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AG&P Pratham Plans to Invest ₹9k cr in City Gas Distribution

Indian arm of S'pore-based co to set up infra & CNG stations: Top executive

Kalpana.Pathak
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: AG&P Pratham, the India arm of Singapore-based Atlantic Gulf & Pacific (AG&P) City Gas, is planning to invest over ₹9,000 crore in the city gas distribution business in the country, a senior official said.

The investments would be towards expanding city gas distribution (CGD) infrastructure and setting up new compressed natural gas (CNG) stations among other areas.

"We would be investing in steel pipelines, in polyethylene pipelines, setting up of CNG stations, purchase of land parcels among others. This is a very capital-intensive project," said Chiradeep Datta, chief operating officer, AG&P Pratham.

The company, which has been authorised in 12 geographical areas, and covers 34 districts of the country, has 140 CNG operational stations across the country and 50 stations pending approvals from Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization. To service its geographical areas (GAS) or districts, the company has adopted a hub and spoke model. It is setting up mini-LNG facilities wherein the company brings LNG from the ports — Kochi, Dabhol or Dahej — and transporting it into a cryogenic tanker to bring it into the GAs.

From the gas (hub), the LNG is transported through a network of polyethylene lines to various markets including the industrial and commercial and domestic customers.

"As of now we have four L-CNG stations operational, and these areas and surrounding areas are receiving gas from the LNG terminals. By the end of this fiscal, we plan to have 17 of these facilities along with 850 kilometers of steel pipelines and 4,500 kilometres of polyethylene pipelines," said Datta, adding that the company is also launching a number of AG&P Pratham branded outlets across the country.

As most of its GAs are located near coastal areas, another area the company is looking at is running of fishing boats on LNG. These boats currently run on kerosene.

Datta said his company is in talks with the state governments of Kerala, Karnataka and Gujarat to adopt the idea of CNG-run boats.

The company is currently selling around 0.25 standard cubic metres per day and plans to cross 1 million metric standard cubic metres per day by the fiscal year end, said Datta.

AG&P is one of the few international players in the CGD sector in India which is vastly expanding the city gas distribution network in its push to be a gas-based economy. Another prominent global player in the CGD segment is Total Gas, which has a joint venture with Adani Gas.

Leading players in the segment include Mahanagar Gas, Gujarat Gas and Indraprastha Gas.

After the completion of 11th city gas distribution (CGD) round last November, 96% of India's population and 86% of its geographic area would be covered under CGD network.

WIDE NETWORK

The company has 140 CNG operational stations across the country and 50 stations pending approvals from Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization

Projected investments in the sector are around ₹1.2 lakh crore.

Gas accounts for around 6.2% of India's primary energy mix against a global average of 24%. The government plans to increase its share to 15% by 2030. India imports 55% of its natural gas demand. "Companies are bullish on India's CGD segment as they see a huge energy demand potential in the country. Given the under-penetration of natural gas as a fuel in the Indian market, companies want to gain by moving and expanding fast," said a senior official from an oil marketing company.

State-owned oil firms stay away from buying scrips under rebate scheme

Ravi Dutta Mishra & Dilasha Seth

NEW DELHI

Banks and state-owned oil firms are, in a sign of rising uncertainty in global trade, refraining from buying tradeable scrips issued to exporters under the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme to avoid liability in case export realization does not happen.

The RoSCTL scheme was introduced last year to provide rebates against taxes and levies already paid by exporters on inputs. The rebate is not given as cash but as tradeable scrips, which exporters can sell to importers.

However, rising uncertainty over payment for exports amid geopolitical concerns and disruption in the supply chain has resulted in the value of the scrips falling as much as 20%, causing loss to exporters.

"The RoSCTL scheme was mooted by the finance ministry and Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBIC). By introducing this scheme, the government virtually postponed its liability by two years. Earlier a scrip worth Rs100 could be easily sold at Rs97-98. However, this is not the case now. One of the clauses in the scheme suggests that if there is no export realization, the liability falls on the bearer of the scrip.

As such, there are fewer buyers of these scrips in the market. Big oil importers such as Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Ltd (HPCL), even banks are not buying these scrips as they do not want to take on the liability.

The commerce ministry has asked the finance ministry to drop the clause or allow the scrip to be generated only after export realization has happened, a government official said.

Rising uncertainty over payment for exports amid geopolitical concerns and supply chain disruptions have shrunk the value of the scrips by 20%. AP

Trade experts said that global goods trade has already slowed in the first half of 2022 as supply chains continued to be affected by the covid pandemic. The concerns around the supply chain were exacerbated following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine.

Garment and apparel exporters have said that the scheme in its current form is eroding export margins of the domestic textile industry. Garment manufacturing units are facing losses of ₹1,200 crore with the discount on tradeable scrips rising from 3% to about 20%, according to the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).

"In the notification, there is a provision that if the payment is not realized and the exporter doesn't take responsibility, the importer will be liable. So unless the scrip belongs to a very trusted or reliable exporter, where there is no risk, an importer will not take the scrip of a small company," it said.

Garment and apparel exporters say the scheme as it is now erodes export margins of the domestic textile industry

PSUs and banks do not want to take any risk, especially as scrips are also subject to market premiums and will keep on changing. "Anyone can question why the scrip was bought on a day when the premium was more or less," said Ajay Sahai, director general and chief executive officer, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

Exporters argue that state and central levies are collected in cash and, therefore, reimbursement or rebate on such levies should also be made in cash.

In a letter to the government, exporters said that the scrips are being traded at discounts of 15-20%, because of which exporters are not getting the intended value under the scheme. They also alleged that importers are reaping all advantages of the scheme at the cost of exporters. Queries emailed to the department of commerce, ministry of finance, IOCL, BPCL and HPCL on Thursday remained unanswered till press time.

ravi.dutt@livemint.com

Top cos may log double-digit growth

KRISHNA KANT
Mumbai, 10 July

India's top listed companies are once again expected to report strong double-digit growth in earnings in the April-June quarter (first quarter, or Q1) of 2022-23 (FY23), thanks to a low base in Q1 of 2021-22 (FY22) and big jump in earnings of oil and gas majors like Reliance Industries (RIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

The index companies' earnings are, however, expected to decline on a sequential basis due to weak demand, decline in commodity prices, and rise in interest rates.

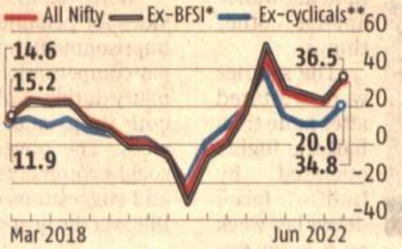
According to various brokerage estimates, the combined net profit of index companies is expected to grow 32.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to ₹1.43 trillion in Q1FY23, against ₹1.08 trillion a year ago.

Turn to Page 6 ▸

REVENUE GROWTH EXPECTED TO PICK UP

YoY chg (%)

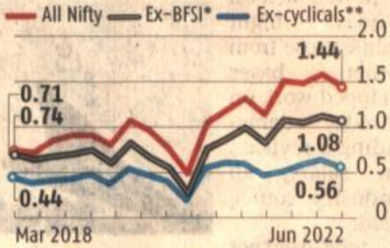
Trend in Nifty firms' net sales growth



EARNINGS GROWTH SEEN WEAKENING

(₹ trillion)

Trend in Nifty firms' quartely net profit



YoY: Year-on-year; BFSI: Banking, financial services, and insurance; *Excluding banks and finance ** Excluding BFSI, oil and gas, and mining and metals; Based on combined numbers of 47 Nifty firms, excluding Bajaj Finserv, SBI Life, and HDFC Life; June quarter numbers based on brokerage estimates, actuals for previous quarters; compiled by BS Research Bureau

Source: Capitaline

India Inc...

The earnings will, however, be down 8.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ), from the record high of ₹1.57 trillion in the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY22.

Brokerages also expect index companies to report a surge in revenue in Q1FY23, reversing the trend, by virtue of higher inflation and corresponding rise in price realisations.

According to brokerage estimates, the combined net sales of Nifty companies is expected to grow 34.8 per cent to ₹11.58 trillion in Q1FY23 — growing at the fastest pace in the past four quarters. By comparison, index companies' net sales were up 22.3 per cent YoY in Q4FY22.

Excluding cyclical sectors, such as banking, financial services, and insurance, oil and gas, and mining and metals, Nifty companies' combined earnings is expected to rise 27.7 per cent, while their combined net sales is expected to grow 20 per cent YoY in Q1FY23.

The Nifty is, however, dominated by these three cyclical sectors, with 61 per cent share in combined net profit and 56 per cent share in overall revenue.

The analysis is based on Q1FY23 earnings estimates by brokerages, including YES Securities, Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL), Kotak Institutional Equities (KIE), Elara Capital, Centrum Broking, and Prabhudas Lilladher.

Business Standard analysis is based on the numbers of 47 Nifty companies, excluding Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Life, and SBI Life.

"We expect Q1FY23 net income of the KIE universe to increase 22 per cent YoY, but decline 16 per cent QoQ. The supernormal YoY growth reflects a weak base in most sectors due to the second wave of Covid-19. On a QoQ basis, we expect most sectors to report a decline in net income," write Sanjeev Prasad, Sunita Baldawa, and Anindya Bhowmik of KIE in their earnings estimate for Q1FY23.

"Given the distorted base in Q1 of 2020-21 and Q1FY22, watch for sequential growth which may dip across the board, barring auto, excluding Tata Motors (improving supply and raw material prices tailwinds), consumer staples (on price hikes), health care, and upstream oil and gas," write Bhawana Chhabra and Aditya Jaiswal of Elara Capital, in their earnings estimate.

"This indicates that the sequential earnings recovery may be weak, owing to a multitude of factors such as weak margins and muted volume growth," adds the brokerage in its report. The numbers suggest that the earnings growth will be highly lopsided with just two companies — RIL and ONGC — accounting for nearly 68 per cent of the incremental jump in the combined net profit of all Nifty companies in Q1FY23 on a YoY basis.

On the revenue side, nearly half the incremental growth is expected to be accounted for by RIL and Bharat Petroleum Corporation.

The brokerages, however, expect a sharp slowdown in the earnings growth of metal companies like Tata Steel and JSW Steel and information technology (IT) exporters like Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys.

While metal companies are expected to report double-digit growth in earnings, the combined earnings of IT exporters is expected to grow in low single digits. In contrast, these two sectors were the top contributors to corporate earnings in the past two years. By comparison, automotive companies, especially four-wheeler makers, are expected to report a jump in earnings in Q1FY23.

Eco-friendly diesel variant launched in T.N.

XtraGreen diesel has a lower sulphur content and offers higher fuel economy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has introduced XtraGreen diesel, a more eco-friendly variant as it has a lower sulphur content than regular diesel, in the State.

The variant, which offers higher fuel economy and reduced noise, is priced ₹3 more than high-speed diesel (HSD), which is more commonly used. The higher cetane number in XtraGreen is supposed to provide better combustion compared to conventional diesel.

V. Sathish Kumar, Director (marketing) of Indian Oil, launched the sale at the company's Maraimalai Nagar outlet in the presence of V.C. Ashokan, executive director, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, State coordinator for the Oil industry, and K. Shailendra, executive director, regional services.

Sources in IOCL explained that the fuel would be made available based on customer demand in all major cities and on highways. "Most high-volume fuel outlets have additional tankage to store another variant, and these outlets can easily stock XtraGreen. High-end diesel cars, buses like Volvo and trucks like Daimler use this variant. Even vehicles that do not have BS VI can use it," an official said.

XtraGreen diesel comes with a multi-functional additive, which is said to considerably reduce carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and particulate matter emissions, is manufactured at the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. refinery at Manali.

A petroleum dealer said there was a small segment that would go for this particular variant. High-end cars would definitely go for this as it was supposed to be beneficial to the vehicles.

"All over the world, outlets have different varieties. This is a good start for our outlets. A special discount for transporters will encourage them to switch to this cleaner option," he added.

New alternative: Indian Oil Director (marketing) V. Sathish Kumar, centre, launching XtraGreen diesel in the city on Saturday. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sri Lanka to get two fuel consignments in July: IOC

Colambo: Sri Lanka will receive two fuel consignments this month and another in August, the Chairman of Lanka IOC, the subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation, which will provide much-needed relief to the people facing an unprecedented economic crisis and acute fuel shortages.

The Sri Lankan government announced that only essential services will operate from midnight till July 10 and all other operations will be temporarily suspended as the country of 22 million did not have enough fuel supplies.

Two consignments of fuel (petrol and diesel) are expected to arrive on July 13 or 14, and another shipment will arrive sometime between July 28 to 30. Each vessel will be carrying 30,000 metric tonnes of fuel, Lanka IOC Chairman Manoj Gupta was quoted as saying by news portal Economy Next.

Another consignment is also scheduled to arrive on August 10, Gupta said.

All these shipments will be arriving from Singapore and the UAE, he added. State-owned refinery Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) informed the Sri Lankan government that there will be an indefinite delay in the arrival of fuel shipments due to banking and logistical reasons, with existing stocks being prioritised for public transport, power generation and industries.

Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis caused by forex shortages has led to a severe crisis in the energy sector. Fuel shortages have led to serpentine queues at retailers and with the end of the credit line worth USD 700 million granted by India, the pumps have run dry.

The Sri Lankan government is exploring options to purchase discounted oil from Russia, as the island nation desperately looks to replenish its dwindling fuel stocks amid an unprecedented economic crisis due to a crippling shortage of foreign exchange reserves.

Sri Lanka's Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera flew to Qatar last week to negotiate a long-term fuel supply deal with the Gulf nation.

The Lanka IOC has expanded its distribution network by providing fuel continuously when the CPC pumps went largely dry.

The nearly-bankrupt country, with an acute foreign currency crisis that resulted in foreign debt default, had announced in April that it is suspending nearly USD 7 billion foreign debt repayment due for this year out of about USD 25 billion due through 2026.

Sri Lanka's total foreign debt stands at USD 51 billion.

Sri Lankans continue to languish in long fuel and cooking gas queues as the government is unable to find dollars to fund imports for fuel and other essentials.

Centre raises export tax on petrol, diesel and ATF

New Delhi: The Government also slapped a Rs23,230/tonne additional tax on domestically produced crude oil to take away windfall gains accruing to producers from high international oil prices. The government slapped a Rs6 per litre tax on exports of petrol and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and Rs13 per litre on exports of diesel. The government also slapped a Rs23,230 per tonne additional tax on domestically produced crude oil to take away windfall gains accruing to producers from high international oil prices, a separate government notification showed. The tax on exports follows oil refiners, particularly the private sector, reaping huge gains from exporting fuel to markets such as Europe and the United States.

Western Times

The Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Housing and Urban affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri at the launch of 'SVANidhi Mahotsav'

The Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri at the launch of 'SVANidhi Mahotsav' - a cultural festival for celebrating the success of PM SVANidhi Scheme, in New Delhi.

Viksit Bharat

Indian Oil 7th most strong oil and gas brand in the world: SM Vadiya

Jul 11, 2022 | Guwahati | Pg No.: 5 | | Sq Cm:131 | AVE: 18315 | PR Value: 91577

दुनिया में सातवां सबसे मजबूत तेल और गैस ब्रांड है इंडियन ऑयल : एसएम वैद्य

बेगूसराय (हिंस)। इंडियन ऑयल के अध्यक्ष एसएम वैद्य ने कहा है कि बीआर-9 विस्तार परियोजना बरौनी रिफाइनरी के क्षितिज को बदल देगी। यह पूर्वी भारत और नेपाल में ईंधन की बढ़ती मांग को पूरा करने के लिए इंडियन ऑयल के लिए एक रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण परियोजना है। यह अत्यंत आवश्यक है कि प्ररियोजना को परियोजना की समय-सीमा के भीतर, सुरक्षित रूप से और स्वीकृत लागत के भीतर पूरा किया जाए। बरौनी रिफाइनरी के दो दिवसीय दौरा के तहत बरौनी रिफाइनरी को बीआर-9 विस्तार परियोजना के तहत वायुमंडलीय वैक्यूम यूनिट (एवीयू)-चौथे पर प्रगति की समीक्षा के बाद अध्यक्ष ने यह बातें कही है। बरौनी रिफाइनरी के मौजूदा तीन एवीयू को नई नौ एमएमटीपीए क्षमता की एवीयू-चौथे के साथ प्रतिस्थापित किया जाएगा। इसकी समीक्षा के दौरान उन्होंने बरौनी रिफाइनरी कर्मचारियों, पीएमसी और ठेका श्रमिकों की टीम के साथ महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर चर्चा की। अध्यक्ष ने बरौनी रिफाइनरी में ग्रीन कूलिंग टॉवर (जीसीटी) का दौरा किया। इस दौरान बरौनी रिफाइनरी द्वारा भारत में पहली और दुनिया में तीसरी जीसीटी की स्थापना की सराहना की जो पारंपरिक कूलिंग टॉवर का ऊर्जा कुशल और पर्यावरण के अनुकूल विकल्प है। इंडजेट परियोजना की समीक्षा करते हुए एसएम वैद्य ने कहा कि यह एटीएफ और पाइपलाइन कम्पेटिबल केरोसीन (पीसीके) के उत्पादन के लिए इंडियन ऑयल के आरएंडडी डिवीजन द्वारा विकसित स्वदेशी तकनीक का उपयोग करने वाली पहली इकाई है। इंडजेट इकाई एटीएस का उत्पादन करेगी जो बिहार में हवाई अड्डों की ईंधन आवश्यकता को पूरा करेगी। टाउनशिप में स्वच्छता साइकिल रैली का नेतृत्व करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि इंडियन ऑयल देश भर में प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा परिकल्पित स्वच्छ भारत मिशन का समर्थन करने के लिए कई प्रयास कर रहा है। देश भर में आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव समारोह के हिस्से के रूप में स्वच्छता पखवाड़ा चल रहा है। भारत सरकार ने सिंगल यूज प्लास्टिक पर सख्त प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है। इंडियन ऑयल सभी हितधारकों के बीच एसयूपी उत्पादों के उपयोग को छोड़ने और रोकने के संबंध में जागरूकता पैदा करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। एक जिम्मेदार प्राणी के रूप में हमे अपने बच्चों के लिए एक हरित और स्वस्थ पृथ्वी बनाए रखना हैं। इस अवसर पर टाउनशिप और रिफाइनरी परिसर में स्वच्छता बनाए रखने की दिशा में प्रयासों की सराहना करते हुए 75 स्वच्छता कर्मचारियों को स्वच्छता किट प्रदान किया गया। जुबिली हॉल में आयोजित संवाद कार्यक्रम में अध्यक्ष ने वर्ष 2021-22 के दौरान इंडियन ऑयल एवं बरौनी रिफाइनरी के ऐतिहासिक वित्तीय प्रदर्शन के लिए टीम को बधाई देते हुए कहा कि एक कप्तान उतना ही अच्छा होता है, जितना उसकी टीम। इंडियन ऑयल ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में देश का नेतृत्व करने और दुनिया में सातवां सबसे मजबूत तेल और गैस ब्रांड बनने में सक्षम कर्मियों की मेहनत से हुआ है। सभी बाधाओं के बावजूद कोविड महामारी के दौरान भी समर्पण, जुनून और प्रतिबद्धता के साथ काम किया। आज वही कॉर्पोरेशन शेयरधारकों के लिए मूल्यवान है जो लाभदायक होने के साथ-साथ अपने कर्मचारियों और श्रमिकों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करता है, पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रति समर्पित है। हमें यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि प्रत्येक व्यक्ति सुरक्षित घर वापस आ जाए। प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा के लिए सभी रिफाइनरियों के अंदर आईएफआर/कवरॉल अनिवार्य है। हम अपने नीतिपरक मूल्यों से प्रेरित होकर विश्वस्तरीय कंपनी बनेंगे। उन्होंने पूर्वी क्षेत्र और नेपाल में आवश्यक ईंधन की निर्बाध आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बरौनी रिफाइनरी प्रबंधक, बीटीएमयू एवं ऑफिसर एसोसियशन टीम के संयुक्त प्रयासों की सराहना की।

Rashtriya Sahara
Petrol-Diesel ke daam 50ve din bhi sthir
Jul 11, 2022 | Delhi | Pg No.: 13 | | Sq Cm:35 | AVE: 230750 | PR Value: 1153752

पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम 50वें दिन भी स्थिर

नई दिल्ली। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर तेल की कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव के बीच देश में रविवार को तेल विपणन कंपनियों ने पेट्रोल-डीजल की कीमतों में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया जिससे लगातार 50वें दिन ईंधन के दाम स्थिर रहे। तेल विपणन करने वाली प्रमुख कंपनी इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन के अनुसार दिल्ली में रविवार को पेट्रोल का दाम 96.72 रुपए और डीजल का दाम 89.62 रुपए प्रति लीटर है, जबकि मुंबई में पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमत क्रमशः 111.35 रुपये और 97.28 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर है। देश में पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतें मूल्य वर्धित कर (वैट) और माल ढुलाई शुल्क के आधार पर राज्यों में अलग-अलग हैं।

रसोई गैस के दाम बढ़ाने के खिलाफ किया प्रदर्शन

एसयूसीआई कार्यकर्ताओं ने की बढ़ती महंगाई से राहत दिलाने की मांग

बहादुरगढ़, 10 जुलाई (निस)

सोशलिस्ट यूनिटी सेंटर ऑफ इंडिया (कम्युनिस्ट) के कार्यकर्ताओं व समर्थकों ने रविवार को शहर की कबीर बस्ती में लोकल कमेटी सदस्य सोनिया के नेतृत्व में घरेलू रसोई गैस सिलेंडर के दाम 50 रुपए बढ़ाने के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन किया। प्रदर्शनकारियों ने मोदी सरकार के खिलाफ जमकर नारे लगाए और केन्द्र सरकार से बढ़ाए गए दाम वापस लेने की मांग की।

एस.यू.सी.आई. नेता सोनिया ने कहा कि रसोई गैस के दामों ने घरों का बजट बिगाड़ दिया है। रसोई गैस हर महीने महंगी होती जा रही है और हम गरीबों की पहुंच से बाहर हो गई है। महिला सांस्कृतिक संगठन की सदस्य प्रतिभा देवी ने कहा कि केवल रसोई गैस ही नहीं, सरकार ने जरूरत की हर चीज आटा, दाल, चीनी, पेट्रोल, डीजल आदि के दामों में बढ़ोतरी कर आमजन का जीना दूभर कर दिया है। सरकार को महंगाई पर अंकुश लगाकर जरूरत की चीजों के दाम कम करने होंगे, ताकि कुछ राहत मिल सके। मास्टर पवन कुमार ने कहा कि आमदनी तो बढ़ती नहीं लेकिन खर्चे बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। बच्चों की पढ़ाई, इलाज, बिजली, पानी, राशन आदि का खर्च लगातार बढ़ रहा है। इसलिए हर रोज बढ़ती महंगाई के खिलाफ आंदोलन के अलावा गरीब लोगों विशेषकर मजदूर वर्ग की मुक्ति का कोई रास्ता नहीं है। देश के आम लोगों को बढ़ती महंगाई के खिलाफ उठना होगा। प्रदर्शनकारियों में पार्वती, पूनम देवी, प्रियंका, गौरी, अंग्रेज सिंह, शंकर व पवन भी शामिल थे।

रूस की तरह हमसे भी क्रूड खरीदे भारत : ईरान

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : ईरान चाहता है कि जिस तरह से भारत रूस से क्रूड खरीद रहा है, ठीक उसी तरह से उससे भी तेल खरीदे। पिछले एक महीने के दौरान दोनों देशों के बीच तीन बार आधिकारिक स्तर की वार्ता हुई है और सभी में ईरान की तरफ से यही एकमात्र आग्रह किया गया है।

ईरान का कहना है कि अगर भारत उससे तेल खरीदने को तैयार होता है तो वह उसी तरह की सारी सहूलियतें देगा जो रूस उसे दे रहा है। वैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंच पर विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर ईरान को तेल निर्यात करने की छूट देने की मांग कर चुके हैं लेकिन भारत ने अभी ईरान से कोई पक्का वादा नहीं किया है।

राजनयिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि भारत ने हाल के महीनों में जिस तरह से ईरान से संवाद तेज किया है उससे तेहरान उत्साहित है। जून के महीने में ईरान के विदेश मंत्री आमिर अब्दोलाहियां पहले नई दिल्ली की यात्रा पर आए। उसके बाद उप विदेश मंत्री मेहदी सफारी ने भारत का दौरा किया। अब विदेश सचिव विनय क्वात्रा की ईरान के राजनीतिक मामलों के उप मंत्री डा. अली बाघेरी कानी से बात हुई है। इन तीनों वार्ताओं में दो मुद्दों पर सबसे ज्यादा बात हुई है। एक चाबहार पोर्ट से जुड़ी परियोजनाओं को किस तरह से आगे बढ़ाया जाए, दूसरा ऊर्जा कारोबार कैसे पटरी पर लाया जाए।

- ईरान बोला, अगर भारत तेल खरीदता है तो रूस जैसी सहूलियतें देने को तैयार
- महीने भर में दोनों देशों के बीच तीन बार हो चुकी है आधिकारिक वार्ता

वर्ष 2019 के बाद से ईरान से क्रूड नहीं खरीद रहा भारत

खबर यह भी है कि राष्ट्रपति बाइडन की जल्द होने वाली खाड़ी क्षेत्र की वार्ता के बाद ईरान के साथ परमाणु संयंत्र नियंत्रण को लेकर वार्ता भी शुरू हो सकती है। वर्ष 2018-19 में अमेरिका के नेतृत्व में ईरान पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है। उसके पहले तक भारत ईरान के सबसे बड़े तेल खरीदार देशों में एक रहा है। भारत ने वर्ष 2019 के बाद से ईरान से क्रूड खरीदना बंद कर दिया है।

भारत के बाद कुछ यूरोपीय देश भी ईरान के समर्थन में आए : जून माह में अपने यूरोपीय दौरे पर विदेश मंत्री जयशंकर ने एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय फोरम में कहा था कि ईरान और वेनेजुएला को तेल आपूर्ति करने की मंजूरी क्यों नहीं दी जा रही है। जयशंकर के इस बयान के बाद कुछ यूरोपीय देशों की तरफ से भी ईरान के समर्थन में आवाज उठी है।