

MGL to Expand into CBG, LNG & EV Segments

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Mumbai: In a bid to diversify its portfolio, state-run city gas distributor (CGD) Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) is planning to expand into business areas other than city gas distribution (CGD), a senior executive said.

The company is planning to enter the compressed biogas (CBG) segment, the electric vehicles market, equipment manufacturing for CGD companies and retailing LNG as fuel for long-haul transportation.

"We have some cash on our balance sheet and we would like to expand our portfolio in terms of seeing how we can make its best use," said Ashu Shinghal, managing director, MGL. "Our net worth is around ₹4,000 crore. We are a zero-debt company, so we can also take a loan in case required," added Shinghal.

Last month, MGL acquired 100 percent shareholding of Unison Enviro Pvt. Ltd. (UEPL) for ₹531 crore to enter new geographical areas for pursuing inorganic growth opportunities. MGL said Unison Enviro would become a subsidiary and would be rebranded.

PROPOSED GREEN PORTS POLICY

Truckers may Get Clean Energy Sops

Aim is to lower carbon emission by 30% by '30

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New Delhi: India is likely to offer incentives to fleet owners for adoption of CNG, LNG, electric or green hydrogen-powered trucks as part of the proposed green ports policy. The move is aimed at reducing the intensity of emissions at major ports, a senior government official told **ET**.

India currently has 12 major ports that handle around half of the count-

ry's total cargo movement. Each major port has been asked to establish at least one LNG bunkering station by 2030 and have an adequate number of EV charging stations in port campuses or nearby by 2025.

Major ports come under the administrative control of the shipping ministry, while the remaining ports (called non-major) come under the state governments and their maritime boards.

"Key interventions include prompting use of renewable energy, reducing air emissions, optimising water usage, improving solid waste management and lowering carbon emission per tonne of cargo handled by 30% by 2030, and 70% by 2047," the official quoted above said.

Ports will also be required to increase the green cover to capture the fugitive emissions and attenuate the noise generated in the port surroundings. This will be done by carrying out effective plantations and developing landscapes with a goal to increase green belt by over 20% by 2030 and by 33% by 2047.

They will have to make efforts to achieve the target for electrification of vehicles and ports equipment. Port equipment sea electrification levels need to reach 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2047. It has been stated that green ammonia bunkers and refuelling facilities shall be established at all major ports by 2035.

Going Green

Green ports policy to ensure sustainability in port ops

Minimising waste discharge, and harmful emissions



Big goals for each major port

Reduce carbon intensity by **70%** by 2047

Set up LNG, green ammonia bunkering



20% increase in green belt by 2030

Amid refinery stir, Maha industries min meets Pawar

Prafulla Marpakwar & Priyanka Kakodkar | TNN

Mumbai: A day after local protests flared up against the proposed refinery project in Ratnagiri's Barsu village, industries minister Uday Samant met NCP chief Sharad Pawar and later announced that the district administration would hold a meeting with the villagers to clear misunderstandings about the project.

The meeting comes a day after Pawar spoke to Samant on the phone. "I responded to his queries and assured him that the administration is keen on convincing the villagers," said Samant. Chief minister Eknath Shinde had also spoken to Pawar, he said.

Samant said district authorities in Ratnagiri will hold a meeting with 300-350 villagers on Thursday and make a detailed presentation. "All the villagers are not opposed to the project. There are also those who support the project. We...want to convince the protesters," Samant said.



Pawar said discontentment appears to be brewing among the villagers and the government must take serious note of people's sentiments

Samant clarified that only soil testing was underway at the site and the result would determine whether the project would be located there. "No survey is being conducted. Soil testing is underway. Only after that can the company decide if the project can be located there. Things are at a very preliminary stage," he said. He said women who were part of the protest on Tuesday had been accompanied to their homes.

Meanwhile, Pawar said, "In my opinion, before un-

dertaking a major project, the administration must understand the views of the villagers. If they are against the project, then efforts should be made for a via-media."

Pawar said discontentment appears to be brewing among the villagers. The government must take serious note of people's sentiments, NCP chief said.

"If a new formula comes out, it will be a happy situation. If there is no solution, dialogue must be held with the agitating villagers. Take the local villagers into confidence for finding out a solution," Pawar said.

Pawar said the opposition has been pointing out that major industries have been shifting to other states, and that the Konkan region was being neglected.

"Under such circumstances, it is the responsibility of the government to understand the woes of local villagers. Efforts should be made to clear their misunderstandings and if there is a need, an alternate site should be found," Pawar said.

Curbs on Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders going to Ratnagiri refinery site

SNS & AGENCIES

RATNAGIRI, 26 APRIL

As hundreds of villagers continued their protest for the third day, the Maharashtra Police have banned the entry of several Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders to the proposed giant Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd, coming up with Arab help near Barsu, officials said here on Wednesday.

Notices have been served on various Sena (UBT) leaders, including MP Vinayak Raut and the party's district chief Vilas R. Chalke and others, asking them not to proceed to Barsu as a potential law and order situation could arise.

Ignoring the government's pleas Raut and others have decided to travel to Barsu and meet the agitation villagers today. Taking a tough stance, the Ratnagiri Police have extended the prohibitory orders in the RRPL site vicinity till May 31 in view of the drone survey and land drilling works taken up there.

The prohibitory orders are applicable within one km of Barsu, Panhale, Dhopeswar, Goval, Varchiwadi-Goval,



Khalchiwadi-Goval, and those flouting them shall be penalised, said the Police Inspector Vineet Chaudhary.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders have urged the ruling Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party government to exercise restraint, call off the soil survey and testing and allow the villagers their right to protest against the project in the lush coastal belt.

Congress's Nana Patole, Balasaheb Thorat, Atul Londhe, Nationalist Congress Party's Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Ajit Pawar, Jayant Patil, Sena (UBT)'s Leader of Opposition (Council) Ambadas Danve, Aditya Thackeray, Sanjay Raut, Vinayak Raut, Anil Parab, CPI (M) and other parties' leaders have strongly castigated the government

for trying to crush the villagers' protests.

However, BJP's Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said that irrespective of the protests, there's no going back and "the RRPL project will come up in the state at the proposed location".

Sena's Industry Minister has said that it was the MVA government headed by ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray which had suggested the Barsu location and accused the Opposition of playing political games.

Protests and a political slugfest again hit the planned Rs 300,000-crore RRPL megaproject - promoted by IOCL, HPCL and BPCL - coming up in Rajapur taluka with help of Saudi ARAMCO and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, and would be world's biggest single location refinery.

The RRPL project will be barely kms from the proposed world's largest Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant (JNPP) in Ratnagiri, which has also been mired in controversies, strong opposition and protests by the locals since over a decade.



Govt sticking to target of 5K CBG plants by '24-25

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 26 April

The launch of 200 small-scale compressed biogas (CBG) projects, state-led growth, and higher commercial sale rates, along with a host of separate policy measures, can still boost a key central scheme to push up CBG production in India, the government believes.

Top officials from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) recently told industry stakeholders at a meeting in Delhi that it will not scale back the target of setting up 5,000 commercial CBG plants by 2024-25 under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transport (SATAT) scheme.

Launched in 2018, SATAT aims at incentivising the production of CBG from various biomass sources. But the scheme has lagged behind targets, with the country only being able to establish 46 CBG plants so far. This may change soon, said officials. Officials told the Global Conference on CBG last week that



CBG sales have started from more than 100 retail outlets nationwide. The government will also discuss effective offtake guarantees on CBG and bio-manure, as well as low-cost financing, fiscal incentives, and a carbon accounting system, they said. States are also expected to take the lead in finalising projects from now on, they said.

Case in point, the Union Territory administration in Ladakh has unveiled plans for setting up 200 CBG plants and 300 community and cluster-based biogas plants.

Work in progress

Officials expressed hope that a large number of plants are set to go live soon, given that long-term commercial agreement for the procurement of CBG by oil and gas marketing companies.

MoPNG has issued policy guidelines for commingling of CBG with natural gas in city gas distribution (CGD) networks, while the Reserve Bank of India has included CBG projects under priority sector lending, they told *Business Standard*.

"We are working to facilitate the setting up of as many as 200 CBG

- Minimum procurement prices to be raised further
- Low-cost financing and other fiscal incentives being planned
- More letters of intent to be issued by OMCs for purchase
- RBI allows priority sector lending in the sector
- Excused from seeking green clearances by CPCB
- Commingling with CNG by city gas companies permitted

projects under the umbrella of the GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources dhan) scheme. An announcement will be made soon," an official said.

Launched in 2018, the GOBARDhan scheme aims at managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms into compost, biogas, and bio-compressed natural gas (CNG).

Also, the Central Pollution Control Board has included CBG plants under its 'white category' status, clubbing them with other industries which are practically

non-polluting, the official added. This excuses plants from seeking green clearances.

Commercial CBG procurement prices may also be raised soon, officials hinted. A primary request of the producer industry, minimum procurement prices for the gas were last raised in June 2022 to ₹54 per kilogram.

Slow, not steady

The government is refocusing its approach to the scheme, officials had told *Business Standard* in October 2022. Subsequently, in December, the parliamentary standing committee on piped natural gas noted that the scheme was "burdened by lack of clarity, procedural hurdles, and has not enthused investors and entrepreneurs to come forward to set up CBG plants".

The committee had also recommended that the petroleum ministry should set up a panel to review the letters of intent (LoIs) issued so far and also issue guidelines for fresh LoIs.

EXPLAINER

INDIA'S INTERESTS IN EQUITY OIL

The 'equity oil' issue got highlighted recently, after India faced the double whammy of spike in oil prices following the decision by Opec+ nations to cut production and Russia's Rosneft stating it will give dividends, not equity oil, to India. For India, which imports 87% of its oil needs, equity oil is key a energy-security tool. **Manish Gupta** takes a look



India's equity-oil investments

ONGC VIDEASH (OVL), the overseas arm of India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has the biggest stakes in foreign oil fields, particularly in Russia, Brazil and Mozambique. OVL has stakes in 33 oil and gas projects in 15 countries — Azerbaijan (two projects), Bangladesh (two), Brazil (two), Colombia (five), Iran (one), Iraq (one), Libya (one), Mozambique (one), Myanmar (six), Russia (three), South Sudan (two), Syria (two), UAE (one), Venezuela (two) and Vietnam (two).

The company, as per its website, adopts a balanced portfolio approach and maintains a combination of producing, discovered, exploration and pipeline assets. Other Indian companies like Oil India, BPCL and IOCL have also made investments in a few countries, including Sudan, the UK and Peru. These are both equity and debt investments.

What is equity oil?

EQUITY OIL is the share of oil production that an investor is entitled to receive based on their ownership stake in an oil field. If a company owns a 20% stake in an oil field which produces 100,000 barrels of oil per day, the company is entitled to receive 20,000 barrels of oil per day as its share of production.

It ensures availability and reduces uncertainty. Equity oil helps a country secure a reliable supply and partially protects it from geopolitical risks in terms of oil supply. Energy security is a major concern for India, and investing in oil assets abroad is a strategic move to ensure oil availability and support the country's economic growth. India started investing in oil assets abroad in the 1990s. Some of these earn dividends, while other investments are for equity oil.

35.9 MT
DOMESTIC CRUDE
OIL PRODUCTION
IN FY15

29.2 MT
DOMESTIC CRUDE
OIL PRODUCTION
IN FY23

\$146.6 bn
VALUE OF IMPORT
OF CRUDE OIL
IN FY23

87%
IMPORTED CRUDE IN
INDIAN BASKET IN FY23

Why India needs equity oil

WITH LIMITED DOMESTIC oil reserves and falling production, India is the world's third-largest oil importer, which makes it vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices and supply disruptions. Ironically, since 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted stakeholders to reduce import dependence, domestic crude oil production has fallen by about 19%— from 35.9 million tonne in FY15 to 29.2 million tonne in FY23.

Import dependence, instead of falling from 77% in 2015 to 67% by 2022 as Modi had wished, shot up to 87% in FY23. And, the import bill rose 30% to nearly \$147 billion in FY23. No new oil blocks were awarded in most part of the last decade. State-run ONGC, India's largest oil and gas producer, hasn't made any major recovery after the drying up of Bombay High as higher dividends constrain its cash reserves and capex.

How effective has equity-oil strategy been

THOUGH THE STRATEGY is sound, it is yet to prove beneficial for the Indian oil sector. Investments in equity oil do secure long-term crude oil supplies for the country and reduce India's dependence on the volatile international oil markets, at least for the amount of oil under agreement in equity

deals. However, considering the country's total requirement, these investments are quite low and are far from having any meaningful stabilising effect on India's energy security.

India's biggest equity-oil investor, OVL, gets six million barrels whereas the yearly requirement is about 235 million

tonne. Apart from the investments being small, there are other factors such as geopolitical risks, unstable oil prices, and operational challenges.

At times, India has been elbowed out by the Chinese in acquisition of these assets. A decade ago, India lost to China in Kazakhstan, on the giant Kashagan

oil-field—India was looking to buy a 8.4% stake from ConocoPhillips. Generally, these resource-rich hot spots have high geopolitical risks.

India's investments in Sudan and Venezuela have faced political instability and sanctions affecting the supply of oil. Now, the assets in Sudan and Russia are facing challenges.



SBI seeks oil data to avoid sanction risk

Given its large exposure to the US, SBI aims to avoid penalties

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NEW DELHI

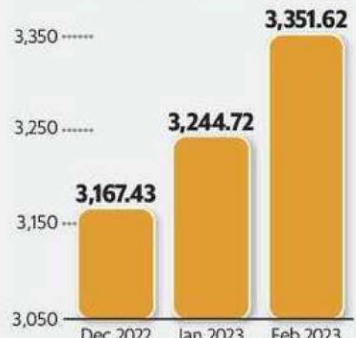
State Bank of India (SBI) is taking all measures to avoid violating US sanctions by inadvertently processing payments for Indian oil refiners that may have purchased Russian oil above the \$60 per barrel price cap set by a US-led coalition. To mitigate the risk, India's largest lender has requested data on purchasing prices from refiners such as Indian Oil Corp., Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd, and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd, two people familiar with the matter said.

Given its significant exposure to the US, SBI aims to avoid any penalties from the US treasury department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The ban on Russian crude oil came into effect on 5 December for maritime transportation, and 5 February for transportation of all petroleum products. "SBI has asked for a break-up that confirms that Indian refiners are buying oil below the \$60 per barrel price cap. They are doing it given the stringent sanctions under the OFAC of the US treasury department. The OFAC directive is agnos-

REFINER RISK

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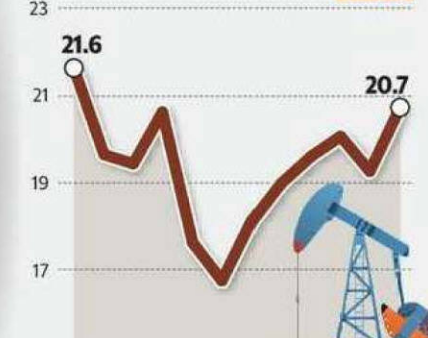
India's oil imports from Russia since price cap imposition (in \$ mn)



Month	Imports (in \$ mn)
Dec 2022	3,167.43
Jan 2023	3,244.72
Feb 2023	3,351.62

Note: Price cap was imposed in December
Source: Ministry of commerce and industry

India's oil imports in FY23 (million tonnes)



Month	Imports (million tonnes)
April 2022	21.6
Mar 2023	20.7

Sources: Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell

GROWING APPETITE

THE development comes amid surging India-Russia trade

RUSSIAN crude has helped India meet its growing fuel demand

INDIA will buy even if prices cross price cap, the FM said recently

SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA/MINT

tic about the currency in which the payments are made, including United Arab Emirates dirhams. As of now, there is no problem," said a government official, one of the two people cited above requesting anonymity.
The development comes amid surging India-Russia trade, which

reached a record \$45 billion in the 11 months till February 2023, with Indian imports of Russian oil alone accounting for \$27 billion, making Russia the second-largest oil supplier to India after Iraq.
"We have been buying crude oil

TURN TO PAGE 6

SBI seeks Russian oil data to mitigate US sanctions risk

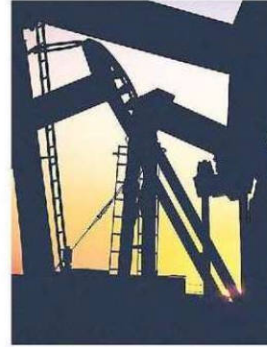
FROM PAGE 1

below the price cap. We don't have any problem with the term contracts that we have. In addition, we are also buying a lot of Russian oil in the spot market," the government official said, requesting anonymity. In the backdrop of finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's recent statement that India could buy Russian oil even if prices neared or crossed the \$60 per barrel cap, a senior executive at an Indian state-run refiner confirmed that the price cap had not been breached, and payments for Russian crude oil have been proceeding.

Russia has emerged as a significant supplier to India, the world's third-largest oil importer, as it offers discounted oil amid the Ukraine conflict. With India reliant on imports for 87% of its oil needs and 55% of its natural gas requirements, Russian oil has helped the country meet its growing demand for petroleum products. "The price cap has not been breached, and payments for Russian crude oil have been taking place. Had that been the case, the payments would have stopped," said a senior executive at an Indian state-run refiner, requesting anonymity.

Russian oil has helped India meet its growing demand for fuel, with 222 million tonnes of petroleum products consumed in FY23, a 10.2% increase from a year earlier. India's imports of oil and petroleum products rose 30% to \$209.6 billion in FY23,

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MINT

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Queries sent to spokespeople for SBI, Indian Oil Corp., Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corp., Nayara Energy Ltd, Reliance Industries Ltd and India's petroleum and natural gas ministry went unanswered at the time of writing. India, a crucial Asian refining hub,

boasts an installed capacity of over 249.36 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) across 23 refineries and plans to increase this to 400 mtpa by 2025. Major Indian refiners

include Indian Oil Corp., Bharat Petroleum Corp., Hindustan Petroleum Corp., Nayara Energy Ltd, and Reliance Industries Ltd.

The US-led sanctions, supported by G7 countries, the European Union, and Australia, seeks to cap Russian crude oil prices to restrict Russia's revenue and hinder its ability to finance the war in Ukraine.

SBI takes measures to avoid US sanctions on Indian oil refiners

India's largest lender has requested data on purchasing prices from refiners

Utpal Bhaskar

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market," the government official said, requesting anonymity. In the backdrop of finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's recent statement that India could buy Russian oil even if prices neared or crossed the \$60 per barrel cap, a senior executive at an Indian state-run refiner confirmed that the price cap had not been breached, and payments for Russian crude oil have been proceeding.

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Will talk to those opposing Ratnagiri project, says Maharashtra Minister after meeting Sharad Pawar

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A day after the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) demanded the suspension of soil survey work for the multi-billion dollar Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemical Limited at Barsu in Ratnagiri district following protests by villagers, Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Samant on Wednesday met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar in Mumbai and briefed him about the situation.

Mr. Pawar said while

they did not oppose any project that was expected to benefit the people of the Konkan region, one could not ignore the intensity of locals' opposition to a particular project.

"It is important to understand why the locals are opposing and a need on the part of authorities to have a dialogue with them. If their demands are legitimate, then there is a need to find an alternative site for the project," Mr. Pawar said after meeting Mr. Samant.

Villagers are protesting against the project and the



Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar addressing a press conference in Mumbai on Wednesday. ANI

MVA coalition is supporting them. Ratnagiri police have arrested 111 people, most of them women, during the protest. In February,

Marathi newspaper journalist Shashikant Warishe was mowed down by an SUV allegedly driven by land broker Pandharinath Amberkar, a supporter of the project, while the victim was extensively reporting on the issues related to the setting up of the unit.

When asked about the Shinde-Fadnavis government's claims that it was Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray who suggested Barsu as an alternative site for project instead of Nanar, when he was the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawar said he was not

aware of that.

Mr. Samant assured to hold dialogues with the locals on Thursday.

He also clarified that there was no survey being conducted at Barsu, and only soil testing was being conducted to know if the project could come up there.

"This is a very preliminary stage. The government will speak to the villagers. We are in favour of having dialogue," he said.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) has decided to launch an agitation against the proposed project.

सीतारमण ने ईंधन और प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम में कमी लाने के प्रयासों का भी जिक्र किया आपूर्ति से जुड़ी मौसमी समस्याओं से बढ़ी महंगाई, सरकार की स्थिति पर लगातार नजर: सीतारमण

एजेंसी ■ कलबुर्गी

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने बुधवार को कहा कि आपूर्ति से जुड़ी मौसमी समस्याओं के कारण महंगाई बढ़ी है और जरूरी सामान की कीमतों में नमी लाने के प्रयासों के साथ उसपर लगातार नजर रखी जा रही है। सीतारमण ने ईंधन और प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम में कमी लाने के प्रयासों का भी जिक्र किया। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में इनका आयात किया जाता है और कोविड तथा रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध के कारण वैश्विक बाजारों में ईंधन के दाम ऊंचे हैं। उन्होंने यहां संवाददाता सम्मेलन में कहा, प्रधानमंत्री ने नवंबर, 2021 में स्वयं ईंधन पर लगने वाले उत्पाद शुल्क में कटौती का निर्देश हमें दिया था। इसके कारण दीपावली के दौरान इस बारे में घोषणा



की गई। उसके बाद जून, 2022 में फिर हमने उत्पाद शुल्क में कटौती की। इन सब कारणों से ईंधन के दाम में कुछ हद तक नमी आई। महंगाई और उसे नीचे लाने के उपायों के बारे में पूछे गए सवालों के जवाब में वित्त मंत्री ने कहा, लेकिन जब हम ईंधन या प्राकृतिक गैस के बारे में बात करते

हैं, हमें एक चीज समझने की जरूरत है। इन उत्पादों का आयात किया जाता है और खासकर कोविड महामारी तथा उसके बाद रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध से कीमतें तेज हुई हैं और इसके बावजूद आयात जारी है। केंद्र के स्तर पर हमने इसके दाम में कमी लाने के लिए उत्पाद शुल्क में कटौती की है। उन्होंने कहा

कि मंत्रियों का समूह जरूरी सामान और उनकी कीमतों पर नजर रखता है। परिस्थिति के अनुसार अतिरिक्त स्टॉक जारी किया गया। जब चावल के दाम में तेजी आई, हमने बफर स्टॉक से चावल जारी किया। सीतारमण ने कहा, केंद्र सरकार कीमतों को नीचे लाने के लिए लगातार कदम उठा रही है। यही कारण है कि उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक आधारित मुद्रास्फीति छह प्रतिशत से घटकर 5.8 प्रतिशत पर आई है। मौसमी स्तर पर आपूर्ति संबंधी समस्याओं के कारण महंगाई बढ़ी है, जिसपर लगातार नजर रखी जा रही है तथा उसे नीचे लाने के उपाय किए जा रहे हैं। उन्होंने पार्टी की आलोचना को लेकर कांग्रेस तथा उसके नेता सिद्धरमैया पर फलटवार भी किया। सिद्धरमैया ने भाजपा और केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह पर उनके

इस बयान के लिए निशाना साधा था कि 10 मई का विधानसभा चुनाव कर्नाटक का भविष्य नरेंद्र मोदी के हाथों में सौंपने को लेकर है। उन्होंने पूछा था कि क्या सत्तारूढ़ दल इतना दिवालिया है कि राज्य में उसे ऐसा कोई कन्नड़ नेता नहीं दिखता, जो राज्य के भविष्य को देख सके। इस पर फलटवार करते हुए सीतारमण ने कहा, देश के प्रधानमंत्री के हाथों में राज्य सौंपे जाने में क्या गलत है? उस प्रधानमंत्री को जो पूरे देश को साथ लेकर चल रहा है और यहां तक कि जिलों के विकास पर भी ध्यान दे रहा है... अगर ऐसे प्रधानमंत्री का नाम लिया जा रहा है, तो वे (कांग्रेस नेता) क्यों चिढ़ रहे हैं? उन्होंने कहा, वे शायद भूल गए हैं वही लोग हैं जो कहते थे कि सोनिया गांधी भारत के लिए सब कुछ है।

Activated

कोयला परतों से मिथेन निकालने की परियोजना में 2,000 करोड़ का और निवेश करेगी एस्सार

एजेंसी ■ कोलकाता

निजी क्षेत्र की तेल, गैस खोज और उत्पादन कंपनी एस्सार ऑयल एंड गैस एक्सप्लोरेशन एंड प्रोडक्शन लि. (ईओजीईपीएल) पश्चिम बंगाल के रानीगंज में कोयले की परतों में पाई जाने वाली मिथेन गैस (सीबीएम) परियोजना में अगले डेढ़ से दो साल में 2,000 करोड़ रुपए का और निवेश करेगी। कंपनी इससे पहले रानीगंज ब्लॉक में 5,000 करोड़ रुपए का निवेश कर चुकी है। इसके तहत कंपनी ने 350 कुओं की खुदाई की और वह प्रतिदिन नौ लाख घन मीटर गैस का उत्पादन कर रही है। ईओजीईपीएल के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) पंकज कालरा



ने कहा कि 200 और कुओं की खुदाई के लिए अगले डेढ़ से दो साल में 2,000 करोड़ रुपए का अतिरिक्त निवेश किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा, हम मौजूदा कुओं से उत्पादन नौ लाख घन मीटर प्रतिदिन से 13 लाख घन मीटर प्रतिदिन करने के लिए अत्याधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग कर रहे हैं। इसके अगले कुछ महीनों में परा हो जाने की उम्मीद है। कालरा

ने कहा कि अतिरिक्त कुओं से उत्पादन शुरू होने के साथ रानीगंज से कोयला परतों से मिथेन उत्पादन तीन लाख घन मीटर प्रतिदिन पर पहुंचने का अनुमान है। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में कोयला खदानों से उत्पादित मिथेन में कंपनी की हिस्सेदारी फिलहाल 35 प्रतिशत है। अतिरिक्त कुओं की खुदाई से हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 90 प्रतिशत तक हो जाने का अनुमान है।

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा स्रोतों के दोहन और विकास में सहयोग के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन हस्ताक्षरित

वीर अर्जुन संवाददाता

शिमला। मुख्यमंत्री ठाकुर सुखविंदर सिंह सुक्खू की उपस्थिति में आज यहां राज्य में नवीन एवं नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा स्रोतों (एनआरईएस) के दोहन और विकास में सहयोग की रूपरेखा स्थापित करने के लिए प्रदेश सरकार और ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड (ओआईएल) के बीच एक समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। निदेशक ऊर्जा हरिकेश मीणा ने राज्य सरकार की ओर से और निदेशक (संचालन) पंकज कुमार गोस्वामी ने कंपनी की ओर से समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

इस अवसर पर, मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि कंपनी द्वारा राज्य के विभिन्न जलाशयों में फ्लोटिंग (तैरते) सोलर पावर प्लांट स्थापित करने तथा ग्राउंड माउंटेड सौर ऊर्जा परियोजनाएं स्थापित करने की संभावनाएं तलाशी जाएंगी। उन्होंने कहा कि ओआईएल पायलट आधार पर ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन



मुख्यमंत्री ठाकुर सुखविंदर सिंह सुक्खू की उपस्थिति में प्रदेश सरकार और ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड के बीच एक समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर करते हुए।

और ग्रीन अमोनिया के उत्पादन के लिए एक संयंत्र भी स्थापित कर सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि हिमाचल में हरित ऊर्जा उत्पादन की अधिकता के साथ हरित हाइड्रोजन के उत्पादन के अपार अवसर विद्यमान हैं तथा सरकार ने इस क्षमता का दोहन करने के लिए अनेक कदम उठाए हैं।

उन्होंने कंपनी के अधिकारियों

को अगले सप्ताह विशेषज्ञों की एक टीम भेजकर इन परियोजनाओं को लागू करने के लिए स्थलों का निरीक्षण करने को कहा। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रस्तावित परियोजनाओं की प्रगति पर चर्चा के लिए 26 मई, 2023 को एक समीक्षा बैठक आयोजित की जाएगी। उन्होंने कंपनी से यह परियोजनाएं स्थापित करने में अनावश्यक देरी से बचने को कहा।

मौसमी समस्याओं से बढ़ रही महंगाई: सीतारमण

असर

कलबुर्गी (कनार्टक) एजेंसी। केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने बुधवार को कहा कि आपूर्ति से जुड़ी मौसमी समस्याओं के कारण महंगाई बढ़ी है और जरूरी सामान की कीमतों में नरमी लाने के प्रयासों के साथ उस पर लगातार नजर रखी जा रही है।

सीतारमण ने ईंधन और प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम में कमी लाने के प्रयासों का भी जिक्र किया। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में इनका आयात किया जाता है और कोविड तथा रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध के कारण वैश्विक बाजारों में ईंधन के दाम ऊंचे हैं।

उन्होंने कहा, प्रधानमंत्री ने नवंबर, 2021 में स्वयं ईंधन पर लगने वाले उत्पाद शुल्क में कटौती का निर्देश हमें दिया था। इसके कारण दीपावली के दौरान इस बारे में घोषणा की गई। उसके बाद जून, 2022 में फिर हमने उत्पाद शुल्क में कटौती की। इन सब कारणों से ईंधन के दाम में कुछ हद तक नरमी आई। महंगाई और उसे नीचे लाने के



■ वित्तमंत्री ने कहा, कीमतों में नरमी लाने के प्रयासों के साथ लगातार नजर रखी जा रही

उपायों के बारे में पूछे गए सवालों के जवाब में वित्त मंत्री ने कहा, लेकिन जब हम ईंधन या प्राकृतिक गैस के बारे में बात करते हैं, हमें एक चीज समझने की जरूरत है। इन उत्पादों का आयात किया जाता है और खासकर कोविड महामारी तथा उसके बाद रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध से कीमतें तेज हुई हैं और इसके बावजूद आयात जारी है। केंद्र के स्तर पर हमने इसके दाम में कमी लाने के लिये उत्पाद शुल्क में कटौती की है।

उन्होंने कहा कि मंत्रियों का समूह जरूरी सामान और उनकी कीमतों पर नजर रखता है।

सरकार रिफाइनरी का विरोध करने वालों से बात करे : शरद पवार

मुंबई, (भाषा)। राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (राकांपा) के अध्यक्ष शरद पवार ने बुधवार को कहा कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार को तटीय रत्नागिरी जिले में रिफाइनरी परियोजना का विरोध कर रहे स्थानीय ग्रामीणों से बात करनी चाहिए।

उन्होंने कहा कि अगर इसके बाद भी मुद्दा नहीं सुलझता है तो वैकल्पिक स्थान का पता लगाया जाना चाहिए। इस मुद्दे पर चर्चा के लिए राज्य के उद्योग मंत्री उदय सामंत के उनसे मुलाकात करने के बाद पवार ने पत्रकारों से बात की। मुंबई से करीब 400 किलोमीटर दूर रत्नागिरी जिले की राजापुर तहसील में बारसू गांव के निवासी परियोजना का विरोध कर रहे हैं और महा विकास आघाड़ी (एमवीए) गठबंधन में राकांपा की सहयोगी शिवसेना (यूबीटी) तथा कांग्रेस उनका समर्थन कर रही है।

पवार ने कहा कि उनकी पार्टी ने कौंकण में विकास परियोजनाओं का विरोध नहीं किया लेकिन स्थानीय लोगों के विचार जानना बेहद जरूरी है। पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा, सरकार को



मुंबई में पत्रकारों से बातचीत करते हुए राकांपा के अध्यक्ष शरद पवार। (एएनआई)

यह पता लगाने की जरूरत है कि स्थानीय लोग नाराज क्यों हैं... उनसे बातचीत करना ही एकमात्र समाधान है। यदि बातचीत के माध्यम से मामला हल नहीं होता है, तो एक वैकल्पिक

स्थान ढूंढना चाहिए। राज्य सरकार ने तर्क दिया है कि उद्धव ठाकरे जब मुख्यमंत्री थे तो उन्होंने मूल स्थल नाणार के बजाय बारसू को विकल्प के रूप में सुझाया था।

इस पर पवार ने कहा कि उन्हें इसकी जानकारी नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा, मुझसे मिलने वाले उद्योग मंत्री उदय सामंत ने आश्वासन दिया कि कल बातचीत होगी। कल परियोजना स्थल पर केवल मिट्टी की जांच की जा रही थी। पवार ने कहा कि राकांपा नेता घटनास्थल का दौरा करेंगे और स्थानीय लोगों से बात करेंगे। रत्नागिरी जिले के संरक्षक मंत्री सामंत ने संवाददाताओं से कहा कि परियोजना स्थल पर हिरासत में ली गई महिला प्रदर्शनकारियों को रिहा कर दिया गया है। उन्होंने कहा, सरकार ग्रामीणों से बात करेगी। इस बीच पवार ने संवाददाताओं से कहा कि वह शिरोमणि अकाली दल के नेता प्रकाश सिंह बादल के अंतिम संस्कार के लिए बृहस्पतिवार को पंजाब जाएंगे।