

SECTION – 4

Highlights

A. DOMESTIC

NMDC plans to spend Rs. 3000 Crore on Chhattisgarh Steel Plant

NMDC will spend around Rs. 3,000 crores next fiscal on its maiden steel venture at Chhattisgarh's Nagarnar, which has planned capacity of 3 million tonnes. As per NMDC's Director this plant will be commissioned in mid of the year 2015.

(The Indian Mining & Engineering Journal, April 2013)

SAIL inks deal with Kerala companies for Titanium Project

Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) and two Kerala Government –owned outfits- Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) and Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd (KMML)- signed an MoU for setting up a Rs. 2,500 crore joint venture titanium project in the state. This will be the another major titanium project in Kerala after the nation's first titanium sponge plant was set up at KMML's Chavara complex in Kerala as a collaboration of KMML, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory in 2011.

(Business Line, 05th April, 2013)

Supreme Court cancels 49 mining leases in Karnataka

The Supreme Court cancelled 49 leases Category 'C' mines that reported maximum illegalities in Bellary , Tumkur and Chitradurga districts of Karnataka. But it allowed resumption of activity in mines with fewer illegalities, as recommended by Central Empowered Committee.

(Business Line, 19th April , 2013)

Government imposes import duty on steel, aluminum

The government has imposed 2.5% import duty on various types of scraps – melting steel, stainless steel and aluminum scraps and has withdrawn exemption of special additional customs duty on brass scrap. This measures were taken through two different notifications.

(Financial Express, 11th May, 2013)

SAIL plans second plant at Burnpur

Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) is planning to set up a new 3 million tonnes per annum MTPA plant at Burnpur, in West Bengal, in addition to 2.5 MTPA unit now under erection there.

(The Hindu, 17th May, 2013)

IMMT Extracts Alumina from fly ash

The Institute of Minerals and Material Technology (IMMT) has succeeded in extracting alumina from industrial waste fly ash and is all set to become the first laboratory in the country to develop the process into a commercially variable technology for the industries. The scientists at IMMT have extracted aluminium sulphate (Al_2SO_4) using fly ash. Fly ash, an industrial waste generated from thermal power plants and is used mostly in cement and brick making industries. The scientists got the project sanctioned by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under 12th Five Year Plan for extracting of metal from industrial waste.

(The Indian Mining & Engineering Journal, June 2013)

Jindal Steel & Power plans to set up a plant in Oman

Jindal Steel and Power Plant to commission a 2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity plant in Oman, which the company claims would be largest steel plant in Gulf region. It is also estimated for investment of USD 500 million in developing the other facilities there.

(IRMA Journal, June 2013)

Rajasthan allocates iron ore block to RINL

The Rajasthan Government has allocated a large iron ore block at Bhilwara to RINL in a move that has been approved by the Ministry of Mines. RINL plans to initially invest Rs. 2,500 crore to set up a beneficiation unit and a 2 million tonnes pellet plant in Bhilwara for value addition of the ore before using it at the Vizag Steel Plant .

(MGMI , Vol 39 No. 1, April-June 2013)

Govt. to offer 8 lignite blocks through bidding

The government has identified 8 lignite blocks to be offered under the competitive bidding process. Of these, five are in Gujarat, while the remaining are located in Rajasthan.

(Business Line, 03rd July , 2013)

APMDC, KIOCL, RINL, ink MOU

KIOCL Ltd has signed an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation and RINL for exploration and exploitation of iron ore and setting up of beneficiation and pelletisation plants of 1.2 MTPA each in Anantapur district with an investment of Rs. 1,000 – 1,5000 crore. A MoU was signed among these three public sectors in the presence of the Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy for exploration and exploitation of iron ore in Nemalkal and Hiradahalu village of Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh.

(The Indian Mining & Engineering Journal, July 2013)

SAIL eyes Karnataka Iron Ore Mine

SAIL has set sights a 140 hectares mine in Karnataka and has initiated talks with the state government for early allocation and granting of iron ore mining lease for 140 hectares in North Eastern Block range in Bellary district of Karnataka.

(The Indian Mining & Engineering Journal, July 2013)

Steel Consortium to Draft Plans to Fund Afghan Project

The consortium led by SAIL that holds 20% stake in the consortium, had bagged the mining rights for three iron ore mines in Hajigak. It plans to invest \$ 10.8 billion over 8-10 years to develop the mines as well as set up a 6.12 million tonnes per annum steel plant and a 800 MW power plant. The financial issues of the Hajigak project has been discussed with Ministry of Mines in Kabul. The Hajigak deposit has a resource base of approximately 1.8 billion tonnes with 62 % iron content. The Indian Consortium proposes to fund \$ 75 million for prospecting and geological exploration of the mine.

(The Indian Mining & Engineering Journal, July 2013)

JSPL commissions India's 'biggest' Steel Melting Shop

Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL), has commissioned the largest steel melting shop (SMS) signalling the completion of 2.5 million tonnes per annum capacity of its 6 MTPA integrated steel plant at Angul, Odisha. The Electric Arc Furnace of the SMS is of 250 tonnes capacity and is the largest in size in India and second in Asia.

(Irma Journal, September 2013)

NGT tells Uttarakhand to stop permits for sand mining

A National Green Tribunal (NGT) Judge warned the Uttarakhand Government to stop giving permission for sand mining after a resident claimed that the state is blatantly violating the Court's recent ban on it.

(Indian Express, 6th September, 2013)

SAIL scouting for new iron ore mine

State-owned SAIL is scouting for new iron ore mines in several states, including Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Odisha for gearing up to increase its steel making capacity by up to 50% to 21 million tonnes by this fiscal.

(Business Line, 9th September, 2013)

Jindal Steel set to plug into Liberia

Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Liberian government to set up a power plant in the West African Country. The company plans to build a 2X175 megawatt thermal power plant. The Power Plant is likely to require an investment of \$250 million, or Rs. 1,600 crore, and work on the ground is expected to start next year. It will be built in two phases.

(Telegraph, 11th September, 2013)

B. ABROAD

Zambia plans to ban emerald auctions outside country

GEMFIELDS Plc, the world's largest producer of emeralds, said the Zambian government proposed to ban the sale of emeralds through auctions outside of the country. The company's main asset is the Kagem Mine, the world's single largest emeralds mine, located in Northern Zambia.

(Mining Journal, 12th April, 2013)

Toroparu pre- feasibility shows capital reduction

The pre-feasibility study (PFS) on the Toroparu gold project in the Republic of Guyana showed a reduction in estimated capital expenditure compared with last years updated Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) Project owner, Sandspring Resources Ltd, said it expected initial capital, net of pre-production revenues, to total US \$ 464 million compared with the US \$ 482 million estimate contained in the January 2012 PEA.

(Mining Journal, 12th April, 2013)

Chilean Court orders halt to construction at Pascua Lama

The Court in Chile has ordered a halt to the construction, pending a hearing, of Barrick Gold Corp's Pascua – Lama silver gold project, which straddles the border with Argentina.

(Mining Journal, 12th April, 2013)

Rio copper output hit hard after Bingham Canyon Landslide

Rio Tinto said it expected to lose 125,000 tonnes of mined copper in 2013 following a landslide at its Bingham Canyon mine near Salt Lake City, Utah. The company said more than 150 Mt of material swept down the north-eastern wall in April 2010. Rio said mining operations at Bingham had been suspended and the site's concentrator shut down; although smelting and refining were ongoing, albeit at a limited capacity.

(Mining Journal, 19th April, 2013)

Queensland shortlists five bidders for bauxite project

The Government of Queensland, Australia, has finalized a shortlist of five bidders, which include some of the world's largest mining companies, for the development of the Aurukun bauxite resource on the Cape York Peninsula.

Aluminium Corp. of China (Chalco), Glencore International plc and Rio Tinto are among those named, with the other two bidders made up of Consortia.

(Mining Journal, 26th April, 2013)

US bank authorizes US\$50 m loan for Oyu Tolgoi copper-gold project

The Export-Import Bank of the United States pledged US\$ 500 million towards the development of Rio Tinto's Oyu Tolgoi copper-gold project in Mongolia. The investment would support 2,000 jobs in the US through the use of American-made equipment and services at the mine.

(Mining Journal, 24th May, 2013)

Freeport restarts open – pit mining at Grasberg

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc has resumed open – pit mining at its Grasberg copper gold mine in Indonesia, but it remains unclear when underground operations will resume. The Company said it had lost approximately 52,000 tonnes of copper and 115,000 oz of gold at the mine since it suspended operations on May 14 after a tunnel collapse killed 28. Indonesia's energy and resources ministry had given the company, approval to restart open-pit mining.

(Mining Journal, 28th June, 2013)

Greenland Plans to Join Kimberley Process

Greenland has agreed to participate in the Kimberley process for certifying diamonds as untainted by war and civil strife, taking another steps towards strengthening its mining regulatory controls.

As Greenland is not part of the EU, the European Commission (EC) has proposed a special law that will integrate the island with European Kimberley Controls. If this is approved, the EU's six Kimberley control authorities would have to verify the country's rough diamond exports as being Greenlandic for them to be exported to EU member states and other Kimberley countries.

(Mining Journal, 5th July, 2013)

Brockman and Aurizon agreement

Brockman Mining Ltd has formed a binding relationship agreement with Freight Rail Company Aurizon Holidays Ltd for three years to develop and operate the infrastructure for the Marillana and Opthalmia Iron Ore Projects in Western Australia.

(Mining Journal, 5th July 2013)

Anatolia makes Positive PEA for Temrezli project

Anatolia Energy Ltd has completed a preliminary economic assessment (PEA) for an in-situ recovery (ISR) uranium projects in Turkey's central Anatolia region.

It has an indicated and inferred mineral resource estimate of 17.4 Mlb U₃O₈ at an average grade of 1,170 ppm and the PEA estimated total production of 9.13 Mlb at U₃O₈ from the project at a production rate of 1 Mlb/y.

(Mining Journal, 5th July, 2013)

Rusal to boost output at Guinea bauxite project

Rusal, the world's largest aluminium producer, and the Government of Guinea have signed a plan to develop the Dian-Dian bauxite deposit, which will involve building an alumina refinery and gradually increasing our output.

During the first stage, the company will develop a bauxite mine with a capacity of 3 million tonnes per year by 2015, potentially lifting output to 6 million tonnes per year by 2019. An alumina refinery plant with the capacity of 1.2 million tonnes per year is expected to be built in the next six years under the plan.

(Metal World, July, 2013)

Eramet unit negotiates nickel mine

Eramet SA unit PT Weda Bay Nickel, negotiating with Indonesia to set up a \$ 5 billion nickel mine and smelter, agreed on four out of six points in a government reviewed of the company's mining contract.

(Metal World, July, 2013)

Copper scrap metal exporters to seek clearance from national security

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has directed that with effect from 1st February 2013 companies or persons intending to export copper scrap metals from Ghana must seek clearance from office of the National Security Co-ordinator.

(Metal World, July 2013)

Century acquired Rio Tinto Alean's selrec smelter

Monterey, California based Century Aluminium Company has announced that is buying Rio Tinto Alean's Sebree Aluminium Smelter in Henderson Country, Kentueky over 500 people and has an annual production capacity of 205 kt/yr of primary aluminium

(Metal World, July 2013)

Australia's Merlin diamond mine resumes production

Australia-listed Merlin Diamonds Ltd said it had restarted production at its Merlin diamond mine in Northern Territory more than a decade after the site's former owner, Rio Tinto, closed the operation. Merlin is one of three producing diamond operations in Australia, alongside Rio's Argyle and Kimberley Diamonds Ltd's Ellendale, both of which are in Western Australia.

(Mining Journal, 20th September, 2013)

Nord Gold to fund gold exploration in French Guiana

Nord Gold NV has entered into an agreement with Columbus Gold Corp. to earn a controlling stake in certain licences in French Guiana.

The binding letter of intent states that Nord Gold can accrue a 50.1 % interest in the Montagne d'Or deposit within the Paul Isnard project area by completing a bankable feasibility study (BFS) and spending a minimum of US\$30 million over three years. The Project contains inferred gold resources of 4.15 MOZ at 2.22 g/t Au.

(Mining Journal, 20th September, 2013)

Mesco steel's expansion plan for Kalinganagar Plant

Mideast Integrated Steel Ltd (MISL), a venture of Mesco Steel Group, would invest Rs. 10,500 crore to ramp up the capacity its pig iron plant at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district .The capacity would be expanded to 3.5 MTPA from 1.2 MTPA.

(IRMA Journal, September 2013)

Arcelor Mittal restarts Steel expansion project in Brazil

Arcelor Mittal has announced that it is to restart an expansion project at its Monlevade and Juiz de Fora sites in Brazil, which will increase production capacity from 3.75 to 4.9 million tonnes a year.

(IRMA Journal, September 2013)

Refractories production could reach 46 mt by 2017

A new report has forecast that world refractories production will increase from 41.5 Mt to 46 Mt by 2017, buoying a sector that has been struggling through the economic downturn. China influence remains strong both as a major producer and user of refractories, as well as a world supplier of key refractory minerals such as bauxite, magnesia, graphite, fused alumina and silicon carbide. Driving the demand for refractories by 2017 will be the steel industry, which accounts for around 70% of world refractories consumption.

(Industrial Minerals, September 2013)

Silicon Carbide (SiC) could replace zircon for nuclear fuel rods

Scientists at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, are investigating the replacement of zirconium used in nuclear fuels rods with silicon carbide (SiC) to help prevent hydrogen explosions. A fuel rod is composed of zirconium alloy tube filled with 100 of small pellets of enriched uranium. The fuel rods are packed into bundles and then placed into the nuclear reactor.

Although the rods are used in reactors, all over the world, problems can occur when the rods heat up and the zirconium becomes hot enough to react from the steam from the water-cooling system and produce hydrogen. More than 90% of the world reactors are water-cooled.

The hydrogen produced from this reaction with the cooling system is believed to have exploded during the earth quake and tsunami in Japan in 2011, which damaged the Fukushima Nuclear reactor. Scientists from MIT pointed out that the greatest damage to complex, and release of radiation, may have been caused by explosions of hydrogen gas that built up inside some of the reactors. A team of researchers at MIT is developing an alternative that could provide similar protection, for nuclear fuel, while reducing the risk of hydrogen production by roughly a thousand folds.

(Industrial Minerals, September 2013)