Qatar and another major supplier, the UAE, the likes of Oman, Nigeria, Angola, and the United States stepped in to partially bridge the gap.

India depends on LNG imports to meet about half of its natural gas requirement. And about 60% of those imports came through the Strait of Hormuz, primarily from Qatar, and also the UAE.

The two Gulf countries are major LNG exporters at the global level as well.

## Recovery in LNG imports in April

LNG imports in April recovered to 1.95 million tonnes



LNG imports in April recovered to 1.95 million tonnes, after falling to 1.67 million tonnes in March. REUTERS

(mt), after falling to 1.67 mt in March, according to data from commodity market analytics firm Kpler.

The country's 2025 average monthly LNG imports stood at 2.08 mt, not significantly higher than the volumes imported in April.

On a year-on-year basis, April LNG imports were down 9.3% from 2.15 mt in the year-ago period, which reflects that the supply shock was not fully offset and market conditions remained tight, according to Sonal Ranjan, LNG and natural gas analyst at Kpler. The month-over-month growth in imports over March was likely due to higher gas use in a few sectors, particularly fertilisers.

Following the disruption in LNG supplies, the government had initially reduced gas allocation to the fertiliser sector to 70% of average consumption

over the previous six months. It was part of a larger effort to manage natural gas supplies in order to prioritise the most critical sectors.

But by early April, the allocation to the fertilisers sector was hiked to about 95%, and earlier in May, it was hiked further to about 98%. This has been done to ensure uninterrupted urea production ahead of the crucial Kharif season.

## Reshuffle in LNG import basket

"After the Hormuz disruption, Oman, Nigeria and the US have emerged as the key LNG suppliers in both March and April. They accounted for almost 69% of the total LNG imports in India. Oman of course remained the largest supplier out of the three, contributing to 30-31% of the total imports, supported by its ad-

vantage of shorter-delivery route to India's west coast terminals," Ranjan told *The Indian Express*.

In 2025, the average monthly LNG import volumes from Qatar stood at 0.95 mt, followed by imports from the UAE at 0.27 mt.

In March-April, the Strait of Hormuz closure meant that just 0.06 mt came from Qatar and 0.13 from the UAE during the two months. These would have been cargoes that had transited the strait before the West Asia war started with the US and Israel attacking Iran on February 28.

Supplies from Oman, which was the fourth largest supplier of LNG to India in 2025 with an average monthly flow of 0.18 mt, jumped to 1.2 mt in March-April, or 0.6 mt a month on average.

While Oman is located in West Asia, it has a sizable coastline facing the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, and doesn't depend on the strait for the transit of its cargoes.

Imports from the US, India's third-largest LNG supplier in 2025, rose to 0.31 mt a month on average in March-April.

The average monthly LNG imports from the US in 2025 were at 0.24 mt.

Average monthly imports from Nigeria and Angola jumped to 0.41 mt and 0.24 mt in March-April, respectively; the monthly average of imports from the two suppliers in 2025 was 0.14 mt apiece.

FULL REPORT ON [WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

**BRENT TRADES AT \$107**



**Oil Inventories are Falling at Record Pace Due to War: IEA**

Crude stock declined at four million barrels a day in March and April

Oil inventories are falling around the world at a record pace and will continue to drop for months as the disruption to West Asia supplies from the Iran war intensifies, according to the International Energy Agency.

Global observed oil inventories declined at a rate of about 4 million barrels a day in March and April, according to a monthly report from the agency which is co-ordinating the release of emergency fuel stocks by major economies like the US, Japan and Germany. The market will remain "severely undersupplied" until October even if the conflict ends next month, it said.

Oil largely held its 8% surge over the past three sessions. Brent crude traded above \$107 a barrel, paring most of its retreat earlier on Wednesday, after the IEA's statement.

**"Even if there is a solution to the conflict, it will take weeks and months to resume flows through the Strait of Hormuz to a normal pace"**

The hit to exports is deepening as the conflict continues to effectively shutter the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Persian Gulf to international markets. Global supplies slumped by a further 1.8 million barrels a day last month, taking total losses since February to 12.8 million barrels a day, according to the report. "Even if there is a solution to the conflict, we do think it will take time—weeks and months—to resume flows through the Strait of Hormuz to a normal pace," Toril Bosoni, head of the IEA's oil markets and industry division, said in an interview. "The longer the disruptions remain in place, and the faster inventories decline, we are going to see increased pressure on prices."

The crisis is also taking a deeper toll on demand, prompting the agency to slash projections for a third month since the conflict began. World oil consumption is set to plunge by 2.45 million barrels a day this quarter, the steepest drop since the 2020 Covid pandemic, as product flows are cut off and prices soar.

There are some signs that the inventory drawdown may have slowed slightly in recent days, according to Goldman Sachs Group, which pointed to weaker demand from China.

**Bloomberg**

# Lay BRICS to solve next energy challenge



**RAJIV KUMAR PRAGATI**

Respectively Chairman and Associate Fellow, Pahlé India Foundation

India has the ambition and the capital, but each of its BRICS partners has a specific technology suited to a specific need that could help scale energy efficiently

**INDIA'S ENERGY STORY** in 2025 was one of remarkable momentum. It became the largest recipient of development finance funding, a recognition of its credibility as a destination for green investment. Renewables now account for 50.07% of India's total installed power capacity, third highest globally in overall renewable capacity as well as in solar energy production. Renewable energy (RE) tariffs, ranging ₹2-3 per kWh, are among the lowest. India is targeting 500 Gw of installed RE capacity by 2030, reflecting the scale and seriousness of its clean energy commitment.

Yet, a closer look at the data reveals a critical gap: despite the progress in capacity, India still lags behind on energy efficiency.

Building generation capacity is the first chapter of energy transition. India has executed this effectively, with installed power capacity reaching 520.51 Gw in FY26 and recording the highest annual addition (11%). Over the past decade, power shortages have fallen sharply from 4.2% to 0.03%. Today, nearly one-third of India's energy demand is met through renewable sources, with solar accounting for more than two-thirds.

The second chapter—storage, grid intelligence, and distribution efficiency—is where India now needs to focus. Despite achieving a power-surplus status, frequent outages persist, largely due to inadequate transmission capacity. These stem from both strategic gaps and operational inefficiencies within the transmission system. Since FY19, the pace of transmission line expansion has consistently fallen short of targets, with only 58% of planned lines commissioned in 2025. At the same time, nearly 71% of Inter-State Transmission System corridors remain under-

utilised, operating at below 30% capacity. As a result, huge amounts of generated electricity (estimated at around  $1.93 \times 10$  kWh) are lost due to transmission bottlenecks, while over 50 Gw of RE capacity remains stranded nationwide, leading to project delays and increasing per-unit transmission costs.

Transmission constraints also undermine the financial viability of investments. As shown by Nicholas Ryan (2021), limited transmission capacity restricts inter-regional trade. Alleviating grid congestion in India could increase market surplus by up to 22% by improving competition in the wholesale power market, enough to justify investments. Grid-scale battery storage, transmission efficiency, and smart distribution networks are technologies that will determine whether India's renewable investments deliver their full economic and social returns. The question is how to close the gap quickly, and with which partners.

The answer, as it turns out, may lie within BRICS itself.

Each of India's BRICS partners holds a specific technology that corresponds to a specific Indian need. And each of them needs something that only India's scale can provide in return.

China has built the most advanced ecosystem for battery storage and grid-scale technology. Its manufacturers dominate lithium-ion storage capacity, and its grid management systems are among the most sophisticated. What China needs are large, high-volume, credible deployment

markets to justify the next generation of cost reduction investment and to demonstrate commercial viability at scales that will matter globally through 2030. India, with its rapidly expanding RE base, competitive tariffs, and relatively low cost of capital for grid-scale projects among developing economies, is one of the few markets large enough to meaningfully absorb and scale such deployment.

Russia brings decades of civilian nuclear expertise—reactor design, fuel cycle management, and operational systems. Nuclear baseload is increasingly recognised as an essential comple-

ment to intermittent renewable generation, providing the dispatchable round-the-clock power that solar and wind cannot. India has well-established nuclear expansion ambitions as reflected in the recent Cabinet approval for a small modular nuclear reactor policy. India also has a clear interest in

reactor partnerships that sit outside Western-controlled supply chains. A Russia-India civilian nuclear cooperation framework, formalised through BRICS, serves both countries' energy security interests.

Brazil's green hydrogen programme is one of the most under-appreciated energy transitions today. Its combination of surplus renewable generation, industrial hydrogen infrastructure, and institutional experience with large-scale bioenergy transitions has produced a working model for producing and deploying green hydrogen at industrial scale. Brazil needs to internationalise this model, finding partner markets that can co-develop the stand-

ds, financing structures, and supply chains that make green hydrogen globally scalable. India, which has committed to producing 5 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030, is expected to mobilise investments worth \$91.95 billion under its National Green Hydrogen Mission. India's electrolyser capacity has already seen a threefold increase, with projected green hydrogen and ammonia capacity expected to exceed 10 million metric tonnes by 2030, effectively doubling the government's own target. It's therefore the natural partner for Brazil to internationalise its green energy model.

South Africa brings expertise in distribution that has been tested under demanding conditions—managing distribution networks, demand resilience, and community-level energy governance. India's own distribution landscape, with its mix of urban density and rural reach, presents challenges that South Africa's institutional knowledge is well-suited to address. A BRICS-mediated partnership with India would demonstrate the value of South Africa's grid expertise at a scale and visibility that its domestic context alone cannot provide.

BRICS energy cooperation has long been finance-led, focused on lending, co-financing, and green bonds. But for India today, the constraint is no longer on capital—it's also technology, systems capability, and the institutional architecture to scale energy efficiently.

India has the ambition and the capital—BRICS has the technology. The gigawatts are being built, and the investments are flowing. BRICS 2026 is the moment to ensure they are stored, transmitted, and used to their full potential.

**BRICS energy cooperation has long been finance-led, focused on lending, co-financing, and green bonds**

# One LPG carrier crosses Hormuz, heads for Kandla

**Yogesh Naik & Reuters**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI/SINGAPORE:** A ship carrying much-needed liquified petroleum gas (LPG) supplies is heading for India after transiting the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, even as another LPG carrier was attempting to cross the contested waterway.

A report released by India's directorate of shipping said that Marshall Islands-flagged LPG carrier SYMI transited the strait, passing south of Iran's Larak Island, bound for Kandla in Gujarat. The ship, with a crew of 21, comprising 8 Ukrainians and 13 Filipinos, is carrying 8,187.728 MT of liquid propane and 11,777.671 MT of liquid butane. It is scheduled to arrive in Kandla on May 16 at 7pm.

Another LPG carrier, the Vietnam flagged NV Sunshine started her transit towards the Strait of Hormuz and is currently 103 nautical miles from the south coast of Larak Island. The vessel is carrying 23,461 MT of propane and 22,966 MT of butane, en route to Mangalore, with a crew of 24, all Vietnamese nationals. The vessel is expected to transit the Strait of Hormuz around 1.30pm on May 14 and is estimated to arrive at Mangalore on May 18.

The report said that 13 Indian vessels remain in the Persian Gulf (west of Strait of Hormuz), three in the Gulf of Oman (East of the strait), one in the Gulf of Aden and four in the Red Sea.

## Chinese oil tanker exits Strait of Hormuz

A Chinese supertanker carrying two million barrels of Iraqi crude sailed through the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday after being stranded in the Gulf for more than two months due to the US-Iran war, LSEG and Kpler ship-tracking data showed.

The Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) Yuan Hua Hu is now anchored off the Gulf of Oman, near where the US Navy has set up a blockade on Iranian vessels,

## US blockade: Kharg Island oil jetties empty

**Bloomberg**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**DUBAI:** The oil jetties at Iran's Kharg Island were once again empty on Tuesday, curbing the nation's ability to export crude, satellite images collected by Bloomberg show.

It means that for a fourth consecutive period when satellites have captured what's going on at the country's main oil facility, no tankers have been spotted. It's by far the longest stretch since the war began that the jetties have been devoid of tankers.

The US is blockading ships from going to and from Iranian ports, something that will sooner or later mean the country runs out of tankers that can load. That, in turn, intensifies pressure on Tehran's oil storage facilities and production.

LSEG data showed.

The Chinese VLCC is owned and operated by COSCO Shipping Energy Transportation's Hainan unit and chartered by Unipet, the trading arm of Chinese state oil major Sinopec.

The crossing comes as US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are due to meet over the next two days, and after Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited Beijing last week.

The voyage marks the third known passage by a Chinese oil tanker through the Strait of Hormuz since the US-Israeli war with Iran began on February 28, based on ship-tracking data.



A bulk carrier docked at the Port of Fujairah.

REUTERS

# HPCL Q4 Net Rises 78% as Margins Stay Strong

**Mumbai:** State-run Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) reported a 77.6% year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit for the March quarter, driven by robust marketing performance and strong refining profitability.

Net profit rose to ₹6,065.26 crore in the quarter from ₹3,415.44 crore a year earlier. Total income increased 4.45% to ₹1.24 lakh crore from ₹1.19 lakh crore in Q4FY25. For FY26, net profit surged 168% to ₹18,046.89 crore, while total consolidated income rose 2.6% to ₹4.81 lakh crore.

The board recommended a final dividend of ₹19.25 per share

of face value ₹10 for FY26, in addition to an interim dividend of ₹5 per share paid earlier in the year.



Gross refining margin (GRM) for the March quarter stood at \$14.27 per barrel against \$8.44 per barrel a year earlier. For FY26, GRM rose to \$8.79 per barrel from \$5.74 per barrel in FY25. GRM refers to the profit earned by refineries from converting crude oil into petroleum products.

HPCL commissioned 526 retail outlets during the quarter, taking its network to 25,098 outlets. —**Our Bureau**

## 2 key energy pacts to be signed during PM's visit to UAE

Rezaul H Laskar

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**NEW DELHI:** Energy security will be a focus area of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on May 15, the first leg of a five-nation tour, and the two sides are expected to sign key agreements on LPG supplies and strategic petroleum reserves, people familiar with the matter said.

Modi's six-day visit will also take him to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, and collaboration in energy and technology and measures to cope with the economic fallout of the West Asia conflict are set to top the agenda in most of the countries, the people said on condition of anonymity.

The Indian side has focused on shoring up energy cooperation with key suppliers in West Asia amid disruptions due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and Modi's discussions with the UAE leadership during a brief stopover in Abu Dhabi is expected to cover both energy cooperation and the welfare of the 4.5 million Indians living in the Emirates.

The Indian Oil Corporation and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) are expected to sign a strategic collaboration agreement on supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), while the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and ADNOC are expected to ink a strategic collaboration agreement on strategic oil reserves, the people said.



Narendra Modi

ADNOC already has an agreement with ISPRL to store more than five million barrels of crude oil at a facility in Mangalore.

Sibi George, secretary (West) in the external affairs ministry, told a media briefing that energy cooperation will be in focus during the meeting between Modi and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The UAE is an important part-

ner for energy security, as it was the fourth largest source of crude oil in 2025, meeting almost 11% of India's needs, said Aseem Mahajan, additional secretary (Gulf) in the external affairs ministry. India is the largest buyer of UAE's liquefied natural gas (LNG), with Indian companies having inked long-term supply contracts with ADNOC for 4.5 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa).

The UAE is also India's largest source of LPG, and meets almost 40% of the country's requirements. At the same time, it is the second largest destination for petroleum oil and lubricants exports by Indian refiners, and Indian companies have invested more than \$1.2 billion in UAE's upstream sector, Mahajan said.

"During the current turmoil

in West Asia, the UAE has remained one of India's most reliable energy partners. With long-term supply agreements in place, India's energy security has been bolstered. Enhancing energy cooperation will be a key agenda of the visit," one of the people said.

Two-way trade in goods between India and the UAE has surpassed \$100 billion, touching \$101.25 billion in 2025-26. Both sides have now set a target of doubling trade to \$200 billion by 2032. The UAE is India's seventh-largest investor, with cumulative FDI inflows of \$25.19 billion. A local currency settlement system is already in place between the two sides, reducing dollar dependence and transaction costs, the people said.

## Govt approves incentive for coal gasification projects with outlay of ₹37,500 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹37,500-crore incentive scheme to promote coal gasification projects, aimed at boosting clean energy production and reducing dependence on forex-guzzling imports of LNG, urea, and methanol, while insulating the country from global price volatility and supply chain disruptions.

The Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the scheme for



promotion of surface coal/lignite gasification projects with a financial outlay of ₹37,500 crore, an official

statement said. "An outlay of ₹37,500 crore has been kept for this scheme, and there will be an investment of

around ₹3,000 lakh crore in this, and the projects will be put up for gasifying 75 million tonnes of coal," Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a media briefing.

Vaishnaw said the country has 401 million tonnes of known coal reserves, which is enough for the next 200 years.

"We all know about the current geopolitical situation. So we have to take all the decisions to become Atma Nirbhar. In this context, a big decision on coal gasification was taken today," he said.

# Modi's call for economic patriotism – rationale



**KARUNA  
GOPAL  
VARTAKAVI**

Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of Singapore, instructed delegates of a conference to 'avoid business suits' and wear white shirts, they complied. This was in 2016, when Wong was the Minister for National Development focusing on urban sustainability. There was no West Asia crisis then, he was just making citizens 'responsible' for ensuring sustainability. Cut to the present, when PM Modi makes similar requests especially during the West Asian crisis there is a meltdown... Some resorted to rumours like India has ceased importing, India refused to accept LNG consignment from Russia and a major lockdown is imminent etc.

When crude oil prices surge from \$70 to over \$125 a barrel in a matter of weeks, when the world's most critical energy chokepoint goes dark, and when India's \$207 billion annual import bill in gold and oil starts bleeding foreign exchange reserves at a rate of roughly \$5 billion a month, as head of government PM Modi had two options – impose mandatory austerity or appeal to citizens' sense of duty. PM Modi chose the second option.

He made seven specific appeals: avoid buying gold for a year; postpone non-essential foreign travel and destination weddings; revive work-from-home practices; use metro rail, carpool, and electric vehicles; cut edible oil consumption by 10 per cent; reduce chemical fertiliser use by 50 per cent; and participate in virtual meetings instead of in-person ones. Critics immediately collected their ammunition of rumours, supporters called it statecraft while reality says it is responsible governance.

## The World Accepted Change – India Should Too

The backdrop to Modi's speech is a global energy emergency unlike anything since the 1973 oil crisis. Since February 2026, when US and Israeli military operations against Iran triggered the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, roughly 20 per cent of the world's oil has been disrupted – what the International Energy Agency characterised as the "largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market." Brent crude, which traded at around \$62-70 per barrel for much of FY 2025-26, surged past \$100 almost immediately, touched a record \$166 per barrel on March 19, and has since stabilised above \$125.

Eighty-two countries have responded with emergency energy measures. Fourteen have mandated work-from-home in non-essential sectors. Eight have capped air conditioning temperatures in public buildings at 24-26°C. Six have shut schools and universities or restricted their hours. More than fifteen have introduced fuel rationing, speed limits, odd-even vehicle rules, or private vehicle curbs. Over twenty have launched national energy conservation campaigns.

The specific measures paint a stark picture of global urgency: South Korea has asked citizens to run washing machines and vacuum cleaners only on weekends. Sri Lanka declared Wednesdays a national holiday to conserve fuel. Germany reintroduced car-free Sundays. Italy mandated a minimum AC temperature of 27°C in all public buildings. France banned short domestic flights. Bangladesh ordered shopping malls to close by 7 PM. India, by contrast, has implemented no mandatory restrictions so far.

But what Modi is doing now is just 'Demand Side Management'. Any expert on energy and water will endorse this strategy.

### Golden Advice

Of all Modi's appeals, the call to stop buying gold is economically significant. PM Modi's declaration – "In the national interest, we must resolve not to purchase gold for a year" is a



balance-of-payments responsibility given to 1.4 billion people.

India's gold import bill rose to nearly \$72 billion in 2025-26 – almost double the \$35 billion recorded in 2022-23. Combined with crude oil imports of approximately \$135 billion, these two commodities alone account for \$207 billion of India's annual import bill, putting persistent pressure on the current account deficit (CAD). India's CAD had already expanded to \$13.2 billion, equivalent to 1.3 per cent of GDP in the December quarter of 2025, before the full force of the oil price shock hit.

The arithmetic of restraint is compelling. Even halving gold imports from \$72 billion to \$36 billion would reduce India's current account deficit from approximately 2 per cent of GDP to 1 per cent – a reduction that would ease pressure on the rupee, lower import costs for everything from crude oil to electronics, and reduce the RBI's burden of forex intervention.

How ridiculous that opposition voices have drawn parallels to Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, who made similar appeals against gold buying in earlier eras. There is no comparison whatsoever. Nehru's and Indira's appeals came during periods of domestic economic mismanagement and forex crises created by their own policies, including the oil bonds burden,

which left massive unbooked debt for Modi government to clear even in peacetime. The current crisis is externally triggered – a geopolitical war has shuttered the world's most critical energy corridor. The cause is categorically different. Let that sink in.

### India's Foresight

The NDA government is agile – excise duties on petrol and diesel were reduced by ₹10 per litre in March, and export duties on diesel and aviation fuel were raised to protect domestic supply. India diversified its crude sourcing to around 40 countries by March 2026 and began increasing purchases from Russia as Middle Eastern supplies grew uncertain. Domestic refineries were operating at above-rated capacity. These are supply-side interventions. Modi's appeal targets the demand side – which is where India's vulnerability rests.

India had 32.71 million outbound travellers in 2025, while foreign tourist arrivals remained at just 9.02 million – a ratio of more than three to one, representing a significant net forex outflow from tourism alone. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism reportedly declined by 6.6 per cent during the year, further widening the gap. A 25 per cent voluntary reduction in foreign holidays would not merely save forex; it would redirect spending into the domestic economy, supporting Indian tourism,

hospitality, and services sectors during a period of global uncertainty.

### Work From Home: Small Office Home Office (SOHO)

Even a 5-10 per cent reduction in urban fuel consumption across India's top ten cities would translate into millions of fewer litres of imported crude burned weekly. A worker commuting roughly 30 kilometres daily through Bengaluru traffic in a petrol vehicle consumes approximately 2 to 2.5 litres of fuel per working day – amounting to nearly ₹5,000 monthly on petrol alone. MoveInSync's 2025 India on Wheels report found that Bengaluru's average one-way commute had risen from 54 minutes in 2024 to 63 minutes in 2025. These are not productivity outcomes – they are productivity losses.

Every litre burned in peak-hour urban traffic is a litre imported against a weakening rupee at \$125+ per barrel.

Modi's push for EV adoption and metro usage, urban air quality – already among the worst in the world in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Lucknow – would see measurable improvement. India has already surpassed its renewable energy targets ahead of schedule; integrating work-from-home (WFH) and EV adoption into the national energy story would accelerate the transition from fossil fuel import dependence toward domestic energy generation.

### The Convoy Question: Leading by Example

Government convoys central and state consume fuel at a scale that is not invisible to citizens. Prime Minister has sharply reduced the size of his official convoy, days after calling for austerity measures and urging citizens to cut down on the use of fuel driven vehicles.

The downsized convoy was deployed during the Prime Minister's recent visits to Gujarat and Assam. Officials were directed to incorporate electric vehicles into his convoy wherever feasible, without making fresh purchases.

Following PM Modi's decision, the union home minister and defence minister have also taken steps to reduce

their convoy to less than half for conservative fuel use.

Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra have reduced their convoy to 50 per cent and encouraged officials to adopt work-from-home arrangements and virtual meetings wherever possible and appealed to people to increase the use of public transport, cycling and electric vehicles. All departments are directed to prioritise carpooling and public transport while reducing the number of vehicles used for official purposes.

### Patriotism in Contemporary World

"Patriotism is not just about dying for the country. Living for the country and fulfilling our duties to the country is also patriotism." Modi's words were not a slogan – they were a reframing of civic responsibility for a crisis that does not announce itself with guns or missiles. The West Asia war is not India's war. But its economic consequences are landing in the Indian terrain.

A 3 per cent saving on crude consumption equals \$5 billion saved – one month of war-related forex pressure eased. A 25 per cent reduction in foreign holidays equals another \$10 billion. A 15 per cent cut in gold imports equals yet another \$10 billion. Taken together, "voluntary civilian restraint" across these three categories alone could delay economy-wide fuel price hikes by approximately five months – protecting millions of Indians from a cost-of-living pain that no government subsidy could provide. This ask of Modi is not a sacrifice. It is indeed a leverage – small individual actions, multiplied by 1.4 billion people, producing macroeconomic outcomes that no single policy instrument can match.

The case for compliance with Modi's appeals is not built on patriotism alone. The benefits of such a collective national response could be transformational for our country. No Indian felt the heat so far. That's the coolest point to note.

The writer is a distinguished fellow at the India Foundation.



# In UAE, PM to ink pacts on LPG, petro reserves

**New Delhi:** Two important MoUs in the areas of LPG and strategic petroleum reserves are likely to be concluded during PM Narendra Modi's stopover in the UAE on Friday on his way to Europe, official sources have said. Govt said that energy security will be a key focus area of Modi's three-hour stopover in the country.

The UAE is a key energy

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supplier for India, its fourth largest source of crude and second largest source of LNG and LPG. Modi will depart on a five-nation tour, including to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, on Friday.

MEA said Modi will discuss bilateral ties, energy cooperation and regional issues with UAE President Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. India has a comprehensive stra-

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tegic partnership with UAE and over 4.5 million Indians live in the country. Modi is also likely to reiterate his condemnation of attacks on the UAE, expressing solidarity with the president. "We have a concrete agenda covering full spectrum of bilateral relations with the UAE, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and other Nordic partners," said MEA secretary (west) Sibi George. TNN

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# Pricing Our Way Out

*GOI should let the economy adjust to new energy market realities, and raise pump prices. Lower domestic fuel consumption will also mean less dollar demand & help shore up the rupee*

**Neelkanth Mishra**



Well into the third month of the Iran war, earlier assumptions of a short-lived conflict, have now been negated. Over the past week, even as physical shortages of oil seem to have eased, oil's price for March 2027 delivery has risen nearly 10% to \$83/barrel. It is now prudent to start measuring the impact on the economy, and for policy to begin adjusting.

To estimate growth rates going forward, it is important to assess where we were before the war.

Back in 2024-25, the economy grew at 7.1% in real terms, despite significant and simultaneous fiscal and monetary tightening. This implies that underlying economic momentum was much stronger than 7.1%. Monetary headwinds continued till the first half of last year, when easing monetary conditions, and GST cuts, boosted economic momentum. This year, with nearly no fiscal tightening, and monetary tailwinds, pre-war, real growth was expected to be 7.5%. Indicators in March and April showed growth was better than expected despite the war dominating headlines, with strong growth in autos, cement, credit, and consumer goods.

Let us now measure the impact of the energy price shock. Major forms of dense energy imported by India are crude oil, natural gas, fertilisers and edible oil. Making some assumptions to simplify the sensitivity analysis, we find that if oil prices stay \$15 per barrel over last year's average of \$70 for a year, the impact would be \$40bn, or 1% of GDP. At last few weeks' average of around \$100/barrel, headwinds are at the pace of 2% of GDP.

This 'terms of trade' shock – the need to pay \$80bn more for energy, meaning there is less to buy locally produced goods and services – will be split between a rise in fiscal deficit and economic growth.

The cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel, continuing losses at oil marketing companies (OMCs), and subsidies on LPG and fertiliser together account for additional monthly subsidy of around ₹40-45k cr. This has defrayed 1.2% of GDP impact so far.

The remaining 0.8% of GDP has flowed through market channels – prices of plastics and chemicals, for

example, are up sharply, curtailing demand. Whereas the sharp increase in plastic prices has effectively shut down plastic furniture manufacturing, plastic use for packaging is relatively unaffected so far (usually a small part of the end-product cost, and so, can be passed on or even absorbed).

Govt's economic stabilisation fund of ₹1tn should last for 2.5 months at the current pace. If oil prices remain elevated, they will need to start raising fuel prices at the pump and LPG prices. A ₹10 per litre increase for diesel and petrol would be a 0.4 percentage point of GDP annually – this would reduce the fiscal deficit run-rate and bring down growth.

A much more important constraint is the

should have been in the range of \$25bn. But RBI had to intervene by over \$80bn just in the last six months of the year. This means, exporters have slowed hedging (reducing supply of dollars), and importers and foreign investors are hedging much more than they used to (raising demand for dollars).

Increase in import duties on gold and silver is designed to reduce 'non-essential' imports, but they may not suffice. Higher retail prices of petrol and diesel can help more, by reducing demand and the import burden.

Will there be physical shortages of oil and related products? Other than natural gas (a relatively small part of India's energy supply) and LPG (volumes down 16-17% vs last year in March and April), for now, significant shortages appear unlikely in our view.

India has a refining surplus, and given that refining margins are up sharply too – as the Strait's blockade has affected not just crude oil supply but also refining capacity – Indian refiners are able to source crude, and sell the product locally. In fertilisers, farmers most impacted will be from countries that do not subsidise (like US, given that the urea-to-corn price ratio is at a record high) or cannot subsidise (like Sri Lanka or Pakistan).

The remarkable stability in oil prices in April was likely due to China drawing on 3.5mn barrels per day of inventory, more than 3% of global demand, and 10% of its strategic reserves. This kept global markets stable, and the warring sides felt no pressure to compromise for an agreement.

However, even strategic inventories cannot last forever. Stocks of aviation fuel (ATF) at the aviation hub in Europe, for example, are down by a third in two months, and major European airlines have had to cut flights in May to optimise. Global airline seat-kms were down 2.5% year-on-year in April, versus a pre-war growth of 5%. This may fall further, just when the northern holiday season starts.

Essentially, GOI's approach may need to change to adapt to a longer period of elevated energy prices. The economy should be allowed to adjust to new energy market realities.

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**If oil prices stay around \$100/barrel, the impact will be 2% of GDP...this will play out via higher deficits & lower growth**

availability of dollars. While RBI's foreign currency reserves can meet a temporary problem in balance of payments (demand vs supply of dollars), recent trends indicate panic has set in, with dollar shortages being much worse than what fundamentals would suggest.

The full-year dollar shortage in the last fiscal

Image: AI

# ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में दो अहम समझौता करेंगे भारत व संयुक्त अरब अमीरात



प्रतीकात्मक

निर्बाध एलपीजी आपूर्ति और रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार को लेकर होंगे समझौते  
पीएम मोदी कल जाएंगे यूएई फिर नाव, स्वीडन, इटली और नीदरलैंड का दौरा करेंगे

जयप्रकाश रंजन • जागरण

नई दिल्ली: पीएम नरेन्द्र मोदी की शुरुआत को होने वाली यात्रा भले ही संक्षिप्त हो, लेकिन ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में सहयोग के लिहाज से यह काफी महत्वपूर्ण होगा। उस दिन भारत और यूएई के बीच एलपीजी आपूर्ति और रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार के क्षेत्र में दो बड़े समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए जाने की तैयारी है। हाल ही में यूएई (संयुक्त अरब अमीरात) ने तेल निर्यातक देशों के संगठन (ओपेक) से बाहर निकला है और भारत उसके साथ ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में समझौता करने वाला पहला देश होगा। पीएम मोदी चार यूरोपीय देशों नीदरलैंड, स्वीडन, नावें और इटली के दौर से पहले यूएई जाएंगे, जहां उनकी मुलाकात राष्ट्रपति मोहम्मद बिन जायद से होगी।

भारत और यूएई के बीच ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में पहले से ही मजबूत साझेदारी है। यूएई भारत को कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति करने वाला चौथा सबसे बड़ा देश है, जो भारत की कुल जरूरत का करीब 11 प्रतिशत पूरा करता है। यूएई भारत को सबसे ज्यादा रसोई गैस एलपीजी सप्लाई करने वाला देश भी है, जो भारत की लगभग 40 प्रतिशत मांग को पूरा करता है। इसी वर्ष जनवरी में यूएई के राष्ट्रपति की नई दिल्ली यात्रा के दौरान दोनों देशों के बीच तीन अरब डॉलर का 10 वर्षीय एलएनजी सप्लाई समझौता हुआ था, जिससे भारत यूएई का सबसे बड़ा एलएनजी खरीदार बन गया है।

सूत्रों का कहना है कि यूएई भारत में तेल भंडारण की संभावनाओं का पता लगाने को इच्छुक है, जो आपातकालीन स्थिति में भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करेगा। वैसे 2017-18 में भारत और यूएई के बीच रणनीतिक कच्चे तेल भंडारण का समझौता हुआ था। अबू धाबी नेशनल आवल कंपनी और इंडियन स्टेटेजिक पेट्रोलियम रिजर्व्स लिमिटेड के बीच मंगलौर स्थित भंडारण सुविधा में 58.6 लाख बैरल तेल स्टोर करने का करार हुआ था। हाल ही में दोनों देश इस समझौते को विस्तार देने

## 'प्रधानमंत्री मोदी दुनिया के सबसे लोकप्रिय नेता'

आइएनएस के अनुसार, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी 18 मई को नावें की यात्रा करने वाले हैं। इस दौर से पहले नावें के अखबार डेग्रेस नारिंग्सलिव में छपे एक लेख में पीएम मोदी की जमकर तारीफ की गई है और उन्हें दुनिया का सबसे लोकप्रिय नेता बताया गया है। नावें के पूर्व मंत्री एरिक सोल्हेम ने भी पीएम मोदी की तारीफ में कहा कि उनके जितना लोकप्रिय नेता कोई नहीं।

और अतिरिक्त भंडारण क्षमता बढ़ाने की दिशा में वार्ता हुई है।

हाल के वर्षों में भारत और यूएई के बीच संबंध अभूतपूर्व स्तर पर पहुंच गए हैं। व्यापार, निवेश, रक्षा, प्रौद्योगिकी और ऊर्जा संक्रमण जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग बढ़ा है। दोनों देश 2032 तक द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को 200 अरब डॉलर तक पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य रखते हैं। खाड़ी क्षेत्र में बदलती भू-राजनीतिक स्थिति को देखते हुए दोनों तरफ की सरकारें रणनीतिक साझेदारी को और गहरा करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। विशेष रूप से, सऊदी अरब और यूएई के बीच बढ़ती दूरी व क्षेत्रीय अस्थिरता के बीच भारत-यूएई साझेदारी को लेकर नई संभावनाएं के द्वार खुल रहे हैं। खाड़ी क्षेत्र के दो प्रतिद्वंद्वी देश सऊदी अरब और यूएई के बीच तनावपूर्ण संबंधों का असर दक्षिण एशिया पर भी साफ पड़ता दिख रहा है। यूएई ने पाकिस्तान से अपना 3.5 अरब डॉलर का कर्ज वापस मांग लिया, जबकि सऊदी अरब ने पाकिस्तान के बैंक में तीन अरब डॉलर जमा कराकर समर्थन जताया (कुल समर्थन आठ अरब डॉलर तक)। सऊदी अरब और पाकिस्तान के बीच रक्षा सहयोग समझौता भी हो चुका है। वहीं, भारत और यूएई के बीच रक्षा क्षेत्र में सहयोग तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। दोनों देशों के बीच रक्षा निर्माण, समुद्री सुरक्षा और आतंकवाद विरोधी समन्वय मजबूत हो रहा है।

# कोयले से तैयार होगा सस्ता ईंधन, आयात पर निर्भरता घटाने में मदद

## केंद्र सरकार ने दी 37,500 करोड़ की स्कीम को मंजूरी

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली : पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में कैबिनेट ने बुधवार को 37500 करोड़ रुपये की इंसेंटिव स्कीम को मंजूरी दी, जिससे कोल गैसीफिकेशन प्रोजेक्ट्स को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के चलते कच्चे तेल और एलपीजी के मोर्चे पर बढ़े संकट के बीच यह अहम फैसला किया गया। इससे इन चीजों के आयात पर निर्भरता घटेगी।

सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बताया कि इस स्कीम के लिए 37500 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन तय किया गया है और इसमें लगभग 3000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि 7.5 करोड़ टन कोयले के गैसीफिकेशन के प्रोजेक्ट्स अवॉर्ड किए जाएंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में 40 करोड़ टन से ज्यादा कोयला भंडार है, जो 200 वर्षों के लिए पर्याप्त है। वैष्णव ने



कहा कि मौजूदा भू-राजनीतिक परिस्थितियों के बीच यह आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में एक बड़ा फैसला है।

### क्या होगा फायदा?

कोल गैसीफिकेशन का मतलब कोयले को सिंथेटिक गैस में बदलने से है, जिसका उपयोग ईंधन के रूप में किया जाता है। इससे मेथेनॉल, फर्टिलाइजर और केमिकल्स बनाने में मदद मिलती है। वैष्णव ने कहा कि अभी देश की जरूरत के LNG का 50% से ज्यादा आयात करना पड़ता है, लेकिन इस योजना से आयात घटेगा। अभी अमोनिया का पूरा आयात करना पड़ता है, लेकिन

अमोनिया प्रोडक्शन की राह बनेगी। मेथेनॉल अभी 90% तक इंपोर्ट होता है, उसका भी देश में उत्पादन बढ़ेगा।

### क्या है स्कीम?

इस स्कीम के तहत प्लांट और मशीनरी की लागत का 20% तक इंसेंटिव दिया जाएगा। इस योजना के तहत बिडिंग के जरिए सेलेक्शन होगा। इंसेंटिव 4 किस्तों में मिलेगा और प्रोजेक्ट पूरा होने के चरणों के आधार पर यह दिया जाएगा। सिंगल प्रोजेक्ट के लिए अधिकतम 5000 करोड़ रुपये का इंसेंटिव होगा। किसी भी एक प्रोडक्ट के लिए 9000 करोड़ रुपये तक का इंसेंटिव होगा। इसमें सिंथेटिक नैचरल गैस और यूरिया को शामिल नहीं किया गया है। साथ ही, किसी भी एक ग्रुप को उसके तमाम प्रोजेक्ट्स को मिलाकर अधिकतम 12000 करोड़ रुपये का इंसेंटिव मिलेगा।

## मोदी कल से पांच देशों के दौरे पर, एलपीजी-तेल पर होंगे बड़े समझौते

पीएम 20 मई तक संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, नीदरलैंड, स्वीडन, नॉर्वे और इटली की यात्रा पर रहेंगे

नई दिल्ली। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी 15 से 20 मई तक संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) और चार यूरोपीय देशों नीदरलैंड, स्वीडन, नॉर्वे और इटली की यात्रा पर रहेंगे। विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि पीएम का यह दौरा ऊर्जा सहयोग, निवेश, प्रौद्योगिकी, हरित विकास और रणनीतिक साझेदारी को नई गति देगा। इस दौरान एलपीजी और सामरिक तेल भंडार को लेकर बड़े समझौते होंगे।

मंत्रालय में सचिव (पश्चिम) सिबी जॉर्ज ने बुधवार को बताया कि पीएम मोदी सबसे पहले 15 मई को यूएई पहुंचेंगे। यहाँ उनकी मुलाकात यूएई के राष्ट्रपति और अबुधाबी के शासक शेख मोहम्मद बिन जायद अल नाहयान से होगी। दोनों नेता द्विपक्षीय संबंधों विशेषकर ऊर्जा सहयोग, रक्षा, क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक मुद्दों पर चर्चा करेंगे। वहीं अतिरिक्त सचिव (गल्फ) असीम आर. महाजन ने कहा कि यूएई भारत के लिए ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण साझेदार है। पिछले वर्ष यूएई भारत के लिए कच्चे तेल का चौथा सबसे बड़ा स्रोत, एलएनजी का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा स्रोत और एलपीजी का सबसे



पहला पड़ाव नीदरलैंड...जॉर्ज ने कहा कि पीएम मोदी की यूरोप यात्रा ऐसे समय हो रही है जब भारत और यूरोपीय संघ के बीच मुक्त व्यापार समझौते को इस वर्ष अंतिम रूप दिया गया है। यात्रा का मुख्य फोकस व्यापार, निवेश, हरित प्रौद्योगिकी, नवाचार, स्टार्टअप और लोगों के बीच संपर्क बढ़ाना होगा। पीएम 17 मई तक नीदरलैंड में रहेंगे। वहाँ वह नीदरलैंड के पीएम के साथ द्विपक्षीय वार्ता करेंगे तथा राजा विलेम-अलेक्जेंडर और महारानी मैक्सिमा से मुलाकात करेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री भारतीय समुदाय को भी संबोधित करेंगे और शीर्ष कारोबारी नेताओं से बातचीत करेंगे। विदेश मंत्रालय के अनुसार, दोनों देशों के संबंध अब पारंपरिक व्यापार और कृषि से आगे बढ़कर सेमांकडक्टर, रक्षा, समुद्री सहयोग और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा जैसे क्षेत्रों तक पहुंच चुके हैं।

यात्रा के अंत में इटली प्रवास...यात्रा के अंतिम चरण में प्रधानमंत्री 19-20 मई को इटली जाएंगे। वहाँ उनकी मुलाकात प्रधानमंत्री जॉर्जिया मेलोनी से होगी। दोनों नेता व्यापार, निवेश और वैश्विक मुद्दों पर चर्चा करेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री रोम स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र की संस्था फूड एंड एग्रीकल्चर ऑर्गेनाइजेशन के मुख्यालय का भी दौरा करेंगे। विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि 2023 के बाद से प्रधानमंत्री मोदी और मेलोनी के बीच सात मुलाकातें हो चुकी हैं।

बड़ा आपूर्तिकर्ता रहा। उन्होंने कहा कि ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कई समझौतों पर चर्चा अंतिम चरण में है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, पीएम की यूएई यात्रा के दौरान एलपीजी और रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार से जुड़े दो महत्वपूर्ण समझौता ज्ञापनों पर हस्ताक्षर हो सकते हैं। माना जा रहा है कि ये समझौते भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने की दिशा में

बड़ा कदम होंगे। मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता रणधीर जायसवाल ने कहा कि भारत और यूएई के बीच बहुत पुष्ट साझेदारी है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में पीएम मोदी सात बार यूएई जा चुके हैं, जबकि यूएई के राष्ट्रपति पांच बार भारत की यात्रा कर चुके हैं। इस यात्रा से दोनों देशों की सामरिक साझेदारी को नई मजबूती मिलेगी। व्यूरो

स्वीडन में यूरोपीय गोलमेज सम्मेलन में होंगे मुख्य अतिथि

नीदरलैंड के बाद पीएम स्वीडन जाएंगे, जहाँ वह भारत-स्वीडन नवाचार साझेदारी को आगे बढ़ाने पर चर्चा करेंगे। वार्ता में एआई, हरित परिवर्तन, रक्षा सहयोग, जलवायु कार्रवाई और उभरती तकनीकों पर विशेष ध्यान रहेगा। पीएम मोदी यूरोपीय उद्योग गोलमेज सम्मेलन में मुख्य अतिथि भी होंगे, जहाँ यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेन भी मौजूद रहेंगी।

नॉर्वे में भारत-नॉर्डिक शिखर सम्मेलन में करेंगे शिरकत...18 मई को पीएम नॉर्वे पहुंचेंगे। यह किसी भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री की 43 वर्षों में पहली नॉर्वे यात्रा होगी। वहाँ वह पीएम योनास गार स्टोरे के साथ व्यापार, निवेश, बच्चे अर्थव्यवस्था, हरित प्रौद्योगिकी और अंतरिक्ष सहयोग पर चर्चा करेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री भारत-नॉर्वे बिजनेस एंड रिसर्च समिट को भी संबोधित करेंगे। 19 मई को ओस्लो में तीसरा भारत-नॉर्डिक शिखर सम्मेलन आयोजित होगा, जिसमें नॉर्वे, डेनमार्क, फिनलैंड, आइसलैंड और स्वीडन के पीएम भाग लेंगे।

# मोदी कल से पांच देशों की यात्रा पर

सबसे पहले यूएई जाएंगे, जहां एलपीजी व रणनीतिक तेल भंडार पर करार संभव

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 13 मई।



प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी 15 मई से पांच देशों की यात्रा पर जाएंगे। इन देशों में यूरोप के चार देश

शामिल हैं। इन देशों की यात्रा के मार्ग में प्रधानमंत्री चार घंटे के लिए संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) जाएंगे। वहां भारत-यूएई के बीच तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (एलपीजी) और रणनीतिक

## प्रधानमंत्री ने घटाए अपने काफिले के वाहन



नई दिल्ली में बुधवार को प्रधानमंत्री के काफिले के वाहन। खबर पेज 8 पर

पेट्रोलियम भंडार के क्षेत्रों में रूप दिया जा सकता है। सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए दो आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बुधवार को महत्वपूर्ण समझौतों को अंतिम यह संभावना जताते हुए कहा कि

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की यूएई यात्रा का मुख्य उद्देश्य भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है। प्रधानमंत्री यूरोप के चार देशों के पांच-दिवसीय दौरे पर जाने से पहले खाड़ी देश में लगभग चार घंटे बिताएंगे।

यह यात्रा तेल निर्यातक देशों के संगठन (ओपेक) से यूएई के अलग होने की घोषणा के कुछ दिनों बाद हो रही है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी और यूएई के राष्ट्रपति शेख मोहम्मद बिन जायद अल नाहयान भारत-यूएई व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी को आगे बढ़ाने के तरीकों पर बाकी पेज 8 पर

# प्रधानमंत्री मोदी कल से पांच देशों की यात्रा पर

विचार-विमर्श करेंगे और पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष पर अपने विचार साझा करेंगे। अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच बढ़ते संघर्ष ने वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजारों को अस्थिर कर दिया है। इसका मुख्य कारण होर्मुज जलमार्ग की नाकाबंदी है।

विदेश मंत्रालय में सचिव (पश्चिम) सिबी जार्ज ने कहा, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी 15 से 17 मई तक नीदरलैंड की यात्रा करेंगे। वह 2017 के बाद नीदरलैंड की दूसरी यात्रा होगी। इस दौरान वह राजा विलेम-अलेक्जेंडर और रानी मैक्सिमा से मुलाकात करेंगे। साथ ही प्रधानमंत्री राब जेटेन के साथ बातचीत करेंगे। विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि मोदी की यात्रा बहुआयामी साझेदारी को और प्रगाढ़ बनाने का अवसर प्रदान करेगी। नीदरलैंड यूरोप में भारत के सबसे बड़े व्यापारिक गंतव्यों में से एक है। दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय व्यापार 2024-25 में 27.8 अरब डॉलर का था। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी नीदरलैंड के बाद स्वीडन की यात्रा पर जाएंगे। वह प्रधानमंत्री उल्फ क्रिस्टर्सन के निमंत्रण पर 17 से 18 मई तक दो-दिवसीय यात्रा के लिए स्वीडन जा रहे हैं। मोदी ने इससे पहले 2018 में पहले भारत-

नार्डिक शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए स्वीडन की यात्रा की थी। विदेश मंत्रालय के अनुसार, मोदी प्रधानमंत्री क्रिस्टर्सन के साथ बातचीत करेंगे। इसमें द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के सभी पहलुओं की समीक्षा की जाएगी और आपसी व्यापार को बढ़ाने के लिए सहयोग के नए रास्ते तलाशें जाएंगे। बातचीत में दोनों पक्ष हरित ऊर्जा बदलाव, कृत्रिम मेधा, उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों, स्टार्टअप, मजबूत आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं, रक्षा, अंतरिक्ष, जलवायु परिवर्तन पर कदम और लोगों के बीच संबंधों को मजबूत करने पर ध्यान देंगे। अपनी यात्रा के चौथे चरण में, मोदी 18 से 19 मई तक नार्वे की यात्रा करेंगे।

वहां वह तीसरे भारत-नार्डिक शिखर सम्मेलन में भाग लेंगे और शीर्ष नेतृत्व के साथ द्विपक्षीय वार्ता करेंगे। वह प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की नार्वे की पहली यात्रा होगी। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी नार्वे के राजा हेराल्ड पंचम और रानी सोन्ना से मुलाकात करेंगे और प्रधानमंत्री जोनास गहर स्टोर के साथ द्विपक्षीय बातचीत करेंगे। मोदी नार्वे के प्रधानमंत्री के साथ भारत-नार्वे व्यापार और अनुसंधान शिखर सम्मेलन को भी

संबोधित करेंगे। विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि यह यात्रा भारत-नार्वे संबंधों में हुई प्रगति की समीक्षा करने और व्यापार एवं निवेश पर ध्यान देने का अवसर है।

तीसरा भारत-नार्डिक शिखर सम्मेलन 19 मई को ओस्लो में होगा, जिसमें मोदी और नार्वे, डेनमार्क, फिनलैंड, आइसलैंड और स्वीडन के उनके समकक्ष शामिल होंगे। यह शिखर सम्मेलन अप्रैल 2018 में स्टाकहोम और मई 2022 में कोपेनहेगन में आयोजित पिछले दो शिखर सम्मेलनों पर आधारित होगा और इससे नार्डिक देशों के साथ भारत के संबंधों को एक अधिक रणनीतिक आयाम मिलने की उम्मीद है। अपनी यात्रा के अंतिम चरण में, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी इटली की प्रधानमंत्री जार्जिया मेलोनी के निमंत्रण पर 19 से 20 मई तक इटली की आधिकारिक यात्रा पर रहेंगे। इस यात्रा के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री मोदी राष्ट्रपति सर्जियो मैटारेला से मुलाकात करेंगे और प्रधानमंत्री मेलोनी के साथ बातचीत करेंगे। विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि यह यात्रा द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मजबूती प्रदान करने के लिए हो रही है।

## रूसी विदेश मंत्री सर्गेई लावरोव ने कहा रूस से होने वाली ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में प्रभावित नहीं होंगे भारत के हित

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 13 मई।

रूसी विदेश मंत्री सर्गेई लावरोव ने कहा है कि रूस अनुचित प्रतिस्पर्धा के बावजूद भारत के साथ ऊर्जा आपूर्ति संबंधों को समझौते को पूरा करेगा। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि दोनों देशों के बीच संबंध मित्रता पर आधारित हैं और ऐसी कोई स्थिति नहीं है जिसमें उनके रास्ते अलग हो जाएं। इस समाह नई दिल्ली की अपनी यात्रा से पहले एजेंसी को दिए एक साक्षात्कार में, लावरोव ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की प्रशंसा करते हुए



सर्गेई लावरोव

कहा कि वह दुनिया के सबसे ऊर्जावान नेताओं में से एक है। उन्होंने कहा, 'मैं यह गारंटी दे सकता हूँ कि रूसी आपूर्ति के संबंध में भारत के हितों को कोई नुकसान नहीं होगा। हम यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए

हरसंभव प्रयास करेंगे कि यह अनुचित और धोईमानी भरी प्रतिस्पर्धा हमारे समझौतों को क्षति न पहुंचाए।' लावरोव ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि ऊर्जा आपूर्ति के मामले में रूस भारत या किसी अन्य के प्रति अपने दायित्वों को पूरा करने में कभी भी विफल नहीं रहा है। उन्होंने कहा, 'दुर्भाग्यवश, दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र हमारी प्रमुख परियोजना है। यह भारत की जरूरतों का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा पूरा करता है।' लावरोव ने कहा, 'इस परमाणु संयंत्र के लिए नई विद्युत इकाइयों के निर्माण पर सहयोग जारी है। फिर



लावरोव प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की प्रशंसा करते हुए कहा कि वह दुनिया के सबसे ऊर्जावान नेताओं में से एक है। मैं यह गारंटी दे सकता हूँ कि रूसी आपूर्ति के संबंध में भारत के हितों को कोई नुकसान नहीं होगा।

भी, भारत को और अधिक की आवश्यकता है। हम गैस, तेल और कोयला जैसे हाइड्रोकार्बन की आपूर्ति जारी रखे हुए हैं।' तमिलनाडु में रूस की प्रौद्योगिकी सहायता से कुडनकुलम परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। इसका निर्माण मार्च 2002 में शुरू हुआ था। फरवरी 2016 से, कुडनकुलम परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र की पहली इकाई अपनी 1,000 मीगावाट की डिजाइन क्षमता पर लगातार काम कर रही है।

रूस के सरकारी मीडिया के अनुसार, संयंत्र के 2027 में पूरी क्षमता से काम शुरू करने की उम्मीद है। लावरोव ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री मोदी 'दुनिया के सबसे ऊर्जावान नेताओं में से एक हैं।' रूसी विदेश मंत्री ने कहा, 'उनके (मोदी) पास अपार ऊर्जा है और वह इसे अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण लक्ष्यों की ओर निर्देशित करते हैं, जैसे कि सभी क्षेत्रों में अधिकतम संप्रभुता प्राप्त करना: अर्थव्यवस्था, सेना, रक्षा, संस्कृति और भारत की सम्पन्नता संघर्ष का संरक्षण, जो किसी अन्य देश के मुकाबले बेजोड़ है।' लावरोव ने कहा कि

भारत और रूस के बीच संबंध मित्रता पर आधारित हैं और ऐसी कोई स्थिति नहीं है जिसमें उनके रास्ते अलग हो जाएं। लावरोव ने कहा कि ऐसी स्थिति जहां हमारे रास्ते अलग हो जाएं, वह तो संभव ही नहीं है - यह अकल्पनीय है। हमने अपनी बातचीत रूसी-भारतीय संबंधों की बुनियाद खानी मित्रता से शुरू की।' अर्थव्यवस्था, संयुक्त ऊर्जा उत्पादन, सैन्य सहयोग, परमाणु और ऊर्जा के अन्य रूप, सांस्कृतिक और मानवीय संबंध, तथा अभूतपूर्व विश्वास से चिह्नित उच्चस्तरीय राजनीतिक संवाद - ये सभी बेहद मजबूत हैं।'

लावरोव ने कहा, 'इसलिए रूस-भारत मित्रता के भविष्य को लेकर चिंतित कोई भी व्यक्ति निश्चित हो सकता है। हमें हमेशा उन खतरों से सावधान रहना चाहिए जो कुछ लोग हमारे संबंधों को कमजोर करने, और रूस के साथ व्यवहार करने के अपने नियम थोपने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। हम यह सब देख रहे हैं, और हमारे भारतीय मित्र भी। यही कारण है कि इन प्रयासों का लगातार विफल होना और भी महत्वपूर्ण है।'