

India to build geothermal plant on Chinese border

This will be India's second geothermal project after the one at Puga Valley in Ladakh

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NEW DELHI

India plans to build a major geothermal power plant in Arunachal Pradesh just across the border from where China is setting one up, amid increasingly strident Chinese claims on the North-eastern state.

This will be the second geothermal project in the country, after the one at Puga Valley in Ladakh.

A person in the know said the Centre is considering providing viability gap funding for this energy segment which is at its nascent stage in India and yet to be explored deeply.

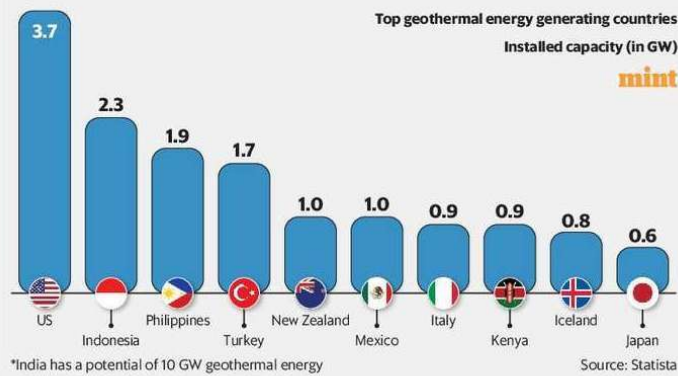
"Apart from the Puga Valley project, a project in Arunachal Pradesh will be developed in an area with adequate geothermal potential. China too has taken up a geothermal project in the corresponding area on the other side of the border," said the person.

The plan for building a geothermal project in the strategically important state comes in the backdrop of persistent border tensions and deteriorating bilateral ties after their troops clashed in Ladakh in June 2020, killing 20 Indian soldiers.

This person said the government has also taken up several infrastructure projects along the border amid occasional clashes and criticism over

Thermal strategy

Geothermal technology extracts the heat trapped in the subsurface of the earth, which can be used directly for heating and cooling, or can be converted into electricity.



SATISH KUMAR/MINT

its lack of response to Chinese construction at the border.

A local university in the state will carry out research for the geothermal project in partnership with a Norwe-

gian agency, according to a proposal. However, the proposal has not yet been finalized, said a second person aware of the developments.

POWER PLAY

THE project is being planned amid border tensions & deteriorating bilateral ties

LOCAL uni will carry out research for the project in partnership with a Norwegian agency

ACCORDING to MNRE, it is an effort toward establishing cost-competitive geothermal capacity

Norway has extensive experience in

geothermal energy use, largely in terms of widespread deployment of geothermal heating pumps.

The ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) says on its website that the efforts of the government are toward establishing cost-competitive geothermal capacity in India.

Queries sent to MNRE remained unanswered till press time.

Geo-thermal energy has been widely explored and utilized in Nordic countries. For the Puga Valley project too, where drilling started in August last year, state-run ONGC has tied up with Iceland GeoSurvey, a

government agency of Iceland.

On 25 January, *Mint* reported that ONGC plans to map the geo-thermal energy sources of India in search of clean energy.

According to initial estimates, India has the potential to produce 10 GW of geothermal energy.

Initial exploratory efforts in these areas were made during 1970-80 by the Geological Survey of India (GSI). But efforts to exploit geothermal energy later failed to materialize for a variety of reasons.

The focus on geothermal energy comes at a time when the country has set itself a climate target of 500 GW of installed renewable energy capacity and net zero carbon emission by 2070.

Geothermal technology extracts the heat trapped in the subsurface of the earth, which can be used directly for heating and cooling, or can be converted into electricity. The main advantage of geothermal energy is its low cost and its ability to operate round the year at high capacity.

As a renewable resource, geothermal covers a significant share of electricity demand in Iceland, El Salvador, New Zealand, Kenya and the Philippines.

China on 10 April opposed a visit by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Arunachal Pradesh, claiming it violated China's territorial sovereignty. India rejected China's objection saying the state "was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India".

Adani Dhamra LNG to start ops May-end

PTI

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Adani Group and French company TotalEnergies' newly built ₹6,000 crore facility to import LNG at Dhamra on the Odisha coast will start commercial operations at the end of May, the French firm said on Monday.

The 5 million tonne a year capacity terminal received its first ever shipment of liquefied natural gas—a fuel that will be used to make steel, produce fertilisers and turned into CNG and cooking gas—on 1 April.

Qatari ship 'Milaha Ras Laffan' docked at Dhamra port on 1 April morning, bringing in 2.6 trillion British thermal units of natural gas in its frozen form (LNG) which will be used to commission the facility.

"This delivery enables the gradual commissioning of the terminal, which is expected to start commercial operations at the end of May 2023," TotalEnergies said in a press statement.

Karan Adani, CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)—the firm that operates the Dhamra port and has leased the LNG jetty to Adani Total Pvt. Ltd—had previously announced the receipt of the first LNG cargo. "This is a huge leap forward not only in access to clean and affordable energy but also in decarbonizing India's energy sector," he had said earlier.

Adani Total Private is a 50:50 joint venture between TotalEnergies and Adani.

The commissioning cargo



The Dhamra LNG terminal has regasification capacity of 5 mn metric tonne of LNG per year.

was supplied by TotalEnergies from its portfolio in Qatar.

"With regasification capacity of 5 million metric tonne of LNG per year, the Dhamra LNG terminal adds more than 10% to India's regasification capacity, strengthening the country's position as world's fifth largest LNG importer and allowing it to increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix from 8% to 15% by 2030 to reduce its carbon intensity," the statement said.

Dhamra is the sole LNG import terminal in eastern India and only the second on the entire east coast.

The country's five other terminals are on the western coast (three in Gujarat, one each in Maharashtra and Kerala).

"We are pleased to have completed the first delivery of LNG to the new Dhamra LNG terminal, developed in partnership with Adani, with a cargo from Qatar," said Thomas Maurisse, senior vice president LNG at TotalEnergies.

OPEC's control on oil prices may last till 2040: Experts

MANISH GUPTA
New Delhi, April 17

OIL PRICES RISING by \$5 on the production cut decision of OPEC and its allies earlier this month suggests the oil cartel continues to have significant sway over the prices and their influence is likely to remain strong for the next 10-20 years, oil experts said.

"OPEC wanted the oil prices to be between \$80-90 and they succeeded in doing that. Talks about its fading influence have been around since the shale gas revolution, but it has the ability to sway the markets," said Prashant Vashisht, vice president and co-head, Iera.

The grouping went into a price war with Russia during the Covid pandemic in 2020, brought Russia back to the table and prices were stabilised. They are increasingly active in meeting, monitoring and managing with an eye on the markets, which was not so regular earlier, he added.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), an initial group of 13 nations, added another 10 oil exporting countries, including Russia, in 2016 under the banner OPEC+ to support the oil price after a sharp decline from mid-2014 to early 2016.

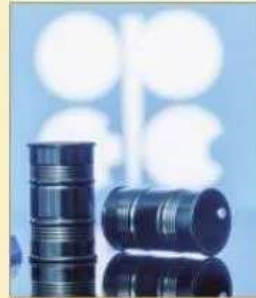
Together, the OPEC+ produces 40% of the world's crude oil. Besides, its share in the international oil trade stands at around 60%, according to analysts. In 2020, they slashed production by 9 million barrels per day, or 10% of the world's consumption.

"Five dollars is a big change in oil and gas. If everything else remains constant, then the impact is very high. Though they do have control over the market, other circumstances can mar it," said Deepak Mahurkar, partner and leader, oil and gas, PwC India.

"It's not always that they have a control on prices, as there are many moving parts today—international supply chain, disruptions, war zones, demand, uncertainties of winter and summer. OPEC keeps trying, but it's not always their objectives are met," he added.

In October 2022, the oil cartel, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, slashed production by 2 million barrels a day that increased the price of crude oil by 2% to \$93.80.

Analysts believe that the group's control over oil prices will continue as long as the demand for oil keeps rising and the technology for



CRUDE FACTS

■ OPEC+ produces 40% of the world's crude with share in international oil trade at around 60%

■ On April 2, OPEC+ oil producers announced surprise oil output cuts of around 1.16 million barrels per day

■ In October 2022, it cut production sharply by 2 million barrels a day that increased the price of crude oil by 2% to \$93.80

■ In 2020, OPEC slashed production by 9 million barrels per day, or 10% of the world's consumption

renewables doesn't support the transition away from fossil fuel, which they feel will take anywhere between 10-20 years.

"We are at the cusp of an energy transition, but there are still issues with regard to technology and its viability. Battery storage is expected to reach about \$67-70 per kWh by 2030, the tipping point for developing nations. For developed nations, the tipping point is \$100.

"They will continue to control oil prices at least until 2030. Even after the peak reliance on oil, it would not be a steep fall as different nations will follow at different paces to make the switch to alternatives, and OPEC's influence may continue till the early 2040s," said Vashisht.

Mahurkar, too, believes that OPEC's influence will start fading in the horizon of 10-20 years as the global demand for petroleum continues to rise.



Puri confident of 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, April 17

OIL MINISTER HARDEEP Singh Puri on Monday said that petrol mixed with 20% ethanol will be available by 2025, five years ahead of the earlier rollout target of 2030. Currently, 10% ethanol is blended in petrol.

"We have increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in July 2022. This translates into forex savings of ₹41,500 crore, timely payment of over ₹40,600 crore to farmers and reduction of 27 lakh tonne in CO2 emissions," Puri said at a global conference on compressed biogas.

Speedy expansion of compressed biogas will help in meeting our additional requirement (of natural gas).

HS PURI, OIL MINISTER



Considering the limited domestic availability of fossil fuels and import dependence for this, the energy security of the country will

remain vulnerable until alternative fuels to substitute or supplement fossil fuels are developed based on indigenously sustainable renewable

feedstock, he said.

The government has notified the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, to increase usage of biofuels in the energy and transportation sectors of the country.

"Presently, we are importing around 50% of our requirement of natural gas. Speedy expansion of compressed biogas (CBG) will help in meeting our additional requirement from domestic resources," Puri said, adding that the government has launched Sustainable Alternatives Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative to promote the use of upgraded biogas in the form of CBG as alternative green fuel.

The minister said that the country has an ambitious target to set up 5,000 commercial plants by 2024-25 and produce 15 MMT of CBG which would replace other gaseous fuels being used in the country.

So far, 46 CBG plants have already been commissioned and sale of CBG has started from more than 100 retail outlets, he added.

To create the enabling ecosystem, Puri urged the entrepreneurs, equipment manufacturers, biomass aggregators, technology providers and other stakeholders to join hands for the development of CBG projects and assured them of full government support.

businessline.

TUESDAY - APRIL 18, 2023

Leaks in gas policy

Price band desirable, but unfair on legacy producers

The Centre recently accepted the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh Committee, set up in 2022 to review gas pricing methods in the wake of the volatility induced by the Ukraine war. After 2014, India has now implemented a new gas pricing system, which is generally a change for the better. But in accepting the changes suggested by the report in this regard, the Centre has overlooked its lacunae.



To begin with, the Centre's concern was understandable: As global prices ranged between \$8-10 per mmBtu (million metric British thermal unit) between May and September last year, India's legacy producers too priced their gas at \$8.57/mmBtu for H2FY23, against \$2.90 a year ago, based on a 2014 pricing formula pegged to global gas prices. The price cap on deepwater and ultra-deepwater fields too climbed from \$6.13 per mmBtu to \$12.46 per mmBtu over this period. It was obvious that legacy producers — public sector companies such as ONGC and OIL — benefited recently from a complex, if not convoluted, formula that was pegged to global gas price averages derived from four hubs; downstream users such as fertiliser, city gas distribution companies and the power sector took a hit. The 2014 pricing formula helps APM producers and others when the going is good, but hurts them when the market is down, as is in fact the case now, with global gas prices down to \$2.15/mmBtu. The legacy producers account for over 60 per cent of the domestic output of about 90 mmscmd, while roughly an equal quantity is imported.

Instead of a price that is fixed every six months based on global gas prices, domestic gas will now move within a price band of \$4-6.5 per mmBtu, with monthly revisions based on movements in crude oil prices. This could meet three objectives: incentivising output with a dynamic price regime, keeping the energy bill of the economy in check and promoting the use of gas as a clean fuel. Explaining the rationale for a shift in formula, the Parikh panel report says: "When price is averaged over a long time period, the gap between the international price and the domestic formulae price may cause a precarious situation wherein...domestic price can be higher than the international spot price.... Such situations might be catastrophic for domestic gas producers, if consumers stop off-taking domestic gas at the APM prices to take advantage of lower imported spot gas." It remains to be seen whether the floor price incentivises newer fields as well.

There can be no denying the benefits of raising the share of gas in the energy mix from 6 per cent to 15 per cent, as envisaged by the panel. However, the report evades a basic question: while the economy benefits from a price cap when imported gas is dearer than domestic gas, why should APM companies bear the burden of bringing gains to the economy at large? The APM companies could benefit in some way from this gain if the government makes good the difference. That would also ensure a level-playing field between producers.

Diesel sales jump on agricultural demand

NEW DELHI: Diesel sales in India jumped up sharply in the first half of April as agricultural activity pick-up and trucking increased to meet industrial demand, preliminary industry data showed on Monday.

Demand for diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country accounting for about two-fifths of the demand, soared over 15 per cent to 3.45 million tonnes in the first half of April when compared to a year ago.

Month-on-month sales rose 8.4 per cent when compared with 3.19 million tonnes of diesel consumed in the first half of March that had witnessed seasonal slowdown.

Petrol sales rose about 2 per cent to 1.14 million tonnes during April 1 to 15 when compared with the same period of last year. Sales however fell 6.6 per cent month-on-month, the data showed.

In the first half of March, petrol sales had fallen 1.4 per



cent and diesel 10.2 per cent year-on-year.

Consumption of petrol in April first half was 14.6 per cent more than COVID-marred April 1-15, 2021 and almost 128 per cent more than in the same period of 2020.

Diesel consumption was up 24.3 per cent over April 1-15, 2021 and 127 per cent higher than in the same month of 2020.

With the continued open-

ing of the aviation sector, India's overall passenger traffic at airports inched closer to pre-COVID levels.

Reflecting the trend, jet fuel (ATF) demand jumped 14 per cent to 2,84,600 tonnes during the first half of April when compared to the same period last year. It was 35 per cent higher than April 1-15, 2021 and 467.6 per cent more than the same period in 2020. Month-on-month sales how-

ever fell 3.8 per cent.

India is enjoying steady growth, with support from the services sector as well as the industrial side of the economy. The country's oil demand was supported by strong industrial activity, industry officials said.

In terms of products, diesel was the main driver of oil demand as there was a pick up in the agriculture sector, as well as requirements for power generation and industry. Use of the fuel in irrigation pumps and trucking supported diesel.

Cooking gas LPG sales rose 5.7 per cent year-on-year to 1.1 million tonnes in April 1-15. LPG consumption was 7 per cent higher than in April 1-15, 2021 and 9.2 per cent more than in the first half of April 2020. Month-on-month, the demand dropped 6.37 per cent when compared to 1.18 million tonnes of LPG consumption during March 1-15, the data showed. PTI



G7 coalition to keep Russian oil price cap at \$60 per barrel

Reuters

Washington

The Group of Seven (G7) coalition will keep a \$60 per barrel price cap on seaborne Russian oil, a coalition official said, despite rising global crude prices and calls by some countries for a lower price cap to restrict Moscow's revenues.

The G7 and Australia made the decision to maintain the cap over the past few weeks after a review of the \$60 price - set in December with an aim to reduce Moscow's ability to finance its war in Ukraine, the official said on condition of anonymity.

It comes after four weeks of gains in benchmark oil prices helped by an output cut announced by OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, as well as a recovery in Chinese consumption.

The market was consolidating on Monday with Brent and US crude futures holding above \$80 per barrel.

Russian crude has been selling at a discount of around \$30 to Brent, the official said.

Puri confident of meeting 20% ethanol blending target by FY25

Petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol was rolled out at select petrol pumps in 11 states and UTs in February

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday exuded confidence of meeting the target of supplying petrol mixed with 20 per cent ethanol by 2025, five years earlier than the previously planned roll-out in 2030.

Petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol was rolled out at select petrol pumps in 11 states and Union Territories in February as part of a programme to increase use of biofuels to cut emissions as well as dependence on foreign exchange-draining imports.

At present, 10 per cent ethanol is blended in petrol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) and the government is looking to double this quantity by 2025.

"I am sure we will be able to supply 20 per cent ethanol blended petrol by next (fiscal) year," he said.

India saved as much as Rs 41,500 crore in forex outgo from 10 per cent blending besides benefiting the farmers, he said at a biofuels conference here.

Puri said India achieved blending of 10 per cent ethanol in petrol in June 2022, five months ahead of the schedule.

"We also advanced the availability of E20 blended petrol to 2025, five years from ear-



Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

India saved as much as Rs 41,500 crore in forex outgo from 10 per cent blending besides benefiting the farmers, he said at a biofuels conference here

lier planned in 2030," he said.

Use of ethanol, extracted from sugarcane as well as broken rice and other agri produce, will help the world's third largest oil consumer and importing country cut its reliance on overseas shipments. India currently is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs. Also, it cuts carbon emissions.

Use of E20 leads to an estimated reduction of carbon monoxide emissions by about 50 per cent in two-wheelers and about 30 per cent in four-wheelers compared to E0 (neat

petrol). Hydrocarbon emissions are estimated to reduce by 20 per cent in both two-wheelers and passenger cars.

India spent \$120.7 billion on import of crude oil in 2021-22 fiscal (April 2021 to March 2022). During first 11 months of 2022-23 fiscal it spent \$211.6 billion on crude oil imports. As much as 440 crore litre of ethanol was blended in petrol during the supply year ending November 30, 2022. For the next year, 540 crore litres procurement is being targeted with an eye to start larger volumes of blending.

‘India may buy Russian crude above price cap if OPEC+ cuts boost costs’

Bloomberg

India will explore buying Russian crude oil near or past the price cap imposed by the G-7 as it navigates external risks it sees as the biggest economic threat.

“Yes, because otherwise I’ll end up paying far more than what I can afford,” Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in an interview in Washington, when asked if India would continue importing Russian oil beyond the \$60-a-barrel



Nirmala Sitharaman,
Finance Minister

price cap. “We have a large population and we also therefore have to look at prices which are going to be

affordable for us.” India needs to constantly look for the “best deal” since it imports almost 80 per cent of its crude oil requirements, Sitharaman said. “For us, it is a very critical input for the economy.”

SPILLOVERS

The impact on fuel prices of OPEC+’s output cut and “the spillover of all the decisions” related to Russia’s war in Ukraine are “the two main things which I think I’d be more worried about than anything internal,” she said.

While Indian officials in the past said that the country was unlikely to breach sanctions on Russia, including the price cap, the stance seems to have changed after OPEC+’s recent decision.

“I think we should look at it more with humanity in mind,” Sitharaman said when asked about these sanctions. “I hope the intent is not to hurt economies which have nothing to do with the war.” She added that “unintended consequences” of these measures should not be borne by the global south.

QUICKLY.

Adani Total's Dhamra LNG terminal to begin ops



New Delhi: Adani Group and French company TotalEnergies' newly-built ₹6,000-crore facility to import LNG at Dhamra on the Odisha coast will start commercial operations at the end of May, the French firm said on Monday. The 5 mtpa capacity terminal received its first ever shipment of LNG on April 1. PTI

अडाणी टोटल का धामरा एलएनजी टर्मिनल मई अंत तक शुरू होगा

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। अडाणी समूह और फ्रांसीसी कंपनी टोटलएनर्जीज की तरफ से 6,000 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से ओडिशा के धामरा में बनाया गया एलएनजी टर्मिनल मई के अंत तक वाणिज्यिक परिचालन शुरू कर देगा। फ्रांसीसी कंपनी ने सोमवार को यह जानकारी दी। टोटलएनर्जीज ने एक बयान में कहा कि 50 लाख टन वार्षिक क्षमता वाले इस टर्मिनल का निर्माण एलएनजी के आयात के लिए किया गया है। गत एक अप्रैल को इस टर्मिनल में विदेश से एलएनजी की पहली खेप आई थी। कतर का जहाज मिलाह रस लफान जमे हुए स्वरूप में 2.6 लाख करोड़ बीटीयू (ब्रिटिश थर्मल यूनिट) प्राकृतिक गैस लेकर धामरा पहुंचा था। इस तेल का इस्तेमाल मई के अंत तक टर्मिनल का वाणिज्यिक परिचालन शुरू करने में किया जाएगा। तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी) का इस्तेमाल इस्पात बनाने, उर्वरकों के उत्पादन में किया जाता है। इसे सीएनजी एवं रसोई गैस में भी तब्दील किया जाता है। अडाणी पोर्ट्स एंड एसईजेड के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी करण अडाणी ने पहले ही धामरा टर्मिनल को गैस की पहली खेप मिलने की जानकारी दी थी। उन्होंने इसे स्वच्छ एवं किफायती ऊर्जा तक पहुंचे और देश को कार्बन-मुक्त करने में एक बड़ा कदम भी बताया था। अडाणी टोटल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड इस एलएनजी टर्मिनल का परिचालन करेगी जो टोटलएनर्जीज एवं अडाणी समूह का एक संयुक्त उद्यम है। धामरा देश के पूर्वी तट पर बना इकलौता एलएनजी आयात टर्मिनल है जबकि पश्चिमी तट पर पांच टर्मिनल हैं।

कंप्रेसड बायोगैस के विस्तार से होगी भारत की ऊर्जा जरूरतों की पूर्ति : पुरी

विशेष प्रतिनिधि

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और नैचुरल गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा है कि कंप्रेसड बायोगैस के इस्तेमाल को तेजी से बढ़ाने पर काम हो रहा है। इसके जरिए भारत को घरेलू स्रोतों से उत्पादित ऊर्जा के जरिए अपनी एनर्जी की जरूरतों को पूरा करने में बड़ी मदद मिलेगी। उन्होंने इस बात की भी जानकारी दी कि 4जी कंप्रेसड बायोगैस प्लांट्स पहले ही कमिशन हो चुके हैं।

कंप्रेसड बायोगैस की ग्लोबल कॉन्फ्रेंस में बात करते हुए हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि सरकार ने साल 2024-25 तक 5000 कर्माशायल कंप्रेसड बायोगैस के प्लांट स्थापित करने की योजना है। इनके जरिए 1.5 करोड़ मीट्रिक टन कंप्रेसड बायोगैस का उत्पादन करने की योजना है। इस सीबीजी के जरिए देश में इस्तेमाल हो रही अन्य गैस को रिप्लेस



केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और नैचुरल गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी नई दिल्ली में आयोजित कंप्रेसड बायोगैस की ग्लोबल कॉन्फ्रेंस में भाग लेते हुए। (छाया : एएनआई)

करने की योजना है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने ये भी कहा कि 46 सीबीजी प्लांट पहले ही कमिशन हो चुके हैं और इनके

जरिए कंप्रेसड बायोगैस की बिक्री 100 रिटेल आउटलेट के जरिए हो रही है। कंप्रेसड बायोगैस और सीबीजी एक जैविक

ईंधन है और ये कंप्रेसड नैचुरल (सीएनजी) की तरह ही है क्योंकि ये कंप्रेसड मोथेन है। हालांकि कंप्रेसड बायोगैस कृषि अपशिष्ट यानी एग्रीकल्चर वेस्ट से बनता है। साफ तौर पर सीबीजी प्लांट्स की संख्या बढ़ने से देश की नैचुरल गैस के ऊर्जा निर्भरता कम होगी।

केंद्रीय सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमंत्रालय ने 16 जून, 2015 को सीएनजी वैकल्पिक संघटक के रूप में मोटर वाहन बायो-कम्प्रेसड प्राकृतिक गैस (बिओसीएनजी) के इस्तेमाल की अनुमति दी। भारत में कई सोर्स के तहत पण्डित उत्पादन क्षमता का अनुमान 370 एशऊ बायोगैस जनरेशन के साथ 62 मिलियन मीट्रिक (एशऊ) तक है। कम्प्रेसड बायोगैस प्रोडक्शन एग्रीकल्चर वेस्ट, कीचड़, गन्ने मड, गोबर और अन्य स्रोत से किया जाए

बीस प्रतिशत एथनॉल मिलाने का लक्ष्य 2024-25 में पूरा करने का भरोसा: पुरी

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पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने सोमवार को भरोसा जताया कि 2024-25 तक 20 प्रतिशत एथनॉल मिलाने का लक्ष्य पूरा कर लिया जाएगा। सरकार ने पहले पेट्रोल में 20 प्रतिशत एथनॉल मिलाने के लिए 2030 का लक्ष्य तय किया था, हालांकि इसे पांच साल पहले ही हासिल कर लिया जाएगा। सरकार ने फरवरी में 11 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के चुनिंदा पेट्रोल पंपों पर 20 प्रतिशत एथनॉल मिले पेट्रोल की बिक्री शुरू की थी। इस पहल का मकसद जैव ईंधन के इस्तेमाल को



बढ़ावा देना है, ताकि उत्सर्जन में कटौती हो और साथ ही बहुमूल्य विदेशी मुद्रा बचे। हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने यहां एक सम्मेलन में कहा, मुझे यकीन है कि हम अगले वित्त वर्ष तक 20 फीसदी एथनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल की आपूर्ति करने में सक्षम होंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि इस समय पेट्रोल में

10 प्रतिशत एथनॉल मिलाया जाता है, सरकार 2025 तक इस मात्रा को दोगुना करने की सोच रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि पेट्रोल में 10 प्रतिशत एथनॉल मिश्रण से 41,500 करोड़ रुपए के बराबर विदेशी मुद्रा की बचत हुई है। साथ ही इससे किसानों को भी लाभ हुआ है।

ग्लोबल डीजल मार्कीट में आर्थिक सुस्ती के संकेत, घट रही डीजल की डिमांड

नई दिल्ली, 17 अप्रैल (एजेंसी): साल 2023 के शुरू होने के पहले ही विश्लेषकों के बीच एक मुद्दा काफी चर्चा में बना हुआ है। वह है- इस साल दुनिया में मंदी। अब इसके संकेत मिलने शुरू हो गए हैं।

ग्लोबल डीजल मार्कीट में आर्थिक सुस्ती के संकेत दिख रहे हैं। पिछले हफ्तों में चीन में हाईवेज पर चलने वाले ट्रकों की संख्या में काफी गिरावट आई है। यूरोप में क्रूड फ्यूचर्स के लिए डीजल का प्रीमियम एक साल से अधिक के निचले स्तर पर आ गया है। एस. एंड पी. ग्लोबल आई.एन.सी. ने बताया कि अमरीका में साल 2023 में डिमांड 2 फीसदी की गिरावट के रास्ते पर चल रही है। अगर 2020 के महामारी काल को



छोड़ दें, तो 2 फीसदी की गिरावट 2016 के बाद अमरीका के डीजल उपभोग में सबसे बड़ी गिरावट होगी।

कई दशकों की सबसे खराब आर्थिक स्थिति

अमरीका में एस. एंड पी. के प्रमुख (फ्यूल्स एंड रिफाइनिंग) डेबनिल चौधरी ने कहा, "2008-09 के वित्तीय संकट और महामारी काल को छोड़ दें, तो हम इसे बीते कई वर्षों का सबसे खराब आर्थिक माहौल

मान रहे हैं।"

भारी मशीनरी फ्यूल की मांग, जो कमर्शियल ट्रकों के बेड़े से लेकर कंस्ट्रक्शन इक्विपमेंट तक को पावर देती है, दुनिया की कई बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में कमजोर हो रही है। इसे कमजोर औद्योगिक गतिविधि और कम उपभोक्ता खर्च के शुरूआती संकेतों के रूप में देखा गया। इसने मंदी पर नजर रखने वालों को हाई अलर्ट कर दिया है।

लोग कम कर रहे खर्च

अमरीका में नेशनवाइड इकोनॉमिक्स के एक वरिष्ठ अर्थशास्त्री बेन आयर्स ने कहा, "डीजल डिमांड व्यापक विकास के लिए एक प्रमुख संकेतक के रूप में

काम करती है। इसका घटना बता रहा है कि लोग कम खर्च कर रहे हैं।" उन्होंने कहा, "डीजल की डिमांड में अपेक्षित गिरावट ग्लोबल इकोनॉमी में मंदी के जोखिम को बढ़ा रही है।"

अमरीका में मंदी की 65 प्रतिशत संभावना

अर्थशास्त्रियों का कहना है कि अगले साल अमरीका में मंदी आने की 65 फीसदी संभावना है। वहीं, यूरोप में मंदी आने की 49 फीसदी संभावना है। चीन में यह जोखिम कम है, लेकिन इस देश को कोविड-19 के प्रतिबंधों से उबरने के लिए अभी काफी सुधार की जरूरत है।

अडाणी टोटल का धामरा एलएनजी टर्मिनल मई अंत तक शुरू होगा

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अडाणी समूह और फ्रांसीसी कंपनी टोटलएनर्जीज की तरफ से 6,000 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से ओडिशा के धामरा में बनाया गया एलएनजी टर्मिनल मई के अंत तक वाणिज्यिक परिचालन शुरू कर देगा। फ्रांसीसी कंपनी ने सोमवार को यह जानकारी दी। टोटलएनर्जीज ने एक बयान में कहा कि 50 लाख टन वार्षिक क्षमता वाले इस टर्मिनल का निर्माण एलएनजी के आयात के लिए किया गया है। गत एक अप्रैल को इस टर्मिनल में विदेश से एलएनजी की पहली खेप आई थी। कतर का जहाज मिलाह रस लफान जमे हुए स्वरूप में 2.6 लाख करोड़ बीटीयू (ब्रिटिश थर्मल यूनिट) प्राकृतिक गैस लेकर धामरा पहुंचा था। इस तेल का इस्तेमाल मई के अंत तक टर्मिनल का वाणिज्यिक परिचालन शुरू करने में किया जाएगा। तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी) का इस्तेमाल इस्पात बनाने, उर्वरकों के उत्पादन में किया जाता है। इसे सीएनजी एवं रसोई गैस में भी तब्दील किया जाता है। अडाणी पोर्ट्स एंड एसईजेड के मुख्य



कार्यपालक अधिकारी करण अडाणी ने पहले ही धामरा टर्मिनल को गैस की पहली खेप मिलने की जानकारी दी थी। उन्होंने इसे स्वच्छ एवं किफायती ऊर्जा तक पहुंच और देश को कार्बन-मुक्त करने में एक बड़ा कदम भी बताया था। अडाणी टोटल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड इस एलएनजी टर्मिनल का परिचालन करेगी जो टोटलएनर्जीज एवं अडाणी समूह का एक संयुक्त उद्यम है। धामरा देश के पूर्वी तट पर बना इकलौता एलएनजी आयात टर्मिनल है जबकि पश्चिमी तट पर पांच टर्मिनल हैं।