



खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR

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खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR



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INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

VOL. 6, NO – 16 , 16th – 31st AUGUST 2022

NMDC to double pellet production capacity

ABHISHEK LAW

New Delhi, August 15

State-run iron-ore miner, NMDC Ltd, is investing ₹800 crore to more than double pellet production capacities. A 2-million-tonne per annum (mtpa) plant is being planned at Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh, and the company is scouting locations for at least four more, the Chairman and Managing Director, Sumit Deb, told *BusinessLine*.

The Chhattisgarh plant is expected to go on stream by 2025.

NMDC's existing iron ore pelletisation plant with a 1.2 MTPA capacity is located in Karnataka.

Focus on iron ore

According to Deb, the focus will mainly be on iron ore mining and the value addition of the raw material through pelletisation.

The other pellet plants may not necessarily be at mine pit-heads. "Plans are afoot to put up pellet units in Vizag and



Sumit Deb, CMD, NMDC

other places so that we can have a 6 mtpa pellet capacity by 2025," he said. Pelletising transforms iron ore into an agglomerated form suitable for use in furnaces at steel mills.

COMMODITY CALL

MCX zinc: Bet long if contract breaches ₹340



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The continuous zinc futures on MCX has rallied over the past month since finding support at around ₹260. Last week, it closed at ₹322.5. It has gained about 24 per cent in a month. On Tuesday, it extended the rally and is testing resistance at ₹340. This is an important level because the 61.8 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the prior downtrend coincides with this hurdle, which means the bulls have a job on hand.

If ₹340 is invalidated, the rally will be extended to ₹360, a minor hurdle. A breach of this level can lift the contract to ₹383.

But if there is a decline off the barrier at ₹340, the contract may moderate to ₹310 - a resistance-turned-support level. Yet, a drop below this level in the near-term is less likely. Our recommendation would be to go long if the contract breaches ₹340 and place stop-loss at ₹315. Exit three-fourth of the longs at ₹360 and tighten the stop-loss to ₹345. Liquidate the remaining at ₹380. But rather than breaking out of ₹340, if the contract declines, wait until the price drops to ₹310 and then go long. Place a stop-loss at ₹295. Shift the stop-loss to ₹315 when the contract resumes its rally and moves past ₹340. Make adjustments as mentioned above when zinc futures rise above ₹360.

Bet short in copper futures

COMMODITY CALL



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The continuous futures contract of copper on the MCX (Multi Commodity Exchange) has been rallying over the past month.

After taking support at ₹600, the contract has appreciated to the current level of ₹660 after touching a high of ₹684.3 last week.

The chart indicates resistance between ₹670 and ₹700. The 50-day moving average (DMA) lies within these levels, making it a considerable resistance band.

Therefore, the likelihood of a decline from here is high given the overall bearish trend. In case the copper futures rally from here, it can be capped at ₹700.

If the contract resumes its downtrend from the current levels, it will most

probably fall below ₹600 and touch ₹585, a support level. Subsequent support is at ₹550.

Considering these factors, initiate fresh short positions in two legs.

That is, go short at the current level of ₹660, and add more shorts when the contract rallies to ₹700. Place initial stop-loss at ₹745.

Once the contract slips below ₹600, tighten the stop-loss to ₹670.

Revise it further down to ₹615 when the price falls below ₹585. Exit all the shorts at ₹550.

वीज केंद्रांमध्ये कोळसा टंचाई, महाराष्ट्र वीज संकटाकडे

केंद्राकडून आयात वाढविण्याचा सल्ला

कमल शर्मा

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : कोळसा खाणींच्या क्षेत्रात मोठ्या प्रमाणात झालेला पाऊस व महानिर्मितीच्या ढिसाळ नियोजनामुळे महाराष्ट्रातील वीज केंद्रांना कोळसा मिळेनासा झाला आहे. बहुतांश वीज केंद्रांमध्ये तीन-चार दिवस पुरेल एवढाच कोळशाचा साठा उपलब्ध आहे. पाऊस थांबल्यानंतर उष्णतेत वाढ होऊन विजेची मागणी वाढली तर ती पूर्ण करणे या परिस्थितीत कठीण आहे. दुसरीकडे केंद्रीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालयाने महाराष्ट्रासह अन्य राज्यांना मागणीनुसार कोळशाची आयात वाढविण्याचा सल्ला दिला आहे.

देशात कोळशाची टंचाई विचारात घेता केंद्र सरकारने एकूण गरजेच्या १० टक्के विदेशी कोळशाचा वापर करण्याचे निर्देश दिले होते. आता केंद्राने देशभरातील स्थितीचा आढावा घेत सर्व वीजनिर्मिती कंपन्यांना गरजेनुसार आयात वाढविण्याचा सल्ला दिला आहे. एकूण वापराच्या ३० टक्क्यांपर्यंत कोळसा आयात करण्याची परवानगी देण्याचे संकेत

गरज भासल्यास कोळसा आयात वाढविणार



महानिर्मितीच्या मते, इंडोनेशियाला २० लाख मेट्रिक टन कोळसा आयात करण्याचा कार्यादेश देण्यात आला आहे. यातील सुमारे ७ लाख मेट्रिक टन कोळसा प्राप्त झाला आहे. उर्वरित कोळशाचा पुरवठा ऑक्टोबरपर्यंत होईल. कोळसा कंपन्यांकडून जर नियमित पुरवठा झाला नाही तर आणखी कोळसा आयात करण्यावर विचार केला जाईल.

केंद्राने दिले आहे. दुसरीकडे राज्यातील देशी कोळशाची आवक मोठ्या प्रमाणात कमी झाली आहे. महानिर्मितीच्या दुर्लक्षामुळे मान्सूनपूर्व स्टॉक होऊ शकला नाही. आता पावसामुळे कोळशाचा पुरवठा प्रभावित झाला आहे. अशीच स्थिती राहिली तर मान्सूननंतर वाढलेली विजेची मागणी पूर्ण करणे कठीण जाईल.

आणखी दर वाढण्याची शक्यता विदेशी कोळशाचा दर १६ हजार रुपये प्रति मेट्रिक टन आहे. देशी कोळशाचा दर साडेसहा हजार रुपये आहे. अशात कोळसा आयात करावा लागला तर उत्पादन खर्च वाढण्याची शक्यता आहे. तसेही हेच कारण समोर

वीज केंद्रातील कोळशाची स्थिती केंद्र	साठा (दिवस)
कोराडी(१)	४.९
कोराडी(२)	३.६३
खापरखेडा	३.८६
चंद्रपूर	३.०३
भुसावळ	५.३
पारस	२.९३
परळी	१.०२
नारिक	१.६०

करीत इंधन समायोजन शुल्काच्या नावावर थेट जनतेकडून वसुली सुरू झाली आहे. संबंधित शुल्क तीन महिन्यांपर्यंत वसूल करण्याचे निर्देश असल्याचे अधिकाऱ्यांचे म्हणणे आहे.

Now, steel and cement makers turn to Russia for coal supplies

Steel firms buying pulverised coal; cement makers looking at cheaper thermal coal

ABHISHEK LAW

New Delhi, August 19

After oil, Russia has emerged as one of the biggest suppliers of coal for Indian corporates. Steel and cement makers, apart from power companies, are amongst the prime buyers of Russian coal. While steel mills are exploring PCI (pulverised coal injection) coal, cement-makers are ordering thermal coal from Russia.

Trade sources say Russia is now amongst the top five suppliers: And PCI coal imports are expected to be around 10-12 million tonnes this year, a 15 per cent jump annually.

Historically, Russia has been in the bottom half of the top 10 coal suppliers to India.

For July, thermal coal imports (from Russia) jumped upwards of 50 per cent over June, while coking coal imports (for the same period) rose by over two-thirds, data by *Coalmint*, the coal vertical of *Steelmint*, showed.

According to officials of different Indian steel mills, usage has risen 10-15 per cent, at least, since Russian PCI coal was initially offered at "competitive rates" and discounts of 20-25 per cent. In August, there was some slow-



For July, Russian thermal coal imports jumped upwards of 50% compared with June

down in order quantities because of weakened steel demand in domestic and international markets. Settlements continue to be made in Yuan, Dirham, or other currencies.

"We are ordering at least 75,000 tonnes of PCI on a monthly basis. So we received one shipment in August and another is on the way," a steel mill owner told *BusinessLine*.

Another steel-maker, one of the largest in India, saw its share of pulverised coal imports from Russia jump to nearly 15 per cent, up from 2-3 per cent.

PSU-steel maker SAIL, too, is said to be warming up to Russian coal.

Indian steel-mill owners say the price of Russian coal (PCI) is beneficial only when they get into "long term contracts". Mills are now getting coal at 95 per cent of the indexed price, in the case of long-term contracts with suppliers.

"We have been buying coal from Russian sources, particularly certain metallurgical coals, required in our operations. So, we continue to source similar kinds of coals

because it is not possible to overnight replace those. That said, I think the price of coal, except for thermal, is generally on a softer trajectory, it's correcting downwards," Jayant Acharya, Deputy MD, JSW Steel, said during the Q1FY23 earnings conference call.

Cement makers

As coal costs shot up to ₹17,300 a tonne in Q1FY23, from ₹14,300 a tonne, cement-makers looked at cheaper sources of imports.

UltraTech has been among the buyers of Russian coal. The company's Executive Director and CFO, Atul Daga, during the Q1FY23 earnings call, said the company brought 157,000 tonnes of coal from Russia.

"And we keep scouting for opportunities. In fact, it was an opportunistic transaction. If something more surfaces, we will pick it up," he said.

India Cements, too, was among the companies that imported Russian coal (during Q1FY23 - April to June), in a bid to "mitigate the increase in coal costs."

According to N Srinivasan, Vice-Chairman and MD, India Cements has been procuring some quantities of Russian coal at a little lower price. "On average, Russian coal was cheaper by 20 paise per kcal (kilo calorie) than the coal that was available in the market," said a senior official of India Cements.

With inputs from
G Balachandar in Chennai

वैश्विक खनिज अन्वेषण और विकास मानचित्र पर नागपुर को मिला स्थान

■ जेएनएआरडीडीसी और पीएसपीएल के बीच एमओयू

नागपुर। जवाहरलाल नेहरू एल्युमिनियम अनुसंधान विकास और डिजाइन केंद्र (जेएनएआरडीडीसी), नागपुर ने प्राइमस सैम प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (पीएसपीएल) के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। प्राइमस सैम एक स्टार्टअप इंडिया मान्यता प्राप्त, एमएसएमई प्रमाणित कंपनी है, जो खनिज और जीवाश्म ईंधन क्षेत्र में प्रौद्योगिकी विकास, लाभकारी कार्यक्रमों और ड्रोन, जीपीएस आदि के लिए सॉफ्टवेयर प्रौद्योगिकी में विशेषज्ञता रखती है।



इनकी उपस्थिति में हुए हस्ताक्षर : हस्ताक्षरित समझौता ज्ञापन अनुसंधान और विकास के साथ-साथ विश्लेषणात्मक सेवाओं में दो प्रमुख भागीदारों को एक साथ लाने का काम कर रहा है, ताकि स्थायी खनन के क्षेत्र में पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी वैज्ञानिक, तकनीकी और शैक्षिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। इससे अनुसंधान और विकास सहित दीर्घकालिक सहयोग के लिए पारस्परिक हित की परियोजनाएं और कोयला और लिग्नाइट सहित विभिन्न खनिजों में क्षमता निर्माण कार्य करना संभव होगा। एमओयू पर डॉ. अनुपम अग्निहोत्री, निदेशक, जेएनएआरडीडीसी और मधु के. नायर, एमडी और सीईओ, पीएसपीएल, एमटी निमजे, एचओडी एल्युमिनियम इलेक्ट्रोलेसिस, आर. श्रीनिवासन, वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी, जेएनएआरडीडीसी, पीएसपीएल के स्वतंत्र निदेशक रंजन सहाय की उपस्थिति में हस्ताक्षर किए गए। आदित्य सिंह, सीनियर मैनेजर मॉनिटरिंग, कोल सैम्पलिंग एंड एनालिसिस, पीएसपीएल इस अवसर पर उपस्थित थे।

'Need to tap mineral potential in Central India'

■ Staff Reporter

CALLING for tapping the huge mineral potential in the Central India, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said, the country is still depending on imports despite having adequate mineral resources. India's about 78 per cent area has huge mineral deposits and nearly 80 per cent of it is in Vidarbha alone. Also the neighbouring Chhattisgarh State to is having ample minerals deposit and since it has not been tapped, the country is paying the price.

Speaking at the symposium on mining organised by Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU), Gadkari batted for increasing mining activities in the areas having proven deposit. Vice Chancellor Dr Subhash Choudhari, Dr Deepakkumar Sinha, Dr Rajeshwar were also present. Elaborating his views, the Union Minister said, in case there is lack of medi-



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari releasing the souvenir during symposium on mining organised by RTMNU as other dignitaries look on.

um of transport and communication facility then industry avoid such sector. The ultimate result is lack of jobs which is main reason for poverty and one sure way of overcoming it is tapping the mining potential to its fullest. The area rich with mineral deposit is habituated by Adivasis. Unfortunately, social and financial upliftment of Adivasis has not seen the desired change. The reason is the stringent environment conservation rules that are coming in way of

upliftment of Adivasis, he added.

The University has special role to play in value addition of mineral in their area, said Gadkari.

Maharashtra can only play the role of Silo, where one department does not know what the other is planning, he added.

The Union Minister cited an example of WCL and MECL and claimed the top brass of companies do not know what the other is planning of what activities they are carrying out. There

is need for co-ordination among various department and then only our need for minerals can be fulfilled. While carrying out development activities there is need for a optimistic attitude as there is necessity of increasing minerals production and its commercial use and this can bring in prosperity. The country can become self-reliant when such research in every sector achieve success. There is need for commercial oriented exploration and effective use of talent.

वैश्विक मानचित्र पर नागपुर को मिला स्थान

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि, खान मंत्रालय के स्वायत्त निकाय जवाहरलाल नेहरू एल्युमिनियम अनुसंधान विकास और डिजाइन केंद्र (जेएनएआरडीडीसी) ने प्राइमस सैम प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (पीएसपीएल) के साथ समझौता पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। प्राइमस सैम प्रा लिमिटेड एक स्टार्ट-अप-इंडिया मान्यता प्राप्त, एमएसएमई प्रमाणित कंपनी है जो खनिज और जीवाश्म ईंधन क्षेत्र में प्रौद्योगिकी विकास, लाभकारी कार्यक्रमों और ड्रोन, जीपीएस आदि के लिए सॉफ्टवेयर प्रौद्योगिकी में विशेषज्ञता रखती है। मौजूदा सेवाओं के अलावा केंद्र अतिरिक्त सेवाएं प्रदान करेगा जिसे नेक्स्ट जनरेशन की तकनीक के साथ और बढ़ाया जाएगा। विभिन्न



खनिजों के पायलट लाभकारी संयंत्रों के लिए लाभकारी सुविधाओं वाला एक खनिज केंद्र, विशेष रूप से देशभर में विभिन्न खानों से लिग्नाइट और कोयले के लिए और विभिन्न अनुसंधान और विकास गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा देना इसका उद्देश्य होगा। एमओयू पर डॉ. अनुपम अग्निहोत्री और मधु के नायर ने हस्ताक्षर किए, एमटी निमजे, आर श्रीनिवासन, रंजन सहाय उपस्थित थे।

Green energy plans have an import problem

Being self-sufficient in strategic minerals is critical for India to achieve its green energy goals

RENU SINGH PARMAR

Achieving India's ambitious energy transition goals pledged by the Prime Minister at the Conference of Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow depends on several factors.

A significant pillar of this strategy is the transition to green energy and action on climate change—a shift in mobility through electric vehicles (EVs) and upscaling solar and wind power generation. These points were underscored in the Budget of 2022-23.

A report by the International Energy Association (IEA) titled "Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for Global Energy Sector" points out that more than 60 per cent of passenger car sales must be EVs by 2030, which is 18 times more EV sales than in 2020. Such a move would help the world to be on track to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The IEA also projects that the total critical mineral demand for EVs will grow almost 30 times from 0.4 million tonnes in 2020 to 11.8 million tonnes by 2050, based on its Sustainable Development Scenario. The growth in battery demand for EVs translates into increasing demand for lithium use, which will grow 30-fold by 2030 and be more than 100 times higher in 2050 than in 2020 (IEA, 2021).

The demand for lithium is expected to grow from 19,830 tonnes in 2020 to 8,59,270 tonnes in 2040, and those for graphite from 1,41,030 tonnes to 35,56,840 tonnes in the same period. To meet this increasing demand, the IEA believes that nearly 200 giga-factories of batteries need to open every year till 2030 and the need for higher density batteries to electrify long-haul trucks.

Similarly, demand for nickel will grow from 80,470 tonnes in 2020 to

per from 1,10,320 tonnes in 2020 to 31,19,350 tonnes in 2040, says the IEA report. While copper is used in EVs and charging infrastructure, nickel is used in EV batteries.

However, to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, power generation from solar and wind energy also needs to rapidly scale up. They need to achieve annual additions of 630 gigawatts of solar photovoltaics and 390 Gw of wind by 2030, four times the record levels set in 2020, says the IEA report.

The Budget and government statements have, therefore, rightly focused on clean and sustainable mobility, and productivity-linked incentives (PLI) to augment the manufacture of solar modules.

Strategic metals

This shift to mobility via electric vehicles and rapid scaling of power generation via renewables will be a non-starter without an adequate supply of metals such as copper, aluminium, lithium and nickel. For instance, while an electric vehicle requires about 83 kg of copper and a plug-in-vehicle 60 kg, an average internal combustion vehicle requires just 23 kg. These strategic minerals, however, are difficult to access and for which the country is mainly dependent on imports.

India, a net exporter of refined copper, turned into a net importer in 2018-19. The rise in imports may be attributed to the closure of the Sterlite plant, which produced 400,000 MT per annum and contributed 40 per cent of the country's total copper production.

The Indian primary copper industry can produce 1 million tonnes per annum. A further 0.5 million tonnes of capacity will be operational by 2025, sufficient to cater to domestic demand. Yet, refined copper imports at the end of FY20 were



The Russia-Ukraine war has severely disrupted global nickel supplies REUTERS

than 10 per cent in 2012 to 35 per cent by the end of 2020. In financial terms, refined copper imports led to a forex outgo of \$1.9 billion in FY20.

Similarly, imports of copper scrap into the country rose to 2,33,671 tonnes in 2020-21 from 1,81,000 tonnes in 2015-16. Developed countries dump low-quality copper scrap, unfit for copper extraction, in countries like India.

Minerals consumption to rise

The push for green energy will quadruple the consumption of these minerals, further exposing the country's import dependence. These dangers have come to the fore in the Covid-19 pandemic and recently during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The risks are apparent in the backdrop of sanctions against Russia following the war in Ukraine. Nickel prices at the London Metal Exchange (LME) have soared to

\$100,000 a tonne in March 2022 from \$20,537 per tonne in January 2022, forcing the LME to halt trading. Russia is the world's biggest producer of high-grade nickel, which produces 9.3 per cent of international output.

Analysts predict that the war will result in a deficit of roughly 100,000 tonnes of nickel, approximately the same level as global stocks, threatening global green energy transition plans, which are critically dependent on the mineral. It would also add to China's muscle in leveraging its dominance in mining and refining rare piles of earth and non-ferrous metals for its geostrategic needs.

Ensuring domestic self-sufficiency in metals and minerals production is paramount if India is to control not only its clean energy transition but also its growing infrastructure needs. As of April 1, 2015, India's total nickel reserve was 180

million tonnes, copper 1.51 billion tonnes, bauxite 3,896 million tonnes, and graphite 194.89 million tonnes, according to the Bureau of Mines. While it is impossible to be completely self-sufficient, the government must ensure adequate supplies of these minerals.

The government has shown its intent by augmenting the manufacturing capacities of vital industrial inputs through PLIs and direct infrastructure spending to crowd-in private sector capital. The PLI schemes will incentivise the manufacturing of electric vehicles, solar photovoltaics and automotive cell (ACC) batteries, according to Crisil.

But the vagaries of trade policy and environmental regulations are significant bottlenecks that need urgent reforms. For instance, the import duty on copper concentrate (raw material for the copper refining industry) is 2.5 per cent compared to the zero rates of India's competitors like China, South Korea and Japan.

Compounding the problem, free trade agreements have made imports of refined copper entering India duty-free, thus creating an inverted duty structure for the primary copper industry.

It is only natural to emphasise the need to check the continuing environmental degradation, both due to rapid industrialisation and growth on the one hand and widespread poverty and underdevelopment on the other. However, inconsistencies in environmental laws, regulations and standards can undoubtedly be ironed out, and institutional mechanisms at the State and central levels redesigned to facilitate better integration of sustainable development's economic and environmental objectives.

The writer was Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Weak trends

MCX futures rejected at a resistance level

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

Just when the bullion looked ready to gain traction, the bears made a comeback and dragged both gold and silver down. Gold, in the international spot market, lost 3 per cent to end the week at \$1,747.1 an ounce. Similarly, silver was down by 8.5 per cent for the week as it closed at \$19.05 an ounce.

Likewise, in the domestic market, gold futures (October expiry) on the MCX (Multi Commodity Exchange), depreciated 2.1 per cent and ended at ₹51,479 (per 10 gram). Silver futures (September series) on the MCX lost 6.4 per cent to close the week at ₹55,496 (per kg).

The decline in the bullion was largely due to a strong rally in the US dollar. After moderating over the past one month, the dollar seems to be gaining traction and a further rally is likely. This means, both gold and silver can face further downward pressure going ahead.

MCX-Gold (₹51,479)

Contrary to our prediction last week, gold futures on the MCX did not break out of the range of ₹50,000-52,600. In fact, the contract faced a sell off on the back of the resistance at ₹52,600 and it closed the week at ₹51,479 versus the preceding week's close of ₹52,585.

There is high likelihood of seeing a decline towards the range bottom of ₹50,000. But note that until the range of ₹50,000-52,600 is decisively breached on either side, the next trend will remain uncertain. So, the movement back and forth between both ends of the range is what we expect to



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

continue, at least in the coming week.

In case if the bears drag the contract below ₹50,000, the contract can be expected to drop to ₹47,700 - the nearest support. Subsequent support is at ₹46,000. But if gold futures manage to move above ₹52,600, a low probability event, during this week, it can rally to ₹54,000 and then potentially to ₹55,000.

MCX-Silver (₹55,496)

As we cautioned last week, the rally in silver futures looked weak. Also, it faced the 50-day moving average (DMA) resistance at around ₹59,250. Consequently, the contract dropped 6.4 per cent to end the week at ₹55,496 compared to the previous week's close of ₹59,276.

This week, the silver futures could see a further drop. But there is support at ₹54,200. In case if the support holds, the contract might stay within ₹54,200 and ₹58,500 this week. But if ₹54,200 is breached, we might see a decline to ₹52,000.

On the other hand, if the contract rallies past the resistance band of ₹59,500-60,000, the short-term trend will turn bullish. The price will then possibly move to ₹63,500.

बगैर रॉयल्टी रेत के 2 ट्रैक्टर पकड़े

• तहसीलदार ने बनाई अवैध रेत परिवहन रोकने की टीम

संवाददाता | साधनेर

साधनेर तहसील में बढ़ते अवैध रेत उत्खनन व परिवहन को रोकने के लिए तहसीलदार प्रताप वाघमारे ने पथक का गठन किया है। पथक द्वारा गत 8 दिन में तहसील के अलग-अलग स्थानों पर कार्रवाई कर अवैध रूप से नदी-नालों से बगैर रॉयल्टी रेत परिवहन कर रहे अब तक 7 ट्रक व 3 ट्रैक्टर को पकड़ कर तहसील कार्यालय में जमा किया है। वाहनों के दस्तावेज की छानबीन के बाद कार्रवाई होगी।

चालक मौके से फरार

पथक में शामिल मंडल अधिकारी ने बताया कि जिलाधिकारी व एसडीओ अतुल महेत्रे ने तहसीलदार वाघमारे को दिए आदेश के अनुसार अवैध रेत उत्खनन व परिवहन रोकने के लिए 2 पथक का गठन किया गया है। रविवार को की गई कार्रवाई में आरोपी चालक नंदू गेंदलाल इन्वारे (30) निवासी उमरी जाभंलापानी व मालिक इरफान रशीद शेख, निवासी उमरी रेत से भरा ट्रैक्टर क्रमांक



एमएच-49 सी-4582 तथा ट्रैक्टर क्रमांक एमएच-40 एएम-2104 को जब्त किया। हालांकि चालक मौके से फरार हो गया। ट्रैक्टर मालिक दीपक रमाकांत उमाले, निवासी खापा बताया जा रहा है। दोनों ट्रैक्टरों को खापा पुलिस स्टेशन में जमा किया गया।

कई रेत माफिया भूमिगत

राजस्व पथक की लगातार कार्रवाई से कई रेत माफिया भूमिगत होने की जानकारी मिली है। पथक में शामिल एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि कार्रवाई निरंतर जारी रहेगी।

MCX-Lead futures: Go short at current levels



GURUMURTHY K

BL Research Bureau

The outlook for the Lead Futures contract on the MCX is bearish. The contract made a high of ₹186 per kg last week and has come-off sharply from there. It is currently trading at ₹181 per kg.

The reversal from ₹186 occurred due to a strong trendline resistance which is also poised at the same level. This keeps the broader downtrend intact. The fall below ₹182 on Monday has broken the near-term up move that was in place since mid-July. Immediate support is at ₹180. Any bounce from this level could be short-lived and restricted to ₹182-₹183. Also, the chances are high for the MCX-Lead futures contract to break below ₹180 and see a steeper fall. Such a break can drag it down to ₹175 and even ₹173 in the next two-three weeks.

Trading strategy

Traders with a short-term perspective can go short at current levels. Accumulate shorts at ₹183. Keep the stop-loss at ₹185. Trail the stop-loss down to ₹181 as soon as the contract falls to ₹178.

Move the stop-loss further down to ₹179 as soon as the MCX Lead Futures contract touches ₹176 on the downside. Book profits at ₹175. The outlook will turn bullish only if the contract

Engineering goods exports up a tad at \$9.56 billion in July

Weak demand from China, EU and export duty on steel items the dampeners: EEPC

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 22

Engineering goods exports grew a meagre 0.20 per cent in July 2022 (year-on-year) to \$9.56 billion as weak demand from China and the EU, coupled with export duty on steel items, acted as dampeners.

"The export duty imposed on steel items, especially that of the stainless steel products has impacted India's export competitiveness in the global market," Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) India Chairman Mahesh Desai said in a statement making case for its withdrawal.

Decline, too

While exports of 24 out of the 34 engineering panels posted some growth in July, huge decline was witnessed in iron and steel, copper and products, aluminium and products and lead and products, per the analysis of July data by EEPC India.

After a good performance in the last fiscal, engineering ex-

port growth has come down gradually in the first four months of the current fiscal, the EEPC statement pointed out.

Growth tapered by June

While in April 2022, engineering goods exports posted a growth of 19.8 per cent, in May 2022 slowed down to 12.8 per cent, while in June 2022 it tapered to 4.2 per cent. Cumulatively, engineering exports during April-July 2022-23 recorded 8.10 per cent growth to \$38.31 billion.

Iron and steel worst hit

Iron and steel were the worst hit and in July alone their exports fell by 56.1 per cent. The fall in export of iron and steel products was around 26 per cent in April-July 2022-23.

"There have been reports that due to the export duty, Indian iron and steel exports are becoming expensive when compared to their Chinese or South East Asian competitors,"



Iron and steel were the worst hit and in July alone their exports fell by 56.1 per cent

Desai said. The situation may get worse for engineering exporters in the coming months going by the forecasts by economic think-tanks and multi-lateral agencies of a looming recession, Desai added.

The US remained the top importer of Indian engineering goods in July growing 21 per

cent to \$1.64 billion. Exports of engineering goods to the EU, on the other hand fell 15.8 per cent to \$1.68 billion while decline in exports to China was sharper at 57.9 per cent to \$225.9 million.

Engineering goods exports to the UAE, too, declined 14.5 per cent in July 2022 to \$445.6 million.

Iron ore exports fall 85% in July on duty levy, weak demand

For April to July period, exports dip over 60% y-o-y

ABHISHEK LAW

New Delhi, August 22

India's iron ore exports took a near 85 per cent hit in July, year-on-year, to about 0.50 million tonnes (mt); following lower buying from China and post levy of export duty. Exports in the corresponding period last year (July 2021) was 3.24 mt.

For the four-month-period (April to July) in FY23, iron ore exports saw an over 60 per cent fall y-o-y, to around 6.56 mt -the steepest fall for a four month comparative period.

According to data compiled by trade sources and Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, exports for the previous three years April-July FY22 to FY20 was 17.13 mt, 19.95 mt and 11.53 mt, respectively.

Duty issues

Trade sources say, exports had been impacted with China (who is key buyer of low grade iron ore with iron content less than 58 per cent) imposing restrictions on trade following a spurt in Covid cases there. Post May, levy of export duty and hike in duty hit exports.

For instance, the Ministry of Commerce and Trade data that *BusinessLine* accessed majority of exports have been



Exports were impacted with China imposing restrictions on trade following a spurt in Covid cases there ISTOCKPHOTO

made between April and May. A sharp fall was noticed June onwards.

Data shows, there was a 94 per cent fall in exports in June to 0.21 mt versus 3.5 mt exported for June 2021. In July, numbers improved month-on-month, but fell sharply on a y-o-y basis. Against this, for April and May months of the fiscal, exports were 3.05 mt and 2.70 mt, respectively.

"The fall in numbers post May has been stark and the impact of export duty is stark," a trade source said.

Export duty 15%

The Centre had in May imposed an export duty of 15 per cent on select pig iron, flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloyed steel, bars and rods and various flat-rolled products of stainless steel and another 45 per cent on iron ore pellet. Similarly, the export duty on iron ore and concentrates was raised to 50

per cent, from 30 per cent. According to Ministry data, China was the highest buyer from India for the April-June (as per available data for three months) period at 4.04 mt; a 67 per cent fall y-o-y. Indonesia was the next big buyer at 0.22 mt, or a near 4 per cent fall y-o-y.

Amongst the other markets, offers from Korea dropped over 77 per cent to 0.07 mt y-o-y; and, orders from Oman dropped nearly 84 per cent y-o-y to approx 0.05 mt during Q1FY23. Exports to Vietnam, Nepal and Brazil dropped 37 per cent, 29 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively for the period under review.

In FY22, exports were to the tune of 26.32 mt of which nearly 49 per cent or around 12.83 mt was low grade ore (of iron content at 58 per cent or lower); while pellet exports - the largest offering - was 57 per cent or 11.39 mt.

Aluminium falls back to a range



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BI Research Bureau

The aluminium futures (continuous contract – ₹210) on the MCX was trading in a sideways range – oscillating within the price band of ₹200-215 – since mid-June. The contract broke out of this range on August 11 and closed at ₹218.15, giving it a bullish inclination. However, this turned out to be a false signal as the contract fell back into the ₹200-215 range and currently trades at around ₹210.

Notably, the 20- and 50-day moving averages lie at ₹210. Also, a rising trendline coincides at this level and this means the bulls might still have a chance to turn the tide. But that is uncertain.

If the contract rallies and moves above ₹215, it can touch ₹230 in the near term. A breach of this level can lift it to ₹240. On the other hand, if aluminium futures declines and invalidates the support at ₹200, it can turn the near-term outlook bearish. The nearest supports below ₹200 are at ₹193 and ₹186. Following the breakout and a supposed pullback last week, we had recommended fresh long positions at around ₹212 with stop-loss at ₹204 for a target of ₹230. Traders who executed this move can exit the position at the current level of ₹210 as the trend has now become unclear because of a false breakout.

Wait for MCX aluminium futures to move out of the ₹200-215 range before initiating fresh positions.

Ministry of Mines suggests measures for upgradation of low-grade iron ore

ABHISHEK LAW

New Delhi, August 22

A committee set up by the Union Ministry of Mines has recommended steps for beneficiation and upgradation of low-grade iron ore into higher-grade ones.

Recommendation states that at least 80 per cent of the low-grade ore (with iron content of less than 58 per cent) produced in a year be upgraded to higher-grade ore (of 62 per cent iron content), failing which steep fines and mine lease termination have been suggested.

The committee's findings show that 121 million tonnes of iron ore of different grade are "lying unused" at different mine pitheads, about 55 per cent of which are fines with less than 58 per cent FE content. Nearly 17 per cent of total iron ore produced in India are of low grade. *BusinessLine* has a copy of the committee's report.

Post imposition of export duty, sale of lower-grade iron ore have been badly hit. The committee submitted its report around May and in a letter written on August 12, the Ministry sought industry comments on some of the committee recommendations.

Penalty Cause

Lessees are to be assessed on a quarterly basis and if they fall short (of 80 per cent beneficiation clause), they shall pay the State government royalty and premium "as applicable to iron ore lumps or fines of 62-65 per cent grade". The penalty will be to the shortfall amount.

Reconciliation will be done at the end of the year, and if the lessee reaches his/her annual mandate then his/her previously paid penalties because of the quarterly shortfall "will be adjusted against dues for the last quarter of that year". It added that the Centre may levy a



Panel has recommended penalty for failure to adhere to mandate

fine — in the form of a levy of an additional amount for attenuated beneficiation — after two years of notification of the rule.

For non-auctioned mines, shortfall will attract a penalty "equal to the four times royalty" to be paid on iron ore of grade 62-65 per cent FE. This will be paid, in addition to the actual royalty to be paid.

Mine lease can be terminated for failure to beneficiate 80 per cent of low-grade material for two consecutive years and not paying the royalty ap-

plicable on 62-65 per cent for the differential amount.

Transfer of mines

The committee has suggested transfer of low-grade ore to neighbouring mines to be beneficiated or to a plant outside lease. "The quantity being removed from the mine will count under the 80 per cent mandate" and will "avoid double imposition of royalty or loss of revenue to the State".

Lessees will be charged royalty, bid premium, on the grade and quantity of ore throughout.

"A concession of 5 per cent in the rate of royalty on the quantity of low-grade ore beneficiated through the wet process and 10 per cent concession on the rate of royalty on the quantity of low-grade ore beneficiated through dry process may be given on 20 per cent of the annual production of iron ore of all grades," it said.

India's copper industry singed by Asean FTA

It has been disadvantaged by the Asean nations' easy access to raw material, lax rules of origin and non-reciprocal tariff cuts

NILANJAN BANIK

Free trade agreements (FTAs) have become the vehicle of choice for countries seeking to deepen their economic ties. Under an FTA, partner countries provide enhanced access to their markets by engaging in a mutual reduction of trade barriers. Often, this step is followed by a significant increase in the volume of bilateral and multilateral trade between the countries.

At this point, the proponents of free trade agreements often declare victory and extol the virtues of FTAs, of realising the "true trade potential" between the partner countries. However, often overlooked during this premature celebration is a deeper analysis of the factors actually responsible for the rise in trade volumes.

A case in point is the impact of the India-Asean FTA on India's copper industry. Signed in October 2009, the trajectory of copper trade under the FTA exemplifies the threat of celebrating a rise in trade volumes. In 2010-11, the volume of bilateral trade between India and the Asean for Chapter 74 products (copper and its articles) was \$787 million. Bilateral trade in the decade since then has increased to hit \$1.4 billion in 2021-22.

At this point, it would appear that the Asean FTA has been beneficial for trade in copper. However, a deep-dive into the fine print brings to light glaring challenges that merit the attention of the government. In 2010-11, India had a trade surplus of \$395 million with Asean for trade in copper. In 2021-22, the same surplus turned into a deficit of \$971 million. The value of copper exports from India to Asean reduced from \$537 million in 2010-11 to \$142 million in 2021-22. At the

same time, the value of copper imports from Asean increased from \$248 million to \$1.2 billion during this period.

In simple terms, trade volume growth has come at the expense of India's copper industry. At this point, it is easy to attribute the rise in import volumes to the inability of the Indian industry to compete. However, this tendency to label and dismiss legitimate industry concerns needs to be buried in the ash heap of history as it can dent industry confidence. It ignores the structural factors responsible for the rising Asean imports and declining Indian exports.

FTAs amongst themselves

First, the ten countries that constitute Asean have FTAs amongst themselves. As a result, copper smelters in the Asean manufacture refined copper using copper concentrate (a vital raw material for the copper industry) imported at zero per cent from Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, and the Philippines. Currently, the copper concentrate produced from copper mines in these countries is sufficient to cater to the industry's production and supply needs within the Asean region.

However, in India, domestic production of copper concentrate from copper mines can only satisfy 6 per cent of domestic smelter demand. As a result, copper smelters in India are compelled to procure a chunk of their copper concentrate from non-FTA nations. Due to this, they incur a Most Favoured Nation (MFN) duty of 2.5 per cent on the import of copper concentrate. With copper trading at more than \$8,000 per tonne, this additional duty of 2.5 per cent becomes a significant cost burden for Indian copper producers, unlike their Asean counterparts importing



Asean countries source raw materials at zero duty from within their bloc REUTERS

Disadvantage India

Value of bilateral copper exports (in \$)

	2010-11	2021-22
India	537 million	248 million
Asean	142 million	1.2 billion

Source: Ministry of Commerce, 2022

copper concentrate at zero duty.

Second, the rules of origin in the India-Asean FTA mandate a value addition of 35 per cent + CTSH (Change of Tariff Subheading). In other words, a refined copper product such as copper wire (HS 74081990) needs to undergo a value addition of 35 per cent in the Asean region to be eligible for import into India at zero duty.

Thus, copper concentrate produced from copper mines in the

dia in 2021-22. The value added in either Malaysia or Thailand alone would not exceed 2 per cent. However, they can still export copper wire into India at zero duty as the value added in the entire Asean region is factored in.

Terms of trade

In simple terms, India on its own needs to meet a value addition of 35 per cent + CTSH while the 10 Asean countries combined have to meet a value addition of 35 per cent + CTSH. This unquestionably shifts the terms of trade in favour of the Asean bloc.

The third is the issue of reciprocal tariffs. The basic underlying principle of an FTA is a mutual reduction in trade barriers. However, this has not been the case in the India-Asean FTA. For example, while exports of copper wire from any Asean country to India will be subject to zero duty (subject to above-mentioned value addition criteria), the same from India to Indonesia and Vietnam will be subject to an import duty of 5 per cent and 7.8 per cent, respectively, putting India at a disadvantage. The surge in imports from the Asean to India is due to structural factors.

A combination of Asean's easy access to raw material, lax rules of origin and non-reciprocal tariff reduction has delivered a hammer blow to the Indian copper industry. The government must pay attention to this as it reviews the India-Asean FTA in the coming months. The government must seek to change the contours of the FTA to level the terms of trade between copper manufacturers in India and the Asean.

The writer is Programme Chair (PhD Programme), School of Management, Mahindra University

'Making 'sustained efforts' to attract private parties into mineral exploration'

Coal output to touch a record 900 mt in FY23: Pralhad Joshi

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 23

The Union Ministry of Mines is "making sustained efforts" to attract more private entrepreneurs into mineral exploration, Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, said on Tuesday.

Speaking at an FICCI event, the Minister said auctioning of commercial coal mines saw the Centre generate an additional revenue of ₹25,000 crore last year. And Odisha was among the States that had generated the highest revenues.



Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs

According to him, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) needs to focus on new age mineral exploration.

"We are also making sustained efforts to attract more private entrepreneurs into mining and exploration," he

said adding that some of the recent reforms initiated include making the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) into an autonomous body.

Coal production from captive mines is expected to touch 140 million tonne (mt) this year against last fiscal's 89 mt. Total coal production during FY23 is likely to record 900 mt, he added.

According to the Minister, commercial coal mine auction has been a big success. The PSUs, he said, have been asked to start production from allotted coal blocks "at the earliest" failing which mines could be "surrendered" for re-auctioning.

‘गर्भ’ में बेकार पड़ा अकूत खजाना

लाइसेंसधारी नहीं कर पा रहे उत्खनन, इसलिए आगे नहीं बढ़ पा रहा विदर्भ

■ नीरज नेदन @ नवभारत.

नागपुर. विदर्भ का विकास तभी संभव है, जब खनिजों का दोहन सही तरीके से हो और उसकी प्रक्रिया नागपुर या विदर्भ में की जाए. लाखों करोड़ रुपये का कच्चा खनिज विदर्भ के गर्भ में है जिसका प्रोसेस हो तो यह कई लाख करोड़ रुपये में बदल सकता है. जहां आर्थिक उन्नति को पंख लग सकते हैं वहीं हजारों की संख्या में युवाओं को रोजगार मिल सकता है. परंतु नेता, नियम और नीति के अभाव में सब कुछ टप पड़ा है. सरकार का ध्यान बार-बार इस ओर आकृष्ट कराया जा रहा है लेकिन कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है. इतना ही नहीं पर्यावरण के नाम पर चालू खदानों को भी बंद करने का खेल शुरू हो चुका है. विदर्भ में भी तेजी से खदानों की संख्या कम हो रही है.

राज्य सरकार ने 2014 में यह अनुमान लगाया था कि नागपुर, भंडारा में ही 20 लाख मीट्रिक टन मैंगनीज ओर का खजाना है जिसकी कीमत मोटे तौर पर 38,844 करोड़ रुपये आंकी गई है. इसी प्रकार गड़चिरोली, चंद्रपुर, भंडारा, सिंधुदुर्ग में 72,194 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य का



38,844
करोड़ का
मैंगनीज ओर



72,194
करोड़ रुपये का
लौह अयस्क



57,183
करोड़ रुपये का
लाइमस्टोन ओर

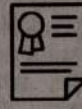


राज्य में 195 लाइसेंस

राज्य में कुल 195 लाइसेंस जारी किए गए हैं. इनमें से 49 विदर्भ से बाहर के हैं और विदर्भ में 146 लाइसेंस हैं जिनमें भी वेकोलि के पास कोयले के लिए 33 लाइसेंस हैं. मोंयल को मैंगनीज ओर के लिए 20 लाइसेंस हैं. एमएसएमसी के पास 8 और सीमेंट कंपनियों को लाइमस्टोन के लिए 9 लाइसेंस दिए गए हैं.

भेजर मिनरल के लिए 76 लाइसेंस : उपरोक्त के अलावा 76 लाइसेंस और जारी किए गए हैं जिसमें मैंगनीज ओर के लिए 24 लाइसेंस हैं. 24 में से केवल 7 को आवश्यक मंजूरी मिली है. 7 में से केवल 1 में ही उत्पादन हो रहा है. 24 में से 17 लोग खदान चालू कराने में नाकाम रहे हैं.

लौह अयस्क के 14 लाइसेंस



14 लाइसेंस में से केवल 3 में काम चालू है और केवल 1 लाइसेंसी उत्पादन कर पा रहा है. 4 लाइसेंस लैप्स हो चुके

हैं. असाधारण परिस्थिति के कारण 7 लोग काम को आगे नहीं बढ़ा पाए.

लाइमस्टोन का हो रहा उपयोग

- मैंगनीज और लौह अयस्क को छोड़ दें तो लाइमस्टोन के कारण सीमेंट कंपनियां विदर्भ में आकर्षित हुई हैं. इन कंपनियों द्वारा खुद खदानों का सन्तुल्योग हो रहा है और युवाओं को रोजगार भी मिल रहा है.
- विदर्भ के चंद्रपुर, गड़चिरोली, यवतमाल, नागपुर में ही कम से कम 57,183 करोड़ रुपये के लाइमस्टोन होने का अनुमान राज्य सरकार ने लगाया है.
- सहज अंदाज लगाया जा सकता है कि इतने बड़े पैमाने पर कच्चा माल होने के बाद भी उद्योगों के आने की रफ्तार फिन्ती है.

उत्खनन करना टेढ़ी खीर

विदर्भ में कालू का नक्काड़जाल इस कदर बढ़ गया है कि उत्खनन करना टेढ़ी खीर है. लोग हिम्मत कर लाइसेंस तो ले लेते हैं लेकिन उत्पादन तक नहीं पहुंच पाते हैं. इसके लिए पूरा का पूरा तंत्र जिम्मेदार है. पर्यावरण के नाम पर खनन उद्योग को समाप्त कर दिया गया है. छोटी की बात करना तो बेगानी है, बड़े-बड़े प्लेयर आयात करने को मजबूर हो रहे हैं. बेहतर होगा इस ओर ध्यान देकर समस्याओं का निराकरण हो ताकि राज्य और रोजगार बढ़ सके.

- मूपेश शुक्ला, वेद, सदस्य

लौह अयस्क का खजाना है लेकिन दोहन के अभाव में ये जमीन के अंदर ही पड़े हुए हैं. आंशिक रूप से इन खनिजों का उत्खनन हो रहा है जो

अपर्याप्त है. इतना ही नहीं, इससे संबंधित उद्योग भी क्षेत्र में नहीं पनप पा रहे हैं. प्रोसेसिंग उद्योग आने से इन खनिजों की कीमत कई गुना बढ़ जाती

है वहीं युवाओं को रोजगार भी मिलता है. वर्तमान में इन खनिजों को कच्चे रूप में विदेश या देश के अन्य राज्यों में भेजा जाता है जहां प्रोसेस के बाद

यह सोना बन जाता है. इसके साथ ही जिक और की 8.30 लाख मीट्रिक टन संपत्ति भी विदर्भ में है और यह मुख्य रूप से नागपुर जिले में है.

खान, खनिज उद्योग 30-40 प्रतिशत कार्बन उत्सर्जन कम करें : सिंधिया

एजेंसी | नई दिल्ली

केंद्रीय इस्पात मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया ने खान एवं खनिज उद्योग से वर्ष 2030 तक कार्बन उत्सर्जन 30-40 प्रतिशत तक कम करने का मंगलवार को आह्वान किया, जिससे देश इस क्षेत्र के विकास, विस्तार और निर्यात के लिए वैश्विक स्तर पर अपनी विशिष्ट पहचान बना सके। श्री सिंधिया ने फिक्की के सहयोग से



एनएमडीसी द्वारा यहां आयोजित दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन 'इंडियन मिनेरल्स एंड मेटल्स इंडस्ट्री: ट्रांजिशन टू वर्ल्ड्स 2030 एंड विजन 2047' को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि उद्योग 7-8 प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि उभरती वैश्विक चुनौतियों के मद्देनजर भारत को विश्व स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी और प्रभावशाली बनाने के लिए अपनी उत्पादन प्रक्रियाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करना जरूरी है। उन्होंने जोर

दिया, " हमें 'मेड इन इंडिया' को बढ़ावा देने की जरूरत है। जब हम अपनी कंपनियों के माध्यम से भारतीय ब्रांड को देखना चाहते हैं तो हमें मंदिर ब्रांड 'मेड इन इंडिया' की ब्रांडिंग पर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए।" उन्होंने कहा कि हमारा मूल ब्रांड उत्पाद की उच्चतम गुणवत्ता की पहचान होना चाहिए। श्री सिंधिया ने कहा कि वर्ष 2030 तक भारत में इस्पात उत्पादन क्षमता 30 करोड़ टन तक पहुंच जायेगी और देश के इस्पात के शुद्ध आयातक की जगह एक प्रमुख निर्यातक बनने की ओर बढ़ रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत न केवल एक निर्यातक देश है, बल्कि यह एक बड़ा उपभोक्ता देश भी है। उन्होंने आशा व्यक्त की कि देश की प्रति व्यक्ति स्टील खपत बढ़ेगी और 2047 तक मौजूदा विश्व औसत 225 किग्रा तक पहुंच जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा, " यदि आप वर्तमान वैश्विक प्रति व्यक्ति इस्पात उपभोग के वर्तमान औसत 225 किलोग्राम से तुलना करें तो 2013-14 में देश में 57.8 किलोग्राम प्रति व्यक्ति खपत थी जो मात्र आठ वर्षों में 50 प्रतिशत वृद्धि के साथ 78 किलोग्राम प्रति व्यक्ति तक पहुंच गयी है।

Govt plans to auction 17 mines surrendered by PSUs: Minister

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (PTI)

THE Government plans to put on auction 17 mines surrendered by public sector undertakings which could not put the blocks into operation, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Tuesday.

The statement comes in the wake of the Government making efforts to ramp up domestic coal production to ensure adequate availability of dry fuel to different sectors. "Just the-day-before yesterday (Sunday) I got 17 blocks back and they are very good blocks and I am putting them for auction now," Joshi said.

Speaking during a conference on the Indian minerals and metals industry organised by NMDC and FICCI, the minister said many PSUs in the country in sectors like coal were sitting on big mines.

The Government decided to take away all those mines from the public sector undertakings which do not get into operation even after the lapse of five to six years and put them on sale. "I talked to the chief ministers and ministers of a few states and asked

them the reasons for sitting on mines. These mines could not get into operation even after 10 to 15 years," Joshi said. Joshi also said that his ministry was in deliberations with the Ministry of Environment and Forest on how the exploration of mines can happen without cutting down trees.

Through an amendment to MMDR Act in 2021, private exploration agencies which have been accredited are allowed to carry out exploration without prospecting licence upon their notification and so far nine private exploration agencies have been notified for this purpose.

In 2021-22, the total revenue accrued from auctioned mines is more than Rs 25,170 crore.

To be future-ready, the mines ministry, he said, is also exploring sources of minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare-earth elements, lead, zinc and others. "With this view, I visited Australia last month to secure critical minerals that will help the country transition to clean sources of energy," he added.



Pralhad Joshi

कृत्रिम हिऱ्यांची चमक आणखी वाढली

बाजार तेजीत; निर्यात ६४,००० कोटींवर जाणार

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क । नवी दिल्ली : रशिया-युक्रेन युद्धामुळे जगभरातील कच्च्या हिऱ्यांचा पुरवठा घटला आहे. त्यामुळे नैसर्गिक हिऱ्यांच्या किमती वाढल्या आहेत. परिणामी अमेरिका-ब्रिटनसह जगभरात प्रयोगशाळेत तयार होणाऱ्या (लॅब ग्रोन) कृत्रिम हिऱ्यांची मागणी वाढली आहे, भारत मोठ्या प्रमाणात कृत्रिम हिऱ्यांची निर्यात करीत असून, २०२५ पर्यंत ही निर्यात ८०० कोटी डॉलरवर (६४ हजार कोटी रुपये) पोहोचेल, असा अंदाज आहे.

जगातील ९०% हिऱ्यांचे कटिंग व पॉलिशिंग गुजरातच्या सुरत शहरात होते.

एकट्या सुरतेत लॅब ग्रोन हिऱ्यांचे ७,५०० ते ८,००० उत्पादन प्रकल्प आहेत.

कटिंग व पॉलिशिंगच्या व्यवसायातील त्यांची हिस्सेदारीही २५% झाली.

फायदा कुणाला?



मागणी का वाढली?

नैसर्गिक हिऱ्यांच्या तुलनेत लॅब ग्रोन हिऱ्यांची किंमत ५० ते ६०%नी कमी असते. एक कॅरेट नैसर्गिक हिऱ्यांच्या किमतीत पाच कॅरेटचा लॅब ग्रोन हिऱ्या मिळतो. तो दिसतोही नैसर्गिक हिऱ्यासारखाच. अमेरिका, ब्रिटन, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, यूएई आणि हॉंगकॉंग येथे या हिऱ्यांना जोरदार मागणी आहे.

२०० कोटी

डॉलरचा आहे लॅब ग्रोन हिऱ्यांचा जागतिक बाजार

२,४०० कोटी डॉलरचे नैसर्गिक पॉलिश केलेले हिऱे भारताने २०२१-२२ मध्ये निर्यात केले.

Edelweiss Fund Offers Investors SIP Option to Bet on Gold, Silver

This is first-of-its-kind fund in the country that offers exposure to both the precious metals together

Prashant.Mahesh
@timesgroup.com



Mumbai: Investors looking for convenience of a single fund to make an equal allocation to gold and silver in their portfolios can consider a staggered investment using systematic investment plan (SIP) in the Edelweiss Gold and Silver ETF Fund of Funds.

However, savvy investors with an eye on cost looking to make tactical calls or with the ability to manage and rebalance this allocation themselves can consider a mix of sovereign gold bonds and silver ETFs.

The Edelweiss ETF FoF is the first-of-its-kind fund in India that gives investors exposure to both gold and silver together. It is an open-ended scheme which will invest in gold and silver ETFs with an equal allocation, which will be rebalanced periodically. The new fund offer (NFO) will close on September 7.

Financial planners believe investors should diversify portfolios and have a 5-10% allocation to precious metals, as they have a low correlation with equities. While gold acts as a hedge against inflation, silver has several industrial uses and stands to benefit from new age technology products like smart phones, electric vehicles and solar panels.

Over the last one year, in dollar terms, gold and silver have both lost value, by 3% 19.9%, respectively. This provides a good entry point, according to some financial planners.

"As interest rates peak, gold price could rise while as industrial demand picks up, silver prices could see a rise," said Nirav Karke-
ra, head of research at Fisdrom.

"Since the (Edelweiss) fund combines both precious metals, there is ease of investing, especially for retail investors who can also route money using SIPs," said Vineet Nanda, founder of Sift Capital. However, Nanda believes savvy investors, who can time the markets or make their own allocation based on their calculation, and want to keep costs low, can invest in a mix of sovereign gold bonds and silver ETFs.

Financial planners have recommended buying gold via sovereign gold bonds, since it gives an extra 2.5% interest per annum. There is also no expense ratio, no storage cost and the gains are tax-free on maturity after eight years.

असलियत बंद हो रही हैं एक के बाद एक खदान, नई नीलामी पर भी लगा ग्रहण

ऑक्शन नीति से खत्म हुआ माइनिंग सेक्टर

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के बाद देश में माइंस की नीलामी ई-ऑक्शन से होने लगी. लेकिन ई-ऑक्शन के सकारात्मक परिणाम देखने को नहीं मिल रहे हैं. हजारों की संख्या में लीज सरेंडर हो चुकी हैं या फिर लोग लीज लेकर भी काम शुरू नहीं कर पाए हैं. देश के साथ-साथ कम्बोवेश नागपुर और विदर्भ की स्थिति भी बहुत अच्छी नहीं है. जहां माइनिंग होनी थी, आज वहां पर वीरानी छापी हुई है. इसका नतीजा यह है कि न तो आर्थिक गतिविधियां हो पा रही हैं और न ही स्थानीय लोगों को रोजगार ही मिल पा रहा है. तमाम प्रकार के बंधनों, नियमों और कानून के कारण माइंस को संचालित करना मुश्किल हो गया है. अक्सर देखा जा रहा है कि माइनिंग लीज ले लेने के बाद भी उद्यमी मंजूरी लेने में इतना परेशान हो जाते हैं कि खदान शुरू ही नहीं हो पाती. उत्पादन के पहले से उन्हें लाइसेंस सरेंडर करना पड़ता है. इसकी

कोयला क्षेत्र की भी ऐसी ही हालत

कोयला खदान ऑक्शन को केंद्र सरकार सफल बता रही है लेकिन जानकारों की मानें तो तंग आकर बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियां पुनः लाइसेंस सरेंडर कर रही हैं क्योंकि कानूनी पेचीदगियों के आगे वे अपने को हताश पा रही हैं. हाल में भी हुई ऑक्शन में खदान प्राप्त करने वाली कंपनियों ने लाइसेंस सरेंडर कर दिए. कंपनियों का कहना है कि वे उत्खनन करने में नाकाम रही हैं. यही कारण है कि निजी क्षेत्र का योगदान माइनिंग सेक्टर में कम होता जा रहा है चाहे वह माइनर खनिज हो या मेजर.

जानकारी सरकार को भी है लेकिन कोई सुधारात्मक कदम नहीं उठाए जा रहे हैं. कोर्ट के आदेश का इतना हौआ बना दिया गया है कि बड़ी से बड़ी कंपनियां भी माइनिंग लीज का लाभ नहीं उठा पा रही हैं. इस विभाग से उस

23,600
माइनिंग लाइसेंस बंद देश में 2015 तक
3,200
लाइसेंस रह गए वर्तमान में
2,000
लाइसेंस कैसल होने की संभावना, नोटिस जारी

IBM का डेटा अपडेट नहीं

खनिज क्षेत्र से जुड़े लोगों ने बताया कि ऑक्शन रखने, जारी करने का काम भारतीय खान ब्यूरो (आईबीएम) का है लेकिन आईबीएम की साइट पर देखें तो 2020 के बाद से ऑक्शन अपलोड ही



नहीं हुए हैं. इससे देश में खनिज क्षेत्र का सहज आकलन किया जा सकता है कि किस प्रकार की उपेक्षा का शिकार यह सेक्टर हो रहा है. लोगों तक सही-सही जानकारी नहीं पहुंचाई जा रही है. संस्था नहीं चाहती कि लोगों को वास्तविकता की जानकारी मिले.

5 लाख तक की पेनल्टी

छेटी-छेटी गलतियों के लिए माइनिंग लाइसेंस रखने वालों पर पेनल्टी का प्रावधान है. इससे भी क्षेत्र उपेक्षित हो रहा है. पेनल्टी की राशि 10,000 से लेकर 5 लाख रुपये तक है. सरकारी अधिकारियों की उदासीनता के कारण यह पेनल्टी कंपनियों पर लागती है, इसलिए उद्यमी माइंस लेने में रुचि नहीं ले रहे हैं.

गलत तरीके से चल रही खदानें

सूत्रों का कहना है कि देश के अधिकांश हिस्सों में आज जो भी उत्खनन हो रहा है उसमें गलत तरीके से ज्यादा हो रहा है. देश में कच्चे माल भी जरूरत बढ़ती जा रही है. सारे खनिजों का आयात करना मुश्किल है. ऐसे में चोरी-छुपे लोग माइनर मिनरल का जोरदार तरीके से उत्खनन कर रहे हैं और सरकारों को करोड़ों रुपये से चूना लगा रहे हैं.

विभाग का चक्कर काट-काट कर वे परेशान हो जाते हैं लेकिन उन्हें समय सीमा के अंदर आवश्यक मंजूरीयों नहीं मिल पाती हैं. देश में माइनिंग की स्थिति डांबाडोल : डेटा के अनुसार 2015

तक देश में 23,600 माइनिंग लाइसेंस (कोयला छोड़कर) हुआ करते थे. नियम कानून का जाल ऐसा फैला कि वर्तमान में यह 3,200 ही रह गए हैं. जानकार बताते हैं कि यही हालत रही तो इनमें से और 2,000 लाइसेंस

कैसल हो सकते हैं क्योंकि ये भी माइनिंग नहीं कर पा रहे हैं. इनमें भी अधिकांश को नोटिस जारी कर दिया गया है. इससे अंदाज लगाया जा सकता है कि देश में माइनिंग की स्थिति डांबाडोल है.

करोड़ों की कोयला हेराफेरी में शामिल है लॉयड मेटल्स कंपनी

भास्कर टीम | चंद्रपुर (नागपुर)

करोड़ों रुपए के कोयला हेराफेरी मामले में घुग्घुस की लॉयड मेटल्स कंपनी अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से शामिल होने की जानकारी सामने आ रही है। कंपनी द्वारा रोज प्लांट से निकलनेवाला हजारों टन कोल डस्ट (चारकोल) वॉशरियों के साथ रेलवे साइडिंग भेजा रहा है और वहां कोयले में इसे मिक्स कर बिजली केंद्र को घंटिया कोयला आपूर्ति किया जा रहा। घंटिया कोयले के कारण बिजली निर्माण पर परिणाम होने के साथ लोगों को महंगी बिजली खरीदनी पड़ रही है। साथ ही बिजली केंद्र परिसर में रहनेवाले लोगों को घंटिया कोयले से बड़े पैमाने पर होनेवाले प्रदूषण का भी सामना करना पड़ रहा है। घुग्घुस में बड़े पैमाने पर प्रदूषण फैलानेवाली लॉयड मेटल्स कंपनी अन्य स्थानों पर अपने खराब मटेरियल से प्रदूषण फैलाने में अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कारण बन रही है।

घेज सौकरों टुकों से जा रहल माल

बता दें कि, घुग्घुस की लॉयड मेटल्स कंपनी के प्रॉक्ट में कच्चा लोहा तैयार किया जाता है।

प्रक्रिया में हजारों टन बैड मटेरियल निकलता है। सूत्रों के अनुसार निकलनेवाला हजारों टन चारकोल कंपनी द्वारा घुग्घुस, राजुरा, यवतमाल जिले के वणी के वॉशरियों में भेजा जाता है। इसके अलावा रोज विविध वनी के वॉशरियों में व रेलवे साइडिंग में टुकों से भेजे जाने की जानकारी है।

साठघांट की पूरी वेज

इस गोरखधंधे में लॉयड मेटल्स कंपनी के मालिक व आला अधिकारियों के अलावा वॉशरी धारक, रेलवे के अधिकारी और कोयला बिजली विभाग के अधिकारी शामिल होने की जानकारी है। हजारों टन चारकोल लॉयड कंपनी द्वारा वॉशरियों को भेजा जा रहा है। इसमें कोयला और कंपनी का डस्ट मिलाकर पावर प्लांट्स को रेलवे द्वारा भेजा जाता है। करोड़ों का मिलावटी कोयला हेराफेरी कर विविध कंपनियों को भेजा जाता है, जिसमें महाजनेतकों को वॉशरियों के माध्यम से कोयला भेजा जाता है। वहीं माध्यमदेश के एमपीपीबीसीएल व कनाटक के कर्पसीएल रोड कम रेलवे के माध्यम से कोयला जाता है।



हेराफेरी का सीधा असर नागरिकों पर

कोयले का हेराफेरी का खेल का असर अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से सीधे नागरिकों पर हो रहा है। कोयला खदानों से आपूर्ति होनेवाले कोयले में बीच में झी होनेवाले मिक्सिंग के चलते बिजली उत्पादन की क्षमता पर असर हो रहा है। कोयला खदानों से निकलनेवाले अच्छे क्वालिटी का कोयला साठगांट के चलते चोरी किया जा रहा है और बाचे कोयले में बैड मटेरियल चारकोल मिलाया जा रहा है। इस कारण बिजली निर्मिती पर असर होने के साथ नागरिकों को महंगी बिजली खरीदनी पड़ रही है, जबकि संबंधित कोयला व्यापारी ट्रांसपोर्ट लोभ मालामाल हो रहे हैं।

कमी मुफ्त में देते थे, अब हजार रुपए प्रतिटन बेच रहे

बताया जाता है कि, जो कोल डस्ट कंपनी से पिछले वर्ष तक मुफ्त में या 20 रुपए प्रति टन के हिसाब से ईट भंडी चालक स्थित करते थे। कोयला हेराफेरी में चारकोल की मांग बढ़ने से आज यही हजार रुपए टन के हिसाब से कोयला मिक्सिंग के लिए कंपनी द्वारा बेचा जा रहा है, जिससे सरकार को करोड़ों रुपए का नुकसान हो रहा है। बदले में लॉयड मेटल्स कंपनी इन्हीं वॉशरियों से अच्छा कोयला खरीद रही होने की जानकारी है।

लाखों टन चारकोल दिया जा चुका

बताया जाता है कि, लॉयड कंपनी बड़े पैमाने पर कोयला मिक्सिंग के लिए चारकोल वॉशरियों को दे रही है। यह मिक्सिंग हुआ कोयला देश के अनेक राज्यों के पावर प्लांट को रेलवे द्वारा पहुंचाया जा रहा है। इसमें रेलवे अधिकारी भी शामिल है। सूत्रों के अनुसार लॉयड कंपनी ने लाखों टन चारकोल इन वॉशरियों व जरूरीअर मोड को दे चुकी है।

बंद पड़ी वॉशरियों में भी पहुंच रहा कोयला, सभी संदेह के घेरे में

जानकारी के अनुसार वणी वैकॉल क्षेत्र व गान्डी क्षेत्र की खदानों से देखाजब हजारों टन कोयला पानी व कैम्प्रीसीएल के साथ ही वॉशरियों को जाता है। लेकिन यह वैकॉल से निकलना हुआ कोयला रेलवे साइडिंग व पहुंचते हुए सीधे बंद पड़ी वॉशरियों व अन्य वॉशरियों पर पहुंचता है। यहां मिलावट करने के बाद रेलवे साइडिंग पर आता है। हद तो तब होती जब कोयला व चारकोल को भी सीधे रेलवे साइडिंग पर पहुंचाया जाता है और वहीं पर मिक्सिंग कर सभी की अंशों के समूले रेलवे रैक में लोड किया जाता है। जिस पर डेटल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मइनिंग फ्रूल एंड रिस्कर, जो वॉशरियों जांच करती है वही संदेह के घेरे में है।



Go short in zinc futures



COMMODITY CALL

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The continuous zinc futures on the MCX, which has been rallying since mid-July, faced resistance at ₹340 and has fallen to ₹317. The price band of ₹330-340 is a strong barrier to be breached and there is a possibility of it declining further. Supporting the bearish bias, the contract has formed an inverted hammer candlestick pattern - a bearish reversal - on the weekly chart. We, therefore, expect the contract to fall from here. While ₹300 can be a minor support, the zinc futures might drop below this level and decline to the support band of ₹292-286.

On the other hand, if the contract manages to break out of the resistance at ₹340, it can rally to ₹360, and then possibly to ₹380. Traders can consider fresh short positions at ₹317 and add more shorts if the price rises to ₹330. Place the initial stop-loss at ₹350. When the price touches ₹300, revise the stop-loss down to ₹315. Exit all the shorts at ₹292.

भास्कर एनालिसिस : महंगाई और इक्विटी में उछाल के बीच अमेरिका में मंदी की आशंका दिखाएगी असर

साल के आखिर तक 60 हजार तक पहुंचेगा सोना

वैश्विक पैमाने पर कीमतें लंबे समय तक ऊंची रह सकती हैं

बिजनेस संवाददाता | मुंबई

सोने की कीमत अगले चार महीनों में करीब 16% बढ़ सकती है। घरेलू बाजार में अभी सोना 52,000 रुपए प्रति 10 ग्राम से नीचे और अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में 1,777 डॉलर प्रति आउंस है। लेकिन भारत समेत दुनियाभर के विश्लेषकों का अनुमान है कि इस साल के आखिर तक अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में सोना 2,000 डॉलर और घरेलू बाजार में 60,000 रुपए तक पहुंच सकता है। विश्लेषकों के मुताबिक देश में जरूर महंगाई कम हो रही है, लेकिन वैश्विक पैमाने पर कीमतें लंबे समय तक ऊंची रह सकती हैं। इससे सोने को सपोर्ट मिल रहा है क्योंकि इसे महंगाई से बचाव के साधन (हेजिंग) के तौर पर देखा जाता है। यानी महंगाई ज्यादा होने पर सोने में निवेश बढ़ जाता है। इसके अलावा कई दूसरी परिस्थितियां भी सोने के अनुकूल हैं। अमेरिका में मंदी की आशंका, ब्याज दरों में बढ़ोतरी का सिलसिला थमने के आसार, शेयर बाजारों में गैर-वाजिब तेजी और भू-राजनीतिक तनाव इनमें शामिल हैं।

सोने में तेजी की संभावना के चार बड़े कारण



1. स्थिर महंगाई : ब्लूमबर्ग के मुताबिक, ऊंची महंगाई दर लंबे समय तक बनी रहेगी। ऐसे में फेडरल रिजर्व आगे भी आक्रामक तरीके से ब्याज दरें बढ़ाकर आर्थिक मंदी की तरफ नहीं बढ़ना चाहेगा। यह स्थिति सोने को सपोर्ट करेगी।

2. डॉलर इंडेक्स : वेल्स फार्गो के रियल एसेट स्ट्रेटजी हेड जॉन ला फोर्ज का मानना है कि डॉलर इंडेक्स 20 साल के ऊंचे स्तर 113 से नीचे ही रहेगा। यदि ऐसा होता है तो सोने में मौजूदा स्तर से 150-200 डॉलर की तेजी आ सकती है।

3. मंदी की आशंका : अमेरिकी फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज कंपनी वेल्स फार्गो के मुताबिक, अक्टूबर या नवंबर में अमेरिकी अर्थव्यवस्था में मंदी शुरू होगी। ऐसे हालात में डॉलर कमजोर होता है और सोने में तेजी को तगड़ा सपोर्ट मिलता है।

4. माइनिंग लागत : आईआईएफएल सिक्युरिटीज के कमोडिटी वाइस प्रेसिडेंट अनुज गुप्ता ने बताया कि एक साल में गोल्ड माइनिंग की लागत 7% बढ़कर 1,173 डॉलर प्रति आउंस हो गई है। इससे सोने की सप्लाय कॉस्ट बढ़ने लगी है।

ऐतिहासिक ट्रेंड सोने के सपोर्ट में

केडिया एडवायजरी के डायरेक्टर अजय केडिया ने कहा कि गोल्ड अभी अंडरवैल्यूड है। मतलब सोने की कीमत उतनी नहीं है जितनी होनी चाहिए थी। जबकि आगे मंदी का अंदेशा है। 2008 की मंदी से 6-8 महीने पहले भी गोल्ड अंडरवैल्यूड था। इसका मतलब है कि यह तेजी से पहले की स्थिरता है। दूसरी तरफ शेयर बाजार जरूरत से ज्यादा बढ़त (ओवरवैल्यूड) ले चुका है। वहां गिरावट शुरू होने पर सोने में निवेश बढ़ना तय है।

'Local Stainless Steel Cos Competitive Globally, But High Logistics Costs, Rates Weigh at Home'

But govt move to bring down costs positive, a level playing field needed, says Jindal Stainless exec

Nehal.Chaliawala@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Indian stainless steel industry is competitive at the factory level but factors 'outside the gate' like high capital and logistics costs, coupled with the new export duty, make the industry uncompetitive, said a top industry executive.

"We are perhaps one of the most competitive manufacturers in the world," Vijay Sharma, director at Jindal Stainless, the country's largest stainless steel maker told ET. He was speaking on the sidelines of the India Steel Conference organised by Steel-Mint here on Thursday.

"We also have the versatility of being present horizontally in all the segments including exports. So, we don't have very high stakes in any one segment," he said. However, factors like high logistics costs and the high interest rates bring down the competitive edge of stainless steel makers including Jindal Stainless, he said.

Tough Market

No high stakes in any one segment

Most stainless steel producing countries have levied an anti-dumping duty on China & Indonesia

Level playing field needed



China & Indonesia known to provide non-WTO-compliant subsidies of 20-30%

VIJAY SHARMA, Director, Jindal Stainless



Recently, the Indian government levied a 15% export duty on several categories of steel to arrest inflation in the domestic market. While it has helped local steel prices, the duty also

makes Indian steelmakers uncompetitive in the global market. On the logistics front, in India, logistics accounts for 13-14% of the national gross domestic product, which is much higher than other comparable economies. Interest rates in India too tend to be on the higher side, he said.

"But the steps that the government has taken to bring down the cost of capital and the focus on infrastructure has made the industry upbeat," he said. However, the stainless steel industry continues to lobby for anti-dumping duties on Chinese and Indonesian imports, he said. The government had revoked import duties on certain stainless steel products in its budget for fiscal 2021-22.

Sharma argued that most stainless steel producing countries have levied an anti-dumping duty on China and Indonesia. For instance, Europe has duties ranging between 17% and 33% on stainless steel imports from these two countries, while US has a duty rate between 25% and 190%.

Tata Steel to set up Maiden ₹2,600-cr Plant in Ludhiana

CHANDIGARH: In a move aimed at giving further fillip to industrial development in the state, Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday handed over the land allotment letter to Tata group for setting up its scrap-based steel plant at an investment of ₹2,600 crore in first phase in Ludhiana. "We are committed to making Punjab a frontrunner in the industrial sector and this maiden investment by Tata group in state is a step forward in this direction," asserted the chief minister during meeting with delegation led by global CEO, Tata Steel, TV Narendran. — IANS

SC relaxes iron ore mining limit for Bellary, 2 other districts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

THE SUPREME Court on Friday relaxed the iron ore mining limit for Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur districts in Karnataka, stating that "conservation of the ecology and the environment must go hand in hand with the spirit of economic development" and noting that the situation in the state had "vastly changed" since the time a ban was imposed on mining in these districts in 2011.

A bench presided by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana allowed raising the ceiling for Bellary from the existing 28 MMT to 35 MMT and for Chitradurga and Tumkur districts collectively from 7 MMT to 15 MMT.

Acting on reports of rampant illegal mining, the court on July 29, 2011, prohibited all mining activity in Bellary, followed by Chitradurga and Tumkur on August 28, 2011. By order dated September 23, 2011, the court directed disposal of accumulated iron ore through e-auction conducted by the Monitoring Committee and also constituted a Special Purpose Vehicle to take mitigating measures.

On May 20 this year, the court after considering petitions, which said the e-auctions conducted by the Monitoring Committee had received poor response and sale of iron ore even at the reserve price is dismally low, had allowed the "already excavated stock" to be sold directly without resorting to e-auction, and also permitted their export.

Though the mine operators also urged the court to lift the ceiling limit for production of iron ore for mining leases in these districts, the court decided to take the opinion from the Oversight Authority before deciding the issue.

KARNATAKA MINING

SC raises annual iron ore output cap for 3 districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 26

The Supreme Court on Friday raised the ceiling limit of iron ore mining for Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts in Karnataka, saying conservation of the ecology and environment must go hand in hand with the spirit of economic development.

The apex court raised the ceiling limit of iron ore mining from 28 million tonnes (mt) to 35 mt for Ballari district, and from 7 mt to 15 mt for Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts.

Seeking fine balance

"Conservation of the ecology and environment must go hand in hand with the spirit of economic development and the fine balance between the

two goals is what is sought to be achieved even now," a Bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said. The Bench, also comprising Justices Hima Kohli and CT Ravikumar, passed the order on pleas seeking lifting of the ceiling limits of iron ore mining in these districts.

The Bench referred to the history of ceiling limits on the production of iron ore through court orders and noted that on July 29, 2011, and August 26, 2011, the apex court had imposed a ban on mining in these three districts based on the report of the Centrally Empowered Committee (CEC).

"In 2017, this court was of the view that the situation had vastly changed in the state of Karnataka and had therefore allowed an increase in the ceiling



limit. We are now in the year 2022," the apex court said. The Bench said it can be no one's case that the situation subsisting in Karnataka currently is the same as had existed when the matter was first taken up or when the court had passed the order in 2017, relaxing the ceiling limit to some extent.

"This is also clear from the changed stance of the state of Karnataka and the CEC before this court. In 2017, the CEC had recommended a cumulative increase in the ceiling limit up to

5 mt, whereas now, the CEC supports the view that the ceiling limit need not continue," it observed.

Removal of ceiling limit

The Bench noted that in 2017, Karnataka had submitted before it that the ceiling limit may be raised to 40 mt, and gradually increased later to 50 mt.

"However, the state of Karnataka is now in favour of a complete removal of the ceiling limit," it said.

The top court said it appeared that the CEC, the state, the Ministry of Steel, Karnataka Iron and Steel Manufacturers Association, and mining lease holders are all "ad idem" (in agreement) that the changed situation on ground warrants a complete removal of ceiling limits that were imposed by the

court. The Bench said advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the original petitioner, has objected to the request for the lifting of the ceiling limit, on principles.

Good work due to petitioner

It added the concerns of the original petitioner and the monitoring committee merit due consideration.

"Much good work has been done in the state of Karnataka, because of the action initiated by the original petitioner and the subsequent judicial interventions by this court. In fact, it is this progress made steadily over the past decade that weighed with this court to even consider the relief regarding the raising of the ceiling limit sought by the present applicants," it said.

Export duty turns India into a net steel importer in July, the first time since Jan 2021

Exports, at 156,000 tonnes, dipped to the lowest since June 2019 on slack demand

ABHISHEK LAW

New Delhi, August 26

India became a net importer of steel in July for the first time since January 2021 with exports slumping during the month.

Around 444,000 tonnes of finished steel were imported, an 8 per cent increase year-on-year, Steel Ministry data accessed by *BusinessLine* shows.

The import of total finished steel was valued at ₹19,068 crore (\$2,449 million), sources say.

However, if sales for April-July are considered, then India continues to remain a net exporter of steel. Imports during this period rose by over 3 per cent to 1.61 million tonnes (mt).

Some quantities booked at cheaper prices from countries like Russia are

also expected to come in during the next few months, thereby the increasing import numbers.

Ministry data shows that, volume-wise, non-alloy hot rolled coil/strip was the most imported item (35 per cent of non-alloyed items) between April and July, and 0.307 mt was brought in, up 23 per cent y-o-y.

Exports hit

July exports stood at 156,000 tonnes, which is the lowest since June 2019. Finished steel comprises alloy and non-alloy steel.

Trade sources say the levy of 15 per cent export duty on steel products from May 22 has hit exports. Moreover, weakening global demand because of recessionary pressures has also had an impact.



Govt data shows that non-alloy hot rolled coil was the item most imported

With the export duty, Indian steel remains costlier than Chinese offerings.

"The export duty led to a fall in shipments from India. We hope this is an aberration and numbers will change in the coming months," the source said.

Category-wise imports

Among imported items, for July, hot rolled coil and strip imports totalled 99,000

tonnes, up 111 per cent y-o-y; followed by GP/GC sheets and coils, with 75,400 tonnes coming in, up 10 per cent y-o-y.

Electrical sheet imports fell over 50 per cent, y-o-y, while hot rolled coil purchases dipped 95 per cent.

Overall, non-flat product imports fell 49 per cent y-o-y, while flat product imports dropped over 4 per cent, y-o-y. However, stainless steel and alloy imports rose 46 per cent, y-o-y, to 209,000 tonnes.

Imports from Korea

Volume-wise, Korea (0.713 mt) was the biggest supplier in the April-July period, with shipments up 8 per cent y-o-y.

This was followed by China (0.35 mt, up 23 per cent) and Indonesia (0.11 mt, up 130 per cent).

Imports from Japan and Taiwan fell 30 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively.

Gold still range-bound

Silver testing an important support

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The rising US yields and the strength in the dollar continues to keep the bullion under pressure. Although there was not much drop in the prices last week compared to the preceding one, both gold and silver are struggling to gain traction.

In the international spot market, gold and silver dropped by 0.6 and 0.7 per cent to end the week at \$1,736.9 and \$18.88 per ounce, respectively. Similarly, on the MCX (Multi Commodity Exchange), gold and silver futures declined by 0.5 and 1.3 per cent to close the week at ₹51,238 (per 10 gram) and ₹55,770 (per kg), respectively.

Lack of positive investor sentiment can be observed as the outflows in the global gold ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds) continue. For the week ended August 19, the net outflows stood at 10.3 tonnes, according to the World Gold Council (WGC) data. The speculators too remain cautious. Although the net longs on the COMEX have remained at around 450 tonnes, they have remained below 500 tonnes since the beginning of July. Net longs remaining below 500 tonnes is not very common.

MCX-Gold (₹51,238)

There was not much activity in gold futures last week and it ended the week slightly lower at ₹51,238 versus the preceding week's close of ₹51,479. Thus, the contract continues to trade within the range of ₹50,000-52,600. So, until it moves out of this range, the next leg of trend cannot be predicted with a reasonable level of accuracy.

If October futures picks up momentum and breaks out of the resistance at ₹52,600, there will be a quick rally to ₹54,000 - a resistance level. The contract



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

could even extend the rally to the subsequent resistance at ₹55,000.

On the other hand, if the contract slips below ₹50,000, the near-term trend will turn bearish. In that case, the price could decline to ₹47,700, its nearest support. A breach of this level can drag the contract to ₹46,000 from where there could be a rebound.

MCX-Silver (₹55,770)

As expected, the silver futures, on the back of a support, halted the downtrend from the preceding week. That is, the December futures took support at ₹55,500, which prevented further depreciation. It closed at ₹55,770 versus the previous week's close of ₹56,488.

Since ₹55,500 is a support and there is a considerable resistance at ₹58,300, the silver futures is likely to stay within these levels this week. Immediately above ₹58,300 lies the resistance band of ₹60,000-60,400. Unless the contract breaches either ₹55,500 or ₹60,400, it can be difficult to trade. If the sellers regain traction and drag the contract below ₹55,500, it will most probably witness a downswing to ₹52,000. But if the silver futures cross over ₹60,400, the near-term trend will become bullish, and the price could rise to ₹64,000 swiftly.

Niti Aayog to Identify Potential Gold Mines

**Vogima Seth Sharma
& Kirtika Suneja**

New Delhi: The Centre will soon lay out a detailed roadmap to boost gold production in the country with private participation amid a surge in imports of the yellow metal and rise in its prices.

The plan will identify potential gold-bearing regions to be developed by 2030 and the policy interventions needed to attract private investment into gold mining, a senior government official told ET.

Niti Aayog has conducted an extensive study to identify potential gold mines in the country and proposed a pan-India exploration programme over the next 10 years.

"The key recommendations of the study include providing

Gold Rush

Pan-India exploration programme over next 10 yrs

Small explorers to be incentivised

India's high gold imports add to high trade deficit

Gold, 100 other imports need policy intervention: commerce dept study

incentives to small explorers to take up mining of gold in India," the official said, requesting anonymity. "Besides, some policy tweaking could be done to make gold mining cost-competitive."

India is the world's second biggest consumer of gold, after China.

India's gold imports rose 33.41% to \$46.16 billion during 2021-22 from \$34.6 billion in the previous year; a key reason behind widening of the trade deficit to \$192.41 billion last fiscal from \$102.62 billion in FY21.

Gold is among the 102 priority items that the commerce department has identified whose imports are high and need immediate interventions for domestic production opportunities. Gold accounted for 7.53% of India's total inbound shipments in FY22. In April-July, gold imports rose 6.39% year on year.

Hutti Gold Mine, the only gold mining company in the country located in Raichur district of Karnataka, has produced some 84 tonnes of gold since 1947.

माइनिंग क्लस्टर कैपिटल बन सकता है विदर्भ

हर जिले की है अपनी अलग खासियत, तरह-तरह के खनिजों का नहीं कोई वाली

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. मिनरल के मामले में विदर्भ के प्रत्येक जिले का अपना एक रूप है. हर जिला किसी न किसी खनिज से संपन्न है. इन एक-एक जिलों में क्लस्टर विकसित हो और खनिज आधारित उद्योग लगाये जाएं तो विदर्भ का नक्शा बदलते देर नहीं लगेगी. यह सभी को पता है परंतु मुंबई में बैठे नेता और अधिकारी इस महत्व को सिरे से नजरअंदाज करते रहे हैं. विदर्भ के दमदार नेताओं की आवाज को भी हवा में उड़ा देना इनकी फितरत बन गई है. शायद यही कारण है कि संपन्नता के बाद भी विदर्भ खून के आसू रोकने को मजबूर है. न बात सुनी गई और न ही सुनी जा रही है. आज देशभर में क्लस्टर एप्रोच की बात हो रही है. केंद्र और राज्य की कई योजनाएं क्लस्टर को लेकर हैं. ऐसे में विदर्भवासी उम्मीद करते हैं कि मिनरल क्लस्टर का बड़ा केंद्र विदर्भ को बनाया जाए ताकि उन्नति का मार्ग प्रशस्त हो सके. लाखों करोड़ रुपये के खनिज को यूं ही बर्बाद नहीं किया जा सकता. विदर्भ के पिछड़ेपन को दूर करने के लिए गढ़चिरोली, यवतमाल और नागपुर-भंडारा में खनिज आधारित उद्योग लगाने की काफी संभावना है. इन क्लस्टरों में लगभग 8,000-10,000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश भी हो सकता है. वेद ने इस पर गहन अध्ययन भी किया है और पाया है कि खनिज आधारित क्लस्टर के निर्माण से विदर्भ को कई फायदें होंगे. सबसे बड़ा लाभ यह होगा कि खनिज का प्रोसेसिंग होने से खनिजों की कीमत हजारों रुपये से लाखों रुपये में बदल जाएगा. इससे विदर्भ के औद्योगिकीकरण को बढ़ावा मिलेगा और विदर्भ के युवा विदर्भ में रोजगार बना सकते हैं.

गढ़चिरोली में आयरन और क्लस्टर



क्लस्टर का स्वरूप

भूखंड	2,000 एकड़
यूनिट्स	20
निवेश	3,000 करोड़
रोजगार	3,000 अनुमानित

- 1 गढ़चिरोली में देश के बेस्ट क्वालिटी का आयरन और है. अच्छी बात यह है कि खनन का कार्य शुरू हो चुका है.
- 2 अगर गढ़चिरोली जिले में आयरन और या कोल आयरन और क्लस्टर का गठन होता है तो पैलेट्स प्लांट, स्पॉज आयरन प्लांट, आयरन और फाईंस, सिंटर ब्लास्ट फर्नेस, हॉट मेटल, आयन पाइप, पिग आयरन जैसे उत्पादों की कई फैक्टरियां लग सकती हैं.

भंडारा में मैंगनीज और क्लस्टर



क्लस्टर का स्वरूप

जमीन	250 एकड़ लगेगा
इकाई	25 उद्योग संभालेंगे मोर्चा
निवेश	2,000 करोड़ अपेक्षित
रोजगार	1,500 का खुलेगा भाग्य

- 1 वेद का कहना है कि नागपुर-भंडारा के आसपास बड़े पैमाने पर मैंगनीज और है. इसे देखते हुए बॉर्डर पर मैंगनीज और क्लस्टर का निर्माण किया जाना चाहिए. मैंगनीज और की मांग पूरे विश्व में है.
- 2 अच्छी बात यह है कि बेस्ट क्वालिटी मैंगनीज और पाया जाता है. हमारे पास बिजली भी है, जिसका सदुपयोग भी हो सकेगा. मैंगनीज और का उपयोग कई बड़े उद्योगों में किया जाता है, जिसके कारण संभावनाएं भी बढ़ जाती हैं.

वणी में लाइमस्टोन प्रोसेसिंग क्लस्टर



क्लस्टर का स्वरूप

भूखंड	500 एकड़
यूनिट्स	50 उद्योगों की स्थापना
निवेश	300 करोड़
रोजगार	2,500 युवाओं को रोजगार

- 1 यवतमाल जिले के वणी में लाखों करोड़ रुपये का लाइमस्टोन है. जितना दोहन होना चाहिए नहीं हुआ. इसका मुख्य कारण नियोजन का अभाव ही है. नियोजन करने से इसकी कीमत को कई बढ़ाई जा सकती है.
- 2 वणी में डोलोमाइट और लाइमस्टोन क्लस्टर की असीम संभावनाएं हैं. 2 खनिजों के साथ-साथ कोयला और अन्य खनिजों की बहुतायत है. निर्माण होगा तो सोने पर सुहागा होगा.



8,000-10,000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश भी हो सकता है इन क्लस्टरों में

खनिज का कच्चा और प्रोसिंग मूल्य

खनिज	कच्चा माल	मूल्य प्रोसिंग के बाद
आयरन और	5,000 रु.	40,000-45,000 रु.
मैंगनीज और	12,000-15,000 रु.	90,000-1,00,000 रु.
लाइमस्टोन	600-700 रु.	10,000 रु.

सभी आंकड़े मीट्रिक टन में

मंत्री गडकरी व DCM देवेन्द्र से गृहाह

वेद ने इस संबंध में केंद्रीय मंत्री नितिन गडकरी, उप मुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस से कई बार बैठक भी की है और इस और ध्यान देने की मांग की है. बात कुछ आगे बढ़ती है लेकिन पुनः स्थित जस की तस हो जाती है. मैंगनीज, आयरन और क्लस्टर ही बनने से विदर्भ स्टील क्षेत्र में एक शक्तिशाली सेक्टर के रूप में उभर सकता है. वेद के प्रदीप माहेश्वरी कहते हैं कि लाखों करोड़ रुपये के खनिज को बेवजह बर्बाद किया जा रहा है. कच्चे खनिज को विदर्भ से बाहर भेजने से भारी नुकसान हो रहा है. एक वक्त विदर्भ फेरो पर्लॉय का मुख्य केंद्र था लेकिन आज स्थिति पूरी तरह बदल चुकी है. अधिकांश उद्योग बंद पड़ गए क्योंकि निवेशकों ने निवेश किया लेकिन उन्हें जो सहयोग-सहायता, प्रोत्साहन चाहिए था वह नहीं मिल पाया.

NMDC in advanced talks to demerge upcoming steel unit

ABHISHEK LAW

New Delhi, August 30

PSU iron-ore miner NMDC is in advanced stages of completing the demerger of its upcoming steel unit, NMDC Iron and Steel Plant (NISIP), into a separate company, NMDC Steel Ltd. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has reportedly held a meeting with officials of the PSU miner, on the matter, some days ago.

The demerger is expected to be completed by Q2FY23 (September-end), those aware of the matter said.

Per documents of the Steel Ministry, accessed by *Business-Line*, the compliance of the first motion application has been



completed on June 28 and the Chairperson's report was filed with the MCA on July 5. The second motion application was filed on July 12.

Incidentally, shareholders and creditors of NMDC Ltd approved the demerger of the company's yet-to-be commissioned 3 million tonne per annum (mtpa)

steel plant at Nagarnar. The demerged entity will subsequently be listed.

The miner will issue shares in the ratio of 1:1 for NMDC Steel Ltd.

Nagarnar commissioning

According to those aware of the matter, NMDC's steel plant at Nagarnar is in construction-completion stage, and various facilities are "under testing and trial".

The steel plant's commissioning has been pushed back "probably to September".

A breakdown at the site is seen as a cause for the delay. Supply of motor for the oxygen plant is expected by December 31.

Hold on to short bets in lead

COMMODITY CALL

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The continuous futures of lead on the MCX has been rallying since mid-June. It bounced off the support at ₹166 and made a two-month high of ₹186.1 last week. While the current contract is hovering around ₹184, the next month contract i.e., the September expiry is trading at ₹180. Thus, next month's contract is at a discount and this is not good news for the bulls. Since the August contract expired Tuesday, traders can consider September futures to initiate positions.

The September lead futures, trading around ₹180, is less likely to rally beyond ₹185 since this is a substantial resistance. Therefore, we expect the contract to fall from here. A couple of weeks ago we suggested initiating shorts with average selling prices at ₹180, with a stop-loss at ₹192. Traders



who went short can continue to hold, but roll this over to the September contract if you are holding shorts on the August series.

When the contract moves in line with our expectation and falls below ₹166, modify the stop-loss to ₹182. Exit all shorts at ₹157 because it is a key support against which the contract might witness a rebound. If the contract rallies above ₹184, it can turn the trend bullish. A move above ₹184 could also mean that the falling trend-line resistance would have been taken out, making a stronger case for the bulls. Above ₹184, the resistances are at ₹195 and ₹200.

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