# CPSE dividend receipts to cross Budget target

**PRASANTA SAHU**
New Delhi, September 22

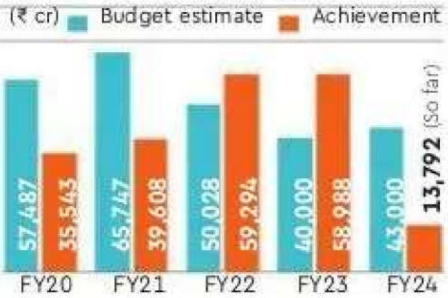
**THE CENTRE'S DIVIDEND** receipts from central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) will likely be closer to ₹59,000 crore achieved in the past two years as against the moderate target of ₹43,000 crore set for 2023-24. This will largely be thanks to likely robust receipts from the energy, power and commodity sector firms.

The ₹59,000 crore receipts in FY222 and FY23, despite the government reducing its stake in several CPSEs, were aided by higher commodity prices and the policy of the department of investment and public asset management (Dipam) of nudging CPSEs to give higher dividends.

So, even if the disinvestment receipts fall short substantially against the target of ₹51,000 crore for FY24, due to likely non-materialisation of big-ticket strategic sales, it won't alter the Centre's fiscal math for the year as tax revenues are also on track.

**Continued on Page 9**

**CPSE DIVIDENDS AT HIGHER LEVELS POST-PANDEMIC**



# CPSE dividend receipts to cross Budget target

SO FAR IN FY24, the Centre has already mobilised ₹13,792 crore dividend from CPSEs, mostly in the energy, infrastructure and commodity sectors, which is about 18% higher than ₹11,446 crore collected in the year-ago period.

"Dividend achievement in FY24 will likely exceed the target," a senior government official told FE.

CPSE dividend receipts under the supervision of the Dipam do not include receipts from state-run financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies.

The Centre's dividend receipts exceeded the revised estimate (RE) by ₹16,000 crore or 37% to reach about ₹59,000 crore in FY23, helping it comfortably bridge the shortfall of ₹14,706 crore in disinvestment receipts during the year.

Despite the recent hardening of commodity prices, higher earnings by energy and commodity firms will likely boost the dividend receipts from CPSEs in FY24, like in FY22 and FY23.

According to CareEdge, for a sample of 2,076 listed non-finance companies, operating profit rose by 26% (y-o-y) in Q1 FY24 compared to 6% growth in Q4 FY23 as raw material cost moderated.

The state-run oil marketing companies' (OMCs') profit surged to ₹24,300 crore in Q1FY24 as against loss of ₹8,300 crore in Q1 FY23, due to strong marketing margins.

Despite the recent hardening of crude prices, state-run OMCs and upstream Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India are expected to report robust profits in FY24. These firms pay usually ₹10,000 crore to ₹20,000 crore in annual dividends to the Centre except in FY23 as OMCs suffered reported lower profit due to a freeze in retail prices when crude prices surged.

Given the larger surplus receipts from the RBI and likely healthy profits of state-run entities, the Centre's total dividend receipts could exceed the budget target by around ₹60,000 crore in FY24, according to an FE analysis.

RBI's surplus transfer to the Centre rose 188% on year to ₹87,416 crore in FY24 (for accounting year FY23), which was very close to ₹91,000 crore estimated from dividend receipts from the RBI, public sector banks and financial institutions (₹48,000 crore) and the CPSEs in FY24.

# Big rush fo

"SALES OF APPLE products are booming, particularly of the premium models, with pre-booking numbers significantly higher than previous years," said Rahul Pai, director at Bengaluru-based electronics retailer Pai International.

"It's a bumper harvest for Apple in India. Wouldn't be surprised to see Apple's

# Crude oil up as Russia ban stokes supply fears

**London:** Crude oil prices rose as renewed global supply concerns from Russia's fuel export ban counteracted demand fears driven by macroeconomic headwinds and high interest rates. Brent futures were up 52 cents at $93.82 a barrel by 0933 GMT, while US WTI futures rose by 73 cents to $90.36 a barrel.
REUTERS

# E-Juice To Fuel Cab And Bike Aggregator Policy

## To Reward Electric Vehicles Over Those Run On CNG

**Abhinav.Rajput**
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**New Delhi:** An aggressive boost to electric vehicles is on its way as the Delhi government readies its cab-and-bike aggregator policy, which is set to reward inducting EVs over CNG vehicles.

The government is learnt to have finalised the policy after taking into consideration the suggestions of various stakeholders. The scheme follows a "polluter pays" principle, a transport official said. "For instance, the licence fee for an electric taxi may be zero but the licence fee of a CNG taxi may be Rs 650," the official said.

The operation of electric bike taxis is expected to be greenlighted and safety norms for cab services could become stricter. Transport department sources said time-bound targets would be set for expanding e-vehicle fleets.

Transport minister Kailash Gahlot said the department will finalise the policy in a week and send it to the chief minister. Thereafter, it would be notified.

A senior transport department official said all bike taxi and two-wheeler renting services in the city would have to use electric vehicles. "The department has seen the public feedback after which the policy was given final shape," he said.

The Motor Vehicle Aggregator Scheme, 2023, will be applicable to any person or entity that operates, onboards or manages a fleet of vehicles through digital or electronic means or any other means.

The official said the policy would make it mandatory for aggregators to install panic buttons and integrate these with 112, the Delhi Police helpline number for emergencies. The scheme would ensure timely consumer grievance redress by service providers, enforcement of vehicle fitness, pollution control and validity of permits, he added.

Remedial training would be provided if a driver's performance was poor, the official said.

The scheme allows transition to electric in a phased manner. Five per cent of new cars need to be electric in the first 6 months of the scheme's rollout. Four years after the scheme's notification, all new commercial two-wheelers and three-wheelers will have to be EVs. After 5 years of the notification, all new commercial four-wheelers have to be EVs. The aggregator or service provider has to switch to an all-electric fleet by April 1, 2030, officials said.

### ELECTRIC BIKE TAXIS TO GET LEGAL STATUS

- The Motor Vehicle Aggregator Scheme, 2023, will be applicable to any person or entity that operates, on-boards or manages a fleet of motor vehicles through digital, electronic or any other means, to ferry passengers

- Mandatory panic buttons in taxis
- Integration with emergency number '112'
- Timely consumer grievances redressal.
- Data to be maintained by aggregator, which can be asked for by the transport department
- Legal status to bike taxis, but only electric ones
- Phase-wise transition of cabs to electric vehicles with 100% conversion in five years
- Remedial training in instances where a driver's performance is poor
- To follow 'polluter pays' principle; this will make the per vehicle licence fee for a conventional vehicle significantly higher than an electric vehicle

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 23.9.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(20.86)cms X (10.53)cms.

# Growth Momentum in Q2 Shaping Up Well: FinMin

## MONTHLY ECONOMIC REPORT terms pick-up in global crude prices an 'emerging concern' if not an alarming one

**Our Bureau**

**New Delhi:** The finance ministry on Friday said economic activity in the second quarter of this fiscal year is "shaping up well", building on the momentum seen in the June quarter, even as it termed the recent recovery in global crude oil prices an "emerging concern", if not an alarming one.

In its monthly economic report for August, the ministry also said risks of a stock market correction and geopolitical developments could potentially hurt investor sentiment in the fiscal second half.

The monsoon deficit in August could impact crops, which needs to be assessed, it said, adding, however, that plentiful showers in September have erased a part of the earlier deficit. "But the impact of these developments on underlying economic activity in India should be relatively contained," the report said. The risks will be offset by the "bright spots" of corporate profitability, private sector capital formation, bank credit growth and activity in the construction sector.

### Report Card

**BRIGHT SPOTS**

- **Corporate** profitability
- **Private sector** capital formation
- **Bank** credit growth
- **Construction** activity

**POTENTIAL RISKS**

- **Sustained** rise in oil prices
- **Stock market** correction
- **Geopolitical** developments
- **Impact of** monsoon deficit

**GROWTH OUTLOOK**

- **FY24 growth** to hit **6.5% despite** symmetric risks
- **Advance tax** mop-up suggests private sector is in good health
- **Companies are** in a sound position to boost investment
- **Banks in best** of health to meet growing credit needs

"In sum, we remain comfortable with our 6.5% real GDP growth estimate for FY24 with symmetric risks," the report said.

The economy grew at a healthy rate of 7.8% in the June quarter, partly aided by base effect. Strong advance tax collections for the second quarter of FY24 suggest the private sector is in good health and that "they are investing", according to the finance ministry.

Meanwhile, deleveraging and restructuring of balance sheets have placed companies in a sound position to bolster investment and become more resilient to economic shocks, while banks remain healthier than before and are in a position to satiate the growing credit appetite of the economy, the report said, explaining the optimism behind the ministry's assessment.

Growth momentum for private non-financial companies continued from the March quarter into the June quarter. Business sentiment remain upbeat, as indicated by RBI's Quarterly Enterprise Surveys, it added. Prices of selected food items that drove headline retail inflation rate above 7% in July are on the retreat, the report said. Retail inflation dropped to 6.83% in August from a 15-month high of 7.44% in the previous month, as core inflation fell to a 40-month low. The report attributed the moderation in inflation to "calibrated measures" taken by the government, including adjustments in the duties of critical inputs and monetary policy tightening. Targeted measures for specific crops, including build-up of buffers, procurement from producing centres and subsidised distribution, also weighed down food inflation, it added. The report predicted a moderation in bond yields as inflationary concerns have started to abate. The government's commitment to fiscal prudence will also aid in keeping G-Sec yields in check, it added. However, it flags risks from a run-up in oil prices. Brent crude oil prices are inching closer to $94 per barrel and may see a marginal fall this week. However, prices have jumped more than 10% in the previous three weeks, as OPEC+ has maintained production cuts.

**The ministry said risks of a stock market correction & geopolitical developments could hurt investor sentiment in second half**

Outlook for both the manufacturing and services sectors remains positive, the report said, citing surveys by the RBI.

Meanwhile, organised sector employment indicated healthy growth, including a rise in new members joining the Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and more members rejoining than exiting the social security net, it said.

# India's imports of Saudi oil in September slump to a multi-year low

**SUKALP SHARMA**
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

INDIA'S OIL imports from Saudi Arabia in September slumped to a multi-year low of around 5,00,000 barrels per day (bpd), most likely due to Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) impending maintenance shutdown of some units at its Jamnagar refinery complex and Saudi Arabian crudes becoming relatively more expensive than competing grades in the wake of production cuts by Riyadh, according to commodity market analytics and intelligence firm Kpler.

So far in September, India's oil imports from Saudi Arabia have averaged at 4,99,688 bpd, the lowest since November of 2014, as per Kpler data. In August, India's Saudi Arabian oil imports stood at 8,28,486 bpd, while in September 2022, they were around 8,80,000 bpd. Between January 2022 and August 2023, the import volumes averaged at over 7,50,000 bpd.

Currently, Saudi Arabia is the third-biggest supplier of crude oil to India, behind Russia, the top supplier, and Iraq. Traditionally, Riyadh used to be New Delhi's second-biggest source of crude after Baghdad. But after the war in Ukraine broke out, Russia displaced Iraq and Saudi Arabia as India's largest oil supplier by offering deep discounts on its crude.

RIL is the biggest Indian buyer of Saudi Arabian crude, accounting for around 35 per cent of the oil imports from that country, as per Kpler's analysis. The refining major recently informed stock exchanges that it planned to undertake maintenance and inspection shutdown of a few units for durations varying from four to seven weeks.

## IMPORTS FROM 3RD BIGGEST SUPPLIER DROP

**India depends on imports to meet over 85% of its crude oil requirement. Refining capacity is around 5 million bpd.**


**So far in September*

*Source: Kpler*

According to Kpler's Lead Crude Analyst Viktor Katona, apart from RIL's maintenance shutdown, the recent rise in prices of Saudi Arabian crudes — like Arab Light and Arab Heavy — vis-a-vis competing medium-sour grades like Oman, Dubai and Basrah Medium (Iraq) from the region has led to a reduced appetite for the former, at least for the time being. Russia's flagship grade Urals, which accounts for the lion's share of India's Russian oil imports — is also a medium-sour crude. In fact, the month-on-month decline in Saudi Arabian oil imports being seen in September comes alongside sequentially higher Russian and Iraqi oil supplies.

"The key consequence of Saudi Arabia's OPEC+ production cuts and Russia's export cuts has been the relative dearth of medium-sour (crude) supply in the markets," Katona said, adding that while prices of medium-sour grades have generally risen, those of the Saudi Arabian grades are have climbed more and are trading at a premium.

Oil prices have been volatile for some time now, but the general direction over the past few months has been upward. Global benchmark Brent is currently hovering around $95 per barrel, and some analysts and market participants expect it to even hit $100 a barrel over concerns of a possible supply deficit during the high winter demand season and indications that major oil producers could consider deeper production cuts going ahead. The latest trigger for an uptick in oil prices came earlier this month when Saudi Arabia and Russia surprised the world by announcing an extension of their voluntary supply cuts — totalling 1.3 million bpd — till the end of 2023. Given Saudi Arabia's strong energy ties with India, which is a major oil importer, and expectations of higher oil demand in India during the festival season, Katona expects India's imports of Saudi Arabian oil to recover over the next few months.

**FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

# Oil prices a concern but not alarming yet: Finmin

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** The government is comfortable with its estimate of 6.5% growth for 2023-24 but the recent surge in global crude oil prices is a concern although not alarming yet, the finance ministry's monthly economic report for August said on Thursday.

"As always, risks remain. Crude oil prices are steadily climbing. The monsoon deficit in August could impact both Kharif and Rabi crops. That needs to be assessed. However, it is heartening that rains in September have erased a portion of the rainfall deficit at the end of August," said the report.

"A stock market correction, in the wake of an overdue global stock market correction, is an ever-present risk. Offsetting these risks are the bright spots of corporate profitability, private sector capital formation, bank credit growth and activity in the construction sector," it said.

The report said that India's economic outlook for FY24 remains bright and economic activity maintained its momentum. It further said that high frequency indicators suggest that the second quarter of FY24 is shaping up well too. The monsoon deficit of August has been partially plugged in September and that is good news.

**A report said the risks of a stock market correction and geopolitical developments could hurt investment sentiment in the second half of FY23**

"Prices of selected food items that drove the inflation rate above 7% in July are on the retreat. Private sector is in good health as data on advance tax payments for the second quarter confirm. They are investing," the report said.

The report said the risks of a stock market correction and geopolitical developments could potentially hurt investment sentiment in the second half of the financial year. "But, the impact of these developments on underlying economic activity in India should be relatively contained," said the report prepared by the department of economic affairs.

It said the structural reforms undertaken for promoting ease of doing business, logistical efficiency, and infrastructure creation are accelerating job creation and formalisation of the economy. "The issues that unorganised workers face resulted in the creation of a comprehensive database of e-Shram Portal (with more than 29 crore registrations) and a host of customised social security schemes," the report added.

INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 23.9.2023
Page No. 18, Size:(5.82)cms X (14.78)cms.

# Oil prices up after Russia ban on fuel exports

**REUTERS**
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 22

OIL PRICES rose on Friday as renewed global supply concerns from Russia's fuel export ban counteracted demand fears driven by macroeconomic headwinds and high interest rates.

Brent futures were up 80 cents, or 0.86%, at $94.10 a barrel by 1154 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) futures rose by 95 cents, or 1.06%, to $90.58 a barrel. Brent had traded 99 cents higher earlier at $94.29 a barrel, while WTI hit a peak of $90.80, up $1.17. Both benchmarks were relatively flat on the week, having gained more than 10% in the previous three weeks amid concerns about tight global supply.

Russia's Transneft suspended diesel deliveries to key Baltic and Black Sea terminals of Primorsk and Novorossiysk Friday, state media agency *Tass* said.

# Petronas close to $1.6 bn India deal

Bloomberg
feedback@livemint.com

Malaysia's state oil giant Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) is nearing a deal to acquire a minority stake in the ammonia unit of India's AM Green for about $1.6 billion, according to people familiar with the matter.

Petronas is in advanced talks to buy about a 25% stake in the unit, which may be valued at around $6 billion in a deal, the people said. The companies are finalizing the details and an announcement could be made as soon as in the coming days, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the information is private.

While discussions are advanced, they could still be delayed or fall apart, the people said.

A representative for Petronas declined to comment, while a representative for Greenko Group, which shares the same founders with AM Green, didn't immediately respond to a text message seeking comment.

India has set its sights on slashing reliance on oil and coal as it chases the target of being net-zero carbon by 2070.

The country's green energy sector has been attracting investments from both local and foreign investors.

French oil giant TotalEnergies SE this week announced plans to invest $300 million in a joint venture with Adani Green Energy Ltd. The new joint venture company will house a 1,050MW portfolio consisting of solar and wind projects.

**Petronas is in talks to buy about 25% in in the ammonia unit of AM Green, which shares founders with Greenco**

Petronas had nearly 50,000 employees spanning over 100 countries as of the end of 2022, its annual report shows. Its profit after tax doubled to 101.6 billion ringgit ($21.7 billion) last year, from 50.9 billion ringgit in 2021. India, where Petronas sells crude oil and condensates and petroleum products, accounted for 2% of the Malaysian state-owned firm's total revenue last year.

● IN ADVANCED TALKS TO ACQUIRE 25%

# Petronas may buy stake in AM Green unit for $1.6 bn

BAIJU KALESH &
RAJESH KUMAR SINGH
September 22

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India has set its sights on slashing reliance on oil and coal as it chases the target of being net-zero carbon by 2070. The country's green energy sector has been attracting investments from both local and foreign investors. Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund will consider opening an office in India as the kingdom is keen to invest in sectors including green energy and petrochemicals in the South Asian nation.

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— BLOOMBERG

**GREEN AMBITION**

■ French oil giant TotalEnergies this week announced plans to invest **$300 mn** in a joint venture with Adani Green Energy

■ **Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund** is keen to invest in sectors like green energy and petrochemicals in India

■ **India plans on slashing reliance on oil and coal** as it chases the target of being net-zero carbon by 2070

# Saudi oil imports in Sept plunge to multi-year low

SUKALP SHARMA
New Delhi, September 22

## DECLINING DEPENDENCE

India depends on imports to meet over 85% of its crude oil requirement. Refining capacity is around 5 million bpd


*So far in September

Source: KPLER

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VEER ARJUN, Delhi, 23.9.2023
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# उज्जवला लाभार्थियों के बैंक खातों को आधार से लिंक होना अनिवार्य

कासगंज। उज्जवला योजना के लाभार्थियों के बैंक खातों को आधार कार्ड से लिंक होना अनिवार्य है। जिले में 37392 उज्जवला लाभार्थियों के खाते आधार कार्ड से लिंक कराये जाने के लिये अभी अवशेष हैं। बैंक खातों को आधार से लिंक कराकर वास्तविक पात्र उज्जवला लाभार्थियों को समय से लाभांवित करने के लिये पर्यवेक्षण हेतु जिला स्तर पर समिति गठित कर दी गई है। एलपीजी वितरकों तथा बैंकों द्वारा भी उज्जवला योजना के लाभार्थियों को जागरूक कर उनके बैंक खाते आधार से लिंक कराने के निर्देश दे दिये गये हैं, जिससे उन्हें योजना का लाभ निरंतर मिलता रहे। जिला पूर्ति अधिकारी संजय कुमार ने बताया कि वर्तमान में जनपद कासगंज में आईओसीएल की 13, बीपीसीएल की 12 तथा एचपीसीएल की 03 सहित कुल 28 गैस एजेंसियों द्वारा गैस कनेक्शन जारी किये गये हैं। जिनमें 147381 सामान्य गैस कनेक्शन तथा 196976 उज्जवला गैस कनेक्शन दिये गये हैं। इस प्रकार जनपद में कुल 3,44,357 गैस कनेक्शन संचालित हैं।