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India's fuel demand at 11-month high in Dec

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's fuel demand rose for the fourth straight month in December as the resumption of economic activity took consumption to 11-month high, but it was about 2 per cent lower than pre-COVID levels.

The total demand for petroleum products in December 2020 fell to 18.59 million tonnes from 18.94 million tonnes a year back, according to provisional data published by the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell.

Fuel consumption, however, posted a month-on-month increase for the fourth straight month, helped by reviving transportation and business activity.

India had consumed 17.86 million tonnes in November.

The consumption in December was the highest since February 2020.

While petrol had reached pre-COVID levels in September, diesel consumption returned to normal in October. However, its demand fell again in November and now in December.

Diesel demand, which had soared 7.4 per cent year-on-year in October, dropped 6.9 per cent in November and by 2.7 per cent in December to 7.18 million tonnes. Month-on-month, the demand slightly improved from 7.04 million tonnes.

Fuel demand had snipped by 49 per cent in April after a nationwide lockdown, imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus, shut industries and took most vehicles off-road.

The 69-day nationwide lockdown was followed by local and state-level restrictions. The curbs have eased only slowly and in phases, while localised restrictions in containment zones remain.

Fuel demand touches 11-month high, but stays below pre-Covid levels	Indian Express	15	Bureau	Neutral
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Fuel demand touches 11-month high, but stays below pre-Covid levels

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

INDIA'S TOTAL fuel demand hit an 11-month high in December, but still remained 2 per cent below pre-Covid levels.

The total demand for fuel products in December was 18.60 million tonnes, down from 18.95 million tonnes in the year-ago period, but up 4 per cent, compared to November, according to data released by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell.

Fuel demand fell sharply in March after the government imposed a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19. The recovery of demand for fuels has also been hit by periodic lockdowns in various states which have set up containment zones and maintained localised lockdowns to curb the spread of Covid. Demand for petrol was up 9.3

TOTAL DEMAND

18.60 MT

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per cent at 2.47 million tonnes in December, while demand for diesel remained 2.7 per cent below pre-Covid levels at 7.18 million tonnes in the same period. Petrol demand has consistently posted growth since September while diesel demand has only posted growth of 7.4 per cent growth in October.

Dharmendra Pradhan, MoPNG flagged off consignment of critical equipments from Hazira	Indian Express	15	Bureau	Neutral
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CEREMONY - INDIANOIL

Dharmendra Pradhan, MoPNG & Steel flagged-off a consignment of critical equipment from Hazira to Paradip for IndianOil's MEG Plant. SM Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil, & other senior officials were present on the occasion.

Fuel demand at 11-month high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 9 JANUARY

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REPORT CARD FOR DEC

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by 49 per cent in April after a nationwide lockdown, imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus, shut industries and took most vehicles off-road.

The 69-day nationwide lockdown was followed by local and state-level restrictions. The curbs have eased only slowly and in phases, while localised restrictions in con-

tainment zones remain.

The onset of the festive season has fuelled a rise in consumption, but the public transport is not back to normal levels yet, as schools and educational institutions continue to remain shut in most parts of the country.

Demand for naphtha, which is used as industrial fuel for generating electricity and producing petrochemicals, fell 2.67 per cent to 1.23 million tons in December.

But, bitumen, used in road construction, consumption jumped by 20 per cent to 7,61,000 tons.

LPG - the only fuel that showed growth even during the lockdown period on the back of the government giving free cooking gas to the poor - was up 7.4 per cent at 2.53 million tons.

Aviation turbine fuel or ATF sales fell 41 per cent to 4,28,000 tons as most airlines are yet to resume full operations. On a month-on-month basis, it improved by 13.5 per cent.

India's fuel demand at 11-month high in December	Financial Express	3	PTI	Neutral
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India's fuel demand at 11-month high in December

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 9

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OMCs may see earnings erode	Telangana Today	10	IANS	Neutral
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OMCs may see earnings erode

NEW DELHI

After having a good run in most parts of the Covid-19 affected year, oil marketing companies may see a squeeze in their earnings in the October-December quarter of 2020-21 financial year.

OMC have had a good run in the first half of FY21 with higher inventory gains, fortunes may turn against the companies as lower oil prices in October and November months would result in inventory losses for companies such as IndianOil, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum.

“We estimate OMCs’ earnings to be lower qoq due to a fall in refining inventory gains. Upstream would suffer due to a decline in gas prices. GAIL would benefit from higher LPG-petchem prices. GSPL would be affected by RIL’s volume cut,” Emkay Global Financial Services said. IANS

Cherlapally plant geared to meet demand for new LPG products

A flex speed 72 cylinders carousel, only such for the company, heart of the facility

N.RAVI KUMAR
HYDERABAD

National oil marketing company Indian Oil Corporation's bottling plant in Cherlapally here is geared to cater to growing demand for the new, differentiated LPG cylinders for commercial applications such as XtraTej that IOC had launched recently.

A key asset for Indian Oil in the region supplying liquefied petroleum gas to almost all of Telangana, the plant had already shifted to filling 47.5 kg cylinders only with XtraTej.

"It is [also] going to be 100% very soon for 19 kg cylinders," Deputy General Manager-Plant Jai Prakash Pandey said, adding the initial customer response to XtraTej has been encouraging. Boosted with additives developed in-house, the new addition to the Indane portfolio offers commercial and industrial users fuel saving on account of higher flame temperature and comes at no additional cost.

Stating that the additive dosing facility, at the plant, is operational and in need for some more fine-tuning, J.V.Krishna, DGM-LPG Operations said "our intention is whatever 19 kg we sell should be positioned as a speciality product."



The carousel at the LPG bottling plant of Indian Oil Corporation in Cherlapally. *NAGARA GOPAL

Earlier, briefing media persons on a visit to the Cherlapally plant, the two IOC officials said it is a fully automated plant and equipped with a carousel that can accommodate 72 cylinders. The facility is a mainstay for IOC in catering to its customer base of 57 lakh in Telangana through 352 distributors. The company commands a market share of 41% in the State.

The carousel is only such for IOC with high speed filling capacity of 4,000 cylinders (14.2 kg) per hour and has three stage filling for better accuracy. Vision readers and integrated weight correction units in the carousel facilitates filling of refill cylinders to the precise weight. The plant can churn out

3,900 LPG cylinders per hour, an IOC release said.

The bottling plant, located on a little over 32 acres, fills around 55,000 LPG cylinders per day, translating into an annual bottling capacity of 1.80 lakh tonnes. The LPG storage capacity is 2,300 tonnes in the form of six above ground bullets, with a combined capacity of 900 tonnes, and one Horton sphere with a capacity of 1,400 tonnes.

Additional tankage

There are plans to establish additional LPG tankage of 2,400 tonnes in mounded storage, something the officials confirmed, but did not want to elaborate as they are at a preliminary stage.

Besides the facility, IOC

has another bottling plant in Thimmapur, much of whose requirement of bulk LPG is supplied from Cherlapally, which in turn receives the fuel on a pipeline from Visakhapatnam. The release said the Cherlapally plant supplies LPG cylinders to customers through a network of over 300 Indane LPG distributors across all Telangana, excluding Mahabubnagar, and auto LPG to all the outlets in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

While Mr.Pandey said the plant capacity had increased over the years, Mr.Krishna said 14.2 kg and 5 kg cylinders, 19 kg and 47.5 kg cylinders and 19 kg Nanocut cylinders, for precision cutting industrial application, are filled at the plant.

Dec. fuel demand rises to 11-month high

Diesel sales slip from year-earlier period for a second straight month dampening overall consumption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

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Driving demand: While petrol reached pre-COVID levels in September, diesel returned to normal in October. — A. M. FARUQUI

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clined again in November and December.

Diesel slips again

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cember to 7.18 million tonnes. Month-on-month, the demand slightly improved from 7.04 million tonnes.

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Bitumen, LPG

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LPG — the only fuel that showed growth even during the lockdown period on the back of the government giving free cooking gas to the poor — was 7.4% higher at 2.53 million tonnes.

Aviation turbine fuel or ATF sales fell 41% to 4,28,000 tonnes as most airlines are yet to resume full operations. However, on a month-on-month basis, it improved by 13.5%.

Signs of revival: Fuel demand hits 11-month high in Dec	Hindu Business Line	12	PTI	Neutral
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New Delhi, January 9

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