ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 7.7.2025
Page No. 7, Size:(16.25)cms X (12.00)cms.

FACILITY SLATED FOR COMMISSIONING BY FY28

Adani to Take on Reliance with Petchem Foray, Plans Mega PVC Plant at Mundra

Project likely to include manufacturing of PVC, chlor-alkali, calcium carbide and acetylene

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Gautam Adani's conglomerate will build a 1 million tonne a year PVC plant at Mundra in Gujarat, marking its foray into the petrochemicals sector where Reliance Industries is the main player, sources said.

PVC, or Polyvinyl Chloride, is a synthetic plastic polymer that is widely used to make an array of products - from pipes and fittings to window and door frames, cable insulation, vinyl flooring and wall coverings, credit cards and toys. India's annual PVC demand is about 4 million tonnes, while domestic production capacity stands around 1.59 million tonnes, half of which is with Reliance. PVC demand is projected to grow at a CAGR of 8-10%, driven by sectors such as agriculture as land under irrigation increases, infrastructure aided by water supply and sanitation, housing and pharmaceutical and packaging segments.

Adani Group's flagship Adani Enterprises is setting up a petrochemical cluster in Mundra. Within this cluster, it is constructing a PVC manufacturing plant with a capacity of 1 million tonnes per annum, two sources aware of the matter said. The facility is slated for commissioning by fiscal 2028 (April 2027 to March 2028).

The PVC Project is expected to include capabilities for manufacturing PVC, chlor-alkali, calcium carbide and acetylene units.

Adani group is looking to implement the Acetylene and Carbide-based PVC production process, with environment clearance and consent to establish the project, having already been received, sources said.

Given the current higher demand and lower supply of PVC in India, the Adani project will help reduce the supply gap and import dependency.

The project will pit the group against Reliance, which is currently India's largest PVC producer, with an estimated capacity of around 7,50,000 tonnes per annum.

Reliance has PVC plants at Hazira, Dahej and Vadodara in Gujarat. It is looking to double its capacity by 2027.

Adani's group and Mukesh Ambani's Reliance had for long moved in non-overlapping orbits, but first clean energy and now petrochemicals would be sectors where they could be competing against each other.

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 7.7.2025
Page No. 11, Size:(35.56)cms X (23.43)cms.

HYDROCARBON DEEPWATER EXPLORATION AUCTIONS

ONGC may tie up with Petrobras, BP, RIL

SHINE JACOB & SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
Chennai/New Delhi, 6 July

India's largest-ever hydrocarbon exploration bidding round, offering 191,986.21 square kilometres under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) Round X, may see renewed interest from global oil and gas majors in the country's exploration and production (E&P) sector.

According to multiple sources close to the development, state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is already in talks with Brazil's Petrobras and London-headquartered BP Plc, in addition to domestic major Reliance Industries (RIL), to jointly bid for the round.

The closing date for bid submission is July 31, according to the hydrocarbon regulator Directorate General of Hydrocarbons. Sources indicate that ONGC, which accounts for 70 per cent of India's domestic crude oil and natural gas production, is expected to show interest in all 25 blocks on offer during the round, while partners may be brought on board for exploration in deep and ultra-deep acreages. Official queries mailed to RIL, ONGC, BP, and Petrobras did not elicit a response.

"ONGC is keen on all 25 blocks on offer under OALP X — some alone and some with partners. Partners are being brought in because these are difficult areas and require a huge amount of money. We are engaging in talks with almost every company, including Petrobras, BP, and RIL," said a source aware of the development.

ILLUSTRATION: AJAYA MOHANTY

Betting big

- ONGC keen to bid for all 25 blocks
- Closing date for bidding is July 31
- 191,986.21 sq. km. under OALP Round X being offered
- Partners may be brought to explore deep, ultra-deep acreages
- Govt has been keen on drawing foreign entities into E&P space

In OALP IX, of the 28 hydrocarbon blocks on offer earlier this year, ONGC secured 15 — four in partnership with other players and 11 independently. Of those, GS-OSHP-2022/2 in the Saurashtra Basin was a joint bid by ONGC (40 per cent participating interest), RIL (30 per cent), and BP Plc (30 per cent). That was the only time the three majors collaborated.

ONGC has also had an association with Petróleo Brasileiro SA, or Petrobras, in the past.

Interestingly, although Petrobras had a 15 per cent stake in KG-DWN-98/2 operated by ONGC, the Brazilian major relinquished it in early 2010 to focus on oil and gas finds back home. In April this year, Brazil's state-run oil firm's head of E&P, Sylvia Anjos, confirmed that it had already collected data to assess the potential of offshore areas in deep and ultra-deep waters in India for the upcoming round. In February, Petrobras signed a memorandum of understanding with both ONGC and Oil India Corporation for possible collaborations in India — including in upstream, marketing, decarbonisation, and low-carbon solutions.

"The company has teamed up with an international partner and a private sector entity earlier as well. There is no problem with that. We appreciate foreign entities coming into the E&P space in India," a petroleum ministry official said, referring to state-run national oil and gas company ONGC.

The government has been keen on drawing foreign entities into the E&P space for the past few years. However, a glut in global oil supply, combined with weak industrial demand in key markets, has dampened exploratory spirits, another executive pointed out.

"It's also no secret that foreign companies often opt for a local partner to navigate the Indian market. ONGC's tieups are just the latest reflection of that," he said.

In a first-of-its-kind move, BP was appointed by a public sector player to boost production in January, when ONGC brought the oil major on board to help ramp up output at the Mumbai High offshore oil field. The following month, both signed a three-year memorandum of understanding to explore collaboration in oil and gas exploration, production, trading, and new energy vectors, both in India and internationally.

One of the world's six largest 'supermajors', BP already has a major partnership with RIL, operating 1,900 fuel retail stations across India and producing oil and gas from a deepwater block in the Krishna-Godavari Basin.

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 7.7.2025
Page No. 6, Size:(9.02)cms X (20.41)cms.

Spigots to Open Wider, Buyer Bargains Ahead

India's demand gives it leverage with OPEC+

Eight oil-producing nations in the Opec+ alliance agreed last week to increase their collective crude output by 548,000 barrels per day, citing improving global economic fundamentals and low stockpiles worldwide. But other factors are also shaping this strategy. Opec+, which includes Russia, has been struggling to enforce output quotas among its members. The group, responsible for half the world's oil supply, is also looking to protect its market share as alternative sources ramp. Meanwhile, the US has been pressuring Saudi Arabia and other Opec members to boost production to rein in domestic inflation. With the Israel-Iran conflict now de-escalating, the market's focus is shifting back to longer-term concerns—namely, a demand slowdown driven by trade fragmentation and the global energy transition.

This is certainly good news for oil-importing economies like India that are growing fast and have an all-sources approach to energy. Global conflict has forced India to source crude further afield from traditional suppliers in the Persian Gulf. The share of Russian oil in the Indian import basket rose after the Ukraine war, and supply from the US and Africa increased during the Israel-Iran hostilities. Opec will be seeking to regain customers like India once geopolitical uncertainty abates. That could require some effort, as buyers may be reluctant to dial back on diversification.

The pace of India's energy transition allows it to secure better terms in a weakening sellers' market. Opec+ control is limited by the supply of US shale oil that enters the market above a certain price and physical limits to allow its oil wells to idle. China's progress towards alternative energy sources makes India a contender to drive oil consumption growth. India can now articulate its needs to oil-producing nations and expect a sympathetic response. Stable sources of supply work in its favour of creating the necessary energy transport infra. Refining capacity creates scope for India to play a bigger role in the maritime oil trade.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 7.7.2025
Page No. 4, Size:(5.36)cms X (15.90)cms.

Truck makers go multi-fuel in shift away from diesel

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, July 6

WITH THE GOVERNMENT focused on slashing logistics costs as a percentage of GDP by the end of this year, commercial vehicle manufacturers are racing to diversify away from diesel and adopt cleaner, cost-effective alternatives. Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari, has already stressed the need for widespread adoption of electric, hydrogen and LNG-powered vehicles to align the country's freight movement with global standards.

Commercial vehicle (CV) makers, who have long relied on diesel and more recently CNG, are now exploring a mix of powertrains to meet the evolving needs of both the market and policymakers. With no single technology able to meet all demands, companies are developing multi-pronged strategies.

Tata Motors, the country's largest CV manufacturer, is at the forefront of this shift. The company has created a diverse portfolio that includes battery-electric vehicles, LNG, CNG, hydrogen and flex-fuel technologies tailored for different uses and duty cycles. "Hydrogen fuel cell technology is viewed as the destination for zero-emission, long-haul mobility. The transition to this will be progressive, with battery electric, LNG, and CNG technologies co-existing and continuing to play a critical role in meeting a wide range of operational needs," a Tata Motors spokesperson told *FE*.

The company is currently piloting hydrogen-powered trucks on major freight corridors such as Mumbai-Pune and Ahmedabad-Rajkot. These include a 55-tonne and a 28-tonne model from its Prima range. Tata Motors is also operating an electric version of its 55-tonne Prima truck in the steel and cement sectors. This vehicle features a 450kWh battery with a range of 330 km and is capable of dual-gun charging. A lighter electric model, the Prima E.28K tipper, is being used for mining and infrastructure work on fixed routes.

Although hydrogen-powered commercial vehicles are not yet available in the open market due to infrastructure constraints, primarily the unavailability of hydrogen fuel, some transporters have already begun transitioning to electric options. In October 2024, BLR Logistiks and Ikea Supply, part of the Inter Ikea Group, introduced the country's first electric heavy-duty truck. After 100 trips by April, Ikea reported a 16% reduction in costs as a result of the switch.

IN SYNC WITH TIMES

■ CV makers, who have long relied on diesel and more recently CNG, are now exploring a mix of powertrains to meet the evolving needs

■ With no single technology able to meet all demands, companies are developing multi-pronged strategies

■ Union minister Nitin Gadkari has already stressed the need for widespread adoption of electric, LNG-powered vehicles to align with global standards

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World's biggest polluter is cleaning up its act

START STEERING AROUND an oil tanker, and you'll find it slow, almost imperceptible work. When such a vast vessel begins to shift, however, the momentum is almost unstoppable.

It's the same situation with the most important destination for the world's liquified natural gas (LNG) carriers, coal ships, and oil tankers over the past few decades: China. The biggest consumer of carbon, and the source of a third of annual greenhouse emissions, is finally turning a corner to a cleaner future. China's size is so overwhelming that when its fossil fuel consumption peaks, as it's doing now, it will shift the direction of the whole planet.

Take oil demand. The country's usage may have hit a ceiling already in 2023 before falling 1.2% last year, the Energy Institute wrote last week in its Statistical Review, a huge annual compendium of data on power markets. That's earlier than some other analysts have estimated, but not by much. The internal think tank of state-owned China National Petroleum Co. reckons the top will be this year.

Coal is facing a similar moment. Production of pig iron and cement, which used to consume about a quarter of China's total, is down around 18% since 2020. Demand for solid fuel has only grown because of an immense increase in electricity consumption over the past five years. Between 2019 and 2024, power from China's grid rose by nearly a third, equivalent to adding the generation of India, or Russia plus Japan. The country now consumes more electricity, per capita, than the European Union.

The headlong rollout of renewables is finally catching up with that. In December, the capacity of China's wind and solar plants overtook that of its fossil fuel generators for the first time. Peak power from the 1.08 terawatts of solar installed at the end of May would be equivalent to that provided by a thousand nuclear reactors.

DAVID FICKLING
Bloomberg

Coal production is still rising, but instead of getting consumed it's all being added to a vast stockpile as cheaper clean power is used instead. January to May sales by the biggest miner, China Shenhua Energy Co., fell 12.3% relative to the same period a year earlier, while generation by its own plants was down 10%. The electricity produced by all fossil fuels in the first five months of this year was 3.1% lower than the same period of 2024.

Much of this is the result of specific policies that have favoured electric vehicles, high-speed rail, and electricity-intensive manufacturing, causing oil consumption to slow more rapidly than expected while coal remained persistently high. But it's also a sign that the long story of the nation's development is reaching its endgame. China is now, to all intents and purposes, a high-income country, on the brink of overtaking the likes of European Union member Bulgaria in terms of economic output per person. That means the most energy-intensive phase of its growth is ending. So long as it keeps up the recent pace of renewables deployment there will be no more drivers left to keep emissions rising.

One pessimistic response to this is that China's emissions won't so much peak as hit an endless plateau. That's certainly possible — but it goes against what we've seen in other industrialised countries on the same path in recent decades. US pollution fell by 10% within five years of topping out in 2007, and is now about 22% below that level. Japan is down by about the same amount since peaking in 2008. South Korea has fallen 13% after hitting its maximum level in 2018.

At a time when the US Congress is trying to pass a law to subsidise fossil fuels and penalize clean energy, there's reason to be downbeat about the prospects of the world hitting net zero. But about two-thirds of the increase in global emissions since the year 2000 has come from China alone. The endless rise in its carbon footprint has been a major rhetorical justification for richer countries trying to slow down their own energy transitions.

The tide is finally going out on that vast wave of pollution. The world will remember 2025 as the moment it turned a corner.

PIONEER, Delhi, 7.7.2025
Page No. 7, Size:(35.11)cms X (30.93)cms.

Ethanol and Biofuel Revolution under PM Modi: India's Green Energy Leap

Ethanol is no longer just an alternative fuel—it is a symbol of India's commitment to sustainability, innovation and inclusive growth. As the world searches for practical climate solutions, India is offering a blueprint: a model where energy, ecology, and economy move forward together

FIRST Column

India's journey towards energy self-reliance has witnessed a transformative chapter under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A nation that was once heavily dependent on crude oil imports is now emerging as a global torchbearer in the biofuel revolution. Through a series of well-crafted policy reforms, strategic investments, and forward-looking initiatives, the Modi government has not only strengthened India's energy security but has also empowered rural communities, reduced foreign dependence, and elevated the country's position in the global clean energy map.

The Need for Ethanol and Biofuels

India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and the third-largest consumer of primary energy after the United States and China. With its share in global energy consumption expected to double by 2050, the country's rising demand poses significant challenges. Over 87 per cent of India's crude oil needs are imported, exposing the economy to volatile global prices and geopolitical uncertainties. Furthermore, the excessive use of fossil fuels leads to increased carbon emissions and environmental degradation, resulting in rising health concerns.

To secure its energy future, India needed a sustainable, indigenous alternative. Ethanol blending with petrol has emerged as a potent solution. Ethanol, derived primarily from sugarcane and other biomass sources, reduces carbon emissions, saves foreign exchange, and boosts rural income. While the practice of ethanol blending was first introduced in 2001 during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, it remained stagnant under successive UPA regimes. It was only after 2014 that the Narendra Modi-led government accelerated this initiative, transforming it into a national movement.

Bold Reforms and a Clear Roadmap

The Modi government's approach has been defined by clarity of vision, speed of implementation, and unwavering commitment to clean energy. The National Biofuel Policy was comprehensively amended in 2018 to include more feedstocks for ethanol production. It advanced the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol from 2030 to 2025 to align with India's vision of energy self-reliance.

This amended policy also aimed to promote the production of biofuels under the Make in India programme by including units located in Special Economic Zones and Export Oriented Units. It allowed for the controlled export of biofuels and introduced critical administrative reforms, such as restructuring the National Biofuel Coordination Committee to ensure dynamic implementation.

A detailed roadmap was formulated to guide ethanol blending. The government ensured favourable procurement pricing under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme. The Goods and Services Tax on ethanol for blending was reduced to five per cent, making it financially attractive for producers and consumers alike. Changes were also made to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, to facilitate the free Inter-State movement of ethanol, removing bureaucratic bottlenecks. A dedicated interest subvention scheme was introduced to expand ethanol production capacity by supporting the financial needs of distillers and entrepreneurs.

ASEERVATHAM ACHARY

From Targets to Tangible Results

The results of these initiatives have been outstanding. Ethanol blending increased from 188 crore litres in 2018-19 to more than 700 crore litres in 2023-24. The blending percentage rose from five per cent to approximately 14.6 per cent during the same period. The initial target was not only achieved ahead of schedule but was followed by an ambitious target of 20 per cent blending by 2025. As of January 2025, India has already achieved around 19 per cent blending and is on track to reach 20 per cent blending ahead of the October target date.

The implementation of the E20 programme is expected to save around 4 billion USD annually in crude oil imports. More importantly, this success has already led to a crude oil substitution of about 193 lakh metric tonnes and saved foreign exchange worth over Rs1.13 lakh crore in the last decade.

Strengthening the Rural Economy

One of the most transformative effects of the ethanol push has been on rural India. Farmers are now seeing ethanol production as a new income avenue. Crops such as sugarcane, maize, and agricultural residues are being utilised not just for food but also for fuel. The increased demand has led to massive investments in distilleries and agro-processing units, generating rural employment and reducing migration.

Between 2014 and 2024, Rs 87,558 crore has been disbursed to farmers, while distillers have been paid Rs 1.45 lakh crore. The "Pradhan Mantri - Jaiv Indhan - Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran Yojana", shortly called PM-JI-VAN Yojana, modified in August 2024 and extended till 2029, now includes advanced biofuels made from agricultural waste, forestry residues, Syngas, and algae. This has further strengthened the agro-economy and promoted the idea of a circular economy in rural areas.

Health and Environmental Benefits

The ethanol revolution is not just about economic gains; it is a step forward in improving public health and environmental sustainability. Vehicular emissions are a major contributor to urban air pollution, which causes respiratory diseases and impacts quality of life. By blending ethanol with petrol, India is significantly reducing carbon emissions and urban pollution. It is a proactive measure that addresses both climate change and public health concerns in India's rapidly growing cities.

The Biofuel Alliance

India's biofuel success has not gone unnoticed on the global stage. During its G20 presidency, India led the formation of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA). The Alliance now includes 28 countries and 12 international organisations. It aims to transform waste into wealth, foster international cooperation, and establish global standards for biofuel development. This is a monumental diplomatic and environmental achievement that underscores India's leadership in clean energy.

Achievements under PM Modi

The ethanol revolution is part of a broader, holistic green energy strategy spearheaded by Prime Minister Modi. India has increased its solar power capacity 32 times, becoming the third-largest solar power producer in the world. The country's clean energy capacity has grown from 76.38 GW in 2014 to 228.28 GW in 2025, making it the fourth-largest in the world. The Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan is now the world's largest solar park with a capacity of 2,245 MW.

Under the UJALA scheme, 36.87 crore LED bulbs have been distributed, resulting in energy savings and a major reduction in CO2 emissions. PM-KUSUM is solarising 49 lakh agricultural pumps, further strengthening India's commitment to clean agriculture.

The GOBARdhan scheme, launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission, is converting cattle dung and agricultural waste into biogas and organic manure. It is empowering gram panchayats and rural entrepreneurs while supporting environmental sustainability.

India has also made remarkable progress in conservation. The number of Ramsar sites has increased from 26 in 2014 to 85 in 2025. Thirteen beaches in India have received the prestigious Blue Flag certification. The village of Palli in Jammu and Kashmir has been declared India's first carbon-neutral panchayat. The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign led to the planting of over 142 crore trees, reflecting the Modi government's commitment to environmental stewardship.

A Vision Realised, A Future Secured

The ethanol revolution in India is a shining example of what determined leadership and clear vision can achieve. What began under Atal Bihari Vajpayee as a promising idea lay dormant for years until Prime Minister Narendra Modi reignited the mission with full force and national purpose. Today, ethanol is not just fuel; it is a symbol of self-reliance, rural empowerment, environmental commitment, and national pride.

The world is now looking at India not as a follower but as a leader in clean energy. With bold steps, structured policies, and unwavering determination, the Modi government has transformed India's energy story from vulnerability to strength, from dependence to innovation. This is New India, powered by the spirit of sustainability and led by a government that believes in delivering for today while securing for tomorrow.

(The writer is National Coordinator of Digital Library, Library & Documentation, BJP. View are personal)

STATESMAN, Delhi, 7.7.2025
Page No. 10, Size:(24.90)cms X (12.38)cms.

India has never seen shortage of fuels: Hardeep Singh Puri

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 6 JULY

Highlighting the government's achievements in the oil and gas sector, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday said that "whether it was the period of the global Covid pandemic or global conflict, there has never been a shortage of petroleum products in India".

"This has been possible due to the foresight of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he remarked.

He was referring to the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which peaked during the Israeli attack on Iran, during which shipping was disrupted and there were threats of closure of the Strait of Hormuz through which 20 per cent of the world's oil and gas exports are shipped out from the Gulf region.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have diversified our supplies in the past few years, and a large volume of our supplies do not come through the Strait of Hormuz now," the minister had stated earlier.

India imports around 85 per cent of its crude oil requirement, and a surge in oil prices leads to an increase in its oil import bill and pushes up the rate of inflation, which hurts economic growth.

However, it has diversified its oil sources by increasing imports from Russia as well as the US and building resilience through strategic reserves.

Highlighting the infrastructure milestones in the oil and gas sector, Puri said that the country now has 23 modern operational refineries with a total capacity of 257 million metric tonnes per annum to produce petroleum products.

The minister also highlighted the ministry's initiative in setting up storage facilities for strategic petroleum reserves, on which the country can fall back in times of emergency and which assume importance during times of geopolitical uncertainty.

The storage capacity includes 2.25 million metric tonnes (MMT) at Pudur, the Visakhapatnam facility has the capacity to store 1.33 MMT of crude oil, while Mangalore has a storage capacity of 1.5 MMT.

The Minister also underscored that India has achieved the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol ahead of schedule as part of the country's drive to push green fuels.

E20 ethanol-blended petrol is now being made available to fuel vehicles at all the retail outlets of the public sector companies - Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum - nationwide.

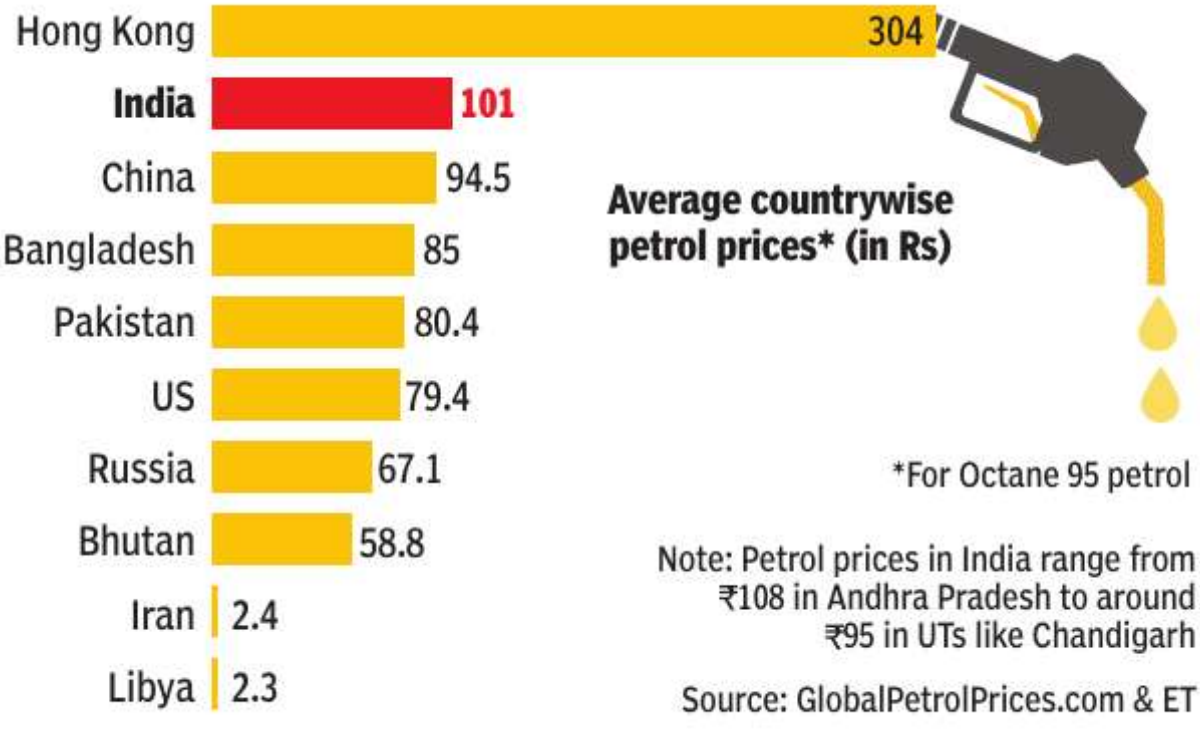
TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 7.7.2025
Page No. 8, Size:(8.60)cms X (8.64)cms.

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

By Doreen Bora

Indians Pay ₹21 More For 1L Of Petrol Than Americans

Indian customers pay more for petrol than their neighbours and over 40 times more than Iran. The difference in prices across countries is due to various taxes and subsidies



Note: Petrol prices in India range from ₹108 in Andhra Pradesh to around ₹95 in UTs like Chandigarh

Source: GlobalPetrolPrices.com & ET

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 7.7.2025
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Saudis hike oil prices for its customers in Asia by more than expected in a sign of confidence

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia raised prices for its main crude grade for buyers in Asia next month by more than its customers had been expecting, a sign Riyadh is confident the market is strong enough to withstand extra supplies that OPEC+ is adding.

State producer Aramco will raise the price for Arab Light crude, its flagship grade, by $1 a barrel to $2.20 a barrel more than the regional benchmark for Asian customers in August, according to a price sheet from the company seen by *Bloomberg*.

Three refinery officials in Asia expressed their surprise at the size of the increase. Aramco was expected to raise Arab Light by 65 cents a barrel, according to a survey of traders and refiners.

On Saturday, the Saudis led the OPEC+ group, which includes partners like Russia, in agreeing to raise production by 548,000 barrels a day in August, in part to take advantage of strong summer consumption. The increase, faster than traders and analysts foresaw, may contribute to a crude surplus later this year with Wall Street firms such as JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. anticipating that prices sink near $60 a barrel in the fourth quarter.

Aramco will raise price for Arab Light crude, its flagship grade, by $1 per barrel to $2.20 per barrel

The OPEC+ hike puts the group on pace to unwind the layer of voluntary output cuts by eight members by September, which is one year earlier than originally outlined. The countries had announced increases of 411,000 barrels for each of May, June and July — already three times faster than scheduled.

Oil spiked above $80 a barrel last month as Israel exchanged missile barrages with Iran in one of the most dramatic escalations of conflict in the Middle East in recent years. Markets had largely shrugged off prior geopolitical tensions linked to Israel's war in Gaza and attacks on Hezbollah as those conflicts failed to impede the flow of oil.

While a wider war involving Iran could put energy production and export infrastructure at risk, Brent crude fell back below $70 a barrel soon after US President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire between Tehran and Jerusalem and limited the US involvement in attacks.

Demand for crude and products has largely held up amid summer use with margins for refiners rising. Still, traders see the market softening later this year as consumption wanes and the OPEC+ increases contribute to a surplus of crude in storage.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies are set to bring back to market 2.2 million barrels a day overall this year once it unwinds the voluntary cuts. AGENCIES

BUSINESS STANDARD HINDI, Delhi, 7.7.2025
Page No. 4, Size:(36.45)cms X (26.13)cms.

तेल क्षेत्र में आएंगे वैश्विक दिग्गज

शाइन जैकब और शुभायन चक्रवर्ती
चेन्नई/नई दिल्ली, 6 जुलाई

भारत की अब तक की सबसे बड़ी हाइड्रोकार्बन अन्वेषण की बोली के दसवें दौर में ओपन एकरेज लाइसेंसिंग नीति (ओएएलपी) के तहत 1,91,986.31 वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र की पेशकश की जा रही है। इस दौर की बोली में देश के अन्वेषण एवं उत्पादन (ईऐंडपी) सेक्टर में वैश्विक तेल व गैस दिग्गजों की रुचि देखने को मिल सकती है।

इस मामले से जुड़े कई सूत्रों ने कहा कि सरकारी कंपनी तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) संयुक्त रूप से बोली लगाने के लिए पहले से ही घरेलू दिग्गज रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज (आरआईएल) के अलावा ब्राजील की पेट्रोब्रास और लंदन मुख्यालय वाली बीपी पीएलसी के साथ बातचीत कर रही है। हाइड्रोकार्बन नियामक हाइड्रोकार्बन महानिदेशालय के मुताबिक बोली दाखिल करने की अंतिम तिथि 31 जुलाई है। सूत्रों ने संकेत दिए कि भारत के घरेलू कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस उत्पादन में 70 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी वाली ओएनजीसी ने इस दौर के सभी 25 ब्लॉकों में रुचि दिखाई है। इसके अलावा साझेदारों को डीप और अट्रा-डीप एकरेज में अन्वेषण के लिए शामिल किया जा सकता है।

सबसे बड़ी बोली

- 1,91,986.31 वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र की पेशकश की जा रही है
- बोली दाखिल करने की अंतिम तिथि 31 जुलाई है
- ओएनजीसी संयुक्त रूप से बोली लगाने के लिए पहले से ही रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज के अलावा पेट्रोब्रास व बीपी पीएलसी से बातचीत कर रही है
- ओएनजीसी सभी 25 ब्लॉकों में दिलचस्पी ले रही है
- विदेशी कंपनियां भारत में आगे बढ़ने के लिए स्थानीय साझेदार चुनती हैं

इस सिलसिले में आरआईएल, ओएनजीसी, बीपी और पेट्रोब्रास को भेजे गए ई-मेल का कोई उचित जवाब नहीं मिला है।

इस मामले से जुड़े एक सूत्र ने कहा, 'ओएएलपी के दसवें दौर के तहत पेशकश में शामिल सभी 25 ब्लॉकों में ओएनजीसी दिलचस्पी ले रही है। कुछ में वह खुद और कुछ में साझेदारों के साथ रुचि दिखा रही है। इसके लिए साझेदार लाए जाएंगे क्योंकि कुछ इलाके कठिन हैं और इसके लिए भारी निवेश की जरूरत है। हम पेट्रोब्रास, बीपी और आरआईएल सहित करीब हर कंपनी के साथ बातचीत में लगे हैं।'

इस साल की शुरुआत में ओएएलपी के नवें दौर में 28 हाइड्रोकार्बन ब्लॉकों की पेशकश की गई थी। इसमें से ओएनजीसी को 15 ब्लॉक मिले, जिसमें 4 ब्लॉक अन्य कंपनियों के साथ पार्टनरशिप में हैं, जबकि 11 स्वतंत्र रूप से मिले हैं।

इनमें से सौराष्ट्र बेसिन में जीएस-ओएसएचपी-2022/2 के लिए ओएनजीसी (40 प्रतिशत पार्टिसिपेटिंग इंटरेस्ट), आरआईएल (30 प्रतिशत) और बीपी पीएलसी (30 प्रतिशत) ने संयुक्त रूप से बोली लगाई थी। यह एकमात्र ऐसा समय था जब तीनों प्रमुख कंपनियों ने सहयोग किया था।

ओएनजीसी की पहले पेट्रोलियो ब्रासीलीरो एसए या पेट्रोब्रास के साथ भी सहभागिता रही है।

दिलचस्प है कि पेट्रोब्रास के पास ओएनजीसी द्वारा संचालित केजी-डीएन-98/2 में 15 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी थी, लेकिन ब्राजील की इस प्रमुख कंपनी ने 2010 के आरंभ में इसे छोड़ दिया था, ताकि वह अपने देश में तेल और गैस अन्वेषण पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर सके।

इस साल अप्रैल में ब्राजील की सरकारी तेल फर्म के ईऐंडपी के प्रमुख सिल्विया अंजोस ने पुष्टि की कि आगामी दौर के लिए भारत में डीप और अल्ट्रा डीप अपतटीय इलाकों में संभावनाओं के आकलन के लिए आंकड़े एकत्र किए हैं।

भारत में संभावित साझेदारी के लिए पेट्रोब्रास ने ओएनजीसी और ऑयल इंडिया दोनों के साथ ही सहमति पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे, जिसमें अपस्ट्रीम, मार्केटिंग, डीकार्बनाइडेशन और लो कॉर्बन सॉल्यूशंस शामिल हैं।

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने ओएनजीसी का हवाला देते हुए कहा, 'कंपनी ने पहले भी एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय साझेदार और एक निजी क्षेत्र की इकाई के साथ मिलकर काम किया है। इसमें कोई समस्या नहीं है। हम भारत में ईऐंडपी क्षेत्र में आने वाली विदेशी संस्थाओं की सराहना करते हैं।'

सरकार पिछले कुछ वर्षों से ईऐंडपी क्षेत्र में विदेशी इकाइयों को लाने में रुचि दिखाती रही है। बहरहाल, एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि वैश्विक तेल आपूर्ति की अधिकता और प्रमुख बाजारों में कमजोर औद्योगिक मांग के कारण अन्वेषण संबंधी उत्साह कम हुआ है।

उन्होंने कहा, 'यह भी कोई रहस्य नहीं है कि विदेशी कंपनियां अक्सर भारतीय बाजार में आगे बढ़ने के लिए स्थानीय साझेदारों को चुनती हैं। ओएनजीसी के साथ गठजोड़ इसका उदाहरण है।'