ONGC News as on 03 December 2024 (Print & Online)

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 3

LOOKS TO ATTAIN NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2038

ONGC looks at foray into offshore mining

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, December 2

STATE-OWNED OIL AND Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is looking to venture into mining of offshore minerals given the company's technical expertise in drilling in sub-surface and offshore areas, a senior executive at the company said.

"We are not looking to bid right now (under the first tranche of offshore mineral auction) but we do have acreages offshore so we will be happy if we get something there," the source said.

This comes amid the government's target of increasing domestic exploration and production of critical minerals to achieve the country's net zero targets by 2070 and reduce dependency on imports of such minerals. Minerals like lithium, copper, cobalt and rare earth elements are used in various sectors like nuclear energy, renewable energy, space, defence, telecommunications, etc.

In line with this, the ministry of mines recently launched the first tranche of auction of offshore minerals putting 13 such blocks under the hammer. While ONGC may not bid under the first round, the executive noted that the company may bid for offshore blocks going forward.

"We have a lot of laboratories because we do it for the subsurface, so we can do it for this (offshore minerals) plus we are trying to give a little bit more emphasis to critical minerals," said the source adding that the company wants to pool its resources with the government and come up with a holistic plan for offshore mineral mining.

EXPLORATION ON THE CARDS

- This comes amid govt's target to increase domestic exploration and production of critical minerals to achieve net zero targets by 2070
- Ministry of mines recently launched the first tranche of auction of offshore minerals putting 13 such blocks under the hammer

- Demand for critical minerals is going to rise in India with demand for lithium likely to rise 8X
- Govt has kept royalty rates on mineral blocks at a lower level to attract industry partners

In September, ONGC Videsh, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ONGC, along with Oil India (OIL), and Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Resources Holding (IRH), UAE, to collaborate globally on the critical mineral supply chain.

The primary goal of this MoU is to identify, acquire, and develop critical mineral projects worldwide, including India, the company had said.

ONGC aims to achieve net zero operational emissions by 2038. To realise this goal, the company is also expanding its renewable energy portfolio developing wind, hydro, and hybrid projects.

The government, under the first tranche of offshore mineral auction, has put three lime mud, three construction sand, and seven polymetallic nodules and crusts on sale.

The demand for critical minerals is going to rise in India with demand for lithium likely to rise eight times, the coal and mines minister G Kishan Reddy had said. The government is also expecting Cabinet's approval on the Critical Mineral Mission soon.

Mines secretary V L Kantha Rao had earlier said that the government has kept royalty rates on mineral blocks at a lower level to attract industry partners. "We are now looking for industry partners to come and partner with us for exploiting mineral wealth," he had said.

The government is also seeking international tie-ups for exploration of critical minerals and plans to conduct roadshows in various countries.

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Date :3 December 2024	Page : 1, 5

Windfall tax on oil scrapped

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
& PRIYANSH VERMA
New Delhi, December 2

THE GOVERNMENT ON Monday scrapped the windfall tax on domestic production of crude oil and exports of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), effective immediately.

The move marks the end of a levy introduced in July 2022 and comes as a big relief to oil producers and refiners.

The petroleum ministry had sought removal of the tax, noting that there is no relevance of the tax anymore as crude prices have stabilised from their earlier highs.

Continued on Page 5

NO RELEVANCE

- Petroleum ministry had sought removal of the tax, citing its irrelevance
- The levy was introduced in July 2022 after Russia-Ukraine conflict outbreak

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 1, 5

Windfall tax on oil scrapped

SHARES OF MAJOR oil producers Reliance Industries and state-owned ONGC recovered about 2% from their day's low. Shares of RIL rose by 1.28% to ₹1,311.05 against the previous close of ₹1,292.45, while that of ONGC were up by 0.52% to ₹258.10 from the previous close of ₹256.75 on the BSE.

Windfall tax was implemented post the outbreak of conflict between Russia and Ukraine when oil prices spiked and remained above $100 per barrel for several weeks. The tax was aimed at curbing unprecedented profits earned by oil companies and generating additional revenue for the government. The cess imposed on crude oil lowered the realisations of upstream industry to ~$70-75/barrel. Likewise for HSD (diesel), MS (petrol) and ATF, it reduced the ex-refinery realisations, according to Prashant Vasisht, senior vice-president & co-group head—corporate Ratings, Icra.

Crude oil prices are now hovering around $70-75 per barrel on account of weak demand from China, the world's largest consumer of oil, uncertain geopolitical situation, and projected glut of oil in the market.

Post the implementation of the tax, the government collected a revenue of ₹25,000 crore in FY23, which dropped to ₹13,000 crore in FY24. In the current fiscal so far, the government has collected ₹6,000 crore as revenue from windfall tax. "The scrapping of windfall tax is expected to have limited impact on oil companies as the same had been reduced to nil on crude oil since September 18, 2024, and on petroleum products since February 29, 2024," Vasisht said.

Since its imposition, there have been over 20 revisions in the cess, basis the movement in crude prices and crack spreads of HSD, MS and ATF. The government had raised the windfall tax on petroleum crude to ₹7,000 per tonne from ₹6,000 per tonne, effective July 16.

Publication : Business Standard (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 1, 4

कच्चे तेल निर्यात पर अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर खत्म

पृष्ठ 1 का शेष...

अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर को विशेष अतिरिक्त उत्पाद शुल्क (एसएईडी) की श्रेणी में रखा गया था और उसे 1 जुलाई, 2022 से देसी कच्चे तेल पर लगाया गया था। इसे रूस-यूक्रेन संघर्ष के कारण ऊर्जा की कीमतों में वृद्धि से किसी कंपनी को होने वाले मुनाफे पर कर लगाने के इरादे से लागू किया गया था। मगर वैश्विक बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में नरमी आने से इसका कोई मतलब नहीं रह गया।

निजी रिफाइनरियां देसी बाजार में ईंधन बेचने के बजाय विदेशी बाजारों से अधिक मुनाफा कमाने के चक्कर में न पड़ें, इसके लिए पेट्रोल, डीजल और विमानन ईंधन के निर्यात पर भी यह कर लगाया जा रहा था। इसकी गणना रिफाइनरों के निर्यात मार्जिन अथवा घरेलू उत्पादन लागत और अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों के बीच अंतर के आधार पर की गई थी। कर की दरों की समीक्षा हर पखवाड़े कच्चे तेल की औसत कीमतों के आधार पर की जाती थी। अधिकारी ने कहा कि 4 अप्रैल, 2023 के बाद दूसरी बार 18 सितंबर को अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर की दरों को घटाकर शून्य किए जाने के बाद इसे खत्म करने की मांग तेज हो गई थी।

वित्त मंत्रालय के सूत्रों द्वारा उपलब्ध कराए गए आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि वित्त वर्ष 2023 से ही इस कर से केंद्र सरकार को कम सालाना राजस्व मिल रहा था। वित्त वर्ष 2025 में अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर से 6,000 करोड़ रुपये मिले। वित्त वर्ष 2024 में यह आंकड़ा 13,000 करोड़ रुपये और वित्त वर्ष 2023 में 25,000 करोड़ रुपये रहा था।

एक विश्लेषक ने कहा कि अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर से सरकार को प्राप्त राजस्व पेट्रोल एवं डीजल की बिक्री पर उत्पाद शुल्क से प्राप्त राजस्व जैसा अहम या ज्यादा नहीं होता है।

विश्लेषकों ने कहा कि इस पहल से तेल उत्पादक कंपनियों के कर बोझ पर भी कोई खास असर पड़ता नहीं दिखता। इक्रा के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष एवं सह-समूह प्रमुख (कॉरपोरेट रेटिंग) प्रशांत वशिष्ठ ने बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड से कहा, 'हाल के महीनों में तेल कंपनियों पर अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर का प्रभाव सीमित रहा है, क्योंकि कच्चे तेल की कीमतें 70 से 72 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के आसपास रही हैं।'

जामनगर में दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी रिफाइनरी का संचालन करने वाली कंपनी रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज का शेयर आज 1.42 फीसदी बढ़त के साथ 1,310 रुपये पर बंद हुआ। ओएनजीसी का शेयर 0.37 फीसदी बढ़कर 257.65 रुपये पर बंद हुआ मगर ऑयल इंडिया का शेयर 2.49 फीसदी गिरावट के साथ 478.4 रुपये पर बंद हुआ।

Publication : Deccan Herald	Editions : Bangalore
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 14

Centre scraps 'windfall tax' on petrol, diesel; big relief for RIL, ONGC

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The central government on Monday announced abolition of windfall tax on petrol, diesel, crude oil and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) with immediate effect, a move that will benefit oil producers and refiners like Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary tabled a notification in this regard in the Parliament.

As per the notification, the government has also decided to remove road and infrastructure cess levied on exports of petrol and diesel.

The windfall tax was introduced in July 2022 after the oil prices surged to near record high following the outbreak of Russia-Ukraine war. High prices in the international markets boosted the company's profits.

The windfall tax used to be reviewed every 15 days based on fluctuations in global crude oil prices. The recent weakening in crude prices had made the windfall tax irrelevant, Tarun Kapoor, an advisor to the Prime Minister, said recently.

"This move marks the end of a levy introduced in July 2022 and aims to provide relief to oil producers and refiners. The decision is expected to benefit major oil players like Reliance Industries and ONGC by boosting their gross refining margins—a measure of profitability in refining crude oil," SBI Research said in a note.

Meanwhile, India's petrol and diesel consumption, which account for more than half of India's refined petroleum products usage, rose to a six-month high in November 2024. According to PPAC,

India's diesel consumption increased by 8% year-on-year to 8.16 million tonnes (MT) in November. Diesel consumption during the month of November was 7% higher when compared with the previous month. The November diesel consumption was the highest since the record consumption in May 2024 (8.4 MT), as per data compiled by Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC).

Publication : Jansatta (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 16

Headline: Government removed windfall profit tax on petroleum products

सरकार ने पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों में अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर को हटाया

नई दिल्ली, 2 दिसंबर (भाषा)।

सरकार ने कच्चे तेल की अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों में आई गिरावट के बीच घरेलू स्तर पर उत्पादित कच्चे तेल और विमानन ईंधन, डीजल एवं पेट्रोल के निर्यात पर 30 महीने पुराना अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर सोमवार को खत्म कर दिया।

वित्त राज्य मंत्री पंकज चौधरी ने राज्य सभा में इस आशय की एक अधिसूचना पेश की। इसमें सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की ओएनजीसी जैसी कंपनियों द्वारा उत्पादित कच्चे तेल और रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड जैसी कंपनियों द्वारा किए गए ईंधन के निर्यात पर लगने वाले शुल्क को खत्म कर दिया गया है। अधिसूचना ने इस कर का प्रावधान करने वाले 30 जून, 2022 के आदेश को रद्द कर दिया है। इस आदेश में कच्चे तेल के घरेलू उत्पादन और विमानन ईंधन, डीजल और पेट्रोल के निर्यात पर विशेष अतिरिक्त उत्पाद शुल्क लगाया गया था। इसके साथ ही पेट्रोल और डीजल के निर्यात पर लगाया गया सड़क और बुनियादी ढांचा उपकर भी वापस ले लिया गया है। सरकार ने पहली बार एक जुलाई, 2022 को अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर लगाया था। इस तरह वह उन देशों में शामिल हो गया था जो पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों को होने वाले असाधारण लाभ पर कर लगाते हैं। उस समय पेट्रोल और एटीएफ पर छह रुपए प्रति लीटर और डीजल पर 13 रुपए प्रति लीटर का निर्यात शुल्क लगाया गया था। इसके साथ घरेलू कच्चे तेल के उत्पादन पर 23,250 रुपए प्रति टन का अप्रत्याशित लाभ कर भी लगाया गया था। सरकार ने यह कर लगाने के पहले वर्ष में शुल्क से लगभग 25,000 करोड़ रुपए, 2023-24 में 13,000 करोड़ रुपए और चालू वित्त वर्ष में 6,000 करोड़ रुपए जुटाए थे।

सरकार ने कर लगाने के पहले वर्ष में शुल्क से लगभग 25,000 करोड़, 2023-24 में 13,000 करोड़ रुपए और चालू वित्त वर्ष में 6,000 करोड़ रुपए जुटाए थे।

Publication : The Times of India	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 20

Govt scraps windfall tax on crude, ATF

New Delhi: Govt on Monday scrapped 30-month old windfall profit tax on domestically-produced crude oil and on export of jet fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol following a decline in international oil prices.

Minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary tabled a notification in Rajya Sabha scrapping the levy on crude oil produced by firms like state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and exports of fuels done by companies like Reliance Industries.

The notification rescinded the June 30, 2022 order and withdrew the levy of special additional excise duty on production of crude oil—which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel—and on export of aviation turbine fuel, diesel and petrol, he said. Alongside, the road and infrastructure cess (RIC) levied on export of petrol and diesel has also been withdrawn.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022 joining nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of Rs 6 per litre ($12/barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and Rs 13-a-litre ($26/barrel) on diesel. AGENCIES

Publication : The Tribune	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 1, 10

Govt scraps windfall tax on oil, fuel exports

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

The Central Government on Monday scrapped the windfall profit tax on domestically produced crude oil, diesel, petrol, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), following a decline in international oil prices.

A windfall tax is levied by governments against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience significantly above-average profits.

The tax was introduced in July 2022 to tax supernormal profits of oil-producing companies, which they were earning because of rising global crude prices. Now, since the average prices are coming down, the government was not earning much in revenue, so it decided to withdraw the tax.

On Monday, the Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, tabled a notification in the Rajya Sabha, scrapping the levy on crude oil produced by firms like state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and exports of fuels done by companies like Reliance Industries Ltd.

The windfall profit tax has been a subject of controversy ever since it was levied. While it initially sought to balance government revenue amid fluctuating oil prices, industry players argued that it negatively impacted profitability and disincentivised production.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had been lobbying for its removal for some time now.

The government also removed the Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC) on petrol and diesel exports, further alleviating the financial pressure on the oil sector. — TNS

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 5

BCGCL, Coal India, CIL-GAIL JV to Get Sops for Gasification

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The coal ministry on Tuesday said Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd (BCGCL), Coal India–GAIL (India) consortium, and Coal India Ltd have been selected for financial incentives for coal gasification under the public sector undertaking category.

The coal ministry had launched an incentive scheme in the form of a viability gap funding (VGF) for coal/lignite gasification with an outlay of ₹8,500 crore aiming for 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030. The scheme was launched under three categories and has garnered strong interest from the industry, with five applications received under the public sector undertaking and demonstration projects segment. The VGF for three projects of government-owned companies has been allocated a grant of ₹4,050 crore.

The second segment is for both public and private companies with an allocation for ₹3,850 crore.

Publication : The Free Press Journal	Editions : Mumbai
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 11

HPCL SWEEPS TOP HONOURS AT FIPI OIL AND GAS AWARDS 2023

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), a Maharatna Oil & Gas PSU, has emerged as a leader in the Oil and Gas industry, bagging three prestigious awards at the FIPI Oil and Gas Awards 2023. These awards are a testament to HPCL's unwavering commitment to innovation, sustainability, and leadership.

The Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), the apex society of entities in the hydrocarbon sector, presented the awards. The awards were presented by Union Minister, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, in the presence of MoS, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Tourism, Suresh Gopi and Secretary MoPNG, Pankaj Jain.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 3

Coal India, BPCL sign MoU to set up coal-to-synthetic natural gas project

Our Bureau
Kolkata

State-run Coal India and Bharat Petroleum Corporation on Monday executed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore setting up of a coal to synthetic natural gas (SNG) project at Western Coalfields through surface coal gasification.

Western Coalfields' Majri area in Maharashtra is where the proposed project has been envisioned. The capital expenditure for the project would be around ₹12,214 crore. The annual capacity of SNG that is proposed to be produced would be 633.6 million Nm3, according to sources close to the development.

NOD FROM CIL BOARD

The sources cited above said the pre-feasibility report for the project was prepared by Projects & Development India (PDIL) and got the in-principle approval from the Coal India board. "This is the third coal gasification project that CIL is collaborating with the Maharatna PSU. The other two projects are with BHEL and GAIL, where joint venture agreements have been signed," they added.

Synthetic natural gas (SNG) is the final product of the project, considering the availability of the proposed Mumbai to Nagpur gas pipeline.

PRODUCTION UP

In a separate stock exchange filing, Coal India said its overall coal production in the month of November increased marginally by 1.7 per cent year-on-year to 67.2 million tonnes (mt) compared to the same month last year. Offtake in the last month grew only 0.03 per cent y-o-y at 63 mt.

During the April-November period total production increased by 2.4 per cent y-o-y at 471 mt, while offtake during the period grew 1.5 per cent y-o-y at 492.6 mt.

Publication : The Times of India	Editions : Kolkata
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 16

CIL, BPCL look to set up SNG project in Maha

Kolkata: Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) executed a non-binding MoU to explore the setting up of a coal to synthetic natural gas project at Western Coalfields (WCL) through surface coal gasification. According to sources, the capital expenditure for the project is Rs 12,214 crore.

WCL's Majri area in Maharashtra is where the proposed project was envisioned.

Presently, most of the natural gas demand in India is met with the import of LNG.

The proposed project will have an annual SNG production capacity of 633.6 million normal cubic metre. TNN

Publication : BizzBuzz	Editions : Hyderabad
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 6

Brent crude trading at $72.31/bbl

CRUDE oil futures marginally fell to Rs5,812 per barrel in futures trade as participants trimmed their positions on low demand. Globally, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was trading 0.65 per cent higher at $68.44 per barrel, while Brent crude was trading 0.65 per cent lower at $72.31 lower per barrel in New York. On MCX, crude oil for December delivery traded marginally lower by Rs2 or 0.03 per cent at Rs5,812 per barrel in 10,687 lots.

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 1, 6

Windfall tax on domestic oil, fuel exports scrapped

No major revenue impact, say experts

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY & HARSH KUMAR
New Delhi, 2 December

The Centre on Monday scrapped the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil, and the export of diesel, petrol, and aviation turbine fuel, with immediate effect.

The road and infrastructure cess (RIC) on exporting petrol and diesel too has been removed, the finance ministry said in a notification.

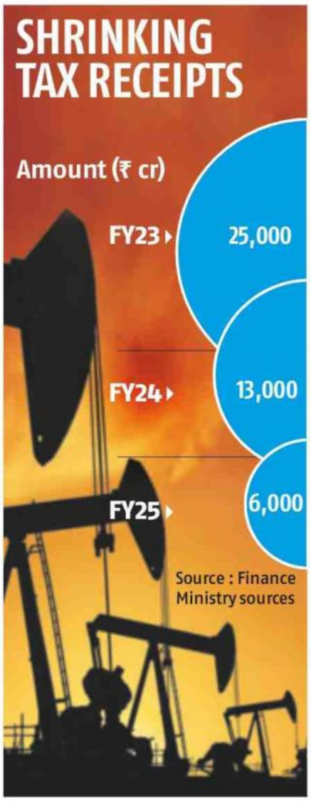
Falling global crude oil prices, and the subsequent shrinking of profits of domestic oil producers, has led to the tax being withdrawn, petroleum ministry officials said.

"The ministry had backed the review of the windfall tax to provide relief to state-owned upstream oil companies, considering their net profits had reduced in the past few quarters," an official said.

Global crude oil prices fell every month since June, when it had breached $80 per barrel (bbl).

Since July 22, Brent Last Day Financial prices have crossed the $80/bbl on just two occasions as oil prices factor in weak global demand growth and concerns of oversupply.

On Monday, Brent crude futures stood at $72.6/bbl.



Classified as special additional excise duty (SAED), the windfall tax was levied on domestically produced crude oil on July 1, 2022, and was designed to tax the profits a company derives from the energy price rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Turn to Page 6

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 1, 6

Move unlikely to have impact on tax burden of oil firms

But falling global prices of crude oil have ended the justification for the tax. The tax was extended to exports of petrol, diesel, and aviation fuel after private refineries started raking in big gains from overseas markets instead of selling the fuels in the domestic market. It was calculated based on refiners' overseas shipment margins, or the difference between domestic production costs and international prices. The tax rates were reviewed every fortnight, based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks. After the rates were slashed to nil on September 18 for just the second time since April 4, 2023, the call to remove the tax had grown within the government, the official said.

The Centre's annual receipts from the tax have shrunk since FY23, the data provided by ministry sources shows.

Windfall-tax receipts stood at ₹6,000 crore in FY25, down from ₹13,000 crore in FY24 and ₹25,000 crore in FY23. The government's revenue realisation from the tax has not been as significant as that from excise duty on sales of petrol and diesel, an analyst said. The latest move is unlikely to have an impact on the tax burden of upstream oil companies, analysts reiterated on Monday.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 8

Wrong oil price is really a problem for OPEC+

THE BEST SCANDALS are those that start when someone, somewhere, decides to say something utterly shocking: the truth! A senior official of the OPEC+ oil cartel has said publicly what many thought privately — the group has been keeping oil prices too high, effectively subsidising its rivals. The result? It cannot increase production and instead relies on ever-increasing output cuts.

Afshin Javan, the No. 2 official in the Iranian delegation to OPEC+, published a commentary on his country's state-run news agency Shana on November 26. The group, he argued, faced a "a supply glut" largely of its own making following several years of production cuts. "This strategy in support of prices has effectively encouraged higher supply outside the group, particularly on the part of the US," he said. "That would leave a limited room for manoeuvring by OPEC+ to ease its restrictions."

Within hours, the op-ed was deleted without explanation. But the damage, in the run-up to the cartel's next meeting, was done. The commentary echoes the child in Hans Christian Andersen's fable *The Emperor's New Clothes*, who proclaims "but he hasn't got anything on!" Yup; the king is in the altogether.

OPEC+ has now delayed a gathering scheduled for December 1 until December 5, as Saudi Arabia tries to concoct a plan to keep oil prices higher. Back in June, the group announced a deal to increase production from September 2024 and throughout 2025 in monthly instalments. But weak oil prices had forced OPEC+ to delay the increases already twice, first from September to October, and then from October to January.

JAVIER BLAS
Bloomberg

The postponement allows the group extra time to decide what comes next. At a minimum, Saudi Arabia is pushing to delay the output increases a third time, by somewhere between three and six months, delegates tell me. The kingdom has also discussed the possibility of extra output cuts, but has so far found zero appetite among the members for that proposal.

In the meantime, Riyadh is trying to arm-twist Iraq and Kazakhstan into respecting their OPEC+ production limits. Both nations have regularly pumped above their quotas, along with Russia and the United Arab Emirates. Kazakhstan, which has spent billions expanding its largest oilfield, is protesting so that the group recognises its right to produce more oil next year. That battle has the potential to derail any deal on December 5, delegates tell me.

Ultimately, however, the Iranians are right: OPEC+ is subsidising the growth of its rivals, and the longer it persists the more difficult it will be to find an exit strategy. Sure, President-elect Donald Trump may create an offramp for the Saudis if he's able to curb Iranian and Venezuelan oil exports. But that's hardly a sign of policy success for OPEC+; on the contrary, it would show that the cartel is at the mercy of the White House.

Year-to-date, Brent crude has averaged about $80.5 a barrel. Prices have only been low enough since September to inflict some pain on US producers. Still, oil prices of $70 to $75 a barrel aren't enough to stop the American shale industry. One key reason is efficiency; another is that $70 a barrel is quite good from an historical point of view. It's worth remembering that Brent averaged $63 a barrel in the 2017-2019 period, when US producers added roughly six million barrels a day in extra crude and other liquids output.

The International Energy Agency estimates the US shale industry is so good at drilling, and does it so cheaply, that today just 300 rigs do the job that took 500 rigs five years ago. Travis D Stice, the chief executive officer of top shale producer Diamondback Energy, recently told investors that he initially planned to use 22 to 24 rigs next year, but thought he could do the job now with just 18 rigs.

Geology will eventually halt the US shale industry even if oil prices stay high. But that day hasn't arrived yet. The longer OPEC+ pushes for too high prices, the deeper the hole it digs for itself, unable to increase production. OPEC+ officials know it, but few dare to speak up. They need to do so — or they'll regret it in the future.

Publication : Mint	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 5

Nayara plans retail fuel outlet growth

Rituraj Baruah
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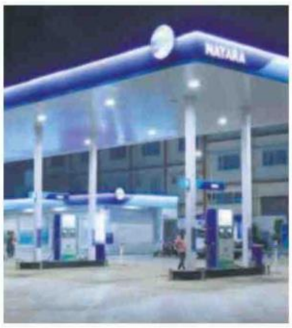
NEW DELHI

Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy Ltd is planning to increase the number of its retail fuel outlets with a focus on rural areas and new highways, even as it explores ways to expand its compressed natural gas (CNG) business, its chief marketing officer Madhur Taneja said.

The refining and oil-marketing firm has 6,500 pumps across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana. "You can look at our past performance and do your numbers. We are shy of making claims and trying to chase the numbers. But, if our past performance is a barometer, you would see us growing to take a fair share of the market. It is looking extremely strong, so you can expect us to definitely participate and take a fair share."

In 2017, Ruias-owned Essar Group sold Essar Oil, its refining and fuel retailing business, to Russian oil giant Rosneft and an investment consortium led by commodity trading firm Trafigura and UCP Investment Group for ₹86,000 crore. Following the deal, Essar Oil was rebranded as Nayara Energy .

Taneja said the company will look at expansion with the addition of new retail outlets and boost business with existing customers and improved services backed by technology and the evolution of new business models such as 'deliver to home'. "We will pivot our business on two levers. One, continue expanding the network so that we make this particular product accessible, as convenience and accessibility are going to be the mainstay. Having said that, it is not only rural. It's (retail) going to grow along new highways due to a lot of investment in infrastructure. The second pivot will be around the existing customers. We see millions of transactions happening, upwards of 150 million every month (at Nayara outlets). And the transactions are important for us. These transactions will grow. It's going to be about how we use technology to bring in that delight with the customer."



The company is also looking to expand its CNG business.

For an extended version of the story go to livemint.com

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 8

Crude oil rises on upbeat China data

Singapore: Crude oil prices rose on Monday, supported by upbeat factory activity in China, and as Israel resumed attacks on Lebanon despite a ceasefire pact. Brent crude futures climbed 34 cents to $72.18 a barrel by 0452 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $68.32 a barrel, up 32 cents.. REUTERS

Publication : The Hindu Business Line | Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024 | Page : 8

Natural gas: Support ahead for futures

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

The price of natural gas futures has been moderating for nearly two weeks. But from a broader level, the contract has been volatile and there is no clear trend seen on either side.

COMMODITY CALL.

The December contract on the MCX started to decline after facing a barrier at ₹300. It has begun the current week losing around 5 per cent in the early trade on Monday. However, from the current market price of ₹268, there are support levels ahead.

The nearest potential support is at ₹265, where a couple of trendlines coincide. Below this, ₹256 is another notable support. That said, in case there is a bullish reversal from the current level, it is likely to be limited to ₹280 barrier. At the current level, the risk-reward ratio is unfavourable for fresh short positions. So, traders can consider a short-term long trade when the price dips to the nearest support at ₹265.

But note that long positions carry higher risk and therefore, risk-averse traders can stay out. Buy natural gas futures (December) if the price dips to ₹265. Place stop-loss at ₹258. When the price rises to ₹275, revise the stop-loss to ₹268. Book profits at ₹280.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 9

Gujarat Gas raises CNG prices in 5 States, 1 UT

Our Bureau
Ahmedabad

Gujarat Gas Ltd has raised the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) being sold in five States and one Union Territory by ₹1.5 per kg.

This is the third time the country's largest CGD operator has hiked prices.

PRICE JUMP

The State-run entity has raised CNG prices in Gujarat, Maharashtra (Palghar district and Thane Rural), Rajasthan (Jalore, Sirohi, Dungarpur and Banswara), Haryana (Sirsa and Fatehbad), Madhya Pradesh (Indore, Ujjain, Jhabua, Ratlam, Dewas) and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

The company has, however, not raised gas prices for Punjab (Amritsar, Bhatinda, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Ferozepur Faridkot, Mansa, Sri Mu1ktar Sahib and Fazilka). Gujarat Gas operates in 44 districts in six States. It has more than 820 CNG stations across the country, from where it sells a little over 2.7 mscmd of natural gas.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :3 December 2024	Page : 3

Environmental damage largely caused by rich nations: Goyal

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Global environmental damage has been caused by the developed countries who enjoyed the benefit of low-cost energy and not the developing countries; hence, the responsibilities towards shared supply chains and sustainability will have to be met through common but differentiated responsibility, Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, has said.

"While all have to work together, everybody needs to be given responsibility based on their contribution to the environmental problem," Goyal said in his address at the CII Partnership Summit on Monday.

GREEN CHALLENGES. Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal at the 29th edition of Confederation of Indian Industry Partnership Summit 2024 in New Delhi on Monday ANI

CBAM ISSUE

The Minister's comments are significant given the fact that the developed world, led by the European Union, is implementing environmental regulations like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) that seek to place the burden of decarbonising industrial production on developing countries by imposing penal import duties based on green house gas emission.

Trade Ministers from Italy, Israel, Bhutan, Bahrain, Algeria, Nepal, Senegal, South Africa, Myanmar, Qatar and the Secretary of State for Ministry of Commerce of Kingdom of Cambodia represented the partner countries at the Summit.

Goyal pointed out that environmental challenges were not a function of the carbon emitted during manufacturing.

"It (environmental challenges) is a greater function of the carbon caused by our consumption because manufacturing comes only because there is a consumption demand.

"And a lot of that demand can be managed better. It can be more sustainable and less wasteful," he said.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

"We have to be conscious of the carbon footprint we leave behind due to our wasteful consumption, due to our current life style patterns," the Minister said, adding that "unless we address consumption pattern, we will not be able to address sustainability."

Stressing on strengthening the economies of the partner countries, the Minister underlined the need for liquidity to ensure financial stability to fund the future. He said liquidity coupled with lifestyles needed deeper reflection.

Online

Headline	ONGC Unveils 35-Seater E-Buses in Mumbai		
Publication	APAC News Network	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

ONGC Unveils 35-Seater E-Buses in Mumbai

https://apacnewsnetwork.com/2024/12/ongc-unveils-35-seater-e-buses-in-mumbai/

Mumbai: Taking a step towards sustainable development, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has launched 35-seater electric buses in Mumbai.

The initiative aligns with India's Net Zero 2070 goal and ONGC's commitment to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2038. At the launch ceremony, the company flagged off two buses with a 300 km range for eco-friendly staff commutes between Panvel and Bandra.

According to ONGC, each bus will prevent around 23 Metric Tonnes of CO2 emissions annually. ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh inaugurated the initiative along with Director (T&FS) Om Prakash Singh and Director (Production) Pankaj Kumar. Earlier the company had also launched 70 electric vehicles.

ONGC is a Maharatna Public Sector Enterprise of the Government of India. It is the biggest producer of natural gas and crude oil in the nation, accounting for over 71% of domestic output. Downstream businesses like IOC, BPCL, HPCL, and MRPL use crude oil as a raw material to make petroleum products like diesel, kerosene, naphtha, cooking gas LPG, and gasoline. Being a company with in-house service capabilities in all aspects of oil and gas exploration, production, and allied oil-field services gives ONGC a distinct advantage. This public sector company, which won the Best Employer award, employs almost 26,000 expert workers.

Headline	ONGC Videsh Limited acquires 0.615% Stake in ACG and 0.737% stake in BTC, Azerbaijan		
Publication	APN News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

ONGC Videsh Limited acquires 0.615% Stake in ACG and 0.737% stake in BTC, Azerbaijan

https://www.apnnews.com/ongc-videsh-limited-acquires-0-615-stake-in-acg-and-0-737-stake-in-btc-azerbaijan/

Bengaluru : ONGC Videsh Limited, Schedule A Navaratna Central Public Sector Enterprise, a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC, premier Energy Company

of India, has completed the acquisition of 0.615% Participating Interest (PI) in Offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) field in Azerbaijan from Equinor. This also includes acquisition of 0.737% Shares of Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline company through its wholly owned subsidiary ONGC BTC Limited. The acquisition has been completed on 29th November 2024. The total investment for this acquisition is around USD 60 million. This acquisition is in addition to ONGC Videsh s existing 2.31% PI in the ACG field and 2.36% shareholding in BTC pipeline.

ACG is a super-giant offshore filed in Caspian Sea operated by oil major BP since 1999. The field has been developed in phases and a seventh production platform, Azeri Central East, has been commissioned in early 2024. The other partners in the field are SOCAR, MOL, INPEX, Exxon, Turkiye Petrolleri AO and Itochu. The field has a contract term till 31st December 2049. Baku-Tbilisi Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline carries oil from the Azeri-Chirag-Deepwater Gunashli (ACG) field and condensate from Shah Deniz across Azerbaijan, Georgia and Trkiye. It links Sangachal terminal on the shores of the Caspian Sea to Ceyhan marine terminal on the Turkish Mediterranean coast.

ONGC Videsh Ltd. is India's largest international oil and gas E&P Company having 32 Assets in 15 countries. This acquisition is consistent with its strategic objective of energy security of the nation by adding high-quality international assets with equity oil to its existing portfolio. ONGC Videsh's production of Oil and Oil Equivalent Gas (O+OEG) during FY'24 was 10.518 MMtoe and is currently producing about 200,000 barrels of O+OEG per day. As on 1st April 2024, ONGC Videsh has total Oil & Gas reserves (2P) of about 476 MMtoe while its parent, ONGC has 2P reserves of 704 Mmtoe.

Headline	Govt scraps windfall tax on ATF, crude products, petrol and diesel; relief to oil companies		
Publication	Bihar 24x7	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

Govt scraps windfall tax on ATF, crude products, petrol and diesel; relief to oil companies

https://www.bihar24x7.com/news/govt-scraps-windfall-tax-on-atf-crude-products-petrol-and-diesel-relief-to-oil-companies20241202142049/

The government on Monday withdraws the windfall tax levied on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), crude products, petrol and diesel through a notification introduced in the...

New Delhi [India, December 2 : The government on Monday withdrew the windfall tax levied on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), crude products, petrol and diesel through a notification introduced in the Lok Sabha.

The withdrawal of the windfall tax is a big relief to the oil companies like Reliance and ONGC.

The tax was imposed in July 2022 to seek a share of higher revenue earned by these oil giants because of rising global crude prices through higher refining margins.

The removal of the tax will make these companies make higher profits on refining margins.

The Ministry of Finance notification says that the special additional excise duty (SAED), commonly known as windfall tax on the production of petroleum crude and on the export of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), motor spirit, commonly known as petrol and high spirit diesel oil will no longer be levied.

The windfall tax used to be revised every 15 days based on international crude oil prices after it was imposed in July 2022. The tax rates were reviewed every fortnight, based on the average oil price in the last two weeks.

The tax formula used to be managed by the Department of Revenue and adjusted as per the fluctuations in global oil prices.

Headline	ONGC Videsh Acquires Minority Stakes in Azerbaijan’s ACG and BTC Projects		
Publication	Chemical Industry Digest	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

ONGC Videsh Acquires Minority Stakes in Azerbaijan’s ACG and BTC Projects

https://chemindigest.com/ongc-videsh-acquires-minority-stakes-in-azerbaijans-projects/

ONGC Videsh Limited, the overseas investment arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has strengthened its portfolio with strategic acquisitions in Azerbaijans energy sector.

The company announced a 0.615% participating interest (PI) in the prolific Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli (ACG) field from Norways Equinor.

Alongside, it has increased its stake in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline to 2.36% through its subsidiary ONGC BTC Limited.

The move aligns with ONGC Videshs objective of ensuring long-term energy security for India and diversifying its global energy assets.

The acquisition is a significant step in our journey to secure sustainable energy supplies and bolster our international footprint, a company statement mentioned.

Overview of the ACG Field The ACG field, a super-giant offshore oil and gas reservoir in the Caspian Sea, has been in operation since 1999 under BPs leadership.

The field is known for its prolific output and has been developed in multiple phases. The latest addition, the Azeri Central East platform, began operations in early 2024.

Other partners in the project include major industry players such as SOCAR, MOL, INPEX, Exxon, Turkiye Petrolleri AO, and Itochu.

The projects contract term extends until December 31, 2049.

The BTC Pipeline: A Vital Energy Corridor The BTC pipeline is a key infrastructure project transporting crude oil and condensate from the Caspian region.

Stretching across Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Trkiye, it connects the Sangachal terminal on the Caspian shores. It also links to the Ceyhan terminal on the Mediterranean coast.

The pipeline ensures efficient access to international markets, reinforcing its strategic importance in the energy landscape.

Growing Global Profile As Indias largest international oil and gas exploration and production company, ONGC Videsh operates 32 assets across 15 countries.

In the fiscal year 2023-24, the company reported an oil and gas production of 10.518 million metric tons of oil equivalent (MMtoe). As of April 2024, it maintains reserves of 476 MMtoe.

Its parent entity, ONGC, boasts reserves of 704 MMtoe.

As reported by msn.com, the acquisition solidifies ONGC Videshs presence in the Caspian region. It also underpins the companys commitment to bolstering Indias energy security amid rising global demand.

Headline	ONGC Plans to Build Offshore Drilling Rigs		
Publication	Construction World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

ONGC Plans to Build Offshore Drilling Rigs

https://www.constructionworld.in/energy-infrastructure/oil-and-gas/ongc-plans-to-build-offshore-drilling-rigs/65835

Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) is in discussions with domestic shipyards to construct two offshore jack-up drilling rigs, valued at approximately $500-550

million, as part of its strategic move to replace aging equipment. ONGC's board recently approved the plan to manufacture these rigs, aimed at modernizing the company's offshore drilling capabilities. These new rigs will replace several of ONGC's existing rigs, some of which have been operational for over four decades and are due for retirement in the coming years. The initiative not only strengthens ONGC's operational capacity but also presents an opportunity for Indian shipyards to expand their expertise in building advanced offshore rigs. As noted by Om Prakash Singh, director of technology & field services at ONGC, this move will help develop local shipbuilding capabilities for offshore infrastructure. Offshore rigs have not been constructed in India since 1990, and the new project is expected to reintroduce this capability to the country. Before 1990, ONGC had two jack-up rigs and one floater built at Indian shipyards for its operations.

Currently, ONGC operates 113 drilling rigs, including 38 offshore rigs, with plans to expand the fleet further. While the company owns approximately one-fifth of the rigs used for offshore operations, the majority are chartered. For onshore operations, ONGC owns most of its rigs, with only about one-fifth chartered. Singh also highlighted that company-owned rigs play a critical role in training ONGC executives, who use their skills to manage chartered rigs. The construction of a jack-up rig typically takes around 3 to 3.5 years.

Headline	ONGC engages domestic shipyards for two offshore rig contracts		
Publication	Construction World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

ONGC engages domestic shipyards for two offshore rig contracts

https://www.constructionworld.in/energy-infrastructure/oil-and-gas/ongc-engages-domestic-shipyards-for-two-offshore-rig-contracts/65880

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is in preliminary discussions with domestic shipyards to construct two offshore jack-up drilling rigs, estimated

to cost between $500 million and $550 million, according to a senior executive from the state-run company. The company's board recently approved the proposal to build these offshore rigs. Om Prakash Singh, Director of Technology and Field Services at ONGC, explained that the new rigs are intended to replace some of the company's older rigs, which have been operational for over four decades and are set to be retired in the coming years.

Singh also highlighted that this initiative would enable Indian shipyards to develop the expertise needed for manufacturing advanced offshore rigs. He noted that no offshore drilling rigs have been constructed in India since 1990, when local shipyards built two jack-up rigs and one floater for ONGC's use.

Headline	Vikram Saxena selected for post of Director -Technology & Field Services, ONGC		
Publication	Indian Bureaucracy	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	3 Dec 2024		

Vikram Saxena selected for post of Director -Technology & Field Services, ONGC

https://www.indianbureaucracy.com/vikram-saxena-selected-for-post-of-director-technology-field-services-ongc/

Shri Vikram Saxena presently Group General Manager Location Manager Drilling Mumbai High Asset, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (Ongc) has

been selected for the post of Director (Technology & Field Services), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

IndianBureaucracy.com wishes Shri Vikram Saxena the very best.

Headline	Govt scraps windfall profit tax on domestic crude oil & export of fuels after 30 months		
Publication	Millennium Post	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	3 Dec 2024		

Govt scraps windfall profit tax on domestic crude oil & export of fuels after 30 months

https://www.millenniumpost.in/big-stories/govt-scraps-windfall-profit-tax-on-domestic-crude-oil-export-of-fuels-after-30-months-589176

New Delhi: In a significant policy shift, the government abolished the windfall profit tax on domestically-produced crude oil and exports of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), diesel, and petrol on Monday, citing a decline in international oil prices. The move comes 30 months after the tax was introduced to curb supernormal profits in the energy sector.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Rajya Sabha about the decision through a notification rescinding the June 30, 2022, order that had imposed the special additional excise duty (SAED). The decision also eliminates the road and infrastructure cess (RIC) levied on the export of petrol and diesel.

The windfall profit tax, introduced on July 1, 2022, initially aimed to capitalise on sharp gains in global crude prices following geopolitical tensions, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict. It included export duties of Rs 6 per litre on petrol and ATF, Rs 13 per litre on diesel, and a Rs 23,250 per tonne levy on domestic crude oil production. The rates were reviewed fortnightly based on international oil price trends.

Over its duration, the tax fluctuated considerably. For example, the levy on petrol exports was removed within weeks of its introduction, while the duties on diesel and ATF exports persisted intermittently until March 2023. The duty on crude oil saw its last fluctuation crude oil & export of fuels after 30 months

in August this year, falling from Rs 1,850 per tonne to nil during a fortnightly review.

The government generated significant revenue during the tax's tenure, earning approximately Rs 25,000 crore in the first year, Rs 13,000 crore in 2023-24, and Rs 6,000 crore in the current fiscal year. However, the declining global oil prices, with India's import basket averaging $73.02 per barrel in November, prompted the government to scrap the levy entirely.

The decision is expected to benefit key players in the sector. State-owned companies like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd will likely gain from the removal of the crude oil levy. Similarly, private refiners like Reliance Industries Ltd and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, which are major exporters, stand to profit from the elimination of duties on fuel exports.

The windfall tax had been a contentious issue since its inception, with industry stakeholders arguing that it disincentivized production and added fiscal uncertainty, especially for private and foreign companies. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had been advocating for its removal, citing the adverse impact on investments and profitability.

Headline	ONGC launched 35-seater Electric buses in Mumbai		
Publication	News Mantra	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

ONGC launched 35-seater Electric buses in Mumbai

https://newsmantra.in/ongc-launched-35-seater-electric-buses-in-mumbai/

ONGC's Mumbai Regional Office flagged off two 35-seater electric buses with a 300 km range for eco-friendly staff commutes between Panvel and Bandra. The initiative, inaugurated by ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh, along with Director (T&FS) Om Prakash Singh & Director (Production) Pankaj Kumar strengthens dedication to a greener tomorrow.

Headline	RIL, ONGC shares to get recover after windfall tax on key petroleum products is scrapped		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

RIL, ONGC shares to get recover after windfall tax on key petroleum products is scrapped

https://www.psuconnect.in/news/ril-ongc-shares-to-get-recover-after-windfall-tax-on-key-petroleum-products-is-scrapped/45495

The shares of oil conglomerate Reliance Industries (RIL) and state-owned ONGC recovered about 2% from their day's low on Monday after the finance ministry announced the scrapping of the windfall tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), crude oil, diesel, and petrol products.

This decision, effective immediately, marks the end of a levy that was introduced in July 2022 and aims to provide relief to oil producers and refiners.

The windfall tax was initially implemented to capture the significant profits that oil producers gained from rising global crude prices. The recent change is expected to benefit major oil players like Reliance Industries and ONGC by enhancing their gross refining margins, which measure profitability in refining crude oil.

Furthermore, the government has also removed the Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC) on petrol and diesel exports, further easing financial pressure on the oil sector.

The tax had become less effective in recent months as global crude oil prices declined, reducing the revenue generated. Industry dissatisfaction also played a role, with stakeholders contending that the levy discouraged higher production levels.

The removal of the tax is expected to improve the financial performance of oil companies and potentially encourage higher production. It aligns with the government's broader strategy to foster growth in the energy sector and boost exports.

Headline	Vikram Saxena set to be next Director (T&FS) of ONGC		
Publication	PSU Watch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

Vikram Saxena set to be next Director (T&FS) of ONGC

https://psuwatch.com/psu-appointments/vikram-saxena-set-to-be-next-director-tfs-of-ongc

The PESB Panel has recommended the name of Vikram Saxena for the post of Director (Technology & Field Services) of ONGC Limited on Monday

Published on

New Delhi: Vikram Saxena is set to be next Director (Technology & Field Services) of ONGC Limited, a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel on Monday. Presently, he is serving as Group General Manager in the same organisation.

Saxena has been recommended for the post of Director (Technology & Field Services) of ONGC from a list of 10 candidates, who were interviewed the PESB panel in its 94 selection meeting of the year held on December 1.

As Director (Technology & Field Services) of ONGC, Saxena will be a member of the Board of Director will and report to Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). He will be responsible are to designing, engineering & construction and technical support including repairs and maintenance for all offshore and onshore equipment, installations, pipelines plants etc.

India's Business News centre that places the spotlight on PSUs, Bureaucracy, Defence and Public Policy is now on Google News.

Headline	ONGC calls bids for operation and maintenance of two offshore vessels		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	2 Dec 2024		

ONGC calls bids for operation and maintenance of two offshore vessels

https://infra.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/ports-shipping/ongc-calls-bids-for-operation-and-maintenance-of-two-offshore-vessels/115882505

MUMBAI: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) has called bids from private entities for operation and maintenance (O&M) of its offshore vessels named Samudra Sevak ' and Samudra Prabha

Bidders can submit offers for either of the two vessels or both the vessels for the one-year contract by 16 December, according to the tender documents.

The successful bidder has to mobilize marine and diving crew fully conforming to scope of work and special conditions of contract with necessary clearances (Port, Customs, D G Shipping, Ministry of Home Affairs, etc) and commence work within 30 days (including 10 days for hand over, take over) from the date of notification of award (NOA) or on expiry of the ongoing O&M contract, whichever is later.

Advt The ongoing contracts of Samudra Sevak' and Samudra Prabha' will end on 20 March and 29 April 2025, respectively.

Samudra Sevak' is a multipurpose supply vessel while Samudra Prabha' is a diving support vessel and are used to support ONGC's oil and gas drilling operations off India's coast.

Samudra Sevak' and Samudra Prabha' can operate till 24 February 2026, per the age/qualitative norms introduced by the D G Shipping in 2023.

According to the 24 February 2023 order of D G Shipping, 'existing vessels' regardless of their age, affected by the maximum age prescribed, were allowed to operate up to three years from the date of issue of the order.

Headline	ONGC eyes mining of offshore minerals		
Publication	The Financial Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	3 Dec 2024		

ONGC eyes mining of offshore minerals

https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-ongc-eyes-mining-of-offshore-minerals-3682481/

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is looking to venture into mining of offshore minerals given the company's technical expertise

in drilling in subsurface and offshore areas, a senior executive at the company said.

We are not looking to bid right now (under the first tranche of offshore mineral auction) but we do have acreages offshore so we will be happy if we get something there, the source said.

This comes amid the government's target of increasing domestic exploration and production of critical minerals to achieve the country's net zero targets by 2070 and reduce dependency on imports of such minerals. Minerals like lithium, copper, cobalt and rare earth elements are used in various sectors like nuclear energy, renewable energy, space, defence, telecommunications, etc.

In line with this, the ministry of mines recently launched the first tranche of auction of offshore minerals putting 13 such blocks under the hammer. While may not bid under the first round, the executive noted that the company may bid for offshore blocks going forward.

We have a lot of laboratories because we do it for the subsurface, so we can do it for this (offshore minerals) plus we are trying to give a little bit more emphasis to critical minerals, said the source adding that the company wants to pool its resources with the government and come up with a holistic plan for offshore mineral mining.

In September, ONGC Videsh, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ONGC, along with (OIL), and Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Resources Holding (IRH), UAE, to collaborate globally on the critical mineral supply chain. The primary goal of this MoU is to identify, acquire, and develop critical mineral projects worldwide, including India, the company had said.

ONGC aims to achieve net zero operational emissions by 2038. To realise this goal, the company is also expanding its renewable energy portfolio developing wind, hydro, and hybrid projects. The government, under the first tranche of offshore mineral auction, has put three lime mud, three construction sand, and seven polymetallic nodules and crusts on sale.

The demand for critical minerals is going to rise in India with demand for lithium likely to rise eight times, the coal and mines minister G Kishan Reddy had said. The government is also expecting Cabinet's approval on the Critical Mineral Mission soon.

Mines secretary V L Kantha Rao had earlier said that the government has kept royalty rates on mineral blocks at a lower level to attract partners. We are now looking for industry partners to come and partner with us for exploiting mineral wealth, he had said. The government is also seeking international tie-ups for exploration of critical minerals and plans to conduct roadshows in various countries.

Headline	Govt scraps windfall profit tax on domestic crude oil, export of fuels		
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Govt scraps windfall profit tax on domestic crude oil, export of fuels

https://theprint.in/economy/govt-scraps-windfall-profit-tax-on-domestic-crude-oil-export-of-fuels/2383621/

New Delhi, Dec 2 (PTI) The government on Monday scrapped 30-month old windfall profit tax on domestically-produced crude oil and on export of jet fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol following a decline in international oil prices.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary tabled a notification in Rajya Sabha scrapping the levy on crude oil produced by firms like state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and exports of fuels done by companies like Reliance Industries Ltd.

The notification rescinded June 30, 2022 order and withdrew levy of special additional excise duty (SAED) on production of crude oil (which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel) and on export of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol, he said.

Alongside, the road and infrastructure cess (RIC) levied on export of petrol and diesel has also been withdrawn.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022 joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and Rs 13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on diesel.

A Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD 40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on domestic crude production was also levied.

The tax rates were reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

While the levy on export of petrol became nil in the very first fortnightly review that happened in mid-July 2022, the tax on diesel and ATF exports became nil in mid April 2023 but were back in August that year. There has been no levy on export of ATF and diesel since March this year.

As far as crude oil is concerned, the levy fluctuated every fortnight. It was Rs 1,850 per tonne in August 31, 2024 and became nil in the next fortnightly review.

Now, the levies on both domestically produced crude oil and fuel exports have been scrapped.

The government had garnered about Rs 25,000 crore from the levy in the first year of its implementation, Rs 13,000 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 6,000 crore this year.

Reliance Industries Ltd, which operates India's largest only-for-export oil refinery at Jamnagar in Gujarat, and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy are primary exporters of fuel in the country.

The government levied tax on windfall profits made by oil producers on any price they get above a threshold of USD 75 per barrel.

The levy on fuel exports is based on cracks or margins that refiners earn on overseas shipments. These margins are primarily a difference between the international oil price realised and the cost.

The decision to scrap the levy follows softening in international oil prices. The basket of crude oil that India imports averaged USD 73.02 per barrel in November, down from USD 75.12 a barrel in the previous month.

The import price was about USD 90 per barrel in April this year but has continued to slide in subsequent months. It fell to USD 73.69 per barrel in September but rose marginally in the following month.

Since its levy, the windfall profit tax has been a subject of controversy. While it initially sought to balance government revenue amid fluctuating oil prices, industry players argued that it negatively impacted profitability and disincentive production. For private and foreign players, it brought in an element of uncertainty in the fiscal regime.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas too had been lobbying for its removal for some time now.

While doing away with tax on domestically-produced crude oil will benefit ONGC and Oil India Ltd, the scrapping of levy on fuel exports would help Reliance and Nayara.