Friday, March 8, 2019



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Gold is range bound between 1282-1293 post the ECB meeting; focus on US non-farm payroll data
Crude oil remains under pressure from rising supply from US and ECB growth forecast
Indian rupee is trading marginally lower in early trade, eyes on Crude and Equities
China's aluminium exports down by 37.9 percent from January
China's unwrought copper imports fell to their lowest in 11 months, copper concentrate imports increases

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- The euro zone's central bank slashed its growth forecast for 2019 to 1.1 percent from an earlier forecast of 1.7 percent made in December.
- ▲ ECB lowered its inflation forecasts for 2019 to 1.2% this year from December forecast of 1.6%
- The ECB's interest rates remain at record lows and may remain unchanged in the year 2019
- ECB announced a fresh set of loans to euro area banks aimed at boosting the real economy

Gold is range bound between 1282-1293 post the ECB meeting; focus on US non-farm payroll data

- ▲ Euro dipped against the dollar following the ECB's monetary policy statement, which was a surprise. Gold prices remained range bound post ECB meeting. Asian stocks continued to trade sideways as investors await fresh directional cues from U.S.-China trade negotiations, meanwhile robust U.S. economic data supported the dollar
- The focus is shifting towards U.S. non-farm payrolls data today. Market expects 180,000 non-farm payrolls in February, down from the 304,000 positions in January

Outlook

■ Comex gold broke key support level around 1305, we may see further decline towards 1275-1266 in the near term on a positive US-China trade deal. Meanwhile gold may receive support from ongoing geopolitical tensions such as Brexit deal, Venezuela crisis and a Terror attack on India. Important resistance remains near 1305 and 1335 in short to medium term. Focus is on US nonfarm payroll data, which may give some boost to gold in short term from current levels.

Crude oil remains under pressure from rising supply from US and ECB growth forecast

- Oil prices remains marginally lower as equities slumped following a sharp downward revision to the ECB's growth forecast for the continent
- U.S. Crude oil supply is rising rapidly; inventories were up by 7.1 million barrels to 452.9 barrels in the week ended March 1, the level is about 4% higher than average during this time of year
- The U.S. and China appear close to a deal that would roll back tariffs, easing fears that their stand-off will weigh on global growth and dent fuel demand
- Prices are being supported by efforts led by OPEC and other countries a grouping known as 'OPEC+'
 to withhold around 1.2 million barrels per day of oil. U.S. sanctions against oil OPEC members Iran and Venezuela have also had an impact

Outlook

■ Brent oil may recover after declines as OPEC+ production cut and US-China trade deal may support oil prices in the short term. Immediate recovery can be seen towards the next level of resistance around \$67.80 per barrel and \$70.80. Meanwhile increasing US production levels and crude oil inventories may keep rally limited. Import support is seen around \$64.10 per barrel and \$62.80.

Indian rupee is trading marginally lower in early trade, eyes on Crude and Equities

■ The rupee slipped marginally against the US dollar in early trade on Friday due to some buying in dollar by banks and importers. Euro plunged against the US dollar after the ECB in its policy statement held rates unchanged and hinted that it does not look to raise rates by early 2020.

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■ Oil prices eased due to record US crude output and rising commercial fuel inventories. Asian equities decline tracking Wall Street losses amid tepid global growth outlook

FII and DII Data

- Foreign funds (FII's) bought shares worth Rs. 1137.85 crore, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DII's) sold shares to the tune of Rs 925.46 crore on 7th March
- In March 2019 Fils net bought shares worth Rs 3218.93 crore, while DII's were net sellers to the tune of Rs.1106 crore

Outlook

■ Current weakness in dollar may continue further and rupee will be strong as FII inflow continued in Mar'19 as well. The USD-INR pair may find next support level around 69.80. If the USD-INR pair breaks support level of 69.80, then we may witness fresh decline towards 69.30. Meanwhile, key resistance level is placed at 70.90; else it may remain in the 70.90-60.30 range. FII inflow may continue to support Indian rupee however any increase in crude prices from current levels may limit Rupee strength.

China's aluminium exports down by 37.9 percent from January

- China's aluminium exports, meanwhile, stood at 343,000 tonnes in February, down a whopping 37.9 percent from January's record high of 552,000 tonnes. The figure is the lowest since February 2017, although customs said exports were up 9.7 percent year-on-year.
- Aluminium and other industrial metals drifted lower as investors awaited further signs on demand in top metals consumer China would rebound post the Lunar New Year. So far, signs of metal demand in China have been lackluster, with rising inventories in the world's second-largest economy and weak physical premiums.

China's unwrought copper imports fell to their lowest in 11 months, copper concentrate imports increases

- China's unwrought copper imports fell year-on-year in February to their lowest in 11 months, while copper concentrate imports rose to tie the all-time monthly record, signaling that the world's top copper consumer is churning out more metal itself.
- Arrivals of unwrought copper including anode, refined, alloy and semi-finished copper products came in at 311,000 tonnes last month from 479000 tonnes in January, which is the lowest monthly total since March 2018.
- China's imports of copper concentrate jumped 24.9 percent from a year earlier to 1.93 million tonnes in February; the imports were up 1.6 percent from January.
- Smelter expansions have increased demand and competition for copper ore in China, with spot treatment and refining charges falling sharply this year as a result.
- Copper prices may rise if China unveiled economic stimulus measures including tax cuts for manufacturing industry, bolstering demand outlook.
- ▲ LME and CME copper stocks have been shrinking; those in Shanghai have jumped by 108,363 tonnes to 227,049 tonnes since the start of January. Inventory drop is a result of strong imports from China. China imported a record 3.75 million tonnes of refined copper last year and January's tally of 336,680 tonnes was up 7 percent year-on-year.

Outlook

■ Decreasing mine production and drying up inventories are keeping copper prices higher. Optimism over US-China trade talks could support copper prices further. Copper may find minor support around 6285, short-term trend remains positive above this level. Meanwhile, immediate resistance is seen near 6544-6702

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