Indian Express, Delhi, 24/02/2026

Page No: 15, Size: 15.77cm × 32.94cm

UNDER NMP 1.0, 89% OF RS 6 LAKH CR TARGET ACHIEVED

FM launches NMP 2.0, sets eye on Rs 16.72 lakh cr of asset monetisation by 2030

Monetisation of highways, logistics parks, ropeways in focus

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, February 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Monday launched the National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0), with proceeds from asset monetisation seen at Rs 16.72 lakh crore over the five years that started April 2025. Developed by the NITI Aayog, the Centre's top think-tank, the second phase of the pipeline is based on the mandate for 'Asset Monetisation Plan 2025-30' announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26 last year, but exceeds the figure of Rs 10 lakh crore mentioned therein.

The first phase of the pipeline — which aimed to unlock value from underutilised public infrastructure assets through transfer of assets for a limited period, divestment of portions of listed entities, securitisation of cash flows, or strategic commercial auctions — was launched in 2021. The NITI Aayog noted in its report on NMP 2.0 that NMP 1.0 had shown that monetisation projects had led to greater involvement of institutional investors such as pension and sovereign wealth funds in the development of India's infrastructure.

"Most of these investors have entered the Indian market by way of the larger asset monetisation projects, such as National Highways Authority of India's Toll-Operate-Transfer (TOT) projects and Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT). Further, the progress made under NMP 1.0 has led to the creation of Public InvITs, allowing citizens to directly participate in infrastructure development in India," the report said, noting that 89% of the NMP 1.0 target of Rs 6 lakh crore had been achieved over the four-year period covering FY22 to FY25. The second phase of the pipeline covers the five years starting 2025-26, with the overall asset monetisation potential figure of Rs 16.72 lakh crore inclusive of private investments worth Rs 5.8 lakh crore, the government said. More than a quarter of the funds, or Rs 4.42 lakh crore, is expected to be raised from the monetisation of 21,300 kilometres of highways, 15 Multi-Modal Logistics Parks, and six ropeways.

NMP 1.0 and 2.0 - achievements and annual targets

(in Rs lakh cr)

YEAR	NMP 1.0	NMP 2.0
FY22-24	3.87	
FY25	1.43	
FY26		2.49
FY27		3.26
FY28		3.46
FY29		3.69
FY30		3.81

SOURCE: GOVERNMENT

The second phase of the pipeline is based on the mandate for 'Asset Monetisation Plan 2025-30' announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26 last year, but exceeds the figure of Rs 10 lakh crore mentioned therein

The other sectors part of the pipeline and their estimated Total Monetisation Value are power (Rs 2.77 lakh crore), ports (Rs 2.64 lakh crore), railways (Rs 2.62 lakh crore), coal (Rs 2.16 lakh crore), mines (Rs 1 lakh crore), urban infrastructure (Rs 52,000 crore), civil aviation (Rs 27,500 crore), petroleum and natural gas (Rs 16,300 crore), warehousing and storage (Rs 10,000 crore), telecom (Rs 4,800 crore), and tourism (Rs 1,200 crore).

The above includes raising money through the listing of a minority stake in GAIL Gas, divestment of Airports Authority of India's holdings in one subsidiary and four joint-venture airports, developing select land parcels belonging to the major port authorities and the Food Corporation of India through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, auctioning around 94 coal mines, and leasing out 38 land parcels of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) on long-term basis, among others.

"NMP 2.0 aligns with the infrastructure development plans of the Viksit Bharat initiative," the NITI Aayog report said. "It aims to contribute in accelerated infrastructure development through upgrading and expansion of transportation networks, including highways, railways, ports and airports, along with other sectors. PPPs are an important mode of monetisation under NMP 2.0 and are expected to play a significant role by improving public sector efficiency and service quality, reducing public debt through capital recycling and attracting private sector investment," it added.

The government has estimated that the largest portion of the proceeds under NMP 2.0 will accrue to the Consolidated Fund of India, followed by direct investment (private), public sector undertakings or port authority allocation, and State Consolidated Fund.

Govt extends deadline for CBM & small discovered field bid rounds

Both rounds were earlier scheduled to close on Feb 18

NEW DELHI: The government has extended bid submission deadlines for the Special Coal Bed Methane (CBM) round and the fourth round of Discovered Small Fields (DSF-IV), giving investors more time to assess recent regulatory changes in the hydrocarbons sector.

According to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), bids for 13 CBM blocks will now close on March 3, while submissions for nine DSF-IV contract areas are due by March 18.

Both rounds were earlier scheduled to close on February 18.

The CBM blocks are spread across Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Telangana.

DSF-IV includes three onshore, four shallow-water and two deepwater areas.

The extension follows revised rules aimed at easing operational and policy constraints, allowing bidders to align proposals with the updated framework, industry sources said.

> The CBM blocks are spread across Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Telangana

Separately, the DGH has extended the deadline for the 10th round of the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP-X) to May 29, 2026.

Launched during India Energy Week 2025, the round offers 25 blocks covering nearly 192,000 sq km across 13 sedimentary basins, including four blocks in the Andaman basin.

OALP-X is the largest acreage offering so far. In the previous nine rounds, about 3.78 lakh square (sq) km was offered, with OALP-IX being the biggest until now at 1.36 lakh sq km. AGENCIES

Mint, Delhi, 24/02/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 10.95cm × 13.02cm

Govt extends deadline for CBM, small field bid rounds

AP

New Delhi: The government has extended the deadline for submission of bids under the special coal-bed methane (CBM) and small discovered fields bid rounds, giving investors additional time to factor in recent changes to oil and gas regulations. Bids for 13 blocks or areas offered for prospecting gas from below coal seams (CBM) in the special CBM bid round will now close on 3 March, according to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH). **PTI**

Business Line, Delhi, 24/02/2026

Page No: 5, Size: 34.63cm × 34.53cm

Energy options after US verdict

India can use the space created by the US Supreme Court ruling to diversify oil purchases without capitulating on Russian oil

CAPITAL IDEAS.

RICHA MISHRA

After the US Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs, now the debate is will India enhance buying Russian oil once again? Indian officials have been maintaining that price, supply stability and national energy security are paramount. India imports the bulk of its crude requirements and has used discounted Russian oil to manage economic pressures.

However, the purchase of Russian oil did drop. Russia was replaced by Saudi Arabia for the top supplier position looking at the numbers February 1-23. The top five suppliers to India are Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and the US, currently.

According to Prerna Prabhakar, Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), "India has consistently refrained from formally commenting on its purchases of Russian oil, maintaining that its energy policy is guided by national interest rather than geopolitical pressures. In this context, the recent Supreme Court ruling may reduce immediate legal pressure on India to curtail such imports."

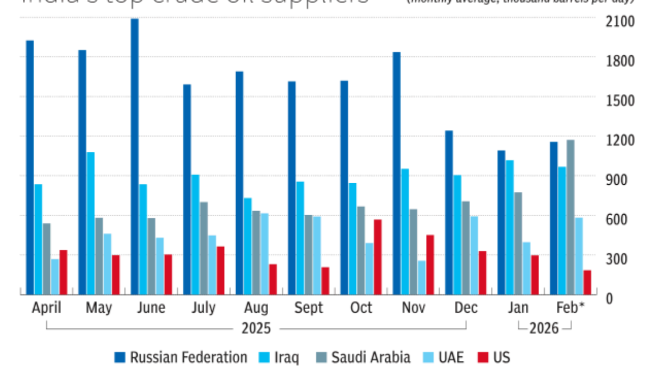
"However, it would be prudent to remain cautious rather than assume the matter is settled. Given the unpredictability of the Trump administration and the indication that alternative legal routes could be explored to reimpose restrictions, the situation remains fluid. A calibrated and watchful approach may therefore be more appropriate than a premature renegotiation or strategic shift," she said.

Prabhakar has a point here — a watchful approach is what is needed.

Umud Shokri, Energy Strategist and Senior Visiting Fellow at George Mason University, said: "The Supreme Court knocking down Trump's "global tariffs" under emergency authority doesn't magically end US pressure on countries buying Russian energy, but it does blunt one of the bluntest instruments Washington had been waving around."

On pressure over Russian purchases, he said, the immediate effect is that the US loses some tariff-threat credibility as a one-step punishment tool, especially if tariffs were being used as a bargaining chip in broader trade talks. "That said, the US still has plenty of other levers that don't depend on that particular tariff authority: targeted sanctions, financial restrictions, shipping/insurance pressure, and "secondary sanctions" style threats," he said.

India's top crude oil suppliers (monthly average; thousand barrels per day)



Source: Kpler *till Feb 22

The smart play for New Delhi is to honour enough of the deal to keep the relationship warm while quietly renegotiating the pieces that hurt most

Recent analysis has described the US using trade negotiations and tariff threats specifically to push India on Russian oil imports, and that pressure doesn't vanish just because one legal pathway got blocked, he cautioned.

Can India turn this to its advantage?

"Potentially, yes, in a very practical way: if a big chunk of "tariff leverage" is now legally constrained, India can negotiate trade terms with less fear of sudden, blanket tariff punishment, and instead push for clearer, rule-based outcomes (MFN tariffs, narrower trade remedies, or negotiated carve-outs). Indian trade-policy voices are already framing the ruling as a reason to reassess the trade bargaining landscape," he said.

On the energy side, India can also use the moment to diversify without capitulating: gradually reduce exposure to Russian barrels where it makes commercial and diplomatic sense, while preserving flexibility and insisting on sovereignty over import choices, Shokri said.

Well, his argument does has a point. Reporting and analysis around early 2026 have already pointed to US efforts to steer India towards alternative supplies (including US crude), and to India's partial reduction rather than a full stop.

That "managed adjustment" approach is exactly how India turns pressure into bargaining space instead of a binary yes/no fight, he said.

Vandana Hari, Founder and CEO of Vanda Insights, said, "The SC decision does put a question mark on the interim trade deal, including its implicit provision of India pivoting away from Russian oil. But I doubt Indian refiners will rush back into Russian oil. They have been actively diversifying the basket, and it would be good to stay on that path in the long run, anyway."

According to Tracy Schuchart, Senior Economist, Ninja Trader Live, Ninja Trader Group: "Yes, unambiguously. India just got handed leverage it didn't have 24 hours ago.

"Now the most the administration can do unilaterally is 15 per cent under Section 122, and that expires in five months. After that, any new tariffs require formal investigations that take months or Congressional action that's politically uncertain heading into midterms. India knows all of this," she said.

The smart play for New Delhi is to honour enough of the deal to keep the relationship warm while quietly renegotiating the pieces that hurt most, particularly the energy procurement commitments and agricultural market access, she pointed out.

Business Line, Delhi, 24/02/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 12.46cm × 20.74cm

Natural gas: Exit Feb, roll over to March longs

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

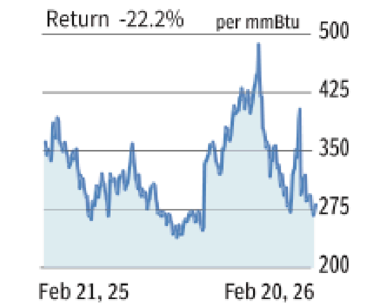
Natural gas futures has been charting a sideways trend for about two weeks now. The February contract is now trading at ₹289 (per mmBtu).

COMMODITY CALL.

The chart shows there is a strong support at ₹260, which can arrest the decline. The price action shows that natural gas formed a bullish engulfing candlestick pattern on Friday, indicating that the bulls are gaining traction.

While there is a hurdle ahead at ₹300, we expect the contract to eventually get past this level. Even if there is no bullish trend reversal, the futures could witness a corrective rally to ₹350.

That said, if the support at ₹260 is breached, bears could gain considerable traction, potentially dragging natural gas to ₹235. The downswing might extend to ₹200.



TRADE STRATEGY

On February 11, we suggested buying February futures (now at ₹289) at ₹280. Since this contract will expire on Tuesday (February 24), traders could roll over the longs to March contract (currently at ₹282).

That is, exit February futures long now and immediately buy March futures.

Add longs if the price dips to ₹260.

Place the stop-loss at ₹238. On a rally to ₹320, revise the stop-loss to ₹290. Book profits at ₹350.

Hindu, Delhi, 24/02/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 38.68cm × 26.88cm

India's energy shift through the green ammonia route

Pawan Mulukutla

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is Program Associate Director – Energy Innovation and Technology at WRI India

At the inaugural session of the India Energy Week (IEW), in January 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi positioned India's ambitions at the centrestage of the global energy discourse, highlighting investment opportunities worth $500 billion across the sector. As India raises its ambition from energy security to energy independence, the affordability of clean energy such as green hydrogen and its derivatives is critical to the long-term competitiveness of India's energy transition. But from fertilizers to clean energy and marine fuel, there are now green ammonia applications which are wide-ranging. Green ammonia – produced by combining nitrogen with green hydrogen – is currently leading in the adoption of green hydrogen, with its strategic adoption advanced across regions such as the European Union (EU), India and South Korea.

Aggregated procurement mechanisms are starting to lay the foundation for a global green ammonia market. Some noteworthy examples include H2Global's tender of green ammonia under the EU's hydrogen import strategy, South Korea's Clean Hydrogen Portfolio Standard (CHPS) tender for clean ammonia procurement as a bulk fuel, and the recent tender concluded by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme of India's National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Green ammonia auction

Compared to these global procurement practices, India's green ammonia auction under SECI demonstrates broader market participation, attracting 15 bidders and resulting in seven unique successful awardees. Under the SIGHT programme, SECI floated a tender in June 2024 for an aggregated demand of up to 724,000 tonnes of green ammonia annually across 13 fertilizer plants in India. These tenders concluded in August 2025, and offered a 10-year, fixed-price offtake agreements to successful bidders. This clarity in price and offtake provided producers with the market certainty required for investment. The auctions established a significant breakthrough in cost-competitive green ammonia procurement, setting new global benchmarks, almost 40%-50% less than the prices from the H2Global auction

The tender process faced multiple extensions and revisions, primarily to resolve concerns around risk allocation, payment security, and clarity on offtake and pricing conditions, raised by both project developers and offtakers. These refinements successfully addressed concerns, leading to a balanced win-win framework for all stakeholders.

In this auction, seven bidders secured a total of 13 delivery contracts for green ammonia. Notably, one company won six contracts for 3,70,000 tonnes/year. These contracts include production subsidies of ₹8.82 a kilogramme, ₹7.06 a kg, and ₹5.3 a kg for the first three years and a 10-year fixed price supply agreement to existing fertilizer manufacturers in India.

The discovered prices of green ammonia across these tenders range from ₹49.75 and ₹64.74/kg ($572 and $744 a tonne). In India, the grey ammonia price is as high as $515 a tonne. When factoring in the newly discovered price of green ammonia, supported by longer-term contracts, the cost gap has significantly narrowed.

> The country's green ammonia auction model has the potential to redefine global standards for clean energy adoption

On delivery and transportation

Notably, a standout feature of SECI's tender is the pre-identification of delivery points, as most fertilizer plants where the green ammonia is to be delivered are located near coastal areas, enabling the transportation of green ammonia through shipping as well. The contracted volumes of green ammonia contribute to approximately 30% of the total ammonia being imported, offering price predictability and greater insulation from global gas market volatility, currency risks and geopolitical pressures. In locations where grey ammonia costs are higher, green ammonia procurement increases its appeal for scale-up.

Propelling the momentum

India's approach is increasingly shaping the clean ammonia landscape worldwide, owing to its combination of low renewable energy costs, large-scale logistics, robust contract design and targeted incentives. As more countries seek reliable clean ammonia imports to decarbonise industry, power and transport, India's successful auction model is well placed to shape emerging global market structures and accelerate adoption at scale.

However, sustaining the momentum created by India's green ammonia auctions will require coordinated and sustained action from policymakers, project developers and financiers. Developers must focus on strong technical and financial due diligence, integrate hybrid renewable systems with storage, and adopt transparent monitoring frameworks to ensure long-term operational viability. Policymakers, in turn, need to provide stable and harmonised regulations on grid access, banking and incentives, while strengthening safety standards and aligning certification frameworks with evolving global norms.

Long-tenor, blended finance facilities, backed by extended offtake agreements and dedicated risk-mitigation instruments, can further enhance project bankability and crowd in private capital. Together, these measures can reinforce investor confidence, accelerate scale-up, and firmly position India not just as a participant but also as a global leader in clean ammonia markets.

The views expressed are personal

What happens to India's Russian oil imports, $500-bn U.S. import goal?

NEWS ANALYSIS

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Indian trade delegation's last-minute postponement of trip to Washington to finalise an Interim Agreement with the U.S., and the U.S. Supreme Court's order on tariffs both have implications for India's imports from Russia as well as the U.S.

The Indian delegation was to be in the U.S. on February 23-25 to finalise the Interim Agreement, which Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said could be implemented between mid-March and early April. However, sources in the Commerce Ministry on February 22 said that the meeting will be rescheduled "at a mutually convenient date".

"The two sides are of the view that the proposed visit of the Indian chief negotiator and the team be scheduled after each side has had the time to evaluate the latest developments and its implications," the official said.

Mr. Goyal had earlier said India would be able to remove or lower tariffs for American imports only after a deal is signed. The U.S., on the other hand, could so far modify tariffs through executive orders.

No Russian oil threats

Trade and legal experts, said U.S. SC order meant President Trump no longer had any law enabling him to levy tariffs on India if it continues buying Russian oil in large quantities.

Without the tariff threat, India can once again reduce its purchase of the relatively expensive American oil and sour Venezuelan oil.

"With reciprocal tariffs gone, the U.S. now does not have any law under which it can penalise India for buying Russian oil," Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative and former Director General of Foreign Trade said. "Even if we were to continue our oil imports from the U.S., which have nearly doubled in the last few months, we should refrain from buying oil from Venezuela."

It is important to note Mr. Trump had, on February 6 itself, removed the tariffs linked to India's import of Russian oil. As per Ramesh K. Vaidyanathan, managing partner at law firm BTG Advaya, tariffs could theoretically return, but they would need the backing of U.S. Congress.

Pressure tactics: The value of India's Russian oil imports fell to a 38-month low in December 2025. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Multiple mechanisms

"There are multiple legal mechanisms under which he can do this, but I think what is coming to the fore is that he cannot do these through executive orders and will have to do it under legislative backing for the purpose for which they are designed." In other words, if Mr. Trump can convince the U.S. Congress that tariffs linked to Russian oil imports are necessary, then they could return.

An analysis by *The Hindu* found the value of India's crude oil imports from Russia fell to a 38-month low in December 2025 with Russia's share falling to less than a quarter from 34% a month ago. However, oil imports from the U.S. rose almost 31% over December 2024.

The analysis showed India imported oil from the U.S. at an average price of $506.7 per tonne in December 2025 or almost 8% higher than the average price of Russian oil imported that month.

Uncertainty over deal

"India should follow a wait-and-watch approach and should see how other countries that have signed deals with the U.S. are reacting," said Pankaj Chadha, chairman of exporter body EEPC India.

Mr. Srivastava says the decision to postpone the Indian team's visit to Washington could simply be an "administrative delay".

"There is a possibility that this delay in the Indian team's visit to the U.S. could have been at the request of the U.S. since their officials would be under fire trying to figure out the way forward."

Impact on imports

A delayed Interim Agreement will also push back the date from which India will have to reduce tariffs for imports from the U.S. This can have a dual effect.

On the one hand, local manufacturers can breathe a bit easier since they will not have to compete with duty-free U.S. imports.

On the other several items India imports will continue to face import tariffs, thereby making them more expensive than they would have been had the deal gone through.

Mr. Goyal had previously told *The Hindu* there were several items such as oil, LPG, LNG, aircraft and parts, parts for data centres and quantum computing that India needs but does not manufacture, and so would need to import.

India's imports of electronic parts grew 117% year-on-year to about $2.1 billion in April-December 2025. Similarly, the import of telecom instruments rose 25% and organic chemicals by almost 34%.

A joint statement said India intends to import $500 billion worth of energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal from the U.S. over the next 5 years.

The European Union (EU) also said the U.S. must provide more clarity before EU Parliament can ratify the U.S.-EU deal.

Meanwhile, Japanese officials said they won't immediately be revisiting the deal adding, the crux of Japan's deal with U.S. was on lowering auto-related tariffs, which stay unaffected by the U.S. SC decision.

Business Line, Delhi, 24/02/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 5.98cm × 18.63cm

Deadline extended for CBM, small field bid rounds

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

The government has extended the deadline for submission of bids under the special coal-bed methane (CBM) and small discovered fields bid rounds to give investors time to factor in recent changes to the oil and gas regulations.

Bids for 13 blocks offered for prospecting gas from below coal seams (CBM) in the Special CBM Bid Round will now close on March 3, against February 18 previously, per the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons.

The blocks offered for bidding are in Jharkhand, West Bengal (one block each), Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattsigarh and Odisha (two blocks each) and Telangana (three blocks).

Financial Express, Delhi, 24/02/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 6.51cm × 9.71cm

BPCL gets ₹1,816-crore excise demand order, to appeal before CESTAT

STATE-RUN REFINER BHARAT Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has received an order from the Commissioner of Central Tax and Central Excise, Kochi, for an excise duty demand along with interest amounting to ₹1,816.65 crore in relation to valuation disputes linked to its Kochi refinery operations.

In its regulatory disclosure, BPCL said the order was passed on February 21, 2026 and pertains to transactions undertaken during the period September 2004 to May 2010.

The demand comprises excise duty of ₹476.94 crore, interest of ₹1,339.70 crore, and a penalty of ₹95,000.

The company said the demand arises from 19 show cause notices issued by the central excise department concerning valuation under the Central Excise Valuation Rules, 2000, in respect of Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL), which was subsequently merged with BPCL. **FE BUREAU**

Apex court seeks Centre's reply on proposal to shift coal-based plants out of Delhi-NCR

Directs stakeholders to spell out stance on CAQM suggestions to deal with dust

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 23

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) and the Ministry of Power to respond to suggestions that no new coal-based thermal power plant should be set up within 300 km of Delhi.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said it would examine the issue of vehicular air pollution on March 12 based on the suggestions made by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to deal with the persistent air quality crisis in the National Capital Region (NCR).

The Bench asked the union ministries to respond to a proposal for shifting all coal-based industries out of Delhi-

NCR to ensure better air quality. It also asked all stakeholders to spell out their respective stand on the measures suggested by the CAQM to deal with dust due to construction and demolition activities.

Directing all stakeholders to file their respective status reports and proposals, it posted the matter for further hearing on March 12.

The top court also directed the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan to issue public notices inviting suggestions and objections from stakeholders, including the coal-based industries in the NCR.

These notices will be deemed as served by the court, and the states must submit an 'Action Taken Plan' detailing the feedback received.

The apex court has also asked the MoEFCC, MoPNG and the Power Ministry to submit a joint proposal aimed at phasing out coal-based industries based in the NCR. "The proposal shall identify the industries and determine what alternative fuel sources can be provided for them," it ordered.

The Bench also directed the Delhi Government to submit a specific action plan to implement these CAQM-recommended long-term solutions.

"The commission has identified the agencies expected to take action. We consequently direct the Delhi government to submit a proposed action plan to give effect to these measures," it noted.

Frame plan to shift coal-based units from Delhi-NCR, says SC

Dhananjay.Mahapatra@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: After prioritising framing of a long-term plan to tackle vehicular pollution that spikes AQI in Delhi-NCR, Supreme Court on Monday asked ministries of power, industry and environment to submit a proposal for relocating all coal-based industries from the national capital region.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said that authorities must also bear in mind the alternative of making available clean fuel — CNG, PNG or LPG — to these industries, if these were to continue operation at their present locations in NCR.

The bench said that while tackling vehicular emission-caused pollution is a priority, it would like to have a proposed long-term plan from the Union ministries and NCR states — Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh – on shifting out coal-based industries from NCR.

It asked additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati about the fate of thermal power plants (TTPs) operating in NCR. She said the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has suggested development of PNG infrastructure in all industrial areas and evolve a uniform and affordable pricing structure for PNG to make industrial consumption economically viable.

Bhati said CAQM has also recommended that no new thermal power plants should be established within 300 km radius of Delhi, considering the emission from the coal-based TPPs. CAQM in its status report last month had recommended preparation of an action plan for elimination of coal as fuel in industries in non-NCR areas of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab.

The bench said that on March 12, it will take up the issues related to pollution caused by vehicular emission and asked the NCR states and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to file action plans for relocating toll plazas in areas bordering Delhi to ease perennial traffic congestion at these entry points.

Bhati informed the court that authorities have commenced impounding of BS-III norm or below compliant vehicles, which are most polluting. However, the drive against end-of-life BS-IV vehicles — 10 years for diesel and 15 years for petrol — has been halted because of SC's 'no coercive action' interim order on the govt's application. She said the 'pollution vs longevity of vehicles' issue is yet to be debated.

Amicus curiae Aparajita Singh flagged the sale of refreshments by roadside licensed kiosks on busy roads as one of the major causes of congestion and suggested that such licensed kiosks should be opened only at places with adequate parking facility. SC said it would consider the suggestion on March 12.

On Jan 21, CAQM had stated that vehicular emission during winter and dust in summers majorly pollute ambient air in Delhi and NCR, and gave a fat-list of short- and long-term measures to counter them, including mechanism to decongest traffic jams at MCD toll plazas. The bench had then asked all states and civic bodies to submit action plans in four weeks.

CAQM told SC that dust is a major air pollutant, accounting for 10-18% load in winter and 25-31% during summer. The transport sector contributes between 19-24% to air pollution in the winter months and 18-21% in the summer months.

Times of India, Delhi, 24/02/2026
Page No: 13, Size: 17.59cm × 27.57cm

Explores ways to secure crude, LNG supplies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With tensions rising between Iran and the US and fears of war looming, India has started exploring ways to secure its energy supplies.

Iran has signalled the temporary closure of sections of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow gateway linking the Gulf to the open seas, which witnesses nearly 20% of global crude movement. Any restriction on cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz may impact India's supplies of crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman. India imports 90% of its crude requirement — nearly 5.5 million barrels per day (mbpd) — and more than 40% comes from West Asia through this narrow passage.

If the Strait of Hormuz is closed, officials said, India may try to partially secure supplies through the 360-km Habshan-Fujairah strategic oil pipeline and the 1,200-km East-West crude oil pipeline that provides access to the Red Sea. While the former is operated by Adnoc and has the capacity to carry 1.5 mbpd, the latter is controlled by Aramco and has a capacity of 5 mbpd.

Though India purchased nearly one-third of its crude requirement from Russia over last three years, recent trends show the share of oil from Moscow has started dipping. India's crude purchases from Saudi have witnessed a six-year high this month. Officials said New Delhi has already diversified crude imports in the last few years and its strategic oil reserves may last up to 74 days.

Energy expert Narendra Taneja said, "Our main worry is not the availability of crude, but that prices may go up globally." Prashant Vasisht, senior VP and co-group head of corporate ratings agency ICRA, said, "For every increase of $10 a barrel, India's annual import bill would rise by $13-14 billion." Taneja, however, said the situation may not come to that pass and closure of the Strait of Hormuz would not be acceptable to the US and to the Gulf's oil exporting countries.

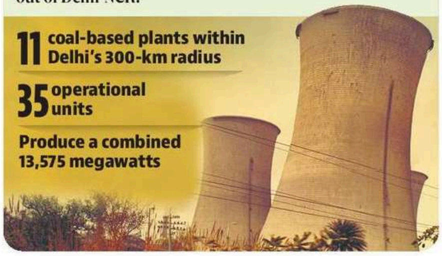
Hindustan Times

SC directs Centre to create plan to move coal plants outside NCR

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

What the court said

"Besides Delhi government, we deem it appropriate to direct the ministry of environment, forests and climate change, and the ministry of petroleum and natural gas to submit a proposal for shifting of all coal-based industries out of Delhi-NCR."



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Union government to propose a plan to shift coal-based plants outside the National Capital Region (NCR) as part of long-term measures recommended by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to alleviate the air pollution crisis in the Capital.

The directions by the court came during the hearing on the MC Mehta matter related to Delhi air pollution pending since 1985. In a comprehensive report filed in the court last month, the CAQM listed out various long-term measures that could help curb air pollution. It even identified the agencies and authorities at Centre and in NCR states that would implement the suggestions.

Taking up the report, the bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, noted that CAQM had proposed that no new coal-based thermal power be established within 300km from Delhi. Accordingly, it directed, "As regards thermal plants, besides Delhi government, we deem it appropriate to direct the ministry of environment, forests and climate change (MOEFCC) and the ministry of petroleum and natural gas (MoPNG) to submit a proposal for shifting of all coal-based industries out of Delhi-NCR."

The proposal, the court said, should identify the number of such industries under small, medium and heavy classification, whether they are fully or partially coal-based, and include suggestions for alternative fuels.

It further directed the governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan to issue public notices seeking response from all stakeholders in this regard and submit an action taken report (ATR) by March 12, when the matter is fixed for hearing next.

As an interim measure, the bench, also, also comprising justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, asked the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the concerned civic agencies in Haryana and other NCR states to consider the feasibility of having barrier-free toll plazas operating through the year to reduce the impact on pollution caused by trucks and other commercial vehicles queuing up to pay the toll tax.

The court further asked the civic bodies to provide details of the location, logistical support, and manner in which such barrier-free toll plazas would operate and directed states to carry this information in their ATR.

Additional solicitor general (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for CAQM, flagged that when the court took up the body's report on January 21, it only passed directions to NCR states to implement the long-term measures related to vehicular pollution. On her suggestion, the court reproduced the entire recommendations under each pollution head and directed Delhi government and all its agencies to submit the proposed action plan for its implementation by the next date of hearing.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, assisting the court as amicus curiae informed the bench that the NCR states have "vehemently" opposed shifting of coal-based plants and these issues remain "contentious" every time it is discussed during the hearing of this case. The bench took a strong view of this matter and said, "If the Centre comes with a proposal to shift these industries, we are not helpless. It will then be only a question of executing it."

Currently, there are 11 thermal power plants (TPPs) within the 300-km radius of Delhi. The plants have a total of 35 operational units, with a combined capacity of 13,575 megawatt (MW). The 11 plants include Dadri, Guru Hargobind, Harduaganj, Indira Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi, Panipat, Rajiv Gandhi, Rajpura, Ropar, Talwandi Sabo and Yamuna Nagar TPP. Out of these, five are in Haryana, four in Punjab and two in Uttar Pradesh.

Sunil Dahiya, founder and lead analyst of the think-tank Envirocatalysts, said the move would result in reduced emission load in the region. "While primary dust and smoke are visible, a significant share of Delhi's toxic air is composed of secondary inorganic aerosols like sulphates and nitrates formed in the atmosphere from gases emitted by these distant coal stacks. These pollutants undergo long-range transport, crossing state borders and turning the entire Indo-Gangetic Plain into a gas chamber," he explained.

To ensure the coal-based industries are not caught unawares, the bench directed the neighbouring states of UP, Haryana, Rajasthan to issue public notice inviting suggestions, proposals, recommendations from coal-based industries and other stakeholders and said, "Such notices shall be deemed to be notices issued by this court."

(With inputs from Jasjeev Gandhiok)

Virat Vaibhav, Delhi, 24/02/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 10.93cm × 12.36cm

सरकार ने सीबीएम, खोजे गए छोटे क्षेत्रों के लिए बोली लगाने की समयसीमा बढ़ाई

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

सरकार ने विशेष कोल-बेड मीथेन (सीबीएम) और खोजे गए छोटे क्षेत्रों (डीएसएफ) के लिए बोली लगाने की अंतिम तिथि बढ़ा दी है। सरकार के इस फैसले से निवेशकों को तेल और गैस नियमों में हाल के बदलावों पर विचार करने के लिए अतिरिक्त समय मिल गया है। हाइड्रोकार्बन महानिदेशालय (डीजीएच) के अनुसार, विशेष सीबीएम बोली दौर में कोयले की परत के नीचे से निकलने वाली संभावित गैस के लिए प्रस्तावित 13 ब्लॉक या क्षेत्रों की बोलियां अब तीन मार्च को बंद होंगी। इन ब्लॉक में झारखंड और पश्चिम बंगाल में एक-एक ब्लॉक, महाराष्ट्र, मध्य प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़, ओडिशा में दो-दो ब्लॉक और तेलंगाना में तीन ब्लॉक शामिल हैं। डीजीएच के अनुसार, डीएसएफ क्षेत्रों के लिए चौथे दौर की बोली लगाने की समयसीमा अब 18 मार्च कर दी गई है। सीबीएम और डीएसएफ के लिए चौथे दौर की बोलियां पहले 18 फरवरी को बंद होने वाली थीं।

Amar Ujala, Delhi, 24/02/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 21.19cm × 20.19cm

एनसीआर से कोयला आधारित उद्योग हटाने पर केंद्र बताए रुख : सुप्रीम कोर्ट

कहा, वायु प्रदूषण की समस्या से निपटने के लिए दीर्घकालिक व ठोस उपाय आवश्यक

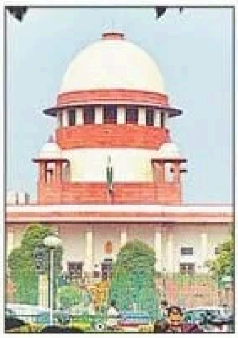
अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

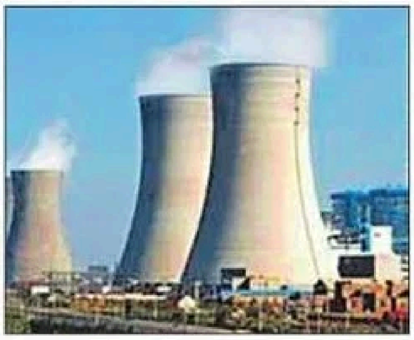
नई दिल्ली। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (एनसीआर) से सभी कोयला आधारित उद्योगों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से बाहर स्थानांतरित करने के प्रस्ताव पर केंद्र सरकार से जवाब मांगा है। चीफ जस्टिस सूर्यकांत, जस्टिस जॉयमाल्या बागची और जस्टिस विपुल एम पंचोली की पीठ ने कहा कि वायु प्रदूषण की समस्या से निपटने के लिए दीर्घकालिक और ठोस उपाय आवश्यक हैं।

मामला 1

शीर्ष अदालत ने पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय और बिजली मंत्रालय से यह स्पष्ट करने के लिए कहा है कि दिल्ली से 300 किलोमीटर के दायरे में नए कोयला आधारित ताप विद्युत संयंत्रों की स्थापना पर रोक के प्रस्ताव पर उनका क्या रुख है।

कोर्ट ने उत्तर प्रदेश, हरियाणा और राजस्थान सरकारों को निर्देश दिया है कि वे एनसीआर में संचालित कोयला आधारित उद्योगों सहित सभी हितधारकों से सुझाव और आपत्तियां आमंत्रित करने के लिए सार्वजनिक नोटिस जारी करें। इन राज्यों को प्राप्त प्रतिक्रियाओं के आधार पर विस्तृत एक्शन टेकन प्लान अदालत में दाखिल करना होगा। पीठ ने केंद्र के संबंधित मंत्रालयों को संयुक्त प्रस्ताव पेश करने के लिए कहा है, जिसमें कोयला आधारित उद्योगों की पहचान और उनके लिए वैकल्पिक ईंधन स्रोत उपलब्ध कराने की योजना शामिल हो। कोर्ट ने दिल्ली सरकार को भी वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (सीएक्यूएम) की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के लिए ठोस कार्ययोजना प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया है।





धूल और वाहनों के प्रदूषण पर भी सुनवाई

अदालत ने निर्माण और तोड़फोड़ से उठने वाली धूल से निपटने के उपायों पर भी सभी पक्षों से जवाब मांगा है। साथ ही, 12 मार्च को वाहनों से होने वाले प्रदूषण पर भी सुनवाई होगी, जिसमें वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (सीएक्यूएम) के सुझावों पर विचार किया जाएगा।

सख्ती • 300 किमी दायरे में नए थर्मल पावर प्लांट पर भी रोक का विचार

NCR से कोयला वाले उद्योग हटाने पर केंद्र से सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मांगा जवाब

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली-एनसीआर में बेहतर वायु गुणवत्ता के लिए सभी कोयला आधारित उद्योग क्षेत्र से बाहर स्थानांतरित करने के प्रस्ताव पर सोमवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार के संबंधित मंत्रालयों से जवाब मांगा।

एनसीआर में वायु प्रदूषण की समस्या पर चीफ जस्टिस सूर्यकांत, जस्टिस जॉयमाल्य बागची और जस्टिस विपुल एम. पंचोली की बेंच सुनवाई कर रही है। कोर्ट ने कहा कि वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (सीएक्यूएम) के सुझावों के आधार पर 12 मार्च को वाहनों से होने वाले प्रदूषण के मुद्दे की जांच करेंगे। कोर्ट ने निर्माण कार्यों से उड़ने वाली धूल से निपटने के लिए सीएक्यूएम द्वारा सुझाए उपायों पर भी संबंधित पक्षों से जवाब मांगा। कोर्ट ने पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय और विद्युत मंत्रालय से इस सुझाव पर प्रतिक्रिया मांगी है कि दिल्ली के 300 किलोमीटर दायरे में कोई नया कोयला आधारित ताप विद्युत संयंत्र स्थापित न किया जाए।

दिल्ली सरकार से मांगी ठोस कार्ययोजना

पीठ ने दिल्ली सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि वह सीएक्यूएम द्वारा सुझाए गए दीर्घकालिक उपायों को लागू करने के लिए एक ठोस कार्ययोजना प्रस्तुत करे। पीठ ने कहा, आयोग ने उन संबंधित एजेंसियों की पहचान की है, जिन्हें कार्रवाई करनी है। इसलिए हम दिल्ली सरकार को निर्देश देते हैं कि इन उपायों को लागू करने के लिए कार्ययोजना प्रस्तुत की जाए। अब अदालत ने सभी पक्षों को निर्देश दिया है कि वे 12 मार्च की सुनवाई से पहले अपनी-अपनी स्थिति रिपोर्ट और प्रस्ताव दाखिल करें।

यूपी, हरियाणा और राजस्थान को भी निर्देश

यूपी, हरियाणा और राजस्थान सरकारों को कोर्ट ने निर्देश दिया कि एनसीआर में स्थित कोयला आधारित उद्योगों सहित सभी हितधारकों से सुझाव और आपत्तियां आमंत्रित करने के लिए सार्वजनिक नोटिस जारी करें। संबंधित राज्यों को प्राप्त सुझावों व आपत्तियों का ब्योरा देते हुए कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करनी होगी।

तीन मंत्रालयों से कहा- संयुक्त प्रस्ताव पेश करें

कोर्ट ने तीनों मंत्रालयों को निर्देश दिया कि वे एनसीआर में कोयला आधारित उद्योगों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करने के उद्देश्य से एक संयुक्त प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करें। इसमें पहले उन उद्योगों की पहचान की जाए और यह तय किया जाए कि उन्हें कौन-कौन से वैकल्पिक ईंधन स्रोत उपलब्ध कराए जा सकते हैं।

आंध्र: मिलावटी दूध से 4 मौतें, 12 डायलिसिस पर

राजमहेंद्रवरम (आंध्र प्रदेश) | पूर्वी गोदावरी जिले में मिलावटी दूध से गुर्दे फेल होने से दो दिन में 4 मौतें हो गईं। डायलिसिस के लिए 12 लोग अस्पतालों में भर्ती हैं। एक स्थानीय दूध विक्रेता हिरासत में लिया गया है। उसने 106 घरों में दूध सप्लाई किया था। टीमें घर-घर सर्वे कर रही हैं।

दिल्ली में 17 साल बाद बदल सकते हैं हवा की शुद्धता के मानक

नई दिल्ली | दिल्ली-एनसीआर सहित देशभर में 17 साल बाद हवा की शुद्धता के मानक बदल सकते हैं। आखिरी बार ये मानक 2009 में तय किए गए थे। दिल्ली की हवा कितनी शुद्ध है, इसे मापने वाले पैमानों में 17 साल बाद एक बड़ा बदलाव होने की उम्मीद जगी है। आईआईटी-कानपुर ने संशोधित मानकों पर अपनी अंतिम तकनीकी रिपोर्ट सीपीसीबी को सौंप दी है। आईआईटी-कानपुर को दिसंबर 2021 में इन मानकों की समीक्षा का काम सौंपा गया था। 3 साल में उसे समीक्षा रिपोर्ट दे देनी थी, पर करीब एक साल की देरी से उसने सीपीसीबी को यह अंतिम रिपोर्ट सौंपी है। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि भारत में वर्तमान में पीएम 2.5 (हवा में मौजूद सूक्ष्म कण) का 24 घंटे का औसत मानक 60 माइक्रोग्राम प्रति घन मीटर है, जबकि विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (डब्ल्यूएचओ) के अनुसार, यह केवल 15 माइक्रोग्राम प्रति घन मीटर होना चाहिए।

कोयला-आधारित उद्योगों को लेकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख

दिल्ली-एनसीआर से बाहर भेजने पर केंद्र से मांगा जवाब

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 23 फरवरी।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बेहतर वायु गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए दिल्ली-एनसीआर से सभी कोयला-आधारित उद्योगों को स्थानांतरित करने के प्रस्ताव पर केंद्र सरकार के मंत्रालयों से जवाब मांगा है।

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (एनसीआर) में लगातार वायु गुणवत्ता की समस्या से निपटने के लिए प्रधान न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत, न्यायमूर्ति जायमाल्य बागची तथा न्यायमूर्ति विपुल एम पंचोली की पीठ ने कहा कि वह वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (सीएक्यूएम) के सुझावों के आधार पर 12 मार्च को गाड़ियों से होने वाले प्रदूषण के मुद्दे की जांच करेगी। उसने निर्माण और तोड़-फोड़ की वजह से होने वाली धूल से निपटने के लिए सीएक्यूएम के सुझाए गए तरीकों पर सभी हितधारकों से भी जवाब मांगा।

शीर्ष अदालत ने पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय और ऊर्जा मंत्रालय से इस सुझाव पर जवाब मांगा कि दिल्ली के 300 किलोमीटर के दायरे में कोई नया कोयला-आधारित तापीय ऊर्जा संयंत्र न लगाया जाए।

अदालत ने उत्तर प्रदेश, हरियाणा और राजस्थान को एनसीआर में कोयला-आधारित उद्योगों समेत हितधारकों से सुझाव और आपत्तियां मांगने के लिए सार्वजनिक नोटिस जारी करने का निर्देश दिया। इन नोटिस को अदालत द्वारा भेजा गया माना जाएगा और राज्यों को मिली प्रतिक्रिया का विवरण देते हुए एक कार्रवाई योजना जमा करनी होगी।

उसने तीनों मंत्रालयों से एनसीआर के अंदर कोयला-आधारित उद्योगों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से हटाने के मकसद से एक संयुक्त प्रस्ताव जमा करने को कहा।

पीठ ने आदेश दिया, 'प्रस्ताव में सबसे पहले उद्योगों की पहचान की जाएगी और यह तय किया जाएगा कि उनके लिए कौन से वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मुहैया कराए जा सकते हैं।' पीठ ने अब सभी हितधारकों को 12 मार्च को अगली सुनवाई से पहले अपनी-अपनी स्थिति रपट और प्रस्ताव दायर करने का निर्देश दिया है।