



energising lives

# JWALADHWANI

DECEMBER 2023 / VOL. LVIII/12

Energising Kochi Refinery



## Merry Christmas



### EDITORIAL

## ADIEU 2023

### CLOSING ON A FANTASTIC NOTE

Winter is setting in and in the next few weeks we bid adieu to another royal year. This time we end it on such a high note with BPCL share prices hitting a record high and the announcement of fabulous dividends for all shareholders.

Kochi Refinery has a few records to our credit before the close of the year, starting with the crude basket widening to 109, a new product added to our portfolio and also the first CBG plant in Kerala, being the one to be developed by BPCL at Kochi.

We are also delighted that Officer promotions have been announced and we have over 300 employees preparing for the tests. KR has taken a 360 degree approach in helping them in this pursuit. JwalaDhwani is happy to report all these and more.

The feel is good as the year ends and we all look forward to a grand New Year.

Greetings of the season!

Warmly,  
Editor

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## ANODE GRADE PET COKE NEW PRODUCT IN BPCL KR PORTFOLIO

BPCL Kochi Refinery, has successfully completed a 4500 MT Anode Grade Pet Coke production trial at Delayed Coker unit. The trial was conducted from 3rd to 5th November, 2023, and was the culmination of extensive research and development in collaboration with Corporate R&D Centre. With this, Kochi Refinery adds one more value added product to the BPCL Refinery product portfolio. The concept of anode grade coke production was initially tested and proved at CRDC pilot plant.

After careful consideration and evaluation of suitable crudes, a critical factor for anode grade coke production, the KR team & CRDC developed a strategy for anode grade coke production by optimisation of DCU parameters, The price of anode grade coke is three to four times higher than the current price of fuel grade coke, making it a premium product for BPCL. Anode grade coke, which is mainly imported in India, is an essential component in the aluminium industry . The current market demand in India is ~2.3 MMTPA of which only 20% is fulfilled by Indian refineries.

The successful completion of this trial, is a significant milestone for Bharat Petroleum Kochi Refinery and for the Nation towards the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Post the successful trial Mr. Abhai Raj Singh Bhandari, Executive Director (Kochi Refinery) appreciated the efforts of CRDC and KR teams in the presence of senior members of CRDC and Kochi Refinery,

## KR CRUDE BASKET HITS 109

Kochi Refinery processed one more new crude, **Kaliningrad** in November 2023, thus increasing the KR basket size to 109. The performance of this Russian crude was found satisfactory, and hence has been accepted as regular crude.

[International Trade of BPCL : Know More](#)

## FIRST CBG PLANT BY BPCL IN KERALA COMING UP AT KOCHI

BPCL's proposal for setting up a bio-methanation plant of 150 TPD capacity at Kochi by converting Biodegradable Waste into Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) has been welcomed by Government of Kerala and the first unit is coming up by December 2024.

'Bio-CNG' is purified form of bio-Gas whose composition & energy potential is similar to that of fossil based natural gas and is produced from agricultural residues, animal dung, food waste, MSW and Sewage water. Bio-gas is produced through a process of anaerobic decomposition from waste / biomass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc. After purification, it is compressed and called Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) which has more than 90 % methane content. Further, Compressed Bio-Gas has properties similar to the commercially available natural gas and can be used as an alternative, renewable automotive fuel.

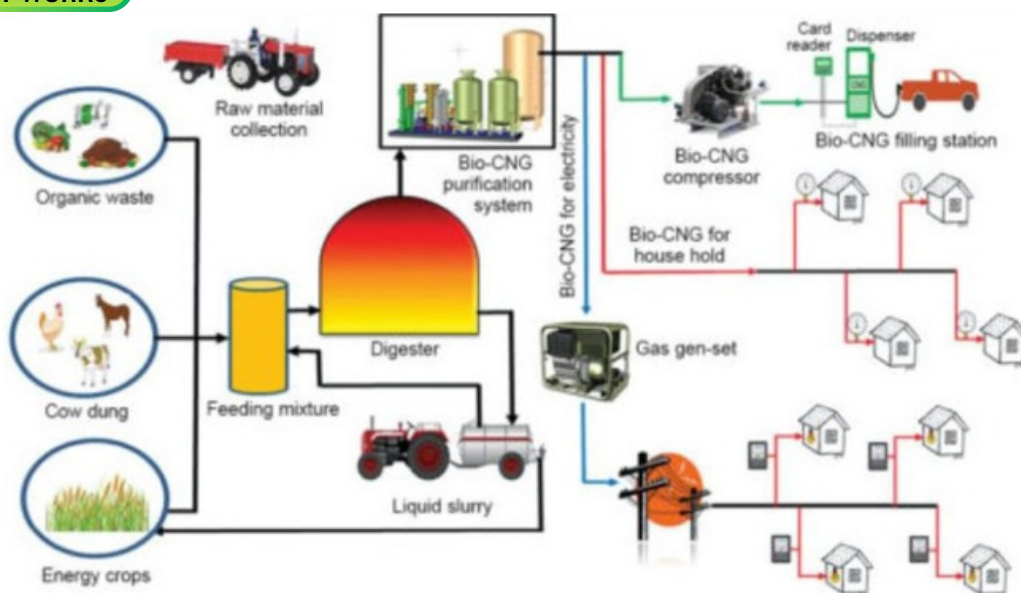
For the successful installation and operation of the bio CBG plant by BPCL, the State Government would commit to ensure the municipal solid waste (MSW), 150 TPD (organic fraction) shall be made available. GOK will be providing 10 acres of land to BPCL at the Brahmapuram site for setting up the plant, free of cost on long term basis. Power and water will be provided during construction & operation of the plant at concessional rate.

BPCL has indicated that the proposed plant will produce 4-5% of CBG that shall be utilized by BPCL. Necessary permissions will be provided for laying of the pipeline from CBG plant to the refinery, the alignment of which would be proposed by BPCL later.

BPCL has also informed that they will tie up the necessary forward linkage for offtake of solid and liquid manure produced in the plant. It has also been decided that 5-10% impurities other than bio waste would also be processed, and the Kochi Corporation will support the removal of rejects, that cannot be processed. It has been decided that in view of the comparatively smaller size of the plant, royalty would not be insisted upon. The matter of accrual of carbon credits is unclear and will be decided later. Kochi Corporation has welcomed the proposal for the commissioning of the plant at Brahmapuram by BPCL.

### BIO-FUELS - KNOW MORE

#### HOW IT WORKS





## VENDOR MEET AT KOCHI REFINERY

The thrust of the Vigilance Awareness Week by the Central Vigilance Commission every year is to create better awareness of the evils of corruption in society and the need to promote probity and integrity in governance. The theme for this year is “Say no to corruption; commit to the nation” and Vigilance Awareness week (VAW) from 30th October to 5th November 2023.

At BPCL, we strive to maintain the highest level of transparency and ethics in all spheres of our business, consider our suppliers and contractors as valuable partners in our business and conduct the dealings with them with utmost transparency and fairness. As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week, Kochi Refinery organised the annual Vendors’ Meet, on 1 November.

Mr. Abhai Raj Singh Bhandari, Executive Director (Kochi Refinery) inaugurated the meet and elaborated on the importance of our business partner’s role in our growth and the necessity in maintaining transparency in all business transactions. Ms. Meenaxi Rawat, CVO, BPCL addressed the gathering from Mumbai. Also present on the occasion were Mr. S Srikanth, CGM (Vigilance), Mr. Sankar M, CGM I/C (Operations-KR), Mr. Sreeram A N, CPO (R), Mr. Rajesh J, Procurement (Finance Head – CPO Refinery) and Mr. Skanda Prasad S, GM (Vigilance). Mr. Himanshu Shah, DGM(Vigilance), administered the pledge in Hindi and Mr. Joji Melel, CM (CPO-KR) administered the same in English.

Ms. Asha G and Mr. Rupesh Garg from BPEC, Mumbai along with officials of CPO-KR clarified queries raised by the vendors. Around 50 vendors participated in the meet at the BPCL Marine Drive complex, Kochi.



INAUGURAL ADDRESS



CVO'S ADDRESS



VIGILANCE PLEDGE





## PPAC DEMAND ASSESSMENT MEET AT KOCHI



Corporate Planning hosted the **Demand Assessment Meet** for Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) at Kochi on 16 and 17 Nov 2023 with the support from Kochi Refinery. The meet was Chaired by Mr. P. Manoj Kumar, Director General PPAC. Besides Dr. Pankaj Sharma, AD PPAC and Mr Niren Bhattacharya, AD PPAC were also present. The Director General PPAC was formally welcomed with a traditional shawl by Mr. Sankar M, CGM (Operations) i/c, Kochi Refinery. The meet was also attended by BPCL State Level Coordinators (SLCs) from Southern and Eastern Regions. SLCs presented their assessment of future projection on petroleum products for the year 2024-25 which was reviewed by the PPAC team.

## NEW CPT CHIEF VISITS KR

The new Chairman of Cochin Port Trust Authority, Mr. B Kasiviswanathan IRSME visited Kochi Refinery on 10 November 2023. ED(KR), Mr. Abhai Raj Singh Bhandari and members of the Refinery Council extended a warm welcome to the new head of CPT. Post discussions with the senior management team, the CPT Chairman was given an elaborate tour of the Refinery by the senior KR team.

A gold medallist in Mechanical Engineering from Govt. College of Technology, Coimbatore, Mr. Kasiviswanathan started his career with Bharat Electronics Limited followed by Indian Ordnance Factories Services before joining Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME). He has around three decades of professional experience in diverse fields like Rolling stock maintenance, project management, system study & optimization, material management, finance & costing and human resource management. Prior to taking over the present assignments at Cochin Port Authority, he has served as Chief Vigilance Officer of ITI, Bangalore. He had also served as Chairman, Railway Recruitment Board, Bangalore for more than five years.





## WE PLEDGE NATIONAL UNITY



Mr. Abhai Raj Singh Bhandari, Executive Director (Kochi Refinery) leads the National Unity Pledge on the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on 31 Oct 2023. Mr. Singh administered the pledge in Hindi and Mr. Sankar M, Chief General Manager (Operations) led the pledge in English.

Commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is observed on 31 October 2023 with a view to foster and reinforce our dedication to preserve and strengthen unity, integrity and security of our nation.

Employees took the pledge at the special ceremony in front of the KR Administration Block and also at department level gatherings.



## COUNTER TERRORIST EXERCISE BY NSG

The National Security Guards (NSG) executed a Counter Terrorist Exercise at BPCL Kochi Refinery from November 23rd to 24th, 2023. This extensive drill engaged approximately 200 uniformed personnel, including elite NSG Black Cat Commandos, Observers from NSG, Senior Police Officials, members of the Anti-Terrorist Squad/Urban Commandos/Avengers of Kerala Police, Fire & Rescue team, and the CISF team.

BPCL KR Security team, in strategic coordination with Fire & Safety, P&U (Electrical), E&C (Design), HR Estates & Admin, played a pivotal role in ensuring the seamless execution of the Counter Terrorist Exercise. The primary focus of the drill was on hostage evacuation at the Administrative building, commencing at 2340 hrs on November 23rd, 2023. Unfolding throughout the night, the scenario dynamically shifted to the Old CR School at Jwalagiri from 0830 hrs on November 24th, 2023 and culminated at 1200 hrs, demonstrating adaptability and readiness in response to evolving circumstances. This meticulous and intensive training session showcased the commitment of all stakeholders, emphasizing their dedication to enhancing preparedness and response capabilities in the face of potential security threats.



# PROJECT ASPIRE

## CREATING VALUE FOR OUR STAKEHOLDERS IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS

Spearheaded by our Chairman & Managing Director Mr. G Krishnakumar, Bharat Petroleum is on a high voltage mission that aims at Doubling the Profits from 2021-22 and Quadrupling the Market Capitalisation in next 5 Years (2023-28). On his recent visit to Kochi Refinery, C&MD launched **Project Aspire**, which is built on the eight pillars namely Refining, Marketing, Non-Fuel, Gas, Upstream, Petrochemical, Green Energy Business and Digital Ventures.

The four broad themes of Project Aspire are to (1) Nurture and grow BPCL's current core businesses; (2) Make 5 big bold bets in Gas, Non-Fuel, Petrochemicals, Green Energy and Digital Ventures; (3) Strengthen Foundational elements of R&D, Funding, Digital and Partnerships and (4) Strengthen the organization and invest heavily in Talent development.

People, R&D, Partnerships, Funding Excellence, Digital, Technology & Innovation are the key drivers to achieve the aspiration mentioned in the eight pillars, which we will be addressing one by one in the Know More series, starting this month.

### Nurture and grow BPCL's current core businesses:

The current core businesses of BPCL are Refining, Marketing and Upstream. Let's look at the first core area:

**REFINING** : Bharat Petroleum operates three oil refineries at Mumbai, Kochi & Bina with a group refining capacity of over 35 MMTPA. Mumbai Refinery (MR) is one of the most versatile refineries in India with state of the art monitoring tools covering entire functions of refinery. The Refinery was commissioned in 1955 with processing capacity of 2.2 MMTPA and currently has a capacity of 12 MMTPA.

Kochi Refinery (KR) started its journey in 1966 with a capacity of 50,000 bbl per day and currently is the largest PSU Refinery at 15.5 MMTPA. KR is equipped to receive crude oil in Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) with SPM (Single Point Mooring) and has a 300 km long pipeline that connects the refinery to various consumption points in Tamil Nadu. The Refinery has the ability to swing between MS & HSD based on demand and has also commissioned Petrochemicals Unit which produces Niche Propylene Derivatives

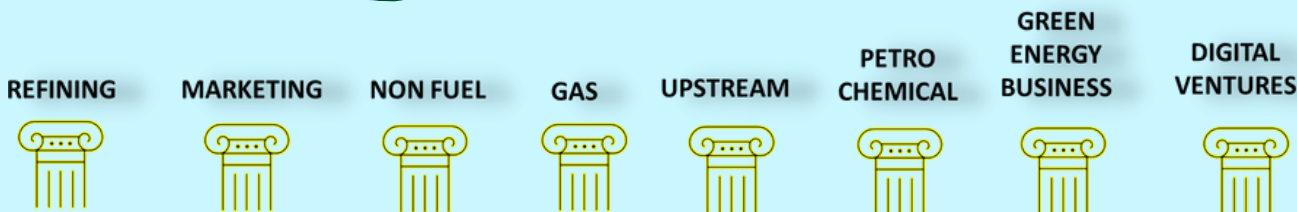
Bina Refinery (BR), in Madhya Pradesh, was incorporated as a Joint Venture between Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and OQ SAOC (formerly known as Oman Oil Company SAOC) in the year 1994 to set up central India refinery under a bilateral agreement. Bina Refinery amalgamated with BPCL in 2021 and has a refining capacity of 7.8 MMTPA and is all set for its foray into Petrochemical business.



PROJECT ASPIRE AIMS AT DOUBLING PROFITS (RS.25000 CR) FROM 2021-22 AND QUADRUPLING THE MARKET CAPITALISATION (RS.3 LAKH CR) IN NEXT 5 YEARS (2023-28)

In REFINING, the focus is on :

- Expansion of Bina Refinery capacity by 4-5 MMTPA to cater petrochemicals cracker
- Expansion of Mumbai and Kochi Refinery based on demand



PROJECT ASPIRE IS BUILT ON EIGHT PILLARS



## FOCUSED PREPARATORY WORKSHOP FOR OFFICER ASPIRANTS

Kochi Refinery has taken a 360 degree approach to support all aspirants of Officer Promotions announced by BPCL for in Refineries and Marketing recently. The candidates are expected to qualify an online test and the interview for the promotion to various positions.

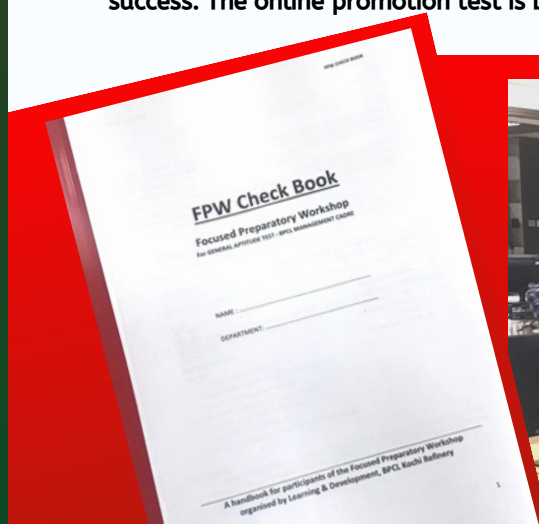
To support and motivate the aspirants from the labour and clerical staff, Kochi Refinery opened an online **Pre Test Quiz (PTQ) platform** with a bank of 200 questions to bring them to the online mode of learning. Subsequently, a **Focused Preparatory Workshop (FPW)** was rolled out which included short learning modules in English, Numerical Ability, Logical Reasoning and GK and **a real-time mock-test** giving them a final score of their performance. Going forward we also had a detailed analysis of questions and answers for the candidates to gain more confidence in their learning journey. M/s TIME who have seasoned trainers for preparing students and seniors for competitive tests was engaged for the FPW that was organised for 2 batches of 50 per day. The workshop was organised at the KR Auditorium during 20-23 November 2023. For the individual learning experience and mock-test 50 Desktop Computers were also arranged for the aspirants. A majority of the 311 candidates who are taking the tests participated very enthusiastically in the workshop.

In continuation to the mock-test at the scheduled workshops, repeat **Mock Tests** in separate batches on 28 & 29 November 2023. The questions on the PTQ platform was also enhanced with more exercises in all four areas. Candidates could practice at their individual work-stations or at any of the 15 locations within the plant. Learning kiosks were also provided at an open room at KR Admn block, for additional PTQ practice. Initially, the practice session was limited to one trial a day for 30 questions in 30 minutes. Post the workshop, the question bank was enhanced and the trials were for a longer time frame and unlimited.

The **customized training programme** was delivered by M/s TIME with a good pool of experienced hands to handle the sessions. The TIME trainers included Mr. Renu Francis (Mathematics), Mr. Ashwin Variyar, Mrs. Gayathry Devi P (English) and Mr. Ashish Mathew (Quantitative Aptitude & Reasoning Ability). The mock test at the end of each session was also validated by the faculty.

Candidates also received an **FPW Check Book**, a learning hand-out comprising of basic concepts in English Language learning and usage, Numerical Ability, Logical Reasoning and GK. Sample questions and solutions for reference in each area and a Mock Test (50 questions) with answers. The handbook also sports useful web-resources, names of books and YouTube channels for self-learning. This was in addition to a booklet from M/s TIME on Numerical concepts only.

At the close of the workshop, ED(KR) Mr. Abhai Raj Singh Bhandari along with GM(HR), Mr. George Thomas, met the aspirants. ED (KR) expressed confidence in their promising performance and also wished all of them the very best of success. The online promotion test is being organised by Corporate HRD in mid December 2023.







## HANDS ON TRAINING TO FIGHT FIRE

Two batches of Live-fire fighting training was organised by L&D in coordination with HSE Dept in November 2023. Twenty one officials from the Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) employees of Cochin International Airport attended the programme on 08 - 09 November 2023. In the second batch on 20 - 21 November, 23 employees from Aviation, LPG and E&P BUs participated in the exclusive training programme. The pressure-fed fuel fire fighting training at Kochi Refinery Fire training ground is a complete practical demo after the detailed classroom sessions at the Fire-Training Hall by Nationally acclaimed KR internal experts in Fire & Safety. This exclusive training at KR Fire training ground is an open programme aimed at making the KR Learning Centre a unique profit centre.

## MANAGERIAL EFFECTIVENESS



The third batch of officers attended the 2-day residential programme on *Managerial Effectiveness* organised in association with XIME, Kochi, a premium business school in India. The leadership workshop was organised on 19 & 20 November 2023.

The workshop led by master trainers is a combination of engaging learning modes and hard-core class-room sessions.

The program focuses on strengthening self management competencies, managing by communicating effectively, stress and time management, collaboration and style adaptability to increase managerial effectiveness. Three more batches of 25 officers each are expected to take the sessions in December 2023 and January & February 2024 respectively covering approx 150 officers in this exclusive programme by Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship, Kochi in 2023-24.

## ALL ABOUT WORK PERMITS

**Permit to Work System or Work Permit System**, is a standard operational procedure used by organizations to issue documented permission to perform tasks that are considered hazardous or non-routine. There are many works in these categories at a Refinery that operates 24 x 7. Training on Work Permit System is organised at regular intervals and in November we had a session on Work Permits facilitated by internal resource persons Mr. Smit Kumar Pal ( HSE Fire & Safety ) & Mr.Saju K S ( HSE Electrical & Contract Safety ). Close to 80 employees participated in the programme on 15 November 2023 at the Fire Training Hall.



## WHATS-UP IN JANUARY 2024

- TECH REFRESHER PROGRAMMES : MFG, P&U MAINT and OM&S
- Advanced EXCEL & Powerpoint
- SAP : MM Module
- XIME : Managerial Effectiveness

## IMS - UPDATE

IMS guidelines specify periodic refresher training for serving officers in order to maintain continuous compliance with IMS guidelines. The one-day session on 23 Nov 23 covered the general description, guidelines, documentary requirement and FAQs pertaining to ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 and ISO 50001. Methodical sessions and reading material was provided by Mr. Veerabagu, an expert in IMS training.

# CONGRATS ON CROSSING YOUR CAREER MILESTONE

25 years



MANIKKUTTAN C  
OM&S



PAVITHRAN M C  
P&U



SUNIL KUMAR T  
HSE



NATARAJAN V K  
MAINTENANCE



SHAIJU V JOSE  
HSE



PRASAD M P  
OM&S



GIRESHKUMAR S  
MAINT



RADHAKRISHNAN  
P / CPO-KR

## SUPERANNUATION



Best wishes to our colleague, S YUVARAJ, Admn Assistant, who is superannuating this month. He joined the Refinery in 1987 in the P&A Dept and is retiring from HR Estates.



## DRP AGAIN

The Discover Refinery Programme (DRP) was Conducted on November 11, 2023 and included a Presentation led by Venkata Sudhakar, Sr. Manager (Mfg) and Plant visit led By Mr. Benson George, Sr. Manager (MFG). A total of 45 participants ( 13 Employees & 32 family members) attended.

→ →  
**COP28** 30 November - 12 December

*Happy Birthday*

COME WISH KOCHIREFINERS CELEBRATING THEIR SPECIAL DAY IN DECEMBER 2023. LOG ON TO KR CONNECT TO KNOW TEAM MEMBERS CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY ON EACH DAY OF THE MONTH. FOR THE MONTHLY UPDATE PLS FOLLOW DIGITAL NOTICE BOARDS

This year, #COP28 will take place from 30 November to 12 December in the United Arab Emirates.

Check out the schedule: [unfccc.int/documents/632476](https://unfccc.int/documents/632476)  
Learn more: [unfccc.int/cop28](https://unfccc.int/cop28)



## IMAN 2023- VIGILANCE AWARENESS AT CRS

As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week, 2023, Kochi Refinery and Cochin Refineries School organised various programmes on the theme 'Say no to corruption, Commit to the nation' from 30 October to 5 November.

The school took the Anti -Corruption pledge at the assembly on 30 October. Competitions on Slogan writing, Poster designing and Cartoon with theme 'Corruption free India' were conducted for students. On November 3rd, an Inter School competition was organised for students in and around the city. Around 100 students from various schools participated in Poster designing, Cartoon and Mime competitions.

At the valedictory ceremony, Mr. Himanshu Shah, DGM I/C Vigilance) and Mr. Ramesh K DGM (Vigilance) distributed the prizes to the winners Mr. Vinumoan K Mathew, Principal, CRS and Vice Principal, Ms Premlatha Shaji addressed the gathering. CR School students also took out a public awareness campaign at the Subhash Chandra Bose Park, Ernakulam on 4 November 2023. In spite of the heavy downpour, the programmes received great public encouragement and they also joined the students in taking the anti-corruption pledge.



*It's not what we gather, But what we scatter that Tells us what kind of life We have lived.*

I realised this when tributes from the former students kept pouring in for a much loved and respected teacher - Lobo mam. "Lovely lady ... Dedicated and excellent teacher.. My favourite teacher...meticulous.. compassionate, kind and loving..unique style.. moulded lives and destinies... beautiful soul and great teacher... The list goes on and on ...straight from the heart. As a colleague and principal, Mrs. Lobo was calm, kind, soft spoken and generous in appreciating work well done. She never had a negative word for anyone- A true motivator and morale booster.

Mrs. Janette Lobo, joined Cochin Refineries School in 1974 and retired as the Principal, Cochin Refineries School in May, 2000 after serving and motivating children for 26 years. She initiated the beautification of CRS campus with the ' GO GREEN 'campaign. Revamping and upgrading the computer lab was high on her agenda. No school function was complete without the accompaniment of Mrs. Lobo on her accordion.

We fondly remember and cherish your warmth and friendship. Rest in peace dear Mrs. Lobo In the loving arms of the Lord.

-Mrs. Roselyn Mendez( Former HOD Primary)



## CODING STARS

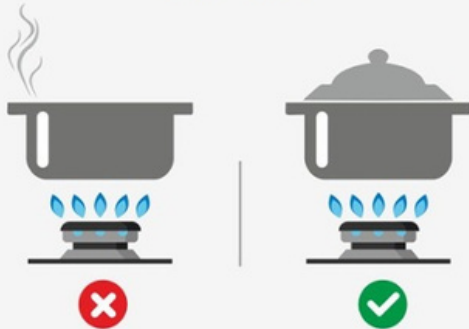
Nimay S and Nandagopal S N of Class 5B secured third prize in the Event-Coding with Scratch for Classes 4 & 5 organised by the ATL of Bhavan's Adarsha Vidyalaya , Kakkanad

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MRS. LOBO

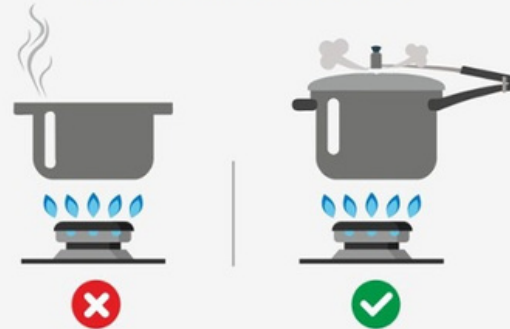


# SAVING FUEL means SAVING MONEY

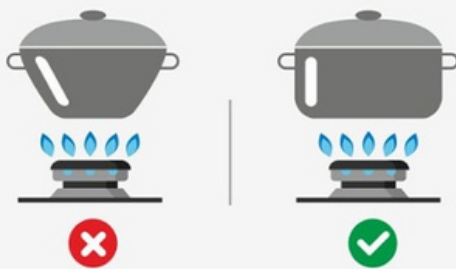
## AVOID OPEN VESSEL COOKING



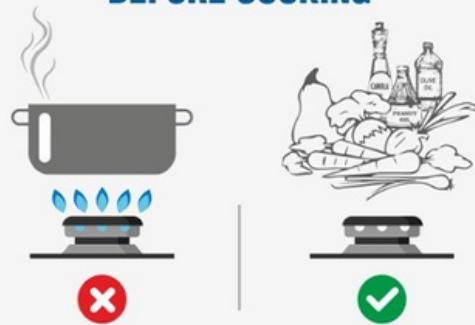
## USE PRESSURE COOKER WHENEVER POSSIBLE



## USE VESSELS / PANS THAT COVER THE BURNER



## COLLECT ALL INGREDIENTS BEFORE COOKING



CUT DOWN YOUR FUEL BILL.  
CONTRIBUTE TO FUEL CONSERVATION.

Bharatgas : KNOW MORE

