

# RIL, HDFC among 57 Indian cos on Forbes list

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
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As many as 57 Indian companies have found place in a list of the world's 2,000 largest public companies, compiled by Forbes magazine, with housing finance major HDFC Ltd finding place among the top ten consumer finance firms globally.

The overall list has been topped by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) for the 7th year in a row, while Reliance Industries is the top-ranked Indian company (71st rank globally), as per the leading business magazine.

Within the oil and gas sector, Reliance Industries is

ranked 11th globally, while Royal Dutch Shell has come on the top.

For the consumer finance sector, American Express has topped the chart while HDFC Ltd is ranked 7th.

On the overall Global 2,000 list, HDFC is ranked 332nd.

Out of the 61 countries represented on the list, the US accounts for the largest number of 575 companies, followed by China and Hong Kong (309) and Japan (223).

In the overall top-ten, ICBC is followed by JPMorgan, China Construction Bank, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of America, Apple, Ping An Insurance Group, Bank of China, Royal Dutch Shell and Wells Fargo.

From India, Reliance Industries is the only one in the overall top-200 list and is followed by HDFC Bank at 209th, ONGC at 220th, Indian Oil at 288th and HDFC Ltd at 332nd place.

While TCS, ICICI Bank, L&T, SBI and NTPC also figure among the top-500 companies, other Indian companies in the overall 'Global 2,000' list include Tata Steel, Coal India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharat Petroleum, Infosys, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Wipro, JSW Steel, Power Grid, Hindalco, HCL Tech, M&M, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv, GAIL, PNB, Grasim, Bank of Baroda, Power Finance and Canara Bank.

# Middle East attack jolts oil-import dependent Asia

**SEOUL:** The blasts detonated far from the bustling megacities of Asia, but the attack this week on two tankers in the strategic Strait of Hormuz hits at the heart of the region's oil import-dependent economies.

While the violence only directly jolted two countries in the region one of the targeted ships was operated by a Tokyo-based company, a nearby South Korean-operated vessel helped rescue sailors it will unnerve major economies throughout Asia.

Officials, analysts and media commentators on Friday hammered home the importance of the Strait of Hormuz for Asia, calling it a crucial lifeline, and there was deep interest in more details about the still-sketchy attack and what the United States and Iran would do in the aftermath.

In the end, whether Asia shrugs it off, as some analysts predict, or its economies shudder as a result, the attack highlights the widespread worries over an extreme reliance on a single strip of water for the oil that fuels much of the region's shared progress.



Here is a look at how Asia is handling rising tensions in a faraway but economically crucial area, compiled by AP reporters from around the world.

The oil, of course.

Japan, South Korea and China don't have enough of it; the Middle East does, and much of it flows through the narrow Strait of Hormuz. This could make Asia vulnerable to supply disruptions from US-Iran tensions or violence in the strait.

The attack comes months after Iran threatened to shut down the strait to retaliate against US economic sanctions, which tightened in April when the Trump administration decided to end sanctions exemptions for the five biggest importers of Iranian oil, which included China and US

allies South Korea and Japan. Japan is the world's fourth-largest consumer of oil after the United States, China and India and relies on the Middle East for 80 per cent of its crude oil supply.

The 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster led to a dramatic reduction in Japanese nuclear power generation and increased imports of natural gas, crude oil, fuel oil and coal.

In an effort to comply with Washington, Japan says it no longer imports oil from Iran. Officials also say Japanese oil companies are abiding by the embargo because they don't want to be sanctioned.

But Japan still gets oil from other Middle East nations using the Strait of Hormuz for transport.

AGENCIES

# GROWING GULF

More than oil prices, the real concern in the Middle East is when Iran will walk away from its own nuclear commitments



Fire and smoke billowing from Norwegian-owned Front Altair tanker said to have been attacked in the waters of the Gulf of Oman

:: Indrani Bagchi

**W**ell, Iran did do it," US President Donald Trump told Fox News. "And you know they did it because you saw the boat."

After a Japanese and a Norwegian tanker were attacked in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday, the spectre of a world war, an oil shock or, at the very least, yet another Middle East conflict between the US and Iran has kept governments, oil markets and insurance companies on the edge. Coming on the heels of US sanctions on Iran, Saudi Arabia-Houthi misadventures in Yemen, Saudi-Qatar split and the unending war in Syria, many believe the tanker blow-up has the potential of being a Franz Ferdinand-Gavrilo Princip moment.

The US is trying to establish – with grainy videos – that Iran, in an act of deliberate sabotage, took limpet mines and stuck them to the sides of two tankers, which frankly, isn't as simple as it looks.

Iran has rubbished the US claim. Meanwhile, to complicate matters, the owner of the Japanese tanker that was hit believes his vessel was attacked by things other than mines or torpedoes. Media reports quoted Yutaka Katada, president of the Kokuka Sangyo shipping firm that owns one of the targeted tankers, telling reporters Friday: "The crew are saying it was hit with a flying object. They say something came flying toward them, then there was an explosion, then there was a hole in the

vessel. Then some crew witnessed a second shot."

Oil prices predictably spiked, as markets turned jittery on fears of a Middle East conflagration that would actually be far worse than the US-China trade war. Iran is the obvious suspect here – in May, several vessels were attacked off Fujairah, Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline was hit and a Katyusha rocket landed in the Green Zone in Baghdad, all of which were apparently warning shots by Iran against the "maximum pressure" by the US.

**India and Japan now have an opportunity together to play a larger role in averting what could become a global disaster**

Thursday's attack came when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was in Tehran, hoping to bring the Iranian leadership around to restart nuclear negotiations with the US. Iranian media showed Abe meeting Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei with an envelope in his hand. Khamenei tweeted, "We have no doubt in @abeshinzo's goodwill and seriousness; but regarding what you mentioned from U.S. president, I don't consider Trump as a person deserving to exchange messages with; I have no response for him & will not answer him." It has been interpreted as a snub to a letter by Trump to restart talks with Iran.

"They've been told in very strong terms we want to get them back to the table," Trump said. He has now said it a couple of times that he wants to restart talks with Iran. But despite the economic pressure, the Iranian leadership has only hardened its position. Trump's walk-back from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

(JCPOA) or the Iran nuclear deal has only strengthened the positions of the hardliners in Tehran. They have lived with decades of US squeeze, wars and sanctions. They are not likely to bend that easily. In fact, the worry for the US is how Iran can easily turn the tables on them.

In the immediate and medium term, oil prices are not really what we should be worrying about. Yes, insurance charges may increase due to the uncertainty in the Gulf or transport costs could rise. But according to the IEA, global supply of oil will far outstrip demand in 2019-20. In its Friday report, it said demand would rise to 1.4 million barrels in 2020, but supply would be a whopping 2.3 million barrels a day, spurred by extra production in the US, Brazil, Norway and Canada. It was telling that the spike in prices after Thursday's attack was less than the drop in prices in the days prior.

The real concern is when Iran walks away

from its own nuclear commitments. On May 8, Hassan Rouhani said Iran would no longer send out enriched uranium and heavy water beyond 300 kg, as had been agreed in the JCPOA. From July 7, Iran is expected to walk back from two more commitments – they will enrich uranium beyond the stipulated 3.7%, and restart repair and modernisation of the Arak heavy water reactor. That would truly set the cat among the pigeons.

The dangers are becoming apparent. Last week the Israeli foreign ministry tweeted that more sanctions should be imposed on Iran to prevent it from "violating parts of the JCPOA"! Israel was one of the cheerleaders for the US's walking away from the JCPOA in the first place.

Trump has said he wants to get out of Middle Eastern wars and concentrate on the bigger strategic challenge, China. The possibility of accidents in the sensitive Straits of Hormuz and an unintended escalation are now far greater than before, putting at risk the US's Indo-Pacific strategy.

India, like Japan and South Korea is caught between two undesirables. India has stopped importing oil from Iran (and Venezuela). Although Chabahar has been ring-fenced from US sanctions, banking curbs have made it impossible to get any work going there. Iran is vital to India for Afghanistan, connectivity, energy and regional balance.

India and Japan now have an opportunity together to play a larger role in averting what could become a global disaster. ■

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Shinzo Abe with Ayatollah Khamenei

## Tanker attack jolts oil-import dependent Asia

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While the violence only directly jolted two countries in the region — one of the targeted ships was operated by a Tokyo-based company, a nearby South Korean-operated vessel helped rescue sailors — it will unnerve major economies throughout Asia.

Officials, analysts and media commentators on Friday hammered home the importance of the Strait of Hormuz for Asia. **AP**

# Trump blames Iran for tanker attacks but calls for talks

**Washington:** President Donald Trump has blamed Iran for attacks on oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, but he also held out hope that implicit US threats to use force will yield talks with the Islamic Republic as the Pentagon considers beefing up defenses in the Persian Gulf area.

A day after explosions blew holes in two oil tankers just outside Iran's territorial waters, rattling international oil markets, the administration seemed caught between pressure to punish Iran and reassure Washington's Gulf Arab allies without drawing the US closer to war.

"Iran did it," Trump said Friday on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends."

He didn't offer evidence, but the US military released video it said showed Iran's Revolutionary Guard removing an unexploded mine from one of the oil tankers targeted near the Strait of Hormuz, suggesting Tehran wanted to cover its tracks.

By pointing the finger at Iran, Trump was keeping a public spotlight on an adversary he accuses of terrorism but also has invited to negotiate.

The approach is similar to his diplomacy with North Korea, which has quieted talk



President Donald Trump speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House on Friday AP

of war but not yet achieved his goal of nuclear disarmament. Iran has shown little sign of backing down, creating uncertainty about how far the Trump administration can go with its campaign of increasing pressure through sanctions.

Iran denied any involvement in the attacks and accused Washington of waging an "Iranophobic campaign" of economic warfare.

A US Navy team on Friday was aboard one of the tankers, the Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous, collecting forensic evidence, according to a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive operation.

Apparently alluding to the US video, Trump said Iran's

culpability had been "exposed." He did not say what he intended to do about it but suggested "very tough" US sanctions, including efforts to strangle Iranian oil revenues, would have the desired effect.

"They've been told in very strong terms we want to get them back to the table," Trump said.

Just a day earlier, the president took the opposite view, tweeting that it was "too soon to even think about making a deal" with Iran's leaders. "They are not ready, and neither are we!" Trump last year withdrew the United States from an international agreement to limit Iran's nuclear program that was signed in 2015 under his predecessor, President Barack Obama. **AP**

# Saudi urges action to protect oil supplies

**Dubai:** Saudi Arabia called for swift action to secure Gulf energy supplies, after the US blamed Iran for attacks on two oil tankers in a vital oil shipping route that have raised fears of broader confrontation in the region.

Thursday's tanker attacks in the Gulf of Oman exacerbated the antagonistic fallout from similar blasts in May that crippled four vessels. Washington, already embroiled in a standoff with Iran, has blamed Tehran. Iran has denied any role in the strikes.

Saudi energy minister Khalid al-Falih said "there must be a rapid and decisive response to the threat" to energy supplies, market stability and consumer confidence after the attacks in the Gulf area. Oil prices have climbed 3.4% since Thursday's attacks. REUTERS

## Amid tiff with US, Iran reissues its N-deal ultimatum

**I**ran will continue scaling back compliance with a nuclear deal unless other signatories to the pact show "positive signals", the Iranian president said on Saturday as tensions with the US escalated over tanker attacks in the Gulf region. Iran stopped complying in May with some commitments in the 2015 nuclear deal that was agreed with global powers, after the US withdrew from the accord in 2018. "Obviously, Iran cannot stick to this agreement unilaterally," President Hassan Rouhani told Russian, Chinese and other Asian leaders at a conference in Tajikistan. REUTERS

# 5 million tonnes of India's oil reserves lie uninsured

**IN A LIMBO** Reinsurers unwilling to provide cover fearing action for breach of US sanctions

Rajeev Jayaswal

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**NEW DELHI:** India is unable to secure insurance cover for about 5 million tonnes of crude oil reserves kept in caverns for any exigency, which also include supplies from sanctions-hit Iran. Global reinsurers are unwilling to provide cover fearing adverse action against them for the breach of US sanctions, two persons with direct knowledge of the matter said requesting anonymity.

“We are in a quandary, what to do? One option is to ask refiners to use the crude as it is too risky to keep the high-valued and highly volatile commodity without insurance cover. But, why would refiners bear additional costs for evacuation of crude from the underground caverns and transport it to their refineries?” one of the persons cited above said.

Indian refiners are reluctant to immediately use the crude oil due to various reasons, including inventory and cost issues, the second official said.

The government-run Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) has created storage facilities in three caverns in Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur (near Udupi). The combined storage capacity of these caverns is a little over



■ Workers in the Vadinar refinery in June 2012. Experts say oil insurance amounts often run into billions of dollars. REUTERS FILE

5.33 million tonnes (MT), which is enough to meet India's domestic energy requirements for 9.5 days as per the 2017-18 consumption figure of 206.2 MT, officials said. The consumption grew next year to 211.6 MT.

The quantum of Iranian crude oil present in caverns and the total value of the stored commodity in the three caverns could not be immediately ascertained. The oil ministry offered no comments on this matter. ISPRL did not respond to an email query.

Officials quoted earlier said ISPRL stored Iranian crude oil because it is relatively cheaper

and its quality is ideal for Indian refiners. Iran offers its crude oil to India on attractive terms. Reinsurers are hesitating to give insurance cover to the facilities because they also store Iranian crude oil.

Even in 2012-13, reinsurers had refused to provide insurance covers to domestic refineries for processing Iranian crude despite the sanctions, oil sector experts who did not wish to be named said. They had also refused insurance cover to vessels carrying crude oil from Iran during that period, experts said.

Indian general insurance companies provide cover to oil

refineries and installations and then reinsure that risk with global reinsurers by paying a premium. Most of the reinsurers are American and European and they take sanctions seriously, experts said.

“Sovereign governments may take the risk and act against the US sanctions, but no commercial enterprise would jeopardise its business interests. Reinsurers are no exception,” RS Sharma, former chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, said.

Experts said insured amounts of the oil and gas sector are huge, often running into several billions of dollars, which is too big for Indian general insurance companies to take on their books. They are mandated by the regulator to get such risks covered through reinsurance. India's only reinsurer is GIC Re, but it has limited capacity, experts said.

The Vishakhapatnam cavern has storage capacity of 1.33 MT, Mangaluru (1.5 MT) and Padur (2.5 MT). The government plans to construct two more such storage facilities with total capacity of 6.5 MT at Chandikhol in Odisha (4 MT) and Padur in Karnataka (2.5 MT). As per the consumption pattern of 2017-18, 6.5 MT capacity is sufficient to meet about 12 days of the country's crude oil requirement.

**POWER WATCH**

**US ALLOWS IRAQ TO IMPORT IRANIAN ENERGY**

*Baghdad:* The US has allowed Iraq to import Iranian gas for power grid for three more months by extending a waiver to sanctions - but insists that it seek alternative sources. Iraq has had many extensions after US reimposed sanctions on Tehran's oil sector. **REUTERS**



## Good news in a bad season

### The fall in oil prices will benefit India

Amid a bevy of negative economic news, New Delhi can take comfort in the present slump in oil prices. In the first quarter of this year, oil prices rose over a third. There was talk of \$100-a-barrel and growth downgrades for importers like India. Instead, global oil prices have fallen to the low 60s and one crude variety, West Texas Intermediate, hit \$52 a barrel. With some analysts speaking of oil prices softening all the way into 2020, India could be a huge beneficiary given its problematic standing as the world's fastest growing importer of oil.

The reason oil prices are in free fall is not supply, but demand. The assumption that the United States, China and India — the world's three

biggest oil consumers — would keep burning ever increasing amounts has proven false. US oil consumption has been falling while China's economy is slowing down rapidly. India's growth in the coming year is likely to be less than robust. The US's multiple trade wars are putting brakes on growth worldwide. India should be thankful for more than the obvious gains like a reduced trade deficit, a more stable exchange rate, more fiscal space, lower inflation and reduced interest rates. But a more useful fallout may be the end of the oil fix between Saudi Arabia and Russia which had artificially boosted prices over the past year.

# Targeting tankers in the Gulf

Weaponising the Hormuz Strait may prove to be dangerous

STANLY JOHNY  
CHENNAI

The attack on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, which connects the Arabian Sea with the Strait of Hormuz, has raised tensions between the U.S. and Iran. Within hours of Thursday's attack, the U.S. blamed Iran. The U.S. Central Command also released a video footage that Washington claimed showed men on an Iranian boat removing a mine from one of the tankers.

**Why is Strait of Hormuz important?**

■ The Gulf lies between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula. Besides Iran and Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq also share the Gulf coastline. As all these countries are energy-rich, the Gulf has naturally emerged as a major trade route. Strait of Hormuz is a choke-point between the Gulf and the open ocean. With Iran on its northern coast and the UAE and an Omani enclave on the south, the Strait, at its narrowest point, has a width of 34 km. A third of crude oil exports transported via ships pass through the Strait, which makes it the world's most important oil artery.

**The last 'Tanker War'**

■ In the 1980s, when Iran and Iraq were locked in a protracted conflict, both sides targeted each other's energy vessels in the Gulf and on the Strait of Hormuz. Iraq started the 'Tanker War' by targeting ships carrying Iranian fuel in 1981. Three years later, Iran started attacking vessels carrying Iraqi fuel, turning the Gulf waters into a war zone. According to a report by the U.S. Naval Institute, in total, 340 ships were attacked and



**Cooling touch:** An Iranian Navy boat spraying water to extinguish fire on a tanker in Oman on Thursday. ■ AP

more than 30 million tonnes of shipping damaged between 1981 and 1987. This also caused over 400 seaman deaths. Among the ships severely damaged was the *USS Samuel B. Roberts* of the U.S. Navy.

**What's next?**

■ With ships again coming under attack in the Gulf region, memories of the 'Tanker War' are being revived. If Iran is actually behind the recent attacks, it may be playing a risky game, demonstrating what it can do in the event of a war. If Tehran is not behind the attacks,

some other powers are using the Gulf trade lanes to stoke further tensions. Either way, the weaponisation of the Strait of Hormuz is a dangerous game. In the 1980s, the 'Tanker War' was largely a war of economic attrition. Also, the conflict was between Iran and Iraq, two relatively similar powers. This time, there are other risks. Given the existing tensions, more attacks on shipping vessels could trigger an all-out war. Further, this time, the conflict is between the U.S. and Iran. The scope of a direct war will be much bigger than what it was in the 1980s.

## पेट्रोल, डीजल और विमान ईंधन को जीएसटी व्यवस्था के अधीन लाने का हो लक्ष्य

विभिन्न जिंसों और सेवाओं की दरों को तार्किक बनाने का लक्ष्य भी परिषद के लिए कम महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है। मौजूदा विविध दरों के स्थान पर 3 व्यापक दायरे तय करने होंगे। फिलहाल कुल मिलाकर 5 दरें हैं। इसके अलावा कुछ वस्तुओं और सेवाओं का इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट अलग करने से कुछ विसंगतियां उत्पन्न होती हैं जिनको दूर करना होगा। पेट्रोल, डीजल और विमान ईंधन को जी.एस.टी. व्यवस्था के अधीन लाने का दूरगामी लक्ष्य भी लेकर चलना होगा। केन्द्र और राज्य सरकारें जिस हद तक तेल क्षेत्र के राजस्व पर निर्भर हैं उसे देखते हुए यह आवश्यक है कि इन पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर जी.एस.टी. दर से ऊपर कुछ विशेष शुल्क लगाया जाए। अगर सरकार ऐसा करती है तो उसके पास राजस्व की आवक बनी रहेगी और साथ ही साथ उद्योग जगत को भी ऐसे पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद पर चुकता कर का कुछ लाभ मिल सकेगा। जीएसटी परिषद की बात करें तो आगे की राह आसान नहीं है।

# तेल टैंकर हमला : संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने किया स्वतंत्र जांच का आह्वान

**संयुक्त राष्ट्र,** (आईएनएस): संयुक्त राष्ट्र के महासचिव एंतोनियो गुतेरेस ने इसी सप्ताह ओमान की खाड़ी में तेल के दो टैंकरों पर हुए हमलों की स्वतंत्र जांच कराने का आह्वान किया है।

समाचार एजेंसी सिन्हुआ ने न्यूयार्क स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र मुख्यालय में शुक्रवार को संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रमुख के हवाले से कहा, सच का पता लगाना बहुत जरूरी है, और जवाबदेही स्पष्ट होना बहुत जरूरी है। वे यहां पत्रकारों को संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि यह सिर्फ तभी हो सकता है जब कोई स्वतंत्र संस्था उन तथ्यों का सत्यापन करे। हमलों और



उनकी जांच से संबंधित एक प्रश्न का जवाब देते हुए संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रमुख ने कहा, अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय में जो भी हो, हम इस संबंध में किसी भी पहल का समर्थन करेंगे, बशर्ते यह स्वतंत्र हो। गुतेरेस ने आगे कहा कि दुनिया खाड़ी में भारी संघर्ष बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकती। इससे पहले गुरुवार को ओमान की खाड़ी में तेल के दो टैंकरों पर हमला कर दिया गया था। इनमें से कम से कम एक का संचालन जापानी कंपनी कर रही थी।

## अमेरिका ने इराक के साथ अपने आंकलन को साझा किया

वाशिंगटन, (स्पूतनिक): अमेरिका के विदेश मंत्री माइक पोम्पियो ने ओमान की खाड़ी की घटनाओं के आंकलन को इराक के प्रधानमंत्री अदिल अब्दुल महदि के साथ साझा किया है। विदेश विभाग के प्रवक्ता मॉर्गन ऑर्टगिस ने शुक्रवार को एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में कहा है कि अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप सहित अधिकारियों ने ओमान की खाड़ी में इस सप्ताह तेल टैंकरों पर हुये हमले के लिए ईरान पर आरोप लगाया है।

## रूस ने तेल टैंकर पर हमले की निंदा की

मॉस्को, (आईएनएस): रूसी विदेश मंत्रालय ने ओमान की खाड़ी में दो तेल टैंकरों पर किए गए हमले की निंदा की है और जल्दबाजी में इसके लिए किसी पर आरोप नहीं लगाने का आग्रह किया है। मंत्रालय ने शुक्रवार को एक विज्ञप्ति में कहा, इस हमले के पीछे कोई भी हो, हम इसकी कड़ाई से निंदा करते हैं। समाचार एजेंसी सिन्हुआ ने मंत्रालय के हवाले से कहा, हम किसी भी नतीजे पर जल्दबाजी से पहुंचने से दूर रहने को जरूरी मानते हैं। हमें अंतरराष्ट्रीय जांच पूरी हुए बिना घटना के लिए किसी को भी दोषी ठहराना स्वीकार्य नहीं है।

# ट्रंप ने तेल टैंकरों पर हमले के लिए ईरान को ठहराया जिम्मेदार, वार्ता की अपील

वाशिंगटन, 15 जून (एपी)।

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने सामरिक महत्व की हर्मुज जलसंधि के पास तेल टैंकरों पर हुए कथित हमलों के लिए ईरान को जिम्मेदार ठहराया है। हालांकि, उन्होंने उम्मीद जताई कि अमेरिका के सैन्य बल प्रयोग की धमकी से यह खाड़ी देश बातचीत के लिए तैयार हो जाएगा।

ईरान के जल क्षेत्र के बाहर दो तेल टैंकरों में हुए विस्फोट के एक दिन बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय तेल बाजार में अफरा-तफरी मच गई। ऐसा प्रतीत हो रहा है कि ट्रंप प्रशासन ईरान को दंडित करने और युद्ध के कगार पर पहुंचे बगैर अमेरिका के खाड़ी क्षेत्र के सहयोगी देशों को भरोसे में रखने के बीच की स्थिति में फंस गया है।

ट्रंप ने फॉक्स न्यूज चैनल पर शुक्रवार को कहा, 'ईरान ने यह किया।' हालांकि, उन्होंने कोई सबूत तो नहीं दिया, लेकिन अमेरिकी सेना ने एक वीडियो जारी कर दावा किया कि ईरान के रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड ने टैंकरों को निशाना बना कर हर्मुज जलसंधि के पास बिछाई गई एक बारूदी सुरंग को हटाया। इस बारूदी सुरंग में विस्फोट नहीं हुआ था।

अमेरिका ने उत्तर कोरिया के साथ इसी तरह की कूटनीति अपनाई थी। ईरान ने इन विस्फोटों में किसी संलिप्तता से इनकार किया है।

ट्रंप ने कहा, 'उन्हें (ईरान को) बहुत कड़े शब्दों में कहा गया है कि हम उन्हें वार्ता की मेज पर वापस चाहते हैं।' गौरतलब है कि एक दिन

## नेपाल में उत्तर कोरिया की गतिविधियों पर चिंता

काठमांडो, 15 जून (भाषा)।

नेपाल में उत्तर कोरिया की बढ़ रही कारोबारी गतिविधियों पर अमेरिका ने चिंता जताई है। अमेरिका ने नेपाल से आग्रह किया है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सदस्य देश होने के नाते उसे इस वैश्विक इकाई द्वारा उत्तर कोरिया पर लगाए गए

प्रतिबंध का सम्मान करना चाहिए।

उत्तर कोरिया के लिए विशेष अमेरिकी राजदूत मार्क लैम्बर्ट तीन दिवसीय दौरे पर नेपाल में हैं। उन्होंने यहां के सांसदों, वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारियों और सत्तारूढ़ नेपाल कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के सह-अध्यक्ष पुष्प कमल दहल से यह अपील की है।



### **HPCL sweeps SCOPE Awards**

HPCL has bagged SCOPE Corporate Communication Excellence Awards 2019 in six categories, including first prize for 'Best Annual Report' and 'Innovative Stakeholder Interface-HP Radar'; second prize for 'Best House Journal (Hindi) Category-HP Samachar'; third prize for 'Best House Journal [English] Category-HP News' and 'Best Corporate Communication Campaign & Program-Internal Communication' and Public Relation & Corporate Communication Person of the Year award for Rajeev Goel, CGM-PRCC.