

# ‘Coal gasification push a structural shift for CIL’

**ALL FIRED UP.** With adequate coal available, the company is geared up to meet summer demand: Chairman and Managing Director B Sairam

## bl.interview

**Mithun Dasgupta**  
Kolkata

Coal behemoth Coal India Ltd (CIL), in pursuit of coal gasification, is making a structural shift from being primarily a producer and supplier to a coal-to-chemicals and cleaner fuel integrated energy producer, says its Chairman and Managing Director B Sairam.

He said the company expects e-auction premiums to be between 40 and 45 per cent if the demand persists. The high prices of imported coal may contribute to increased premium this fiscal, he added.

*Edited excerpts:*

**You emphasised that increased coal production and improved quality supplies are the company's core functional areas in meeting the energy demand of the country. What is Coal India's production and supply**



We are strengthening our coal evacuation infra through first mile connectivity projects and a rail corridor

**B SAIRAM**  
Chairman and Managing Director,  
Coal India Ltd



### target for this fiscal?

Yes, these twin commitments remain firm in our corporate ethos. After evaluating the anticipated demand from both the power and non-power sectors, the production target is pegged at 815 million tonnes (mt), while the supply target is set at 850mt. Supply or offtake lists high among our key priorities followed by the production.

Coal supplies are placed at the top because we began FY27 with around 130 mt of coal stock at our pitheads, which was 17 per cent of our entire output of 768 mt in FY26.

Liquidation of this inventory is our major operational

focus. Our effort is to progressively moderate the inventory levels towards more optimal levels of around 10 per cent of the total production, or around 70 mt.

Therefore, the emphasis is now on more efficient synchronisation between production and evacuation. We are consciously making efforts to place fresh coal into the market and move towards a more demand-aligned produce-and-sell approach, rather than prolonged stocking before sale.

**With this change in approach, would the company need to realign its mining activity?**

This approach does not entail any change in our mining operations. We will, to the extent possible, sell fresh coal in the market, so our approach of production will be in consonance with the offtake.

As per demand we will produce so that some threshold levels of stock will always be there. Because we have to be ready to make good of the pertinent demand. Sometimes logistic and mining disruptions occur in the supply chain. What we are doing is we are liquidating our stock in FY27 so that we will maintain stock to a certain threshold level to keep some buffer.

**What role will CIL play to boost gasification to channel domestic coal into cleaner industrial uses?**

For the company, the gasification push represents a structural shift from being primarily a coal producer and supplier to emerging as a coal-to-chemicals and cleaner fuel integrated energy producer.

The aim is to cut import dependence on industrial

feedstock and natural gas. In this, our company is synergising its coal gasification efforts with three major CPSUs — BHEL, GAIL and BPCL.

The centrepiece of this push is a coal gasification-based ammonium nitrate project of 6.6 lakh tonnes per annum capacity at Lakhanpur under our Odisha-based subsidiary, Mahanadi Coalfields. This project, at around ₹25,000 crore, is being developed through Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd, which is a joint venture between Coal India and BHEL. This is CIL's first commercial scale downstream coal gasification venture.

Alongside, CIL is pursuing two coal-to-synthetic natural gas (SNG) projects, each with 633 million normal cubic metres per annum capacity, aimed at supplying cleaner fuel to fertilizer units and industrial consumers.

One is being planned in Bardhaman, West Bengal, through JV with GAIL under Coal Gas India Ltd, at an estimated investment of ₹13,000 crore. The second SNG facility is being planned

at Chandrapur in Maharashtra with BPCL at a capital outlay of around ₹12,200 crore. When commissioned, the three mega facilities could anchor India's coal-to-chemicals ecosystem and reshape the country's vast coal reserves while supporting energy security and industrial growth.

**The E-auction price of coal increased 51 per cent over the notified prices in April. However, the quantity allocated through the e-auction decreased 11.64 per cent on a month-on-month basis. What is the outlook going forward?**

Last financial year was an aberration for coal demand. Moderated summer temperatures and heavy rainfall were the principal causes for lukewarm demand. This led to our e-auction premiums settling down at 38 per cent.

With the onset of summer demand, the power sector is consuming increased volumes of coal. So, going forward in the current financial year, we expect the e-auction premiums (add-ons

over notified price) to be between 40 and 45 per cent if the demand continues at the similar trend.

Imported coal prices, which are currently high, hold a sway over our e-auction premiums. This may contribute to increased premiums this year if the imported prices continue to hold at higher levels. E-auction volumes and premiums are driven by the market demand dynamics, and we shall offer adequate quantities through the auction window.

**What are the company's plans to meet the peak summer season demand?**

With adequate coal available, the company is geared up to meet the summer demand. Coal stock at domestic coal-based power plants is around 48 mt. Coal inventories at our pitheads are at around 113 mt.

Further, 50 mt of in-situ coal within mines is ready for extraction and supply if the demand necessitates. We are also strengthening our coal evacuation infra through first mile connectivity projects and a rail corridor.



## एमजीएल ने सब्सिडी पर दी सफाई

मुंबई, महानगर गैस लिमिटेड ने हाल ही में सामने आई कुछ मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स पर स्पष्टीकरण जारी करते हुए कहा है कि सहायता योजनाओं और सब्सिडी समाप्त करने संबंधी कंपनी का निर्णय केवल उसके कॉमर्शियल पीएनजी ग्राहकों के लिए लागू है। कंपनी ने स्पष्ट किया कि कुछ रिपोर्ट्स में इस सूचना को सभी ग्राहक वर्गों पर लागू बताया गया, जो गलत है.एमजीएल की ओर से जारी बयान में कहा गया है कि हाल की परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए कॉमर्शियल पीएनजी ग्राहकों के लिए यह निर्णय लिया गया है.



## Oil firms absorbing ₹550 cr. daily losses amid disruptions

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Public-sector oil-marketing companies (OMCs) are absorbing losses of nearly ₹550 crore from the sale of diesel, petrol and LPG, by not passing on the full impact of rising international crude prices to retail consumers, the government said on Wednesday.

The issue figured prominently during the sixth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) on West Asia, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Kartavya Bhawan-2 in New Delhi.

The government said OMCs were absorbing losses to protect retail consumers from the volatility in global energy markets.

Further, authorities also flagged concerns over industrial users allegedly diverting purchases to retail outlets to take advantage of the protected fuel prices.

Officials noted instances of black marketing by some dealers, prompting intensified enforcement measures by the Ministry, oil companies and State Governments.

Further, according to the government, private OMCs have observed an approximately 38% decline in sale of diesel in the ongoing month - from both retail and bulk consumers - owing to their higher prices.

Thus, the demand has shifted to public-sector OMCs having comparatively lower prices.

# Petrol pumps to set up infra for blended fuel stack soon

State-run, private oil marketers told to work on E20, E22, E25, E30 fuel-dispensing systems

Dhirendra Kumar & Rituraj Baruah  
NEW DELHI

**F**uel stations may soon offer a supermarket-style choice of petrol, with multiple ethanol-blended variants that customers can choose depending on their vehicle compatibility, two people aware of the development said.

The government has advised state-run Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd, as well as privately owned Jio-bp Mobility, Nayara Energy and Shell to begin work on dispensing infrastructure for E20, E22, E25 and E30 fuels, the people cited above said on the condition of anonymity. This comes after recent Bureau of Indian Standards norms for new ethanol blends, and the Centre's April plan to allow fully ethanol-powered vehicles.

The rollout will involve investment in separate dispensing infrastructure, storage systems, blending controls and fuel quality monitoring mechanisms, one of the two people said. "Information on ethanol-blended petrol sold at fuel stations will have to be displayed clearly on dispensing pumps so that consumers can easily identify the fuel they are buying. Retail outlets will have to label the different variants," the person added.

The initiative, which expands India's E20 blending mandate, comes amid



The rollout will involve investment in separate dispensing infrastructure, storage systems, blending controls and fuel quality monitoring mechanisms. PTI

crude price volatility triggered by the West Asia war. The move comes as India grapples with a crude supply squeeze, especially due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil supply passes.

"It is also obvious that the prices of different variants are likely to differ," the second person added. Queries emailed to the ministries of consumer affairs and petroleum, as well as fuel retailers, went unanswered.

Out of India's 100,000 fuel stations, 90,600 are run by state-run OMCs. Pumps currently sell E20 fuel, while industry bodies and biofuel makers have

sought movement beyond E20, citing surplus ethanol and the need to reduce oil import dependence.

C. K. Jain, president of Grain Ethanol Manufacturers Association, said, "Global markets like Brazil have taught useful lessons regarding how factors such as consumer flexibility and separate dispensing systems have facilitated countries in adopting higher ethanol blends. Retail outlets in India should also eventually offer multiple ethanol blends, but it would be based on regional demand, infrastructure, and vehicle compatibility." The Centre has said blending has

helped India save ₹1.7 trillion between November 2014 and February 2026. Over this period, India slashed carbon emissions by 87 million tonnes (mt), equivalent to planting about 350 million trees. In the ethanol supply year 2024-25, India saved over ₹40,000 crore by substituting imported crude with ethanol. India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, imported \$123.1 billion worth of crude oil in FY26, down from \$137 billion in FY25.

"It would not be a massive infrastructure change. The cost of tankages and dispensers is borne by the oil (marketing) company," said K.P. Murali, president of the Tamil Nadu Petroleum Dealers' Association, representing around 7,000 petrol pumps. Tankages refer to the underground storage facility for fuel at petrol pumps.

"Even now, they sell different variants of petrol; so, similar demarcations are there in the tankages which usually hold around 15,000 litres. The company will

have to amend and renew their PESO licence to bring the changes in terms of tankages," Murali said. PESO stands for the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization under the petroleum ministry, which authorizes licences for commercial undertakings involving petroleum, explosives, and hazardous materials.

[dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com](mailto:dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com)  
For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](http://livemint.com).

**₹1.7 tn**

Savings on fuel imports between Nov '14 and Feb '26

**87 mt**

Carbon emissions India has cut over Nov '14 to Feb '26

## Suresh Gopi chairs review of key BPCL projects and multi-product pipeline project in western Tamil Nadu

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**  
New Delhi

Suresh Gopi, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), reviewed the progress of Bharat Petroleum Corporation's (BPCL) multi-product pipeline project, which will ensure better fuel supply across western Tamil Nadu and neighbouring regions.

### INFRA STATUS

The Minister on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting in Coimbatore to review key energy infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu being executed by BPCL.

The review meeting included the Irugur-Devan-



**TAKING STOCK.** Suresh Gopi, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, chaired a high-level meeting in Coimbatore to review key energy infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu

agonthi multi-product pipeline project, which is being implemented at a revised project cost of about ₹1,732 crore with 82.6 per cent physical progress.

City gas distribution (CGD) projects of BPCL for the Erode and Nilgiris districts, costing around ₹3,685 crore and recording a physical progress of around 44.6

per cent, were also reviewed by Gopi.

The Irugur-Devanagonthi project, with a design capacity of 3.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), is an important project aimed at linking Tamil Nadu and Karnataka by laying a cross-country multi-product pipeline of around 355 km and establishing associated terminal

facilities. This will improve the efficiency and reliability of fuel supply across western Tamil Nadu and neighbouring regions by ensuring faster, safer and environmentally friendly transportation of petroleum products.

The project will also strengthen regional energy infrastructure and improve logistics efficiency, while creating significant jobs and promoting long-term industrial and economic growth in the region.

# Govt to act against diversion of cheap diesel to industries

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**  
New Delhi

The government said on Wednesday that it is tracking the pattern where industrial users are buying cheaper fuel from retail outlets of PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs), which is earmarked for retail consumers such as common man and farmers.

To deal with the concerning situation, the Oil Ministry, OMCs and State governments have intensified field enforcement measures, and are engaging with industry associations to remind members of the conduct expected.

The development comes as reports emerged from Maharashtra on Tuesday indicating an unusual surge in fuel sales, with diesel sales skyrocketing by around 42 per cent and petrol by 21 per cent over the daily average across many districts.

The Informal GoM, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Wednesday took stock of the petrol, diesel, LPG and natural gas supply situation in the country and deliberated on the pattern of bulk diesel users unethically buying fuel earmarked for retail consumers.

## RETAIL CONSUMPTION

During the IGoM meeting, it was noted that PSU OMCs refrained from passing the full international price into retail, absorbing around ₹550 crore per day as losses on sale of petrol, diesel and LPG.

This cushion is intended for retail consumption alone; industrial and commercial diesel tracks international prices as a matter of standing policy.

Separately, in a statement the Oil Ministry assured that there is no scarcity of any



petroleum product. There is, in pockets, a pattern of arbitrage that is creating the appearance of one.

Under the direction of the government, and as a deliberate act of consumer protection during the ongoing West Asia disruption, the OMCs have refrained from passing through the full international price into domestic retail sales. This cushion is intended for retail consumers: households, two-wheeler commuters, and farmers at the pump. It is not extended to industrial procurement, where pricing tracks international actuals as a matter of standing policy, it added.

Industrial consumers who divert their purchases from the industrial channel to the retail pump capture this cushion at the cost of the ordinary citizen. They also concentrate demand at the pump in a way that produces local shortages where none would otherwise exist, the Ministry noted.

## HIGHER RATES

"It has been observed that private OMCs are experiencing a decline of approximately 38 per cent in diesel off-take during the current month, across both retail outlets and bulk customers due to higher rates fixed by them. Coupled with this, PSU bulk customer volumes have also recorded a decline of approximately 29 per cent, which is also migrating to retail outlets," it pointed out.



# Coal ministry to hold roadshow on gasification projects

**SAKET KUMAR**

New Delhi, 27 May

The Ministry of Coal will organise a roadshow in New Delhi on May 28 to promote surface coal and lignite gasification projects under the Centre's ₹37,500 crore incentive scheme aimed at boosting coal gasification in India.

The event will bring together policy-makers, state government representatives, industry executives and financial institutions, the ministry said on Wednesday. It is part of the ministry's efforts to accelerate the development of a coal gasification ecosystem and push the implementation of projects.

The scheme, approved earlier by the Union Cabinet, seeks to promote coal gasification as a cleaner and value-added use of domestic coal and lignite resources, aimed at helping India achieve its target of gasifying 100 mt of coal by 2030 and reducing dependence on imports of LNG, urea, ammonia and methanol. The Centre expects the scheme to attract investments of up to ₹3 trillion across nearly 25 projects and generate around 50,000 jobs. The initiative builds on the National Coal Gasification Mission launched in 2021 and the ₹8,500-crore coal gasification schemes approved in January 2024, under which eight projects are already under implementation.



# ONGC: Gas likely to play dominant role in revenue mix

**SHUBHANGI MATHUR**

New Delhi, 27 May

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) expects natural gas to play a dominant role in its revenue generation amid a favourable pricing mechanism in the country, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Arun Kumar Singh said in an investor call on Wednesday.

ONGC, India's largest exploration and production (E&P) company, currently produces more natural gas than crude oil, said Singh.

In 2025-26 (FY26), new well gas, which is priced higher as it is produced from newly-drilled wells, constituted 17 per cent of production and 21 per cent of revenue from ONGC nomination gas portfolio, Singh further said.

During FY26, revenue from new well gas stood at ₹6,678 crore, delivering an additional ₹1,223 crore revenue compared to administered price mechanism (APM) gas price.

ONGC expects the contribution of new well gas to rise to 25 per cent of its total gas production in FY27, with the share projected to increase further in the coming years.

"New well gas is rising because our old wells are dying and we are build-

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**ONGC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ARUN KUMAR SINGH SAID THAT PROJECTS WORTH OVER ₹33,000 CRORE WERE CURRENTLY UNDER IMPLEMENTATION**

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ing new wells nearby to produce the same or more gas," said Singh.

New well gas is priced at 12 per cent of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket, unlike legacy APM gas, which is priced at 10 per cent.

"India is one of the highest paying market in the world (for new well gas)" said Singh.

ONGC said projects worth ₹33,075 crore are under progress in western offshore blocks, which is the highest in recent times.

On May 26, ONGC reported a 53 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) increase in consolidated net profit at ₹13,678 crore during the fourth quarter of FY26 (Q4FY26).

In FY26, ONGC's standalone crude oil production declined to 18.355 million tonnes (mt) from 18.558 mt in the previous year.

The company's standalone gas production also fell to 19.533 billion cubic metre (BCM) in FY26 from 19.654 BCM in the previous year.

# India's first hydrogen train chugs towards rollout

To start on Jind-Sonipat route; India among few countries on this track

**DHRUVAKSH SAHA**  
New Delhi, 27 May

India's first hydrogen train is a step closer to rollout after the Railway Board approved a 10-coach hydrogen fuel cell-based trainset for the dedicated Jind-Sonipat section of Northern Railway, according to a May 22 circular issued by the Ministry of Railways.

The trainset is expected to begin operations soon and will run at a maximum speed of 75 kilometres per hour, powered by a 1,200-kilowatt hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system, the ministry said.

"With this initiative, India joins a select group of countries such as Germany, Japan, China, and the US that are exploring the use of hydrogen for cleaner rail transportation. As the technology is still at a nascent stage, only a limited number of countries are currently operating or testing such systems," the railways said.

The rollout of India's first hydrogen train has been keenly awaited, with the government projecting it as an alternative energy source to reduce dependence on oil imports, even as some sector experts remain cautious about a technology that is yet to be proven at scale.

In the initial phase, the government allocated around ₹2,800 crore for the development of 35 such trains. Officials expect these to operate on heritage and hill routes where electrification has not been completed. The Jind-Sonipat route, which also has a refuelling and hydrogen storage facility at Jind, has been selected as the pilot route for the operations. The trainset has been developed by retrofitting a hydrogen fuel cell onto an existing diesel electric multiple unit rake.

Hydrogen fuel cell technology generates electricity



PHOTO: PIB

## Green route

10-car

hydrogen fuel cell-based trainset

75 kmph

maximum speed limit on Jind-Sonipat section

1,200 Kw

hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system

₹2,800 cr

allocated by government in the initial phase

- Development of 35 such trains is in the pipeline
- To run on heritage, hill routes without any electricity

through a chemical reaction using hydrogen, with water vapour as the only emission, making it a cleaner alternative to conventional fossil fuel-based traction systems.

The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization has granted the required licence for the storage and dispensing of compressed hydrogen gas at the site.

"Necessary arrangement for proper security of entire

premises of hydrogen plant and refuelling facility shall be ensured to prevent unauthorised access," the circular said.

According to the May 22 circular, various safety sensors, including hydrogen leak detectors and flame detectors installed at the hydrogen production, storage and dispensing facility, will be regularly inspected and cleaned to prevent dust accumulation and ensure safe operations. Main-

tenance of the train will be carried out at Shakur Basti in Delhi, and the rake will be moved in a dead condition — hauled by a locomotive — for maintenance operations.

The approval also mandates comprehensive safety and operational protocols, including round-the-clock monitoring of the hydrogen refuelling system, deployment of trained and certified personnel for critical operations, and regular inspection and maintenance schedules.

"Initially, for three months, the train shall be accompanied by trained technical staff having competency of hydrogen trainset to attend on route technical issues," the circular said.

At the same time, the government is also exploring alternative sources of hydrogen. A former railway official said the technology remains unproven and carries higher lifecycle costs.

"India should carefully re-evaluate large-scale deployment of hydrogen trains in the present context. With Indian Railways having achieved near 100 per cent broad gauge electrification, renewable energy can be directly fed into the traction network, offering a more efficient and economical pathway," said Lalit Chandra Trivedi, former general manager of East Central Railway.

Hydrogen also involves huge challenges related to production, storage, transportation logistics, and safety management, which may raise lifecycle costs, he added.

"Instead, India may derive greater long-term benefits by investing in grid strengthening, energy storage systems, and increasing the productive utilisation of renewable power within the existing electrified railway ecosystem," he said.



## Govt calls for crackdown on fuel diversion

*New Delhi:* The Centre Wednesday said there are "more than adequate" supplies of petrol and diesel to meet domestic demand, asserting that no shortage exists even as it warned against diversion of subsidised retail fuel into industrial use.

A review of the situation with chief secretaries of states and Union Territories, and industry bodies FICCI and CII, found "no scarcity of petroleum products", the ministry said. Any apparent tightness in pockets stems from "arbitrage", not supply constraints, it added. The Centre said OMCs are absorbing daily losses of about Rs 550 crore on petrol, diesel and domestic LPG to shield retail consumers from full global price pass-through.

It warned that industrial buyers diverting purchases from bulk channels to retail outlets are capturing this cushion, distorting local availability and creating artificial pressure at fuel stations. The Centre asked industry associations to sensitise members against such practices, urging states to deploy enforcement squads to curb hoarding, black marketing and fuel diversion. PTI

**CALLS FOR CRACKDOWN ON DIVERSION**

# India has ample supply of petrol, diesel: Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, May 27

**THE GOVERNMENT ON** Wednesday said the country has “more than adequate” supplies of petrol and diesel to meet all domestic demand, asserting that no supply shortage exists even as it warned against diversion of subsidised retail fuel into industrial use.

India, the world’s fourth-largest refining hub with 258.1 million tonne of annual capacity across 22 refineries, produced sufficient fuel to meet domestic consumption of 243.2 million tonne in FY26, while exporting 61.5 million tonne of petroleum products, the oil ministry said in a statement.

“Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has been in continuous coordination with public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), state governments and industry bodies to ensure uninterrupted supply,” it said.

A review of the situation with chief secretaries of states and Union Territories, as well as industry bodies FICCI and CII, found “no scarcity of petro-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (second from right) chairs a meeting of the informal group of ministers set up to monitor the situation in West Asia, in New Delhi on Wednesday

ANI

leum products” on the ground, the ministry said, adding that any apparent tightness in pockets stems from “arbitrage”, not supply constraints.

The government said state-run OMCs are absorbing losses of about ₹550 crore per day on petrol, diesel and domestic LPG to shield retail consumers from full international price pass-through amid volatility linked to West Asia tensions.

This subsidy buffer, it said, is intended for households, commuters and farmers using retail pumps. However, it warned that

industrial buyers diverting purchases from bulk channels to retail outlets are capturing this pricing cushion, distorting local availability and creating artificial pressure at fuel stations.

**‘Avoid panic buying’**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday urged the public to avoid panic buying petrol, diesel, and LPG, assuring them that the government is taking all necessary steps to maintain fuel supplies.

Singh, while chairing a high-level meeting of the

informal group of ministers (IGoM) set up to monitor the situation in West Asia, stressed that fertilisers and other essential agricultural inputs should remain adequately available to farmers to ensure that food prices in the country continue to remain stable, according to an official statement. The meeting was attended by Puri, Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister JP Nadda, Railways and Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Power Minister Manohar Lal, among others.

# Oil Well the Damage Control Machinery

Sharpen focus on energy pricing, exports

Opec reckons oil supply will fall below demand later this year. Projections for the annual average price of crude are creeping up. Saudi Arabia's Aramco and the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) estimate full flows through the Persian Gulf will be restored in 2027 — if the US war on Iran ends immediately. IEA says the oil market is heading into a 'red zone' by July-August as global oil reserves are dumped into the market. Even an imminent resolution of the Hormuz standoff will require months of follow-up action to stabilise shipping trade, replenish reserves and restore production. Oil-importing nations may be willing to pay a premium on supplies from less politically-sensitive sources than West Asia.

None of this is good news for India, which has begun to transmit fuel price hikes to consumers. Previous experience shows transmission will be gradual, but it must be



of an order to compress demand. There is no such flexibility over fertilisers amid the prospect of an erratic monsoon. Pass-through of the price surge in plastics will be more substantial, with a broad impact on core inflation. All this upsets India's growth-inflation dynamics. Fiscal pressure of incom-

plete transmission of fuel and fertiliser prices will harden interest rates. Monetary policy will, likewise, reset the interest rate cycle in the context of the energy shock. A tightening policy environment will try to keep the growth sacrifice low.

In India's case, energy shocks are reinforced by capital flight. Current and capital accounts turn adverse and require central bank intervention to stabilise the rupee. India's vulnerability to the current crisis is underscored by the rupee's extraordinary decline. The economy needs to build resilience through diversification of energy sources. A decade of crises should sharpen policy focus on energy pricing and exports. India has built up a reputation for crisis management. It must leverage this accomplishment to structural changes that lower its susceptibility to imported energy inflation.



## Adnoc Sends Another LNG Shipment to India



Another tanker carrying LNG from Abu Dhabi National Oil has exited the Strait of Hormuz, adding to a recent uptick in energy flows through the vital waterway. The Umm Al Ashtan, which is managed by Adnoc Logistics & Services, reappeared northwest of Muscat loaded with a cargo and listing its destination as India, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. The vessel stopped sending a signal around May 2, but at the time was empty and idling near the eastern entrance to Hormuz. Satellite images show the ship appears to have loaded a cargo at Adnoc's Das Island export plant, which is in the Persian Gulf behind Hormuz, during the period it wasn't sending a signal. Pictures show that LNG tankers have been docking at Das Island, even though no vessels broadcast their positions near the plant. —**Bloomberg**

# Petrol pumps to set up infra for various blended fuels soon

**Dhirendra Kumar & Rituraj Baruah**

dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com

**NEW DELHI:** Fuel stations may soon offer a supermarket-style choice of petrol, with multiple ethanol-blended variants that customers can choose depending on their vehicle compatibility, two people aware of the development said.

The government has advised state-run Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd, as well as privately owned Jio-bp Mobility, Nayara Energy and Shell to begin work on dispensing infrastructure for E20, E22, E25 and E30 fuels, the people cited above said on the condition of anonymity. This comes after recent Bureau of Indian Standards norms for new ethanol blends, and the Centre's April plan to allow fully ethanol-powered vehicles.

The rollout will involve investment in separate dispensing infrastructure, storage systems, blending controls and fuel quality monitoring mechanisms, one of the two people



**The move follows April's proposal to allow fully ethanol-powered vehicles.** HT

said. "Information on ethanol-blended petrol sold at fuel stations will have to be displayed clearly on dispensing pumps so that consumers can easily identify the fuel they are buying. Retail outlets will have to label the different variants," the person added.

The initiative, which expands India's E20 blending mandate, comes amid crude price volatility triggered by the West Asia war. The move comes as India grapples with a crude supply squeeze, especially due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz,

through which 20% of the world's oil supply passes.

"It is also obvious that the prices of different variants are likely to differ," the second person added.

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Out of India's 100,000 fuel stations, 90,600 are run by state-run OMCs. Pumps currently sell E20 fuel, while industry bodies and biofuel makers have sought movement beyond E20, citing surplus ethanol and the need to reduce oil import dependence.

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# Fake fuel, real profits: Inside Shahjahanpur's illegal petrol pump

**HT Correspondent**

letters@htlive.com

**MEERUT:** What appeared to be a regular roadside petrol pump in Shahjahanpur was, in reality, a full-fledged fake fuel operation quietly selling spurious petrol and diesel to unsuspecting motorists for nearly a year.

The racket in Dingurpur village, under the Roza police station limits, was busted with the arrest of five people. Thousands of litres of adulterated petrol, diesel and industrial chemicals were seized during the raid.

Officials said the accused had created an entire parallel fuel business, allegedly selling over 50,000 litres of fake fuel by mixing industrial chemicals with petrol and diesel in a 60:40 ratio. Police said the syndicate could prepare one litre of "petrol" at a cost of around ₹60, earning huge profits while putting vehicle owners at risk.

Authorities warned that prolonged use of such fuel was liable to badly damage engines, causing carbon deposits and serious mechanical failures.

The racket came to light after officials received complaints regarding adulterated fuel being sold in the area on May 22. Acting on the information, the district supply officer, along with a team of officials, raided the illegal petrol pump located in Bhavalkheda area's Dingurpur village.

During the raid, authorities sealed the petrol pump and recovered around 300 litres of petrol and 100 litres of diesel from underground tanks.

Two workers, identified as Aman Kumar and Rocky, were detained from the spot.

Officials also recovered a reg-

**TWO WORKERS,  
IDENTIFIED AS  
AMAN KUMAR AND  
ROCKY, WERE  
DETAINED FROM  
THE SPOT.**

ister containing records of petrol and diesel sales. The illegal fuel station had two underground storage tanks with capacities of 10,000 litres and 12,000 litres respectively.

SP City, Shahjahanpur, Devendra Singh, said that an FIR was registered at Roza police station following the raid and two police teams were formed to investigate the case.

"During investigation, it was found that the illegal petrol pump was being operated by Shivraj Verma, a resident of Nigohi police station area. Based on intelligence inputs, police arrested three accused on Monday night, including the main operator Shivraj Verma, his associate Rambaran alias Viresh, and another employee Ashraf Ali Khan from Lakhimpur Kheri. Viresh was responsible for the adulteration work," the SP City said.

Roza and Sindhauli police later raided a warehouse operated by Viresh in Mooda Haris village. Officials recovered nearly 10,000 litres of petrol, diesel, and chemicals stored in 65 drums from the premises. Fuel

samples have been sent for laboratory testing.

Police said Viresh bought chemicals named MIX SOLV-P-SPL and HCM SPL-M from Kanpur-based Prestige Coating Limited. Four purchase bills related to the chemicals were also recovered during the investigation. Police said chemicals worth approximately Rs 37 were used in every litre of petrol and around Rs 20 in every litre of diesel, enabling the accused to manufacture adulterated petrol at a cost of Rs 60 to Rs 65 per litre.

During interrogation, the accused admitted that during peak demand periods they sold around 700 to 800 litres of adulterated fuel daily. They also confessed to having sold more than 50,000 litres of fake fuel over the last year.

Investigators also found that Viresh sourced petrol and diesel through multiple illegal channels. He allegedly purchased left-over fuel from vehicle drivers through local contacts and also arranged fuel supplies from other districts.

The illegal petrol pump reportedly operated openly in Dingurpur village for nearly a year without detection by the district supply department. Despite large-scale sale of adulterated fuel, officials failed to notice the operation until complaints reached senior authorities, triggering the crackdown that exposed the racket.

# ONGC bets on gas-led growth as premium prices lift profit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
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State-run oil and gas producer ONGC said it expects natural gas to become an increasingly dominant and profitable part of its business as new high-priced gas production ramps up and domestic demand continues to rise.

Speaking at an investor call, ONGC chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh said the company now produces and sells more gas than oil, with gas contributing higher earnings because of favourable pricing reforms and lower handling costs.

'New well gas' - production from newly drilled wells that

receive pricing linked to 12 per cent of crude oil prices - accounted for roughly 20 per cent of gas volumes last year and is expected to rise to 25-30 per cent this year before climbing further over the next few years.

"At crude prices of around USD 90 a barrel, new well gas realises nearly USD 10.8 per million British thermal unit in the domestic market," he said, adding that India was among the highest-paying gas markets globally for such production.

The company said older gas fields priced at lower administered rates were gradually being replaced by higher-priced output from new wells, improving overall



profitability. ONGC expects gas production growth of 7-8 per cent annually, driven by projects including the Daman field development project, the DSF block and ramp-up at the KG-98/2 deepwater block. Singh said four wells under

the Daman project had already been opened, with total gas production expected to rise progressively as additional wells come online.

ONGC, he said, was executing projects worth about Rs 33,000 crore in western off-

shore fields aimed at sustaining and increasing production. Western offshore assets account for around 60 per cent of ONGC's oil production and 70 per cent of gas output.

It has recently expanded its partnership with BP plc for production enhancement projects across western offshore assets, after earlier assigning Mumbai High redevelopment work to the company.

Singh said production at the company's KG-98/2 block in the Bay of Bengal had faced geological challenges but added that it now had "full handle" on the issues and expected output stabilisation measures to improve performance.

ONGC also highlighted improving prospects at its overseas unit, ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL).

The company said production from Russia's Sakhalin project had recovered to near pre-Ukraine-war levels, while Mozambique LNG development was progressing rapidly, with first LNG targeted around 2028.

It also expects higher output from Venezuela operations under the current US administration, subject to licensing approvals.

Beyond hydrocarbons, ONGC said its renewable energy portfolio was nearing 3 gigawatts through acquisitions and ongoing expansion under ONGC Green Ltd.

## घबराहट में पेट्रोल, डीजल और एलपीजी की खरीददारी नहीं करें : राजनाथ सिंह



छाया : एएनआई

### वैभव न्यूज ■ नई दिल्ली

ईरान-अमेरिका संघर्ष के कारण पश्चिम एशिया में तेजी से बदलते हालात और उसके भारत पर संभावित प्रभावों को लेकर केंद्र सरकार पूरी तरह सतर्क नजर आ रही है। इसी क्रम में बुधवार को नई दिल्ली स्थित कर्तव्य भवन में मंत्रियों के अनौपचारिक अधिकार प्राप्त समूह (आईजीओएम) की एक महत्वपूर्ण उच्चस्तरीय बैठक आयोजित की गई। बैठक की अध्यक्षता रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने की।

इस दौरान देशवासियों से अपील की गई है कि वे किसी घबराहट में पेट्रोल, डीजल और एलपीजी की खरीददारी न करें। सरकार का कहना है कि देश में सप्लाई चैन की स्थिति सामान्य बनी हुई है। बैठक में पश्चिम एशिया में उभरते सुरक्षा परिदृश्य, भारतीय नागरिकों की सुरक्षा, ऊर्जा आपूर्ति, समुद्री व्यापार मार्गों, परिवहन व्यवस्था तथा आवश्यक सेवाओं पर संभावित प्रभावों को लेकर व्यापक

चर्चा हुई।

फिलहाल दोनों देशों के बीच युद्ध विराम की स्थिति है, लेकिन फिर भी क्षेत्र में तनाव बना हुआ है। बैठक के उपरांत रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया की स्थिति को ध्यान में रखते हुए आवश्यक वस्तुओं की उपलब्धता और आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं की मजबूती की समीक्षा के लिए मंत्रियों के अधिकार प्राप्त समूह (आईजीओएम) की छठी बैठक आयोजित की गई। उन्होंने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया में संघर्ष शुरू होने के बाद से प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में सरकार ने उत्कृष्ट कार्य किया है।

मंत्री समूह ने कठिन परिस्थितियों में दूरदर्शी सोच और प्रभावशाली नेतृत्व प्रदान करने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया। राजनाथ सिंह ने कहा कि देश में वर्तमान समय में आवश्यक वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति सामान्य बनी हुई है। नागरिकों से अपील की गई है कि वे पेट्रोल, डीजल और एलपीजी की घबराहट में

खरीददारी न करें, क्योंकि सरकार सभी आवश्यक वस्तुओं की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हरसंभव कदम उठा रही है। बैठक में इस बात की समीक्षा की गई कि यदि क्षेत्रीय तनाव और बढ़ता है तो भारत की ऊर्जा जरूरतों, पेट्रोलियम आपूर्ति और व्यापारिक गतिविधियों पर क्या असर पड़ सकता है।

इसके साथ ही विदेशों में रह रहे भारतीय नागरिकों की सुरक्षा तथा आवश्यकता पड़ने पर निकासी संबंधी तैयारियों पर भी विचार-विमर्श किया गया।

बैठक में स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी, रेल मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव, संसदीय कार्य मंत्री किरन रिजिजू, केंद्रीय मंत्री मनसुख मांडविया, सर्वानंद सोनोवाल और मनोहर लाल खट्टर शामिल रहे।

बता दें कि ईरान-अमेरिका युद्ध के कारण पश्चिम एशिया में बने घटनाक्रम पर केंद्र सरकार लगातार नजर बनाए हुए है।



## तेल के बढ़ते दाम

विशेषज्ञ मान रहे हैं कि यह बढ़ोतरी 25 रुपए तक जा सकती है। फिर भी यह कोई नई, चौंका देने वाली खबर नहीं है, क्योंकि यूपीए सरकार में भी 150-166 फीसदी तक पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम बढ़ाए गए थे और मौजूदा सरकार भी बढ़ा रही है। ये दाम ईरान युद्ध से उपजे संकट के कारण ही नहीं बढ़ाए गए, बल्कि सरकार की तेल कंपनियों की अपनी ही अर्थव्यवस्था है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप पुरी और मंत्रालय की प्रवक्ता सुजाता शर्मा लगातार खुलासा करते रहे हैं कि तेल कंपनियां अब भी औसतन 600 करोड़ रुपए का घाटा झेल रही हैं। मंत्री जी ने तो यह घाटा 1 लाख करोड़ रुपए का बताया था और कई बार, कई मंचों पर ऐसे घाटे का रोना रोया था, लेकिन कुछ डाटा सामने आया है, जो मंत्रालय-मंत्री और तेल कंपनियों की 'झूठी अर्थव्यवस्था' को बेनकाब करता है। 2025-26 की आखिरी तिमाही (जनवरी-31 मार्च) के दौरान भारत सरकार की तीन विराट तेल कंपनियों ने 19,470 करोड़ रुपए का शुद्ध मुनाफा कमाया। रमेश साहू, नई दिल्ली

## नीतिगत विफलता की भी चर्चा करिए

तेल कंपनियों ने पेट्रोल-डीजल और गैस के दामों में चार बार बढ़ोतरी करके सामान्य जन की कमर तोड़ दी है। पेट्रो पदार्थों की मूल्य-वृद्धि का सीधा असर यातायात के साधनों, बाजार और आम आदमी के घरेलू बजट पर पड़ता है, वह भी विशेषकर निम्न और मध्यमवर्गीय परिवारों पर। अगर आय के साधनों और खर्च के बीच समन्वय हो, तो महंगाई का यदा-कदा बढ़ना नहीं अखरता, लेकिन अभी गैस के दामों में बेतहाशा वृद्धि के साथ-साथ डीजल व पेट्रोल के दाम भी बार-बार बढ़ाए गए हैं, जिससे आम आदमी के सम्मुख अपने अस्तित्व को बचाए रखने का संकट खड़ा हो गया है। कहना गलत न होगा कि पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की बिक्री केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों की कमाई का बड़ा जरिया है। यदि ऐसा न होता, तो केंद्र व राज्य सरकारें जनहित में टैक्स को कम करके जनसाधारण को

महंगाई से कुछ हद तक निजात दिला सकती थीं। किंतु, ऐसा नहीं हो रहा। विडंबना यह भी है कि सड़कों पर महंगाई का विरोध करने वाले विपक्षी दलों के नेतृत्व में चल रही राज्य सरकारों ने भी दूसरे राज्यों की तरह टैक्स वसूलना जारी रखा है। कहीं-कहीं तो यह ज्यादा ही है, जिस कारण उन राज्यों में पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों के दाम तुलनात्मक रूप से अधिक हैं। किसी भी कल्याणकारी राज्य में जनता सर्वोपरि मानी जाती है, लेकिन आम आदमी अपनी जीवनचर्या को तभी बिना किसी अतिरिक्त व्यवधान के गतिशील बनाए रख सकता है, जब सरकारें लोगों की सहूलियत पर ध्यान दें। जरूरी वस्तुओं के दामों और महंगाई को नियंत्रित करना आवश्यक है, तभी आम आदमी को महंगाई से राहत मिल सकती है। इसके लिए सरकारों को प्रयास करना ही चाहिए।

☎ सुधाकर आशावादी, टिप्पणीकार

भारत जैसे देश में सरकारें अपनी कमियों पर शायद ही ध्यान देती हैं। वे तो इसी ताक में रहती हैं कि आरोप किसी दूसरे पर मढ़ दिया जाए, जिस तरह अभी पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों में की जा रही मूल्य-वृद्धि का ठीकरा विदेशी घटनाक्रमों पर फोड़ा जा रहा है। जब अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में तेल के दाम कम थे, तब आम जनता को राहत नहीं दी गई, लेकिन अब जब दाम बढ़ गए हैं, तो यह कहकर अपनी जिम्मेदारियों से मुंह मोड़ा जा रहा है कि यह तो वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखला के बाधित होने का दुष्परिणाम है। जब अच्छे वक्त में कंपनियों ने फायदा कूटा, तो बुरे वक्त में आम लोगों को क्यों परेशान किया जा रहा है? इस वक्त कंपनियों से ही घाटे की भरपायी होनी चाहिए थी। ऐसा हो तो नहीं रहा है, अलबत्ता आम जनता पर महंगाई का बोझ डाला जा रहा है।

☎ पूनम कुमारी, टिप्पणीकार

## पेट्रो पदार्थों के दाम बढ़ाने की मजबूरी

एक बार फिर सीएनजी के दाम बढ़ा दिए गए हैं। सीएनजी ही नहीं, पेट्रोल-डीजल की कीमतें भी लगातार ऊपर उठ रही हैं। यह मूल्य-वृद्धि बताती है कि तेल कंपनियों के लिए इनके दाम स्थिर रख पाना संभव नहीं रह गया है। पेट्रो उत्पादों के दाम इसलिए बढ़ रहे हैं, क्योंकि अमेरिका-ईरान के बीच टकराव के चलते होर्मुज जलमार्ग बाधित है और आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाएं छिन्न-भिन्न हो गई हैं। चूंकि भारत अपनी आवश्यकता का 75 प्रतिशत से अधिक ईंधन आयात करता है, इसलिए उसके सामने पेट्रोल-डीजल-गैस के दाम बढ़ाने के अतिरिक्त और कोई दूसरा उपाय नहीं है। हालांकि, जिस तरह भारत ऐसा करने के लिए मजबूर है, उसी तरह दुनिया के अन्य देशों के सामने भी मजबूरी है। इसकी अनदेखी नहीं होनी चाहिए कि भारत ने दूसरे देशों की तुलना में काफी समय बाद पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों के दाम बढ़ाए। पेट्रोल-

डीजल और गैस के बढ़ते दामों के बीच वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने जिस तरह यह कहा कि तेल, उर्वरकों और विदेशी मुद्रा पर कड़ी निगाह रखने की जरूरत है, उसके अनुरूप सरकार को काम करना ही होगा। हां, आम जनता इतना अवश्य कर सकती है और उसे यह करना भी चाहिए कि वह संयम बरते और उन उपायों पर ध्यान दे, जो सरकार और विशेष रूप से प्रधानमंत्री की ओर से सुझाए गए हैं।

📌 **विभूति बुपक्या, टिप्पणीकार**

**वर्तमान** में पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों में की गई मूल्य-वृद्धि कोई आंतरिक या नीतिगत विफलता नहीं है, बल्कि यह एक वैश्विक संकट का अनिवार्य परिणाम है। इस कठिन समय में देश को आर्थिक रूप से स्थिर बनाए रखने के लिए सरकार की प्रशासनिक दृढ़ता, विपक्ष के परिपक्व रवैये और आम जनता के संयम की बेहद

जरूरत है। तेल कंपनियों द्वारा कीमतों को स्थिर रख पाना अब व्यावहारिक नहीं रह गया है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में होने वाली मामूली हलचल भी भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को सीधे तौर पर प्रभावित करती है। जब वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला बाधित होती है, तो घरेलू बाजार में दाम बढ़ाना सरकार और तेल कंपनियों के लिए एक अपरिहार्य मजबूरी बन जाती है। साफ है, यह समय घबराहट का नहीं, बल्कि संतुलित नीति, जिम्मेदार उपभोग और दीर्घकालिक ऊर्जा-आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने का है। केवल नागरिकों से किफायत की अपेक्षा पर्याप्त नहीं होगी। सरकारों की भी समान जिम्मेदारी बनती है। वे मूल्य नियंत्रण के साथ-साथ वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा स्रोतों के विस्तार, सार्वजनिक परिवहन की मजबूती और आयात पर निर्भरता घटाने के भी उपाय करें।

📌 **युगल किशोर राही, टिप्पणीकार**



### अनुलोम-विलोम पेट्रो पदार्थों की कीमतें



## अशोक नगर में गैस पाइपलाइन डालने का कार्य शुरू

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

पूर्वी दिल्ली। उत्तरी-पूर्वी दिल्ली के अशोक नगर स्थित डी-ब्लॉक में आईजीएल की गैस पाइपलाइन डालने की प्रक्रिया फिर शुरू की गई है। इससे पहले गली में थोड़े-थोड़े दूर पर गड्ढे खोद कर महीने भर के लिए छोड़ दिया था, जिससे स्थानीय लोगों को परेशानी हो रही थी। ऐसे में इस समस्या को अमर उजाला ने 21 मई को अपने प्रकाशित अंक में उठाया था, जिस



अमर उजाला अखबार के माध्यम से 21 मई को आवाज उठाई थी। खबर का असर हुआ और संबंधित विभाग ने काम फिर से शुरू किया। - रामविलास वर्मा।



अमर उजाला में खबर भेजी थी। खबर छपने के बाद से प्रशासन हरकत में आया। काम फिर से शुरू किया गया। अब गली में गैस पाइपलाइन डल गई है। गड्ढे को मिट्टी से भरा जा रहा है।  
-मुकेश टांक, अध्यक्ष, अशोक नगर जनसेवा आरडब्ल्यूए।

पर प्रशासन की ओर से बीते एक सप्ताह के अंदर कार्रवाई की गई। समस्या को लेकर रामविलास वर्मा ने बताया था कि आईजीएल विभाग की ओर से गली नंबर-1 में गैस

पाइपलाइन डालने की नीयत से गली को खोदी गई थी, लेकिन गैस पाइपलाइन नहीं डाली गई। ऐसे में महीने भर स्थानीय लोगों को परेशानी उठानी पड़ी।