

# Modi's UAE card

His fifth visit to the emirate



Modi with Al Nahyan: wooing the UAE

**N**arendra Modi's recent visit to Abu Dhabi was his fifth official visit to the UAE since he became PM in 2014. While this by itself is a remarkable milestone in foreign relations, it also marks one of the most transformational changes in India's engagement with any country in recent times. Vinay Kwatra, India's foreign secretary, recently highlighted this fact at a media briefing, when he mentioned that a significant transformation has taken place in India-UAE relations. Clearly, a central driver of this has been the personal chemistry between Modi and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE President. Political analysts have wondered if Modi's successful wooing of the UAE, given that it is home to a large Indian diaspora is aimed at helping his party, the BJP, politically in the coming Lok Sabha election.

The UAE was also the first country in the region with which India decided to elevate the ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership during Modi's visit in August 2015. This has been later followed by similar partnership agreements with Saudi Arabia and, most recently, with Egypt.

'Home away from home' is how Modi described the UAE, while addressing the Indian diaspora at Dubai during his visit to UAE in February 2018. Since his first visit, the growing relationship is particularly reflected in the strong economic exchanges, both on trade as well as investments, people-to-people

ties and also convergence on a range of regional and international issues. Bilateral trade has grown to \$85 billion in 2022-23, making the UAE India's third-largest trading partner.

The UAE is also India's second-largest export destination. Also, with large sums of FDI flows, it is the fourth-largest overall investor in India. The landmark agreement CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) signed on 18 February 2022, in a record time of 88 days has laid the foundation for the exponential increase in trade and economic partnership; and it is yet another example of mutual trust and the special bilateral relationship. CEPA aims to increase employment opportunities and bilateral trade in goods to \$100 billion in five years and trade in services up to \$15 billion.

## Boosting local currencies

The RuPay card, a key initiative by India in digital payment system, was launched in Abu Dhabi on 24 August 2019, making the UAE one of the few countries to have such a tie-up with India. The recent agreements signed with the UAE to establish a framework for settlement of cross-border transactions in local currencies and to inter-link the payment and messaging systems of the two countries, are especially significant given the prominence of UAE in India's trade and capital flows.

Looking ahead, energy supplies will remain a key element of co-operation. In this, Indian Oil Corporation and GAIL

have been in talks with the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Co for a long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply contract. If an agreement comes through, it will help India diversify LNG imports, which are at present built primarily on a long-term import contract with Qatar.

Diplomatically, the UAE's role and importance in the West Asian region makes it a key pillar of India's West Asia strategy. The UAE is a part of 'I2U2' grouping or the 'West Asian Quad' comprising India, UAE, Israel and the US, which held its first summit-level meeting on 14 July 2022, a clear recognition of the importance of the UAE in the region. The Abraham Accords of 2020, which resulted in the UAE joining Israel in a formal diplomatic alliance, is a clear indication that the emirate wants to take the lead and set the agenda for the region in the future.

Modi was invited as the keynote speaker at the World Government Summit in February 2018 in the UAE and in March 2018; also, India was the 'Guest of Honour' country at the Abu Dhabi Festival (ADF), which is the UAE's annual cultural festival. During his visit to the UAE in August 2019, Modi was awarded the prestigious 'Zayed Medal' for playing a 'pivotal role' in giving a 'big boost' to the bilateral strategic ties. India, too, on its part, recognises the UAE as a special partner. Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the chief guest at the Republic Day in Delhi in 2017. The UAE is one of few select countries that have been accorded a 'Special Invite' in India's G20 presidency this year. India is also collaborating closely with the UAE in the COP28 Summit on climate change being hosted by UAE in 2023.

Both countries have often gone beyond the normal to make this partnership special as well as strategic. The UAE is the only nation from the region, which has offered to store strategic oil reserves in India. When UAE hosted the OIC Summit in 2019, it invited external affairs minister late Sushma Swaraj despite protests from some nations, including Pakistan. The inauguration of the first Hindu temple in Dubai on 5 October 2022 is indeed a special gift to the Indian community by the UAE – and recognition of their role in building that nation. ♦

RAKESH JOSHI

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# Caught in the middle

India has to look to its own strengths, since the US is now beleaguered

India, which is rapidly tightening relations with the US, may have to pause now, following former US President Donald Trump's trial on criminal charges of deliberately trying to block the peaceful transfer of presidential power after losing the November 2020 elections. Seen from afar, the charges to which Trump pleaded 'not guilty' seem flimsy and proving them beyond reasonable doubt to a jury may be next to impossible. That is because prosecutors will have to somehow delve into the recesses of Trump's mind to prove his intent to deceive by providing evidence beyond reasonable doubt on all charges.

The charges stem from the storming of US Parliament by Trump supporters on 6 January 2021 to stop it from confirming his defeat and installing Joe Biden as US president. Trump's opponents have described that as an insurrection striking at the foundations of US democracy.

Trump could face up to 50 years in jail, if convicted by a jury in a trial likely in 2024. His supporters, who could be half the American electorate, are outraged. They see this criminal indictment and several other cases against him as a brazen attempt by US Democrats and Biden's supporters to put him in jail to return Biden to power for a second term without having to fight an election.

Whatever happens, the US will be plunged for the next 15 months in unprecedented political infighting. Even if Trump is thwarted this time, a new Republican President elected in 2028 could wreak vengeance on those who broke Trump.

The problem for India is that the US may turn into an unreliable partner because of long-lasting political wars among its voters, even if the White House continues to favour India as an Asian bulwark against China. Delhi will have to tread carefully, because the current Biden administration, though a friend of India, has a weak foreign policy that is unable to manage rising instability in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, China and the Far East.

Biden seems to think that equipping Ukraine with ever more sophisticated weapons, ammunition and training will hurt Russia's Vladimir Putin so grievously as to force him to accept Kyiv's demands to vacate all Ukrainian territory including Crimea. Yet, current signs are that the war is settling into a long phase of attrition and could continue for years if not decades, placing unbearable financial burdens on its American and European backers.

At the same time, Niger, where the US is building



BRIJ KHANDARIA

a large base for drone warfare, has fallen to a military coup and is reported to be discussing armed support from the Wagner group of Russian mercenaries. ECOWAS, an economic alliance of West African countries, led by Nigeria, has imposed economic sanctions on Niger and threatened use of force to overturn the coup. Military dictators in neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso, which have agreements with Wagner, have threatened to treat an invasion of Niger as a declaration of war against them. Military-ruled Guinea would also side with Niger.

The European Union, Britain and France have stopped all aid to Niger. The emerging scenario is one of war in West Africa at a time when many African countries, including Chad, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, are infested with Islamic State and Al Qaeda warriors, who could take advantage of wars to possess entire countries. The Biden administration is at a loss of how to manage all of this. Its

**Delhi will have to tread carefully, because the current Biden administration, though a friend of India, has a weak foreign policy that is unable to manage rising instability in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, China and the Far East**

rivals, China and Russia, are actively meddling in the region against American interests.

The Middle East is not on the edge of new wars but situation remains antagonistic to US interests in Syria, Iran, Libya and Afghanistan. Washington's influence over Saudi Arabia and the UAE is no longer as tight as it used to be. Turkey is also beyond Biden's influence, although it remains a vital member of NATO since it controls entrance and exit from the Black Sea where the Ukraine war is raging.

US relations with China are so bad that Beijing is avoiding serious discussion on any subject, although it remains polite. Tensions over Taiwan have become so acute that long-time US allies, Japan and South Korea, are upgrading their own military strength in case of a China-US war.

India is caught in the middle and may also have to look to its own strengths and resources since Biden is beleaguered from several directions. ♦

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# BPCL Commits to ₹1.5 Lakh Crore in Capital Expenditure Over 5 Yrs

Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) on Monday said it will spend around ₹1.5 lakh crore in the next five years, towards its transformative initiative, 'Project Aspire'.

As part of Project Aspire, the oil marketing company will not only grow its oil business but also expand its renewable energy portfolio as it aims for a 2040 net-zero goal, chairman and managing director G Krishnakumar said at its 70th annual general meeting.

"The company has set a planned capex outlay of around ₹1.5 lakh crore in the next five years, which will enable BPCL to create long-term value for our stakeholders while preserving our planet for future generations," Krishnakumar said at the meeting.

Krishnakumar also said BPCL would



**BPCL CMD G Krishnakumar**

invest ₹1 lakh crore between now and 2040 for projects including green hydrogen, carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) and on improving energy efficiency to cut emissions.

BPCL will also invest ₹10 lakh crore to set up 50 megawatts of captive wind power plants for its 240,000 barrels per day (bpd) Mumbai refinery and Bina refinery in central India.

The company hopes to own 1 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2025 and 10 GW by 2040.

Bharat Oman Refineries' merger with BPCL has provided a significant boost to refining capabilities of the company, Krishnakumar said, adding that BPCL is expanding the capacity of its Bina Refinery from 7.8 MMTPA to 11 MMTPA, thereby securing its markets in northern and central India.

The capacity of the Bina refinery after the expansion will be around 220,000 barrels per day (bpd).

BPCL is also building a Rs 490-billion ethylene cracker at 156,000 barrels per day (bpd) at its Bina refinery. The ethylene cracker will raise the Bina refinery's share of petrochemicals in its business to 8%. In addition, BPCL is considering adding a Polypropylene project to its 310,000 bpd Kochi refinery in Southern India.



# BPCL lines up \$18 bn for oil, green energy infra

REUTERS

New Delhi, 28 August

**I**ndian refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) plans to invest \$18.16 billion over five years to grow its oil business and expand its renewable energy portfolio as it aims for a 2040 net-zero goal, Chairman G Krishnakumar said on Monday.

Companies in India, the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, are investing billions of dollars to cut their emissions, but they are also investing in fossil fuel as India's economic expansion is expected to drive petrochemical and fuel demand. The nation has set itself a target to reach net zero by 2070. Many Western countries have set a mid-century goal to meet net zero, although political pressure has put some of their decarbonisation plans at risk.

"The company has set a planned capex outlay of around ₹1.5 trillion



**BPCL Chairman G Krishnakumar said the firm will invest ₹1 trillion till 2040 for projects including green hydrogen, and in improving energy efficiency to cut emissions**

(\$18.16 billion) in the next five years, which will enable BPCL to create long-term value for our stakeholders while preserving our planet for future generations," Krishnakumar told an annual shareholders meeting.

He did not specify how much would be spent on core oil business versus clean fuel projects.

Krishnakumar, however, said BPCL would invest ₹1 trillion between now and 2040 for projects including green hydrogen, carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) and on improving energy efficiency to cut emissions. The company hopes to own 1 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2025 and 10 GW by 2040.

It will invest ₹1,000 crore to set up 50 Megawatts of captive wind power plants for its 240,000 barrels per day (bpd) Mumbai refinery and Bina refinery in central India. BPCL is building a ₹49,000 crore ethylene cracker at the 156,000 barrels per day (bpd) Bina refinery to raise the share of petrochemicals in its business to 8 per cent. It is also expanding Bina refinery's capacity to 220,000 bpd. In addition, BPCL may add a Polypropylene project to its 310,000 bpd Kochi refinery.

## BPCL to invest ₹1.5 tn in 'Project Aspire'

**B**harat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on Monday announced a colossal investment of ₹1.5 trillion over the next five years towards its transformative initiative, 'Project Aspire,' during the 70th Annual General Meeting (AGM). BPCL chairman G. Krishnakumar, laid out a roadmap, emphasizing the company's commitment to growth, sustainability, and a net-zero future. "As an oil major, we recognize the immense responsibility that comes with our role in powering economies and making India Aatmanirbhar in the domain of energy by year 2047," chairman Krishnakumar said. "We also recognize the need for a global effort to reduce global warming and the nation's objective of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. Accordingly, we have set a target for our company to achieve net-zero for Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040."

**SAURAV ANAND**



# BPCL unveils Project Aspire, plans ₹1.5 lakh-cr capex in 5 years

**Our Bureau**

New Delhi

Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) on Monday unveiled Project Aspire, its ₹1.5-lakh crore push in the next five years to strengthen refining, marketing and upstream sectors, and charting the course for green energy and rural FMCG retailing.

The oil marketing company (OMC) is reassessing and re-prioritising its focus areas in light of the latest energy industry trends and governmental policies.

“Introducing Project Aspire - our new strategy that is built on eight pivotal pillars. These pillars are clubbed under two main themes: Nurturing the core and future big bets,” BPCL Chairman G Krishnakumar said at the company’s annual general meeting.

Nurturing the core has three foundational pillars — refining, marketing and upstream. Future big bets is anchored on five key areas: gas, non-fuel retailing, petrochemicals, green energy



A BPCL refinery in Mumbai

businesses, and digital ventures, he added.

“The company has set a planned capex outlay of around ₹1.5 lakh crore in the next five years which will enable BPCL to create long-term value for our stakeholders while preserving our planet for future generations,” he said.

## NURTURING THE CORE

BPCL is focussing on strengthening its refining capabilities and continues to strive for heightened flexibility and agility.

“Specifically, Northern India is projected to face a product deficit of around 10 million tonne per annum

(mtpa) by 2030. Likewise, BPCL has been in deficit of its own products in the Northern and Central India markets, necessitating reliance on sourcing from other oil companies,” he added.

To this end, the OMC has approved a project to expand the capacity of its Bina refinery from 7.8 mtpa to 11 mtpa to secure its markets in northern and central India.

In the upstream sector, BPCL continues to focus on the oil and gas projects, particularly for early monetisation of discoveries made in Mozambique and Brazil.

## FUTURE BIG BETS

Petrochemicals, said Kumar is among the company’s big bets for the future. India’s polymer demand will witness a 5 per cent growth until 2040. BPCL has recently approved an Ethylene Cracker Project at Bina with an investment of ₹49,000 crore. This project will drive the production of essential petrochemicals, increasing the share of petrochemicals in the company’s product portfolio to around 8 per cent.

# Chennai firm promises 'CO<sub>2</sub> to ethanol' tech

## Ramcharan may offer fuel-grade ethanol for ₹35 a litre

SHINE JACOB

Chennai, 28 August

Even as India aims to achieve a 20 per cent blend of petrol with ethanol by 2025, the price of ethanol could become a concern for oil-marketing companies (OMCs). If the claims made by Chennai-headquartered firm Ramcharan Company are to be believed, the company's technology for converting carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into ethanol could produce fuel-grade ethanol for ₹35 per litre, suitable for fuel blending.

The company has already forged a partnership with Nikhil Gadkari-led MANAS Agro Industries & Infrastructure to convert var-

ious effluents into energy and value-added products. Nikhil Gadkari is the son of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

In December 2021, the relatively unknown Ramcharan Company made headlines by securing a \$4.14 billion investment for a 46 per cent stake from US-based fund TFCC International, raising the company's valuation to over \$9 billion. Using Ramcharan's solutions, MANAS aims to develop systems that can lead to a zero-discharge unit. Ramcharan is

**The firm has joined hands with Nikhil Gadkari-led MANAS Agro to convert effluents into energy and value-added products**

currently in the process of establishing a CO<sub>2</sub>-to-ethanol plant at MANAS' location in Nagpur. It employs a patented mini-reactor to convert any volume of discharged CO<sub>2</sub> into

fuel-grade ethanol, suitable for fuel blending. Ramcharan is also in talks with companies like the public sector coal major Neyveli Lignite and players in the power, steel, and cement sectors, among others, to share this technology.

"We are likely the only company worldwide with a patent for such technology, offering ethanol at a lower price of ₹35 per litre. This stands in contrast to the higher price range at which OMCs currently procure ethanol. Furthermore, there are no input costs," states Kaushik Palicha, owner of Ramcharan.

This is in comparison to prices of ₹49.41 per litre for ethanol from C-heavy molasses, ₹60.73 per litre for B-heavy molasses, and ₹65.61 per litre for ethanol from sugarcane juice, sugar, and sugar syrup, procured by OMCs.





## GOL ACQUIRES STAKE IN CHARGER MAKER TIREX TRANSMISSION

**Mumbai, Aug. 28:** Hinduja Group company Gulf Oil Lubricants on Monday announced acquiring a controlling stake in EV charger maker Tirex Transmission for ₹103 crore.

The move is expected to bolster the company's presence in the Electric Vehicle (EV) segment, Gulf Oil Lubricants said in a statement.

The acquisition is a part of the company's global ambition towards being a leader in the EV charging ecosystem, a market which is valued at \$20 billion and expected to cross \$200-billion by 2030, it stated.

The transaction is subject to the completion of definitive agreements and the satisfaction of predetermined closing conditions, the company said.

The investment in electric vehicle DC fast charging firm Tirex will enable the company towards a synergistic play in the EV charging ecosystem, Gulf Oil Lubricants said.

This acquisition of a majority stake in Tirex aligns with our commitment to expanding our footprint in the EV landscape, said Ravi Chawla, managing director and chief executive officer of Gulf Oil Lubricants.

Gulf Oil Lubricants and its parent Gulf Oil International have already invested in two firms--Indra Renewables and ElectreeFi, as per the statement.

Tirex's performance in the DC charger market, combined with Gulf Oil's brand strengths, distribution reach and relationships with OEMs, sets the stage for a synergistic partnership, Chawla said.

"Our strengths will pave way for advancements in EV charging," Chawla stated.

— PTI





# Hinduja-led Gulf Oil may hive off EV charging biz

**SWARAJ BAGGONKAR**  
Mumbai, August 28

**HINDUJA GROUP COMPANY**  
Gulf Oil Lubricants could explore putting its electric vehicle charging business under a separate unit and hive it off as it looks to aggressively diversify in the EV charging space.

The Mumbai-based engine oil and grease producer announced its intention on Monday to acquire 51% stake in Ahmedabad based DC fast charger manufacturer Tirex Transmission for ₹103 crore. This is Gulf's third acquisition in the EV charging segment in two years. The all-cash deal is expected to be closed in two to three months.

Ravi Chawla, managing director and CEO, Gulf Oil Lubricants India told FE, "We continue to look at the EV value chain. We are especially looking at the two-wheeler (charging) segment. We will look for other areas also. We have done acquisitions in the charge point manufacturing space and the soft-

## CAPITALISING ON EV SURGE



■ Gulf Oil said it plans to acquire a 51% stake for ₹103 cr in DC fast charger maker Tirex Transmission

■ The all-cash deal, likely to close in three months, would be Gulf's third acquisition in the EV charging segment in 2 years

ware space. We similarly look for more areas." While lubricants will remain the company's core business for at least another decade, said Chawla, he added that considering the rapid EV surge, the company is venturing into the vehicle charging space.

When asked if Gulf Oil will look to hive off the charging business into a separate subsidiary, Chawla said, "In due course we will have to take a call; in terms of how the EV charging business is panning

out." The company is even looking at branding the EV chargers under the Gulf Oil brand.

Last year Gulf Oil took a 26% stake in Techperspect, a software as a service provider, specializing in implementation of IoT-based e-mobility solutions. In 2021 it acquired a strategic stake in a UK-based Renewable Technologies which makes AC chargers (slow chargers). Tirex's fast chargers will complement the slow chargers already in Gulf Oil's portfolio.

# India's fuel subsidies at \$350 billion, says IMF

**SANGEETHA G**  
CHENNAI, AUG. 28

With around \$350 billion valued explicit and implicit subsidies, India is the fourth largest subsidiser of fossil fuels, finds the IMF.

Globally, total fossil fuel subsidies amounted to \$7 trillion in 2022, equivalent to nearly 7.1 per cent of global GDP. Explicit subsidies which undercharge for supply costs, account for 18 per cent of the total while implicit subsidies which are undercharging of the environmental costs and forgone consumption taxes, account for 82 per cent.

Implicit subsidies are

rising progressively over time, from 5 per cent of GDP in 2020 to 6.1 per cent in 2030. Although the energy intensity of GDP is generally falling over time, emerging market economies account for a rising share of global fuel consumption and local environmental costs per unit of coal use tend to be larger in these countries. The IMF has taken subsidies on coal, natural gas, gasoline and diesel into consideration for the study.

In absolute terms, China remains the biggest subsidiser of fuels, followed by the US, Russia, India and European Union, the study said.



# QUICKLY.

## **Mansi Tripathy is Shell India's new country chair**



**Bengaluru:** Shell India announced the appointment of Mansi Madan Tripathy as the new Country Chair of Shell India, effective October 1, 2023. Tripathy will succeed Nitin Prasad, who has been Country Chair since 2016. Tripathy will oversee the Shell Group of companies in the country in addition to her role as Vice-President, Shell Lubricants for Asia Pacific. OUR BUREAU

# ONGC in talks with Gentari for joint venture in energy storage

Rituraj Baruah & Utpal Bhaskar  
NEW DELHI

**O**il and Natural Gas Corp. (ONGC) Ltd is in talks with global entities including Malaysia's Gentari to form a joint venture in energy storage, chairman and chief executive Arun Kumar Singh said, as the energy giant makes strides in its energy-transition journey.

ONGC would look at both battery storage and pump storage projects (PSP), Singh said in an interview. Gentari is the green-energy arm of Malaysia-headquartered Petroliaam Nasional Berhad (Petronas).

"In energy storage, we are hoping for something big. It will be a JV (joint venture) model. We are already in talks. We have been talking to them (Gentari). There are two-three more people (global entities)," he said.

ONGC has already mapped



Arun Kumar Singh, chairman and chief executive, ONGC.

out a ₹1 trillion investment plan for energy transition till 2030. The ONGC chairman said in case energy storage is identified as a priority area for the company, the exploration and production major may drive the entire dedicated capital expenditure towards storage. "If we need to prioritize this segment, it may be complete ₹1 trillion for battery," Singh said.

Storage will be a key focus in

ONGC's energy transition plans, Singh said, pointing to the "infinite" opportunity in India in this space. Given the sector's growth prospects and the state-run company's large capital base, a capital-intensive sector like energy storage would be ideal for ONGC to invest in, he said.

Queries emailed to a Gentari spokesperson remained unanswered till press time.

Talking of the business opportunities across renewable-energy verticals, he said: "The bigger opportunity, to my mind, in renewable is now not necessarily in solar. The bigger part is storage, energy storage, combination of many things (battery and PSP) and that is primarily a capital-intensive space. So, that is the natural space for ONGC because the kind of capital ONGC has, nobody can have

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# ONGC in talks with Gentari for joint venture in energy storage

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that much depth.”

Power generation is a segment with several entities; but it is in segments such as energy storage with high capital intensity and a few companies that ONGC finds attractive, as the Maharatna treats it as a moral responsibility to give back to the country, he said.

The company, which aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2038, currently has a portfolio of 36.52 megawatts (MW) of installed solar-power capacity and 153 MW of wind-power capacity. In FY23, it produced 44.42 million units and 204.8 million units of solar and wind energy, according to its annual report for FY23.

On 16 August, *Mint* reported that ONGC is also in the fray for Finnish state-run power utility Fortum Oyj's Indian



ONGC will look at both battery pump storage projects. REUTERS

solar projects totalling 185 MW along with other suitors.

As part of its diversification process, ONGC has tied up with the Rajasthan government to set up a 5 gigawatts (GW) solar-power plant that would support the production of green hydrogen and green ammonia. In carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS),

it has tied up with Equinor to explore opportunities in off-shore wind and green hydrogen, among others.

ONGC's focus on energy-storage projects comes at a time of sharp focus on the policy front. In April, the Centre released guidelines to promote development of pumped-storage projects. The government is also working on a viability gap funding scheme for battery energy storage systems with a capacity of 4,000 MWh (megawatt hour) and a production-linked incentive scheme for grid-scale storage.

Last year, the power ministry issued guidelines for procurement and utilization of battery energy storage systems as part of generation, transmission and distribution assets, along with ancillary services.

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## Registration of BS VI diesel vehicles: Delhi transporters to hold protest

**AIMAN FATIMA**

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Transporters and Tourist Taxi Operators' Association is gearing up for a protest outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, demanding the immediate opening of registrations for Bharat Stage (BS) VI diesel vehicles in compliance with Supreme Court orders.

This protest comes in the wake of the Delhi government's decision in June to allow the registration of BS VI-compliant diesel vehicles, but with a caveat that they must be utilised for G20 summit services.

Association President Sanjay Samrat expressed his concerns, stating, "Despite the Supreme Court order, the Delhi government is not opening the registrations of BS VI diesel vehicles."

Samrat and the association have taken their grievances to various government officials,

including Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, DTC MD Shilpa Shinde, Transport Commissioner Ashish Kundra, and Special Commissioner Shahzad Alam. The heart of the issue lies in a recent directive issued by the DTC MD, which restricts the registration of BS VI buses solely for use during the upcoming G20 summit, scheduled for September 9 and 10.

These vehicles fall under the purview of Union foreign ministry, embassies, or government authorities. Samrat highlighted the impact of this limitation, stating that it has caused financial losses for transporters, some of whom have resorted to registering their vehicles in neighbouring cities.

The transport association contends that Delhi's transporters are missing out on opportunities to cater to tourists due to these restrictions. Samrat emphasised their demand, say-

ing, "We demand the Delhi government to open the window and allow registration of BS VI vehicles in all categories — small and big. Otherwise, we will protest outside the chief minister's house." The Bharat Stage emission standards are a set of regulations aimed at controlling air pollutant emissions from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles. India made a significant leap from BS IV to BS VI in 2020, skipping the BS V stage.

The impending protest outside Chief Minister's residence highlights the frustration among Delhi's transporters over the limited scope for BS VI diesel vehicle registration. As the standoff continues, the transport association's call for action echoes the urgent need to resolve this issue and ensure a level playing field for all involved stakeholders in the transport industry.



## Shell appoints Tripathy as new country chair

Shell India on Monday announced the appointment of Mansi Madan Tripathy as the new country chair of the company, effective from October 1, 2023. Tripathy will succeed Nitin Prasad who has been country chair since 2016, the company said. Prior to this, she was vice president of Shell Lubricants Asia Pacific and has held other roles in the company, including managing director of Shell Lubricants India.

## Shell India Names Mansi Madan Tripathy as Country Chair

**New Delhi:** Diversified energy company Shell India on Monday named Mansi Madan Tripathy as its new country chair. She will take over from October 1, the company said in a statement. Tripathy will succeed Nitin Prasad who has been heading Shell in India since 2016.

Tripathy joined Shell in 2012 from Procter & Gamble and has held multiple assignments at the energy major.

Currently, she is based in Singapore as vice president of Shell Lubricants for Asia Pacific, a role she will not relinquish when she returns

to New Delhi in October to head the Indian operation. Before moving to Singapore, Tripathy served as the managing director of Shell Lubricants India.



Tripathy is an engineering graduate from the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra and has an MBA in marketing from S P Jain Institute of Management and Research. Shell has 11,000 employees in India spread across its fuel retail, natural gas, lubricant and technology businesses. It operates a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal in Gujarat. — **Our Bureau**



## बीपीसीएल की 1.5 लाख करोड़ के निवेश की योजना

नई दिल्ली, चार्ता। तेल विपणन करने वाली देश की प्रमुख कंपनी भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड ने क्षमता बढ़ाने, नेटवर्क का विस्तार करने और अपने हरित पोर्टफोलियो को बढ़ाने सहित अन्य कार्यों के लिए अगले पांच वर्षों में 1.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करने की आन घोषणा की। इसके साथ ही कंपनी ने नेट-जीरो कार्बन उत्सर्जन रोडमैप भी तैयार किया है जिसमें नवीकरणीय क्षमता की स्थापना शामिल है। कंपनी के अध्यक्ष जी कृष्णकुमार ने कंपनी की 70वीं वार्षिक आम बैठक को संबोधित करते हुये कहा कि बीपीसीएल ने अपने फोकस क्षेत्र का पुनर्मूल्यांकन और प्राथमिकता तय की है।

## रिलायंस पांच साल में 100 सीबीजी संयंत्र लगाएगी : मुकेश अंबानी

मुंबई, भाषा। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लि. (आरआईएल) कृषि अपशिष्ट को गैस में बदलने के लिए अगले पांच साल में 100 सीबीजी (कंप्रेसड बायोगैस) संयंत्र स्थापित करेगी। कंपनी के चेयरमैन मुकेश अंबानी ने सोमवार को यह घोषणा की। कंपनी की सालाना आम बैठक को संबोधित करते हुए अंबानी ने कहा कि जामनगर में दो 'डेमो' इकाइयां स्थापित करने के बाद रिलायंस ने उत्तर प्रदेश के बाराबंकी में पहला वाणिज्यिक स्तर का सीबीजी संयंत्र रिकॉर्ड 10 माह में चालू कर दिया है। अंबानी ने कहा, "हम देश भर में इस संख्या को तेजी से बढ़ाकर 25 करेंगे। हमारा लक्ष्य अगले पांच साल में 100 सीबीजी संयंत्र स्थापित करने का है।"





### **रिलायंस पांच साल में 100 सीबीजी संयंत्र लगाएगी**

मुंबई। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लि. (आरआईएल) कृषि अपशिष्ट को गैस में बदलने के लिए अगले पांच साल में 100 सीबीजी (कंप्रेसड बायोगैस) संयंत्र स्थापित करेगी। कंपनी के चेयरमैन मुकेश अंबानी ने सोमवार को यह घोषणा की। कंपनी की सालाना आम बैठकको संबोधित करते हुए अंबानी ने कहा कि जामनगर में दो डेमो इकाइयां स्थापित करने के बाद रिलायंस ने उत्तर प्रदेश के बाराबंकी में पहला वाणिज्यिक स्तर का सीबीजी संयंत्र रिकॉर्ड 10 माह में चालू कर दिया है। अंबानी ने कहा, हम देश भर में इस संख्या को तेजी से बढ़ाकर 25 करेंगे। हमारा लक्ष्य अगले पांच साल में 100 सीबीजी संयंत्र स्थापित करने का है।



रिलायंस पांच साल में 100 सीबीजी संयंत्र लगाएगी : मुकेश अंबानी नई दिल्ली/मुंबई (एसएनबी)। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लि. (आरआईएल) कृषि अपशिष्ट को गैस में बदलने के लिए अगले पांच साल में 100 सीबीजी (कंप्रेसड बायोगैस) संयंत्र स्थापित करेगी। कंपनी के चेयरमैन मुकेश अंबानी ने सोमवार को यह घोषणा की। कंपनी की सालाना आम बैठक को संबोधित करते हुए अंबानी ने कहा कि जामनगर में दो 'डेमो' इकाइयां स्थापित करने के बाद रिलायंस ने उत्तर प्रदेश के बाराबंकी में पहला वाणिज्यिक स्तर का सीबीजी संयंत्र रिकॉर्ड 10 माह में चालू कर दिया है। अंबानी ने कहा, 'हम देश भर में इस संख्या को तेजी से बढ़ाकर 25 करेंगे। हमारा लक्ष्य अगले पांच साल में 100 सीबीजी संयंत्र स्थापित करने का है।'