Pioneer, Delhi, 18/01/2026
Page No: 6, Size: 7.99cm × 11.51cm

ANDHRA CM LAYS FOUNDATION FOR GREEN FUEL PLANT

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his deputy Pawan Kalyan on Saturday laid the foundation for a green ammonia and green hydrogen plant in Kakinada district. Both the leaders also unveiled a pylon marking the fixing of machinery in the plant, entailing an investment of ₹13,000 crore and an annual production capacity of 1.5 MMTPA.

"CM Chandrababu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan laid the foundation for Kakinada AM Green's green ammonia and green hydrogen complex," an official release said. Unlike grey and blue ammonia produced using coal, oil, and natural gas, green ammonia is completely environment-friendly with no carbon emissions.

Statesman, Delhi, 18/01/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 11.09cm × 7.81cm

BPCL launches PNG drive 2.0 to boost PNG, CNG adoption:

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched PNG Drive 2.0, a nationwide initiative to accelerate the adoption of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) across households and transport. Anchored by the theme "*Har Ghar* PNG, *Har Gaadi* CNG – *Jiyo* Non-Stop *Zindagi*", the drive unites the City Gas Distribution industry under PNGRB guidance. BPCL Director (Marketing) Subhankar Sen highlighted the campaign's role in expanding clean, reliable, and affordable energy, supporting India's goal of increasing natural gas in its energy mix.

Business Line, Delhi, 18/01/2026
Page No: 6, Size: 14.08cm × 22.86cm

Rally still alive

CRUDE CHECK. Retain buys on crude oil futures

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) ($64.10/barrel) was up 1.2 per cent last week whereas crude oil futures in the domestic market (₹5,449/barrel) gained 1.5 per cent. Here is the outlook and trade recommendation:

BRENT FUTURES ($64.10)

Brent crude oil futures rallied to mark a four-month high of $66.82 on Wednesday before moderating to the current level of $64.10. But the price remains above the key support at $62.

From the current level, the contract might slip to $62-62.50 price band. But then, we expect it to resume the uptrend and rise to $69 in the near term. Resistance above $69 is at $71.

On the other hand, if Brent crude futures breaches the support at $62, it can extend the downswing to $60. But overall, the bias is bullish and the probability of a rally is high.

MCX-CRUDE OIL (₹5,449)

Crude oil futures (February) rallied for the second straight week

and hit a four-month high of ₹5,621 on Wednesday. But then the contract softened to close at ₹5,449 on Friday. Despite the dip in price, the contract remains above both 21- and 50-day moving averages and the resistance-turned-support at ₹5,300 stays valid.

There is a chance for crude oil futures to drop to ₹5,300. However, the downtick is unlikely to extend beyond this level. The bulls can regain traction and start pushing the price higher.

The price action hints at a rally to ₹5,650 soon, which can extend to ₹5,800. But if the contract breaks below the support at ₹5,300, it can decline to ₹5,060.

Trade strategy: Hold onto the longs initiated on February futures at ₹5,320. Retain target and stop-loss at ₹5,650 and ₹5,200 respectively.

Hindu, Delhi, 18/01/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 38.39cm × 5.74cm

Oil & Gas sector calls for review of cess on indigenous production

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the Union Budget presentation February 1, the petroleum industry has sought the government consider reviewing the oil industry development board (OID) cess alongside providing incentives to enable a further boost to exploration activities, both mature and frontier fields, and a push for upgrading refinery capacity as a catalyst to assist diversification efforts of the country.

Cess on slab system

Speaking to *The Hindu* on the condition of anonymity, an industry source sough the OID cess be reviewed. It is levied at 20% on an ad-valorem basis on the production from nomination blocks. "What the industry wants is the cess could be sought as per a slab-system, on an incremental basis as per the oil prices," they stated, noting that global oil prices are subject to fluctuations.

Times of India, Delhi, 18/01/2026
Page No: 24, Size: 58.47cm × 46.28cm

'Natural gas development in Iran began against energy colonialism — its path led to pollution and inequality'

Ciruce Movahedi-Lankarani *is Farhang Foundation Chair of Iranian Studies at USC, Dornsife. Speaking with* ***Srijana Mitra Das*** *in TE, he maps the complex history of natural gas in Iran:*

The backdrop to Ciruce Movahedi-Lankarani, perhaps very appropriately, is a set of silvery screens. These glow with a mysterious, pearly light, a pale blue that reminds you of Iranian mosaics, while there is a tiny sliver of sudden bright sky somewhere above. Currently though, the academic is describing something far removed from this cerulean world — natural gas, deep inside Iran's earthy depths.

Discussing his research, Movehedi-Lankarani says, 'I focus on the history of modern Iran roughly from the beginning to the end of the 20th century. I focus particularly on how energy infrastructures, specifically natural gas usage, shaped Iranian developmentalism and environmentalism. This is, in many ways, a story of Iran's pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary states merging modernising development with an anti-colonial politics of resource nationalism.'

Natural gas was discovered alongside oil in commercial quantities in 1908 — it has travelled a long way. 'From the 1950s', says the professor, 'Natural gas went from roughly zero of Iran's energy to three-quarters of energy use.' Gas became intertwined with Iran. Movahedi-Lankarani says, 'In m research, I emphasise how we should consider natural gas and oil not as two distinct substances but two aspects of a single continuum or hydrocarbon spectrum. When Iran was producing oil, whether via foreign companies or after the Revolution, with the nationally-run oil company, they were also inevitably producing natural gas. A core challenge became — what do we do with all this gas we are currently discarding? That got wrapped into the country's polity particularly after 1953 and the coup against Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, with the reimposition of foreign control over Iran's oil. Foreign oil firms had no interest in gathering this gas — it was thought far too expensive a prospect. Hence, it fell to Iranians themselves to claim the gas, build markets and get it there, which thus infused this technology with the politics of anti-colonial resource nationalism and sovereignty.'

Photos: Getty Images

PIPED DREAMS? Natural gas pipelines in Iran highlighted national self-sufficiency and sovereignity —yet, it has also meant hazardous ideas of dominating nature and ecology

Which technologies were key in the development of this energy? Movahedi-Lankarani replies, 'In my book 'Accelerant', pipelines figure prominently — they embodied what the pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary governments sought as a developmental model. Both the Pahlavi state and the Islamic Republic emphasised the mastery of technology and dominating nature. That became part of the construction of massive gas refineries and huge pipelines spanning the country. Those were very expensive and challenging to build, particularly in Iran's mountainous topography. So, the ability to construct these was infused with ideas of Iran's self-sufficiency.'

How did the development of natural gas, which empowered generations of Iranians, link into environmental unease? Movahedi-Lankarani explains, 'Just when Iran was starting to build its natural gas infrastructure, the country was industrialising rapidly — so, between the late 1940s to the mid-1970s, there was a very precipitous decline in the air quality of Iranian cities. Tehran is still famously a city with poor air quality. Importantly, Iranians understood they were losing something with this — they were leaving behind some of the natural beauty, the peace, the environmental joy they had. Iran is a beautiful nation and people valued that. They looked at the cities of Europe, North America and the Soviet Union, where they saw very polluted cityscapes. This was before the introduction in these places of laws and efforts to clean up these environments. So, Iranians, looking at the horrific smogs of London or people perishing from air pollution in Los Angeles, said, 'We don't want this dark downside of the industrialised world.' They could see the same thing happening in their own cities, particularly Tehran, because of its topography, being in a bowl in the mountains where it collects air pollution. Yet, as the economy was industrialising, many people were driving cars and using fossil fuels — they saw natural gas as a way to accelerate their ambitions, even while people were conscious of the harms of this. Many sought ways to have the prosperity of industry while avoiding its environmental downsides.'

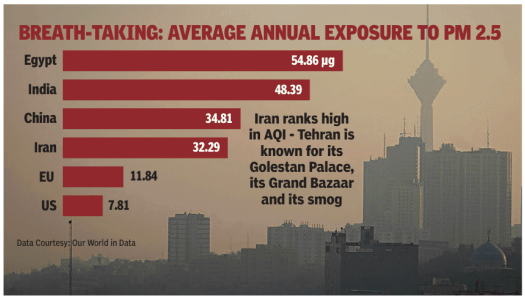
IN ICE AND HEAT: Natural gas has brought energy to Iranian homes

VAPOUROUS...

Speaking of wealth brings to mind the Paradox of Persia — why, with such fossil fuel abundance was there still such large-scale deprivation, sparking off furious protests? Movahedi-Lankarani says, 'One of the core promises of the Iranian state since the 1950s has been development, with economic and social justice. The state told the people — we will help develop your lives, you will grow more wealthy. This was something the pre- and post-revolution states said and, to some extent, both succeeded — except both also saw extensive economic inequality and corruption. That was a core complaint which animated the 1979 revolution, a revolt against economic inequality and the Shah's patronage regime and its corruption. For a time, the Islamic Republic did a decent job — since it had based its legitimacy on this, it rapidly built things like natural gas networks in villages and working-class neighbourhoods that had been left out earlier.'

Movehedi-Lankarani pauses, then emphasises, 'But that changed over time — in the Islamic Republic, increasingly, extreme income inequality and inequality in general has grown between social classes. Wealth has become concentrated at the top of the social hierarchy — that is linked in part to an authoritarian and aloof governmental system. It's also been accelerated by Iran's foreign conflicts and the sanctions regimes that have largely cut off Iran's economy from the broader world — as that happened, powerful figures within Iran's government, mostly notably, the Revo-lutionary Guard, have come to control Iran's export sector. Through both smuggling and controls on smuggling, you now have enormous oil pooling within a very small slice of Iranian society —and this is feeding directly into the discontent we see in Iran today.'

TALK ABOUT IT: Natural gas means much to Iran, from freedom to fuel dependency



Hari Bhoomi, Delhi, 18/01/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 24.55cm × 10.53cm

तेल बाजारों के लिए कितने मायने रखता है ईरान का भविष्य

अराजकता

रवि शंकर

वरिष्ठ पत्रकार

ईरान में चल रही राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल भारत के लिए सिर्फ एक विदेशी संकट नहीं है, बल्कि यह भारत की सुरक्षा, व्यापार और रणनीति से सीधे जुड़ा मामला बनता जा रहा है। ईरान और भारत के रिश्ते दशकों पुराने हैं।

ये रिश्ते सिर्फ कूटनीति तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि भूगोल, रणनीतिक संतुलन और क्षेत्रीय पहुंच से जुड़े हैं। अगर ईरान कमजोर हुआ या वहां सत्ता परिवर्तन हुआ, तो इसका सबसे बड़ा नुकसान भारत को हो सकता है। भारत के लिए ईरान सिर्फ एक देश नहीं, बल्कि पश्चिम की ओर खुलने वाला एकमात्र भरोसेमंद दरवाजा है। पाकिस्तान ने अफगानिस्तान और मध्य एशिया के लिए भारत के जमीनी रास्ते बंद कर रखे हैं। ऐसे में ईरान ही भारत को उस क्षेत्र से जोड़ता है, जहां से ऊर्जा, व्यापार और रणनीतिक पहुंच मिलती है। ट्रंप की अतिवादी नीतियों ने जिस तरह ईरान में सत्ता परिवर्तन और उसे आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर बनाने का खेल शुरू किया है, यह सीधे तौर पर भारत के लिए भी एक और मुसीबत खड़ी कर सकता है। अगर ईरान की स्थिति नियंत्रण से बाहर होती है, तो इससे वैश्विक स्तर पर तेल और वित्तीय बाजारों पर बहुत बड़ा असर पड़ेगा। वेनेजुएला में निकोलस मादुरो को हटाए जाने के बाद ऐसा नहीं हुआ था, लेकिन ईरान के मामले ने सभी को चिंता में डाल दिया है क्योंकि ईरान, वेनेजुएला की तुलना में चार गुना अधिक तेल का उत्पादन करता है। ओपेक देशों में ईरान तीसरा सबसे बड़ा तेल उत्पादक है। दुनिया की कुल तेल मांग का लगभग चार फीसदी हिस्सा ईरान से आता है, जबकि वेनेजुएला सिर्फ एक फीसदी ही उत्पादन करता है। संघर्ष के समय में इतिहास इसका गवाह रहा है। फिलहाल, बाजार 'इंतजार करो और देखो' की स्थिति में

भारत अपनी जरूरत का 85% से ज्यादा तेल आयात से पूरा करता है। इस भारी निर्भरता के कारण उसे अपने विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार का काफी बड़ा खर्च इस पर करना पड़ता है।

है। क्रूड की कीमतों में उथल-पुथल का असर भारत पर सीधे पड़ता है। भारत अपनी जरूरत का 85% से ज्यादा आयात से पूरा करता है। इस भारी निर्भरता के कारण उसे अपने विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार का काफी बड़ा खर्च इस पर करना पड़ता है। इससे भारत का इंपोर्ट बिल बढ़ता है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में जरा भी तेजी भारत में पेट्रोल, डीजल और माल ढुलाई की लागत बढ़ा देती है। दूसरी तरफ, हाल ही में अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने ईरान के साथ व्यापार करने वाले देशों पर 25 फीसदी अतिरिक्त टैरिफ लगाने की चेतावनी दी है। सत्ता परिवर्तन के संक्रमण काल में भारत को अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच संतुलन बनाना बहुत कठिन हो सकता है। भारत के लिए चिंता की बात यह है कि होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य एक महत्वपूर्ण चोक प्वाइंट बना हुआ है। यहां से वैश्विक एलएनजी व्यापार का लगभग 20 प्रतिशत और कच्चे तेल के निर्यात का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा गुजरता है। ईरान इस रास्ते को बंद कर सकता है। विश्लेषकों का कहना है कि होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के आसपास किसी भी तरह की बाधा से इराक, सऊदी अरब और यूएई से तेल की खेप प्रभावित हो सकती है। इस रास्ते में बाधा आने से तेल लाने की लागत बढ़ जाएगी। इससे समय के साथ-साथ लागत के मामले में भारत के निर्यात को नुकसान हो सकता है।

साफ है, यदि सत्ता परिवर्तन हिंसक होता है तो ईरान में लंबे समय तक अस्थिरता रह सकती है। इससे भारत के करोड़ों डॉलर के निवेश अधर में लटक सकते हैं। वर्तमान में अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के कारण भारत ईरान से तेल नहीं खरीद पा रहा है। यदि नई सरकार आती है और अमेरिका के साथ उसके संबंध सुधरते हैं, तो भारत को फिर से ईरान से सस्ता और गुणवत्तापूर्ण कच्चा तेल मिल सकेगा। इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं स्थिर ईरान भारत के लिए बहुत मायने रखता है। ईरान में सत्ता परिवर्तन यदि लोकतांत्रिक और शांतिपूर्ण तरीके से होता है तो यह भारत के लिए दीर्घकालिक लाभ लेकर आएगा।