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African oil imports hit 10-mth high in Aug: Shipping data

India's oil imports from Africa jumped to their highest in 10 months in August as refiners switched out more expensive crude from the West Asia, shipping data provided by trade sources showed. The world's third biggest oil importer shipped in about 3.95 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil in August, the highest volume since April, with African nations accounting for about 17.5 per cent, or an eleven month high of 688,000 bpd, the data showed. **REUTERS**

OPEC+ presses for compliance with oil production cuts

REUTERS

September 17

OPEC and its allies, led by Russia, pressed for better compliance with oil output cuts on Thursday against the backdrop of falling crude prices as uncertainty reigns over the global economic outlook.

The group, known as OPEC+, warned that rising Covid-19 cases in some countries could curb energy demand despite initial indications of a decline in oil stocks, according to a copy of a report by the group's technical panel seen by Reuters on Thursday.

The panel of major producers, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, is unlikely to recommend any changes to their current output reduction target of 7.7 million barrels per day (bpd), or around eight per cent of global demand, according to three OPEC+

sources. They will, however, press laggards such as Iraq, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates to cut more barrels to compensate for overproduction and possibly extend the compensation period, OPEC+ sources said.

“Full compliance is not an act of charity. It is an integral part of our collective effort to maximize the interest and gains of every individual member of this group,” Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said.

OPEC+ has been reducing production since January 2017 to help support prices and reduce global oil stockpiles. They increased their cuts to a record 9.7 million bpd from May to July after demand plunged due to the coronavirus crisis.

Prince Abdulaziz said on Thursday the compensation period could be extended until the end of 2020.

Petrol demand returns to pre-Covid levels, diesel still down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, September 17

INDIA'S PETROL SALES rose for the first time in the first half of September since the country's lockdown in late March, signalling demand may have returned to pre-Covid-19 levels.

Petrol sales between September 1 and 15 rose 2.2% year-

on-year and were up 7% over the previous month, according to preliminary industry data.

Diesel sales continue to be in negative territory, with demand falling 6% year-on-year. But the demand was 19.3% higher over August 2020. This is the first time that petrol sales in the world's third-largest oil importer have risen since the



March 25 nationwide lockdown crippled economic activity and

sent demand plummeting.

Petrol sales rose to 9,65,000 tonnes during the first half of September as compared to 9,45,000 tonnes in the same period a year back and 9,00,000 tonnes during August 1-15, 2020. Petrol sales have picked up as commuters are increasingly preferring to personal transport to public transport.

The September rise in petrol is a turnaround from the sharp drop witnessed in August. Diesel and petrol sales have fallen by 21% and 7.4%, respectively in August from a year earlier. Jet fuel sales at 1,25,000 tonnes were down 60% in the first half of September but was 15% higher than 1,03,000 tonnes sales in August.

Soft crude price offsets rise in natural rubber cost for tyre cos

Harsha Jethmalani
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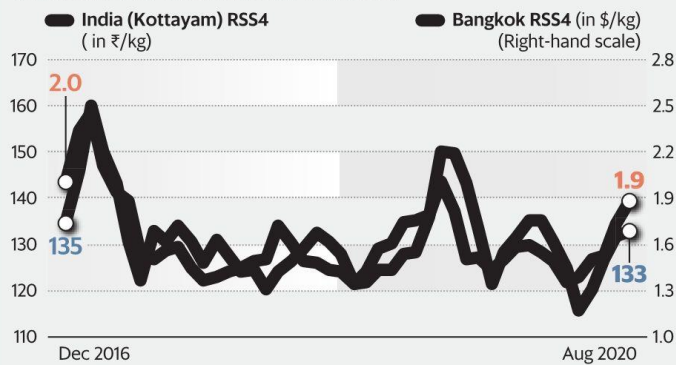
International prices of natural rubber have risen 25% in the past three months, but tyre makers won't be overly concerned as benign crude oil prices are expected to offset the impact of higher rubber prices.

For tyre manufacturers, natural rubber and crude derivatives account for around 45% each of the total raw material cost. Indian tyre companies import a large part of their natural rubber requirement from southeast Asia. Prices of international natural rubber rose in August because of high demand from China amid supply constraints, analysts said. The price of natural rubber in India also increased in line with the global trend.

On the other hand, global crude oil prices remain on a soft footing around \$42 per barrel from around \$60 a barrel in FY20. Carbon black, synthetic rubber, nylon tyre cord fabrics are crude derivatives used by tyre makers. Their prices follow the crude oil price with a lag of one-two quarters. A dim outlook on movement in crude oil prices bodes well for the margins of tyre companies.

Surging rates

Hit by tight supply, prices of natural rubber recently rose in domestic and international markets.



Source: JM Financial Institutional Securities Ltd

SATISH KUMAR/MINT

“The earnings sensitivity to a decline in prices of crude derivatives is higher than the change in natural rubber prices. We believe any increase in natural rubber prices would be more than offset by a decline in crude oil prices favourably impacting gross margins by 150-200 basis points for tyre firms. Margins of all tyre companies were at multi-year highs in FY16-17 when crude was sub-\$50 a barrel and natural rubber was sub-₹135 per

kg,” JM Financial Institutional Securities Ltd analysts said in a report. One basis point is one hundredth of a percentage point. Natural rubber prices were at ₹133 a kg in early Sep-

tember.

Easing input cost is a positive, but a weak rupee plays a spoilsport here. Managements of Apollo Tyres Ltd and Ceat Ltd told analysts that the rupee's depreciation could limit the gains from soft crude prices. “In the last 15 months, prices of tyres have remained steady. So, any slight increase in costs can easily be passed on to end-consumers, shielding margins in the near term,” a report published by BOB Capital Markets in August noted.

The earnings also depend on how demand improves. For now, demand from the replacement market is helping offset part of the weakness in the original equipment manufacturers segment. However, overall demand is weak because of the pandemic.

A dim outlook on the movement in crude oil prices bodes well for overall margins of tyre companies

Petrol sales up in Sept, 1st time since lockdown

KARUNJIT SINGH

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

PETROL SALES rose 1.7 per cent in the first half of September, growing for the first time since Covid-19-related lockdowns began in March, as per official sales data from the three leading state-owned oil marketing companies. Diesel sales, however, fell 6.2 per cent compared to sales in the first half of last September.

Petrol sales for the first 16 days of September stood at 1,041.4 thousand metric tonnes (TMT), up from 1,024.5 TMT in the year-ago period.

Petrol usage returns to pre-COVID level

Sales rise 2.2% year-on-year from Sept. 1-15 to recover from Aug.'s sharp drop; diesel demand 6% lower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

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Petrol sales between September 1 and 15 rose 2.2% year-on-year and were up 7% over the previous month, according to preliminary industry data.

Diesel sales, however, continued to be in negative territory, with demand falling 6%. But the demand was 19.3% higher than in August 2020.

This is the first time that petrol sales in the world's third-largest oil importer have risen since the March



Back in business: Petrol sales rose to 9.65 lakh tonnes in the first half of Sept. from 9.45 lakh a year earlier. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

25 nationwide lockdown crippled economic activity and sent demand plummeting. Petrol sales rose to 9,65,000 tonnes compared with 9,45,000 tonnes in the same period a year earlier

and 9,00,000 tonnes during August 1-15, 2020.

Demand for diesel, the most-consumed fuel in the country, fell to 2.13 million tonnes, from 2.25 million tonnes for the September 1-

15, 2019, period. Sales were 1.78 million tonnes in the first half of August this year.

Local lockdowns hamper

Industry sources said while the Indian economy has started to pick up with lockdown restrictions being lifted since June, local lockdowns by States had hampered a quick pick-up in demand. Petrol sales have picked up as commuters are increasingly preferring personal transport to public conveyance.

The rise in September for petrol is a turnaround from the sharp drop witnessed in August. Diesel and petrol sales had fallen by 21% and 7.4%, respectively, in August from a year earlier.

Jet fuel sales at 1,25,000

tonnes were down 60% in the first half of September but were 15% higher than the 1,03,000 tonnes in August.

Cooking gas sales were up 12.5% at 1.13 million tonnes and 13.5% month-on-month.

Wholesale sales of cars rose 14% in August, while two-wheeler sales increased by 3%.

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, Indian Oil Corp. – India's largest fuel retailer – earlier this week said that there were signs of demand recovery, but that the pandemic's impact could linger and monthly consumption may edge back to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year. Fuel demand is expected to rise further in October as the festive season kicks in.

Tankers cruise; rates for containers, dry bulk fall

‘Oil contango spurred rush for tankers’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tanker owners have remained insulated from the disruption in global trade due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has resulted in charter rates of dry bulk and container carriers crashing as demand has dried up, Crisil Research said.

“That’s because a crash in crude oil prices earlier this year had led to a situation known as ‘oil contango’, wherein the price of an oil futures contract exceeded the spot price. This sparked a rush for booking vessels to be used as floating storage. Thus, even as dry bulk and container rates wallowed, tanker charter rates were 44% higher on-year in the first half of 2020,” it said.

Crisil Research expects dry bulk trade to fall 4-6%

on-year in 2020, led by weak industrial demand and muted steel production, which would hit coal and iron ore procurement.

As per the report, container charter rates are expected to fall 20-23% on-year in 2020 on the back of a 10-12% decline in container trade, impacted by lower consumption demand from likes of the EU and the U.S.

‘Some cushion’

“Given that the tanker segment constitutes a large chunk (63%) of the Indian fleet, the surge in tanker rates provides some cushion to a drop in revenue. However, the oil contango... is now tapering,” Crisil said.

“We expect Indian shipping players’ revenue to decline 9-11% due to reduced trade globally,” it added.

Demand for petrol returns to pre-COVID-19 levels

Diesel sales continue to be in negative territory, with demand falling 6 per cent year-on-year. But the demand was 19.3 per cent higher over August 2020

OUR CORRESPONDENT

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Diesel sales continue to be in negative territory, with demand falling 6 per cent year-on-year. But the demand was 19.3 per cent higher over August 2020.

This is the first time that petrol sales in the world's third-largest oil importer have risen since the March 25 nationwide lockdown crippled economic activity and sent demand plummeting.

Petrol sales rose to 9,65,000 tonnes during the first half of September as compared to 9,45,000 tonnes in the same period a year back and 9,00,000 tonnes during August 1-15, 2020. Demand for diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country, fell to 2.13 million tonnes from 2.25 million tonnes



in September 1-15, 2019. Sales were 1.78 million tonnes during the first half of August this year.

Industry sources said while the Indian economy has started to pick up with lockdown restrictions being lifted since June, local lockdowns by states have hampered the demand quickly picking up.

Petrol sales have picked up as commuters are increasingly preferring to personal transport to public transport.

The September rise in petrol is a turnaround from the sharp drop witnessed in August. Diesel and petrol sales have fallen by 21 per cent and 7.4 per cent, respectively in August from a year earlier.

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in the first half of September but was 15 per cent higher than 1,03,000 tonnes sales in August.

Cooking gas LPG sales were up 12.5 per cent at 1.13 million tonnes year-on-year and 13.5 per cent month-on-month.

Car sales rose 14 per cent in August from a year earlier, while two-wheeler sales increased by 3 per cent.

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman of Indian Oil Corp (IOC) - the country's largest fuel retailer, earlier this week stated that there were signs of demand recovery, but the pandemic's impact could linger and monthly consumption may edge back to pre-virus levels by the end of the year. Fuel demand is expected to further rise in October as the festive season kicks in.

OPEC+ panel to meet amid oil price decline

**MOSCOW/LONDON/
DUBAI:** OPEC and allies, led by Russia, are scheduled to hold an online meeting on Thursday to discuss compliance with their agreed output cuts and demand trends amid falling oil prices and a faltering economic recovery outlook.

The key OPEC+ panel will be reviewing an internal document which warned that a rise in coronavirus cases in some countries may curb oil demand despite signs of economic recovery and initial indications of a decline in oil stocks, according to a copy of the report seen by Reuters on Thursday.

The panel of major producers including Saudi Arabia and Russia from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, a group known as OPEC+, is unlikely to recommend any changes to their

current output reduction target of 7.7 million barrels per day (bpd), or around 8% of global demand.

They will, however, press laggards such as Iraq, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates to cut more barrels to compensate for overproduction and possibly extend the period for the compensation, OPEC+ sources said.

On Wednesday, a technical OPEC+ panel, known as the JTC, met to review the compliance of the oil exporting group which was 101% of the agreed target in August, according to OPEC sources and the document seen by Reuters.

“There are signs of economic recovery in some parts of the world, visible through the relative improvement in mobility, and some initial indications of declines in oil stock overhang,” the panel said in the report. **AGENCIES**

Petrol demand crosses pre-Covid levels in Sept

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PETROL demand breached the pre-Covid mark in the first fortnight of September, according to preliminary industry data, with sales rising on a year-on-year basis for the first time since the lockdowns were imposed in March.

Diesel sales remain lean, however, indicating a trend of rising private vehicle usage even as freight transportation—a measure of general economic activity—remains weaker than in the pre-Covid period. Diesel is the preferred choice of fuel for commercial vehicles, while petrol models have come to dominate the private vehicle market. Between September 1-15, petrol sales rose



2.2 per cent on a year-on-year basis and 7 per cent over the previous month of August.

Diesel remains 6 per cent lower on a y-o-y basis, but demand surged compared to August 19.3 per cent as activity picked up ahead of the festive season. In volume terms, petrol consumption rose to 9,65,000 tonnes during the period compared to 9,45,000 tonnes a year ago and 9,00,000 tonnes in the first fortnight of August. Diesel consumptions stood at 2.13 million tonnes against 2.25 million tonnes a year ago and 1.78 million tonnes during the first half of August this year. Jet fuel sales stood at 1,25,000 tonnes, down 60 per cent in the first half of September but 15 per cent higher than August.

Petrol demand returns to pre-Covid-19 levels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों के लिए बनेंगे 200 चार्जिंग स्टेशन

दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। प्रदेश सरकार राजधानी दो सप्ताह में अपने क्षेत्राधिकार में रियायती स्थलों इंचान करेगी। इस प्रक्रिया जरिए सरकार राजधानी में स्थानों पर सार्वजनिक चार्जिंग व्यवस्था करेगी।

दिल्ली सरकार के चार्जिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर वर्किंग ग्रुप की तिवार को हुई पहली बैठक में संवाद एवं विकास के वाइस चेयरपर्सन जस्मीन शाह की अध्यक्षता में महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लिया गया।

में वाइस चेयरपर्सन (डीडीसी) मलावा, परिवहन आयुक्त, एनडीएमसी, तीनों एमसीडी के अति आयुक्त, डिस्कॉम के एम और विजली विभाग, आरसी, दिल्ली ट्रांसको एड और ईईएसएल के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी मौजूद थे।

जस्मीन शाह ने कहा कि सरकार जल्द ईवी पॉलिसी को लागू करने का वादा किए गए वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन को लागू करेगी। चार्जिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर वर्किंग ग्रुप बनाकर दिल्ली सरकार ने सहयोगात्मक तरीके से चार्जिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के रोलआउट पर काम शुरू करने के लिए दिल्ली की एजेंसियों और डिस्कॉम को बोर्ड में लाया है।

बैठक में तीनों डिस्कॉम, ईईएसएल, डीएमआरसी, एनडीएमसी, ईस्ट एमसीडी और एमसीडी ने शहर में पब्लिक चार्जिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के साथ प्राइवेट चार्जिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को तेजी से बढ़ाने

के लिए अपने प्रस्तावों पर विस्तृत प्रस्तुति दी।

बैठक में दोपहिया और तिपहिया वाहन खंडों में इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों को बड़े पैमाने पर अपनाने पर दिल्ली ईवी नीति पर बल दिया गया, चार्जिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को मुख्य रूप से एसी-001 चार्जिंग पॉइंट्स (3.3 प्रति किलोवाट) और डीसी-001 फास्ट चार्जर (15 प्रति किलोवाट) की सीमित संख्या में शामिल धीमी गति से

चार्जिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर वर्किंग ग्रुप की बैठक में लिया गया निर्णय सरकार जल्द ईवी पॉलिसी के तहत वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन को लागू करेगी

चार्ज स्टेशनों की स्थापना पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए, बजाय इसके कि कुछ महंगे फास्ट-चार्जिंग स्टेशन स्थापित किए जाएं, जो मुख्य रूप से प्रीमियम चार पहिया वाहनों को पूरा करते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त, वैटरी स्वैपिंग स्टेशनों के एक

व्यापक नेटवर्क को विकसित करने की भी एक प्रमुख प्राथमिकता के रूप में पहचान की गई थी।

बैठक में पब्लिक चार्जिंग स्टेशनों के अलावा, मॉल, ऑफिस कॉम्प्लेक्स, ग्रुप हाउसिंग सोसाइटी, होटल, शिक्षा संस्थान, अस्पताल आदि जैसे सार्वजनिक स्थानों में चार्जिंग सुविधाएं स्थापित करना भी प्राथमिकता के रूप में पहचाना गया। इन परिसरों में उच्च क्षमता वाले वाणिज्यिक कनेक्शन हैं, यह चर्चा की गई कि इन सुविधाओं में बड़ी संख्या में धीमी गति से चार्जिंग पॉइंट स्थापित करना शहर में हजारों अतिरिक्त चार्जिंग पॉइंट स्थापित करने और श्रेणी की चिंता को कम करने का एक त्वरित तरीका होगा।

इस्तेमाल कुकिंग ऑयल से उड़ेंगी इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट !

■ विस, देहरादून : भारतीय पेट्रोलियम संस्थान (आईआईपी-सीएसआईआर) ने अपनी लैब में जेट्रोफा और यूज्ड कुकिंग ऑयल से तैयार किए गए बायोफ्यूल को अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंजूरी पाने के लिए अमेरिका भेजा है। टेक्सास स्थित साउथ वेस्ट रिसर्च इंस्टिट्यूट को 80 लीटर बायोफ्यूल भेजा गया है। आईआईपी वैज्ञानिकों ने यह फ्यूल लैब के साथ ही कई अन्य जगह भी टेस्ट किया है।

MONEY मंत्रा
इडलवाइज ने इंड्रप्रस्थ गैस
लिमिटेड को बाय रेटिंग दी है
और 552 रुपये का टारगेट
प्राइस तय किया है

पेट्रोल-डीजल पर घटेगी एक्साइज ड्यूटी !

[विसं। नई दिल्ली]

सरकार अब पेट्रोल व डीजल पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी कम करने पर विचार कर रही है ताकि पेट्रोल व डीजल के दामों में कुछ कमी आ सके। सूत्रों के अनुसार पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने इस बाबत प्रस्ताव तैयार कर दिया है। अब इसे वित्त मंत्रालय को भेजा जाएगा। इसके बाद इस पर पीएमओ से बातचीत कर अंतिम फैसला लिया जाएगा।

सूत्रों का कहना है कि कई ऐसे कारण हैं कि जिसके चलते सरकार फिलहाल पेट्रोल व डीजल के दामों को स्थिर रखना चाहती है। यही कारण है कि उसकी कूड यानी कच्चे तेल के दामों के उतार-चढ़ाव पर नजर है। एक सरकारी अधिकारी का



कहना है कि गैस व तेल सेक्टर में कुछ रियायत देने पर काम चल रहा है। अगर सहमति बनी तो निश्चित तौर पर बीच का रास्ता निकालते हुए कंपनियों व लोगों को राहत दी जाएगी।

पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम बढ़ने की आशंका

इंटरनैशनल मार्केट में कूड के दाम बढ़ने से पेट्रोल व डीजल के दाम में तेजी के आसार फिर से बन रहे हैं। कूड के दाम में पिछले

■ कूड के दाम पिछले दो दिनों में 8% बढ़ गए हैं; लेकिन सरकार इनके दाम स्थिर रखना चाहती है

दो दिनों में 8 फीसदी बढ़कर फिर से 41 डॉलर प्रति बैरल से ऊपर के स्तर पर पहुंच गये हैं। ऐसे में घरेलू मार्केट में भी पेट्रोल व डीजल के दाम बढ़ने की आशंका है। एक सरकारी तेल कंपनी उच्चाधिकारी का कहना है कि अगर इंटरनैशनल मार्केट में कूड के दाम बढ़ेंगे तो घरेलू मार्केट में भी हमें पेट्रोल व डीजल के रिटेल दामों को बढ़ाना होगा। सरकारी कंपनियों इस वक्त नुकसान झेलने की स्थिति में नहीं हैं।