

FIRST TIME SINCE MAY 2022...

Natural Gas Usage Rises 6.4% in Jan

Imports of LNG up 7.9% to 2.27 BCM, first in 15 months

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Natural gas consumption rose in January for the first time since May 2022 and liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports witnessed the first expansion in at least 15 months in early signs of domestic demand revival helped by a drop in international prices. India consumed 5.18 billion cubic metres (BCM) of natural gas in January, up 6.4% from a year earlier, according to the petroleum and natural gas ministry data. Imports of LNG rose 7.9% to 2.27 BCM. A 4% year-on-year increase in the local production of natural gas in January also helped boost consumption.

"Prices have fallen in the past few months, and this has been the biggest confidence booster for consumers," said an industry executive, who did not wish to be identified. Prices are still high compared to the average in the past few years, and they must drop further to trigger a major demand boost, he said.



Before the Covid-19 pandemic, India imported about 50% of the gas it consumed. The share of imports fell to 45% in this financial year as international prices shot up.

Most of the LNG India imports are under the long-term supply pact and linked to crude oil prices, which have fallen to about \$81 from the highs of \$130 per barrel in March last year.

Oil prices have remained below \$90 per barrel for the past three months, keeping LNG imported under the long-term contract below \$12-13 per mmbtu. Even the Asian benchmark rates of LNG in the spot market, which has been extremely volatile for one-and-a-half years, have fallen to around \$15 per mmbtu from \$54 in August.

A 4% YoY increase in the local production of natural gas in January has also helped boost consumption

'Oil Demand Growth will Halve to 5% in FY24'

India will consume 233.8 MMT of refined products next fiscal, PPAC forecasts

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Domestic oil demand growth will slow to 5% in 2023-24 after a scorching nearly 10% expansion this fiscal year, the oil ministry's petroleum planning and analysis cell (PPAC) has forecast.

India will consume 233.8 million metric tonnes (MMT) of refined products in 2023-24 compared to the estimated consumption of 222.9 MMT in the current fiscal year, as per the PPAC forecast available on its website, which doesn't offer any explanation for the estimates.

Between April and January this year, petroleum products consumption has risen 9.6% year-on-year to 183.3 MMT, with diesel and petrol consumption rising by 14% and 14.5% respectively. The demand for ATF has risen by 52%.

The PPAC has forecast demand growth of 4.3% for diesel and 7.7% for petrol in 2023-24. The ATF demand growth has been forecast at 16.4%. Fuel consumption is a barometer of national economic activity, and rapid demand growth this year has been aided by increased industrial activity, consumer de-

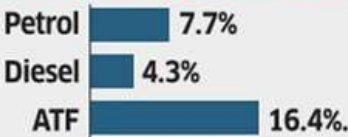
Fuel Barometer

April 2022-Jan 2023

9.6% year-on-year rise in petroleum product consumption 183.3 MMT



PPAC demand forecast for FY24



Petrol demand this fiscal has been supported by the return to office of most employees who had been working from home during the pandemic

mand, and vehicle sales. Diesel, which comprises about 40% of petroleum products' demand in the country, is heavily used for long-haul transport, farming, and mining activity. Its remarkable growth this year has surprised many industry executives as well. Lower availability of grid power also boosts demand for diesel.

Petrol demand has been supported by the return to office of most employees who had been working from home during the pandemic. A sharp increase in holiday travel has also boosted the demand for petrol, diesel, and jet fuel.

A WEBINAR ON THE FOCUS AREAS OF BUDGET

PM says India Fast Turning Green Leader, Invites Investors

Talking of abundance of agri-waste, PM urges investors to set up ethanol plants

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: In his first of 12 webinars on the focus areas of this year's budget, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Thursday that green growth is among the new-age reforms his government seeks to promote and invited global investors in this field to tap the potential in India. Renewable energy, green fuels, use of waterways and measures like scrapping of old vehicles are among the thrust areas of his government.

In his virtual address that was helmed by the power ministry and attended by top officials, Modi said all budgets under his premiership since 2014 have been forwarding new-age reforms.

"There are three pillars for green growth and energy transmission. The first is increasing the production of renewable energy; the second is reducing the use of fossil fuel in the economy; and finally, moving rapidly towards a gas-based economy in the country," the prime minister said.



PM Narendra Modi addressing a webinar on Thursday-ANI

500 GW TARGET



Modi assured that the capacity of 500 GW will be achieved by 2030

"This budget will play a key role in establishing India as a lead player in the global green energy market. That is why, today, I invite every stakeholder of the energy world to invest in India," Modi said. On global efforts for diversifi-

cation of the energy supply chain, the prime minister said that the 2023-24 budget has given a great opportunity to every green energy investor to invest in India. This will also be very useful for the startups in the sector, he added.

Modi assured that the capacity of 500 GW will be achieved by 2030. Recalling the launch of E20 fuel, the prime minister noted the government's emphasis on biofuels and said that it has created new opportunities for investors.

He observed the abundance of agri-waste and urged the investors to not miss the opportunity of setting up ethanol plants in every corner of the country.

India's green energy potential no less than a goldmine, says PM

Modi Cites Budget Push, Woos Investors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Seeking to ensure green energy growth of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday invited stakeholders from across the globe to invest in renewable energy and related sectors, and said the potential of solar, wind and biogas in India is no less than any goldmine or oil field for the private sector.

"The Budget (2023-24) will play a key role in establishing India as a lead player in the global green energy market. That is why, today, I invite every stakeholder of the energy world to invest in India", said Modi while noting that India's commanding position in renewable energy space will ensure a commensurate change in the world.

He was addressing the first of a series of 12 post-budget webinars organised by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for the effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Union budget.

Asserting that the increase in production of renewable energy; reducing the use of fossil fuel in the economy; and rapidly moving towards a gas-based economy in the country are "three pillars for green growth and energy transmission", he flagged various provisions of the budget that will help stakeholders including start-ups and MSMEs tap the potential in various fields ranging from waste to energy, green hydrogen, energy storage and



PTI

Boost to renewable energy and cut in use of fossil fuel are 'pillars for green growth', PM Narendra Modi said on Thursday

gas-based economic activities to the multi-crore vehicle scrapping sector.

"This budget is not only an opportunity, but it also contains the guarantee of our future security", PM said as he urged stakeholders to act quickly to implement all its provisions.

Referring to the launch of E20 fuel, PM noted the government's emphasis on biofuels and said that it has brought new opportunities for investors. He observed the abundance of agri-waste in the country and urged the investors to not miss the opportunity of setting up ethanol plants in every corner of the country.

On the National Green Hydrogen Mission, PM said India is moving with a target of production of 5 MMT green hydrogen. He said allocation of Rs 19,000 crore has been made to incentivise private sector in this field.

India's fuel demand likely to grow 4.7%

India's fuel demand is likely to grow 4.7% in the next fiscal year beginning on 1 April, initial government estimates showed. Fuel consumption in 2023-24, a proxy for oil demand, could rise to 233.8 million tonnes from the revised estimate of 222.9 million tonnes for the current fiscal year ending in March.

The estimates were released on the website of the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), a unit of the oil ministry. India is the third-biggest oil importer and consumer. Domestic demand for gasoline, used mainly in passenger vehicles, is expected to rise by 7.1% to 37.8 million tonnes, while gasoil consumption was seen growing by about 4.2% to 90.6 million tonnes, the data showed. Consumption of aviation fuel would likely increase by 14% to 8.6 million tonnes, compared with the revised estimate of 7.4 million tonnes for the year ending March 2023.

REUTERS

India expects fuel demand to grow 4.7% next fiscal

INDIA'S FUEL DEMAND is likely to grow 4.7% in the next fiscal year, initial government estimates showed.

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India is the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer. Domestic demand for gasoline, used mainly in passenger vehicles, is expected to rise by 7.1% to 37.8 mt, while diesel consumption was seen

growing by about 4.2% to 90.6 mt, the data showed.

State refiners' petrol and diesel sales rose in the first two weeks of February from the same period last month, preliminary data showed, boosted by a pick up in transport of goods and mobility. Consumption of aviation fuel would likely increase by 14% to 8.6 mt, compared with the revised estimate of 7.4 mt for the year ending March 2023. Demand for petcoke could increase 5.8% to 19 mt.

REUTERS



● REACHES OUT TO STAKEHOLDERS

PM seeks renewable energy investments

FE BUREAU

New Delhi, February 23

HIGHLIGHTING THAT THE Union Budget will play an important role in establishing India as a lead player in the global green energy market, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday invited stakeholders associated with the energy world to invest in the country.

"Today the world is diversifying its renewable energy supply chains. Keeping this in mind, India has given every green investor the best opportunity in this year's budget to invest in this sector. It will also be very advantageous for the start-ups in this sector," the PM said in his first post-Budget webinar.

Green growth is one of the seven key themes of the Union Budget 2023-24 as India looks to have net zero carbon emissions by 2070, with various schemes and allocations announced for green hydrogen mission, energy transition and energy storage projects. The PM further noted that investors should not miss the opportunity of setting up ethanol plants in every corner of the country. "The potential of solar, wind and biogas in India is not less than any gold mine or oil field for our private sector," he said, adding that India can take the lead in the world in green energy technol-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a post-Budget webinar via video conferencing on Thursday

PTI

ogy. Apart from increasing green jobs in the country, it will also help a lot in global good, he said.

Sectors like battery storage and water based transport would have huge investment potential. Noting that India has to increase its battery storage capacity to 125 GigaWatt hours in the next six to seven years, the PM said there will be many new opportunities for investors in the wake of this massive goal.

The development of waterways will also bring many

investment opportunities, he said, pointing out that at present, only 5% of the country's cargo is transported through the coastal route and only 2% is transported through inland waterways.

The webinar on Thursday was the first in a series of 12 post-Budget webinars to be addressed by the PM till March 11. The next webinar, to be held on Friday (February 24), will be on the theme of agriculture and cooperatives.

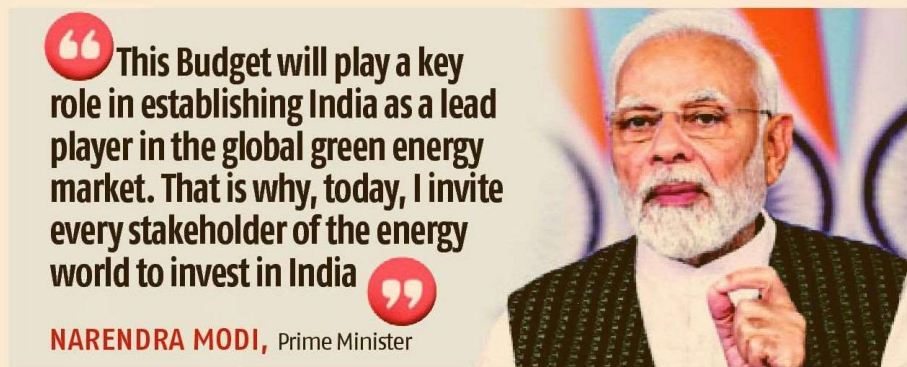
More renewables, less of fossil fuel: PM's green plan

SHREYA JAI

New Delhi, 23 February

In the first of 12 post-Budget webinars by the Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the stakeholders and government departments on "green growth". The webinars hosted by the power ministry will focus on both energy and non-energy components of green growth.

The PM said the strategy for green growth stands on three pillars. "First, increasing the production of renewable energy; second, reducing the use of fossil fuel in the economy; and finally, rapidly moving towards a gas-based economy in the country," he said. Over the years, schemes such as ethanol blending, PM KUSUM Yojana, incentives for solar manufacturing, rooftop solar, coal gasification, and battery storage had been a step in the right direction, Modi said. "India has a commanding position in the renewable energy space and will ensure a commen-



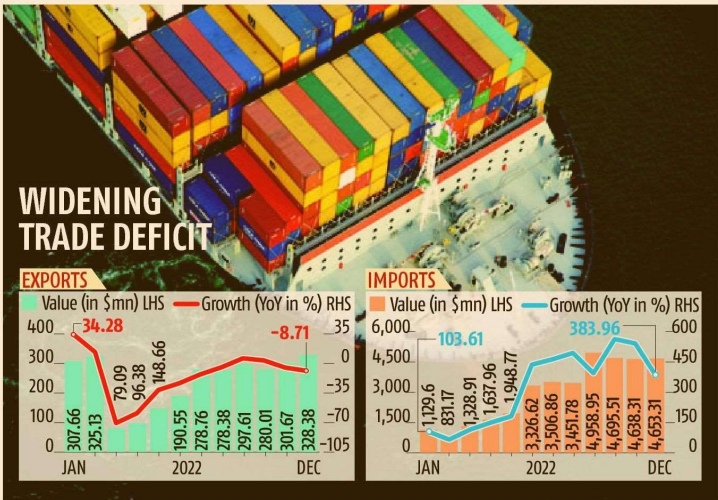
surate change in the world. This Budget will play a key role in establishing India as a lead player in the global green energy market. That is why, today, I invite every stakeholder of the energy world to invest in India," he said. Talking about India's achievements in the green energy sector, he said the country had already achieved the target of 10 per cent ethanol blending in petrol five months before time, and 40 per cent non-fossil fuel power generation

had been achieved nine years in advance.

He said the government's focus is on biofuels, and it will open new investment opportunities. The PM highlighted that India could produce 10,000 million cubic metres of biogas from cow dung and 150,000 cubic metres of gas, contributing up to 8 per cent to the city gas distribution in the country. The PM also mentioned India's vehicle scrapping policy as a crucial part of the green growth strategy.

UKRAINE WAR: A YEAR ON

Cheaper crude from Russia pushes India's import bill; exports trail



SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 23 February

In a year since Russia invaded Ukraine, Moscow has leapfrogged to become India's fifth largest trade partner from 25th spot in FY22. Trade between India and the sanctions-hit Russia touched \$35 billion during the April-December period. In contrast, the size of the trade was almost a fourth, at \$9.1 billion, the data showed.

The expansion in the size of trade has been because of a five-fold increase in imports to \$32.81 billion during the April-December period, dominated by discounted Russian crude oil. India imported 17.1 per cent of its total crude oil, making Russia the third-largest crude oil supplier to India, after Iraq, Saudi

Arabia, and ahead of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States.

Apart from oil, key imports from Russia include fertiliser, coal, soybean, and sunflower oil, though the share of crude oil is about two-third of the value of inbound shipments from the country at \$21.8 billion.

India has been under severe pressure from Western countries to not buy crude oil from Russia and join the price cap advocated by the G7 countries. However, India has repeatedly defended its right to import cheaper crude oil citing public interest. In December last year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asserted that New Delhi's procurement was just one-sixth of the European purchase in the last nine months. His comments

came as a G7 price cap on Russian crude at \$60 a barrel came into effect.

At a media briefing after holding wide-ranging talks with visiting German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, Jaishankar noted that Europe can't make choices to prioritise its energy needs while asking New Delhi to do something else, asserting that discussions between India and Russia to expand the trade basket started much before beginning of the Ukraine conflict.

Export on a slow lane

While it was expected that Russia will lean on India for many of its essential consumer items, outbound shipment from India has been anything but encouraging. Exports to Russia

contracted 13.5 per cent at \$2.2 billion during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year. After a drop in March and April, exports have gradually started picking up, but at a slow pace, mainly due to logistics and payments-related challenges. Even as the Reserve Bank of India announced a new mechanism for settling international trade in rupee, it is yet to pick up. Once the rupee trade picks up, India is likely to get a bigger share of the Russian market.

A government official said this might take more time since exporters are also worried about facing sanctions from the West. "Apart from that, internal systems of banks are not prepared enough to tackle such transactions," he added.

As a result of higher imports

and slower exports, India's trade deficit with Russia widened to \$30.61 billion during April-December from \$4.03 billion a year earlier.

Ajay Sahai, director-general and chief executive officer of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, however, said the trade deficit with Russia is not a matter of concern because unlike in the case of China, India is not importing non-essential items from Russia. "In the case of Russia, crude oil is available at a discounted /competitive price. As a result, we are able to fight inflation. A lot of imported oil (from Russia) is refined and exported to countries such as the Netherlands, European Union, and the US. India's refined oil exports to other countries are also going up," he said.

India's potential in green energy no less than a goldmine or oil field: PM

Says country has set three pillars for green growth — increasing renewable energy production, reducing use of fossil fuels & moving forward with a gas-based economy

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday invited global investments in the green energy sector stressing India's potential in renewable energy like wind, solar and biogas is no less than a "goldmine or oil field".

Addressing a webinar on various announcements made in the Union Budget 2023-24 on green growth, Modi said: "This Budget is not only an opportunity, but it also contains the guarantee of our future security."

He said India has been the fastest in renewable energy capacity addition among major economies since 2014.

"India will play an important role in green energy, I invite all stakeholders to invest



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the post-budget webinar on 'Green Growth' via video conferencing, on Thursday PTI

in India," he said.

On the great opportunities for investors in India, he stated that "the potential of solar, wind and biogas in India is no less than any gold mine or oil field for our private sector".

He opined that India has

Takeaways

» "This Budget is not only an opportunity, but it also contains the guarantee of our future security"

» He also stated that India's track record shows its capability to achieve the objectives before time when it comes to renewable energy resources

huge potential to lead the world in green energy and the country will forward the cause of global good apart from generating green jobs.

Modi addressed the post-budget webinar on 'Green Growth' on **Continued on P4**

PM Modi

Thursday, which is the first of a series of 12 post-Budget webinars, hosted by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for the effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Union Budget 2023.

He stated that all the budgets tabled in the country after 2014, have been forwarding new-age reforms apart from finding solutions to the challenges faced in the present day.

The Prime Minister outlined three pillars for green growth and energy transmission. First, increasing the production of renewable energy; second, reducing the use of fossil fuel in the economy; and finally, rapidly moving towards a gas-based economy in the country.

He highlighted measures like ethanol blending, PM KUSUM Yojana, incentives for solar manufacturing, rooftop solar scheme, coal gasification, and battery storage in the Budgets of the past few years.

Underlining the significant announcements in previous years' Budgets, Modi highlighted schemes such as green credit for industries, PM Pranam Yojna for farmers, Gobardhan Yojna for villages, vehicle scrapping policy for cities, Green Hydrogen and wetland conservation in

this year's Budget.

Referring to the global efforts for diversification of the energy supply chain, the Prime Minister said this Budget has given a great opportunity to every green energy investor to invest in India. This will also be very useful for the startups in the sector, he added.

He also stated that India's track record shows its capability to achieve the objectives before time when it comes to renewable energy resources.

He that India achieved the target of 40 per cent contributions from non-fossil fuels in the installed electricity capacity nine years before the target date.

He also mentioned that India achieved the target of 10 per cent ethanol blending in petrol five months before time and emphasised that the nation strives to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26 instead of 2030.

He also mentioned that the total renewable energy capacity of 500 GW will be achieved by 2030.

Recalling the launch of E20 fuel, the Prime Minister noted the government's emphasis on biofuels and said that it has brought new opportunities for investors. He observed the abundance of agri-waste in the country and urged the investors to not miss the opportunity of setting up ethanol plants in every corner of the country.

About the National Green Hydrogen Mission, he stated that India is moving with a target of production of 5 MMT green hydrogen. An allocation of Rs 19,000 crore has been made to incentivize the private sector in this field (green hydrogen).

He also touched upon other opportunities such as electrolyzer manufacturing, green steel manufacturing and long-haul fuel cells.

The Prime Minister also informed that India has the potential of producing 10 thousand million cubic

metres of biogas from Gobar (cow dung) and 1.5 lakh cubic meter gas from agri residue, which can contribute up to 8 per cent to the city gas distribution in the country.

"Because of these possibilities, today the Gobardhan Yojana is an important component of India's biofuel strategy.

"In this Budget, the government has announced plans to set up 500 new plants under the Gobardhan Yojana. These are not like old-fashioned plants. The government will spend Rs 10,000 crore on these modern plants," he added.

The private sector is getting attractive incentives for producing CBG from agri-waste and municipal solid waste, the Prime Minister informed.

Throwing light on India's vehicle scrapping policy the Prime Minister stressed that it is a crucial part of the green growth strategy.

He informed that the government has made provisions of Rs 3,000 crore in this year's Budget to scrap around 3 lakh vehicles owned by Central and State governments that are older than 15 years including police vehicles, ambulances and buses.

"Vehicle scrapping is going to become a huge market," said the Prime Minister, following the principle of Reuse, Recycle and Recovery.

He also emphasised that it gives new strength to our circular economy and urged the youth of India to join various means of the circular economy.

He said that India has to increase its battery storage capacity to 125-gigawatt hours in the next 6-7 years.

He also informed that the government has come out with a viability gap funding scheme in this budget to support the battery developers to achieve big goals in this capital-intensive sector.

The Prime Minister also touched upon water-based transport becoming a huge

sector in India saying that India transports only five per cent of its cargo through its coastal route today, whereas only two per cent of cargo through inland waterways.

He underlined that the development of waterways in India will give rise to many opportunities for all stakeholders in this field. He urged all stakeholders to act quickly to implement every provision of the Budget. "The government stands with you and your suggestions," he concluded.

WITH AGENCY INPUTS

■ At Budget webinar, PM invites world to invest

India's green energy is a 'gold mine': Modi

SHASHI BHUSHAN
NEW DELHI, FEB. 23

Inviting global investment in the green energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that India's potential in solar, wind and biogas is no less than a gold mine or an oil field. Addressing a webinar on various "Green Growth" announcements made in the Union Budget 2023-24, Mr Modi said, "This Budget is not only an opportunity but also contains the guarantee of our future security."

The Prime Minister noted that India's commanding position in the renewable energy space will ensure a commensurate change in the world. "This Budget will play a key role in establishing India as a lead player in the global green energy market. That is why, today, I invite every stakeholder in the energy world to invest in India," he said.

Referring to the global efforts for diversification of the energy supply chain, Mr Modi said that this Budget has given a great opportunity to every green energy investor to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the post-Budget webinar on "Green Growth" via video conferencing on Thursday. — PTI

India's track record shows its capability to achieve the objectives before time when it comes to renewable energy resources

— Narendra
Modi
Prime Minister

invest in India and this will also be very useful for the startups in the sector.

"India has been the fastest when it comes to renewable energy capacity addition among major economies since 2014.

India's track record shows its capability to achieve the objectives before time when it comes to renewable energy resources," he said.

The Prime Minister informed the audience that India achieved the target of 40 per cent contributions from non-fossil fuels in the installed electricity capacity nine years before the target date.

Mr Modi said that India achieved the target of 10 per cent ethanol blending in petrol five months ahead of schedule and that the nation strives to achieve the 20 per cent

■ Turn to Page 4

India's green energy is a 'gold mine', says Modi

■ Continued from Page 1
ethanol blending target by 2025-26 instead of 2030.

The Prime Minister also mentioned that the total renewable energy capacity of 500 GW will be achieved by 2030. Talking about the launch of E20 fuel, the Prime Minister pointed out the government's emphasis on biofuels and said that it has brought new opportunities for investors.

At the webinar, the PM talked about the abundance of agri-waste in the country and urged the investors not to miss the opportunity of setting up ethanol plants in every corner of the country. "The potential in solar, wind and biogas in India is no less than any gold mine or oil field for our private sector," Mr Modi said.

He stated that all Budgets tabled in the country since 2014 have advanced new-age reforms in addition to finding solutions to current-day challenges.

The PM outlined three pillars for green growth and energy transmission. First, increasing the production of renewable energy; second, reducing the use of fossil fuels in the economy and finally, rapidly moving towards a gas-based economy in the country.

He stated that under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India is moving towards a target of producing five MMT of green hydrogen and an allocation of ₹19,000 crores has been made to incentivise the pri-

vate sector in this field.

Mr Modi also said that India has the potential to produce 10,000 million cubic metres of biogas from cow dung (gobar) and 1.5 lakh cubic metres of gas, which can contribute up to 8 per cent to the country's city gas distribution system.

"Because of these possibilities, the Gobardhan Yojana is today an important component of India's biofuel strategy. In this Budget, the government has announced plans to set up 500 new plants under the Gobardhan Yojana. These are not like old-fashioned plants. The government will spend ₹10,000 crores on these modern plants," he said.

Throwing light on the country's vehicle scrapping policy, he stressed that it is a crucial part of the green growth strategy and informed that the government has made provisions of ₹3,000 crores in this year's Budget to scrap around three lakh vehicles owned by Central and state governments that are older than 15 years, including police vehicles, ambulances and buses.

The PM pointed out that India has to increase its battery storage capacity to 125 gigawatt hours in the next six-seven years and informed the audience that the government has come out with a viability gap-funding scheme in this Budget to support the battery developers in achieving big goals in this capital-intensive sector.

PM invites green energy investors

Modi for moving to gas-based eco to clean energy

DEEPAK KUMAR UPRETI ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asserted that India has been the "fastest in renewable energy capacity addition among major economies since 2014", saying the potential of solar, wind and biogas in India is no less than "any gold mine or oil field for our private sector" as he invited global investors in the green energy sector in the country.

The Prime Minister sought the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuel and move towards the gas-based economy in the country. He also mentioned that the total renewable energy capacity of 500 GW will be achieved by 2030.

Addressing a webinar on various announcements made in the Union Budget 2023-24 on green growth, Modi invited global investments in the green energy sector stressing India's potential in renewable energy like wind, solar and biogas is no less than a "gold mine or oil field". "This Budget is not only an opportunity, but it also contains the guarantee of our



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the post-budget webinar on 'Green Growth' via video conferencing on Thursday

PTI

future security," he sought to say. He said India has been the fastest in renewable energy capacity addition among major economies since 2014.

"India will play an important role in green energy, I invite all stakeholders to invest in India," he said.

On the great opportunities for investors in India, he stated that "the potential of solar, wind and biogas in India is no less than any gold mine or oil field for our private sector".

Modi addressed the post-Budget webinar on "Green Growth" on Thursday, which is the first of a series of 12 post-Budget webinars, organised by the Government to seek ideas and suggestions for the effective

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Continued on Page 2

PM...

From Page 1

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per cent ethanol blending in petrol five months before time and emphasised that the nation strives to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26 instead of 2030.

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incentivise the private sector in this field (green hydrogen). He also touched upon other opportunities such as electrolyser manufacturing, green steel manufacturing and long-haul fuel cells.

"India has been the fastest when it comes to renewable energy capacity addition among major economies since 2014," the Prime Minister said.

He further added that India's track record shows its capability to achieve the objectives before time when it comes to renewable energy resources. The Prime Minister informed that India achieved the target of 40 per cent contributions from non-fossil fuels in the installed electricity capacity 9 years before the target date.

ONGC to invest \$2 bn to drill 103 wells in Arabian Sea, to add 100 MT output

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

Oil and natural gas producer ONGC has said it will invest over \$2 billion in drilling 103 wells on its main gas-bearing asset in the Arabia Sea as it aims to add 100 million tonnes to production.

"We have released a record 103 locations for drilling of wells on the Bassein and Satellite (B&S) assets over next 2-3 years," ONGC Director (Offshore) Pankaj Kumar said.

The wells will tap smaller and hereto untapped reservoirs and help raise output. "We estimate that this development drilling will enhance output by over 100 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas over life of the field," he said. "The investment involved in drilling and facilities will be over \$2 billion."

ONGC produces two-thirds of all oil and gas produced in India and any incremental production would help the country cut its dependence on imports for meeting energy needs.

The state-owned company has three main assets off the west coast - Mumbai High, Heera and Neelam, and Bassein and Satellite, which contributed the bulk of 21.7 million

tonnes of oil and 21.68 billion cubic metres of gas it produced in 2021-22. ONGC has seen a gradual decline in output for over a decade, primarily due to its old and ageing fields, but now the giant is working on a comprehensive asset base plan for a turnaround.

Kumar said B&S asset has several fields including prime Bassein gas field, D1 and Tapti-Daman. These

currently produce 55,000-56,000 barrels a day (2.8 million tonnes) of oil and 28 million standard cubic metres a day of gas. "We have done a reservoir profiling for the entire asset to plan the drilling campaign," he said, adding new wells will bring additional production that will offset the natural decline in older wells and add to the overall output.



We have released a record 103 locations for drilling of wells on Bassein and Satellite assets over next 2-3 years. Investment involved in drilling and facilities will be over \$2 billion

Pankaj Kumar, ONGC Director (Offshore)

INBRIEF



ONGC to invest \$2 bn to drill 103 wells in Mumbai offshore

ONGC said it will invest more than \$2 billion in drilling a record 103 wells on its main gas-bearing asset in the Arabian Sea as it pivots a turnaround plan that will add 100 million tonnes to production. “We have released a record 103 locations for drilling of wells on the Bassein and Satellite (B&S) assets over the next 2-3 years,” ONGC Director (Offshore) Pankaj Kumar said. PTI

ONGC to invest \$2 bn in Mumbai offshore to raise oil, gas output

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 23

India's top oil and gas producer ONGC will invest over \$2 billion in drilling a record 103 wells on its main gas-bearing asset in the Arabia Sea as it pivots a turnaround plan that will add 100 million tonne to production, a company official said.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has three main assets off the west coast — Mumbai High, Heera and Neelam, and Bassein and Satellite, which contributed the bulk of 21.7 million tonnes of oil and 21.68 billion cubic metres of gas it produced in 2021-22.

"We have released a record 103 locations for drilling of wells on the Bassein and Satellite (B&S) assets over the next 2-3 years," ONGC Director (Offshore) Pankaj Kumar said.

The wells will tap smaller and hereto untapped reservoirs and help raise output.

"We estimate that this development drilling will enhance



TO DRILL RECORD 103 WELLS

- India imports over 85% of the crude oil, which is converted into fuel such as petrol and diesel in refineries, and roughly half of the natural gas that is used to produce electricity, make fertiliser, converted into CNG for running automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking
- The top oil and gas producer will drill a record 103 wells on its main gas-bearing asset in the Arabia Sea
- This will add 100 million tonne to production

production by over 100 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas over the life of the field," he said. "The investment involved in drilling and facilities will be over \$2 billion." ONGC produces two-third of all oil and gas produced in the country and any incremental production would help the country cut its

dependence on imports for meeting energy needs.

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biles and piped to household kitchens for cooking.

ONGC, which reported a gradual decline in output for over a decade primarily because its fields are old and ageing, has now got its act together by working on a comprehensive asset base plan rather than piecemeal field-centric approach. — PTI

ONGC invests in Mumbai offshore to raise oil, gas output

2 In \$ billion, the amount to be invested by India's top oil and gas producer, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), in drilling a record 103 wells on its main gas-bearing asset in the Arabian Sea, to enhance production by 100 million tonnes, according to company officials. The government has been pressing firms to raise domestic output to help cut the \$115 billion import bill. PTI

QUICKLY.

ONGC to invest \$2 billion in Mumbai offshore



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PTI

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OUR CORRESPONDENT

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The government has been pressing state-owned firms to step up efforts to raise domestic output to help cut the \$115 billion import bill.

ONGC, which reported a gradual decline in output for over a decade primarily because its fields are old and ageing, has now got its act together by working on a comprehensive asset base plan rather than piecemeal field centric approach.

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Tapti-Daman. These currently produce 55,000-56,000 barrels per day (2.8 million tonnes) of oil and 28 million standard cubic metres per day of gas.

"We have done a reservoir profiling for the entire asset to plan the drilling campaign," he said, adding new wells will bring additional production that will offset the natural decline in older wells and add to the overall output.

The Daman field alone is projected to contribute 6-7 mmscmd of more gas while the Tapti field may see oil output almost doubling to 30,000 bpd.

ONGC will adopt a similar approach for the rejuvenation of the other two assets in the western offshore.

Fourth phase of redevelopment of Mumbai High, India's most prolific oil and gas field, is almost complete and the next phase is at implementation stage while the sixth is at conceptualisation, he said. ONGC is likely to see a reversal of production decline from the current fiscal. In the current fiscal year (2022-23), crude oil production is slated to rise to 22.823 million tonnes and gas to 22.099 bcm.

ONGC to invest \$2 bn in Mumbai offshore to raise oil, gas output

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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‘Budget will help India emerge as lead player in global green energy market’

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Union Budget 2023-24 will help India establish itself as a lead player in the global green energy market and invited every stakeholder connected with the energy world to invest in the country.

He was addressing a post-Budget webinar on Green Growth, the first of a series of 12 post-Budget webinars organised by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Budget.

The Prime Minister said the world is currently diversifying renewable energy supply chains and the country's emerging start-ups in the



field could benefit.

India was the fastest when it comes to renewable energy capacity addition among major economies since 2014, Mr Modi said. India's track record showed its capability to achieve the objectives before time when it came to renewable energy resources.

India achieved the target of 40 per cent share of non-fossil fuels in its installed electricity capacity nine years ahead of the target date, he said. India also achieved the target of 10 per cent ethanol

blending in petrol five months before time, he noted and asserted that it was striving to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26 instead of the scheduled 2030. Recalling the launch of E20 fuel, the Prime Minister noted the government's emphasis on biofuels and said that it has brought new opportunities for investors.

He said the abundance of agri-waste should make investors consider setting up ethanol plants in every corner of the country.

The Prime Minister said that under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India has set a target of production of 5 MMT green hydrogen. An allocation of Rs 19,000 crores has been made to incentivise the private sector in this field, he noted.



At post-Budget webinar, PM underlines potential of renewable energy sources

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the potential of solar, wind and biogas energy in India was no less than any gold mine or oilfield for the country's private sector.

Addressing a webinar, Mr. Modi said that India's future development would be based on three pillars for green growth and energy transmission: increasing the production of renewable energy; reducing the use of fossil fuel in the economy; and moving towards a "gas-based economy".

This approach undergirded the announcement of schemes such as ethanol blending, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Mahabhayan (PM-KUSUM, a scheme for solarising agriculture), incentives for solar manufacturing, rooftop solar scheme, coal gasification, and battery storage in the Budgets of the past few years.

The "green growth" webinar was the first of a se-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the post-Budget webinar on 'Green Growth' via videoconferencing on Thursday. PTI

ries of 12 post-Budget webinars organised by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for the effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Union Budget, 2023.

'Invest in India'

"This Budget will play a key role in establishing India as a lead player in the global green energy market. That is why, today, I invite every stakeholder of the energy world to invest in India," the Prime Minister said.

On India's track record, Mr. Modi said that the country had demonstrated its capability to achieve the

objectives before time when it came to renewable energy resources.

Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India aimed to produce five million tonnes of green hydrogen. An allocation of ₹19,000 crore had been made to incentivise the private sector in this field, he added. He elaborated on India's plans to efficiently harness biogas. "The Gobardhan Yojana is an important component of India's biofuel strategy. In this Budget, the government has announced plans to set up 500 new plants under the Gobardhan Yojana," he added.

Oil demand by India likely to touch new record next fiscal

SUKALP SHARMA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 23

INDIA'S CONSUMPTION of refined petroleum fuels and products is projected to hit a new record in financial year 2023-24, thanks to strong post-pandemic recovery in energy use in various sectors of the economy. As per projections by the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, consumption of petroleum products — considered a proxy for oil demand — is likely to rise 4.9 per cent year on year to 233.81 million tonnes. This compares to 222.95 million tonnes — the revised estimate for the current fiscal.

An analysis of historical data shows that the previous record for consumption of petroleum products was 214.13 million tonnes in 2019-20. Demand took a hit in 2020-21 due to the pandemic, before posting a modest recovery in 2021-22. Demand for most products breached pre-pandemic highs in the current fiscal and is set to rise further in the next one.

Consumption of all major fuels — diesel, petrol, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) — will likely touch an all-time high in the next fiscal, the data shows. Consumption of diesel, which is the most used fuel in the country, is seen rising 4.3 per cent over current fiscal's revised estimate to 90.56 million tonnes.

Petrol consumption is seen higher by 7.7 per cent at 37.80 million tonnes. Higher demand for these two fuels reflects robustness in the transportation and industrial segments. LPG consumption is seen rising 1.7 per cent year on year to 29.12 million tonnes.

Consumption of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), which had so far lagged behind other fuels in terms of recovery, is also projected to beat the previous consumption record of 8.30 million tonnes in 2018-19. ATF consumption is seen rising 16.4 per cent over the revised estimate for the current fiscal to 8.61 million tonnes. **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com



PM seeks green energy investment: Potential 'no less than gold mine'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 23

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Thursday urged energy sector stakeholders to invest in India's green energy space, saying that the Budget for 2023-24 will play a key role in establishing the country as a lead player in the global green energy market. Modi said that the potential of segments like solar, wind energy, and biogas in India "is no less than any gold mine or oil field for our private sector".

Apart from these three segments, Modi also highlighted investment opportunities in areas like the green hydrogen ecosystem, which includes fuel cells, electrolyzers, and green steel, waste-to-energy projects, battery storage, and vehicle scrapping, among others.

Addressing a post-Budget webinar on 'green growth', which is one of the seven top pri-



PM Modi addresses the post-budget webinar. PTI

ority areas listed in the Budget, Modi said that India's commanding position in the renewable energy space will ensure a commensurate change in the world. This was the first in a series of webinars that are scheduled till March 11. The webinars will be focussed on synergising efforts of ministries and stakeholders for preparing action plans with quarterly targets so that implementation of budget proposals is "front ended and smooth with timely achievement of intended outcomes".



PM hails nation's green energy potential

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the business potential for India's private sector in solar, wind and biogas energy is akin to that in a gold mine or an oilfield, and stressed that renewable energy sources could generate a huge number of green jobs in the years to come.

Modi was addressing stakeholders, including prominent industrialists, experts and state government officials, during a post-Budget webinar focused on Green Growth – the first in a series of such 12 post-Budget events being organised by the government for effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Union Budget



Narendra Modi

2023.

"The potential of segments like solar, wind energy, and biogas in India is no less than any gold mine or oil field for our private sector," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also called for global investments in India's green energy sector.

"India's commanding position in renewable energy generation can help energy transition globally. This year's Budget will help India establish itself as a lead

player in the global green energy market. That is why today I am inviting all major stakeholders from the energy world to invest in India. The world is diversifying its renewable energy supply chains. Through this Budget, I want to attract green investors to look at the opportunities in India. The Budget will also help start-ups in the green energy sector," Modi said.

He pointed to India emerging as one of the fastest-growing major economies on the renewable energy front. "Our track record shows that when we set a renewable energy target for ourselves, we achieve it in advance. In our total installed electricity capacity, more than 40% is from non-fossil fuel sources which we achieved nine years in advance of our committed timeline," he said.

India started a phased roll-out of E20 fuel on February 6. This is a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% fossil-based fuel. The country increased the proportion of ethanol in blended petrol from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in 2022, and is now targeting achieving 20% blending by 2025-26.

During her Budget speech, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman listed "green growth" as one of the opportunities that can be transformative for India in the run up to 2047, the country's 100th year of Independence.

"Support to various sectors like green hydrogen, bio-manure, etc, will create economic opportunities for entrepreneurs and job seekers," Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Fellow, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), had said earlier.

Zip past your EV range anxiety

S Ronendra Singh

New Delhi

Just like the racy tagline ‘Fill it, shut it, forget it’, the recently-launched Delhi-Dausa stretch of the Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway (Eway) successfully targets electric vehicle (EV) owners’ range anxiety with a reassuring post-script — they need not worry while planning for longer routes any more!

Range anxiety has always been a concern for motorists and it is one of the primary factors making consumers sceptical about buying an EV. This is especially true for first-time buyers who want a vehicle for inter-city travel.

The Delhi-Dausa stretch of the Eway is a test of the government’s promised charging infrastructure on the highways. This stretch passes the test with flying colours.

FAST-CHARGING SLOTS

There are at least a dozen dedicated slots built on both sides of this 246-km stretch. Each slot has charging infrastructure installed with the petrol station (right now run by Indian Oil Corporation).

So, while you have a cup of coffee or a light meal at one of these amenities, your EV can simultaneously re-



PLUG-AND-PLAY. An EV charging station on the Delhi-Dausa section

KAMAL NARANG

charge. The best part about these fast chargers is that they can charge back your EV by up to 60-80 per cent, thus giving you peace of mind.

So, once this Eway is fully functional in the next few months, one can actually plan a trip from Delhi to Mumbai in an EV with absolutely no worries about the range or charging facilities on the move. The whole

stretch till Mumbai totals around 1,400 km and most of the EVs now claim to give 500-plus km of range. So one may need to stop thrice to recharge his/her EV till Mumbai on the dedicated spot marked for them.

The newly-inaugurated stretch has already started seeing some auto enthusiasts driving along the route.

“We have just come to experience the highway this morning, and will go back after touching Jaipur in the afternoon. The view is really nice with the greenery around. We would love to see more greenery in the rainy season. We will surely come back once it rains and cover the longer stretch beyond Jaipur,” said Rachna (name changed on request) who came along with her friends from Delhi to experience a drive on the Eway in her new SUV.

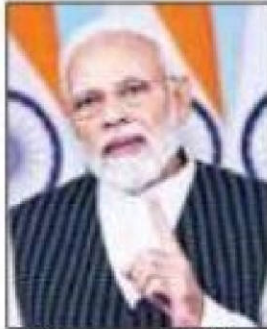
BETTER MILEAGE

So, not only the EVs, but for any other fuel-powered vehicles, the Eway will give better mileage as one does not have to change gears or press the brake often during their journey.

Going forward, since this Eway is promoting green highways with dust-free environment and plantations across the route, more infrastructure like CNG pumps for both private as well as commercial vehicles would come up.

हरित ऊर्जा में भारत की क्षमता 'सोने की खदान'

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने हरित ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में निवेश आमंत्रित करते हुए बृहस्पतिवार को कहा कि नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के मामले में देश की जो क्षमता है वह 'सोने की खदान' या 'तेल के कुएं' से कम नहीं है। आम बजट 2023-24 में हरित वृद्धि को लेकर की गई विभिन्न घोषणाओं के संबंध में एक वेबिनार को संबोधित करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा, "भारत हरित ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा। मैं सभी पक्षों को भारत में निवेश के लिए आमंत्रित करता हूं।" उन्होंने कहा, 'ये बजट सिर्फ एक अवसर नहीं है, बल्कि इसमें हमारे भविष्य की सुरक्षा की गारंटी भी है। नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता में वृद्धि के लिहाज से भारत 2014 के बाद से प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में सबसे आगे रहा है।'



500 नए संयंत्र लगाने की घोषणा

उन्होंने कहा, 'इस बजट में सरकार ने गोबरधन योजना के तहत 500 नए संयंत्र लगाने की घोषणा की है। ये पुराने जमाने के संयंत्र नहीं हैं। सरकार इन आधुनिक संयंत्रों पर 10,000 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करेगी।' प्रधानमंत्री ने बताया कि निजी क्षेत्र को कृषि-अपशिष्ट और नगरपालिका ठोस अपशिष्ट से सीबीजी (कॉम्पोस्ट बायोगैस) के उत्पादन के लिए आकर्षक प्रोत्साहन मिल रहा है। भारत को अगले 6-7 साल में अपनी बैटरी भंडारण क्षमता को बढ़ाकर 125 गीगावाट घंटे करना है।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि भारत में सौर, पवन ऊर्जा और बायोगैस जैसी नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा की संभावनाएं निजी क्षेत्र के लिये किसी सोने की खदान या तेल के कुएं से कम नहीं हैं।

आईओसी डाटाबेस में सेंध लगा 3,024 लोगों की सब्सिडी हड़पी

गाजियाबाद। बम्हेटा निवासी सात लोगों ने इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन (आईओसी) के डाटाबेस में सेंध लगा 3,024 एलपीजी कनेक्शन धारकों को मिलने वाली सब्सिडी हड़प ली। कविनगर थाने में रिपोर्ट दर्ज की गई है। आईओसी के तत्कालीन सेल्स हेड दिलीप रंगवानी की ओर से दर्ज रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, असम के दरांग जिले में हिरिबा गैस एजेंसी के नाम से उनका डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर है। आरोपियों ने दस्तावेज और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक डाटाबेस में फर्जीवाड़ा कर 3,024 लोगों के खाता नंबर बदल उनकी सब्सिडी अपने फर्जी खातों में ले ली। इनमें 2,044 कनेक्शन धारक हिरिबा गैस एजेंसी के हैं। कविनगर थाने में शिकायत दर्ज नहीं हुई तो कोर्ट का रुख किया। कोर्ट के आदेश के बाद अब मुकुल, सुरेंद्र, दिनेश, अनिल, रेवती, कल्लू और कमलेश के खिलाफ रिपोर्ट दर्ज की गई है। सभी आरोपी बम्हेटा के शाहपुर गांव के रहने वाले हैं। ब्यूरो

वाहनों में 'इलेक्ट्रिक' किट योजना को चाहिए 'करंट'

चार साल में भी इलेक्ट्रिक किट लगाने के लिए संसाधन तक उपलब्ध नहीं करा सका है विभाग

वी के शुक्ला • नई दिल्ली

झील निवासी रमाशंकर चतुर्वेदी की डीजल कार 10 साल में ही सड़क से बाहर हो गई है। वह अपनी कार में इलेक्ट्रिक किट लगवाना चाहते हैं। परिवहन विभाग में फोन कर अधिकारियों से इस बारे में पूछ रहे हैं। पश्चिम विहार के अशोक तनेजा भी उम्र पूरी कर चुकी अपनी डीजल कार में इलेक्ट्रिक किट लगवाने के इच्छुक हैं। मगर उन्हें यह समझ नहीं आ रहा है कि कहां जाएं, किससे बात करें। परिवहन विभाग से कोई जानकारी नहीं मिल पा रही है। यह समस्या दिल्ली में अपनी उम्र पूरी कर चुके 55 लाख वाहनों में से उन वाहन मालिकों की है जो अपनी कार में इलेक्ट्रिक किट लगवाकर अभी उसे चलाना चाहते हैं।

दिल्ली के लोगों की समस्या यह है कि घोषणा के चार साल बाद भी परिवहन विभाग दिल्ली में पुराने वाहनों में इलेक्ट्रिक किट लगवाने की सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं करा सका है। जिस सुस्ती से इस योजना पर काम किया जा रहा है उससे ऐसा लग नहीं रहा है कि यह सुविधा निकट भविष्य में लोगों को मिल पाएगी। यह पूरा मामला अभी विभाग और कंपनियों के बीच बैठकों तक ही सीमित है।



2019 में बनाया था 11 कंपनियों का पैनल

योजना को लेकर परिवहन विभाग ने 2019 में बैठक बुलाई थी और इस मुद्दे पर उनकी राय ली थी। तब करीब 11 कंपनियों ने इस पर अपनी सहमति जताते हुए आगे आने की बात कही थी। परिवहन विभाग ने इलेक्ट्रिक किट लगाने वाली इन कंपनियों का पैनल बना दिया था। कंपनियों ने दावा किया था कि उन्होंने कारों और दोपहिया में इसका सफल ट्रायल कर लिया है। विभाग के अधिकारी ने कहा है कि इस प्रयोग को लेकर सकारात्मक सोचने की जरूरत है। हम कारों को डीजल से इलेक्ट्रिक में करवाना शुरू करवा देंगे। इसके लिए 11 कंपनियों का पैनल बनाया गया है। कंपनियों के संपर्क नंबर भी वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध हैं।

स्कूटर को इलेक्ट्रिक में बदलने का मिला प्रमाणपत्र

बैंगलुरु की कंपनी ग्रीन टाइगर ने स्कूटर को इलेक्ट्रिक में बदलने का प्रमाणपत्र हासिल किया है। कंपनी बैंगलुरु में काम कर रही है। कंपनी के सीईओ आशीष दोकनिया ने बताया कि वह दिल्ली में काम करने के लिए तैयार हैं। मगर सरकार स्कूटर को इलेक्ट्रिक में बदलने पर सब्सिडी दे। इस कार्य पर भी जीएसटी पांच प्रतिशत ही होना चाहिए क्योंकि सरकार सब्सिडी नहीं देगी तो नए स्कूटर और किट बदलने के बाद पुराने स्कूटर के दाम में बहुत फर्क नहीं रह जाएगा। ऐसे में कोई भी पुराने की जगह नया इलेक्ट्रिक स्कूटर ही खरीद लेगा। उन्हें तमिलनाडु सरकार ने सब्सिडी देने का आश्वासन दिया है इसलिए उनका स्टार्टअप वहां के लिए रुख कर रहा है।

बहुत अधिक है फीस

पुणे में छोटा हाथी में इलेक्ट्रिक किट लगा रहे नार्थवे मोटर्स के निदेशक राहुल चंदवानी कहते हैं कि यह कार्य जितना आसान दिख रहा है, उतना है नहीं। पहले तो कार का पूरा सिस्टम बदलना पड़ेगा। पुरानी कार है तो उसे पूरी तरह बदलना पड़ेगा। रेट्रो फिटमेंट के लिए कोई भी कंपनी को किसी भी वाहन के माडल का प्रमाण पत्र लेने के लिए 30 से 40 लाख रुपये लगते हैं। ऐसे में कंपनियां रेट्रो फिटमेंट के लिए आगे नहीं आ रही हैं।

तिपहिया वाहनों में भी लग सकेगी इलेक्ट्रिक किट

तिपहिया वाहन को इलेक्ट्रिक में बदलने का काम कर रही हैदराबाद की कंपनी जीरो-21 की सीईओ रानी श्रीनिवासन ने बताया कि दिल्ली परिवहन विभाग के अधिकारियों के साथ लंबे समय से बात चल रही है। सरकार आटो में इलेक्ट्रिक किट पर काम आगे बढ़ाना चाहती है। परिवहन विभाग से बातचीत अभी किसी निष्कर्ष पर नहीं पहुंची है। उनकी कंपनी डीजल, पेट्रोल और सीएनजी के तिपहिया वाहनों को साढ़े चार घंटे में इलेक्ट्रिक में बदल देती है। तीन से लेकर चार रुपये प्रति किलोमीटर में चलने वाला तिपहिया अब 75 पैसे प्रति किलोमीटर के खर्च पर चल रहा है।

- किट लगाने वाली कंपनियों ने कहा- सरकार सब्सिडी दे तभी योजना बढ़ सकेगी आगे

उम्र पूरी कर चुके डीजल और पेट्रोल वाहनों को इलेक्ट्रिक में बदलने के लिए लगातार गंभीरता से प्रयास किया जा रहा है। इसे लेकर पिछले साल एक पोर्टल शुरू किया गया है, जहां लोग इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों से संबंधित सभी जानकारी ले सकते हैं। एक ओईएम (मूल उपकरण निर्माता) को इस योजना में शामिल किया गया है। मगर चुनौती इलेक्ट्रिक किट का सीमित उत्पादन और इसके डीलर नेटवर्क का सीमित होना है। उम्मीद है कि आने वाले महीनों में इसमें सुधार होगा।

आशीष कुंद्रा, परिवहन आयुक्त दिल्ली

बजट में अवसर के साथ भविष्य की सुरक्षा भी: मोदी

नई दिल्ली: पीएम नरेन्द्र मोदी ने कहा है कि वर्ष 2030 तक भारत 500 गीगावाट गैर जीवाश्म आधारित बिजली क्षमता हासिल करके रहेगा। आगामी वित्त वर्ष के लिए पेश बजट भारत को वैश्विक ग्रीन एनर्जी बाजार में प्रमुख प्लेयर के रूप में स्थापित करने में अहम भूमिका निभाएगा। (पेज-10)

बजट में अवसर के साथ सुरक्षा भी: मोदी

पीएम ने कहा- 2030 तक 500 गीगावाट नवीकरणीय बिजली क्षमता हासिल कर लेंगे

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने कहा है कि वर्ष 2030 तक भारत 500 गीगावाट (पांच लाख मेगावाट) गैर जीवाश्म आधारित बिजली क्षमता (पेट्रोल, डीजल, कोयला से परे) हासिल करके रहेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि आगामी वित्त वर्ष के लिए पेश बजट भारत को वैश्विक ग्रीन एनर्जी बाजार में एक प्रमुख प्लेयर के रूप में स्थापित करने में अहम भूमिका निभाएगा। ग्रीन ग्रोथ पर विभिन्न मंत्रालयों व सभी हितधारकों के साथ गुरुवार को आयोजित वेबिनार में प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि बजट में अवसर के साथ भविष्य की सुरक्षा भी समाहित है। बजट के प्रमुख बिंदुओं से संबंधित 12 वेबिनार का आयोजन किया जाएगा और सभी वेबिनार को प्रधानमंत्री संबोधित करेंगे।

प्रधानमंत्री ने अपने संबोधन में निजी सेक्टर से ग्रीन ग्रोथ में निवेश की अपील की। उन्हें नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा से लेकर गोबर गैस, हाइड्रोजन मिशन, वाहन कबाड़ नीति, बैटरी स्टोरेज क्षमता व जल यातायात में

● प्रमुख बिंदुओं के तहत पहले वेबिनार में पीएम का ग्रीन ग्रोथ पर संबोधन

● निजी क्षेत्र से ग्रीन ग्रोथ के लिए निवेश की अपील की

10 प्रतिशत एथनाल मिश्रण के लक्ष्य को भारत ने पांच माह पहले ही हासिल किया



नई दिल्ली में गुरुवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने ग्रीन ग्रोथ पर एक वेबिनार को संबोधित किया ● प्रेस

भारत की रणनीति के तीन मुख्य स्तंभ

मोदी ने कहा कि ग्रीन ग्रोथ के लिए भारत की रणनीति के तीन मुख्य स्तंभ रहे हैं। इनमें रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी के उत्पादन को बढ़ाना, अर्थव्यवस्था में जीवाश्म ईंधन के इस्तेमाल को कम करना और गैस आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था की तरफ तेज गति से बढ़ना शामिल हैं। इस रणनीति के तहत ही एथनाल मिश्रण, पीएम कुसुम योजना, सोलर मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग के लिए प्रोत्साहन, रूफ टाप सोलर स्कीम, कोल गैसीफिकेशन, बैटरी स्टोरेज जैसी घोषणाएं पहले के बजट में की गईं। इस साल के बजट में भी उद्योग के लिए ग्रीन

क्रेडिट्स हैं तो किसानों के लिए पीएम पीआरएनएएम (प्रणाम) योजना है। गांवों के लिए गोबरधन योजना है तो शहरी क्षेत्रों के लिए वाहन कबाड़ नीति है। ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन पर भी बल दिया गया है। संबोधन के आखिर में प्रधानमंत्री ने सभी हितधारकों से यह भी कहा कि वेबिनार में चर्चा इस पर नहीं भटकनी चाहिए कि और क्या होना चाहिए, बल्कि इस पर केंद्रित होना चाहिए कि बजट की एक-एक चीज को अच्छे तरीके से लागू करने और ग्रीन ग्रोथ को सुनिश्चित किया जाए।

निकलने वाले अवसर के बारे में जानकारी भी दी। आइएमएफ ने भी आशा जताई है कि भारत 2070 से पहले ही शून्य कार्बन की दशा में पहुंच सकता है। पीएम मोदी ने कहा कि हमारी स्थापित बिजली क्षमता में 40 प्रतिशत गैर जीवाश्म ईंधन के योगदान के लक्ष्य को भारत ने

नौ साल पहले ही प्राप्त कर लिया। पेट्रोल में 10 प्रतिशत एथनाल मिश्रण के लक्ष्य को भी भारत ने पांच माह पहले ही हासिल कर लिया। 20 प्रतिशत एथनाल मिश्रण के लक्ष्य को भी भारत ने 2030 से कम करके 2025-26 तक पूरा करने का तय किया है। मोदी ने कहा कि भारत में

गोबर से 10 हजार मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर (एमसीएम) बायोगैस और कृषि कचरा से डेढ़ लाख मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर गैस के उत्पादन की क्षमता है। गोबरधन योजना के तहत 500 नए प्लांट्स लगाए जाएंगे, जो पुराने जमाने के गोबर गैस प्लांट की तरह नहीं होंगे।

बजट में अवसर के साथ सुरक्षा भी : मोदी

पीएम ने कहा- 2030 तक 500 गीगावाट नवीकरणीय बिजली क्षमता हासिल कर लेंगे

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प्रधानमंत्री ने अपने संबोधन में निजी सेक्टर से ग्रीन ग्रोथ में निवेश की अपील की। उन्हें नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा से लेकर गोबर गैस, हाइड्रोजन मिशन, वाहन कबाड़ नीति, बैटरी स्टोरेज क्षमता व जल यातायात में

● प्रमुख बिंदुओं के तहत पहले वेबिनार में पीएम का ग्रीन ग्रोथ पर संबोधन

● निजी क्षेत्र से ग्रीन ग्रोथ के लिए निवेश की अपील की

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नई दिल्ली में गुरुवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने ग्रीन ग्रोथ पर एक वेबिनार को संबोधित किया ● प्रेर

भारत की रणनीति के तीन मुख्य स्तंभ

मोदी ने कहा कि ग्रीन ग्रोथ के लिए भारत की रणनीति के तीन मुख्य स्तंभ रहे हैं। इनमें रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी के उत्पादन को बढ़ाना, अर्थव्यवस्था में जीवाश्म ईंधन के इस्तेमाल को कम करना और गैस आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था की तरफ तेज गति से बढ़ना शामिल हैं। इस रणनीति के तहत ही एथनाल मिश्रण, पीएम कुसुम योजना, सोलर मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग के लिए प्रोत्साहन, रूफ टाप सोलर स्कीम, कोल गैसीफिकेशन, बैटरी स्टोरेज जैसी घोषणाएं पहले के बजट में की गईं। इस साल के बजट में भी उद्योग के लिए ग्रीन

क्रेडिट्स हैं तो किसानों के लिए पीएम पीआरएनएएम (प्रणाम) योजना है। गांवों के लिए गोबरधन योजना है तो शहरी क्षेत्रों के लिए वाहन कबाड़ नीति है। ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन पर भी बल दिया गया है। संबोधन के आखिर में प्रधानमंत्री ने सभी हितधारकों से यह भी कहा कि वेबिनार में चर्चा इस पर नहीं भटकनी चाहिए कि और क्या होना चाहिए, बल्कि इस पर केंद्रित होना चाहिए कि बजट की एक-एक चीज को अच्छे तरीके से लागू करने और ग्रीन ग्रोथ को सुनिश्चित किया जाए।

निकलने वाले अवसर के बारे में जानकारी भी दी। आइएमएफ ने भी आशा जताई है कि भारत 2070 से पहले ही शून्य कार्बन की दशा में पहुंच सकता है। पीएम मोदी ने कहा कि हमारी स्थापित बिजली क्षमता में 40 प्रतिशत गैर जीवाश्म ईंधन के योगदान के लक्ष्य को भारत ने

नौ साल पहले ही प्राप्त कर लिया। पेट्रोल में 10 प्रतिशत एथनाल मिश्रण के लक्ष्य को भी भारत ने पांच माह पहले ही हासिल कर लिया। 20 प्रतिशत एथनाल मिश्रण के लक्ष्य को भी भारत ने 2030 से कम करके 2025-26 तक पूरा करने का तय किया है। मोदी ने कहा कि भारत में

गोबर से 10 हजार मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर (एमसीएम) बायोगैस और कृषि कचरा से डेढ़ लाख मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर गैस के उत्पादन की क्षमता है। गोबरधन योजना के तहत 500 नए प्लांट्स लगाए जाएंगे, जो पुराने जमाने के गोबर गैस प्लांट की तरह नहीं होंगे।

तेल, गैस उत्पादन के लिए दो अरब डॉलर का निवेश करेगी ओएनजीसी

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। देश की शीर्ष तेल और गैस उत्पादक कंपनी ओएनजीसी अरब सागर में अपने मुख्य गैस क्षेत्र में 103 कुओं की खुदाई के लिए दो अरब डॉलर का निवेश करेगी। कंपनी के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि इससे कुल उत्पादन में लगभग 10 करोड़ टन का इजाफा होने की उम्मीद है। ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) के पश्चिमी तट पर तीन मुख्य संपत्तियां हैं, जिनमें मुंबई हाई, हीरा और नीलम तथा वसई और सुदूर तेल एवं गैस क्षेत्र हैं। कंपनी ने इनसे 2021-22 में 2.17 करोड़ टन तेल और 21.68 अरब घनमीटर गैस का उत्पादन किया था। ओएनजीसी के निदेशक (तटीय) पंकज कुमार ने कहा, हमने अगले दो-तीन साल में वसई और सुदूर (बीएंडएस) तेल एवं गैस क्षेत्रों में 103 कुओं को खोदने का लक्ष्य तय किया है। उन्होंने कहा, हमें उम्मीद है कि इससे 10 करोड़ से ज्यादा तेल और तेल समतुल्य गैस का उत्पादन बढ़ जाएगा। इस प्रक्रिया में दो अरब डॉलर से अधिक का निवेश होगा। ओएनजीसी देश में उत्पादित कुल तेल और गैस के दो-तिहाई का उत्पादन करता है। बढ़ा हुआ उत्पादन ऊर्जा जरूरतों के लिए देश की आयात पर निर्भरता कम कर देगा। भारत लगभग 85 प्रतिशत कच्चा तेल आयात करता है। इसे रिफाइनरियों में पेट्रोल और डीजल जैसे ईंधनों में बदला जाता है।



पेट्रोल-डीजल

राजनीश कपूर

लगनी चाहिए जीएसटी

साल

2014 के चुनाव अभियान में महंगाई कम करने की वकालत करने वाली भाजपा और उसके समर्थक इस बात पर बहुत जोर दे रहे थे कि यदि वे सत्ता में आते हैं, तो पेट्रोल-डीजल के दामों में भारी कमी की जाएगी। वोटों को लुभाने के लिए यहां तक कह दिया गया था कि पेट्रोल का दाम 35 रुपये तक लावा जाएगा परंतु पिछले 9 सालों में पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम कम करने की दिशा में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा कोई ठोस कदम नहीं उठाया गया है। अलबत्ता, कुछ दिन पहले वित्त निर्मला सीतारमण ने पेट्रोल-डीजल को जीएसटी के दायरे में लाने की बात कह कर जनता की उम्मीद फिर जगा दी है। ऐसा होता है तो पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के दाम काफी कम हो जाएंगे और बढ़ती महंगाई पर इसका सीधा असर पड़ेगा।

दरअसल, कुछ दिनों पहले पीएचडी चैम्बर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री को संबोधित करते हुए वित्त मंत्री सीतारमण ने कहा कि पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों को जीएसटी के दायरे में लाने को लेकर प्रावधान पहले से उपलब्ध हैं। साथ ही, उन्होंने इसकी जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकारों पर डालते हुए कहा कि अगर राज्यों के बीच इस पर समझौता हो तो इस पर कदम उठाया जा सकता है। गौरतलब है कि पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों को जीएसटी के दायरे में लाने की मांग काफी समय से उठ रही है। 1 जुलाई, 2017 से भारत में अधिकतर चीजों पर जीएसटी लागू किया गया परंतु पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों को जीएसटी से बाहर रखा गया। इन पर अभी भी वैट, केंद्रीय विक्री कर और केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क जैसे पारंपरिक कर लगाए जाते हैं। इससे इनके दाम काफी ज्यादा हो जाते हैं। सोचने की बात है कि पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों को जीएसटी के दायरे में लाया जाता है, तो राज्य और केंद्र सरकार को इससे

होने वाले नुकसान की भरपाई कहां से की जाएगी? वर्तमान में पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की खुदरा कीमतों पर बड़ा हिस्सा केंद्र और राज्य करों का लगाया जाता है। जीएसटी का अधिकतम स्लैब भी इन उत्पादों पर लगाया जाए तो भी इनके दाम काफी गिर जाएंगे। केंद्र सरकार के अनुसार पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का दाम अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार के दामों पर निर्भर करता है लेकिन अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल के दाम लगातार गिरने पर भी देश की जनता को इसका लाभ नहीं पहुंचाया गया। आंकड़ों के अनुसार जून, 2022 में कच्चे तेल का दाम 116 डॉलर प्रति बैरल था। दिसम्बर, 2022 में यह 78 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच गया था परंतु कच्चे तेल के दाम



35 से 40 प्रतिशत कम होने के बावजूद इनका लाभ जनता को नहीं मिला।

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की इकोनॉमिक रिसर्च रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, पेट्रोल-डीजल को जीएसटी के दायरे में लाया जाता है तो सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान महाराष्ट्र को हो सकता है। महाराष्ट्र के राजस्व में 10,424 करोड़ रुपये की कमी आ सकती है। राजस्थान को 6388 करोड़ और मध्य प्रदेश को 5489 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा हो सकता है। यदि पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के जीएसटी के दायरे में आने पर फायदे की बात करें तो उत्तर प्रदेश को 2,419 करोड़, हरियाणा को 1,832

करोड़, पश्चिम बंगाल को 1,746 करोड़ और बिहार को 672 करोड़ रुपये का फायदा हो सकता है। पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर केंद्र सरकार को एक्साइज इयूटी से होने वाली कमाई की बात करें तो 2014 के बाद से इसमें कई गुना इजाफा हुआ है। शायद यही वजह है कि केंद्र और राज्य सरकारें अपनी कमाई के इस स्रोत में कोई बदलाव करना नहीं चाहेंगी। जिन राज्यों में भाजपा की सरकार नहीं है, वहां भी पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों को जीएसटी में न लाने का कारण कोई समझ नहीं पाया है। हाल में आटे और दूध-दही जैसी बुनियादी वस्तुओं को जीएसटी के दायरे में लाने पर विपक्षी दलों की राज्य सरकारों ने पुरजोर विरोध किया था लेकिन केंद्र सरकार ने अमसुना कर दिया।

पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद, शराब और तंबाकू उत्पादों पर लगने वाले विभिन्न करों और एक्साइज इयूटी से होने वाली कमाई से ही राज्य सरकारों का खजाना खाली होने से बच रहा है। ऐसे में टैक्स के पैसे से क्रियान्वित की जाने वाली विकास योजनाओं और जनता को मुफ्त में सुविधाओं जैसे मुफ्त राशन पर भी असर पड़ सकता है। चुनावी मौसम में किसी भी राजनैतिक दल द्वारा वोटों को लुभाने के लिए ऐसे अलग-अलग शगुफे छोड़े जाते हैं। यदि सरकारी खजाने में इन शगुफों की भरपाई के लिए धन ही नहीं होगा तो ऐसे शगुफों को छोड़ने का आधार ही नहीं बचेगा। इसलिए पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों को जीएसटी के दायरे में लाने का निर्णय वर्षों से लटका हुआ है। न तो केंद्र सरकार और न ही कोई भी राज्य सरकार इसे जीएसटी के दायरे में लेने की इच्छुक दिखाई देती है। चुनावों से पहले एक्साइज इयूटी और करों में मामूली सी गिरावट कर जनता को आंशिक लाभ जरूर दिया जाता है। परंतु बढ़ती महंगाई के चलते यदि पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों जैसी बुनियादी जरूरत वाली वस्तुओं को सस्ता किया जाए तो जनता पर इसका अच्छा असर पड़ेगा क्योंकि फिर महंगाई भी तेजी से कम हो सकेगी। देखना यह है कि केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों की रसावली में जनता को लाभ मिलेगा भी या कि नहीं?