

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

1. Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan joined the virtual CERA Week 2021- Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forum on **2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**, where he delivered his remarks on the energy resilience in the Asia-Pacific region, India's well-defined energy transition road map and approaches towards charting out low carbon pathways for our economy.

2. On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Hon'ble Minister (PNG) joined the keynote address by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi at CERAWEEK 2021.

CERAWEEK 2021 honored Hon'ble Prime Minister with the Global Energy & Environment Leadership Award for his commitment for energy justice, future of global energy and environment. The Award is a recognition to PM's vision, policies and action plans to the future of, not just India's but global energy and environment, and for offering solutions and policies for climate justice and energy justice.

The ceremony was witnessed by a large number of public across all its spheres at different locations on webcast which was organized by Indian Oil & Gas PSU's.

3. On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Hon'ble Minister (PNG) along with H.E Mr. Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Energy Israel joined the inauguration of the IOC - Phinergy Pvt. Ltd (IOP), a joint venture of Indian Oil and Israel's Phinergy for introducing aluminium-air battery technology to Indian automotive manufacturers.

They also witnessed the signing of letter of intent between Indian Oil-Phinergy Pvt. Ltd. and automotive manufacturers Maruti Corp and Ashok Leyland to support the JV for commercializing the aluminium-air technology in automotive sector.

This JV is an outcome of the MoU signed in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Israel Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu in 2018 in New Delhi. This is a significant and futuristic step towards India's commitment to combat climate change by deployment of low-carbon energy solutions.

4. On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan conveyed his deep appreciation to H.E. Dr Sultan Al Jaber for being a key partner in India's energy engagement globally. He held discussions with H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber on further strengthening and providing greater momentum to bilateral strategic energy partnership.

5. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 Secretary, P&NG had a meeting with Mr. Khaled Salmeen, Executive Director at the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and had a discussion on the SPR's and their future working.

6. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel joined the release of the blueprint on the clean skies' for tomorrow initiative of WEF on

scaling up sustainable aviation fuel in India, with Dr. Christoph Wolff, Global Head of Mobility, WEF and Ajay Singh, CMD Fly spicejet.

Hon'ble Minister Spoke about India's multifold approach to energy transition, policy initiatives for ensuring energy justice while driving sustainability, achieving COP21 targets, driving biofuels and other domestic sources for achieving low-carbon pathways among others.

7. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Hon'ble Minister joined the signing ceremony virtually of a collaborative agreement between Marie Tecnimont of Italy & NIT Karnataka for setting up of a pilot bio-waste recycle plant and promoting research-based collaborations in the field of waste-to-energy at NIT Karnataka. Also mentioned, the initiative by a leading Italian energy company Marie Tecnimont for joining India's drive on waste-to-wealth creation, and also for its plans to join in the field of petrochemicals and Hydrogen sector.

8. On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel had an excellent introductory meeting virtually with US Secretary of Energy H.E Jennifer Granholm and congratulated her on assuming the high office. During the meeting they reviewed the India-US Strategic Energy Cooperation (SEP) and also agreed to prioritize greater collaboration in cleaner energy sector- biofuels, CCUS, hydrogen production and carbon sequestration through technology exchange, joint R&D through Partnership to Advance Clean Energy Research (PACE-R), among other initiatives.

9. In the Month of March, more than 4.29 lakh new LPG connections were issued and total number of LPG connections released in the FY 2020-21 are nearly 84.15 lakhs till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021. As on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021, 27.15 crore LPG consumers are availing subsidy under PAHAL scheme Nearly 2 lakh customers have joined PAHAL scheme in the month of March, 2021. Till date more than 1.08 crore customers have given up their LPG subsidy under 'GiveltUp' campaign.

10. The number of Lols issued and distributorships commissioned in the month of January, 2021 are 2 and 26, respectively. Total number of Lols issued and distributorships commissioned from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 are 134 and 424, respectively.

11. Domestic crude oil production for the month of March, 2021 was 2603 TMT as against production target of 2769 TMT, showing an achievement of 94.01%. Natural Gas production for the month of March, 2021 was 2681 MMSCM as against production target of 3162 MMSCM, showing an achievement of 84.79%.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. For Ethanol supply Year (ESY) 2020 -2021 Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) floated a tender for 458 crore litre against which 325.93 crore litre could be allocated as on 29.03.2021. Suppliers have since supplied 100.88 crore litre till 29/03/2021 enabling 7.23/% average blending percentage.

15. Steering Committee of CHT for PM JIVAN Yojana has approved financial assistance to 4 Commercial Projects at Panipat (IOCL), Bargarh (BPCL), Bhatinda (HPCL) and Numaligarh (NRL) and one demonstration project of IOCL at Panipat under the scheme.

16. During the period April, 20 to March, 21, OMCs have procured 0.4962 crore litres of biodiesel for blending with diesel. As per Biodiesel Association of India (BDAI), there was total production of 8.49 crore litre of biodiesel during the period April, 2020 to Jan, 2021.

17. 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 69 Biodiesel Plants with a production capacity of 1330 MT/day (Approx 52 cr.Litres/annum)

18. Motor Spirit Block Project (MSBP) at Kochi Refinery is conceived to maximize BS-VI grade Motor Spirit production by upgrading Naphtha. The MSBP Project consists of three major units namely Naphtha Hydro Treater (NHT) of 1.5 MMTPA capacity, Continuous Catalytic Reforming Unit (CCR) of 0.8 MMTPA capacity and Light Naphtha Isomerization (Penex) Unit of 0.7 MMTPA capacity and associated facilities. Project has been completed in March as per approved schedule of 31.03.2021. Project is presently under commissioning. Naphtha Hydro Treater (NHT) unit has been commissioned on 24.03.2021. Continuous Catalytic Reformer (CCR) unit is expected to be commissioned by first week of April and Light Naphtha Isomerization Unit (Penex) will be commissioned in May 2021.

19. As on 30.03.2021 total 24964 Retail Outlets have been solarized.