ONGC News as on 08 November 2024 (Print & Online)

Publication : Hindustan Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 20

Maharatna PSUs NTPC and ONGC join hands to form a JV Company

NTPC and ONGC collaborated to form a JVC through their Green Energy Subsidiaries (NTPC Green Energy Ltd and ONGC Green Energy Ltd) to further promote their interest in the renewable and new energy arena. After the signing of the Joint Venture Agreement on Feb 7, and obtaining the required statutory approvals from DIPAM and NITI Aayog, NGEL submitted an application to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Publication : Millennium Post	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 9

IGX sees significant rise in Oct trade volumes

SIMONTINI BHATTACHARJEE

NEW DELHI: The Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) recently reported a substantial increase in natural gas trading volumes for October 2024, with a total of 8 million MMBtu (201 MMSCM) traded, marking a 160 per cent month-on-month (MoM) growth.

This surge is attributed to decreased Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas allocations to the City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector and elevated global LNG prices, which have collectively driven market participants to seek alternative sources of supply.

The Gas Index for October 2024 (GIXI) stood at Rs 1098/ $13 per MMBtu, reflecting a 4 per cent decrease from the previous month. Regional variations were observed, with GIXI-South at Rs 986/ $11.7 per MMBtu and GIXI-West at Rs 1102/ $13.1 per MMBtu.

In contrast, international gas benchmark prices showed an upward trend, with the Henry Hub (HH) averaging ~ $2.6/ MMBtu (up by 9 per cent MoM) and the Title Transfer Facility (TTF) at $12.9/MMBtu (up by 13 per cent MoM). The LNG benchmark index for WIM – Ex Dahej settled at ~14.3 $/ MMBtu, a 1 per cent MoM decrease.

124 trades were executed in October, with the Dahej and KG Basin delivery points being the most active for free market gas. Other significant trading locations included Hazira, Suvali, Mhaskal, Ankot, and Bokaro.

Notably, 72 per cent of the total volume was traded at the Dahej delivery point, where the GIXI-Dahej for October was Rs 1100 or $13/MMBtu, a 3.4 per cent MoM reduction.

The WIM-Ex Dahej settled price for October 2024 was also at a similar level, i.e., $13.6/ MMBtu.

The breakdown of traded volumes showed that approximately 7.8 Million MMBtu of free market category gas was traded during the month, while about 0.14 million MMBTU domestic ceiling price gas was traded at the KG Basin delivery point at a ceiling price of $10.16/MMBtu.

Additionally, 0.2 Million MMBtu of domestic gas with complete pricing freedom was traded at Bokaro (CBM), Hazira (ONGC Hazira), and KG Basin delivery points.

IGX facilitated gas deliveries totalling 6.1 million MMBtu (~5 MMSCMD) during the month. The exchange currently offers trades at 15 delivery points, including 4 LNG terminals, 3 pipeline interconnection points, and 8 domestic gas field landfall points.

It provides six different contract types for trade execution over twelve consecutive months: Day-Ahead, Daily, Weekday, Weekly, Fortnightly, and Monthly.

In October, the maximum number of trades (40) was executed in the Daily contract, followed by 29 trades each in the Fortnightly and Monthly contracts, 16 in the Weekly, 8 in the Day-Ahead, and 2 in the Weekday contract.

The significant increase in trading volumes and the dynamic price movements observed in October underscore the evolving nature of the Indian gas market, with participants actively adapting to changing supply conditions and global price signals. The IGX continues to play a pivotal role in providing a platform for efficient price discovery and trade execution, contributing to the development of a robust liquid gas market in India.

Publication : Mint	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 7

ONGC, NTPC get exclusive rights to buy Ayana Renewable

Utpal Bhaskar
utpal.b@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) and NTPC Ltd have been given exclusive rights to buy a majority stake in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIF)-backed Ayana Renewable Power Pvt. Ltd, said two people in the know.

"Exclusivity to ONGC and NTPC bid was given last week. It is for around four weeks," said one of the two people on the condition of anonymity.

With equity value of around $800 million, this deal would rank among the largest in the green energy space in India. Standard Chartered is running the sale process.

The renewable energy firm, which has a 5-gigawatt (GW) portfolio of operational and under-construction projects, is looking to offload a significant stake. The deal may even turn into a 100% stake sale. This comes against the backdrop of traditional energy companies striving to bridge the gap between being electron and molecule suppliers. To boost their new and renewable energy play, NTPC and ONGC announced a joint venture (JV) between their respective green energy subsidiaries—NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) and ONGC Green Energy Ltd (OGL).

"NGEL submitted an application to the ministry of corporate affairs for the incorporation of 50:50 JV with OGL," the firms said in joint statement a 4 November . "The JV will also seek opportunities to acquire renewable energy assets," the statement added.

Ayana has a 5GW renewables portfolio in India. BLOOMBERG

Mint earlier reported about ONGC entering the fray, with the shareholders also seeking to raise an additional $400 million to finance its growth. *Mint* also reported that ONGC, JSW Neo Energy, and Singapore's Sembcorp Industries Ltd were shortlisted to submit the binding bids for acquiring a significant majority stake in Ayana Renewable Power after they submitted non-binding offers (NBOs). Ayana Renewable Power is a majority-owned company of NIIF. UK government's British International Investment and Eversource Capital are other shareholders.

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

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 1

THE COMPASS

Higher volume, profitability gains for GAIL India

DEVANGSHU DATTA

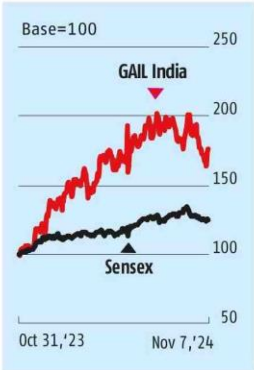
GAIL India's second quarter (Q2FY25) performance met expectations. Petchem turned profitable on higher volumes, and trading revenues were in-line. Analysts are pointing at some favourable factors for FY26 and FY27. There could be a transmission tariff hike in Q4FY25, steady growth in transmission and marketing volumes, and petchem capacity rising by two times in FY27.

GAIL India expects 5 million standard cubic meters per day (mscmd) per annum growth in marketing volumes for next two years. Trading segment profit guidance of ₹4,500 crore may be exceeded. The management expects petchem segments Q2 operating profit run-rate to continue in H2FY25. The capex in H2FY25 may be higher, with FY25 capex going to ₹9,000-10,000 crore (earlier guidance was of ₹11,450 crore).

The state-owned energy giant plans to add 80 new compressed natural gas (CNG) stations and 120,000 new domestic piped natural gas (PNG) connections in next two years, and 500 kilo tonnes per annum (ktpa) PDH-PP (propane-based plant) at Usar will start commercial production by October 2025, and a 60 ktpa polypropylene plant at Pata will be commissioned by December 24.

The Q2FY25 operating profit was up 7 per cent Y-o-Y at ₹3,740 crore, net profit rose 11 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹2,670 crore due to higher other income (including dividends of ₹360 crore). Natural gas transmission volume stood at 130.6 mscmd (131.8 mscmd in 1QFY25). Petchem sales rose 34 per cent Q-o-Q and 35 per cent Y-o-Y to 226,000 mt. Operating profit for petchem segment was ₹170 crore. The costs of gas sourcing for petchem stood at \$8/\$9 per mmbtu in Q1 and Q2, respectively.

In Q2FY25, GAIL India incurred a capex of ₹1,890 crore (₹3,540 crore capex in H1FY25), primarily on pipelines and petrochemicals. In H1FY25, GAIL India's net sales grew 4 per cent to ₹66,590 crore. Operating profit rose 36 per cent to ₹8,270 crore, and net profit grew 35 per cent to ₹5,400 crore. Sales and net profit may rise moderately in H2FY25, but operating profit could decline or be flat.



Segment-wise, gas transmission had an operating level profit of ₹1,400 crore in Q2 (up 9 per cent Y-o-Y), LPG transmission's profit stood at ₹855 crore, marketing business posted a profit of ₹1,330 crore (down 26 per cent Y-o-Y). Petchem segment recorded a profit of ₹160 crore (vs operating loss of ₹160 crore Y-o-Y). LPG and hydrocarbon segments reported an operating profit of ₹250 crore (vs operating loss of ₹16.7 crore Y-o-Y).

During FY24-27, there could be mid-teens growth in net profit, driven by natural gas transmission volumes rising to 149 mscmd in FY27 from 120 mscmd in FY24, and higher petchem profitability as more capacity comes online. GAIL India's return on equity should improve to 16 per cent in FY26 from 9.5 per cent in FY23, with free cash flow or FCF generation of ₹7,300 crore in FY26 (vs negative ₹4,530 crore FCF in FY23).

Gas marketing volumes were affected by lower demand from the power sector. Management points out that 73 per cent of FY25 profit guidance of ₹4,500 crore has already been achieved and guidance may be exceeded. Transmission tariff hike is estimated to be approved by March 2025. Gail hopes to list a couple of joint ventures this financial year or next.

The Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda pipeline (1,755km) will be completed in June 2025 (3 months delay) while Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline will be completed in March 2025. The Kochi-Mangalore-Bangalore Pipeline will be completed in March 2025 while Srikakulam-Angul main pipeline will be completed in Jun 2025.

The 500ktpa capacity PDH-PP at Usar will start commercial production by October 2025 and the 1250ktpa GAIL India Mangalore petrochemical plant (acquired from JBF Industries) will be completed by Jun 2025 at a project cost of ₹4,200 crore. No profits are expected from these in FY26.

Any sum of the parts analysis must include the gas transmission business, LPG transmission business, gas trading business, petrochemical business and LPG business, plus the value of listed and unlisted investments. The market is positive on the stock.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 2

INCOMING US ADMINISTRATION'S LIKELY FOCUS ON RAISING OIL AND GAS OUTPUT MAY KEEP PRICES IN CHECK

India, US likely to bolster energy cooperation during Trump 2.0

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, November 7

INDIA IS LIKELY to witness a continued momentum of increased cooperation in the energy sector from the US under Donald Trump's second presidency, industry experts believe. For the global oil market, Trump 2.0 would mean continued oil and gas supply given his focus on increasing the US oil production which should keep oil prices under check, benefiting India.

"A second Trump administration might focus on increasing US oil production by rolling back environmental regulations and expanding offshore and federal lands leasing opportunities," according to S&P Global Commodity Insights.

After falling during the first Trump administration, production in Iran and Venezuela has recovered under President Joe Biden, as the focus of sanctions has shifted to Russia. S&P noted that growing US crude production has posed a significant challenge for OPEC+ in recent years, exerting downward pressure on prices, threatening the bloc's market share and prompting massive output cuts.

"The US election results do not change the fact that India and the US will continue to be key strategic partners. With Donald Trump in power, India can count on continued oil and gas supply to ensure its developmental needs since the US is a net exporter of fuels now. Between 2017 and 2024, the US became the fifth-largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude oil supplier to India," said Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water.

Under Trump's first presidency, India's Petronet LNG Ltd had signed a $7.5-billion memorandum of understanding with Tellurian Inc, an American natural gas company, wherein Petronet and its affiliates intend to negotiate the purchase of as much as 5 million tonne of LNG per year from the Driftwood project.The signing of the MoU had coincided with the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Houston and a public event with Trump back in 2019. Trump's focus on fracking and raising US oil and gas output should keep oil prices muted, which should benefit the Indian oil marketing companies and value chain users of crude oil and substitutes, according to Elara Capital.

"We look forward to strengthening the long-term standing clean energy partnership between India and the United States, given the strong friendship between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi," said Pinaki Bhattacharyya, MD and CEO of AMPIN Energy Transition.

However, the industry remains cautious of the proposed trade barriers which can negatively impact Indian industries, particularly for clean technologies under the Trump 2.0 regime.

India and the US under the presidency of Joe Biden have embarked on several energy deals strengthening their commitment towards achievement of renewable energy targets and net-zero goals.

The two countries had committed to expand the manufacturing and deployment of clean energy, including finding opportunities to expand the US-India cooperation in solar, wind and nuclear energy and the development of small modular reactor technologies. The idea was to unlock $1 billion of multilateral financing to support projects across the clean energy value chain for renewable energy, energy storage, power grid and transmission technologies, high efficiency cooling systems, zero emission vehicles, and other emerging clean technologies.

Modi and Biden had also committed to accelerate the development of diverse and sustainable supply chains for critical minerals under the Minerals Security Partnership, targeting strategic projects along the value chain.

Ghosh highlighted that 90% of India's solar modules exports are to the US. "Over the next four years, India will need to be prepared and strategically nimble to deepen green trade, co-develop clean tech supply chains, and accelerate its energy transition," he said.

"The recent US elections, confirming Donald Trump's return, marks a promising chapter in the deep-rooted US-India partnership, with substantial potential for growth in trade, skilled workforce demand, and collaborative economic development," said Ramesh Alluri Reddy, chief executive officer, TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship.

He noted that trade between the two countries grew robustly from 2017 to 2021 during Trump's previous presidency, underscoring the potential for another era of strong trade expansion.

"President Trump's pro-business policies are expected to further strengthen this alliance, driving increased investments and favourable trade dynamics as the demand for a skilled Indian workforce continues to grow in industries pivotal to the digital economy and sustainable development," Reddy said.

PARTNERSHIP REBOOT

Trade between India and the US grew robustly in Donald Trump's first term in office

Between 2017 and 2024, the **US became the fifth-largest LNG and crude oil** supplier to India

Under **Trump 1.0, India's Petronet LNG signed a $7.5-billion MoU** with American natural gas company Tellurian

The strong friendship between President Trump and PM Modi will lead to strengthening of the US-India clean energy partnership, experts say

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 2

VEDANTA BAGS 4 CRITICAL MINERAL BLOCKS, OIL INDIA 1

VEDANTA GROUP HAS won four blocks while state-owned Oil India bagged one in the fourth round of critical mineral blocks auction, the government said on Thursday. While Vedanta bagged vanadium and graphite mine in Arunachal Pradesh, cobalt, manganese and iron (poly-metal) mine in Karnataka, Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) — a subsidiary of Vedanta — won tungsten and associated minerals block in Andhra Pradesh and a tungsten mine in Tamil Nadu. Oil India has bagged graphite and vanadium block in Arunachal Pradesh, the government said.

Publication : Hindustan Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 20

GAIL clocks revenue of Rs 32,931 crore in Q2 FY'25

GAIL (India) Limited reported Revenue from Operations of Rs 66,622 crore for the period April – September 2024 as compared to Rs 64,050 crore in the corresponding period of Financial Year 2023-24. Profit before Tax (PBT) for H1 FY25 stood at Rs 7,095 crore as compared to Rs 5,019 crore for the corresponding period in the previous year. PAT stood at Rs 5,396 crore in H1 FY25.

Publication : Millennium Post	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 9

OIL bags 1 critical mineral block, Vedanta Group bags 4

OIL has bagged graphite & vanadium block in Arunachal

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) has won one mineral block while Vedanta Group bagged four blocks in the fourth round of critical mineral blocks auction, the government said on Thursday.

While Vedanta bagged vanadium and graphite mine in Arunachal Pradesh, cobalt, manganese and iron (poly-metal) mine in Karnataka, Hindustan Zinc Ltd — a Vedanta subsidiary — won tungsten and associated minerals block in Andhra Pradesh and a tungsten mine in Tamil Nadu.

Oil India Ltd has bagged graphite and vanadium block in Arunachal Pradesh, the government said.

Vedanta Ltd had earlier bagged two critical mineral blocks in Karnataka and Bihar in the second and third auction rounds.

Mamco Mining Pvt Ltd and Orissa Metaliks Pvt Ltd are the other two companies that have bagged blocks in this round of auction.

"The Ministry of Mines has successfully concluded the auction of eight critical mineral blocks, launched under tranche IV of the auction of critical and strategic mineral blocks," an official statement said.

Following the issuance of the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for 21 mineral blocks on June 24, the auction attracted strong interest from industry stakeholders.

"After the evaluation of technical bids, 10 mineral blocks advanced to the second round of e-auction, which included three first attempt blocks and seven second attempt blocks," the mines ministry said.

These blocks contain deposits of strategic minerals such as phosphorite, graphite, and vanadium, essential for high-tech and green energy applications.

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Auction process for the eight blocks have successfully concluded and for the remaining two blocks the process will be completed by December 2.

With the auction of these critical mineral blocks, the total number of successfully auctioned critical and strategic mineral blocks has reached 22.

The fourth round of auction has marked a beginning for the Northeast into India's mineral auction landscape, with four maiden blocks successfully auctioned.

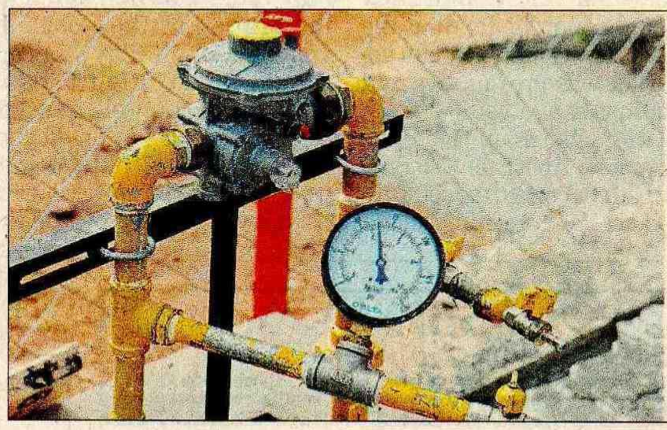
Significantly, this tranche features the first successful auction of a tungsten block and two cobalt blocks. These strategic minerals are essential for high-tech, defence, and energy storage applications, and will contribute towards reducing import dependency.

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 13

Regulator Looks to Redefine PNG, Insist on Transport Only by Pipeline

'Use of cascades' to be removed from definition after a court judgment

Sanjeev Choudhary



A court upheld a city gas licensee's contention that the exclusivity would apply even when the supply is made using cascades

New Delhi: The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is planning to amend the definition of piped natural gas (PNG) in its regulation, overriding objections from some city gas companies, according to people familiar with the matter.

In 2018, the regulator expanded the definition of "piped natural gas" in its city gas licensing regulation to mean "natural gas transported through pipelines or cascades or any other permitted mode".

This was done to give confidence to potential licensees that they could use cascades to fulfil their minimum work programme obligations since some licence areas were not well connected to the national gas grid, people said.

PNGRB is now planning to remove "cascades or any other permitted mode" from the PNG's definition.

Relying on the 2018 amendment, many city gas distributors have increasingly used cascade to serve their CNG customers as well as commercial and industrial customers.

City gas licensees enjoy the right to exclusively supply gas to consumers with a demand of up to 50,000 standard cubic meters a day (SCMD) in its licensed area. This, according to PNGRB's understanding, is applicable only if the licensees supply gas using a pipeline, people cited earlier said.

But sometime back a court upheld a city gas licensee's contention that the exclusivity would apply even when the supply is made using cascades since the definition of piped natural gas includes transport by cascade.

By amending PNG's definition, the PNGRB is aiming to remove the basis for that court judgment and encourage city gas companies to lay pipelines, people said.

Indian Oil Corp has told PNGRB that if the words "cascades or any other permitted mode" were removed from the definition of PNG, it will impact the work programme target of city gas companies.

In response, the regulator has said that the proposal to remove "cascade" from PNG's definition in regulation is in line with the original PNGRB Act.

Adani Total Gas Ltd has said that the proposed change "would infringe the exclusivity rights vested with the city gas distribution entities for development of" licensed areas. Reliance Industries supported the amendments proposed by the PNGRB.

Publication : The Pioneer	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 10

Vedanta, Oil India bag critical mineral blocks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vedanta Group has won four blocks while state-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) bagged one in the fourth round of critical mineral blocks auction, the government said on Thursday.

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Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 1, 4

Crude benefits, climate scare as Trump wins

Trump, famously frank about his anti-climate action stance, had once called climate change a hoax. The Republicans under him have kept a soft stand on fossil fuel.

4

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 1, 4

Crude benefits, climate woes may be in store as Trump takes hot seat

COP29 may be impacted, where it is feared there will be no representation from leading nations

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY & SHREYA JAI
New Delhi, 7 November

In his victory speech on Wednesday, Donald Trump, the United States (US) President-elect, said the country had "more liquid gold than any country in the world".

While his comments on raising crude oil production are meant to keep fuel prices in check for Americans, Trump said the country's oil reserves would be used to pay back national debt. "We're going to be paying down debt. We're going to be reducing taxes. We can do things that nobody else can do. China doesn't have what we have," he said.

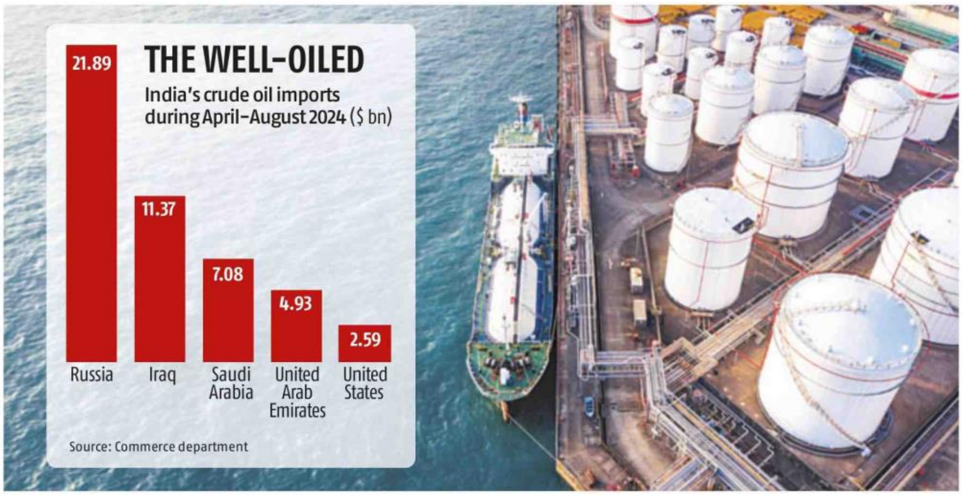
This statement could be a signal for the shift in the energy transition policies of the US, which took a green turn under Joe Biden as President.

Trump, famously frank about his anti-climate action stance, had once called climate change a hoax.

The Republican Party under him has maintained a soft stand on fossil fuel. In his election campaign he even promised to bring back jobs of coal miners.

Climate commitments of the US, including financing to poorer nations, might become doubtful and this would set a similar trend among other developed nations, experts said.

"Trump's victory is a profound blow to global climate justice and an alarming escalation of climate risks for the world's most vulnerable communities. His push to ramp up fossil-fuel production, disregard for international agreements, and refusal to provide climate finance will deepen the crisis, endangering lives and livelihoods, especially in regions least responsible for, yet most impacted by, climate change," said Harjeet Singh, global engagement director, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative.



The immediate impact will be on the upcoming COP29 (Conference of Parties29) in Baku, where, it is feared, there will be no representation from leading nations, according to reports.

Along with it, expectations of increasing the basket of climate funding from developed nations could dampen.

"With COP29 talks starting in Baku next week and aiming to secure an ambitious new climate finance goal, this news makes the already challenging path to a consensus even steeper and more uncertain. The world cannot afford to have its largest historical carbon emitter and top fossil fuel producer shirking its responsibility," Singh said.

Experts fear the new regime may renege on commitments in the Inflation Reduction Act of the Biden administration, which increased investment in green sectors, stepping back from the US's commitment of $3 billion to the Green Climate Fund and overall reduction in financial support to the developing world for meeting their climate targets.

However, Trump's win is being seen as a net positive for India's energy security and crude oil import. A long-time supporter of fracking and higher crude oil production, Trump has indicated he wants to raise US oil exports.

The US was the fifth-largest source of crude oil for India in the first five months of 2024-25. This position it has retained since the pandemic despite the major discounts on Russian oil in the past two years.

"Despite the shifting nature of crude oil flows at a time when geopolitical pressures have been huge, import from the US has remained steady," an official said.

Exports of US crude grades averaged 3.85 million barrels per day (bpd) over January-October, largely unchanged from the previous year, S&P Global Commodity Insights pointed out in a research note released on Wednesday. However, exports to Asia during the period fell about 88,000 bpd or 5.7 per cent year-on-year as China's imports of US crude oil plummeted to 155,000 bpd, down from 305,000 bpd in 2023. In the next 12 months, this should further help India and other buyers in hammering out more favourable prices.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 10

COMMODITY CALL.

Short natural gas if it falls below ₹225

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Natural gas futures on the MCX have been on a downtrend since early October.

The November expiry contract, currently trading at ₹232 per mmBtu, started declining after facing a resistance at ₹285.

Last week, the contract made a low by slipping below a support at ₹234, which is now a resistance.

Nevertheless, there has not been much of a fall as the price action indicates that natural gas futures have settled at ₹225-230 range.

However, this does not mean a bullish reversal. The November natural gas futures should break out of the barrier at ₹252 to turn the outlook positive.

But if the contract falls from the current level of ₹232 and drops below ₹225, the downtrend can extend to ₹200, a considerable base.

A breach of this can take the contract to ₹186.

TRADE STRATEGY

Stay out for now. Short natural gas futures (November) if it falls below ₹225. Target and stop-loss can be ₹200 and ₹235, respectively.

If the contract rallies from here and surpasses ₹252, initiate fresh longs with a stop-loss at ₹235.

When the contract rises to ₹275, tighten the stop-loss to ₹265. Book profits at ₹285.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :8 November 2024	Page : 10

Crude oil slips on sell-offs, lower China imports

Crude oil slipped extending a sell-off triggered by the US presidential election, as a strong dollar and lower crude imports in China outweighed supply risks from a Trump presidency and output cuts caused by Hurricane Rafael. Brent crude oil futures fell 66 cents to $74.26 a barrel by 1419 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude lost 80 cents to $70.89. REUTERS

Online

Headline	Indian Gas Exchange Gas Market Update, October 2024		
Publication	APN News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Nov 2024		

Indian Gas Exchange Gas Market Update, October 2024

https://www.apnnews.com/indian-gas-exchange-gas-market-update-october-2024/

Bengaluru : The Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) traded 8 million MMBtu (201 MMSCM) gas volume in October'24, higher by 160% on MoM basis.

Decreased APM gas allocations to the CGD sector and high global LNG prices have contributed to increased trade volumes.

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A total of 124 trades were executed in October'24. The most active delivery point for free market gas was Dahej & KG Basin for Ceiling Price gas, other trading delivery points were- Hazira, Suvali, Mhaskal, Ankot, & Bokaro. Around 72% of the total volume was traded at Dahej delivery. GIXI Dahej (Oct-24) was 1100 or $13 / MMBtu lower by 3.4% MoM. WIM-Ex Dahej settled price for Oct-24 was also at similar level i.e. $13.6/MMBtu.

Around 7.8 Million MMBtu of free market category gas was traded during the month & about 0.14 million MMBTU domestic ceiling price gas was traded at ceiling price (854 or $10.16/MMBtu) at KG Basin delivery point. And about 0.2 Millon MMBtu domestic gas with complete pricing freedom was traded at Bokaro(CBM), Hazira (ONGC Hazira) & KG Basin delivery points.

During the month, the Exchange traded gas deliveries were 6.1 million MMBtu (~5 MMSCMD).

IGX currently offer trades at 15 delivery points. Out of which, 4 are LNG terminals, 3 are Pipeline Interconnection Points and 8 are domestic gas field land fall points & offers delivery-based trade in six different contracts such as Day-Ahead, Daily, Weekday, Weekly, Fortnightly and Monthly, under which the trade can be executed for twelve consecutive months. During the month, 40 trades (maximum number) were executed in Daily, followed by 29 trades in each Fortnightly & Monthly, 16 trades in Weekly, 8 trades in Day-Ahead & 2 trades in Weekday contract respectively.

Headline	Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) Sees 160% MoM Growth in October 2024		
Publication	Biz Rapidx	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Nov 2024		

Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) Sees 160% MoM Growth in October 2024

https://bizrapidx.com/business/indian-gas-exchange-igx-sees-160-mom-growth-in-october-2024/

Sharing is caring! Mumbai, Wednesday, 07 November 2024: The Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) traded 8 million MMBtu (201 MMSCM) gas volume in October'24, higher by 160% on MoM basis.

Decreased APM gas allocations to the CGD sector and high global LNG prices have contributed to increased trade volumes.

GIXI for October 2024 was Rs 1098/$13 per MMBtu, lower by 4% last month. GIXI- South was Rs. 986/$11.7 per MMBtu and GIXI-West Rs 1102/$13.1 per MMBtu. Different spot international gas benchmark prices recorded were (monthly average): HH at ~$2.6/MMBtu (up by 9% MoM), TTF at $12.9 /MMBtu (up by 13% MoM), whereas LNG benchmark indices were: WIM Ex Dahej ~14.3 $/MMBtu (down by 1% MoM).

A total of 124 trades were executed in October'24. The most active delivery point for free market gas was Dahej & KG Basin for Ceiling Price gas, other trading delivery points were- Hazira, Suvali, Mhaskal, Ankot, & Bokaro. Around 72% of the total volume was traded at Dahej delivery. GIXI Dahej (Oct-24) was ?1100 or $13 / MMBtu lower by 3.4% MoM. WIM-Ex Dahej settled price for Oct-24 was also at similar level i.e. $13.6/MMBtu.

Around 7.8 Million MMBtu of free market category gas was traded during the month & about 0.14 million MMBTU domestic ceiling price gas was traded at ceiling price (?854 or $10.16/MMBtu) at KG Basin delivery point. And about 0.2 Millon MMBtu domestic gas with complete pricing freedom was traded at Bokaro(CBM), Hazira (ONGC Hazira) & KG Basin delivery points.

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Headline	ONGC-NTPC combine wins exclusivity to close $800 million Ayana stake sale		
Publication	Mint	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Nov 2024		

ONGC-NTPC combine wins exclusivity to close $800 million Ayana stake sale

https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/ongc-ntpc-ayana-renewable-power-green-energy-transition-india-power-demand-solar-power-wind-power-climate-change-11730890719920.html

Ayana Renewable Power is looking to offload a significant majority stake, even up to 100%.

: State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) and NTPC Ltd have been given exclusive rights to acquire a majority stake in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIF)-backed Ayana Renewable Power Pvt. Ltd, said two people aware of the development.

The exclusivity to ONGC and NTPC bid was given last week. It is for around four weeks," said one of the two people on the condition of anonymity.

On Monday, NTPC said its subsidiary NTPC Green Energy had applied to the corporate affairs ministry to incorporate a 50:50 JV company with ONGC Green after obtaining clearances from the finance ministry's divestment department and NITI Aayog. The JV company will also seek opportunities to acquire renewable energy assets, the state-owned company added.

The deal with ONGC will likely go through if there are no surprises in the share purchase agreement, a person familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity, adding that the deal could still take months to close as the current Ayana shareholders might try to maximise gains.

Bankers may nudge JSW'

While ONGC seems determined to close the deal, bankers are trying to persuade JSW to improve its offer, said the people cited earlier. Only ONGC and JSW have made binding offers for Ayana, they added. ONGC, NTPC, JSW, NIIF, BII and EverSource Capital declined to comment.

The current shareholders have infused 3,700 crore in Ayana so far against their capital commitment of $721 million (about 6,000 crore at the current conversion rate), according to a report released in September by rating agency ICRA.

Ayana operates 1.6 giga watt of renewable energy capacity and is developing another 3 GW, the report added. The company posted a consolidated profit of 46 crore on an operating income of 856 crore for FY24.

A partnership with NTPC would help split acquisition risks and get ONGC access to the power sector capabilities it doesn't currently possess. The Ayana deal would herald a new era for the oil producer under pressure to go green while providing exit to private equity investors at a time when multiple renewable energy platforms are finding it hard to get new owners in the country.

In August, ONGC chairman Arun Singh had said that the company intended to acquire more than 1 GW of renewable assets in this financial year. By 2030, ONGC aims to scale up its renewable portfolio to 10 GW.

BII incorporated Ayana Renewable Power in 2017. NIIF and EverSource bought a 25.5% stake each in the company in 2019. NIIF's stake rose to 51% in 2021. Ayana group's pending capital expenditure for the under-construction portfolio is about 13,500 crore, as per the ICRA note.

Headline	Gas Ramp-Up From ONGC's KG-Block Further Delayed; Likely To Start From Next Fiscal Manage your data		
Publication	NDTV Profit	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Nov 2024		

Gas Ramp-Up From ONGC's KG-Block Further Delayed; Likely To Start From Next Fiscal Manage your data

https://www.ndtvprofit.com/exclusive/gas-ramp-up-from-ongcs-kg-block-further-delayed-likely-to-start-from-next-fiscal

The $5 billion project which started production of natural gas in 2021, was expected to reach a peak capacity of 10 million metric standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) by 2024.

The ramp-up of gas production from Oil and Natural Gas Corp's (ONGC's) flagship KGDWN 98/2 deep water offshore exploration and production block is further delayed due to supply concerns, according to a person in the know.

It is now expected to start from May-June next year, this person said speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The $5 billion project which started production of natural gas in 2021, was expected to reach a peak capacity of 10 million metric standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) by 2024.

The block is currently producing around 1.5 mmscmd and will add another 3.5 mmscmd capacity from May-June 2025 with arrival of the platform rig, the person quoted above said.

The delay in arrival of the platform rig is attributed to post Covid-19 related economic issues where Malaysian suppliers who won the bid to supply platform rigs, faced the economic crunch and got liquidated.

This is now resolved and production of the platforms has restarted, the source said. ONGC is also optimistic about ramping up production to 10 mmscmd by December 2025, he added.

At the time of its launch in April 2018, ONGC had said the estimated capital expenditure on the project would be $5.07 billion and operational expenditure would be $5.12 billion over a field life of 16 years.

An ONGC spokesperson did not reply to queries sent on Tuesday.

Located in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin, the KGDWN 98/2 block is one of ONGC's most significant discoveries in recent years. The block holds an estimated 2.5 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves and will contribute significantly to India's energy mix.

Natural gas produced from the block is expected to play a crucial role in meeting India's growing demand and will help bridge the gap between domestic supply and demand, reducing dependence on liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Given India is expected to consume around 212 mmscmd of gas by 2026, the ONGC block will be close to 5% of the total consumption.

Ratings agency CareEdge recently noted, with the rise in domestic natural gas production, India's dependency on imported LNG has gradually declined and is expected to remain at around 45% by FY26. This was at 53% as of FY21.

India has added 30 mmscmd of natural gas production capacity by Reliance Industries in the last three years and another 10 mmscmd was supposed to come from the ONGC block.

Headline	Oil PSUs to join Private forces for worth USD 45 billion project		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Nov 2024		

Oil PSUs to join Private forces for worth USD 45 billion project

https://www.psuconnect.in/news/oil-psus-to-join-private-forces-for-worth-usd-45-billion-project/45075

India's petrochemical industry is projected to reach USD 300 billion next year, with the potential to grow to an impressive USD 1 trillion by 2040, according to Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri. In a recent post, Puri highlighted the sector's rapid transformation, stating that India is becoming a global petrochemical powerhouse under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Our petrochemical sector, which was valued at USD 220 billion, is on track to reach USD 300 billion by 2025 and has the potential to touch USD 1 trillion by 2040, Puri noted. He further emphasized that the sector's growth would significantly contribute to job creation and lead to a sustainable, self-reliant future for India.

The government has implemented strategic policies and investments to support this growth, with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like ONGC and BPCL collaborating with private companies on nearly USD 45 billion in new projects. Over the next decade, the government expects an additional USD 100 billion in investments in the petrochemical sector.

To attract global investors, the government has launched initiatives like the Petroleum, Chemicals, and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIRs) and allowed 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector.

India's increasing population and growing middle class are fueling demand for a variety of productsfrom fertilizers to electronicswhile positioning India as the world's sixth-largest chemicals producer, though with considerable room to expand.

Despite its progress, India faces challenges, with around 45 percent of its petrochemical intermediates still imported. Speciality chemicals are another high-growth area, expanding at 12 per cent each year. India is taking inspiration from global chemical hubs, learning how to create clusters that drive innovation, achieve economies of scale, and develop world-class facilities.

Headline	OIL forays into critical mineral mining with its maiden block, plans to scout for assets abroad		
Publication	PSU Watch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Nov 2024		

OIL forays into critical mineral mining with its maiden block, plans to scout for assets abroad

https://psuwatch.com/newsupdates/oil-forays-into-critical-mineral-mining-with-its-maiden-block-plans-to-scout-for-assets-abroad

OIL has secured a Graphite and Vanadium block in Arunachal Pradesh and plans to acquire critical mineral assets abroad Published on

New Delhi: State-run Oil India Limited (OIL) has bagged its maiden critical mineral block on Thursday, marking its foray into the sector. According to the Ministry of Mines, OIL has secured a Graphite and Vanadium block in Arunachal Pradesh under Tranche IV of the Auction of Critical and Strategic Mineral Blocks. The acquisition of a critical mineral block is a first for the public sector undertaking (PSU) which is primarily involved in the exploration and production (E&P) of oil and gas.

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OIL looks to diversify into critical mineral mining

Commenting on the development, Saloma Yomdo, OIL's Director (Exploration & Development) who also holds the additional charge of the post of Director (Operations), said that the acquisition is in line with the mandate given to government agencies as part of India's plans to develop its critical mineral industry. The block acquisition is part of our plan to diversify into critical minerals. The government has mandated all its agencies to look for ways to venture into critical minerals. This acquisition is in line with that directive, the top official told PSU Watch. Going forward, OIL has plans to bid for critical mineral blocks that fit into its scheme of things, said Yomdo.

A spokesperson for OIL told PSU Watch that going forward, the PSU will be focussing on all the 30 minerals listed by the Ministry of Mines as critical' for India. He added that OIL is also looking to acquire critical mineral assets abroad as part of its plan to diversify into the sector.

The Union Budget 2024-25 proposed to set up a Critical Mineral Mission for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets. The government has mandated PSUs, which already have a presence abroad (Coal India Limited, ONGC Videsh Ltd, NMDC Limited and KABIL), to foray into the critical mineral exploration and mining sector and acquire assets abroad. While Coal India, NMDC and KABIL are actively scouting for critical mineral assets overseas, ONGC Videsh is yet to take a call on the same. Now, Oil India has also joined the list

Headline	'India did world a favour by buying Russian oil because.': Hardeep Puri's message to 'ill-informed' commentators		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	8 Nov 2024		

'India did world a favour by buying Russian oil because.': Hardeep Puri's message to 'ill-informed' commentators

https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/hindustantimes-epaper-httimes/+india+did+world+a+favour+by+buying+russian+oil+because+hardeep+puri+s+message+to+ill+informed+commentators-newsid-n638304791

I ndia's decision to buy oil from Russia amid global uncertainties helped avert a potential spike in global oil prices, Union petroleum and natural

gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri said in a post on social media platform X on Thursday.

"India did the entire world a favour by buying Russian oil because if we had not done so, the global oil prices would have skyrocketed to $200/barrel," Hardeep Singh Puri wrote.

The Union minister emphasised that Russian oil was not subject to sanctions, but only a price cap, which he assured Indian entities had adhered to. He also pointed out that European and Asian countries had also engaged in significant energy purchases from Russia, stating, "Let us not forget that while some ill-informed commentators talked about putting restrictions on India, many other European and Asian nations bought much more crude oil, diesel, LNG, rare earth minerals worth billions of dollars from Russia."

The minister further highlighted India's commitment to sourcing energy at the best rates available. "We will continue to buy energy from whoever offers the best rates to our oil companies. That's the confidence of PM Narendra Modi Ji's leadership," Puri noted, adding that ensuring "steady availability, affordability, and sustainability of energy" for India's citizens remains a top priority.

According to Hardeep Singh Puri, around 70 million Indians visit petrol stations daily, underscoring the importance of reliable and affordable fuel.

Despite global price increases, Puri claimed that India remains the only major consumer nation to witness a significant decrease in fuel prices over the last three years, attributing it to the government's proactive policies.

India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, relies on overseas purchases for more than 80% of its oil needs.

Earlier this week, Puri called on Monday for discussions between oil producers and consumers to stabilise prices. Oil prices rose more than 2% following a decision by OPEC to delay by a month plans to increase output.

"I'm hoping as a professional that all the players in this game will see a reason that... both producers and consumers can sit down together, have a discussion on what is a realistic price because it is not as if some production is taken off," Puri told news agency Reuters.

He reiterated that there was no shortage of oil as new producers were coming into the market while some countries were expanding their output.

Earlier on Monday, Puri met with HE Haitham Al-Ghais, secretary general of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at the ADIPEC conference in Abu Dhabi to discuss India's partnership with OPEC.

After the meet, Puri shared the post on X and wrote, "We also took forward the enriching discussion we had during the 2nd edition of @IndiaEnergyWeek in Goa about ways to ensure that global oil markets remain balanced and predictable."

Puri also emphasised India's unique relationship with OPEC and stated, "India, the world's 3rd largest importer of oil and OPEC, the grouping of major oil producers have a unique and symbiotic relationship."

Hardeep Puri also inaugurated the India Pavilion and participated in the Global Leaders and Energy Transition Ministerial Panel.

Headline	India's petrochemical sector to grow over three-fold to USD 1 trillion by 2040: Hardeep Puri		
Publication	The Print	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	7 Nov 2024		

India's petrochemical sector to grow over three-fold to USD 1 trillion by 2040: Hardeep Puri

https://theprint.in/economy/indias-petrochemical-sector-to-grow-over-three-fold-to-usd-1-trillion-by-2040-hardeep-puri/2344516/

New Delhi [India, November 6 (ANI): India's petrochemical sector is on track to touch USD 300 billion next year, with the potential to reach upwards

of USD 1 trillion in 2040, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri.

India is transforming into a global petrochemical powerhouse under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, said the minister in an X post, attaching a video highlighting the works that are underway and or are in the plans.

Our petrochemical sector, once valued at USD 220 billion, is on track to reach USD 300 billion by 2025, with potential to touch USD 1 trillion by 2040, Puri said.

The growth in the sector means more jobs, growth, and a sustainable, self-sufficient future for every Indian, Puri said.

With initiatives like Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIRs) and 100 per cent FDI, India is paving the way for global investors and building a cleaner, greener tomorrow.

With a rising population and an expanding middle class, the demand for products, from fertilizers to electronics, is skyrocketing in India.

India is the world's sixth largest chemicals producer, there is still room to grow. India's per capita consumption is far below developed countries, which means massive potential.

The government is paving the way with major policies and investments. PSUs like ONGC and BPCL are joining forces with private players, pushing nearly USD 45 billion into new projects. And over the next decade, the video presentation said that the government expects another USD 100 billion in investments.

With 100 per cent foreign direct investment allowed automatically, India has become a top destination for global investors who see its potential.

But there is one challenge as India still imports around 45 per cent of its petrochemical intermediates.

Speciality chemicals are another high-growth area, expanding at 12 per cent each year. India is taking inspiration from global chemical hubs, learning how to create clusters that drive innovation, achieve economies of scale, and develop world-class facilities.