

Oil world cautious on Trump's next move



London
Oil bigwigs are trying to figure out strategies to deal with the impact that Donald Trump's blizzard of plans to boost the US industry will have on the world market.

If Trump keeps his promises on lower corporation tax, oil sector deregulation and tax incentives on exports, it could lead to an influx of US crude oil -- something which may challenge the price rises of the last six months.

At the International Petroleum Week conference in London, the new US policies were cited as one of the most influential factors on oil in 2017, along with growth of the Asian market and tensions in the Middle East.

Abhishek Deshpande, an analyst at French corporate and investment bank Natixis, told that even if Trump's policies were imposed, they would not necessarily be favourable to the US petrol industry.

"The oil producers may look at it positively, as it will make the US crude oil jump higher. But for the rest of the US, the refiners would feel the pain, and possibly pass on the impact to the public" he said.

"For the rest of the world, the Middle East would have to find new markets, which means more crude to sell," he added.

Energy Security Analysis, Inc president Sarah Emerson also warned that Trump's

ideas could be difficult to implement.

"All of that is working against the huge question about deficit, and some Republicans and all the Democrats would have to object," she said during a speech at IP Week.

She said political change in the US "could bring about a marginal deterioration in our market".

Risks for Iran, Mexico

Trump could also tackle deregulation in the energy sector, wiping out the regulations put in place by his predecessor Barack Obama.

Last but not least, oil industry insiders said Trump's unpredictability in geopolitics could give rise to dramatic

swings in the market.

"The most significant problem would be the tense relationship with Iran, but there is also Mexico," Deshpande said.

Trump has called the agreement between Tehran and world powers over its nuclear programme "one of the worst deals I've ever seen".

And as for Mexico, Trump has promised to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, which he says is too stacked in Mexico's favour, and has not ruled out ditching it entirely.

Such measures would disrupt exports from Iran and Mexico, which would then look for alternative markets for their production and could lower prices. -(AFP)

Google rolls out AI tool to combat online trolls

Paris

Google said it will begin offering media groups an artificial intelligence tool designed to stamp out incendiary comments on their websites.

The programming tool, called Perspective, aims to assist editors trying to moderate discussions by filtering out abusive "troll" comments, which Google says can stymie smart online discussions.

"Seventy-two percent of American internet users have witnessed harassment online and nearly half have personally experienced it," said Jared Cohen, president of Google's Jigsaw technology incubator.

"Almost a third self-censor what they post online for fear of retribution," he added in a

blog post on Thursday titled "When computers learn to swear".

Perspective is an application programming interface (API), or set of methods for facilitating communication between systems and devices, that uses machine learning to rate how comments might be regarded by other users.

The system, which will be provided free to media groups including social media sites, is being tested by *The Economist*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times* and *Wikipedia*.

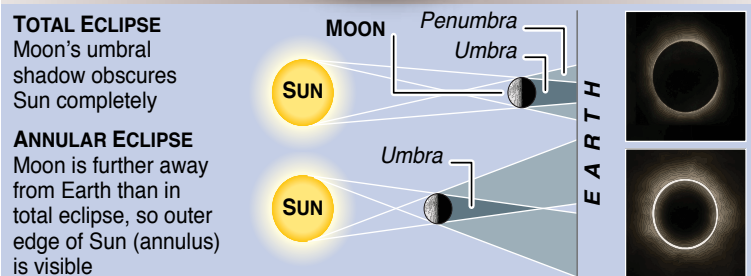
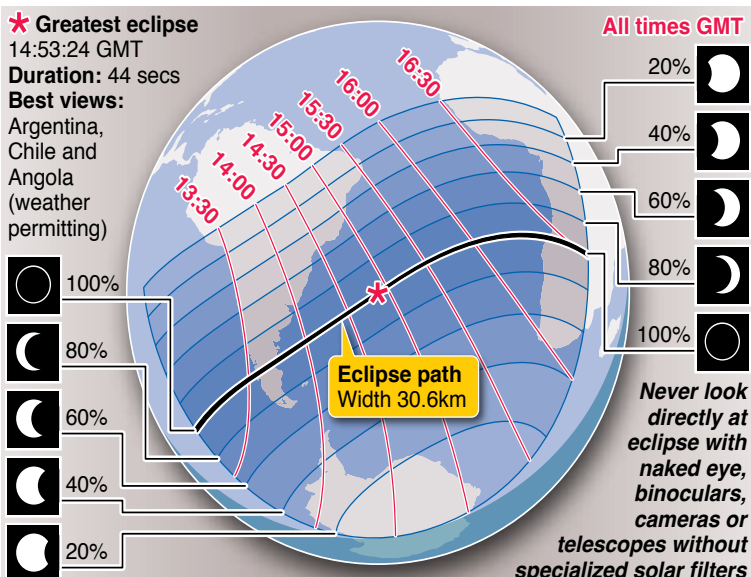
Many news organisations have closed down their comments sections for lack of sufficient human resources to monitor the postings for abusive content. -(AFP)



Representational image

Annular eclipse in Southern Hemisphere

An annular eclipse of the sun takes place in the Southern Hemisphere on February 26, along a narrow path running through South America and Africa. In surrounding areas, people will see a partial eclipse



New WhatsApp Status Feature

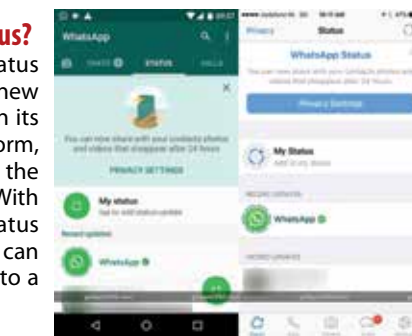
Within days of announcing its revamped 'Status' feature, WhatsApp has rolled it out to users worldwide; it was available only in Europe when it was announced. The new WhatsApp Status feature is available on iPhone, as well as Android and Windows devices.

What is WhatsApp Status?

The new WhatsApp Status feature is the company's new way to engage people on its instant messaging platform, and this will be replacing the old text form of status. With the new revamped Status feature, WhatsApp users can now change their status to a short video or photos.

What else is new?

The rollout also sees the addition of the Camera tab on the left, symbolised with a camera symbol. It's here that users can easily shoot photos or record videos to use as Status updates, or, share regularly with their contacts.



Who can see your WhatsApp Status?

Those who can see your status are My contacts, My contacts except, and Only share with. By default, WhatsApp Status updates created by you are visible to all contacts. Users who change their status with an image or video, will be also shown the view count on the app.

Inspired by Snapchat Stories

The new WhatsApp Status no doubt take cues from Snapchat's Stories, and is being seen as the company's first attempt to move away from the traditional messaging app that is being followed. The revamped Status also looks inspired by Facebook's change of profile and cover pictures that notifies other users. (ndtv)



Cool Trends