

After landmark moves, climate talks hit again over coal, fossil fuel action

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NEW DELHI: Deep fissures have emerged between developing countries still highly dependent on coal to power their economies and rich nations that have pledged to move away from new coal but are silent on abandoning other fossil fuels such as oil and gas that run their economies, threatening to further delay consensus on core aspects of the world's efforts to fight the climate crisis.

Observers and experts aware of discussions said that while this year's UN Climate Conference (COP28) being held in

NEGOTIATORS ARE NOW BACK TO CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AROUND PHASING OUT COAL AND OTHER FOSSIL FUELS, AND A CONSENSUS ON CLIMATE FINANCE

Dubai began with big ticket announcements, negotiators are now back to contentious issues around phasing out coal and other fossil fuels, and climate finance.

"Overall on the narrative on the forward-looking aspects of the GST (global stocktake), the Global North sees it heavily focusing on mitigation while the Global South sees more mandates for scaled up finance as necessary. There is little clarity on what the final text will incorporate at this stage," said Tamanna Sengupta, programme officer, Climate Change, Centre for Science and Environment.

COP28 began on November 30 with a landmark operationalising of the Loss and Damage Fund, which will help nations most vulnerable to climate

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now working on developing consensus, including on the global stocktake — a process that will assess the progress made by countries on slashing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience to climate impacts, securing finance, and identifying areas where further action is needed.

A second expert said that “despite numerous declarations and statements from world leaders, we remain starkly distant from the crucial hundreds of billions in funding needed for climate action”. “This includes assisting developing countries in reducing emissions and strengthening adaptation efforts through a robust global framework. The push by rich countries to rely on the private sector, which has demonstrated insufficient commitment to mitigation and scant interest in adaptation, is not a viable solution,” said Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at Climate Action Network International.

“Public finance is paramount; it is the cornerstone that enables and catalyses the trillions necessary to address the pressing climate crisis effectively,” Singh added.

Climate financing is meant to cover efforts to address the climate crisis, both in terms of mitigating its impact (reducing emissions) and adapting to its effects (building resilience). Such financing is meant to help developing countries transition to a low-carbon economy and includes the Loss and Damage Fund.

The Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) which was launched by UK and Canada at COP23 in 2017, posted on X on Sunday that the US and nine other countries have joined the PPCA and France has launched a new initiative to support the global move from coal to renewables. “Alongside the announcement of new members of the PPCA, there were two other important developments on coal phase-out: the launch of a new initiative called the ‘Coal Transition Accelerator’ by France and the adoption of the Global Pledge on Renewables and Energy Efficiency by 118 countries, which committed them to tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency, as well as emphasised the need to stop investments in new coal power plants,” the PPCA said in a statement.

These moves are adding to the growing momentum toward a global agreement on no new coal exploration and a coal phase-out in Dubai, the negotiators said.

But such moves made countries like India and Indonesia wary. This is also one of the reasons India did not sign the pledge on tripling renewable global energy capacity on Saturday.

“We have to first gather what this means before endorsing. That is what we are doing. We will see how these issues are addressed in the negotiations. These pledges are outside the UN process of negotiations. India has led the way with the tripling of renewable energy pledge under its G20 Presidency in September,” said a senior official aware of the position India has taken at the talks.

The divisions became starkly clear when on Sunday, COP28 host United Arab Emirates’ climate envoy, Sultan Al Jaber, who also heads state oil joint ADNOC, said there was no science to show that phasing out fossil fuels would achieve the world’s climate goals, reports by The Guardian and Centre for Climate Reporting said.

The 50-year-old added that removing fossil fuels would take the world “back into caves”. “I am factual and I respect the science, and there is no science out there, or no scenario out there, that says that the phase-out of fossil fuels is what’s going to achieve 1.5.”

The issue captures how oil economies such as the UAE and its neighbours, as well as developing countries like India and China, have a different position from Western nations. Negotiators from the US and EU have said they are agreeable to phase-out of “unabated” fossil fuels — with the words phase-out and unabated being key.

Petro-rich states are expectedly not agreeable to language on fossil fuels, the observers added, referring to language first agreed upon by the G7, a grouping of wealthy nations, earlier this year.

A key reason for this divide is that wealthier nations have largely been able to adopt renewables and non-fossil sources at an easier pace and lower cost to their economies than poorer nations, which have repeatedly sought to draw on the historical responsibility of rich nations to urge them to do

more.

The Third World Network, a non-profit international research and advocacy group said in their briefing on December 1 that developing countries led by the G77 and China called on developed countries “who bear the greatest responsibility for the modification of the global climate system” to reverse course, “in their accelerated consumption of the remaining carbon space”.

The BASIC group (Brazil, China, India and South Africa) expressed concern that “there has been a significant increase in the production and consumption of fossil fuels by developed countries in recent years and encouraged developed countries to take the lead in phasing out their own fossil fuel production and consumption, in an accelerated manner”.

COP28 is scheduled to go on till December 12, by when negotiators must agree on final text of the outcome.

CLIMATE TALKS HIT

calamities cope with the consequences of the crisis. On Saturday, 118 countries signed a pledge to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030.

But negotiators from around the world, including those representing nations with varied interests and obligations, are

Biogas blending to save \$1.1 bn LNG imports

New Delhi, Dec. 3: The proposed 5 per cent blending of biogas with natural gas supplies in the country can cut LNG imports worth \$1.17 billion annually, says a study by the Indian Biogas Association (IBA).

The study comes against the backdrop of the government's recent mandate to blend one per cent biogas with piped natural gas (PNG) supplies in the country from April 1, 2025 under the compressed biogas blending obligation (CBO) scheme.

The biogas blending is proposed to be further increased to 5 per cent by fiscal year 2028-29.

According to the study, this blending initiative gels well with the government's macro-level move to make India a gas-based economy, with a target to increase the current share of gas in the energy mix from 6 per cent currently to 15 per cent by 2030.

The IBA estimates show that 5 per cent blending of biogas with natural gas can reduce LNG imports worth \$1.17 billion. This can also bring down per capita CO₂ emissions by two per cent, benchmarked to the 2019 figure, which was 1.9 metric tonne of CO₂ per person in India.

Additionally, the body says preventing organic waste going to landfills can bring innumerable benefits.

The CBO scheme shall encourage investment of around ₹37,500 crore and facilitate the set up of at least 750 compressed biogas (CBG) projects by



● **THE COMPRESSED** biogas blending obligation scheme shall encourage investment of around ₹37,500 cr and facilitate the set up of at least 750 CBG projects by 2028-29.

2028-29, as per government estimates.

This is going to improve India's energy security, as it is currently heavily reliant on imported natural gas to meet its energy needs.

Blending biogas with PNG and CBG can help reduce this dependence, which is invaluable. The blending has the potential to demonstrate a positive correlation with agricultural income growth too, which is the case with ethanol as well.

Every additional large-scale plant can ensure that almost 1,000 acre of nearby biogas plant area can be converted into organic agriculture. It can be produced from various organic waste sources, such as agricultural waste, municipal solid waste, and food waste.

This can create new economic opportunities for the farmers, waste management companies, and other stakeholders involved in the biogas production.

— PTI



Exxon, Aramco, others promise emission cuts

Exxon Mobil and Saudi Arabia's Aramco, the world's largest private and state-sector oil companies, led a pledge by 50 oil and gas producers at the COP28 climate summit to cut emissions from their own operations. The deal will be controversial given none of the companies are agreeing to reduce oil and gas production. But they will pledge to stem releases of methane, one of the most dangerous greenhouse gases, to near zero by 2030 and stop routine flaring of natural gas. Earlier, US Vice President Kamala Harris said we need to "accelerate our investments" to meet an ambitious 1.5 Celsius warming target. **BLOOMBERG**

IOC Raises Panipat Refinery Expansion Cost by 10%, Pushes Completion Deadline by a Year

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's top oil firm, has revised the estimates of cost of expanding the Panipat refinery in Haryana by 10% to ₹36,225 crore and pushed back completion deadline by more than a year to December 2025. IOC is expanding its 15 million tonnes a year refinery, about 100-km north of New

Delhi, to 25 million tonnes.

In a stock exchange filing, the firm said its board has approved “revision in cost of the project for capacity expansion of Panipat Refinery from ₹32,946 crore to ₹36,225 crore and revision in completion schedule of the project from September 2024 to December 2025.”—**PTI**

Proposed 5% biogas blending with natural gas can cut LNG imports worth \$1.17 bn: IBA

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plant area can be converted into organic agriculture.

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Blending of biogas with natural gas will streamline the market for biofuels, making it more investor-friendly by reducing capital and operational costs, the body says.

It also needs to be emphasised that selling biofuels in the market will become smoother, and the ecosystem will benefit from increased investor confidence, IBA stated. P11

Regulator eyes more allocation for PNG

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NEW DELHI

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) may recommend a specific allocation of natural gas used for cooking, said two people with knowledge of the plan.

City gas distributors (CGD) supply both compressed natural gas (CNG) for transportation and piped natural gas (PNG) for cooking.

The natural gas is sourced from legacy fields—old fields that were operated by state-run ONGC and Oil India Ltd. However, there is no specification or mandate on how much gas should go to each of the two segments.

Under the administered price mechanism (APM), the price of gas from legacy fields is capped, making it cheaper than gas from other fields.

A person aware of the developments said several gas distributors prefer to supply most of this allocated cheaper gas for CNG where margins are higher than PNG.

Currently, distributors get around 20 million standard cubic metres of natural gas every day, most of which goes



The consideration comes in the backdrop of slow progress in the penetration of PNG connections.

ISTOCKPHOTO

for CNG, according to industry experts.

“The gas needs to be allocated to these two consumption sectors separately. The gas is given under the header of CGD, for both cooking and transport. The regulator may recommend that the cheaper gas from legacy fields should be used largely for PNG,” said the person mentioned above.

The move comes in the backdrop of slow progress in

the penetration of PNG connections despite the government’s push for expanding the PNG network.

Currently, there are only around 10 million piped gas connections compared with over 290 million cylinder gas users. The government aims to take the number of piped gas connections to 125 million by

Currently, there are around 10 mn piped gas connections compared with over 290 mn cylinder gas users

2030.

The move is also aimed at fulfilling the target of increasing the share of gas in India’s

energy mix to 15% by 2030 from the current 6%. So far, gas distributors have been authorized to supply in 300 geographical areas, covering about 88% of the country’s area, and 98% of its population.

In October, the Union government launched the 12th round of bids for seven more geographical areas in five states in the Northeast and the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

In a bid to boost natural gas adoption, the Union cabinet has approved new guidelines for gas pricing following recommendations made by the Kirit Parikh-led committee on natural gas pricing, paving the way for linking domestic natural gas prices in India to global crude prices.

Following the change, the price of natural gas is calculated at 10% of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket, which is a weighted average of Dubai and Oman (sour) and Brent Crude (sweet) oil prices.

Under the new regime, a floor price as well as a ceiling price was introduced for operators to source gas from the legacy fields of oil and gas companies.

टैंकर से गैस चोरी करने वाला गिरोह धरा

मुख्यमंत्री उड़नदस्ता और खाद्य एवं आपूर्ति विभाग की संयुक्त टीम ने की कार्रवाई

जागरण संवाददाता, सोनीपत: सीएम फ्लाईंग ने एचपी कंपनी के गैस टैंकर (कैप्सूल) के चालक से मिलीभगत करके व्यावसायिक सिलेंडरों में गैस भरकर ढाबों और दिल्ली में सप्लाय करने वाले गिरोह का पर्दाफाश किया है। टीम ने नेशनल हाईवे-44 पर मान ढाबे के पास ही खाली प्लाट से टैंकर से सिलेंडर भर रहे गिरोह के पांच सदस्यों को पकड़ा है। मौके से टीम ने 19 किलो के 104 सिलेंडर बरामद किए हैं, इनमें 23 सिलेंडर भरे हुए और 81 खाली पाए गए हैं। टैंकर की सील तोड़कर सिलेंडर में गैस भरने के लिए प्रयोग किए जा रहे दो नोजल, एक पिकअप गाड़ी और अन्य सामान भी बरामद किया है। खाद्य एवं आपूर्ति विभाग के निरीक्षक नवीन पालीवाल की शिकायत पर थाना मुख्तल पुलिस ने ढाबा संचालक देवेन्द्र मान सहित सात लोगों के खिलाफ मामला दर्ज किया है।

मुख्यमंत्री उड़नदस्ते को सूचना मिली थी कि हाईवे पर एचपी कंपनी के गैस टैंकर से गैस चोरी करके सिलेंडर भरकर कालाबाजारी की जा रही है। सूचना के आधार पर मुख्यमंत्री उड़नदस्ता सोनीपत के इंचार्ज एसआइ सुनील कुमार व राजेश कुमार, खाद्य एवं आपूर्ति विभाग से निरीक्षक नवीन पालीवाल व दीपक भारद्वाज की संयुक्त टीम गठित की गई। शनिवार रात ढाई बजे टीम हाईवे पर मान ढाबा के साथ लगते खाली प्लाट पर पहुंची। जहां पर कुछ व्यक्ति टैंकर से गैस चोरी करते हुए मिले।

- ढाबा संचालक सहित सात लोगों के खिलाफ प्राथमिकी दर्ज, 104 सिलेंडर बरामद किए
- गाजियाबाद के लोनी स्थित एलपीजी प्लांट से निकला था सिलेंडर से भरा टैंकर, लुधियाना पहुंचना था



गैस टैंकर, जिसमें से आरोपित गैस चोरी करके सिलेंडर भर रहे थे ● जागरण

आरोपितों के बताए अनुसार 55 सिलेंडर ढाबा से बरामद किए गए हैं। मौके पर टैंकर के चालक उत्तर प्रदेश के बरेली जिला के पुष्पेन्द्र उर्फ राजीव, सहचालक उत्तर प्रदेश के बरेली जिले के रफीयाबाद गांव के हरचरण, पिकअप गाड़ी के चालक जोधपुर जिले के भोजासर गांव के कमलेश, राजस्थान के जोधपुर जिला के नोखड़ा गांव के मोहन, राजस्थान के बीकानेर जिले के नगरासर गांव के कमलेश कुमार मौके पर मिले। आरोपित कमलेश ने पूछताछ में बताया कि 55 सिलेंडर ढाबे पर रखे हुए हैं। टीम ने ढाबे से खाली सिलेंडर बरामद किए हैं। पूछताछ में आरोपितों ने साथी राहुल मैनेजर का नाम भी बताया है। निरीक्षक की शिकायत पर पुलिस ने सभी सात लोगों के खिलाफ चोरी और अन्य धाराओं के अंतर्गत मामला दर्ज कर लिया है।



टैंकर से सिलेंडर में गैस भरने के लिए लगाई पाइप दिखाते अधिकारी ● सौ. सीएन पलाइंग

महाराष्ट्र में सीखकर सोनीपत में जमाया कालाबाजारी का धंधा

यजुर्वेद सिंह ● सोनीपत

गैस सिलेंडरों की कालाबाजारी के आरोपित कमलेश कुछ महीने पहले महाराष्ट्र में रहा था। जहां पर उसने टैंकर की सील तोड़कर सिलेंडर में गैस भरने का काम सीखा। महाराष्ट्र से सोनीपत में आकर कालाबाजारी धंधा शुरू कर दिया। हाईवे पर काफी संख्या में ढाबों और दिल्ली में व्यावसायिक गैस सिलेंडर में आसानी से खप जाते थे। गैस चोरी करने के लिए टैंकर चालकों को अपने झांसे में लिया। जैसे ही रात को मुख्तल से हाईवे से गुजरते तो चालकों से संपर्क करके मान ढाबे के साथ लगते खाली प्लाट में बुला लेते थे। जहां पर नोजल लगाकर खाली सिलेंडर भरते थे।

आरोपित एक टैंकर से पांच या छह सिलेंडर ही भरते थे। यह गैस

कम होने पर रिकार्ड में भी नहीं आती थी, इसलिए पिछले दो-तीन महीनों से यह धंधा चला रहे थे। आरोपितों ने बताया कि प्रत्येक सिलेंडर पर उन्हें करीब 250 रुपये बचते थे। इस हिसाब से प्रतिदिन प्रतिदिन औसतन 1500 से 2000 रुपये कमाते थे। व्यावसायिक खाली सिलेंडर भी एक-एक करके जोड़े हैं। पुलिस यह जानकारी जुटा रही है कि सिलेंडर कहां से लेकर आए हैं। कंपनी के अधिकारियों की मदद भी ली जाएगी। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि गैस सिलेंडर के नंबर से इसका पता चलेगा। एचपी कंपनी का गैस से भरा टैंकर गाजियाबाद में लोनी एलपीजी प्लांट से निकला था। टैंकर को लुधियाना पहुंचना था। चालक के पास से मिली बिल्टी के अनुसार वह 27 नवंबर को निकला था।

प्राकृतिक गैस में बायोगैस के मिश्रण से 1.17 अरब डॉलर की विदेशी पूंजी बचेगी: आईबीए

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

देश भर में आपूर्ति की जाने वाली प्राकृतिक गैस में पांच प्रतिशत बायोगैस के मिश्रण से सालाना 1.17 अरब डॉलर की विदेशी मुद्रा बचाई जा सकेगी। इंडियन बायोगैस एसोसिएशन (आईबीए) ने एक अध्ययन में यह कहा। सरकार ने संपीड़ित बायोगैस सम्मिश्रण दायित्व (सीबीओ) योजना के तहत पीएनजी में एक अप्रैल, 2025 से एक प्रतिशत बायोगैस का मिश्रण अनिवार्य करने का हाल ही में फैसला किया है। पाइपलाइन वाली प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) में बायोगैस के मिश्रण को वित्त वर्ष 2028-29 तक बढ़ाकर

पांच प्रतिशत करने का प्रस्ताव है। इस अध्ययन रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, यह पहल भारत को गैस-आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था बनाने की दिशा में सरकार के व्यापक कदम के अनुरूप है। इसका लक्ष्य ऊर्जा मिश्रण में गैस की मौजूदा हिस्सेदारी को छह प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर वर्ष 2030 तक 15 प्रतिशत करना है। आईबीए का कहना है कि प्राकृतिक गैस में बायोगैस के पांच प्रतिशत मिश्रण से 1.17 अरब डॉलर का एलएनजी आयात घटाया जा सकता है। इससे प्रति व्यक्ति कार्बन डाई-ऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन में भी दो प्रतिशत की कमी आ सकती है। इसके साथ ही जैविक कचरे को कूड़ाघरों में जाने से भी रोका जा

सकेगा जिसके कई लाभ हो सकते हैं। बायोगैस का उत्पादन कृषि अपशिष्ट, शहरी ठोस अपशिष्ट और खाद्य अपशिष्ट जैसे विभिन्न जैविक अपशिष्ट स्रोतों से किया जा सकता है। सरकार का अनुमान है कि सीबीओ योजना लगभग 37,500 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश को बढ़ावा देगी और वर्ष 2028-29 तक 750 संपीड़ित बायोगैस (सीबीजी) परियोजनाएं स्थापित करने में मदद करेगी। आईबीए के मुताबिक, बायोगैस के मिश्रण से भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा में सुधार होगा क्योंकि वह फिलहाल अपनी ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए आयातित प्राकृतिक गैस पर बहुत अधिक निर्भर है।

बायोगैस के मिश्रण से बचेगी 1.17 अरब डालर की विदेशी मुद्रा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: प्राकृतिक गैस में पांच प्रतिशत बायोगैस के मिश्रण से सालाना 1.17 अरब डालर की विदेशी मुद्रा बचाई जा सकेगी। इंडियन बायोगैस एसोसिएशन (आइबीए) ने एक अध्ययन में यह बात कही है। सरकार ने कंप्रेसड बायोगैस मिश्रण योजना के तहत पीएनजी में एक अप्रैल, 2025 से एक प्रतिशत बायोगैस का मिश्रण अनिवार्य करने का फैसला किया है। पाइपलाइन वाली प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) में बायोगैस के मिश्रण को वित्त वर्ष 2028-29 तक बढ़ाकर पांच प्रतिशत करने का प्रस्ताव है।

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