

Back to oil, the new data

Actions on Venezuela, Russia, China, India are about energy

The US invaded Venezuela, abducted the latter's president and his wife, and charged them with narco-terrorism. However, one of the main reasons behind this bizarre, seemingly illegal, and anti-global act is the fact that Venezuela holds the largest oil reserves in the world. There was a time till the late 1990s when the nation could produce almost 10 million barrels per day. Since then, Venezuela witnessed rules by a few socialist governments such as those led by Hugo Chavez, and Nicolas Maduro. Maduro, the abducted president, is now an arrested 'criminal' in America.

Several media articles speculated about the reasons behind Donald Trump's reckless and such one-sided act that is akin to a de facto invasion of a country, and infringement with its sovereignty. Well, the fact of the matter is that it boils down to a resource that mattered as much a century ago. From the 1920s to 2026, despite hiccups, ups and downs, oil is still a powerful medium of leverage to exert massive control over the global economy, and producer-consumer nations. Forget about data being the new oil; oil is the data. In several cases, Trump's animosity and rivalry slips on slick surfaces.

Just before Venezuela, the US announced that it was bombing the terror group ISIS' bases in Nigeria because they were indiscriminately killing Christians. For close to five decades, Christians in many parts of Africa were slaughtered. America was least bothered. Now, Nigeria matters because not only does it produce a lot of oil, it has massive reserves. Look at what is happening in Iran. Every now and then, the US seems to be on the verge of sponsoring a regime change and encouraging street protests there. There is no doubt that Iran's regime is authoritative, ultra-

conservative, and has no respect for human rights.

But Iran is an ancient civilisation, and followed independent policies for the past several decades, apart from America-sponsored Shah's regime. It is one of the largest producers of oil, and faces severe American sanctions. Russia is another massive producer of oil, and faces severe western sanctions. Iran, Venezuela, Nigeria, and Russia may find it virtually impossible to sell oil legally. Trump has announced that the US will control Venezuelan oil. What does this mean? It implies that at one stroke, the US and its allies have cut off, will do it, or take over almost a quarter of the global supply.

Let us now look at some of the largest energy guzzlers. The biggest consumers are China, America's Enemy No. 1, and India. Then comes Japan followed by many Asian countries. These nations are dependent on oil supplies from Venezuela, Nigeria, Iran, Iraq, and Russia. The last one became a major supplier after the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. By 2026, America coerced Japan and India to buy more oil from America, and non-Russia sources. The same is true of the Asian nations. Oil power, and the related geopolitics and global games that began a century ago are back with a vengeance.

Who said, history does not repeat itself? In the early part of the twentieth century, the global powers, predominantly the UK and the US, captured access to the newly-discovered and massive oil reserves in West Asia, or the Middle East. Since then, the region West Asia remained a key fulcrum that directed the power geopolitics behind oil, which still dominates the fossil fuel market. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait,

Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar remain the key players in the global market, which was the case since the two world wars.

There was a phase, beginning in the early 1970s, when a group of oil nations, OPEC, dictated oil prices. It was primarily controlled by the producers in the Middle East. But the phase did not last long as the US controlled the oil barring the production in Iran, Libya, and Iraq. We know what happened in Libya and Iraq. We know what the US wants in Iran. Now, it is Venezuela's turn, which is a major supplier of oil and metals to China, and has ties with Russia.

Yet another ironic twist in the tale is how the US dealt with global powers in the past. Apart from the UK, which was in decline after World War II, the main rivals were Germany, and Japan. Germany did not have direct control over oil, and the US effectively blockaded oil from reaching Japan during the period. Without going into the details, this sums up the story of the second world war, and its winners and losers. Oil largely decided this. Will the world witness another global war that is linked to oil?

Only the equations have changed. America's most-crucial rival, China, is not a pushover. It has the economic means, military might, and geopolitical presence, apart from the control over crucial non-oil resources. Indeed, despite Trump's trade-and-tariff tactics, China is winning the economic war. It pushed Trump to agree to a temporary truce. The trade battles in 2025 indicate that the Red Dragon has come of age, and will not be bullied by the US. Although China did not go to the extent that the US did in Venezuela, the former flexed its muscles in Taiwan, and South China Sea.

Despite the adverse impact on its economy, Russia, another newborn rival of the US, has survived the turmoil due to the western sanctions on its oil exports, and frozen assets across the globe. It may be winning the Ukraine war despite the early setbacks. The West, or some of the backers, are losing interest in the prolonged war. Russia used smuggling routes, and old ships to transport the oil to the buyers. India and China became heavily dependent on Russian imports. This irked Trump, who took on India, and dealt with China gingerly. The truth is that Russia will not give in easily.

Hence, as America pushes to gain more control over oil production, and global supplies, Russia and China will counter its moves. This rivalry will not be won easily as the communist allies, unlike the Axis Powers (Germany-Japan), have the oil, and market. Both Russia and China have access to other sources, and markets. In the end, Trump's ideology may remain limited to business. He may not wish to control the oil market, but merely push more American oil, and force buyers to switch from Russia to the US. It may be a limited-strategy war. Let us see who will be Trump's next target?

OUR TAKE



Sutanu Guru
Author, Journalist
and Academician



ONGC to store CO₂ in depleted wells at Gandhar field

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to store captured carbon dioxide in depleted wells at Gujarat's Gandhar oilfield, marking the company's first full-scale Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) pilot and a major step in its decarbonisation strategy.

The pilot will use two abandoned onshore wells to inject around 100 tonnes of CO₂ per day into subsurface hydrocarbon reservoirs, officials said.

CO₂ will be captured from nearby industrial sources in the Dahej area as well as ONGC's own Hazira plant, transported to the Gandhar wells and injected underground to prevent it from entering the atmosphere. The project also aims to test using CO₂ to enhance oil recovery, turning a potentially harmful greenhouse gas into a productive resource, they said. ONGC had previously sourced CO₂



Gandhar oilfield in Gujarat

from Indian Oil Corporation's Koyali refinery, roughly 80 km away, for injections into the well.

CO₂ in the earth's atmosphere contributes significantly to global warming as a greenhouse gas. India is the 3rd largest

emitter of CO₂ in the world after China and the US, with a 2022 NITI Aayog report putting annual emissions at about 2.6 gigatonne.

India has committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 50 per cent by 2050 and reaching net zero by 2070.

Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) is emerging as a critical decarbonisation tool for hard-to-abate industrial sectors, where emissions cannot be eliminated through electrification alone.

In these industries, fossil

fuels are used not only as an energy source but also as an integral part of production processes, making CCUS essential to achieving deep emissions reductions.

ONGC plans to engage a specialised CCUS consultant for technical advisory, regulatory guidance, and detailed feasibility studies to ensure safe and effective implementation. Officials said depleted reservoirs like Gandhar provide ideal geology for long-term CO₂ storage, enabling emissions reduction from legacy oil and gas operations while leveraging existing infrastructure.

The pilot project will demonstrate the scalability as well as integrated approach for decarbonising hard-to-abate industrial sectors, enhancing oilfield productivity, and producing blue hydrogen — offering immediate operational gains and long-term strategic value for India's energy transition. ONGC had in December

2022 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shell to cooperate in CCUS studies, focusing on joint CO₂ storage study and EOR screening assessment for key basins in India, including depleted oil and gas fields and saline aquifers. Officials said Shell may be involved in the pilot project at some stage.

ONGC plans to hire a specialised CCS consultant with comprehensive expertise in carbon capture, transportation, storage and monitoring technologies.

The consultant will provide end-to-end technical advisory, regulatory guidance, and feasibility studies along with cost estimates related to the CCS pilot project.

The company has committed USD 12 billion investment in carbon capture and energy transition projects.

These investments will help the fossil fuel giant to reach net zero emissions across its Scope 1 and Scope 2 operations by 2038.

US action in Venezuela unlocks crude for India

Lifting of US sanctions could make OVL to resume imports of oil

New Delhi, Jan. 4: A US-led takeover or restructuring of the Venezuela's oil sector could deliver a direct benefit to India, potentially unlocking close to the \$1 billion in long-pending dues while accelerating the revival of crude production from fields it operates in the sanctions-hit Latin American nation, industry sources said.

India was once a major processor of Venezuelan heavy crude, importing more than 4 lakh barrels per day (bpd) at peak levels, until sweeping US sanctions and rising compliance risks forcibly shut down purchases in 2020.

The state-owned ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), jointly operates the San Cristobal oilfield in Venezuela, but output was curtailed as US restrictions blocked access to equipment and services - leaving the commercially viable reserves effectively stranded.

Venezuela has failed to pay OVL \$536 million in dividends due on its 40 per cent stake in the field up to 2014, and a near-equivalent amount for subsequent period for which Caracas has refused to permit audits, effectively freezing settlement of the claims.

Sanctions could be eased after a dramatic US operation removed President Nicolas Maduro and placed the country's vast oil reserves under American oversight, analysts said.

Once sanctions are eased, OVL can move the rigs and other equipment from places, such as its parent ONGC's oil fields in Gujarat, to San Cristobal to revive output, officials in the know of matter said.

The onshore field can



**RESTORE
ACCESS**

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IF SANCTIONS on Venezuela are eased, Venezuelan crude could offer additional flexibility to Indian refiners and help ease supply concentration risks.

— NIKHIL DUBEY, Research analyst at Kpler

produce around 1 lakh bpd with more wells and better equipment, the officials said.

US control of Venezuelan oil sector also means exports to the world would start soon, and OVL can recoup its past \$1 billion dues from San Cristobal from such revenues.

India will be a key buyer of Venezuelan crude once Latin American country is able to restore its lost glory with help from the US and other companies.

"India is actively diversifying its crude basket - not only to reduce its dependence on Russian oil, but also amid ongoing India-US trade discussions. In that context, if sanctions on Venezuela are eased, Venezuelan crude could offer additional flexibility to Indian refiners and help ease supply concentration risks," said Nikhil Dubey, senior research analyst at Kpler, in a post on LinkedIn. — PTI

Opec+ awaits US' plans for Venezuela

New York, Jan. 4: Opec+ stuck with plans to pause supply increases in first quarter, as global markets face a surplus and the group awaits clarity on whether the shock US capture of Venezuela leader Nicolas Maduro will impact supplies.

Key members led by Saudi Arabia and Russia agreed on Sunday to keep production levels steady through the end of March, ratifying a decision first made in November to suspend last year's sequence of swift increases.

Delegates said they didn't discuss Venezuela during the conference, and premature to gauge how to respond the situation.

The organisation of pet-

roleum exporting countries and others (OPEC+) confront an array of challenges, with crude prices near lowest in four years and widespread forecasts that plentiful supplies and subdued demand could unleash a record glut.

This weekend's seismic upheaval in member nation Venezuela is latest in a series of geopolitical pressure points spanning from Russia to Yemen that are also clouding the outlook.

"In an environment this fragile, Opec+ is choosing caution, preserving flexibility rather than introducing new uncertainty into an already volatile market," said Jorge Leon, an analyst at Rystad Energy AS. — Bloomberg

Venezuela surprise rocks oil dynamics

Risks from oil volatility; hopes of stability, investment safety

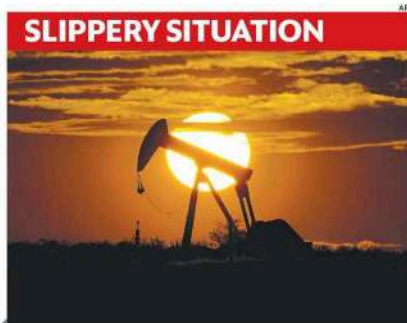
Rituraj Baruah & Dharendra Kumar
NEW DELHI

The American intervention in Venezuela has posed a wild card for New Delhi, which has significant energy investments and millions of dollars in unpaid dividends stuck in the South American country.

While a potential easing of sanctions after the US intervention could eventually restore India's access to the world's largest oil reserves and \$600 million in unpaid dividends, experts warn that immediate market volatility, infrastructure decay, and Venezuelan hyperinflation pose risks to its energy security and import bill. India's state-run companies had invested \$2.5 billion in Venezuela before it came under stiff US sanctions in 2020.

India used to be a major buyer of Venezuelan heavy crude, importing more than 400,000 barrels per day at peak levels, until the US sanctioned the country to curb what it calls narco-terrorism. India on Sunday expressed "deep concern" over the developments in Venezuela, reaffirming its support for the well-being and safety of the Venezuelan people.

The turn of events in Caracas will



FIELD EFFECT

INVESTMENTS of India stuck, with \$600 mn unpaid dividends	STATE-run cos bet : \$2.5 bn on Venezuela before US sanctions	INDIA used to import : over 400,000 barrels a day of Venezuela oil
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determine the fate of India's multi-billion dollar investments and hefty dividends.

Indian investments in Venezuela have been stuck, an official with a state-run firm with major stakes in the country said. "Volatility brings in concern, but we will have to watch out for the way forward. An open-

ing-up of the market may allow more supplies," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

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America's capture of Maduro:
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Venezuela surprise rocks oil dynamics

FROM PAGE 1

ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC), has cause for concern - and hope. It owns a 40% stake in Venezuela's San Cristobal oilfield since 2008, with Venezuela's state-owned PDVSA holding the rest. The US sanctions squeezed production at San Cristobal and torpedoed the repatriation of dividends from the businesses. New Delhi's efforts to secure a sanctions waiver or receive oil in lieu of dollars have failed so far.

Separately, OVL has also partnered with Indian Oil Corp. Ltd and Oil India Ltd to invest \$2.2 billion in Carabobo-1 project where, again, production has suffered after the US sanctions.

Prashant Vasisht, senior vice-president and co-group head, corporate ratings, ICRA Ltd, said the Venezuela affair may impact India in two different ways. "First, it may provide some support to prices in the short term due to immediate supply worries. However, in case there is a transition which is globally accepted, sanctions may be lifted, which would help India source from Venez-



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uela. Several Indian refineries are now capable of refining the viscous Venezuelan oil. So, supplies coming from there may help ensure energy security."

Queries mailed to OVL, ministry of petroleum and natural gas, Indian Oil Corp and Oil India Ltd on Sunday afternoon were not immediately answered.

Volatility in the global oil markets holds major significance for India as the country imports about 88% of its crude oil requirement, which forms about 25% of its overall import bill.

Deepak Mahurkar, partner,

Experts said that any easing of sanctions after the US intervention may help India, the world's third-largest oil buyer.

"Although Venezuela has the largest reserves, its production is very low, at around 1 million barrels per day. So, the current volatility is unlikely to impact global oil markets," said Debashish Mishra, chief growth officer at Deloitte South Asia.

N.R. Bhanumurthy, director at Madras School of Economics, was of the view that the instability in the Latin American country, will impact the global commodity markets, including oil and the foreign exchange rates, affecting India's current account deficit.

"It depends on how smoothly things would play out. It will have implications on the oil market and exchange rate as the dollar is already strengthening vis-a-vis rupee and other BRICS currencies. Given this kind of uncertainty, the commodity market will also react. Further depreciation of rupee will impact both import and export since we will widen the current account deficit," he said.

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For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com)

Opec+ set to keep oil supply steady

Opec+ delegates said they're likely to stick with plans to pause crude oil supply increases in the first quarter at a meeting on Sunday, adding it's too early to assess the impact of the shock US capture of Venezuela leader Nicolas Maduro.

Key members led by Saudi Arabia and Russia will hold a monthly video conference to review a decision—first made in November—to keep supply steady during the first quarter after rapidly reviving production last year. Delegates who asked not to be identified said that Opec+'s intention to stick with the supply pause for now is unlikely to be affected by events in Venezuela.

However, the outlook for Venezuelan supply may become an important question in the months ahead for the group. The country sits atop the world's largest oil reserves but today pumps less than 1% of global demand. President Donald Trump said US oil companies will spend billions of dollars to rebuild Venezuela's crumbling energy infrastructure. **BLOOMBERG**



ONGC CO2 storage pilot in Gujarat

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The pilot will use two abandoned onshore wells to inject around 100 tonnes of CO2 per day into subsurface hydrocarbon reservoirs, officials said.

CO2 will be captured from nearby industrial sources in the Dahej area as well as ONGC's own Hazira plant, transported to the Gandhar wells and injected underground to prevent it from entering the atmosphere. The project also aims to test using CO2 to enhance oil recovery, turning a potentially harmful greenhouse gas into a productive resource, they said.

India has committed to reducing CO2 emissions by 50% by 2050.

PTI

The US action in Venezuela sets a precedent the world will regret

It may embolden an eastern power like China to forcefully take over Taiwan on a similar argument



DEEPANSHU MOHAN
is professor and dean, O.P.Jindal Global University, visiting professor, London School of Economics, and a visiting research fellow at the University of Oxford.

On 3 January, the US carried out airstrikes on Caracas in the backdrop of heightened tensions in the Caribbean and its recent interdictions of vessels alleged to be carrying narcotics in Venezuelan waters. The White House framed this operation as a necessary move to dismantle narco-terrorist efforts and halt weapons being sold to anti-US forces. This large-scale operation included the 'capture' of Venezuela's leader Nicolás Maduro and there is enough to suggest that its aims were wider than claimed.

US President Donald Trump claimed Caracas has been emptying Venezuelan prisons and mental wards into the US, a narrative criticized as weak justification for the use of force. Maduro's capture indicates an attempt at regime change, consistent with a revamped US national security strategy that treats American primacy in the Western Hemisphere as a non-negotiable. Venezuela's closeness with the Kremlin, which includes hosting Russian military facilities in violation of the Monroe Doctrine under its left-leaning government, thus appears to have been a key trigger for US action.

The White House has stated that it seeks to oversee a "safe, orderly and judicious" transition of power in Venezuela, signalling continued US involvement in its political future. That Venezuela's vast oil reserves may be in play as a factor is clear too. This may offer the

US strategic gains, but carries heavy geopolitical and economic risks.

The operation reveals a broader geo-economic strategy for the region that is unfolding against the backdrop of Maduro's sustained refusal to reopen large-scale oil dealings with US corporations. Venezuela's intrinsic value in the global energy market has led to stiff US sanctions in the past that impacted India's hydrocarbon partnerships there. The latest US actions jeopardize ONGC Videsh Ltd's \$200 million San Cristobal and Carabobo investments; dividends and crude-oil supply had been disrupted before, but now the future of these appears to hang in the air. US business involvement and extraction activity in Venezuela is negligible, while China has emerged as its principal importer of crude oil. Even as the US administration urged renewed engagement, American oil firms reportedly stayed away amid political volatility in Caracas. This may have made regime change to install a US-friendly government an appealing idea in US geo-strategic circles.

Legally speaking, the US strike on Caracas sits on uncertain ground. International law prohibits the use of force against another state's territory unless authorized by the UN Security Council, or in self-defence against armed attack. Drug trafficking does not meet that threshold under established standards of international jurisprudence.

Analysts warn that Washington has risked not just an erosion of the rule of law in world affairs, but may have also violated customary international law by compromising Venezuelan sovereignty, and if the airstrikes that accompanied the US capture of Maduro are found to have caused civilian harm, allegations of war crimes under international humanitarian law could be levelled.

Framing warfare as global policing is not unusual of the US, but unilateral military power running roughshod over international principles could have larger implications. It could normalize coercive intervention by a hegemonic

force in a way that reshapes global expectations and lowers the cost of external aggression by stronger nations on smaller countries.

Such a global order could embolden China, for example, to encircle Taiwan, on the bet that framing its territorial ambition as a routine enforcement of its rights will yield condemnation without any real deterrence. Beijing's showed its approach with its 'Justice Mission 2025' military drills conducted at the fag end of 2025. These war games were the largest since 2022 by geographical scope. Several exercise zones extended into areas within 12 nautical miles of Taiwan's coast, marking a significant escalation. The timing and framing of these drills were deliberate.

Justice Mission 2025 followed within days of Washington's approval of a record \$11.1 billion arms package for Taiwan and was accompanied by Beijing's sanctions on 30 US defence firms and executives. It was a coordinated military-economic response to what Chinese authorities characterized as foreign interference in China's internal affairs. China's ministry of foreign affairs described the drills as a "punitive and deterrent action" against Taiwan's forces of independence and their external supporters. Beijing thus sought to brand its escalation of a territorial tension as a matter of its own sovereignty.

As Venezuela's sovereignty is violated with apparent impunity to safeguard Washington's perceived strategic vulnerabilities arising from Russia's presence in the region, the future looks bleak for any multilateral peace arrangement to be institutionalized. Worse, it could encourage aggression in the Eastern hemisphere. After all, Beijing views Taiwan's reunification as a historical inevitability rather than policy choice. A global environment of unchecked unilateralism and selective law enforcement could give us a more dangerous world than before.

Saksham Raj and Aditi Lazarus contributed to this article.



OPEC+ keeps output steady

OPEC+ KEPT OIL output unchanged on Sunday after a quick meeting that avoided discussion of the political crises affecting several of the producer group's members.

Sunday's meeting of eight members of OPEC+, which pumps about half the world's oil, came after oil prices fell more than 18% in 2025 — their steepest yearly drop since 2020 — amid growing oversupply concerns.

Tensions between Saudi Arabia and the UAE flared

last month over a decade-long conflict in Yemen, when a UAE-aligned group seized territory from the Saudi-backed government.

The crisis triggered the biggest split in decades between the former close allies. And on Saturday, US captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, and US President Donald Trump said Washington would take control of the country until a transition to a new administration becomes possible.

REUTERS



LPG cylinder blast sparks fire; three firefighters hurt, no casualty: DFS

NEW DELHI: A fire broke out at a multi-storey residential building in east Delhi's Mandawali area on Sunday following an LPG cylinder blast, an official said.

No casualties were reported in the incident; however, three personnel from the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) were injured during firefighting operations.

The incident was reported around 1 pm from a house located in the area.

The blaze erupted on the fourth floor of the building after an LPG cylinder exploded, the DFS official said.

"We immediately moved fire tenders to the spot. However, around 1.50 pm, the station officer informed that another LPG blast had occurred during firefighting, resulting in injuries to firefighting staff," the official added.

Three additional water tenders and a bowser were deployed. By 2.05 pm, the fire was controlled, and injured personnel hospitalised. The exact cause of the LPG cylinder explosion remains under investigation.

PTI

OPEC+ to hold oil output steady despite turmoil among members

Sunday's meeting of OPEC+ comes after oil prices fell over 18% in 2025, their steepest yearly drop since 2020

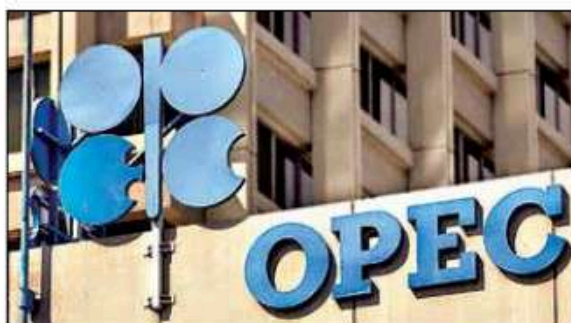
DUBAI/LONDON: OPEC+ kept oil output unchanged on Sunday after avoiding discussions of the multiple political crises affecting the producer group's members, from the Middle East as well as Russia, Iran and Venezuela.

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And on Saturday, the US captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, and US President Donald Trump said Washington would take control of the country until a transition to a new administration becomes possible, without saying how this would be achieved.

"Right now, oil markets are being driven less by supply-demand fundamentals and more by political uncertainty," said Jorge Leon, head of geopolitical analysis at Rystad Energy and a former OPEC official. "And OPEC+ is clearly prioritising stability over action."



“‘RIGHT NOW, OIL MARKETS ARE BEING DRIVEN LESS BY SUPPLY-DEMAND FUNDAMENTALS AND MORE BY POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY’”

The eight OPEC+ members - Saudi Arabia, Russia, the UAE, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Iraq, Algeria and Oman - raised oil output targets by around 2.9 million barrels per day in 2025, equal to almost 3 per cent of world oil demand, to regain market share.

The eight members agreed in November to pause output hikes for January, February and March due to relatively low demand in the northern hemisphere winter. Sunday's brief online meeting affirmed

that policy and did not discuss Venezuela, one OPEC+ delegate said. The eight countries will next meet on February 1, OPEC+ said.

OPEC has in the past managed to overcome many internal rifts, such as over the Iran-Iraq War, by prioritising market management over political disputes. Yet the group is facing other crises, with Russian oil exports falling due to US sanctions over its war in Ukraine, and Iran facing protests and US threats of intervention.

Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves, bigger even than those of OPEC's leader Saudi Arabia, but its oil production has plummeted due to years of mismanagement and sanctions.

Analysts said it is unlikely to see any meaningful boost to crude output for years, even if US oil majors do invest the billions of dollars in the country that Trump promised. **AGENCIES**

ONGC to store CO₂ in depleted wells at Gujarat's Gandhar field

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to store captured carbon dioxide in depleted wells at Gujarat's Gandhar oilfield, marking the company's first full-scale Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) pilot and a major step in its decarbonisation strategy.

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Carbon Capture, Utilisation



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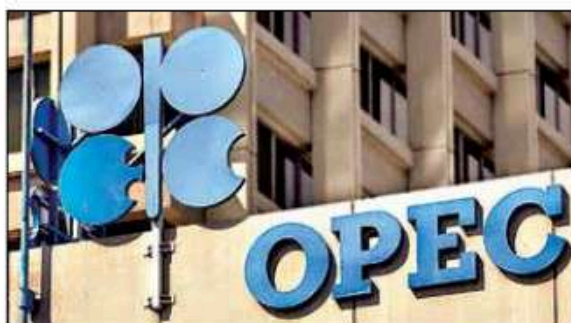
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OPEC has in the past managed to overcome many internal rifts, such as over the Iran-Iraq War, by prioritising market management over political disputes. Yet the group is facing other crises, with Russian oil exports falling due to US sanctions over its war in Ukraine, and Iran facing protests and US threats of intervention.

Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves, bigger even than those of OPEC's leader Saudi Arabia, but its oil production has plummeted due to years of mismanagement and sanctions.

Analysts said it is unlikely to see any meaningful boost to crude output for years, even if US oil majors do invest the billions of dollars in the country that Trump promised. **AGENCIES**

US control of Venezuelan oil may unlock India's \$1 bn stuck dues

India was once a major processor of Venezuelan heavy crude, importing more than 4,00,000 barrels per day at peak levels

NEW DELHI: A US-led takeover or restructuring of Venezuela's oil sector could directly benefit India by unlocking nearly \$1 billion in long-pending dues and reviving crude output from fields operated by Indian firms in the sanctions-hit nation, analysts and industry sources said.

India was once a major buyer of Venezuelan heavy crude, importing over 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) at peak levels, before sweeping US sanctions halted purchases in 2020. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), India's flagship overseas explorer, jointly operates the San Cristobal oilfield in eastern Venezuela, but production has been sharply curtailed due to restrictions on technology, equipment and services.

Venezuela owes OVL \$536 million in unpaid dividends on its 40 per cent stake in San Cristobal up to 2014, along with a similar amount for subsequent years, for which audits have not been permitted. Analysts said easing of sanctions following a US intervention that placed Venezuela's oil sector under American oversight could allow OVL to recover these dues from renewed exports.

Officials said OVL could quickly redeploy rigs and equip-



India's flagship overseas producer, ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), jointly operates the San Cristobal oilfield in eastern Venezuela

ment—such as those used by parent ONGC in Gujarat—to lift San Cristobal's output from the current 5,000–10,000 bpd to as much as 80,000–100,000 bpd.

Indian firms could also expand activity in the Carabobo-1 heavy oilfield, where OVL, Indian Oil Corporation and Oil India hold minority stakes. Analysts expect Venezuela's state oil firm PdVSA to undergo restructuring, but existing international partners, including OVL and Spain's Repsol, are likely to retain their interests. US President Don-

Key Points

- » The San Cristobal field can produce 80,000–1,00,000 bpd with more wells and better equipment against the current 5,000–10,000 barrels per day
- » Venezuela owes OVL \$536 million in unpaid dividends on its 40 per cent stake in San Cristobal up to 2014
- » And a similar amount for subsequent years, for which audits have not been permitted

ald Trump has said American oil majors would return to refurbish Venezuela's degraded infrastructure, though analysts note Washington will still need international partners and buyers such as India.

Major Indian refiners are well equipped to process Venezuelan heavy crude. If sanctions are eased, Venezuelan barrels could quickly return to Indian refineries, diversifying India's crude basket, improving supply security and strengthening its negotiating position in global oil markets, analysts said. AGENCIES

'US-Venezuelan conflict not to hit India's trade'

NEW DELHI: The US-Venezuela conflict will have a negligible impact on India's trade with the South American country, think tank GTRI said on Sunday.

"India faces negligible impact, as trade with Venezuela has collapsed under sanctions, with crude imports down 81.3 per cent in FY2025 and overall bilateral trade remaining marginal," the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

For India, Srivastava said, the disturbance in Venezuela is unlikely to have any material economic or energy impact.

Although India was a major buyer of Venezuelan crude in the 2000s and 2010s, bilateral engagement has weakened sharply since 2019 due to US sanctions, which forced India to cut oil imports and scale back commercial activity to avoid secondary sanctions, he

'India's trade with Venezuela has collapsed under sanctions, with crude imports down 81.3 per cent in FY2025,' GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said

added.

As a result, Srivastava said India's trade with Venezuela is now small and declining.

In FY2025, India's total imports from Venezuela were just \$364.5 million, of which crude oil accounted for \$255.3 million, an 81.3 per cent drop from \$1.4 billion in crude imports in FY2024.

India's exports to Venezuela were modest at \$95.3 million, led by pharmaceuticals worth \$41.4 million. PTI



Crude imports from US up 92% in first 8 mths of current fiscal

New Delhi: India's imports of crude petroleum from the US in the first eight months of the current fiscal registered a year-on-year increase of more than 92% compared with the same period in 2024, with Russia remaining the biggest supplier of the product between April and Nov 2025.

As per data from the ministry of commerce and industry, India imported 178.1 million tonnes of crude between April and Nov 2025, of which 60 million tonnes came from Russia and 13 million tonnes from the US. During the same period in 2024, India had imported 165 million tonnes of oil, which comprised 62.4 million tonnes from Russia and just 7.1 million tonnes from the US.

While the US's share in India's oil imports increased from 4.3% during April-Nov 2024 to 7.6%, during the same period in the ongoing financial year, Russia's contribution fell from 37.9% in the last fiscal year to 33.7% in the current one.

Apart from Russia and the US, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Nigeria and Kuwait are the biggest exporters of crude oil to India. India imported 7.7 million tonnes of crude oil from Russia in Nov 2025 compared to 7.2 million tonnes in the same month last year, a month-on-month increase of 6.8%. During the same month, India's imports of oil from the US increased from 1.1 million tonnes in 2024 to 2.8 million tonnes in 2025, registering a growth of 144%.

With the US imposing sanctions on Russian oil majors Rosneft and Lukoil — two major sources of oil exports to India — in Nov, leading to a fall in their dispatches, the actual impact on imports of Russian oil will be known only when official data for Dec is released. The US had announced the sanctions on Oct 22 and set Nov 21 as the deadline for all dealings to be wound down. However, some little-known suppliers, intermediaries and traders are gradually gaining a foothold in the supply of Russian crude. **TNN**



Might Trumps Right: US' Oil Grab in Venezuela a Shame

Overthrowing sovereignty helps China, Russia

No matter a project's value or virtue, real estate developers have to follow law. But real estate developer-President Donald Trump took out the old US Latin America playbook and landgrabbed Venezuela on Saturday, throwing the notion of sovereignty and geopolitical sobriety out of the window. One was reminded of FDR's apocryphal remark in the 1930s about supporting ruthless Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza: 'He may be a son of a b****, but he's our son of a b****.' Except Venezuelan strongman Nicolás Maduro was clearly not America's chosen baddie. While Trump may have been drumming up 'menace' to America's citizenry of Venezuela's drug cartel—Maduro's version of Saddam Hussein's WMD for George W Bush—the real reason for invasion is, as openly claimed

by Trump, oil.

Some fun facts about Venezuela: It has the biggest proven oil reserves in the world, some 303 billion barrels, almost the combined reserves of Saudi Arabia and the US.

Production is low, and it's a difficult grade to refine. Trump's announcement that 'very large' US oil companies will 'go in, spend billions of dollars, fix the badly broken infrastructure and start making money for the country,' sounds almost



Out with Maduro

evangelical. But at the heart of the matter is panic about debilitation of the dollar. In 2018, after Maduro announced that Venezuela would 'free itself from the dollar,' the country began accepting renminbi, euros, rubles—its foreign minister even proposing, in 2018, that India buy its oil with rupees. By 'running' Venezuela, Trump plans to firm up the sliding petrodollar. For 'neo-neocon' Republicans, many upset with the president's waffling on immigration and visas, this would be fuel in the GOP tanker in a difficult electoral landscape.

The US' return to Cold War-style regime puppeteering, and selective suspension of sovereignty of countries, overtly reveals Trump as a kindred spirit of Xi and Putin. What's sauce for Venezuela should now be heartily seen by Beijing and Moscow as sauce for Ukraine and, yes, Taiwan. Real estate developers just got a go-ahead for land grabs on a nation-state scale.

• OIL PRICES HAVE DROPPED MORE THAN 18% IN 2025

OPEC+ keeps oil output steady amid turmoil among members

Reuters

Dubai/London, January 4

OPEC+ KEPT oil output unchanged on Sunday after avoiding discussions of the multiple political crises affecting the producer group's members, from the Middle East as well as Russia, Iran and Venezuela.

Sunday's meeting of eight members of OPEC+, which pumps about half the world's oil, came after oil prices fell more than 18 per cent in 2025 — their steepest yearly drop since 2020 — amid growing oversupply concerns.

Tensions between Saudi Arabia and the UAE flared last month over a decade-long conflict in Yemen, when a UAE-

aligned group seized territory from the Saudi-backed government. The crisis triggered the biggest split in decades between the former close allies.

And on Saturday, the United States captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, and US President Donald Trump said Washington would take control of the country until a transition to a new administration becomes possible, without saying how this would be achieved.

"Right now, oil markets are being driven less by supply-demand fundamentals and more by political uncertainty," said Jorge Leon, head of geopolitical analysis at Rystad Energy and a former OPEC official. "And



Drilling rigs at an oil well operated by Venezuela's state oil company PDVSA. Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves and the biggest rigs. On Saturday, the US captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, and said it would take control of the country until a transition to a new administration is possible.

REUTERS FILE

OPEC+ is clearly prioritising stability over action."

The eight OPEC+ members - Saudi Arabia, Russia, the UAE, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Iraq, Algeria and Oman — raised oil output targets by around 2.9 million barrels per day in 2025, equal to almost 3 per cent of world oil demand, to regain market share.

The eight members agreed in November to pause output hikes for January, February and March due to relatively low demand in the northern hemisphere winter. Sunday's brief online meeting affirmed that policy and did not discuss Venezuela, one OPEC+ delegate said.

The eight countries will next meet on February 1, OPEC+ said. OPEC has in the past man-

aged to overcome many internal rifts, such as over the Iran-Iraq War, by prioritising market management over political disputes.

Yet the group is facing other crises, with Russian oil exports falling due to US sanctions over its war in Ukraine, and Iran facing protests and US threats of intervention. Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves, bigger even than those of OPEC's leader Saudi Arabia, but its oil production has plummeted due to years of mismanagement and sanctions.

Analysts said it is unlikely to see any meaningful boost to crude output for years, even if US oil majors do invest the billions of dollars in the country that Trump promised.

Venezuela 'Disturbance': Opportunity For Refiners To Diversify

No immediate impact seen on India's oil supplies, prices

Crude Reality: India Doesn't Import Much From Venezuela

Shiva Rajora & Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: The developments in Venezuela will not have an immediate bearing on India's oil supplies or prices but may open the doors to diversified sources in case the US can assert its supremacy in the South American country.

To begin with, the US-led sanctions on Venezuela have meant that oil flowing into the global markets, including India, has come down. Last year, Venezuela was the 18th biggest source of crude petroleum for India, and so far this year it is placed 21st with overall imports during April-Oct pegged at a little over \$300 million. With developments still unfolding, govt officials said they are not looking too much into the future. "We don't know how things play out but there is no immediate impact on our supply," an official said.

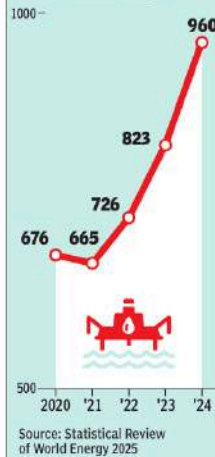
Experts too agreed. "For India, the Venezuelan disturbance is unlikely to have any material economic or energy impact. Although India was a major buyer of Venezuelan crude in the 2000s and 2010s, and Indian firms such as ONGC Videsh held upstream stakes in the Orinoco belt, bilateral engagement has weakened sharply since 2019 due to US sanctions, which forced India to cut oil imports and scale back commercial activity to avoid secondary sanctions," said Ajay Srivastava, founder of think tank GTRI.

Gaura Sengupta, chief economist at IDFC First

SLIPPING ON SANCTIONS

In 2024, Venezuela was the world's 20th largest oil producer

Oil Production ('000 barrels daily)



Bank, said that though Venezuelan oil has been out of the global supply and India also doesn't import much from Venezuela, it could still have a sentimental impact on the markets leading to further volatility in emerging market currencies and the rupee. "Though India's current account deficit has been low this fiscal due to front loading of exports, yet it is another significant event after the high US tariffs. As of now, we don't see an impact on retail

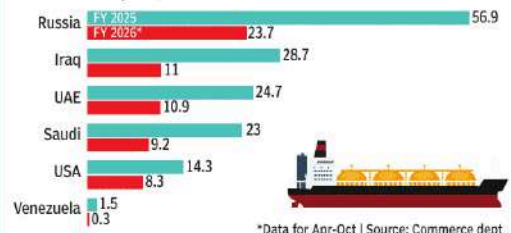
India's imports from Venezuela



For India, the Venezuelan disturbance is unlikely to have any material economic or energy impact... bilateral engagement has weakened sharply since 2019 due to US sanctions

— AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER GTRI

India's top oil suppliers: From being the 18th biggest source of crude last year, Venezuela is now ranked 21st (\$ bn)



fuel inflation. Hence, if and when Venezuelan oil comes to the market, Indian oil companies should take advantage and diversify," she added.

Prashant Vashisht, senior VP at Icria Ratings, said the short-term impact of the crisis on oil market may not be much as the Venezuelan crude has been out of the global market for quite some time due to the sanctions and their oil exports have fallen considerably.

Venezuela is said to have the world's largest oil reser-

ves (17%) but output is low: it was the 20th largest producer of crude last year. Low investments have seen its production slip from the peak of around 2 million barrels a day to around a million barrels, which was around 1% of global output. Between 2014 and 2024, production fell 10%, according to Energy Institute data.

Any significant increase in output will require major investments in the oil infrastructure in Venezuela.

Oilgarch Trump, Cent Wise, Dollar Foolish

To stem dedollarisation, more deglobalisation

Central banks have been trying to reduce their dependence on the dollar by building up stockpiles of gold. Emerging economies driving global trade are increasingly turning to settlements in local currencies. With countries like US sanctions-hit Venezuela—it has the biggest, yet largely untapped, proven oil reserves in the world—selling their oil in renminbi, euros and roubles, slump on the petrodollar has been palpable. Which is where the US invasion on Saturday is reckoned to come handy to get Venezuelan oil trade back in dollars.

The irony is that no serious alternative to the dollar is likely to emerge because of imbalance in world trade. So long as the US buys and China sells stuff on credit, the two biggest economies have compelling reasons to ensure the dollar's preeminence. Then there is the question of size. No economy has an appetite for debt to rival the US. Dollar will



continue to be the world's problem. But an 'intervention' to push up dollar trade should warm the cockles of Republican hearts in a tough political year ahead.

Venezuela has nearly choked its 50-yr-old oil infrastructure, and US companies can revive it with some serious investments. But the US record of political oversight is patchy. Events like these tend to isolate the US in the international arena, with repercussions on instruments like the dollar that drive globalisation. Suspicion over US actions will feed dedollarisation. Yet, the process is, at best, limited.

Entrepreneur Trump risks neither investor nor creditor revolt by wading into Venezuela's reserves of crude. US refiners stand to gain by processing it for diesel and industrial petroproducts. Market reaction should be muted, especially the oil market that's grappling with oversupply. The Trump regime was very publicly building up towards some form of intervention in Venezuela. The risk-off sentiment could reverse with the prospect of a smooth political transition in the country. But the bigger effect of an attack on a sovereign nation is further fissures in a deglobalising world.

Venezuela's vast oil reserves: Key questions

Agence France-Presse

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LONDON: After a US military operation that seized Nicolas Maduro, President Donald Trump said he wants to allow American oil companies to head back into Venezuela to tap its massive crude reserves.

Here are some of the key questions around US interest in Venezuelan oil:

What are Venezuela's reserves?

The country has the largest proven reserves in the world, with 303.221 billion barrels, according to OPEC, which Venezuela is a member of. That puts it ahead of Saudi Arabia (267.200 billion) and Iran. But output is very low. The country pumps around 1 million barrels per day (mb/d), compared with around 3.5 mb/d when Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez came to power in 1999, according to Peter McNally of global research firm Third Bridge.

"Neglect, poor infrastructure, under investment, and corruption have diminished the country's productive capacity," he noted. Sanctions imposed in 2019 by Trump during his first

term contributed to production plunging to a historic low of 350,000 b/d the following year.

How does it circumvent sanctions?

Due to the curbs, there are few importers of Venezuelan oil. China buys 80% of it, according to estimates, via Malaysia.

Some 5% goes to Cuba under agreements between the two countries. To get around the embargo, Caracas relies on "ghost tankers" that use numerous ploys, like false flags and fake routes.

The M/T Skipper, intercepted by the US Navy as part of an oil blockade on Venezuela announced last month, was one such "ghost" vessel, transporting over a million barrels of Venezuelan oil, reportedly destined for Cuba.

To avoid US sanctions, clients pay in cryptocurrency, including asset-pegged stablecoins, mainly USDT.

What is the American footprint there?

A small portion of Venezuelan oil is produced by US group Chevron. The company operates under a special license issued by Washington that allows it to maintain its partnership with



The country has the largest proven reserves in the world, with 303.221 billion barrels.

REUTERS

Venezuela's national oil company and to export part of its production, notably to the American market.

However, it is no longer allowed to transfer money to the state and therefore pays taxes and other dues in crude.

Other US groups present in the early 2000s — ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips — left the country in 2007, refusing Chavez's terms. They required the state to become the majority shareholder of all companies operating in the country.

Why is Trump interested in Venezuelan oil?

"We have to be surrounded by

safe, secure countries, and we also have to have energy, very important," Trump said Saturday.

He added "a lot of money is coming out of the ground", claiming the US would be "repaid for everything" it spent in the country.

The US leader considers that "the oil exported under embargo by Caracas is oil stolen from the international community," John Plassard of Cite Gestion Private Bank told AFP.

In Trump's view, these volumes were extracted thanks to American equipment and investments prior to Chavez's nationalisations, he said.

The US goal is also to push back "Chinese actors from the American continent", including depriving China of influence over the Panama Canal — through which much of Venezuela's oil transits — according to Plassard.

Is Trump's plan realistic?

"Any recovery in production would require substantial investment given the crumbling infrastructure resulting from years of mismanagement and underinvestment," Giovanni Staunovo, of UBS, told AFP.

But investing today holds little appeal: oil prices are weighed down by a supply glut and fell in

2025 despite significant growth headwinds like Trump's tariff war and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

"The US oil majors main responsibility is towards their shareholders, not the government," Ole Hansen, an analyst at Saxo Bank, told AFP.

"With that in mind I doubt we will see a rush of interest to get back into Venezuela anytime soon."

What will be the impact on oil prices?

In a well-supplied market, analysts say that instability in Venezuela will have a limited effect on the oil price, with only a marginal uptick in prices likely this week.

"Logistics around the ports could be disrupted, flows erratic," Plassard predicted. He believes the market may be more concerned by Trump's threats against Iran, which is responsible for far larger oil production.

If Iran "violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue", Trump posted on his Truth Social platform Friday.

"We are locked and loaded and ready to go," he added, ahead of a weekend that saw deadly clashes between protesters and security forces there.



DESPITE TRUMP VOWING INVESTMENTS...

‘US to Face Major Hurdles in Reviving Venezuela Oil Sector’

Oil cos likely to seek political stability: Experts
Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: The US would struggle to quickly revive Venezuela's oil sector, as local institutional capacity has been hollowed out and American oil companies—many of them forced out more than a decade ago—are likely to seek political stability before committing billions of dollars, industry executives said.

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that large American oil companies would “spend billions of dollars” to fix the “badly broken” oil infrastructure in the country that holds among the world's largest proven crude oil reserves.

To be sure, India's exposure to Venezuela is rather minimal, and ONGC Videsh and other Indian state firms hold minority stakes in two oilfields, with about \$500 million in dividends trapped in the Latin American country.

Industry executives say the US faces formidable hurdles, including potential political opposition. “Maduro may not have been a very popular president, yet Americans will face political resistance when they attempt to assert control,” said an executive.

Equally challenging will be resistance from entrenched interests within the bureaucracy and energy administration—groups that have continued to extract rents even as the oil industry collapsed, said the executive cited above.

Regaining control over the local administrative machinery will be critical.

“Without a credible authority to design, award, and enforce

contracts, American companies will have little incentive to return,” he said.

For India, the regime change is unlikely to translate into immediate opportunities.

“We don't have muscle power there in terms of ground presence,” an Indian energy executive said. “The American control could create opportunities for US companies—not really for India. For us to recover our dues, production has to stabilise, which will take time.”

Lifting of US sanctions, however, would allow

Indian refiners, mainly Reliance Industries, to access heavier Venezuelan crude, which typically boosts margins at complex refineries.

Most international oil majors—apart from Chevron with a limited presence—exited Venezuela on a bitter note more than a decade ago.

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY

“Companies that sold assets at a loss will think twice before returning,” said an executive. “Oil majors may listen to Trump, but they remain accountable to shareholders—and without durable political stability and legal certainty, committing billions will be difficult.”

Beginning in the mid-2000s, the Hugo Chávez government systematically pushed out foreign operators through forced contract renegotiations, steep tax and royalty increases, and outright expropriations.



For India, the regime change is unlikely to translate into immediate opportunities

US curbs on Venezuela unlikely to affect India's energy security

Import volumes from Venezuela declined drastically after India pared purchases due to US sanctions

Rajeev Jayaswal

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NEW DELHI: The US action against Venezuela may not impact India's energy security as New Delhi's total petroleum (crude and products) imports from the Latin American nation was around \$326 million in April-August 2025, which is 0.36% of its total petroleum imports worth \$91 billion in the same period.

India, which used to import a significant quantity of Venezuelan crude before 2020, almost stopped purchasing all kinds of crude and petroleum products from Venezuela after the US imposed sanctions in January 2019 during President Donald Trump's first tenure.

According to the latest available government data, India's total petroleum imports from Venezuela plunged from \$6.03 billion in 2019-20 to \$644 million in 2020-21, which further fell to \$0.06 million in 2021-22.

After Trump's first term, the Joe Biden administration (January 2021 to January 2025) gradually gave reliefs from the sanc-



India's key imports from Venezuela are crude oil, petroleum products, bituminous substances, mineral waxes.

REUTERS

tions. Despite that, India's petroleum imports from the country remained subdued.

India's petroleum imports from Venezuela rose to \$123.66 million in 2022-23 and \$931.78 million in 2023-24, data showed.

In 2024-25, petroleum imports climbed to \$1.54 billion only to fall sharply during the second Trump administration. India's total Venezuelan energy import in the first five months (April-August) of the current financial year was less than \$326 million, according to the data.

Experts said the current developments in Venezuela are unlikely to impact India's energy security, and they are unlikely to have any material influence on international oil prices.

"Contribution of Venezuelan crude in India's energy basket is now negligible," said S.C.

Sharma, an energy expert and former officer on special duty at the erstwhile Planning Commission.

Venezuela's crude is of low quality (waxy and bituminous), hence not the first choice of global refiners. Post the American sanctions, China surpassed the US to become the primary buyer of Venezuelan oil for over a decade.

Advanced refineries take Venezuelan crude at significant discounts; hence its bargaining capacity is limited, a government official said on anonymity.

Venezuela's contribution in global oil supply is also less than 1% even as it holds the largest oil reserves, the official added.

According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), Venezuela was the world's largest proven crude oil reserves

in 2023 with approximately 303 billion barrels, accounting for approximately 17% of global reserves. However, its daily output is low because of the US sanctions and lack of investments in advanced technology. "On an average it is producing about 940,000 barrels per day in 2025, which is not significant enough to influence international oil prices in a big way," the official cited above said.

For India, the Venezuelan disturbance is unlikely to have any material economic or energy impact, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) founder Ajay Srivastava said.

"Although India was a major buyer of Venezuelan crude in the 2000s and 2010s, and Indian firms such as ONGC Videsh held upstream stakes in the Orinoco belt, bilateral engagement has weakened sharply since 2019 due to US sanctions, which forced India to cut oil imports and scale back commercial activity to avoid secondary sanctions," he said.

India's key imports from Venezuela are crude oil, petroleum products, bituminous substances, mineral waxes, which comprise over 95% of total imports. For example, out of total overall merchandise imports of \$364.50 million in April-August 2025, value of crude and petroleum products stood at \$326 million. Other import items include iron and steel, aluminium, copper,

lead, zinc, wood and chemicals.

India's exports to Venezuela are also minuscule. India exported merchandise worth \$95.30 million in April-August 2025, comprising items like drug formulations, industrial machinery, ceramics, motor vehicles, fabrics and garments, footwear, paper and medical and scientific instruments.

"Given the low trade volumes, existing sanctions constraints, and the large geographical distance, the current developments in Venezuela are not expected to have any meaningful impact on India's economy or energy security," Srivastava added.

India, however, has significant interests in the Venezuelan oil and gas sector. Government-run ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) is trying to recover its unpaid dividends nearing about \$1 billion (including interests) from its partner, the state-owned Petróleos de Venezuela SA (PdVSA), for the San Cristobal project.

OVL had acquired a 40% stake in the San Cristobal project in April 2008. In May 2010, an OVL-led consortium of Indian oil companies (Indian Oil Corporation and Oil India) signed another joint venture agreement for a 18% stake with the Corporación Venezolana del Petróleo S.A. (CVP), a subsidiary of PdVSA, for the development and production from Carabobo-1 Project in Orinoco Region of Venezuela.

India's LNG-powered trucks, fuel retail underperformed in 2025

S DINAKAR
Mayiladuthurai (Tamil Nadu), 4 January

The performance of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in India last year was not encouraging from the environment point of view.

Outlets selling LNG, which, the oil industry says, has the potential to transform fuel use by 2030, and trucks running on this fuel have underperformed.

Unlike China, which has witnessed scorching growth, the Government of India does not offer any incentives for LNG in transport, industry sources said.

The number of LNG-powered trucks last year grew 75 per cent to around 1,309 from 747 in 2024. This is against at least three times growth expected in early 2025, according to the biggest industry players and Vahan estimates. That compares unfavourably with more than 178,000 heavy-duty gas trucks sold in China in 2024, according to Shell estimates.

Essar group-promoted Blue Energy Motors is planning to boost production to 10,000 trucks, both LNG-powered and electric, in the next few years in India while Tata Motors, Volvo, and Ashok Leyland have not disclosed details.

But retail owners are sceptical about the rapid proliferation of LNG-powered heavy-duty vehicles. "Getting 5,000 trucks on the road in the next few years is

tough," a senior industry official involved in such outlets said.

"Even producing 1,000 trucks in 2026 is a big proposition. That's three trucks a day."

That hasn't been the case with China. LNG-powered trucks in 2024 accounted for 30 per cent of the heavy-duty truck market, roughly four times their 2022 share, according to Energy Intelligence, a provider of market intelligence in the United Kingdom.

It may touch one million in five years, according to Shell.

LNG consumption by such trucks in China increased 22 per cent in the year to reach 20.3 million tonnes. That is 80 per cent of India's LNG use of the fuel for all sectors.

The transport sector as a whole accounts for around 14 per cent of the emission of greenhouse gases in India.

LNG retail

Fewer trucks on the road result in fewer LNG retail outlets. Some are temporarily shut for lack of customers. They include those of state-run Indian Oil, a company official said. India's biggest refiner is reviewing plans to build new outlets because of lack of adequate vehicles, the official said.

Of the 39 LNG retail outlets in India, 11 are operated by Indian Oil, followed by eight of Essar-promoted Ultra Gas &



Energy (UGEL), according to an internal industry assessment.

But state-run refiners are hitting the pause button in 2025 until existing outlets enhance throughput, two officials from state refiners said.

The European Union has more than 700 such LNG retail outlets.

Internal industry forecasts predict around 50 operational outlets, led by private players, by the end of December. It is unclear how many more will close down this year. One needs 20-30 trucks to feed from each outlet, averaging 10-15 fillings daily for viability, a manager of

an LNG retail outlet said.

Indian Oil had to shutter outlets in Chennai and Andhra Pradesh for lack of customers. It has since reopened one in Vijayawada and one in Namakkal (Tamil Nadu), a key trucking hub, and will open another in Hyderabad this month, a company official said. The outlet in Siripenumbudur has the maximum throughput of 80-100 tonnes a month, the official said.

There is less appetite for LNG-powered trucks from transporters because of high upfront capital costs, an official from a state-run refiner said.

In the slow lane

■ India's LNG-powered trucks rose 75% to 1,309 in 2025, well below expectations and lagging China's rapid adoption

■ Fewer LNG trucks have forced some retail stations to shut, prompting state-run refiners to pause expansion in 2026

■ Firms like Ultra Gas and Think Gas are expanding via corridor-first and integrated truck-fuel strategies as PSUs hold back

■ High upfront costs, funding constraints and LNG price volatility deter transporters from shifting to LNG

Others raised concerns over funding for LNG-powered trucks, the confidence of transporters in deploying such vehicles, and volatility in LNG prices.

Private players

While state-run companies are hitting the pause button, private players like UGEL and Think Gas are deploying outlets. UGEL has committed ₹900 crore to build 100 LNG retail outlets, guided by a corridor-first strategy, prioritising high-density freight routes such as the Golden Quadrilateral, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, and NH-44/48, said Maqsood

Shaikh, managing director and chief executive officer.

UGEL has adopted a circular strategy, an industry source said, by having its affiliate truck making and logistics firms.

Essar has invested in Blue Energy Motors and logistics company Greenline. The first builds the trucks and the second operates them. UGEL fills their tanks. The circular approach helps plan and control routes, the industry official said, something that an Indian Oil or Bharat Petroleum is unable to do.

Bharat Petroleum had to close down its outlet in Namakkal.

"Locations are selected using a multi-parameter scoring model covering freight demand, proximity to LNG terminals, regulatory readiness, land availability and assured customer off-take," Shaikh said. "Our next phase will cover states like Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh, connecting the east-west and north-south freight corridors."

Shaikh dismissed fears of electric trucks cannibalising the LNG retail segment as seen in China this year. "Electric trucks are for the short haul while LNG is for the long haul. They complement each other."

UGEL has targeted 25 outlets by March next year, building capacity to refuel 15,000 LNG trucks compared to capacity of 4,800 trucks currently.

Venezuela tension unlikely to have big impact on India trade

SHREYA NANDI & SUDHEER PAL SINGH
New Delhi, 4 January

The geopolitical tension caused by the US attack on Venezuela and the capture of President Nicolas Maduro could flare global oil prices in the short term, said officials and experts, who are closely monitoring the political situation there.

However, it may not significantly dent India's oil supplies or overall trade, they added.

"We do not see any risk as of now. Our exports to Venezuela are anyway limited. In the case of imports, the trade was mainly dominated by petroleum, which we have gradually reduced," a senior government official told *Business Standard*.

A senior official from a state-run oil public sector undertaking (PSU) said the development was crucial, given the statement by President Donald Trump that US oil companies will pump in billions of dollars to run Venezuelan oil fields.

"Trump is all for oil and gas production and Venezuela has a rich profile of reserves, but the immediate impact for India will be very minimal as the share of Venezuela in our total overseas production is very low. It has been coming down in the last few years due to sanctions and the discounts on Russian oil," he said.

However, there will be greater clarity on the long-term impact, depending on how the political developments unfold.

On Saturday, Trump had said the US will look to tap Venezuelan oil reserves.

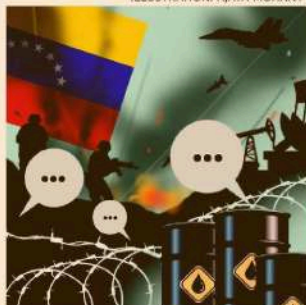
The total bilateral trade between India and Venezuela stood at \$1.8 billion during 2024-25 (FY25), compared to India's total trade of \$1.16 trillion, government data showed.

Of the total trade, outbound shipments to the Latin American country stood at \$217 million, representing 0.05 per cent of exports during FY25. Imports stood at \$1.65 billion, equivalent to a share of 0.23 per cent.

Ajay Sahai, director-general and chief executive officer of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said in FY25, India's total imports from Venezuela were very small (nearly \$364 million), with crude oil forming only a small part. Sahai said that because of this reduced exposure, the current crisis in Venezuela is unlikely to have a meaningful impact on India's energy security or overall economy.

Key exports from India to Venezuela include pharmaceutical products, ceramic, cotton, plastics, organic chemicals and paper, among others. Petroleum imports dominate India's inbound shipments from Venezuela, with a share of 63 per cent. Other imports include teak, lead, zinc, and copper scrap.

ILLUSTRATION: AJAYA MOHANTY



Shrinking trade ties

India-Venezuela trade (figures in \$ mn)



ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), currently holds 40 per cent participating interest in a joint venture with PdVSA, the national oil company of Venezuela.

PdVSA operates the San Cristobal field in the Orinoco Heavy Oil belt in Eastern Venezuela.

India's oil and gas stakes in Venezuela also extend to the Carabobo-1 field located in the Orinoco oil belt in Venezuela.

China is the largest buyer of Venezuela's oil after the US imposed sanctions in 2019. According to Kpler data quoted by *Reuters*, China accounts for over half of the Latin American nation's oil exports of about 768,000 barrel per day.

Ajay Srivastava, former trade ministry official and founder of Delhi-based think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), said for India, the Venezuelan disturbance is unlikely to have any material economic or energy impact.

He added that although India was a major buyer of Venezuelan crude in the 2000s and 2010s, and Indian firms such as OVL hold up-

India's \$1 bn dues may be unlocked

A US-led takeover or restructuring of Venezuela's oil sector could deliver a direct benefit to India, potentially unlocking close to \$1 billion in long-pending dues while accelerating the revival of crude production from fields it operates in the sanctions-hit Latin American nation, analysts and industry sources said.

India was once a major processor of Venezuelan heavy crude, until US sanctions and rising compliance risks forcibly shut down purchases in 2020.

ONGC Videsh (OVL) jointly operates the San Cristobal oilfield in eastern Venezuela, but output has been severely curtailed as US curbs blocked access to critical technology, equipment, and services — leaving commercially viable reserves effectively stranded.

Venezuela has failed to pay OVL \$536 million in dividends due on its 40 per cent stake in the field up to 2014, and a near-equivalent amount for the subsequent period for which Caracas has refused to permit audits, effectively freezing settlement of the claims.

Sanctions could be eased after the US places the country's vast oil reserves under American oversight, analysts and energy executives said.

stream stakes in the Orinoco belt, bilateral engagement has weakened sharply since 2019.

"In this emerging 'might is right' global order — where international institutions have lost their voice and most major countries, except China and Russia, have stayed silent on US actions — the war for raw materials and energy resources is likely to intensify in the coming years. India must, therefore, act cautiously, protect its strategic autonomy, avoid deals that weaken sovereignty or long-term interests, and secure critical raw materials and energy access without geopolitical pressure," Srivastava said.

The extreme inflationary economy and damage to oil export-import infrastructure will make the situation vulnerable for Venezuelan investments and inward investments in that nation. "The Indian and Global oil trade situation and price impacts are not expected to be significant, but those who have invested already face further uncertainty," said Deepak Mahurkar, Partner at accounting and consultancy firm PwC.

ONGC Videsh may get to recover \$1 billion in dues

• Venezuelan oil supplies may resume to RIL, other refiners

MUKESH JAGOTA
New Delhi, January 4

THE UNITED STATES' capture of oil-rich Venezuela may help unlock \$1 billion in long-pending dues for India's state-run hydrocarbon explorer ONGC Videsh (OVL), and accelerate crude production from the fields in the Latin American country, where it has equity interest.

In addition, Venezuelan oil supplies to Reliance Industries (RIL) could gather pace under a 15-year crude contract with



Demonstrators protest outside the UN Plaza against the US bombing of Venezuela and seizure of President Nicolas Maduro in San Francisco on Sunday

Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA). According to analysts, India, as the world's third-largest oil importer, may stand to gain as resumption of Venezuelan oil supplies would offer a strategic alternative to West Asian crude, reduce exposure to geopolitical shocks, and strengthen its hand in price negotiations.

Indian refiners are technically configured to process Venezuelan heavy crude.

Continued on Page 5

ONGC Videsh may get to recover \$1-bn in dues

RIL, ACCORDING TO media reports, had obtained a licence from US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in July 2024 for crude imports from PDVSA, notwithstanding the sanctions, but actual trade hasn't picked up.

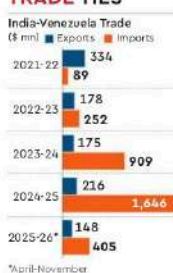
OVL has a 40% stake in the San Cristobal onshore oilfield in eastern Venezuela, where PDVSA holds 60%. Though the field is seen to be commercially viable, the US sanctions on Venezuela blocked access to rigs, equipment and services needed to sustain output, and the wells have practically dried up.

Venezuela failed to pay OVL \$536 million in dividends due on its 40% stake in the field up to 2014, and a near-equivalent amount for the subsequent period for which the Venezuelan authorities refused to permit audits, effectively freezing the claims settlement.

In April 2025, the Donald Trump administration re-imposed sanctions on Venezuela's oil sector in response to President Nicolas Maduro's alleged failure to meet his election commitments, but said some firms could be authorised to trade and operate in Venezuela.

An international consortium comprising three Indian companies — OVL, Indian Oil Corporation, Oil India — and Repsol of Spain and Petrosas of Malaysia was declared the winner of an international bidding process in April 2008 to develop a multi-million-dollar oil project integrated in Carabobo belt of Venezuela. Now, that the US sanctions on the Latin American country have been lifted, the Indian companies' investments in the fields could be revived, analysts said.

TRADE TIES



India's oil purchases from Venezuela surged in the late 2010s, reaching over 400,000 barrels per day at peak levels, but the ties have weakened since 2019 due to the sanctions. India was forced to cut oil imports from the country and scale back commercial activity to avoid secondary sanctions, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

Apart from oil, India's trade with Venezuela is small and declining. At its peak in 2018-19 India was procuring \$7.24 billion crude oil from Venezuela, which fell to \$ 6.02 billion in 2019-20 before Covid pandemic reduced it to \$643 million in 2020-21 and then to negligible levels in 2021-22.

The US mounted an unexpected attack on Venezuela on Sunday and captured Maduro, with Trump vowing to 'run the country' until there is a 'proper' transition of power. Maduro is now believed to be in custody at a New York detention centre.

Once sanctions are eased,

Crude Oil Imports from Venezuela (\$ mn)



OVL can move rigs and other equipment from places, such as its parent ONGC's oil fields in Gujarat, to San Cristobal to revive output that has plummeted to 5,000-10,000 barrels per day, PTI reported quoting officials in the know of the matter. The onshore field can produce 80,000-1,00,000 bpd with more wells and better equipment, they said, adding that San Cristobal needs rigs similar to those operating in Gujarat, and ONGC owns many such rigs. US control of the Venezuelan oil sector also means exports to the world would start soon, the sources added. Trump has already stated that as part of the takeover, major US oil companies would return to Venezuela, which has the world's largest oil reserves, and refurbish badly degraded oil infrastructure.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said it would likely maintain steady output, despite the latest developments.

Eight member countries —

Saudi Arabia, Russia, the UAE, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Iraq, Algeria and Oman — had agreed in November to pause production hikes for January to March. The policy may remain unchanged.

OVL had earlier sought a 'specific licence' sanctions waiver, similar to one OFAC had granted to Chevron to operate the oilfield and export oil from it.

OVL and other Indian firms can also take more fields in Venezuela and revive production from the Carabobo-1 Area — another Venezuelan heavy oilfield with Indian interest. OVL holds 11% in Carabobo-1, while IOC and Oil India hold 3.5% stake each.

Post the US action, PDVSA may undergo restructuring, analysts said. In the worst-case scenario, its stake can be taken over by a US company or any new entity that Washington may erect.

Analysts added the US cannot replace all the international companies and will need firms like OVL not just for their expertise but also for the market they bring in.

"If sanctions are eased — as seen in past geopolitical episodes, such as Panama in 1990, when aid and trade restrictions were lifted shortly after the removal of General Manuel Noriega — trade flows can resume rapidly.

"Under such circumstances, Venezuelan barrels could again return to Indian refineries," said Nikhil Dubey, Senior Research Analyst at Kpler, in a post on LinkedIn. Major Indian refiners, such as Reliance Industries, Rosneft-based Nayara Energy, IOC, HPCL-Mittal Energy and Mangalore Refinery, have the complexity needed to run these

grades efficiently in blends to produce fuels like petrol and diesel.

"India is actively diversifying its crude basket — not only to reduce its dependence on Russian oil, but also amid ongoing India-US trade discussions, where lowering exposure to Russian barrels remains a key theme. In that context, if sanctions on Venezuela are eased, Venezuelan crude could offer additional flexibility to Indian refiners and help ease supply concentration risks," Dubey said.

Before 2019, Venezuela exported 707 million barrels of crude oil a year, with the US absorbing about 32% and China and India 35%. By 2025, exports declined to 352 million barrels a year, with China taking 45%.

Analysts said with Venezuelan oil under its belt, the US will no longer be dependent on OPEC producers like Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

"In a way, Trump has sent a strong message to Saudi Arabia. His logic of having discovered Venezuelan oil and so being its true owner, also holds good for the Middle East. After all, it was US firms which discovered oil in Saudi Arabia and other places, and as a corollary, it can also capture Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud," an analyst tracking the sector said. With its own oil and gas production and Venezuelan output, the US will no longer be dependent on any other part of the world for its energy needs. Its dependence on China, however, continues for non-energy items, but Trump is trying to cut even that through his tariffs and encouraging local production, he said.

(With agency inputs)

Venezuela crisis may unlock ONGC dues

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE US-led restructuring of Venezuela government may pave the way for India's oil sector to unlock close to \$1 billion in long-pending dues in the Latin American country.

According to a report citing sources, the US presence in Venezuela may accelerate the revival of crude production from oilfields operated by foreign firms in the sanctions-hit country.

ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), India's overseas oil arm, jointly operates San Cristobal oilfield in eastern Venezuela. Production there has dropped sharply because US sanctions blocked access to key technology, equipment and services, leaving large oil reserves untapped.

Venezuela has not paid OVL \$536 million in dividends on its 40% stake in the field up to 2014.



Venezuela liable to pay ONGC Videsh \$1 billion

Venezuela has not paid ONGC Videsh Ltd \$536 million in dividends on its 40% stake in the field up to 2014. A similar amount is due for later years, but the government has not allowed audits, freezing the settlement process.

A similar amount is due for later years, but the government has not allowed audits, freezing the settlement process.

India was once a major buyer of Venezuelan heavy crude, im-

porting over 400,000 barrels per day at its peak. Purchases stopped in 2020 after US sanctions made trade difficult.

Analysts said sanctions could be eased after a US opera-

tion removed President Nicolas Maduro and placed Venezuela's oil sector under American oversight.

If sanctions are lifted, OVL could move drilling rigs and equipment from ONGC's fields in Gujarat to San Cristobal to boost production, which has fallen to just 5,000-10,000 barrels a day, officials said. Once exports resume, OVL could recover its nearly USD 1 billion in dues from future oil revenues. The company had earlier sought a special US licence, similar to the one given to Chevron, to operate and export oil.

Indian companies could also expand their presence in Venezuela. OVL holds an 11 per cent stake in the Carabobo-1 heavy oil block, while Indian Oil Corporation and Oil India Ltd each own 3.5 per cent. Venezuela's state oil firm PdVSA is the majority owner in both projects.

US hold on oil may help India recover \$1bn dues

New Delhi: A US-led takeover or restructuring of Venezuela's oil sector could deliver a benefit to India, potentially unlocking close to \$1 billion in dues while accelerating the revival of crude production from fields it operates in the sanctions-hit Latin American country, analysts and industry sources said.

India was once a major processor of Venezuelan heavy crude, importing more than 400,000 barrels per day at peak levels, until sweeping US sanctions and rising compliance risks forcibly shut down purchases in 2020.

Its flagship overseas producer, ONGC Videsh (OVL), jointly operates the San Cristobal oilfield in eastern Venezuela, but output has been severely curtailed as US restrictions blocked access to critical technology, equipment, and services — lea-

INDIA INC'S EXPOSURE

Oil & gas

ONGC | Holds equity stake in two petroleum projects

Indian Oil | Consortium partner in Carabobo heavy-oil project; Exposure via equity participation

Oil India | Minority partner in Venezuelan oil JV alongside OVL & IOC

RIL, Nayara Energy and MRPL have been importers

Engineers India |

Maintains an overseas office in Caracas

Pharma | Sun & Glenmark have subsidiaries

Metals & industrial

| JSPL operates Venezuela's largest iron-ore complex

Source: Groww

ving commercially viable reserves effectively stranded.

Venezuela has failed to pay OVL \$536 million in dividends due on its 40% stake in the field up to 2014, and a near-equivalent amount for the subsequent period for which Caracas has refused to permit audits, effectively freezing settlement of the claims.

Sanctions could be eased after a US operation removed President Nicolas Madu-

ro and placed the country's vast oil reserves under American oversight, analysts and energy executives said.

Once sanctions are eased, OVL can move rigs and other equipment from places, such as its parent ONGC's oil fields in Gujarat, to San Cristobal to revive output that has plummeted to 5,000-10,000 barrels per day, officials in the know of the matter said. AGENCIES

With Trump's capture of Venezuela, Indian geopolitics – and oil companies – will need to pivot

Venezuela, Vidi, Vici?

Oil's Well Only If It Ends Well



Hari Seshasayee

Panama City: On New Year's Eve, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro had stated unequivocally in an interview that 'the American people should know that here they have a friend – a friendly, peaceful nation – and a friendly government, too. And our motto is very clear: Not war, yes peace.' Donald Trump, on his part, claimed to have spoken directly to Maduro just last week.

Yet, in the early hours of January 3, the US conducted Operation Absolute Resolve, attacking military bases, air ports and warehouses across Venezuela. Maduro was captured within minutes and is now being tried by US courts. There are two immediate outcomes of the US operation:

1. Change, but not yet. Although this looks a lot like regime change, it is not – at least, not yet. For 18 years, Venezuela has been governed by United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), led by Hugo Chávez until his death in 2013, followed by leadership under Maduro. Despite the latter's ouster, PSUV's de facto leader Delcy Rodríguez continues to govern.

Washington's goal is not necessarily to restore democracy in Venezuela. It is more concerned with exercising power and controlling Venezuela's vast oil resources, as Trump made abundantly clear in a January 3 press conference on the subject. Venezuela has not yet seen a transfer of power, and any such transition would also need the tacit approval of the country's armed forces.

Venezuela is currently experiencing a delicate balancing act between the ruling PSUV administration, a divided opposition and Washington's dictates. The next few months could see the old regime prevailing, institutional collapse, or a new, legitimately elected leader who brings about some stability.

2. Nostalgic muscle-flexing. The attack on Venezuela is a reminder of the US' intention to project its military power. As many countries, and even senators within the US, have admitted, the military operation violates international law. Yet, few people would object in this case, given that Maduro was a dictator with little regard for democratic norms, who co-opted organs of the state to accumulate power and used political repression to achieve his goals.

This rather aggressive foreign policy strategy outlined in the White House's latest National Security Strategy looks to reshape the world order based on US interests. Whether Washington pursues similar strategies elsewhere is anybody's guess.

Although we may be tempted to compare the US attack on Venezuela with Washington's previous foreign military interventions in oil-rich countries like Iraq, it would be unwise to do so. Even as Venezuela holds the largest oil reserves in the world, today it produces a fraction of its potential. According to US Energy Information Administration, the country produces less crude oil and petroleum than India currently does.

Venezuela's oil production has been faltering since the late-90s, dropping from a high of 3.4 mn barrels per day (bpd) in 1997 – when it was the fifth-largest oil producer in

the world – to around 8 lakh bpd in recent years. If anything, the US attack could enliven global oil markets, which may rejoice at the prospect of increased Venezuelan oil production.

US oil major Chevron already accounts for 25% of Venezuela's oil production. If the Trump regime succeeds in securing more access to Venezuela's oil, more US companies like ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips may eventually restart production in Venezuela.

So, what does this mean for In-



Latin America's latest tinpot dictator, Don Donald

dia? Even as India is not a political ally of Maduro, the India-Venezuela oil trade flourished under PSUV. Between 2012 to 2019 – when US sanctions on Venezuela came into effect – an average of 10% of India's total oil imports came from Venezuela. More importantly, the Latin American country remained a profitable trading partner for India due to its extra-heavy oil, which trades at a lower cost and can be refined by India's private oil companies like Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy for a steep profit.

In the 21st century, India has imported 207 mn tons of oil from Venezuela. In addition, Indian oil companies like ONGC Videsh (OVL), Indian Oil, and Oil India, have invested \$2.38 bn in Venezuela's oil fields. Several questions remain, and will determine India's future engagement:

► What will a post-Maduro Venezuela look like?

► Will Indian companies have to stand in line behind US' western oil majors for a piece of Venezuela's oil? Despite the cheer in Washington and celebrations amongst the Venezuelan diaspora, Venezuela's future remains uncertain. Maduro may be out, but Venezuela's woes are far from over. For a country that has seen the largest migration out of its country, with 20% of the population leaving the country, the humanitarian and socio-political crisis continues without an end in sight. Whether Trump adds to it or provides relief will be watched closely over the weeks and months.

The writer is co-founder, Consultix Group



Indrani Bagchi

Whole Lotta Map-Making

Map-making is back. As the US moves to take over 'running' Venezuela by removing Nicolás Maduro, an 'action' that carries more than a whiff of Osama bin Laden and Manuel Noriega, we're watching in real time Donald Trump's national security strategy at work. The man wants US hemispheric hegemony. He might just get it.

Europe and Britain have endorsed US actions. The invasion gives US effective control over a country

and cheering brigades, Pakistan and Trump did expose India's vulnerabilities that left New Delhi stunned, outraged and depressed. It's now stuck with a trade deal gathering dust at Trump's desk. For everyone who thinks the deal is tied to Russian oil, think again. It's actually tied to an India-Pakistan peace deal that Trump wants to midwife. Modi and Trump speak occasionally. But the PM won't meet, and the president wants a peace deal as price for that signature.

Fundamentally, the US no longer sees India as necessary for its China strategy. In an earlier world, India would have been inside a global group like Pax Silica purely on its promise. Trump keeps India out because it has little capability to demonstrate. As the new US ambassador to India Sergio Gora prepares to touch down on January 10, the US is showing greater interest in Bangladesh than in its bigger neighbour. So, it will be India's responsibility to keep the US relationship moving.

The Japanese use a term, 'gaikatsu', or 'external pressure'. Trump's gaikatsu against India may yet become its making. In a normal year, Indians are trade-averse, its private sector risk-averse and GDP in slow motion. The second half of 2025 felt like India was on steroids. The longer Trump's gaikatsu, the further it could push India to get its act together.

India is slowly taking back control of its neighbourhood. Sri Lanka and the Maldives are more open to India than before. With Khaleida Zia's death and Sheikh Hasina's flight, it has the opportunity to work on a cleaner slate in Bangladesh with a new set of actors. Post its 'nepo-baby' revolt, Nepal appears to be moving in a more positive direction. Pakistan should feel Indian pressure to reform. With ongoing elections in Myanmar, India needs to regain influence lost to China. An India-Japan partnership would be profitable for all concerned, particularly in critical minerals.

So, the ongoing map-making in India's extended neighbourhood provides an opportunity. New Delhi can take advantage of the redrawing of West Asia-Africa geopolitics. Israel's recognition of Somaliland is a game-changer. Given that this region is vital for its interests, New Delhi should play a larger role here. Not only has Somaliland been a democracy but it's also the only African country where the rupee was once legal tender.

The UAE is building Berbera port on the Gulf Aden in Somaliland. An Indian presence there would be huge in the geopolitically sensitive Horn of Africa, sitting as it does next to China-controlled Djibouti. It ties in with a growing convergence between India, Israel, the UAE and Ethiopia. India can also counter the growing presence of Turkey and China, which, along with Saudi Arabia, are now firmly in bed with Pakistan.

The global order remains a work-in-progress, as the latest invasion by the US shows India must move its pieces accordingly on the geopolitical chessboard.

The writer is CEO, Ananta Centre

that has the largest proven oil reserves on earth, something Trump won't shy about laying claim to. Add to that the fact that Guyana's oil is also run by US companies, and Washington is now energy-abundant, controlling almost half the world's fossil fuel sources.

Cuba and Brazil are in US crosshairs. But the rest of South America could be taking a leaf out of Argentina. President Javier Milei, who is more aligned to the US and moving away from China. Venezuela has global implications for China. The jury is out on whether the US gambit can embolden Beijing in the Taiwan Straits or cool its ambitions. What is clear, though, is that China has lost a big source of oil in Venezuela, and is steadily losing a massive market and pathway to take the yuan global.

The US' Venezuela 'action' could spell the end of the Atlantic as China's favoured fishing grounds. The latter may dominate rare earths and magnets, and be racing on deep tech. But the US is dominating on the ground. China may have just found its path to becoming the No. 1 geopolitical power to be steeped than it thought.

Despite a Modi-Trump rift, India and the US still converge on their view of China as a challenge. China's tech and military capabilities notwithstanding, its vulnerabilities – demography, overcapacity, unstable property sector, local debt, unsustainable trade surpluses – are real.

India drew the short straw in 2025. Beyond the officially sanctio-

भारत में एलएनजी ट्रकों व खुदरा एलएनजी के बाजार का प्रदर्शन कमतर

एस. दिनकर
अमृतसर, 4 जनवरी

भारत में एलएनजी का खुदरा कारोबार 2030 तक ईंधन के उपयोग में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव ला सकता है लेकिन इसका 2025 में प्रदर्शन कम रहा। उद्योग के अनुमान के अनुसार एलएनजी खुदरा आउटलेट और एलएनजी चालित ट्रकों दोनों की ही वृद्धि पर उद्योग जगत की अपेक्षाओं से नीचे रही। उद्योग के सूत्रों के अनुसार चीन ने इस क्षेत्र में जबरदस्त वृद्धि की है लेकिन भारत के यातायात क्षेत्र में एलएनजी को कोई प्रोत्साहन नहीं दिया जाता है।

उद्योग की बड़ी कंपनियों और

वाहन पोर्टल के मुताबिक एलएनजी से चलने वाले ट्रकों की वृद्धि 2025 में सालाना आधार पर 75 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 1,309 रही जबकि 2025 की शुरुआत में यह आंकड़ा तीन गुना अधिक होने की संभावना जताई गई थी। एलएनजी चालित ट्रकों की वृद्धि 2024 में 747 थी। हालांकि शेल कंपनी के अनुमानों के अनुसार चीन में 1,78,000 से अधिक भार क्षमता वाले गैस चालित ट्रक बेचे गए थे।

एस्सार समर्पित ब्लू एनर्जी मोटर्स की योजना भारत में अगले कुछ वर्षों में 10,000 एलएनजी और बिजली चालित ट्रकों का उत्पादन करना है। हालांकि टाटा मोटर्स, वोल्वो और अशोक लीलैंड ने

चीन रहा आगे

■ भारत का तिजी क्षेत्र 2026 तक अधिक एलएनजी के खुदरा क्षेत्र में अग्रणी भूमिका निभा सकता है, लेकिन अभी भी सीमित व्यवसाय

■ भारत में सड़कों पर एलएनजी से चलने वाले ट्रकों की संख्या कम होने के कारण पिछले वर्ष कई एलएनजी खुदरा आउटलेट का उपयोग कम रहा और बंद हो गए

आंकड़ों का खुलासा नहीं किया है। बहरहाल, एलएनजी के खुदरा विक्रेता एलएनजी चालित भारी वाहनों को तेजी से बढ़ाने को लेकर

संशय में हैं। ऐसे आउटलेट में काम करने वाले उद्योग के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया, 'अगले कुछ वर्षों में 5,000 ट्रकों को सड़क पर

उतारना टेढ़ी खीर है।' उन्होंने बताया, 'वर्ष 2026 में ऐसे 1,000 ट्रकों का उत्पादन भी बड़ी बात है। इसका अर्थ है कि एक दिन में तीन

ट्रकों का उत्पादन।' हालांकि चीन में ऐसा नहीं है।

बुके की मार्केट इंटेलिजेंस प्रदाता एनजी इंटेलिजेंस के मुताबिक चीन में 2022 की तुलना में एलएनजी से चलने वाले ट्रकों की हिस्सेदारी 2024 में 30 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। शेल के मुताबिक यह आंकड़ा अगले पांच वर्षों में 10 लाख का आंकड़ा छू सकता है। चीन में 2025 में सालाना आधार पर एलएनजी चालित इन ट्रकों को खपत 22 प्रतिशत बढ़कर इस साल 2.03 करोड़ टन हो गई। यह भारत में सभी क्षेत्रों की एलएनजी खपत का 80 प्रतिशत है। एलएनजी चालित ट्रक पर्यावरण के लिए लाभदायक हैं। भारत के कुल ग्रीनहाउस गैस

उत्सर्जन में व्यापक परिवहन क्षेत्र का योगदान लगभग 14 प्रतिशत है और भारी मालवाहक ट्रक परिवहन क्षेत्र की कुल ऊर्जा खपत का 49 प्रतिशत से अधिक हिस्से का उपयोग करते हैं।

एलएनजी का खुदरा कारोबार सड़क पर एलएनजी चालित कम ट्रकों के कारण एलएनजी खुदरा आउटलेट कम रहे। सरकारी कंपनी के अधिकारी ने बताया कि सरकारी कंपनियों सहित कुछ अन्य कंपनियों के आउटलेट कम खरीदार होने के कारण बंद हो गए। भारत का सबसे बड़ा रिफाइनर इंडियन ऑयल नए आउटलेट बनाने की अपनी योजना की समीक्षा कर रहा है।

इसका कारण यह है कि सड़क पर एलएनजी चालित वाहन कम हैं। इस सिलसिले में रिफाइनर टिप्पणी देने के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं थे।

भारत में 39 खुदरा एलएनजी आउटलेट हैं। इन खुदरा आउटलेट में इंडियन ऑयल के 11 और एस्सार समर्पित अल्ट्रा गैस व एनर्जी के 8 खुदरा आउटलेट हैं। हालांकि यूरोपियन यूनियन में ऐसे 700 से अधिक खुदरा आउटलेट हैं। यूरोप में ऐसे ज्यादातर आउटलेट जर्मनी और इटली में हैं। सरकारी रिफाइनर एलएनजी के खुदरा आउटलेट के विस्तार को ध्यान रहे हैं। इनका विस्तार मौजूदा खुदरा आउटलेट के विस्तार के बाद किया जाएगा।





द्वितीय एशियाई गन्धक सम्मेलन आयोजक
संघीय ई और इसका कारण यमन
संज्ञान 2025-26 में मने
को जल्दी तैयार करने
वाली यानी अतीति
किसी के लिए राब
समर्पित मूल्य 400
रुपये प्रति मिंटिल
तक पहुंच जाएगा।
आम किस्मों के
लिए एसएपीपी 31
390 रुपये प्रति
मिंटिल हो जाएगा,
को इससे थोड़ा
थोड़ा सन में 360 रुपे
या इससे पहले 2021-
22 में मने को आम किस्मों
का एसएपीपी 315 रुपये
से बढ़कर 340 रुपये प्रति मिंटिल
किया गया था और अतीति किसी के लिए

उत्तर प्रदेश का चीनी उद्योग भी पिछले कुछ साल में काफी बढ़ता है और केवल चीनी बनाने के बजाय उसने चीनी, एथनॉल, विजली और जैव-उर्वरक एक साथ बनाने वाले कंप्लेक्स को शकल ले ली है। पेट्रोलेम में 20 फीसद की एथनॉल मिश्रण का कारोबार पूरा करने में इसमें असम किरदार अदा किया है। प्रदेश के उद्योग ने लेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों को पिछले वित्त वर्ष में करीब 1.80 अरब लीटर एथनॉल दिया, जिससे मालाया करीब 8,000 करोड़ रुपये की विदेशी मुद्रा बच गई।

उत्तर प्रदेश यौनी उद्योग ने हरित बिजली बनाने के लिए खोई का इस्तेमाल करके थोड़े को-जैनेरेशन परियोजनाएँ भी शुरू की हैं, जिनकी स्थापित क्षमता 2000 मेगावाट से ज्यादा है। स्वच्छ विकास प्रक्रिया के तहत पंजीकृत ऐसी कई परियोजनाएँ कार्य में क्रेडिट भी कमाली हैं और सालाना 300 करोड़ यूनित हरित बिजली देती हैं।

चौबी छद्मोप ने प्रदेश में 10 लाख से अधिक लोगों को रोजगार दिया है, जिनमें किसानों के साथ ट्रांसपोर्ट, वेंडर, कुशल-अकुशल कामगार शामिल हैं। छद्मोप के लोगों का कहना है कि यदि ऊर्जा और एथनोल से जुड़ी उनकी माँग पूरी कर दी जाती है तो प्रदेश में रोजगार कई गुना बढ़ सकता है।

संजीव मुखर्जी

चीनी उत्पादन के मामले में देश के अखिल राज्यों में शुमार उत्तर प्रदेश का चीनी उद्योग कारोबार के दूरे दूरे पर लालाश रहत है। इसके लिए यहां की चीनी मिलें नवीकरणों और औजार नए जमाने के अनुकूल ईंधन विकल्पों पर खास जोर दे रही हैं, जिनमें कंप्रेस्ड बायोमैथेन, एथनॉल, अथवा प्रोपेन और विमानन ईंधन तक का कुछ शामिल है। अब तो प्रदेश की चीनी मिलें एथनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल पर केंद्र सरकार की महत्वाकांक्षी योजना में हाथ बंटाने के लिए पेट्रोल बेचने की इजाजत भी मांग रही हैं।

फिरले कुछ समय से चीनी मिल मालिक प्रदेश की योगी आश्रितबनाथ सरकार से मिल परिसर में ही पेट्रोल पंप खोलकर एंगनल मिल ₹100 और ₹20 पेट्रोल बेचने की अनुमति मांग रहे हैं। उनकी दलील है कि इससे बचने कम होगा, स्वच्छ परिवहन को बढ़ावा मिलेगा और चीनी मिलों तथा आम उपभोक्ताओं को फायदा भी होगा। मिलें अभी तक एथनॉल की दलित मार्केटिंग कंपनियाँ तक बेचने के लिए मध्यस्थता को सहाय ले रही हैं मगर पेट्रोल पंप चलाने की जगह

मिलने पर उन्हें मध्यस्थों का मुंह नहीं ताकना पड़ेगा। सीधे एथनॉल मिला पेट्रोल बेचने पर उनका मार्जिन बढ़ेगा और नकदी भी आसानी से हाथ आ जाएगी। दूसरी ओर उपभोक्ताओं को एथनॉल मिला पेट्रोल अपने घर के पास ही मिल जाएगा और गांव-कस्बों में खेत से पेट्रोल को बिक्री तक का पूरा तंत्र तैयार हो जाएगा।

परिवर्तन के अनुकूल यानी हरित ऊर्जा के विकल्पों में कोरेड बायोपैस का काफी अहम है और उत्तर प्रदेश की चीनी मिलों की वह कमाई तथा कारोबार का बेहतर हिस्सा दे रही है। जब चीनी की मर्यादा बढ़ती है तो गन्ना से इस इस्तेमाल के बजाय दाली में बनाई जाती है, जिसकी चीनी की मूल्य वा प्रेस मंड की बढ़ती है। इसी तरह प्रसिद्ध फिलाले के बजाय यह गन्ना तालय वा संयोग वषच जाती है। मिलों से ये दोनों और अन्य जीविक पदार्थ भारी मात्रा में निकलते हैं, जो जल प्रदूषण का बड़ा कारण बन सकते हैं। मगर इन्हें कोरेड बायोपैस के संयोजन में कच्चे माल के तौर पर इस्तेमाल किया जाये तो कमाई का गन्ना ख़ास मिल सकता है। इससे बायोपैस बनाई जाये तो गीबन उत्पन्न करने का हथकौड़ी हो सकता है और स्वस्थ परिवर्तन को बचावा मिल सकता है।

प्रदेश की योगी आदित्यनाथ सरकार केन्द्र सरकार के साथ मिलकर कंप्रेस्ड बायोगैस संयंत्र लगाने पर कई तरह के प्रोत्साहन दे रही है। इनमें किफायती परिवहन के लिए पर्यावरण के अनुकूल विकल्प (सतत) योजना और तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों के द्वारा बायोगैस खरीद में मदद करने वाली नीतियाँ शामिल हैं।

उत्तर प्रदेश का चीनी उद्योग पर्यावरण के अनुकूल विमानन ईंधन (सैफ) के उत्पादन में भी लगातार तरकीब कर रहा है। एथनॉल बना रहे चीनी काखाने अल्कोहल-यू-जेट एवनीक इस्तेमाल का विमानन ईंधन भी बना सकते हैं। कार्बन का कम उत्सर्जन करने वाली वैश्व्य वेन की मांग पूरी दुनिया में बढ़ रही है और सैफ इसमें एकदम सटीक बैठता है। विमानन कंपनियाँ और नियामक विमानन ईंधन में सैफ के मिश्रण को अनिवार्य बना रहे हैं, इसलिए आगे चलकर इसकी मांग में जबरदस्त बढ़ोतरी होना तय है, जिसका फायदा उठाने के लिए प्रदेश की चीनी मिलें अभी से तैयारी कर सकती हैं।

वास्तव में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार इस मामले में काफी चुस्त है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक यह देश के उन चुनिंदा राज्यों में शुमार है, जहाँ पर्यावरण के अनकल विमानन ईंधन पर अलग से

नीति बना रही है। इसमें अलगाव यह देश के बुद्धिमान राज्यों में है, जो बायोमास से नवीकरणीय बिजली बनाने में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। चीनी उपराष्ट्र के दौरान मिलान में निवेश करने की खाई हममें कनेक्शन का काम करती है और इसे कोयला-आधारित के लिए यह हरित बिजली दे सकती है।

चीनी निवेशकों को स्वच्छता हाइड्रोजन को बनाने के लिए तैयार कर रहा है, जो क्रान्ति हारित हाइड्रोजन उपकरण कनेक्टर के तौर पर काम कर सकती है। इस हाइड्रोजन का इस्तेमाल बायोफास चलाये में, जहाँ इसमें के तौर पर और कृषि क्षेत्रों में उपकरण मिलान के लिए किया जा सकता है। राष्ट्रीय हाइड्रोजन मिशन के तहत निवृत्ति सहायता के जरिये बायोमास से नवीकरणीय हाइड्रोजन के उत्पादन को बढ़ावा दिया जाना है।

प्रदेश की चीनी मिलों का उत्पादन पिछले कुछ साल से काफी बढ़ा है। सितंबर 2025 में खस हुए चीनी सीजन 2024-25 के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में लगभग 29.5 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन पर गन्ना उगाया गया। गन्ने की औसत पैदावार तकनीकी 8.32 टन प्रति हेक्टेयर रही और कुल 24.94 करोड़ टन

गन्ना प्रदेश में पैदा हुआ। चीनी मिलों ने इसमें से करीब 9.55 करोड़ टन गन्ने की पेराई की और 9.67 फीसदी औसत रिकवरी के साथ 92.5 लाख टन चीनी का उत्पादन किया। साथ ही भारी मात्रा में शीश (बो-हेवी मोलासेस) भी तैयार हुआ।

अंकड़ बताते हैं कि 2024-25 के चीनी सीजन के दौरान राज्य में 122 चीनी मिलें करीब 133 दिन तक चलती रहें। इन मिलों से करीब 48.7 लाख टन शीर और 180 करोड़ लीटर एथनॉल का उत्पादन हुआ। उद्योग ने वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में उत्पादन के साथ लगभग 291.2 करोड़ यूनिट बिजली भी तैयार की और रोजाना लगभग 8.40 लाख टन गन्ने की पैदाई की।

प्रदेश में योगी आदित्यनाथ सरकार के साढ़े आठ साल के कारकाल में चीनी उद्योग ने जितना विकास और बदलाव किया है उतना उससे पहले की एक सदी में भी नहीं आया था। मई 2017 में प्रदेश में कारका बदलने के बाद सबसे बड़ा बदलाव और सरकार की कामवाजी गन्ना बकायों के मामले में दिखा। पहले प्रदेश के गन्ना किसानों का तीन-तीन साल का बकाया मिलने के ऊपर रहता था मगर अब चीनी उद्योग उन्हें एकदम समथ पर पतु बकाया चुका रहा है। पिछले कुछ साल में इस साल गन्ना किसानों को 35,000 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा का भुगतान किया गया है और पुराना साध बकाया निपटा दिया गया है।

गन्ने के राज्य परामर्श मूल्य (एसएपी) में सबसे बड़ी बढ़ोतरी में से एक इस साल की गई। कुछ हफ्ते पहले ही योगी आदिन्याथा सरकार ने सीजन 2025-26 के लिए गन्ने के एसएपी में 30 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल की बढ़ोतरी की घोषणा की, जिसमें इस नकदी फसल की जल्ल पकने वाली किस्मों

वेनेजुएला : भारतीय व्यापार पर असर नहीं

विशेषज्ञों और अधिकारियों के अनुसार भारत के तेल आयात या समग्र व्यापार पर फिलहाल नहीं पड़ेगा खास प्रभाव

श्रेया नंदी और सुधीर पाल सिंह

वेनेजुएला पर हमले और राष्ट्रपति निकोलस मादुरो के अमेरिका की गिरफ्त में होने के बाद उत्पन्न भू-राजनीतिक संकट के कारण निकट भविष्य में वैश्विक स्तर पर तेल की कीमतें चढ़ सकती हैं। हालांकि वेनेजुएला के घटनाक्रम पर नजर रखने वाले विशेषज्ञों एवं अधिकारियों का कहना है कि मौजूदा हालात से भारत के तेल आयात या समग्र व्यापार पर कोई खास असर नहीं पड़ेगा। एक वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी ने बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड को बताया, 'फिलहाल तो हमें कोई जोखिम नहीं दिख रहा है। वेनेजुएला को हमारा निर्यात वैसे भी सीमित है। वहां से मुख्य रूप से पेट्रोलियम का आयात होता था, जो अब धीरे-धीरे कम हो गया है।'

सरकार नियंत्रित एक तेल कंपनी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि लैटिन अमेरिकी देश पर अमेरिका के हमले के बाद शुरू हुई उथल-पुथल का व्यापक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है। राष्ट्रपति डॉनल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा था कि अमेरिकी तेल कंपनियां वेनेजुएला के तेल क्षेत्रों में अरबों डॉलर का निवेश करेंगी। अधिकारी ने कहा, 'ट्रंप तेल एवं गैस उत्पादन के हिमायती रहे हैं और इन दोनों संसाधनों का वेनेजुएला में विशाल भंडार है। हालांकि, इस घटनाक्रम का भारत पर कोई खास असर नहीं होगा, क्योंकि हमारे कुल तेल आयात में वेनेजुएला की हिस्सेदारी बहुत कम है और पिछले कुछ वर्षों में अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों और रूस से किफायती दाम पर तेल उपलब्ध होने से इसमें और कमी आ गई है।'

मगर इस बात से भी इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता कि काफी कुछ आने वाले समय में राजनीतिक घटनाक्रमों पर निर्भर करेगा। उसके बाद ही दीर्घकालिक प्रभावों का सही अंदाजा लगाया जा सकेगा। शनिवार को अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डॉनल्ड ट्रंप ने ऐलान किया कि उनका देश वेनेजुएला के तेल भंडार का फायदा उठाने पर विचार करेगा। सरकारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के दौरान भारत और वेनेजुएला के बीच कुल 1.8 अरब डॉलर का द्विपक्षीय व्यापार हुआ था, जबकि भारत का कुल व्यापार 1.16 लाख करोड़ डॉलर दर्ज किया गया था। भारत के कुल व्यापार में वेनेजुएला की 21.7 करोड़ डॉलर मूल्य की वस्तुओं का निर्यात हुआ था जो वित्त वर्ष 2025 में देश से हुए कुल निर्यात का महज 0.05 प्रतिशत था। इस लैटिन अमेरिकी देश से कुल 1.65 अरब डॉलर मूल्य का आयात हुआ, जो भारत के कुल आयात का 0.23 प्रतिशत ही है।

भारत से वेनेजुएला की मुख्य रूप से दवा उत्पाद, शिरीष, कपास, प्लास्टिक, कार्बनिक रसायन, कागज आदि निर्यात किए जाते हैं, जबकि वेनेजुएला से भारत में होने वाले कुल आयात में पेट्रोलियम 63 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी के साथ सबसे ऊपर है। इसके अलावा वहां से सागौन, सीसा, जस्ता और तांबा स्क्रेप आयात किए जाते हैं। तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) की



राष्ट्रपति निकोलस मादुरो

मादुरो को तुरंत रिहा करे अमेरिका : चीन

चीन ने रविवार को अमेरिका से वेनेजुएला के अपदस्थ राष्ट्रपति निकोलस मादुरो और उनकी पत्नी को तुरंत रिहा करने तथा बातचीत से मुद्दों को हल करने की मांग की है। चीन के विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा, 'अमेरिका द्वारा अपदस्थ किए गए राष्ट्रपति निकोलस मादुरो और उनकी पत्नी को जबरन हिरासत में लेकर देश से बाहर ले जाने पर चीन गहरी चिंता व्यक्त करता है। यह कदम अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून, अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों के बुनियादी मानदंडों और संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर के उद्देश्यों एवं सिद्धांतों का स्पष्ट उल्लंघन है। वर्ष 2019 में अमेरिका द्वारा प्रतिबंध लगाए जाने के बाद चीन, वेनेजुएला के तेल का सबसे बड़ा खरीदार है।'

वेनेजुएला पर अमेरिका का नियंत्रण रहेगा : ट्रंप

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डॉनल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा है कि अमेरिका अस्थायी रूप से वेनेजुएला का संचालन करेगा और अन्य देशों को बेचने के लिए इसके विशाल तेल भंडार का दोहन करेगा। फिलहाल वेनेजुएला के उच्च न्यायालय ने साल 2018 से उपराष्ट्रपति पद संभाल रही डेलसी रोड्रिग्स को अंतरिम रूप से राष्ट्रपति पद संभालने को कहा है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव एंटोनियो गुतेर्रेस ने हालात पर चिंता जताते हुए इसे 'खतरनाक मिसाल' करार दिया। उधर, अमेरिकी सेना को कार्रवाई के बाद अनिश्चित भविष्य की आशंका में वेनेजुएला में लोगों की सुपरमार्केट तथा पेट्रोल पंपों पर लंबी कतारें लग गईं।

भारत ने जताई गहरी चिंता, बातचीत से हल हो मुद्दा

वेनेजुएला में अमेरिका के सैन्य अभियान पर भारत ने गहरी चिंता व्यक्त की और कहा कि वह तेल समृद्ध दक्षिण अमेरिकी देश में तेजी से बदल रही स्थिति पर कड़ी नजर रखे हुए है। भारत ने क्षेत्र में शांति और स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए मुद्दों को शांतिपूर्ण तरीके से हल करने का भी आह्वान किया है।

विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा, 'हम सभी संबंधित पक्षों से अपील करते हैं कि वे बातचीत के जरिए मुद्दों को शांतिपूर्ण तरीके से सुलझाएं ताकि क्षेत्र में शांति और स्थिरता बनी रहे।' अमेरिकी कार्रवाई के बाद वेनेजुएला ने राष्ट्रीय आपातकाल घोषित कर दिया। विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि कराकस स्थित भारत का दूतावास भारतीय समुदाय के सदस्यों के संपर्क में है और वह उन्हें हरसंभव सहायता देता रहेगा।

विपक्षी कांग्रेस ने भी वेनेजुएला में अमेरिकी कार्रवाई पर गंभीर चिंता जताई और कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के सिद्धांतों का एकतरफा उल्लंघन नहीं किया जा सकता। कांग्रेस महासचिव जयप्रकाश रमेश ने सोशल मीडिया मंच एक्स पर पोस्ट किया, 'कांग्रेस पिछले 24 घंटों में वेनेजुएला को लेकर अमेरिका की कार्रवाई पर अत्यंत गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त करती है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून का एकतरफा उल्लंघन नहीं किया जा सकता।' वामपंथी दलों ने भी इसे संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर का धोर उल्लंघन बताया। उन्होंने अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप और विदेश मंत्री मार्को रूबियो के बयानों की भी कड़ी निंदा की। वाम दलों ने वेनेजुएला में अमेरिकी कार्रवाई के खिलाफ जंतर-मंतर पर प्रदर्शन भी किया।

विदेश में परिचालन करने वाली इकाई ओएनजीसी विदेश लिमिटेड (ओवीएल) के पास वर्तमान में वेनेजुएला की राष्ट्रीय तेल कंपनी पीडीवीएसए के साथ संयुक्त उद्यम में 40 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है। पीडीवीएसए पूर्वी वेनेजुएला में ओरिनोको हैवी ऑयल बेल्ट में सैन क्रिस्टोबल क्षेत्र का संचालन करती है।

वेनेजुएला में भारत की तेल और गैस हिस्सेदारी वहां ओरिनोको तेल क्षेत्र में स्थित काराबो-1 फील्ड तक भी फैली हुई है। ओवीएल के पास काराबो-1 में 11 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है जबकि इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (आईओसी) और ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड के पास इसी में 3.5 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है। शेष हिस्सेदारी पीडीवीएसए और रेपसोल के पास है।

ओएनजीसी विदेश ने पिछले वित्त वर्ष (2024-25) में 72.65 लाख टन तेल और 1.02 करोड़ टन तेल समतुल्य तेल एवं गैस का उत्पादन किया जो भारत के घरेलू उत्पादन का लगभग क्रमशः 24 प्रतिशत और 16 प्रतिशत है।

व्यापार मंत्रालय के पूर्व अधिकारी एवं दिल्ली स्थित विचार संस्था ग्लोबल ट्रेड रिसर्च इनिशिएटिव के संस्थापक अजय श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि वेनेजुएला में उत्पन्न अशांति से भारत के लिए किसी भी भौतिक, आर्थिक या ऊर्जा से जुड़ी बड़ी परेशानी खड़ी होने की आशंका नहीं है। हालांकि उन्होंने कहा कि भारत 2000 और 2010 के दशक में वेनेजुएला के कच्चे तेल का प्रमुख खरीदार था और ओवीएल जैसी भारतीय कंपनियों की ओरिनोको बेल्ट में उत्पादन में हिस्सेदारी है लेकिन अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के कारण

वर्ष 2019 से द्विपक्षीय जुड़ाव कम होता गया है। श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि इस वजह से भारत को तेल आयात में कटौती और द्वितीयक प्रतिबंधों से बचने के लिए वाणिज्यिक गतिविधियां कम करने पर विवश होना पड़ा। इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि वेनेजुएला के साथ भारत का व्यापार अब कम हो गया है और यह लगातार घट भी रहा है। श्रीवास्तव ने कहा, 'ताकत के दम पर चल रही मौजूदा वैश्विक व्यवस्था में आने वाले समय में कच्चे माल और ऊर्जा संसाधनों के लिए संघर्ष तेज हो सकता है। इस समय अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थान कमजोर हो गए हैं और चीन एवं रूस को छोड़कर अधिकांश प्रमुख देश अमेरिका के कदमों पर चुपनी साधे हुए हैं। इसे देखते हुए भारत को सावधानी से कदम बढ़ाना चाहिए और अपनी रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता की रक्षा करनी चाहिए।' (साथ में एजेंसियां)

वेनेजुएला के तेल भंडार पर अमेरिकी नियंत्रण से मिल सकता है भारत का अटका हुआ बकाया

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

विश्लेषकों और उद्योग सूत्रों के अनुसार, वेनेजुएला के तेल क्षेत्र पर अमेरिकी नियंत्रण अथवा उसके पुनर्गठन से भारत को प्रत्यक्ष लाभ मिल सकता है। विश्लेषकों ने बताया कि इस घटनाक्रम के चलते काफी समय से लंबित भारत के लगभग एक अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर के बकाए की वसूली हो सकती है और प्रतिबंधों से प्रभावित वेनेजुएला में भारतीय संस्थाओं द्वारा संचालित तेल क्षेत्रों से कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन भी बढ़ सकता है। उल्लेखनीय है कि भारत एक समय वेनेजुएला के भारी कच्चे तेल का प्रमुख आयातक था और अपने चरम काल में प्रतिदिन चार लाख बैरल से अधिक का आयात करता था। हालांकि, 2020 में अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों और अनुपालन जोखिमों के कारण यह आयात बाधित हो गया था। भारत की प्रमुख विदेश तेल अन्वेषण



एवं उत्पादन कंपनी ओएनजीसी विदेश लिमिटेड (ओवीएल) पूर्वी वेनेजुएला के सैन क्रिस्टोबल तेल क्षेत्र का संयुक्त संचालन करती है। अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के कारण आवश्यक तकनीक, उपकरण और सेवाओं तक पहुंच बाधित होने से वहां उत्पादन पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा और व्यावसायिक रूप से उपयोगी भंडार लगभग फंस गए। वेनेजुएला सरकार ने इस परियोजना में ओवीएल की 40

प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी पर 2014 तक देय 53.6 करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर का लाभांश अभी तक नहीं चुकाया है। इसके बाद की अवाधि के लिए भी लगभग समान राशि बकाया है, किंतु ऑडिट की अनुमति न मिलने के कारण इन दावों का निपटान लंबित है। विश्लेषकों के अनुसार, यदि अमेरिका वहां के तेल भंडार को अपनी निगरानी में लेता है, तो प्रतिबंधों में छील दी जा सकती है। इसके बाद ओवीएल

गुजरात और अन्य क्षेत्रों से रिग एवं अन्य उपकरण भेजकर उत्पादन में वृद्धि कर सकती है। इस समय यह उत्पादन घटकर मात्र 5,000 से 10,000 बैरल प्रतिदिन रह गया है। अधिकारियों का अनुमान है कि यदि उन्नत उपकरण और अतिरिक्त तेल कुओं का उपयोग किया जाए, तो उत्पादन बढ़कर 80,000 से 1,00,000 बैरल प्रतिदिन हो सकता है। इसके लिए आवश्यक रिग

ओएनजीसी के पास पहले से उपलब्ध हैं। अमेरिकी नियंत्रण का अर्थ यह भी है कि वैश्विक बाजार में वेनेजुएला से निर्यात शीघ्र बहाल हो सकता है, जिससे ओवीएल को अपने पुर्ण बकाए की वसूली में सहायता मिलेगी। ओवीएल ने पूर्व में अमेरिकी वित्त मंत्रालय के विदेशी संपत्ति नियंत्रण कार्यालय (ओएफएस) से विशेष लाइसेंस के तहत प्रतिबंधों में छूट की मांग की थी, जैसा कि शेवरेन को प्रदान किया गया था। केप्टर के वरिष्ठ शोध विश्लेषक निखिल दुबे ने कहा कि प्रतिबंधों में ढील से व्यापार प्रवाह तेजी से बहाल हो सकता है और वेनेजुएला का कच्चा तेल फिर से भारतीय रिफाइनरियों तक पहुंच सकता है। स्लायस इंडस्ट्रीज, नयारा एनर्जी, इंडियन ऑयल और एचपीसीएल-मिलतल एनर्जी जैसी भारतीय रिफाइनरियों के पास भारी कच्चे तेल को संसाधित करने की उन्नत क्षमता मौजूद है।

HPCL की RUF परियोजना से पूरा होगा आत्मनिर्भर भारत का सपना : मंत्री हरदीप पुरी

इस कदम से भारत को ऊर्जा के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने में मिलेगी मदद

सवेरा न्यूज

नई दिल्ली, 4 जनवरी

: भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा की दिशा में एक बड़ी सफलता मिली है। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल) की नई परियोजना रेंजिड्यू अपग्रेडेशन फैसिलिटी (आरयूएफ) को आंध्र प्रदेश के विशाखापत्तनम (विजग) रिफाइनरी में सफलतापूर्वक शुरू कर दिया गया है। केंद्रीय मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने एक्स पर कहा कि यह परियोजना प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू के नेतृत्व में आत्मनिर्भर भारत की दिशा में एक मजबूत कदम है।

ये भारत को ऊर्जा के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने में मदद करेगी। पुरी ने बताया कि एचपीसीएल की यह नई सुविधा रिफाइनरी में बचे हुए कम उपयोगी तेल को आधुनिक



हरदीप सिंह पुरी

तकनीक की मदद से उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों में बदलती है। इसे रेंजिड्यू हाइड्रोक्रैकिंग तकनीक कहा जाता है, जिससे तेल

का अधिकतम उपयोग संभव हो पाता है। इस फैसिलिटी की क्षमता हर साल 3.55 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन तेल को प्रोसेस करने की है। यह लगभग 93 प्रतिशत तक तेल को उपयोगी उत्पादों में बदल

सकती है, जिससे कच्चे तेल की एक-एक बूंद का बेहतर इस्तेमाल हो सकेगा। इस परियोजना में इस्तेमाल किए गए 3 बड़े रिएक्टर दुनिया के सबसे भारी इंजीनियरिंग उपकरणों में से हैं। हर रिएक्टर का वजन लगभग 2,200 मीट्रिक टन है। खास बात यह है कि ये सभी रिएक्टर पूरी तरह भारत में ही बनाए गए हैं, जो भारत की तकनीकी क्षमता को दिखाता है। इस नई परियोजना से भारत को तेल आयात पर कम निर्भर रहना पड़ेगा। इससे ईंधन की बचत होगी, रिफाइनरी का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा और साथ ही देश की तेजी से बढ़ती ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पूरा करने में भी मदद मिलेगी।

तेल क्षेत्र पर अमेरिकी नियंत्रण से भारत को वेनेजुएला से मिल सकता है एक अरब डालर का बकाया

नई दिल्ली, 4 जनवरी (भाषा)।

विश्लेषकों और उद्योग सुत्रों के अनुसार, वेनेजुएला के तेल क्षेत्र पर अमेरिकी नियंत्रण अथवा उसके पुनर्गठन से भारत को प्रत्यक्ष लाभ मिल सकता है। विश्लेषकों ने बताया कि इस घटनाक्रम के चलते काफी समय से लंबित भारत के लगभग एक अरब अमेरिकी डालर के बकाये की वसूली हो सकती है और प्रतिबंधों से प्रभावित वेनेजुएला में भारतीय संस्थाओं द्वारा संचालित तेल क्षेत्रों से कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन भी बढ़ सकता है। उल्लेखनीय है कि भारत एक समय वेनेजुएला के भारी कच्चे तेल का प्रमुख आयातक था और अपने चरम काल में प्रतिदिन चार लाख बैरल से अधिक का आयात करता था। हालांकि, 2020 में अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों और अनुपालन जोखिमों के कारण यह आयात बाधित हो गया था।

भारत की प्रमुख विदेश तेल अन्वेषण एवं उत्पादन कंपनी ओएनजीसी विदेश लिमिटेड (ओवीएल) पूर्वी वेनेजुएला के ह्यरीन क्रिस्टोबल तेल क्षेत्र का संयुक्त संचालन करती है। अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के कारण आवश्यक तकनीक, उपकरण और सेवाओं तक पहुंच बाधित होने से वहां उत्पादन पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा और व्यावसायिक रूप से उपयोगी भंडार लगभग फंस गए। वेनेजुएला सरकार ने इस परियोजना में ओवीएल की 40 फीसद हिस्सेदारी पर 2014 तक देय 53.6 करोड़ अमेरिकी डालर का लाभांश अभी तक नहीं चुकाया है। इसके बाद की अवधि के लिए भी लगभग समान राशि बकाया है, किंतु ऑडिट की अनुमति न मिलने के कारण इन दावों का निपटारा लंबित है। विश्लेषकों के अनुसार, यदि अमेरिका वहां के तेल भंडार को अपनी निगरानी में लेता है, तो प्रतिबंधों में ढील दी जा सकती

है। इसके बाद ओवीएल गुजरात और अन्य क्षेत्रों से रिग एवं अन्य उपकरण भेजकर उत्पादन में वृद्धि कर सकती है। इस समय यह उत्पादन घटकर मात्र 5,000 से 10,000 बैरल प्रतिदिन रह गया है। अधिकारियों का अनुमान है कि यदि उन्नत उपकरण और अतिरिक्त तेल कुओं का उपयोग किया जाए, तो उत्पादन बढ़कर 80,000

से 1,00,000 बैरल प्रतिदिन हो सकता है। इसके लिए आवश्यक रिग ओएनजीसी के पास पहले से उपलब्ध हैं।

अमेरिकी नियंत्रण का अर्थ यह भी है कि वैश्विक बाजार में वेनेजुएला से निर्यात शीघ्र बहाल हो सकता है, जिससे ओवीएल को अपने पुराने बकाये की वसूली में सहायता मिलेगी।

विशाखापट्टनम रिफाइनरी में तेल की एक-एक बूंद का होगा इस्तेमाल

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा की दिशा में एक बड़ी सफलता मिली है। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने रविवार को कहा कि हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल) की नई परियोजना रेजिड्यू अपग्रेडेशन फैसिलिटी (आरयूएफ) को आंध्र प्रदेश के विशाखापट्टनम (विजग) रिफाइनरी में सफलतापूर्वक शुरू कर दिया गया है।

केंद्रीय मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर कहा कि यह परियोजना प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू के नेतृत्व में आत्मनिर्भर भारत की दिशा में एक मजबूत कदम है। यह भारत को ऊर्जा के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने में मदद करेगी।

पुरी ने बताया कि एचपीसीएल की यह नई सुविधा रिफाइनरी में बचे हुए कम उपयोगी तेल को आधुनिक तकनीक की मदद से उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों में बदलती है। इसे रेजिड्यू हाइड्रोक्रैकिंग तकनीक कहा जाता है, जिससे तेल का अधिकतम उपयोग संभव हो पाता है। इस फैसिलिटी की क्षमता हर साल

● बचे हुए कम उपयोगी तेल को आधुनिक तकनीक की मदद से उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों में बदला जाएगा

3.55 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन तेल को प्रोसेस करने की है। यह लगभग 93 प्रतिशत तक तेल को उपयोगी उत्पादों में बदल सकती है, जिससे कच्चे तेल की एक-एक बूंद का बेहतर इस्तेमाल हो सकेगा।

इस परियोजना में इस्तेमाल किए गए तीन बड़े रिएक्टर दुनिया के सबसे भारी इंजीनियरिंग उपकरणों में से हैं। हर रिएक्टर का वजन लगभग 2,200 मीट्रिक टन है। खास बात यह है कि ये सभी रिएक्टर पूरी तरह भारत में ही बनाए गए हैं, जो भारत की तकनीकी क्षमता को दिखाता है।

इस नई परियोजना से भारत को तेल आयात पर कम निर्भर रहना पड़ेगा। इससे ईंधन की बचत होगी, रिफाइनरी का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा और साथ ही देश की तेजी से बढ़ती ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पूरा करने में भी मदद मिलेगी।

एचपीसीएल की आरयूएफ परियोजना से पूरा होगा आत्मनिर्भर भारत का सपना : पुरी

नई दिल्ली, 4 जनवरी (एजेंसियां)। भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा की दिशा में एक बड़ी सफलता मिली है। केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने रविवार को कहा कि हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल) की नई परियोजना रेजिड्यू अपग्रेडेशन फैसिलिटी (आरयूएफ) को आंध्र प्रदेश के विशाखापट्टनम (विजग) रिफाइनरी में सफलतापूर्वक शुरू कर दिया गया है। केंद्रीय मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर कहा कि यह परियोजना प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू के नेतृत्व में आत्मनिर्भर भारत की दिशा में एक मजबूत कदम है। यह भारत को ऊर्जा के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने में मदद करेगी।

पुरी ने बताया कि एचपीसीएल की यह नई सुविधा रिफाइनरी में बचे हुए कम उपयोगी तेल को आधुनिक तकनीक की मदद से उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों में बदलती है। इसे रेजिड्यू हाइड्रोक्रैकिंग तकनीक कहा जाता है, जिससे तेल का अधिकतम उपयोग संभव हो पाता है।



■ भारत ने हासिल की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा में बड़ी उपलब्धि

इस फैसिलिटी की क्षमता हर साल 3.55 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन तेल को प्रोसेस करने की है। यह लगभग 93 प्रतिशत तक तेल को उपयोगी उत्पादों में बदल सकती है, जिससे कच्चे तेल की एक-एक बूंद का बेहतर इस्तेमाल हो सकेगा।

इस परियोजना में इस्तेमाल किए गए तीन बड़े रिएक्टर दुनिया के सबसे भारी इंजीनियरिंग उपकरणों में से हैं। हर रिएक्टर का वजन लगभग 2,200 मीट्रिक टन है। खास बात यह है कि ये सभी रिएक्टर पूरी तरह भारत में ही बनाए गए हैं, जो भारत की तकनीकी क्षमता को दिखाता है। इस नई परियोजना से भारत को तेल आयात पर कम निर्भर रहना पड़ेगा।



पीएनजी और सीएनजी हुई सस्ती

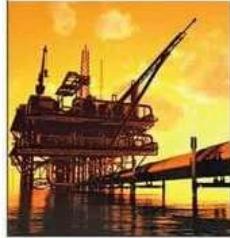
नई दिल्ली। नए साल की शुरुआत के साथ ही गेल गैस लिमिटेड ने अपने ग्राहकों को राहत देते हुए घरेलू पीएनजी और सीएनजी की कीमतों में कटौती की है। कंपनी ने घरेलू पाइपड नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) के दाम 1 रुपये प्रति एससीएम और कंप्रेसड नेचुरल गैस (सीएनजी) के दाम 1 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम घटा दिए हैं। यह नई दरें 1 जनवरी 2026 से लागू हो गई हैं। यह कटौती उत्तर प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, मध्य प्रदेश, हरियाणा, उत्तराखंड, झारखंड, छत्तीसगढ़, राजस्थान और ओडिशा में गेल गैस के सभी अधिकृत क्षेत्रों में प्रभावी होगी। कंपनी ने बताया कि यह फैसला पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय और पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड की उपभोक्ता हितैषी नीतियों के कारण संभव हो पाया है। गेल गैस के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी के अनुसार, पीएनजीआरबी द्वारा लागू किए गए नए एकीकृत टैरिफ से प्राकृतिक गैस के परिवहन की लागत कम हुई है, जिसका सीधा फायदा उपभोक्ताओं को मिला है।

वेनेजुएला के तेल क्षेत्र के अधिग्रहण से भारत को मिलेगा प्रत्यक्ष लाभ

प्रतिबंधों में ढील से ओएनजीसी विदेश लि. को वापस मिल सकता है एक अरब डॉलर का बकाया

नई दिल्ली। अमेरिका के नेतृत्व में वेनेजुएला के तेल क्षेत्र का अधिग्रहण या पुनर्गठन भारत को प्रत्यक्ष लाभ पहुंचा सकता है। इससे संभावित रूप से लगभग एक अरब डॉलर के लंबे समय से बकाया का भुगतान हो सकेगा। साथ ही, प्रतिबंधों से प्रभावित इस लैटिन अमेरिकी देश में भारत के संचालित क्षेत्रों से कच्चे तेल के उत्पादन में तेजी आएगी।

विरलेषकों के मुताबिक, भारत कभी वेनेजुएला के भारी कच्चे तेल का एक प्रमुख ग्राहक था। यह रोजाना 4,00,000 बैरल से अधिक तेल आयात करता था। लेकिन अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के कारण 2020 में खरीद को बंद करना पड़ा। भारत की प्रमुख उत्पादक कंपनी ओएनजीसी विदेश लि.(ओवीएल) पूर्वी वेनेजुएला में सैन क्रिस्टोबल तेल क्षेत्र का संयुक्त रूप से संचालन करती है। लेकिन अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के कारण उत्पादन में भारी कमी आई है। एजेंसी



उत्पादन को किया जाएगा पुनर्जीवित

मामले की जानकारी रखने वाले अधिकारियों ने बताया, प्रतिबंधों में ढील दिए जाने के बाद ओवीएल अपनी मूल कंपनी ओएनजीसी के गुजरात स्थित तेल क्षेत्रों जैसे स्थानों से रिग और अन्य उपकरण सैन क्रिस्टोबल में स्थानांतरित कर सकती है, ताकि उत्पादन को पुनर्जीवित किया जा सके। अधिक कुओं और बेहतर उपकरणों के साथ तटवर्ती क्षेत्र से 80,000-1,00,000 बैरल प्रति दिन का उत्पादन हो सकता है। वेनेजुएला के तेल क्षेत्र पर अमेरिकी नियंत्रण का मतलब यह भी है कि जल्द ही दुनिया भर में निर्यात शुरू हो जाएगा। ओवीएल इस राजस्व से सैन क्रिस्टोबल पर बकाया एक अरब डॉलर की वसूली कर सकती है।

53.6 करोड़ डॉलर का लाभांश भी बकाया... वेनेजुएला 2014 तक तेल क्षेत्र में अपनी 40

प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी पर ओवीएल को देय 53.6 करोड़ डॉलर का लाभांश देने में विफल रहा है। उसके बाद की अवधि के लिए भी लगभग इतनी ही राशि का लाभांश देने में विफल रहा है। विरलेषकों और ऊर्जा अधिकारियों का कहना है कि एक नाटकीय अमेरिकी अभियान के बाद राष्ट्रपति निकोलस मादुरो को पद से हटाए जाने और देश के विशाल तेल भंडार को अमेरिकी निगरानी में रखे जाने के बाद प्रतिबंधों में ढील दी जा सकती है।

70.7 करोड़ बैरल कच्चे तेल का करता था निर्यात

2019 से पहले वेनेजुएला सालाना 70.7 करोड़ बैरल कच्चे तेल का निर्यात करता था। इसमें से लगभग 32 प्रतिशत अमेरिका और 35 प्रतिशत चीन और भारत खरीदते थे। 2025 तक निर्यात घटकर 35.2 करोड़ बैरल प्रति वर्ष रह गया है। इसमें से 45 प्रतिशत चीन और 31 प्रतिशत अन्य अज्ञात देश खरीदते थे। केप्लर का अनुमान है कि अमेरिकी और सहयोगी अधिकारी प्रतिबंधों में तत्काल ढील देने के बजाय संपत्ति जब्त करने, आपराधिक जांच करने और चोरी-छिपे व्यापार करने वाले नेटवर्क को नष्ट करने को प्राथमिकता देंगे।

ओएनजीसी गुजरात के गांधार क्षेत्र के खाली हो चुके कुओं में सीओ₂ भंडारण करेगी

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) की योजना गुजरात के गांधार तेल क्षेत्र के खाली हो चुके कुओं में कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड का भंडारण करने की है। यह कंपनी के पहले पूर्ण स्तर के कार्बन संग्रहण एवं भंडारण (सीसीएस) पायलट और इसकी अकार्बनीकरण रणनीति में एक बड़ा कदम है। अधिकारियों ने कहा कि इस पायलट परियोजना में दो छोड़े गए तटवर्ती कुओं का उपयोग किया जाएगा, ताकि उप-सतही हाइड्रोकार्बन जलाशयों में प्रतिदिन लगभग 100 टन कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड (सीओ₂) का भंडारण किया जा सके। सीओ₂ को दहेज क्षेत्र के नजदीकी औद्योगिक स्रोतों के साथ ही ओएनजीसी के अपने हजीरा संयंत्र से लिया जाएगा और गांधार के कुओं तक पहुंचाया जाएगा। इसे वायुमंडल में प्रवेश करने से रोकने के लिए जमीन के नीचे जमा किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इस परियोजना का उद्देश्य तेल उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए सीओ₂ के उपयोग का परीक्षण करना भी है, जिससे संभावित रूप से हानिकारक ग्रीनहाउस गैस को एक उत्पादक संसाधन में बदला जा सकता है।

खाली हो चुके कुओं में सीओ2 भंडारण करेगी ओएनजीसी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) की योजना गुजरात के गांधार तेल क्षेत्र के खाली हो चुके कुओं में कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड का भंडारण करने की है। यह कंपनी के पहले पूर्ण स्तर के कार्बन संग्रहण एवं भंडारण (सीसीएस) पायलट और इसकी अकार्बनीकरण रणनीति में एक बड़ा कदम है।

अधिकारियों ने कहा कि इस पायलट परियोजना में दो छोड़े गए

तटवर्ती कुओं का उपयोग किया जाएगा, ताकि उप-सतही हाइड्रोकार्बन जलाशयों में प्रतिदिन लगभग 100 टन कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड (सीओ2) का भंडारण किया जा सके।

सीओ2 को दहेज क्षेत्र के नजदीकी औद्योगिक स्रोतों के साथ ही ओएनजीसी के अपने हजीरा संयंत्र से लिया जाएगा और गांधार के कुओं तक पहुंचाया जाएगा। इसे वायुमंडल में प्रवेश करने से रोकने के लिए जमीन के

नीचे जमा किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इस परियोजना का उद्देश्य तेल उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए सीओ2 के उपयोग का परीक्षण करना भी है, जिससे संभावित रूप से हानिकारक ग्रीनहाउस गैस को एक उत्पादक संसाधन में बदला जा सकता है।

ओएनजीसी ने इससे पहले कुएं में भंडारण के लिए लगभग 80 किमी दूर इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन की कोयली रिफाइनरी से सीओ2 हासिल की थी।