FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 21, Size:(5.36)cms X (21.34)cms.

Fossil fuels contribute 20% of India's inflation

ESHA ROY
New Delhi, February 17

FOSSIL FUEL-RELATED items – transport and household energy – contributed about 20% to India's annual rate of inflation between April and May 2022, according to a report published by Cambridge Econometrics' Fossil Fuel Prices and Inflation in India'. India's annual inflation rate was 7-8% during the period.

According to the report, between January 2021 and August 2022, fuel and power prices rose nearly five times faster (57%) than overall consumer prices in the country (12%). This was reflected in consumer spending. Households in the Delhi region, for instance, are estimated to have spent 25% more on fuels and electricity in 2022 than in 2021, and nearly 50% more – around ₹4,100 – than in 2020. For rural households, this was even more pronounced "given their higher spendings on energy in proportion to their income", the report said.

"This is despite the fact that the Indian government budgeted the equivalent of about 0.5% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) to shield households from the full impact of global fossil fuel price hikes," it says.

It may be recalled that the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group discussions held in Bengaluru recently suggested the possibility of continued usage of fossil fuels for another 15-20 years.

FINANCIAL EXPRE
READ TO

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 5, Size:(17.67)cms X (8.69)cms.

Congress questions govt over IOC's 'unfavourable' contract to hire Adani-owned port for LPG imports

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Friday alleged that the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) had been importing LPG via the government-run Visakhapatnam Port but was now being made to use the Adani-owned Gangavaram Port through an "unfavourable" contract.

The allegation came a day after IOC took to Twitter to clarify its initial pact for hiring the Adani Group port for LPG imports in addition to existing pacts with nearby ports, saying there is no take-or-pay agreement.

The IOC's statement, which came in response to TMC leader Mahua Moitra raising a stink of a scam in hiring of the port facility without a tender, contradicted Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited's earning call presentation that said "MoU signed with IOCL for a take-or-pay contract at Gangavaram Port for building LPG handling facilities."

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, as part of the party's 'Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun' (How are we related to Adani) series, under which it poses three questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Twitter every day, said he had questioned the PM's role in facilitating an Adani Group "monopoly" in the ports sector earlier and Friday's questions were a follow up and related to the IOC agreement to use the LPG facilities in the Gangavaram Port.

"It is now widely known that you (PM) have used all the means at your disposal to help Adani (Group) expand its ports business, whether by giving port concessions in the absence of bidding or by inflicting income tax raids on business groups to encourage them to sell their valuable assets to Adani," Ramesh alleged in his statement.

He asked the prime minister why he was "intentionally undermining" the public sector that his government was meant to be stewarding on behalf of the citizens of India.

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(9.13)cms X (20.89)cms.

Abu Dhabi state gas firm to sell 4% of shares in IPO

DUBAI: The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's gas processing firm said Friday it plans to sell 4 per cent of its shares to local investors in the latest initial public offering to be made by a state-run energy company in the Middle East.

The move follows a similar IPO by the Saudi oil giant Aramco in 2019 that raised some 30 billion, and comes months before the United Arab Emirates is set to host this year's U.N. climate talks.

The UAE, which is home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, selected Sultan al-Jaber, the CEO of ADNOC, who also oversees renewable energy projects, to chair the COP28, angering climate change activists.

ADNOC has access to 95% of the UAE's natural gas reserves, the world's seventh largest. It supplies gas to more than 60% of the local market and exports to more than 20 countries. The company had a net income of 4.2 billion in the first 10 months of 2022, up from 3.6 billion in all of 2021.

It plans to list over 3 billion shares on the Abu Dhabi stock exchange for purchase by local investors starting Feb. 23.

"Natural gas is central to the energy transition," Khaled Al Zaabi, acting group CFO of ADNOC, said in a press release. "ADNOC Gas is well-positioned to responsibly harness our significant natural gas resources, while driving efficiencies, delivering value, and reliably supplying this key fuel to meet the world's growing energy needs."

Highlights

» The move follows a similar IPO by the Saudi oil giant Aramco in 2019 that raised some 30 billion, and comes months before the United Arab Emirates is set to host this year's U.N. climate talks

» The UAE, which is home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, selected Sultan al-Jaber, the CEO of ADNOC, who also oversees renewable energey projects, to chair the COP28, angering climate change activists

ADNOC Gas boasts a total gas processing capacity of over 10 billion standard cubic feet per day and a liquid processing capacity of 29 million tonnes per year. ADNOC announced the discovery of up to 2 trillion standard cubic feet of gas in an offshore area in February 2022.

Oil and gas have powered the UAE's rapid transformation into a high-tech global business hub home to futuristic cities and one of the world's busiest airports. Analysts believe the Emirates is trying to maximize its profits as the world increasingly turns to renewables. The Emirates says it has invested more than 50 billion in renewable energy projects across 70 countries and plans to invest 50 billion more in the next decade. It has also vowed to become carbon neutral by 2050, though it's unclear how it would reach that target. AGENCIES

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(14.68)cms X (5.34)cms.

Russian Oil Imports Surge to Record High in Jan

Reuters

New Delhi: Russian oil imports climbed to a record 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) in January, up 9.2% from December, with Moscow still the top monthly oil seller to New Delhi, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia, data from trade sources showed.

Last month Russian oil accounted for about 27% of the 5 million bpd of crude imported by India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, the data showed.

India's oil imports typically rise in December and January as state-run refiners avoid maintenance shutdowns in the first quarter to meet their annual production targets fixed by the government.

Refiners in India, which rarely used to buy Russian oil because of costly logistics, have emerged as Russia's key oil client, snapping up discounted crude shunned by Western nations since the invasion of Ukraine last February.

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(7.05)cms X (10.50)cms.

Deepwater Exploration Tempting: Mackenzie

Our Bureau

COLLABORATION

Major cos like ExxonMobil, Total and Chevron are looking at deepwater opportunities with ONGC: Report

New Delhi: Wood Mackenzie, a research and consultancy firm, Friday said it believes the risk-reward balance in India's deepwater exploration is "sufficiently tempting" to bring in the industry's big players led by the government reforms and ease of doing business in the recent years.

"There is alignment and agreement from the PM's (India) office down to the regulator that more offshore exploration is needed," a report said.

The report added that owing to the availability of new unexplored blocks and attractive fiscal terms, major companies like ExxonMobil, Total and Chevron are looking at deepwater opportunities with state-owned ONGC Ltd.

Greater participation by the major companies in India's energy sector has long been heralded, but often stalled due to a challenging investment environment, it's said.

India's vast energy market holds many attractions. The scale and growth and a compelling decarbonisation narrative as gas is required to displace coal, the report added.

With fiscal and regulatory enhancements, the government is ensuring more offshore exploration, to secure affordable, sustainable and secure supplies of energy, it said while explaining the reasons of the major international players being interested in India's deepwater.

BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 2, Size:(20.56)cms X (17.99)cms.

BPCL, VoltUp to set up 650 battery swapping stations across 50 cities

Our Bureau
New Delhi

State-run Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) has partnered with battery-as-a-service (BaaS) start-up, VoltUp, to set up 650 swapping stations with over 7,800 charging docks across 50 cities in the next three years.

On Friday, VoltUp launched three battery swapping stations in BPCL retail outlets in Mumbai and by next year, it will install 150 swapping stations across India in association with BPCL, the company said in a statement.

"In the next three years, VoltUp and BPCL shall cover top 50 cities, including Delhi NCR, Pune, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Indore Surat, and Kolkata, among others, which contribute around 40 per cent of the automotive population," the Mumbai-based firm said.

SMART SWAP. By next year, VoltUp will install 150 swapping stations in association with BPCL

The VoltUp–BPCL partnership will be catering to battery swapping of over 45,000 electric 2- and 3-wheelers per day, in the next three years.

With the addition of new locations in Mumbai, VoltUp now has over 110 stations with over 1,300 docks across 10 cities and 8 states.

Adoption of swappable battery e-2 wheelers is rising with delivery agents opting for minimal downtime and low running cost. With Mumbai being one of the early adopters of e-2 wheelers with swappable batteries, VoltUp has been consistently increasing its presence in the city to support the growing demand.

BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 2, Size:(29.55)cms X (14.63)cms.

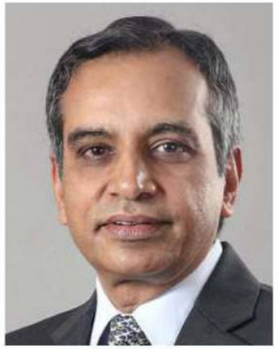
'L&T's green hydrogen project with IOC, ReNew may see action after April'

bl.interview

Aroosa Ahmed
Mumbai

With a good domestic order book and an increase in international business composition from the Middle East, Indian multinational Larsen & Toubro believes that the company will be able to navigate through inflationary pressures and global recession. Shankar Raman, Whole Time-Director & Chief Financial Officer, Larsen & Toubro, spoke to *businessline* on the company's plans ahead.

> I don't think it is going to be possible for us to cut China away completely because at the end of the day, it's an important source for many things
>
> **SHANKAR RAMAN**
> Whole Time-Director & CFO, L&T



The domestic order book has grown during the quarter, does this indicate that in the domestic market there is no impact of inflation?

Our domestic order inflow grew by over 50 per cent, while the overall order inflow grew by 30 per cent. We believe that the domestic orders have grown well. The share of international orders last year was 40 per cent and it has come down to 25 per cent in the current year quarter.

What is the share of private sector orders?

For the nine months that ended December, the share of the private sector was 35 per cent. By default, the public sector and the government-sponsored orders were 65 per cent.

The Middle East composition for Larsen & Toubro had grown with every quarter. Do you see the business further going up and contributing up to 20 per cent of revenue like the US and Europe?

Middle East today is very different. It is almost like India, but the scale is very different. There are factories getting built which are energy intensive. There are renewable power generation plants being put up, and the metro rail system.

Power transmission, water, and electricity: these utilities are investing in making some places more habitable. Middle East countries are also insisting on foreign players like L&T, who operate in that market to invest in the local economy, which means we are required to put some fabrication yard or small manufacturing facility. This would mean also industrial development.

The share of revenues, and the bulk of the income that we report in the US and Europe is arising from our IT business and not from engineering or construction business.

What is the development on the JV announced with Indian Oil Corporation?

The government, under the green hydrogen programme, wanted all the public sector refineries to put up a green hydrogen plant and then use the energy for the refineries so that they make the energy efficiency of the refineries better and also score better in the reduction of carbon dioxide emission. So this is a three-way partnership. We have assigned a broad framework agreement. The details are being worked out. I think they were waiting for their budgets to be finalised on the back of the Union Budget. As they get into April, they will have their budgetary allocations formalised. Once that happens, hopefully, we will see some action.

L&T announced that it would cut off China imports. What percentage of China's imports are still coming in?

Depending on the type of project, sourcing from China will vary. It could be between \$2.5 billion and \$5 billion, depending on what we are sourcing from at a given point in time. I don't think it is going to be possible for us to cut China away completely because at the end of the day, it's an important source for many things. When you talk about competitive infrastructure, this scale and the size of supplies of China are unmatched.

We can reduce the dependence on China and not eliminate it, but even to do that profitably, an alternative source should provide the goods and services of the scale and the price. Today, even for the PLI schemes and certain areas of manufacturing, the government has permitted specific Chinese firms to work in joint venture partnerships with Indian partners and even the government has conceded that there are some areas where the Indian industry needs to collaborate with the Chinese industry.

Do you see L&T's international business being impacted by geopolitical scenarios and global recession?

The company should be able to navigate through this. It is a challenge as much as an opportunity. People have realised that after years of interdependency, we cannot completely become independent of each other. India fortunately has been at its diplomatic best over the past few years, so it's been able to navigate the pressures the geopolitics is creating on the overall economic environment, it's tried to stay the non-aligned course and stay relevant.

Has the company's new businesses, like Edutech and Sufin, started bringing meaningful revenues? How large are these businesses going to become in the next two to three years?

They are still a work in progress. It's essentially B2B and not so much B2C, so it's a very differentiated platform, but it does take time to build a platform because the technology behind should be well-tested and robust and there should be an economic benefit or any other material benefit for users. So our attempt now is to tighten the platform to make sure that it is of meaningful consequence to the users. It will take another year or two before we can even mention the revenue trajectory. At the moment, it is earning some revenue. The focus is on completing the delivery bouquet rather than scaling up- which will follow once we get the structure and the technology well tested.

BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(7.09)cms X (13.40)cms.

Crude oil falls 3 per cent, heads for weekly loss

London: Crude oil fell 3 per cent on Friday and was on course for a weekly decline, pressured by concerns of more US Federal Reserve interest rate hikes that could weigh on demand and signs of ample supply. Brent crude futures were down $2.5, to $82.59 a barrel by 1310 GMT, while West Texas Intermediate U.S. crude fell $2.33 to $76.16. REUTERS

TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 23, Size:(10.93)cms X (8.37)cms.

Oil reforms make country 'wild card' for prospectors

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Global energy research and analytics firm Wood Mackenzie, popularly referred as WoodMac, has described India as the potential licensing wild card of deepwater oil and gas exploration in 2023, acknowledging that sectoral reforms unleashed since 2014 by the Narendra Modi-led government is attracting the world majors and could lead to big discoveries.

"Greater participation by the majors in India's energy sector has long been heralded, but often stalled due to a challenging investment environment. However, we now believe the risk/reward balance in deepwater exploration is sufficiently tempting to bring in the industry's big players," the agency said in its latest report.

REPORT BY WOODMAC

It said global majors such as ExxonMobil, Total and Chevron are looking at deepwater opportunities with state-owned ONGC and more partnerships are in the pipeline. "They have been lured by the availability of new unexplored blocks, attractive fiscal terms and rising prices."

The WoodMac report, 'Why are the majors interested in deepwater India?' coincides with state-run Oil India beginning drilling the first exploratory well in a block it had won in the Mahanadi onshore basin in Odisha under OALP (open area licensing policy), the latest in a series of reforms that allows prospectors freedom to choose the area for exploration and has opened up forbidden areas.

"This is noteworthy and it invigorates our efforts towards being 'Aatmanirbhar (self-sufficient) in the energy sector," the PM tweeted.

HINDU, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(12.71)cms X (13.16)cms.

IOC made to sign pact with Adani-owned port: Congress

The PSU is being made to use the Gangavaram Port through an 'unfavourable' contract instead of the govt.-run Visakhapatnam Port for LPG import, alleges party general secretary Jairam Ramesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday targeted the Narendra Modi government over a purported contract that the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) signed with the Adani Group to import liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) through the group-owned Gangavaram Port.

As part of the *Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun* [How are we related to Adani] series party general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that IOC is now being made to use the Gangavaram Port through an "unfavourable" contract instead of the government-run Visakhapatnam Port.

Mr. Ramesh's allegation came a day after Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha member Mahua Moitra alleged a "scam" in engaging the Adani-owned port without a tender. The IOC, responding to Ms. Moitra,

The IOC had said that its pact to hire the services of Gangavaram Port did not have a take-or-pay agreement. FILE PHOTO

clarified that its pact to hire the services of the Gangavaram port for LPG imports was in addition to existing pacts with nearby ports and that there is no take-or-pay agreement.

"It is now widely known that you [Mr. Modi] have used all the means at your disposal to help Adani [Group] expand its ports business, whether by giving port concessions in the absence of bidding or by inflicting income tax raids on business groups to encourage them to sell their valuable assets to Adani," Mr. Ramesh said.

"Your government had previously blocked a 2021 bid by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for the Dighi Port in Maharashtra, which ended up in Adani's hands. Now we learn that IOC, which was earlier importing LPG via the government-run Visakhapatnam Port, is instead being made to use the neighbouring Gangavaram Port, and that too via an unfavourable 'take-or-pay' contract," he said.

Mr. Ramesh further pointed out that IOC has clarified that it has only signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Adani Ports and that there is no binding take-or-pay agreement "as of now".

Nitish for JPC investigation into 'financial fraud'

PATNA
Breaking his silence over the demand of Opposition parties for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into allegations of financial fraud against the Adani Group, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday said the "Centre should pay attention to Opposition's demand".

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 6, Size:(19.46)cms X (11.48)cms.

US: No contradiction in India being our ally & buying oil from Russia

There is "no contradiction at all" in India remaining one of the key partners of the US and its increasing procurement of discounted crude oil from Russia, said a top official of the Biden Administration, in the first clear articulation of the US' view on the issue amid the Ukraine conflict. Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Geoffrey R Pyatt said by driving a hard bargain with Russia in procuring crude oil at the lowest price possible, India is furthering the policy of G7 in seeking to cut Russian oil revenues. PTI

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(26.75)cms X (12.74)cms.

RBI likely to consider assigning priority sector status to green hydrogen projects

NIKESH SINGH
New Delhi, 17 February

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to consider including loans taken up for the green hydrogen projects under priority sector lending, said a government official on the condition of anonymity.

The Department of Financial Services on Friday held a meeting, seeking suggestions for easing of financing provisions for the projects being taken up under the National Green Hydrogen Financing. Apart from finance ministry officials, the meeting was attended by RBI and renewable and environment ministry officials. "The discussions are also looking at aspects such as interest subvention scheme and subsidy for the sector," he said.

The official said there was a need for an ecosystem before banks start financing these projects which would be created by deliberations with stakeholders such as bankers, NITI Aayog, and industry bodies. "The challenge for banks would be arriving at the risks involved with the projects, gestation period and consensus on per unit cost with the borrowers. These projects are a costly affair and banks would be able to finance when they have viability and good cash-flow," he added.

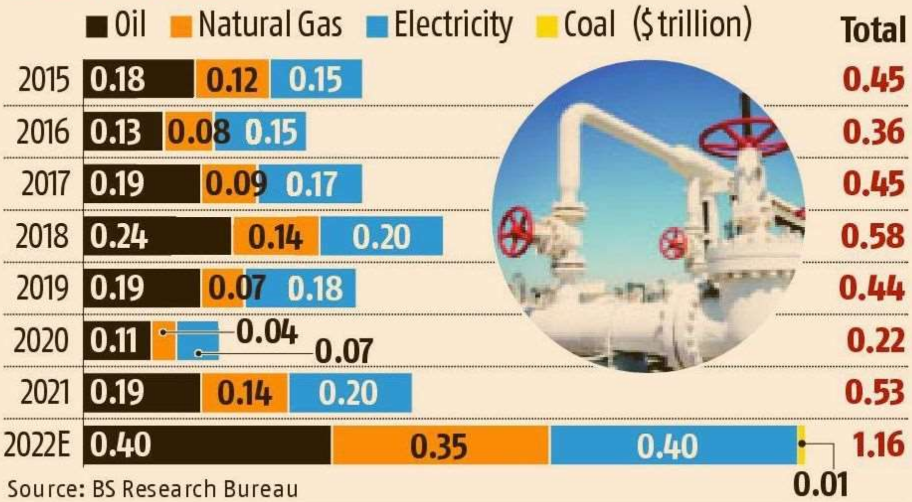
There were also proposals to include ADB in the consultation process as they have the experience in financing of green projects in several countries.

An RBI official said the proposal was at a preliminary stage of discussion.

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(12.96)cms X (16.48)cms.

Govts spent $1 trn in '22 subsidising fossil fuels

HEFTY COST



Source: BS Research Bureau

As global governments raise their ambitions to cut fossil fuels in the future, they spent a record $1 trillion last year subsidising energy sources that are the main driver of climate change, according to the International Energy Agency. It underlines the challenge for policy makers trying to grapple with the threat of runaway fuel inflation, while trying to push a shift to low-carbon sources.

BLOOMBERG

HINDUSTAN TIMES, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(10.99)cms X (15.76)cms.

{ APPLICABLE FOR 3 YEARS }

Govt announces list of tech for carbon credits

Jayashree Nandi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India has finalised a list of activities that can be considered for trading in carbon credits in the international market under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

The list includes carbon removal activities such as carbon capture and storage; and mitigation activities such as generating renewable energy with storage (only stored component), solar thermal power, off- shore wind, green hydrogen and compressed bio-gas and alternate materials such as green ammonia, the environment ministry announced on Friday.

The list is actually a wish list of areas where India would like to attract investments with the carbon credits generated from offsetting of carbon emissions through these technologies then shared with the investing country/company under the market mechanism. "By announcing the list of activities, we have basically now put our intent in public domain that we are seeking investments in these emerging technologies. We want countries/companies to invest and bring these technologies to India where they can then be indigenized. We will provide carbon credits in return to the concerned country or company which they can use for mitigation. This list is applicable only for three years. The list may change thereafter," said a senior ministry official who specialises in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

THE LIST INCLUDES CARBON REMOVAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE, AND MITIGATION ONES LIKE GENERATING RENEWABLE ENERGY

"Japan and Singapore to an extent have already expressed interest in cooperating with us under Article 6.2. We will see how countries respond now. Then bilateral meetings will take place on what will be the terms of such investments. Indigenizing these technologies will help India achieve its own climate goals as well," added the official who asked not to be named. Other activities listed by India include emerging mobility solutions such as fuel cells; high end technology for energy efficiency; sustainable aviation fuel; tidal energy, ocean thermal energy, ocean salt gradient energy, ocean wave energy and ocean current energy, and high voltage direct current transmission in conjunction with renewable energy projects.

India notified the National Designated Authority for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (NDAIAPA) on May 30, 2022. The authority is mandated to take decisions on the type of projects that can participate in international carbon market under Article 6 mechanisms. "These activities will facilitate adoption/transfer of emerging technologies and may be used to mobilise international finance in India. The activities will initially be for the first three years and may be updated/revised by NDAIAPA," the ministry said.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement allows countries to voluntarily cooperate with each other to achieve emission reduction targets set out in their nationally determined contributions. Under Article 6, a country will be able to transfer carbon credits earned from the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to help one or more countries meet climate targets. Within Article 6, Article 6.2 creates the basis for trading in GHG emission reductions (or "mitigation outcomes") across countries, according to the World Bank.

"This is a great development. The list clearly shows that the government wants to use Article 6.2 for pushing emerging technologies like hydrogen, storage... This is sensible and strategic as it would provide much needed finance for accelerating the deployment of technologies of the future, while ensuring that the emissions credits that India will need to let go due to corresponding adjustment is minimal. India has bet on a tradeoff that is bound to secure high returns," said Vaibhav Chaturvedi, fellow, Council on Energy, Environment and Water.

INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 19, Size:(5.29)cms X (9.26)cms.

Russian oil imports touch record in Jan

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

INDIA'S RUSSIAN oil imports climbed to a record 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) in January, up 9.2 per cent from December, with Moscow still the top monthly oil seller to New Delhi, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia, data from trade sources showed.

Last month Russian oil accounted for about 27 per cent of the 5 million bpd of crude imported by India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, the data showed.

India's oil imports typically rise in December and January as state-run refiners avoid maintenance shutdowns in the first quarter to meet their annual production targets fixed by the government.

Refiners in India, which rarely used to buy Russian oil because of costly logistics, have emerged as Russia's key oil client, snapping up discounted crude shunned by Western nations since the invasion of Ukraine last February.

Last month India's imports of Russian Sokol crude oil were the highest so far at 100,900 bpd, as output from the Sakhalin 1 field resumed under a new Russian operator, the data showed.

In January, India's imports of oil from Canada rose to 314,000 bpd as Reliance Industries boosted purchases of long-haul crude, the data showed.

Canada emerged as the fifth-largest supplier to India in January after the United Arab Emirates, the data showed. India's Iraqi oil imports in January rose to a seven-month high of 983,000 bpd, up 11% from December.

During April-January, the first ten months of this fiscal year, Iraq continued to be the largest oil supplier to India, while Russia became the second-biggest supplier, replacing Saudi Arabia which is now in third place, the data showed.

Higher purchases of Russian oil dragged down Indian imports from the Middle East to an all time low of 48 per cent and member nations of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries declined to the lowest ever.

RASHTRIYA SAHARA, Delhi, 18.2.2023
Page No. 2, Size:(3.86)cms X (4.72)cms.

जीएसटी के दायरे में पेट्रोल-डीजल को शामिल करें : सीटीआई

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। चैंबर ऑफ ट्रेड एंड इंडस्ट्री (सीटीआई) ने केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण को पत्र लिख कर आग्रह किया है कि लंबे समय से व्यापारी, फैक्टरी ओनर और आम आदमी पेट्रोल व डीजल को जीएसटी के दायरे में लाने की मांग कर रहे हैं। शनिवार को जीएसटी काउंसिल की मीटिंग है, इसमें इस पर चर्चा और फैसला होना चाहिए।

सीटीआई चेयरमैन बृजेश गोयल और अध्यक्ष सुभाष खंडेलवाल ने कहा कि यदि जीएसटी के अधिकतम टैक्स स्लैब 28 प्रतिशत में भी पेट्रोल को शामिल किया जाए तो पेट्रोल पर 17.11 रुपए जीएसटी लगेगा और पेट्रोल 18.50 रुपए प्रति लीटर सस्ता हो जाएगा। यदि डीजल को भी जीएसटी के अधिकतम 28% स्लैब में लाया जाए तो डीजल पर 16.99 रुपए प्रति लीटर जीएसटी लगेगा और डीजल 11.92 रुपए प्रति लीटर सस्ता हो जाएगा।

इसके अलावा एक विकल्प यह है कि अभी एक्साइज ड्यूटी पेट्रोल और डीजल पर रुपए प्रति लीटर लगती है, जो कि पूरे देश में एक है। इसके ऊपर हर राज्य अपने हिसाब से वैट की दर वसूलते हैं, जिस तरह एक्साइज ड्यूटी रुपए प्रति लीटर पर लगता है, उसी तरह जीएसटी को भी रुपए प्रति लीटर लगाया जाए। इससे सरकार को राजस्व में भी नुकसान नहीं होगा, सभी राज्य आसानी से संतुष्ट हो सकते है। बृजेश गोयल ने कहा कि जीएसटी को जब लागू किया गया था तब वन नेशन वन टैक्स की बात की गई थी जो कि गलत साबित हो रही है ।