



ONGC News as on 21 September 2023 (Print)

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : Mumbai
Date : 21 September 2023	Page : 4

India's green H₂ ambitions ride on Chinese equipment's coat-tails

S DINAKAR
Amritsar, 20 September

India needs to kick-start its clean hydrogen manufacturing plans by giving priority to electrolyser manufacturing rather than relegating it to a footnote in its green hydrogen transition programme.

Allocations for clean hydrogen output are three times greater than the support for domestic electrolyser manufacturing. Since the early days of solar and electric vehicles, China has placed a stronger emphasis on a clean energy equipment production ecosystem to dominate the global supply market.

India's ambitions for green hydrogen are riding the coat-tails of Chinese equipment, with Beijing's global stranglehold on the green hydrogen business now extending to New Delhi.

It's likely that a significant portion of India's 5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) green hydrogen production target, planned by 2030, will be met through the supply of Chinese electrolysers and other components, according to analysts and industry officials.

PERIC Hydrogen Technologies Co., a leading electrolyser manufacturer in China, announced in early September that it has delivered two electrolysers to a prominent Indian steel company and is supplying four more to another Indian steel company. In July, LONGI, the world's largest supplier of electrolysers, agreed to supply electrolysers to another Indian company. China's top electrolyser man-

ufacturers now view India as a major export market because local manufacturers cannot meet the demand, as stated by Jian Wu from China Hydrogen Bulletin.

Hetal Gandhi, director of CRISIL Market Intelligence & Analytics, said, "India's current electrolyser manufacturing capacity falls short of meeting its ambitious green hydrogen production targets. A reliance on imports can help stimulate the green hydrogen market in India while also keeping production costs in check."

However, this poses a risk of total dependence on Chinese equipment for the next few years, as evident in how Chinese cells and modules have powered most of India's solar generation over the past decade.

China's advantage lies in its low manufacturing costs. Procurement data for the January-March quarter showed that the unit price of alkaline electrolysers declined to \$200-220 per kilowatt, which is 80 per cent lower than the costs in Western nations, according to data from China Hydrogen Bulletin.

China's benchmark lending rate is around 3.6-4.3 per cent, much lower than what Indian banks charge, improving the viability of hydrogen ventures.

What's even more crucial is the vast electrolyser capacities readily available in China. China's top four electrolyser producers — LONGI, PERIC, Sungrow, and Cockerill Jingli Hydrogen — are world leaders in electrolyser production capacity. They possess a combined 7.5 gigawatt (Gw) of electrolyser manufacturing capac-



ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

ity, and more than 20 other companies are adding to that capacity, as reported by the China Hydrogen Bulletin. Envision Group plans to construct a 2 Gw electrolyser manufacturing plant; Trina Solar Co., the world's third-largest solar equipment supplier, is establishing a 1 Gw electrolyser manufacturing plant. Sungrow, a global photovoltaic inverter company, is adding 3 Gw in capacity.

Gandhi added, "China currently holds a dominant position in the global electrolyser market due to its strategic control over critical raw materials like titanium and nickel, essential for electrolyser production. This advantage enables China to achieve scale and cost-effectiveness to the extent of 50 per cent on a global scale,

THE ROAD MAP

■ India needs to jump-start clean hydrogen manufacturing plans by placing a premium on electrolyser manufacturing

■ Allocations for clean hydrogen output are thrice that of support to domestic electrolyser manufacturing

■ Right from the early days of solar and EVs, China has placed a greater emphasis on a clean energy equipment production ecosystem to dominate the global supply market

making it a significant supplier to various countries, including India."

Low electrolyser procurement costs, coupled with the low cost of green electricity, are pivotal for the early adoption of green hydrogen, which, at current levels, is unsustainable without state subsidies. India's plans to reduce the cost of green hydrogen fivefold to \$1 per kilogram by the end of the decade will require low capital costs. Electrolysers constitute approximately one-third of the overall capital expenditure requirements.

According to BloombergNEF, companies will spend around \$130 billion on electrolysers. Electrolysers are machines that use electricity to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen. The current is

supplied by solar or wind generators, making hydrogen production green.

China announced nearly \$8 billion in domestic green hydrogen projects in 2022, with \$7.1 billion announced just in the January-March quarter, with an increasing focus on commercialising newer technologies.

Electrolyser manufacturing relies on two primary technologies: alkaline and proton-exchange membrane (PEM).

Alkaline electrolysers, with their superior efficiency and cost-effectiveness, currently hold a dominant share of over 60 per cent in the global market. They offer greater efficiency (30 per cent) compared to other electrolyser types like PEM.

India is also leaning towards alkaline electrolyser technology as the foundation for many of its major green hydrogen projects. New Delhi has set a 2030 target of at least 5 mtpa of green hydrogen production with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of 125 Gw, which will boost demand for electrolysers.

India's green hydrogen production plans are led by steel and oil companies, some of the largest consumers of the fuel.

JSW Energy plans to build what could be the country's largest green hydrogen plant by 2025 in Karnataka, which will produce 3,800 tonnes of hydrogen per year. A Tata Steel unit has partnered renewable energy companies Aavaada Energy and ACME Group to establish green hydrogen and green ammonia projects in Odisha.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Oil India, Bharat Petroleum Corporation,

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, and Indian Oil Corporation are also in the process of setting up clean hydrogen plants with electrolysers imported from China, according to a refinery executive.

The timelines are tight, but there is no Indian manufacturing capacity in sight, the executive said. In the short to medium term, it is likely that China will continue to play a pivotal role as a supplier of electrolysers to India, and dependence on Chinese manufacturers is driven by their competitive pricing and readily available supply, Gandhi said.

In June, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy approved the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme, with an initial budget of ₹17,490 crores until 2029-30. However, only ₹4,440 crore was allocated to support domestic electrolyser manufacturing, with ₹13,050 crore earmarked for green hydrogen production. But India's state-sponsored electrolyser manufacturing scheme may deliver only one-fortieth of what India needs to meet its green hydrogen goals.

The Solar Energy Corporation of India has already initiated the bidding process to establish a manufacturing capacity of 1.5 Gw for electrolyser production, with formal awards anticipated in the last quarter of this year. But this initial round of bidding represents only a fraction of the required 60 Gw capacity needed to meet India's ambitious goal of producing 5 mt of green hydrogen, according to CRISIL Research.

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date : 21 September 2023	Page : 9

ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA



Navigating the evolving trade landscape

In an era of shifting trade dynamics, India stands at the crossroads of opportunity, but being adaptable will be key

World trade is undergoing a profound transformation. The US and EU governments have started emphasising industrial policy over trade policy, prioritising local production and job creation over adherence to World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

The American government is imposing WTO-non-compliant tariffs and offering significant subsidies to boost domestic production. The EU, meanwhile, is using climate concerns to justify new import barriers. Open trade carries risks to economic stability and political dominance. That's the new thinking, leaving trade experts, researchers, and academics puzzled.

Let us understand why these shifts are happening and how India can safeguard its interests in this evolving landscape. The US initially embraced manufacturing outsourcing to boost corporate profits, aligning with Milton Friedman's 1970s concept that businesses should prioritise profit above all else. However, the law of unintended consequences soon took over, leading to the rise of China as the world's manufacturing hub. China became indispensable for washing machines, laptops, telecom equipment, and toys. The Chinese monopoly extended to solar cells, lithium-ion batteries, and electronic components, fuelling its assertiveness. This was a problem.

Perceiving China as a threat to US technology and military dominance, the US embarked on efforts to counteract. President Donald Trump imposed high import duties on numerous Chinese imports, while the Biden administration targeted China's supercomputer and artificial intelligence (AI) industry. But containing China was not the only strategy. Simultaneously, the US initiated a massive re-industrialisation programme, offering incentives for domestic production of semiconductors, critical minerals, EV batteries, and medicines. The US Inflation Reduction Act, 2022, allocated \$370 billion in subsidies for clean energy and advanced manufacturing. This was a significant turnaround for the US, which had prioritised free trade over industrial policy from 1970 to 2015.

The EU, not to be left behind, in 2023 alone, has

implemented five key regulations, notably the Deforestation Regulation and Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. These regulations are expected to adversely impact global trade in agriculture and industrial goods while potentially adding \$500-800 billion annually to the EU's wealth upon full implementation.

The pity is the EU distributes billions of dollars of subsidies to its farmers and industry while empowering itself to investigate subsidies given by other countries. The European Green Deal alone aims to raise €1 trillion in the next 10 years, with €503 billion coming from the EU budget.

India story

India, with warts and all, is poised to emerge as a critical player in a new manufacturing axis supported by the US. Apple and Micron investing in India highlight this trend. Let us understand the deeper significance of these investments.

China's ascent as an electronics powerhouse in the early 2000s can be attributed to collaborative efforts with Western firms, such as Apple, which worked closely with Chinese companies to help them achieve global quality standards as component suppliers. This contributed to China's dominance in the global electronics design and manufacturing ecosystem.

However, now with the US actively seeking alternatives to China, focus has shifted to India. In October 2022, US export control rules limited support for Chinese production of chips smaller than 16 nanometers. This restriction partly prompted Apple to shift some production to India, as phones like the iPhone 15 Pro Max, which uses 3-nanometer chips, could no longer be manufactured in China. India's smartphone exports, surpassing \$12 billion in 2022-23, underscore the significant potential of this partnership. We can anticipate a similar trend in the semiconductor sector through the Micron partnership.

On its part, India must take eight actions to boost manufacturing competitiveness and facilitate trade flows. These are:

1. Eliminate arbitrage from manufacturing schemes, including special economic zones, export oriented

units, and Customs bond manufacturing, which offer varying tax benefits and import duty structures. New schemes often provide better incentives but come with switching costs, leading to the closure of numerous units unable to transition.

2. Sign free trade agreements (FTAs) only if they align with India's economic interests. Avoid joining the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, as it entails adhering to WTO Plus standards, which may not serve India's interests.

3. Address domestic laws on digital trade, labour, environment, agriculture, and tariffs before making international commitments.

4. Respond decisively to unjust climate taxes imposed by the EU, utilising a calibrated retaliation mechanism. We have done it before. In March 2018, when the US imposed import tariffs on India's steel and aluminium, India responded by increasing tariffs on 29 specific US products.

5. Reduce Customs duties, particularly on products with imported inputs. Lower duties stimulate manufacturing by reducing finished goods prices and fostering exports, especially benefiting small firms. While certain products critical to the "Make in India" programme may maintain higher duties, the general trend should be towards reduced tariffs to enhance the export potential of the small-scale sector.

6. Streamline export compliance by implementing a single-window system facilitated by creating a National Trade Network (NTN). This integrated approach would eliminate the need for exporters to engage separately with Customs, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, shipping companies, ports, and banks. Simplifying the process through NTN would reduce time and costs, empowering small firms to become exporters.

7. Address energy imports, which accounted for 36.6 per cent of India's total merchandise imports in FY2023, costing \$260 billion. The projected growth suggests that the energy import bill could surpass \$1 trillion by December 2026. In the 1980s, India met 85 per cent of its crude oil needs mainly from ONGC's Bombay High offshore oil field, but now we import 85 per cent of our needs. A renewed focus on domestic oil exploration, leveraging untapped sedimentary basins, can help reduce this dependence.

8. Prioritise the removal of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to enhance India's export performance. NTBs often result in the rejection or increased scrutiny of Indian products like fish, food, chemicals, or machinery. To mitigate their impact, India should upgrade domestic systems, especially in cases linked to product quality, and engage in dialogues with partner countries while being prepared to retaliate if unreasonable standards or rules obstruct Indian imports.

In conclusion, the evolving landscape of global trade underscores the need for strategic actions and policy shifts. As the US and EU prioritise local production and economic stability, India stands at the cusp of a new manufacturing era. With Apple and Micron's investments as promising examples, India's role is poised to grow in this shifting paradigm. As India navigates these challenges and opportunities, it must remain adaptable and proactive to secure its interests in the evolving global trade landscape.

The writer is the founder of Global Trade Research Initiative, a research group focused on trade, technology and climate change issues



AJAY SRIVASTAVA

Benchmark Indices Shed More than 1% Amid Weak Cues from Asian Mkts

NSE 100 Gainers & Losers	
	% Chg
Power Grid Corp	2.27
HDFC AMC	1.34
Coal India	1.08
ONGC	0.78
Berger Paints	0.77
% Chg	
HDFC Bank	-4.01
JSW Steel	-2.73
PI Industries	-2.47
ICICI Pru	-2.39
FSN E-Commerce	-2.35

HDFC Bank, RIL drag Nifty below 20,000 as FPIs turn net sellers of shares worth ₹3,111 cr

Our Bureau

Mumbai: India's equity indices sank more than 1% on Wednesday, tracking the weakness in other Asian markets, with all eyes on the US Federal Reserve's rate-setting meeting. HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries led the selloff, drag-

ging the Nifty below 20,000 as foreign portfolio investors net sold shares to the tune of ₹3,111 crore on Wednesday.

Nifty closed at 19,901.40, down 231.90 points or 1.15% from Monday's close. Sensex ended at 66,800.84, down 796 points or 1.18%. Financial markets were shut on Tuesday for Ganesh Chaturthi.

The decline in Indian stocks for the second straight trading session on Wednesday comes on the heels of a record-breaking run that led to the Nifty crossing the 20,000 mark for the first time. Mid-cap and small-cap indices too are at all-time highs, raising concerns that the broader markets were overheated.

'Near-term Correction Possible' >>> 6

'Near-term Correction Possible'

» From Page 1

"Indian equities, having run up quite a bit in the last few months, were looking for a reason to correct," said Amar Ambani, group president and head of institutional equities, Yes Securities. "While long-term structure is intact, more near-term correction is possible."

Elsewhere in Asia, China's SSE Composite sank 0.5%, Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.6%, Taiwan's TAIEX dropped 0.6% and South Korea's Kospi ended almost flat.

"Global cues have been negative, ahead of the Fed meeting, leading to increased caution in the market," said Siddhartha Khemka, head of retail research, broking, and distribution, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. "The US bond yield is at a 10-year high, and Chinese demand concerns are other headwinds in the global market."

Concerns that the Fed will signal that interest rates may remain higher for a longer period soured sentiment. Though inflation has softened in recent months after the US central bank raised policy rates to a 22-year high, the spike in oil prices to above \$90 a barrel tempered expectations of a reversal in the tight monetary policy soon.

"Investors fear that the US Fed will be required to keep rates higher and US 10-year yields are spiking to the highest level since 2007," said Ambani. "Crude oil too, has been hitting higher highs with possibilities of \$100 plus in the time to come. This led to a fall in markets globally."

At home, HDFC Bank, which slumped 3.9% on Wednesday, was the biggest loser on the benchmark indices as analysts raised concerns over the lender's profitability over the next year following its merger with HDFC. "HDFC Bank was the largest loser among the large caps, because estimates were cut by 3-5% post its first investor meeting with HDFC, due to restatement in margins and asset quality," said Khemka.

The broader market too ended weak though the fall in their indices was measured compared with that of the Sensex and Nifty. The Nifty Midcap 150 dropped 0.3% and the Nifty Small-cap 250 fell 0.6%. Losers outnumbered gainers 2,207 to 1,476 across share categories on the BSE.

Domestic institutions including insurers and mutual funds sold equities worth Rs 573 crore on Wednesday.



Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :21 September 2023	Page : 3

ONGC willing to wait to regain oil from Russia project

Reuters
Calgary, Alberta

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation wants to eventually receive a share of crude from a Russian project it partly owns, but is willing to wait because Russian oil is hard to ship right now, the head of ONGC's overseas investment arm, ONGC Videsh, said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin last year removed an Exxon Mobil subsidiary as operator of the Sakhalin-1 oil and gas project in Russia's Far East and transferred it to a new operator. ONGC Videsh has since regained its 20 per cent stake in the project and is in talks with Russian government officials and company shareholders to resume taking oil under a production-sharing arrangement, said Rajarshi Gupta, CEO of ONGC Videsh.

The talks with Russia and other project shareholders may take six months to conclude, Gupta said.

Day trading guide

19972 » Nifty 50 Futures

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
19925	19850	20000	20075	Slips below a support. Initiate fresh short with stop-loss at 20075.

₹1563 » HDFC Bank

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
1560	1535	1580	1600	Short the stock if it falls below 1560; stop-loss at 1580.

₹1490 » Infosys

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
1480	1460	1500	1520	Buy the stock if it crosses over 1500; stop-loss at 1480.

₹453 » ITC

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
448	440	456	460	Stay away from trading as the stock is moving sideways.

₹188 » ONGC

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
185	182	190	195	Go long above 189; stop-loss can be placed at 187.

₹2382 » Reliance Ind.

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
2340	2300	2400	2440	Stock breached a support; sell with stop-loss at 2415.

₹601 » SBI

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
595	590	608	615	Support at 600 remains valid; buy with a stop-loss at 590.

₹3606 » TCS

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
3580	3550	3650	3700	Buy the stock once it moves past 3615; stop-loss at 3580.

S1, S2: Support 1 & 2; R1, R2: Resistance 1 & 2.

Publication : Mint	Editions : Mumbai
Date : 21 September 2023	Page : 6

Total may lead Adani plan to raise \$1.5 bn for green power

The French firm's \$300 mn investment in JV with Adani Green reaffirms its commitment

Anirudh Laskar & Mayur Bhalerao
anirudh.l@htlive.com
MUMBAI

Adani Green Energy Ltd, which is planning to raise \$1.5 billion, may secure a big chunk of it from French energy giant TotalEnergies SE, two people aware of the matter said. The Gautam Adani-led group's renewables firm will use \$750 million of this amount to repay bonds. "Adani Green has got approval to raise \$1.5 billion this fiscal for capex and debt repayment. Of this, a major amount will come from TotalEnergies, which owns 20% of Adani Green," said the first person.

TotalEnergies on Wednesday invested \$300 million to create an equal joint venture, named Adani Green Energy Twenty Three Ltd.

"Of the remaining \$1.2 billion too, a major investment will come from Total. Of the total amount, around \$750 million will be used to repay the 4.375% coupon dollar bonds maturing in September 2024. Rest of the amount will be used to ramp up renewable capacities. TotalEnergies has invested \$2.8 billion in Adani Green, which is the largest investment in a single group in the renewables space in India by Total," said the first person.

The development settles doubts about whether Total will continue to invest in Adani Group after allegations of fraud earlier this year, especially since Adani's \$50 billion green hydrogen project announced last year was envisaged with Total as the first major strategic partner.

A Bloomberg report in August said Adani may not tie up with TotalEnergies as of now for developing the green hydrogen project in India.

Total's latest move comes almost



Adani Green is aiming to set up a 45GW renewable energy capacity through solar, wind and hybrid energy production units by 2030. AP

seven months after the French firm decided to put all future investments in Adani firms on hold in February, following a 24 January report by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research that accused the Adani Group

our development through direct access to a large portfolio of assets and to support the ambition of AGEL in becoming the Indian leader of renewable energy," said Patrick Pouyanné, chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies, who, in Febru-

45GW renewable energy capacity through solar, wind and hybrid energy production units by 2030 as a part of the group's strategy to take on rivals such as Reliance Industries Ltd, Tata Group, Larsen & Toubro, Vedanta Resources, JSW Energy and Suzlon.

In Asia's net-zero roadmap, India has taken centre stage with domestic corporate groups building large green energy capacities. India is the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China, while Asia alone contributes over 50% to the planet's all carbon emissions, worsening the global warming crisis.

"The investment will further strengthen the pivotal role played by AGEL in India's glide path to decarbonization," said Gautam Adani, Adani Group chairman.

The world's rising green energy demand has not only thrown open a new business opportunity for companies but also serves the global aim to restrict temperature rise at 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050, for which CO2 emissions must decline by 45% by 2030, reaching net zero by around 2050.

"TotalEnergies will reinforce its strategic alliance with AGEL and support the company in becoming the Indian leader of renewable energy, with a target of 45 GW renewable power capacity by 2030," said Adani Green in a statement.

At present, TotalEnergies SE holds a 19.75% stake in Adani Green.

Under the new joint venture, AGE23 will have a portfolio of 1,050 megawatts of alternating current (MWac), which will include a mix of already operational 300 MWac, under construction capacity of 500 MWac, and under development assets of 250 MWac, with a blend of both solar and wind power.

GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT

ADANI Green has got an approval to raise \$1.5 billion this fiscal for capex and debt repayment

TOTALENERGIES has now invested \$300 mn in a JV—Adani Green Energy Twenty Three Ltd

DEVELOPMENT puts to rest doubts about Total's commitment to Adani's green project

TOTAL ENERGIES has invested a total of \$2.8 billion in Adani Green and holds a 19.75% stake

of "pulling the largest con in corporate history".

"After our first joint venture AGEL23 in 2020 and our acquisition of shares in AGEL in 2021, this new joint venture with AGEL will enable us to speed up

ary had mentioned in an analyst call that "it makes no sense to add more (projects) until there is clarity. Adani has to explain the allegations (made by Hindenburg)".

Adani Green is aiming to set up a

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :21 September 2023	Page : 9

SAIL will do level best to promote 5-10% Bio-Char in Sintering & BFs: AK Singh

The BIOS 2023 today ended with an optimistic note for the scientific fraternity with key take aways as drawn forth in the concluding session chaired by Shri NN Sinha, Secretary, Steel and ably supported by Shri AK Singh, Director (Technical, Projects & Raw Material), SAIL; Shri RP Goswami, Director, Oil India Limited and Dr. Sujay



Rakshit, Director (ICAR-IIAB). The 2-day Seminar witnessed participation of around 150 delegates from different organizations a total of 30 presentations were brainstormed in 5 technical sessions. In his concluding remarks Shri Sinha asked the organisers to collate the essence of the seminar, evolve the bigger picture and keep all the wisdom generated in the public domain for futuristic value additions from the stakeholders who could not participate.

Shri Singh was confident that in coming times the two-pronged approach of utilization of BioChar both in the blast furnace and also in the sintering process would see soon the light of the day. He urged the steel fraternity to examine and use 5-10% of Bio-Char in place of Coke Breeze in Sinter as well as replace the Pulverized Coal Injection by 5-10% in the blast furnaces.

Shri Goswami informed the august audience Biofuels have come fully into International Business and Oil India limited already is into many Biofuels in which a bus running in Assam with green Hydrogen is a good showcasing. In his Session he highlighted the various aspects of production of Biofuel at OIL. Two start-ups also participated in the same session who highlighted various decentralized methods of Biochar production.

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : Kolkata
Date :21 September 2023	Page : 4

PFC inks ₹1 trn MoU with SJVN for RE, thermal units

SHREYA JAI
New Delhi, 20 September

The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with state-owned hydro power firm SJVN Ltd, committing to finance the latter's renewable energy and thermal power projects. The deal is valued at ₹1.18 trillion and aims to set up 12 gigawatt (Gw) of power generation capacity, predominantly from renewable sources such as solar, wind, and pumped hydro, along with a 660 megawatt thermal power project.

The financial backing from PFC is expected to range between ₹80,000 crore and ₹90,000 crore, displaying a significant commitment to these crucial projects. According to a PFC statement, this funding could be augmented to meet the specific needs of the renewable projects, highlighting the flexibility of the partnership. Nand Lal Sharma, chairman and managing director of SJVN, said the agreement would contribute to the company's new mission of reaching 12 Gw capacity by 2026 and a long-term vision of 50 Gw by 2040.

Recently, SJVN has also entered into several MoUs with other central public sector utilities to develop renewable energy ventures.

Both PFC and SJVN aim to make a considerable impact on India's energy security and environmental sustainability through large-scale renewable and thermal generation projects, according to the PFC statement.



The backing from PFC is expected to range between ₹80,000 crore and ₹90,000 crore



Publication : Financial Express	Editions : Mumbai
Date :21 September 2023	Page : 2

Crude oil imports decline for third consecutive month

CRUDE OIL imports fell for the third consecutive month in August to 18.73 million tonne (MT) due to maintenance activities at Indian refineries and decline in shipments from Russia. Crude oil imports were 20.58 MT in May, 19.56 MT in June and 19.51 MT in July, as per data released by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell. The sequential decline in August was

4%. Analysts believe the decline in imports was due to the routine maintenance at the refineries and reduced imports from Russia due to lower discounts. Import from Russia, too, fell for third consecutive month in August to a seven-month low. It imported 1.46 million barrels a day from Russia in August, down from 1.91 million barrels purchased in July.

— FE BUREAU



Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :21 September 2023	Page : 2

OFS to divest 4.92% in SJVN for ₹1,330 cr opens today

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, September 20

THE CENTRE WILL disinvest up to 4.92% stake in state-run hydro-electric power firm SJVN to raise around ₹1,330 crore through a two-day offer for sale (OFS) beginning on Thursday. The floor price for the offer has been set at ₹69 per equity share, at a discount of 15.5% to the closing price of ₹81.75/share on the BSE on Wednesday.

“Offer for sale in SJVN opens tomorrow for non-retail investors. Retail investors can bid on Friday. Government will divest 4.92% equity, including a green shoe option of 2.46%,” the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on ‘X’. The OFS constitutes a base offer size of 2.46% (9,66,72,962) shares of the face value of Rs 10 each with an option to additionally sell 2.46%, taking the total offer size to 4.92%.

Crude oil imports slip to 10-month low in August

SLOWING DOWN. Dragged by Russia production cuts and refinery maintenance

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

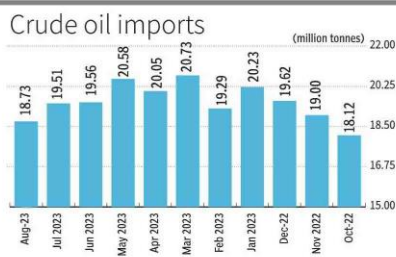
Crude oil imports by India, the world's third largest importer of the most critical fossil fuel, declined by almost 4 per cent M-o-M to 18.73 million tonnes (mt) in August largely due to production cuts by Russia and autumn refinery maintenance.

However, imports last month were higher on an annual basis by more than 6 per cent from 17.64 mt in August 2022.

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), the in-bound shipments fell for the third consecutive month in August in line with voluntary production cuts by Russia, which also impacted its most sought after medium sour grade Ural.

Urals shipments from Russia to India in August slipped to its lowest levels since January this year.

The imports in August were also the lowest since November 2022. India imported 18.12 mt of crude



Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC)

oil in October 2022. Besides, the import of crude oil during August is the lowest in FY24 and calendar year 2023.

LOWER CONSUMPTION

Trade sources said the decline in August was due to narrowing discounts on the Urals grade and smaller appetite from Indian refiners due to planned autumn maintenance at some refineries, and lower domestic demand on account of the rainy season till September.

However, India's monthly crude oil import bill rose to \$10.9 billion in

August from \$10.3 billion in July 2023 as global prices edged up following voluntary production cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia. The import bill was lower on an annual basis.

The price of Brent Crude averaged \$86.22 per barrel during August 2023 as against \$80.05 in July 2023 and \$99.99 barrel in August 2022.

The Indian basket crude price averaged \$86.43 per barrel in August 2023 against \$80.37 during July 2023 and \$97.40 in August 2022.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA),

the shipments to China and India slumped to 3.9 million barrels per day (mb/d) in August 2023 from 4.7 mb/d in April and May 2023 but accounted for more than half the total volumes.

According to IEA data, the world's top two crude oil consumers accounted for 80 per cent of Russia's total exports during May to July this year.

DEMAND TO APPRECIATE

A senior oil marketing company official said that fuel demand will rise during the October-December quarter due to heightened industrial, mining, construction and farm activity. The festival season preparations by FMCG and FMCD companies will also propel consumption.

According to OPEC, India's oil demand is expected to decelerate slightly, but is forecast to show a Y-o-Y growth of 243,000 barrels per day in Q4 2023, with transportation fuels – notably gasoline, diesel for transportation, and jet/kerosene – driving the growth.



Publication : The New Indian Express	Editions : Bangalore
Date :21 September 2023	Page : 15

IREDA signs MoUs with Bank of Maharashtra for financing renewable energy projects

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank of Maharashtra (BoM). This collaboration aims to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of renewable energy projects across the nation. The MoU was signed by Bharat Singh Rajput, General Manager (Technical Services), IREDA and Rajesh Singh, General Manager (Retail & MSME Credit), Bank of Maharashtra at IREDA's Business Centre. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and MD of IREDA, and other senior officials from both organizations. The MoU comprises several services including co-lending and co-origination support for renewable energy projects, facilitating loan syndication and underwriting, management of TRA for IREDA borrowers.