

Equities

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India Oil & Gas Daily

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- Daily

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- **Petrol price cut by Rs2.22/ltr** — Petrol price was slashed by Rs2.22/ltr, the first reduction in 33 months. Petrol in Delhi will cost Rs66.42/ltr now as against Rs68.64/ltr earlier. The reduction comes days after state-owned oil companies raised petrol prices by a steep Rs1.8/ltr. State-owned oil companies passed on Rs1.85/ltr that they gained from a fall in global oil prices and a marginal appreciation in rupee value. Adding 20% local sales tax, the decrease in Delhi comes to Rs2.22/ltr. "If the Rupee/Dollar parity remains at this level or moves further away, its impact would get reflected in the next pricing cycle," an IOC statement said. (ET, 15th Nov)
- **GAIL wins rights to lay Surat-Paradip pipeline** — GAIL won rights to lay a 1,550-km natural gas pipeline from Surat in Gujarat to Paradip in Orissa, connecting west to east coast. GAIL beat GSPL to win the right to lay the pipeline when regulator PNGRB opened bids. GAIL bid an astonishingly low pipeline tariff of Rs 0.01/mmbtu to bag the project. The aggressive bidding by GAIL followed the firm losing bids for the previous three major pipelines to GSPL. The bi-directional, Rs55bn pipeline would have a capacity of up to 60 mmscmd of gas. The pipeline is to originate from Mora in Gujarat which is a major node/terminal of GSPL's network. LNG imported at the proposed Mundra terminal, Petronet's Dahej or Shell's Hazira terminal are possible sources of gas, which can be transported through the pipeline up to the east coast. (ET, 15th Nov)
- **NOC in limbo: Differences between Cairn and its partner on payment** — Cairn's partner may take a little longer to issue an NOC to Cairn for the deal. While the two companies have now decided Cairn will pay its partner in dollars for the royalty, the companies are yet to decide at what exchange rate. On Sep 27, the board actually agreed to give that NOC provided they got a written pact from Cairn India for withdrawing the cess arbitration and also solving the royalty issue. Cairn will have to reimburse the partner for the royalty that the partner has been paying on the behalf of Cairn at the Barmer oilfield. Initially, the partner wanted the reimbursement in Indian currency, however, Cairn wanted to pay in dollars. Now it's been agreed that Cairn will probably be reimbursing its partner in dollars but the tricky issue is about the exchange rate. (Moneycontrol, 15th Nov)

Daily Indicators

		15-Nov-11	14-Nov-11	Last week's avg
WTI	US\$/bbl	99.4	98.1	97.0
Brent	US\$/bbl	112.6	112.2	113.7
Indian Crude Basket	US\$/bbl	111.5	111.7	111.3
S'pore GRM	US\$/bbl	8.0	6.4	8.2
Gasoline	US\$/bbl	110.9	113.5	117.4
Diesel	US\$/bbl	131.7	131.3	131.0
LPG	US\$/Ton	748.0	748.0	782.5
Kerosene	US\$/bbl	130.9	129.8	130.7

Source: Reuters, Bloomberg

 See Appendix A-1 for Analyst Certification, Important Disclosures and non-US research analyst disclosures.

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Industry News

Oil companies hike jet fuel prices

State-owned oil companies today hiked jet fuel prices for the second time this month, raising rates by a steep 2% with effect from midnight tonight. "The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, at Delhi was raised by Rs1,195/kl, or 1.95%, to Rs 62,310.33/kl with effect from midnight, an official of IOC said. The increase comes on back of a massive 3.8% or Rs2,845/kl hike in rates effected from November 1. The three fuel retailers revise jet fuel prices on the 1st and 16th of every month, based on the average international price in the preceding fortnight. (ET, 15th Nov)

Oil firms' expansion plan fuels anger among retailers

In one of the biggest expansion plan since the Independence, three public sector oil companies — HPCL, BPCL and IOC — are planning to set up 30,000 outlets all over the country. The move comes when these companies state that they are not in a position to buy crude in December. Of the 30,000 outlets, Karnataka will get 3,000 outlets, concentrated mainly in the interior, rural and coastal areas. Each outlet in the urban areas will cost no less than Rs10-15m and Rs5-7.5m in rural and interior areas. Chairman of the Akhila Karnataka Federation of Petroleum Traders, Bangalore, GV Bhushan Narang said that the oil companies were misleading the country with false promises to entrepreneurs. "Their advertisements and promos say that those who own a petrol pump can get steady and perennial income, but their marketing discipline guidelines (MDG) are not conducive for healthy growth of petroleum retailing in the country. The companies have deregulated petrol, but diesel and a host of other products are still in limbo," he said. (ET, 14th Nov)

India, Pak to hold talks for trade in petroleum products

India and Pakistan have agreed that a joint group of experts would hold its first meeting before January regarding trade in petroleum products. These were part of the joint statement issued by the two countries on Tuesday after talks between the Commerce Secretary, Dr Rahul Khullar, and his Pakistani counterpart Mr Zafar Mahmood. (Business Line, 15th Nov)

Company News

GAIL wants weaker oil link in LNG contracts

GAIL hopes to convince its suppliers of LNG, including Qatari producer Rasgas, to reduce the impact high oil prices have on its gas deliveries, its head of marketing said. Rasgas' biggest long-term customer by volume, GAIL wants to introduce price caps to limit its exposure to rising oil prices, including the introduction of a contractual device known as the s-curve. "S-curves are being talked about with Rasgas but they don't seem very interested in this discussion," GAIL's head of marketing Prabhat Singh said on the sidelines of an industry conference in Rome. GAIL also wants Rasgas to supply it with more LNG at prices it already pays, Singh said. Earlier this month, GAIL said it was close to landing a deal to buy 0.5-1.0 MMT of LNG in one to two months. (Reuters, 15th Nov)

Reliance, a white knight for Kingfisher?

The beleaguered Kingfisher Airlines is close to finding a white knight. That might just be Reliance Industries. This development should be seen in the context of the airline's promoter Mr Vijay Mallya's statement at a press conference that a potential investor is in talks with them. Reliance might either make a financial investment in the airline or pick up equity through a preferential offer which could be followed up by an open offer to public shareholders. If Reliance makes a financial investment in

the airline, it might want the UB Group companies' shares pledged with itself as collateral. This financial investment could at a later stage be converted to equity. The second option will be preferential offer leading to Reliance gaining control of the airline. Reliance has, however, denied being in talks with Kingfisher for a possible stake sale. (Business Line + Bloomberg, 15th Nov)

Reliance Retail set to go big on retail once more with big-box hypermarkets

RIL-owned Reliance Retail is buying real estate in 20 towns and cities to build big-box hypermarkets, moving beyond its earlier model of leased properties and small formats, as the conglomerate turns the spotlight back on retail under the new operations team hired from Walmart China. A senior company executive added that the company has no plans of inducting an overseas partner even after foreign direct investment is allowed in the multi-brand retail sector. The focus on large-format stores of 60,000-80,000 sq ft, and building stores on its own land, marks a shift from the company's earlier strategy. Reliance Retail has bought land parcels in Mumbai, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Pune, Mysore and Madurai in the last few months, each measuring 1-1.5 acres. The first big-box hypermarket opened at Santa Cruz in Mumbai last month and 10 days later a second one was opened in Pune. (ET, 16th Nov)

ONGC's revised estimates for 2011-12: Crude output falters

The revised estimates for 2011-12 peg crude output from its own asset downward by a significant 3.47% from target set for the year. The total crude oil production (excluding JVs) has been revised downwards from 24.774 MMT to 23.912 MMT. Pertinently, the revised figures are below the crude oil output in 2010-11 of 24.418 MMT. More worryingly, the step down is higher from the company's offshore assets where bulk of the production comes from. The total offshore crude production has been revised downwards by 4.19% – a fall larger than the average decline of 3.47% – from 17.434 MMT to 16.703 MMT. When production from ONGC's share of JVs is taken into account, there is a marginal improvement, with output below target by 3.21%. Against a budget estimate of 28.175 MMT of total production, the revised output level has been pegged at 27.268 MMT. (Indianpetro, 15th Nov)

ONGC's budget estimates for 2012-13: Crude oil production to go up by 4.74%

ONGC is going to start 2012-13 on a hopeful note by projecting a reversal in the downward trend in crude output. Crude oil production (excluding JVs) is set to go up by 4.74% in 2012-13 from the revised estimate of 2011-12. In other words, total crude oil production (excluding JVs) is set to go up from the revised estimate of 23.912 MMT in 2011-12 to 25.046 MMT in 2012-13. The total offshore crude oil production is estimated to go up by 6.98% from 16.703 MMT to 17.870 MMT. New offshore production is expected to make up the gap but whether that happens or not will have to be seen. If the JV output is included, the budget estimate for crude oil production for 2012-13 is expected to go up by a whopping 5.48% from 27.268 MMT to 28.765 MMT. (Indianpetro, 15th Nov)

ONGC's revised estimates for 2011-12: Natural gas production revised downwards by 1.46%

Gas output is set to suffer a setback in 2011-12 but not as badly as crude production. Output is slated to be down 146% from target in the revised estimates (excluding JV output) in 2011-12. The setback has come from ONGC's offshore fields whereas onshore assets have performed well. Gas production (excluding JVs) has been revised downwards from a budget estimate of 23.536 bcm to 23.192 bcm in 2011-12. In comparison, gas production in 2010-11 is 23.095 bcm. Offshore output is expected to fall short of target by 2.54% from 18.153 bcm to 17.691 bcm. If JVs are included, the downward revision is smaller, at 0.84%, from an overall budget estimate of 25.451 bcm to 25.235 bcm. (Indianpetro, 15th Nov)

ONGC's budget estimates for 2012-13: Company bullish on gas output, to go up by 7.26%

ONGC expects an upswing in gas production (excluding JVs) in 2012-13, with output slated to go up by 7.26%. The total natural gas production (excluding JVs) is set to go up from the revised estimates of 23.192 bcm in 2011-12 to 24.877 bcm for the FY2012-13. The bulk of this increase is coming from ONGC's offshore assets. The total offshore natural gas production is estimated to go up by as much as 10.21% from the revised estimate of 17.691 bcm in the current year to 19.498 bcm next year. Production is slated to go up not just from Mumbai High but also from the Bassein and Satellite fields. If JVs are included, the budget estimate for natural gas production for FY2012-13 is expected to go up by 7.06% from 25.235 bcm in the revised estimates in 2011-12 to 27.018 bcm. (Indianpetro, 15th Nov)

GSPC Gas Company increases gas prices, CNG to cost more

Citing the non-allocation of cheaper natural gas from the Centre, the GSPC Gas Company announced a hike in the gas prices in various categories, impacting industry and end-users. The hike will come into effect from tomorrow (Nov 16), an official statement said. This is the third hike announced by the company this year. The oil and gas PSU has raised the prices of CNG from Rs40.25/kg to Rs45.25/kg, while it has revised the prices of gas supply to industry from Rs21.8/scm to Rs26.7/scm, a company official said. The company has hiked gas prices in commercial user category, comprising hotel and restaurants from Rs29.1/scm to Rs42/scm, he said. The company operates with a network of around 119 CNG outlets in Gujarat. In spite of several representations by the Gujarat Government and repeated requests by GSPC Gas, there has been no allocation of any cheaper domestic gas by the gov't of India, said an official statement. (ET, 15th Nov)

CPCL's Euro-IV project at the Manali Refinery: Commissioning not before February, 2012

CPCL's Euro-IV project at the Manali Refinery has encountered a delay of another two months. The Rs26bn Euro-IV project is now scheduled to be commissioned by Feb'12 as against the earlier deadline of Dec'11. Cumulatively, the project stands delayed by nine months over the original deadline of May'11. According to EIL's latest project monitoring report, the project registered a physical progress of 97.5% as on Oct'11 as against a target of 100%. A sum of Rs16.8bn has been incurred on the project as on Oct'11. The project involves setting up a 1.8 MMTPA Diesel Hydro Treater Unit (DHDT), a 0.2 MMTPA Naphtha-Hydro-Treater (NHT) Unit, a 0.14 MMTPA Isomerisation Unit, a 21,000 TPA Hydrogen Generation Unit, along with treating units, utilites and offsites to meet Euro-III and Euro-IV specifications for MS and HSD. (Indianpetro, 15th Nov)

Indian consortium to hunt for oil in Sumatra

A consortium of GSPC and Essar Oil plans to launch a one-well exploratory drilling campaign at the onshore block in South East Tungkai gas basin of Central Sumatra in mid-2012. GSPC has 50.5% operating interest in the block. The rest is held by Essar. "We are expecting to close the 2-D seismic survey in the block in November. The drilling is expected to start some time in the middle of 2012," a GSPC source said. The onshore block was one of the 29 exploration acreages awarded in 2008 through competitive bidding. (Business Line, 15th Nov)

Appendix A-1

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