INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 17, Size:(16.07)cms X (5.94)cms.

Carbon reduction cannot be achieved via EVs alone: Maruti

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

EVEN AS Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest carmaker, looks to introduce electric vehicles in its portfolio, the company said that carbon reduction targets in the short to medium term cannot be achieved through EVs alone.

"About 75 per cent of electricity is still generated by burning coal and demand for electricity is rising due to economic growth. In this decade, a mix of technologies is necessary to lower the carbon footprint," the company said in a presentation made to investors. Maruti Suzuki is projecting a requirement of 4 million production capacity by 2031, and its product mix will include petrol cars, electric vehicles, hybrid cars, cars using CNG, cars equipped for 20 per cent or more ethanol and possibly cars operating on compressed biogas.

This is in line with the technology-agnostic approach being sought by automakers such as Maruti Suzuki and Toyota Kirloskar Motor, which spells out emission objectives that manufacturers have to meet, irrespective of technology. And there are a lot of technologies to choose from. Currently, the Centre offers clear tax incentives for primarily one category of cars, with practically all other vehicular technological platforms clubbed together towards the upper end of the tax bracket. The government's electric mobility is largely focussed on battery electric vehicles as the platform of choice to replace the internal combustion engine vehicles, with Li-ion seen as the most viable battery option for now.

"This mixture of technologies is necessary in the context of meeting the carbon footprint targets and taking into account the buying power of customers, infrastructure situation, and the raw materials available in the country for generating clean power," Maruti Suzuki said.

The carmaker, which has yet to launch an electric vehicle in India unlike some of its biggest competitors, expects that around 20 per cent of cars sold by the company by 2031 would be EVs. Another 25 per cent could be hybrids and the rest would use ethanol, CNG and possibly CBG (Compressed Bio Gas).

With six new EV launches lined up, the carmaker's portfolio will swell from 17 offerings to around 28 models. The total capex required to aid future growth will be as much as Rs 1.25 lakh crore, the company told its investors.

The company is aiming to add 2 million additional capacity in the next seven years, with work already having started at Kharkhoda in Haryana where the first line of 250,000 units is expected to go into production in early 2025 and, which could reach a 1 million capacity in 2028. A second site for 1 million units is under selection and work will start in 2024.

ASIAN AGE, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(2.30)cms X (11.23)cms.

CENTRE FORMS COMMITTEE TO SEARCH NEW IOC CHAIRMAN

FC CORRESPONDENT
With input from agencies
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

The Centre has constituted a three-member committee for selection of the new IOC head. It will be headed by the government head-hunter Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) chairperson and include the oil secretary as a member. However, no timeframe has been set.

The government in August gave a one-year post-retirement extension to IOC's incumbent chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya. Vaidya, who took over as the chairman of IOC on July 1, 2020, was to retire after attaining the superannuation age of 60 years at August-end. His current contract is till August 31, 2024, or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

The oil ministry recommended an extension of service for Vaidya after PESB in May did not make any recommendation for the next chairperson of IOC after interviewing 10 candidates.

Conflict Won't Hurt Oil Supplies to India: Puri

Sanjeev.Choudhary
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New Delhi: The Israel-Palestine conflict will not hurt crude oil supplies to India, petroleum and natural minister Hardeep Puri said on Monday, adding that the government is watching the situation very carefully.

Oil prices rose around 3% on Monday to $87 per barrel, following an armed conflict between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas which left more than 1,000 people dead in three days. Prices were still lower than the $95 per barrel reached two weeks ago.

"The place where the action is taking place is in many respects the centre of the global energy industry. So, we will watch very carefully. And I think as we go along, we will navigate our way through this," said Puri.

India will continue to get its oil supplies, he said. "Today the world that you are facing is not a world which is characterised by shortage of crude," Puri said. "I mean the amount of crude oil that is required to sustain the current level of consumption, which is about 100 or 102 million barrels a day (mbd), is available. But some five mbd has been taken off the market. So that's the issue."

FILE PHOTO

CLOSE VIGIL

The place where the action is taking place is in the centre of the global energy industry. So, we will watch very carefully and navigate our way through this

HARDEEP PURI
Petroleum and Natural minister

Puri has been underlining the point that artificial production cuts by OPEC+, the group of nearly two dozen oil-producing countries led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, were pushing up oil prices, causing hardships to economies like India which depend largely on imports for energy.

Petroleum and natural gas ministry officials and industry executives said if the conflict escalates and spreads to some producing countries or hinders sea transport, both supply and prices will be affected. "Traders worry about daily prices. For us, monthly average prices are important," said a refinery executive, who did not wish to be identified. "If the conflict subsides in a few days and prices cool off, it would have no significance for refiners."

Sustained higher prices, however, would translate into lower or negative marketing margins for refiners as domestic retail prices have been hard to revise.

A government official said if ships are hit or the sea lanes are hindered in some way, there will be a price spike.

"The US would want to keep oil prices in check and avoid any measure that curbs global supply," said a refinery executive, adding that the Biden administration wouldn't like the US pump prices to rise going into the election year.

Another industry executive said on condition of anonymity that it's hard to predict how the conflict will evolve as it is not just about the two warring parties but involves the geopolitical ambitions of many regional powers such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, which are seeking to be leaders of the Muslim world.

BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 3, Size:(29.28)cms X (7.55)cms.

Crude prices above $100/bbl not sustainable: Oil Minister

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Emphasising that the world today is not categorised by a shortage of crude oil, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said oil prices above $100 per barrel (bbl) will not be sustainable.

Speaking to presspersons on the sidelines of the 26th annual Energy Technology Meet (ETM), Puri said oil producers have the sovereign right to increase or decrease crude oil prices, but this would lead to a faster pace of energy transition in the consuming countries.

"Today, I think if you see global turbulence, which you are seeing now, I made this point at the ADIPEC oil and gas conference in Abu Dhabi also. I told them categorically that it's entirely your call on how much you want to sell, etc, but be under no mistake that if the price crosses a threshold and it feeds the inflationary situation with all the efforts at interest rates rising, etc, you will reach a 2008 like situation. Today, energy prices are crucial for a global recovery. Somebody asked me what the threshold is. Last time in 2008 it crossed $100 a barrel. Can't keep it above $100, it will not work," the Minister said.

$100/BARREL PRICES

Citing examples, Puri pointed to India achieving its 10 per cent ethanol blending target before the deadline. "We reached the target of 10 per cent ethanol blending five months in advance. Now, we are at 12 per cent, and the target of 20 per cent by 2025 can be achieved easily. The international community is serious and the governments are serious. So, suddenly, biofuels are coming of age. Ultimately, it is a choice between fossil fuels and biofuels," he added.

The ETM is organised by the Centre for High Technology (CHT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, with Engineers India (EIL) and Numaligarh Refinery (NRL) as co-hosts.

Earlier this month, Puri emphasised that oil prices above $100 a barrel will lead to "organised chaos".

ISRAEL-HAMAS STIR

Puri said the government is closely monitoring the situation in West Asia. "India will handle it with maturity. The Prime Minister's statement is very clear. So far as energy is concerned, let us be absolutely clear that the place where the action is taking place is in many respects the centre of global energy. We will watch carefully as we go along, we will navigate our way through this. These kinds of uncertainties only encourage people to move into sustainable, cleaner fuels. I cited the global biofuel alliance as an example," he added.

On the impact of the conflict on crude oil prices, the Minister said "Today, the world is not categorised by shortage of crude oil. I mean the amount of crude oil that is required to sustain current levels of consumption, which is about 100 or 102 million barrels per day (mb/d). That is available, but some 5 mb/d has been taken off the market. So that is the issue. It is a sovereign choice and we respect those who decide. But, equally when we have to exercise a choice, we'll take the transition quicker."

TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 17, Size:(10.72)cms X (11.56)cms.

Fuel price hike unlikely despite 5% crude spike

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Israel-Hamas conflict will send India's state-run fuel retailers back to square one as the Centre is unlikely to allow an increase in pump rates in the face of resurgent oil prices renewing inflation worries ahead of crucial state polls.

Benchmark Brent crude spiked over 5% to $89 a barrel before settling at $87.8 on Monday, reversing last week's downward trend that saw oil sliding 11% in the sharpest weekly fall since March.

There is no immediate risk of supply disruption as Israel is not a major oil producer, but there are concerns that the situation could raise tensions across West Asia and prompt stricter enforcement of Iranian oil, tightening market balance. "Increasing geopolitical risk in the Middle East should support oil prices... higher volatility can be expected," ANZ Bank said in a client note.

> India will handle this with maturity. **We will navigate through this.** These kinds of uncertainties only encourage people to (switch to) sustainable and cleaner fuels
>
> **Hardeep Singh Puri**
> OIL MINISTER

Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri exuded confidence of India navigating through the situation and handling the country's energy needs. "India will handle this with maturity. We will navigate through this. These kinds of uncertainties only encourage people to (switch to) sustainable and cleaner fuels," he told reporters.

But volatility will test the government's inflation and fiscal management in an election year. Raising prices at this juncture will stoke inflation and give the opposition ground to target the ruling party in polls.

This will leave the state-run fuel retailers holding the can as margins on petrol and diesel will turn negative once again on continued freeze on retail rates. The three dominant state retailers — IOC, HPCL and BPCL — had suffered a combined loss of Rs 21,000 crore in the first half due to frozen fuel prices through oil's high run.

Subsequent easing in oil prices had turned the margins positive but the government allowed the retailers to continue the freeze on retail rates for recouping past losses, leading to healthy profits in the June quarter. Last week's sharp fall in oil prices, which came after a surge to $97 per barrel in end-September, raised hopes of further relief, which appears short-lived. Since India meets 85% of oil needs through imports, costlier crude will squeeze the government's legroom for social welfare spending by inflating the import and subsidy bills.

HINDU, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 13, Size:(27.21)cms X (20.35)cms.

Gaza strife raises worries for inflation, fiscal math, rupee

Global crude oil prices surged more than 3% on Monday even as stocks tanked amid a risk-averse stance from investors who rushed to safe-haven assets such as gold

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

A protracted Israel-Hamas conflict could spur oil prices beyond India's comfort zone and even if the government holds retail fuel prices ahead of critical elections, wholesale prices may spike and a higher import bill could pressure the rupee, experts said.

Brent crude oil prices rose over 3% on Monday, crossing $87 a barrel even as equity markets around the world, including India, came under pressure as investors turned risk-averse and rushed to safe haven assets like gold. Fears of a wider conflict between Israel and Hamas not only pulled down the NSE Nifty 0.72% or 141.2 points to 19,512.4, but also dragged trading volumes on the NSE to "the lowest in many weeks", said Deepak Jasani, head of retail research at HDFC Securities.

On slippery wicket: With elections around the corner, higher fuel costs may have to be borne by OMCs or the exchequer. REUTERS

Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis said if the war persists for even a fortnight or more, the oil dynamics will change. Crude oil prices going beyond $90 a barrel would pose trouble.

For the Centre, there could be fiscal implications. With State and general elections looming, raising fuel prices may be an unlikely option, but higher costs will have to be borne by oil marketing firms or the exchequer.

India's hope of respite in oil prices dashed

S DINAKAR
Amritsar, 9 October

The ongoing Hamas-Israel conflict has disrupted India's efforts to gain from a recent fall in crude oil prices. Since Hamas' invasion of southern Israel on October 7, petroleum has become costlier by around $5 per barrel, threatening to stoke prices and impact growth.

Brent crude was trading at $89.8 per barrel on Monday (9.15 pm IST), up over 4 per cent, thwarting India's anticipation of a period of declining oil prices — after the leading global petroleum benchmark declined by around 11 per cent last week.

The price of Brent crude had collapsed by around $12 per barrel -- from $96.6 a barrel on September 27 to $84.6 on October 6, a day before the Hamas attack.

"Oil prices have gone up a bit because the markets are very anxious, but there is no panic--I mean, not yet," said Narendra Taneja, a Delhi-based prominent energy expert. "However, if it escalates into a full-blown war in the region, then there will be panic, pushing up oil prices," further. The surge in oil prices is the risk premium in the market.

The region where the conflict is occurring is the centre of global energy, said India's oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday. He expressed confidence that the country would navigate through this.

However, that won't be easy because India imports over 85 per cent of its crude needs and has traditionally been susceptible to volatility in the oil market. Strategic crude reserves, which typically aid a nation during wars and calamities, at 39 million barrels provide for only around 7.5 days of India's crude requirement, according to government data.

The growing conflict in West Asia threatens to further impact India's fiscal and balance of payments position, which was already suffering from surging oil prices since August, and hinder New Delhi's efforts to control inflation. The Indian crude oil basket, a mix of Gulf sour and Brent sweet grades, averaged $93.54 a barrel last month.

``While an immediate risk to oil flow as a direct result from the conflict is not foreseen but there is a risk that the conflict may turn into a larger proxy war involving larger global powers which can have a spiraling effect," said Sourav Mitra, practice leader and director, at ratings agency Crisil. ``As far as India is concerned, an increase of $10 per barrel in oil prices can lead to a 45 to 60 basis point increase in CPI." While the loss sharing between OMCs and the government is slightly opaque, one can expect a 10 percent oil price rise to negatively impact India's growth by 0.09% to 0.11%, Mitra added.

At 4.2 million barrels a day in imports of crude in September, according to market intelligence agency Kpler data, it looked like India would have saved $50 million every day, and around $1.5 billion a month if Brent had continued to remain low in October. But as of Monday, India will pay around $17 million more every day, and half a billion dollars more on crude imports for the month.

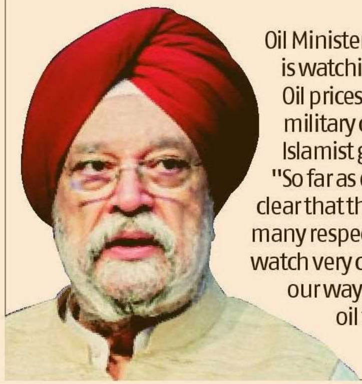
India's rising import costs are conservative, based on the assumption that the conflict deflates quickly and Brent crude stabilises. However, ANZ Bank warned in a client note that oil prices will be supported by increasing geopolitical risk in West Asia and will be accompanied by higher volatility.

Earnings at refiners are already looking weak for the July-September quarter, but a crash in oil prices earlier this month gave hope to state-run oil companies that they can make up for lower profits in last quarter by performing better during this quarter (Q3FY24), said a Mumbai-based refiner. Given the Assembly polls in five states in November and the Lok Sabha election in 2024, the official expects negative marketing margins to continue this financial year because New Delhi will veto any proposed hike in pump prices of petrol and diesel.

"We expect OMC (oil marketing company) results to be operationally weaker for July-September, owing to a sharp fall in marketing gains of petrol and diesel due to the rise in benchmark prices," said Mumbai-based brokerage Prabhudas Lilladher in a note today. State OMCs likely have incurred a marketing loss of Rs2-6 a litre at a gross level during July-September 2023 due to high diesel crack spreads in the international market, said Paras Pal, senior analyst at India Ratings & Research.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Cabinet have declared a war on Hamas, and launched airstrikes in Gaza. It is unclear how far this battle will continue, especially considering that what one expected was a short war between Russia and Ukraine has soldiered on for 19 months.

Watching situation in Israel closely: Puri



Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said India is watching the situation closely in Israel.

Oil prices rose over $3 a barrel on Monday following military clashes between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas.

"So far as energy is concerned, let us be absolutely clear that the place where the action is taking place is in many respects the centre of global energy. We will watch very carefully as we go along, we will navigate our way through this," he said. He also said Indian oil firm are targeting net zero by 2046 as they decarbonise operations. PTI

India watching military conflict in the Middle East closely, says Puri

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

INDIA, THE world's third-biggest oil importer, is watching the ongoing conflict in the Middle East closely, the country's oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

Oil prices rose over $3 a barrel on Monday as military clashes between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas deepened political uncertainty across the Middle East and raised concerns about supplies.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri. *File*

"The place where action is taking place is in many respects the centre of global energy... as we go along we will navigate through this," Puri told reporters at an industry event in New Delhi.

Global uncertainties of such nature encourage people to use sustainable, cleaner fuels, Puri said, adding that $100 per barrel crude oil prices was unsustainable. Higher oil prices typically lead to surge in inflation and hurts growth in large-scale importer like India.

Last week, India had urged oil producers to show "sensitivity" towards consuming countries, hit by prices largely trading above $90 a barrel since Saudi Arabia and Russia decided to extend voluntary cuts to year-end.

Talking about biofuel in India, he said, "We reached the target of 10 per cent ethanol blending five months beforehand. Now we are at 12 per cent, and the target of 20 per cent by 2025 can be achieved easily".

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(16.54)cms X (10.37)cms.

Indian oil companies targeting net zero ahead of deadline: Minister Hardeep Puri

NEW DELHI: Indian oil companies are targeting net zero by 2046 as they decarbonise operations to cut emissions and transition to cleaner fuels, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

While India has pledged net zero carbon emissions by 2070, state-owned companies have set targets ranging from 2038 (ONGC) to 2046 (IOC).

"Indian energy sector is on the cusp of a transition and is rapidly moving towards the centre of global oil and energy market as we are set to become a $5 trillion economy," Puri said, addressing the 26th Energy Technology Meet here.

India's energy demand, he said, will continue to provide fuel for future economic growth.

India is the world's 3rd largest consumer of oil, 3rd largest LPG consumer, 4th largest LNG importer, 4th largest refiner, and 4th largest automobile market.

The country is likely to account for 25 per cent of global energy demand growth over the next two decades, he said.

While the oil demand grows, Indian companies have set ambitious net zero emission targets.

The transition, he said, will be a gradual shift from fossil fuels to cleaner fuels and renewables.

The minister said high oil prices accelerate the energy transition.

On the Israel-Palestine conflict, he said India is watching the situation closely.

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Talking about biofuel in India, he said, "We reached the target of 10 per cent ethanol blending five months beforehand. Now we are at 12 per cent, and the target of 20 per cent by 2025 can be achieved easily".

India today is the 4th largest refiner having a refining capacity of 254 million tonnes per annum after the United States, China and Russia. This refining capacity is further being increased to 310 million tonnes by 2028 with a view to becoming a major refining hub for exports of refinery products.

On the recently launched Global Biofuels Alliance, he said this presents a $500 billion opportunity globally as the less polluting fuel is taken up globally. PTI

PIONEER, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(18.44)cms X (14.17)cms.

Indian oil firms targeting net zero ahead of deadline: Puri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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Israel Orders Shutdown of Key Gas Field

Jerusalem: Israel ordered the shutdown of a major gas field run by Chevron Corp, citing safety concerns after violence erupted at the weekend.

"Our top priority is the safety of our personnel, the communities in which we operate, the environment and our facilities," Chevron said in an emailed statement. The company is still supplying customers in Israel and in the region from another major project called Leviathan, Chevron said.

FILE PHOTO

Gas discoveries in Israel over the last two decades have transformed the economy and turned it into an exporter of the fuel. Some of the supply goes to Egypt which in turn pushes it to Europe, just as the continent was seeking alternatives to Russian pipeline flows.

Tamar's stoppage may result in lower onward shipments or even delays after Egypt planned to resume liquefied natural gas exports this month just ahead of the European winter. Gas prices in Europe were trading 11% higher. **Bloomberg**

Oil consumption to jump 16% in 2 decades: OPEC

Bloomberg

OPEC raised forecasts for global oil demand through to the middle of the century, even as the world shifts away from fossil fuels to avert catastrophic climate change.

Oil consumption will climb 16 per cent over the next two decades to reach 116 million barrels a day in 2045, about 6 million a day more than previously predicted, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said in its World Oil Outlook.

Road transportation, petrochemicals and aviation will drive the growth, it said. India represents the biggest expansion, more than doubling its consumption to almost 12 million barrels a day, followed by China, with a gain of 4 million a day, or 26 per cent.

"There has been pushback against the opinion that the world should see the back of fossil fuels, as policies and targets for other energies falter due to costs and a more nuanced understanding of the scale of the energy challenges," OPEC Secretary-General Haitham Al Ghais said.

Western leaders are re-evaluating climate policies as they face voters exhausted by inflation, with the UK last month delaying a ban on petrol car sales. Energy companies BP Plc and Shell Plc have shifted their focus back to their traditional oil and gas businesses after experimenting with a faster switch to renewable energy.

Yet few consider unabated use of hydrocarbons on the timeframe envisioned by OPEC as tenable.

MINT, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(3.68)cms X (21.27)cms.

Opec ups long-term forecast for oil demand

Bloomberg
feedback@livemint.com

Opec raised forecasts for global oil demand through to the middle of the century, even as the world shifts away from fossil fuels to avert catastrophic climate change.

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Yet few consider unabated use of hydrocarbons on the timeframe envisioned by Opec as tenable.

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 5, Size:(38.88)cms X (13.18)cms.

Primary energy demand in India will more than double by 2045: Opec

World Oil Outlook 2023 says India will require 38.5 million barrels of oil equivalent per day (mboe/d) in 2045

India's primary energy demand will nearly more than double to 38.5 million barrels of oil equivalent per day (mboe/d) in 2045, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has said in its 2023 World Oil Outlook. However, it will remain half of China's 77.4 mboe/d.

Released on Monday, the annual report says global primary energy demand is set to increase from around 291 mboe/d in 2022 to close to 359 mboe/d in 2045, an increase of 68.3 mboe/d, or 23 percent over the outlook period. Of this, around 28 percent of the demand growth in non-OECD economies will originate in India, the report said. India's energy demand will also reach 10 per cent of global demand, up from 6.6 per cent currently.

Overall, energy demand is set to decline in Europe and stagnate in both Asia Pacific and Americas near current levels. As a result, energy demand growth will be driven by the non-OECD region, which is set to increase by 69 mboe/d over the outlook period. With average long-term growth of 6.1 percent per annum, India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major developing country. China and India alone are set to account for more than a third of the global economy in 2045.

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY

	Primary energy demand (Million barrels of oil equivalent per day)				Share of world demand(%)	
Region	2022	2025	2045	Growth**	2022	2045
OECD Americas	55.4	55.4	55.9	0	19.0	15.6
OECD Europe	33.7	34	32	-0.2	11.6	8.9
OECD Asia Pacific	17.5	17.7	18	0.1	6.0	5.0
Total OECD	**106.6**	**107.1**	**105.9**	**0**	**36.7**	**29.5**
India	**19.2**	**21.3**	**38.5**	**3.1**	6.6	10.7
China	71.3	75.2	77.4	0.4	24.5	21.6
Russia	15.7	15.5	15.2	-0.1	5.4	4.2
OPEC	20.3	22.8	34.7	2.4	7.0	9.7
Total Non-OECD	**184.3**	**196.8**	**253.3**	**1.4**	**64.3**	**70.5**
World*	290.9	303.9	359.2	0.9	100	100

Note: * Total doesn't add up since other regions not shown; **till 2045 (% p.a)

Source : OPEC

Rising energy costs to weigh on India Inc

BS REPORTERS
Mumbai, 9 October

India Inc is bracing for a stormy time ahead as rising energy costs are expected to increase the expenses for all companies and stoke inflation after the Hamas attack on Israel sent jitters through worldwide markets, including oil prices, on Monday.

Barring a few companies like Adani Ports, which acquired Haifa Ports in January this year for $1.2 billion, and Sun Pharmaceuticals, which owns a stake in Taro Pharmaceuticals Industries, not many Indian companies have direct exposure to Israel.

An Adani Ports & SEZ (APSEZ) statement said the company was closely monitoring the situation at its port, which is situated in the North, far away from the conflict zone. The contribution of Haifa Port to the APSEZ's total cargo volume is relatively small at 3 per cent.

"For this financial year, we have guided for Haifa cargo volumes in the range of 10-12 million tonnes (mt) and APSEZ's total cargo volume guidance of 370-390 mt. In the initial six months, the APSEZ's total cargo volume was 203 mt, of which the Haifa share was 6 mt. We remain confident in the APSEZ's business performance," the spokesperson said. APSEZ stock closed 4.8 per cent down, while the BSE Sensex was down 0.73 per cent.

"We have taken measures to ensure the safety of our employees, and all of them are safe. We remain fully alert and prepared with a business continuity plan that will enable us to respond effectively to any eventuality," the spokesperson said.

Sun Pharmaceuticals did not comment, but the Israel-based company had reported sales of $573 million in the financial year ended March 2023 and a profit of $25.4 million. While some Indian pharmaceutical companies export their products to Israel, analysts said the volume was negligible. Officials of top IT firms said Indian IT firms do not have any exposure to Israel.

Interestingly, Indian oil and gas production companies like ONGC and Reliance Industries would significantly benefit from the sharp spike in crude oil prices. Analysts said companies involved in the oil production and exploration would benefit from the 5 per cent higher crude oil prices, while industries that rely heavily on energy consumption may face challenges.

BLOOD ON BOURSES

Company	CMP (₹)	% change (One-day)
Oil India	311.2	5.2
Oil & Natural Gas Corp	181.8	0.2
Sun Pharmaceutical Industries	1,123.2	-0.3
Indian Oil Corp	87.5	-2.6
Adani Ports & SEZ	789.9	-4.9

Source: Exchange
Compiled by BS Research Bureau

This war isn't a 1973 replay for oil but it could still turn ugly

Crude risks hinge on whether Iran gets dragged into the hostilities

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What Israel makes of Hamas's backing may move crude oil prices REUTERS

History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes. [So close to] the 50th anniversary of the world's first oil crisis, parallels between October 2023 and October 1973 are easy to draw: A surprise attack on Israel and global prices of crude oil rising. But the resemblance between the two ends there.

The global economy today is not about to suffer another Arab oil embargo that would triple the price of a barrel of crude. Yet, it would be a mistake to downplay the chances that the world faces higher-for-longer oil prices.

The situation right now is fluid, and for the oil market, everything depends on how Israel responds to the Palestinian group Hamas, which launched the attack on Saturday morning, 6 October, and to Iran, which typically pulls the strings of that group. Still [even as crude prices rise], we can draw a few tentative conclusions at this point:

One, the crisis is not a repeat of October 1973: Arab countries aren't attacking Israel in unison. Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab world are watching the events from the sidelines, not shaping them.

Two, the oil market itself does not have any of the pre-October 1973 characteristics: Back then, half a century ago, global oil demand was surging and the world had largely exhausted its spare production capacity. [The scenario differs now.] Oil consumption growth has moderated and is likely to slow further as electric vehicles (EVs) become a reality around the world. In addition, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have significant spare capacity that they use to curb prices, if they choose to do so.

Three, as importantly, today, members of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) aren't trying to boost prices beyond a few extra dollars: Saudi Arabia [with its heavy sway over OPEC] would be content with oil prices rising another 10-20% higher, to just above $100 a barrel from around $85 currently, rather than pushing them more than 100% higher to $200 a barrel. Just before the October 1973 oil embargo, OPEC nations had unilaterally hiked the official petroleum prices by about 70%. Although the embargo is the element most vividly remembered of the crisis, the price hike was as crucial.

Four, the fallout could yet have an impact on oil markets in 2023 and 2024.: The most immediate impact could come if Israel concludes that Hamas acted on instructions of Tehran. In that scenario, oil prices could go much higher. In 2019, Iran demonstrated, via Yemeni proxies, that it's able to knock down a significant chunk of Saudi oil production capacity. It could do the same as retaliation if it finds itself under Israel or American attack.

Five, even if Israel doesn't immediately respond to Iran, the repercussions will likely affect Iranian oil production: Since late 2022, Washington has turned a blind eye to surging Iranian oil exports, bypassing American sanctions. The priority in Washington was an informal détente with Tehran. As a result, Iranian oil output has surged nearly 700,000 barrels a day this year, the second-largest source of incremental supply in 2023, behind only US shale. The White House is now likely to enforce those sanctions. That could be enough to push oil prices to $100 a barrel, and potentially beyond.

Six, Russia will benefit from any Middle East oil crisis. If Washington enforces sanctions against Iran, it could create space for Russia's own sanctioned barrels to both win market share and achieve higher prices. One of the reasons why the White House turned a blind eye on Iranian oil exports is because it hurt Russia. In turn, Venezuela could also benefit, with the White House relaxing sanctions to ease market pressure.

Seven, the Saudi-Israeli diplomatic deal, which many had pencilled in for early-to-mid 2024, is a casualty: Even if Riyadh is likely furious with Hamas, it's difficult to see how Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman would be able to sell the deal domestically. That, in turn, [goes against] the potential for Riyadh pumping out more oil to help the passage of a deal in Washington. The other victim of the Hamas-Israel war is the recent Saudi-Iranian rapprochement, which itself was another bearish element for oil.

Eight, finally, a key difference from 1973, Washington can tap its Strategic Petroleum Reserve to limit the impact on American gasoline prices—and on President Joe Biden's approval rating. If oil prices surge because of tensions in the Middle East, the White House is sure to tap the SPR. Although it's at its lowest level in 40 years, the reserve still has enough oil to deal with another crisis. ©BLOOMBERG

कच्चे तेल के दाम में भी जोरदार इजाफा

इस युद्ध के असर से कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में भी तेज इजाफा हुआ है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कच्चा तेल 3.32 प्रतिशत के बड़े उछाल के साथ 87.39 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर पहुंच गया। वैश्विक तेल मानक ब्रेंट क्रूड 3.68 प्रतिशत की बढ़त के साथ 87.69 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर पहुंच गया। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि अगर यह युद्ध पश्चिम एशिया में फैलता है तो फिर तेल की कीमतों में अप्रत्याशित उछाल देखने को मिल सकता है। भारत के लिए अभी स्थिति देखो और इंतजार करने वाली बनी हुई है।

PUNJAB KESARI, Delhi, 10.10.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(4.50)cms X (12.62)cms.

तेल कंपनियां शुद्ध-शून्य का लक्ष्य पाने की कोशिश में : पुरी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने सोमवार को कहा कि भारतीय तेल कंपनियां वर्ष 2046 तक शुद्ध-शून्य उत्सर्जन का लक्ष्य लेकर चल रही हैं और वे उत्सर्जन में कटौती एवं स्वच्छ ईंधन को अपनाने के लिए अभियान चला रही हैं। हालांकि भारत ने शुद्ध-शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन हासिल करने के लिए वर्ष 2070 का लक्ष्य रखा है। लेकिन सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनियां इसे वर्ष 2038 से लेकर 2046 तक ही हासिल करने के लक्ष्य लेकर आगे बढ़ रही हैं।

पुरी ने यहां 26वीं ऊर्जा प्रौद्योगिकी बैठक को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि भारतीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्र बदलाव के शिखर पर है और तेजी से वैश्विक तेल तथा ऊर्जा बाजार का केंद्र बनने की ओर बढ़ रहा है क्योंकि हम पांच हजार अरब डॉलर की अर्थव्यवस्था बनने के लिए तैयार हैं।