

कुर्ला: गैस रिसाव से इमारत में आग लगी

प्रमुख संवाददाता | मुंबई, कुर्ला में बुधवार को गैस रिसाव के कारण 4 मंजिला मुबारक बिल्डिंग में आग लग गई। इमारत के ग्राउंड फ्लोर की तीन दुकानों का सामान जल कर राख हो गया। मुंबई फायर ब्रिगेड ने आग काबू को। प्रीमियर रोड स्थित होली क्रॉस हाईस्कूल के बगल में मंगलवार को भी रोड की खुदाई के दौरान महानगर गैस की पाइपलाइन फूटने से हड़कंप मचा गया था। कोहिनूर मिल का पूरा

■ ग्राउंड फ्लोर की तीन दुकानों का सामान जलकर राख



विद्या विहार में आग: विद्या विहार (पश्चिम) में पीटर परेश रोड स्थित 8 मंजिला कोहिनूर सिटी इमारत की पांचवीं मंजिल पर बुधवार शाम 5 बजे आग लग गई। फायर ब्रिगेड ने इसे लेवल 2 की आग घोषित किया था। आग से फ्लैट नंबर 271 और 272 में रखा सामान जल गया।

परिसर, विद्याविहार, महावीर नगर, सोनापुर लेन एरिया में गैस की दुर्गंध फैल गई थी। अदाणी इलेक्ट्रिसिटी का केबल बिछाने के लिए आरसीसी सड़क के किनारे खुदाई की जा रही है।

Deepsea oil, gas hunt: Oil India ropes in France's TotalEnergies

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Oil India Ltd, the nation's second biggest state-owned explorer, has roped in French energy giant TotalEnergies to provide technical assistance in finding oil and natural gas reserves in deep and ultra-deepwater areas.

"OIL and TotalEnergies inked a technology service agreement on November 19, 2025 in New Delhi to strengthen strategic collaboration for exploration activities in deep and ultra-deepwater offshore frontiers of Indian sedimentary Basins, including the stratigraphic wells as mandated by the government of India," OIL said in a statement on Wednesday.

The agreement puts in place a framework to leverage TotalEnergies' expertise in deep and ultra-deepwater exploration value chain across OIL's current and future offshore portfolio.



It includes the ongoing appraisal programme of gas find in the shallow offshore blocks in Andaman basin as well as exploration in OIL's ultradeep water blocks in Mahanadi and Krishna Godavari Basins. It also covers evaluation of opportunities under current and future bid rounds and providing support during stratigraphic well drilling initiative in offshore Category-II & III Basins, the firm said.

In September, OIL had notified presence of natural gas reserves in a block off the Andaman Islands.

"Occurrence of natural gas" was reported in the second exploratory well Vijayapuram-2 drilled in the

Offshore Andaman Block AN-OSHP-2018/1, OIL had said, adding it needed to do tests to confirm the potential of the reserves.

TotalEnergies will now assist the firm in evaluating the potential of the discovery including asserting if it is commercially viable to produce.

Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have been probing for hydrocarbon reserves in the Andaman Sea in the hope of finding a discovery that could help cut India's 88 per cent dependence on imports for its oil needs and 50 per cent reliance on overseas for gas requirements.

"The strategic collaboration marks a significant milestone in OIL's commitment to pursue exploration in offshore frontiers towards possible hydrocarbon discovery and secure sustainable energy future for India," the company said in the statement Wednesday.

India seeks vessels to ship West Asia crude

Bloomberg

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A surge in bookings for oil tankers to bring cargoes from West Asia to India points to higher import flows ahead, as sanctions on major Russian producers force the South Asian importer to seek alternatives.

So far this week, roughly a dozen tankers have been chartered to ship crude from countries including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and the UAE and ferry it across the Arabian Sea, according to shipbroker reports. That's a jump from the same time last month, when about four fixtures were seen.

These bookings include supertankers known as Very Large Crude Carriers and smaller Suezmax vessels, for cargoes loading late November to December. Indian importers are still seeking more tankers for the same routes, the reports show.

So far this week, roughly a dozen tankers have been chartered to ship crude from countries including Iraq

Oil traders have been closely monitoring India's spot and term purchases of non-Russian crudes as they try to make sense of the Asian nation's next steps, ahead of 21 November, when sanctions on Rosneft PJSC and Lukoil PJSC come into effect. While these fixtures are not necessarily exhaustive—bookings can be made through private negotiations—they reflect the broader purchasing patterns of refiners and as such

provide a window into an opaque market.

The latest bookings are helping raise freight rates, with daily costs of hiring an oil supertanker from West Asia to Asia hovering near a five-year high. Five of India's seven refiners, including Reliance Industries Ltd, have said they would no longer take delivery of Russian crude after the wind-down period ends this week. Other companies may continue considering purchases from non-sanctioned sellers.

Oil & gas import bill falls 12% in Apr-Oct

India gained from the decline in oil prices this yr

SHUBHANGI MATHUR
New Delhi, 19 November

India's net oil and gas import bill slipped 12 per cent during the April-October period of the current financial year. This comes amid softening crude oil prices and declining natural gas demand, according to data sourced from Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).

The net import bill for the two fell to \$69.9 billion in the first seven months of FY26, from \$75.9 billion in the same period last year. India meets around 90 per cent of its domestic crude oil requirements and roughly 50 per cent of its natural gas needs from imports.

India saved on purchases of crude oil despite importing almost similar volumes as crude oil prices plummeted this year. Crude oil bill fell 13 per cent during April-October to \$71.2 billion, compared to \$81.9 billion last year.

The Indian basket crude price averaged \$65.08 per barrel during October 2025, as against \$75.12/bbl last year. Crude prices have fallen this year with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (Opec+) deciding to reverse production cuts,

leading to a supply-demand imbalance in the global oil market.

Meanwhile, India's liquefied natural gas (LNG) bill fell 13 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in FY26 so far due to decline in domestic consumption. LNG import bill was lower at \$8 billion during the period, from \$9.2 billion last year. The lower LNG bill, however, was on account of an 8 per cent decline in the gas consumption due to slightly higher prices and longer monsoon season this year.

Oil PSUs spending in FY26

India's oil public sector undertakings (PSUs) have spent 53 per cent of their annual capital expenditure by October 2025, according to official data. This compares with 72.24 per cent of the annual capex spent during the same period (April-October) last year.

Out of the total annual target of ₹1.32 trillion, the companies have spent ₹70,990 crore during the period.

Oil PSUs have undertaken capital intensive projects this year with downstream companies working on expanding refinery capacity while upstream companies are extensively entering deep-water and ultra-deep water exploration.

Tracking tankers

India's net oil and gas import bill (\$ bn)



Source: Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC)



India may raise Saudi oil purchases

India will be among Asian buyers taking more oil from Saudi Aramco next month after pulling away from Russian crude, though the modest rise has left traders wondering how the world's third-largest importer will fill a shortfall of up to 1.2 million barrels a day. China, meanwhile, has reduced Saudi imports, a drop some attributed to planned refinery maintenance at a state-owned company and more purchases from other regions such as the Americas.

BLOOMBERG

India's Russian oil cuts predate U.S. tariffs: data

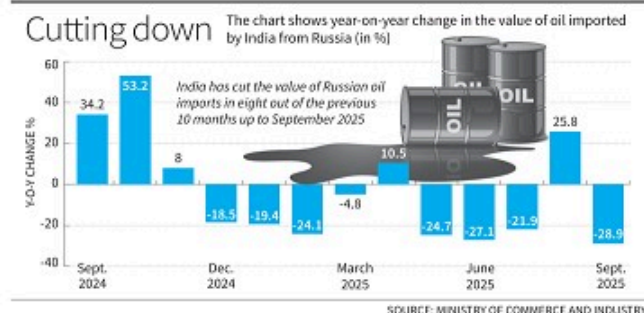
The 25% additional tariff by the U.S. came into effect on August 27 while government figures show a reduction in energy imports from Russia in the previous months compared with 2024

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India is implementing a larger strategy to reduce its dependence on oil imports from Russia, with the higher tariffs imposed by the U.S. coming at a time when India was already cutting its Russian oil imports, according to an analysis of official data. This has been confirmed by government officials.

An analysis by *The Hindu* of government trade data shows India's oil imports from Russia in September 2025 – the first full month during which the U.S.'s 50% tariffs on Indian imports were applicable – were 29% lower in value and 17% lower in volume than in September 2024.

However, the data show that this is part of a larger



strategy rather than a reaction to the tariffs, half of which were imposed as a "penalty" for importing Russian oil.

Bigger strategy

The additional tariff came into effect on August 27. However, data show that India had cut the value of

Russian oil imports in eight of the previous 10 months up to September 2025, compared with the corresponding period of 2024. In five of these months – February, May, June, July, and September – the cuts exceeded 20% each.

"India has known for a while now that its depen-

dence on Russian oil imports had grown too high and so it was already working on a plan to reduce this," an official in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

India's Russian oil cuts predate U.S. tariffs: data

"The Trump tariffs had come during that time," the official said. "Yes, they are a factor to be kept in mind, but they are not driving Indian policies."

Since the 50% tariffs were imposed, U.S. President Donald Trump has been repeatedly claiming that India will be cutting its imports of Russian oil, something the Indian government has neither confirmed nor denied.

Separately, formal trade talks between India and the U.S. have resumed after a brief hiatus, with statements again being made about tranche one of a Bilateral Trade Agreement expected to be concluded "soon".

Several Indian Ministers have asserted that India will make its energy import decisions as per its needs and best interests, and not under duress.

The reduction of Russian oil is not just in absolute terms, but also in terms of its share in India's total oil imports. Russian oil accounted for about 41% of India's total oil imports in September 2024, which came down to 31% by September 2025. However, rather than a one-off, the data confirm that this is part of a longer process.

Russia's share in India's oil imports grew from 1.6% in 2020-21 to 2% in 2021-22, before jumping to 19% in 2022-23, 33.4% in 2023-24, and 35.1% in 2024-25. The first six months of 2025-26 had, however, snapped this four-year increasing trend, with Russia's share falling to 32.3% in the April-September period.

Diversified imports

Russia's war in Ukraine, the resultant sanctions on it by the U.S. and Europe, and the discounts it provided India resulted in a significant shift in India's oil import basket for a few years after the war started, with an increasing dependence on Russia.

Some of that is now reversing itself as India has started shifting away from Russian oil. In 2021-22, the U.S. accounted for 9.2% of India's oil imports and the UAE accounted for 12.4%. This was when Russia accounted for only 2% of India's oil imports. By 2024-25, Russia accounted for 35.1% of India's oil, while the shares of the U.S. and the UAE had fallen to 4.6% and 9.7%, respectively.

In the first six months of 2025-26, the U.S. share has once again increased to 8% and that of the UAE to 11.7%, even as Russia's share has fallen to 32.3%.

India seeks tankers to import Middle East oil

Crude from S. Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, UAE to ferry across Arabian Sea

New Delhi, Nov. 19: A surge in bookings for oil tankers to bring cargoes from the Middle East to India points to higher import flows ahead, as sanctions on major Russian producers force the South Asian importer to seek alternatives.

So far this week, roughly a dozen tankers have been chartered to ship crude from countries including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates and ferry it across the Arabian Sea, according to shipbroker reports. That's a jump from the same time last month, when about four fixtures were seen.

These bookings include supertankers known as Very Large Crude Carriers as well as smaller Suezmax vessels, for cargoes loading late November to December. Indian importers are still seeking even more tankers for the same routes, the reports show.

Oil traders have been closely monitoring India's spot and term purchases of non-Russian crudes as they try to make sense of India's next steps, ahead of Nov. 21, when sanctions on Rosneft PJSC and Lukoil PJSC come into effect.

While these fixtures are not necessarily exhaustive — bookings can be made through private negotiations — they reflect the broader purchasing patterns of refiners.

The latest bookings are helping to push up freight rates, with daily costs of hiring an oil supertanker from the Middle East to

ENERGY SUPPLIES

BOOKINGS INCLUDE SUPERTANKERS KNOWN AS VERY LARGE CRUDE CARRIERS AS WELL AS SMALLER SUEZMAX VESSELS.

OIL TANKER bookings for cargoes loading late Nov. to Dec this year.

DAILY COSTS of hiring an oil supertanker from Middle East to Asia hovering near five-year high.

RISE IN Chinese demand offers lifeline to Indian seafood exporters squeezed by steep US tariffs.

INDIAN REFINERS will no longer take delivery of Russian crude after Nov. 21.

REFINERS SEEKS more supplies from term sellers across Middle East.

INDIA SEAFOOD exports globally stands at \$7.4 bn in 2024, with shrimp accounts for 40%.



Asia hovering near a five-year high.

Five of India's seven refiners, including Reliance Industries have said they would no longer take delivery of Russian crude after the wind-down period ends this week. The remaining companies are expected to continue considering purchases from non-sanctioned sellers.

India's oil purchases through monthly tenders has shown a small increase in volume from usual patterns. However, the addition isn't yet enough to make up for the possible loss of over one million barrels a day of Russian flows, according to traders. This could be due to Indian refiners quietly seeking more supplies from term sellers across the Middle East

— Bloomberg

Indian seafood exporters see opportunity in China

Mumbai, Nov. 19: Indian seafood exporters surged as much as 11 per cent on Wednesday following media reports that China had notified Japan of plans to suspend imports from the country, a move that could shift demand toward alternative suppliers such as India.

Beijing just months ago partially eased restrictions on Japanese seafood. However, the potential renewal of ban could deal a sharp blow to companies hoping to regain access to a market that once accounted for more than 20 per cent of Japan's

seafood exports.

On the flip side, a potential rise in Chinese demand could offer a lifeline to Indian seafood exporters squeezed by steep tariffs imposed by the US with clients including major retailers such as Walmart and Kroger.

Total seafood exports from India globally stood at \$7.4 billion last year, with shrimp accounting for 40 per cent.

Last week, Indian government approved a spending package of ₹45,060 crore to support exporters in labour-intensive sectors. — Reuters

Petroleum product exports down 9% in Apr-Oct

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, November 19

INDIA'S EXPORTS OF petroleum products fell 8.6% year-on-year to \$23.2 billion during April-October of FY26, down from \$25.4 billion in the same period last year, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).

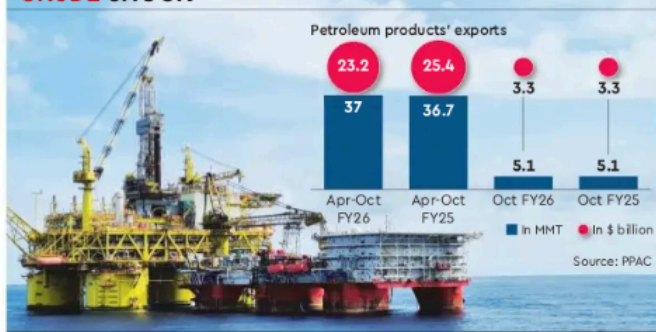
In volume terms, however, exports remained largely unchanged at 37 million tonne during the period.

Imports of refined oil products stood at \$13.9 billion during the seven-month period, against \$13.8 billion in April-October of FY25.

The country imported 29.8 million tonne of petroleum products, up 1% from the same period of last fiscal.

According to Kpler, India's export of petroleum products declined by 21% to 1.25 million barrels per day in October

CRUDE SHOCK



from 1.58 mbd in September.

On an annual basis, the exports, however, increased by 2.4% from 1.22 mbd in October 2024.

UAE, Netherlands, and Singapore emerged as the top des-

tinations for the country's refined oil products.

Exports to the UAE declined 27% to 132,000 bpd last month, while exports to Netherlands increased by as much as

255% to 156,000 bpd from 44,000 bpd in September.

Exports to Singapore also surged 81% to 113,000 bpd last month.

Meanwhile, Nayara Energy's operations continue

to face challenges in its exports due to disruptions caused by international sanctions but operations are seen improving gradually.

As part of its measures against Moscow, the EU has imposed sanctions on the Indian oil refinery owned by Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy and tightened the oil price cap.

In response, Nayara is exploring alternative outlets, including new markets, and even barter arrangements with Rosneft — exchanging refined products for crude.

To adapt, the refinery has been redirecting fuel to the domestic market, supported by government-facilitated logistics.

New Delhi has increased rail transport capacity, now running two to three trains of around 50 tanker cars daily, more than double the previous volume, and has also autho-

risied the use of coastal vessels, including some from the shadow fleet, to move products, Kpler had said.

Post these sanctions, Nayara cannot export fuel such as petrol and diesel to European countries.

The US too has recently imposed sanctions on Russia's two largest oil companies Rosneft and Lukoil that fund the Kremlin's war against Ukraine.

Following the sanctions (effective November 21, 2025), Kpler observed accelerated Russian crude arrivals ahead of the deadline, with no refiner except Nayara expected to import from sanctioned suppliers thereafter.

India's consumption of petroleum products during the first seven months of FY26 rose by a marginal 1.2% at 139 million tonne from last year.

Pressure mounts for global roadmap to phase out fossil fuels



**EXPRESS AT
COP 30**

Pratip Acharya

Belem (Brazil), November 19

AS BRAZIL worked overtime to get everyone to agree on a 'political' package on some of the long-standing contentious issues, a number of countries stepped up pressure for a roadmap on an early phase-out of fossil fuels.

On host Brazil's initiative, countries at the COP30 climate conference are working to finalise a separate 'political' agreement, taking on board some of the long-standing concerns of different countries, including those on provision of climate finance and trade-related unilateral measures, which India has been raising along with some others.

India's Environment Minister Bhupendra Patel held a bilateral meeting with China's Special Envoy on Climate Change, Liu Zhenmin, on Wednesday to coordinate their strat-

egy on these issues.

Meanwhile, more than 80 countries, led by European nations and small island states, have been pushing for the inclusion of a roadmap on fossil fuel phase-out in this package.

"The EU supports the idea of inclusion for a roadmap to phase out fossil fuels. We are very particular about the ambition in reduction of emission. Even though, we don't use the word 'roadmap' but we in Europe are very much sure about phasing out fossil fuels in the days to come since we plan to reduce our emission rate furthermore, by nine-percent by 2040," EU climate commissioner Wopke Hoekstra told reporters on Wednesday.

A first draft of this 'political' agreement, a result of days of consultations facilitated by Brazil, had come out on Tuesday, listing options for addressing these contentious issues. It reflected the wide divergences in positions of different countries on these issues. A fresh draft is expected later Wednesday evening.

Among the four issues are two that India, along with many other developing countries, has

been raising for the last one year.

One of them pertains to the full implementation of Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, which says developed nations "shall provide" financial resources to the developing nations for dealing with climate change.

The second issue that India, China and some other developing countries have been flagging relates to trade-related restrictive measures like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) that puts tariffs on imported goods whose carbon footprint during manufacturing is more than what is allowed within the EU. India, China and others have been arguing that CBAM was a discriminatory trade practice disguised as climate action.

The other issues are mainly the concerns of the developed nations, who want to see enhanced mitigation actions in pursuance of the 1.5 degree Celsius target, and greater transparency in reporting of climate actions.

The writer is in Belem to cover COP30 as part of his fellowship on investigative journalism on climate reporting under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark



OIL INDIA, TOTAL ENERGIES PARTNER FOR ULTRA-DEEP EXPLORATION

Rituraj Baruah

rituraj.baruah@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: State-run Oil India Ltd and French energy major TotalEnergies have joined hands to explore deep and ultra-deepwater offshore basins in the country.

In a statement on Wednesday, Oil India said that the partnership would involve exploration in the ultra-deep water blocks in the Mahanadi and Krishna-Godavari Basin won by Oil India under the ninth round of bidding under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), along with evaluation of opportunities under the ongoing tenth round and bids in the future.

Mint earlier reported that Oil India is in talks with global exploration and production (E&P) majors to jointly explore hydrocarbon blocks in the country.

"Oil India Ltd and TotalEnergies inked a 'Technology Service Agreement' on 19th November 2025 in New Delhi to strengthen strategic collaboration for exploration activities in Deep and Ultra-deepwater Offshore frontiers of Indian sedimentary Basins, including the stratigraphic wells as mandated by the Govt. of India," it said.

The agreement will help Oil India harness TotalEnergies' expertise in Oil India's current and future offshore portfolio.

India Seeks Ships for W Asia Oil as Russia Sanctions Near...

Spike in tanker bookings signals refiners shifting to Gulf suppliers ahead of curbs on Rosneft & Lukoil

Riyadh: A sharp rise in bookings for oil tankers transporting crude from the Middle East to India signals a likely increase in import flows in the coming weeks, as sanctions targeting major Russian producers compel the nation to diversify its sourcing strategy and seek reliable alternatives.

Shipbroker reports show that around a dozen tankers have been chartered so far this week to load crude from key suppliers such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, before making the voyage across the Arabian Sea to Indian refineries. This

marks a substantial jump from the same period last month, when only about four fixtures were recorded, underscoring a clear shift in India's near-term buying behaviour.

The latest fixtures include both Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) — the industry's largest supertankers — and Suezmax vessels, with loadings scheduled from late November through December. According to shipbrokers, Indian buyers are still actively in the market, looking to secure even more ships for similar routes, suggesting that refiners anticipate tighter supplies once Russian barrels begin to fall away.

Oil traders have been closely analysing India's spot and term purchases of non-Russian grades as they attempt to gauge the country's next moves ahead of Nov. 21, when sanctions on Rosneft PJSC and Lukoil PJSC officially come into effect. Although the visible tanker bookings do not necessarily represent the full picture — many charters are

negotiated privately — they offer valuable insight into broader procurement patterns and provide a rare window into an otherwise opaque trading environment.

The surge in bookings is also contributing to rising freight rates. Daily charter costs for moving a Middle East VLCC to Asia are now hovering near a five-year high, reflecting the tightening availability of vessels and the heightened competition for shipping capacity.

Five of India's seven major refiners, including Reliance Industries Ltd., have already indicated that they will halt purchases of Russian crude once the wind-down period ends this week. The remaining companies are expected to continue evaluating cargoes offered by non-sanctioned sellers, though at lower volumes. India's recent tender activity shows a modest uptick in crude purchases compared with usual patterns. **Bloomberg**

... Steps Up Buys from Saudi Arabia

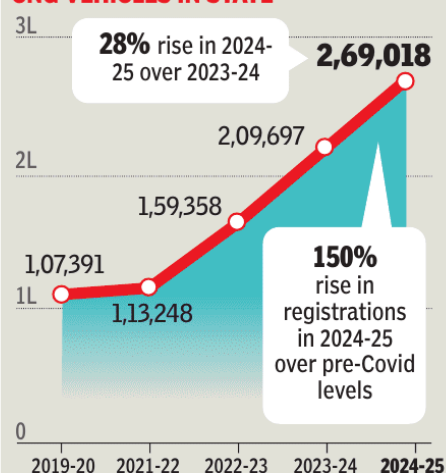
India will be among Asian buyers taking more oil from Saudi Aramco next month after pulling away from Russian crude. At least 18-20 million more barrels were sought by customers across India, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan for December compared with this month, as Saudi's selling prices were deemed attractive, according to people familiar with the sale, who asked not to be named as they're not authorized to speak publicly. Sales to China dipped by close to four million barrels. **BB**

CNG ADOPTION ACCELERATES IN MUMBAI REGION VEHICLES TOP 12 LAKH, STATIONS NEAR 400 MARK

The number of CNG vehicles in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) has increased by 2 lakh in a year — a 20% rise — taking the total count to over 12 lakh. To support this growing demand, the number of CNG filling stations in the region has also expanded, approaching 400 with an addition of 100 new stations in just one year. **Somit Sen reports**



REGISTRATIONS OF CNG VEHICLES IN STATE



CNG VEHICLES IN MUMBAI METROPOLITAN REGION

PVT CARS

5.2 lakh

AUTOS

4.7 lakh

TAXIS

1.6 lakh

MINI BUSES/TEMPOS

51,311

BEST/TMT/NMNT BUSES

1,969

**TOTAL
12.03
LAKH**

“ Apart from being an environmentally friendly fuel, CNG offers motorists a highly affordable alternative — costing less than petrol while providing greater mileage and lower maintenance expenses. On average, CNG-powered vehicles deliver at least 50% more mileage compared to petrol-driven cars. In addition to cost efficiency, CNG ensures convenience, safety, reliability, and a cleaner driving experience for consumers — **AN MGL SPOKESPERSON**



FUEL PRICES IN MUMBAI

PETROL ₹103.5 per litre

DIESEL ₹90 per litre

CNG ₹80.50 per kg

OIL Ties Up with TotalEnergies

Our Bureau

New Delhi: State-run Oil India has partnered with France's TotalEnergies for technological support in its exploration activities in challenging deepwater areas. The two companies signed a technology service agreement on Wednesday.

"The agreement puts in place a framework to leverage TotalEnergies' world-class expertise in deep and ultra-deep water exploration value chain across Oil India Ltd's current and future offshore portfolio," Oil India said in a statement.

The partnership covers the ongoing appraisal programme of gas find in shallow offshore blocks in the Andaman basin, as

well as exploration in Oil India's ultra-deep-water blocks in the Mahanadi and Krishna Godavari basins, awarded in the ninth round of the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). The agreement also includes the evaluation of opportunities under the ongoing OALP-X and future bid rounds, and support for the company's stratigraphic well drilling initiative.



Oil India and ONGC have been seeking foreign technological partners to navigate increasingly challenging exploration terrains.

India urgently needs major discoveries to lift domestic output, which has been declining for years and deepening the country's dependence on imports.

AS INDUSTRY SHIFTS TO CHEAPER FUELS

Natgas Demand Down 15% in Oct on High Int'l Prices

Domestic production declined 5.1% last month

Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: High international prices and shrinking domestic output are dragging down India's natural gas consumption, which fell 14.6% in October as industries shift to cheaper liquid fuels amid softer oil prices.

Consumption in the April-October period is 8.1% lower year-on-year. A mild summer reduced demand from power generators, while tightening supplies of relatively cheaper domestically produced gas have also weighed on consumption. Domestic output fell 5.1% in October and 3.4% in April-October, driven by lower production from RIL-BP's KG basin fields.

Industrial users are increasingly substituting natural gas with liquid fuels such as propane and fuel oil, which have become relatively cheaper following the sharp decline in crude prices. Gujarat Gas is moving into propane distribution to retain customers in the key industrial cluster of Morbi, where propane has heavily displaced natural gas. Propane is ₹4-6 per standard cubic metre cheaper than gas, according to ICICI Securities.

Falling domestic gas demand has

pushed LNG imports down 22.6% in October and 12.5% in the April-October period. Imports account for about half of India's gas consumption.

"Natural gas prices are similar to where they were last year, but customers find the fuel expensive as crude has come down," said an industry executive. Asian LNG benchmark JKM averaged \$11.7/mmbtu in April-October compared with \$12.6/mmbtu a year earlier. Brent crude averaged \$68 in the same period versus \$81 last year.

High prices have long been a hurdle for Indian gas consumers, limiting progress on the government's goal of raising gas's share in the energy mix. In recent years, domestic gas has become expensive.

Gas from nominated fields operated by ONGC and Oil India is currently sold at \$6.75/mmbtu, based on a government-set formula introduced in 2023, up from \$1.79/mmbtu five years ago. Gas from difficult fields is capped at \$9.72/mmbtu, compared with \$4.06/mmbtu five years earlier.

India is seeking more investments in its exploration sector to help raise gas production and has framed new policies to attract foreign majors.



तेल और गैस का आयात बिल घटा

शुभांगी माथुर

नई दिल्ली, 19 नवंबर

भारत का तेल और गैस का शुद्ध आयात बिल चालू वित्त वर्ष के अप्रैल-अक्टूबर में 12 प्रतिशत कम हो गया। पेट्रोलियम योजना व विश्लेषण प्रकोष्ठ (पीपीएसी) से प्राप्त आंकड़ों के अनुसार यह गिरावट कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में नरमी और प्राकृतिक गैस की मांग में गिरावट के बीच आई है।

वित्त वर्ष 2026 के पहले सात महीनों में इन दोनों का शुद्ध आयात

बिल घटकर 69.9 अरब डॉलर रह गया जबकि यह बीते साल की इस अवधि में 75.9 अरब डॉलर था। भारत घरेलू कच्चे तेल के लिए 90 प्रतिशत और प्राकृतिक गैस के लिए 50 प्रतिशत आयात करता है। भारत ने इस वर्ष कच्चे तेल का आयात पहले जितना किया था। लेकिन कच्चे तेल की कीमतें गिरने के कारण बचत हुई। अप्रैल-अक्टूबर के दौरान कच्चे तेल का बिल 13 प्रतिशत घटकर 71.2 अरब डॉलर रह गया जबकि पिछले वर्ष यह 81.9 अरब डॉलर था।

जीटीआरआई की रिपोर्ट... भारत ने दूर की अमेरिका की चिंताएं, अब ट्रंप भी पूरी करें प्रतिबद्धता रूसी तेल आयात में कटौती के बाद 25% टैरिफ वापस लेने का दबाव बनाए भारत

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो/एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। ट्रंप प्रशासन के साथ व्यापार समझौते को लेकर चल रही बातचीत के बीच रूस से कच्चे तेल के आयात में कटौती के बाद भारत को अमेरिका पर 25 फीसदी अतिरिक्त टैरिफ वापस लेने का दबाव बनाना चाहिए। यह इसलिए भी महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है, क्योंकि अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने स्वीकार किया है कि भारत ने रूसी तेल खरीदना काफी हद तक बंद कर दिया है। उन्होंने 11 नवंबर को स्वीकार किया, भारत पर अतिरिक्त 25 फीसदी टैरिफ रूस से तेल आयात के कारण लगाया गया था।

थिंक टैंक ग्लोबल ट्रेड रिसर्च इनिशिएटिव (जीटीआरआई) का कहना है कि भारत ने अमेरिका की चिंताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए रूस से तेल आयात में भारी कटौती की है। साथ ही, देश अपने कूड़ आयात में विविधता लाने की दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है। ऐसे में अमेरिका को अब बिना किसी देरी के 25 फीसदी अतिरिक्त टैरिफ को खत्म कर देना चाहिए। ऐसा नहीं करना भारतीय निर्यातकों को दंडित करने और एक ऐसे साझेदार को अनुचित रूप से



व्यापारिक आंकड़े भी भारत के समर्थन में

जीटीआरआई ने कहा, व्यापारिक आंकड़े भी भारत की स्थिति का समर्थन करते हैं। अप्रैल से सितंबर, 2025 के बीच भारत ने अमेरिका से 5.7 अरब डॉलर का कच्चा तेल आयात किया, जो 66.9 फीसदी अधिक है। इस वृद्धि से भारत का अमेरिका से पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का निर्यात 36.3 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी के साथ 7.5 अरब डॉलर पहुंच गया।

■ इसके विपरीत, भारत से अमेरिका को पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का निर्यात 15 फीसदी की गिरावट के साथ 2.3 अरब डॉलर रह गया।
■ भारत पेट्रोलियम ने नवंबर, 2024 से मार्च, 2025 के बीच एक करोड़ बैरल अमेरिकी मिडलैंड कूड़ आपूर्ति का अनुबंध किया है।

■ भारत ने हाल ही में अमेरिका से करीब 22 लाख टन एलपीजी आयात के लिए समझौता किया है, जो देश की सालाना एलपीजी जरूरत का करीब 10 फीसदी है।

निशाना बनाने के समान है, जो अमेरिकी ऊर्जा आपूर्तिकर्ताओं की ओर काफी हद तक बढ़ गया है। जीटीआरआई के मुताबिक, इस उपाय को लंबा खींचने से भारत और

अमेरिका के रिश्ते प्रभावित हो सकते हैं। व्यापार समझौते की प्रगति धीमी हो सकती है। इसके विपरीत, अतिरिक्त टैरिफ हटाने से ट्रंप की प्रतिबद्धता का सम्मान होगा। भारत

5जी और 6जी से भारत-अमेरिका के बीच गहरे होंगे तकनीकी संबंध

इंडो-अमेरिकन चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स के कार्यकारी परिषद के सदस्य अरुण कर्ण का मानना है कि अगली पीढ़ी की संचार



प्रौद्योगिकियां विशेष रूप से 5जी और 6जी भारत एवं अमेरिका के तकनीकी संबंधों को मजबूत करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएंगी। यह साझेदारी अब

सिर्फ तकनीक विकसित करने तक ही सीमित नहीं है।

■ कर्ण ने 22वें भारत-अमेरिका आर्थिक शिखर सम्मेलन में कहा, अमेरिका आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई), मशीन लर्निंग (एमएल), क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग, 5जी और 6जी जैसी उभरती नई तकनीकों के लिए नवाचार का इंजन है।

■ जब आप इन्हें भारतीय प्रतिभा के साथ जोड़कर जो बनाते हैं, वह न सिर्फ पूरक होता है, बल्कि गुणक भी होता है। इस तरह के सहयोग से ऐसे नवाचार संभव हैं, जिन्हें वैश्विक स्तर पर लागू किया जा सकता है।

■ टैरिफ पर नरम पड़ रहा अमेरिका का रुख : इंडो-अमेरिकन चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स के शिखर सम्मेलन अध्यक्ष ललित भसीन ने टैरिफ पर कहा, भारत के प्रति अमेरिका का कड़ा रुख अब नरम पड़ रहा है। दोनों देशों का आर्थिक विकास आपसी समझ और सम्मान से ही संभव होगा।

के अमेरिकी कच्चे तेल और एलपीजी की ओर तेजी से बढ़ते रुझान को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा। अमेरिका से ऊर्जा आयात को बढ़ावा मिलेगा और द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में एक अड़चन दूर होगी।



OIL, Total partner for ultra-deep exploration

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State-run Oil India Ltd (OIL) and French energy major TotalEnergies have joined hands to explore deep and ultra-deepwater offshore basins in the country.

In a statement on Wednesday, OIL said that the partnership would involve exploration in the ultra-deep water blocks in the Mahanadi and Krishna-Godavari Basin won by Oil India under the ninth round of bidding under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), along with evaluation of opportunities under the ongoing tenth round and bids in the future. *Mint* earlier reported that Oil India is in talks with global exploration and production (E&P) majors to jointly explore hydrocarbon blocks in India.

"Oil India Ltd and TotalEnergies inked a 'Technology Service Agreement' on 19th November 2025 in New Delhi to strengthen strategic collaboration for exploration activities in Deep and Ultra-deepwater Offshore frontiers of Indian sedimentary Basins, including the stratigraphic wells as mandated by the Govt. of India," it said. The agreement will help OIL harness TotalEnergies' expertise in OIL's current and future offshore portfolio.

For an extended version of the story, go to livemint.com

ऑयल इंडिया ने टोटल एनर्जीज से समझौता किया

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

देश में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी तेल खोज कंपनी ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड ने टोटल एनर्जीज के साथ समझौता किया है। इसके तहत फ्रांस की दिग्गज ऊर्जा कंपनी गहरे पानी वाले क्षेत्रों में तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस भंडार खोजने के लिए तकनीकी सहायता देगी। ऑयल इंडिया ने बुधवार को एक बयान में कहा, ऑयल इंडिया और टोटल एनर्जीज ने 19 नवंबर, 2025 को नई दिल्ली में एक प्रौद्योगिकी सेवा समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। इसका मकसद गहरे और अति-गहरे पानी वाले अपतटीय सीमाओं में खोज गतिविधियों के लिए



रणनीतिक सहयोग को मजबूत करना है। इस समझौते से ऑयल इंडिया को टोटल एनर्जीज की विशेषज्ञता का लाभ उठाने में मदद मिलेगी। इसमें अंडमान बेसिन के उथले अपतटीय ब्लॉक में गैस खोज के मौजूदा मूल्यांकन कार्यक्रम के साथ ही महानदी और कृष्णा गोदावरी घाटी में ओआईएल के अतिगहरे जल ब्लॉकों में खोज भी शामिल है।

पेट्रोनेट एलएनजी ने निवेशकों और विश्लेषकों की इंटरैक्टिव बैठक की

नई दिल्ली (वि)। देश में ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में अग्रणी कंपनियों में से एक पेट्रोनेट एलएनजी लिमिटेड (पीएलएल) ने गुजरात के भरुच में निवेशकों और विश्लेषकों की 14 से 16 नवंबर तक इंटरैक्टिव बैठक का आयोजन किया। इस मौके पर अधिकारियों ने दहेज एलएनजी टर्मिनल का दौरा भी किया। इस आयोजन से निवेशकों और विश्लेषकों को पीएलएल की नेतृत्व टीम के साथ जुड़ने और कंपनी के संचालन, रणनीतिक दिशा और भविष्य की विकास योजनाओं के बारे में जानकारी के लिए मंच प्रदान किया गया। पीएलएल के प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी अक्षय कुमार सिंह ने कहा कि कंपनी ने मंच प्रदान कर एक नई शुरुआत की। पेट्रोनेट एलएनजी लि. के निदेशक (वित्त) एवं मुख्य वित्तीय अधिकारी सौरव मित्रा ने कहा कि कंपनी के वित्तीय प्रदर्शन, विकास और स्थायी मूल्य सृजन हेतु दीर्घकालिक रणनीति को साझा करने का मूल्यवान अवसर रहा।



व्यावस