

Monthly Summary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the month of April, 2021

1 Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas joined energy leaders in raising climate ambitions at the fourth Atlantic Council "Raising Ambitions" event held on 21st April 2021. Hon'ble Minister spoke about India's climate ambitions, successes and agenda. The aim of the event was to build momentum in advance of the Leaders' Summit on Climate and encourage increased ambition from public and private sector actors.

2 Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas joined productive discussions on 'Just Transitions to a Global Clean Energy Future' with H.E. Ms. Jennifer Granholm, U.S Secretary of Energy, H.E. Seamus O' Regan, H.E. Ms. Kadri Simson, EU Commissioner of Energy, H.E. Ms. Liz Shuler and H.E. Ms. Wanjira Mathai at the virtual panel discussion on 21st April 2021, jointly hosted by the CSIS and U.S Department of Energy.

Hon'ble Minister spoke about the contours of India's clean energy future, India's energy priorities, challenges & opportunities in navigating the clean energy transition and on the ramifications of India's emergence as a major driver of the global energy demand growth. He also elaborated upon the speed and scale of India's energy transition, including phasing out existing energy consumption patterns, deploying natural gas as a bridge fuel in the energy transition and moving towards more clean forms of energy, including renewables and hydrogen.

3 Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas joined the Ministerial Session with H.E. Mr. David M. Turk, Deputy Secretary of Energy (USA) , HE Mr. Dan Jørgensen , Minister of Climate, Energy & Utilities (Denmark), H.E Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry & Advanced Technology (UAE), H.E Mr. Angus Taylor, Ministry of Energy and Emissions Reduction (Australia), distinguished academia, captains of the oil & gas industry and think tanks at the inaugural edition of the 'Hydrogen Economy: New Delhi Dialogue-2021', a unique virtual roundtable on hydrogen organized on 15th April 2021.

4. Hon'ble Minister put across his views on hydrogen—a potential future fuel and the 21st-century solutions it can offer in contributing to clean energy transitions, addressing the challenges of achieving an affordable and secure energy future, and in carving low-carbon pathways. He also mentioned its significant role in India's quest for transforming into an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has outlined a new energy map with seven key drivers, one of which is development of emerging fuels, especially hydrogen.

Hon'ble Minister delivered vote of thanks to H.E Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, H.E Mr. David Turk, HE Mr. Dan Jørgensen, H.E Mr. Angus Taylor MP for enriching the discussions and for their willingness in overcoming barriers in development of hydrogen infrastructure and widespread adoption of hydrogen.

5 Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas delivered closing remarks at the 'Hydrogen Economy: New Delhi Dialogue-2021' on 15th April 2021.

6 Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas had a productive meeting with H.E Mr. John Kerry, US Presidential Special Envoy for Climate on 7th April 2021, they discussed collaboration in technology and finance to further develop mutually beneficial low-carbon pathways in fast-growing India's energy market, including in gas, RE, biofuels & in hydrogen.

Hon'ble Minister had discussion on the ongoing efforts to revamp the strategic energy partnership with Energy Secretary Ms. Jennifer Granholm, focus on cleaner and green energies, including through deployment of future technologies for carbon capture, battery storage and hydrogen.

7 The 1st Meeting of the India-Brazil Joint Working Group (JWG) on Oil and Natural Gas took place virtually under the MoU for Cooperation in the field of Oil and Natural Gas on 7th April 2021. The Indian side was led by Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Brazilian side was led by Mr. Aldo Barroso Cores Junior, Director, Department of Natural Gas, Ministry of Mines and Energy.

During the discussion the Indian side highlighted multifaceted strategic partnership between India and Brazil and also referred to the meeting between Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Mr. Bento Albuquerque, Minister of Mines and Energy of Brazil in January 2020 during the latter's visit to India. There was also a mention of the state visit of H.E. President Bolsonaro to India in January 2020, which was an important milestone in our bilateral relations and three agreements were signed exclusively in the energy sector which includes Cooperation in Oil & Gas and Bioenergy, which provided the framework for strengthening our bilateral energy cooperation.

8. In the Month of April, more than 4 lakh new LPG connections were issued. As on 30th April, 2021, 27.2 crore LPG consumers are availing subsidy under PAHAL scheme. More than 3 lakh customers have joined PAHAL scheme in the month of April, 2021 across the country. Till date more than 1.08 crore customers have given up their LPG subsidy under 'GiveltUp' campaign.

9. The number of Lols issued and LPG distributorships commissioned in the month of April, 2021 on industry basis are 14 and 3 respectively.

10. Domestic crude oil production for the month of April, 2021 was 2485 TMT as against production target of 2479 TMT, showing an achievement of 100.24%. Natural gas production for the month of April, 2021 was 2679 MMSCM as against production target of 2648 MMSCM, showing an achievement of 98.84%.

11. During March, 2021, the price of the Indian Basket of Crude oil varied between \$61.61 and \$68.42 per barrel and the average price was \$64.73 per barrel as compared to average price of \$ 61.22 per barrel in February, 2021.

12. As per the Refinery Gate Price (RGP) effective from 1st January, 2021, OMCs are expected to incur under recovery/DBTL Subsidy amounting to NIL and Rs. 59 crore on sale of PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG respectively during the month of March 2021. The expected under recoveries/subsidy for the F.Y. 2020-21 in respect of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG (Under DBTL) is NIL and Rs 3556 crore respectively. There is no subsidy to the consumers on subsidized domestic LPG (at Delhi market) as on 1st March, 2021. There is NIL under recovery on PDS Kerosene effective from 1st March, 2020.

13 For Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2020-21 Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) floated a tender for 458 crore litre against which 346.52 crore litre could be allocated as on 03.05.2021. Suppliers have since supplied 131.09 crore litre till 03/05/2021 enabling 7.43% average blending percentage.

14. During the period April, 20 to March., 21, OMCs have procured 0.51 crore litres of biodiesel for blending with diesel. As per Biodiesel Association of India (BDAI), there was total provisional production of 8.49 crore litre of biodiesel during the period April, 2020 to March, 2021. OMCs have floated Expression of Interest (Eoi) for procurement of Biodiesel produced from UCO across 300 locations in the country. OMCs have received offers for setting up 58 Biodiesel Plants with a production capacity of 1339 MT/day (Approx 45 cr. Litres/annum).

15. Setting up of PSA Plants : In view of perturbing situation created due to second wave of Covid-19 and shortage of oxygen supply in various States across India, as per the directions of MoH&FW, 13 Oil PSUs were assigned 93 Hospitals in States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Maharashtra for setting up a Pressure Swing adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plants of adequate capacity under CSR activity so as to appropriately address the oxygen shortage in these Hospitals/Districts. Oil PSUs in this regards, have placed maximum orders of adequate capacity PSA Oxygen Plants with the available vendors and the regular follow ups are being made for an early deliveries of these plants. Apart from above hospitals some additional hospitals are also being earmarked for putting up the PSA oxygen Plants and have been allotted to Oil PSUs through MoP&NG.

16 Setting up of Jumbo Facilities: In some refineries, LMO (Liquid Medical Oxygen) is not produced, but Oxygen at low pressure is available. This cannot be liquefied or transported via cylinders. As this Oxygen can be used for medical purposes, hence jumbo facilities are being set up adjacent to the refinery premises in coordination with the State Governments. Such Jumbo facilities are coming up at Bina Refinery, Mumbai Refineries and Kochi refinery of BPCL, Panipat Refinery of IOCL and a similar facility for Bathinda (HMEL Refinery) is being planned with Punjab Govt. The major bottleneck as identified by various Oil PSUs is installation of High Pressure compressor required for bottling of oxygen cylinders. Oil PSUs are in process of placing the order for the High Pressure Compressor.

17. As on 30.04.2021 total 25462 Retail Outlets have been solarized.