

India diversifying oil imports, nears long-term deals with Guyana

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The share of India's traditional crude oil suppliers in the Middle East, which is already facing stiff competition from Russia, is expected to decline as the world's third-largest importer eyes long-term contracts from Guyana.

According to the S&P Global Commodity Insights, India is set to end the year with its oil demand growth rate surpassing China's, making it one of the fastest-growing consumption centres, a trend expected to spill over to 2025, prompting the South Asian country's refiners to accelerate expansion plans and widen crude diversification.

"The share of Middle Eastern crude shipments to India's basket is likely to drop by a few percentage points due to the diversification [of import sources].

But, overall, the crude grades in India's import basket are expected to remain medium grades and we don't anticipate significant drop in share of sour crude in 2025," said Abhishek Ranjan, South Asia oil research lead at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

According to S&P Global's Commodities at Sea (CAS) data, India's crude oil imports from Russia stood at 1.7 million barrels per day (mb/d) from January to September 2024, accounting for more than 40 per cent of



India is poised for significant growth in oil demand, expected to surpass China's growth rate by 2025. REUTERS

the total imports. Iraq was the second-largest supplier, with 940,000 b/d, while Saudi Arabia supplied 623,000 b/d over the same period, making it the third-largest supplier. Imports from the US stood at 215,000 b/d over January-September, making it the fifth-largest supplier after the UAE, which supplied 423,000 b/d.

DIVERSIFICATION

As India's refining capacity is set to rise, refiners and policymakers are intensifying efforts to diversify the crude import basket to reduce over-dependence on a few supplying countries or regions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden visit to Guyana has bolstered expectation that the country's refiners are nearing long-term crude oil import agree-

ments with the relatively new South American supplier.

"Recent diplomatic visits will help bring in crude oil from Africa and Latin America, but the growth in absolute volume would depend on the overall crude market," Ranjan said.

India, which imports as much as 85 per cent of its needs, has pledged to continue buying oil from the cheapest available sources to meet growing demand. Russian oil falls into that category due to attractive discounts.

DEMAND GROWTH

"India will be the leading driver, along with South-East Asia and other parts of South Asia, of the region's future oil demand growth," said Kang Wu, global head of macro and oil demand research at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

In 2025, India is forecast to deliver relatively faster growth in oil demand of 3.2 per cent, compared with China's 1.7 per cent," he added, emphasising the role of petrochemical feedstock requirements in oil consumption growth in both countries next year.

In the first 10 months of 2024, China's oil demand rose 148,000 b/d or 0.9 per cent year over year, lagging India's 180,000 b/d or 3.2 per cent year-over-year growth, S&P Global Commodity Insights data showed.

European Gas Jumps as Putin Casts Doubts on New Deal

European natural gas advanced after Russian President Vladimir Putin cast further doubt on the likelihood of a deal to maintain flows to Europe via Ukraine.

Benchmark futures jumped as much as 5% Friday, the most in a week. Putin said Thursday it would be impossible to arrange a new transit contract before year's end, when the current agreement expires.

Central European nations that still buy Russian gas have floated alternative solutions to keep the fuel flowing across Ukraine, but President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has rejected any arrangement that sends money to Russian coffers while the war continues.

Putin acknowledged that the various proposals on the table—allowing Hungary, Slovakia,



Putin said proposals were difficult to realise as Gazprom has contracts that are hard to change

Turkey or Azerbaijan to take control of the gas shipped via Ukraine—are difficult to realise because Gazprom PJSC has long-term contracts that are hard to change.

The flows at risk account for about 5% of European

demand. While that's a small slice of the market, the loss of those volumes would force countries to rely more heavily on piped gas from Norway or liquefied supplies from the US. Traders in Europe are closely monitoring the region's gas storage, with levels now below 75%. **Bloomberg**



Oil rises 1%, heads for weekly gain

SHARIQ KHAN
New York, December 27

OIL ROSE ABOUT 1% on Friday and was set for a weekly gain in low trading volume ahead of year-end, backed by expectations of lower US crude stockpiles and hopes of a stimulus-driven economic recovery in

China. Brent crude futures rose 62 cents, or 0.9%, to \$73.88 per barrel by 11:09 am EST (1611 GMT). US West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 70 cents, or 1%, to \$70.32 per barrel.

On a weekly basis, both Brent and WTI crude are set to gain about 1.5%.

US crude oil inventories fell

by 3.2 million barrels in the week ended December 20, market sources said on Tuesday, citing figures from the American Petroleum Institute. That is a bigger decline than the 1.9-million-barrel drawdown forecast by analysts in a Reuters poll.

"Probably we are moving back up again in anticipation of

a crude draw in the US," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo. "Some support for oil might come soon from cold weather supporting demand."

Optimism over Chinese economic growth has also sparked hopes of higher demand next year from the top oil importing nation.

— REUTERS





India aims to be developed by 2047 and net-zero by 2070, requiring a transformative energy transition to achieve these goals

The shift fuelling country's growth engine

SHREYA JAI & SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 27 December

India's largest coal-fired power generator, NTPC, marked its golden jubilee last month with the listing of its renewable energy (RE) company, NTPC Green Energy, on the Indian stock exchanges. The move underscores the transition India's energy sector is witnessing.

From exporting oil and mining coal to building mega hydro dams, and now focusing on solar panels and biofuels, the country's energy journey reflects its socio-economic growth. Over the past 25 years, India has seen the evolution of its public sector undertakings (PSUs), energy access schemes, regulatory frameworks, private investment, and a push towards RE.

Striking oil, but...

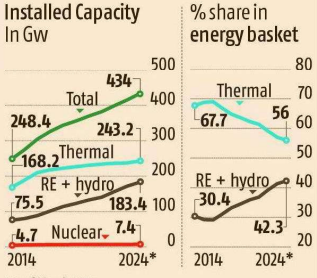
Understanding India's energy landscape requires going back in time to the



ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

late 19th century, when an English engineer discovered oil fields in Assam. His persistent instruction of "dig boy, dig" to the labour saw the emergence of India's first oil town, Digboi. However, it was only after the mid-1900s that the country set up its oil giants – from the

POWER STATUS



*as of March 2024
Source: National Power Portal, Central Electricity Authority

government-owned explorer, ONGC, to marketing companies like IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL.

Since 2000, a lot has changed in terms of private and foreign participation and technological advancements, but this progress has been tempered by

stagnant domestic production, rising imports, and the constant threat of foreign conflicts driving up fuel prices at home. ONGC had discovered the Bombay High oil field (now called Mumbai High) 160 km into the Arabian Sea off India's western coast in 1974.

The project, which has gone through four redevelopment plans and accounts for 70 per cent of India's domestic oil production, prompted the government to open up oil and gas exploration to the private sector. And in 1999, just before the turn of the century, it launched the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Next-generation fuels like biodiesel and green hydrogen yet to show promise at scale.

Under NELP, Reliance Industries

Ltd (RIL) discovered a major deep-sea reservoir of gas reserves in the Krishna Godavari basin (KG-D6) in 2002. Two years later, Cairn Energy unearthed the Mangala oil field — the world's largest onshore oil find — in Barmer, Rajasthan. Before these, in 1999, RIL had commissioned the world's largest single-site refinery with a capacity of 1.4 million barrels per day at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

However, production from KG D6 has dropped multiple times, causing market disruptions, and Mangala oil has yet to achieve its full potential. As a result, India remains a net importer of crude oil, with domestic output stagnating since 2011 at around 30-35 million metric tonnes annually.

Despite nine rounds of bidding under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy, India's domestic crude production in 2023-24 (29.4 million tonnes) was less than in 1999-2000 (31.95 million tonnes). [Turn to Page 4](#)



Next-generation fuels yet to show promise at scale

FROM PAGE 1

Aging fields like Mumbai High, limited success in finding new reserves, and high exploration costs have stymied growth. As a result, the government is focusing on promoting green fuels to reduce import dependency.

The national biofuel policy of 2018 aims to increase biofuels' share in India's overall energy mix. The Centre's ethanol blending programme has seen success, with E20 petrol (20 per cent ethanol blend) available at retail fuel outlets nationwide in 2024. As of the 2023-24 Ethanol Supply Year, ethanol blending has surpassed 13 per cent, with the government targeting 20 per cent by 2025-26, which will require up to 10.16 billion litres of ethanol.

Next-generation fuels like biodiesel and green hydrogen are yet to show promise at scale, though the government is launching policies to support them.

Digging for black gold

Had it not been for the untimely demise of scientist Homi Bhabha in 1966 at age 56, India may well have been powered by nuclear energy today. Geopolitical tensions shifted the focus from uranium to domestic coal, and in the 1970s, a fuel policy committee recommended a push towards coal to reduce dependence on foreign oil and contain the swelling oil bill.

At the time, many of India's coal mines were controlled by private operators — the Ramadirs and the Sardars — in Eastern India, but they were nationalised, leading to the creation of Coal India Ltd (CIL). Thermal power plants proliferated, and coal transport became a mainstay for Indian Railways.

By the 2000s, power demand surged, and private power generators complained of insufficient coal supply from CIL, threatening blackouts.

Partha Bhattacharya, former CIL chairman and managing director under whom the company had launched a blockbuster IPO, said that today's surplus coal supply is a result of lessons learnt from past policy mistakes.

"CIL grew at a modest 4-5 per cent, in line with economic growth and power demand in the early 1990s," Bhattacharya said. "But the electricity reforms of the 2000s, which saw the entry of private players in power generation, put pressure on coal supply. This was followed by amendments to the Coal Nationalisation Policy, allowing private miners to enter the field."

However, in 2012, the sector was rocked by a coal scam, one of India's biggest, around the allocation of coal blocks to private companies. Two years later, the Supreme Court cancelled all the 200-odd coal block allocations, forcing the sector to reset. A revised coal auction in 2015 under a new government opened the industry to private miners for captive use and commercial sale, ending CIL's 45-year monopoly.

Over the last decade, the share of private mining has slowly increased, and it contributed 100 million tonnes of coal by November 2024. To meet the rising demand, CIL has also ramped up production, growing at 8-9 per cent in recent years, compared to 5-6 per cent previously.

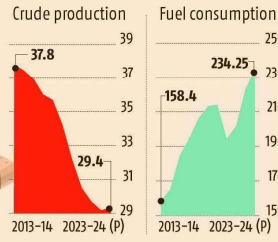
Bhattacharya is optimistic about India's coal supply. "The shortage is easing. Coal India is growing at an impressive pace, and several big players have entered commercial coal mining. Together, they can meet the country's needs."

However, with global pressure mounting to phase out fossil fuels, India faces increasing calls to reduce its reliance on coal. The government has resisted setting a definitive phase-out

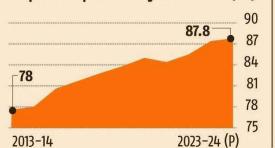
MIXED BAG



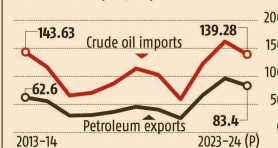
Domestic output lags (in mt)



Import dependency for crude (%)



Trade stats (in \$bn)



FY23 and FY24 figures are Provisional

Sources: Petroleum Policy & Analysis Cell, Commerce Department

date, citing the country's growing energy demand and the historical responsibility of developed nations.

Bhattacharya believes coal will continue to grow in India, with production reaching 1.3-1.5 billion tonnes over the next 4-5 years before plateauing. He predicts that coal will support RE growth, with a more gradual phase-out beginning around 2047, by when India aspires to achieve developed-nation status.

Homes & kitchens

The last two decades have seen significant strides in energy access through universal electrification and subsidised LPG cylinders.

Electrification of rural households has been a key electoral promise for political parties. National schemes such as the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms

Programme, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, and Saubhagya were implemented to achieve universal access. On the ground, this often translated to promises of free electricity by local politicians.

Although all households are now connected to the national grid, the challenge of uninterrupted power supply remains. The Centre claims rural areas receive 18 to 20 hours of electricity per day, while urban areas get 22 hours. However, post-Covid, several states reported a reduction in power availability as state-owned power distribution companies (discoms) struggled with reduced revenue.

Among the most significant improvements in energy access has been the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). Launched in May 2016, PMUY aimed to provide clean cooking fuel (LPG) to rural households that

previously relied on traditional fuels like firewood, coal, and cow-dung cakes. The scheme has garnered widespread support in rural India.

In its latest version, PMUY offers a targeted subsidy of Rs 300 per cylinder for up to 12 refills annually. As of November 1, 2024, 103.3 million households, about a third of India's 328.3 million, were PMUY beneficiaries. Of these, 20.3 million families availed more than six refills in 2023-24, government data shows.

The colour of power

The power sector has seen regulatory transformations over the years.

"Between 2001 and 2003, the Electricity Act was finalised, followed by the introduction of competitive bidding frameworks for ultra-mega power projects and transmission contracts," said Sambitosh Mohapatra, leader of ESG, Climate & Energy at PwC India. "This opened the doors for private investment." Leading industry names made a beeline for the sector, investing in power generation, transmission and equipment manufacturing.

Parallely, power distribution reforms took shape. "We had four major discom reform schemes, starting with the financial restructuring plans in the early 2000s, and the Ujjawal Discoms Assurance Yojana in the last decade. Now we have the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme," Mohapatra said. "Each tried to address a part of the problem, but nothing much came out of them except momentary relief for state-owned discoms." He added that the time had come to bring retail competition into power distribution, which would bring more efficiency to the sector.

Another ongoing transition is the shift towards greener energy. Traditionally, India's power system has been built around coal, with large hydropower projects providing balance. Gas-based power, started as a costly mega experiment, mostly failed.

The 2008 Paris Agreement on climate action spurred India's green energy ambitions. By 2010, the targets for RE expanded rapidly — from 20 gigawatt (GW) to 100 GW and then to 500 GW,

Mohapatra said.

However, the pace of RE absorption into the grid has been slower than expected, even though capacity additions have surged. Renewable energy is seasonal and unreliable, and energy storage remains costly. Discoms, facing financial pressures, prefer to buy thermal power despite RE becoming cheaper.

An analysis of government data shows that as of March 2024, India's installed capacity for renewable energy — mainly solar and wind — stood at 136 GW, up from 35 GW in 2014. Yet, RE accounts for only 12 per cent of India's electricity supply, with coal continuing to dominate.

Mohapatra emphasises the need for a recalibration of India's energy mix, calling for significant investment in nuclear energy, with a 20 to 30 GW capacity addition plan. The system has absorbed available RE over the past few years, but now it's saturated, he said. "Investment in transmission, energy storage, and decentralised solar must be prioritised to boost RE absorption."

As India targets developed-nation status by 2047 and a net-zero economy by 2070, the energy sector will be critical in achieving these goals. In the last 25 years, regulations have stabilised, global investments have flowed in, and each part of the energy supply chain is undergoing a transition.

For coal-bearing regions, a just transition will be essential as India eventually phases out coal. Meanwhile, the grid must be prepared for more RE. Innovations such as biofuels and electric vehicles are key components of the future, with energy access gradually giving way to energy security.

Rahul Munjal, CMD of Hero Future Energies and one of the earliest entrants in the Indian RE sector, echoes this sentiment. The country, he said, will achieve the next milestone of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. "The national green hydrogen mission will make India an energy exporter. By 2047, India will be energy-independent, significantly reducing its reliance on fossil fuel imports," Munjal said.

The past 25 years were about creating. The next 25 will be about transformation.



गीले और सूखे कूड़े के निस्तारण के लिए लगेंगे 40-40 टन के दो प्लांट

नोएडा, (पंजाब केसरी) : नोएडा प्राधिकरण द्वारा म्यूनिसिपल सॉलिड वेस्ट की प्रोसेसिंग के लिए दो प्रोसेसिंग प्लांट लगाए जाएंगे। इसमें प्रत्येक की क्षमता 40 टन प्रति दिन की है। प्राधिकरण के सीईओ लोकेश एम इन दोनों प्लांट का अनुमोदन किया। प्रोसेसिंग प्लांट में रोजाना 25 टन गीले कूड़े से गैस व खाद निर्मित किया जायेगा। रोजाना 15 टन सूखे कूड़ा को पृथक-पृथक कर वैज्ञानिक पद्धति से पुनः उपयोगी बनाया जाएगा। इससे नोएडा क्षेत्र का प्रतिदिन 80 टन कूड़े का म्यूनिसिपल सॉलिड वेस्ट को वैज्ञानिक पद्धति से निस्तारित किया जाएगा। समस्त

● सीईओ ने किया अनुमोदन, जारी किया जाएगा टेंडर

सामग्री पुनः उपयोगी बनाया जाएगा। इस प्लांट को चयनित एजेंसी द्वारा अपने व्यय से ही स्थापित किया जाएगा। नोएडा क्षेत्र से नगरीय कूड़े म्यूनिसिपल सॉलिड वेस्ट को एकत्रित कर अपने व्यय पर ही प्लांट पर ही प्रोसेसिंग किया जाएगा। चयनित एजेंसी द्वारा विभिन्न भवनों स्थानों से कूड़ा उठाने के लिए यूजर चार्ज लिया जाएगा व प्रोसेसिंग से प्राप्त उत्पादों को बेचकर राजस्व प्राप्त किया जाएगा।

सरकारी कंपनियों का सीएसआर पर खर्च 4 साल के उच्च स्तर पर

हर्ष कुमार
नई दिल्ली, 27 दिसंबर

वित्त मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी सार्वजनिक उद्यमों के ताजा सर्वे के मुताबिक केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों (सीपीएसई) का कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक दायित्व (सीएसआर) पर खर्च वित्त वर्ष 2024 में 19 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 4,911 करोड़ रुपये हो गया है। यह वित्त वर्ष 2023 में आई खर्च में गिरावट के बाद पिछले 4 साल का सबसे अधिक खर्च है।

वित्त वर्ष 2024 के दौरान सीएसआर पर खर्च करने वाली शीर्ष सीपीएसई में तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम (ओएनजीसी), इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, पॉवर ग्रिड कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड, आरईसी लिमिटेड और पॉवर फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड शामिल हैं।

सर्वे में आगे कहा गया है कि वित्त वर्ष 2024 में कुल सीएसआर व्यय में शीर्ष 10 सीपीएसई का अंशदान 56.72 प्रतिशत है। जहां तक सीपीएसई के वित्तीय प्रदर्शन का सवाल है, लाभ में चल रहे सरकारी उपक्रमों का शुद्ध मुनाफा वित्त वर्ष 2024 में बढ़कर 3.43 लाख करोड़ रुपये पहुंच गया है।

वित्त वर्ष 2023 के 2.47 लाख करोड़ रुपये की तुलना में इनके शुद्ध



सबसे ज्यादा शुद्ध मुनाफे वाली शीर्ष 5 सीपीएसई में तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम लिमिटेड, इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड और कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड शामिल हैं

मुनाफे में 38.66 प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है।

सबसे ज्यादा मुनाफा पेट्रोलियम (रिफाइनरी और मार्केटिंग) से जुड़ी सीपीएसई को हुआ है। सबसे ज्यादा शुद्ध मुनाफे वाली शीर्ष 5 सीपीएसई में तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस निगम लिमिटेड, इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड और कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड शामिल हैं।

वहीं दूसरी तरफ घाटे में चल रही सीपीएसई का वित्त वर्ष 2024 में कुल घाटा 27.6 प्रतिशत घटकर 21,000 करोड़ रुपये रहा है, जो वित्त वर्ष 2023 में 29,000 करोड़

रुपये था। नुकसान में चल रही सीपीएसई में भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड, राष्ट्रीय इस्पात निगम लिमिटेड, महानगर टेलीफोन लिमिटेड, भारत पेट्रो रिसोर्सेज लिमिटेड और एनएमडीसी स्टील लिमिटेड शामिल हैं।

सरकार ने 1 अप्रैल 2014 से सीपीएसई सहित कम से कम 500 करोड़ रुपये नेटवर्थ या 1000 करोड़ रुपये टर्नओवर वाली या न्यूनतम 5 करोड़ रुपये शुद्ध मुनाफा कमाने वाली कंपनियों के लिए अपने तीन साल के औसत मुनाफे का कम से कम 2 प्रतिशत सीएसआर पर खर्च करना अनिवार्य कर दिया है।

IGL सप्लाई हुई ठप, परेशान हुए रामप्रस्थ के सैकड़ों रेजिडेंट्स

■ वस, ट्रांस हिंडन: आईजीएल कंपनी के कर्मचारियों की लापरवाही के कारण शुक्रवार को रामप्रस्थ कॉलोनी के कुछ ब्लॉकों में सुबह 10 बजे तक आईजीएल गैस सप्लाई बाधित रही। जिसके कारण लोगों की दिनचर्या भी प्रभावित हुई।

वहीं सप्लाई 10 बजे बहाल होने के बावजूद क र ी व 150 घरों में सप्लाई

सुबह 10 बजे तक सप्लाई बाधित होने से परेशानी दिल्ली, गुड़गांव जाने वालों को हुई

चालू नहीं होने से कई लोग ऑफिस भी नहीं जा सके। कंपनी द्वारा किसी भी उपभोक्ता को मैसेज नहीं भेजा गया। रामप्रस्थ विकास सेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष कंवलजीत सिंह ने बताया कि आमतौर पर रात 12 बजे से सुबह 4 बजे तक आईजीएल गैस लीकेज चेकिंग का काम किया जाता है, लेकिन इतनी बड़ी कॉलोनी में मात्र चार कर्मचारी की काम के लिए तैनात किये गए। सुबह 10 बजे तक सप्लाई बाधित रही।