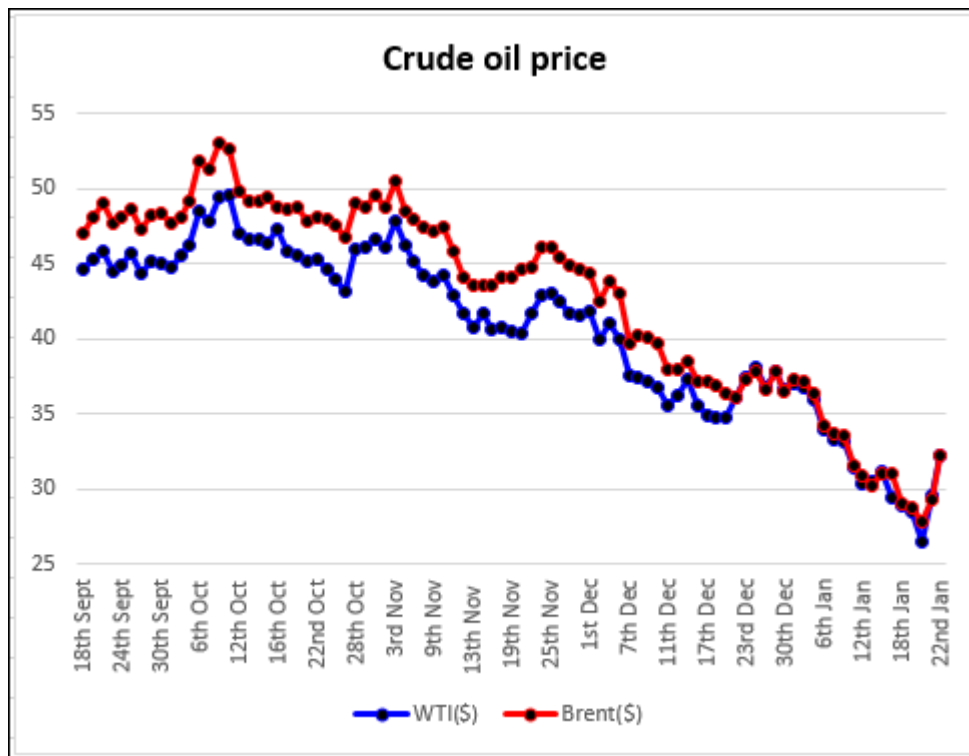


Post 23rd January, 2016

Some of the news items for this week are as follows:



1. After remaining below \$30 a barrel earlier this week, the crude oil price plummeted to \$26.55 on Wednesday, and then regained some ground, to get to over \$32 on Friday. This was in response to the statement given by the Chinese Vice-President at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, that though somewhat slower, the nation's economy was still outperforming some others. The other reason for the rebound has to do with the reported attacks by the Islamic State group on Libyan oil terminals, which could disrupt the crude oil supply.
2. Schlumberger posted a 4th quarter loss again and as a result decided to cut 10,000 jobs so that it can restructure for more efficient service and become profitable again. This number will add to the 20,000 layoffs that the company has gone through since the beginning of the downturn.
3. Similarly, Southwestern Energy, a Houston-based energy company is to cut 1100 jobs by the end of the first quarter, again due to slow market conditions.
4. Finally, the CEO of Shell has announced that its merger with BG may go through in a matter of weeks. As well, the merger will make about 10,000 jobs redundant, and so will be cut.

For the lighter side this week:

Have you heard of the quote '*A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow*'? This quote is attributed to General George Smith Patton, who was America's greatest combat general of World War II. It advocates for taking action with any available and feasible idea rather than waiting for a perfect idea which may come our way in the future. The point is that too much thinking for a perfect idea may entail a lot of time and even then its superiority may sometimes be in question. If this happens to be the case, then the extra time taken is a waste. Besides, the action taken now with whatever resources available may be in our interest as time is opportune. The same action taken later with a better plan may not turn out to be any better as the time may not be so opportune then. The extra time taken to prepare a perfect plan many times is not found to be commensurate with the benefits that may accrue therefrom.

It is thus always a good idea to forge ahead with any action that has to be taken. As we move ahead we get to learn more and appropriately we can continue taking suitable actions. This approach is found to be better and beneficial than a thought-out apparently perfect approach, which may not pan out in a perfect way as the time that could have been favourable earlier is not conducive any longer.

Sounds like a useful tip.

Did you know?

Earth is the only place in the Solar System where water can be present in its three states: solid, liquid and vapour.

I hope you find these interesting.

So much for this week!

Till the next post, stay safe and happy!