



ONGC News as on 22 November 2023 (Print)

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| Publication : Business Standard | Editions : New Delhi |
| Date :22 November 2023 | Page : 1, 10 |



Rescue operation continues for the 10th day at the Silkyara-Barkot tunnel on Tuesday PHOTO: PTI

UTTARKASHI TUNNEL COLLAPSE

5-pronged plan to rescue 41 trapped workers

The government of India is taking a five-pronged approach to rescue 41 labourers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand, however, the sensitive geology of the area has made a definite evacuation timeline difficult to establish, officials said on Tuesday. ~ P10

Fastest route may see contact with tunnel workers in 3 days

In tricky terrain, govt has adopted 5-pronged bid to rescue 41 men in Uttarkashi

DHRUVAKSH SAHA
New Delhi, 21 November

The Centre is adopting a five-pronged approach to rescue 41 workers who have been trapped in a highway tunnel in Uttarakhand for 10 days, but the tricky terrain of the area has made it difficult to set a definite timeline for the evacuation, officials said on Tuesday.

Personnel at the site of the under-construction Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi district were able to push a six-inch pipeline late Monday. An endoscopic camera sent in through the pipeline captured video footage of the trapped workers on Tuesday, raising hopes of anxious relatives camping near the site. The pipeline can now be used to establish better connectivity and ensure proper nutrition can be provided to the workers, senior government officials said at a press conference.

"When we started the rescue work, the auger machine was considered to be the fastest and safest option. Subsequently, there was a scare when we heard some sounds, and geologists advised that continuing with that might cause further damage and we may have to abandon the whole phase," Road Transport and Highways Secretary Anurag Jain said.

Officials decided to halt the attempts with the spiral-shaped auger machine for three to four days following the advice. The rescue efforts had resumed after ensuring the safety of workers. This, according to Jain, should take two and a half days to reach the workers barring any further contingencies.

Alongside, a "drift" is being constructed on a side of the tunnel, with a safe channel established from 180 to 150 metres. The Army is mobilising box culverts for this purpose. "This effort may take 10-12 days," Jain said.

Horizontal drilling from the Barkot end of the 4.5 km tunnel — which has been inaccessible as construction had not begun there — is also in the works, and may take 35-40 days, according to Jain.

Besides, efforts for vertical drilling are continuing, and all rescue efforts will continue in tandem as any emergency might block an existing route.

While the methods may vary depending on the situation on the ground, Jain said there the authorities were confident of evacuating all the 41 men safely.

Asked whether the workers will be able to survive while the rescue efforts are underway, Syed Ata Hasnain, member, National Disaster Management Authority, said the new pipeline, which was not completely through yet, was being tested to send hot cooked food. This, he added, will reduce risks of health emergencies inside the tunnel.

"Due to a pipeline that did not break during the cave-in, there is sufficient water inside and there is



(Clockwise from top) Visuals of workers inside the tunnel at Silkyara in Uttarkashi were released by rescuers on Tuesday; National Disaster Response Force personnel at the site; and a relative shows a photo of one of the trapped men

PHOTOS: PTI

power and lighting at the site as well," Hasnain said. Initially, compressed survival rations were pushed through to keep the workers alive.

According to official data, 15 of the 41 trapped workers belong to Jharkhand, eight are from Uttar Pradesh, five each are from Odisha and Bihar, and the rest are from Assam, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

On November 12, the tunnel designed to connect the road to Barkot town collapsed as debris fell in a 60-metre stretch on the Silkyara end. Rescue teams at first opted for a 900 mm pipe through the rubble,

but safety concerns led them to explore alternative approaches simultaneously.

The area of entrapment, measuring 8.5 metres in height and 2 km in length, is the built-up portion of the tunnel.

Five agencies — Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, power producers SJVNL and THDCIL, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited — have been assigned specific responsibilities, working together with occasional task adjustments for efficient operations.

टनल से आई 41 मजदूरों की पहली तस्वीर, सभी स्वस्थ

उत्तराखण्ड। उत्तराखण्ड की सिल्वरिया-डंडालगांव टनल में जिस 6 इंच के पाइप से 41 मजदूरों तक राशन भेजा जा रहा है, उसी से मंगलवार अल सुबह मजदूरों तक चार मोबाइल फोन, चार्जर, एक वॉकीटॉकी भी भेजा

गया। फिर एक एंडोस्कोपी फ्लेक्सि कैमरा पहुंचा दिया गया। इससे मजदूरों का पहला फुटेज दुनिया के सामने आया। सुपरवाइजर ने एक-एक कर सभी मजदूरों की गिनती कराई। सभी स्वस्थ हैं।



उत्तराखंड टनल हादसा • ऑपरेशन का 10वां दिन; मजदूरों के चेहरे देख हिम्मत बढ़ी आज से 5 टीमों 5 जगह से ड्रिलिंग शुरू करेंगी, अगले 48 घंटे में निकाले जा सकते हैं मजदूर

एम. रियाज हाशमी | उत्तराखण्ड

सिल्वरिया-डंडालगांव टनल में 41 जिंदगियां बचाने में जुटी रेस्क्यू टीम अब जबदस्त उत्साह में है। सभी 41 मजदूरों के चेहरों ने इनकी हिम्मत बढ़ा दी है। 6 इंच के पाइप के बगल से एक और पाइप मजदूरों तक भेजकर ऑक्सीजन सप्लाई बढ़ा दी गई है। रेस्क्यू ऑपरेशन को लीड कर रहे राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग एवं बुनियादी ढांचा विकास निगम (एनएचआईडीसीएल) को उम्मीद है कि सब कुछ ठीक रहा तो अगले 48 घंटे में सभी मजदूर टनल से बाहर होंगे। इसके लिए बुधवार से टनल में एक साथ पांच जगह से पांच अलग-अलग टीमों ड्रिलिंग शुरू करेंगी। इसमें टनल के मुख्य और पिछले रास्ते से दो जगह ड्रिलिंग होगी। तीसरा रास्ता टनल के दाईं ओर से बनेगा। पहाड़ के ऊपर दो जगह से भी ड्रिलिंग की तैयारी पूरी कर ली गई है। मशीन ऊपर ले जाने के लिए रोड और प्लेटफार्म भी बन गए हैं। ओडिशा और गुजरात से पहुंची टनल मशीनों बुधवार सुबह पहाड़ पर चढ़ाएंगे। सब कुछ ठीक रहा तो दोपहर में ऊपर से ड्रिलिंग शुरू हो जाएगी। उधर, दिल्ली में केंद्रीय सड़क मंत्रालय ने तीन प्लान की जानकारी दी। टनल 4.5 किमी लंबी है। इसमें सिल्वरिया गेट से 200 से 270 मी. अंदर मजदूर फंसे हैं।

बचाव के 5 प्लान : पहले-दूसरे से उम्मीद ज्यादा

प्लान-2
टनल में दाईं ओर से 170 मी. ड्रिल होगी। वे काम आरवीएनएल कर रही।

प्लान-3... पहाड़ के ऊपर से 90 मी. नीचे ड्रिल होगी। पाइप मजदूरों से 60 मी. दूर खुलेगा। एनएचआईडीसीएल को जिम्मा।

प्लान-4... पहाड़ से 325 मी. नीचे पाइप डालेंगे। काम ओएनजीसी कर रही।

प्लान-1
सिल्वरिया गेट ऑपरेशन फिर शुरू। 42 मी. में पाइप डाले, करीब 25 मी. और डलना है। एनएचआईडीसीएल को जिम्मेदारी।



वायरलेस कैमरे भेजे

डीआरडीओ विशेषज्ञों ने पाइप से कुछ वायरलेस सीसीटीवी कैमरे और वाईफाई स्टिक मजदूरों तक भेजी हैं। मजदूर तय लोकेशन पर कैमरे लगाएंगे। एक 15 किलो का रोबोट दूसरी ओर भेजकर मलबे के भीतर से रास्ता बनाने की कोशिश हो रही है।

वीएच-वीएल फ्रीक्वेंसी शुरू

पहले सिल्वरिया में मोबाइल नेटवर्क नहीं था। मीडिया कर्मियों को भी बातचीत के लिए 7 किमी दूर माहरा गांव जाना पड़ता था। मंगलवार की सुबह से पहले साइट पर सभी सेलफोन सर्विसेज के नेटवर्क की फ्रीक्वेंसी एक्टिव कर दी गई, जो वीएल (वैरी लो) बैंड पर है। सेना वीएच (वैरी हाई) बैंड की फ्रीक्वेंसी भी यहां एक्टिव कर चुकी है।



What is Silkyara tunnel for?

In February 2018, the Union Cabinet approved construction of a 4.531 km two-lane bi-directional Silkyara bend – the Barkot tunnel. The project will be along NH-134 in Uttarakhand and is part of the Chardham plan. The estimated construction period was four years, with cost estimated at ₹1,119.69 crore. Total project cost is ₹1,383.78 crore, including land acquisition and rehabilitation cost. The work is delayed and is likely to be completed by May 14, 2024.

WHAT HAPPENED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2023?

At 5.30 am, about 41 workers were reprofiling 260-265 m inside the tunnel from Silkyara portal, when a collapse occurred at 205-260 m from the portal. All workers, based on the contractor's entry register, were trapped inside the tunnel. The area in which the workers are trapped is 8.5 m high and 2 km long.



18 tonnes of equipment being airlifted by an IAF aircraft for rescue operations - PTI

WHICH AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE MISSION?

Uttarakhand administration, SDRF, NDRF, MoRTH, NHIDCL, NHAI and BRO are engaged in supplying fresh air, oxygen, water, electricity and small packed food through pipes. International expert Arnold Dix from International Tunneling and Underground Space Association, Geneva, and micro tunneling expert from Australia, Chris Cooper, are also assisting.

WHAT IS THE FIVE-PRONGED STRATEGY TO RESCUE WORKERS?

Five options were decided. Five different agencies are engaged in rescue operation — Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Sutluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDCL).

- 1 NHIDCL has undertaken horizontal drilling from Silkyara end using an Auger boring machine. To facilitate this, the Army has prepared a box culvert. A canopy framework is being made to ensure workers' safety.
- 2 RVNL is working on another vertical pipeline for supplying essential items after the Border Roads Organisation completed building an approach road in just one day.
- 3 Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDCL) has undertaken microtunneling from Barkot end for which heavy machinery has been mobilised.
- 4 Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) is implementing vertical drilling to rescue workers. Equipment has been mobilised from Gujarat and Odisha through railways as it could not be airlifted.
- 5 Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), having expertise in deep drilling, started initial work for vertical drilling from Barkot end.

TEXT: RAHUL TRIPATHI

First visuals of 41 persons trapped in tunnel emerge

Rescue teams identify the workers using an endoscopic camera sent in through the six-inch pipe which was drilled through the debris; horizontal drilling to create a safe passage resumes

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The first visuals of the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakashi district of Uttarakhand since November 12 emerged on Tuesday after an endoscopic camera was sent in through the six-inch pipe which was drilled through the debris blocking the tunnel on Monday.

In a video released by the rescue agencies, the workers can be seen standing in a line and identifying themselves while rescue workers issue instructions to them. The trapped men are seen placing their ears on the edge of the pipe to hear what is being told by the rescuers.

"Aap theek ho? (Are you fine?)" a rescue team



Clinging on to hope: Visuals of workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakashi district of Uttarakhand, released by rescuers on Tuesday. PTI

member asks, to which the workers reply in the affirmative. The workers are then told to show themselves in the camera and smile. The rescue teams identified all the trapped workers from the visuals and also shared the same with their family members.

Fruits and other essentials were later sent through the pipe. According to sources, the pipe

was temporarily blocked on Tuesday afternoon when the agencies tried to send cooked food. It was cleared in the evening.

The Hindu could not contact Uttarakashi District Magistrate Abhishek Ruhe-la for comments.

Drilling resumes

Meanwhile, horizontal drilling through the debris with a U.S.-made auger ma-

chine resumed on Tuesday. The operation was suspended on Friday after the machine encountered hard material. The rescue teams plan to insert a 900-mm pipe through the rubble to create an escape passage for the workers.

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| Publication : The Hindu | Editions : New Delhi |
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First visuals emerge of workers inside tunnel

The authorities are planning to place an 800-mm pipe inside the 900-mm one to provide more strength.

In Delhi, National Disaster Management Authority member Lieutenant-General Syed Ata Hasnain (retd) said efforts were being made on five fronts to save the workers. He said that two teams of the NDRF were at the site to deal with any contingency.

He maintained that there was no scarcity of oxygen inside the tunnel. "The two-km section of the tunnel, with completed concrete work ensuring the safety of the workers, is the focus of the rescue efforts. In this secured portion of the tunnel, electricity and water supply are operational, and provisions, including food and medicines, are being delivered through a dedicated four-inch compressor pipeline," he said.

Five agencies – ONGC, SJVNL, RVNL, NHIDCL, and THDCL – have been assigned specific responsibilities, working collaboratively with occasional task adjustments for operational efficiency. A five-point action plan has been chalked out for the rescue, including vertical drilling, excavating two escape channels/tunnels on both sides of the tunnel, and digging a tunnel from the other end, the Barkot side.

Anurag Jain, Secretary, Road Transport and Highway Ministry, said that vertical drilling was the "second-best option" for the rescue operation.

Day trading guide

19840 » Nifty 50 Futures

| S1 | S2 | R1 | R2 | COMMENT |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| 19800 | 19740 | 19900 | 20000 | Go long only above 19900. Stop-loss can be placed at 19870 |

₹1518 » HDFC Bank

| S1 | S2 | R1 | R2 | COMMENT |
|------|------|------|------|---|
| 1510 | 1495 | 1520 | 1535 | Go long only above 1520. Keep a tight stop-loss at 1515 |

₹1439 » Infosys

| S1 | S2 | R1 | R2 | COMMENT |
|------|------|------|------|---|
| 1430 | 1415 | 1455 | 1485 | Wait for dips. Go long at 1435. Keep a stop-loss at 1420 |

₹436 » ITC

| S1 | S2 | R1 | R2 | COMMENT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 435 | 433 | 439 | 442 | Can go either way from here. Avoid trading this stock |

₹191 » ONGC

| S1 | S2 | R1 | R2 | COMMENT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 188 | 185 | 193 | 195 | Go short now and at 192. Stop-loss can be kept at 194 |

₹2378 » Reliance Ind.

| S1 | S2 | R1 | R2 | COMMENT |
|------|------|------|------|--|
| 2370 | 2350 | 2390 | 2410 | Go short only below 2370. Keep the stop-loss at 2380 |

₹561 » SBI

| S1 | S2 | R1 | R2 | COMMENT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 560 | 556 | 563 | 567 | Go short now and at 562. Stop-loss can be kept at 564 |

₹3510 » TCS

| S1 | S2 | R1 | R2 | COMMENT |
|------|------|------|------|--|
| 3500 | 3475 | 3530 | 3550 | Go short now and also at 3525. Keep the stop-loss at 3540 |

S1, S2: Support 1 & 2; R1, R2: Resistance 1 & 2.

‘Govt working on 5-6 rescue plans at Uttarakhand’

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Centre and State government are working on half a dozen action plans, including horizontal and vertical drilling to create a passage, to save labourers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.

On November 12, a collapse occurred at the under-construction tunnel from Silkyara to Barkot, which led to 41 labourers getting trapped in the under construction tunnel.

“The labourers are safe in the 2 km constructed section of the tunnel. There is electricity and water. Food and medicines are being delivered through the dedicated 4-inch compressor pipeline,” Road



The labourers are safe in the 2 km constructed section of the tunnel. Food and medicines are being delivered through the dedicated 4-inch compressor pipeline

ANURAG JAIN
Road Secretary

Secretary Anurag Jain said at a media briefing.

Jain explained that the government is working on 5-6 action plans, which includes horizontal drilling using an augur drill.

In the meantime, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) on



Sunday managed to lay another lifeline service by pushing a 150 mm diameter (6 inch) steel pipe through the debris by ROC machine.

The pipe has been successfully inserted in the entire length of around 57 meters. Some fruits items were also supplied to the

trapped labourers. Video connection was established with the stranded workforce.

Some debris was found inside the pipe and cleaning of the pipe using compressed air and water pressure was done at night. Further cleaning has been completed using compressed air.

ACTION PLANS

Two vertical drilling exercises are under way from the Barkot and Silkyara end by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and Rail Vikas Nigam (RVNL), respectively.

Another action plan is with RVNL creating a 170 metre tunnel for which the requisite equipment has reached Dehradun from Nashik and is now in transit. The equipment will

be set up by November 23.

Hydro power generator THDC India, as part of the third action plan, has started drifting work at the Barkot end to construct a 483 metre tunnel.

Two blasts were taken with the first resulting in a total 6.4 metre drift which was followed by wire mess laying. Further work has also started.

NHIDCL has resumed horizontal boring from the Silkyara end to rescue workers using an augur boring machine. Besides, hydro power generator SJVN will drill a 1.2 metre bore hole from the Silkyara end.

A drift tunnel is also being created by manual-semi mechanised method by a joint team of THDCL, Army, Coal India and NHIDCL.

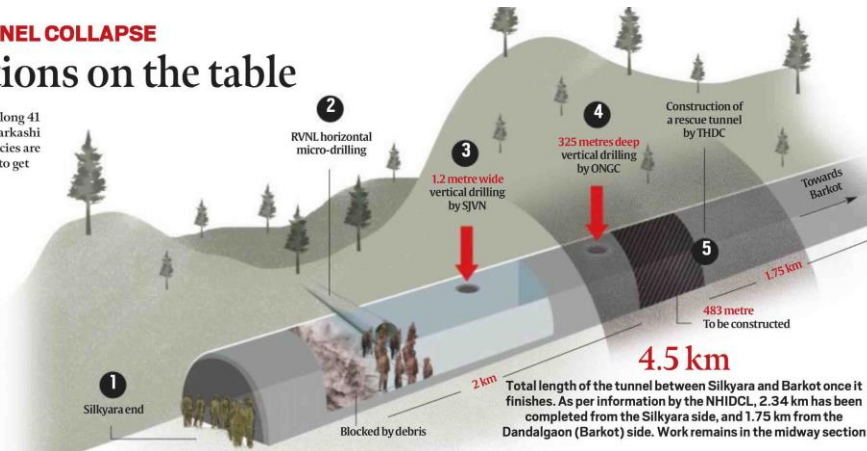
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|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Publication : The Indian Express | Editions : New Delhi |
| Date : 22 November 2023 | Page : 13 |

10 DAYS AFTER TUNNEL COLLAPSE 5 rescue options on the table

240 hours and counting — that's how long 41 men have been trapped inside the Uttarkashi tunnel. Despite setbacks, several agencies are working in tandem on different ways to get the workers out

1 The American auger machine has restarted drilling through the debris from the Silkyara side. This is still the quickest way to reach the workers. They are behind 55 m of debris, which has blocked the space between the 205- and 260-metre mark from the Silkyara side. Through this debris, rescuers pushed an endoscopy camera to the other side Tuesday

2 Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is making a 168 metre long and 1.2 metre wide horizontal escape passage from the side of the main tunnel. It will connect sideways to the tunnel at the 300-metre mark from the Silkyara side



3 Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) is digging a 1.2-metre-wide vertical hole from above the tunnel, about 90 metres deep. It will connect to the top of the tunnel at the 320-metre mark from the Silkyara side

4 As a contingency plan, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will create another vertical tunnel. This will be 325 metres deep, and will meet the workers near the opposite end of the trapped area. Both vertical holes will be filled back up after the operation is complete

5 The Tehri Hydro development Corporation (THDC) is digging through the still-incomplete part of the tunnel from the Barkot side. This would require 483 metres of digging using conventional methods, and is expected to take the longest. The tunnel was being dug from 2 ends — Silkyara and Barkot — and was supposed to meet midway

Total length of the tunnel between Silkyara and Barkot once it finishes. As per information by the NHIDCL, 2.34 km has been completed from the Silkyara side, and 1.75 km from the Dandlgaon (Barkot) side. Work remains in the midway section

Reporting: Avaneesh Mishra
Graphic: Mithun Chakraborty

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| Publication : The New Indian Express | Editions : Hyderabad |
| Date : 22 November 2023 | Page : 7 |



AP CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy lays the foundation stone, for rejuvenation of Pulicat lake, virtually from his camp office on Tuesday

Jagan disburses ₹161 cr to over 23,000 fishermen affected by ONGC project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

CHIEF Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy disbursed ₹161.86 crore financial assistance to fishermen who lost their livelihood due to ONGC's (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) project in Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema and Kakinada districts.

He released the fourth tranche of aid virtually from his Camp Office in Tadepalli on Tuesday and reiterated his commitment for the welfare of fishermen families. The programme also coincided with the World Fisheries Day.

As many as 23,458 affected fishermen received ₹69,000 each for the six-month period from January to June 2023. Of the total 23,458 beneficiaries, 16,408 are from Konaseema district and the remaining belong to Kakinada district.

Jagan was scheduled to release the amount during his tour to Sullurpeta Assembly constituency on Tuesday. However, the trip was cancelled due to inclement weather. "The pro-

gramme will be held either by the end of this month or in December," he said.

Pointing out that his government has so far extended ₹485 crore to the families of affected fishermen, Jagan said they have even paid the dues that were not cleared by the previous TDP regime.

Accusing the N Chandrababu Naidu-led government of neglecting the welfare of fishermen, he said the YSRC government paid ₹78 crore



outstanding amount that GSPC (Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation) had not cleared since 2012 and later recovered it from the company.

He explained that the government first released the compensation for fishermen in the case of ONGC, too, but later recovered it from the company. Further, he thanked the management for extending support to the fishermen.

He pointed out that the government responded quickly in extending financial help to boat owners who lost their boats in the fire mishap on Sunday night.

Trapped workers pop up on probe cam, rescue route, time still hazy

Deep in the darkness, visible

PIYUSH SRIVASTAVA

Lucknow: Rescuers sent a flexible endoscopic camera through a pipe in the Uttarkashi tunnel to see and speak to the 41 workers trapped for 10 days following a landslide-induced cave-in.

Live video feed beamed on a laptop screen inside a control room near the tunnel showed the workers milling around the camera as the rescuers told them to smile and assured them that they would be brought out safely soon. The workers can be seen, not heard, in video clips available on social media.

"If all of you are okay, then show yourselves to the camera and raise your hands and smile as we are going to reach you very soon. Don't panic," someone in front of the laptop screen inside the temporary control room and controlling the movement of the camera through remote control is heard telling the trapped workers. Some of the workers put their heads to the mouth of the newly laid 6-inch pipe for a close-up view to be beamed to the outside world.

As the voice from the control room instructs the workers to take the camera out of the pipe and show all the workers, one of the trapped labourers puts his hand into the pipe and brings out the device, giving a wider view of the tunnel.

In a 2.24-minute video uploaded on X by Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, two of the labourers are seen holding walkie-talkies. Local officials said they had sent chargers through the



Visual of a worker trapped inside the tunnel in Uttarkashi on Tuesday. (PTI picture)

pipes for the communication devices to be recharged.

Dhami wrote in Hindi: "The workers trapped inside the under-construction tunnel in Silkyara, Uttarkashi, were reached for the first time with an endoscopic camera and asked them about their well-being. All the worker-brothers are absolutely safe."

The starting time of the video recording seen on the screen is 03:45:46, 21-11-2023. The person monitoring the camera and watching the labourers on the laptop asks them to clean the screen of the camera and the mouth of the pipe. One labourer does so.

"We are pulling back the

camera," the voice from the control room says in the end.

In another video of 5.39 minutes, which was shared by the rescuers with the media, the labourers are seen receiving liquid food in plastic bottles. Officials of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited said khichri and fruit juice were sent to the labourers in the bottles through the new pipe, which was pushed inside through the upper layer of the debris.

The pipe is 10ft above the area through which steel pipes of 900mm diameter are being drilled through the debris one after the other to create a passage for the trapped labourers

to crawl out. However, only 24 metres of the 57-metre stretch of debris have been cleared so far as work is stuck for over three days after a heavy-duty machine airlifted from Delhi developed a snag on Friday night.

A state government media release said on Tuesday that the snag had been repaired and rescuers would resume work soon.

However, nobody is in a position to say when this operation will conclude.

"Forty-one men are coming home, but when that we don't know. They are coming out some day between Diwali and Christmas," Arnold Dix, an Australian engineer who

arrived in Uttarkashi on Monday to help the rescue teams, told reporters near the mouth of the tunnel on Tuesday.

Dix suggested they harboured no immediate hope of bringing the labourers out as it could take even a month. "It is a good morning today.... But I don't know when these men would be out. My plan is to sing Christmas carol (back home after the rescue is over)," he said.

Dix said horizontal drilling was the "best and the fastest way but it has its own technical difficulties".

"I am going to see it again today. But at the same time, we are working on multiple options," he added.

At present, rescuers are trying to reach the labourers from four directions. According to the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority, a stretch of road was built by the Border Roads Organisation on the mountain for Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd to drill a vertical hole into the tunnel. The BRO is laying another road of 6km from the Barkot side for the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to make a perpendicular passage from above to the spot where the labourers are trapped.

A third passage, also perpendicular, is being planned from the Silkyara side for which a platform has been built by the public works department. A fourth heavy-duty drill machine has been brought from Nasik — after three from Delhi, Indore and Gujarat — and is being ferried to the spot from Dehradun.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 ►

In darkness, visible

► FROM PAGE 1

THDC India Ltd has deployed machinery to make the 483m perpendicular escape route from the Barkot side. Two blasts were carried out on the mountain to remove some rocks before the work starts.

Speaking to **The Telegraph** over phone, district disaster management officer of Uttarkashi Devendra Patwal said: "The rescuers have many plans and are working on four of them, including vertical drilling through the mountain

to reach the stranded labourers. This is being done after the 900mm-diameter pipes that were being drilled horizontally through the debris met a hurdle."

However, sources said on Tuesday late afternoon that drilling for none of the three new plans had started.

"We will start (vertical drilling) once the sites are prepared because the alignment has to be very accurate. You might have seen me climbing the mountain to check the rocks. It is perfect but it has to be done very accurately," Dix said.

Chief minister Dhami wrote on X: "Respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji again took information on phone about the relief and rescue works for the workers trapped in an under-construction tunnel in Silkaya, Uttarkashi. I informed the Hon'ble Prime Minister about the successful insertion of a pipe of six inches through the rubble to send food and other items to the workers."

"The Prime Minister has said saving the lives of the labourers is our highest priority," Dhami added.

Himachal govt launches Rs 680 cr startup scheme to generate employment under green initiatives

SHIMLA, NOV 21 /--/ Unemployed Himachali youth above the age of 23 years will be given a 50 per cent subsidy on loans to purchase e-taxis and e-buses with no collateral guarantee under a state government scheme to generate employment and promote green initiatives. In case the cost of the e-taxi is Rs 20-lakh, a subsidy of Rs 10 lakh will be provided, and these e-taxis would be attached to various government departments. A monthly income of about Rs 40 thousand will be ensured, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Monday. Launching the e-taxi scheme under the first phase of Rs 680 crore Rajiv Gandhi Self-Employment Start-up Yojna and a website of the Transport Department to facilitate online registration, he said the scheme for the youth was one of the key promises made in the Pratigya Patra of the Congress Party.

In a statement issued here, he said that 500 permits would be issued in the first phase, and the number of permits will be increased as per the demand in the near future.

The government is committed to providing employment to the youth and making Himachal a green state by 2026, and a fifty per cent subsidy will be given to unemployed youth for the purchase of e-taxis and e-buses. Besides, no collateral guarantee will be required for raising loans from the banks, he said while talking to the media persons.

Youth keen on purchasing e-taxis or buses would be required to apply for e-taxi in the portal started by the government within a month, and eligible youth above the age of 23 years will be linked to the startup scheme and e-taxi permits would be issued, Sukhu said while talking to the media persons. Once the e-taxi permit is issued, it would be registered with the Labour Department, which would facilitate the loan process without collateral guarantee after depositing the margin money and release of the subsidy directly through the banks for the purchase of taxi, he added. To facilitate the smooth running of e-vehicles, charging points would be set up at all the petrol

pumps of Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum, and Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) and State Electricity Board have also been asked to provide e-charging stations on six identified corridors, Sukhu said. The government is planning to replace the entire fleet of about 3,000 buses of HRTC with e-buses, and 350 e-buses will be purchased shortly and 1,500 e-buses in three years to encourage e-buses in the private sector. The government has issued 24 e-buses permits out of a total of 107 permits and a subsidy of Rs 50 lakh would be provided for an e-bus costing Rs 1 crore, Sukhu said.

Under the second phase of this scheme, the youth would be encouraged to set up solar energy projects. The draft of this scheme was being finalised and soon this scheme will also be rolled out, he added. The youth would be provided a subsidy for agriculture-related work under the third phase of the scheme. A scheme was also being prepared to provide a 90 per cent subsidy to youth for pisciculture, the statement said. (PTI)

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| Publication : Hindustan Times | Editions : New Delhi |
| Date :22 November 2023 | Page : 14 |

GAIL (India) Limited wins SAP ACE Award 2023



GAIL (India) Ltd has won SAP ACE Award - 2023 for the Best Financial Transformation for implementation of Vendor Invoice Management Systems.

The award was received by RK Jain, Director (Finance) and Sashi Menon, Executive Director (F&A) and officials involved in the implementation of the system.



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| Publication : Millennium Post | Editions : New Delhi |
| Date :22 November 2023 | Page : 6 |

PUNJAB SIGNS MOU WITH GAIL FOR COMPRESSED BIOGAS PROJECTS

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA), under New and Renewable Energy Sources Minister Aman Arora, signed an MoU with GAIL (India) Limited to establish 10 Compressed Biogas Projects and other renewable energy initiatives in Punjab. Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann commended the move to address stubble burning. Aman Arora highlighted the potential to manage 5 lakh tons of paddy straw annually for clean energy generation. The projects aim to prevent stubble burning, create rural employment, and align with Punjab's business-friendly policies.

IOC ends Railways' dominance with shootout victory to claim the women's inter-department title

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) came back from a two-goal deficit twice to overcome defending champion and favourite Railways Sports Promotion Board in the shootout and win the third Hockey India senior women's inter-department championship at the Shivaji Stadium here on Tuesday.

For long the unchallenged leader in domestic women's hockey, Railways was stunned by the fight-back from a team that was formed only last year and was participating in its first ever competition.

With both sides boasting of the cream of Indian women's hockey including a majority of national team players, it was heartening to see a sizeable crowd



Winning smiles: The triumphant IOC team with coach Deepak Thakur. HOCKEY INDIA

cheering the teams, something that has become a rarity in Delhi hockey.

Railways had the edge in experience and started strongly, attacking early and not allowing IOC any space with a tight defence.

Goalkeeper Rajni Etimarpur stood firm despite a couple of early forays by

IOC and not surprisingly, it was Vandana Katariya – the only Indian woman with more than 300 international caps – who put the holder ahead in the 12th minute.

Mariana Kujur got the deflection right three minutes later to go 2-0 up as the Railways girls made

their intent clear.

They combined well, created gaps to constantly push ahead and tested IOC even as Deep Grace Ekka marshalled the defence brilliantly. IOC earned nine penalty corners but was thwarted repeatedly, Shilpi Dabas even making a diving goalline save towards the end.

The second half saw IOC playing more aggressively with Sharmila Devi, Rajwinder Kaur and Jyoti constantly creating chances but unable to find a way past Rajni. But every time it managed to reduce the gap, Railways found a way to hit back on the counter almost immediately.

Leading 4-2 with five minutes remaining, it looked like Railways would complete its hat-trick of titles but erred in going for the kill upfront, leaving the de-

fence open and Rajwinder Kaur made no mistake in getting the third goal before earning a penalty corner one minute from time that Jyoti made count to take the game into penalties.

Deepika, Baljeet Kaur and Jyoti were successful in the shootout for IOC while the Railways senior pros were denied by Bichu Devi with only Sangita and Preeti Dubey managing to find the net.

SAI finishes third

In the play-off for the third place, Sports Authority of India (SAI) beat Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB) 3-1.

The results: Final: IOC 4 (Jyoti 2, Rajwinder Kaur, Sharmila Devi) bt RSPB 4 (Vandana Katariya 2, Mariana Kujur, Sangita Kumari) in shootout.

Third place: SAI 3 (Lalrindiki 2, Kavita) bt SSB 1 (Rajni Bala).



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| Publication : Business Standard | Editions : New Delhi |
| Date :22 November 2023 | Page : 1, 4 |

ECONOMY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS P4
**OPEC+ DREAMS FOR INDIA'S MKT
CLASH WITH CLEAN ENERGY GOALS**



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| Publication : Business Standard | Editions : New Delhi |
| Date : 22 November 2023 | Page : 1, 4 |

Opec+ ambitions for India oil market clash with clean energy goals

5 DINAKAR
New Delhi, 21 November

The world's top petroleum suppliers say that India's thirst for oil will not be satiated any time soon, even as the country walks a tightrope between promoting clean fuel and consuming oil. In the process, India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is getting boxed in between its ambitions to be one of the world's biggest consumers of commodities which fuels growth and reconciling to its status as one of the world's most polluted nations.

The question that now faces India is how will a humongous need for oil square up against an equally aggressive energy transition programme, or match up to an Atmanirbharata approach to growth — an impossible task when it comes to producing oil & gas locally.

India's dependence on imported oil has only grown in the past decade to over 85 per cent of its needs; nearly half of its gas and over 60 per cent of LPG, India's cooking fuel, is imported. And it is precisely this dependence that the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), Russia, and the US seek to exploit — get New Delhi to replace China as the next big destination for oil and gas. Import dependence climbs to 90 per cent in a decade while LNG imports may surge to 85 per cent of India's needs if the country trebles its gas use by 2030, analysts said.

It's a quid pro quo deal because India cannot maintain a 7 per cent annual growth rate — while adding trillions of dollars to its \$3.75 trillion GDP — without foreign petroleum.

"India will continue to register growth until the medium term at the very least and may even surpass China by 2027 as the main source of

growth in the overall global oil market," said Sourav Mitra, practice leader & director-consulting, ratings agency Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics. "Oil demand in India is expected to grow at the fastest pace among the large economies, and one can expect India to become a key market for Opec as projected even with EV competition," he added. Russia accounts for around 40 per cent of India's crude supplies with most of the rest coming from West Asia.

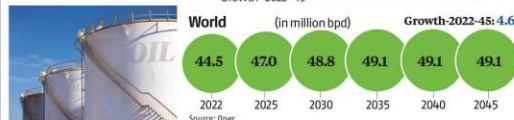
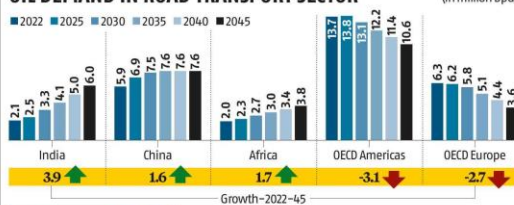
India can never completely substitute China as the demand centre for oil and the latter in 2030 will still be the largest oil market at 19 million barrels per day (bpd), said Fatih Birol, chief of the International Energy Agency, at an event. Despite accounting for 28 per cent of the world's growth in oil demand in the coming years, amid declining or stagnating oil use in China, India's overall oil use will be less than half of China's consumption by 2030.

In terms of numbers, the world's third biggest energy consumer is now consuming 5.5 million bpd, a \$250-billion crude market, growing at 3-4 per cent. Imports of all petroleum products in 2022-23 was \$185 billion. The IEA (International Energy Agency) has pegged India's oil use at 8.4 million bpd by 2040; its latest energy transition report expects global oil use to maximise before 2030, but India's peak comes much later.

Demand for oil in India is not expected to peak at least for the next two decades unless we see a rapid transition to electrification across sectors, Mitra said. The need for oil has intensified because of the government's push to increase the share of energy-intensive manufacturing in the country's GDP to over 20 per cent from 14 per cent. "As India modernises, its rate of energy demand growth is three times the global average," the IEA said.

India state refiners expect demand for fuels rising to 6.5 million bpd through 2038, overtaking Chinese demand growth in 2027, and not peaking until 2035-40. Demand for petroleum products is expected to grow by 77 per cent in 2023, the fastest pace in the world, Opec said, forecasting the country's oil consumption to double to as much as 11 million bpd by 2045. Opec reckons that India will add 4 million bpd of road transportation demand based on the assumption that its vehicle fleet will increase nearly fivefold to 240 million, led by internal combustion engines.

OIL DEMAND IN ROAD TRANSPORT SECTOR



rising to 6.5 million bpd through 2038, overtaking Chinese demand growth in 2027, and not peaking until 2035-40. Demand for petroleum products is expected to grow by 77 per cent in 2023, the fastest pace in the world, Opec said, forecasting the country's oil consumption to double to as much as 11 million bpd by 2045. Opec reckons that India will add 4 million bpd of road transportation demand based on the assumption that its vehicle fleet will increase nearly fivefold to 240 million, led by internal combustion engines.

Transport represents around 42 per cent of the country's fuel demand, and the bulk of it is diesel. Reliance on diesel, which comprises nearly 40 per cent of India's oil mix and majority used in commercial transport, is tough to eliminate because there are few alternatives available to displace the fuel used in heavy trucks. Use of diesel rose by 12 per cent in 2022-23 from a year earlier to 1.76 million bpd.

However, the fly in Opec's wheel is the Modi government's resolve to rid the country of energy

imports. Oil minister Hardeep Puri has said that alternative fuel stations will be established at 22,000 state-run retail outlets by May 2024. New Delhi expects electric two-wheeler (E2W) vehicles to account for 70 per cent-80 per cent of new two-wheeler vehicle sales by 2030, and electric four-wheelers to comprise 30 per cent of such sales by the same year — targets which are tough to meet: In 2022, EVs accounted for 29 per cent of new vehicle sales in China, with Europe following at 21 per cent. India averaged 1.5 per cent.

India's EV progress has slowed because of the shoddy execution of FAME II — a \$10,000 crore subsidy scheme. Top E2W makers were charged with fraud, the subsidy level slashed by 40 per cent-60 per cent in June, and incentives withheld. Volumes remain impacted by material price hikes taken by manufacturers to help offset the impact of the June reduction of the FAME subsidy, said ratings agency ICRA, a Moody's affiliate.

India imported 4.9 million bpd of crude in the January-October period; Russia accounted for 39 per cent and the top four Gulf nations — Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait — made up 44 per cent, market intelligence agency Kpler data show. Gross petroleum imports \$184.4 billion in 2022-23, on the back of a 10.6 per cent growth in oil demand to 5.2 million bpd from a year earlier.

For now, China is still ahead. Consumption surged to more than 15 million bpd this year from 4.1 million bpd in 1998, three that of India. China is also expected to account for half of the 2 million bpd in global demand growth this year, according to UK-market intelligence provider Energy Intelligence estimates. But as the country shifts to a more consumer-oriented economy, its pace of oil consumption is set to decline and the composition of demand to change.



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| Publication : Business Standard | Editions : Mumbai |
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ECONOMY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS P6

G20 virtual summit to discuss global challenges

Development will be the core agenda at the virtual G20 leaders summit to be held on Wednesday, along with discussions on enhanced cooperation on critical global challenges, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said in a curtain-raiser press conference on Tuesday. "Since the unanimous adoption of the New Delhi Leaders Declaration, the world has actually witnessed a succession of events and several new challenges have emerged," Kant told reporters.

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Development, global challenges on G20 meet agenda

Putin to participate in virtual summit

RUCHIKA CHITRAVANSHI
New Delhi, 21 November

Development will be the core agenda at the virtual G20 leaders' summit to be held on Wednesday, along with discussions on enhanced cooperation on critical global challenges, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Tuesday.

"Since the unanimous adoption of the New Delhi Leaders Declaration, the world has actually witnessed a succession of events and several new challenges have emerged," Kant told reporters.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the virtual summit, the Kremlin said on Tuesday. He did not attend the G20 Summit in person in

New Delhi in September.

Kant said the virtual summit would provide an opportunity not only to discuss the implementation of the leaders' declaration but also address gaps in global governance, reaffirm the existing commitment towards the sustainable development goals, and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives. India is expecting "excellent" participation at the virtual summit with almost all the G20 world leaders in attendance.

"The leaders will build on the momentum and get further guidance, so that when India hands over the presidency, it will be a strong momentum to the agenda, which has been hugely influenced by the perspective of the developing countries," said Ajay Seth, secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.

On whether the leaders would discuss the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said that to the extent that development priorities and economic growth get impacted by happenings elsewhere in the world, they tend to come up for discussions. He, however, also said: "I don't think it would be correct for us to really prejudge what issues would be raised by the leaders at the virtual summit tomorrow."

Talking about the substantive outcomes and areas of progress, Kant said that the G20 consensus on tripling renewable energy capacity globally by 2030 and doubling the global rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030 are expected to be the key outcomes of COP28.

"What we decided on green development facts will drive the outcomes of COP28," Kant said.



“WHAT WE DECIDED ON GREEN DEVELOPMENT FACTS WILL DRIVE THE OUTCOMES OF COP28”

AMITABH KANT
G20 Sherpa

“THE LEADERS WILL BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM AND GET FURTHER GUIDANCE, SO THAT WHEN INDIA HANDS OVER THE PRESIDENCY IT WILL BE A STRONG MOMENTUM TO THE AGENDA”

AJAY SETH
Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs

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| Publication : Echo of India | Editions : Kolkata |
| Date :22 November 2023 | Page : 11 |

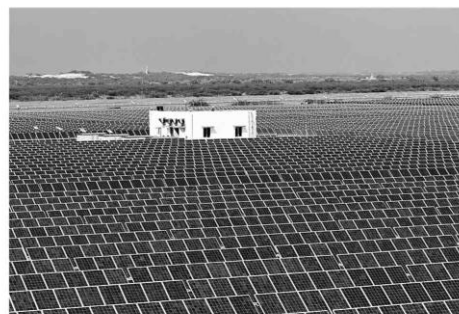
TPREL crosses 1.4 GW capacity of Group Captive projects

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, NOV 21/--/ Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), a subsidiary of The Tata Power Company Limited, one of the large renewable energy players in India has crossed the 1.4 GW capacity of group captive projects in last seven months. This achievement is the result of signing of Power Delivery Agreements (PDA) with various industries across segments, sources informed.

Some of the prominent group captive projects that TPREL has signed in the last six months include - collaborations with Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Mukand Limited (a Bajaj Group company), Supreme Petrochem Limited, Xpro India Limited, Neosym Industry Limited, Chalet Hotels Limited, Sanyo Special Steel Manufacturing

India Pvt. Ltd, ANAND Group, Endurance Technologies Limited, to name a few. TPREL is also set to construct a 41MW captive solar plant for Tata Power's upcoming 4.3GW Solar cell



& module manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu, sources said.

Deepesh Nanda, CEO & MD, TPREL said, "Crossing the 1.4 GW mark is not just a

milestone for us but a testament to our continuous dedication to sustainability and our contribution towards the country's green energy ambition. We take pride in our role as a catalyst

for positive change, delivering customized clean energy solutions that aligns with the unique needs of each industry. This achievement is not just a

number; it represents our shared journey towards a greener, more sustainable future."

With these group captive projects, TPREL's overall renewables capacity as on Oct'23 has reached 7,961 MW, which comprises 3,755 MW of projects in different phases of development and with an operating capacity of 4,206 MW, which includes 3,200 MW in solar projects and 1,006 MW in wind projects. TPREL also has a huge pipeline of renewable projects under finalisation which will further add to its capacity in the coming months. This reinforces TPREL's position as a key player in the renewable energy sector, confirming its commitment to accelerating the energy transition to a more sustainable and environment friendly future, sources also said.



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| Publication : Financial Express | Editions : New Delhi |
| Date :22 November 2023 | Page : 1, 2 |

GROWTH POSITIVE OUTLIER, BUT HIGH INFLATION A RISK



INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH in FY24 would be a positive outlier in the world, the finance ministry said on Tuesday, but added among the downside risks to growth is high inflation, reports **Prasanta Sahu**. ■ PAGE 2

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India's growth an outlier, inflation a concern: FinMin

PRASANTA SAHU
New Delhi, November 21

INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH in the current financial year would be a positive outlier in the world, the finance ministry said on Tuesday, but added that among the downside risks to growth is high inflation.

However, the decline in international crude oil prices and continued moderation in core inflation are likely

to control inflationary pressures going forward, the ministry said, in the monthly economic report for October. "... Reserve Bank of India has also indicated that any further tightening of monetary policy will likely occur when transmission is closer to completion and if the situation warrants," the ministry said. Inflationary risks have kept both the government and the RBI on high alert, it added.

It said a fuller transmission of the monetary policy may also temper domestic demand.

The Indian basket of crude oil prices averaged \$83.93/bbl so far in November compared with \$90.08 in October and \$93.54 in September.

Retail inflation moderated to a

four-month low of 4.9% in October. The fall in inflation was mainly due to the decline in core (non-food, non-fuel) inflation, while food inflation in October remained the same as in September. Core inflation fell to 4.3% in October from 4.5% in September.

The RBI, which has raised its key policy interest rate by 250 bps since April 2022 to tame prices, aims to rein inflation at around 4%.

The Centre is on track to achieve the budgeted deficit target of 5.9% for the current fiscal, the ministry said. It said financial flows in the external sector also need constant monitoring as they impact the value of the rupee and the balance of payments.

The rapid reversal of rate hike expectations in the US and the slide in the US 10-year Treasury yield, coupled with the decline in oil prices, is good news for emerging markets in general, India included. However, the 'priced to perfection' US stocks continue to be a source of potential risk for global stocks, it added. "On balance, however, India's growth experience in FY24 will continue to be a positive outlier as compared to other major economies," the ministry said.

The ministry said a fuller transmission of the monetary policy may also temper domestic demand

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TN eyeing ₹50k-cr EV investments

TAMIL NADU AIMS to attract ₹50,000 crore investments in the electric vehicle (EV) supply chain by 2025, creating around 150,000 jobs in the sector. The investments will help the state in achieving its sustainable development goals, said TRB Rajaa, state industries minister.

Leading EV players in Tamil Nadu include Ola, TVS Motor, Ather, Ampere Vehicles (Greaves Electric), BYD India, Stellantis (PCA Automobiles), and E-Royce Motors.

“Tamil Nadu is among the few states with a future-ready EV policy,” Rajaa said at the India EV Conclave in Chennai

— FE BUREAU

Reliance to invest ₹20k cr more in Bengal in 3 years



Reliance Industries chairperson Mukesh Ambani with West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee during the inaugural session of the 7th Bengal Global Business Summit, in Kolkata on Tuesday

PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Kolkata, November 21

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES CHAIRMAN and MD Mukesh Ambani on Tuesday announced an additional ₹20,000-crore investment for West Bengal over the next three years.

The fresh investment will be “for enhancing digital life solutions, augmenting Reliance Retail footprint and on bio-energy” he said at the Bengal Global Business Summit here.

Reliance Industries has invested close to ₹45,000 crore in the last few years in the state, Ambani said, asserting that “Reliance will leave no stone unturned to accelerate Bengal’s growth.” The objective is to enhance digital life solutions aimed at augmenting livelihoods, and providing quality education, healthcare and agricultural solutions at scale, he said.

At the summit, ITC said it will expand its hospitality assets in West Bengal to nine from the existing five hotels. Chairman and MD Sanjiv Puri said the company will also set up its 18th manufacturing unit in the state in the near future.

Speaking at the opening of the summit, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee announced a slew of new policies, including plans to double exports, modernise logistics and promote renewable energy manufacturing. Banerjee also announced a policy to promote bio-fuels and a new sub-sea cable landing station at

the sea-resort of Digha to improve internet connectivity. She told a star-studded gathering of business leaders including Ambani, energy baron Sanjeev Goenka and Wipro’s Rishad Premji, that four new industrial corridors would be set up: Dankuni-Kalyani, Tajpur port-Raghunathpur, Dankuni-Jhargram and Durgapur to Cooch Behar.

Premji said West Bengal provides “the right policy environment for

expansion of IT industries”. RPG’s Goenka told the gathering that his firm has invested ₹25,000 crore in the state over the last few years as “decision making has been quick and efficient” and that the era of “go slows, strikes and unrest are of the past...the CM wants business”.

Meanwhile, Banerjee announced that former India cricket skipper Sourav Ganguly would be a brand ambassador for the state.

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| Date :22 November 2023 | Page : 2 |

G20 Virtual Summit: India to push for early action on climate finance

PRASANTA SAHU
New Delhi, November 21

THE VIRTUAL G20 Leaders' Summit on Wednesday will review the progress on the decisions taken by the leaders in September even as India pushes for early implementation of priorities including climate finance and energy transitions.

The virtual summit will be the culmination of the Indian Presidency in 2023 during which G20 leaders met physically in New Delhi on September 9-10 and



agreed upon 205 outcomes. "The virtual summit will provide an opportunity not only to discuss the implementation of the Leaders' Declaration but also for leaders to share views and enhance cooperation on critical

challenges that we confront and address gaps in global governance, reaffirm our existing commitments towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives," India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said.

Over the past two months, substantive progress on key priorities/outcomes of G20 has been achieved.

G20 consensus on tripling renewable energy capacity glob-

The virtual summit will provide an opportunity not only to discuss the implementation of the Leaders' Declaration but also for leaders to share views and enhance cooperation on critical challenges that we confront

AMITABH KANT, INDIA'S G20 SHERPA



ally by 2030 and doubling the global rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030, which was committed to by G20 Leaders in

Delhi for the first time, are the key expected outcomes of COP 28 to be held from November 30 to December 12 in Dubai. COP 28 is

referred to the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

The announcements of USD 5.8-5.9 trillion and USD 4 trillion per year for National Determined Contributions (NDCs) implementation and clean energy technologies for developing countries was the critical outcome of our Presidency and we will continue to work with the Brazilian Presidency in mobilising these resources for the global south.

On financing of multilateral development banks (MDBs), the

US administration has asked US Congress for funding to unlock \$25 billion in IBRD and Germany has pledged Euro 35 million of hybrid capital that will enable the World Bank to have additional IBRD lending of \$2.5 billion over next 10 years.

The 2023 G20 New Delhi Update was finalised on November 13. It is a comprehensive report on the progress made by G20 with respect to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the contribution of the Indian Presidency to the process.

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| Publication : Financial Express | Editions : Bangalore |
| Date :22 November 2023 | Page : 3 |

US oil supplier RM Parks ties up with Shell Petroleum, enters Sri Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Colombo, November 21

US FUEL RETAILER RM Parks in collaboration with Shell Petroleum has entered Sri Lanka, becoming the fourth brand to operate oil stations in the cash-strapped island nation.

The Board of Investment said that RM Parks Inc, a California-based US fuel distribution company, signed an agreement for an investment of \$100 mn.

“The company will serve the Sri Lankan petroleum sector in collaboration with Shell Plc,” said an official statement. They will be

the fourth retailer in the local liberalisation of the fuel sector after the state entity CPC, the Indian Oil Corporation’s local operation LIOC and Sinopec of China.

RM Parks Inc is a leading fuel distributor in California and has more than 50 years in the petrochemicals distribution industry.

Sri Lanka faced fuel shortages due to forex crisis when the island last year was plunged into its worst-ever economic crisis since 1948. An Indian credit line provided the island nation’s fuel requirements when the country was stuck in mile-long queues for refuelling.