

VAT on diesel increased by ₹3/litre in Himachal Pradesh, says Sukhu

SHIMLA: In a bid to enhance revenue, the Himachal Pradesh government on Saturday increased the value added tax (VAT) on diesel by Rs 3 per litre to Rs 10.40 per litre.

VAT on diesel has been increased from 9.90 per cent to 13.9 per cent, an increase of Rs 3 per litre from Rs 7.40 to Rs 10.40 per litre, as per the notification issued by the State Excise and Taxation department.

Justifying the increase, chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday said the previous BJP government had reduced the VAT by seven per cent on the eve of the last assembly polls held in November 2022 and the increase was imperative for mobilising resources along with other measures.



He said the state has suffered huge losses due to heavy rains and resources have to be mobilized in this hour. The roads, water supply schemes and electricity have been restored temporarily and it would take almost a year to restore the damaged infrastructure.

In spite of an increase in VAT, diesel is cheaper in the state as compared to the neighbouring states of Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana, he asserted.

Reacting sharply to the decision of the government to increase VAT on diesel, former chief minister and leader of the opposition, Jai Ram Thakur said the increase in rate of diesel at a time when people are reeling under the impact of unprecedented rains and flood and longing for relief is uncalled for.

The hike is illogical and would put a huge burden on the people.

Moreover, the increase in prices of diesel has a cascading effect on the transport sector and leads to inflation. The state government has increased the rates of diesel by Rs 3 per litre, immediately after coming to power and the second increase in six months is painful, he added. PII

India & France unveil 25-year roadmap to deepen partnership

Both sides can produce military platforms for friendly nations as well: Modi

PARIS: India and France on Friday said they were exploring possibilities for co-development and co-production of key military platforms, including for the benefit of friendly countries, as they unveiled a 25-year roadmap to deepen their strategic partnership.

After wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French Emmanuel Macron, the two sides also came out with 'India-France Indo-Pacific Roadmap' and asserted that they believe in a free, open, inclusive and secure Indo-Pacific region.

Amid increasing Chinese assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region, the two countries vowed to advance the rule of international law and build a balanced and stable order in the strategic region, with respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Speaking at a joint press event with Macron, Modi, here on a two-day official visit, said bold and ambitious goals on the anvil as the two countries adopted 'Horizon 2047: 25th Anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, Towards A Century of India-France Relations' document.

"The talks with my friend, President @EmmanuelMacron were very productive. We reviewed the full range of India-France relations. I am particularly enthusiastic about deepening cooperation



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French Emmanuel Macron

The two countries also announced plans for joint developments in field of launchers, while NewSpace India Limited and Arianespace signed a letter of intent to collaborate on commercial launch services

in futuristic sectors like green hydrogen, renewable energy, AI, semiconductors and more," Modi tweeted.

The people of India have taken a pledge to make the country a developed nation in the next 25 years, Modi said.

"We see France as a natural partner in this journey," he said.

Modi said that Indian Oil and Total company of France have reached a long-term agreement on the import of LNG. "This will strengthen our goals of transitioning towards clean energy," he said.

The two sides also announced major collabora-

tion in the space sector by stepping up cooperation in space-based maritime awareness and inking the implementing agreement for a joint earth observation satellite Trishna to monitor temperatures on earth and oceans and study climate change.

The two countries also announced plans for joint developments in the field of launchers, while NewSpace India Limited and Arianespace signed a letter of intent to collaborate on commercial launch services.

There was no word on the much-anticipated procure-

ment of 26 naval variants of Rafale fighter jets by India from France.

However, a document listing a 25-year roadmap to further advance the strategic relations mentioned the "timely delivery" of the 36 Rafale jets, which were procured by India from France for the Indian Air Force.

Prime Minister Modi also announced that an agreement has been reached to launch India's Unified Payments Interface in France, the first European country to do so.

Modi spoke about plans by French companies for developing helicopter engines, production of spare parts and setting up of MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) facilities in India.

The Defence Ministry on Thursday approved proposals to purchase 26 Naval variants of Rafale jets from France and procure three French-designed Scorpene class submarines.

"Defence cooperation has been a strong pillar of our close relationship. It is a symbol of deep mutual trust between the two countries. France is an important partner in 'Make in India' and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative," Modi said.

Modi said both sides can produce military platforms for friendly third countries as well.

Asked about the expected deal on 26 Naval variants of

Rafale jets from France and procurement of three French-designed Scorpene class submarines, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said, "It is perhaps a natural media interest to focus on one or two items, but from our perspective we look at our defence relationship in a very comprehensive manner."

Kwatra said the 2047 Horizon document has looked at security and sovereignty in a more holistic and comprehensive manner rather than as a set of individual transactions.

"India and France will extend their ground-breaking defence cooperation in advanced aeronautical technologies by supporting the joint development of a combat aircraft engine...They also support industrial cooperation for motorisation of heavy-lift helicopters under the Indian Multi Role Helicopter programme with Safran Helicopter Engine, France," the 2047 roadmap document said.

The document also welcomed the pact between Mazgon Dockyard Ltd and Naval Group for the construction of three additional submarines under the P75 programme.

In his remarks, Modi also said India and France will take forward the relationship in the civil nuclear sector and discuss the possibilities for cooperation in the field of small and advanced modular reactors. P11

India and France to engage with like-minded nations to end plastic pollution

PARIS: India and France have stepped up their collaboration in combating climate change and in environmental protection, and announced that they will constructively engage other like-minded countries to strengthen the negotiations for an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

After talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron here on Friday, the two countries made a joint commit-

ment to eliminate single-use plastic products pollution, including a ban on single-use plastic products which have low utility and high littering potential.

Addressing a joint press event with Macron, Modi said climate change and environmental protection have been the common and main priority for both India and France.

"In this direction, we had already established the International Solar Alliance, which has now become a movement. We now want

to work fast on the roadmap for blue economy and ocean governance," the prime minister said.

"We will move forward on a joint initiative against single-use plastic. I welcome the long-term agreement signed between Indian Oil and French company Total for the export of LNG. This will strengthen our goals of clean energy transition," he said.

Noting that plastic product pollution due to littered and mismanaged plastic waste is a global environmental issue that must be urgently addressed, India and France said it has adverse impacts on ecosystems in general and marine ecosystems in particular.

Single-use plastic products are defined by the UN Environment Programme as "an umbrella term for different types of products that are typically used once before being thrown away or recycled", which include food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and shopping bags. In the document expressing commitment to eliminate single-use plastic product pollution, the two countries said progress has been made to tackle pollution at a global scale. The two countries said that single-use plastic products, with low utility and high littering potential, should be phased out and replaced by reusable products based on a circular economy approach. AGENCIES



CRUDE WATCH

OIL PRICES FALL ON PROFIT-TAKING

Oil prices fell more than a dollar a barrel on Friday as the dollar strengthened and oil traders booked profits from a strong rally, with crude benchmarks recording their third-straight weekly gain.

REUTERS



Prices expected to firm up

CRUDE CHECK. MCX crude oil sees a break-out

Akhil Nallamuthu

bl. research bureau

The Brent crude futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) was up 1.5 per cent as it ended the week at \$79.7 a barrel. The MCX crude oil futures (August contract) gained 2.1 per cent as it closed at ₹6,212 per barrel on Friday.

The prices got a boost as the latest short-term energy outlook from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) shows that the oil market is expected to see tightness in the second half of 2023. While the demand may stay sluggish, the deficit could be a consequence of a reduction in supply, especially as Saudi Arabia goes ahead with voluntary production cuts. So, in the coming weeks, the market is expected to discount this resulting in further rally in price.

Besides, the dollar tumbled helping the rally.

Crude oil prices went up last week despite an increase in the US stockpiles because of the above reasons. As per the latest EIA report, the inventory shot up by nearly 6 million barrels as against the expected drop of about one million barrels.

MCX-CRUDE OIL (₹6,212)

The August futures of crude oil



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

broke out of a resistance at ₹6,080 early last week and rallied. This breakout has turned the trend bullish. Although there might be a price decline to ₹6,080 from the current level, we expect the contract to resume the rally and touch ₹6,500, a resistance, in the short run. Subsequent resistance is at ₹6,750.

But in case the crude oil futures drop below ₹6,080, the downswing might extend to ₹6,000 or ₹5,930.

Trade strategy: We recommended taking long in July futures if it breaks out of ₹6,200. Traders who have initiated this trade can roll it over to August futures. Stop-loss can be at ₹5,900.

If the price softens to ₹6,080, consider adding more longs. Maintain the stop-loss at ₹5,900.

When the price goes above ₹6,500, tighten the stop-loss to ₹6,250. Liquidate the longs at ₹6,725.

Disaster one of factors for VAT hike on diesel

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 15

Chief Minister Sukhvin-der Singh Sukhu said today that the recent natural disaster in the state was one of the reasons for the hike in VAT on diesel. The Congress government raised VAT on diesel by Rs 3 per litre on Friday. It was the second hike in the past seven months. The previous VAT hike, also by Rs 3, was done in the first week of January.

CM: Still cheaper than neighbouring states

Sukhu said, "We have suffered massive losses in terms of infrastructure. We have set up a temporary infrastructure to provide immediate relief and it will take more than a year to restore the damaged infrastructure permanently. We will need money for it."

He said that despite the VAT hike, diesel was cheaper in Himachal than in Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana. He added that the BJP had reduced VAT on diesel by Rs 7 per litre before the last Assembly elections to gain political mileage. "We are not working with elections in mind. We want to get the state back on the track and make it self-dependent," he added.

Govt reimposes windfall tax on domestic crude export

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER a gap of two months, the government imposed the windfall tax on domestic crude oil production from nil to ₹1,600 per tonne.

However, there are no Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) taxes on export of diesel, petrol or aviation turbine fuel (ATF). These changes are

effective from July 15).

In May 2023, the government cut the windfall tax on petroleum crude to zero from ₹4,100 per tonne. Tax rates are reviewed fortnightly based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks. Global crude oil prices have risen again on the back of supply cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia.

The crude basket averaging

below \$75/bbl in May and June this year touched \$80.92/bbl on July 13. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on 1 July 2022, joining a growing number of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of ₹6 per litre (\$12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and ₹13 a litre (\$26 a barrel) on diesel.



शहरी क्षेत्रों में 79 बायो गैस प्लांटों को मंजूरी

मनीष तिवारी • नई दिल्ली

शहरों में कचरा प्रबंधन के लिहाज से अहम मानी जाने वाली गोबरधन योजना के प्रति राज्यों ने भी उत्साह दिखाया है और केंद्र सरकार भी इसके जल्द क्रियान्वयन में जुट गई है। इस योजना के तहत बायो गैस प्लांट लगाने के 79 प्रस्तावों को मंजूरी दे दी गई है। पिछले दिनों राज्यों के साथ स्वच्छ भारत मिशन 2.0 की समीक्षा बैठक में इस योजना पर अब तक हुए काम का ब्योरा रखा गया है। इन प्लांट की कुल क्षमता 8449 टन कचरे का प्रतिदिन निस्तारण करने की होगी।

आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी के अनुसार, अभी 13 राज्यों में बायो गैस प्लांट को मंजूरी दी गई है, लेकिन बैठक में कई अन्य राज्यों

75 प्लांट लगाने का, बजट में गोबरधन योजना के तहत किया गया था एलान

● राज्यों ने स्वच्छ भारत मिशन की पहल के प्रति दिखाया उत्साह



ने इस योजना से जुड़ने की इच्छा जताई है। उम्मीद है कि जल्द ही यह संख्या सौ तक पहुंच जाएगी।

गौरतलब है कि इस साल के बजट भाषण में वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने गोबरधन योजना के तहत पूरे देश में पांच सौ बायो गैस प्लांट लगाने का एलान किया था, जिनमें से 75 प्लांट शहरी क्षेत्रों में लगाए जाने हैं। शहरी क्षेत्रों में लगाने वाले प्लांटों के लिए शहरी

कार्य मंत्रालय और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जलशक्ति तथा ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय को मंजूरी देनी है। ये प्लांट गीले कचरे को बायो गैस में परिवर्तित करते हैं।

जानकारी के अनुसार, शहरी क्षेत्रों में सबसे अधिक प्लांट पंजाब के लिए मंजूर किए गए हैं, जबकि दूसरे नंबर पर उत्तर प्रदेश और तमिलनाडु हैं। शहरों के लिए बड़ी समस्या बनकर उभरे कचरे के निस्तारण

सीवीजी प्लांटों को मिली मंजूरी

उत्तर प्रदेश	16	तेलंगाना	4
तमिलनाडु	16	मध्य प्रदेश	1
पंजाब	18	असम	1
गुजरात	5	झारखंड	1
महाराष्ट्र	8	दिल्ली	1
कर्नाटक	6	केरल	1
		बिहार	1

के लिहाज से ये प्लांट खासे अहम माने जा रहे हैं। हालांकि, विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि इन प्लांटों की सफलता काफी कुछ इस पर निर्भर करेगी कि संबंधित शहर कचरे को अलग-अलग करने में कितना सफल हो पाते हैं। जब तक स्रोत के स्तर पर ही गीले और सूखे कचरे को अलग करने की व्यवस्था नहीं होती, तब तक इन परियोजनाओं का सौ प्रतिशत लाभ नहीं मिल सकेगा।

परियोजना

बजट में गोबरधन योजना के तहत 75 प्लांट लगाने का किया गया था एलान, राज्यों ने स्वच्छ भारत मिशन की पहल के प्रति दिखाया उत्साह

शहरी क्षेत्रों में 79 बायो गैस प्लांटों को मंजूरी

मनीष तिवारी, नई दिल्ली

शहरों में कचरा प्रबंधन के लिहाज से अहम मानी जाने वाली गोबरधन योजना के प्रति राज्यों ने भी उत्साह दिखाया है और केंद्र सरकार भी इसके जल्द क्रियान्वयन में जुट गई है। इस योजना के तहत बायो गैस प्लांट लगाने के 79 प्रस्तावों को मंजूरी दे दी गई है। पिछले दिनों राज्यों के साथ स्वच्छ भारत मिशन 2.0 की समीक्षा बैठक में इस योजना पर अब तक हुए काम का ब्योरा रखा गया है। इन प्लांट की कुल क्षमता 8449 टन कचरे का प्रतिदिन निस्तारण करने की होगी।

आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी के अनुसार, अभी 13 राज्यों में बायो गैस प्लांट को मंजूरी दी गई है, लेकिन बैठक में कई अन्य राज्यों ने इस योजना से जुड़ने की इच्छा जताई है। उम्मीद है कि जल्द ही यह संख्या सौ तक पहुंच जाएगी।

गौरतलब है कि इस साल के बजट भाषण में वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने गोबरधन योजना के तहत पूरे देश में पांच सौ बायो गैस

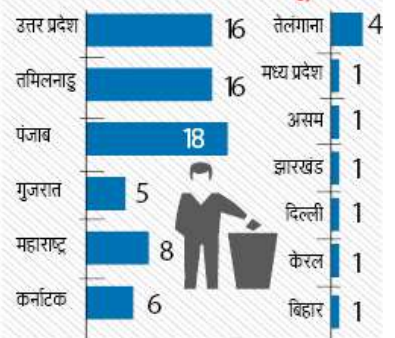


बायो गैस प्लांट।

फाइल

प्लांट लगाने का एलान किया था, जिनमें से 75 प्लांट शहरी क्षेत्रों में लगाए जाने हैं। शहरी क्षेत्रों में लगने वाले प्लांटों के लिए शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जलशक्ति तथा ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय को मंजूरी देनी है। ये प्लांट गीले कचरे को बायो गैस में परिवर्तित करते हैं। जानकारी के अनुसार, शहरी क्षेत्रों में सबसे अधिक प्लांट पंजाब के लिए मंजूर किए गए हैं, जबकि दूसरे नंबर पर उत्तर

सीबीजी प्लांटों को मिली मंजूरी



प्रदेश और तमिलनाडु हैं। शहरों के लिए बड़ी समस्या बनकर उभरे कचरे के निस्तारण के लिहाज ये प्लांट खासे अहम माने जा रहे हैं। हालांकि, विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि इन प्लांटों की सफलता काफी कुछ इस पर निर्भर करेगी। जब तक स्रोत के स्तर पर ही गीले और सूखे कचरे को अलग करने की व्यवस्था नहीं होती, तब तक इन परियोजनाओं का सौ प्रतिशत लाभ नहीं मिल सकेगा।

भारत ने कच्चे तेल पर बढ़ाया विंडफॉल टैक्स, नई दरें लागू

नई दिल्ली, 15 जुलाई (एजेंसी)
: सरकार ने कच्चे तेल पर विंडफॉल
टैक्स बढ़ा
दिया है। नई
दरें आज
यानी 15



जुलाई से लागू हो गई हैं। सरकार की
ओर से जारी नोटिफिकेशन के
मुताबिक सरकार ने शुक्रवार को कूड
ऑयल के घरेलू उत्पादन पर टैक्स
(विंडफॉल टैक्स) को शून्य से
बढ़ाकर 1,600 रुपए प्रति मीट्रिक टन
कर दिया है।

वित्त मंत्रालय ने एक नोटिफिकेशन
में कहा कि सरकार ने डीजल, पेट्रोल
और विमानन टरबाइन ईंधन पर
विंडफॉल टैक्स को शून्य पर छोड़
दिया है। बता दें कि भारत ने मई में
पेट्रोलियम कच्चे तेल पर विंडफॉल
टैक्स को 4,100 रुपए प्रति मीट्रिक
टन से घटाकर शून्य कर दिया था।

