

15 nations, 12 international organisations willing to join Global Biofuel Alliance

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Around 15 countries and 12 international organisations have evinced interest in becoming members of The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), which is backed by the US, Brazil and India, Parliament was informed on Monday.

“India spearheaded consultations for a multi stakeholder GBA as Chair’s Initiative during India’s G20 Presidency. Currently, 15 countries and 12 International Organisations are willing to be the initiating members, and four additional countries have expressed interest to be the observer countries,” Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas Rameswar Teli said in a written response in Rajya Sabha.

● COORDINATED EFFORT

The alliance will have a three-category membership structure bringing together member countries, partner organisations and industries

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas conducted a special Ministerial session, GBA: Consultations and Recommendations, headed by Oil Minister HS Puri on July 22, 2023, in Goa, in conjunction with the G20 Energy Ministerial Meeting, he added.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The consultative process resulted in the Energy Ministers recommending the establishment of the multi-stakeholder Global alliance on Biofuels to

the G20 leaders, the Minister said. India, the US and Brazil account for a total of 85 per cent of the global ethanol production with the US holding 55 per cent share followed by Brazil (27 per cent) and India (3 per cent).

GBA will be a competent organisation which will set technical standards for Sustainable Aviation Fuel business in collaboration with relevant industry bodies, he added.

The alliance will have a three-category membership structure bringing together member countries, partner organisations and industries.

The alliance will work towards enhancing global collaboration and co-operation for accelerated adoption of biofuels by identifying global best practices for the development and deployment of sustainable biofuels and bio-products.

{ **BUSINESS** } IN Q1 OF FY24

2,580% rise in profit for PSU fuel retailers



Combined net profit of state-run fuel retailers – Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporate Ltd (HPCL) – surged over 2,580% at ₹30,505 crore in just one quarter of 2023-24 as compared to ₹1,138 crore in the entire financial year of 2022-23, according to an official statement submitted in the Rajya Sabha. The three public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) earned combined net profit of ₹30,505 crore in just one quarter of 2023-24 (Q1, April-June of FY24) as compared to ₹41,930 crore in the entire financial year 2021-22 (all four quarters combined), according to the data submitted in the House by minister of state for petroleum Rameswar Teli on Monday. The net profit in Q1 of FY24 alone is over 72.7% of their entire net profit in FY22.

Aramco posts \$30 bn in Q2 profits, down nearly 40% from last year

DUBAI: Saudi state-run oil giant Aramco said Monday that it made \$30 billion in profit in the second quarter, a nearly 40 per cent decline from the same period the previous year that it attributed to lower oil prices.

Total sales stood at just over 400 billion riyals (about \$106 billion), down from 562 billion riyals (\$150 billion) in the second quarter of 2022. In an earnings report filed with the Saudi stock exchange, Aramco said the decrease "mainly reflected the impact of lower crude oil prices and weakening refining and chemicals margins".

The company reported net income of 112.8 billion Saudi riyals (\$30 billion) compared to 181.6 billion riyals (\$48 billion) in the second quarter of 2022, a decline of 37.8 per cent

Aramco nevertheless raised its dividend paid out to investors to 110.18 billion riyals (\$29.38 billion), compared to \$18.8 billion in the second quarter of 2022. The performance-based dividend is partly based on the company's record earnings last year, it said.

"Our strong results reflect our resilience and ability to adapt through market cycles," Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said in a statement accompanying the report.

Last week, Fortune magazine ranked Aramco, officially known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co, the second biggest company in the world by revenue, behind only Walmart and ahead of Amazon and Apple. The ranking came after the oil company reported a profit of



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over \$160 billion in 2022, the largest ever recorded by a publicly traded firm.

Those kinds of earnings will come under heightened scrutiny later this year when the United Arab Emirates, another major oil producer, hosts annual UN climate talks aimed at getting the world to slash emissions and reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.

Aramco benefited from a spike in oil prices last year caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Internationally traded oil peaked at over \$120 a barrel in June 2022 before settling in a range of \$75 to \$85 for much of the past year.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly cut its oil production in recent months and pressed fellow OPEC members to do the same in an attempt to push up

prices in the face of weaker demand from China and rising interest rates aimed at combatting inflation.

The kingdom needs high oil prices to fund Vision 2030, a costly and wide-ranging plan to overhaul its economy and transform itself into a regional hub for business and tourism. The plans include several so-called "gigaprojects," including the construction of a futuristic \$500 billion city on the Red Sea coast.

Saudi Arabia is also investing billions of dollars in tourism, entertainment and sports, including on a controversial merger with the PGA Tour and the recruitment of some of soccer's biggest stars to play for local clubs.

Activists accuse the country of trying to "sportswash" a human rights record marred by its involvement in the war in neighbouring Yemen, a heavy crackdown on dissent and the 2018 killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and government critic.

The International Monetary Fund estimates that Saudi Arabia needs an oil price of around \$80 a barrel to avoid running a deficit. Benchmark US crude oil for September delivery rose \$1.27 to \$82.82 a barrel Friday. Brent crude for October delivery rose \$1.10 to \$86.24 a barrel.

Aramco raised a record \$29.4 billion through an initial 2019 public offering in which it sold a tiny sliver of less than 2 per cent of the company to investors.

AGENCIES

Combined profit of IOC, BPCL, HPCL soars over 2,580%

Rajeev Jayaswal & Roshan Kishore

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NEW DELHI: Combined net profit of Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum has surged over 2,580% to ₹30,505 crore in the three months ended June, compared to ₹1,138 crore for the entire financial year of 2022-23, according to an official statement submitted in the Rajya Sabha.

The three state-run fuel retailers earned combined net profit of ₹30,505 crore in just the first quarter of 2023-24 compared to ₹41,930 crore in the entire 2021-22 financial year, according to the data submitted by junior petroleum minister Rameswar Teli on Monday.

Net profit of the three firms in the June quarter alone was almost 72.7% of their entire combined net profit in 2021-22, the fiscal year preceding the FY23.

All fuel companies, including refiners, are making huge profits by selling petrol and diesel as their pump rates have been frozen for almost 16 months, according to two executives at the oil marketers and two industry experts, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

India's average crude oil import price that was \$116.01 per barrel in June 2022, declined to \$74.93 a barrel in June 2023, a fall of over 35%. Retail prices of petrol and diesel are supposed to be pegged to international crude oil prices.

The petroleum ministry and the state-run fuel retailers did not respond to emailed queries on the matter.

While oil companies are free to align pump prices of petrol and diesel with their respective international benchmarks, the government tacitly controls pricing of politically sensitive fuel prices through the three state-run oil marketing companies, which control over 90% of domestic fuel retail market.

In order to protect consumers from international oil price

A comeback

OMCs are making huge profits as crude oil prices have dipped.



volatility, the retailers paused the daily pricing mechanism for petrol and diesel on April 6, 2022.

HT on July 31 published a detailed analysis, which showed that despite a decline in international crude oil rates, petrol and diesel prices were not reduced, which have kept inflation elevated. There was good reason to believe that fiscal policy could play a positive role in controlling inflation via an intervention on the fuel prices front, the analysis found.

On tacit instruction of the government, state-run fuel retailers did not change pump prices of petrol and diesel after April 6 last year, when it was last raised to ₹105.41 per litre and ₹96.67 a litre for petrol and diesel, respectively, in Delhi.

In May 2022, the central government steeply reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel for the second time. The first reduction took place in November 2021. The total central excise reduction was ₹13 a litre and ₹16, for petrol and diesel, respectively, to calm rising inflation, which was followed by cuts in value-added taxes by several states, mainly ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Crude near four-month high on OPEC+ cuts



Singapore: Crude oil prices edged down on Monday, but were still near their highest levels since mid-April after Saudi Arabia and Russia pledged to keep supplies down for another month to tighten global markets further. Brent crude futures slipped 10 cents to \$86.14 a barrel by 0420 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$82.73 a barrel, down 9 cents. REUTERS

E20 fuel currently sold at over 1,900 pumps: Govt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 7 AUGUST

Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) started selling E20 petrol in February 2023 and it is currently being sold at more than 1,900 retail outlets across the country, the Rajya Sabha was told on Monday.

E20 fuel is a blend of 20 per cent ethanol and the rest fossil-based fuel.

“Government is promoting biofuels with the broader objectives of reducing import dependency, generating employment, providing better remuneration to farmers, for associated environmental benefits, promoting better waste management practices, etc,” Union Minister of State

for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Rameswar Teli, said in a written reply in the Upper House.

India has already rolled out 20 per cent blended fuel, though, in a phased manner, this year and widespread availability is expected in two years.

E20 blending in petrol was introduced in the country by the Centre with the aim of reducing the country's oil import cost, energy security, lower carbon emission, and better air quality, among others.

Notably, the government had advanced the target of E20 fuel from 2030 to 2025. It is projected that by 2025, the use of E20 fuel will contribute to the reduction of more than 200 lakh tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.



IndianOil Chairman Gets 1-year Extension

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The government has granted IndianOil chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, a rare tenure extension beyond his retirement due at the end of this month.

ET was the first to report in June that the petroleum ministry had recommended a two-year tenure extension for Vaidya.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the ministry of petroleum and natural



gas for re-employment on a contract basis of Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, chairman, Indian Oil Corporation for a period of one year beyond the date of his superannuation i.e. w.e.f 01.09.2023 till 31.08.2024, or till the appointment of regular incumbent to the post, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest," a government memo said.

It is rare for the heads of state-run companies to get an extension. Vaidya would be re-employed immediately after his retirement at the end of August.

Last December, the government appointed Arun Singh as the chairman of ONGC for 3 years. Singh had retired as BPCL chairman just a few months earlier. Last week, the government relaxed rules to give Cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba a one-year extension.



Petro products consumption in India grows 10% in FY23

New Delhi: The country's consumption of petroleum products during FY2022-23 reported a growth of 10% compared to the previous fiscal year, reaching a volume of about 223 million metric tonnes, said minister of state in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas Rameswar Teli in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. The growth was led by a 13% increase in petrol consumption and a 12% rise in diesel usage.

SAURAV ANAND

HELPED BY HIGH GLOBAL PRICES, DEPRECIATED RUPEE

Refiners Rake in Big Profits from Exports Even as Volumes Shrink

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New Delhi: India's refiners exported nearly 10% less diesel and petrol in 2022-23 than in the previous year although they gained in value terms, making 26% more in dollar and 35% more in rupee terms, helped by high global prices and a depreciated rupee.

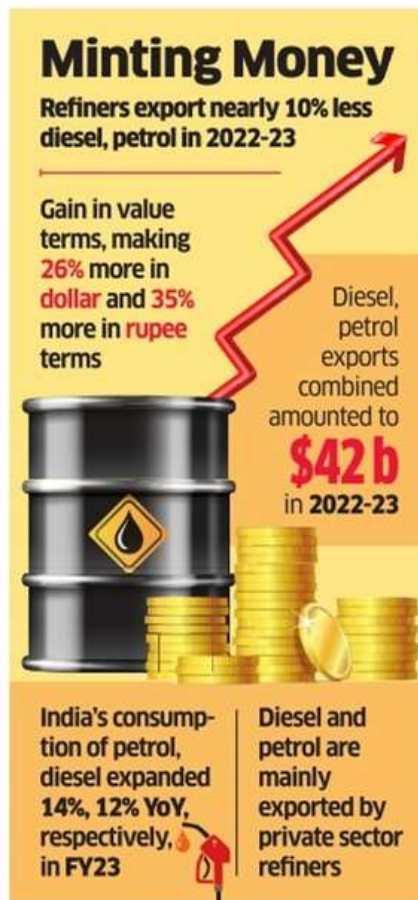
It came amid reports last year that the country's refiners were doubling down on exports to serve Europe, which was shunning Russian fuel.

Diesel and petrol exports combined amounted to \$42 billion (about ₹3,33,620 crore) in 2022-23, securing higher profits to fuel exporters, mainly private sector refiners, and foreign exchange benefits to the country, according to the petroleum and natural gas ministry data.

"Indian refiners were merely shuffling barrels," an industry executive said on condition of anonymity, adding that exporters probably only shifted supply from Asian markets to Europe.

A booming domestic market — India's consumption of petrol and diesel expanded 14% and 12% year-on-year, respectively, in 2022-23 — also slowed the exports.

"You can't quickly increase your refining capacity. So, you have a finite domestic supply and a growing domestic market to serve," said the executive.



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Diesel and petrol are mainly exported by private sector refiners which also sell a huge volume to state companies at international prices to meet domestic demand. Private sector refiners operate a small network of filling stations, which cut fuel sales last year to avoid losses after state oil compa-

nies froze retail prices. While their retail sales dropped, private refiners continued to supply fuel to state companies at international prices, the executive said.

Diesel exports fell 12% year-on-year in volume terms to 28.5 million tonnes in 2022-23, the lowest in four years. But in value terms, exports rose 31% year-on-year to \$28.9 billion, probably the highest ever. In rupee terms, the value rose 40% to ₹2,31,130 crore.

Refiners exported 13.1 million tonnes of petrol, 3% less than that a year ago. In value terms, however, exports fetched \$12.8 billion, 17% more than in the previous year, or ₹1,02,489 crore, 25.5% more.

The crack spread, or the difference between the price of crude oil and refined product was far higher in 2022-23 than the historical average for petrol and diesel. The average petrol crack spread of \$13.85 per barrel in 2022-23 was the second highest in 20 years while the diesel crack of \$34.93 was the highest in two decades. The second-highest crack spread on diesel was \$18.18 in 2008-09.

Rising prices in the global market pushed up domestic prices for a while last year, after which state-run oil companies stopped raising pump prices in line with global rates. The price freeze prompted private sector refiners to cut sales at their pumps.

RIL ready to double its green energy investment to ₹1.5 tn

Company is planning to commence the transition from grey to green hydrogen by 2025

Anirudh Laskar
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MUMBAI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has said it is ready to double its investment in green energy to ₹1.5 trillion, at a time when large industrial houses worldwide are going green.

In 2021, RIL announced an investment of ₹75,000 crore to build its new energy business. "Once proven at scale, RIL is prepared to double the investment to scale up its manufacturing ecosystem. The investment of ₹75,000 crore with a readiness to double investment will further the company's goals related to energy transition, enhance renewable energy usage and operational economic efficiency, and broaden focused research for the new energy business," the company's latest annual report said.

A person in the know of RIL's investment strategy for new energy said it has already invested around ₹50,000 crore to develop a green energy giga-complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat. "It plans to invest at least ₹1.5 trillion in total into green energy capacities. After the initial ₹75,000 crore, the exact resources and areas where additional ₹75,000 crore will be invested is still to be decided," he said.

"RIL invested in and formed partnerships with leading companies in the fields of solar power, batteries and electrolyzers," the company said in the report. RIL is in advanced talks with leading electrolyzer technology players globally to establish a Giga-scale electrolyzer manufacturing facility in Jamnagar, it added.

"After proving cost and performance targets, the company also aims to pro-



Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director, Reliance Industries Ltd.

gressively commence the transition from grey to green hydrogen by 2025," according to the report.

RIL has been making significant progress in developing the Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex, spread over 5,000 acres at Jamnagar. The ₹75,000 crore will be primarily invested in setting up solar and wind power units, and electric battery manufacturing plants.

RIL's increased investment target in new energy, the highest among Indian companies, but lower than global peers, assumes significance amid a drive to achieve net zero emissions, primarily spearheaded by Asian countries, which accounted for over 50% of carbon dioxide emissions in 2020. China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore and Aus-

tralia have initiated large-scale wind and solar projects to fulfil their commitment to cleaner energy sources.

In India, RIL is competing with the Tata and Adani groups in the new energy space. While Adani Green aims to achieve 45 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and is working towards its net-zero target by 2050, Tata Power said it will be investing \$9.5 billion in renewables over the next five years, as it aims to double the share of clean energy in its portfolio.

Several large global companies are also ramping up their investments in sustainable energy. Texas-based ExxonMobil and UK's BP plc seek to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. While ExxonMobil is set to invest over \$15 billion by 2027 on lower-emission

initiatives, BP will raise investments on low-carbon energy by \$3 billion-\$5 billion every year until 2025 from \$1 billion in 2022.

Shell, which was one of the first oil and gas giants to announce its net zero ambitions by 2050, has lowered its original carbon emission reduction target by 20-30%, as it is required to keep its investments going in oil and gas to meet demand, the company said.

Shell has been investing around \$1 billion every year in low-carbon energy, such as charging for electric vehicles, hydrogen, biofuels and electricity generated by wind and solar power, and is preparing to increase it to around \$2 billion, depending on commercial opportunities, it added.

₹50,000 cr
RIL's investment in Jamnagar green energy complex

5,000 acres
Area of the Jamnagar green energy complex



The price for each barrel including freight costs was \$68.17, down from \$100.48 a year ago. BLOOMBERG

Russian oil to India cheapest since war

The average cost of Russian crude landing on Indian shores in June was the lowest since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine more than a year ago. The price for each barrel including freight costs was \$68.17, down from \$70.17 in May and \$100.48 a year earlier, according to the latest figures from the ministry of commerce and industry. While that's higher than a \$60 cap imposed by Western nations on Moscow, the threshold doesn't include shipping. India has become one of the world's top consumers of cheaper Russian crude since the war, along with China. Data from Kpler shows Indian imports dipping over the past two months, with flows expected to fall further in August as the OPEC+ producer fulfils a pledge to trim exports. The analytics firm sees shipments to the South Asian nation rebounding from October, however.

India typically buys Russian crude on a delivered basis inclusive of freight, insurance and other miscellaneous costs. It leaves seller to handle all logistics and risks with transporting the crude, regardless of whether the shipment is under or above price cap.

BLOOMBERG

Russian oil to India in June cheapest since Ukraine war

Price of each barrel, including freight, was \$68.17, down from \$70.17 in May

GOING OIL OUT

INDIA'S TOP SUPPLIERS OF CRUDE IN JUNE



	Volume (kbpd)	Share
Russia	2,167.68	45.4
Iraq	848.89	17.8
Saudi Arabia	745.34	15.6
USA	227.06	4.8
UAE	203.26	4.3

kbpd: thousand barrels per day

Source: Kpler

BLOOMBERG

7 August

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Imports from Iraq in June averaged \$67.10 a barrel, while those from Saudi Arabia were much higher at \$81.78, according to the government data. India relies on imports to meet 88% of its oil demand needs.

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RAKESH SHARMA
August 7

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Union oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri told reporters in New Delhi on Friday that the discounts on Russian crude had narrowed, without elaborating.

—BLOOMBERG



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Saudi Aramco Q2 Profit Drops 38% to \$30 Billion, Boosts Dividend

Dubai: Saudi Arabian state oil giant Aramco reported a near 38% drop in second-quarter net profit on Monday amid weaker oil prices and thinner refining and chemicals margins, as it boosted its dividend with a new performance-linked payout.

Aramco's net profit fell to 112.81 billion riyals (\$30.07 billion) for the quarter to June 30 from 181.64 billion riyals a year earlier, beating a company-provided median estimate from 15 analysts of \$29.8 billion. The group declared a base dividend of about \$19.5 billion for the second quarter, roughly in line with its payout for the first quarter.

Aramco will begin paying performance-linked dividends for six quarters, starting with a \$9.87 billion payout in the third quarter, it said.

The Saudi state remains overwhelmingly Aramco's biggest shareholder. The government directly holds 90.19%, the sovereign Public Investment Fund owns 4% and another 4% is held by PIF subsidiary Sana'il, according to Refinitiv data. **Reuters**

Vaidya gets extension as IndianOil chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The government granted IndianOil chairman **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya** a year's post-retirement extension, a rare development for a chief of a non-banking public sector company. The move is being seen as



a recognition of Vaidya's stewardship in preparing the oil refiner-fuel retailer for energy transition. He took over as chairman on July 1, 2020 and led the company through oil market disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The oil ministry had recommended a two-year extension for Vaidya but the Cabinet panel granted a year's "contract". The order said he will continue "till August 31, 2024, or the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever is earlier".

अमेरिका के सामने झुका

गंभीर आर्थिक संकट से जूझ रहे पाक पर नई आफत

ईरान से रोकी अरबों डॉलर की गैस पाइपलाइन परियोजना, भारी भरकम भरना पड़ेगा जुर्माना

एजेसी ►► इस्लामाबाद

पाकिस्तान, ईरान के साथ हुए गैस पाइपलाइन समझौता पर फंसता हुआ नजर आ रहा है। इस समझौते के अनुसार पाकिस्तान को 2024 तक ईरान से गैस पाइपलाइन परियोजना को पूरा करना था। परियोजना को पूरा करने में पाक दोनों तरफ से फंसा है। अगर वह इस परियोजना को पूरा नहीं करता है तो उसे उसे ईरान को भारी-भरकम जुर्माना भरना होगा। वहीं, अगर पाक गैस पाइपलाइन को बनाता है तो उसे अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों का सामना करना पड़ेगा। पाकिस्तान ने पड़ोसी ईरान से सस्ती ऊर्जा आयात करने के लिए

पाकिस्तान गैस पाइपलाइन परियोजना पर तब तक आगे नहीं बढ़ पाएगा, जब तक ईरान को अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों से राहत नहीं मिल जाती।

गंभीर परियोजना से अलग

इस परियोजना की शुरुआत में भारत-पाकिस्तान-ईरान गैस पाइपलाइन के रूप में कल्पना की गई थी, लेकिन बाद में, भारत ने खुद को इस परियोजना से अलग कर लिया था।



आईएमएफ से लोन के लिए बात कर रहा पाकिस्तान

पाक इन दिनों गंभीर आर्थिक संकट से जूझ रहा है। ऐसे में 3 अरब डॉलर के लोन के लिए पाक सरकार की आईएमएफ से बातचीत चल रही है। आईएमएफ से डील में कोई परेशानी न हो, इसलिए पाक प्रोजेक्ट से बाहर निकल गया।

नेशनल असेंबली को दी जानकारी

पाकिस्तान के पेट्रोलियम राज्यमंत्री मुसादिक मलिक ने पाकिस्तान की नेशनल असेंबली में इस समझौते से बाहर आने की जानकारी दी। मुसादिक ने कहा कि ईरान पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिबंधों के चलते इस समझौते को रोक रखा है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस प्रोजेक्ट के पूरा होने की समय सीमा तय नहीं है।

अरबों डॉलर की गैस पाइपलाइन परियोजना को अस्थायी रूप से अमेरिका के दबाव में रोक दिया है। ईरान के साथ गैस पाइपलाइन योजना से पाकिस्तान को सस्ती गैस मिलनी थी, लेकिन ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम पर अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के चलते पाकिस्तान इस परियोजना से फिलहाल पीछे हट गया है। पाकिस्तान तब तक इस परियोजना पर आगे नहीं बढ़ पाएगा, जब तक ईरान को अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों से राहत नहीं मिल जाती या फिर अमेरिका चुपचाप, पाकिस्तान को इसकी मंजूरी नहीं दे देता। ऐसे में गैस पाइपलाइन का काम रुकना उसके लिए बड़ा झटका है।

पाकिस्तान ने ईरान के साथ गैस पाइपलाइन परियोजना रोकी

इस्लामाबाद (भाषा)। पाकिस्तान ने पड़ोसी देश ईरान से किफायती दर पर गैस का आयात करने के लिए अरबों रुपये की गैस पाइपलाइन परियोजना अस्थायी रूप से रोक दी है। मीडिया में सोमवार को आई एक खबर में यह जानकारी दी गयी। ऐसा लगता है कि उसने अमेरिका के दबाव में यह कदम उठाया है जिसने ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम को लेकर उसके खिलाफ प्रतिबंध लगाए हुए हैं।

यह कदम तब उठाया गया है जब पाकिस्तान अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (आईएमएफ) की मदद से नकदी संकट से जूझ रही अपनी अर्थव्यवस्था को बाहर निकालने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहा है। आईएमएफ ने पाकिस्तान को तीन अरब डॉलर का कर्ज देने पर सहमति जतायी है। इस परियोजना की शुरुआत में भारत-पाकिस्तान-ईरान गैस पाइपलाइन के रूप में कल्पना की गयी थी लेकिन बाद में भारत इससे अलग हो गया और यह पाकिस्तान तथा ईरान के बीच एक द्विपक्षीय परियोजना बन गयी। ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम को लेकर उस पर अमेरिका द्वारा प्रतिबंध लगाए जाने ने पाकिस्तान को पाइपलाइन के निर्माण से रोक दिया है।

‘डॉन’ अखबार ने बताया कि पाकिस्तान

■ अमेरिका के दबाव में पाक ने उठाया कदम

■ ईरान ने नोटिस की वैधता को चुनौती

ने अरबों डॉलर की ईरान-पाकिस्तान गैस पाइपलाइन परियोजना पूरी करने पर अपनी संविदात्मक बाध्यता निलंबित करने के वास्ते एक नोटिस जारी किया है और कहा है कि वह ऐसे कुछ कारणों से यह कदम उठा रहा है जो उसके नियंत्रण से बाहर हैं। अखबार में कहा गया है कि पाकिस्तान ने ईरान पर अमेरिका के प्रतिबंध जारी रहने तक इस परियोजना पर आगे बढ़ने में अपनी असमर्थता जतायी है।

पाकिस्तान के पेट्रोलियम राज्य मंत्री मुसादिक मलिक ने नेशनल असेंबली में कहा, ‘ईरान पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिबंधों के कारण ईरान-पाकिस्तान गैस पाइपलाइन परियोजना रोकी जाती है।’ उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि ईरान पर से प्रतिबंध हटने के बाद परियोजना पर काम शुरू होगा। उन्होंने कहा, ‘इसे देखते हुए ईरान-पाकिस्तान गैस पाइपलाइन परियोजना पूरा करने के लिए कोई तारीख तथा समयसीमा नहीं दी जा सकती।’ ईरान ने इस नोटिस की वैधता को चुनौती दी है।

शहर में कई जगह पीएनजी लाइन है नहीं तो कनेक्शन कैसे लेंगे उद्यमी

जागरण संवाददाता, फरीदाबाद : जिले के उद्योगों को अपने डीजी सेट बदलवाने के लिए वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग ने 30 सितंबर तक का समय दिया है। लेकिन सवाल ये है कि शहर में कई ऐसे औद्योगिक क्षेत्र हैं, जहां अभी भी पीएनजी लाइन नहीं है। ऐसे में इन उद्योगों के सामने बड़ा संकट खड़ा हो गया है। ये पीएनजी कनेक्शन कैसे ले सकते हैं और यदि लेंगे तो कार्रवाई के दायरे में आएंगे। इन उद्योगों ने प्रदेश सरकार से इस समस्या के समाधान की गुहार लगाई है। केंद्रीय व हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अधिकारियों से भी ऐसे उद्योगों पर कार्रवाई न

पीएनजी कनेक्शन को नहीं आ रहे आगे
प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के रिकार्ड के अनुसार जिले में 250 से अधिक उद्योग ऐसे हैं जिनके पास पीएनजी कनेक्शन है। ऐसे उद्योगों की संख्या करीब 10 हजार है, जिनमें काफी उद्योग कौथला, लकड़ी, गत्ता, बायो-डीजल पर आधारित है।

करने के लिए कहा गया है।

बढ़ते वायु प्रदूषण के चलते उठा रहे कदम: शहर में सर्दियों में वायु प्रदूषण का स्तर चरम पर रहता है। कई बार देश के सबसे अधिक प्रदूषित शहरों

वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग के आदेशानुसार एक अक्टूबर से बंद हो जाएंगे डीजल से चलने वाले जनरेटर सेट

यहां नहीं है पीएनजी लाइन
जिले में सेक्टर-25 के सामने कृष्णा नगर, सरसपुर, डबुआ, सेक्टर-24 के काफी हिस्से में, मिर्जापुर में पीएनजी लाइन नहीं है।

की सूची में टाप पर भी आ चुका है। यहां अक्सर वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक 400 को भी पार कर जाता है। सर्दियों में यह स्तर 500 तक पहुंच जाता है। यही कारण है कि हर साल 15

उद्यमियों ने रखी थी अपनी पीड़ा

प्रदूषण, पौधारोपण तथा वायु गुणवत्ता सुधार पर एचएसवीपी कन्वेंशन सेंटर सेक्टर-12 में 15 मई को हुई कार्यशाला में उद्यमियों ने वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग के अध्यक्ष एमएम कुट्टी, हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के चेयरमैन पी राघवेंद्र राव के समक्ष अपनी परेशानियां खुलकर रखी थीं। उद्योगपतियों ने एक सूर में कहा कि पहले सरकार उद्योगों को 24 घंटे बिजली सप्लाई करना सुनिश्चित करे। दिन-रात कई-कई घंटे के कट लगते हैं। इससे उद्योगों का पूरा कामकाज चरमरा जाता है। एक घंटे के कट में तीन घंटे का काम प्रभावित होता है। बिजली जाने के बाद बायलर ठंडा हो जाता है। इसे गर्म होने में समय लगता है। इतना ही नहीं जिन उद्योगों ने पीएनजी कनेक्शन लिए हैं, उनसे बायलर नहीं चलाए जा सकते।

अक्टूबर से 15 मार्च तक ग्रेडेड रिस्पांस एक्शन प्लान लागू कर दिया जाता है। इसके अंतर्गत प्रदूषण बढ़ाने वाली गतिविधियों पर रोक लगा दी जाती है। अब आयोग कोशिश कर

रहा है कि जो उद्योग प्रदूषण बढ़ाने वाले कारकों पर निर्भर हैं, उन सभी को पीएनजी कनेक्शन दिलाया जाए। अगर ऐसा हो जाता है तो उद्यमियों को बहुत राहत हो जाएगी।

जनरेटर चलाना मजबूरी है। ये बिजली से भी महंगा पड़ता है
लेकिन उद्योगों की मशीनरी बंद न हो। इसलिए चलाना पड़ता है। कम से कम पहले पीएनजी लाइन हर उद्योग तक आनी चाहिए। जनरेटर पर सरकार सब्सिडी दे। तभी समाधान हो सकेगा।
- निर्मल कुलश्रेष्ठ, प्रधान, रवर चैनल मैनुफैक्चरर एसोसिएशन



पीएनजी लाइन डालने वाली कंपनी पहले अपना ढांचा सुधारे। डीजल जनरेटर बदलवाने में लाखों रुपये खर्चा आएगा। लघु उद्यमियों के सामने बड़ा संकट है। बिजली निगम बिजली आपूर्ति निर्बाध रूप से सुनिश्चित करे तो समाधान हो सकता है।
- जीएस त्यागी, प्रधान, फरीदाबाद स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज एसोसिएशन



सभी उद्यमियों को पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने के लिए आग्रह किया जा चुका है। इसमें यदि राहत लेनी है तो सरकार ही दे सकती है। पीएनजी लाइन डालने के लिए कंपनी को पत्र लिखा जाएगा।
- दिनेश कुमार, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

