BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 2.6.2024
Page No. 6, Size:(7.04)cms X (12.75)cms.

At the crossroads

CRUDE CHECK. MCX futures stuck in the ₹6,400-6,650 price band

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Crude oil prices ended lower last week. Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) was down 1 per cent by closing at $81.3 per barrel, whereas crude oil futures on the MCX posted a minor loss of 0.3 per cent by ending the week at ₹6,453 a barrel.

BRENT FUTURES ($81.3)
Brent Crude futures rallied to mark an intraweek high of $85 mid-week. However, after trading briefly above the resistance at $84, the contract fell sharply.

By closing at $81.3, the contract is now testing the lower boundary of the $81-84 range within which it has been trading over the past month. So, technically, the path of the next trend depends on the direction of the break of the above-mentioned range. A breakout of $84 can lift Brent futures to $87 and then potentially to $90. Subsequent resistance is at $96.

But if the contract decisively breaks below $81, it can quickly drop to $79. Immediate support below $79 is at $76.

MCX-CRUDE OIL (₹6,453)
Crude oil futures (June expiry) marked an intraweek high of ₹6,728 on Wednesday. However, the contract quickly made a U-turn and witnessed a swift price fall.

As it stands, the range of ₹6,400-6,650 holds true and there are no definite signs about the next swing in price.

If the contract manages to gather bullish momentum and surpasses ₹6,650, it can rally to ₹7,000, a barrier. Subsequent resistance is at ₹7,250. On the other hand, if crude oil futures slip below the support at ₹6,400, the price might fall quickly to ₹6,000, an important base. A breach of this might change the medium-term trend bearish. Notable support below ₹6,000 is at ₹5,550.

Trade strategy: The next leg of trend depends on the direction of the break of above-mentioned range. Buy crude oil futures if it breaks out of ₹6,650. Keep stop-loss at ₹6,500. Book profits at ₹7,000. In case the contract drops below ₹6,400, initiate short with a stop-loss at ₹6,600. Exit at ₹6,000.

ASIAN AGE, Delhi, 2.6.2024
Page No. 2, Size:(11.07)cms X (17.25)cms.

Commercial LPG prices cut by ₹69; ATF by 6.5%

New Delhi, June 1: Jet fuel or ATF price on Saturday was reduced by a steep 6.5 per cent and that of commercial LPG used by hotels and restaurants by ₹69 per 19-kg cylinder on declining international oil prices. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was cut by ₹6,673.87 per kilolitre, or 6.5 per cent, to ₹94,969.01 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The reduction follows a marginal 0.7 per cent (₹749.25 per kl) increase on May 1. The ATF rate in Mumbai was slashed to ₹88,834.27 per kl from ₹95,173.70.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

Alongside, oil firms also cut the price of commercial LPG by ₹69 to ₹1,676 per 19-kg cylinder.

This is the third straight monthly reduction in rates. The price was on May 1 reduced by ₹19 per cylinder and by ₹30.5 on April 1.

Rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at ₹803 per 14.2-kg cylinder. April 1 saw the first reduction in commercial LPG prices since January. The rate had gone up by ₹14 per cylinder on February 1 and ₹25.5 on March 1.

Prices of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. Rates had been cut by ₹2 per litre in mid-March. Petrol costs ₹94.72 a litre in Delhi while diesel is priced at ₹87.62.

— PTI

BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 2.6.2024
Page No. 12, Size:(15.56)cms X (8.78)cms.

Fuel consumption surges to a record in May on political campaigns and summer travel

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

The country's petrol and diesel consumption broke all records in May, aided by higher demand due to the campaigning in the Lok Sabha elections and the start of summer vacation.

The higher usage also reflects the world's No 3 crude oil importer's expanding industrial base and growing demand for personal and commercial mobility.

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, diesel consumption rose to a record 8.4 million tonnes (mt) last month compared to the previous record of 8.2 mt in May 2023.

Petrol usage rose to 3.5 mt against the previous high of 3.4 mt in May 2023.

Diesel usage rose by 2.4 per cent y-o-y and 6.3 per cent m-o-m in May, while petrol consumption was up 3 per cent, respectively.

India's refined petroleum products consumption

Thousand tonnes

Month/Year	Diesel	Petrol	Jet Fuel
May-23	8,217	3,350	671
Jun-23	7,906	3,152	642
Jul-23	6,885	2,984	663
Aug-23	6,670	3,093	677
Sep-23	6,493	3,058	657
Oct-23	7,634	3,140	692
Nov-23	7,525	3,129	690
Dec-23	7,604	2,990	720
Jan-24	7,426	3,100	717
Feb-24	7,435	3,023	705
Mar-24	8,039	3,324	758
Apr-24	7,925	3,284	742
May-24	8,391	3,452	739

Source: PPAC

POLLS AND HOLIDAY SEASON

As political campaigners criss-crossed the length and breath of the country reaching out to voters, the demand for auto fuels rose significantly.

It was also aided, albeit marginally, by record-breaking summer temperatures and intense heat-waves (across north, north-western and central India), leading to vehicles cranking up cooling.

A major part of election activity was concentrated in May that accounted for four of the seven-phase voting covering 296 parliamentary constituencies.

Another factor contributing to the demand was the beginning of the summer vacation with people across north and central India driving in huge numbers to the hill stations of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

In the last couple of years, this phenomenon has led to severe traffic jams along the hilly States. The beginning of the Char Dham Yatra also contributed to high petrol and diesel consumption.

In FY24, the consumption of diesel and petrol, at 89.65 mt and 37.22 mt, respectively, was also at an all-time high. The total consumption of refined petroleum products in FY24 rose 4.6 per cent y-o-y to 233.276 mt, also an all-time high.

INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 2.6.2024
Page No. 12, Size:(13.16)cms X (12.57)cms.

INDIAN REFINERS IMPORTED A TOTAL OF 1.96 MN BPD OF RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL IN MAY

India's Russian oil imports at 10-month high in May, Saudi supplies dwindle

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 1

INDIA'S RUSSIAN oil imports climbed to a 10-month high in May as low Russian refinery capacity use due to Ukrainian drone strikes made more of Moscow's oil available for the export market, as per oil tanker tracking data and industry experts. The rise in India's import of discounted Russian oil over the past few months has hit flows from Saudi Arabia the most, the data shows.

Indian refiners imported a total of 1.96 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude oil in May, the highest since July of last year, and nearly 3 per cent higher than volumes imported in April, as per provisional ship-tracking data from commodity market analytics firm Kpler. May also marked the fifth consecutive month of growth in India's Russian oil imports.

Oil imports from Saudi Arabia—India's third-biggest source market for crude—declined almost 13 per cent sequentially to 0.55 million bpd, the lowest since September of last year. The primary reason for the decline is seen as the ample availability of Russian crude, which continues to maintain a price advantage over Riyadh's oil.

"Russian refinery runs have been counter-seasonally low because of the Ukrainian drone strikes, so there was more crude going into the wider markets for exports," said Viktor Katona, head of crude analysis at Kpler.

"The (Indian refiners') decision to minimise imports (from Saudi Arabia) is solely a commercial one, reflective of the fact that there remains a $5-6 per barrel difference between the pricing of Saudi and Russian barrels. So, basically, it is direct displacement (of Saudi Arabian crude)," Katona said.

In September, when imports from Saudi Arabia were lower at 0.48 million bpd, the refinery maintenance season in India was in full swing, which meant that overall crude oil demand in the country was lower as some refineries were out of action. May, however, saw subdued oil imports from Saudi Arabia despite no refinery maintenance activity in India.

Supply of the medium-sour Urals crude—Russia's flagship crude grade and the mainstay of India's Russian oil purchases—to Indian refiners touched a record high in May at 1.53 million bpd, accounting for over 78 per cent of India's Russian oil imports. Evidently, the price differential between Urals and competing crude grades from India's traditional West Asian suppliers was significant enough for Indian refiners to prefer the Russian grade.

May also marked a 10-month high in India's oil imports from the United States (US)—New Delhi's fifth-largest source of crude oil. Indian refiners imported a total of 0.21 million bpd of crude from the US in May, 4.5 per cent higher than the imports in April, and the highest since July of last year. The increase in import volumes from the US was evidently on account of American crude becoming relatively cheaper than comparable grades from West Asia.

"India's oil imports from the US mostly are of light sweet grades that are routinely blended with heavier barrels from Russia, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. Considering Dubai is now the strongest benchmark, trending higher than Brent for more than a month already, the arbitrage of relatively cheap US barrels into India is fairly open. The commercial advantage is there," Katona said.

In terms of market share, Russia accounted for almost 41 per cent of the total 4.79 million bpd of crude oil imported into India in May. This is the second consecutive month of Moscow having a share of 40 per cent or more in New Delhi's oil imports. Russia's share had declined to around 33 per cent in the four months preceding April from the peak level of nearly 46 per cent seen in May 2023, the data shows.

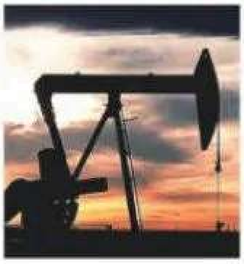
India's second-largest source of crude—Iraq—accounted for a fifth of New Delhi's oil imports in May, while Saudi Arabia's share was 11.4 per cent.

Prior to the war in Ukraine, Iraq and Saudi Arabia were the top two suppliers of crude oil to India. But as the West started weaning itself off Russian energy supplies following Moscow's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russia started offering discounts on its crude and Indian refiners started snapping up the discounted barrels.

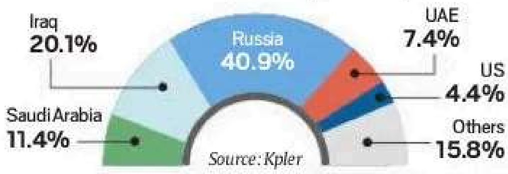
As the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil with a high import dependency level of over 85 per cent, India is extremely sensitive to oil prices. Although trade sources have indicated that discounts on Russian crude have shrunk considerably over the past months, Indian refiners have evidently remained keen on buying Russian oil as given the high import volumes, even lower discount levels lead to significant savings.

INDIA'S OIL IMPORTS IN MAY

Supplier	Volume (thousand bpd)
Russia	1959
Iraq	961
Saudi Arabia	546
UAE	355
US	210
Others	759
TOTAL	4791



MARKET SHARE OF INDIA'S TOP SUPPLIERS OF CRUDE (MAY 2024)



Source: Kpler

INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 2.6.2024
Page No. 12, Size:(6.11)cms X (2.57)cms.

CRUDE WATCH

OIL POSTS WEEKLY LOSS

Houston: Oil prices fell on Friday and posted a weekly loss as investors awaited an OPEC+ meeting on Sunday that will determine the fate of the producer group's output cuts. **REUTERS**

The Indian EXPRESS Sun, 02 June 2024
https://epaper.india

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 2.6.2024
Page No. 2, Size:(4.47)cms X (11.50)cms.

Windfall tax on crude oil cut to ₹5,200/tonne

NEW DELHI: The government has reduced windfall tax on domestically-produced crude oil to Rs 5,200 per tonne from Rs 5,700 with effect from Saturday.

The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED).

SAED on the export of diesel, petrol and jet fuel or ATF, has been retained at 'nil'. The new rates are effective from June 1, an official notification said.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022. The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks. PTI

VIRAT VAIBHAV, Delhi, 2.6.2024
Page No. 15, Size:(20.94)cms X (13.10)cms.

विमान ईंधन की कीमत में 6.5 प्र., वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी के दाम में 69 रु. की कटौती

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

विमान (जेट) ईंधन या एटीएफ के दाम में शनिवार को 6.5 प्रतिशत की कटौती की गई वहीं होटल एवं रेस्तरां में इस्तेमाल होने वाले 19 किलोग्राम के एलपीजी सिलेंडर पर 69 रुपए की कमी की गई। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल के मूल्यों में गिरावट के मद्देनजर ऐसा किया गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि तेल विपणन करने वाली सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों के अनुसार राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत 6,673.87 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर (6.5 प्रतिशत) घटकर 94,969.01 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर रह गई। इससे पहले एक मई को इसकी कीमत में 749.25 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर या 0.7 प्रतिशत की मामूली वृद्धि की गई थी। मुंबई में एटीएफ दर 95,173.70 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर से घटकर 88,834.27 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर रह गई। स्थानीय करों के आधार पर हर राज्य में कीमतें अलग-अलग होती हैं। इसके साथ ही तेल कंपनियों ने 19 किलोग्राम वाले वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत 69 रुपए घटाकर।,676 रुपए कर दी। उन्होंने बताया कि वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत में एक मई को 19 रुपए तथा एक अप्रैल को 30.5 रुपए की कटौती की गई थी। हालांकि, घरेलू उपयोग में आने वाली रसोई गैस (14.2 किलोग्राम) सिलेंडर की कीमत 803 रुपए प्रति सिलेंडर ही रहेगी।

PUNJAB KESARI, Delhi, 2.6.2024
Page No. 10, Size:(15.61)cms X (17.96)cms.

सरकार ने कच्चे तेल पर घटाया विंडफॉल टैक्स

नई दिल्ली, (आईएएनएस): केंद्र सरकार ने घरेलू कच्चे तेल पर विंडफॉल टैक्स घटाकर शनिवार से 5,200 रुपये प्रति टन कर दिया। यह पहले 5,700 रुपये प्रति टन था। सरकार ने इस संबंध में शुक्रवार देर रात एक नोटिफिकेशन जारी किया। इसमें कहा गया है कि नई दर 1 जून से लागू होगी।

नोटिफिकेशन में कहा गया कि कच्चे तेल के उत्पादन पर विंडफॉल टैक्स 5,700 रुपये प्रति मीट्रिक टन से घटाकर 5,200 रुपये प्रति टन करने का फैसला लिया गया है। पेट्रोल, डीजल और विमान ईंधन पर विंडफॉल टैक्स शून्य बना हुआ है।

सरकार द्वारा हर 15 दिन में कच्चे तेल पर लगने वाले विंडफॉल टैक्स की समीक्षा की जाती है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर चल रही कच्चे तेल की कीमतों के आधार पर ही विंडफॉल टैक्स को घटाया या बढ़ाया जाता है।

- कुछ महीनों में सरकार की ओर से कई बार विंडफॉल टैक्स में कटौती की गई है

पिछले कुछ महीनों में सरकार की ओर से कई बार विंडफॉल टैक्स में कटौती की गई है। इससे पहले 16 मई को सरकार ने कच्चे तेल पर विंडफॉल टैक्स 8,400 रुपये से घटाकर 5,700 रुपये प्रति टन कर दिया गया था।

NAVODYA TIMES, Delhi, 2.6.2024
Page No. 11, Size:(17.89)cms X (24.67)cms.

सरकार ने कच्चे तेल पर घटाया विंडफॉल टैक्स

नई दिल्ली, 1 जून (एजेंसी): जून महीने की शुरूआत लोगों के लिए दोहरी खुशखबरी के साथ हुई है। महीने की पहली तारीख को कई चीजों के भाव कम हो गए हैं। सबसे पहले एल.पी.जी. सिलैंडरों के मामले में लगातार तीसरी कटौती की गई। अब विमानन ईंधन के दाम भी कम किए गए। वहीं कच्चे तेल पर भी टैक्स घटाया गया।

भारत सरकार ने पैट्रोलियम क्रूड पर अप्रत्याशित कर (विंडफॉल टैक्स) को 5,700 रुपए से घटाकर 5,200 रुपए प्रति मीट्रिक टन कर दिया है। नई दरें आज यानी 1 जून से प्रभावी हो गई हैं। सरकार ने इसे लेकर 31 मई को एक नोटिफिकेशन जारी किया था।

विमानन ईंधन के दाम में हुई भारी कटौती

सरकारी तेल व गैस कंपनियों द्वारा दी गई जानकारी के अनुसार आज यानी 1 जून से विमानन ईंधन (ए.टी.एफ.) की दरों में 6,673.87 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर की भारी कटौती की गई है। इंडियन ऑयल की वैबसाइट पर उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार आज से दिल्ली में ए.टी.एफ. सस्ता होकर 94,969.01 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर रह गया है।

इससे पहले 1 मई को ए.टी.एफ. की दरों में 749.25 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर की बढ़ौतरी की गई थी। उसके बाद दिल्ली में ए.टी.एफ. महंगा होकर 1,01,642.88 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर हो गया था।

एल.पी.जी. सिलैंडर की कीमत में बदलाव

तेल कंपनियों ने 19 किलोग्राम वाले वाणिज्यिक (कमर्शियल) एल.पी.जी. सिलैंडर की कीमत 69 रुपए घटाकर 1,676 रुपए कर दी।

कमर्शियल एल.पी.जी. सिलैंडर की कीमत में एक मई को 19 रुपए तथा एक अप्रैल को 30.5 रुपए की कटौती की गई थी। हालांकि, घरेलू उपयोग में आने वाली रसोई गैस (14.2 किलोग्राम) सिलैंडर की कीमत 803 रुपए प्रति सिलैंडर ही रहेगी।