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Monitor eco restoration plan near IOCL refinery: NGT to committee

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The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the joint committee, comprising Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) and the District Magistrate, to monitor and execute remedial action plan for the restoration of environment and public health in villages adjoining to the IOCL refinery.

Satpal Singh, sarpanch, Singhpura-Sithna gram panchayat, had filed a complaint with the NGT in 2018, alleging that the IOCL refinery caused air and water pollution around Bohli, Dadlana and Sithana villages of the district, leading to the outbreak of diseases.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel had



Asks it to furnish progress report to Chief Secy, CPCB chairman

ordered an inquiry into the matter by a joint committee. The NGT directed the committee to make a restoration plan for environment and public health on July 25 last year.

Based on the committee's reports, the NGT

ordered the refinery to deposit interim environment compensation of Rs 17.31 crore, which the latter did in 2019.

It also told the refinery to pay Rs 25 crore to the CPCB so that Rs 17.31 crore given earlier along with the amount deposited now can be spent on ecological restoration.

The NGT, in its order on March 22, directed the committee to monitor further remedial action and that the action plan may be implemented as per the schedule.

It said the HSPCB would be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance and directed the committee to furnish the progress report to the Chief Secretary and the CPCB chairman.

Besides, a monthly progress report should be posted on the website of the District Magistrate.

Biggest crude importer via Suez Canal, India may face larger trade hit from logjam	Indian Express	15	Bureau	Neutral
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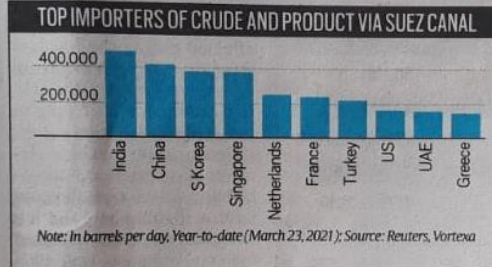
ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

AS THE prospect of the Suez Canal blockage turning into the longest-ever accidental closure of this vital trade passage looms large, the resultant impact on crude and tanker rates could progressively show up in the form of higher crude prices. This could eventually trickle down in retail price terms.

India — the biggest importer via Suez

India is the top importer of crude and products via the Suez Canal, higher than China, South Korea or Singapore, according to data from Vortexa. And more than two-thirds of India's crude comes from the Gulf region.

In an analysis of the blockade, Vortexa noted Thursday: "If the issue is not solved today it will start to have implications on the bigger trade flow and shipping sectors. If



it is not solved by the coming spring tide (27/28 March) it will begin to affect refining operations on a broader scale". For India though, the main hit could be seen on the import and export of ethane with the US, and the imports of crude from Latin America, the uptake of which was recently increased.

India imports around 500,000 barrels per day of crude products via the Suez Canal, followed by China, which imports just above

400,000 barrels per day, and South Korea and Singapore, which import a little less than 400,000 barrels per day from the Suez Canal, according to Vortexa. Reportedly, at its peak in December 2020, India imported nearly 5 million barrels of crude oil per day. Among exporters of crude products via the Suez Canal, India is sixth in the pecking order behind Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Libya and Algeria at a little less than 200,000 barrels per day.



The 440-m container ship Ever Given. AP file

Longer the hold-up, bigger the impact

The biggest impact on the oil trade and crude prices will be if the freeing of the container ship 'Ever Given' takes weeks, as is now being predicted. The longer the closure, the more disruptive the impact is likely to be. The 440-meters long, 59 meters wide ship is badly stuck, with its bow crammed into the eastern bank of the canal and its stern on the opposite bank.