

# From Russia, with problems

Russian oil now trades above the G7 price cap, leaving India searching for creative solutions to fill the breach

S DINAKAR  
26 April

India's unabated trust with Russian crude oil is slowly coming to an end. The time has come for Indian refiners to navigate, creatively, the choppy waters of the post-honeymoon period, and for Indian policymakers to take cognisance of the broad impact on India from the spillover of the Russian crisis — after Washington's warning to transgressors last week.

Shipments from Russia to India have averaged over 1.8 million barrels a day since February, according to data from Paris-based market analytics firm Kpler. But much of the crude shipped to India was non-sanctioned because it traded below a price cap set by the US-led G7 nations in December. Shipping, insurance and payments were less of an issue.

The \$60 a barrel cap has now been breached for Urals, a medium, sour grade that accounts for a majority of Russian oil shipments, rendering India's supplies vulnerable. Given the 45-60 days' time period taken to contract and deliver Russian oil, the real impact from the breach will be visible from June.

New Delhi faces issues at both the micro and macro levels. The first relates to the physical part of transporting the oil; the second involves energy security, expanding the rupee's reach, and managing relations with Western powers. The nitty-gritty of buying 2 million barrels of oil every day is posing increasing difficulties. Foreign Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar said in a speech last week at a Russian industry event that the bilateral oil trade presents issues over payments, logistics and certification.

The latest flashpoint is an increasing oversight of the G7 mandated price cap. In December, the US-led G7 had barred exports of Russian oil priced over \$60 a barrel at the loading point. But lax enforcement by the US and EU resulted in several trades taking place above the cap, industry officials said, with



## Slippery ground

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■ Issues have also crept up over paying in dirhams, a popular payment mode for Indian refiners

■ Local banks are equally concerned by Washington's warning even though Indian institutions are not sanctioned  
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China and India enjoying the spillovers. Now, the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), for the first time, warned last week of a possible evasion of the price cap on crude oil originating from the Russian Federation.

OFAC said transporters and financial institutions must retain records and attestations by oil market players that Russian oil was bought below the cap to avoid penalties. It also called for itemisation of the oil cost because shipping, freight, and insurance costs are not included in the price caps — but a barrels to itemise such costs can be used to hide purchases of Russian oil above the cap.

Issues have also crept up over paying in dirhams into Russian bank accounts in Dubai, a payment mode for Indian refiners this year. This newspaper has in an article last week that UAE officials have told Indian counterparts that their banks or currency cannot be used to pay for Russian oil priced over the cap. Washington and London have intensified pressure on the emirate, prompting officials to scrutinise operations of Russian com-

panies and banks based out of Dubai, and refuse licences in some cases.

Local banks are equally concerned by Washington's warning even though Indian institutions are not sanctioned. The breakup of Russian crude costs required in the invoices may need to be attested or certified to process payments though it's unclear which entity should certify these invoices, a banking official said. State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda are among those fearing reprisals from Washington, banking officials said.

But what has queued the pitch for Indians is that caution applies to Urals grades also, which now trade above the cap. Such trades complicate logistics. Nearly 60 per cent of the Russian oil trade is still carried on Western tankers as Urals, Russia's biggest export grade, until last month, traded well below the cap. Non-availability of Western carriers poses serious problems for deliveries to India.

Mumbai-based Gatik Ship Management, a significant shipper of Russian oil to India since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, has lost protection and indemn-

nity insurance from the American Club, which belongs to the International Group of P&I Clubs that insures most of the global tanker fleet, Energy Intelligence reported. Gatik deploys over 40 tankers, and its exit from the insurance body coincided with Urals trading above the cap. Transporters cannot afford to ship oil without insurance.

China and India lift 80-90 per cent of Russia's seaborne crude. But China has pulled off its purchases on the back of its hilt as the world's biggest user of oil and a manufacturing powerhouse. That is coupled with its long experience in silently buying sanctioned oil. In March, China bought a combined 2 million barrels a day of oil from Iran and Venezuela via Malaysia and Oman, Energy Intelligence said in a separate report. India refrains from such illegal trades.

By expanding its basket of discounted, sanctioned oil trades China is less dependent on Russian crudes compared to India. Russian oil accounted for around 18 per cent of China's total imports and 13 per cent of its consumption this year. By contrast, Russian oil meets 44 per cent of our domestic fuel needs, a level of dependence that India has not placed earlier on any of its traditional Gulf suppliers, let alone on a nation whose future depends on the actions of US and the EU.

China has also leveraged Russia's sanctioned status to expand trade in yuan, enabling Chinese banks to process payments for Russian oil without fear of US sanctions, which India is unable to do. Successful internationalisation of a currency, even in a limited way, has to do with the value central banks place in holding a currency as reserve.

Last year, Chinese exports to Russia were around \$76 billion or 40 per cent of the \$190-billion bilateral trade. Indo-Russian trade totals around \$35 billion, with India's exports less than 10 per cent of the total trade. Such a yawning gap trade deficit has prompted Moscow to demand dollars or dirhams as payment for oil supplies instead of a rupee arrangement, industry officials said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in an interview to *Bloomberg* in Washington, has called for "constantly refiguring" strategies to continue buying discounted Russian oil as affordability of crude was key for India. But the question is in the process of creatively sourcing Russian crude, for how long can New Delhi keep Washington at bay and deal with increasing policing by Western powers.

## ON SENTIMENTS

# Consumer sentiments expected to stay sluggish



MAHESH WAS

Growth in consumer sentiments had slowed down in March 2023. After having registered growth rates of 4.5 per cent during January and February, consumer sentiments inched up by a slower 1.2 per cent in March. Data for the first three weeks of April suggests that the growth in consumer sentiments may be 2-3 per cent higher than in March. The 30-day moving average consumer sentiments index as of April 23 was 2.8 per cent higher than its level in March. While this looks like a distinct improvement, the growth is, however, quite low compared to the performance in January and February.

And, as we will see later, the growth is not entirely convincing. Average monthly growth in consumer sentiments during April 2022 through March 2023 was 2.68 per cent. There were no severe shocks during this period. Yet, the month-to-month change in consumer sentiments was somewhat volatile. The changes varied from -1.7 per cent in November to 7.1 per cent in September. The expected growth in April 2023 would be in the vicinity of the average monthly growth seen in 2022-23.

The expected growth in consumer sentiments in April implies that there is no acceleration in consumer sentiments as it seemed in early 2023. Given that consumer sentiments as measured by CMIE's Index of Consumer Sentiments (ICS) are still lower than their pre-pandemic levels, it can be argued that consumer sentiments are growing at a rather slow pace.

The slow and unsteady growth as they threaten to be. It is more likely that elections and El Niño will add to the volatility of consumer sentiments. And, lack of pick-up in private investments may keep the growth in consumer sentiments similar or a tad lower than about 2.7 per cent per month. The performance of the ICS during April is a good indicator of the trends to be expected in 2023. This is the month before elections in Karnataka. The 224 seats in the state will be contested in an election whose outcome, by most reports, is not foretold. The contest can be expected to be intense. Karnataka is not a small state. Yet, the ICS has remained sluggish so far.

One-off cash transfers can be expected to increase consumption of some kinds of foods and liquor. It is money that is quickly consumed without much lasting effect. Households are unlikely to perceive these cash transfers as an increase in income. It is also unlikely that these cash transfers will motivate households to save or buy consumer durables. If households do not see an increase in income or perceive an increase in future income or the propensity to consume consumer durables then sentiments do not improve.

Monies are made during elections by goods and services providers as well. This can lead to an increase in income for some and also in their propensity to buy consumer durables. Arguably, these intermediaries are a small slice of beneficiaries from elections compared to the larger electorate. Elections therefore could help lift sentiments only marginally and this is unlikely to offset the effects of El Niño if the effects are as severe

as they threaten to be. It is more likely that elections and El Niño will add to the volatility of consumer sentiments. And, lack of pick-up in private investments may keep the growth in consumer sentiments similar or a tad lower than about 2.7 per cent per month. The performance of the ICS during April is a good indicator of the trends to be expected in 2023. This is the month before elections in Karnataka. The 224 seats in the state will be contested in an election whose outcome, by most reports, is not foretold. The contest can be expected to be intense. Karnataka is not a small state. Yet, the ICS has remained sluggish so far.

The ICS fell 0.19 per cent in the week ended April 9 and then by 4.8 per cent in the week ended April 16. The 2.8 per cent growth seen in the 30-day moving average of the ICS as of April 23 reflects the elevated position of the ICS as of the end of March.

As this effect wanes, the fall of the first two weeks will dominate the month's index. This could make the April ICS look smaller than it seems to be now. A strong turnaround in consumer sentiments of the kind seen in January and February 2023 is important for the Indian economy to stop stronger growth. A strong turnaround in the ICS suggests that households have what it takes to spend on consumer durables. Decisions to spend on these reflect not only an income effect but also an intangible confidence that future incomes are dependable and the future of the economic environment is conducive for sustained growth.

Propping up income through distress-time or election-time transfers cannot improve sentiments. Perhaps, the only means of correcting consumer sentiments strongly is to spur employment-generating investments. So far, there are no signs of this picking up.

The writer is MD & CEO, CMIE Ltd

**The Singapore Collieries Company Limited**  
(A Government Company)  
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**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
Tenders have been published for the following Services/Material Procurement through e-procurement platform. For details, please visit: <http://www.singaporecollieries.com>  
NIT/Enquiry No. Description/Subject Last date and time for submission of bids  
**IT17200435** - Procurement of Hot Galvanized S.R. Grade Bars & Nuts under RC for 2 Years to use at various areas of SCCI. (01.05.2023 - 17:00 Hrs)  
**IT17200437** - Procurement of Carry rollers, Return rollers and idler brackets for 1200mm, 1600 mm and 1800 mm width with belt conveyor system in US Mines of various areas and P&I crib on specific make on contract basis for a period of 03 year. (04.05.2023 - 17:00 Hrs)  
**IT17200438** - Procurement of different types of Wireless Sets and Repeater Stations in Opencast projects on specific make against Open tender through tender cum Revenue auction (04.05.2023 - 17:00 Hrs)  
**IT17200444** - Retreading and through cut repairs of tyres on rate contract for a period of 2 years. (01.05.2023 - 17:00 Hrs)  
**IT17200494** - Procurement of different types of Wireless Sets and Repeater Stations - 10.05.2023 - 17:00 Hrs.  
**IT17200495** - Procurement of various sizes PE Pipes on RC basis for one year period - 15.05.2023 - 17:00 Hrs.  
NIT/Enquiry No. Description/Subject/Estimated Contract Value Last date and time for submission of bids  
**IT17200496** - Procurement of different types of Wireless Sets and Repeater Stations in Opencast projects on specific make against Open tender through tender cum Revenue auction (04.05.2023 - 17:00 Hrs)  
DPR B.O. No. 76 (P&I-AGENCY)/2023/24 Date 24-04-2023 General Manager (Civil)

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mamatha Chandrasekar alias Mamatha Saraswathi Chekudu, D/o Subramanya Bhat and Wife of Kodumuru Chandrasekar, P.O. No. 20, Sathy Sai Bhavan, 6<sup>th</sup> G Main Road, Near Bescom, Gaurav Nagar, J P Nagar 7<sup>th</sup> Phase, Bangalore-560078 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that both the names are indicating and referring myself as a same and one identical person, not to different person whatsoever and I say that hereinafter wish to be called known and referred to only as **MAMATHA CHANDRASEKHAR** for all future record purpose both public as well as private. I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection and sworn before Notary L. Puttaraju, Bangalore vide affidavit dated 24-04-2023.

**Educomp SOLUTIONS LIMITED**  
CIN: L74999DL1994PLC061353  
Regd. Office: 1211, Padma Tower 1-5, Rajendra Place, New Delhi 110008.  
E-mail: [investor.services@educomp.com](mailto:investor.services@educomp.com) Website: [www.educomp.com](http://www.educomp.com)

| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2019 |  |                                      |                                      |                                 |                                 |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (Rupees in Lacs)   |  |                                      |                                      |                                 |                                 |
| Sl. No.  | Particulars  | Quarter Ended 31/03/2019 (Unaudited) | Quarter Ended 31/12/2018 (Unaudited) | Year Ended 31/03/2019 (Audited) | Year Ended 31/03/2018 (Audited) |
| 1.   | Total Income from operations (net)   | 156.65                               | 648.16                               | 1,000.07                        | 1,833.02                        |
| 2.   | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax, exceptional items and extraordinary item          | (3,249.74)                           | (887.65)                             | (9,574.71)                      | (9,946.69)                      |
| 3.   | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax but after exceptional items and extraordinary item | (3,806.02)                           | (887.65)                             | (1,52,388.98)                   | (10,502.97)                     |
| 4.   | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax, exceptional items and extraordinary item           | (3,806.02)                           | (887.65)                             | (1,52,388.98)                   | (2,36,828.00)                   |
| 5.   | Total Comprehensive income   | (3,813.62)                           | (887.65)                             | (1,52,321.43)                   | (2,36,760.45)                   |
| 6.   | Paid up Equity share capital (Face Value Rs. 2/- each)   | 2,449.34                             | 2,449.34                             | 2,449.34                        | 2,449.34                        |
| 7.   | Reserve excluding revaluation reserves   | 1,02,403.24                          | 1,02,403.24                          | 1,02,403.24                     | 1,02,403.24                     |
| 8.   | Securities Premium Account   | (2,74,468.94)                        | (2,71,471.95)                        | (2,63,311.88)                   | (2,74,468.94)                   |
| 9.   | Net worth  | 2,51,665.97                          | 2,51,860.25                          | 2,47,575.85                     | 2,47,575.85                     |
| 10.  | Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding debt  | -                                    | -                                    | -                               | -                               |
| 11.  | Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares   | -                                    | -                                    | -                               | -                               |
| 12.  | Debt Equity Ratio  | (0.92)                               | -                                    | (0.94)                          | (0.94)                          |
| 13.  | (Loss)/Earning Per Share (before and after extraordinary items) (not annualized)               | (3.11)                               | (0.56)                               | (124.38)                        | (8.58)                          |
| 14.  | (a) Basic  | (3.11)                               | (0.56)                               | (124.38)                        | (8.58)                          |
| 15.  | (b) Diluted  | (3.11)                               | (0.56)                               | (124.38)                        | (8.58)                          |
| 16.  | Capital Redemption Reserve   | -                                    | -                                    | -                               | -                               |
| 17.  | Debt Service Coverage Ratio  | (26.61)                              | -                                    | (19.06)                         | (26.61)                         |
| 18.  | Interest Service Coverage Ratio  | (30.20)                              | -                                    | (19.39)                         | (30.20)                         |

**Note:**  
The above results is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2019 filed with Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and year ended results are available on the Stock Exchange Website ([www.sebiindia.com](http://www.sebiindia.com)) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ([www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)) and on the Company's Website ([www.educomp.com](http://www.educomp.com)).  
For Educamp Solutions Limited (Under CIRP)  
Sd/-  
MAHENDER KUMAR KHANDELWAL  
TAKEN ON RECORD  
REGISTRATION PROFESSIONAL OF EDUCOMP SOLUTIONS LIMITED  
REGISTRATION NUMBER-IBBIUPA-601/P-00033/2016-17/10086

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 24/04/2023

## BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

CIN: U65910PN2008PLC132228 | Registered Office: Bajaj Auto Limited Complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune - 411 035  
Corporate Office: Cybernet IT Park, B2 Building, 5th Floor, Kumar City, Kalyani Nagar, Pune 411014.  
Tel.: 020-71878060 | E-mail: [bhfinvestor.service@bajajfinser.in](mailto:bhfinvestor.service@bajajfinser.in) | Website: <https://www.bajajhousingfinance.in/>

### Extract of audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2023

|         |  | ₹ (in Crore)                           |  |                                 |                                 |
|---------|--|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sr. No. | Particulars  | Quarter Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)     | Quarter Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)     | Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited) | Year Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited) |
| 1       | Total Income from operations   | 1,585.59                               | 1,057.86                               | 5,665.44                        | 3,767.13                        |
| 2       | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)  | 406.80                                 | 267.41                                 | 1,700.06                        | 959.86                          |
| 3       | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (After Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)   | 406.80                                 | 267.41                                 | 1,700.06                        | 959.86                          |
| 4       | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (After Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)  | 301.47                                 | 197.64                                 | 1,257.80                        | 709.62                          |
| 5       | Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive income (after tax)) | 305.62                                 | 197.16                                 | 1,261.95                        | 709.14                          |
| 6       | Paid-up equity share capital   | 6,712.16                               | 4,883.33                               | 6,712.16                        | 4,883.33                        |
| 7       | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)   | 2,953.31                               | 1,691.36                               | 2,953.31                        | 1,691.36                        |
| 8       | Securities Premium Account   | 837.72                                 | 166.67                                 | 837.72                          | 166.67                          |
| 9       | Net Worth  | 10,503.19                              | 6,741.36                               | 10,503.19                       | 6,741.36                        |
| 10      | Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt   | 53,745.39                              | 41,492.32                              | 53,745.39                       | 41,492.32                       |
| 11      | Outstanding redeemable Preference Shares   | -                                      | -                                      | -                               | -                               |
| 12      | Debt Equity Ratio  | 5.12                                   | 6.15                                   | 5.12                            | 6.15                            |
| 13      | Earnings per share (Face value of ₹10 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) a. Basic (₹) b. Diluted (₹)                       | 0.45 <sup>a</sup><br>0.45 <sup>b</sup> | 0.40 <sup>a</sup><br>0.40 <sup>b</sup> | 1.88<br>1.88                    | 1.45<br>1.45                    |
| 14      | Capital Redemption Reserve   | NA                                     | NA                                     | NA                              | NA                              |
| 15      | Debt Redemption Reserve  | NA                                     | NA                                     | NA                              | NA                              |
| 16      | Total debts to total assets  | 0.83                                   | 0.86                                   | 0.83                            | 0.86                            |
| 17      | Net Profit Margin percentage   | 19.01%                                 | 18.68%                                 | 22.20%                          | 18.84%                          |
| 18      | Gross NPA (stage 3 asset, gross) ratio   | 0.22%                                  | 0.31%                                  | 0.22%                           | 0.31%                           |
| 19      | Net NPA (stage 3 asset, net) ratio   | 0.08%                                  | 0.14%                                  | 0.08%                           | 0.14%                           |
| 20      | Provision coverage (on stage 3 asset) ratio  | 63.60%                                 | 54.30%                                 | 63.60%                          | 54.30%                          |
| 21      | Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (Regulatory requirement -15%)  | 22.97%                                 | 19.71%                                 | 22.97%                          | 19.71%                          |
| 22      | Liquidity Coverage Ratio (Regulatory requirement -60%)   | 129.15%                                | 108.35%                                | 149.72%                         | 131.20%                         |

#### Notes:

1. The above is an extract of the audited financial results for the quarter ended 31 March 2023 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 24 April 2023, subjected to audit by joint statutory auditors and filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as amended. The full format of the aforesaid financial results is available on the website of the Company and BSE Limited ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and [www.bajajhousingfinance.in/](http://www.bajajhousingfinance.in/) and [www.bajajfinser.in](http://www.bajajfinser.in) respectively.

2. Debt Service Coverage Ratio, Interest Service Coverage Ratio, Current ratio, Long term debt to working capital, Bad debts to Accounts receivable ratio, Current liability ratio, Debtors turnover, Inventory turnover, Operating margin percent are not relevant to the Company.

By order of the Board of Directors  
For Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

Pune  
24 April 2023

Atul Jain  
Managing Director