

● GREEN ENERGY FIRM'S IPO THIS FISCAL

NTPC not to sell green arm's stake to Petronas

MANISH GUPTA
New Delhi, April 13

STATE-RUN NTPC HAS dropped the plan to rope in Malaysian energy giant Petronas as a strategic investor in its green energy subsidiary before its listing.

NTPC Green Energy (NGEL) will hit the market with an initial public offering (IPO) in the current fiscal with a plan to divest 25% of its stake. The stake sale to the public would be through the bookbuilding route.

The state-run power company had late last fiscal got the government's approval for inducting a strategic investor in NGEL. The country's largest power producer, which is focusing big on the green energy business, changed its strategy on funding NGEL, as it did not find the Petronas offer much attractive, an official source said, on condition of anonymity. NTPC has already transferred 15 of its renewable energy assets of 2,861 MW.

Malaysian energy group Petrolim Nasional Berhad (Petronas) had outbid Indian firms REC and Indraprastha Gas (IGL) with its \$460-million offer for a 20% stake in NGEL last year. But withdrew after NTPC began negotiations for better offer, the official said.

Besides, the Centre's nod for NTPC, a Maharatna, making an investment beyond a prescribed limit in NGEL came



STAKE SALE

■ NTPC Green Energy may divest 25%

■ NTPC got Centre's nod last fiscal to rope in a strategic investor in NGEL

■ Changed strategy as it didn't find Petronas offer attractive

■ Petronas had outbid REC and IGL with \$460-mn offer for a 20% stake in NGEL last year

late last fiscal on 17 March 2023 on the ground that it aims to achieve a target of 60 GW renewable energy capacity. The official said NTPC will require a lot of equity to grow to 60 GW of renewable capacity. However, the market for renewables is opening up and growing fast, he said, adding that the NGEL's IPO may give much a better valuation.

In line with its commitment in COP 26, India is working towards a low-carbon emission path while meeting its development goals. It is aiming to reach 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, which is part of the country's larger aim of moving towards 'net zero' emissions by 2070.

Power secretary Alok

Kumar, earlier this month, said that the country needs to more than double its renewable energy production to achieve its goal of 90% of its energy coming from renewable sources by 2047. Currently, coal accounts for 70% of the country's electricity output.

As India's leading power utility, NTPC aims to add 60 GW renewable energy capacity by 2032, or half of its total capacity then, target for which is set at 130 GW. NTPC transferred its unit NTPC Renewable Energy (NREL) to NGEL to consolidate its renewable energy portfolio. NGEL, along with its arm NREL, aims to be the flag bearer of NTPC's renewable energy journey with presence in green hydrogen, solar and wind.

NGEL planning 8GW pumped storage projects

MANISH GUPTA
New Delhi, April 13

NTPC GREEN ENERGY (NGEL) plans to establish 8GW pumped storage projects (PSP), which are large-scale energy storage stations, at five places in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Pumped storage costs anywhere between ₹3.9-4.6 crore per megawatt.

Andhra Pradesh has signed an agreement with NGEL for four PSPs with a combined storage capacity of 6.6 GW, a person familiar with the matter said on Thursday. There is also a possibility of a 1.5 GW PSP in Karnataka and the state has been requested for its support in executing the project.

PSPs are a major boost to the renewable energy sector, which is vulnerable to sudden cloud covers and wind variations. They are commercially viable and has the technology to store large-scale electricity.

Besides, NGEL is developing a hydrogen ecosystem park at Pudimadaka in Anakapalli district in Andhra Pradesh on a 1,200 acre coastal land with an investment of ₹1.1 trillion. The entire project is expected to be complete by 2030.

Opec supply cut may hit Russian oil flow to India

Mumbai, April 13: The drive by Opec and its allies to boost oil prices is lifting Russian crude along with it, prompting concerns from India's banks that cargoes could breach the \$60-a-barrel cap.

State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda informed refiners they will not handle payments for oil bought above the limit, said a refinery executive involved in seeking financing for the company's Russian oil purchases, who asked not to be identified as he isn't authorised to speak publicly.

Banks in India are keeping a closer watch on prices at loading ports, before shipping and logistics costs are added, executives said.

India, along with China, emerged as key buyers of Russian crude after most others shunned its supplies following the invasion of Ukraine.

India has taken advantage of cheaper barrels, purchasing record volumes and elevating Russia to its top supplier above Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

While India imports Russian oil on a delivered basis that takes into account logistics and other costs, banks are demanding details on free-on-board prices to ensure they fall at, or below \$60 a barrel, which exempts them from EU sanctions.

— Bloomberg



PACS to get priority in allotment of petrol/diesel dealerships, purchase of ethanol

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Now Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the country will get priority in allotment of new petrol/diesel dealerships and purchase of ethanol produced by cooperative sugar mills. They will also be able to apply for LPG distributorship and have the option to convert existing Wholesale Consumer Licensed PACS into retail out-

lets.

This was decided at a meeting held between Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri here in the national capital on Wednesday.

The move was taken with an aim to strengthen the PACS as well as pave a way for them to convert into multipurpose economic units, which will provide regular sources of income to crores of farmers of

the country and hence realize the goal of 'Sahakar se Samardhi' as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Giving details, a senior official from the Cooperation Ministry said that Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas agreed to convert existing wholesale petrol and diesel dealership licensed under Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) into retail outlets, provided they fulfil all the requirements for setting up

retail outlets in rural areas, including statutory approvals and other permissions.

The decision also aims to give priority to PACS in the allotment of new petrol and diesel dealerships. Now, PACS have been made eligible to get LPG distributorship as well.

As per an official from the Union Ministry of Cooperation, the existing PACS will be given a one-time option to convert their wholesale consumer pumps into retail outlets.

With the eligibility for LPG distributorship, the PACS will become the economic hub of rural development, the official said, adding that the PACS will become a strong empowered entity after the option to convert existing wholesale consumer-licensed PACS into a retail outlet. In addition to the above, rules will also be changed by the Ministry of Petroleum to make PACS eligible for LPG distributorship.

Also, under the Ethanol

Blending Program, the Ministry of Petroleum will ensure that cooperative sugar mills are given priority for ethanol procurement at par with other private companies, explained the officials.

It has also been decided that PACS will be considered under the Combined Category -2(CC 2) along with the freedom fighter and sports quota in the allotment of new petrol/diesel dealerships, he said.

Pakistan's Plan to Import Russian oil in Disarray Over Lack of Funds And Mechanism

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New Delhi: Pakistan's plan to import discounted Russian crude oil is in disarray and making little headway on the ground.

ET has learnt that Russia had serious doubts about Pakistan's plan to buy crude oil and asked Islamabad to buy a single shipment to show that it was serious about the import. Russia is dismayed that Pakistan has not

Islamabad may have buckled under Western pressure to dilute ties with Russia

yet begun the procedure for the initial shipment of crude oil, according to Moscow-based sources. A special purpose vehicle (SPV) was to be established by Pakistan to transport

Russian crude oil to its refineries to tide over its acute economic crisis but Islamabad may have come under western pressure to delay imports, according to experts who track Pakistan's ties with the western world.

Pakistan has allegedly been under western pressure to back Ukraine, including supply of arms in lieu of funds.

PSUs to get exclusive rights to offshore mineral blocks

Govt plans to table an amendment to Offshore Areas Act 2002 during the monsoon session

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NEW DELHI

Strategically important large offshore mineral blocks will be set aside for public sector units in response to Chinese deep sea mining, two persons privy to the plans said.

These strategic blocks would be offered only to nominated PSUs, and without any auction. The move comes in the backdrop of China's global ambitions in deep-sea mining.

Stringent regulations for offshore mining form part of amendments to the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act 2002 (OAMDR) which the government plans to introduce and pass in the coming monsoon session of Parliament, one of the two persons said.

The amendment bill aims to improve transparency in the allocation of mineral resources, with a provision for granting production lease only through auction.

Nonetheless, government entities will likely maintain a significant presence in offshore areas, while private companies will be encouraged to contribute cutting-edge technologies for the execution of complex mining operations.

As per the proposals in the draft amendment bill, mineral concessions will be granted without any competitive



bidding to state corporations in mineral-rich areas reserved by the central government. The bill also provides for grant of exploration licence or production lease only to a government company in case the quality minerals in that particu-

lar area is equal to or above the threshold value. The threshold value will be decided by the Centre when rules governing the changes in the Act are finalized, the person said. It is expected that

in each area earmarked for mining, there would be at least one government company.

Queries sent to the ministry of mines, which will finalise the changes to the OAMDR Act and prepare a note for cabinet approval, remained unanswered till the time of going to press.

This is the first time the government is opening up the country's vast mineral-bearing offshore areas. Extraction of minerals

from these areas will also serve India's strategic interests and give it a stronger hold in its territorial waters that otherwise also sees constant threat of ingress by neighbouring countries.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) estimates 79 million tonnes of heavy minerals. As India aims to become a high-growth economy, it needs to harness its maritime resources to its optimal capacity. Through reconnaissance survey, GSI has been able to delineate preliminary resources for heavy minerals in the inner-shelf and mid-shelf regions off Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

India has a unique maritime location. Its 7,517-km coastline is home to nine coastal states, four union territories and 1,382 islands. India's exclusive economic zone of over two million square kilometres holds significant recoverable resources of crude oil and natural gas, construction sand, heavy minerals, lime mud, poly-metallic nodules and crust.

To ensure the availability of funds for exploration, mitigation of adverse impact of offshore mining, disaster management and research, a provision has been made for setting up a non-lapsable Offshore Areas Mineral Trust which will maintain a fund under the Public Account of India. This will be made up of an additional levy.

The exact rate of additional levy will be prescribed by the government post parliamentary approval of the amendment.

The Parliament enacted the OAMDR Act, 2002 to provide for development and regulation of mineral resources in offshore areas which include the territorial waters, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of India.

MINING RIGHTS

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Russian oil to India may be hit by OPEC+ drive for higher prices

Bloomberg

The drive by OPEC and its allies to boost oil prices is lifting Russian crude along with it, prompting concerns from India's banks that cargoes could breach the \$60-a-barrel cap.

State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda informed refiners they will not handle payments for oil bought above the limit, said a refinery executive involved in seeking financing for the company's Russian oil purchases, who asked not to be identified as he isn't authorised to speak publicly. Banks in the South Asian nation are keeping a closer watch on prices at loading ports, before shipping and logistics costs are added, executives said.

Spokespeople at State Bank

of India and Bank of Baroda didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

India, along with China, emerged as key buyers of Russian crude after most others shunned its supplies following the invasion of Ukraine.

While India imports Russian oil on a delivered basis that takes into account logistics and other costs, banks are demanding details on so-called free-on-board prices to ensure they fall at, or below \$60 a barrel.

That level exempts them from European Union sanctions which ban the use of shipping, banking and insurance from members of the bloc.

OPEC+ jolted markets earlier this month after announcing a surprise production cut.

US-Saudi oil pact falls apart as Russia calls the shots

Bloomberg
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Just three years ago, when Opec+ oil giants fell out, the US found itself playing the role of peacemaker. Now it looks more like their target.

The Saudi-Russia oil alliance has the potential to cause all kinds of trouble for the US economy—and even for President Joe Biden's re-election campaign. This month's Opec+ decision to cut crude output, for the second time since Biden flew to Saudi Arabia last summer seeking an increase, may be just the start.

That 2 April announcement has lifted oil prices by about \$5 a barrel. Opec's own projections show that the cuts will widen the supply shortfall later this year. That means inflation will be higher, and recession risks are bigger than they otherwise would have

been—because consumers spending more on energy will have less cash left for other stuff. Russian President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, gets a bigger war-chest to fund his attack on Ukraine.

But more significant is what the Opec+ move says about the likely path of oil prices over the coming years.

In a world of shifting geopolitical alliances, Saudi Arabia is breaking away from Washington's orbit. The Saudis set oil production levels in coordination with Russia. When they wanted to ease tensions with regional rival Iran, they turned to China to broker a deal—with the US left out of the loop. Western influence over the oil cartel, in other words, is at its lowest point in decades.

And the Opec+ members all have priorities of their own, from Saudi crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman's ambitious plans to reinvent his



The Saudi-Russia oil alliance can cause trouble to the US economy.

AP

economy, to Putin's war. Any extra revenue they get from charging more for oil is a help.

Asked about US concerns that Opec+ has twice elected to cut production since President Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia, a state department spokesperson said the administration is focused on holding down domestic energy prices and ensuring US energy security. The US views production cuts

as inadvisable given ongoing market volatility, but will wait to see what actions Opec+ ultimately takes, said the spokesperson.

Meanwhile, the threat of competition from US shale fields, a deterrent to price hikes in the past, has receded. And while there's a global effort to reduce fossil-fuel use—and higher prices will accelerate that effort—the dash to drill in the last year shows that the zero-carbon economy remains more long-term aspiration than short-term driver. Add all of this up, and while some analysts say demand hurdles mean the recent bump in prices could prove fleeting, most anticipate prices above \$80 a barrel over the coming years—well above the \$58-a-barrel average price between 2015 and 2021.

It's been a volatile 18 months or so on crude markets, with three main phases.

For the global economy writ large, lower oil supply and higher prices is bad news. The major exporters are the big winners, of course. For importers, like most European countries, more expensive energy is a double blow—dragging on growth even as inflation rises.

The US falls somewhere in between. As a major producer, it benefits when prices rise. But those gains—unlike the pain of higher pump prices—aren't widely shared.

Bloomberg Economics' SHOK model predicts that for every \$5 increase in oil prices, US inflation will rise by 0.2 percentage point—not a dramatic change, but at a time when the Federal Reserve is struggling to bring prices under control, not a welcome one either. There are three key reasons why more such shocks may be in store: The geopolitical shift, the maturing of shale, and the Saudi spending splurge.

mint primer

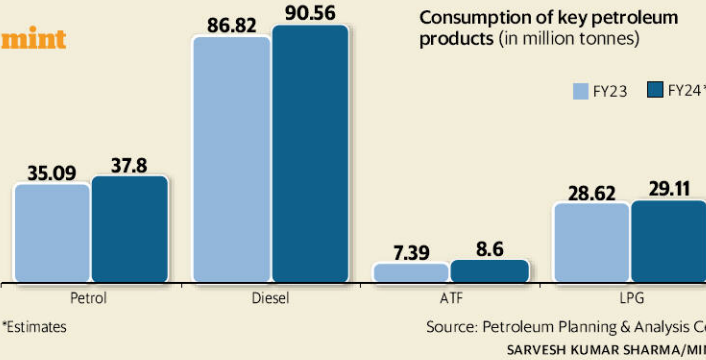
What's fuelling the record petro demand in India?

BY RITURAJ BARUAH

Demand for refined petroleum products hit a record in FY23, led by transportation fuel. The Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) said consumption reached 222.30 million tonnes in the last fiscal. *Mint* explains this spike:

Big burn

India consumed 222.30 million tonnes of petroleum products in FY23 which was 10.2% higher than the year before. The consumption is projected to rise even further.



1 What's the trend in petro products?

The 222.30 million tonnes of petroleum products consumed in FY23 was 10.2% higher than the year before. The previous record for consumption came in FY20 at 214.13 million tonnes. Demand was impacted in FY21 due to the covid-19 pandemic. In FY23, demand for most products crossed pre-covid levels as various sectors of the economy made a recovery from the pandemic slowdown. Demand for diesel—the most-consumed fuel in India—stood at 86.82 million tonnes. Demand for petrol came in at 35.09 million tonnes while India's LPG consumption also hit a new record of 28.62 million tonnes.

2 Why is India seeing such a surge?

The increase in consumption of petrol, diesel and jet fuel during FY23 came on the back of growth in industrial activity and travel. These activities recovered after slowing down in the previous two fiscals because of the pandemic. Sourav Mitra, director of consulting at Crisil, noted that enhanced refining of crude imports and improved utilization of petrol and diesel across India have contributed heavily to the rise in demand. The rise in refining is in tandem with increased crude imports. This reflects a global trend—oil demand is rising globally due to a rebound in Chinese consumption.



3 Does the Ukraine war have anything to do with this?

The Russian invasion sparked an energy crisis. India had to diversify its oil import sources and raise imports for energy security. Cheap oil from Russia also added to import bill. According to provisional trade data released by the commerce ministry on Wednesday, India's import of crude oil and petroleum products rose 29.5% to \$209.57 billion in FY23.

4 Will the demand stay strong this year?

The global economy is expected to slow down. Yet, the demand for petroleum products in India is expected to stay robust. According to PPAC projections, the demand is likely to set a new record in FY24, nearly 5% higher compared to FY23. That's because The demand for petrol and diesel will remain strong for the same reasons we saw last fiscal. Sourav Mitra of Crisil said that increase in domestic consumption, fuelled by accumulated household savings during and after the pandemic, will also boost demand.

5 What does this mean for OMCs?

Increase in petroleum product demand boosted refining margins of oil marketing companies (OMCs). According to PPAC, in April-December, major state-run refiners at least doubled their gross refining margins (GRM). Indian Oil Corp.'s GRM rose from \$8.52 to \$21.08 per barrel; Hindustan Petroleum Corp. from \$4.50 to \$11.40; Bharat Petroleum from \$6.78 to \$20.08; Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals from \$5.80 to \$11.70. Refining margins are likely to improve further.
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गैस कीमतें घटने से सब्सिडी बचेगी

■ विस, नई दिल्ली : फर्टिलाइजर सेक्रेटरी अनुज सिंघल का कहना है कि नैचुरल गैस की कीमतें घटने से आम आदमी के साथ सरकार को भी काफी फायदा होगा। इससे फर्टिलाइजर कंपनियों को उत्पादन बढ़ाने में मदद मिलेगी। साथ ही, फर्टिलाइजर सब्सिडी में सरकार के 60,000 करोड़ रुपये भी बचेंगे। पिछले वित्त वर्ष में यूरिया सब्सिडी पर सरकार के 1.60 लाख करोड़ रुपये खर्च हुए थे। अब उम्मीद है कि चालू वित्त वर्ष में फर्टिलाइजर सब्सिडी एक लाख करोड़ रुपये के दायरे में रह सकती है।

देश का निर्यात वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 में छह प्रतिशत बढ़कर 447 अरब डॉलर पर पहुंचा

रोम, (भाषा)। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने बृहस्पतिवार को कहा कि देश का निर्यात बीते वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 में छह प्रतिशत बढ़कर रिकॉर्ड 447 अरब डॉलर रहा।

मुख्य रूप से पेट्रोलियम, औषधि, रसायन तथा समुद्री उत्पादों के क्षेत्रों में बेहतर प्रदर्शन से निर्यात अच्छा रहा है। इससे पिछले वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 में निर्यात 422 अरब डॉलर था। देश का आयात भी आलोच्य वित्त वर्ष में 16.5 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 714 अरब डॉलर रहा जो एक साल पहले 2021-22 में 613 अरब डॉलर था। गोयल ने कहा कि वस्तुओं और सेवाओं का निर्यात नई ऊंचाई पर पहुंचा है और

2022-23 में 14 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 770 अरब डॉलर रहा जो एक साल पहले 676 अरब डॉलर था। मंत्री ने रोम में संवाददाताओं से कहा, ... भारत के निर्यात का प्रदर्शन शानदार रहा है। देश से कुल निर्यात 2022-23 में 770 अरब डॉलर की नई ऊंचाई पर पहुंच गया है। पिछले वित्त वर्ष की तुलना में यह 14 प्रतिशत अधिक है। 2020 में यह 500 अरब डॉलर तथा 2021-22 में 676 अरब डॉलर था। गोयल 11 से 13 अप्रैल के दौरान फ्रांस और इटली की तीन दिन यात्रा पर है। अपनी यात्रा के दौरान व्यापार और निवेश संबंधों को प्रगाढ़ बनाने के लिये दोनों देशों के नेताओं और विभिन्न

► पेट्रोलियम, औषधि, रसायन तथा समुद्री उत्पादों के क्षेत्रों में बेहतर प्रदर्शन से अच्छा रहा है निर्यात

कंपनियों के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक करेंगे। देश का सेवा निर्यात भी 2022-23 में 27.16 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 323 अरब डॉलर रहा जो इससे पिछले वित्त वर्ष में 254 अरब डॉलर था। उन्होंने कहा, यह वास्तव में भारत के अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में विस्तार का संकेत है। देश का कुल वस्तुओं और सेवाओं का आयात आलोच्य तिमाही में 892 अरब डॉलर रहा। यह बताता है कि

देश की आर्थिक गतिविधियां बढ़ रही हैं और इससे निर्यात को समर्थन मिल रहा है। यहां संवाददाताओं से बातचीत में गोयल ने कहा कि निर्यात में वृद्धि से चालू खाते के घाटे को नियंत्रित करने में मदद मिलेगी। सेवा क्षेत्र में सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी, लेखा और बिजनेस प्रोसेसिंग सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में अच्छा वृद्धि हुई है। वस्तुओं की श्रेणी में जिन क्षेत्रों में वृद्धि दर्ज की गई, उनमें ऑयल मील, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सामान, तंबाकू, तिलहन, चावल, कॉफी, फल और सब्जियां, चमड़े का सामान, सेरेमिक, औषधि, समुद्री उत्पाद, रसायन और तैयार वस्त्र शामिल हैं। सेवा आयात 2022-23 में 178 अरब डॉलर रहने का अनुमान है

जो इससे पिछले वित्त वर्ष में 147 अरब डॉलर था। गोयल ने कहा कि चुनौतीपूर्ण समय में वस्तुओं और सेवाओं का निर्यात लगभग 100 अरब डॉलर बढ़कर 770 अरब डॉलर को पार कर गया है। यह तब हासिल किया गया है जब दुनिया में अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार में नरमी है। विकसित दुनिया में मंदी की स्थिति और कई देशों में महंगाई की ऊंची दर देखी जा रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि रूस, यूक्रेन में संघर्ष के कारण चिंताएं थीं। उन्होंने कहा कि इस बात को लेकर भी चिंता थी कि विकसित दुनिया में माल भंडार हमें इस तरह के शानदार प्रदर्शन को हासिल करने में मदद नहीं कर सकता है।

पेट्रोल/डीजल/एलपीजी डीलरशिप में पैक्स को प्राथमिकता

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। सरकार नए पेट्रोल/डीजल पंप की डीलरशिप के आवंटन में पैक्स (प्राथमिक कृषि साख समितियों) को प्राथमिकता देगी। अब पैक्स को एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप भी मिल सकेगी। सहकारिता मंत्री अमित शाह ने पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी के साथ एक महत्वपूर्ण बैठक की और सहकारी क्षेत्र के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लिये गए।

इस बैठक में यह निर्णय भी लिया गया कि इथेनॉल ब्लेंडिंग प्रोग्राम के तहत यह सहमति हुई कि सहकारी चीनी मिलों को अन्य निजी कंपनियों के बराबर इथेनॉल की खरीद के लिए प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। अमित शाह ने सहकारी क्षेत्र के कवरेज के विस्तार और इसे मजबूत करने में निरंतर सहयोग के लिए प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का आभार व्यक्त किया। सरकारी विज्ञापन में कहा गया है कि प्रधानमंत्री के 'सहकार से समृद्धि' के विजन को पूरा करने के लिए सहकारिता मंत्रालय, केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री और सहकारिता मंत्री अमित शाह के मार्गदर्शन में, इससे जुड़े हितधारकों के कल्याण के लिए हरसंभव प्रयास कर रहा है।

बताया गया है कि सहकारिता मंत्री

अमित शाह ने नई दिल्ली में केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी के साथ जो बैठक की उसमें पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय मौजूदा थोक को परिवर्तित करने पर सहमत हो गया।

उपभोक्ता लाइसेंस प्राप्त प्राथमिक कृषि साख समितियों (पैक्स) को खुदरा दुकानों में बदलना। इसके तहत, मौजूदा पीएसएस को अपने थोक उपभोक्ता पंपों को खुदरा दुकानों में बदलने का एक बार का विकल्प दिया जाएगा, वशर्ते वे ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में खुदरा दुकानों की स्थापना के लिए वैधानिक अनुमोदन और अन्य अनुमतियों सहित सभी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करते हों। सहकारिता मंत्रालय की पहल पर पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने देश में पैक्स और सहकारी चीनी मिलों को मजबूत करने के लिए कई कदम उठाए हैं।

उपरोक्त के अलावा, पैक्स को एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप के लिए पात्र बनाने के लिए पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय द्वारा नियमों में भी बदलाव किया जाएगा। यह भी निर्णय लिया गया है कि नए पेट्रोल/डीजल डीलरशिप के आवंटन में पैक्स को स्वतंत्रता सेनानी और खेल कोटा के साथ संयुक्त

श्रेणी-2 (सीसी 2) के तहत विचार किया जाएगा। इथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण कार्यक्रम के तहत, पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि अन्य निजी कंपनियों के समान

■ निर्णय अमित शाह और हरदीप पुरी की बैठक में लिया गया

■ सहकारी चीनी मिलों को अन्य निजी कंपनियों के बराबर इथेनॉल की खरीद के लिए प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी

सहकारी चीनी मिलों को इथेनॉल खरीद के लिए प्राथमिकता दी जाए।

देश में सहकारी आंदोलन को मजबूत करने के लिए सहकारिता मंत्री अमित शाह के मार्गदर्शन में सहकारिता मंत्रालय ने प्राथमिक कृषि साख समितियों (पैक्स) को मजबूत करने के लिए कई अन्य महत्वपूर्ण कदम भी उठाए हैं, जैसे कि पैक्स के लिए मॉडल उपनियम। इन मॉडल उपनियमों को स्वीकार करने से देश भर में लगभग एक लाख पैक्स ग्रामीण आर्थिक विकास की धुरी

बनेंगे और बहु-आयामी इकाइयों के रूप में कार्य करने में सक्षम होंगे। वे 25 से अधिक गतिविधियों के माध्यम से देश के 13 करोड़ से अधिक किसानों की आय बढ़ाने में मदद करेंगे। पैक्स के सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में सहकारिता मंत्रालय की केंद्र प्रायोजित परियोजना के तहत वर्तमान में पैक्स का कम्प्यूटरीकरण चल रहा है, जिससे पैक्स को राष्ट्रीय सॉफ्टवेयर के माध्यम से नाबार्ड से जोड़ा जा सकेगा।

इसके साथ ही सहकारिता मंत्रालय ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय, नाबार्ड और सीएससी ई-गवर्नेंस सर्विसेज इंडिया लिमिटेड के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, जिसके तहत सीएससी की 300 से अधिक ई-सेवाएं देश के लोगों को उपलब्ध कराई जाएंगी।

पैक्स के माध्यम से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों इसके अलावा, सहकारिता मंत्रालय ने अगले पांच वर्षों में सभी पंचायतों/गांवों को कवर करते हुए 2 लाख बहुउद्देशीय पैक्स और प्राथमिक डेयरी/मत्स्य सहकारी समितियों की स्थापना का लक्ष्य भी रखा है। सहकारी समितियों को भी 'खरीदार' के रूप में शामिल किया गया है। पैक्स के स्तर पर भारत सरकार को

विविध योजनाओं का विकेंद्रीकरण भी किया जा रहा है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में सहकारिता मंत्रालय द्वारा उठाए जा रहे कदमों से पैक्स को मजबूत करने के साथ-साथ उन्हें बहुउद्देशीय आर्थिक इकाइयों में बदलने में मदद मिलेगी, जिससे देश के करोड़ों किसानों को आय का नियमित स्रोत मिलेगा। अमित शाह ने सहकारी क्षेत्र के कवरेज के विस्तार और इसे मजबूत करने में निरंतर सहयोग के लिए प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का आभार व्यक्त किया।

पैक्स मजबूत होंगे और इनसे जुड़े लोगों की आय में वृद्धि होगी : पैक्स को नए पेट्रोल/डीजल डीलरशिप के आवंटन में प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। इससे सहकारी आंदोलन को मजबूती मिलेगी। पैक्स ग्रामीण विकास का आर्थिक केंद्र बनेगा। मौजूदा थोक उपभोक्ता लाइसेंस प्राप्त पैक्स को रिटेल आउटलेट में बदलने का विकल्प होगा। पैक्स एक मजबूत सशक्त इकाई बन जाएगी। सहकारी चीनी मिलों द्वारा उत्पादित एथेनॉल के क्रय को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। पैक्स अब खुदरा दुकानों की स्थापना और संचालन भी कर सकेगी।

हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने अर्बन टॉट्स, मोहाली में टॉय कियोस्क का उद्घाटन किया

चंडीगढ़। हरदीप सिंह पुरी, माननीय केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस और आवास और शहरी मामलों के मंत्री ने इंडियनऑयल कंपनी के स्वामित्व वाली कंपनी के एयरोसिटी, मोहाली में रिटेल आउटलेट का दौरा किया और रिटेल आउटलेट में एक खिलौना कियोस्क का उद्घाटन किया। वी. सतीश कुमार निदेशक (विपणन), इंडियनऑयल, जितेंद्र कुमार कार्यकारी निदेशक और राज्य प्रमुख, इंडियनऑयल, पंजाब राज्य कार्यालय और अन्य वरिष्ठ अधिकारी भी इस अवसर पर उपस्थित थे। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने इंडियनऑयल की हैंड होल्डिंग और नए स्टार्ट अप अर्बन टॉट्स को समर्थन देने की अपनी तरह की इस पहल पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की। यह पहल देश में उद्यमिता की संस्कृति को विकसित करेगी। यह प्रधानमंत्री के आत्मनिर्भर भारत के सपने को साकार करने में सहायक होगा।



इसके अलावा, कियोस्क की स्थापना से सार्वजनिक सुविधा के लिए रिटेल आउटलेट्स पर जगह का इष्टतम उपयोग बढ़ेगा। उन्होंने इस अवसर पर उपस्थित बच्चों से भी बातचीत की और उनके माता-पिता को बच्चों में उद्यमशीलता की भावना को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने रिटेल आउटलेट में लगायी गयीं नवीनतम डिस्पेंसिंग इकाइयों और अन्य ग्राहक केंद्रित पहलों की सराहना की। उन्होंने आउटलेट पर मौजूद ग्राहकों से सकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया मिलने पर संतोष व्यक्त किया।