FINANCIAL EXPRESS. Dt: 12/11/24

Exports of solar PV products skyrocket

Shipments up 23 times to $2 bn in FY22-FY24

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, November 11

INDIA'S EXPORT OF solar photovoltaic (PV) products soared 23 times between FY22 and FY24, when it touched $2 billion, and continues to grow at a scorching pace. The trend signals that the country is poised to be a net exporter of these products, even as it is eyeing big targets for solar capacity addition, and these products are meant to be in great demand locally.

According to industry sources, apart from the availability of a booming market in the US, robust growth in exports of PV items can also be attributed to temporary stagnation in domestic demand for PV modules owing to the delay in the implementation of the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers for the local markets. Most PV manufacturers have ended up looking to sell their products at a high premium abroad.

The US has emerged as a key market for Indian solar PV products, accounting for 97% of shipments in both FY23 and FY24.

- Temporary stagnation in domestic demand for PV modules a reason for the surge in exports
- Rising demand for Indian PV products abroad, attractive incentive structure also pushed Indian makers to establish facilities overseas

- US a key market for Indian solar PV products, accounting for **97%** of shipments in FY23 and FY24

But the short-term focus on exports, while leaving the domestic market high and dry, may also have some benefits, according to analysts.

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FINANCIAL EXPRESS DT: 12/11/24

Exports of solar PV products skyrocket

"FOCUSSING ON THE US market can benefit the Indian PV manufacturing ecosystem. The exposure to the US market will enable Indian PV manufacturers to attain economies of scale, ultimately enhancing their product quality and competitiveness," said Vibhuti Garg, director-South Asia, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

However, she cautioned that to truly establish India as a global manufacturing hub for solar products in the long run, Indian PV manufacturers must focus on upstream backward integration.

This will help India maintain its foothold in existing markets while unlocking untapped markets like Europe, Africa, Latin America, etc, she added. <

With the US move to withdraw dutyfree access to PV products from Southeast Asian countries, and even impose countervailing duties on them, India can potentially replace these countries to become the leading PV exporting country to the US, Garg added.

The increasing demand for Indian PV products abroad and the attractive incentive structure under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have also pushed many Indian manufacturers to establish manufacturing facilities overseas, particularly in the United States of America..

Some prominent players are Waaree Energies, Vikram Solar, Saatvik Energy and Navitas Solar.

Waaree Energies is setting up a 5 GW per annum integrated PV cell and module manufacturing capacity in Texas, US.

The first phase of 3 GW is expected to be commissioned by the end of 2024.

Vikram Solar has also announced a 4 GW PV module manufacturing facility in Colorado, which will be commissioned by the end of 2024. Saatvik Energy, Navitas Solar, and Premier Energies have announced that they will set up three units of 1.5 GW, 1.2 GW and 1 GW of PV module manufacturing capacity in the US.

However, analysts also note that it is important for the country to balance the need of a growing export market with domestic availability, given the government's focus on increasing the share of renewable energy to 500 GW by 2030 and schemes like PM Suryaghar that mandate the use of domestic modules.

"During periods of domestic supply shortage, certain distributed renewable energy segments, such as residential rooftop solar, could be affected due to their smaller order sizes," according to Jyoti Gulia, founder, JMK Research.

"This can make it difficult for developers to secure enough supplies to execute their projects.

The supply-demand gap also affects solar module prices, which is a critical factor for the price-sensitive residential rooftop solar segment."

As per the report, the country's annual solar module production is likely to grow to 28 gigawatt (GW) in FY25 and 35 GW in FY26.

"After accounting for exports, the resultant supply by Indian PV manufacturers in the next two years will be only 21 GW and 25 GW, respectively, which is less than the requirement of approximately 30 GW per annum to meet India's 2030 renewable energy target," said Prabhakar Sharma, senior consultant, JMK Research.

The Economic Times. Dt: 13/11/24

Centre may Ask Hardware Cos to Cut their Total Import Bills by 5%

TIMELINE Talks still on, import quota cuts to be implemented from April 1, 2025: Sources

Aashish Aryan & Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi: The government is considering directing electronics companies to reduce imports of laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, ultra-small form factor computers and servers by 5% of their total import bills, said people with knowledge of the matter.

The 5% cut, if implemented, would be based on the data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics and take effect from April 1, 2025, they said.

While the reduction in import bill is one of the "strongest ideas", stakeholder discussions are continuing in an attempt to address the issue of import dependence, said one of the persons, who did not wish to be identified.

"One such idea is that companies lower their imports and simultaneously do value addition so that the country's overall import dependence goes down. We don't want business continuity to get hit," a senior government official told ET.

For instance, if a company imports the specified electronics goods worth $4 billion yearly, it could be asked to cut its import bill by 5% for 2025-26 as well as increase value addition on products being assembled or manufactured in India.

"There will, however, be no quantitative restrictions. The restrictions or the reductions that have been proposed are based on rough estimates of how much each company tells the government it is likely to import in a fiscal," said another official.

Besides asking electronics companies to lower their import quotas gradually every financial year, the government is also likely to undertake period reviews and audits of the domestic production numbers shared by the companies with the government, according to people in the know.

"The formula (of a 5% reduction in imports) has been communicated to the industry and they are largely okay with it. We have also said that whatever domestic production numbers are shared, the government will periodically review it, possibly every quarter starting September 2025," the official said.

Stakeholder consultations are in full swing ahead of the December 31 deadline for the present import management system for certain IT hardware products such as personal computers, laptops and tablets.

Vocal for Local

Govt wants electronics cos to lower import quotas gradually every financial year

It is also likely to undertake periodic reviews and audits of the domestic production nos shared by the cos

The 5% cut, if implemented, would be based on the data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics

Stakeholder discussions are also on in an attempt to address the issue of import dependence

FOR FULL REPORT, GO TO
www.economictimes.com

FINANCIAL EXPRESS. Dt: 13/11/24

Chemical import from China, Korea face anti-dumping duty

INDIA HAS IMPOSED an anti-dumping duty of up to $557 per tonne on a chemical used mainly in the adhesive industry from China, Korea, and Thailand for five years to guard domestic players from cheap imports from these nations.

The duty was imposed as the chemical — Epichlorohydrin — was exported to India from these countries at below-normal prices.

"The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be levied for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier)...," the department of revenue said in a notification.

The levy is imposed following recommendations for the same by the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).

Anti-dumping probes are conducted by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

As a countermeasure, they impose these duties under the multilateral regime of Geneva-based World Trade Organization (WTO). The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

India has already imposed anti-dumping duty on several products to tackle cheap imports from various countries, including China. —PTI

FINANCIAL EXPRESS Dt: 13/11/24

Laptop makers may be asked to reduce their import by 5%

JATIN GROVER
New Delhi, November 12

PUSH FOR LOCAL

$8.4 bn worth of IT hardware imports in FY24 against the authorisation of about **$9.5 bn**

$1.7 bn worth of laptop and PC imports between April and July 2024

■ The new import management regime may kick in either from January 1 or April 1

■ Aim is to promote domestic manufacturing of IT hardware such as laptops

■ The plan involves gradual reduction in import bills

■ Periodic audits to check for any discrepancy in actual imports

WITH THE CURRENT import management system for laptops and other IT hardware products ending on December 31, the government is likely to put some curbs on companies who are neither exporting nor doing local manufacturing. According to initial discussions with the companies, such firms may be asked to reduce their import by 5%. The number has been derived at after analysing the import data submitted by the companies. The new regime will kick in either from January 1 or April 1, sources said.

The current regime requires IT hardware companies such as Lenovo, HP, Dell, Acer, etc, to only register with the government and declare the value and quantity of imports to get a permit.

Sources said the aim is to promote domestic manufacturing of IT hardware such as laptops. The plan involves gradual reduction in import bills, and the same has been communicated to the industry at a recent meeting.

Companies that are low on value addition and local production will be asked to focus on that aspect as well besides a cut in imports.

Sources said the government will also do periodic audits to check for any discrepancy in the actual imports by the company, data shared by them with the government and if they have been able to comply with the targets.

The new framework draws resemblance from a credit-based system, wherein manufacturers will be assessed on three criteria: Past year's imports, progress on domestic manufacturing of IT hardware products and exports from India.

Based on the performance on these parameters, the government may ask certain companies to reduce their import bills, without affecting the ease of doing business, sources said.

In FY24, IT hardware imports stood at $8.4 billion against the authorisation of about $9.5 billion. Most of the imports were from China. India's laptop and personal computer imports between April and July stood at $1.7 billion, according to government data.

In August last year, the government had announced immediate restrictions on the imports of laptops, tablets and personal computers, and notified that the companies will be able to import such products only with a valid licence.

However, later, on requests from the industry for a larger consultation, the government replaced the same with an import management system only to check the import data and its source, and extended the date of implementation to November 2023.

Business Line Dt: 14/4/24

Edible oil imports down 5 lt on higher domestic output

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

Thanks to a larger domestic oilseeds crop and a squeeze in demand for edible oils due to higher prices, India's edible oil imports declined by 5 lakh tonnes (lt) during the 2023-24 oil year (November-October).

Higher prices, particularly, impacted the demand among the lower segment of society.

According to data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), India imported 159.6 lt of edible oils during the 2023-24 season against 164.7 lt in the previous year..

BV Mehta, Executive Director of SEA, said India needs about an additional 10 lt of edible oils annually to meet the growing population and increase in per capita consumption.

With normal monsoon, India is harvesting nearly 12.5 million tonnes (mt) of soyabean and 9.5 mt of groundnut (in shell basis) in the kharif season of 2023-24, and it is expected to harvest 12.5-13 mt of rapeseed in rabi season.

MONSOON EFFECT

He said overall oilseeds production during 2024-25 may go up by 3.5 mt. The bumper crop is likely to augment the domestic availability and help reduce the import demand by 1 mt in 2024-25.

Mehta said international price firmed up due to various reasons in the past one year. This reflected in the increase in domestic prices of edible oils and reduction in import to some extent.

The CIF price of RBD palmolein increased from $876 a tonne in November 2023 to $1,135 in October 2024, and that of CPO (crude palm oil) increased from $897 to $1,170. CIF price of crude soyabean oil increased from $1,068 a tonne in November 2023 to $1,154 in October 2024, and that of crude sunflower oil increased from $979 a tonne to $1,168.

Oilseeds output will likely increase by 3.5 mt in the 2024-25 season

A LOOK AT PAST 5 YEARS

Overall import of edible oils increased from 132 lt in 2019-20 to 159.6 lt in 2023-24. Mehta said the major change in the last five years was sharp increase in import of RBD palmolein from 4.2 lt in 2019-20 to 19.3 lt in 2023-24, thanks to the inverted duty structure at origins and lower duty difference between refined and crude oils at 8.25 per cent in India.

This encouraged larger shipment of RBD palmolein into India leading to the increase in overall palm oil shipment from 72 lt in 2019-20 to 90.2 lt in 2023-24. The soft oils share increased from 59 lt to 69.5 lt during the period.

The share of refined oil increased from 3 per cent to 12 per cent in the last five years, while share of crude edible oil decreased from 97 per cent to 88 per cent.

During the oil year 2023-24, Indonesia shipped 31.92 lt of CPO and 16.33 lt of RBD palmolein followed by Malaysia with 28.69 lt of CPO, and 2.93 lt of RBD palmolein.

India imported 21.47 lt of crude soyabean de-gummed oil from Argentina, followed by Brazil at 9.49 lt. Russia exported 18.06 lt of crude sunflower oil to India. This was followed by Romania with 6.29 lt, Ukraine with 5.60 lt, and Argentina with 3.95 lt.

In his observation for the oil year 2024-25, the SEA Executive Director said import of edible oils is likely to be down by 10 lt.

Stating that India was fortunate to have normal rains in last four years, he said the average production of oilseeds is estimated to be about 38 mt in the oil year 2023-24 as against 34.2 mt in 2022-23.

Business Line. Dt:- 15/11/24

West festival demand lifts Oct exports by 17% to $39 b

REVIVAL SIGN. Trade deficit widens as imports surge; exporters upbeat despite headwinds

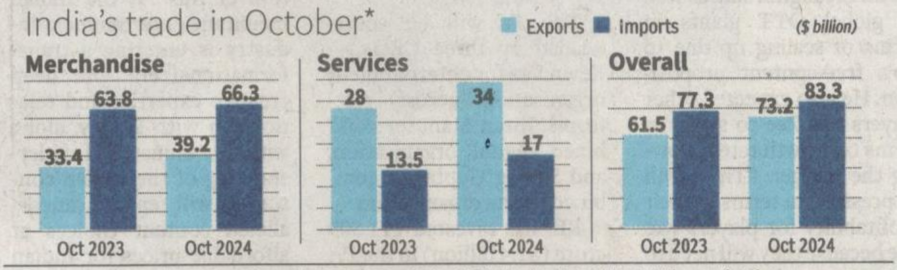
Amiti Sen
New Delhi

Increased festival demand in the West pushed up India's goods exports in October by 17.23 per cent to $39.2 billion, the highest this fiscal, despite geopolitical uncertainties and logistical challenges.

Yet, the trade deficit widened to a two-month high of $27.14 billion as imports surged to $66.34 billion in October, posting a 3.9 per cent increase over the same month last fiscal, per quick estimates of trade data shared by the Commerce Department. The trade deficit in October 2024 had been lower than $30.43 billion in October 2023.

"Christmas sales are looking better than last year's and perhaps that is also reflecting in our increased exports. This also reflects that this year is going to be better than last year from now onwards," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal told a press briefing.

The export numbers are encouraging, especially at a time when policymakers are struggling to rein in inflation and prop up a sluggish industrial sector.



*The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for September 2024. The data for October 2024 is an estimation

OIL, GOLD IMPORTS UP

"One of the chief reasons underpinning the sequential rise in the trade deficit appears to be a jump in the volume of crude oil imports, as well as a festival season-led uptick in gold imports," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

While total exports in April-October 2024 increased 3.18 per cent (year-on-year) to $252.28 billion, it was largely weighed down by declines in key sectors, such as petroleum products and diamond and jewellery, barring which exports increased 8.9 per cent, indicating strength in other export categories, pointed out Ajay Srivastava, trade expert.

In October, export growth was spread across multiple sectors, such as engineering goods, electronics, gems and jewellery, readymade garments, leather, jute and jute products, handicrafts, and pharma and chemicals.

NEW SUPPLY CHAIN

Exporters are mostly upbeat about the export numbers and see a possible revival. "Continuous hard work of exporters has started showing results, which may continue during the coming months," said Ashwani Kumar, President, FIEO.

He added that growth had come despite the Israel-Iran tensions, which impacted India's exports.

"The supply chain is getting re-aligned due to the Bangladesh crisis and buyers are looking for a China alternative... This is the appropriate time for the government to whole-heartedly support garment exporters by hand-holding, capacity augmentation, skilling, investment and sustained financial support," said Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, Apparel Export Promotion Council.

Imports during April-October rose 5.77 per cent to $416.93 billion, widening the trade deficit to $164.65 billion from $149.67 billion in April-October 2023.

Business Standard Dt:- 15/11/24

Exports surge 17% in Oct, fastest pace in 28 months

Trade deficit widens to $27 bn as imports hit a high

SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 14 November

India's merchandise exports grew at the fastest pace in 28 months in October, witnessing double-digit growth of 17.3 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to touch $39.2 billion, due to inventory build-up in the Western countries ahead of the Christmas season.

However, the imports hit an all-time high of $66.34 billion in October, growing at 3.9 per cent, leading to a widening of the trade deficit, or the gap between imports and exports, to $27.1 billion from $20.8 billion in September, data released by the commerce department on Thursday showed.

On the brighter side, non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports, an indication of a clearer parameter of exports' health and domestic manufacturing, grew 27.7 per cent to touch $31.36 billion in the previous month.

Exports growth was driven by higher demand for items such as engineering goods (39.4 per cent), chemicals (27.35 per cent), electronic goods (45.7 per cent), readymade garments (35.1 per cent) and rice (85.8 per cent).

On the other hand, exports of petroleum products, with a 12 per cent share in India's export basket, continued to contract in October (-22.1 per cent) at $4.6 billion due to sustained decline in global crude oil prices.

Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said exports performance this year will be better than last year and if the trend continues, India will be able to export goods and services worth $800 billion during this financial year.

"October is also the time when inventory build-up happens for Christmas sales. Prima facie, what I feel is that this Christmas sales looks better than last year," Barthwal said.

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FOOD PRICES PUSH WPI INFLATION TO 4-MONTH HIGH
INDIA-US TRADE BEYOND REGIME CHANGE, SAYS COMMERCE SECRETARY

TRADE MAP

Figures in brackets indicate Y-o-Y chg (%)

Source: Department of Commerce

The Economic Times. Dt: 18/4/24.

Goods Exports Hit a 2-yr High of 17.3% in October

Rise driven by improved demand from developed markets and higher shipments of engineering goods, chemicals & electronics

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's merchandise exports rose to a two-year high of 17.3% to $39.2 billion, driven by improved demand from developed markets and higher shipments of engineering goods, chemicals, electronics, official data released Thursday showed.

Imports surged to a fresh record high of $66.34 billion, up 3.9% on-year. Trade deficit widened to $27.1 billion from a five-month low of $20.78 billion in September this year but was lower compared to $30.42 billion in October last year.

Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal termed the improved demand ahead of Christmas from developed markets as firms begun stocking up for the festival season as a key factor for the jump in exports. "This demand seems far better than last year and gives us confidence that the coming months will also see a healthy uptick," he said.

Labour-intensive sectors such as readymade garments saw an export growth of above 35%.

"Despite the global situation being highly volatile, growth in the Western countries slowing with some recessionary trends, and the disruptions in global trade routes, our exporters have been able to do well in several sectors," Barthwal said. Barthwal said that if this trend continues, India's total exports, will cross the $800 billion mark this year to set a new record.

"One of the chief reasons underpinning the sequential rise in the trade deficit appears to be a jump in the volume of crude oil imports, as well as a festive season-led uptick in gold imports," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA Ltd.

Between April and October, India's non-petroleum exports surged to the highest ever tally of $211.3 billion.

Ashwani Kumar, president, Federation of Indian Export Organisations said that the ongoing international trade disruptions along with the volatility in crude and metal prices have also played a key role in increasing the value of exports to some extent. "The rising tensions between Israel-Iran has continuously led to logistical challenges with regard to international trade getting impacted as most of our trade to Europe, Africa, CIS and Gulf region are happening through the Red Sea route or the gulf region prompting buyers to have little large inventories," Kumar said.

EXPORT STRATEGY

India is focusing on six sectors engineering, electronics, pharma, chemicals, plastics and agriculture, and 20 countries to boost trade.

These 20 countries account for 60% of the total global imports and these six segments have a share of 67% in global imports.

Officials said that the PMI data for manufacturing and services, and the exporters' order books show India's positive export story.

Barthwal also said that meetings are going on with Indian missions abroad to promote shipments through market access initiatives, promotion of brand India, addressing non-tariff barriers and conducting trade promotion events. Meetings have been held with key European nations while they are being planned for America and Asia-Pacific nations, Africa and middle east countries.

"Our strategy of focusing on certain sectors and countries is now yielding results and our manufacturing competitiveness has gained with schemes like the Production Linked Incentives, and our approach to industrial policy, trade policy and foreign policy," Barthwal said.

Crude oil imports in October rose to $18.2 billion from $16.1 billion in the same month last year. Gold and silver imports dipped to $7.13 billion and $0.33 billion in October from $7.23 billion and $1.31 billion a year ago, respectively.

ECOMMERCE HUBS

Logistics aggregator Shiprocket and air cargo handling company Cargo Service Centre (CSC) have been selected by the government on a pilot basis to set up e-commerce export hubs in the country. The e-commerce export hubs (ECEH) will come in and around Delhi airport and begin operations in February next year. While Shiprocket is headquartered in Gurugram, the CSC is Mumbai-based.

The hub will have facilities for expedited customs and security clearance in-house, Provision for quality and certifying agencies and an easy re-import policy. This policy will enable the return of e-commerce consignments and rejects without payment of import duty.

"Based on the feedback received from these firms on the running of these pilots, the government will come out with detailed guidelines to set up more such hubs across the country. These guidelines will require policy tweaks or regulatory tweaks in different departments," said Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Kumar Sarangi, adding that e-commerce exports have the potential to grow to over $100 billion by 2030 and then further to $200-250 billion in the coming years.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS. Dt: 15/11/24

Exports grow 17.3% in Oct, sharpest rise in 28 months

Trade deficit elevated at $27.14 billion

MUKESH JAGOTA
New Delhi, November 14

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS ROSE 17.3% on year in October to $39.2 billion, the highest growth seen in monthly shipments since June 2022 on the back of an impressive performance by the engineering and electronics sectors. The solid rise in shipments was driven by value-added products, and less of commodities; petroleum products exports, for instance, declined 22% on year in value terms, even as volumes grew.

Imports grew 3.8% on year to $66.43 billion in October, causing an elevated trade deficit of $27.14 billion. The deficit was higher at $29.7 million in August, but much less in other recent months. The engineering sector, which accounts for over a quarter of total exports, saw shipments increase by 39.3% on year to $11.2 billion, while electronics exports were up 45.7% to $3.4 billion.

Goods exports had been growing at a slow pace till September, raising concerns and coming as they did over a year-on-year decline in exports in 2023-24. Exports had risen by just 0.5% in September.

During April-October this fiscal, exports increased by 3.18% to $252.28 billion, and imports by 5.77% to $416.93 billion.

SHIPMENT CHECK

Source: Commerce ministry

Continued on Page 18

Business Line. Dt:- 18/11/24

Exports of apparels surge despite global tensions, market challenges

Our Bureaus

Despite continuing wars and the Red Sea issue and India not taking any meaningful slice of the Bangladesh's market, India's garment exports are rising. Exporters attribute this to mainly to the depletion of stocks with the buyers and many economies doing better.

India's garment exports hit a peak of $16.71 billion in 2017-18. In April-October 2024, these exports were $8.7 billion, 11.6 per cent higher than the corresponding period of last year, raising hopes that 2024-25 could better the 2017-18 high.

Achieving record performance this year would have been a cinch if only India had had manufacturing capacities to take on jobs that would have normally gone to Bangladesh, which is in a socio-political wobble. India is playing catch-up with China and China-invested countries like Vietnam and Indonesia — the hope is that India will get a share of the Bangladesh's market, but that is for later.

KEY MARKETS

In the current year, the good growth is all because of better

In April-Oct 2024, garment exports were 11.6% higher than in the corresponding previous period

demand from the two big markets — US (11.5 per cent growth) and UK (7 per cent) — though there is also a bump-up in demand from smaller markets, such as the Netherlands (27 per cent) and Spain (18 per cent).

The April-October 2024 number is actually 4.7 per cent lower than the comparable period of 2022-23, a good year in which exports touched $16.19 billion, thanks to post-Covid demand. However, this year, the rising trend in exports is more sustainable. "Our capacity is booked till March," says N Thirukkumaran of ESSTEE Exports, who is also the General Secretary of Tiruppur Exporters Association.

Sivaramakrishnan Ganapathi, V-C & MD of Gokaldas Exports, observes that immediately after the pandemic, the sudden resurgence in demand combined with a supply-demand mismatch between consuming and manufacturing hubs in Asia, scared retailers into stocking-up. However, as demand subsided and inflation peaked, retailers faced high inventory levels, prompting them to reduce apparel imports, allowing existing inventory to sell naturally.

FALLING IMPORTS

"This trend was evident in the declines in apparel imports by -22 per cent, -16 per cent, and -26 per cent in the US, EU-27, and UK, respectively, during 2023 equivalent to drawdowns witnessed during the pandemic," Ganapathi told *businessline*. Now, the decline in imports subsided in the H12024, with a recovery in the first two months of the third quarter of 2024.

"The pipeline inventories in the US and the other developed countries, which had ordered extra goods post-Covid, have now dried up. Hence, their imports are coming to a normal level," Sanjay K Jain, Chairman of ICC National Expert Committee on Textiles, told *businessline*.

Also read p2

Business Line. Dt:- 18/11/24

Crude imports to rebound in Nov as refinery runs surge: Kpler

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

India's crude oil imports this month are expected to rebound from the lows in October 2024 as domestic refineries return online from maintenance, and refinery runs surge in anticipation of the seasonally stronger domestic demand in Q4 2024.

The October-December period is marked by an increase in consumption of refined petroleum products, particularly diesel, petrol and jet fuel, as the festival and marriage season lifts consumption.

Besides, some demand also comes from the rabi sowing season and the year-end vacation travel that pushes up usage of aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

"India's crude imports are poised for recovery in November as key refineries, including Mangaluru, Kochi, and Mathura, come back online after maintenance. Refinery runs are projected to rise by 250,000 barrels per day (b/d) m-o-m to 5.41 million barrels per day (mb/d), the highest since July," global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler said in a report.

October imports had fallen to 4.34 mb/d, the lowest in over a year, but November is expected to see a rebound to 4.87 mb/d, supported by stable domestic production at around 590,000 b/d, it added.

MORE CARGOES

Kpler projected that Russia will remain India's largest crude supplier, though imports are unlikely to exceed 2 mb/d in the near term.

"This is due to higher Russian refinery runs as autumn maintenance concludes and less drone activity impacts its facilities," it added.

However, Iraq is strengthening its position as the second-largest supplier, with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) expanding its term deal with Iraq's State Organisation for Marketing of Oil (SOMO), the agency pointed out.

In November 2023, India's crude oil imports from Iraq rose to their highest levels in more than a year at over 1 mb/d. Meanwhile, Brazil is emerging as a notable source for medium sour grades, with 185,000 b/d arriving in November, the second-highest monthly volume recorded.

This coincides with the visit of Oil Minister Hardeep Sigh Puri to Brazil in September 2024 where he met Petrobras President Magda Chambriard.

The meeting focused on steps to enhance crude oil purchases between Petrobras and Indian energy companies and opportunities to collaborate in India and Brazil, especially in offshore deep/ultra-deep-water exploration and production projects.

"Shifts in global crude dynamics are also evident as Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) opts for discounted US WTI barrels over its usual Nigerian grades, driven by weak European demand and stagnation in China," Kpler said.

"With differentials narrowing, India's post-maintenance activity highlights its adaptability in securing competitively priced supplies amidst evolving market conditions," it added.