Thursday, June 27, 2019



Copper unable to hold on to its gains
Crude prices rose after EIA Inventory Data
Indian rupee strengthens against the Dollar
Gold corrects further; however trend remains positive

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COPPER UNABLE TO HOLD ON TO ITS GAINS

- As the strike enters thirteenth day at the Chuquicamata unions request company to reiterate the offer which was rejected by the labor unions on Saturday. If the management reaches a deal with the workers then it is likely to have a negative impact on the copper price.
- Copper was slightly higher on Thursday but in a tight range as investors are cautious ahead of the weekend meeting between U.S. and Chinese presidents on their prolonged trade dispute.
- US and China have agreed to a tentative trade truce ahead of a meeting between leaders of the two nations at the G20 summit in Japan this weekend.
- Workers at Chuquicamata, one of the world's biggest copper mines, have been on strike since mid-June, risks wiping out 10,000 metric tons of copper from the market, with having expectation of being in deficit by the year end. This could widen the supply gap estimated in May by the International Copper Study Group to be at 189,000 metric tons this year.
- Copper is used in manufacturing and construction, and is seen by investors as a gauge of economic health. A trade war between the US and China has been hurting copper prices.

Outlook

■ Short term trend continues to remain weak as a world economic slowdown may decrease the demand for industrial metals but copper is receiving support at lower levels from improved sentiments on US-China tariff issues. Immediate support could be seen around 5,715, while key resistance is seen near 5,969-6,200 levels. Copper prices may not sustain gains in the short term due to low seasonal demand in June where the consumption is generally weak.

CRUDE PRICES ROSE AFTER EIA INVENTORY DATA

- Oil prices rose as much as 3% on 26th June after the U.S. reported that the crude inventory draw significantly above expectations. The biggest weekly inventory decline since September 2016, which dramatically took crude further up. The escalation of U.S.-Iran tensions and hopes of a resolution to the U.S.-China trade war has lifted crude oil prices significantly in the past couple of weeks.
- ✓ Trump said on Wednesday that a deal could be possible with China but also spoke of a Plan B that would initiate reducing business ties with China. Trump stirring up trade war dust via "Plan B" could damage the markets but could come into focus only if things go south at the G-20.
- The International Energy Agency said this month it had revised down its estimate for crude demand growth in 2019 aimed at trade dispute between US and China.
- Although Geopolitical issues are keeping oil prices firm as tensions between Iran and the United States escalated after Iran claimed to have hit a US drone. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that "significant" sanctions on Tehran would be announced.

Outlook

✓ Crude oil rallied on optimism over US-China trade talks and the drone attack in the Middle East. Geopolitical tensions have increased after the attack on an oil tanker which pushed oil prices higher and which were further fuelled from an attack on a US drone. Saudi Arabia and Russia may extend output cuts and similar proposals can be seen in the coming OPEC meeting. Brent oil could find immediate support around \$62.80-60.15 per barrel; meanwhile, resistance is seen near \$66.90 per barrel.

INDIAN RUPEE STRENGTHENS AGAINST THE DOLLAR

- Rupee strengthened against the dollar after US Trade secretary indicated that US and China were close to a trade deal, and he's optimistic that progress is likely to be made during weekend talks between President Donald Trump and China's Xi Jinping at the G-20.
- ✓ James Bullard said while a pre-emptive rate cut would protect against a sharper-than-expected



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slowdown in the US economy, but the situation doesn't justify a 50 basis points reduction in interest rates

- The Budget-2019 from the newly elected Modi government will be presented next week on July 5. The market expects the budget 2019 to retain the divestment target at Rs. 90,000 crores. The Finance minister is meeting with various industry experts before the Budget presentation.
- On the global front, rising oil prices may keep the rupee under pressure but Dovish comments from the Fed and ECB are lending support at lower levels, so the rupee is trading in a tight range from last few weeks. Rising optimism over US-China trade talks may support the domestic currency; all eyes are now on the G-20 summit this week.

FII and DII Data

- ✓ Foreign Funds (FII's) bought shares worth Rs. 106.26 Crore, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DII's) sold shares to the tune of Rs.51.47 crore on June 26th.
- In June'19, FII's net sold shares worth Rs. 173.88 crore, while DII's were net buyers to the tune of Rs. 3264.34 crore.

Outlook

■ Rising crude oil prices from the current levels may push the Indian rupee lower. Eyes are now on the G-20 meeting this week, where US President Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are scheduled to meet. Any solution to US-China tariff issues will be positive for the world economy and emerging market currencies. USD-INR could find support near 68.80-68.40 levels, while an important resistance is seen around 70.23 levels.

GOLD CORRECTS FURTHER; HOWEVER TREND REMAINS POSITIVE

- Gold declined after as strong rally on the back of profit booking, market is eyeing the meeting between Trump and Xi on the sidelines of G-20 for further cues.
- Trump indicated that a trade deal with President Xi was possible this weekend but warned he was prepared to impose tariffs on all of remaining Chinese imports if talks fail; the possibility that he may impose a lower, 10% duty on a \$300 billion of Chinese imports, instead of the currently proposed 25%.
- India's gold demand could decline 10% in 2019 as compared to the previous year, to the lowest level in about three years due to rally in local gold prices due to a record high dents retail purchases during the upcoming festive season. If INR weakens then this could further fuel the rally in domestic gold prices making the precious metals even more expensive in the coming days.
- Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East also continue to support precious metals rise in the medium term as Iran claimed to have shot down a U.S. drone and President Trump's subsequent reaction towards it. U.S. President Donald Trump targeted Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top Iranian officials with sanctions.
- COT report Net long for gold futures raised +20,085 contracts to 204,323 last week. Speculative long positions surged +24,519 contracts, while shorts added +4,434.
- SPDR Gold Trust holdings rose to 801.96 tonnes on Monday from 799.03 tonnes on Friday.

Outlook

▲ Key support levels are seen around \$1,390-1,379, while an important resistance level is seen near 1,453 and 1,498 levels. Gold may face some resistance over improved sentiments for US-China tariff issues after President Trump's scheduled forthcoming meeting with Xi Jinping in Japan during the G-20 meeting between June 27-29th.





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