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Crude prices up on likely Russia oil ban

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NEW DELHI

Crude oil prices rose about 5% on Wednesday owing to supply concerns on the back of the European Union's proposal to ban energy imports from Russia.

Despite opposition from Hungary to the proposed ban, the EU is making efforts to come to an agreement this week to impose an embargo on Russian oil imports.

At the time of writing the story, the July contract of Brent futures on the Intercontinental Exchange was trading at \$107.24 per barrel, higher by 4.67% from its previous close. The June contract of West Texas Intermediate rose 5.51%



EU has proposed to ban energy imports from Russia. REUTERS

to \$105.26 per barrel.

The surge in prices comes after a fall of around 9% in the last two trading sessions in line with a slump in other commodities and the equities market.

"The EU's proposed phased embargo on Russian oil aided the rise in crude prices. How-

ever, the proposal needs a unanimous vote by EU members this week to pass," said Sandeep Sawant Dessai, research associate for base metals, Angel One Ltd.

Dessai noted that the drop in prices in the past two sessions came as the EU postponed its action on a proposed Russian oil embargo after Hungary objected to the decision and a few other countries

expressed concerns about the impact on their economies. Further, rising covid-19 cases and prolonged lockdowns in China also raised concerns of fall in demand from the major oil importing country.

A Kotak Securities report said that prices rose on Wednesday as market focus shifted to the weekly inventory report. "The US EIA weekly report is expected to note a modest 0.457 million barrels decline in US crude oil and a modest drop in gasoline and distillate stocks," it said. A recovery in the stock markets also supported the oil prices, the report said.

The rise in crude prices impacts Indian as it imports around 85% of its energy requirements. The Indian basket of crude comprising Oman, Dubai and Brent crude, was last recorded at \$103.29 per barrel on 10 May.

The surge in prices of crude comes after a decline of around 9% in the last two trading sessions

Crude rises as Russia's gas flow to Europe falls, Russian oil ban looms

LONDON: Oil rose on Wednesday after plunging nearly 10 per cent in the last two sessions, buoyed by supply concerns as flows of Russian gas to Europe fell and the European Union worked on gaining support for a Russian oil embargo.

Russian gas flows to Europe via Ukraine fell by a quarter on Wednesday after Kyiv halted use of a major transit route blaming interference by occupying Russian forces, the first time exports via Ukraine have been disrupted since the invasion, *Reuters* reported.

Brent crude was up \$3.87, or 3.8 per cent, to \$106.33 a barrel at 1140 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude climbed \$3.97, or 4 per cent, to \$103.73. "I suspect the gas disruptions in Ukraine are having a steadily increasing impact," said Jeffrey Halley, analyst at brokerage OANDA.

The EU has proposed an embargo on Russian oil, which analysts say would further tighten the market and shift trade flows. A vote, which needs unanimous support, has been delayed as Hungary has dug in its heels in opposition.

Oil also gained on hopes of Chinese economic stimulus after China's factory-gate inflation eased and investors took comfort in signs of lower domestic COVID-19 infections.

The price of crude has surged in 2022 as the Ukraine invasion



Russia has enough buyers for its energy resources outside of Western countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday

added to supply concerns, with Brent reaching \$139, the highest since 2008, in March. Worries about growth from China's COVID curbs and U.S. interest rate hikes have prompted this week's slump.

A backdrop of tight supply because of what major producers say is partly a result of inadequate investment remains supportive for oil. The United Arab Emirates energy minister highlighted these concerns on Tuesday.

In focus for investors on Wednesday will be U.S. consumer price data at 1230 GMT, which could give an indication of whether the Fed will raise rates even more aggressively to combat inflation.

And on the oil front, the

latest U.S. government supply report is due at 1430 GMT. Analysts expect a small drop in crude stocks, although Tuesday's American Petroleum Institute report said they increased.

Meanwhile, Russia has enough buyers for its energy resources outside of Western countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday, as European Union countries try to sharply reduce their reliance on Russian oil and gas.

"Let the West pay more than it used to pay to the Russian Federation, and let it explain to its population why they should become poorer," Lavrov said at a news conference in Muscat after talks with his Omani counterpart.

AGENCIES

रूस पर यूरोपीय संघ के प्रतिबंध से कच्चा तेल 105 डॉलर के पार

लंदन। रूस से तेल खरीद पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के यूरोपीय संघ के समर्थन से वैश्विक बाजार में कच्चा तेल बुधवार को 105 डॉलर के पार पहुंच गया। इससे पहले पिछले दो सत्रों में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में 10 फीसदी की गिरावट देखने को मिली थी।

इसके बाद यूरोपीय संघ के प्रतिबंध पर समर्थन और आपूर्ति संबंधी चिंता बढ़ने से ब्रेंट क्रूड 2.99 फीसदी बढ़कर 105.45 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के स्तर पर पहुंच गया। जानकारों का कहना है कि यूरोपीय संघ के रूसी तेल पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के प्रस्ताव से



आने वाले समय में तेल की कीमतें और बढ़ सकती हैं। एक ब्रोकरेज हाउस ने कहा, चीन की अर्थव्यवस्था में राहत की उम्मीदों के कारण भी तेल की कीमतों में तेजी बनी रही। रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध के कारण कच्चे तेल की कीमत इस साल बढ़कर 139 डॉलर पर पहुंच गई थी। एजेंसी

Economists Warn of Weaker Re Pushing Up Imported Inflation

Higher prices of coal, oil, edible oil and gold add to woes; leather and textiles to gain

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New Delhi: A depreciated rupee while supportive for exports, could mean more pain for inflation as the pass through of imported inflation becomes higher, economists have said. Keeping global energy prices constant, a 2% depreciation in the rupee leads to 10 basis points increase in headline inflation.

The rupee on Monday fell to an all-time low of 77.44 against the dollar driven by both the outflow effect as the US Federal Reserve tightened the monetary policy amid expectations of further rate hikes and the fallout of geopolitical tensions.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) surprised markets last week by raising key interest rate by 40 basis points to 4.4% to fight inflation, its first hike in nearly four years. India's retail inflation accelerated to almost 7% in March, its highest in 17 months and above the upper limit of the central bank's 2-6% tolerance band for a third straight month.

"The rupee has finally broken

Falling Rupee

2% rupee depreciation ups inflation by 10bps

5% depreciation makes imports expensive by ₹3-4 per \$

Higher coal, oil, edible oil, gold costs to push imported inflation up

Traditional export sectors like leather, textiles to gain

away from its comfort zone. Keeping global energy prices constant, a 2% depreciation in the rupee leads to 10bps increase in headline inflation, representing only the direct impact on the domestic fuel and energy costs," said HDFC Bank economist Sakshi Gupta.

He said the total impact would be higher if the second round impact on prices of other goods and services is taken into account.

Chinese yuan, Japanese yen, Thai baht, Philippine peso, South African rand and Indonesian ru-

piah too have depreciated.

"A 5% depreciation of the rupee will make imports expensive by ₹3-4 per dollar. So, imported inflation will go up as the cost of coal, oil, edible oil and gold rises," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis.

EXPORTS BOOST

"A rise in India's current account deficit, along with monetary policy tightening across the globe, dollar strength and a general risk aversion towards emerging mar-

ket assets are expected to impart a depreciating bias to the rupee," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar, adding that the rupee is likely to trade between 75-79 per dollar in the remainder of H1 FY23.

As per Ajay Sahai, director general at FIEO, India's traditional exports such as leather and textiles would benefit from the depreciating rupee but cautioned that the overall volatility is not conducive for the sector.

Nayar said India's merchandise trade deficit is expected to widen to \$250-252 billion in FY23 from around \$190-192 billion in FY22.

"However, a robust services trade surplus is expected to temper the worsening in the current account deficit to \$90-95 billion (2.6% of GDP) in FY23 from \$45 billion in FY22," Nayar added.

As per Radhika Rao, senior economist at DBS, the negative terms of trade shock from high commodity prices (wider current account shortfall) and slowing capital flows this year make a case for gradual depreciation in the currency as an adjusting mechanism.

'Inflation is the biggest challenge now'

Interest rate increases to stem rising prices could, however, dent fledgling demand recovery: official

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Inflation is now the biggest challenge for India's policy makers rather than the U.S. Federal Reserve's taper programme and measures like interest rate increases to stem rising prices could dent the fledgling consumption demand recovery from the pandemic not just in India but globally, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The NSO is set to release April retail inflation data on Thursday. Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index had surged to 6.95% in March, the third month in a row that it had stayed above the RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6%, and most economists expect the pace of price increases to quicken in April.



Price rise contagion: Inflation is spreading past food to goods and services as producers pass on higher costs. •VEDHAN M

"The biggest fear right now is inflation and we have started to tackle it," the official involved in monitoring the economy said, speaking on condition of anonymity. In an off-cycle move last week, the RBI raised key interest rates by 40 basis

points while retaining an accommodative policy stance citing rising price pressures.

"The nearly 7% inflation print for March came four days after the RBI review, then came Indonesia's decision to ban edible oil exports and the escalation in sun-

flower oil and coal supply constraints. Inflation was high in manufactured goods earlier, weak in contact-intensive services, but now it is food and crude inflation and is spreading across goods and services as producers are no longer able to hold off transmission of input costs," the official noted.

"All central banks are going to do their best to drive inflation down but, in the process, they run the risk of driving down whatever little demand is there, post-pandemic," the official said.

"Currently, the inflationary forces that are hitting us and the rest of the world are outside everyone's hands and three quarters of the items in our Consumer Price Index are at risk due to the war in Ukraine, so the room

for doing too much is limited," the official said.

'Stagflation scenario'

Globally, stagflation had moved from being a risk scenario to a baseline scenario, the official added.

While the RBI Governor had been nudging the Centre and States to cut taxes on petrol and diesel to ease inflationary pressures, the official noted that the spurt in global fertiliser prices would push up subsidies sharply.

"It's a difficult trade-off to make. If excise duty on petroleum products are cut by say ₹5 a litre and higher borrowings are resorted to, for funding the fertiliser subsidy bill, it will push up the fiscal deficit as well as yields on government debt even more," the official pointed out.

Feeling the inflation pinch? Cut back on discretionary expenses

If home loan EMI is straining your budget, ask lender to increase tenor

BINDISHA SARANG

Mary J (name changed on request), 44, a resident of Mumbai, works with a private company engaged in import and export. In recent months, she says, inflation has begun to pinch hard.

"Almost everything has turned more expensive — from groceries to transportation costs. Even my home loan rate was increased by 35 basis points (0.35 per cent) last week. Unfortunately, with my company not doing well, I have not received a salary hike in the past two years," she says.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation stood at 6.95 per cent in March 2022.

According to a Reuters poll of 45 economists, it is likely to surge to an 18-month high of 7.5 per cent in April.

Rising food, fuel, and commodity prices are all contributing to household woes.

Priti Rathi Gupta, founder, LXME, says, "While CPI-based inflation is at 6.95 per cent, our personal inflation rate is more likely to average around 10 per cent."

Zero in on personal inflation rate

To deal with this surge in inflation, you need to first understand its impact on your budget.

Pankaj Mathpal, managing director, Optima Money Manager, says, "While the official rate of inflation is important, it doesn't take into account the increase in the costs of the basket of products and services you use. That is why before you try to tweak your budget, you need to understand how your personal inflation rate has changed."

M Barve, founder, MB Wealth Financial Solution, adds, "Where you live, whether you travel or work remotely, your dietary

HOW TO CALCULATE PERSONAL RATE OF INFLATION

► **Note down how much you spend each month** on various categories: food, fuel, education, housing, clothes, etc

► **Include big-ticket items you pay for annually, biannually, or quarterly**, such as insurance premium, child's school fee, etc (divide annual expense by 12)

► **From your current monthly spend**, minus your monthly spend from a year-ago period

► **Divide this by your monthly spend** from a year-ago period

► **For instance, if your spend in March this year** was ₹70,000 and in March 2021 was ₹60,000, your personal inflation rate should come to 16.7%

habits, etc all affect your personal inflation rate."

Note down all the items you spend on in a typical month. Then calculate how much your overall expenditure has risen compared to the same month last year.

Pare discretionary expenses

The exercise you did to calculate your personal inflation rate would have provided you with an overview of your spending pattern. In case you don't have the data on monthly expenses, take a month's time to record it.

"Use a journal or an online spreadsheet to record all your current incomes and expenses," says Rathi Gupta.

Once you have this data, she says, you can zero in on the areas where you need to curtail expenses. Separating fixed and discretionary expenses will also help.

Vishal Dhawan, board member, Association of Registered Investment Advisers, says, "Separate your fixed and discretionary spends, and focus on curtailing the latter as far as possible."

If you have a big-ticket loan, such as a home loan, try to reduce your interest outgo by using any idle cash or windfall to prepay the principal.

"If inflation is imposing a strain on your cash flows, increase your loan tenor temporarily. This will reduce your equated monthly instalment (EMI). As soon as your cash flows improve, increase the EMI back to the original level,"

says Dhawan.

Try to augment income

Besides trying to curtail expenses, try to enhance your earnings.

"In this new normal, everyone needs to have a second source of income. This could be income from a side hustle, rental income, dividend income, etc," says Mathpal.

If your bargaining position is strong, ask your employer for a raise.

Maintain equity allocation

Try not to reduce your equity allocation despite rising market volatility.

"Only by allocating to equities, in line with your risk appetite, can you earn inflation-beating returns over the long run," says Rathi Gupta.

Stick to your budget

The surge in inflation has caused many people to deviate from their budgets.

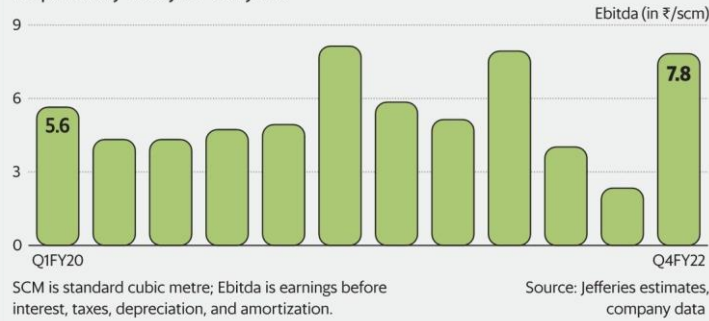
"According to the Women & Money Power survey conducted by LXME, 73 per cent of respondents were saving less than 20 per cent of their income," says Rathi Gupta.

According to her, every person should adhere to the 50:30:20 rule, which suggests that 50 per cent of your income should go towards meeting your needs, 30 per cent towards meeting your wants, and 20 per cent should be allocated to savings and investments. This is the goal you should work towards.



Above par

Gujarat Gas' Ebitda per unit in Q4FY22 was strong, rising sharply sequentially and year-on-year.



SCM is standard cubic metre; Ebitda is earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization.

Source: Jefferies estimates, company data

SATISH KUMAR/MINT

Gujarat Gas impresses on margins in Q4

Pallavi Pengonda

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Lower than anticipated gas costs have helped Gujarat Gas Ltd beat Street expectations on earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) in the three months ended March (Q4FY22). Standalone Ebitda was ₹697 crore, surpassing *Bloomberg* consensus estimate of about ₹490 crore.

Ebitda per standard cubic metre (scm) in Q4 was ₹7.8, a sharp improvement from the ₹2.3 seen in Q3FY22 and ₹5.1 in Q4FY21. Investors cheered, with the city gas distribution company's shares closing 6% higher on Wednesday.

Gujarat Gas' industrial volumes at 6.7mmcmd (million standard cubic metres a day) in Q4 were muted as demand was subdued. This weighed on overall volumes. In Q4, average gas sales volume were 9.89 mmcmd, lower 18% year-on-year and 13% sequentially.

"Spot LNG (liquefied natural gas) prices were high in Q4, averaging about \$31/mmBtu (\$35/mmBtu in Q3). Plus, APM (administered pricing mechanism) gas availability was limited as well in the last quarter. Therefore, gas sales were optimized to avoid an increase in prices for customers and to also ensure profitabil-

ity for the company," said Nitin Tiwari, analyst at Yes Securities. Lower dependence on expensive LNG helped the company shore up its margins during the quarter, he said.

The outlook has improved. The company has said total gas sales volume is now above 10.5 mmcmd. Here, compressed natural gas (CNG) sales are showing healthy growth. Industrial demand from the Morbi cluster is also recovering sequentially. Gujarat Gas has raised prices, which would also support margins.

"While we were already building in a gradual recovery in Morbi volumes over FY23E, we now raise our FY23E Ebitda margin from ₹4.5/scm

to ₹5/scm also noting FY22 full year Ebitda margin of ₹5.3/scm is impressive given the tough macro," said a Jefferies India report led by analyst Pratik Chaudhuri.

The broking firm has left its FY24E Ebitda margin unchanged at ₹5/scm noting potential upside risk in case spot LNG normalizes over the next year. Spot LNG prices have moderated from recent highs, but an increase is a risk for shares of Gujarat Gas. Meanwhile, the stock is still 31.6% away from its 52-week high of ₹786 seen in August on NSE. To that extent, valuations are reasonable.

The stock is currently trading at almost 22 times estimated earnings for FY24, as per *Bloomberg* data.

Ebitda per scm in Q4 was ₹7.8, a sharp improvement from the ₹2.3 seen in Q3FY22 and ₹5.1 in Q4FY21

Morgan Stanley lowers India's FY23 growth forecast to 7.6%

FE BUREAU

New Delhi, May 11

FLAGGING GLOBAL SLOW-DOWN, surging oil prices and weak domestic demand, Morgan Stanley has lowered its forecasts for India's economic growth for the current fiscal year to 7.6% from 7.9%, and to 6.7% from 7% for FY24.

The revision comes after the investment bank revised its forecast for global growth to 2.9% for 2022, about 40 basis points (bps) below consensus and less than half of the 6.2% growth of last year.

Global growth and trade are likely to slow down in response to not only geopolitical tensions but to the waning fiscal impetus, tightening monetary policy in developed markets, and a continuing drag from lockdowns in China, it said in a note.

"The key channel of transmission of geopolitical tensions to filter into the domestic economy is through persistently higher commodity prices, in

■ Morgan Stanley has flagged global slowdown, surging oil prices and weak domestic demand

■ It expects India's consumer inflation to average 6.5% this fiscal year and projects that the current account deficit will widen to a 10-year high

particular, higher oil prices," Upasana Chachra, India Economist at Morgan Stanley, said.

"India's exceptionally high dependence on imports for oil makes it vulnerable to volatility in global crude prices. As such, a supply side-driven surge in oil prices has negative ramifications for India's growth and macro stability fundamentals."

The expected global growth slowdown is likely to impinge on

India's exports, further hampering growth prospects. India's overall ratio of exports to GDP is at 18.7%, and the domestic production and capex cycles are highly correlated with global trends in growth and exports, Chachra said.

Amid the negative terms of trade shock due to higher oil and other commodity prices, India's macro stability indicators were likely to worsen. Morgan Stanley expects India's consumer inflation to average 6.5% this fiscal year and projects that the current account deficit will widen to a 10-year high, to about 3.3% of the GDP.

"To preserve macro stability, we expect the central bank to front-load rate hikes," Chachra said. "We are building in an increase of 50 basis points hike each in the June and August meetings, and we expect 25 basis points increases thereafter. We expect the terminal rate to be higher, at 6.5% (against 6% previously), as inflation remains higher for longer."



बीएस बातचीत

5 साल में 20 अरब डॉलर निवेश करेगी वेदांत

30 अरब डॉलर का वेदांत समूह आकामक वृद्धि योजना की तैयारी कर रहा है, जिससे इसके सेमीकंडक्टर फैब और एक डिस्पले संयंत्र की स्थापना जैसे उच्च तकनीक वाले नए क्षेत्रों में प्रवेश करने से भी समूह के राजस्व में इजाफा होगा। **सुरजीत दास गुप्ता** को दिए साक्षात्कार में समूह के चेयरमैन **अनिल अग्रवाल** ने अपनी योजनाओं, कर्ज घटाने और चुनौतियों के बारे में बातचीत की। मुख्य अंश...

आप हाल में उच्च तकनीकी क्षेत्र में मजबूती के साथ उतरे हैं। आपने सेमीकंडक्टर चिप विनिर्माण संयंत्र और शुरुआत में एलसीडी के लिए एक डिस्पले संयंत्र स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव रखा है। आपकी आगामी कुछ वर्षों को लेकर वृद्धि की क्या योजना है, खास तौर पर इसलिए क्योंकि आप नए क्षेत्रों में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं?

हमारी आगामी 4-5 साल की योजना बहुत स्पष्ट है। हम 20 अरब डॉलर का निवेश करेंगे और यह आवंटित किया जा रहा है। हम तेल एवं गैस में 5 लाख बैरल के उत्पादन पर पहुंचने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं जिसमें हम 4 अरब डॉलर का निवेश करेंगे। हमने तकनीक में डिस्पले एवं सेमीकंडक्टर संयंत्र पर 2-3 अरब निवेश करने की योजना बनाई है। इसके अलावा एल्युमीनियम और जस्ते में 2-2 अरब डॉलर का निवेश किया जाएगा। हम अपने कारोबार से संबंधित अधिग्रहण के अवसरों पर भी विचार करेंगे। हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि इस योजना से हम मौजूदा 30 अरब डॉलर की कंपनी से 75 से 80 अरब डॉलर की कंपनी बन जाएंगे।

आप इस निवेश के लिए धन का इंतजाम कैसे करेंगे?

हमारा सालाना मुनाफा 10 अरब डॉलर से अधिक है, इसलिए हमारे पास अपनी योजनाओं पर निवेश के लिए पर्याप्त नकदी है। अगर जरूरत पड़ी तो हम कुछ कर्ज भी जुटा सकते हैं।

डिस्पले और सेमीकंडक्टर संयंत्र पर अभी कितनी प्रगति हुई है?

इन परियोजनाओं के लिए तीन चरणों में कुल 20 अरब डॉलर के निवेश की जरूरत होगी, लेकिन हमें पहले चरण में 2 से 3 अरब डॉलर की जरूरत होगी। हमारा अनुमान है कि पहले चरण के निवेश से 4-5 अरब डॉलर का राजस्व सृजित होगा। हमारा अनुमान है कि वाणिज्यिक उत्पादन दो साल में शुरू होगा। सेमीकंडक्टर में हमारी साझेदार फोक्सकॉन है और हम वरिष्ठ साझेदार होंगे। डिस्पले से संबंधित कारोबार में हम पहले से हैं क्योंकि हम ताइवान और दक्षिण कोरिया स्थित अपनी फैक्ट्रियों में मदर बोर्ड बनाते हैं और जापान में हमारा एक शोध एवं विकास केंद्र है। हमने अभी यह फैसला नहीं किया है कि हम पहले चरण में वित्तीय साझेदारी करेंगे या महज तकनीक ज्ञान हासिल करेंगे।

क्या आप इन परियोजनाओं के लिए सरकार के साथ बातचीत कर रहे हैं क्योंकि सरकार इनके लिए भारी वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन

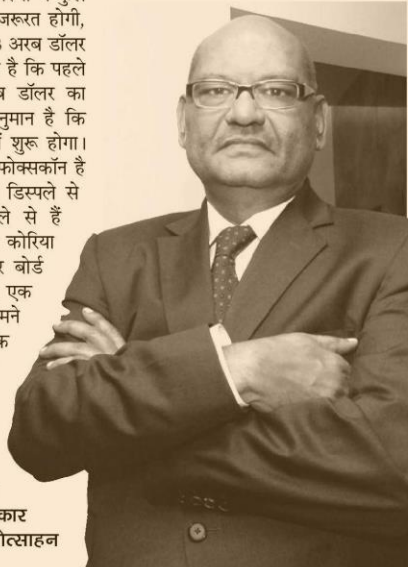
मुहैया करा रही है?

हां, हम मंजूरीयां हासिल करने के लिए सरकार के साथ बातचीत कर रहे हैं। हमने संयंत्र की स्थापना के लिए जगह भी तय कर ली है। दो संयंत्रों में वाणिज्यिक उत्पादन दो साल में शुरू हो जाएगा। मैंने राज्य सरकारों से कहा है कि केवल फैब संयंत्र की स्थापना ही पर्याप्त नहीं है, बल्कि उन्हें इस बारे में विचार करना चाहिए कि वे कैसे सिलिकॉन वैली या ताइवान जैसा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स हब बना सकते हैं, जो आज से 25 साल पहले बंजर भूमि थे।

स्टरलाइट टेक्नोलॉजिज महज एक ऑप्टिक फाइबर कंपनी से तकनीकी कंपनी की तरफ बढ़ रही है और 5जी कंपनियों को सिस्टम एकीकरण की सेवा दे रही है। क्या आप अपने लिए 5जी में बड़े अवसर देखते हैं? हम दूरसंचार कारोबार को बैंकएंड सेवाएं दे रहे हैं। हम अन्य के लिए 5जी नेटवर्क भी बना सकते हैं। सरकार ने हर साल 5 करोड़ किलोमीटर ऑप्टिकल फाइबर बिछाने की योजना बनाई है और हम इस कारोबार में सबसे बड़े खिलाड़ी हैं। हम दूरसंचार सॉफ्टवेयर और सिस्टम एकीकरण की सेवाएं भी मुहैया करा रहे हैं।

आपने अपना कुल कर्ज 4 अरब डॉलर घटाने की योजना की घोषणा की है? आपने किस तरह ऐसा करने की योजना बनाई है?

हमारी मूल कंपनी पर कर्ज 9 अरब डॉलर और भारतीय कंपनी पर 3.5 अरब डॉलर का कर्ज है और यह कर्ज कम है। हमने मूल कंपनी का कर्ज तीन साल में 4 अरब डॉलर तक घटाने की



योजना बनाई है। ऐसा लाभांश के जरिये किया जाएगा। हमारी इक्विटी का तीन गुना लाभांश के रूप में लौटाया गया है।

आपका स्टार्टअप द्वारा किए जा रहे कार्य को लेकर सकारात्मक रुख है और आपने अपने कारोबारी क्षेत्रों में उनमें से कुछ के साथ काम किया है। क्या आप कोई स्टार्टअप फंड की योजना बना रहे हैं?

हम उन कारोबारों में स्टार्टअप के लिए एक कोष बनाना पसंद करेंगे, जो हमारी कंपनी से संबंधित नहीं है। हालांकि हमने इस फंड की धनराशि के बारे में कोई फैसला नहीं लिया है। हम युवा पेशेवरों पर एक दांव लगाएंगे।

आपकी बीपीसीएल के विनिवेश और उन अन्य पीएसयू कंपनियों पर नजर है, जिनमें सरकार नियंत्रण देने के बारे में विचार कर रही है? आपकी इनमें क्या योजनाएं हैं?

बीपीसीएल के विनिवेश को सरकार ने फिलहाल टाल दिया है। हम उन विभिन्न परिसंपत्तियों का मूल्यांकन और उनमें भागीदारी करते हैं, जो आईबीसी की प्रक्रिया के जरिये आती हैं। मेरा मानना है कि सरकार की सूचबद्ध कंपनियों का कॉरपोरेटइजेशन या निजीकरण कर दिया जाए तो उनके बाजार मूल्यांकन में पांच गुना तक बढ़ोत्तरी हो सकती है। मेरा मानना है कि उनमें से 20 फीसदी का निजीकरण होना चाहिए और 80 फीसदी का कॉरपोरेटइजेशन। आज भारतीय म्युचुअल फंड, भारती और निजी इक्विटी फंड, एचएनआई आसानी से शेयर खरीद सकते हैं। मेरा मानना है कि उनकी उत्पादकता दो से तीन गुना बढ़ जाएगी। इसमें यह बंदिश लगाई जा सकती है कि कोई भी 5 फीसदी से अधिक हिस्सेदारी नहीं रख सकता।

क्या आप नवीकरणीय क्षेत्र और हाइड्रोजन जैसी पूरी मूल्य श्रृंखला के बारे में विचार कर रहे हैं?

हम ईएसजी को लेकर प्रतिबद्ध हैं। हम 500 मेगावाट की इकाई जल्द शुरू करेंगे। हमारी बिजली क्षमता 2,000 मेगावाट में से 25 फीसदी अगले तीन साल में नवीकरणीय में तब्दील की जाएगी।

बहुत से लोगों का कहना है कि आपने अपना कार्बन फुटप्रिंट घटाने की बात कही है, लेकिन आप कोयला आधारित विद्युत संयंत्रों में निवेश कर रहे हैं। कोयले के इस्तेमाल के खिलाफ और नवीकरणीय के समर्थन में तगड़ी मुहिम चल रही है। इस मुद्दे पर आपका क्या कहना है?

दुनिया उपदेश देती है, लेकिन खुद अमल नहीं करती है। वे अपने उपदेश भारत पर थोपना चाहते हैं। कोयले, तेल एवं गैस के बिना कुछ नहीं हो सकता। यह एक प्रक्रिया है और इसे सीमित अवधि में नहीं बदला जा सकता है। नवीकरणीय का समानांतर विकास करना होगा और इसमें समय लगेगा। इसके अलावा नई स्क्रबिंग तकनीक से आप कोयले से भी उत्सर्जन घटा सकते हैं।

नोवेलिस लगाएगी 2.5 अरब डॉलर

अमेरिका में लगाएगी संयंत्र, विदेश में किसी भारतीय कंपनी की सबसे बड़ी विनिर्माण परियोजना

देव चटर्जी
मुंबई, 11 मई

आदित्य बिड़ला समूह की कंपनी नोवेलिस अमेरिका के बे मिनेटी, अलबामा में रीसाइक्लिंग और रोलिंग संयंत्र लगाने के लिए 2.5 अरब डॉलर का निवेश करेगी। विदेश में एकदम नया संयंत्र लगाने के लिए किसी भारतीय कंपनी की यह अब तक की सबसे बड़ी परियोजना होगी।

टाटा, बिड़ला, अदाणी समूह, रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों द्वारा विदेश में खदान, तेल एवं गैस क्षेत्र तथा कंपनियों को खरीदने पर अरबों डॉलर का निवेश किया गया है। लेकिन नोवेलिस विदेश में नया संयंत्र स्थापित करने पर 2.5 अरब डॉलर खर्च करने वाली भारतीय स्वामित्व वाली पहली कंपनी है।

इस साल जनवरी में एस्सार समूह ने ब्रिटेन की प्रोग्रेसिव एनर्जी के साथ संयुक्त उपक्रम बनाने और स्टेनलो रिफाइनरी परिसर में हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन संयंत्र स्थापित करने के लिए 1.34 अरब डॉलर निवेश करने की घोषणा की थी। इस कंपनी में एस्सार की 90 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी होगी। वर्ष 2015 में टाटा मोटर्स के स्वामित्व वाली जगुआर लैंडरोवर ने स्लोवाकिया में कार का नया

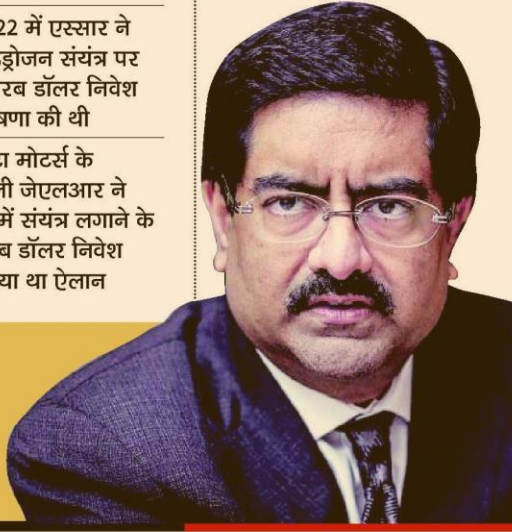
विदेश में निवेश

■ बिड़ला द्वारा विदेश में विनिर्माण संयंत्र पर अब तक का सबसे बड़ा निवेश

■ जनवरी, 2022 में एस्सार ने ब्रिटेन में हाइड्रोजन संयंत्र पर **1.34** अरब डॉलर निवेश करने की घोषणा की थी

■ 2015 में टाटा मोटर्स के स्वामित्व वाली जेएलआर ने स्लोवाकिया में संयंत्र लगाने के लिए **2** अरब डॉलर निवेश करने का किया था ऐलान

कुमार
मंगलम
बिड़ला
चेयरमैन,
आदित्य
बिड़ला समूह



संयंत्र लगाने के लिए 2 अरब डॉलर निवेश की घोषणा की थी।

आदित्य बिड़ला समूह के चेयरमैन कुमार मंगलम बिड़ला ने कहा, 'यह आदित्य बिड़ला समूह की सबसे बड़ी ग्रीनफील्ड परियोजना है और इसके साथ ही अमेरिका में समूह के कुल कारोबार

■ आरआईएल और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों ने अधिग्रहण के जरिये किया है काफी निवेश

का निवेश बढ़कर 14 अरब डॉलर से अधिक हो जाएगा।' उन्होंने कहा, 'नोवेलिस जिस बाजार में भी मौजूद है, वहां हम निवेश करना जारी रखेंगे- चाहे वह पेय पदार्थों के लिए कैन हों या ऑटोमोटिव अथवा एयरोस्पेस से जुड़े उत्पाद हों।' हिंडालको ने 2007 में 6

अरब डॉलर में नोवेलिस का अधिग्रहण किया था। 2020 में नोवेलिस ने प्रतिस्पर्द्धी कंपनी अलेरिस कॉर्प का अधिग्रहण 2.8 अरब डॉलर में किया था, जिसमें उस कंपनी का कर्ज भी शामिल था। हिंडालको की इस सहायक इकाई के पास बेहद उन्नत गुणवत्ता वाले संयंत्र हैं, जहां सालाना 6,000 टन तैयार एल्युमीनियम बन सकता है। बिड़ला ने कहा, 'नोवेलिस ग्राहकों को कम कार्बन, टिकाऊ एल्युमीनियम समाधान की आपूर्ति करने में सफल रही है और हम इस निवेश के साथ अपनी सफलता की कहानी को जारी रखेंगे और आगे और भी निवेश किया जाएगा।'

नए संयंत्र की आधे से अधिक क्षमता का उपयोग उत्तर अमेरिका में पेय पदार्थों यानी बेवरिज के कैन के वास्ते एल्युमीनियम की बढ़ती मांग पूरी करने के लिए किया जाएगा। वाहन विनिर्माता, एयरोस्पेस से लेकर बेवरिज कंपनियों प्लास्टिक या अन्य धातुओं की जगह टिकाऊ पैकेजिंग का उपयोग कर रही है, जिससे एल्युमीनियम की मांग बढ़ रही है।

नोवेलिस के अध्यक्ष एवं मुख्य कार्याधिकारी स्टीव फिशर ने कहा, 'यह निवेश अपने ग्राहकों की बढ़ती जरूरतों और कम कार्बन तथा उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले एल्युमीनियम समाधान मुहैया कराने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है।'

Retail investors catch falling knives, don't chase momentum

Neil Borate
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The cliché of a 'foolish' retail investor is one who gets excited by bull markets and buy stocks at higher and higher prices. He then regrets his actions when markets start falling, often selling shares at losses or exiting the stock market completely. The reality of retail investors in India is different. Retail investors get attracted to falling stocks rather than rising ones and accumulate more of these as their prices fall. This can cause them to do badly, even in a bull market. Financial year 2021 was undoubtedly a bull market with the Nifty rising by a strong 19%. However, in that time period, the companies which saw the highest growth in retail shareholding were the ones which saw heavy declines in prices.

An analysis by Anish Teli of

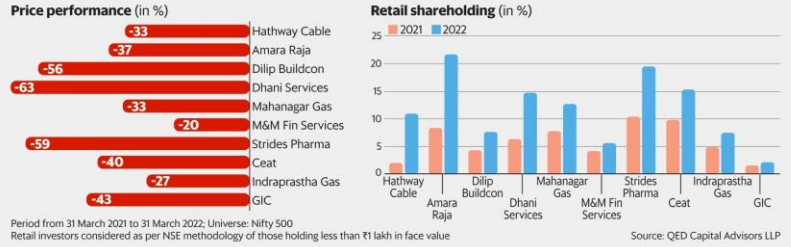
QED Capital Advisors LLP looked at retail ownership change in companies whose stock prices rose from 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2022. Such companies saw just a 6% increase in retail shareholding in FY 2021. On the other hand, companies whose stock prices declined in the same period saw a 24% growth in retail shareholding.

This analysis is further accentuated if we look at the list of stocks where retail investors grew their holding by more than 10%. Among such stocks where retail shareholding rose, the top five are Hathaway Cable and Datacom Ltd, Amara Raja Batteries, Dilip Buildcon, Dhani Services and Mahanagar Gas Ltd respectively. These stocks fell in the period in question – March 2021 to March 2022 by an average of 41%.

"The mentality of retail investors is essentially driven by anchoring. A stock that was

Averaging down

The top 10 stocks where retail shareholding grew most in the March 2021-22 period are those that fell by an average of 41%.



Period from 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2022; Universe: Nifty 500
 Retail investors considered as per NSE methodology of those holding less than ₹1 lakh in face value

Source: QED Capital Advisors LLP

once ₹500 seems like a bargain at ₹50. This argument often drowns out considerations of why the stock has fallen. Retail investors buy it like a lottery ticket—a huge payoff for what looks like a cheap down payment. In reality, this is akin to catching falling knives. Companies with corporate governance issues

or those in declining sectors often feature in such lists of retail buys," said Teli.

The post-pandemic era saw a huge surge of first-time investors in stock markets around the world.

In the US, some of these investors were famously attracted by 'meme' stocks like Gamestop and AMC.

In India as well, the number of monthly demat account openings rose from 4 lakh in FY 20 to 12 lakh in FY 21 and a whopping 26 lakh in FY 22. Among such investors, 'buy low sell high' seems to be the reigning mantra. However, paying attention to what you are 'buying low' is equally important.

"There are usually good reasons for a stock to fall and you may not be able to immediately know them or understand them. Averaging down or SIP type investing works with index funds or diversified well managed mutual funds. It does not work with stocks. For stocks, you need to do your homework," Teli added.

Oil Min modifies gas allocation policy to meet city gas demand

The modification will allow state-owned GAIL (India) Ltd to import gas and buy from newer domestic fields to meet growing city gas demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Oil Ministry has modified its gas allocation policy for the city gas sector, allowing state-owned GAIL (India) Ltd to import gas and buy from newer domestic fields to meet growing demand from households and transport sector.

GAIL will pool or average out the price of imported as well as newer field gas with the lower-priced regulated field gas to supply to city gas entities for sale as CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to households, a ministry order said.

Till now, city gas entities were allocated natural gas from older fields, called the regulated or APM gas.

To promote the sector, the Cabinet had in 2014-15 made city gas a 'no-cut' sector, which meant all demand of the sector would be met from domestic fields.

But as the demand grew and APM gas production remained stagnant, the ministry modified



Till now, city gas entities were allocated natural gas from older fields, called the regulated or APM gas. To promote sector, the Cabinet had in 2014-15 made city gas a 'no-cut' sector

the allocation policy.

As per the ministry's May 6 order, gas allocation to city gas will be made on a three-month basis as against the previous policy of six monthly allocations.

"Revision of allocation for supply of pooled natural gas to city gas distribution (CGD) entities for CNG and piped natural gas (PNG) segments will be done on a quarterly basis for better representation of consumption," it said.

it said.

To meet the growing demand of the sector, GAIL will supply pooled natural gas 2.5 per cent over and above the 100 per cent requirement of CNG and PNG for household segment of each city in quarterly allocation.

To meet the shortfall in the availability of domestic gas, GAIL will source gas from the difficult fields which are priced at a higher rate than APM gas for mixing with available regulated gas, the order.

"For any further requirement, GAIL will also source long term LNG failing which spot LNG may be sourced for mixing with available APM gas," the order said.

"The sourcing will be done by GAIL within their procurement procedure and (ministry's) PPAC shall vet the procurement procedure during finalisation of the uniform base price."

For the present quarter, in case long-term LNG is not available, GAIL may procure

spot LNG for mixing in the pool, it added.

Domestic gas prices are fixed on a six-monthly basis. The APM price for the six months beginning April 1 is \$6.1 per unit while the same for difficult fields like deepsea is \$9.92. LNG in the spot or current market is available at triple this price.

The pooled natural gas, including gas from difficult fields and imported LNG "will be supplied to CNG and PNG segment," the order said. "Pooled natural gas will be supplied by GAIL to all city gas entities at a uniform base price arrived at in consultation with PPAC."

GAIL will charge a marketing margin on the supply of domestic gas to the city gas segment.

At present, GAIL supplies the APM gas to the city gas sector.

Current gas allocation to CNG and PNG sectors is about 18 million standard cubic metres a day while the demand is about 21 mmscmd.