

BPCL Subsidiary Gets NCLT Nod to Take Over Videocon Oil

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Mumbai: A Mumbai bankruptcy court has approved a debt resolution plan given by Bharat PetroResources, a subsidiary of Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCL) to take over Videocon Oil Ventures (VOVL), upholding Bharat Petro's right to first refusal as a shareholder in their Brazilian joint venture.

The two-judge bench of the NCLT dismissed resolution applicant Petro Rio's challenge to the committee of creditors' decision that allowed Bharat Petro to exercise its right of first refusal (RoFR). It noted that the applicant had been fully aware of the first refusal rights and their commercial implications.



"The argument raised...that RoFR acts against there being a level playing field is equally fallacious. Being fully aware of the RoFR available to Bharat Petro and its implications, Petro Rio submitted an offer for a commercial value that it believed would dissuade Bharat Petro from exercising its ROFR.... There is no question on Bharat Petro's ROFR having an impact on the playing field between parties," the court said.

A year ago, Bharat Petro had consented to match Eneva and Petro Rio's offers, for Potiguar Basin, Sergipe Basin and Campos Basin with payment of \$200 million as upfront payment to lenders. The resolution professional had admitted claims of ₹30,640 crore from financial creditors.

Bharat Petro's offer means a recovery of less than 10% for creditors.



Cooper Corp, Sinfonia Tech join hands to introduce LPG gensets

PTI

MUMBAI

Engine, engine component and generator manufacturer Cooper Corporation on Thursday said it has collaborated with Japanese firm Sinfonia Technology to introduce LPG gensets in the domestic and international markets. Besides, two companies are in the process of jointly developing a series of hydrogen engines for both on-road and off-road use, Cooper Corporation said.

The company also informed that 'CPCB IV+' certified LPG gensets developed under the partnership will be unveiled at

The cos are in the process of jointly developing a series of hydrogen engines

the Gas India Expo 2024 at Expo Centre Greater Noida next month. The CPCB IV+ emission standards are the latest and stringent environmental regulations for diesel generators by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in India.

The co-branded gensets, which are engineered to meet the stringent emission standards set by the CPCB IV+ legislation.

Crude oil imports hit 5.33 mb/day in June

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

In June, Indian refiners maintained their strong momentum in purchasing crude oil from their two largest trading partners, Russia and the Middle East, for the second consecutive month.

According to S&P Global Commodity Insights, India is likely to have procured 5.33 million barrels per day (mb/d) of crude oil in the current month, compared with 5.22 mb/d during May 2024.

Russia continued to be the top supplier to the world's third-largest crude oil importer, with cargoes expected to be around 2.12 mb/d this month, up from 2.15 mb/d in May 2024.

Similarly, cargoes from Iraq, India's second-largest crude oil supplier country-wise, were almost flat at 1.085 mb/d in June from 1.081 mb/d last month.

Indian refiners also continued the buy momentum from its third largest supplier, Saudi Arabia, at 5,62,000 barrels per day (b/d) this month from 5,65,000 b/d in May. However, sup-



Keeping up the momentum

thousand barrels per day (kb/d)

	Mar 2024	*Apr 2024	*May 2024	*June 2024
Russia	1,693	1,830	2,150	2,119
Iraq	1,349	912	1,081	1,085
Saudi Arabia	639	594	565	562
The UAE	427	408	398	412
North America	86	104	123	138
West Africa	412	594	565	562
Kuwait	23	45	78	74
Qatar	45	43	41	43
Total	5,199	5,181	5,221	5,325

Source: S&P Global Commodity Insight

*Forecast numbers

plies from the UAE rose to 4,12,000 b/d in June 2024 from 3,98,000 b/d last month.

Cargoes from Qatar and Kuwait were also largely flat. India imported 43,000 b/d from Qatar during June (May: 41,000 b/d), whereas cargoes from Kuwait stood at 74,000 b/d (May: 78,000 b/

d). Crude oil imports from West Africa also remained largely flat at 5,62,000 b/d in the current month from 5,65,000 b/d in May 2024.

Indian crude oil imports from North America, which are largely sweet grades, rose to 1,38,000 b/d in June from 1,23,000 b/d in May 2024.

ENERGY TRANSITION

S&P Global Commodity Insights' Global Director for Crude & Fuel Oil Markets, Joel Hanley, opines that India's economic development and growth will rely on oil.

"India is committed to being carbon neutral by 2070 and is investing in more sustainable energy such as hydrogen, as well as more accessible power grids but while that is happening, India's economic development and growth will rely on oil. Now a key supplier of refined products to Europe and beyond, as well as furnishing its own growing population, India's building of large refineries has helped put it on the energy map," he added.

The affordability part of the Energy Trilemma (security, affordability and sustainability) has received a "huge boost" from trade with Russia at a discount.

Sweet/ sour crude spreads have been turned upside down by the actions of OPEC+ and increased production from the West. Hanley explained that India is now positioned to take advantage of these changes to increase its security and affordability.

Env nod to fuel pipeline for new airport

Bhalchandra Chorghade

NAVI MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) has granted the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance to the proposed 22km Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) pipeline from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) to the proposed Navi Mumbai International Airport.

The pipeline will be laid by the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL). MCZMA noted that a public utility project can be allowed prior CRZ clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

As the pipeline falls within the 50m mangrove buffer zone, prior permission from the Bombay High Court, the mangrove cell, besides a forest clearance, also needs to be obtained. The project proponent has to ensure that no mangrove cutting should be involved in the project and there will be no violation of the High Court order.

Environment watchdog, NatConnect Foundation said that while the airport is notably an important project, it has thrown several environmental cautions to the wind. "The ATF is of course a very important aspect of the airport functioning, but the work can lead to environmental concerns as there is no monitoring authority to check the execution as per the MCZMA stipulations," director of NatConnect Foundation, B N Kumar said.

"At the MCZMA meeting, the expert member inquired about the impact on mangroves to which the project proponent said the work will not impact the tidal plants. However, our apprehension is that the debris and the sludge that will be generated during the pipeline work, is bound to kill some mangroves," Kumar said.



NEW DELHI

Gujarat Gas plans capex of ₹12 bn in FY25

Gujarat Gas Ltd plans capital expenditure of nearly 12 bln rupees in 2024-25 (Apr-Mar), as against 8.12 bln rupees it had spent in 2023-24, a top company official told Informist on condition of anonymity. "We have 36,000 km of piped network currently and the majority of the proposed investment would be in laying steel pipelines across the states of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra," the official said.



Indian Oil to boost LNG portfolio to 20 mn tonnes by 2030, exec says

New Delhi: Indian Oil aims to increase its liquified natural gas (LNG) portfolio to 20 million tonnes per year (MTPA) by 2030, from 7.8 MTPA currently, Sujoy Choudhury, head of planning and business development at the company, said at an industry event on Thursday. The power sector is expected to be one of the key drivers for Indian LNG demand, Choudhury said. **REUTERS**

Oil & gas sector seeks investor-friendly reforms, GST on gas

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, June 27

THE COUNTRY'S OIL and gas sector seeks supportive regulatory reforms in order to stabilise gas prices by bringing it under the goods and services tax (GST), and steps to increase investment opportunities in the exploration of oil in the upcoming Union Budget.

“Incorporating GST into gas pricing is crucial at this juncture. Stabilising gas prices across the nation, which have been inconsistent and created significant disparities within the industry, is equally important,” said Kapil Garg, chairman & managing director, Oilmax Energy.

The industry expects the government to make the use of natural gas mandatory in areas where the infrastructure is ready and gas is flowing to help the country achieve the target of increasing gas share in the energy mix to 15% from the current 6% by 2030. The industry's expectations are in sync with the government's goal.

Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said the focus of the new alliance government would be on boosting oil and gas exploration and production, green hydrogen, and increasing the consumption of gas in the country to achieve a gas-based economy.

“With a potential decline in oil production by 2030, increasing investment in oil exploration is essential. This will not only build confidence among domestic players to venture beyond shallow waters and into deep-sea exploration but also ensure sustained growth in capacity,” Garg said. “Continued capital expenditure (capex) investment is necessary, particularly in energy, logistics, and infrastructure, including gas pipelines and railway corridors.”

The minister has also said that this time the government will work to bring gas under GST. The industry players are confident of some development in this regard. “We look forward to the government's commitment by considering the inclusion of natural gas under the GST ambit,” Hardip Singh Rai, chief executing



FUEL OF FUTURE

- India has set a target of increasing the share of gas in the **energy mix to 15% from the current 6% by 2030**
- The industry expects the government to make the use of natural gas mandatory in areas where it is available

officer of THINK Gas had earlier said.

EverEnviro anticipates robust growth for the adoption of alternative fuels on the back of governmental reforms and push for infrastructure development. “A crucial step will be to secure guaranteed offtake of compressed biogas by various natural gas-consuming industries to accelerate the achievement of decarbonisation goals. Setting up a grid system framework, similar to solar, would enable CBG production in one location and off-take in another, while preserving the molecule's green properties,” said Mahesh Girdhar, managing director & CEO, EverEnviro Resource Management.

Girdhar notes that focusing on carbon credit trading will draw more investments into CBG (compressed biogas) projects, providing much-needed cash flow for the sector. “Further, a CBG Fertilizer Synchronization scheme, requiring fertilizer units to use CBG, would greatly support the industry,” he said.

The industry also expects the central government to coordinate with states and bring about policy initiatives such as reduction in VAT.



एलएनजी प्लांट के लिए ओएनजीसी और इंडियन ऑयल में करार

नई दिल्ली (वि)। ओएनजीसी और इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (आईओसीएल) ने विंध्यन बेसिन क्षेत्र के हट्टा गैस फील्ड के निकट लघु स्तर के लिक्वूफाइड नेचुरल गैस (एलएनजी) प्लांट की स्थापना के लिए एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। यहां दीनदयाल ऊर्जा भवन में गत दिवस आयोजित समारोह में आईओसी के डायरेक्टर (प्लानिंग एंड बिजनेस डेवलपमेंट) सुजाय चौधरी, ओएनजीसी के डायरेक्टर (एक्सप्लोरेशन) सुषमा रावत आदि मौजूद रहे। दोनों अधिकारियों ने कहा कि यह प्लांट पारंपरिक ईंधन के विकल्प के रूप में एलएनजी का उत्पादन करेगा। प्लांट बन जाने से विंध्यन बेसिन श्रेणी-2 से उन्नत होकर श्रेणी-1 बन जाएगा।