

'Age of electricity' to follow fossil fuel peak: IEA

REUTERS

London, 16 October

The world is on the brink of a new age of electricity with fossil fuel demand set to peak by the end of the decade, meaning surplus oil and gas supplies could drive investment into green energy, the International Energy Agency said on Wednesday.

But in a release accompanying its annual World Energy Outlook report, the agency also flagged a high level of uncertainty as conflicts embroil the oil and gas-producing West Asia and Russia and as countries representing half of global energy demand have elections in 2024.

"In the second half of this decade, the prospect of more ample — or even surplus — supplies of oil and natural gas, depending on how geopolitical tensions evolve, would move us into a very different energy world,"

IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said in the release.

Surplus fossil fuel supplies would likely lead to lower prices and could enable countries to dedicate more resources to clean energy, moving the world into an "age of electricity," Birol said.

In the nearer term, there is also the possibility of reduced supplies should the West Asia conflict disrupt oil flows.

The IEA said such conflicts highlighted the strain on the energy system and the need for investment to speed up the transition to "cleaner and more secure technologies".

A record high level of clean energy came online globally last year, the IEA said, including more than 560 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power capacity. Around \$2 trillion is expected to be invested in clean energy in 2024, almost double the amount invested in fossil fuels.

CLEANER TECHNOLOGIES

- Global oil demand to peak before 2030 at less than 102 mb/d
- LNG demand growth to be outpaced by capacity growth to 2030
- Surplus fossil fuel could increase focus on clean energy
- Fossil fuel to make up 75% of energy mix in 2030 compared to 80% today



However, growth in clean power generation has not kept pace with rising global electricity demand and this trend is expected to continue from 2023-2030, meaning coal power use will decrease more slowly than previ-

ously expected, the IEA said.

Taking that into consideration, the share of fossil fuel in the global energy mix is forecast to be 75 per cent in 2030 under the current policy scenario, compared with 80 per cent today.

DISRUPTION WORRIES EASE

Oil Holds Near 2-week Low on Lower Demand Growth Forecasts

Reuters

New York: Oil prices held near a two-week low on Wednesday after dropping about 7% over the prior three days on forecasts for less oil demand growth and an easing in worries that Middle East conflicts will result in supply disruptions.

Brent futures fell 13 cents, or 0.2%, to \$74.12 a barrel by 11:58 a.m.



EDT (1558 GMT IST), while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 24 cents, or 0.3%, to \$70.34.

“On the top of every ardent bear’s wish list are a stuttering Chinese economy, relative calm in the Near East and downward revisions in global oil demand growth. These wishes were granted at the beginning of the week,” Tamas Varga, an analyst at TP ICAP’s PVM brokerage unit said in a report.

Earlier this week, crude prices fell in response to a weaker demand outlook and a media report that Israel would not strike Iranian nuclear and oil sites, easing fears of supply disruptions.

GRAP in force, but only 10% F'bad units adopt clean fuels

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, OCTOBER 16

With the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in force since October 1, only around 10% of Faridabad's manufacturing units have switched to clean fuels such as PNG (Piped Natural Gas) and CNG (Compressed Natural Gas). Out of an estimated 25,000 industrial units in the city, approximately 2,500 have successfully adopted clean energy sources, leaving the vast majority yet to comply.

Although industrial and commercial units are prohibited from using diesel-powered generators during the GRAP phase, all units are required to switch to clean fuels during power outages, as per a notification by the Commission for Air Quality Management

(CAQM). While welcomed in light of worsening air quality, several factors — such as fuel availability, cost, and the financial burden of transitioning — are slowing down the pace of change, said Ravi Bhushan Khatri of Laghu Udyog Bharti, an association representing small and medium industries.

Khatri pointed out that many units are located in non-conforming areas with no PNG supply infrastructure. Moreover, switching to dual-fuel generator sets or CPCB Norms-IV-compliant gensets is a costly endeavour, with prices ranging between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 20 lakh. "The CPCB Norms-IV genset is designed to significantly reduce pollutants such as nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide, and particulate matter emitted by traditional



Smoke comes out of the chimney of an industrial unit in Faridabad. FILE

diesel gensets," he added.

Rajiv Chawla, president of the Integrated Association of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (IAMSME),

echoed similar concerns, highlighting that the cost and availability of clean energy remain major obstacles. "While allowing CPCB Norms-IV diesel

gensets has provided some relief, the government should consider offering subsidies to encourage the adoption of this new technology," Chawla suggested. He further emphasised that industries using polluting fuels such as coal and diesel oils are contributing to the decline in air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR) and its surrounding areas.

Sandeep Singh, Regional Officer of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board, affirmed that the GRAP will be implemented strictly according to the norms. GRAP is imposed every year between October and February to curb air pollution as air quality levels often dip into the "very poor" and "hazardous" categories during this period, he added.

India's oil imports from Russia rise 11.7% in Sept



New Delhi: India's crude oil imports from Russia rose by 11.7 per cent to about 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) in September, accounting for about two-fifths of the South Asian nation's overall crude imports in the month, tanker data obtained from industry sources showed. Overall, refiners in India imported a total of 4.7 million bpd of crude oil in September, the data showed. REUTERS



India's Russian oil imports rise 11.7% in Sep from Aug

Reuters

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NEW DELHI: India's crude oil imports from Russia rose by 11.7% to about 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) in September, accounting for about two-fifths of the South Asian nation's overall crude imports in the month, tanker data obtained from industry sources showed.

Overall, refiners in India imported a total of 4.7 million bpd of crude oil in September, marginally higher than in

August and about 8.5% more than the same month a year ago, the data showed.

The refiners have invested billions of dollars in plant upgrades, allowing them to process more crude grades, in an effort to reduce costs.

India, the world's third largest oil importer and consumer, has emerged as the top buyer of discounted Russian seaborne oil after Western nations stopped buying from Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine.

Crude from the Common-

OVERALL, REFINERS IN INDIA IMPORTED A TOTAL OF 4.7 MILLION BPD OF CRUDE OIL IN SEPTEMBER

wealth of Independent States, comprising Russia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, accounted for about 43% of India's overall imports, up from 38.5% in August, the data showed.

During April-September, the first six months of the fiscal

year to March 2025, India's imports of Russian oil rose 9.1% to 1.91 million bpd, the data showed.

Russia remained India's top oil supplier in September, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Russian oil imports were more than double Iraq's 867,600 bpd, the data showed.

India also resumed its imports of Venezuelan oil in September after a gap of two months, with private refiner Reliance Industries Ltd receiving a cargo, the data showed.

The market share accounted

for by producers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), mainly from the Middle East and Africa, declined marginally between April and September from the same period a year ago, a Reuters analysis of the data showed.

Imports from the Middle East fell to about a 41.6% share in April-September from 43.8% a year earlier, the data showed. Indian refiners mostly buy Middle Eastern oil under annual contracts with producers in the region.



INDIA TO BE MAIN SOURCE OF OIL DEMAND GROWTH

New Delhi, Oct. 16: India will over the next decade add more than 12,000 cars a day, the international energy agency (IEA) said.

It is likely to see a rise in demand for all forms of energy - from oil and gas to coal, electricity and renewable energy - through 2035, making it the growth engine for energy demand globally, the IEA said in its World Energy Outlook 2024.

India will see its demand for oil rise by almost 2 million barrels per day by 2035 and become the main source of oil demand growth in the world.

According to IEA projections, the country is on track to become the third-largest economy in the world by 2028.

"The population size and the scale of rising demand from all sectors mean that India is poised to experience more energy demand growth than any other country over the next decade," IEA said.

— PTI

BASED ON GLOBAL STANDARDS

Methanol Policy on Niti's To-do List

Govt in talks to set up production units

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India will soon firm up a framework to aid production, transportation and storage of methanol in a bid to enhance production of alternative fuels.

“We are developing a regulatory ecosystem for methanol production and usage based on the global standards,” NITI Aayog member VK Saraswat said on Wednesday.

The move is aimed at helping India reduce dependence on fossil fuels, save on cost and substantially reduce emissions as the country targets to be Net Zero by 2070.

According to Saraswat, this will be followed by a comprehensive policy for the sector to incentivise setting up of large-scale methanol plants. “The government is in talks with the public as well as private sector to set up methanol production units from coal

and bamboo,” Saraswat said, adding that the government hopes to put in place a couple of coal-based methanol plants over next five-seven years.

The Aayog is holding a two-day International Methanol Seminar & Expo on October

TARGET 2070

The move is aimed at reducing emissions as India targets to be Net Zero by '70

17-18 to deliberate on the regulatory mechanism needed for the sector as well as a policy to enable private and public sector firms to set up large-scale production units for methanol from coal and bamboo.

The current domestic methanol stands at 0.7 million metric tonnes compared to the demand of 4.0 million tonnes.

Oil and Gas Import Bill Rises 20% to \$69b in H1 of FY25

Domestic production fails to catch up with consumption growth

Sanjeev Choudhary

New Delhi: India's net oil and gas import bill rose a fifth to \$69 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year as domestic production failed to catch up with the consumption growth.

India imports crude oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and refined products such as LPG, petcoke and fuel oil. It also exports refined products such as diesel, petrol and jet fuel.

Crude oil imports were worth \$71.3 billion during April-September, up 11% from \$63.7 billion. Crude imports rose 4% in volume terms.

Brent, the international crude benchmark, averaged \$81 per barrel this fiscal year compared to \$82 in the previous year.

India's import of refined products increased 13% to \$12.1 billion while exports fell 7% to \$22 billion.

India's inability to find a major oil discovery for years has weighed on its crude production, as matured fi-



elds like Mumbai High have witnessed a consistent decline in output. ONGC, which accounts for two-thirds of India's crude production, has witnessed a 3% production decline this fiscal year. Production from fields operated by the private sector, such as Vedanta, has fallen 7%. Output at Vedanta's flagship Barmer field has been falling for several years.

"The production decline trend will continue until we make a big discovery and put it to production,"

an industry executive said, adding that investments in old fields can slow the decline in output but can't quite reverse the trend.

At the same time, India's consumption of petroleum products has been rising, increasing 3.1% year-on-year during April-September. This has pushed up the country's import dependence to 88.2%, up from 87.6% last year.

This year, the net import bill was also inflated by a decline in refined product exports due to an oversupply in the global diesel market.

An expanded demand for natural gas by power plants during the scorching summer season boosted imports of liquefied natural gas. The LNG imports increased 18% to \$7.7 billion on a 23% rise in volumes. Benchmark LNG prices for the Asian region averaged \$12.5 per mmbtu during the April-September period compared to \$12 in the previous year.

● THE REAL MAINSTREAM

IF ISTS WAIVER IS ELIMINATED, IT WILL BE CHEAPER FOR STATES TO INSTALL AND USE RE LOCALLY

RE waiver no longer a boon

THE INTER-STATE TRANSMISSION system (ISTS) charge and loss waivers for renewable energy (RE) between Indian states are set to be phased out by 2028. Initially introduced to support the RE sector, the waiver has been extended several times due to demands from developers and the industry. However, as the solar and wind energy markets have matured, it's crucial to reassess the merits and drawbacks of the policy, especially given renewed calls to continue the waiver beyond 2028.

The ISTS waiver, introduced in 2016 by the ministry of power, was designed to help states with relatively low solar insolation and wind potential (low-RE states) meet their renewable purchase obligations (RPO) in a cost-effective manner. By allowing these states to import from RE-rich states without incurring ISTS charges, the policy aimed to prevent them from paying high RE tariffs. The ultimate goal was to create a "level playing field" across all states, promoting the use of RE nationwide.

In its early years, the ISTS waiver played a key role in accelerating RE adoption. States with abundant solar and wind resources, such as Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Karnataka, saw a surge in RE projects. These states could export RE to other states, helping them meet their RPOs without the burden of transmission costs. However, in recent years, several unintended consequences have emerged.

One of the major impacts of the ISTS waiver has been a significant imbalance in RE growth across states. Despite the availability of good solar resources in nearly all states, 83% of RE capacity is concentrated in just seven — Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. This concentration is largely due to market distortions

CHANDRA BHUSHAN

CEO, iFOREST



caused by the ISTS waiver in a highly price-sensitive sector. Here's why.

The cost of procuring power from solar projects located in states like Rajasthan or Gujarat by utilities in low-RE states like Odisha or Chhattisgarh includes generation costs, ISTS charges, and minor additional costs. An analysis comparing two RE-rich states (Rajasthan and Karnataka) with six low-RE states (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal) shows that the difference in generation costs ranges from ₹0.02/kilowatt-hour (kWh) to ₹0.40/kWh. However, the ISTS charge waiver for transactions between RE-rich and low-RE states is estimated to range from ₹0.40/kWh to ₹0.90/kWh. In other words, the ISTS waiver is now larger than the cost differ-

ential in generating RE across different parts of India.

If the ISTS waiver is eliminated, it will be cheaper for states to install and use RE locally, rather than importing power from thousands of kilometres away. For example, without the waiver, the cost of procuring solar power for a utility in Chhattisgarh from a local project is approximately ₹2.78/kWh, compared to ₹3.24/kWh from a project in Rajasthan and ₹3.36/kWh from a project in Karnataka.

Due to the ISTS waiver, a few states have become RE hubs, while the rest have lagged in RE growth. This imbalance undermines the policy's initial goal of fostering equitable RE development across states. Rather than developing their own resources, low-RE states have become

overly reliant on energy imports, which has hindered their progress in building local renewable infrastructure.

Investments in ISTS grid infrastructure dedicated to RE projects have surged over the past decade, as new transmission lines and substation capacities have been developed to transfer power from RE-rich states to low-RE states. iFOREST estimates that these investments account for 30-45% of total grid infrastructure investments in recent years. If the ISTS waiver continues, massive investments will be required to build grid infrastructure solely to transfer power between states. It would be more prudent to first promote local RE generation and consumption than prioritise inter-state transmission projects.

There are additional impacts of the ISTS waiver, such as an unequal burden of transmission costs on certain states, particularly northeastern, that use less RE from the ISTS grid. Also, inter-state transmission is itself becoming a bottleneck for the RE industry's growth as ISTS projects are being installed at a much faster pace than the expansion in transmission grid.

It is clear that the ISTS waiver impedes the goal of equitable RE growth. Although some low-RE states have tried to mitigate the waiver's impact by offering higher subsidies, these measures are insufficient. For balanced growth and healthy market competition, the ISTS waiver should be phased out as scheduled.

India has experimented with "price equalisation" policies in the past, often with negative consequences. The freight equalisation scheme for coal, for instance, was meant to promote balanced industrial development across India but ended up impeding the industrialisation of mineral-rich eastern states. We should not repeat the mistake.

COST OF PROCURING SOLAR POWER WITHOUT ISTS WAIVER



September trade gap eases, oil exports hit 32-month low

Import bill receded 14% from August's record high, in tandem with gold imports waning from a \$10.1 billion peak to touch \$4.4 billion last month; export tally inched up 0.5% in September

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's goods trade deficit narrowed sharply in September to a five-month low of \$20.78 billion, relative to August's \$29.70 billion figure – the second highest on record – with imports declining \$9 billion from an all-time high of \$64.4 billion in the previous month.

The value of outbound goods shipments rose 0.5% in September to \$34.6 billion, breaking a two-month streak of year-on-year contractions in merchandise exports.

However, this tally was 0.4% below August's tally. Just six of India's top 30 export items recorded a contraction in September, but outbound petroleum products' shipments from India continued to plummet sharply, declining almost 27% to a little over \$4.7 billion, the lowest in 32 months for India's second largest export product.

Petroleum imports fell about 10.4% to \$12.5 billion last month. The import bill grew 1.6% to \$55.36 billion over last September, but was 14% below the previous month's surprise spike that was fuelled by an all-time peak for gold imports which hit \$10.1 billion. By contrast, September's gold import bill was significantly lower at \$4.4 billion, reflecting a 6.9% rise year-on-year.

Silver imports, however, continued to surge, and



Trade blues: Between April and September 2024, goods exports have risen 1% to \$213.2 billion; imports are up 6.16%. FILE PHOTO

'Export competitiveness won't come from subsidies'

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday asked the industry to focus on making high quality products to tap global markets as export competitiveness will not come from government subsidies or support.

He also said that the government is making an effort to nudge industry to get into manufacturing high quality products as it is a "tough" task to get industry to accept that they should be making



Piyush Goyal

quality goods. "If we are looking at self-reliant India, it can only happen when India will be self-confident and that confidence will only come when we all decide that quality is not our job, it is our duty," he said.

were up over 205% at \$325.7 million in September. In the first half of 2024-25, silver imports have grown 376.4% to almost \$2.3 billion, while gold imports have risen 21.8% to around \$27.1 billion.

The narrowing in the trade deficit from August levels was driven almost entirely by the fall in gold imports, Barclays Research analysts Shreya Sodhani and Amruta Ghare pointed out in a research note.

Between April and September, goods exports have now risen 1% to \$213.2 billion, while imports have grown 6.16% to \$350.7 billion. "The sluggish growth in exports in the year so far is partly explained by weak demand from major trading partners, and lower commodity prices for select major exports. The latest data available up till August showed exports declined year on year, across the EU, U.S., China and the UAE," averred Ms. Sodhani and Ms. Ghare.

Exporters were sanguine about the minor rebound of sorts in September but called upon the government to ease liquidity concerns and expand existing schemes for them.

"The urgent and immediate need of the hour is to take steps on the liquidity front with deeper interest subvention support and extension of interest equalisation scheme for at least 5 years, creating a predictable business environment for the exporters," said Ashwani Kumar, president of the Federation of Indian Exporters' Organisations.

Apart from extending the Remission of Taxes and Duties on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme to all sectors as was the case before the pandemic, Mr. Kumar sought an immediate restoration of the Interest Equalisation Scheme with a cap of ₹10 crore for all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for all 410 tariff lines.

Stubble burning crisis needs practical solutions



BISWAJEET BANARJEE

Without swift and sustained efforts, northern India would face yet another year of deteriorating air quality, leaving millions to grapple with bad air quality



The Supreme Court has taken a strong stance against the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) for its failure to control stubble burning, a major contributor to air pollution in Delhi-NCR. The court's rebuke, delivered during a hearing on October 3, emphasised the need for effective ground-level interventions and questioned why the Commission had not implemented any provisions of the relevant Act to curb pollution from crop residue burning. Stubble burning, especially in the northern states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, has been a major environmental challenge for years. Farmers often resort to burning crop residue after harvesting paddy and wheat due to the increasing mechanisation of farming, the use of combined harvesters, a shortage of labour, and rising labour costs. This practice, prevalent in October and November following the paddy harvest, results in the release of large amounts of particulate matter into the atmosphere, contributing to the hazardous air quality in Delhi-NCR. The Supreme Court's criticism of the CAQM reflects a broader frustration over the Commission's inability to effectively tackle this issue. Despite being set up three years ago to address pollution in the National Capital Region and surrounding areas, the CAQM has been criticised for its slow pace and lack of tangible outcomes. The court particularly highlighted that the Commission meets only once every three months, a frequency deemed inadequate for addressing a recurring crisis like stubble burning. Moreover, the Commission has issued only 82 directives since its inception, a number that the court described as insufficient to deal with the scale of the problem. A significant concern raised by the Supreme Court is the lack of adequate staffing within the pollution control boards of Delhi-NCR and other affected states, including Uttar Pradesh. The



FARMERS OFTEN RESORT TO BURNING CROP RESIDUE AFTER HARVESTING PADDY AND WHEAT DUE TO THE INCREASING MECHANISATION OF FARMING, THE USE OF COMBINED HARVESTERS, A SHORTAGE OF LABOUR, AND RISING LABOUR COSTS

court ordered that these vacant posts be filled by April 30, 2025, to improve monitoring and enforcement capabilities. Effective staffing is critical for implementing measures on the ground, particularly when dealing with farmers who rely on burning crop residue as a quick and cost-effective way to clear their fields.

Despite repeated interventions from both the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Supreme Court, stubble burning incidents continue to surge. Last year alone, more than 33,000 incidents of stubble burning were recorded in Punjab, even after explicit instructions to engage with farmers to explore alternatives. The lack of a coordinated effort between the state governments and the CAQM has only exacerbated the pollution crisis during the winter months.

Turning Stubble into a Resource: While the focus remains on the failures of the CAQM and the continued challenges in states like Punjab, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a notable example of how stubble can be managed more sustainably. The state has successfully implemented initiatives that transform stubble into an energy resource and natural fertiliser, benefiting both the environment and the agricultural community.

The key to this transformation has been the establishment of Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants that convert crop residue into energy and high-quality compost. This approach has not only addressed environmental concerns but has also created an additional income stream for farmers, who sell stubble as raw

material for the CBG process. In this way, stubble has shifted from being a burden to becoming a valuable asset in Uttar Pradesh's rural economy. As of last year, Uttar Pradesh led the country in CBG production, with ten operational plants. Currently, 24 CBG units are active, and another 93 are under construction. The state aims to have more than 100 CBG plants operational soon, a goal endorsed by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. During a March 2024 announcement, he highlighted the state's plan to double its bio-coal and biodiesel production by 2025. The success of CBG production in Uttar Pradesh has been bolstered by the Uttar Pradesh State Bio-Energy Policy 2022, which offers various incentives for establishing bio-CNG and CBG units using agricultural waste.

The policy aims to set up CBG plants in every district, providing local solutions for managing stubble while promoting energy self-sufficiency. A significant milestone in this journey was the inauguration of a CBG plant in Dhuriyapar, Gorakhpur, on March 8, 2023, by Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The plant, built for Rs 165 crore, processes 200 metric tonnes of straw, 20 metric tonnes of press mud, and 10 metric tonnes of cattle dung daily. It produces 20 metric tonnes of biogas and 125 metric tonnes of organic manure, contributing to higher agricultural yields while reducing dependency on chemical fertilisers. This initiative allows farmers to diversify their income sources and play

a crucial role in the energy sector. By reducing the practice of stubble burning, the state is making strides in environmental protection. The Yogi Adityanath government has expressed confidence that the enhanced production of bio-coal and biodiesel will help reduce air pollution in the region over the next five years. The Supreme Court's critique of the CAQM underscores the urgency of finding a balanced approach to stubble burning that respects both environmental concerns and the practical challenges faced by farmers. Uttar Pradesh's model of converting stubble into a resource could serve as a blueprint for other states grappling with similar issues. However, the broader challenge remains: implementing such solutions at scale requires consistent policy support, adequate resources, and a willingness to engage with farmers directly. The court's directive for the CAQM to improve its approach and for state governments to fill vacant posts by 2025 is a step towards accountability. Yet, the real test will lie in translating these directives into action before another winter brings the familiar, suffocating haze back to the skies of Delhi-NCR. The question remains whether the CAQM, in partnership with state governments, can adapt and adopt innovative solutions like those seen in UP. Without swift and sustained efforts, the region risks facing another year of deteriorating air quality, leaving millions to grapple with the health consequences of inaction.

(The writer is Associate Editor, The Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

निर्यात मामूली बढ़ा, व्यापार घाटा हुआ कम

श्रेया नंदी
नई दिल्ली, 16 अक्टूबर

सितंबर में भारत का व्यापार घाटा कम होकर पिछले पांच महीने के निचले स्तर पर आ गया। महीने के दौरान व्यापार घाटा 20.78 अरब डॉलर रहा। इस दौरान आयात में वृद्धि की रफ्तार पिछले छह महीने में सबसे सुस्त रही। मगर निर्यात में लगातार दो महीनों की गिरावट के बाद मामूली वृद्धि दर्ज की गई। अगस्त में व्यापार घाटा बढ़कर 10 महीने के शीर्ष स्तर 29.7 अरब डॉलर पर पहुंच गया था।

सितंबर में 55.36 अरब डॉलर की वस्तुओं का आयात किया गया जो वैश्विक पेट्रोलियम कीमतों में नरमी के बावजूद 1.62 फीसदी अधिक है। महीने के दौरान सोने का आयात भी एक साल पहले की समान अवधि के मुकाबले 6.9 फीसदी बढ़कर 4.39 अरब डॉलर हो गया। मगर क्रमिक रुझान की बात करें तो सोने के आयात के मूल्य में अगस्त के मुकाबले सितंबर में 56 फीसदी की कमी दर्ज की गई। अगस्त में सोने का आयात एक साल पहले की समान अवधि के मुकाबले 3 फीसदी बढ़कर 10 अरब डॉलर हो गया था। उसे मुख्य तौर पर त्योहारी सीजन से पहले स्टॉक भरने और जुलाई में पीली धातु के आयात शुल्क को 15 फीसदी से घटाकर 6 फीसदी किए जाने से बल मिला।

वाणिज्य विभाग द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, सितंबर में पेट्रोलियम और कच्चे तेल का आयात 10 फीसदी घटकर 10.51 अरब डॉलर रह गया। सितंबर में भू-राजनीतिक चुनौतियों के बीच कमजोर वैश्विक मांग के

कारण निर्यात 0.5 फीसदी घटकर 34.58 अरब डॉलर रह गया।

निर्यात में करीब 14 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी रखने वाले पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का निर्यात सितंबर में 25 फीसदी से अधिक घटकर 4.73 अरब डॉलर रह गया। पेट्रोलियम के अलावा रत्न एवं आभूषणों का निर्यात भी 11.5 फीसदी घटकर 2.82 अरब डॉलर रह गया।

वाणिज्य सचिव सुनील बड़थवाल ने कहा कि भारत वैश्विक औसत के मुकाबले बेहतर प्रदर्शन कर रहा है। चालू वित्त वर्ष की पहली छमाही में तमाम चुनौतियों के बावजूद वस्तुओं का निर्यात अच्छा रहा। पहले छह महीनों के दौरान निर्यात 1 फीसदी बढ़कर 213 अरब डॉलर हो गया, जबकि आयात 6 फीसदी बढ़कर 350.66 अरब डॉलर हो गया।

निर्यात की सेहत का प्रमुख संकेतक समझा जाने वाला गैर-पेट्रोलियम और गैर-रत्न एवं आभूषण निर्यात महीने के दौरान 9.6 फीसदी बढ़कर 27 अरब डॉलर हो गया। जिन क्षेत्रों में वृद्धि दर्ज की गई उनमें इंजीनियरिंग वस्तुएं (10.55 फीसदी), इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वस्तुएं (7.89 फीसदी), ड्रग्स एवं फार्मास्युटिकल्स (7.22 फीसदी), और रेडीमेड परिधान (17.3 फीसदी) शामिल हैं।

सितंबर में सेवाओं का निर्यात 7.7 फीसदी बढ़कर 30.61 अरब डॉलर हो गया। इससे 14.29 अरब डॉलर का अधिशेष दर्ज किया गया। मगर सितंबर के लिए सेवाओं के व्यापार आंकड़े 'अनुमान' हैं जिसे भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के आंकड़ों के आधार पर संशोधित किया जाएगा।



■ सितंबर में व्यापार घाटा कम होकर पिछले पांच महीने के निचले स्तर पर

■ सितंबर में 55.36 अरब डॉलर की वस्तुओं का आयात किया गया

■ सोने का आयात भी एक साल पहले की समान अवधि के मुकाबले 6.9 फीसदी बढ़ा

■ पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का निर्यात 25 फीसदी से अधिक घटकर 4.73 अरब डॉलर रह गया

■ रत्न एवं आभूषणों का निर्यात 11.5 फीसदी घटकर 2.82 अरब डॉलर रहा

■ सितंबर में सेवाओं का निर्यात 7.7 फीसदी बढ़कर 30.61 अरब डॉलर हो गया

‘रामबाग में गैस आधारित शवदाह प्लांट जल्द होगा शुरू, बिजली कनेक्शन मिला’

बहादुरगढ़, 16 अक्टूबर (निस)

रामबाग में बंद पड़ा गैस आधारित शवदाहगृह प्लांट लम्बे समय के बाद अब चालू होगा। इस प्लांट को चालू करने के लिए रामबाग श्मशान भूमि सुधार सभा प्रयासरत थी। बुधवार को यहां बिजली की लाइन डालकर मीटर लगा दिया गया।

रामबाग श्मशान भूमि सुधार सभा के प्रधान शतीश नम्बरदार ने बताया कि शहर के बस स्टैंड के पास स्थित रामबाग में लाखों रुपए की लागत से बनाया गया गैस आधारित शवदाहगृह प्लांट बिजली का मीटर न होने के कारण बंद था, जिससे असुविधा होती थी। गैस पाइप लाइन लगा दी गई थी, जो-जो कमी थीं, उन्हें भी दुरुस्त कर दिया गया था और बिजली कनेक्शन के लिए बिजली निगम में

आवेदन कर रखा था। अब बिजली का कनेक्शन मिलने के बाद इस प्लांट में शवों का अंतिम संस्कार शुरू कर दिया जाएगा।

रामबाग श्मशान घाट में मौजूद प्रधान शतीश नम्बरदार, गौरव राठी, सोनू मक्कड़, पवन नारंग, संटी दुआ, राजू दुआ, राजू पंडित, पवन चाहर, गुल्लू सैनी, पवन सैनी, महेंद्र सैनी, अनिल राठी, जोगेंद्र आदि ने बताया कि रामबाग में अब गैस आधारित शवदाहगृह प्लांट में भी दाह संस्कार हो सकेंगे। पर्यावरण संरक्षण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए दाह संस्कार इसी शवदाह गृह में होने लगेंगे। एलपीजी-सीएनजी बेस्ड प्लांट में कुछ ही समय में संस्कार होने के बाद अस्थियां भी परिजनों को मिल जाएंगी। प्रधान शतीश नम्बरदार ने बताया कि मशीन पर दाह संस्कार होने से प्रदूषण कम होगा।

