

# Fisc deficit narrows to 11.8% as non-tax revenue surges

Core sector index increased 4.3% in May on robust steel, cement and fertilizer production

Rhik Kundu & Ravi Dutta Mishra  
NEW DELHI

**T**he government's fiscal deficit for April-May, the first two months of the current fiscal, narrowed to 11.8% of annual estimates to ₹2.10 trillion, from 12.3% a year ago, government data showed on Friday.

This was largely due to a sharp jump in non-tax revenue—from interest payments and dividend among other sources—and lower revenue spending, which combined to offset a robust increase in capital expenditure and decline in net tax revenue.

Total receipts during April-May 2023 stood at ₹4.16 trillion, or 15.3% of the annual estimates, of which tax receipts stood at ₹2.78 trillion, or 11.9% of annual estimates.

Total expenditure rose to ₹6.26 trillion, or 13.9% of the annual estimates from ₹5.86 trillion a year ago.

The Centre aims to bring down the fiscal deficit, which is the difference between the government's income and spending, to 5.9% of the gross domestic product during FY2024.

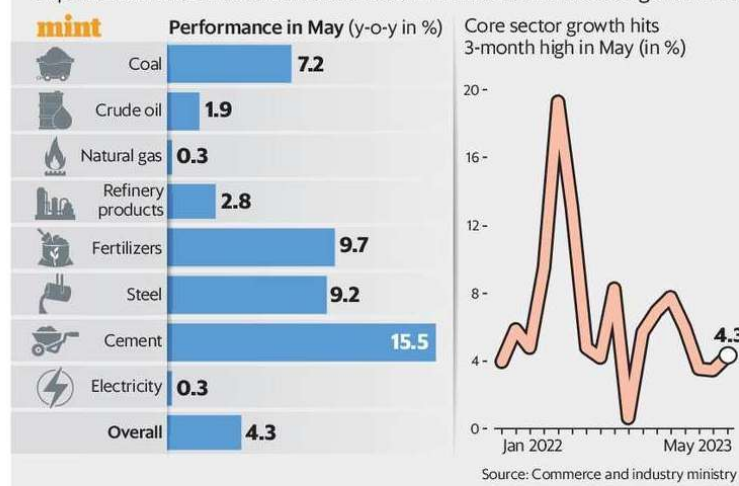
"Overall, while tax revenues reported a contraction of 9.6%, non-tax revenues surged by 173% boosted by the RBI dividend, amidst a 4.3% decline in revenue expenditure, and a 56.7% year-on-year expansion in capex," Aditi Nayar, chief economist, head, research & outreach, ICRA Ltd, said.

In May 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved transfer of ₹87,416 crore as dividend to government for FY2023.

"Gross tax collections rose by a mild 4.4% year-on-year in May 2023, amid a sharp 17.6% contraction in corporate tax collections, offsetting the buoyancy in GST collections. The weakness in

## Strong Performance

Experts attributed the continued traction in cement and steel to government spending.



PARAS JAIN/MINT

corporate tax collections has dragged down tax revenues during April-May 2023," Nayar added.

Of the total revenue expenditure, ₹1.10 trillion was on account of interest payments and ₹55,316 crore went into subsidies.

Meanwhile, the combined index of eight core industries increased by 4.3% in May 2023 as compared with the same period of the previous year, according to provisional figures.

Electricity production slipped marginally by 0.3% annually during May 2023, amid unseasonal rains and relatively lower temperatures.

The cumulative index of electricity production also declined by 0.7% during April-May 2023 over the corresponding period of the previous year.

India witnessed a milder summer

this year compared with the summer last year when heat waves damaged wheat and vegetable crops, driving food prices to record highs.

"Electricity production declined marginally by 0.3% mainly due to the high base effect of 23.5% growth last year," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda, said.

"It was otherwise a very hot month where demand had gone up as demand for cooling increased," Sabnavis said.

Steel and cement production jumped by 9.2% and 15.5%. Experts attributed the continued traction in cement and steel to government spending.

"In June, the Centre had given an additional instalment to states as part of state transfers to enable higher capex. Further, a loan was also extended to expedite the same," Sab-

navis added.

Coal growth also jumped to 7.2% annually during the period, due to higher steel production, while fertilisers jumped 9.7% annually ahead of the kharif sowing season.

Petroleum refinery production increased by 2.8% in May 2023, compared with the same period of the previous year. Its cumulative index increased by 0.7% annually during April-May 2023.

Refinery activity has been on the rise following the Russia-Ukraine war that has resulted in Russian crude oil shifting toward India.

Meanwhile, India's industrial output grew by 4.2% in April compared to 1.7%. Output of the manufacturing sector contributes over three-fourth of the IIP.

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**5.9%**  
of GDP is Centre's target on fiscal deficit in FY2024

**₹87,416 cr**  
was transferred to govt as dividend for FY2023 by RBI

# Reliance-bp starts output from MJ oil & gas field in KG-D6

**NEW DELHI:** Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp Plc on Friday announced the start of production from the MJ oil and gas field in the KG-D6 block, scaling up India's natural gas output to over 100 million cubic metres a day.

MJ is the third and the last set of under-seabed gas reserves discovered in the KG-DWN-98/3 or KG-D6 block, off the east coast that the consortium was working to produce. All three sets of discoveries, with MJ being the deepest, were made more than a decade back and have been progressively put into production since 2020.

Together, the three sets of discoveries at their peak production will account for a third of all gas produced in the country and make up for 15 per cent of India's demand, the companies said in a statement on Friday.

"The start of gas and condensate production from the MJ field follows the start-up of the R-Cluster field in Decem-

ber 2020 and Satellite Cluster in April 2021," it said.

All three developments utilise the existing hub infrastructure for the block. "Together, the three fields are expected to produce around 30 million standard cubic metres of gas a day (1 billion cubic feet a day), when MJ field reaches peak production," it said.

"This is expected to account for around one-third of India's current domestic gas production and meet approximately 15 per cent of India's demand".

The statement, however, did not give timelines for reaching peak output.

Reliance-bp had in May 2013 struck a 155-metre thick gas condensate column in the exploration well KGD6-MJ1, which was later named as D55 or MJ-1 discovery.

MJ field is located about 2,000 meters directly below the Dhirubhai-1 and 3 (D1 and D3) fields that ceased to produce in 2020. It is estimated to hold a minimum of 0.988 Trillion



## MJ is third & last set of under-seabed gas reserves discovered in the KG-DWN-98/3 or KG-D6 block

cubic feet (Tcf) of contingent resource and can produce 12 million standard cubic metres per day of gas at peak.

The statement did not give the current output of MJ.

Reliance-bp produced 19 mmscmd of gas from two sets of discoveries in the quarter ended March 31, according to a finan-

cial statement filed by Reliance.

Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, said: "We continue to be proud of our partnership with bp that combines our expertise in commissioning complex projects under some of the most challenging environments in the last few years. Alongside the other KG D6 fields, the MJ development truly supports the 'Make in India' and 'Energy vision' laid out by the Government of India".

The start of output from MJ helped natural gas production in the country touch 101 million standard cubic metres per day on June 23.

bp chief executive Bernard Looney said: "By safely bringing these new developments onstream, Reliance and bp are making an important contribution to meeting India's demand for secure supplies of gas. Our close strategic partnership with Reliance now stretches back over 15 years and we are proud

of how it continues to deepen - in gas, retail, aviation fuels and sustainable mobility solutions".

"Together, we are helping to meet India's growing energy needs, bringing the best of each partner to create real value," he said.

Discovered in 2013 and sanctioned in 2019, the MJ field is located in water depths of up to 1,200 metres about 30 kilometres from the existing onshore terminal at Gadimoga on the east coast of India.

MJ is a high-pressure and high-temperature (HPHT), gas and condensate field. The field will produce from eight wells and reach a peak gas production of around 12 mmsmd gas and 25,000 barrels of condensate per day.

The field has been brought to production using a new floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel, the 'Ruby' to process and separate the condensate, gas, water, and impurities, before sending the gas onshore for sale. PTI



# Reliance-bp start production from third field in KG-D6 block

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and bp plc on Friday confirmed the commencement of production from the MJ field in the KG-D6 block off the east coast. The field represents the last of three major new deepwater developments the RIL-bp consortium have brought into production in the block. Together, the three fields are expected to produce around 30 million standard cubic metres of gas a day (1 billion cubic feet a day) when the MJ field reaches peak production, the consortium said.

**BS REPORTER**

# OMCs confident of retaining discounts on Russian crude

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY  
New Delhi, 30 June

Indian oil marketing companies (OMCs) are confident that they would be able to secure discounts in the short term for Russian crude oil, officials at several OMCs told *Business Standard*.

The price of Russian Urals-grade crude oil is trading close to the \$60 limit, beyond which sanctions will take hold. Since April, the bulk of Russian oil sold to India has been on the Dubai benchmark, with an average discount level of \$8-10 per barrel.

While the level of discounts has continuously shrunk this year as China has snapped up larger volumes of Russian crude, industry insiders say India has been promised discounts and Moscow would not change terms by a wide margin at a time when it is pressed for cash. "The level of discounts has continued to change over the past year, but has been continuously higher than global market averages. Prices are discussed one deal at a time, but we are confident the discounts would continue," a senior official at an OMC said.

An official at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas echoed the same saying the discounts were here to stay, albeit at reduced levels. The discount of Urals as compared to Brent had been as high as \$20 per barrel or more, but has now fallen to as low as \$5 per barrel in recent months for certain shipments, another official said.

## Price cap

The share of Russian crude, which was just 0.2 per cent of

## STATUS QUO EXPECTED

- Moscow not expected to change discounts policy drastically
- OMCs buying Russian crude oil on Dubai benchmark
- Russian Urals grade crude oil trading near G7 price cap levels
- Transport costs to rise if cap is breached
- West Asian sellers like Iraq may also up discounts

the total crude import volume before Russia invaded Ukraine in February last year, touched a historic high of 42 per cent in May, government data showed.

India took 1.96 million barrels a day from Russia in May — 15 per cent more than the previous high in April — according to estimates by London-based commodity data analytics provider Vortexa, which tracks ship movements to estimate imports.

The flows are expected to be impacted if the price of Russian Urals crude breaches the G7 price cap of \$60 per barrel. From December 5 last year, the United States and its allies have prohibited Western shipping and insurance companies from dealing in Russia crude sold at or above the cap.

While prices remain below the cap, they have consistently risen in 2023. The price averaged \$52 a barrel at Russia's Baltic Sea port of Primorsk in

June, according to Argus data reported by *Bloomberg*. In case prices move beyond the cap, transport costs will rise and the trade will become murkier as shipments will inevitably change hands on the high seas, analysts have warned.

Before the war in Ukraine, Indian refiners had bought Russian oil rarely due to the high freight costs involved.

However, India has not officially joined the price cap regime. Being the second-largest oil importer globally, New Delhi has been requested several times to join the regime. However, Washington DC had consistently taken a soft tone on the matter.

## Other sellers watching

In the case of a major departure from existing prices by Moscow, Indian buyers would move to other sources as the trade remains price-sensitive, another official said. He hinted that west Asian sellers like Iraq were watching the situation keenly and may raise their discounts.

One of the historical sources of crude for India, Iraq was the biggest supplier in the first 10 months of FY23. From June onwards, Baghdad had last year undercut Russia by supplying a range of crude oils that on average cost \$9 a barrel, less than the Russian variety. But imports from Russia had caught up by FY23 end as Moscow became more aggressive in offering discounts.

In March, *Business Standard* had reported that Iraq had reached out to refiners with offers to open discussions on what level of discounts would be needed to lure them back.



# Core sector output in May expands at 4.3%

SHIVA RAJORA  
New Delhi, 30 June

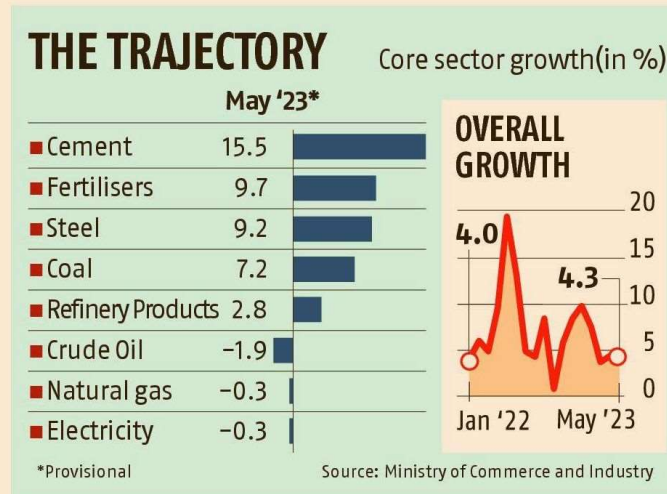
**T**he output of eight key infrastructure industries — known as the core sector — expanded at 4.3 per cent in May, amid a high base effect and positive growth in five of the eight sectors.

In May last year, the core sector had grown by 19.3 per cent. The print for April 2023 has undergone significant revision to 4.3 per cent from 3.5 per cent estimated earlier.

Data released by the commerce and industry ministry on Friday showed that while growth in the output of fertilisers (9.7 per cent), steel (9.2 per cent), and coal (7.2 per cent) slowed from the previous month, the output in refinery products (2.8 per cent) and cement (15.5 per cent) accelerated.

Meanwhile, the contraction continued in electricity generation (-0.3 per cent), crude oil (-1.9 per cent), and natural gas production (-0.3 per cent) in May, thus exerting a drag on the aggregate output.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA Ratings, said the



double digit growth in cement output for the second consecutive month and strong growth in steel points to a robust performance of the construction sector.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda, said the continued traction in cement and steel could be attributed to government spending. “In June, the Centre had given an additional instalment to states as part of state transfers to enable higher capex. Further, a loan was also extended to expedite the same,” he said.

The contraction in electricity generation for the third consecutive month in May was mainly due to the high base of 23.5 per cent growth during the same month a year ago, even though power demand picked up sequentially in May this year as energy demand for cooling increased.

“Though the fertilisers production slowed down from last month, it is expected to continue to remain robust for the next two months to keep pace with the kharif sowing requirements.

Meanwhile, the oil basket, however, continued to disappoint with negative growth for crude and natural gas and refinery products did relatively better with exports contributing to the same,” Sabnavis said.

The eight core industries account for 40.27 per cent of the weighting of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and, thus, have a significant impact on the index.

“Although the growth in core output remained steady, the performance of a majority of the available high frequency indicators improved in May 2023 relative to April 2023, which are expected to keep the IIP growth in the range of 4-6 per cent in May 2023,” said Nayar.

Earlier last week, Fitch Ratings revised upwards its economic growth estimate for India by 30 basis points (bps) to 6.3 per cent for 2023-24 (FY24), citing stronger outturn in the March quarter of FY23 and near-term momentum, though it had cautioned that the slowdown in global trade still posed downward risk.



## **Crude oil set for first monthly gain this year**

Oil prices edged higher on Friday with Brent poised for its first monthly gain this year, as a big drawdown in US oil stocks outweighed concerns that fuel demand will be dented further by more interest rate hikes. Brent crude futures for September delivery rose 16 cents to stand at \$74.67 as of 0405 GMT. US WTI gained 8 cents or 0.1 per cent to \$69.95.

REUTERS

## RIL-bp begins production from MJ Field in KG D6



**Mumbai:** Reliance Industries and bp Plc have announced the commencement of production from the MJ field, following testing and commissioning activities. The MJ field represents the last of three major new deepwater developments the RIL-bp consortium have brought into production in block KG D6 off the east coast of India, RIL said in an exchange filing. OUR BUREAU



## ● ELECTRICITY, NATURAL GAS, CRUDE OIL CONTRACT

# Core sectors grow 4.3% in May, construction key driver

**Steel, cement and coal segments report robust growth**

**FE BUREAU**  
New Delhi, June 30

**EIGHT KEY INFRASTRUCTURE** sectors grew 4.3% year-on-year in May, the same rate as in the previous month, but much slower compared with 19.3% in the year-ago period, official data showed on Friday. A strong expansion in production of steel and cement, both construction inputs, as well as the coal segment boosted the relevant index, even as refinery products, the one with the highest weight, recorded a modest growth.

The performance of the crude oil & natural gas and electricity segments were dismal, with all reporting contraction on the Y-o-Y basis.

On a sequential basis, the core sectors expanded 3.5% in May.

The output growth of these eight sectors slowed down to 4.3% in April-May this fiscal, against 14.3% in the year-ago period.

The trend in recent months doesn't signify a solid industrial revival, but reveal the resilience of the economy against global headwinds. From July, the base will become favourable.

### GROWTH OF CORE SECTOR OUTPUT - MAY, 2023

(y-o-y, %)



### Growth (y-o-y, %)



The eight core sectors have a combined weight of 40.3% in the index of industrial production (IIP).

Among sectors, coal production increased 7.2%, aided by the focus of Coal India and private captive miners on raising output to meet the higher demand from thermal power units during summer months. Crude oil production declined by 1.9%. A sluggishness in

demand for natural gas, partly owing to high prices, led to a marginal decline of 0.3% in output.

Production of petroleum refinery products, which have a weight of 28% in the core sector index, increased 2.8% in May while steel production rose 9.2%.

Cement output expanded 15.5%, recording the second consecutive month of double-digit growth.

Electricity generation contracted for the third consecutive month, with subdued demand partly on account of relatively cooler temperature owing to the unseasonal rainfall ahead of monsoon.

"Although the YoY growth in core output remained steady, the performance of a majority of the available high-frequency indicators improved in May 2023 relative to April 2023. Consequently, ICRA expects the YoY index of industrial production (IIP) growth to print at ~4-6% in May 2023," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, head — research & outreach, ICRA.

Industrial production growth rose to 4.2% in April from 1.7% in the previous month, aided by the manufacturing and mining sectors. Manufacturing sector's output grew 4.9% in April, against a 5.6% growth in the year-ago period, indicating a modest recovery in the sector that has long been in the doldrums.

As per use-based classification of IIP, the capital goods segment recorded a 6.2% growth in April compared to a 12% expansion a year ago. Consumer durables output during the month declined 3.5%, against a 7.2% growth a year ago; consumer non-durable goods output grew 10.7% in April, against a contraction of 0.8% a year earlier.



## Reliance-bp starts output from MJ oil and gas field

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and its partner bp Plc on Friday announced the start of production from the MJ oil and gas field in the KG-D6 block, scaling up India's natural gas output to more than 100 million cubic metres a day. All three sets of discoveries have been progressively put into production since 2020. The discoveries at peak production will account for a third of all gas produced in the country and make up for 15% of India's demand, the companies said. PTI

# Reliance-bp begins production from MJ field in KG block

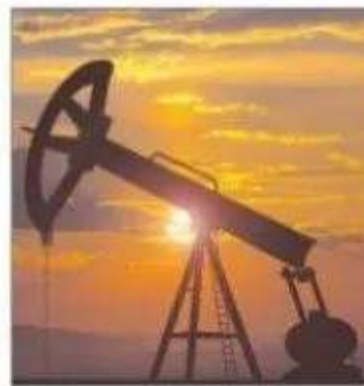
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi June 30

**RELIANCE INDUSTRIES AND** its partner bp on Friday announced the start of regular production from MJ oil and gas field in the KG-D6 block, helping scale up India's output of clean fuel to over 100 million cubic meters a day.

MJ is the third and the last set of discoveries in the KG-DWN-98/3 or KG-D6 block, off the east coast that the consortium was working on. All three sets of discoveries, with MJ being the deepest, were made more than a decade back and have been progressively put into production.

Together, the three sets of discoveries at their peak production will make up for 15% of India's demand, the companies said in a statement on Friday.

"The start of gas and condensate production from the MJ field follows the start-up of the R-Cluster field in December 2020 and Satellite Cluster in



April 2021," it said.

All three developments utilise the existing hub infrastructure for the block.

"Together, the three fields are expected to produce around 30 million standard cubic meters of gas a day (1 billion cubic feet a day) when MJ field reaches peak production," it said. "This is expected to account for around one-third of India's current domestic gas production and meet approximately 15% of India's demand."

They however did not give timelines for reaching peak output.





## **RIL-BP starts output from AP's MJ field**

**New Delhi:** Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and BP have started production from the MJ field, the last of the three new deepwater discoveries in the KG-D6 block off the Andhra coast the companies have brought into production with an estimated investment of \$5 billion.

Production from the three discoveries together will produce 30 mcmd of gas at their peak, accounting for a third of India's current gas production and meet about 15% of demand. TNN

# 8 key infra sectors grow 4.3% in May

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

EIGHT KEY infrastructure sectors grew 4.3% year-on-year in May, the same rate as in the previous month, but much slower compared with 19.3% in the year-ago period, official data showed on Friday. A strong expansion in production of steel and cement, both construction inputs, as well as the coal segment boosted the relevant index, even as refinery products, the one with the highest weight, recorded a modest growth.

The performance of the crude oil & natural gas and electricity segments were dismal, with all reporting contraction on the Y-o-Y basis.

On a sequential basis, the core sectors expanded 3.5% in May. The output growth of these eight sectors slowed down to 4.3% in April-May this fiscal, against 14.3% in the year-ago period. The trend in recent months doesn't signify a solid industrial revival, but reveal the resilience of the economy against global

headwinds. From July, the base will become favourable.

The eight core sectors have a combined weight of 40.3% in the index of industrial production (IIP). Among sectors, coal production increased 7.2%, aided by the focus of Coal India and private captive miners on raising output to meet the higher demand from thermal power units during summer months. Crude oil production declined by 1.9%. A sluggishness in demand for natural gas, partly owing to high prices, led to a marginal decline of 0.3% in output.

Production of petroleum refinery products, which have a weight of 28% in the core sector index, increased 2.8% in May while steel production rose 9.2%. Cement output expanded 15.5%, recording the second consecutive month of double-digit growth.

Electricity generation contracted for the third consecutive month, with subdued demand partly on account of relatively cooler temperature owing to the unseasonal rainfall ahead of monsoon.





## RIL-bp Starts Production from MJ Field in KG D6 Block

### Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Reliance Industries (RIL) and BP have commenced gas and condensate production from the MJ field in the KG D6 block off the eastern coast, following testing and commissioning activities, the companies said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

The MJ field represents the last of three major new deepwater developments the RIL-BP consortium has brought into production in KG D6 block. RIL is the operator of the block with a 66.67% participating interest. BP holds the rest

33.33% participating interest.

The consortium had started gas and condensate production from the first field, R-cluster, in December 2020 and from satellite cluster in April 2021. All three developments utilise the existing hub infrastructure for the block.

Together, the three fields are expected to produce around 30 million standard cubic metres (mmscm) of gas, or one billion cubic feet, per day when the MJ field reaches peak production.

This is expected to account for around one-third of India's current domestic gas production and meet approximately 15% of the country's demand.

# India is moving away from single-use plastics

Estimates suggest that about seven billion of the 9.2 billion tonnes of plastic produced between 1950 and 2017 became plastic waste, ending up in landfills or dumped. While that is a problem in itself, it is only part of a wider and more serious issue. The problem of plastic pollution doesn't exist in a vacuum. It poses environmental, social, economic and health risks to people by contributing to the climate crisis, ecosystem degradation and resource use.

India was quick to realise that the problem needed redressal. It embarked on the journey to beat plastic pollution five years ago after Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi gave a call for elimination of single-use plastics from the country by 2022. India took a defining step to curb pollution caused by littered and unmanaged plastic waste on July 1, 2022, when a ban was imposed on the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified single-use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential.

Today, we have completed one year of that journey. The ministry of environment, forest and climate change adopted a two-pronged strategy to tackle unmanaged and littered plastic waste by placing a ban on single-use plastic items and effective implementation through extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging. As is the trademark of governance under PM Modi, the strategy is being implemented using a whole-of-government approach,

with steps being taken by concerned central ministries, and state and local governments.

The single-use plastics ban is ambitious, covering 19 items, including disposable plastic thermocol cutlery and straws. In addition, lightweight carry bags have been prohibited and the thickness of plastic carry bags was increased to 120 microns with effect from December 31, 2022. This helps in making the bags reusable and increases collection efficiency. Many developed countries are still to implement a ban on single-use plastics in such a comprehensive manner.

The banned single-use plastic items were identified by an expert committee constituted by the department of chemicals and petrochemicals based upon the criteria of low utility and high littering potential, coupled with the availability of alternatives. In order to give time to the industry to make the transition to alternatives, the ministry notified the ban on August 12, 2021, nearly one year before it came into effect.

The last one year of implementation of the single-use plastics ban showcased the involvement of all stakeholders, including citizens, young people, students, start-ups, innovators, industry and government; it generated many replicable and scalable success stories.

The ban triggered the development of innovative eco-alternatives, new business models, and an increase in the manufacturing capacity and uptake of eco-alternatives at scale. The introduction and use of alternatives to banned

items led to the creation of new employment opportunities in sustainable green ventures. State governments and local authorities launched innovative programmes on moving towards eco-friendly alternatives.

Behavioural change and availability of eco-alternatives are key to the success of the ban, as is moving away from a use-and-throw culture. Reduction in the use of single-plastic items is one of the main focus areas under PM Modi's Mission LIFE - Lifestyle for Environment - mantra.

It is heartening to see success stories from the states. For instance, Madhya Pradesh set up Bartan Bhandars in panchayats through self-help groups to discourage the use of banned disposable plastic cutlery. In Delhi, stores of eco-alternatives - Vikalp Stores - have been set up in markets; Tamil Nadu launched a massive campaign on using cloth bags with vending machines set up under the Meendum Manjappai campaign; Uttar Pradesh is implementing the refillable model to promote reuse of packaging material.

To encourage start-ups and innovators to develop eco-alternatives, the ministry organised an India Plastic Challenge - Hackathon 2021. Startups and manufacturers are creating eco-alternatives such as cutlery made bagasse and rice and wheat bran, straws made from dried coconut leaves, and straws made from paper, at scale.

In keeping with the development of eco-alternatives, the Bureau of Indian Standard has notified Indian Standard IS 18267 for utensils made from agri byproducts. These facts show that in the last one year, we have moved significantly in the uptake of eco-alternative cutlery, which meets Indian standard specifications.

To encourage the transition, the ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises is supporting enterprises under various schemes related to technology upgradation, creating

awareness, marketing support, infrastructural support and for adopting alternatives to identified single-use plastic, as per scheme guidelines.

What India has is among the world's biggest frameworks for guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation on plastic packaging. Due to the clear framework laid down by EPR notified in February 2022, and on account of effective implementation, till date, 20,800 Producers, Importers and Brand Owners (PIBOs) and 1,976 Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) have registered on the centralised EPR portal, as opposed to 300 in 2021. The cumulative EPR obligation of registered PIBOs is more than 3.71 million tonnes for the year 2022-23, which is a significant proportion of plastic waste generated in the country. In the last one year, 90,851 entities have been inspected for enforcement of the ban.

India's efforts to fight the plastic menace are not just local. India piloted a resolution in 2019 for addressing pollution caused by single-use plastics which was adopted by the 4th meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in 2019.

At the fifth UNEA, held in Nairobi in 2022, India engaged constructively with member States to develop a consensus on the resolution for driving global action on plastic pollution by setting up an intergovernmental negotiating committee for a new international legally binding instrument.

Over the last year, by adopting a whole-of-society approach with participation of all stakeholders including citizens, innovators, start-ups, industry, and the government, India has been successful in moving away from single-use plastics and adopting a sustainable lifestyle.

*Bhupender Yadav is Union cabinet minister for environment, forest & climate change, and labour & employment.*

*The views expressed are personal.*



**Bhupender Yadav**



## रिलायंस-बीपी का केजी ब्लॉक में एमजे क्षेत्र से नियमित गैस उत्पादन शुरू

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड और उसकी भागीदार बीपी पीएलसी ने शुक्रवार को केजी-डी6 ब्लॉक में एमजे तेल एवं गैस क्षेत्र से नियमित उत्पादन शुरू होने की घोषणा की। इसके साथ ही भारत में स्वच्छ ईंधन का उत्पादन 10 करोड़ घन मीटर प्रतिदिन से अधिक हो जाने की उम्मीद है। एमजे क्षेत्र पूर्वी तट से दूर केजी-डीडब्ल्यूएन-9813 या केजी-डी6 ब्लॉक में खोजों का तीसरा और आखिरी खंड है, जिस पर यह गठजोड़ काम कर रहा था। इन खोजों के सभी तीन खंड में एमजे क्षेत्र सबसे गहरा है। एक दशक से भी अधिक समय पहले खोजे गए इस क्षेत्र में धीरे-धीरे उत्पादन शुरू किया गया। कंपनियों ने शुक्रवार को एक बयान में कहा कि अपने अधिकतम उत्पादन पर खोजों के तीनों खंड मिलकर भारत की 15 प्रतिशत मांग को पूरा करेंगे। बयान के मुताबिक, जब एमजे क्षेत्र अपने अधिकतम उत्पादन पर पहुंच जाएगा तो तीनों क्षेत्रों से एक दिन में लगभग तीन करोड़ मानक घन मीटर गैस का उत्पादन होने की उम्मीद है। कंपनियों ने कहा कि यह मात्रा भारत के मौजूदा घरेलू गैस उत्पादन का लगभग एक तिहाई होगी और देश की लगभग 15 प्रतिशत मांग को पूरी कर सकती है। हालांकि इस बयान में यह नहीं बताया गया है कि इन खंडों में उत्पादन अपने अधिकतम स्तर पर कब तक पहुंचेगा।

## सुस्त पड़ी बुनियादी उद्योगों की वृद्धि दर, मई में 4.3 फीसदी रही

नई दिल्ली। आठ बुनियादी उद्योगों की वृद्धि दर इस साल मई में सुस्त पड़कर 4.3 फीसदी रह गई। कच्चे तेल, प्राकृतिक गैस और बिजली के उत्पादन में गिरावट से बुनियादी उद्योगों की वृद्धि दर में कमी आई है। आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, आठ बुनियादी उद्योगों की वृद्धि दर मई 2022 में 19.3 फीसदी और इस साल अप्रैल में 4.3 फीसदी रही थी।

आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, मई में कच्चे तेल के उत्पादन में 1.9 फीसदी की गिरावट रही। प्राकृतिक गैस और बिजली क्षेत्र में उत्पादन की दर 0.3 फीसदी घट गई। कोयला उत्पाद की वृद्धि दर घटकर 7.2 फीसदी रह गई, जो मई, 2022 में 33.5 फीसदी



रही थी। रिफाइनरी उत्पादों की वृद्धि दर 28 फीसदी से घटकर 2.8 फीसदी रह गई। खाद, इस्पात और सीमेंट उत्पादन में भी गिरावट दर्ज की गई। उधर, चालू वित्त वर्ष में अप्रैल-मई के दौरान आठ बुनियादी उद्योगों की वृद्धि दर 4.3 फीसदी रही। 2022-23 की समान अवधि में यह 14.3 फीसदी रही थी। एजेंसी