



खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR

Vol. 6, No-18

(As appeared in National/Local Newspapers Received in Central Library, IBM, Nagpur)

The Central Library, IBM, Nagpur is providing the Classified Mineral News Service since many years on monthly basis in print form. To expand this service to the IBM Offices all over India i.e. H.Q., Zonal & Regional Offices and to take a call of time, the Controller General, IBM desired to make this service online on fortnightly basis. The library officials made sincere efforts to make it successful. This is the **18th** issue of **Volume-6** for the service named **Khanij Samachar** for the period from **16st - 30th September, 2022**. The previous issue of Khanij Samachar **Vol. 6, No.17**, **1st - 15th September, 2022** is already uploaded on IBM Website www.ibm.gov.in.

In continuation of this it is requested that the mineral related news appeared in the Local News Papers of different areas can be sent to Central Library via email ibmcentrallibrary@gmail.com (scanned copy) so that it can be incorporated in the future issues to give the maximum coverage of mining and mineral related information on Pan India basis.

All are requested to give wide publicity to it and it will be highly appreciated if the valuable feedback is reciprocated to above email.

Mrs. R. S. Wakode
Assistant Library & Information Officer
Central Library
ibmcentrallibrary@gmail.com
0712-2562847
Ext. 1210 , 1206



खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR



A FORTNIGHTLY NEWS CLIPPING SERVICE
FROM
CENTRAL LIBRARY
INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES
VOL. 6, NO – 18 , 16th – 30th SEPTEMBER 2022

Seashore spanning 55ha in coastal Maha submerged near Devghar

Manka.Behl@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: Researchers, using satellite images, have identified the submergence of a 55 hectare (ha) area — nearly ten times the size of Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium — near Devghar in Raigad district. According to experts, this indicates a worrying sign of coastal inundation and extreme shoreline erosion.

Preliminary data show that between 1990 and 2022, there was a total loss of around 55 ha of coastal ecosystems, including mangrove, creeklets, mudflats and sandy coasts. Also, almost 300 metres of shore area was eroded.

This was brought to the fore in a latest study done by Pune-based organization Srushti Conservation Foundation (SCF). Carried out close to the mouth of Bankot Creek, which has a 1.5-kilometer-long beach

THE CHANGING SHORELINE



At present, the Casuarina plantation extends along the north-south belt on Devghar beach

SOLUTIONS

- State to develop shore management policy by using cutting-edge science
- Launch community-based climate resilience, adaptation and awareness programme
- Scientific management across creek areas to maintain optimal depth and water level
- Review efficacy of sea walls and its impact on shore erosion in nearby areas

area, the study was prompted by information shared by Devghar residents who claimed that the beach had been steadily eroding since the 1990s.

The researchers ran a pre-

liminary analysis to determine the degree of erosion since the 1990s and assembled satellite datasets to look into the claim. "It was observed that the satellite-derived shoreline

has now shifted 300-500 meters towards land. Also, it was clear that mangrove and Casuarina plantation was not able to withstand the loss of sediment and eventually got uprooted,"

said Deepak Apte, managing director of SCF.

The expert added that climate change related sea-level rise will further worsen the situation and the govern-

ment should commission a study to seek solutions to deal with the changing seascape.

At present, the Casuarina plantation extends along the north-south belt on Devghar beach. However as per the study, the beach-side plantation was found to be getting destroyed due to continuous loss of sediment resulting in the erosion of the shore, along with change in sediment profile from a clay-silty dominated seascape to coarse sand dominated seascape.

The satellite images revealed that mangroves were distributed unevenly. In the central part of this patch, dead mangroves were observed on a large scale. "The shoreline is changing steadily in several parts of the state and there is a need for a systematic assessment of the same," the study stated.

► **Unregulated mining, P 6**

Unregulated sand mining facilitating erosion

► Continued from P 1

The area of Devghar beach is near the Bankot creek which has been witnessing sand mining.

Though the impact of sand mining is reportedly unclear at this point of time on the erosion at Devghar region, unregulated sand mining is facilitating erosion in several areas along the state coastline.

"For example, various stretches between Allibaug and Mandwa have witnessed illegal sand mining eroding beaches completely," said Deepak Apte, managing director of SCF. "While on one side sea level is increasing, on the other side, sand mining on beaches is flattening natural shore gradient facilitating coastal inundation," said Apte.

Steel Ministry for phased removal of export duty

Suggests nixing levy on stainless steel first

ABHISHEK LAW
AMITI SEN

New Delhi, September 15

The Steel Ministry, along with the Commerce Ministry, has reportedly initiated the process to review the export duty and is suggesting its phased removal, those aware of the development said. The Steel Ministry is said to be in favour of removal of duty on stainless steel in the first phase.

An internal document/presentation of the Steel Ministry pointed out, at a meeting on September 5, that stainless steel is an export-dependent item and its shipments would improve if the duty is removed.

However, HR coils and CR coils – two key items that have been driving steel export numbers – should not be immediately opened up as it might lead to increase in domestic prices, the Ministry presentation, accessed by *BusinessLine*, said.

A footnote to the presentation said that “Export duty of HS7222 (stainless steel bars and rods) and HS7219 (stainless steel flats) may be considered for removal” while adding that: “in view of this, reduction in duty may be considered after stabilisation of the volatile market condition. And cooling of inflationary pressures and the steel price trends in the next quarter (December-end).”

According to the Ministry document, nearly 80 per cent of the total production of stainless steel long (bars and rods) and 42 per cent of flats are sent overseas. Moreover, these items are seen to have a lower share in the total production of finished steel. Post the imposition of duty, stainless steel long (bars and rods) was the



Post levy of duty, domestic steel prices dropped 9-14% by June 10

only category to see a growth in exports. India imposed a stiff duty on exports of steel, iron ore and stainless steel from May 22. The duty levied was 15 per cent on flat-rolled products of stainless steel and 15 per cent on bars and rods, angles, shapes and sections of stainless-steel while a waiver of 2.5 per cent import duty was announced on ferro-nickel (a key stainless steel raw material).

Demand to go up

According to the Ministry document, the steel demand is expected to go up post monsoon; April to June are considered slower months for steel demand while July to September are the worst. Additional demand of 3.5 million tonnes is expected to be generated on account of the infrastructure push.

Hence, in such a scenario, “rolling back export duty may aggravate steel prices”, it said, adding that a “duty roll back may give unintended signals to market to prefer exports over domestic demand.”

Post levy of the export duty, steel prices in India dropped 9-14 per cent by June 10 (from May 20). The Ministry held that the “price decline after June 10 moderated”.

“...Decline vis-a-vis May 20 in the range of 5-17 per cent by August 19...” the internal note said, adding that the decline post July 2022 was in the range of 1-2 per cent.

Industry concerns

Incidentally, the industry has already pointed out that exports to the European Union, especially Italy, of TMT bars are “feasible” only without the export duty. It pointed out that the price of export items – TMT, HR coils, CR coils, GP sheet – from India were higher than Chinese offerings leading to competitive disadvantage.

For instance, HR coil price (ex-works) in August was ₹61,363 per tonne before export duty and ₹70,566 per tonne after the levy. In comparison, China was offering at ₹46,374 per tonne. Similarly, CR coil price was ₹68,174 per tonne before duty and ₹78,400 per tonne post levy while competing Chinese offerings were at ₹50,941 per tonne.

“No export of steel is feasible with the export duty of 15 per cent after including logistics charges. Also the industry does not under-supply domestic buyers to push exports. This premise is incorrect,” an industry official said.

Gold heads for worst week in two months

Sturdy dollar, looming rate hikes take sheen off the yellow metal

REUTERS

September 16

Gold on Friday headed towards its biggest weekly fall in about two months, knocked by a stronger dollar and expectations of a sizeable US rate hike.

Spot gold was 0.2 per cent lower at \$1,660.96 per ounce by 9:56 a.m. ET (1356 GMT), having earlier touched its lowest since April 2020 at \$1653.10, and down about three per cent so far this week. US gold futures fell 0.4 per



cent to \$1,670.40. Meanwhile, physical gold demand picked up in India as domestic prices fell ahead of key festivals, while Chinese premiums climbed. Silver slipped 0.6 per cent to \$19.04 per ounce. Platinum dropped 1.8 per cent to \$888.64, while palladium fell 1.7 per cent to \$2,100.16.

रेत घोटाला... धीरे-धीरे टूट रहा तिलस्म

मप्र की वेबसाइट का 'क्लोन' बनाकर चल था रेत चोरी का खेल

• इससे पूर्व 'मैजिक पेन' का इस्तेमाल कर धूल झोंक रहे थे

भास्कर संवाददाता | नागपुर

जिले में पिछले कुछ सालों रेत माफिया अलग-अलग तरकीब अपनाकर प्रशासन को गुमराह कर रहे हैं। इससे पूर्व सावनेर तहसील में 'मैजिक पेन' का मामला सामने आया था। रेत माफिया रॉयल्टी पर 'मैजिक पेन' का इस्तेमाल कर उसी रॉयल्टी का सैकड़ों बार इस्तेमाल कर प्रशासन की आंखों में धूल झोंक रहे थे। इस बार भी नई तकनीकी का बखूबी इस्तेमाल कर प्रशासन को करोड़ों रुपए की चपत लगा चुके हैं। मध्यप्रदेश सरकार की रेत वेबसाइट का 'क्लोन' बनाकर सावनेर तहसील के रेत घाटों से रेत चोरी कर जाली रॉयल्टी के सहारे महाराष्ट्र के सरकारी राजस्व को करोड़ों का नुकसान पहुंचा चुके हैं।

12 सौ की रॉयल्टी 10 हजार में बेचते थे

इस धोखाधड़ी पर प्रशासन की नजर पड़ते ही रेत माफिया गिरफ्तारी से बचने भूमिगत हो गए हैं। बताया जा रहा है मध्यप्रदेश से जाली एक रॉयल्टी 1200



केवल मात्र चौबीस घंटे की ही रहती थी, जबकि ऑरिजनल वेबसाइट की रॉयल्टी कई दिनों बाद भी दिशा-निर्देशित होती थी। जिसके चलते अक्सर क्षेत्र का राजस्व तथा पुलिस विभाग रॉयल्टी को लेकर असमंजस में रहता था।

एक जाली रॉयल्टी पर 10-10 ट्रिप

एक जाली रॉयल्टी पर 10-10 ट्रिप रेत परिवहन होता था। एक ट्रिप रेत नागपुर समेत आस-पास के इलाकों में 25 हजार में बिकती थी। पिछले दो-तीन साल में रेत घाट नीलामी नहीं होने के बाद भी धड़ल्ले से जाली रॉयल्टी पर बिजनेस चरम पर था। जिसके बल पर रेत माफियाओं ने राज्य सरकार को करोड़ों के राजस्व को चूना लगाया है।

मकड़जाल में घुसते ही कई माफियाओं के नाम सामने आए

एक रेत भरे वाहन के फटाफट ट्रिप लगाने तथा चौबीस घंटे में उसी रॉयल्टी का उपयोग होने पर कहीं न कहीं शक सुई अटक जाती थी। फिर यही से शुरू हुआ रेत घोटाले का मकड़जाल का खुलासा। जिसके अंदर घुसते ही मध्यप्रदेश से लेकर महाराष्ट्र की सीमा के सावनेर तहसील के अनेकों रेत माफियाओं के नाम सामने आने लगे। हालांकि, शुरुआत में गिरफ्तारियां भी हुईं। कुछ लोग जमानत पर छूट भी गए थे। प्रदेश में सरकार के बदलते ही जांच को नए सिरे से शुरू किया गया। जिसकी भनक रेत माफियाओं को लगते ही अपने ठिकाने बदल लिए हैं। पुलिस महकमा घोटाला में लिप्त रेत माफियाओं की तलाश में जुटा है।

High Court seeks mining official's appearance in illegal mining plea

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The High Court on Monday directed the Assistant Director of Mining and Geology of Nizamabad district to appear before it for failing to check illegal mining in the district. The direction was issued by a bench of Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice C.V. Bhaskar Reddy while hearing a PIL petition seeking a

direction to contain the alleged illegal mining in Mamidipally Chinnapur forest area of Nizamabad. The petition was filed by a social activist K. Kondal Rao from Hyderabad. The petitioner claimed that the limited minerals available in the area were on the verge of extinction due to rampant illegal mining in the area. He charged that some officials of the Forest department had colluded

with the persons indulging in illegal mining. Special Government Pleader Sanjeev Kumar, appearing for the government, said the Mining and Geology department officials of the area were the right persons to check the illegal mining. Though the AD of the said department was not made a party in the PIL petition, he was contacted in the past on the matter. However, the officer was yet to

respond on the issues and secure instructions on the points raised in the petition, the SGP said. In a separate matter, the bench imposed costs of Rs. 50,000 on Maa Telangana Party represented by its president K. Veera Reddy for suppressing facts in a writ petition seeking action against officials for failing to check release of effluents into environment by pharmaceutical companies.

Hold shorts on copper futures

Akhil Nallamuthu
BL Research Bureau



The price of copper futures has been declining since early March this year. The continuous futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), after marking a high of ₹886 in the first week of March, made a U-turn and hit a low of ₹601 two months ago.

Although it has recovered to the current level of ₹645, the overall trend remains bearish. The price band of ₹675-700 is a strong resistance and while the contract remains below these levels, the bears will be at an advantage. Substantiating the bearish outlook, the RSI and the MACD on the daily chart are in their respective negative territory.

We expect the contract to slip below ₹600 to touch ₹585, a support level, in the near-term. Subsequent support is at ₹545.

We had recommended initiating fresh short positions at around ₹660, with stop-loss at ₹715. One can continue to hold these shorts. Bring the stop-loss down to ₹670 when the contract slips below the support of ₹600. Tighten it further to ₹615 when the contract touches ₹585. Exit the shorts at ₹550. The price level of ₹550 is a strong support against which the contract could see a bounce.

Scindia writes to FinMin, calls for duty removal on steel-making inputs

EYEING SUPPORT. Minister also seeks steps to make operations of KIOCL, RINL viable

Abhishek Law
New Delhi

Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, calling for removal of import and customs duty on a variety of steel-making inputs (such as manganese and chrome ore, coking coal, natural gas) and abolition of GST compensation cess on coal. Help is sought for making operations of two state-run units - KIOCL and RINL - financially viable.

Scindia has not taken up the issue of withdrawal or phase-out of duty on steel exports. But he has sought his Cabinet colleague's support on taking action against dumping of stainless steel by Indonesia and China to protect domestic stainless steel-makers. He has, however, asked the Finance Minister to consider reimbursement of export duty paid by exporters for pre-contracted orders and those backed by Letters of Credit (LCs).

HELP FOR RINL, KIOCL

The Minister in his letter, which *businessline* has accessed, mentioned that state-run PSU-steel-maker,



PROTECTING STEEL-MAKERS. Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia raised concerns over dumping of stainless steel and sought Finance Minister's intervention to stop such imports

RINL is facing "financial difficulties".

"The company is under strategic disinvestment. It is proposed that the forged wheel plant (of RINL) at Rae Bareilly be permitted to be operated in an OnM (operations and maintenance) model by a private company

or the unit be considered for being hived off," it says. Any of the two measures will "generate much required funds" for the steel-maker.

In case of KIOCL (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd), the iron ore pellet making plant based out of Karnataka -

whose operations have been badly hit by export duty levy on iron-ore - Scindia sought exemption from payment of duty. Export duty on iron ore was hiked to 50 per cent from May 22 onwards.

Custom duty exemption has been sought on natural gas - a clean fuel used by the

industry - on the grounds that domestic demand of 174 mmscmd exceeds production (90 mmscmd) by 85 mmscmd (imported quantity). Import duty waiver on coking coal (a process used in steel making) on the lines of coking coal and anthracite has been asked for too.

Scindia has also raised concerns on dumping of stainless steel and sought Sitharaman's intervention to stop such imports or call for "adequate trade remedial measures" like imposing countervailing and anti-dumping duties.

RODTEP SCHEME

Call for inclusion of steel in RoDTEP (remission of duties and taxes on exported products) scheme as it "would remove structural disadvantage" faced by mills to the "extent of 5-12 per cent of export price" and improve their global competitiveness. Duty removal on manganese ore (of 2.5 per cent customs duty) and chrome ore (2.5 per cent on import) have been called as the input material is not sufficiently produced here.

India has just one per cent of the world's chrome ore reserves - with the supply being non-lumpy and friable.

खनिज भंडारण की खोज करें, उससे ही रोजगार पैदा होंगे

मुख्य संवाददाता। नागपुर. राज्य में खनिज आधारित नए उद्योगों के माध्यम से रोजगार के अवसर उपलब्ध कराना आवश्यक है। इसके लिए भूविज्ञान और खनिकर्म विभाग ने राज्य के विविध भाग में खनिज भंडारण का व्यापक स्वरूप में शोध लें और इस क्षेत्र में रोजगार निर्मिती को प्राथमिकता दें। यह आदेश खनिकर्म मंत्री दादाजी भुसे ने दिए। भूविज्ञान और खनिकर्म संचालनालय की समीक्षा बैठक में वे बोल रहे थे। विधायक एड. आशीष जैस्वाल, भूविज्ञान और खनिकर्म संचालनालय के संचालक अंजली नगरकर, उपसंचालक डॉ. एस.पी. आवले(नागपुर), सुरेश नैताम (चंद्रपुर), प्रशांत कोरे (औरंगाबाद) सहित अन्य वरिष्ठ अधिकारी उपस्थित थे। भुसे ने कहा कि खनिज आधारित नए उद्योग शुरू करने के साथ अस्तित्व में आए उद्योगों को आवश्यक खनिज उपलब्ध कराने के लिए खनिजों की खोज करना आवश्यक है। इसके लिए व्यापक प्रमाण में खनिज सर्वेक्षण और पूर्वक्षण कार्यक्रम चलाएँ। पर्याप्त खनिज उपलब्ध वाले परिसर में नए उद्योग शुरू होने पर स्थानीयों को रोजगार उपलब्ध हो सकेगा। खनिज उत्खनन में आने वाली दिक्कतों को सुलझाने में प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।

खनिकर्म मंत्री दादाजी भुसे ने दिए निर्देश, आधुनिक तकनीक से खदानों की जांच-पड़ताल करें



मिल सकते हैं रोजगार के अवसर: खनिकर्म मंत्री भुसे ने कहा कि विदर्भ में कोयला, लोह खनिज, मैंगनीज, बॉक्साइट, क्रोमाइट, तांबे, चूनाखड़ी आदि गौण खनिजों का वैश्विक स्त्रोत मिलता है। इन खनिजों के स्त्रोत ढूँढकर वहां उचित तरीके से खदान निर्माण की जा सकती है। खनिज आधारित उद्योगों की स्थापना से इस क्षेत्र के लोगों को रोजगार के अवसर उपलब्ध हो सकते हैं। इसके लिए भूविज्ञान व खनिकर्म विभाग ने भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण, पूर्वक्षण व संशोधन को प्राथमिकता दें। नैसर्गिक स्त्रोत वाले खनिजों का उत्खनन व उत्पादन से राज्य जमा होने से राज्य की अर्थव्यवस्था मजबूत होगी।

'एकल खिड़की योजना' पर करेंगे

काम : बैठक में खनिकर्म मंत्री ने बताया कि गौण खनिज का राज्य के उद्योग क्षेत्र को आपूर्ति करने के लिए उपयोजना बनाई जाए। अद्यैय उत्खनन, रॉयल्टी और खनिजों की जांचकारी, लीज धारकों को परमिट व पास, उत्खनन किए गए खनिज के परिवहन की पड़ताल ट्रैकिंग पास की सरयता की जांच-पड़ताल आदि महत्वपूर्ण काम आधुनिक तकनीक व ई-सेवा प्रणाली का उपयोग कर नियंत्रित करें। उन्होंने कहा कि जल्द मुख्यमंत्री, उपमुख्यमंत्री, पर्यावरण मंत्री के साथ संयुक्त बैठक लेकर समाधान निकाला जाएगा। कानून के क्षेत्र में रहकर राज्य की विकास प्रक्रिया में ज्यादा से ज्यादा योगदान देने हुए रोजगार निर्मिती करने पर जोर दिया जाएगा। 'एकल खिड़की योजना' पर राज्य सरकार काम करेगी। झुड़पी जंगल के करण वनविभाग द्वारा अनुमति देने में विलंब लग रहा है। खनिकर्म मंत्री ने प्रकरण अनुसार रिपोर्ट खनिकर्म विभाग द्वारा मंत्रालय को करने को कहा है।

NAVBHARAT (NAGPUR PLUS) DATE : 21/09/2022 P.NO.3

खनिज शोधन कर रोजगार सृजन की जरूरत : भुसे

खान बाधित क्षेत्र में हों बुनियादी सुविधाएं : खनिकर्म मंत्री

■ **नागपुर,** व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. राज्य में खनिज से जुड़े उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देकर रोजगार सृजन करने की सबसे अधिक जरूरत है। इसके लिए भू विज्ञान और खनिकर्म विभाग को मिलकर काम करना होगा और खनिजों की खोज करनी होगी। रोजगार सृजन में यह काफी महत्वपूर्ण हो सकता है। यह विचार खनिकर्म मंत्री दादा भुसे ने व्यक्त किए, भूविज्ञान एवं खनिकर्म संचालनालय की समीक्षा बैठक में उन्होंने कहा कि विदर्भ के लिहाज से भी यह काफी महत्वपूर्ण साबित होगा क्योंकि विदर्भ में खनिज का भंडार है। इस अवसर पर विधायक आशीष जयस्वाल, संचालक अंजलि नगरकर, एस.पी. आवले, सुरेश नैताम, प्रशांत कौर उपस्थित थे। भुसे ने कहा कि राज्य में खनिज आधारित नए उद्योग शुरू करने के लिए शोध काफी महत्वपूर्ण है। उद्योग के लिए जरूरी खनिज हमारे पास होना चाहिए। राज्य में खनिज सर्वेक्षण बढ़ाने की जरूरत है। जिन क्षेत्रों में जो खनिज होगा, उसी पर आधारित उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहन भी दिया जाएगा। इससे स्थानीय स्तर पर युवाओं को बड़े पैमाने पर रोजगार मिल सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि खनिज उत्खनन में आने वाली समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए भी वे प्रयास करेंगे।



विकसित हों बुनियादी सुविधाएं

उन्होंने कहा कि जिन क्षेत्रों में खदानें हैं. उन क्षेत्रों में जिला खनिज प्रतिष्ठान निधि से स्वास्थ्य सेवा, शैक्षणिक सुविधाएं बढ़ाने की जरूरत है. इस पर विशेष जोर दिया जाना चाहिए. खान बाधित परिवार और गांवों की लिस्ट तैयार कर उन्हें प्राथमिकता के अनुसार सुविधाएं दी जाएं. पीने का पानी, प्रदूषण नियंत्रण, स्वच्छता, महिला और बाल विकास, वृद्धा व दिव्यांग कल्याण के क्षेत्र में भी इस निधि का उपयोग हो. उन्होंने कहा कि भूविज्ञान और खनिज कर्म संचालनालय में खाली पदों को भी तत्काल भरा जाए. अवैध खनन, रायल्टी और अन्य राजस्व पर आधुनिक पद्धति से नजर रखने की जरूरत है. मुंबई में खनिकर्म और पर्यावरण विभाग संयुक्त बैठक भी होगी, जिसमें समस्या का निवारण किया जाएगा.

...eyes RINL acquisition for steel sector foray

Suresh P. Iyengar
Mumbai

After making a splash in the cement industry, the Adani Group is all set for a steel sector foray by bidding for the state-owned Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (RINL), which was slated for disinvestment in January.

Being a new entrant, the group is expected to be aggressive than the legacy players such as JSW Steel, Tata Steel and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel.

Given the premium it paid to buy out Ambuja Cement and ACC, the Adani Group is all set to topple competitors as and when the bids are called for by the end of this year, sources said.

The group did not respond to an email sent by *businessline*.

In January, the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs gave an 'in-principle' approval for 100 per cent disinvestment of government stake in RINL, along with its stake in subsidiaries and JVs.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset



The Centre had slated RINL for divestment in January

Management (DIPAM) had floated a request for proposal for appointing RINL asset valuer and has received response from 10 entities in April.

LAND ASSETS

Though RINL has been making losses consistently, it has over 24,000 acres of land, valued at ₹1.5-lakh crore.

The government may spin-off excess land into a separate entity to attract more bidders.

In January, Adani Group had signed a non-bidding agreement with South Korea's Posco to establish a steel mill at Mundra with an investment of \$5 billion.

खनिकर्म मंत्री ने ओडिशा और तेलंगाना का मॉडल अपनाने के लिए निर्देश

बाजार से कम दर पर उपलब्ध हो रेत



मुख्य संवाददाता | नागपुर

सरकार के महत्वकांक्षी प्रकल्प के लिए रेत घाट आरक्षित रखने की सरकारी नीति है। इस अनुसार प्रकल्पों के लिए रेत खुली नीलामी से प्राप्त करने के लिए महामंडल प्रयास करें। इसी तरह सामान्य नागरिकों को बाजार भाव से कम दर में रेत उपलब्ध कराने के लिए उपाय योजना बनाई जाए। गौण खनिज उत्खनन से स्थानीय क्षेत्र व राज्य को लाभ देने के लिए ओडिशा व तेलंगाना राज्य की तर्ज पर राज्य में खनिज उत्खनन प्रक्रिया व पॉलिसी का मॉडल अपनाएं। प्रायोगिक रूप से एक जिला तय कर मॉडल सफलता पूर्वक कार्यान्वित कर संपूर्ण राज्य में लागू करने बाबत सकारात्मक प्रयास करें। यह निर्देश खनिकर्म मंत्री दादाजी भुसे ने दिए हैं। महाराष्ट्र राज्य खनिकर्म महामंडल के कार्यालय में आयोजित समीक्षा बैठक में वे बोल रहे थे।

प्रायोगिक रूप से किसी एक जिले को तय कर नीति अपनाएं

महाराष्ट्र राज्य खनिकर्म महामंडल के कार्यालय में हुई बैठक

महामंडल को मजबूत करने के लिए रिक्त पदों पर होगी भर्ती

राजस्व और रोजगार पर जोर देने की जरूरत

बैठक में विधायक और महामंडल के अध्यक्ष एड. आशीष जैस्वाल, व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक एम. जे. प्रदीप चंद्रन, महाव्यवस्थापक पी. वाई. टेंभरे, भूविज्ञान व खनिकर्म संचालनालय के उपसंचालक सेवकदास आवले सहित अधिकारी, कर्मचारी उपस्थित थे। भुसे ने कहा कि राज्य में विविध क्षेत्र में गौण खनिज का पर्याप्त भंडारण है। भूविज्ञान व खनिकर्म विभाग, महामंडल व अधिनस्थ विभागों ने गौण खनिज को ढूंढकर उस पर आधारित उद्योग निर्माण करने के लिए जानबूझकर प्रयास करने की जरूरत है। संबंधित विभाग को खनिज का शोध, संशोधन व उत्पादन से राजस्व व रोजगार निर्मिती पर जोर देना चाहिए। अवैध रेत चोरी व परिवहन पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए तेलंगाना व ओडिशा राज्य द्वारा अपनाई गई योजना अनुसार काम करें।



बहाल किए जाएंगे अधिकार

खनिकर्म मंत्री ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा आवंटित राज्य व राज्य के बाहरी कोयला खदान की रिपोर्ट करें। गडचिरोली स्थित सूरजागड़ स्थित खनिज उत्खनन प्रकल्प क्रियान्वित करने के लिए प्रयास करें। राज्य को विद्युत प्रकल्प के लिए लगने वाले खनिज की आपूर्ति शासकीय यंत्रणा द्वारा करने के लिए कार्यप्रणाली कार्यान्वित करें। कोयला और खनिज परिवहन पर नियंत्रण रखने के लिए केंद्र बनाकर देखरेख रखें। खनिकर्म महामंडल को मजबूत करने के लिए रिक्त पदों की भर्ती और पर्याप्त अनुदान सहित अधिकार बहाल किए जाएंगे।

Outlook bearish for MCX lead

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl.research bureau

MCX Lead



Lead futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), which saw a price decline towards the end of August to mark a one-month low of ₹174.2, has now recovered to ₹180.

Notably, the price band of ₹180-182 is a resistance region and a rally beyond this level is less likely.

Even if there is a rally from the current levels, it will be restricted to ₹185.

A decisive breach of ₹185 can turn the trend bullish with the resistance band seen in the ₹192-195 range.

Nevertheless, we hold a bearish view at this juncture, and forecast the contract to fall from the current level of ₹180 or ₹185.

The decline can drag the contract to the prior low of ₹166 recorded in mid-July. This is a good support against which the contract can see a rebound. Subsequent support is at ₹158.

STRATEGY

We suggest initiating fresh shorts at the current level. Short more if the lead future contract rallies to ₹185.

Place stop-loss at ₹188. Tighten the stop-loss to ₹180 when the contract falls below ₹172.

When the price touches ₹166, book three-fourth of the total shorts that you hold and then modify the stop-loss to ₹172.

Liquidate the remaining shorts when the contract touches ₹158.

Iron ore exports plunge 60% in August

Abhishek Law
New Delhi

Iron ore exports dipped 60 per cent year-on-year to 0.41 million tonnes (mt) in August, data from the Ministry of Commerce and trade sources showed.

High export duty and slowing demand in key export markets, primarily China, due to poor demand outlook for steel, property sector crises and Covid-related restriction continued to impact numbers, sources said. In the year-

ago period (August 2021), export of iron ore was to the tune of 1.02 mt.

The Centre has hiked export duty on iron ore to 50 per cent since May 22, and export to key markets fell from a high 2.70 mt in May to 0.31 mt in June and 0.50 mt in July.

On a sequential basis (July versus August), exports dropped 18 per cent.

According to market estimates, 145 mt of low-grade iron ore is lying at mine heads and dumps. Low-grade iron ore means iron content is less than 58 per cent. These are

the prime offerings in the export market, especially to China, say traders.

MARKET TRENDS

For the April to August period, exports were 6.97 mt, down nearly 62 per cent y-o-y and the lowest in four years. Exports in the same period last year was 18.15 mt.

Commerce Department data till July-end, accessed by *businessline*, show that the prime market of China saw a 70 per cent drop in exports for April to July FY23, at 14.6 mt. On a month-on-month basis,

the fall in export was 86 per cent.

Among the other markets, exports to Korea saw a 77 per cent fall y-o-y for the period under review (April to July); Brazil 26 per cent; Indonesia 14 per cent; Italy 16 per cent; Nepal 23 per cent; Oman 84 per cent; and Vietnam 37 per cent.

Malaysia, incidentally, bucked the trend to report a 44 per cent rise in exports during the first four months of the fiscal. In the April to July 2022 period exports stood at 126,808 tonnes.

Chinese Gold Fetches Huge Premium as Demand Improves

Bloomberg

Gold in China is trading at a huge premium to international prices as a revival in demand outstrips the country's imports.

Benchmark prices in Shanghai have climbed to a premium of more than \$43 an ounce over their London equivalent, the highest since 2019, according to data from the World Gold Council. Unusually, the two have steadily diverged over the course of the month, with the Chinese market remaining relatively firm despite pressure on international prices.

The difference shows how demand in China is outstripping supply, which is constrained by government policy. Only accredited banks in the country are allowed to import gold, with quantities set by the People's Bank of China.

Banks will likely receive new imports quotas after the holiday in October, according to a person familiar with the matter. Local importers have recently been struggling to get shipments approved by Chinese lenders, according to people familiar with the matter, a sign they may have used up their existing quotas.

Although China's gold imports in August surged to a four-year high, there's still a shortfall dating from the start of the pandemic, when purchases from overseas collapsed. Imports weakened again this spring as jewelry demand took a hit after the financial center of Shanghai was locked down to control the virus.



COMMODITY CALL.

Bet short on aluminium

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl.research bureau

MCX Aluminium



The continuous futures of aluminium on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), which has been on a downtrend since early March, found some relief after the contract started to chart sideways by taking support at ₹200.

A few weeks ago the contract slipped below the support at ₹205, hinting at a comeback by bears. It even declined below ₹200 and is currently hovering around ₹195.

Given the prevailing conditions, we expect the contract to touch ₹170 before the end of the year.

On the upside, the price levels of ₹200 and ₹205 can cap the rally.

Only a clear breach of ₹215 can turn the outlook positive for aluminium futures.

TRADING STRATEGY

Last week, we recommended initiating fresh short positions at around ₹205 with stop-loss at ₹220.

Traders who implemented this can retain their short trades but modify the stop-loss to ₹205.

Tighten this to ₹200 when the contract slips below ₹186. Exit all the shorts at ₹170.

For fresh positions, one should wait and go short with stop-loss at ₹205 only if price rises to ₹200 for better risk-reward ratio. Subsequent adjustments can be made as suggested above.

‘Consolidation of Steel Major Likely to be Complex Process’

Plan to amalgamate group cos with itself will require approvals: Experts


Maulik.Vyas@timesgroup.com


Mumbai: The Tata Group’s decision to consolidate its metal and resource companies into Tata Steel is likely to be a very complex and time-consuming effort for the group where the scheme of amalgamation will require approvals from its stakeholders along with regulatory approvals.


The group has initiated the process to consolidate its seven subsidiaries including four listed companies Tata Metaliks, Tata Steel Long Products, TRF and Tinplate Company of India into Tata Steel. The other three companies are Indian Steel & Wire Products, Tata Steel Mining and S&T Mining Company.


“Each scheme of amalgamation will require approvals from shareholders, creditors and stock exchanges. There could be other approvals required from regulatory authorities,” said Sudip Mahapatra, partner at S&R Associate. “Finally, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will need to approve the scheme. Typically, such amalgamations take 6 to 12 months

Long Road Ahead

 Schemes involve coordination with several listed cos, regulators, statutory authorities & shareholders

 Since 2019 Tata Steel has reduced 116 associated entities, and 72 subsidiaries have ceased to exist.

 Steel major eliminated 20 associates and JV to bring operational efficiencies

In recent times, some amalgamations have taken longer due to the backlog at the NCLT 



to complete.”

Tata Steel, in its regulatory filing, has said that it has taken this step to improve the operational efficiencies that include centralized sourcing which would result in procurement synergies and reduction in stores/spare through common inventory management.

According to Chandubhai Mehta, managing partner of law firm Dhruve Liladhar & Co, the compliance department of Tata Steel is likely to remain busy for a really long time due to this announcement. “This is a very tedious and complex scheme that involves coordination with several listed companies, regulators, statutory au-

thorities and shareholders among others to consolidate all the companies into one,” said Mehta.

The steel behemoth is looking for better utilisation of common facilities and greater efficiencies in debt and cash management.

“The proposed consolidation as approved by the respective board of directors, is likely to consume time in view of multiple regulatory interface and necessary approvals/no objections requirements, including that of the designated stock exchanges and the jurisdictional bench of national company law tribunal,” said Harish Kumar, partner of law firm Luthra and Luthra Law Office.

Tata Steel to Merge 7 Group Cos with Self

Move to help co simplify holding structure and minimise costs

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Tata Steel, Asia's oldest manufacturer of the primary infrastructure alloy, on Friday announced the merger of seven group metal and mining companies into itself to simplify the group holding structure and minimise costs.

The companies to be merged into Tata Steel include Tata Steel Long Products, Tinplate Co. of India, Tata Metaliks, Indian Steel & Wire Products, Tata Steel Mining, S&T Mining Co, and TRF.

Four of these companies — Tata Steel Long Products, Tinplate Company, Tata Metaliks and TRF — are listed. Their stocks declined after the merger announcement, falling between 5% and 12%, amid a broader emerging-market equities sell-off triggered by the climb of the dollar index to a fresh record.

These companies operate in both upstream and downstream industries linked to primary steelmaking. These mergers are the latest bids by Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran to consolidate and simplify the holding structure across group companies. Earlier this year, the group had announced the merger of Tata Consumer and Tata Coffee. The Tatas are also looking to simplify their airlines business by bringing Air Asia India and Vistara under the Air India brand by 2024, recent media reports said.

"The proposed amalgamations will enhance management efficiency, drive sharper strategic focus and improve agility across businesses based on the strong paren-

Hand in Hand



Merger could accrue
₹750-800 cr
in annual savings



Tata Steel's board and boards of amalgamating cos have approved merger

SHARE SWAP RATIOS

For every 10 shares of Tata Steel Long Products, shareholders will get 67 shares of Tata Steel



For Tinplate Co, Tata Metaliks and TRF, ratio is 33, 79, and 17 shares, respectively, of Tata Steel for every 10 held

HIGHLIGHT

Since 2019, Tata Steel has reduced 116 associated entities



tal support from Tata Steel leadership," the steelmaker said in a press statement. "On completion, there will be further opportunities toward reduction of overhead and corporate costs."

The amalgamations will also drive synergies through raw material security, centralized procurement, optimization of inventories, reduced logistics costs, and better faci-

lity utilisation, the company said. Multiple jobs are also expected to become redundant due to the merger. However, given the expansion plans at Tata Steel, most of these employees would be absorbed elsewhere in the group, sources aware of the matter said. Since 2019, Tata Steel has reduced 116 associated entities including the cessation of 72 subsidiaries, elimination of 20 associates and joint ventures and liquidation of 24 companies.

STRONG BUSINESS CASE

"Besides simplifying the group structure in line with the strategic intent, the amalgamation scheme of seven subsidiaries with the parent, in our view, is likely to result in material benefits in the medium to long term," Amit Dixit, director at Edelweiss Financial Services, wrote in a note Friday.

The benefits include saving on royalty charge for iron ore at Tata Steel and Tata Metaliks, balancing of iron ore assets the group holds in different companies and synergies in multiple areas, Dixit wrote. The additional royalty charge was ₹390 crore for Tata Steel alone in FY22.

STOCKS RETREAT

Tata Steel Long Products lost 12.02% to close at ₹68.85 on the BSE, while TRF touched its 5% lower circuit to close at ₹355.65. Tata Metaliks and The Tinplate Company of India ended the session 4.67% and 5.96% lower, respectively, at ₹763.25 and ₹318.2.

By contrast, Tata Steel closed 0.58% higher at ₹104.25 on the BSE.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF LOOPHOLE

Traders Importing Refined Gold as Platinum Alloy

Objective is to avoid higher duty of 15%

Sutanuka Ghosal
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Taking advantage of ambiguity in the law on the import of platinum alloys, many bullion importers are importing refined gold cloaked as platinum alloy. The objective is to pay a lower import duty, which is 10.75% on platinum alloy compared with 15% on gold.

Nearly 22 tonnes of gold have been imported through this route, industry sources said, adding that it was causing a revenue loss of more than ₹400 crore for the government. The India Bullion & Jewellers Association has, meanwhile, written to the finance ministry, requesting to change the policy.

The customs notification that is helping the bullion importers says: "Any alloy (including a sintered mixture and an intermetallic compound) containing precious metal is to be treated as an alloy of a precious metal if any one precious metal constitutes as much as 2% by weight of the alloy and hence, an alloy containing 2% or more, by weight, of platinum is to be treated as an alloy of platinum."

Importers are exploiting the notification by declaring the consignment as platinum rods which comprise 4% platinum and 96% gold, thus ending up paying a duty



of 10.75%, said the chairman of a South India-based jewellery retailer, who did not want to be named.

Importers are not at fault as the law permits them to import platinum alloy bars having only 2% platinum and the balance gold, IBJA national secretary Surendra Mehta told ET.

The duty has been the same on gold and platinum even two months ago, when the levy on gold was increased to 15% but that on platinum was kept at 10.75%. "Thus, it becomes advantageous to import platinum alloy bars having gold content and save 4.25% duty, which works out to almost Rs 2 lakh per kg. Hence import duty on platinum alloy bars should be brought at par with the duty on gold, to avoid any loss to exchequer," he explained.

Indicators signal bearish trend in MCX copper

COMMODITY CALL.

Gurumurthy K

BL Research Bureau

The outlook for the copper futures contract traded on the MCX is bearish. The bounce from the July low of ₹601 per kg halted at ₹684 in mid-August and prices declined thereafter. This indicates that the overall down-trend that has been in place since March is intact. Indicators are also showing a bearish signal.

The contract is currently trading at ₹628 per kg. Resistance is at ₹645 and then at ₹660. Any intermediate bounce can be capped either at ₹645 or at ₹660. A corrective rally from ₹600 to ₹620-625 is a possibility. However, the overall picture will con-



tinue to remain weak, and the contract is likely reverse lower again from the ₹620-₹625 region.

Traders can go short at current levels in the MCX copper futures contract. Accumulate shorts on a rise at ₹640.

Keep the stop-loss at ₹665. Trail the stop-loss down to ₹618 as soon as the contract falls to ₹608. Move the stop-loss further down to ₹605 when the contract touches ₹595 on the downside. Book profits at ₹580.

'Cement Firms' Profitability may Dip 15% on Input Costs'

PTI

Mumbai: Despite a high double-digit demand growth, the profitability of cement companies is set to fall by 15% because price hikes lag increase in production cost, according to a report. The report by rating agency Crisil, however, said that higher demand will cushion the credit outlook for the sector.

Operating profitability of cement makers will decline 15% year-on-year to Rs 900-925 per tonne this fiscal, adding to the pain of a 9% decline last fiscal, as an increase in realisations will not be enough to offset the increase in prices of coal, petcoke and diesel that has pushed the average cost of production higher, the agency said in a report on Monday.

However, the 17% demand growth in cement demand during the first quarter, albeit on the low base last fiscal, offers a silver lining, the report noted, saying though growth may taper in subsequent quarters, and print in at 8-10% for the full fiscal, it will still be the highest since fiscal 2019.

On credit profile, the report, based on an analysis of 22 cement-makers that account for 85% of the market volume, said higher demand will mitigate the impact of lower profitability on absolute operating profit and cash accruals of ce-



ment makers.

According to Koustav Mazumdar, an associate director at the agency, volume growth will be driven by non-housing segments, wherein off-take is expected to rise more than 15%.

Demand from the infrastructure segment will be aided by government spending, while industrial/commercial demand will be driven by growing investment in data centres and warehousing, and of source the low base. Off-take from the housing segment is expected to grow 5%, taking overall volume growth to 8-10%.

According to the report, the eastern markets are leading the demand drive with a 13-14% uptick, largely on a lower base, followed by the central and southern regions at 10% each, driven by infra projects. The northern and western markets - relatively more developed in the rural-urban mix as well as infrastructure - may see mid-single-digit growth.

MCX zinc: Go short on a break below ₹260

Gurumurthy K

bl.research bureau

The zinc futures contract traded on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) is under pressure.

The sharp fall witnessed on Friday last week, on the back of a strong dollar, extended on Monday also. It made a low of ₹263.35 per kg on Monday and has bounced back slightly from there. It is currently trading at ₹265.65.

An important support is at ₹260. The chances seem high for the contract to break below ₹260.

This will increase the bearish momentum and push it down to ₹240-235 in the next couple of weeks.

If the contract manages to sustain above ₹260, an intermediate bounce to ₹265-270 is possible.

A sustained rise past ₹270 is needed to avert the danger of breaking below ₹260. But that looks less likely as seen from the charts.

The 21-day moving average (DMA) has gone below the 55-DMA.

This is a negative signal, indicating that the upside will be capped, and more fall is on the cards.

TRADING STRATEGY

Traders can wait for the contract to break below ₹260 and then go short. Stop-loss can be kept at ₹267.

Trail the stop-loss down to ₹254 as soon as the contract falls to ₹247. Move the stop-loss further down to ₹246 when the contract touches ₹241. Book profits at ₹238.



WCL and Directorate of Tourism ink MoU for Eco Mine Tourism

■ Staff Reporter

WESTERN Coalfields Limited (WCL) and Maharashtra Government's Directorate of Tourism have signed a formal memorandum of understanding (MoU) for promoting Eco Mine Tourism.

As per the MoU, tourists will visit Saoner Underground Mine, Gondegaon Mine, Adasa Open Cast Mine, Adasa Temple and Mahatma Gandhi Eco Park at Saoner. The effort is to disseminate knowledge about coal mining in the easiest way possible, making the process light and purposeful for the visitors. Eco Mine

Tourism is an initiative to educate and inform students and the society at large about coal mines and mining processes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had mentioned about 'The Eco Park' at Saoner in his 'Mann ki Baat' programme on March 27, 2016, and had appreciated WCL for developing and executing the concept of mine tourism. Already, WCL has been conducting tours of Saoner Underground Mine and Gondegaon Open Cast Mine. The Eco Park created in between these two mines, is surrounded by four underground mines and one open cast coal mine in close vicinity. It utilises

mine water for gardening, water conservation and amusement purposes while showcasing several demonstrable technologies such as solar electrification of water pump, rain water harvesting, and micro irrigation.

The MoU between WCL and Directorate of Tourism will be valid for a period of five years. As per the MoU, the booking from tourists will be the responsibility of Directorate of Tourism and their associated offices. In each instance, six to 20 people will be clubbed for Eco Mine visit.

(Contd on page 2)

WCL and Directorate of Tourism ink MoU for Eco Mine Tourism



Manoj Kumar, CMD of WCL; Milind Borikar, Director, Directorate of Tourism, signing the MoU for Eco Mine Tourism in presence of Mangalprabhat Lodha, Minister of Tourism, and Nitin Karir, Additional Chief Secretary (Tourism).

(Contd from page 1)

The MoU between WCL and Directorate of Tourism was signed on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

Manoj Kumar, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of WCL, and Milind Borikar, Director, Directorate of Tourism, signed the MoU in a function held in Mumbai. The MoU was signed in presence of Mangalprabhat Lodha, Minister of Tourism, and Nitin Karir, Additional Chief Secretary (Tourism). Narendra Kumar, General Manager (Administration/ PR), WCL, and Anand Tembhurnikar, RSO, Mumbai, also were present on this occasion.

Stainless steel demand gathers pace

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Demand for stainless steel is on the rise with infrastructure and real estate sectors looking for new age material that is light but strong and durable in the longer run, says Rajesh Mohata, CEO and Executive Director, JSL Lifestyle Ltd (JSL).

The consumer's mindset is changing "radically" and is looking for newer and more luxurious products helping buoy stainless steel demand, Mohata told *BusinessLine*.

"Recently, we got enquiries from customers for designer beer mugs in steel. We were ready to meet the demand and came up with laser finish for the mugs," he said.

REALTY SECTOR BOOM

Similarly, some customers have come up with stainless steel and leather wardrobes, which is somewhat "unique" and JSL agreed to meet the



Rajesh Mohata, CEO and Executive Director, JSL Lifestyle Ltd

demand, he said. With the real estate industry booming and the sector's trend being "bullish", JSL is working on providing home furnishings and kitchen solutions. Similarly, there is good demand for stainless steel in bath wear and accessories.

"Plumbing and pipe fitting business has picked up. People have begun to accept stainless steel in these despite prices being higher. This has resulted in orders increasing three times. This is

also helping expand our business," Mohata said. People have begun investing in homes and home furnishings besides kitchen solutions. "We are seeing demand in the ultra-luxury segment, including villas," he said.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Other sectors where stainless steel is witnessing good demand is the private business-to-business health, hygiene and hospital sector. "JSL has provided stainless steel applications for the Mata Amritanandamayi Hospitals at Faridabad in Haryana. We are getting good demand from hospital and hospitality plumbing solutions," the JSL CEO said.

Changes have begun happening in the construction sector too with the company getting enquiries for solutions to construct earthquake-resistant buildings. "The demand is to withstand quakes that measure 9 on

the Richter scale. People are looking beyond today as a result of which they are looking at stainless steel girders," Mohata said.

One reason why the demand for stainless steel is picking up is that people are looking at the longevity of a product rather than buying a product cheap and painting them repeatedly. "The government itself is promoting such a concept through the construction of the Statue of Oneness and the Statue of Democracy. This helping stainless steel demand," he said.

JSL, which recently set up a plant in Chennai to cater to the Railways, is trying to produce to its capacity. The company is supplying steel for the Chennai Metro Rail project. "Infrastructure projects such as metro rails will ensure demand for stainless steel as the government and public look for such facilities for mobility," the JSL CEO said.

Plans Afoot to Streamline Movement of Coal for Summer Rush

Twesh.Mishra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India is drawing up a plan to streamline coal movement to avoid the summer season rush to reach fuel to thermal power plants that disrupt railway traffic, reducing supplies to non-power industries and hitting the movement of other goods.

The core of the plan is to scientifically manage power companies' coal requirement, and also shift transport to waterways and sea routes in some states.



Under the plan that is in the works, power producers could be asked to stagger coal supplies, a move that may require changes in their coal supply arrangements, officials in the know said. Penal provisions such as demurrage charges on cargo lying at ports beyond a certain period and premium from short-haul movement on rail network could also be considered.

Coastal states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu may be asked to use the sea route for reaching coal to power plants.

The plan is being worked out by the Niti Aayog in consultation with stakeholder ministries based on the recommendations of sub-groups set up to look into the issues around the coal movement in the country.

"Plan is being finalised... Measures to ease bottlenecks that plague coal movement are being exami-

Aluminium: Go short at ₹191.5

Gurumurthy K
bl.research bureau



Aluminium prices seem to be getting a breather. The October series on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) made a low of ₹186.75 per kg on Wednesday and has risen from there. It is currently trading at ₹190.5.

However, this is just a relief rally within the overall downtrend. Immediate resistance is at ₹192, and a much higher resistance is at ₹193.5. The new leg of fall can target ₹181.50 over the next couple of weeks. A break below the immediate support at ₹186.50 can accelerate the fall.

The level of ₹181.50 is a good intermediate support. This can hold in its first test. As such, a corrective rally to ₹185-187 cannot be ruled out.

However, the overall trend will remain down, and the contract can still fall again. The fresh fall thereafter can drag the futures to ₹175 and even ₹170 over the medium term.

TRADING STRATEGY

Traders can go short now. Accumulate shorts at ₹191.5. Keep the stop-loss at ₹194.5. Trail the stop-loss down to ₹187.50 as soon as the contract falls to ₹186.25.

Move the stop-loss further down to ₹186 as soon as the contract touches ₹184.5. Book profits at ₹183.50.