

November to remember

We are delighted to bring you the penultimate edition of JwalaDhwani 2025! This edition captures some of the most memorable moments from what has truly been a remarkable year for Kochi Refinery.

Our landmark Diamond Jubilee celebrations - Kochinoor - commenced in September 2025, followed by a heart-warming family gathering on 12 October 2025. It was a day filled with pulsating music, cheerful families, and joyful moments by the bay—an occasion we will cherish for years to come. More such memorable events with diverse groups are planned in the months ahead, as we continue the year-long celebrations culminating in September 2026.

Adding to our pride, BPCL Refineries earned triple honours at the flagship Energy Technology Meet held in Hyderabad this year. This edition brings you insights from the grand convergence where BPCL's refineries showcased their digital excellence and technological leadership.

With Safety and Vigilance taking centre stage in all our endeavours, this issue also features messages from senior leadership—underscoring our collective commitment to awareness and excellence across the organisation.

As we approach the final months of 2025, many more milestone moments await

Here's to making November a month to remember!

Warmly,

George Thomas Chief General Manager (HR)

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Editor: George Thomas, Chief General Manager (HR), Kochi Refinery Associate Editor: Kavitha Mathew, Manager (Brand), Kochi Refinery Published by: CGM(HR) For BPCL Kochi Refinery, Post Bag -2, Ambalamugal, Ernakulam, 682302, Kerala Editorial Correspondence: kavithamathew@bharatpetroleum.in. Website: www.bharatpetroleum.in For Private Circulation only. All rights reserved . Reproduction in any form only with the written permission of the Editor.

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Dear Refinerians,

At BPCL, safety has always been at the heart of everything we do. As we continue our journey toward becoming a future-ready, digitally-enabled, and environmentally-responsible energy company, our commitment to Occupational and Process Safety remains non-negotiable.

In pursuit of safety excellence, I am pleased to announce the launch of ELEVATE - our comprehensive Process Safety Management (PSM) Assessment Program, in collaboration with M/s DuPont Sustainable Solutions, one of the best and globally recognized leaders in safety and operational risk management.

ELEVATE: Rising Together Towards Safety Excellence embodies our shared mission to continuously raise the bar on safety culture and performance across all levels of our operations.

This strategic initiative will be undertaken across our **Mumbai**, **Kochi**, **and Bina Refineries**, where all the elements of the PSM framework have already been implemented. This provides a strong foundation for the upcoming assessment, which aims to evaluate the effectiveness of our current systems, benchmark against international best practices, and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

Let me emphasize- **ELEVATE** is not a compliance exercise, it's a forward-looking initiative to strengthen our safety mindset, identifying gaps, close them within a defined timeframe and reinforce our collective ownership of safety.

refineries have adopted Over the years, our state-of-the-art digital innovations maintenance, Al-enabled risk analytics, integrated digital control rooms, and smart safety dashboards, among others. These advances have significantly enhanced operational reliability and safety assurance. Yet, we must remember that technology alone cannot ensure safety it is the people behind the systems who make the real difference. Safety is lived through actions, decisions, and everyday choices on the ground.

As part of the ELEVATE program, we are also launching a Safety Perception Survey, which will be extended to all employees and contract workforce across our refineries. This survey is your platform to express your views, share concerns, and contribute insights on workplace safety. I urge each one of you to participate sincerely and candidly. Your feedback is invaluable - it will directly shape the actions we take and the improvements we implement in our journey towards safety excellence.

Your voice matters, Your experience counts, Your feedback can make workplace safer.

Let us always remember - safety is a continuous journey. It demands vigilance, collaboration, and proactive ownership at every level. Every hazard reported, every unsafe act avoided, and every suggestion made, brings us closer to our goal of zero harm.

I look forward to your enthusiastic participation and unwavering support in making ELEVATE a meaningful and transformative step forward.

Together, let's rise towards safety excellence.







October 27, 2025

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK-2025

Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders,

As we stand on the threshold of **Vigilance Awareness Week 2025**, observed from **27th October to 2nd November**, I invite each one of you to reflect on the theme of this year's observance:

"Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility" ॥ "सतर्कता : हमारी साझा जिम्मेदारी "

This powerful message is a reminder that the responsibility of ensuring transparency, integrity, and accountability does not rest on a few shoulders alone. It is a **collective commitment** — shared by employees, management, partners, vendors, and every stakeholder associated with our organization.

We, at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, have consistently strived to embed ethical practices and systems that deter corruption, encourage reporting of unethical behavior, and build trust in our operations. Yet, there is always more we can do — together.

Let this Vigilance Awareness Week be more than a ceremonial observance. Let it be a **movement of mindful action**. I urge each department, each unit, and each individual to take this message forward — through discussions, pledges, outreach programs, and active engagement with both **internal teams and external stakeholders**.

Let us ensure that the spirit of vigilance extends beyond our offices — reaching **our partners, contractors, suppliers,** and the communities we serve. Everyone has a role to play. Everyone's participation matters.

Together, let us build an environment where integrity leads, transparency governs and vigilance prevails.

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." – Thomas Jefferson

Thank you for your commitment.

Meenaxi Rawat Chief Vigilance Officer









PSM Assessment of BPCL Refineries

Sankar M
Executive Director (Kochi Refinery)

Dear Team,

At Kochi Refinery, **Safety** is a core value that underpins every aspect of our operations. As stewards of high-risk, high-performance assets, we bear a profound responsibility to protect our people, our environment, and communities we serve.

In line with our unwavering commitment to safety, we are proud to launch ELEVATE—our Comprehensive Process Safety Management (PSM) Assessment Program—in collaboration with DSS+ (DuPont Sustainable Solutions), a global leader in safety and operational excellence. ELEVATE: Rising Together Towards Safety Excellence reflects our collective journey toward fostering a safer, stronger, and more resilient safety culture across BPCL.

Over the coming months, DSS+ will partner closely with our teams at Bina, Kochi and Mumbai Refineries to conduct a thorough evaluation of our existing safety systems, culture, and practices. This initiative is both timely and strategic.

While we have made great strides in improving our safety system - it is vital to continuously assess their effectiveness in managing risks and ensuring safety. A key part of this initiative is the **Safety Perception Survey**, open to all employees and the contract workforce. This survey is your opportunity to candidly share insights, experiences, and concerns about safety at work. Honest feedback will help us uncover blind spots, highlight areas for improvement, and drive meaningful actions to make our refinery even safer.

We urge every one of you to participate wholeheartedly in this exercise. It's about making sure every individual who walks into our premises returns home safe every day.

Let us embrace safety not just as a policy, but as a shared responsibility and a collective commitment. With your active involvement, ELEVATE can truly become the bridge that connects us to world-class safety standards and a culture of continuous improvement.

Together, let's rise towards safety excellence.





TRIPLE HONOURS FOR BPCL AT ETM 2025

BPCL has been conferred with three prestigious awards at the 28th Energy Technology Meet (ETM), a platform that recognises excellence in refining and innovation across India's oil and gas sector, where technical performance and operational excellence are evaluated through rigorous parameters.

Best Performing Refinery - Mumbai Refinery

Recognised for achieving operational excellence, energy efficiency, and exemplary environmental performance, setting benchmarks for the industry.

Reliable Refinery - Bina Refinery

Honoured for maintaining consistent reliability and superior performance, ensuring uninterrupted energy supply that powers progress.

Innovation Award - ODR Based Integrated Operator Insight Application

Awarded for pioneering digital transformation by empowering on-ground teams with real-time insights through mobile technology, enhancing safety, productivity, and efficiency.

These accolades reaffirm BPCL's commitment to building a **Viksit Bharat** through sustainable refining practices, technological innovation, and operational excellence, perfectly aligned with the theme of ETM 2025, Energising Viksit Bharat through Sustainable Refining.



BPCL REFINERIES DAZZLE AT ETM 2025

BPCL has signed strategic MoUs in the presence of Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary, MoPNG, at the 28th Energy Technology Meet 2025, strengthening India's energy future through three key partnerships.

This includes a collaboration with OIL for South India's first Integrated Greenfield Refinery & Petrochemical Complex at Ramayapatnam; a joint initiative with OIL & NRL to develop a cross-country petroleum product pipeline; and a partnership with FACT for trading organic fertilisers from BPCL's upcoming MSW-based CBG plant in Kochi.

These partnerships mark a significant step in shaping a secure, efficient, and sustainable energy ecosystem for the nation.

BPCL in collaboration with Centre for High Technology (CHT) successfully co-hosted the 28th Energy Technology Meet (ETM) at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) from 28th to 30th October 2025. The prestigious event brought together industry leaders, technologists, and experts to discuss the latest trends and innovations shaping the energy sector. In alignment with the theme of the event — "Energy TECHNOLOGY Meet" — BPCL made a powerful impression with its state-of-the-art pavilion, which stood out as one of the most elegant and innovative exhibits in the entire exhibition area. The pavilion was a perfect blend of technology, design, and content, truly embodying BPCL's commitment to digital transformation and technological advancement across its refineries at Mumbai, Kochi, and Bina.

A Digital Showcase of Innovation

Designed in a fully digital format, the BPCL pavilion captivated visitors with its immersive and futuristic displays. The installation featured several striking visual elements, including an Anamorphic screen, a Kinetic screen, and a central cylindrical LED screen, all working in harmony to create a visually stunning experience.

- The Anamorphic screen brought technology to life with 3D visual effects, showcasing BPCL's sustainability initiative the co-processing of Used Cooking Oil (UCO) in the Kerosene Hydro-Treater Unit at BPCL's Mumbai Refinery. This shall contribute to the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), purity of 5 vol% SAF in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), reinforcing BPCL's focus on sustainable refining.
- The Cylindrical screen at the pavilion's centre served as a dynamic digital façade, highlighting BPCL's niche product portfolio — including LOBS (Lube Oil Base Stocks), DAS (De-Aromatised Solvents), Pharma Grade Hexane and PDPP (Polypropylene Derived Petrochemical Project) products — along with their applications, presented through engaging text and video formats.

• The Kinetic screen, with its moving digital blocks, drew attention to the BPREP (Bina Refinery Petrochemical and Refinery Expansion Project), a major upcoming milestone planned for commissioning by May 2028. The project is set to significantly enhance BPCL's petrochemical portfolio, strengthening its position in the sector.

Beyond its high-tech screens, BPCL's pavilion featured holographic tubes — a first-of-its-kind at the event — showcasing the DAS Project at BPCL Mumbai Refinery and the Compressed Biogas (CBG) Project at BPCL Kochi Refinery. These holographic displays exemplified BPCL's forward-looking approach and readiness for a sustainable and technologically advanced future.

Complementing these digital marvels were video displays chronicling BPCL's refinery journey over the years, emphasizing its contributions to Sustainable Refining, Viksit Bharat and vision of Industry 4.0. In addition, there was also a working model on display by BPCL CRDC, wherein granular graphene has been developed from pet coke which is being used to manufacture graphene battery pouches, powering the working model.

A Pavilion that Reflected the Future of Refining & Energy

The meticulous design and curation of the pavilion reflected BPCL's core strengths — innovation, sustainability, and digital excellence. Every element, from concept to execution, was crafted to engage visitors while communicating BPCL's leadership in refining technology and its readiness to embrace future energy transitions. The BPCL pavilion at the 28th Energy Technology Meet not only showcased technological prowess but also reaffirmed the company's commitment to advancing India's energy landscape through innovation and sustainable practices. With initiatives to strengthen the motto of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', BPCL continues to drive the transformation toward a cleaner, smarter, and more energy-secure future.





KOCHINOOR FAMILY MEET

Kochinoor, the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Kochi Refinery – a proud milestone marking our entry into 60 years of excellence, innovation, and commitment to the nation was celebrated with employees and family members on 12 October 2025.

Mr. M Sankar, Executive Director (Kochi Refinery) delivered the key-note address on this day. Around 4000 members (employees and family members) participated in the event that was organised in two batches. Chief General Managers Mahendiran A, George Thomas, Sumit Saha, Satheesh Kumar KP, Sibi Ignatius, T Venugopal and Jomy Sebastian participated in separate sessions at one of the finest destinations in Kerala, the Grand Hyatt- Kochi.

Mr. George Thomas, CGM(HR) and Mr. Mahendiran A, CGM(Ops) welcomed the gathering in the morning and evening sessions respectively. Along with a recap of the launch by Hon MoS Suresh Gopi and the Foundation Day address by Mr. Sanjay Khanna, Director Refineries with Addnl Charge of C&MD, the sessions also included a sensational musical journey with the international musician Stephen Devassy and other celebrity singers. Digital timelines depicting the transformational growth of Kochi Refinery was also showcased at the Kochinoor family gathering for employees to take pride in the 60 years of Refining for India.









SECRETARY-DPE, MINISTRY OF FINANCE VISITS KOCHI REFINERY

Team Kochi Refinery was privileged to welcome Mr. K. Moses Chalai, IAS , Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance, Govt of India on his recent visit to Kochi Refinery.

Mr. Moses interacted at length with Mr. Sanjay Khanna, Director (Refineries) with Additional Charge of Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. M Sankar, Executive Director (Kochi Refinery), Mr. Senthil Kumar GR, Executive Director (Coordination), Refineries and other members of the Refinery Council on 19 Sept 2025.

He was given a brief presentation on the ongoing projects and specific long-term strategies of the Refinery. Mr. Moses did a walk-through of the Refinery Units, reviewed the Safety facility and later planted a sapling at the KR Eco-park.









VIGILANCE OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Observed from 27th October to 2nd November 2025, the Vigilance Awareness Week aims to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in public life and to reinforce the collective responsibility of all stakeholders in building a corruption-free society.

Mr. Roy Varghese IRS, Deputy Commissioner (Customs) who lit the ceremonial lamp and administered the Integrity Pledge. In his inaugural address, he emphasized the importance of preventive vigilance and individual commitment in maintaining transparency in every sphere of work. Ms Parvathy Gopakumar IAS, Asst. Collector, Ernakulam delivered the valedictory address at the closing ceremony

Mr. George Thomas, CGM (HR), and Mr. Mahendiran A, CGM (Operations), also addressed the gathering, reiterating the need for every employee to uphold honesty, fairness, and responsibility in professional conduct.

The event was attended by senior executives including Mr. Venugopal, CGM (E&C); M. Sibi Ignatius, CGM (Inspection); Mr. Satheesh Kumar K. P., CGM (I/C, Project PP); Mr. Jaikishen C. Nath, CGM (Project PP); Mr. Jomy Sebastian, CGM (Commercial, CPO-R); and Mr. Saha, CGM (P&U), whose presence underscored the organization's unified commitment to vigilance and ethical excellence.

Earlier, the video message from CVO Ms. Meenakshi Rawat and a corporate video on Vigilance were screened, reinforcing the week's objectives of strengthening integrity systems and fostering a culture of zero tolerance toward corruption. Mr. Joji J. Melel, DGM (Vigilance), highlighted the significance of Vigilance Awareness Week in nurturing ethical values and good governance within the organization. Mr. Nair Sasi V. Chandrasekhar, CM (Vigilance), also spoke on the occasion. This year the Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed on the theme — "सतर्कताः हमारी साझा जिम्मेदारी" - Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility".







KOCHI REFINERY PAYS TRIBUTE

Team KR, led by Mr. Sankar M, Executive Director (Kochi Refinery), offered respects to the Mahatma, on 02 October 2025.

Several moments in prayer were offered remembering the life, legacy, and timeless teachings of Mahatma Gandhi – the Father of our Nation. His path of Ahimsa and Satya continues to inspire the world across generations. At special gathering, the team reflected on the life and values of the Mahatma and strive to build a society rooted in peace, compassion, and unity.

After the Envirothon – a marathon for run-for-

KOCHI REFINERY CHAMPIONS COASTAL CLEANUP AT PUTHUVYPIN

As part of Gandhi Jayanti and Swachhata Hi Seva 2025, a beach cleaning drive was organised near the BPCL Short Farm Tank at Puthuvypin.

Inaugurated by Ms.. Resikala, President of Elankunnapuzha Grama Panchayat, the mission saw active participation of BPCL employees, Vypin Press Club members and the Haritha Karma Sena on 02 Oct 2025. Mr. George Thomas, Chief General Manager (HR) expressed that, "This collective effort aimed to spread awareness about cleanliness, sustainability, and community responsibility in support of the Swachh Bharat Mission."



NOURISHING YOUNG MINDS WITH GOOD MORNING ERNAKULAM

BPCL Kochi Refinery rolled out the next phase of its flagship First Meal Project. The event was chaired by Mr. T.J. Vinod, Hon'ble MLA, Ernakulam, in the presence of Mr. George Thomas, CGM (HR), Kochi Refinery.



Over 37,000 students across 182 schools in Ernakulam benefit from this initiative, addressing malnutrition, underweight conditions, and concentration challenges, ensuring every child starts the day energized and ready to learn. Now in its fourth year, Good Morning Ernakulam continues BPCL's commitment to inclusive development, health, and nutrition through impactful CSR initiatives that make a real difference in local communities.

TRUCK ACCIDENT RESPONSE GUIDE FOR KERALA

Kochi Refinery Releases Truck Accident Response Guide (For the state of Kerala) 2025 In a continued effort to enhance safety and emergency preparedness.

KR has released the 10th Edition of its Truck Accident Response Guide 2025. The updated guide was released by PDP&C section of OM&S department and first copy of guide was officially handed over by Mr. Mahendiran, CGM (Operations) to Mr Anand R. CM (SHA) on September 25, 2025 in the presence of Mr. Vinod PL, GM (OM&S), Mr Roshan Shihab, GM(HSE) and other senior officials. The guide provides a comprehensive emergency handling flow chart that clearly outlines individual roles and responsibilities and includes a thoughtful message from the Executive Director of Kochi Refinery, underscoring the critical importance of swift and coordinated response during emergencies. To ensure seamless communication and rapid mobilization, the guide provides updated contact details of key stakeholders—including coordinators for LPG, Industrial & Commercial, Retail, and Aviation sectors—as well as district-wise marketing representatives and Strategic Business Unit (SBU) coordinators.

It also includes emergency contact numbers for fire stations and crane operators across Kerala, ensuring timely support when every second counts. Emergency contact details for Petchem products have been incorporated in this latest edition. By strengthening inter SBU coordination and streamlining emergency protocols, BPCL reaffirms its unwavering commitment to safety, operational excellence, and community responsibility.





KR DIGITAL CHAMPIONS CELEBRATE LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

"Digital will be prime player for a long time. We have to embrace digital not just for efficiency, but to reimagine business models and unlock new value propositions," expressed Mr. Sanjay Khanna, Director Refineries & C&MD (Addnl Charge) on his recent interaction with the Digital champions of Kochi Refinery.

Champions of respective departments, shared about the key digital initiatives that eased operations in respective areas. Mr. Senthilkumar GR, ED (Coordination), Refineries, Mr. Sankar M, ED(Kochi Refinery), Mr. Mahendiran A, CGM(Operations) and Mr. George Thomas, CGM(HR) were also present. Appreciating the innovative approach, few initiatives have been recommended for deeper probe and replication across Refineries.

Meanwhile, in a subsequent workshop for Digital Champions in Oct 2025, Prof. G. Santhosh Kumar, leading faculty Computer and Information Science, CUSAT delved on Federated Learning, a cutting-edge Al approach that facilitates secure, decentralized model training across multiple data sources—an innovation of increasing importance for industries like BPCL. Mr. Sainath C, GM (Digital), KR and Mr. Rajan V.R., CGM (IS & Digital Strategy I/C), Refineries, and stakeholders from BPCL Refineries, Ms. Anuradha S, Mr. Manoj Kumar MN, Mr. Vishwas Khobragade, Mr. Shrrikumar D, Mr. Venu R, Mr. Nandanwar P T, and Mr. Mahesh CD also spoke on the occasion. The team also bid farewell to Mr. Rajan V.R., who was superannuating after a distinguished and impactful career with BPCL.

The two events anchored by the KR Digital team, perfectly embodied the spirit of Bharat Petroleum, KR's evolving digital culture—celebrating people, innovation, and leadership collaborating to shape the refinery of the future.



KMA DIGITAL SUMMIT

A team of six KR digital champions represented BPCL at the KMA Digital Summit 2025 launched by Mr. Seeram Sambasiva Rao, IAS, Secretary (Dept of Electronics & IT) Government of Kerala.



Key note was delivered by Mr Satyendra Khare, Growth Leader and Head – Strategic Partnerships and Distribution (India & SAARC), Google Cloud. The KMA Summit was organised at the Lulu IT Twin Towers at the Smart City, Info Park in Kochi on 30 Oct 2025.



BPCL EYE CAMP FOR TRUCK DRIVERS

In a proactive move to enhance road safety and driver well-being, BPCL organized a dedicated eye camp on September 29, 2025, for truck drivers transporting hydrocarbon products from Kochi Refinery.

The initiative was jointly conducted by BPCL's Industrial & Commercial (I&C) business unit in collaboration with the PDP&C section of OM&S department of Kochi Refinery. Over 60 truck drivers participated in the camp, which was designed to provide free eye screenings, consultations, and awareness on eye health. Given the critical role of visual clarity in safe driving—especially for those handling hazardous loads—the camp aimed to identify vision-related issues early and offer corrective support where needed. Qualified ophthalmologists and support staff from The Eye Foundation of Super Speciality Hospital conducted detailed eye examinations. Drivers requiring further attention were referred for follow-up treatment, and prescription glasses were distributed to those in need.

The camp was inaugurated by Mr. Joseph Rajan, CM I/C(COF/PDP&C) in the presence of Ms. Sandhya Vidyasagar, CM (I&C, Refinery Coordinator). Mr. Vinayak Vishu Nayak AM (I&C) and Mr. Rajesh M, Asst Mgr (OM&S) and Camp coordinator. This initiative reflects BPCL's ongoing commitment to safety, not just within its facilities but across its extended logistics network. By prioritizing the health of truck drivers—who are essential to the safe and timely delivery of hydrocarbon products—BPCL continues to set benchmarks in corporate responsibility and operational excellence.

AWARENESS SESSION: ESI BENEFITS & SPREE 2025

An awareness session on ESI benefits and the SPREE 2025 was jointly organized by ESIC and BPCL Contract Cell on 22 October, 2025, at AMAS. This one-time special drive by ESIC was to encourage self-registration of unregistered employers and inclusion of all eligible employees under ESI coverage. The session received excellent response, with around 120 BPCL contractors & supervisors seeking better understanding of ESI-related provisions and procedures. Mr. Prasanth, Joint Director (ESIC), and Mr. Bharadwaj, Deputy Director (ESIC), led the discussions, addressed participants' queries, and provided valuable insights into ESI benefits and compliance processes. This initiative marks a significant step in strengthening awareness and compliance among BPCL contractors. Mr. R Praveen Kumar, DGM(ER & Ben Admn) and Mr. Kiran Philip, Asst Mgr (ESI-Contract Cell) also spoke.



SERVICE CITATIONS









Krishnan TB



Maint



Salim KK OM&S



OM&S



Suresh Kumar K Maint



George Simon Projects



Maint





Joseph PV HSE



Maint



OM&S



Rajeev P OM&S



Rajesh VM

OM&S

Mahesh Vijayan OM&S



Laiju K OM&S

Girijavallabhan HSE



Varghese P C OM&S



Subramanian KP P&U

25 YEARS



Sujith Raphael K J P&U



Manoj Kumar B OM&S



Varun M QC



Dhanesh CK



Tijoy Thomas Mfg



Rajeev Kumar R P&U

Binil Jacob QC



Srinivasan T

P&U

Sreeraj KR P&U



Deepak V Nair P&U



Linto Johnny C Mfg-II



Dinto AV P&U



Pribin Thomas Mfg-I



Pratheesh VG QC



Sajeesh TS Mfg-II

Riyas V

Mfg



Eldho P

Ratheesh Kumar MG/OM&S



Arun PG P&U



Anoop C Aravind Mfg



Mfg



Anoop KS Petchm



Arun VA Mfg



Arun V **Petchem**



Sujith S Mfg





59th CRS Annual Sports Meet

Cochin Refineries School celebrated its 59th Annual Sports Meet with great enthusiasm and competitive spirit on the 10th and 11th of October 2025 at the Oval Ground, Jwalagiri, Ambalamugal. The event brought together students, teachers, and parents in a vibrant display of sportsmanship and teamwork.



The meet was inaugurated by Mr. Tom Joseph, International Volleyball Player and Arjuna Awardee, who inspired the students with his motivating presence and words of encouragement. The two-day event featured a wide range of track and field competitions, showcasing the athletic talents and determination of the participants.

The Sports Meet served as a wonderful platform for students to demonstrate their physical prowess, discipline, and team spirit—upholding the true essence of sportsmanship and the school's commitment to holistic education.

CBSE National Volleyball Championship 2025



A team of talented players proudly represented CR School at the CBSE National Volleyball Championship held at Dr. Saijya HSS, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, from September 20 to 25, 2025. The team comprised of Surya Kiran P Sujith (Captain), Ishan Ismail (Vice Captain), Adwin A, Nishan K P, Kevin Shinto, Mohan V R, Akhil Krishna, Mayookh Laiju, Shravan V Uday, Devjith Krishna, Abhinav Biju, and Stuwrt Tom.

The championship provided a valuable platform for the players to exhibit their sporting skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship at the national level. Their participation brought great pride to the school and served as an inspiration for budding sports persons.



Experiential Learning Workshop at NIT Calicut

A team of 45 students from Classes 12A and 12B participated in an Experiential Learning Workshop held at NIT Calicut on 26th and 27th September. The workshop provided students with valuable hands-on exposure to advanced scientific concepts and experimental techniques in a real-world setting.

The visit offered an excellent opportunity for the students to interact with experts, explore innovative ideas, and gain deeper insights into practical applications of classroom learning. They were accompanied by the Principal, Mr Vinumoan K Mathew, and teachers, who guided and supported them throughout the programme.

ATAL Tinkering lab tinkers with Al



The Atal Tinkering Lab of CR School has launched an exciting new initiative—an Advanced Training Programme on Artificial Intelligence for students of Classes 5 to 9. Conducted during stayback hours, the programme aims to nurture creativity, problem-solving, and technological curiosity among young learners.

A dynamic team of 50 young innovators is actively engaging in hands-on learning experiences, exploring the world of Al, and working towards building a smarter and more sustainable future. A field visit was also organised for children were taken on a field visit to study the waste management process in the city and understand the problems faced by the people. The visit was organized as part of their project under the Atal Tinkering Lab.





FROM ZERO TO HERO

It was in 2002 that Indian Institute of Petroleum management conducted a 2 day refinery operations game in Delhi to test the caliber of refinery operations/management among Indian refiners. IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, KRL, MRL, MRPL, Reliance and Essar participated in this game.

This was the time when Indian petroleum platform was being opened up which meant that the whole refining game had tilted towards betterment of GRM. We had a ray of hope since we had topped the GRM list because of introduction of some opportunity crudes into our basket. However, winning this 2 days skirmish was beyond our wildest of imaginations as we had to face the doyens in the field.

Since a refinery management game of this kind was new, KR management decided to send an assorted team to represent the refinery. The members included Prasad K Panicker as the head, and Chacko M Jose, both having MBA background. There were two members representing the operations, namely, Subramoni lyer representing manufacturing and S Rajmohan representing maintenance. I got a wild card entry into the team since I was heading Oil Economics and had undergone refinery trading training under BP. However this heterogeneous team never had any experience of running any Optimizer like PIMS which all other refineries had. We landed in Delhi with the determination to put up a fight with our varied experience in view.

First day forenoon session was for inauguration and to enlighten the group for a change in mindset of refiners in the present context. In the afternoon, the game was introduced to us explaining how we should play. Each game represented refinery operation for a quarter. The first quarter's game, the only one played on day1, was not that good. Even after all of us putting our heads together, we ended up as no.3.

That evening, we sat together and brainstormed on our performance—and decided on—a strategy to improve our performance on the next day. It was decided to split the group into 3, work parallelly and converging our working. It meant that everyone's expertise—could be separately utilized—but ultimately shared and utilized within the group.

- Group 1 will select the crude and after analysing the environment, decide on the crude price, crude transportation, insurance etc. apart from product basket.
- The operations group discuss on the problems in running the crude and also confirm the product basket.
- The management group worked on the financials and pulled out the quarterly performance report including the Balance sheet.

This load sharing mode was implemented right from the first game of the second day and we could easily complete the target in stipulated time and our excellent performance was immediately noticeable. By the end of the day, when the game was officially wound up, KRL team had won the game with an impressive margin.

MB Lal, Chairman of HPCL gave away the prizes. Everyone wondered how a standalone refinery with minimum exposure to marketing or crude/product trading, could topple giants in the field - We could hear murmurs "Zero ban gaya Hero"

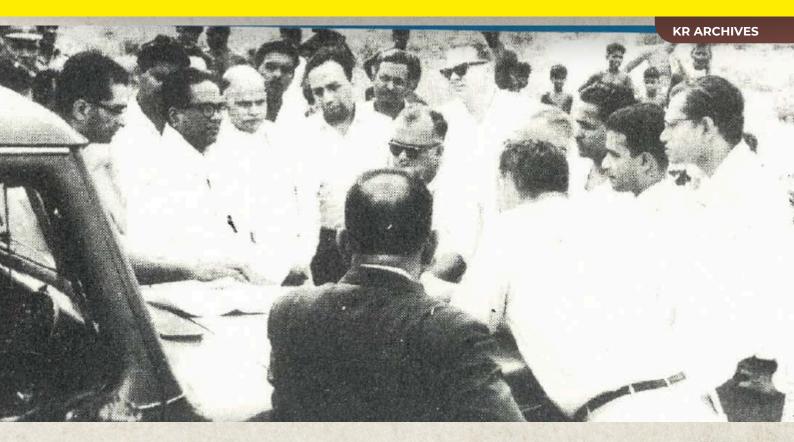
Back home, KRL Management recognized this performance and declared "Award of Excellence" in 2003 for all the members of the team.



For the performance of the team for this game, where we have to converge our thoughts and efforts together, we relied on the Upanishad Shanti Mantra: Sananaavavathu saha nau bhunakthu, Saha veeryam karavaavahai, thejaswi naavadheethamasthu, maa vidvishaavahai. Om shaanthi shaanthi "

which means – "May we all be protected, may we all be nourished, may we jointly get strengthened, may we become brighter with knowledge, let there be no animosity amongst us. Let there be peace, peace and peace".

Anujan S Retired in 2018 Entries to this column may be mailed to kavithamathew@bharatpetroleum.in and z_krweb@bharatpetroleum.in



Queen of Arabian Sea

In the early sixties, even before the Formation Agreement, Kochi was a logical choice for setting up a refinery in the Malabar Coast.

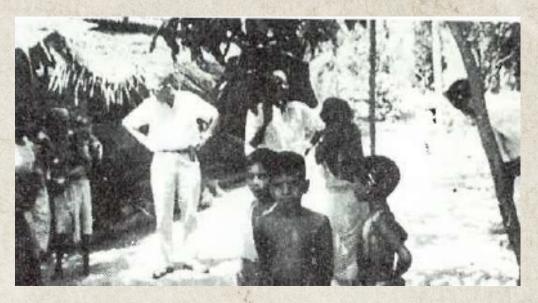
This part of southern India was fast developing into a vibrant consumer market. Kochi was the commercial capital of Kerala State and had major industries like the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited.

But the most important feather in the crown of the Queen of Arabian Sea, as Kochi is known, was its natural port. In 1341, there was a great flood in the River Periyar. The ancient port of Muziris which traded pepper, cinnamons, cardamom, silk and other goods to Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians and Persians was washed away. As floods receded a new natural port was created in the Kochi. Later, Kochi attracted the European colonialists the Portuguese, Dutch and British.

In late 1910s, during his governorship of Madras Province, Lord Wellingdon felt the need for a modern port in Kochi. With the opening of the Suez Canal, the West Coast had a busy maritime traffic. He entrusted the work to the port engineer Sir Robert Bristow who had extensive experience with the maintenance of the Suez Canal. By the early 1930s, Kochi Port was ready.

Thirty years later, in Independent India, the presence of this major port attributed to the natural choice of Kochi for a petroleum refinery. "Cochin Port has defined the contours of Kerala's economy... Bristow's dream port continues to be at the forefront of shipping as the site of India's first Trans-Shipment Terminal, an LNG Terminal and an SPM," wrote Paul Antony, former Cochin Port Trust Chairman in the preface to the third edition of Bristow's reminiscences Cochin Saga.

However, in spite of the presence of the port, there were many challenges. An early leaflet on Kochi Refinery says: "During the same period that the Formation Agreement was being completed, a committee was busy examining the problem of the actual site. Cochin was a logical general location...



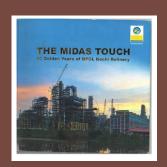
However, there were difficulties stemming from the density of population and the unsuitability of low-lying, marshy areas near the harbor. The ultimate choice was a hilly area, about 7.5 miles from the harbor, locally called Ambalamugal... Indeed, the small temple which gave the location its name may be seen just outside the southwest boundary of the refinery."

On the June 23, 1963, the local people of Ambalamugal village had surprise visitors. A row of Ambassador and Fiat cars came wading through the earthen roads and marshes to the hill top. The South West Monsoon had let the grass and vegetation sprout out from the laterite ground.

They were there for the on-the-spot study of the refinery project. Standing around the bonnet of a vehicle they spoke about the site and the project. KP Vishwanathan Nair, Director of Industries, Government of Kerala, laid out the detailed plan on the bonnet. The District Collector P P Gopalan Nair stood beside him. And hovering on to the plan were Union Minister for Petroleum & Chemicals O V Alageshan, Kerala Minister for Industries KA Damodara Menon and representatives of Philips Petroleum Company.

They had a first-hand feel about the challenges that lay ahead.

The first annual report also indicate these challenges: "Construction of a modern refinery in a hitherto untapped hinterland of the State, in spite of the proximity of port, air, rail connections, poses stupendous engineering and administrative problems which the board is glad to say, are being tackled successfully with the technical skill provided by contractor and the cooperation of the administrative authorities concerned."



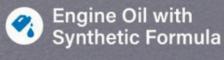
Stories adapted from **The Midas Touch** Golden Jubilee Coffee Table Book of Kochi Refinery

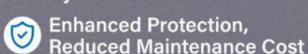


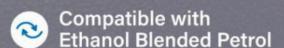
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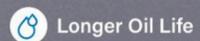


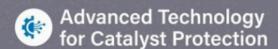
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