India faces higher fuel costs as global crude oil prices soar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

India faces the prospect of a higher oil import bill and renewed inflationary pressure after international crude prices surged on Tuesday, with Brent approaching $100 a barrel as escalating West Asia tensions raised concerns about disruptions to global supplies.

Brent futures rose more than 2 per cent to around $99 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude gained almost 3 per cent to about $94. The latest development followed attacks on Saudi energy infrastructure and heightened tensions involving Iran and the US, raising concerns about further disruption to oil flows. India, the world's third-largest oil importing and consuming country, is particularly exposed to swings in international crude prices.

It imports over 88 per cent of its crude — raw material for making fuels like petrol and diesel — requirements. A sustained increase in prices raises the country's dollar-denominated import bill and can put pressure on the trade balance and the rupee, analysts said.

Higher crude prices can also feed into domestic inflation through fuel, transport and other energy-related costs, they said, adding that impact on consumers and the wider economy depends in part on how much of the increase is passed through to domestic fuel prices and how long international prices remain elevated.

For now, retail petrol and diesel prices remain on freeze for over three months.

Rates were last revised on May 25 when they were hiked by ₹2.61 a litre for petrol and ₹2.71 per litre for diesel. Those hikes were part of the revision in rates that happened in the second half of May in response to international prices rising due to the war in West Asia disrupting energy flows from the Gulf countries. In all, petrol price was raised by ₹7.35 a litre and diesel by ₹7.53 in four instalments.

Rupee falls 28 paise to close at ₹94.84 against US dollar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Mumbai

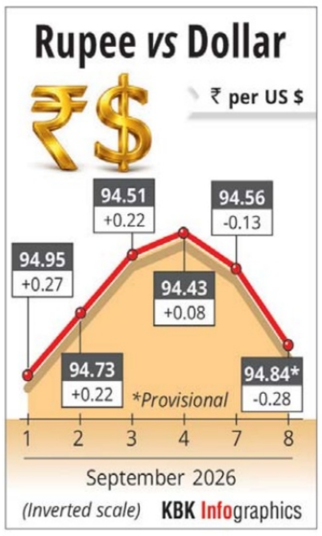
The rupee fell 28 paise to close at 94.84 (provisional) against the American currency on Tuesday as geopolitical tensions in West Asia and rising Brent crude oil prices nearing $99 per barrel weighed on investor sentiment.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee declined on a surge in crude oil prices amid fresh attacks on Aramco's facilities by Yemen's Houthis.

Moreover, rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia and a weak trend in domestic equities further pressured the rupee. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.49 against the US dollar.

The local unit touched an intraday high of 94.49 and a low of 94.89. The rupee finally settled at 94.84 (provisional), down 28 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee fell 13 paise to close at 94.56 against the American currency.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on escalation of tensions in the West Asia and worries over rising crude oil prices. Risk aversion in global markets may also pressurise the rupee.



"However, a weak dollar and foreign inflows may support the rupee at lower levels. Investors may now focus on inflation data from the US and India.

Price is expected to trade in a range of 94.60 to 95.10," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

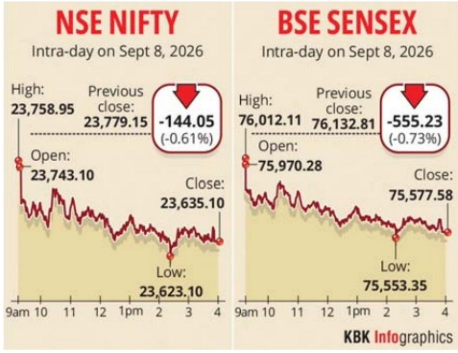
Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.96, lower by 0.21 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 1.39 per cent at $98.35 per barrel in futures trade.

According to forex traders, elevated crude oil prices, with Brent remaining near the $97 per barrel mark, along with the absence of any significant resolution to ongoing geopolitical uncertainties, kept investor sentiment cautious.

On the domestic equities market front, Sensex tanked 555.23 points to settle at 75,577.58, while the Nifty dropped 144.05 points to 23,635.10.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) purchased equities worth ₹280.13 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data.



Sensex tanks 555 points

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Tuesday, extending losses for the second straight day, as rising crude oil prices and the US-Iran hostilities kept risk appetite subdued.

Selling in blue-chip stocks ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries also dragged the markets lower.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 555.23 points, or 0.73 per cent, to settle at 75,577.58. During the day, it tanked 579.46 points, or 0.76 per cent, to 75,553.35.

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended 144.05 points, or 0.61 per cent lower, at 23,635.10.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank were the major laggards.

Bharat Electronics, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever and InterGlobe Aviation were the gainers. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.45 per cent to $98.36 per barrel.

"Indian equity markets ended lower on a weak note, extending their slide to a seven-week low and maintaining the prevailing bearish trend as elevated crude oil prices and persistent geopolitical uncertainty continued to weigh on investor sentiment. Selling pressure remained visible through the session," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

The BSE MidCap Select index climbed 0.79 per cent, while the SmallCap Select index ended flat, down 0.06 per cent. Among the BSE sectoral indices, Insurance declined 1.05 per cent, Top 10 Banks 0.97 per cent, Private Banks index 0.88 per cent, Financial Services 0.80 per cent, Oil & Gas 0.64 per cent, Bankex 0.63 per cent and Energy 0.48 per cent.

Commodities, Consumer Discretionary, FMCG, Healthcare, Industrials, Telecommunication, Capital Goods, Power, Services and MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt were the winners.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled higher. Markets in Europe were trading lower.

US markets were closed on Monday for the Labour Day holiday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 280.13 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

On Monday, the Sensex dropped 382.62 points, or 0.50 per cent, to settle at 76,132.81. The Nifty declined 118.55 points, or 0.50 per cent, to end at 23,779.15.

RBI launches key surveys to get inputs for monetary policy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday launched three key surveys to gauge inflation expectations and consumer confidence in the country and gather key inputs for its monetary policy.

The next bi-monthly monetary policy is scheduled to be announced on October 7.

The September round of the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) is aimed at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, based on individual consumption baskets, across 19 cities. The Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS) seeks qualitative responses from households about their sentiments on the general economic situation, employment scenario, price level, households' income and spending. This study too will be conducted across 19 cities.

The central bank also announced the launch of the Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS). It is aimed at collecting current perceptions and one-year-ahead expectations of households on the general economic situation, employment scenario, overall price situation, own income and spending in the rural and semi-urban areas across 31 states/UTs.

The 19 cities are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Ranchi and Thiruvananthapuram.

Gold falls ₹2,150 to ₹1.58 lakh/10g; silver rises ₹600

Gold prices extended their losses for the second straight session, falling by ₹2,150 to ₹1.58 lakh per 10 grams, in the National capital on Tuesday amid a weak trend in global markets.The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by ₹2,150 to Rs 1,58,100 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), according to the All India Sarafa Association. It had settled at Rs 1,60,250 per 10 grams in the preceding session. However, silver resumed its upward momentum after remaining flat for the previous two sessions, rising by ₹600 to ₹2,41,100 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). (PTI)

EV retail sales rise 53% in August to 2.98 lakh units

Electric vehicle retail sales in August grew 52.9 per cent year-on-year to 2,98,448 units, taking the overall EV penetration to 12.3 per cent from 9.5 per cent a year ago, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said on Tuesday. The growth in EV sales last month was led by the two-wheeler segment at 1,83,204 units as against 1,09,673 units a year ago, up 67.05 per cent, FADA said in a statement. Electric passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales were higher at 30,696 units last month as against 20,210 units in August 2025.

The three-wheeler segment saw total retail sales of 79,846 units in August 2026 as against 63,736 units a year ago, up 25.28 per cent. Electric commercial vehicle (CV) retail sales almost tripled at 4,702 units last month from 1,631 units in August 2025, as per FADA data. (PTI)

Cost of home-cooked meals moderately higher in August, says report

The cost of home-cooked meals rose moderately in August, a report said on Tuesday. The cost of a vegetarian meal increased 1 per cent year-on-year and month-on-month to ₹29.5 per thali, the monthly report by the research arm of domestic rating agency Crisil said. In the case of a non-vegetarian meal, a 10 per cent jump in broiler prices pushed up the cost of a thali by 5 per cent year-on-year to ₹57.5, the report by Crisil Intelligence said. However, the price was 1 per cent lower from ₹58.3 in July. Compared with last year, elevated prices of onion, vegetable oil, rice and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) kept the thali cost high despite a decline in potato and tomato prices, it said in the 'Roti Rice Rate' report.

Onion prices jumped 43 per cent in August 2026 to ₹40 per kg, compared with the year-ago period's ₹28 per kg, due to supply tightness caused by unseasonal rains and hailstorms in Maharashtra in March-April, it said, adding that there was an 11 per cent jump in vegetable oils and 10 per cent rise in LPG. (PTI)