Hindu, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 15, Size: 10.77cm × 8.04cm

GAIL India to invest $63 mn in heating unit at Ratnagiri

GAIL India is investing ₹6 billion ($63.1 million) to build a heating unit at its Ratnagiri LNG terminal to help it gasify the super-chilled fuel, the company's business development director told reporters on Wednesday. The facility, due to be completed by June 2027, will enable the company to run the LNG terminal at its full capacity of 5 MTPA, R.K. Singhal said. The facility is operating at about 50% capacity as the heating unit is not ready, Mr. Singhal said. REUTERS

Hindu, Mumbai, 29/10/2026
Page No: 13, Size: 13.44cm × 9.79cm

GAIL India to invest $63 mn in heating unit at Ratnagiri

GAIL India is investing ₹6 billion ($63.1 million) to build a heating unit at its Ratnagiri LNG terminal to help it gasify the super-chilled fuel, the company's business development director told reporters on Wednesday. The facility, due to be completed by June 2027, will enable the company to run the LNG terminal at its full capacity of 5 MTPA, R.K. Singhal said. The facility is operating at about 50% capacity as the heating unit is not ready, Mr. Singhal said. REUTERS

Hindu, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 13, Size: 25.43cm × 10.32cm

Union Minister Hardeep Puri to return to RS from seat vacated by L. Murugan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday named Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri as the party's candidate for the coming Rajya Sabha byelection in Madhya Pradesh, necessitated by the resignation of former Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan earlier this month.

Mr. Puri, 74, is the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas. His term as MP from Uttar Pradesh is set to end on November 25. The byelection to the vacated seat in Madhya Pradesh is scheduled for November 12. Mr. Murugan had four years left of a six-year term when he vacated his Rajya Sabha membership. The BJP is well poised to get Mr. Puri elected without trouble due to its comfortable numbers in the State Assembly.

The Opposition has been targeting Mr. Puri over his name appearing in the Epstein files released by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Taking to X, Mr. Puri expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the top leadership of the BJP for his return to the Rajya Sabha.

Millennium Post, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 17.54cm × 28.39cm

BPCL refineries operating at 117% capacity, highest in industry: CMD

'Refining ops were performing well, while improving energy efficiency remained important for the company'

ANI NEWS
New Delhi, October 28

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) refineries are operating at around 117 per cent of their capacity, the highest in the industry, with ongoing projects aimed at improving energy efficiency, reliability and productivity, Chairman and Managing Director Sanjay Khanna said on Wednesday.

Talking to ANI on the sidelines of the 29th Energy Technology Meet (ETM) 2026, Khanna said BPCL was undertaking major projects across its refineries, including a petrochemical project at Bina, a polypropylene project at Kochi and a PRFCC project at its Mumbai refinery.

"These projects will all be helping us to improve our energy efficiency, reliability, pAroductivity and at the end bottom of barrel," Khanna said.

Khanna said refining operations were performing well, while improving energy efficiency remained an important focus for the company. The ongoing projects across its refinery network are expected to support operational improvements and strengthen its refining capabilities.

On the significance of ETM 2026, Khanna said the event provided a platform for iAndustry participants to interact and learn about emerging technologies, particularly in refining.



BPCL Chairman and MD Sanjay Khanna

THE ONGOING PROJECTS ACROSS ITS REFINERY NETWORK ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STRENGTHEN ITS REFINING CAPABILITIES

He said the participation of the Indian diaspora, the increased focus on compressed biogas (CBG) and the MC Square innovation platform had added to the significance of this year's meet.

Khanna also highlighted BPCL's interaction with startups participating in the event, saying their proposed solutions and the opportunities for collaboration appeared promising.

"We found it very promising and the type of opportunities can be given to them and the type of possibilities they're showing was immense," he said.

He expressed hope that the discussions and interactions at the meet would lead to tangible outcomes for the company and the wider energy sector.

ETM 2026 brought together industry stakeholders to discuss technological developments and innovation across the energy sector, with a focus on emerging solutions and opportunities for collaboration.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Khanna said BPCL was undertaking major projects across its refineries, including a petrochemical project at Bina, a polypropylene project at Kochi and a PRFCC project at its Mumbai refinery
- 'These projects will all be helping us to improve our energy efficiency, reliability, pAroductivity and at the end bottom of barrel,' Khanna said
- On the significance of ETM 2026, Khanna said the event provided a platform for iAndustry participants to interact and learn about emerging technologies, particularly in refining

Economic Times, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 20.03cm × 30.43cm

High Freight Rates Narrow Refiners' Crude Choices

Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: Soaring freight rates are narrowing Indian refiners' crude oil choices and deepening their dependence on Middle Eastern supplies. High freight and crude prices are also driving up costs and squeezing their refining margins.

Refiners are paying a steep premium for oil in the physical market, where crude is trading at about $20 a barrel above the Brent futures price of $115, according to industry executives. Freight costs of $10-20 per barrel, depending on the source, are adding to the burden, they said. India's state-run refiners, which largely sell in the domestic market where fuel prices do not quickly reflect global trends, are likely to face margin pressure.

Freight has become a dominant factor in crude sourcing, an industry executive said. High freight costs are making crude from distant sources such as the US, Venezuela and Russia less competitive with Gulf supplies, he said. Refiners choose a mix of crude grades based on availability and economics, weighing the value of the products each grade yields against crude prices and prevailing market conditions.

A tanker now charges $10-11 per barrel to transport oil from the Gulf region to Indian ports, compared with $1-$1.5 before the Iran war, the executive said. Shipping lines charge around $20-25 per barrel for a US oil cargo to India, against $3-3.5 before the war, he said. Freight rates vary by route, season, vessel size, risk perception and the demand-supply balance.

Freight rates for Gulf supplies to destinations farther away, such as China, are even higher. "In September, tanker rates surged to historic highs. By mid-October, the cost of shipping crude from the Middle East Gulf to Asia on a large tanker had climbed to over $37 per barrel, more than five times its level before the war began," the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a report last week. "In September, this surge in delivered crude costs pushed margins for Asian refiners processing crude from the Middle East into negative territory," it added.

Congestion around the Strait of Hormuz, rerouted trade flows and increased ship-to-ship transfers have lengthened delivery times and reduced fleet efficiency since the conflict began, pushing freight rates higher, the IEA said.

"The current market is not simply short of ships. It is short of vessels willing and able to operate efficiently in the Middle East Gulf, where war risk has fundamentally altered freight pricing," Matt Wright, an analyst at commodity analytics firm Kpler, recently wrote in a report.

Freight Squeeze

Physical crude trading at about $20/bbl above Brent futures of $115/bbl

Freight adds $10-20/bbl to crude costs, depending on source

Gulf-to-Asia tanker freight topped $37/bbl by mid-October, more than 5 times pre-war levels: IEA



Higher delivered crude costs pushed margins for Asian refiners processing Middle Eastern crude into negative territory in September: IEA

South Korea's Sinokor controls about 50% of the Gulf of Oman shuttle VLCC fleet, streng-thening owners' barga-ining power on freight rates: Kpler

Times of India, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 19, Size: 77.34cm × 15.35cm

India's Diesel Export Boom Set To Ease Global Crunch Next Year

A surge in Indian diesel exports is set to hit global markets next year as new refining capacity comes online, bringing much-needed supply to fuel-starved markets from US to Europe. State-owned refiners will add at least 15 million tonnes of annual diesel-making capacity through a new refinery and expansions at existing plants

Note: Capacity change is based on crude distillation unit nameplate capacity

Source: BloombergNEF, company announcements



The West Asia and Russia-Ukraine wars have disrupted crude and fuel flows, tightening global supplies and driving up prices this year

Hindu, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 25.16cm × 37.17cm

Disinvestment as key economic strategy



Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

Seven months into 2026-27, the fiscal year has been shaped by global uncertainty, high energy prices and worries over a deficient monsoon. Against this backdrop, disinvestment and asset monetisation have helped in navigating a challenging fiscal year. While receipts were already on course to meet the budget target, the government's approval of the sale of its share in the IDBI Bank on October 14 makes it likely that the target will be exceeded. For the industry and investors, the receipts are a signal of the government's continued commitment to reforms and a larger role for the private sector. This year so far, the disinvestment trajectory has progressed well, even before the IDBI stake sale. According to DIPAM data, the Centre mobilised ₹62,124 crore in April-September 2026 through disinvestment and asset monetisation, of which ₹55,757 crore came from disinvestment. These collections had already reached 78% of the full-year budget target of ₹80,000 crore. With the IDBI proceeds, the collections are to head past the target.

This comes at a time when the government looks to diversify its revenue sources amid rising expenditure commitments. Net tax revenue rose by a modest 3.4% in April-August 2026 and non-tax revenue by 3.2%, while capital expenditure was up by over 18%. Overall, the fiscal deficit has already reached 42% of the budgeted levels which implies a tight balance between revenue shortfalls and spending risks.

However, disinvestment should not be seen merely as a tool for meeting fiscal targets. It is a policy choice aimed at unlocking greater value from public assets, widening public ownership, and improving efficiency and governance through greater market discipline. The 2022 LIC IPO which drew in many first-time retail investors and policyholders remains a prime example.

This was precisely the rationale behind the government's 2021 New Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) Policy which envisages a "bare minimum presence" of PSEs in strategic sectors. Likewise, the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) re-engines capital via mature public assets. A target of ₹16.72 lakh crore has been set under NMP 2.0 for FY26-30 after having achieved 90% of its Phase 1 goal.

Given the fact that privatisation of several PSEs is a long journey, calibrated disinvestment could serve as an interim measure

Demand-based approach

This year, however, until this month, receipts had come mainly through Offer for Sale (OFS) measures which help to broaden ownership but keep the status quo on an enterprise's operations. The strategic sale of the IDBI Bank since Air India in 2022 is an encouraging sign. From an industry perspective, the IDBI sale is more than a one-off sale. It is one of the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) deals in India's financial sector and constitutes as the first step towards a 'Privatisation 2.0' framework. More importantly, this framework is premised on being investor-led, professionally managed and time-bound. Two changes would help to turn into a template.

First, the selection criteria for disinvestments of PSEs should move to a demand-based approach instead of being led by the government. It would work better to first gauge interest across a wider pool and prioritise PSEs that draw strong bids at expected valuations, with structured investor feedback flagging procedural and regulatory hurdles early. Second, a rolling three-year privatisation stream, based on investor interest and the government's strategic priorities, would give investors time for due diligence, which means deeper participation and better price discovery.

Given the fact that privatisation of several PSEs is a long journey, calibrated disinvestment could serve as an interim measure. CII analysis suggests that bringing the government's stake down to 51% across 95 listed PSEs could fetch about ₹9 lakh crore, with the government remaining the single largest shareholder. PSEs where the government holds 75% or less could be taken up in the first two years, followed by those with higher government holdings. A dedicated body, with a ministerial board, industry experts as advisers and a management team, could steer the process.

To be sure, none of the above makes a case for fiscal complacency. Deficits and public debt tend to rise in uncertain times and stay elevated long after the shock subsides. Staying on the path of fiscal prudence is essential to ensure that the government can continue investing in health and education without crowding out private investment.

Amidst various global headwinds, a healthy progress on disinvestments with more big-ticket sales such as the IDBI will provide the Centre the required cushion to stay on course with fiscal consolidation.

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 29/10/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 20.90cm × 13.60cm

Sensex drops 352 pts on selling in RIL, IT stocks, rising crude prices

PTI
MUMBAI

Benchmark stock index Sensex fell by 352 points and Nifty closed below 22,700 on Wednesday, dragged down by selling in IT shares and blue-chip Reliance Industries amid rising crude oil prices and caution ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened lower and tanked 995 points to the day's low of 72,603.57 in morning deals.



The barometer later recovered some of the losses to settle at 73,246.03, down by 352.64 points, or 0.48%.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 50.90 points, or 0.22%, to close at 22,698.85.

"Domestic equities remained volatile and traded lower as a fresh spike in crude oil prices and sharp selling in IT stocks weighed on investor sentiment. Oil prices rebounded amid renewed concerns over supply disruptions following Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, overshadowing ongoing diplomatic efforts. Investors will now turn their attention to the US Fed's policy guidance, particularly signals around the interest-rate trajectory into December," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 29/10/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 17.46cm × 16.27cm

Gilts end on a flat note

Government bond prices ended little changed on Wednesday after a second consecutive volatile session, recovering from sharp early losses amid developments in West Asia. Hopes for a peace deal in the region supported gilt prices for the second consecutive day. An intraday fall in crude prices and US Treasury yields also lent support, dealers said. Reuters reported on Wednesday that Qatari officials had given Iran a draft peace proposal on Sunday to move toward an end to the war.

"With such reports floating around, everything is conspiring to protect the market from 7.50% (on the 10-year gilt yield)," a dealer at a foreign bank said. "If we manage it and oil starts reversing from here, that will be a good sign, but oil is not moving that much. So let's see what Donald Trump does after his elections are done." The US midterm elections will take place on Nov 3. The 10-year benchmark 6.94%, 2036 gilt ended at ₹96.63 on Wednesday, marginally down from ₹96.65 on Tuesday. The benchmark yield ended at 7.440% on Wednesday, from 7.436% on Tuesday. **-Informist**

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 29/10/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 6.91cm × 15.45cm

Gulf Oil Lubricants Q2 profit jumps 34% to ₹117 cr

Gulf Oil Lubricants India posted 34% year-on-year growth in standalone profit after tax to ₹117 crore in the September quarter, driven by strong volume growth, the company said on Monday. The company had delivered a bottom line of ₹87 crore in the second quarter of the previous fiscal, it added. Revenue from operations during the quarter rose 44% year-on-year to ₹1,379 crore from ₹957 crore in Q2 FY26. During the half-year ended September 2026, the standalone revenue from operations stood at ₹2,700 crore. **-PTI**

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 29/10/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 40.75cm × 26.83cm

Markets may fall amid high oil prices





Motilal Oswal Wealth Management
MUMBAI

Nifty index opened on a negative note and witnessed selling pressure in the first half of the session with declines finding support near 22500 marks. Some bounce was seen thereafter lifting the index towards 22800 zones. Buying interest at lower levels helped the index recover but momentum remained subdued at higher levels. It formed a doji sort of a candle on the daily chart indicating indecision as both bulls and bears struggled to gain control. Now it has to hold above 22700 zones for an up move towards 22800 then 22900 zones while a hold below the same could see weakness towards 22600 then 22500 zones.

On option front, Maximum Call OI is at 23000 then 22800 strike while Maximum Put OI is at 22500 then 22700 strike. Call writing is seen at 22700 then 23000 strike while Put writing is seen at 22500 then 22700 strike.

Option data suggests a broader trading range in between 22300 to 23200 zones while an immediate range between 22500 to 22900 levels.

S&P BSE Sensex index opened on a negative note but recovered from the initial dip after the first hour and gradually moved towards 73500 zones in a slow and steady manner.

However, the index remained range bound towards the end of the session. It formed a doji type candle on the daily chart indicating indecision in the market.

The index is stuck in a range from the last four sessions and now requires a decisive breakout to trigger a strong directional move on the upside. Now it has to cross and hold above 73300 zones for an up move towards 73500 then 74000 zones while a hold below the same could see weakness towards 73000 then 72700 zones.

Bank Nifty index opened slightly lower and consolidated during the initial hour of the session. Later buying interest emerged from the lower levels which helped the index gradually move higher towards 54450 zones.

It formed a bullish bodied candle on the daily scale with slight upper and lower shadows indicating buying interest visible at lower levels.

Now it has to hold above 54250 zones for an up move towards 54500 then 54750 levels while a hold below the same some weakness could be seen towards 54000 then 53750 levels.

Nifty future closed negative with losses of 0.30% at 22775 levels.

Positive setup seen in Bluestar, Apollo Hospital, TVS Motor, KPIT Tech, Sonacoms, Trent, Hero Motocorp, Dr Reddy and Laurus Labs while weakness seen in Kaynes, Pidilite, Bajaj Holdings, Radico, United Spirits, Indus Towers, Reliance, Swiggy, VBL, NMDC and ONGC.

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Data source: Capitaline

Morning Standard, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 9.63cm × 16.38cm

ENERGY SECURITY

India seeks more affordable energy imports from US

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA is pushing the US for predictable and continued energy supplies at more affordable prices, with government sources indicating that New Delhi expects the US waiver on sanctions linked to Russian oil purchases to continue beyond 60-day period.

"India is already buying a major amount of LPG from the US. India is in talks with the US to secure more affordable energy imports. While the government can't intervene directly in pricing, aim is to ensure Indian buyers get discounts," government sources said. Officials cited previous instances in which shipping costs were shared between buyers and sellers, making imports more viable for Indian buyers.

The US accounts for 67% of India's LPG imports, Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said recently. While India aims to diversify its energy sources, securing predictable supplies at affordable prices remains a priority, the sources said. The officials indicated the US was unlikely to impose sanctions on India for buying Russian oil even after 60-day waiver period expires.

"It is unlikely the US will impose sanctions for importing oil and gas from Russia, even beyond 60 days. Both countries are aiming to ensure smooth supply of energy, and measures that could disrupt supplies are unlikely," an official said. On October 16, Trump announced a waiver of key provisions of the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, which authorised punitive tariffs on countries buying Russian oil.

Both countries are aiming to ensure smooth supply of energy, and measures that could disrupt supplies are unlikely

Government sources



Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 29/10/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 8.07cm × 12.28cm

Global commodity prices to rise 23% in 2026

Global commodity prices are projected to rise 23% in 2026, with energy prices expected to surge 32%, as the conflict in the Middle East disrupts oil supplies and grain shipments, while weather risks threaten agricultural production, the World Bank Group said on Wednesday.

Financial Express, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 4.87cm × 8.52cm

PETRONET TO SEEK BIDS FOR 1 MT PROPANE



GAS IMPORTER PETRONET LNG will seek initial bids by March to buy 1 million metric tonne per year of propane from mid-2028 for its petrochemical unit in Gujarat, its Chief Executive Akshay Kumar Singh said on Wednesday.

Business Line, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 15, Size: 25.43cm × 14.90cm

BJP fields Hardeep Singh Puri for Madhya Pradesh Rajya Sabha bypoll

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday named Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha by-election from Madhya Pradesh, paving the way for his return to the Upper House after the party left him out of its list of candidates for the recent Rajya Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The BJP's Central Election Committee approved Puri's candidature, according to a party press release.


Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

The bypoll, scheduled for November 12, has been necessitated by the resignation of former Union Minister of State L Murugan, whose Rajya Sabha term from Madhya Pradesh was originally due to end in April 2030. Murugan resigned from the Rajya Sabha and the Union Council of Ministers on October 14, saying he wanted to focus on strengthening the BJP in Tamil Nadu.

MINISTERIAL POSITION

Puri, 74, has been a Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh since November 2020, having previously represented the State from 2018. His current term is due to end on November 25. The BJP's decision not to renominate him from Uttar Pradesh earlier this month had raised questions about his continuation in the Union Cabinet, as a minister who is not a member of either House of Parliament cannot remain in the Council of Ministers beyond six consecutive months.

The BJP had announced eight candidates for the Uttar Pradesh Rajya Sabha elections on October 5, opting for new faces while dropping all eight outgoing BJP members.

Virat Vaibhav, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 10.72cm × 12.12cm

सऊदी रिफाइनरी पर हमले से उछला कच्चा तेल, ब्रेंट क्रूड 115 डॉलर के पार

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली



पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते भू-राजनीतिक तनाव के बीच वैश्विक कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में बुधवार को तेज उछाल देखने को मिला। रिपोर्ट्स के मुताबिक, यमन के ईरान समर्थित हूती विद्रोहियों ने सऊदी अरब की सबसे बड़ी तेल रिफाइनरियों में से एक को मिसाइल से निशाना बनाया, जिसके बाद तेल आपूर्ति को लेकर चिंताएं फिर बढ़ गईं और अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों में क्रूड ऑयल महंगा हो गया। ब्रेंट क्रूड के दिसंबर वायदा अनुबंध में 1.55 डॉलर यानी 1.36 प्रतिशत की तेजी दर्ज की गई और यह 115.43 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर पहुंच गया। वहीं अमेरिकी वेस्ट टेक्सास इंटरमीडिएट (डब्ल्यूटीआई) क्रूड 1.43 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 101.32 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर कारोबार करता दिखाई दिया। हूती समूह ने दावा किया है कि उसने सऊदी अरब की तेल रिफाइनरी को निशाना बनाया है। हालांकि सऊदी अधिकारियों ने लगभग 5.5 लाख बैरल प्रतिदिन क्षमता वाली इस रिफाइनरी पर हमले की आधिकारिक पुष्टि नहीं की है। इसके बावजूद बाजार में संभावित आपूर्ति व्यवधान की आशंका बढ़ गई।

Hindustan, Delhi, 29/10/2026
Page No: 12, Size: 40.27cm × 11.59cm

एथेनॉल से आत्मनिर्भरता की नई उम्मीद

भारत में शत-प्रतिशत एथेनॉल, यानी ई-100 ईंधन के इस्तेमाल की दिशा में बढ़ा कदम ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता और स्वच्छ परिवहन की नजर से महत्वपूर्ण है। ई-100 ईंधन के इस्तेमाल का रास्ता साफ होने से हमें कई तरह के लाभ मिल सकते हैं। सबसे बड़ा लाभ तो यही होगा कि कच्चे तेल के आयात में कमी आ सकती है। भारत अपनी तेल जरूरतों का करीब 85 फीसदी हिस्सा अन्य देशों से खरीदता है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में उछाल या युद्ध जैसी परिस्थितियां देश के आयात बिल, महंगाई और चालू खाते के संतुलन को प्रभावित करती हैं। ऐसे में, घरेलू स्तर पर तैयार एथेनॉल पेट्रोल का विकल्प बन सकता है। सरकार के अनुसार, पेट्रोल में एथेनॉल मिलाने के कार्यक्रम से अब तक 1.4 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की विदेशी मुद्रा बचाने में मदद मिली है। हालांकि, यह बचत एथेनॉल मिश्रण कार्यक्रम से संबंधित है, इसे ई-100 से हुई बचत नहीं समझना चाहिए।

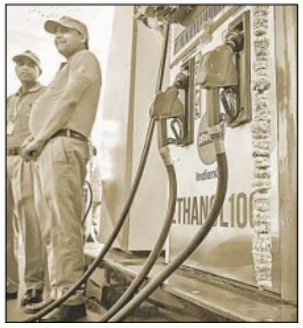
इसका दूसरा बड़ा लाभ कृषि क्षेत्र को मिल सकता है। एथेनॉल का उत्पादन गन्ने के रस, शीरे, मक्का और कुछ अन्य कृषि उत्पादों से किया जाता है। इससे किसानों को अपनी उपज के लिए अतिरिक्त बाजार मिल सकता है। चीनी मिलों को भी आय का नया स्रोत मिलेगा। यदि उत्पादन, खरीद और भुगतान की व्यवस्था पारदर्शी हो, तो ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था में निवेश और रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ सकते हैं। पर्यावरण की दृष्टि से भी ई-100 एक उपयोगी विकल्प हो सकता है। एथेनॉल में ऑक्सीजन की मात्रा अधिक होने के कारण उपयुक्त इंजन से कुछ प्रदूषकों का उत्सर्जन घट सकता है। फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल वाहन ईंधन में एथेनॉल की मात्रा के अनुसार इंजन तैयार कर सकते हैं। इससे पारंपरिक पेट्रोल पर निर्भरता कम करने और परिवहन क्षेत्र में वैकल्पिक ईंधन अपनाने में मदद मिलेगी। हालांकि, एथेनॉल को पूरी तरह प्रदूषण-मुक्त ईंधन कहना उचित नहीं होगा, क्योंकि इसके उत्पादन, परिवहन और कृषि में इस्तेमाल होने वाली ऊर्जा का भी पर्यावरण पर असर पड़ता है।

यहां ब्राजील का उदाहरण स्वाभाविक ही दिया जा रहा है। वहां लंबे समय से एथेनॉल और पेट्रोल के विभिन्न मिश्रणों का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है। भारत भी अपनी कृषि क्षमता और वाहन उद्योग की तकनीकी दक्षता के सहारे इस दिशा में आगे बढ़ सकता है। इसके लिए सरकार, वाहन निर्माताओं, तेल कंपनियों और किसानों को मिलकर काम करना होगा। अगर ऐसा हो सका, तो यकीनन ई-100 ईंधन भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने वाला विकल्प बन सकता है। यह पहल भविष्य में आयात-निर्भरता भी घटा सकती है।

सुजीत कुमार, टिप्पणीकार

अनुलोम-विलोम

ई-100 ईंधन



ई-100 ईंधन की राह में कई चुनौतियां

सौ फीसद एथेनॉल, यानी ई-100 ईंधन के इस्तेमाल को मंजूरी मिलना वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा की दिशा में अहम है, लेकिन इसके पेट्रोल का विकल्प बनना आसान नहीं है। सरकार का हालिया फैसला केवल उन फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल वाहनों के लिए है, जिन्हें वाहन-निर्माता इसके अनुकूल मानते हैं। इसलिए सभी पेट्रोल वाहनों में ई-100 के इस्तेमाल की मंजूरी या उपलब्धता की शुरुआत मानना जल्दबाजी होगी।

इस ईंधन की राह में सबसे बड़ी चुनौती इसकी कीमत और वाहन की लागत है। पेट्रोल की तुलना में एथेनॉल में प्रति लीटर ऊर्जा कम होती है। ऐसे में, समान दूरी तय करने के लिए अधिक मात्रा में ईंधन की जरूरत पड़ सकती है। यदि एथेनॉल की कीमत पेट्रोल के मुकाबले पर्याप्त कम नहीं हुई, तो उपभोक्ता को अपेक्षित लाभ नहीं मिल सकेगा। इसी तरह, नीति आयोग और पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के 2021 के रोडमैप में फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल वाहनों की अतिरिक्त लागत और ई-100 की देशव्यापी उपलब्धता को इनके प्रसार की प्रमुख चुनौतियों में गिना गया था। वाहन तकनीक निश्चय ही एक बड़ी चुनौती है। सामान्य पेट्रोल वाहनों के इंजन, ईंधन आपूर्ति प्रणाली और कुछ रबर-प्लास्टिक घटकों को शत-प्रतिशत एथेनॉल के अनुरूप तैयार नहीं किया जाता। एथेनॉल की रासायनिक विशेषताओं और नमी सोखने की क्षमता के कारण ईंधन प्रणाली की अनुकूलता, जंग से बचाव, ठंड में इंजन चालू करने और दीर्घकालीन टिकाऊपन जैसे पहलुओं पर विशेष ध्यान देना पड़ता है। इसके लिए अलग तकनीक, परीक्षण व गुणवत्ता मानकों की जरूरत होगी। ई-100 को सामान्य पेट्रोल वाहनों में इस्तेमाल करने की सलाह देना जोखिम भरा होगा। उपभोक्ताओं को वाहन निर्माता के निर्देशों का ही पालन करना चाहिए।

इस ईंधन से कृषि और जल संसाधनों पर पड़ने वाला दबाव भी कम महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है। यदि एथेनॉल उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए गन्ने और धान जैसी फसलों की मांग तेजी से बढ़ती है, तो खेती की जमीन, सिंचाई के पानी और खाद्यान्न उत्पादन के बीच प्रतिस्पर्द्धा पैदा हो सकती है। खाद्यान्न से ईंधन बनाने की नीति का असर बाजार में कृषि उपज की कीमतों पर पड़ सकता है। इसलिए एथेनॉल उत्पादन में कृषि अवशेषों और गैर-खाद्य जैविक पदार्थों को बढ़ावा देना जरूरी है। इसके अतिरिक्त, ई-100 के लिए भंडारण, परिवहन और वितरण व्यवस्था अलग से विकसित करनी होगी। साफ है, ई-100 के लिए पर्याप्त बिक्री केंद्र, ईंधन की गुणवत्ता और उसकी नियमित आपूर्ति चुनौती होगी। इसलिए, अभी इसको लेकर बहुत उम्मीद पालने की जरूरत नहीं है।

मोहित, टिप्पणीकार

Virat Vaibhav, Delhi, 29/10/2026
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2030 तक 50 लाख टन ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन का लक्ष्य



वैभव न्यूज ■ नई दिल्ली

भारत ने 2030 तक प्रतिवर्ष 50 लाख मीट्रिक टन (5 एमएमटी) ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन क्षमता विकसित करने का महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है। बुधवार को जारी एक आधिकारिक फैक्टशीट के अनुसार, यह पहल देश की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने, आयातित जीवाश्म ईंधनों पर निर्भरता कम करने और भारत को स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में वैश्विक नेतृत्व दिलाने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। सरकार का मानना है कि राष्ट्रीय ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन मिशन भारत को अधिक स्वच्छ, आत्मनिर्भर और प्रतिस्पर्धी ऊर्जा अर्थव्यवस्था बनाने में अहम भूमिका निभाएगा। मिशन के तहत वर्ष 2030 तक जीवाश्म ईंधन आयात पर होने वाले कुल खर्च में लगभग 1 लाख करोड़ रुपए की बचत का अनुमान है। इस मिशन का उद्देश्य केवल ऊर्जा सुरक्षा बढ़ाना नहीं, बल्कि औद्योगिक विकास, निवेश और रोजगार सृजन को भी नई गति देना है। सरकार का अनुमान है कि इस पहल से 8 लाख करोड़ रुपए से अधिक का निवेश आकर्षित होगा और विनिर्माण, बुनियादी ढांचा, अनुसंधान तथा परियोजना विकास जैसे क्षेत्रों में 6 लाख से अधिक रोजगार के अवसर पैदा होंगे। फैक्टशीट में कहा गया है कि मिशन के तहत निर्धारित मात्रा में ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन का उत्पादन और उपयोग होने से हर वर्ष लगभग 5 करोड़ टन (50 एमएमटी) कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन को रोका जा सकेगा। इससे भारत के जलवायु लक्ष्यों को हासिल करने में उल्लेखनीय मदद मिलेगी। ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए छह राज्यों ने पहले ही समर्पित नीतियां अधिसूचित कर दी हैं। इनमें गुजरात, आंध्र प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, उत्तर प्रदेश, राजस्थान और पश्चिम बंगाल शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा हरियाणा, पंजाब, बिहार और केरल अपनी-अपनी ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन नीतियों को अंतिम रूप देने की प्रक्रिया में हैं।