

Adani Total Gas profit up 59% in Q4



The company posted a net profit of ₹165 crore in the January-March period. BLOOMBERG

Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL), the city gas retailing joint venture of Adani group and TotalEnergies of France, on Tuesday reported a 59% rise in March quarter net profit on the back of a surge in CNG sales volumes.

The company posted a net profit of ₹165

crore in the January-March period as against ₹104 crore in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement.

The firm, which retails CNG to automobiles and pipes natural gas to household kitchen for cooking purpose, saw a revenue increase of 5% to ₹1,257 crore while Ebitda surged 49% to ₹305 crore the quarter.

CNG sales rose 20% to 149 million standard cubic metres and piped natural gas sales were up 15% to 83 mmscm.

For the full fiscal year, the company reported a net profit of ₹653 crore on a revenue of ₹4,813 crore. This compared with ₹530 crore net profit on a revenue of ₹4,683 crore in 2022-23.

ATGL said it added 91 new CNG stations to take the strength to 547 across the geographies where it holds city gas licence. Total piped natural gas (PNG) homes swelled to 8.20 lakh after adding 1.16 lakh new households.

PTI

Adani Total Gas Q4 PAT up 59 per cent



Mumbai: Adani Total Gas reported a 59 per cent increase in net profit in the fourth quarter of FY24 at ₹165 crore, while revenue from operations rose 5 per cent to ₹1,257 crore, with both CNG and PNG sales showing decent growth. In the quarter, EBITDA was 49 per cent higher at ₹305 crore.

OUR BUREAU

Core sector growth falls again in March

Subhash Narayan

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NEW DELHI

India's core infrastructure sectors, comprising 40% of industrial output, grew by 5.2% in March, slower than the previous month, primarily due to lower crude oil production and contraction in refinery products and fertilizers, according to data released by the ministry of commerce and industry on Tuesday.

The eight core infrastructure sectors—coal, crude oil, steel, cement, electricity, fertilizers, refinery products, and natural gas—had grown by 7.1% in February, hitting a three-month high. This figure was revised upward from an earlier estimate of 6.7%.

According to ministry data, production growth across the eight core industries stood at 7.5% for FY24, the slowest in three years. However, FY24 outperformed most years of the Modi administration, barring FY22 and FY23, when growth rates were at 10.4% and 7.8%, respectively.

Core sector growth stood at 4.2% in March 2023, benefiting from a lower base, and contributing to higher growth in the index during the month



The eight core infrastructure sectors, including coal, crude oil, had grown by 7.1% in February, hitting a three-month high. AFP

under review.

While refinery and fertilizers output contracted by 0.3% and 1.3%, respectively in March, crude oil, natural gas and steel production also showed signs of slowing. While crude production declined month-on-month from 7.9% to 2%, natural gas production fell from 11.3% in February to 6.3% in March. Steel production also declined from 9.1% to 5.5% during the period.

However, electricity and

cement sectors bucked the trend, with double-digit and high, single-digit growth, respectively. In March, electricity (weightage of 18.75% in the index) drove growth in core industries' output, posting an 8% increase in production. Cement surged 10.6% following a robust 9.1% growth in February, according to the ministry data.

Additionally, natural gas production expanded by 6.3%, coal by 8.7%, steel 5.5%, and

crude oil by 2%. Although both natural gas and steel production witnessed month-on-month decline, they remained in positive territory, indicating potential growth in the coming months.

The contraction in refinery products (-0.3%) significantly impacted the production index of the eight core industries, given its highest weightage of 28.04%. Refinery product growth remained moderate for much of FY24, spiking only in September and November.

"Fertilizers production witnessed a decline, considering this is a non-sowing season and beginning of harvest, when typically there is little demand. The energy basket of crude, gas and refinery products showed different tendencies. Natural gas was up by 6.3% while refinery products were down marginally due to lower growth in exports. Crude production was up by around 2%," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda.

"The core sector numbers can mean growth of 5-6% in Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the month," Sabnavis added. Core sector output contributes 40.27% to the IIP.

In March, electricity drove growth in core industries' output, posting an 8% increase in production

Country saved \$13 billion by importing discounted Russian crude in past 2 years

RAKESH KUMAR @New Delhi

INDIA has saved nearly \$13 billion by importing discounted crude oil from Russia in the past two years, according to a study by ICRA. However, the rating agency's report also highlights a decreasing trend in the discount on crude year-on-year.

India, one of the largest energy consumers in the world, has significantly increased its imports of crude oil from Russia since the latter's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The share of crude petroleum imported from Russia surged to nearly 36% in the 11 months of the financial year 2023-2024 (FY24) from a mere 2% in FY22.

"ICRA estimates, this led to have savings in India's oil import bill amounting to \$5.1 billion in FY23 and \$7.9 billion in

11-month of FY24, thereby compressing India's current account deficit (CAD)/GDP ratio by 15-22 bps in FY24," reads the ICRA study.

As per energy cargo tracker Vortexa, the country's imports



Crude import from Russia

India, major energy consumers in the world, has increased its imports of oil from Russia since the latter's invasion of Ukraine. Share of crude imported from Russia rose to 36% in 11 months of FY24 from a mere 2% in FY22

of Russian crude in April 2024 rose to a nine-month high as it imported 1.78 million barrels per day (mbpd). In March 2024, it imported 1.36 mbpd, and 1.27 mbpd in February 2024 from Russia. The commerce ministry data suggests, the country imported \$3.61 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in February 2024, following \$4.47 billion in January 2024. The reason behind Russia becoming the top supplier to India is its offer of discounted crude. Industry estimates suggest the discount on Russian crude oil was over \$30 per barrel in 2022, but has fallen below \$5 per barrel in 2024.

ICRA reports that the monthly discounts relative to price significantly narrowed throughout FY24, from nearly 23% in April-August to an average of nearly 8% in September-February.

Icra: Oil import bill in FY25 may rise to \$101-104 billion



CRUDE IMPACT

■ The estimate assumes an average crude oil price of

\$85 per barrel
in FY25

■ A \$10 per barrel increase in the average crude oil price could push up the net oil imports by

\$12-13 billion

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, April 30

INDIA'S NET CRUDE oil import bill could reach \$101-104 billion in the current financial year from \$96.1 billion in FY24 provided the discounts on Russian crude purchase remain at prevailing lower levels amid rising import dependency, Icra said in its latest report. The estimate assumes an average crude oil price of \$85 per barrel in FY25.

Additionally, any escalation in the conflict between Iran and Israel and rise in global crude prices could impart an upward pressure on the value of net oil imports in FY25, the report said. As per the domestic rating agency's calculations, a \$10 per barrel increase in the average crude oil price could push up the net oil imports by approximately \$12-13 billion during the year, widening the country's current account deficit (CAD) by 0.3% of the GDP.

"If the average crude oil price rises to \$95 per barrel in FY25, then the CAD is likely to widen to 1.5% of GDP from our current estimate of 1.2% of GDP for the fiscal (over 0.8% projected for FY24)," the report said.

Presently, the agency expects the CAD to widen to \$44-46 billion in FY25 (-1.2% of GDP) from \$29-30 billion in FY24 (-0.8% of GDP), albeit

remaining at comfortable levels.

"Hardening of crude oil prices could potentially translate into higher retail selling prices of petrol, diesel and ATF, which could dampen mobility and consumption growth, and in turn, have a bearing on the GDP growth," said the report. "Additionally, elevated crude or commodity prices would impact corporate margins and, thereby, growth in gross value added (GVA)."

India imports almost 88% of its crude oil requirements with Russia emerging as the top supplier in the past few years owing to the healthy discounts it offered post its conflict with Ukraine. However, analysts say that the discounts which had earlier exceeded \$30 a barrel are now seen narrowing to \$5-6 per barrel.

According to Icra, discounts on Russian oil narrowed sharply to around 8% during September to February against 23% in the first five months of FY24. Consequently, the estimated savings on account of discounted Russian crude have reduced to \$2 billion in the same period of FY24 from \$5.8 billion in April-August. "Overall, the savings stood at \$7.9 billion in the first eleven months of FY24, equivalent to 6.2% of India's crude petroleum imports during this period, thereby auguring well for India's CAD in that fiscal."





India slashes windfall tax on petroleum crude

Bengaluru: India has cut its windfall tax on petroleum crude to Rs 8,400 a metric tonne from Rs 9,600 with effect from May 1, the government said on Tuesday. The tax, which is revised every fortnight, was left unchanged at zero for diesel and aviation turbine fuel. **REUTERS**



‘India’s bill for net import of oil likely to widen to \$101-104 bn in current fiscal’



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30APRIL

The bill for the net import of oil for India could widen to USD 101-104 billion in the current fiscal from USD 96.1 billion in 2023-24, ICRA said in a report on Tuesday.

Further, escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict could impart upward pressure on the value of imports, it added.

Based on its analysis, ICRA said the lower value of Russian oil imports is estimated to have led to savings of USD 7.9 billion in 11 months (April-February) of 2023-24, up from USD 5.1 billion in 2022-23.

Indian Oil Q4 Net Dives 52% to ₹4,838 cr

Lower refining margins to blame; shares decline 5%

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Indian Oil's fourth-quarter profit plunged 52% year-on-year to ₹4,838 crore from ₹10,059 crore, sending its shares down nearly 5% on Tuesday.

Revenue from operations fell 3% year-on-year to ₹2,19,876 crore in the January-March quarter. The company has declared a final dividend of ₹7 per share. This is on top of an interim dividend of ₹5 announced previously. The company's shares closed 4.5% lower at ₹168.95 apiece on Tuesday when the BSE benchmark Sensex ended 0.25% lower.

Profit for 2023-24 was more than four times higher at ₹39,619 crore compared to ₹8,242 crore in the previous year on account of higher marketing margins. Annual revenue was 7% down to ₹8,66,345 crore.

The average gross refining margin (GRM) for 2023-24 was \$12.05 per barrel compared to \$19.52 in the previous year.

The operating profit in the petro-

Falls in Red


Profit dropped by 52% YoY to ₹4,838 crore from ₹10,059 crore

Q4 revenue fell by 3% YoY to ₹2,19,876 crore

Annual profit increased more than fourfold to ₹39,619 crore

Annual revenue decreased by 7% to ₹8,66,345 crore

Operating profit in petroleum products biz fell by 38% YoY in March qtr



PRAVIN G

leum products business fell 38% year-on-year to ₹7,272 crore in the January-March quarter while the petrochemical business reported a loss of ₹400 crore against an operating profit of ₹295 crore in the previous year. Higher crude oil prices, partly due to lower discounts on Russian oil, also inflated the cost for the refiner.

The company had accumulated a

Co to Invest ₹5k cr in Green Power

NEW DELHI Indian Oil Corporation plans to invest ₹5,215 crore in building 1 gw of renewable energy capacity in the country.

The state-run company said in a stock exchange filing on Tuesday that its board has approved the investment plan, which would involve setting up "standalone ground-mounted solar or standalone onshore wind or wind-solar hybrid projects" in a phased manner. The plan entails an equity investment of ₹1,304 crore by Indian Oil.

The company plans to house its renewable energy business in a

wholly owned subsidiary.

Indian Oil Corp is beginning to expand its presence beyond oil and gas by venturing into solar, wind, hydrogen and electric vehicle (EV) charging. It has plans to offer EV charging facilities at 10,000 fuel stations and has rolled out EV battery-swapping facilities in the national capital region.

Recently, the company signed a preliminary pact to build a joint venture with Japan's Panasonic to manufacture lithium-ion cells, to serve two- and three-wheelers.

Our Bureau

loss of ₹1,017 crore by March 31 on the sale of LPG cylinders, which are being sold below market rates, the company said in its earnings statement. The overall profit was also impacted by an additional depreciation of ₹690 crore, which emanated from the revised estimates of the useful life of certain assets.

The company's opera-

ting margin fell to 3.05% in the March quarter from 5% in the October-December quarter and 5.47% in the year-ago period. Its debt-equity ratio has risen to 0.66 at the end of the March quarter from 0.64 at the end of December. This is, however, much lower than 0.98 at the end of March 2023.



‘India’s oil import bill may swell to \$104 b in FY25’

New Delhi: India’s net oil import bill could widen to \$101-104 billion in current fiscal from \$96.1 billion in 2023-24 and any escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict could impart an upward pressure on the value of imports, ICRA said on Tuesday. The domestic rating agency said based on its analysis, lower value of Russian oil imports is estimated to have led to savings of \$7.9 billion in 11 months (April-February) of 2023-24, up from \$5.1 billion in 2022-23. PTI

IndianOil Q4 net tanks 49% as stiff crude price shrinks margin

Our Bureau

New Delhi

State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on Tuesday reported a 49 per cent y-o-y fall in its consolidated net profit at ₹5,488 crore in the fourth quarter of Q4 FY24, on higher crude price shrinking margins. The profits also took a hit due to the ₹2 per litre cut in retail price of petrol and diesel from March 15.

On a sequential basis, the net profit of India's largest oil marketing company (OMC) fell 41 per cent. Its net losses in the petrochemicals segment widened on a sequential basis during Q4, which also impacted profits.

IOC's consolidated total income fell by 1 per cent q-o-q and 3 per cent y-o-y to ₹2.25-lakh crore in Q4. Total expenses were almost flat on an annual and sequential basis at ₹2.18-lakh crore.



Its average gross refining margin (GRM) for FY24 was \$12.05 per barrel, down from \$19.52 a year ago. Core GRM, after offsetting inventory loss/gain, stood at \$11.44 per barrel in FY24, compared with \$20.14 in FY23.

In its results filing with the BSE, IOC said it had a cumulative negative buffer of ₹1,017 crore (2023: ₹2,220 crore) as the retail selling price of LPG was less than the market-determined price (MDP).

Chairman SM Vaidya said IOC's sales volumes, including exports, were 25.279 mt in

Q4. The refining throughput was 18.282 mt, and the throughput of countrywide pipelines network 24.593 mt.

The company's board has recommended a final dividend of ₹7 per share for FY24.

RE PROJECT

It also approved the implementation of 1 gigawatt (GW) capacity of RE projects comprising standalone ground-mounted solar, standalone on-shore wind, or wind-solar hybrid projects at an estimated cost of ₹5,215 crore.

It also approved an investment of ₹1,303.75 crore as equity in its wholly-owned subsidiary for the implementation of 1 GW of installed capacity for RE projects.

For FY24, the OMC reported a consolidated net profit of ₹43,161 crore compared with ₹11,704 crore a year ago. The consolidated total income was ₹8.85-lakh crore, compared with ₹9.56-lakh crore in FY23.

India's oil import bill could swell in FY25: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's net oil import bill could widen to USD 101-104 billion in current fiscal from USD 96.1 billion in 2023-24 and any escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict could impart an upward pressure on the value of imports, ICRA said on Tuesday.

The domestic rating agency said based on its analysis, lower value of Russian oil imports is estimated to have led to savings of USD 7.9 billion in 11 months (April-February) of 2023-24, up from USD 5.1 billion in 2022-23.

"With India's oil import dependency expected to remain high, if the discounts on purchases of Russian crude persist at the prevailing low levels, ICRA expects India's net oil import bill to widen to USD 101-104 billion in FY2025 from USD 96.1 billion in FY2024, assuming an average crude oil price of USD 85/bbl in the fiscal," ICRA said.

Additionally, any escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict and an associated rise in crude oil prices could impart an upward pressure on the value of net oil imports in the current fiscal year, it added.

As per ICRA's calculations, a USD 10/barrel uptick in the average crude oil price for this fiscal pushes up the net oil



imports by USD 12-13 billion during the year, thereby enlarging the current account deficit (CAD) by 0.3 per cent of GDP.

Accordingly, if the average crude oil price rises to USD 95/barrel in FY2025, then the CAD is likely to widen to 1.5 per cent of GDP from ICRA's current estimate of 1.2 per cent of GDP for 2024-25.

CAD, which is the difference between value of India's imports and exports, is estimated at 0.8 per cent in 2023-24.

India is more than 85 per cent dependent on imports for its needs of crude oil, which is converted into fuels such as petrol and diesel at refineries. ICRA said the value of India's

imports of petroleum crude and products declined by 15.2 per cent YoY during April-February of last fiscal, even as volumes rose slightly in this period.

This was supported by the fall in average global crude oil prices as well as savings from stepped up purchases of discounted Russian crude.

In volume terms, the share of crude petroleum imported from Russia jumped to 36 per cent in April-February FY2024 from 2 per cent in FY2022, while that from West Asian countries (Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait) fell to 23 per cent from 34 per cent, respectively.

ICRA estimates that the lower imputed unit value of imports

of Russian oil, compared to imports from West Asia, has led to savings in India's oil import bill amounting to USD 5.1 billion in 2022-23 and USD 7.9 billion in 11 months of 2023-24, thereby compressing India's CAD/GDP ratio by 15-22 basis points in FY2023-24.

However, the extent of monthly discounts relative to price narrowed sharply over the fiscal, to 8 per cent on an average in September-February FY2024 from 23 per cent in April-August FY2024. Consequently, the savings related to purchase of Russian crude are likely to have dipped to USD 2 billion in September-February FY2024 from USD 5.8 billion in April-August FY2024, ICRA said.

Post the Ukraine war, some Western nations shunned Russian oil, leading to Moscow offering discounts. This led to Indian refiners lapping up the discounted oil. The recent conflict in the Middle East also poses threat to crude oil import route. Earlier this month, Iran first launched drone and rocket attacks on Israel, which retaliated by firing a missile. India imports oil from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the UAE as well as liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar through the Strait of Hormuz, which is a narrow sea passage between Oman and Iran.

India replaces China as top Russia oil importer

S DINAKAR
Amritsar, 30 April

India unseated China to become the world's biggest buyer of discounted seaborne Russian crude oil in April, with imports jumping by 12 per cent on the month to a nine-month high, according to early ship tracking data and industry officials. Indian purchases of Russian oil exceeded Chinese imports by 450,000 barrels per day (bpd), data from market intelligence agency Vortexa shows.

An appetite for Russian oil has revived as cheaper Venezuelan supplies dried up after the US reimposed sanctions this month on the Latin American nation. A 45-day "wind-down" period expires at the end of May, but sanctions could be relaxed again should the Venezuelan government show progress toward democratic reforms.

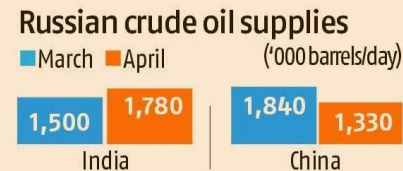
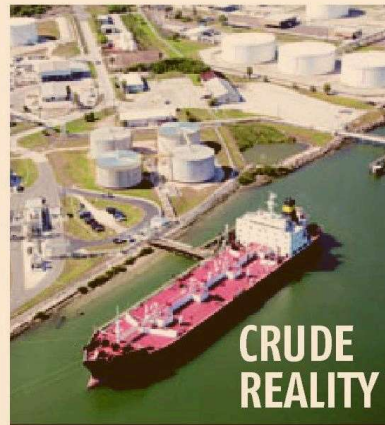
Russian supplies to India increased in April to 1.85 million bpd compared to 1.65 million bpd in March 2024, according to data from Paris-based

market intelligence agency Kpler. The data is as of Tuesday.

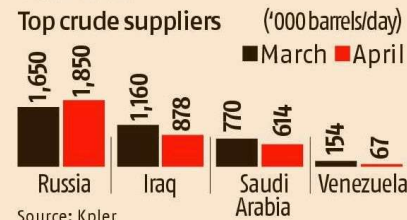
London-based Vortexa pegged Russian supplies to India in April at 1.78 million bpd, compared to 1.33 million bpd for China. Both nations accounted for a combined 62 per cent of exports of crude – including Kazakhstan oil exported via Russian ports—from Russia in April, with India accounting for 35 per cent. Chinese seaborne imports averaged 1.84 million bpd in March compared to 1.5 million bpd for India. (China also imports oil and natural gas from Russia via pipelines.)

"Higher Russian crude exports in Feb/ Mar as well as lower imports by Chinese refiners have made available more volumes for Indian refiners," said Singapore-based Serena Huang, head of Asia-Pacific market analysis for Vortexa. "Given that Russian crude cargoes are likely to be more discounted than Middle East grades, Indian refiners are likely to opt for the former," she added.

Indian refiners continued to source



Source: Vortexa



Source: Kpler

cheaper grades such as the medium, sour Urals to avoid US sanctions, with the Russian export benchmark accounting for 77 per cent in April compared to 68 per cent in calendar 2023, Kpler data shows. Urals has gained acceptance in India after the US tightened sanctions in February, bringing Russian state shipping behemoth Sovcomflot. Volumes of Urals imported in March totalled 1.35 million bpd, accounting for 82 per cent of

Russian supplies.

There's a \$8-\$10 per barrel difference between Urals and sweeter crudes like Sokol or ESPO, according to market data. That helps traders price Urals below the \$60 per barrel price cap imposed by G-7 nations on a FOB basis to avoid Western sanctions. Light, sweet premium grades like Sokol, Espo and Varandey typically trade over the price cap, which necessitates the use of non-Western

shipping and insurance services, leaving the doors open for US policing.

Shipments from Venezuela to India more than halved in April to 2 million barrels of crude oil from 4.78 million barrels in March. Venezuelan export-grade Merey is the cheapest among all Indian crude sources. The slump in Venezuelan sales came after Washington ended a six-month relaxation in US sanctions, which ended on April 18, disappointing Indian refiners.

Venezuela's heavy, sour grades undercut Russian and Iraqi crudes by \$14.60 per barrel in February, according to Indian customs data.

Delivered rates of Venezuelan oil into India averaged \$63/bbl in February compared to \$77.60/bbl and \$77.70/bbl, respectively, for Russian and Iraqi grades.

Shipments from Iraq averaged 878,000 bpd, down from 1.16 million bpd last month, 50 per cent higher from February, but in line with a 1.05 million bpd average for the last three months, Kpler data shows.

Indian Oil quarterly profit falls 52%

Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) reported a 52% fall in fourth-quarter profit on Tuesday, on inventory losses and as the company sold fuel below market prices.

While India is the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, Indian Oil along with its unit Chennai Petroleum controls about a third of India's five million-barrels-per-day refining capacity. India has been increasingly buying cheap Russian oil, however, discounts have narrowed from \$30 per barrel in 2022 to less than \$10 this year, while the refiners have also cut fuel prices at pumps ahead of the general elections this year.

IOC reported a 52% fall in profit at ₹4,838 crore for the quarter ended 31 March.

Refiners buy crude oil and process it after a gap of 45-60 days. An inventory gain is booked when oil prices rise by the time the company refines the crude and sells the fuel. **REUTERS**



‘India’s oil import bill could swell to \$101-104 bn in FY25’

‘If the average crude oil price rises to \$95/barrel in FY2025, then the CAD is likely to widen to 1.5 per cent of GDP’

NEW DELHI: India’s net oil import bill could widen to \$101-104 billion in current fiscal from \$96.1 billion in 2023-24 and any escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict could impart an upward pressure on the value of imports, ICRA said on Tuesday.
The domestic rating agency said based on its analysis, lower value of Russian oil imports is estimated to have led to savings of \$7.9 billion in 11 months

(April-February) of 2023-24, up from \$5.1 billion in 2022-23.
“With India’s oil import dependency expected to remain high, if the discounts on purchases of Russian crude persist at the prevailing low levels, ICRA expects India’s net oil import bill to widen to \$101-104 billion in FY2025 from \$96.1 billion in FY2024, assuming an average crude oil price of \$85/bbl in the fiscal,” ICRA said. Additionally, any escalation

in the Iran-Israel conflict and an associated rise in crude oil prices could impart an upward pressure on the value of net oil imports in the current fiscal year, it added.
As per ICRA’s calculations, a \$10/barrel uptick in the average crude oil price for this fiscal pushes up the net oil imports by \$12-13 billion during the year, thereby enlarging the current account deficit (CAD) by 0.3 per cent of GDP.

Highlights

- ▶ India is more than 85 per cent dependent on imports for its needs of crude oil, which is converted into fuels
- ▶ India’s imports of petroleum crude and products declined by 15.2 per cent YoY during April-February of last fiscal

Accordingly, if the average crude oil price rises to \$95/barrel in FY2025, then the CAD is likely to widen to 1.5 per cent of GDP from ICRA’s current

estimate of 1.2 per cent of GDP for 2024-25.
CAD, which is the difference between value of India’s imports and exports, is estimated at 0.8

per cent in 2023-24.

India is more than 85 per cent dependent on imports for its needs of crude oil, which is converted into fuels such as petrol and diesel at refineries.

ICRA said the value of India’s imports of petroleum crude and products declined by 15.2 per cent YoY during April-February of last fiscal, even as volumes rose slightly in this period.

This was supported by the fall in average global crude oil prices as well as savings from stepped up purchases of discounted Russian crude.

In volume terms, the share of crude petroleum imported from Russia jumped to 36 per cent in April-February FY2024 from 2 per cent in FY2022, while that from West Asian countries (Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait) fell to

23 per cent from 34 per cent, respectively.

ICRA estimates that the lower imputed unit value of imports of Russian oil, compared to imports from West Asia, has led to savings in India’s oil import bill amounting to \$5.1 billion in 2022-23 and \$7.9 billion in 11 months of 2023-24, thereby compressing India’s CAD/GDP ratio by 15-22 basis points in FY2023-24. #11



Russian crude imports cut India's oil bill by \$8bn in FY24

New Delhi: India saved an estimated \$7.9 billion in oil import in the 11 months of 2023-24 financial year ended March 31, compared to \$5.1 billion over the whole of 2022-23, by purchasing higher volumes of Russian crude at deep discounts, ICRA Research said on Tuesday, reports **Sanjay Dutta**.

The savings leads to a "compression" of 15-22 basis points in India's current account deficit-to-GDP ratio in 2023-24, it said. However, it added that if the low levels of discounts prevail, India's net oil import bill could widen to \$101-104 billion in 2024-25 from \$96 billion in 2023-24, assuming an average crude price of \$85 per barrel.

Based on commerce ministry data, the note pegs the share of Russian crude in India's oil import basket rising to about 36% during the April 2023-February 2023 period, marking a jump of 1700% from about 2% in 2021-22.

Oil Falls to \$86.21 on Higher US Output, Hopes of Israel-Hamas Ceasefire

London: Oil prices extended losses and fell 1% on Tuesday on the back of rising US crude production, as well as hopes of an Israel-Hamas ceasefire. Brent crude futures for June, which expire on Tuesday, were down 0.7% at \$87.8 a barrel. The more active July contract fell 1.1% to \$86.21.

US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down 83 cents, or 1%, at \$81.82.

The front-month contract for both benchmarks lost more than 1% on Monday.

US crude production rose to 13.15 million bpd in February from 12.58 million bpd in January in its biggest monthly increase

since October 2021. Expectations that a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas could be in sight have grown in recent



days following a renewed push led by Egypt to revive stalled negotiations between the two. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Tuesday to go ahead

with a long-promised assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah. "Traders believe some of the geopolitical risk is being taken out of the market," said Dennis Kissler of BOK Financial. **Reuters**

Microbes, not fossil fuels, produced most new methane: study

A modelling study has found methane emissions from fossil fuels declined between 1990 and the 2000s and have been stable since, whereas microbes have been producing more methane of late. One reason could be an increase in cattle-rearing in Latin America and more emissions from waste in South and Southeast Asia

Monika Mondal

For the last three years, Naveen Chandra has been spending most of his days running simulations at the Research Institute for Global Change in Japan. He is trying to recreate the last 50 years of the earth's atmosphere on a supercomputer roughly the size of an auditorium.

Mr. Chandra has been trying to answer a question that came out of his team's research. During 2019-2020, these researchers examined the concentration of methane in the atmosphere and how it changed with time. Until the 1990s, the concentration increased, then stabilised for a bit, and then started to increase again around 2007. According to recent estimates, the atmospheric concentration of methane today is three-times what it was 300 years ago.

Where is this methane coming from? That's what they wanted to know.

Evolving understanding

Methane is the second most abundant anthropogenic greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide (CO₂) but it warms the planet more. Over a century, methane has a global warming potential 28-times greater than CO₂, and even higher over shorter periods like two decades.

It wasn't until recently that policymakers began to focus on methane vis-a-vis addressing global warming. At the U.N. climate talks in 2021, member countries launched the 'Global Methane Pledge' to cut the gas's emissions and slow the planet's warming. Yet our understanding of methane also continues to evolve.

For instance, Mr. Chandra and his team recently reported that microbes have been the biggest sources of methane in the atmosphere, not the burning of fossil fuels.

The sources of methane

Scientists are increasingly recognising various sources of methane, most of which fit in two categories: biogenic and thermogenic. When fossil fuels such as natural gas or oil are extracted from deep within the earth's crust, thermogenic methane is released. Biogenic methane comes from microbial action.

The microbes that produce methane are archaea – single-celled microorganisms distinct from bacteria and eukaryotes – and are called methanogens. They thrive in oxygen-deficient environments, such as the digestive tracts of animals, wetlands, rice paddies, landfills, and the sediments of lakes and oceans.

Methanogens play a crucial role in the



A cow walks through a field as an oil pumpjack and a flare burn off methane and other hydrocarbons in the background in the Permian Basin, Texas. Methanogenic bacteria thrive in oxygen-deficient environments, including the digestive tracts of animals. AP

global carbon cycle by converting organic matter into methane. While methane is a potent greenhouse gas, its production by methanogens is an essential part of natural ecosystems. But human activities like agriculture, dairy farming, and fossil fuel production have further increased methane emissions.

Both biogenic and thermogenic activities produce different isotopes of methane. Tracking the isotopes is a way to track which sources are the most active.

Modelling with a supercomputer

According to Prabir Patra, principal scientist at the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) and one of the lead authors of the study, carbon-13 is key. (Atoms of this carbon isotope have 13 nucleons: 6 protons + 7 neutrons.)

If there are fewer carbon-13 atoms than a certain level in a group of 1,000 methane molecules, the methane is from a biological source. If the methane is from thermogenic sources, such as trapped

results with two emissions inventories, called EDGAR and GAINS, and found some discrepancies. EDGAR had reported that methane emissions from oil and natural gas exploration had increased between 1990 and 2020. GAINS had recorded a large "unconventional" rise in emissions since 2006. Their findings disagreed with both inventories.

Mr. Patra said combining the numbers for all biogenic and thermogenic isotopes should match the total emissions in a year. They also took insights from other available data like, number of rice fields, wetlands, dairy farms, biomass burning and likewise sources of methane emissions, and estimated the emissions from those sources. But when they ran their atmosphere models with this data, the year-wise total methane emissions overshoot the total production.

In fact, the models said methane emissions from fossil fuels declined between 1990 and the 2000s and that they've been stable since. They also found microbes were producing more methane than fossil fuels.

Need for local data

One possible reason could be an increase in cattle-rearing in Latin America and more emissions from waste in South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Africa, the study's authors wrote in their paper. They added that the number of wetlands worldwide had increased as well.

Studies in the past have pointed to microbes like anaerobic archaea as potentially top contributors of atmospheric methane using satellite data. But according to Mr. Patra, "Most studies that use satellites cannot measure the actual [changes over time] of methane." Satellite data is interpreted using models "and thus are prone to uncertainties." He said ground models are required to confirm these interpretations.

He added that their own atmospheric model was also only the beginning. The data for it came from observatories located in far-flung places. "If you really want to ask what is from the wetland, what is from the rice fields, we need measurements in those exact locations," per Mr. Patra. "We don't have that kind of observation at all anywhere in the world to make that kind of measurement. We can only speak for global emissions."

But what we do know is: "If you want to reduce methane, anthropogenic activity should be first controlled. And we can clearly outline what is anthropogenic here. Waste and landfills, rice fields, enteric fermentation, oil and gas, and coal," he said.

(Monika Mondal is a freelance science and environment journalist.)

THE GIST

Methane is the second most abundant anthropogenic greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide but it warms the planet more. Over a century, methane has a global warming potential 28-times greater than CO₂

Methane is released by two main processes: biogenic and thermogenic. When fossil fuels are extracted from the earth's crust, thermogenic methane is released. Biogenic methane comes from microbial action

Studies in the past have pointed to microbes like anaerobic archaea as potentially top contributors of atmospheric methane using satellite data, but this information contains gaps that ground-based models can bridge



According to recent estimates, the atmospheric concentration of methane today is three-times what it was 300 years ago

fossil fuels or geological activities, there will be more carbon-13 atoms in 1,000 molecules.

Mr. Chandra and Mr. Patra worked with scientists from Austria, Japan, the Netherlands, and the U.S. to collect data from the 12 monitoring sites worldwide tracking atmospheric parameters since the 1990s. Then they sorted the methane isotope data by year and ran it through a program they had developed to recreate the atmosphere from 1980 to 2020 on a supercomputer.

"One year of data analysis takes about four to five hours," Mr. Chandra said.

Data mismatch

Finally, the team compared their own

तरक्की के मोर्चे पर झटका, मार्च में कोर सेक्टर की रफ्तार में गिरावट

Core Sector

AI Image

विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर से जुड़े 8 प्रमुख सेक्टरों ने मार्च में सालभर पहले के मुकाबले 5.2% की ग्रोथ दर्ज की। मार्च 2023 में ग्रोथ 4.2% थी। मंगलवार को कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री मिनिसिटी से जारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, इस साल मार्च के दौरान सीमेंट, कोयला, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी, नैचुरल गैस, स्टील और क्रूड ऑयल प्रोडक्शन में पॉजिटिव ग्रोथ दर्ज की गई। हालांकि फरवरी के मुकाबले मार्च में कुल 8 कोर सेक्टरों की ग्रोथ कम रही। फरवरी में 7.1% की ग्रोथ थी।

पूरे वित्त वर्ष 2024 में कोर सेक्टर की ग्रोथ घटकर 7.5% रही, जो वित्त वर्ष 2023 में 7.8% थी। सालभर पहले के मुकाबले मार्च में सबसे अधिक 10.6% ग्रोथ सीमेंट सेक्टर की रही। फरवरी में इसकी ग्रोथ 9.1% थी। कोयला उत्पादन 8.7%, बिजली उत्पादन 8% और नैचुरल गैस प्रोडक्शन 6.3% बढ़ा। हालांकि फरवरी में कोल सेक्टर की ग्रोथ 11.6% थी। मार्च में क्रूड ऑयल सेगमेंट ने 2% की ग्रोथ दर्ज की, लेकिन



फर्टिलाइजर सेक्टर में 1.3% की गिरावट रही। रिफाइनिंग प्रोडक्ट्स में भी 0.3% की नेगेटिव ग्रोथ रही।

इसके साथ ही सरकार ने दिसंबर 2023 के लिए कोर सेक्टर की ग्रोथ का आंकड़ा संशोधित किया और इसे बढ़ाकर 5% कर दिया। पिछले महीने नवंबर की ग्रोथ का आंकड़ा संशोधन के बाद बढ़ाकर 7.9% किया गया था।

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा के चीफ इकनॉमिस्ट मदन सक्सेना ने कहा, 'पूरे वित्त वर्ष 2024 में कोर सेक्टर की 7.5% की ग्रोथ अच्छी कामी अच्छी है। इंफ्रा पर सरकार के जोर और इंडस्ट्रियल एक्टिविटी के चलते सीमेंट और कोल सेक्टरों की अच्छी ग्रोथ रही। इलेक्ट्रिसिटी की अच्छी ग्रोथ से भी कोल सेक्टर को सपोर्ट मिला। क्रूड,

NBT Lens

समक्षिप्त खबरों के अंदर की बात

IIP ग्रोथ पर दिखेगा असर

इंफ्रा बेस्ड इंडस्ट्रीज के अच्छे प्रदर्शन के चलते फरवरी में औद्योगिक उत्पादन में 5.7% की बढ़त दर्ज की गई। मार्च में कोर सेक्टर की ग्रोथ नरम रहने का असर औद्योगिक उत्पादन के आंकड़ों में भी दिख सकता है और IIP ग्रोथ कम रह सकती है क्योंकि इंडेक्स ऑफ इंडस्ट्रियल प्रोडक्शन में 8 कोर सेक्टरों का वेट 40.27% है।

गैस और रिफाइनरी प्रोडक्ट्स में अलग-अलग ट्रेड दिखा। नैचुरल गैस में 6.3% की बढ़त रही, वहीं एक्सपोर्ट्स में कम ग्रोथ के चलते रिफाइनरी प्रोडक्ट्स में कुछ गिरावट रही। क्रूड प्रोडक्शन करीब 2 प्रतिशत बढ़ गया। कोर सेक्टर के आंकड़ों को देखते हुए मार्च में औद्योगिक उत्पादन की वृद्धि दर 5-6 प्रतिशत रह सकती है।

104 अरब डालर तक पहुंच सकता है भारत का तेल आयात बिल

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

भारत का शुद्ध तेल आयात बिल चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में बढ़कर 101-104 अरब डालर हो सकता है। यह 2023-24 में 96.1 अरब डालर था। इक्रा ने मंगलवार को कहा कि ईरान-इजराइल संघर्ष में बढ़ती से आयात के मूल्य पर दबाव बढ़ सकता है।

घरेलू रेटिंग एजेंसी ने अपने विश्लेषण के आधार पर कहा कि रूसी तेल आयात के कम मूल्य से 2023-24 के 11 महीने (अप्रैल-फरवरी) में 7.9 अरब डालर की

बचत होने का अनुमान है, जो 2022-23 में हुई 5.1 अरब डालर की बचत से अधिक है।

इक्रा ने कहा, 'भारत की तेल आयात निर्भरता उच्च स्तर पर बने रहने का अनुमान है। अगर रूसी कच्चे तेल की खरीद पर छूट मौजूदा निम्न स्तर पर बनी रहती है, तो इक्रा को उम्मीद है कि भारत का शुद्ध तेल आयात बिल वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में 96.1 अरब डालर से बढ़कर वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में 101-104 अरब डालर हो जाएगा। यह मानते हुए कि वित्त वर्ष में कच्चे तेल की औसत कीमत 85 डालर

प्रति बैरल होगी।' एजेंसी ने कहा कि इसके अतिरिक्त ईरान-इजराइल

कीमतों में वृद्धि से चालू वित्त वर्ष में शुद्ध तेल आयात के मूल्य पर



संघर्ष में किसी भी तरह की बढ़ती और उस कारण कच्चे तेल की

दबाव बढ़ सकता है। इक्रा की गणना के अनुसार,

इस वित्त वर्ष में कच्चे तेल की औसत कीमत में 10 डालर प्रति बैरल की वृद्धि से वर्ष के दौरान शुद्ध तेल आयात में 12-13 अरब डालर की वृद्धि होगी। इससे चालू खाता घाटा (सोपेडा) सकल घरेलू उत्पाद के 0.3 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ जाएगा। भारत अपनी कच्चे तेल की जरूरतों के लिए 85 प्रतिशत से अधिक आयात पर निर्भर है। कच्चे तेल को रिफाइनरी में पेट्रोल और डीजल जैसे ईंधन में तब्दील किया जाता है।

यूक्रेन युद्ध के बाद से कुछ पश्चिमी देशों ने रूसी तेल से दूरी

बना ली, जिसके कारण उसने छूट की पेशकश की। इसके परिणामस्वरूप भारतीय रिफाइनरियों ने छूट वाला तेल लेना शुरू कर दिया। पश्चिम एशिया में हाल ही में हुए संघर्ष से कच्चे तेल के आयात मार्ग पर भी खतरा मंडरा रहा है। इस महीने की शुरुआत में ईरान ने सबसे पहले इजराइल पर ड्रोन और रॉकेट से हमला किया था, जिसके जवाब में इजराइल ने मिसाइल दागी थी।

भारत-सऊदी अरब, इराक और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात से तेल आयात करता है।



इंडियन ऑयल ने कमाया 4,838 करोड़ का मुनाफा नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनी इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन (आईओसी) का जनवरी-मार्च तिमाही में शुद्ध लाभ आधे से भी कम होकर 4,837.69 करोड़ रुपये रह गया। आईओसी ने शेयर बाजार को दी सूचना में कहा कि तिमाही में तेल कीमतों में कटौती होने और पेट्रोकेमिकल खंड में घाटा होने से उसके लाभ में कमी आई है।

एक साल पहले की समान तिमाही में इंडियन ऑयल ने 10,058.69 करोड़ रुपये का शुद्ध लाभ कमाया था। वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 की चौथी एवं अंतिम तिमाही में कंपनी का राजस्व घटकर 2.21 लाख करोड़ रुपये रहा।

इंडियन ऑयल का शुद्ध लाभ मार्च तिमाही में आधा होकर 4,838 करोड़ रुपए पर

वैभव न्यूज ■ नई दिल्ली

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनी इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन (आईओसी) का जनवरी-मार्च तिमाही में शुद्ध लाभ आधे से भी कम होकर 4,837.69 करोड़ रुपए रह गया। आईओसी ने मंगलवार को शेयर बाजार को दी सूचना में कहा कि बीती तिमाही में तेल कीमतों में कटौती होने और पेट्रोकेमिकल खंड में घटा होने से उसके लाभ में कमी आई है। इंडियन ऑयल ने कच्चे माल की लागत बढ़ने के बावजूद चुनावों के ऐन पहले पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की कीमतें घटा दी थीं। एक साल पहले की समान तिमाही में इंडियन ऑयल ने 10,058.69 करोड़ रुपए का शुद्ध लाभ कमाया था। वहीं अक्टूबर-दिसंबर, 2023 तिमाही में इसका शुद्ध लाभ 8,063.39 करोड़ रुपए था। वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 की चौथी एवं अंतिम तिमाही में कंपनी का राजस्व घटकर 2.21 लाख करोड़ रुपए रहा जबकि एक साल पहले की समान अवधि में उसने 2.28 लाख करोड़ रुपए का राजस्व अर्जित किया था। पेट्रोलियम कंपनी ने कहा कि घरेलू रसोई गैस की कीमतें न बढ़ाने से हुए 1,017 करोड़ रुपए के नुकसान के लिए भी कंपनी को सरकार से कोई



मुआवजा नहीं मिला। हालांकि, समूचे वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में देश की अग्रणी तेल कंपनी ने अपना अब तक का सबसे अधिक 39,618.84 करोड़ रुपए का शुद्ध लाभ कमाया। पिछला रिकॉर्ड 2021-22 में 24,184.10 करोड़ रुपए लाभ का था। पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में लगभग दो साल तक कोई कटौती न होने से इसके लाभ में बढ़ोतरी हुई। रूस के यूक्रेन पर आक्रमण के बाद कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में आए उतार-चढ़ाव से भी आईओसी जैसी कंपनियों को बढ़िया मुनाफा कमाने में मदद मिली। जनवरी-मार्च तिमाही में आईओसी को पेट्रोकेमिकल कारोबार में लगभग 400 करोड़ रुपए का घाटा हुआ, जबकि पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद की बिक्री से आय 38 प्रतिशत कम हो गई। कंपनी ने आलोच्य तिमाही में 2.37 करोड़ टन पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद बेचे, जो एक साल पहले की समान तिमाही में 2.29 करोड़ टन और दिसंबर तिमाही में 2.33 करोड़ टन

था। पूरे वित्त वर्ष में आईओसी की ईंधन बिक्री एक साल पहले के 9.06 करोड़ टन से बढ़कर 9.23 करोड़ टन हो गई। इस दौरान राजस्व 9.41 लाख करोड़ रुपए से घटकर 8.71 लाख करोड़ रुपए हो गया। आईओसी ने कहा कि उसने पिछले वित्त वर्ष में एक बैरल कच्चे तेल को ईंधन में बदलने पर 12.05 डॉलर कमाए, जो पिछले वित्त वर्ष के 19.52 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के सकल रिफाइनिंग मार्जिन से कम है। इंडियन ऑयल ने वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 के लिए सात रुपए प्रति इक्विटी शेयर का अंतिम लाभांश घोषित किया। यह वर्ष के दौरान भुगतान किए गए पांच रुपए प्रति शेयर के अंतरिम लाभांश के अलावा है। कंपनी के चेयरमैन एस एम वैद्य ने कहा, आईओसी ने वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 के दौरान निर्यात सहित 9.75 करोड़ टन उत्पाद बेचे। हमारा रिफाइनिंग उत्पादन 7.33 करोड़ टन था और देशव्यापी पाइपलाइन नेटवर्क का प्रवाह 9.86 करोड़ टन था।

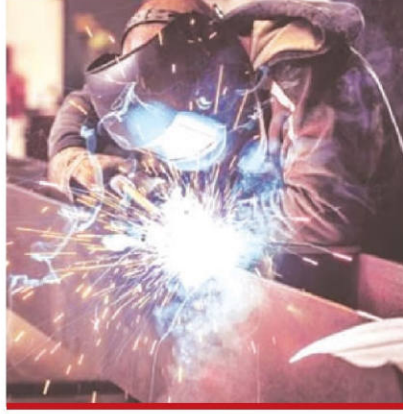
मार्च में प्रमुख क्षेत्र की वृद्धि सुस्त

शिवा राजौरा
नई दिल्ली, 30 अप्रैल

देश के 8 प्रमुख बुनियादी ढांचा उद्योगों की वृद्धि दर मार्च में घटकर 5.2 प्रतिशत रह गई है। इन प्रमुख क्षेत्रों की वृद्धि दर फरवरी में 7.1 प्रतिशत थी।

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय की ओर से मंगलवार को जारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक कोयला (8.7 प्रतिशत), कच्चा तेल (2 प्रतिशत), प्राकृतिक गैस (6.3 प्रतिशत) और स्टील (5.5 प्रतिशत) जैसे क्षेत्रों का उत्पादन मार्च में कम हुआ है। दूसरी तरफ, रिफाइनरी उत्पादों (-0.3 प्रतिशत) और उर्वरक (-1.3 प्रतिशत) के उत्पादन में गिरावट आई है। वहीं दूसरी तरफ सीमेंट (10.6 प्रतिशत) और बिजली (8 प्रतिशत) का उत्पादन मार्च में बढ़ा है। एक साल पहले यानी मार्च 2023 में प्रमुख क्षेत्र की वृद्धि दर 4.2 प्रतिशत थी।

कुल मिलाकर पूरे वित्त वर्ष



2024 में प्रमुख क्षेत्र की वृद्धि दर 7.5 प्रतिशत रही है, जो वित्त वर्ष 2023 में 7.8 प्रतिशत थी। इसमें शामिल सभी 8 क्षेत्रों में वित्त वर्ष के दौरान धनात्मक वृद्धि रही है। वित्त वर्ष 2024 में स्टील (12.3 प्रतिशत) क्षेत्र सबसे तेज बढ़ा है। उसके बाद कोयला (11.7

प्रतिशत), सीमेंट (9.1 प्रतिशत) और बिजली (7 प्रतिशत) का स्थान है।

औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (आईआईपी) में 8 प्रमुख उद्योगों की हिस्सेदारी 40.27 प्रतिशत है। इस तरह से इनका सूचकांक पर उल्लेखनीय असर होता है।

आईआईपी पर असर होगा

■ 8 बुनियादी ढांचा क्षेत्रों की वृद्धि दर मार्च 2024 में घटकर 5.2 प्रतिशत रह गई है, जो फरवरी में 7.1 प्रतिशत थी

■ कोयला (8.7 प्रतिशत), कच्चा तेल (2 प्रतिशत), प्राकृतिक गैस (6.3 प्रतिशत) और स्टील (5.5 प्रतिशत) का उत्पादन मार्च में कम हुआ

■ सीमेंट (10.6 प्रतिशत) और बिजली (8 प्रतिशत) का उत्पादन मार्च में बढ़ा

■ औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक में 8 प्रमुख उद्योगों की हिस्सेदारी 40.27 प्रतिशत, जिनका सूचकांक पर व्यापक असर

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा में मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री मदन सबनवीस ने कहा कि कोयला और सीमेंट बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने वाले रहे हैं, जिन पर सामान्य औद्योगिक गतिविधियों और सरकार द्वारा बुनियादी ढांचे पर जोर दिए जाने का असर पड़ा है।

उन्होंने कहा, 'स्टील के मामले

में वृद्धि बुनियादी ढांचा क्षेत्र से संचालित रही है। वहीं उर्वरक का उत्पादन कम हुआ है, क्योंकि यह वोआई वाला सीजन नहीं है और फसलों की शुरुआत में इसकी मांग कम रहती है। ऊर्जा बास्केट में कच्चा तेल, गैस और रिफाइनरी उत्पादों में अलग धारणा नजर आई। इसका मतलब यह है कि इस महीने में आईआईपी की वृद्धि मध्यम स्तर की करीब 5 से 6 प्रतिशत रह सकती है।'

इका रेटिंग्स में मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री अदिति नायर ने कहा कि बिजली उत्पादन में मार्च में मजबूत वृद्धि हुई है और अप्रैल में भी गति बनी हुई है और कृषि गतिविधियों में तेजी और गर्मी बढ़ने से परिवारों की मांग से इसे आगे और बल मिलेगा।

उन्होंने कहा, 'ऐसी ही स्थिति प्रमुख क्षेत्र में भी नजर आ रही है। आईआईपी वृद्धि मार्च में कुछ कम रह सकती है क्योंकि लीप ईयर का असर नहीं रहेगा। हमारा अनुमान है कि मार्च 2024 में आईआईपी वृद्धि 3.5 से 5 प्रतिशत रह सकती है।'

104 अरब डॉलर पहुंच सकता है तेल आयात बिल

इक्रा ने कहा, उच्च स्तर पर बनी रह सकती है भारत की क्रूड आयात पर निर्भरता

नई दिल्ली। भारत का शुद्ध कच्चा तेल आयात बिल चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में बढ़कर 101-104 अरब डॉलर पहुंच सकता है, जो 2023-24 में 96.1 अरब डॉलर था। रेटिंग एजेंसी इक्रा ने मंगलवार को जारी रिपोर्ट में कहा, भारत की क्रूड आयात पर निर्भरता उच्च स्तर पर बने रहने का अनुमान है। अगर रूसी कच्चे तेल की खरीद पर छूट मौजूदा निम्न स्तर पर बनी रहती है और क्रूड की औसत कीमत 85 डॉलर प्रति बैरल रही तो देश का आयात बिल 104 अरब डॉलर तक पहुंच जाएगा। एजेंसी ने कहा, ईरान-इस्राइल संघर्ष बढ़ने से कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में वृद्धि की आशंका है। अगर ऐसा हुआ तो शुद्ध तेल आयात के मूल्य पर दबाव बढ़ सकता है। भारत अपनी जरूरतों का 85 फीसदी से अधिक क्रूड आयात करता है। एजेंसी



0.3% बढ़ सकता है कैड

एजेंसी के मुताबिक, चालू वित्त वर्ष में क्रूड की औसत कीमत में 10 डॉलर प्रति बैरल की वृद्धि से शुद्ध तेल आयात 12-13 अरब डॉलर बढ़ जाएगा। इससे जीडीपी के अनुपात में चालू खाते का घाटा (कैड) 0.3 फीसदी तक बढ़ जाएगा।

■ अगर क्रूड 95 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पहुंचता है तो कैड बढ़कर जीडीपी के 1.5 फीसदी तक पहुंच सकता है।

7.9 अरब डॉलर की बचत संभव

इक्रा ने अपने विश्लेषण के आधार पर कहा, रूसी कच्चे तेल आयात के कम मूल्य से वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 के 11 महीने (अप्रैल-फरवरी) में भारत को 7.9 अरब डॉलर की बचत होने की उम्मीद है। यह आंकड़ा 2022-23 में हुई 5.1 अरब डॉलर की बचत से अधिक है।

15.2 फीसदी घटा कच्चा तेल आयात 11 महीने में

इक्रा के मुताबिक, 2023-24 के पहले 11 महीनों में भारत के कच्चे पेट्रोलियम और इससे जुड़े उत्पादों के आयात में 15.2 फीसदी की गिरावट रही। इसकी प्रमुख वजह...कच्चे तेल की वैश्विक कीमतों में नरमी के साथ रियायती दर पर रूसी क्रूड की खरीद में वृद्धि रही।

- इस अवधि में मात्रा के लिहाज से भारत के कुल आयात में रूसी तेल की हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 36 फीसदी पहुंच गई, जो वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 में महज 2 फीसदी रही थी।
- सरूदी अरब, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात और कुवैत से आयात 34 फीसदी से घटकर 23 फीसदी रह गया।



कच्चे तेल पर अप्रत्याशित कर घटाया

नई दिल्ली। भारत सरकार ने 1 मई से पेट्रोलियम कच्चे तेल पर अप्रत्याशित कर को 9,600 रुपये प्रति टन से घटाकर 8,400 रुपये प्रति टन कर दिया है। मंगलवार को इस संबंध में अधिसूचना जारी हुई। वता दें कि अप्रत्याशित कर सरकार की ओर से कंपनियों या व्यवसायों पर लगाया जाने वाला कर है। यह कर तब लगाया जाता है, जब किसी कंपनी को अपने औसत राजस्व से ज्यादा मुनाफा होता है। सरकार ने इस कर को राजस्व हासिल करने और समाज को फायदा पहुंचाने के मकसद से डिजाइन किया है। एजेंसी



आईओसी का लाभ 49 फीसदी घटा, 7 रुपये देगी लाभांश

नई दिल्ली। रिफाइनिंग मार्जिन घटने से इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (आईओसी) का लाभ 49 फीसदी घटकर 4,838 करोड़ रुपये रह गया। राजस्व तीन फीसदी घटकर 2.19 लाख करोड़ रहा है। कंपनी के बोर्ड ने सात रुपये प्रति शेयर लाभांश देने की घोषणा की है।

कंपनी ने कूड की कीमतों में वृद्धि के बाद भी चुनावी माहौल में पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में दो रुपये की कमी की थी। आईओसी को 2023-24 में अब तक का सर्वाधिक 39,619 करोड़ का लाभ हुआ है। 2021-22 में यह 24,184 करोड़ था। एजेंसी