





#### Overweight (no change)

#### **Highlighted Companies**

#### **Indian Oil Corp**

ADD, TP Rs160, Rs126 close

We reiterate our Add rating and SOTPbased TP of Rs160. Despite a poor performance, the stock is a key beneficiary of higher GRM.

#### Hindustan Petroleum HOLD, TP Rs305, Rs269 close

While it has underperformed peers on refining volume and margins in 9MFY22, the rise in GRM earnings can surprise positively. We have a Hold rating on the stock with a TP of Rs305.

#### Bharat Petroleum

REDUCE, TP Rs375, Rs357 close

With rising uncertainty over its strategic sales, BPCL is likely to materially step up its Capex guidance. We reiterate Reduce rating. The key negative trigger is the lack of success in executing strategic sales of the government's holding in the company.

#### **Summary Valuation Metrics**

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P/E (x)	Mar22-F	Mar23-F	Mar24-F
Indian Oil Corp	4.65	6.08	5.66
Hindustan Petroleum	5.42	5.61	5.48
Bharat Petroleum	7.71	9.32	9.37
P/BV (x)	Mar22-F	Mar23-F	Mar24-F
Indian Oil Corp	0.9	0.84	0.79
Hindustan Petroleum	0.93	0.84	0.76
Bharat Petroleum	1.73	1.59	1.47
Dividend Yield	Mar22-F	Mar23-F	Mar24-F
Indian Oil Corp	9.5%	7.92%	8.71%
Hindustan Petroleum	5.24%	5.21%	5.21%
Bharat Petroleum	6.13%	5.52%	5.52%

### Oil & Gas Refinery

### The upcycle is here

- With Russia becoming a pariah in the global market, the refining demandsupply situation is extremely tight, and it has no room for disruption.
- Rising power price (courtesy gas crisis) has made EV (electric vehicle) running costs much higher than a gasoline-based vehicle (even at current crude price).
- Even if the Russian situation normalizes, then also refiners should operate at 95%+ utilization to fulfill demand. GRM to remain high. Retain Overweight.

### High-cost power will delay EV story; oil demand to remain strong

In the past few years, 1m bbl (barrel) refining capacity closed in the USA, and capacity closure in Europe was ~2m bbl per day. Oil demand has been bouncing back to pre-Covid pandemic levels globally. At the same time, the western world is facing three problems: 1) They have made Russia a pariah state and hence, despite having energy dependency on it they are searching for alternatives. 2) Overzealous ESG investing paradigm has resulted in meager investments in refining as well as mining assets. 3) They assumed that EVs will change the world in a few years but didn't calculate that EVs need power and high-power prices will destroy the EV story. As of now, an EV's capital cost is 45% higher than that of a gasoline vehicle and its running cost is 2x of a gasoline vehicle in Europe. In the USA, EV's running cost is like that of a gasoline vehicle. Hence, unless coal-fired plants come in a big way in Europe and Russian gas dependency is reduced, power prices won't come down. This also means there is little or no risk to diesel and gasoline demand in OECD countries.

#### Global refining demand is too finely balanced

Global refining assets need to run at a 95% capacity utilization level for the next two years as product demand comes back to pre-pandemic level. Please note that the current demand-supply scenario doesn't leave any room for big voluntary shutdowns or weather-driven forced shutdowns. It is also interesting to note that 47% of US refining assets (~9m bbl per day) are in the Gulf of Mexico region where storms have caused frequently forced shutdowns of refineries. Declaring Russia, a pariah state is also leading to a big problem as Russia used to export ~2m bbl/ day of refined products. As a result, naphtha prices are rising, which is pushing up ethylene prices as well. Ethylene prices are also rising because of higher gas prices (please see our earlier report: IN: Chemicals - Overall - Feeling the ethylene pinch) Rising naphtha and GRMs are positive for Indian refiners. They are likely to do well till big refining capacities come online in 2024F/25F. We believe that in the coming decade, GRMs can remain structurally higher than the last decade, which augurs well for Indian refiners.

#### There is significant scope for EPS upgrade

Across-the-board refining companies are likely to see earnings per share or EPS upgrade as consensus estimates pencil in higher GRMs in their models. As of now, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) is our top pick in the refining space followed Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).



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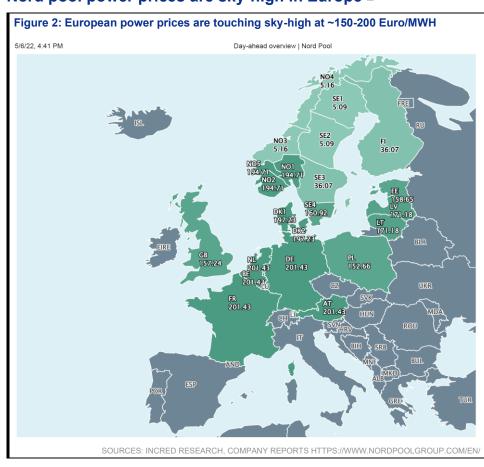


### The upcycle is here

# EVs will take a backseat for some time in Europe – there is no risk of fuel demand declining in Europe

Till the time electricity prices don't correct 40-50% in Europe, EV adoption will slow down. Given the current geopolitical scenario, it will be very difficult for Europe to bring power prices down because of the following reasons: 1) They cannot accept Russian terms as public opinion is sharply against it. 2) They cannot get cheap LNG easily as there is not enough liquefaction capacity in the world. 3) Coal-fired plants can start in only a 12-15 months' timeframe and for that Europe needs to mine 200mt coal as otherwise high coal prices will not let power prices come down. All these conditions mean that European fuel demand cannot fall fast, and India is way behind the curve on the EV front. China and USA EV adoption is going on which will lead to slower growth, but that's already built in the multiple demand calculations and mostly factored in refining capacity.

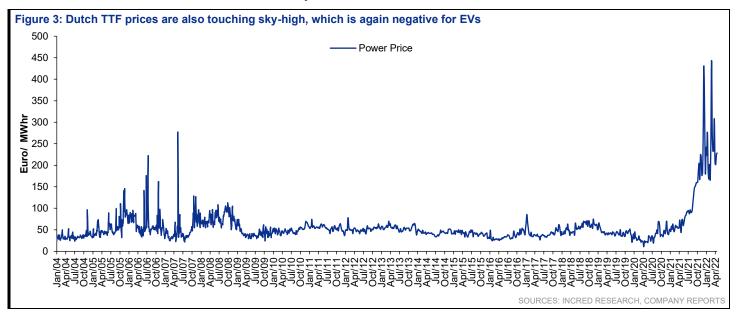
#### Nord pool power prices are sky-high in Europe ➤





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# Similarly, Dutch TTF prices are also touching the stratosphere ➤



# At current power prices, running an EV is not viable in Europe▶

- 1. Most EVs can cover up to 100km with 15kwh. At current Dutch TTF prices, the overall power cost for running 100km will cost around US\$4.
- On the other hand, running cars on diesel will cost around US\$8 per 100km.This cost differential is even at such high diesel prices.
- 3. So, till the time the power problem is resolved, the European EV market may not revive big time. The other option to revive the European EV market is to grant a big subsidy on the purchase of the vehicle, which may or may not fructifies given the fiscal situation in Europe.

# When can the European power situation ease? It depends on the ramp-up of coal-fired plants ➤

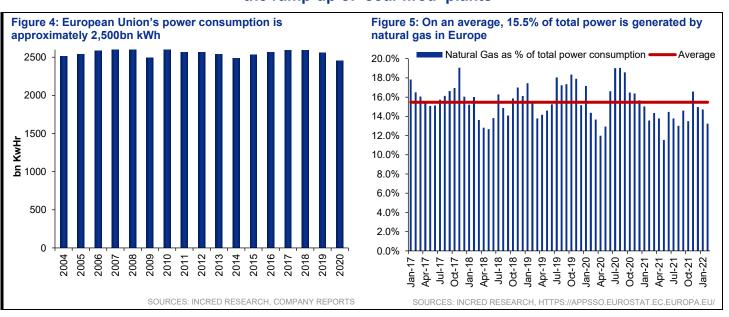




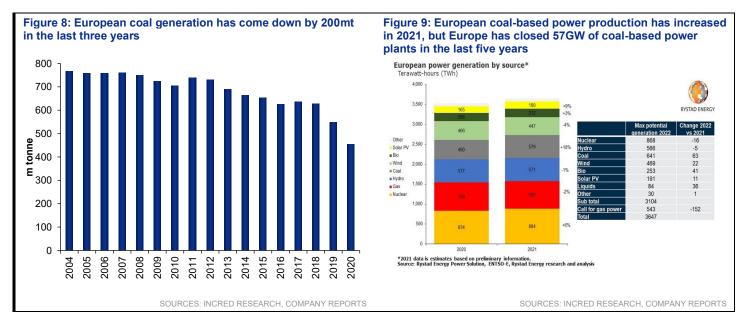


Figure 6: At present, the fuel cost of generating 1 unit of electricity through natural gas is 23 cents

	Value	Unit
The heat rate of gas-fired plants	2,000.0	Kcal/ kWh
Energy in 1 SCM gas	8,500.0	Kcal
Gas required for 1 kWh	0.24	SCM
Natural gas price in MMBTU	30.0	US\$/MMBtu
Natural gas price in SCM	0.96	US\$/SCM
Fuel cost for 1 unit of power	0.23	US\$/ kWh

Figure 7: To replace natural gas-based power, Europe needs 186mt of coal

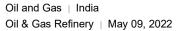
	Value	Unit
Electricity generated by gas	15.5% or	f overall requirement
Overall electricity	2,500	Bn units
Gas-based power	387.5	bn units
The calorific value of coal	5,000	Kcal/kg
1 unit of coal power needs	2,400	Kcal/ kWh
The energy needed from coal to replace gas	9,30,000	bn Kcal
Coal needed	186	MT
	SOURCES: INCRED RESEARCH	COMPANY REPORTS



To replace 15.5% of European power which comes from gas, 51GW of coal-based plants need to operate at 85% plant load factor or PLF, which is not a big task for European planners. The main point is how soon they can fix it? As per our estimate, it may take Europe around a couple of years to fix their self-created problems

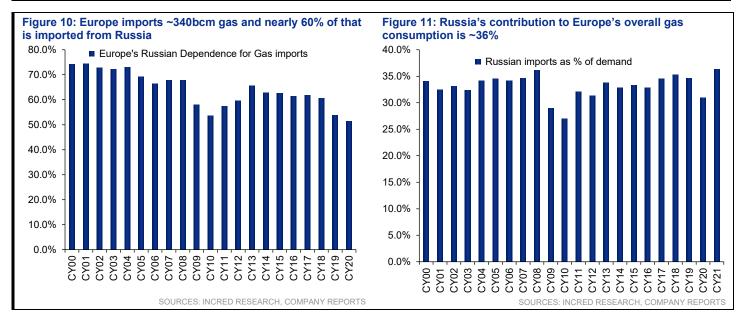
# Can the European gas problem end soon which can lead to low power prices? We don't see this in the next three years ➤

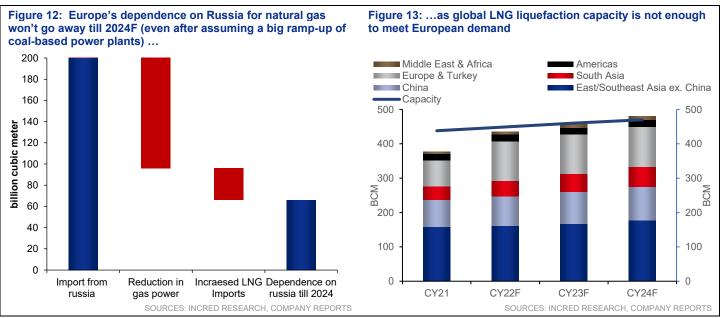
Europe's gas problem is one of its makings. Europe has been over-dependent on Russian gas for the past 20 years. If Russian President Vladimir Putin is using energy as a weapon, then it's Europe's fault that allowed Russia to use energy as a weapon. It's difficult to fathom that Europe has no clue about Putin's motive. Europe's total gas consumption is around 540bcm, out of which ~36% or 200bcm comes from Russia.









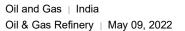


# Can the European gas problem end soon which can lead to low power prices? We don't see this happening for the next three years ➤

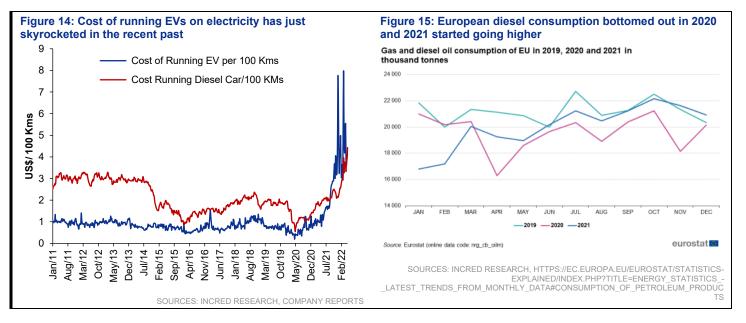
Given the lack of global liquefaction capacity, there is no way Europe can shun Russia soon. They will try their best to reduce their dependence on Russia but their quest to do the same will keep power prices high.

# Hence, EVs cannot take off in a big way in Europe for the next three years and diesel sales won't be hit badly ▶

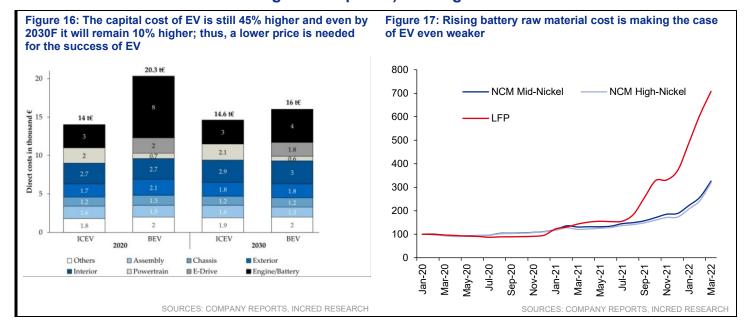
As of now, in Europe, the cost of running an EV per 100km is costlier than that of a diesel-run vehicle (only comparing power cost and diesel cost). Please note this is the scenario when diesel cracks are at an all-time high.







# The capital cost of EVs is so high that at present (even at ultrahigh diesel prices) running a diesel car is more economical ➤



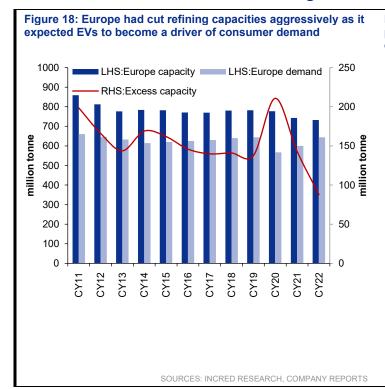
# Hence, unless power prices fall (which is unlikely in the next two-to-three years), fuel demand won't take a big knock in Europe ➤

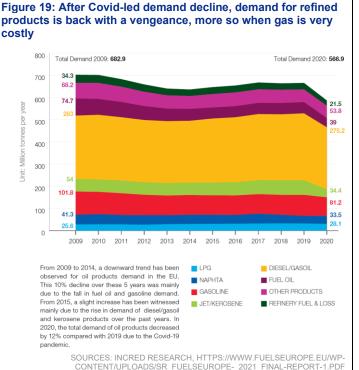
We don't believe diesel demand will witness a huge fall in the coming two-to-three years unless power prices fall by -40-50%. Such a steep fall can come only if the world returns to complete normalcy. However, given the current geopolitical situation, such a dream is very wild.



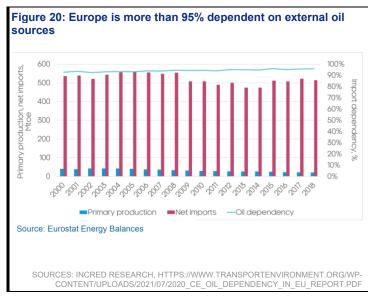


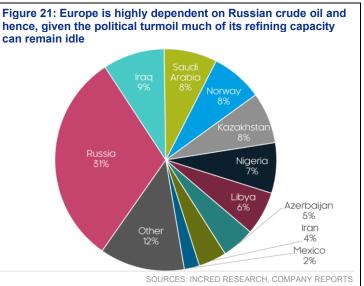
# If there is no demand shock, then Europe is likely to face a shortage of refined crude oil products ➤





# Europe is still highly dependent on Russian crude oil, which makes it difficult for many plants to operate fully ➤





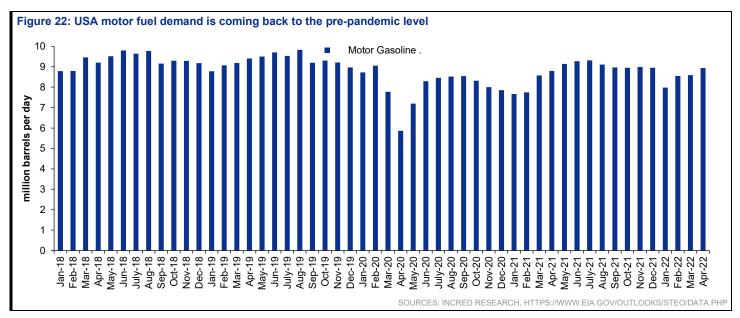
### **USA** fuel consumption coming to pre-pandemic level

The USA is another major gasoline market after Europe and here also motor fuel demand is coming back to pre-Covid level. The USA has another problem - it is short of fuel refining capacity.

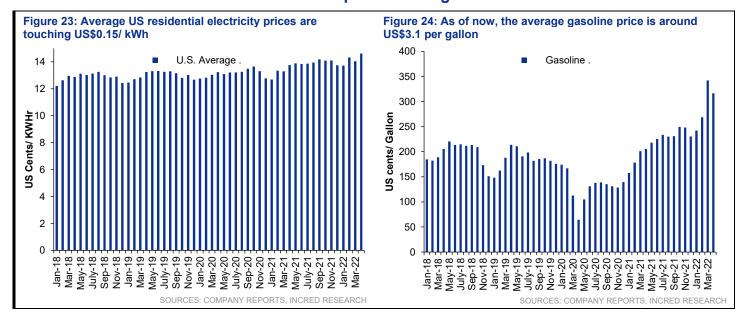




## USA motor fuel demand is coming back to the pre-pandemic level ➤



# High power prices in the USA (even in normal time makes sure that EV adoption will be gradual ➤

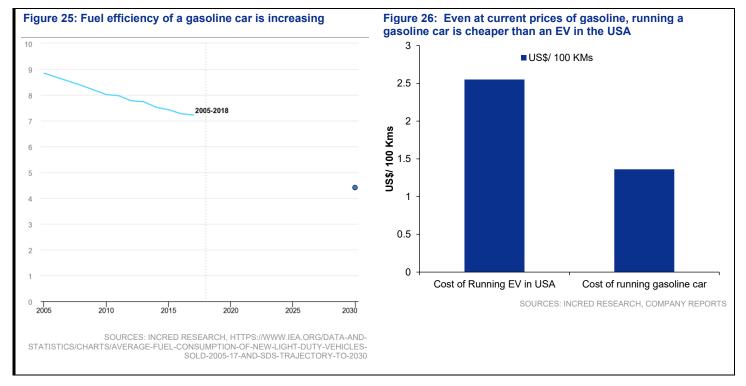






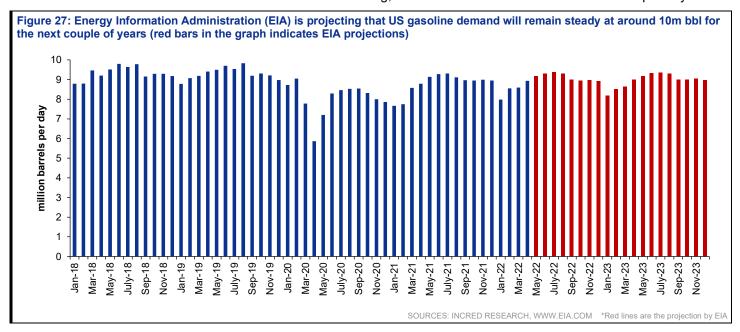
## The running cost of an EV is still higher than a diesel-driven vehicle in the USA ➤

Normally an EV requires around 17 kWh to run 100km whereas a gasoline-driven car needs around 9L (litre) for 100km.



# So, can fuel demand fall precipitously in the USA? No, if at all it falls, it will be very gradual ➤

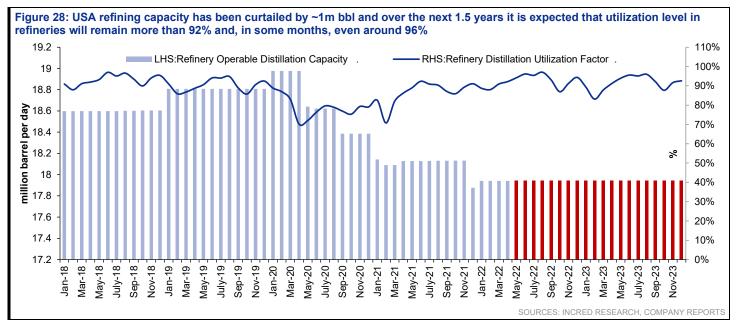
Hence, fuel demand will be steady in the USA. That's why even its government is not forecasting any big fall in fuel demand over the next two years. 5-6 Sigma events notwithstanding, US fuel demand remains around 10m bbl per day.





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### It is also interesting to note that USA refining capacity is short of requirement as some capacity has been curtailed >

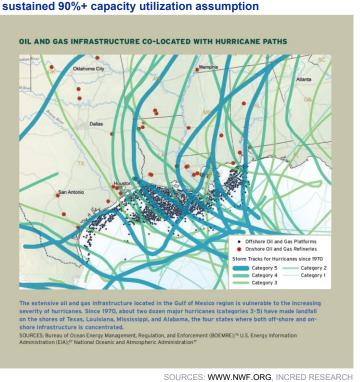


### It is worthwhile to note that EIA assumes very high capacity utilization for a long time span >

We have seen multiple refineries operating at 90%+ utilization for a long time However, it's very difficult for a system to operate at 90% utilization for two years. There are multiple unknowns, more so in an extreme weather zone like that of the USA.



SOURCES: COMPANY REPORTS, INCRED RESEARCH



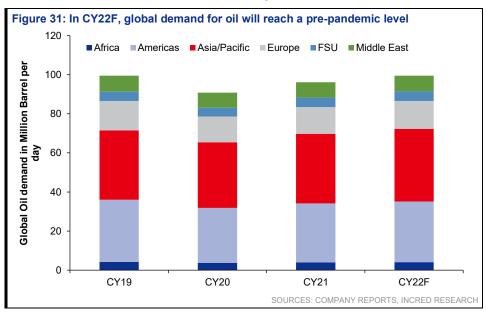




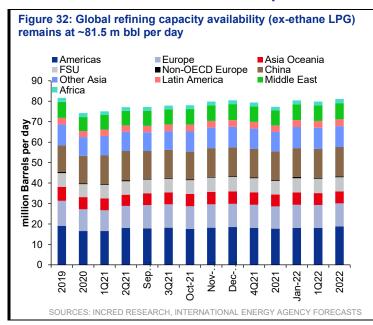
### Global refining capacity is short of the requirement

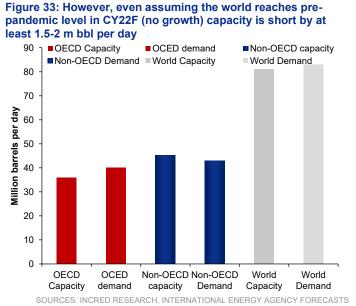
With the above two sections, we have tried to dispel the common misconception that EV usage will lead to a big decline in fuel consumption, and hence, refineries' output will remain in the oversupply zone. We argue that like natural gas slope, GRMs are on a structural growth path. There will be volatility, but for the next five years, the average GRM will remain much higher than the last five years.

### Global demand for oil will reach a pre-Covid level in CY22F ➤



# However, ex-ethane and LPG refining capacity is short of the requirement ➤

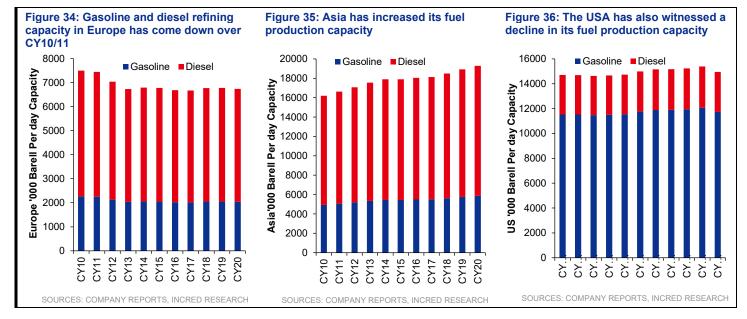




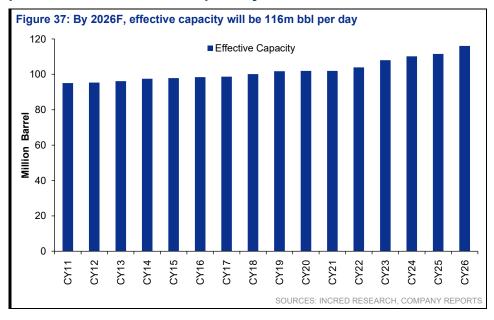




# Apart from Asia, other continents have not seen any significant increase in fuel refining capacity ➤



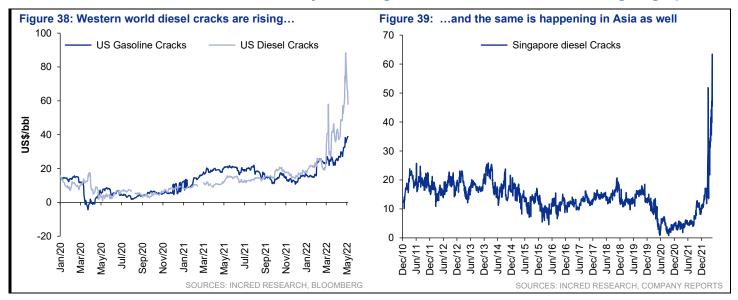
# Global refining capacity addition (including ethane and LPG) is poised to reach 116m bbl per day in 2026F ➤







#### Naturally, diesel, gasoline, and other cracks are going up ▶



# Most Indian refineries are naturally designed to produce more diesel, which is good for their profitability ▶

Indian refiners are designed to produce more diesel and high sulfur fuel oil or HSFO, which is good for their profitability.

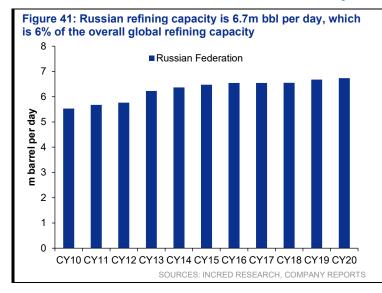


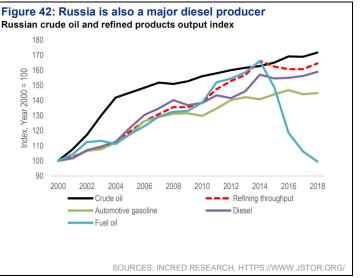


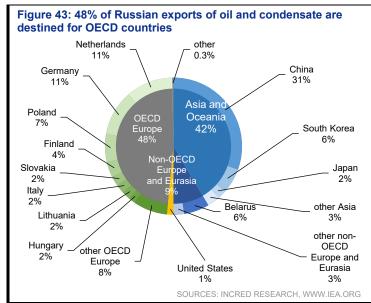


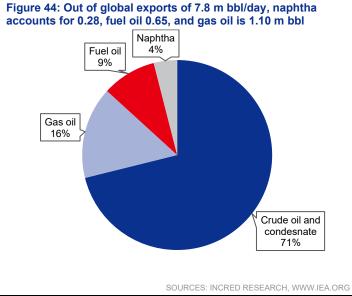


### Russia is a joker in the pack, as per global calculations>







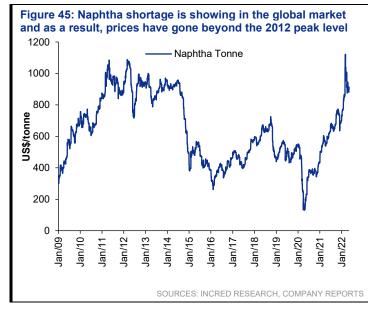


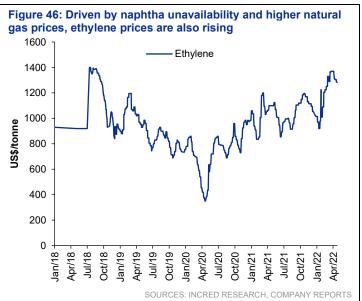




Naphtha is of particular interest to Indian refiners as less Russian supply means very high naphtha prices and cracks over oil >

India is one of the major producers and users of naphtha. It used naphtha to make urea as well as ethylene. A pariah status for Russia can lead to less supply of 32 MT of naphtha in the global market, which can lead to higher prices for naphtha.





We have covered the drivers of ethylene prices and their impact on the chemical value chain in our recently published report: <a href="IN: Chemicals - Overall - Feeling the ethylene pinch">IN: Chemicals - Overall - Feeling the ethylene pinch</a>

# Many Indian refiners are big producers of Naptha and stand to benefit from rising prices ▶

Most Indian refiners, integrated as well as standalone, stand to benefit from higher naphtha prices as almost all of them supply it for manufacturing urea or the export market.



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Oil and Gas | India Oil & Gas Refinery | May 09, 2022



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Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies (CGR). CG Rating by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) in 2021, Anti-Corruption 2021

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Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.
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