ONGC News as on 20 November 2024 (Print & Online)

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 2

TO INVEST ₹1 LAKH CRORE

NTPC Green to hit RE capacity of 19 GW by FY27

Solar main focus, only large-scale projects to be set up, says CMD

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, November 19

THE TOPMOST PRIORITY of NTPC Green Energy after its listing will be to scale up renewable energy capacity in a phased manner to 19 giga watt (GW) by 2026-27 at an estimated investment of ₹1 lakh crore, Gurdeep Singh, chairman and managing director of its parent company NTPC said on Tuesday.

The company plans to add 6 GW in the current financial year and another 11 GW in FY26 before reaching the target of 19 GW.

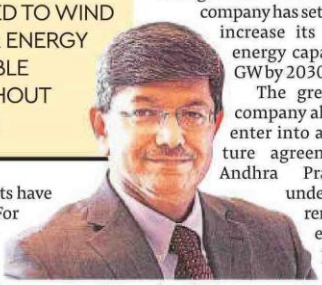
"We are bullish on solar projects compared to wind as solar energy is available throughout the year," Singh said, adding that 90% of the projects will concentrate on solar energy. The company plans to go only for large-scale projects and will also explore solar with energy storage projects.

As of September 30, the company has an operational renewable energy portfolio of 3.2 GW of solar projects and 100 MW of wind projects across six states. "We will need ₹1 lakh crore for addition of 19 GW capacity by FY27," Singh said.

He noted that power purchase agreements (PPAs) for all the capacities have been signed and the EPC contracts have been awarded. For solar, PPAs have been signed at a tariff of ₹2.6 per unit while for wind projects, the tariff will be in the range of ₹3.24-3.6 per unit. The new projects are likely to come up in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. The company has set up plans to increase its renewable energy capacity to 60 GW by 2030.

GURDEEP SINGH,
CHAIRMAN & MD, NTPC

WE ARE BULLISH ON SOLAR PROJECTS COMPARED TO WIND AS SOLAR ENERGY IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



The green energy company also plans to enter into a joint venture agreement with Andhra Pradesh to undertake renewable energy projects, including green hydrogen, the company's director — finance Jaikumar Srinivasan said.

Furthermore, NGEL's joint venture with state-owned oil major Oil and Natural Gas Corp will develop offshore wind projects while simultaneously looking to acquire existing renewable assets.

The chairman also noted that the company 'moderated' its price band for its initial public offering (IPO) taking into account the recent market developments and prevailing sentiment.

"We were under discussion of a higher price band, the expectation was much higher, but post the sentiments getting changed we had some kind of correction (in the price band)," Singh said.

Publication : Rashtriya Sahara (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 13

Headline: Contract awarded to Corporate Infotech

कॉरपोरेट इन्फोटेक को ठेका

नई दिल्ली। कॉरपोरेट इन्फोटेक प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (सीआईपीएल) को सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) से आईटी बुनियादी ढांचे में सुधार के लिए सात साल का ठेका मिला है। सीआईपीएल ने बयान में कहा, 'ओएनजीसी ने कॉरपोरेट इन्फोटेक को 'पे-पर-यूज' मॉडल पर 'ऑन-प्रिमाइसेस आईटी इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर ऐज अ सर्विस' (आईएएएस) के लिए 98 करोड़ रुपये का ठेका दिया है। इसे सितंबर 2031 तक सात साल की अवधि में निष्पादित किया जाएगा।' सीआईपीएल के प्रबंध निदेशक एवं मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी विनोद कुमार ने कहा, 'यह साझेदारी जटिल आईटी अवसंरचना को संभालने में सीआईपीएल की मजबूत, उपभोग-आधारित समाधान प्रदान करने की विशेषज्ञता को रेखांकित करती है।'

Publication : The Pioneer	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 4

ICG conducts 136th meet of Offshore Security Coordination Committee

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

All aspects of offshore security were reviewed on Tuesday during the 136th meeting of the Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC)in Hyderabad, Indian Coast Guard(ICG)said here.

Giving details, officials said ICG chief S Paramesh chaired the meeting which took stock of the preparedness and effectiveness of the security of India's offshore installations. The meeting was attended by members and participants from concerned ministries and agencies including Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, IAF, ONGC, DGH, and DG Shipping.

Addressing the committee, the ICG chief underlined the importance of energy security, and thus insisted on taking all possible measures to ensure security of the offshore assets.

The Offshore Security Coordination Committee was constituted in 1978 to ensure effective functioning of offshore security arrangements. The committee has since then contributed effectively in framing policies and providing guidance and resolution to related issues.

Publication : Virat Vaibhav (Hindi)	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 15

Headline: Corporate Infotech gets contract from ONGC

कॉरपोरेट इन्फोटेक को ओएनजीसी से मिला ठेका

नई दिल्ली। प्रौद्योगिकी समाधान प्रदाता कॉरपोरेट इन्फोटेक प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (सीआईपीएल) को सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी) से आईटी बुनियादी ढांचे में सुधार के लिए सात साल का ठेका मिला है। सीआईपीएल ने बयान में कहा, ओएनजीसी ने कॉरपोरेट इन्फोटेक को पे-पर-यूज मॉडल पर ऑन-प्रिमाइसेस आईटी इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर ऐज अ सर्विस (आईएएएस) के लिए 98 करोड़ रुपए का ठेका दिया है। इसे सितंबर 2031 तक सात साल की अवधि में निष्पादित किया जाएगा।

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 2

TOTALENERGIES, OIL INDIA SIGN COOPERATION DEAL

FRENCH ENERGY GIANT TotalEnergies and state-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) signed a cooperation agreement to carry out methane emissions detection and measurement campaigns at the Indian firm's sites.

FE BUREAU & AGENCIES

Publication : Millennium Post	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 10

OIL inks technical service pact with TotalEnergies

NOIDA: Oil India Limited (OIL) and TotalEnergies inked a Technical Service Agreement in Paris on November 18, 2024 to facilitate collaboration between Oil India Limited and TotalEnergies with specific focus on drilling of stratigraphic wells in Indian Offshore waters.

The Stratigraphic well campaign, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India is foreseen to open up new vistas for hydrocarbon exploration and development in Deep and Ultra-deep offshore acreages through acquisition of critical subsurface data, Petroleum System Modelling studies and shall be a primer in defining upon and substantiating the hydrocarbon potential in Indian Offshore Basin.

The collaboration marks a significant milestone in India's offshore Hydrocarbon exploration impetus and will leverage the technical know-how and expertise of TotalEnergies in Deep & Ultradeep drilling in offshore waters across the globe.

The engagement and exchanges shall go a long way in driving exploration & unlocking the hydrocarbon potential in Offshore waters of India and encouraging investment by international oil companies in E&P sector of India. MPOST

Publication : Mint	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 1, 6

Top banks scramble for PSU refinery's ₹27,000 crore loan

Shayan Ghosh
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MUMBAI

India's top lenders are falling over each other to finance a ₹39,000 crore refinery being set up by Chennai Petroleum Corp. and Indian Oil Corp. in Tamil Nadu, in one of the largest corporate loan deals in recent times.

State-owned banks like State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) are among six lenders which have bid for the loan, two bankers aware of the development said. Of the ₹39,000 crore, 70% or about ₹27,000 crore would be debt, and the rest equity.

Established in January 2023, Cauvery Basin Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (CBRPL) is planned as a 75:25 joint venture between Indian Oil Corp. Ltd and Chennai Petroleum Corp. The proposed nine million tonnes per annum (mtpa) refinery will come up at Nagapattinam.

The loan's interest rate is likely to be linked to SBI's three-month marginal cost of funds-based lending rate or MCLR, the two people cited above said on the condition of anonymity. Following a recent revision, SBI's three-month MCLR now stands at 8.55%.

State Bank of India has bid for the entire loan. MINT

"It will also have a spread over the MCLR rate, but pricing details will be available later," said the first banker cited above. "There is a lot of demand for public sector projects, and we have seen banks trying to corner as much as possible, given the low risk profile of such projects."

SBI has bid for the entire loan while others have put in bids for smaller chunks, one of the two bankers said.

"This is not similar to projects where SBI has underwritten the whole loan and then downsold it to other lenders. This is a bidding process where allocations would happen later, and many banks

TURN TO PAGE 6

Publication : Mint	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 1, 6

Top banks scramble for PSU refinery's ₹27,000 crore loan

FROM PAGE 1

have already lost out on the opportunity," said the second banker, also on the condition of anonymity. He said the loan is expected to have a fine pricing since the project is backed by a state-owned company.

Emails sent to Indian Oil, Chennai Petroleum, SBI, PNB and BoB remained unanswered.

Interest in the mega loan comes at a time banks are trying to make up for the decline in retail loan demand following regulatory diktats around unsecured loans. Aggregate retail loan growth dipped 13.4% year-on-year (y-o-y) in September, against 30% last year. On the other hand, credit to industries—small, medium and large—grew 8.9% in September, up from 6.5% in the same period last year.

"Given the slowdown in the retail lending segment, banks may actively pursue opportunities in corporate credit, even if it comes at finer yields," said Anil Gupta, senior vice-president, co group head of financial sector ratings, Icra Ltd.

Interest in the loan comes as banks try to make up for the fall in retail loan demand. MINT

Accordingly, bank credit flow to corporates is expected to improve, although they will face significant pricing competition from the debt capital markets for highly rated corporate entities, added Gupta.

Bankers have been waiting for a revival in corporate loan demand for several quarters now.

While there has been some pickup, there are several more in the pipeline. For instance, SBI has a corporate loan pipeline of ₹6 trillion, comprising loans that have been approved but are yet to be disbursed or availed of. Its corporate loan book grew 18.4% y-o-y in the three months through September to ₹11.6 trillion, at a faster clip than its overall loan book.

Ashwini Kumar Tewari, managing director, corporate banking and subsidiaries, at SBI explained how the bank managed this corporate loan growth.

"(For the) last one and a half years, they (my team) have been planning for this, contacting corporates, understanding their business plans, and actually trying to fit in where we can. Therefore, we approach them much before time," Tewari told analysts on 8 November.

"This is all about conversation and being in the right place, and we expect to see good growth in this (corporate loan segment). Of course, we are selective; we don't want to compromise on asset quality at all."

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 3

Winter-induced crunch in procuring LNG may put India in a spot: Kpler

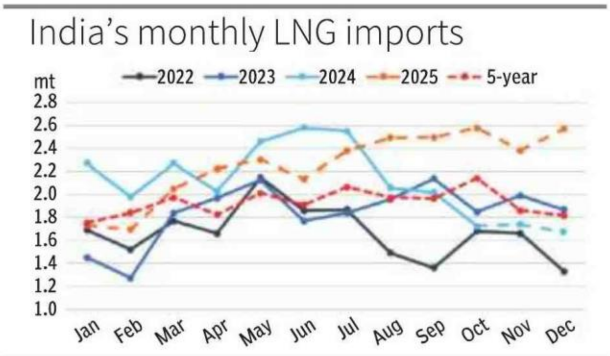
Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Approaching winters and a tight supply forecast are putting pressure on prices of spot liquefied natural gas (LNG), a development that is likely to impact India's efforts to source the commodity at competitive prices.

"As winter approaches with rising LNG prices and tight winter supply outlook, India may face challenges in securing competitively priced spot LNG cargoes, largely staying sidelined," global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler said about India.

Trade sources said that spot LNG prices are in the range of $13-14 per million British thermal units (mBtu) with temperatures expected to drop in the coming days in Europe, particularly northern and western Europe.

Besides, the start of the 5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) Chhara LNG import terminal has been delayed to early 2025 due to construction setbacks, slightly diminishing India's LNG imports for 2024, it added.



Source: Kpler, Kpler Insight

IMPORTS GO UP

As per the latest data from the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), LNG import during October 2024 (provisional) was 2,932 million standard cubic metre (mscm), up 10.5 per cent y-o-y. Cumulative imports during April-October of FY25 stood at 22,085 mscm , on a provisional basis, higher by 22.2 per cent y-o-y.

As much as 3,111 MSCM of natural gas was produced (gross) in October — lower by 1.6 per cent y-o-y. The cumulative gross production till October was 21,271 MSCM, up 1.1 per cent y-o-y.

CONSUMPTION UP

India's total natural gas consumption (including internal consumption) for October was 6,005 MSCM — up 4.2 per cent y-o-y. The cumulative consumption for April-October was 43,033 MSCM — up 11.2 per cent y-o-y.

"Consumption of natural gas and LNG in India is on the rise, especially from the city gas sector, with government programmes aiming to increase the number of compressed natural gas (CNG) stations to 18,000 across the country by 2032," Kpler said.

Looking ahead to 2025, India is expected to import 27 million tonnes (MT) of LNG, marking a 7 per cent y-o-y increase, it added.

INFRA EXPANSION

"This growth is anticipated to be supported by an increase in offshore gas production and expansion of pipeline infrastructure to the northern regions. Notably, the 5-MTPA Dhamra LNG terminal is projected to see increased imports following the completion of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga pipeline," Kpler explained.

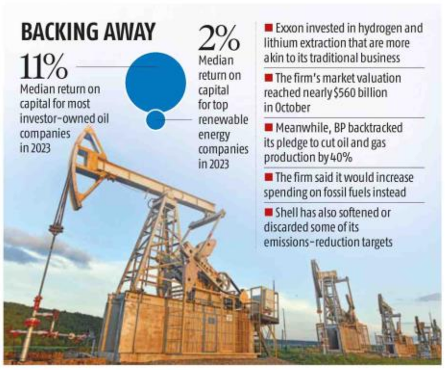
GAIL is also set to operate its 5-MTPA Dabhol LNG terminal at full capacity in 2025, boosted by the new breakwater facility infrastructure, which is set to be completed before next monsoon.

"By Q2 2025, we should see the expansion of the largest LNG regasification terminal 17.5 MTPA Dahej to 22 MTPA capacity," the noted agency said.

Publication : Business Standard	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 1, 8

Why oil companies are walking back from green energy

Investors are rewarding oil giants that did not embrace wind and solar



REBECCA F ELLIOTT
19 November

When oil and gas firms made ambitious commitments four years ago to curb emissions and transition to renewable energy, their businesses were in free fall.

Demand for the fuels was drying up as the pandemic took hold. Prices plunged. And large Western oil companies were haemorrhaging money, with losses topping $100 billion, according to the energy consulting firm Wood Mackenzie.

Renewable energy, it seemed to many companies and investors at the time, was not just cleaner — it was a better business than oil and gas.

"Investors were focused on what I would say was the prevailing narrative around it's all moving to wind and solar," Darren Woods, Exxon Mobil's chief executive, said in an interview with The New York Times last week at a United Nations climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. "I had a lot of pressure to get into the wind and solar business," he added. Woods resisted, reasoning that Exxon did not have expertise in those areas. Instead, the company invested in areas like hydrogen and lithium extraction that are more akin to its traditional business. Wall Street has rewarded the company for those bets. The company's stock price has climbed more than 70 percent since the end of 2019, lifting its market valuation to a record of nearly $560 billion in October, though it has since fallen to about $524 billion.

The firm's performance stands in contrast with BP and Shell, oil and gas firms based in London that embraced wind, solar and other technologies like electric-vehicle charging. BP's stock has fallen around 19 per cent in that time, based on trading in London, while Shell's has climbed about 15 per cent.

The market's acceptance of fossil fuels underscores one of the core challenges of curbing global emissions: Climate change poses risks that compound over decades. "If we want to combat climate change, we need to make it in the firms' and consumers' self-interest to produce and buy the low-carbon alternatives," said Christopher Knittel, a professor of energy economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The difference in profits that firms can make from extracting oil and gas and what they can earn from harnessing wind and solar had already swung sharply in favour of fossil fuels in recent years. The median return on capital among some of the world's biggest investor-owned oil companies, a key measure of profitability, topped 11 per cent last year, up from negative 8 per cent in 2020, according to an analysis by S&P Global Commodity Insights. The median return over that same period for the top renewable energy companies has stayed around 2 per cent.

"If you look at the relative shareholder returns, the market's been sending a very clear signal that it wants energy companies to focus on their core competencies," said Mark Viviano, a managing partner at Kimmeridge, an energy investment firm. BP pledged in 2020 to cut its oil and gas production 40 per cent by the end of the decade. Less than three years later, it backtracked and said it would increase spending on fossil fuels. The company wrote off $1.1 billion in offshore wind investments last year and recently said it wanted to sell other wind assets, though it continues to invest in renewable energy. Shell has softened or discarded some of its emissions-reduction targets, as it scaled back growth expectations for its renewable power business.

In the US, where environmentally conscious investing has become increasingly politicised, investors have gone from regularly quizzing oil and gas executives about their energy transition plans to zeroing in on projects that are more likely to lift the bottom line soon, executives said.

ओएनजीसी ONGC

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Why Big Oil doesn't mind big regulation

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Donald Trump has promised to remove Biden-era regulatory barriers to drilling oil and gas, and that has become even easier with Republicans' House majority. Over the weekend, Trump nominated Chris Wright, an outspoken fossil-fuel champion, as energy secretary, further cementing the new administration's pro-drilling stance. It isn't exactly music to the ears of the biggest oil producers, though.

Take methane emissions regulation, which the Trump administration might roll back. Industry lobbying groups such as the American Petroleum Institute and the American Exploration and Production Council oppose the methane fee that was part of the Inflation Reduction Act. The fee starts at $900 per metric ton of methane emissions from operations—such as from wells and pipelines—that exceed a specified level this year, and steps up gradually to $1,500 in 2026 and beyond. Interestingly, Exxon Mobil has expressed support for the methane fee, and TotalEnergies' chief executive has warned that rolling back methane regulations would ruin the industry's reputation.

Leading oilmen haven't suddenly become Greenpeace activists—strict regulations tend to work in their interest. Larger companies can afford to comply with them while smaller ones often can't. Stringent rules can put these smaller companies out of business or force them to sell to larger producers. Notably, producers that had higher methane intensity than peers back in 2020—such as PDC Energy and Callon Petroleum—have since been gobbled up by larger companies.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

In a press briefing on Tuesday, API Chief Executive Mike Sommers said all of its members believe that the methane fee—as proposed by the Biden administration—is excessive, but that there is a split between some members who think some kind of fee is reasonable and others who want to see it scrapped altogether.

It isn't yet clear exactly how much companies might owe in methane fees—the Environmental Protection Agency's final rules on that were only announced on Tuesday. Based on analysis conducted earlier this year, Wood Mackenzie U.S. upstream energy analyst Ryan Duman suspects the fees will probably hit the smaller producers disproportionately while some of the biggest producers might not even be subject to them. Small-capitalization oil and gas producers' methane intensity declined by a third between 2019 and 2023, while that of major oil companies fell by 57% over that period, according to data from Wood Mackenzie.

Other barriers to drilling under Biden were more burdensome to smaller companies and are likely to get eased under Trump. Greater environmental scrutiny in the permitting process for leasing on federal lands, for example, has increased the amount of legwork companies need to do to get drilling permits, according to Duman. Smaller companies simply don't have access to the same resources to get through those processes.

Another Biden-era order that will almost certainly get reversed is the pause on liquefied natural gas export permits. A permanent ban would have been bad news for all prospective U.S. LNG exporters, but the pause probably made it easier for the incumbents to negotiate contracts with potential buyers.

Sure, Biden pushed enormous subsidies for green energy and tried to discourage fossil-fuel production, but his term hasn't been so shabby for big oil companies. In the four years through the end of 2024, the four largest companies in the S&P Oil & Gas Exploration & Production Industry Index are expected to have generated more than $330 billion in free cash flow, according to FactSet. Under Trump, they generated just $91 billion.

Covid and the invasion of Ukraine played a role. Historically, though, traditional energy has performed slightly better under Democrats, notes Arjun Murti , partner at energy advisory firm Veriten. That is because they tend to favor putting roadblocks on new supply, which helps limit capital spending and boost oil prices, he says. And those roadblocks tend to be more damaging to small producers rather than giants.

Most oil and gas producers are probably celebrating the Republican sweep in government. The largest ones aren't cheering as loudly.

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IGL, MGL face perils of policy

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City gas distributors Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) and Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) have suffered two consecutive blows in a month. The government has reduced the supply of cheaper natural gas by 20% for IGL and 18% for MGL, effective 16 November. This follows a previous reduction of 21% for IGL and 20% for MGL, effective 16 October.

Cumulatively, the cut is around 36% each from the original allocation made a month ago, as the production of domestically supplied gas under the administrative price mechanism (APM) has declined. Consequently, MGL and IGL stocks have lost steam, falling 14% and 20%, respectively, over the last two trading sessions.

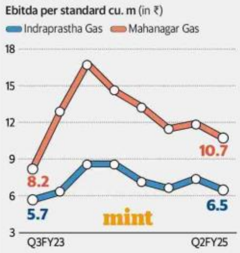
The price and source from which these companies meet the shortfall are crucial now. For perspective, APM gas is priced at \$6.5 per mmbtu and non-APM domestic gas at \$8-9 per mmbtu. Spot LNG is even higher at \$14 per mmbtu. In the September quarter (Q2FY25), while IGL's gas sourcing consisted of 50% APM gas, for MGL it was 71% given the former's larger sales volume.

Currently, CNG is priced cheaper than petrol and diesel by at least 10-15%. MINT

To maintain its FY25 Ebitda margin guidance of ₹6-7 per standard cu. m (scm), IGL will have to raise the price of compressed natural gas (CNG). The management had indicated an increase of ₹5-6 per kg after the first reduction of 21% in October. This should rise further after the second cut in APM gas supply, assuming the usage of regasified LNG bought from short-term tendering.

Fizzling out

Indraprastha Gas is more vulnerable to cuts in APM gas supply than Mahanagar Gas due to lower margin



Ebitda is earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization

Source: Company data

SATISH KUMAR/MINT

MGL's guided range of Ebitda per scm of ₹10-12 for FY25 is also at risk if it doesn't increase prices or find cheap natural gas supply. IGL's relatively lower base margins than MGL means it needs to hike prices more desperately than MGL.

The price increase may need to be smaller as the government could provide some support in the form of either lower excise duty or putting it under the goods and services tax (GST) regime. Currently, the central government levies a 14% excise duty on CNG. As the government wants to increase the share of natural gas in the total energy basket from 7% at present to 15% by 2030, some relief on the excise duty front cannot be ruled out.

MARGIN PRESSURE

IGL and MGL have seen a supply cut of around 36% from the original allocation made a month ago

THE price and source from which these companies meet the shortfall are crucial now

But is it possible to maintain Ebitda margin without sacrificing volumes to alternative fuels such as petrol and diesel? Understanding the economics of fuel becomes important here. Petrol and diesel are sold in litres and CNG in kilogram. Currently, CNG is priced cheaper than petrol and diesel by at least 10-15%, with some variation in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, where the IGL has its operations.

For MGL, which mainly operates in Mumbai and Thane, CNG's discount to petrol and diesel is in the range of 10-20%. Even if all three are priced at the same level, CNG still offers advantages of relatively clean fuel and operational efficiency in terms of higher mileage.

Meanwhile, the IGL and MGL managements have stated that they are evaluating price hikes for CNG, but have not finalized anything so far. The uncertainty keeps these stocks exposed to further earnings downgrades. In CY24 so far, MGL's stock is down 6%, while IGL has declined 23%.

There is a lurking threat from electric vehicles and concerns over sustainability of margins remains. On the other hand, if these companies can source natural gas on a long-term basis, either from non-APM blocks domestically or from imports, there is potential for some revival in stocks.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :20 November 2024	Page : 10

Crude oil steadies amid supply outages, war fears

Singapore: Crude oil prices held steady after the previous day's rally, driven by a halt in production at Norway's Johan Sverdrup oilfield, and as investors remained cautious amid fears of an escalation in the Russia-Ukraine war. Brent crude futures for January fell 2 cents to $73.28 a barrel, while US WTI December futures were down 3 cents at $69.13. REUTERS

Online

Headline	ONGC and NTPC Green Energy Collaborate to Advance Renewable Energy Projects		
Publication	Chemical Industry Digest	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	19 Nov 2024		

ONGC and NTPC Green Energy Collaborate to Advance Renewable Energy Projects

https://chemindigest.com/ongc-and-ntpc-green-energy-collaborate-for-renwable-energy/

The MoU was signed by ONGC Executive Director Debdulal Adhikari (left) and CEO (NGEL) Mohit Bhargava in the presence of ONGC Chairman & CEO Arun Kumar Singh and NTPC Limited Chairman and Managing Director & CEO Gurdeep Singh. Image source: Company press release.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL). The agreement marks a significant step in advancing ONGCs renewable energy objectives as part of its energy transition strategy.

Focus Areas of Collaboration The agreement between the brands outlines a collaborative approach between the two entities to develop renewable power projects in India and abroad.

Green hydrogen and its derivatives, such as green ammonia and green methanol.

Renewable Energy Ambitions ONGC has been actively diversifying beyond its core business of oil and gas exploration.

Over the years, it has expanded into petrochemicals, power generation, and SEZ development through joint ventures.

ONGC has also made strides in renewable energy, achieving an installed capacity of 189 MW through wind and solar photovoltaic plants across multiple locations.

As part of its energy strategy, ONGC aims to achieve a renewable energy capacity of 10 GW by 2030.

The company has also committed to achieving net zero emissions (Scope One and Scope Two) by 2038, underlining its dedication to a sustainable future.

Renewable Energy Leadership NTPC, Indias largest power utility, has an installed capacity exceeding 73 GW, including contributions from its subsidiaries and joint ventures.

To strengthen its renewable energy portfolio, NTPC established NGEL as a fully owned subsidiary.

NGEL focuses on renewable energy parks and projects, including offshore wind, green hydrogen, energy storage technologies, carbon markets, and round-the-clock renewable energy solutions.

Path Ahead The partnership between ONGC and NGEL is expected to unlock significant opportunities for innovation and growth in renewable energy.

As per the press release, with a shared vision for sustainability and energy transition, the two companies are set to contribute to Indias green energy ambitions while exploring international prospects.

Headline	ONGC's arm, NGEL incorporate joint venture company		
Publication	Citrus Interactive	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	19 Nov 2024		

ONGC's arm, NGEL incorporate joint venture company

http://www.citrusinteractive.in/News/OpenNewsContent.aspx?SecId=7&SubSecID=15&NewsID=1130545

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) wholly-owned subsidiary -- ONGC Green (OGL) and NTPC Green Energy (NGEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of

NTPC, have incorporated 50:50 Joint Venture Company in name of ONGC NTPC GREEN (ONGPL), on November 18, 2024.

ONGPL will be engaged in the business of exploring and setting up Renewable Energy (RE) projects and assets both through Greenfield development and acquisitions. ONGPL will also assess the feasibility and establishment of offshore wind projects, among other related activities.

ONGC is India's largest government-run corporation and produces about 70% of India's crude oil and natural gas. The corporation is the biggest public sector commercial organization in India.

Headline	India's Petroleum Imports Rise 7.7% in FY 2024-25		
Publication	Construction World	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	19 Nov 2024		

India's Petroleum Imports Rise 7.7% in FY 2024-25

https://www.constructionworld.in/energy-infrastructure/oil-and-gas/indias-petroleum-imports-rise-7.7-in-fy-2024-25/65250

India's petroleum imports grew by 7.7% during April-October FY 2024-25, driven by increased demand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), petcoke, and

lubricants, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). However, October 2024 recorded a slight 2.2% dip in imports compared to the same month last year. Crude oil imports rose by 3.5% in the first seven months of FY 2024-25 and by 4.2% in October 2024 year-on-year. The net import bill for October 2024 stood at $10.6 billion, down from $11.8 billion in October 2023, thanks to reduced global crude prices, which averaged $75.66 per barrel in October 2024 compared to $91.05 a year earlier.

Domestic Crude Production and Refinery Output

Domestic crude oil production continued to face challenges, declining by 4.9% year-on-year in October 2024 to 2.4 million metric tons (MMT). Oil India Limited (OIL) contributed 0.3 MMT, ONGC produced 1.6 MMT, and private operators added 0.5 MMT.

In contrast, Indian refineries processed 21.3 MMT of crude in October 2024, a 3.6% increase from the previous year. Public Sector Units handled 14.1 MMT, while private refiners processed 7.2 MMT. Cumulative crude processing during April-October FY 2024-25 rose by 2%.

Petroleum Production and Consumption

Petroleum product output in October 2024 climbed 5.2% year-on-year to 23 MMT, led by diesel, which accounted for 41% of production. Motor spirit (16.8%), aviation turbine fuel (6.6%), and LPG (4.5%) were other key contributors. For April-October FY 2024-25, petroleum production grew by 2.8%.

Consumption of petroleum products also rose, reaching 137.6 MMT for April-October FY 2024-25, a 3% year-on-year increase. October 2024 alone saw a 2.9% rise in consumption to 20 MMT, driven by higher demand for motor spirit (7.4%), LPG (6.6%), and aviation turbine fuel (10.2%).

LNG imports surged by 10.5% in October 2024 to 2,932 MMSCM and grew by 22.2% cumulatively for April-October FY 2024-25. Natural gas consumption increased by 4.2% year-on-year in October 2024 to 6,005 MMSCM, with cumulative consumption for April-October FY 2024-25 rising by 11.2%.

Meanwhile, gross natural gas production fell by 1.6% in October 2024 to 3,111 MMSCM. Cumulative production for the fiscal year showed marginal growth of 1.1%, totaling 21,271 MMSCM.

India's energy landscape reflects a complex interplay of rising demand, global price fluctuations, and domestic production challenges, underscoring the importance of a balanced import strategy.

Headline	Corporate Infotech bags 7-year contract from ONGC for IT infra services		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	19 Nov 2024		

Corporate Infotech bags 7-year contract from ONGC for IT infra services

https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/businesstoday-epaper-bizztoday/corporate+infotech+bags+7+year+contract+from+ongc+for+it+infra+services-newsid-n639891381

Technology solutions provider Corporate Infotech Pvt Ltd (CIPL) on Tuesday said it received a seven-year contract from state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for an overhaul of IT infrastructure.

"ONGC awards Corporate Infotech Rs 98 crore contract for on-premise IT Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) on 'Pay-per-Use' Model. The contract will be executed over a period of seven years by September 2031," CIPL said in a statement.

This project is aimed at augmenting ONGC's IT hardware infrastructure across its Corporate Infocom Data Centre (CIDC) in Delhi as well as the disaster recovery site in Vadodara, Gujarat, the Noida-based company said.

As part of ONGC's digital transformation journey, the project will help future-proof the state-owned company's operations by ensuring seamless data replication, disaster recovery, and application management services, it said.

"This partnership underscores CIPL's expertise in handling complex IT infrastructure and its ability to deliver flexible, consumption-based solutions," Vinod Kumar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of CIPL, said.

Incorporated in 2007, CIPL has become one of the largest IT hardware solutions providers. The company has recently secured a three-year contract worth Rs 114 crore from IndianOil for the comprehensive annual maintenance of IT infrastructure across all divisions of the public sector enterprises.

Headline	Why Modi's Guyana visit matters for India's energy security		
Publication	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	20 Nov 2024		

Why Modi's Guyana visit matters for India's energy security

https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/firstpost-epaper-fposteng/why+modi+s+guyana+visit+matters+for+india+s+energy+security-newsid-n639837529

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a historic state visit to the Caribbean nation of Guyana on Tuesday.

Energy security will be at the top of Modi's three-day visit to Guyana, which has emerged as a key partner of India in the Caribbean region.

Guyana is a rapidly-growing nation following the discovery of oil and gas resources in the country. In engagement with the nation, India is not just looking forward to boost energy security but is also seeking to strengthen the standing among the Global South nations and the Caribbean region.

During Modi's visit, India and Guyana are expected to sign a number of energy and defence agreements.

India is also tapping into Guyana's unique history. Nearly 40 per cent of the nation's population is of Indian-origin, including President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, whose ancestors were shipped by the British to the Caribbean region as indentured labourers in the 19th century.

Top-level engagements between India & Guyana

Modi's visit to Guyana is the latest of the high-level engagement between the two nations.

Last year, Ali was the chief guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest honour for persons of Indian origin.

Modi's visit to Guyana is the first by an Indian premier since former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit in 1968.

Modi is set to hold talks with Ali and address a special session of Guyana's parliament.

Following Ali's visit to India in January 2023, Guyana's Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo visited India the next month.

In February, Guyana's Prime Minister Mark Phillips also visited India, followed by ministerial- and military-level visit.

India's eyes at energy security

Following the discovery of oil and gas, Guyana is experiencing annual growth of more than 40 per cent on the back of oil boom.

As Guyana has emerged as a magnet for traders and investors, India has ramped up engagement with the country.

Thanks to strong historical and cultural ties between the two nations, India and Guyana say they are looking forward to mutually beneficial agreements, according to The Guardian.

Guyana's Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud told the newspaper that Modi's visit would be a significant milestone in bilateral relationships.

Persaud further said, "Both countries can, through their cooperation, develop greater synergies in a variety of areas, including energy, agriculture, technology and security. Already, we have strong bilateral ties, but with PM Modi's visit, it is expected that the relations between Guyana and India will be taken to a level that will see enhanced benefits for both countries."

Scott MacDonald, an economist and Caribbean Policy Consortium fellow, told the newspaper that Modi's visit is aimed at boosting India's global foreign policy profile and tapping into the Carribean region's burgeoning energy complex.

MacDonald said, "Guyana is climbing the ranks as an oil province. It will continue to grow for both oil and natural gas and, let's face it, India faces a deficit in terms of its ability to generate power. It needs imported energy. Suriname next door to Guyana is on the verge of having its own revolution in natural oil and gas so, for India, looking at the southern energy complex which is Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and possibly Grenada, is geopolitically important."

At a briefing ahead of Modi's visit, Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar said that while India aims to partner with Guyana on energy-related issues, the scope of cooperation is much broader.

"Guyana is, as you know, on the cusp of an economic and developmental transformation with major discovery of oil and gas. We hope to partner them in a number of fields including in hydrocarbons, but also in areas of healthcare, education and defence. It is the fastest growing economy in the world and we will have opportunities for partnering them in diverse fields," said Mazumdar.

In recent years, as a mark of energy ties, the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) purchased 1 million barrels of crude oil from Guyana in addition to a consortium of HPCL-Mittal Energy purchasing 1 million barrels, according to ETV Bharat.

Additionally, state-run ONGC Videsh and Oil India Limited (OIL) have shown interest in participating in Guyana's oil and gas sector, as per the outlet.

India is focussing on Guyana's energy sector to diversify India's energy supplies as supplies from the Middle East are subject to disruption and oil purchases from Russia are subject to scrutiny in the West. Therefore, Guyana and neighbouring Caribbean nations are a safe source.

India is also looking at Guyana as a gateway to the Caribbean region. During the visit, Modi will meet other nations from the Caribbean Community (Caricom), an intergovernmental organisation of 15 Caribbean nations, at the Caricom-India Summit on Thursday. He will co-chair the summit with Grenada's PM Dickon Mitchell.

Ahead of the summit, Caricom said that the summit is expected to "further solidify bilateral cooperation between Caricom and India in energy and infrastructure, agriculture and food security, health and pharmaceuticals, and technology and innovation".

Headline	NGEL, OGL incorporate JV company to work in RE sector		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	19 Nov 2024		

NGEL, OGL incorporate JV company to work in RE sector

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/ngel-ogl-incorporate-jv-company-to-work-in-re-sector/115441649

While NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of power giant NTPC, ONGC Green Limited (OGL) is a subsidiary of oil major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

New Delhi: ONGC NTPC Green Private Ltd (ONGPL) has been incorporated as a 50:50 joint venture company of NTPC Green Energy Limited and ONGC Green Limited. While NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of power giant NTPC, ONGC Green Limited (OGL) is a subsidiary of oil major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

ONGPL has been incorporated as a 50:50 JV company of NGEL and OGL, NTPC said in an exchange filing on Monday.

The JV has been formed to explore and set up renewable energy (RE) projects/ assets in India and overseas through greenfield development and acquisitions.

The newly formed entity will also explore the feasibility and setting up of offshore wind projects in India. Join the community of 2M+ industry professionals

Headline	NTPC Green to scale up RE capacity to 19 GW by FY27		
Publication	The Financial Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	20 Nov 2024		

NTPC Green to scale up RE capacity to 19 GW by FY27

https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-ntpc-green-to-scale-up-re-capacity-to-19-gw-by-fy27-3669496/

The topmost priority of NTPC Green Energy Ltd after its listing will be to scale up renewable energy capacity in a phased manner to 19 giga watt (GW) by

2026-27 at an estimated investment of Rs 1 lakh crore, Gurdeep Singh, chairman and managing director of its parent company NTPC Ltd said on Tuesday.

The company plans to add 6 GW in the current financial year and another 11 GW in FY26 before reaching the target of 19 GW.

We are bullish on solar projects compared to wind as solar energy is available throughout the year, Singh said, adding that 90% of the projects will concentrate on solar energy. The company plans to go only for large-scale projects and will also explore solar with energy storage projects.

As of September 30, the company has an operational renewable energy portfolio of 3.2 GW of solar projects and 100 MW of wind projects across six states. We will need Rs 1 lakh crore for addition of 19 GW capacity by FY27, Singh said.

He noted that power purchase agreements (PPAs) for all the capacities have been signed and the EPC contracts have been awarded. For solar, PPAs have been signed at a tariff of Rs 2.6 per unit while for wind projects, the tariff will be in the range of Rs 3.24-3.6 per unit. The new projects are likely to come up in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. The company has set up plans to increase its renewable energy capacity to 60 GW by 2030.

The green energy company also plans to enter into a joint venture agreement with Andhra Pradesh to undertake renewable energy projects including green hydrogen, the company's Director Finance Jaikumar Srinivasan said.

Furthermore, NGEL's joint venture with state-owned oil major Oil and Natural Gas Corp will develop offshore wind projects while simultaneously looking to acquire existing renewable assets.

The public issue of the company was subscribed at 33% on its first day of bidding. The retail investors subscribed at 1.33 times the shares offered following the Non-Institutional Investors by subscribing 16% of the allocated shares, as per stock exchange data. The issue with a price band of Rs 102- Rs 108 per share will conclude on November 22.

The Chairman noted that the company moderated' its price band for its initial public offering ( ) taking into account the recent developments and prevailing sentiment.

We were under discussion of a higher price band, the expectation was much higher, but post the sentiments getting changed we had some kind of correction (in the price band), Singh said.

Headline	Corporate Infotech gets 7 year contract from ONGC for IT infra services		
Publication	The Indian Community	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	19 Nov 2024		

Corporate Infotech gets 7 year contract from ONGC for IT infra services

https://www.theindiancommunity.org/news/corporate-infotech-gets-7-year-contract-from-ongc-for-it-infra-services.192918/

New Delhi, Nov 19 Technology solutions provider Corporate Infotech Pvt Ltd (CIPL) on Tuesday said it has bagged a seven-year contract from state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for an overhaul of its IT infrastructure.

CIPL said, "ONGC has awarded a contract worth Rs 98 crore to Corporate Infotech for on-premise IT infrastructure as a service (IaaS) on 'pay-per-use' model. The contract will be executed over a period of seven years in September. Will be executed by 2031." a statement.

The Noida-based company said the project aims to enhance ONGC's IT hardware infrastructure at its Corporate Infocomm Data Center (CIDC) in Delhi as well as its disaster recovery site in Vadodara, Gujarat.

As part of ONGC's digital transformation journey, the project will help future-proof the operations of the state-owned company by ensuring seamless data replication, disaster recovery and application management services.

Vinod Kumar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, CIPL, said, "This partnership underlines CIPL's expertise in handling complex IT infrastructure and its ability to deliver flexible, consumption-based solutions."

Incorporated in 2007, CIPL has grown to become one of the largest IT hardware solutions providers. The company has recently won a three-year contract worth Rs 114 crore from Indian Oil for comprehensive annual maintenance of IT infrastructure across all divisions of the public sector enterprises.

Headline	Russia's seaborne crude oil exports fall to lowest since September		
Publication	Business Standard	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	19 Nov 2024		

Russia's seaborne crude oil exports fall to lowest since September

https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/russia-s-seaborne-crude-oil-exports-fall-to-lowest-since-september-124111900940_1.html

By Julian Lee Russia's seaborne crude exports fell to the lowest since September, with shipments from the country's Baltic ports running well below last month's rate.

Four-week average flows slipped by about 150,000 barrels a day in the period to Nov. 17, driven lower by the biggest drop in weekly exports since early July.

This month's loading schedules for the main Baltic port of Primorsk are thinner than in October, with sixteen cargoes scheduled to load in the first 17 days of November, compared with 22 a month earlier. Russia's primary refining rate rose again in the second week of November, potentially reducing the volume of crude available for export. Overall shipments from Russia's western ports fell by almost 30 per cent from the previous week, while the number of tankers leaving the Pacific ports was unchanged. All cargoes leaving the eastern ports so far this month are headed to China, while the majority of those from export terminals in the Baltic, Black Sea and Arctic are set for India, with Turkey a distant second.

Elsewhere, the European Union is working on a new package of sanctions aimed at targeting the shadow fleet of tankers that Russia uses to get its oil to market. Member states are still negotiating the details, which need to be approved unanimously by the bloc's 27 countries. The move comes as one of the group, Slovakia, is seeking to prolong a sanctions exemption without which it would no longer be able to sell fuels in the neighboring Czech Republic that are produced from Russian crude delivered to its refinery by pipeline.

Crude Shipments

A total of 26 tankers loaded 19.8 million barrels of Russian crude in the week to Nov. 17, vessel-tracking data and port-agent reports show. The volume was down sharply from a revised 24.98 million barrels on 32 ships the previous week.

Daily crude flows in the week to Nov. 17 slumped by about 740,000 barrels to 2.83 million, dropping to their lowest since the first seven days of July. The decline was driven by lower flows from the country's Baltic, Black Sea and Arctic ports, while shipments from the Pacific remained unchanged.

Less volatile four-week average flows also fell, dropping to average 3.28 million barrels a day, with a decrease of 150,000 from the period to Nov. 10. That's the biggest drop since late-July.

Crude shipments so far this year are about 50,000 barrels a day, or 1.5 per cent, below the average for the whole of 2023.

One cargo of Kazakhstan's KEBCO crude was loaded at Novorossiysk on the Black Sea during the week.

Russia terminated its export targets at the end of May, opting instead to restrict production, in line with its partners in the OPEC+ oil producers' group. The country's output target is set at 8.978 million barrels a day until the end of December, after a planned easing of some output cuts was delayed for a second time.

Moscow also pledged to make deeper output cuts in October and November this year, then between March and September of 2025, to compensate for pumping above its OPEC+ quota earlier this year.

Export Value

The Kremlin's oil income slumped with a decrease in weekly-average prices for Russia's major crude streams adding to the effect of the lower export volume. Together they pushed the gross value of Moscow's exports down by about $380 million to $1.25 billion in the week to Nov. 17. That's the lowest since January.

The price drop was in line with broader falls for oil, as concerns about demand growth once again came to the fore.

Export values at Baltic ports were down week-on-week by about $2.80 a barrel. Prices for Black Sea loading Urals dropped by about $2.70 a barrel and key Pacific grade ESPO fell by about $2.50, compared with the previous week. Delivered prices in India were down by about $2.40 a barrel, all according to numbers from Argus Media.

Four-week average income also fell, dropping to about $1.47 billion a week, from a revised $1.55 billion in the period to Nov. 10.

On this basis, the price of Russia's shipments from the Baltic in the four weeks to Nov. 17 was down by almost $0.50 a barrel from the period to Nov. 10. Prices for key Pacific grade ESPO were lower by about $0.30 a barrel.

Flows by Destination

Asia: Observed shipments to Russia's Asian customers, including those showing no final destination, edged lower to 2.94 million barrels a day in the four weeks to Nov. 17.

About 1.3 million barrels a day of crude were loaded onto tankers heading to China. The Asian nation's seaborne imports are boosted by about 800,000 barrels a day of crude delivered from Russia by pipeline, either directly, or via Kazakhstan.

Flows on ships signaling destinations in India averaged 1.15 million barrels a day, down from a revised 1.32 million for the period to Nov. 10 and 1.4 million in the four weeks to Nov. 3.

Europe and Turkey: Russia's seaborne crude exports to European countries have ceased, with flows to Bulgaria halted at the end of last year. Moscow also lost about 500,000 barrels a day of pipeline exports to Poland and Germany at the start of 2023, when those countries stopped purchases.

Turkey is now the only short-haul market for shipments from Russia's western ports. Flows in the 28 days to Nov. 17 slipped back to about 340,000 barrels a day from the four-month high in the period to Nov. 10.

Headline	Oil settles flat as escalation of Ukraine war counters Sverdrup field restart		
Publication	Reuters	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	20 Nov 2024		

Oil settles flat as escalation of Ukraine war counters Sverdrup field restart

https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/oil-prices-ease-caution-prevails-over-russia-ukraine-war-2024-11-19/

Oil prices were broadly unchanged on Tuesday as signs of escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war kept investors cautious of supply disruptions, but the partial restart of production in Norway's Johan Sverdrup oilfield limited gains.

Brent crude futures rose by a cent to settle at $73.31 per barrel. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 0.3%, or 23 cents, to close at $69.39 a barrel.

For the first time, Ukraine used U.S. ATACMS missiles to strike Russian territory on Tuesday, Moscow said. Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov described the attack as a Western escalation. Russian President Vladimir Putin lowered the threshold for a possible nuclear strike.

"This marks a renewed build up in tensions in the Russia-Ukraine war and brings back into focus the risk of supply disruptions in the oil market," ANZ Bank analyst Daniel Hynes said.

Market watchers also pointed to signs of higher crude oil purchases by top importer China. China's crude imports are on track to end November at or close to all-time highs, StoneX energy analyst Alex Hodes said, referencing data from vessel tracker Kpler.

Weak imports by China so far this year have weighed heavily on oil prices, pulling Brent futures down 20% from their April peak of over $92 a barrel. China's crude oil imports in October fell from a year earlier for the sixth straight month.

China likely stepped up oil purchases this month as current prices offer relatively good value, Hodes said.

Limiting oil's ascent, Equinor (EQNR.OL), opens new tab resumed partial production from the Johan Sverdrup field in the North Sea, Western Europe's largest oilfield, the day after a power outage there contributed to a 3% surge in oil price benchmarks.

The restart and a stronger U.S. dollar weighed on market sentiment on Tuesday, UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said.

Oil prices also came under pressure after confidential reports by the U.N. nuclear watchdog, seen by Reuters, said Iran has offered to stop expanding its stock of uranium enriched to 60% purity, near the roughly 90% of weapons grade.

U.S. crude oil stockpiles rose by 4.75 million barrels in the week ended Nov. 15, market sources said on Tuesday citing figures from the American Petroleum Institute.

Analysts polled by Reuters on average expect to see a smaller build of around 100,000 barrels. The U.S. Energy Information Administration is scheduled to report official stockpiles data on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. EST.

Headline	Energy today has become spinal cord for economic growth and development: Hardeep Singh Puri		
Publication	The Bureaucrat	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	19 Nov 2024		

Energy today has become spinal cord for economic growth and development: Hardeep Singh Puri

https://bureaucrat.news/news-detail/energy-today-has-become-spinal-cord-for-economic-growth-and-development-hardeep-singh-puri

Says the government implements sweeping reforms to enhance Ease of Doing Business in Energy Sector.

Energy today has become the spinal cord for economic growth and development, said Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, during the inaugural ceremony of GEO India 2024, India's premier South Asian Geosciences Conference and Exhibition in Greater NoidA. In his keynote address, Puri highlighted the critical importance of energy in driving economic progress, especially in a country like India, where the demand for energy is increasing rapidly in line with its growing economy.

The Minister expressed his delight at being part of the event, which brings together leading experts from the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector both from India and abroad. GEO India 2024, organized by the Association of Petroleum Geologists, India, is the sixth edition of the conference and exhibition, with the theme Exploring New Dimensions of Energy Dynamics.

With India's fuel demand growing at three times the global average, Puri highlighted that 67 million people visit petrol pumps every day in India. This surging demand is expected to drive 25% of the global increase in energy consumption over the next two decades. Balancing the trilemma of availability, affordability, and sustainability is not only a priority but a commitment that we are meeting head-on with a focus on exploration, production, and energy security, he said.

India's energy landscape is rapidly evolving, with the country boasting 651.8 million metric tons of recoverable crude oil reserves and 1,138.6 billion cubic meters of recoverable natural gas reserves within its sedimentary basins. Despite these abundant resources, a significant portion of India's exploration potential remains untapped. Puri pointed out that when the current government took office in 2014, only 6% of India's sedimentary basins had been explored. Today, this figure has risen to 10%, and with further exploration activity under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) rounds, this is set to increase to 16% by 2025. By 2030, the government aims to expand the nation's exploration acreage to 1 million square kilometers, further bolstering India's energy security.

The Minister also outlined several significant reforms implemented under the current government to stimulate growth in India's energy sector. Key reforms include simplifying the approval process for exploration and production activities, reducing 37 approval processes to just 18, of which nine are now available for self-certification. Additionally, the introduction of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill in 2024 ensures policy stability for oil and gas producers, allows for international arbitration, and extends lease periods. Furthermore, the government has reduced No-Go areas in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by almost 99%, opening up vast new areas for exploration.

Puri also highlighted the shift from the previous regime's Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) to the new Revenue Sharing Contracts (RSCs), which provide greater clarity and predictability for investors. He emphasized the establishment of a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising stakeholders from private E&P companies, National Oil Companies, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) to address industry concerns and improve the ease of doing business.

Another key area of focus has been improving access to data concerning India's sedimentary basins. The government has made significant strides in facilitating data availability through initiatives like the National Seismic Programme (NSP) for onshore areas, EEZ surveys for offshore areas, and the opening up of previously unexplored regions such as the Andaman Basin. Puri noted that the government is also making data more accessible to international companies by setting up a new data centre at the University of Houston, enabling foreign firms to view critical geological data with ease.

The recent Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) bidding round IX marked a historic milestone, with 136,596 square kilometers of exploration area offered in 28 blocks across 8 sedimentary basins. Notably, 38% of the area offered in this round had previously been classified as No-Go areas. The round saw a strong response, with a total of 60 bids received for the 28 blocks, reflecting heightened interest from both Indian and foreign companies. The average number of bids per block increased to 2.4, compared to just 1.3 per block in the previous round.

Looking ahead, Puri expressed optimism about India's energy future, particularly in the field of green hydrogen. With projects focused on hydrogen blending in natural gas pipelines, the localization of electrolyser technologies, and the promotion of bio-pathways for green hydrogen production, India is positioning itself as a future global leader in green hydrogen production and exports. The Minister emphasized that green hydrogen is seen as the fuel of the future, and India is committed to becoming a global hub for its production.

GEO India 2024, is expected to draw around 2,000 participants and feature over 20 conference sessions, 4 plenary discussions, 200+ technical papers, and 50+ exhibition booths. I have great faith in the innovative minds of geoscientists to lead an energy revolution in India, ensuring energy security for every citizen and meeting future challenges, Puri said.

Puri encouraged the participants of GEO India 2024 to continue fostering innovation, embracing sustainability, and collaborating to address the challenges of the future.