



खनिज समाचार  
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# खनिज समाचार

# KHANIJ SAMACHAR



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# From Oil to Zinc, Vedanta Chief Readies Mega Expansion Plan

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** Mining mogul Anil Agarwal is pushing ahead with an aggressive plan to raise oil and gas production, expand output of metals like zinc and aluminum, and foray into semiconductor manufacturing, undeterred by concerns about debt levels at the company.

In an interview with PTI, he said mining can help India prosper as tapping into below-the-ground natural resources will not just cut dependence on imports but also create jobs and increase prosperity.

Vedanta, the company he fo-



unded and is chairman of, has ambitious plans to raise production across the business — from oil and gas to zinc and aluminum. “We will be producing in two years time 300,000 barrels of oil (and oil equivalent gas) and in 4-5 years’ time 500,000 barrels,” he

said. In the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023, Vedanta produced 142,615 barrels of oil and oil equivalent gas, primarily from its Rajasthan assets.

“Demand for zinc is increasing. We are looking at South Africa and here (in India) together to cater to the demand-supply gap and to produce around 3 million tonnes at the cost of \$1,000 per tonne,” he said, adding aluminum too is seeing a 20% YoY growth.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:1/5/2023 P.No7

# Tata Steel’s experiment grabs attention

**WAR ON CARBON.** Indian steel maker inches closer to running blast furnaces with significant amount of hydrogen in place of coke

M Ramesh

**I**t was a tiny experiment, but it made the world sit up and take notice.

Because, if taken to fruition, it has the potential to replace up to 20 per cent of the coke used in steel making with hydrogen — a very big deal in reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

On April 23, Tata Steel announced that it successfully injected a small quantity of hydrogen into one of its blast furnaces (6 kg per tonne of hot metal, for four days). Globally, only two such attempts have been reported before. The first was a 2015 Japanese project called Course50, which involved indirect injection of hydrogen in the form of coke oven gas. The other was a 2021 experiment at the German company Thyssenkrupp, where 0.5 kg of hydrogen per tonne of hot metal was injected for a few hours.

Neither compares with what Tata Steel — one of the biggest steel companies globally with annual capacity of 35 million tonnes — did in scale or duration.

“It was a resounding success,” Dr Debashish Bhattacharjee, Vice-President (Technology and R&D), Tata Steel, told *Quantum*. The experiment generated “enormous amounts of data”, he said, adding that it graduated “from pen-and-paper to real life”.

Given the grave concerns over climate change, replacing carbon dioxide-emitting coke with hydrogen has become the holy grail of the steel industry, which, according to the International Energy Agency, emitted some 2.8 billion tonnes, or about 7 per cent of the global emissions of the greenhouse gas from energy use in 2020.

On paper it is easy. Carbon in



**ADDED EFFECT.** Piping hydrogen into a blast furnace requires careful handling to avoid leaks and embrittlement

ore to leave behind pure iron; hydrogen does just the same, but with no greenhouse gas emissions. The problem, however, is that the world has invested billions of dollars in building huge blast furnaces to make steel.

Blast furnaces don’t care how little iron there is in the ore, so you can use low-grade ores (which are predominant in India). But putting hydrogen into blast furnaces is fraught with difficulties. Hydrogen needs external energy (endothermic) and the reactions inside the blast furnace are very different, leading to issues of structural stability. (It is easier to use hydrogen with the electric arc furnace, but these require high-grade ores.)

“As long as you have blast furnaces, you would need coke,” says

While you can’t replace coke with hydrogen in a blast furnace, you can replace a part of it, and keep increasing that part till you cannot do it any more — that is, until the structural stability becomes an unavoidable issue.

Tata Steel (indeed the global steel industry) knows that the way forward is to replace as much coke as possible with hydrogen (preferably, green hydrogen) and deal with the attendant carbon dioxide emissions through other means, such as fixing the gas in some useful compound or burying it underground.

#### A GLOBAL FIRST

Tata Steel’s experiment is a significant step in that direction because, for the first time, this quantity of hydrogen (though not green) has been injected into a live blast fur-

nace for four days. The experiment has “added to our knowledge”, says Bhattacharjee. “We know what to look for, which sensors to use, what will work, and what will not work.”

He stresses that the safety issues are equally important. Hydrogen, which can catch fire, must be handled with care. Tata Steel has learned to check for leaks using helium. During the experiment, there was no safety-related incident.

Tata Steel is currently data crunching — hence it does not wish to give out more details, but once the technology is mastered, it is possible to replace a fifth of the coke used today with hydrogen. It is learnt that the global steel industry has been asking the company for more details about the experiment.

Meanwhile, Tata Steel is also experimenting with other furnace



Debashish Bhattacharjee, Vice-President (Technology and R&D), Tata Steel

charges, such as biochar, coal-bed methane and coke oven gas (like the Japanese).

At the other end, Tata Steel is trying to neutralise the unavoidable carbon dioxide emission by injecting it into cooling towers, where the gas becomes carbonates of calcium or magnesium, which can be slagged off and sold.

#### HISARNA PROJECT

‘Hisarna’ is the name that Tata Steel has chosen for the radically different route of steel making it has invented, at its Netherlands plant. It uses coke, but the gas that comes out of the furnace has a high concentration (80 per cent) of carbon dioxide, making it amenable to capture and neutralisation.

At present, Tata Steel has a pilot plant in The Netherlands, but Bhattacharjee says that the company will put up a “demonstration plant” in India that is five-times the size of the one in The Netherlands.

We value your feedback. Do send your comments to [quantum@thehindu.co.in](mailto:quantum@thehindu.co.in)



THE HINDU  
DATE: 3/5/2023 P.N014

## 'NMDC in talks for lithium with Hancock'

Reuters  
NEW DELHI

Indian iron ore miner NMDC Ltd. is in talks with Australia's Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd. for lithium exploration and mining, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Tuesday.

## 'राजुरी स्टील'च्या नवीन प्रकल्पाचे उद्घाटन

जालना : येथील राजुरी स्टीलच्यावतीने २५ एकरात महत्त्वाकांक्षी नवीन प्रकल्प सुरू करण्यात आला आहे. या प्रकल्पाचे २८ एप्रिल रोजी केंद्रीय रेल्वे राज्यमंत्री रावसाहेब दानवे, स्टील मंत्रालयाच्या अतिरिक्त सचिव रूचिका गोविल यांच्या हस्ते उद्घाटन करण्यात आले. बांधकाम क्षेत्रात लागणाऱ्या टीएमटी उत्पादना राजुरी स्टीलने नुकताच तीन दशक पूर्ण केले आहेत. राजुरी स्टीलने ग्राहकांची आणि बांधकाम अभियंत्यांची वाढती मागणी ओळखून २५ एकर मध्ये हा प्रकल्प उभारला आहे.

कोरोनामुळे आलेल्या अडचणींवर मात करित आज हा प्रकल्प यशस्वीरीत्या उभा असल्याचे सांगण्यात आले. यावेळी राजुरी



स्टीलचे व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक कैलास लोया, स्टील असोसिएशनचे अध्यक्ष योगेश मानधनी, राजुरी स्टीलचे संचालक संतोष मुंदडा, शिवकुमार लोहिया, पुरुषोत्तम तोष्णीवाल, रमेश मुंदडा, राजुरी स्टीलचे जनरल मॅनेजर संदीप खरात यांच्यासह खाण मंत्रालय, राज्य उद्योग मंत्रालयाचे अधिकारी, आयसीटीचे विद्यार्थी उपस्थित होते. (वा.प्र.)

THE HITAVADA DATE:3/5/2023 P.NO 6

## MOIL registers 'Best Performance in April'



■ Business Bureau

WITH a production of 1.31 lakh tonnes of Manganese Ore in April, 2023, MOIL has registered 'Best April Production' performance since inception, with a significant growth of 26 per cent over April, 2022.

Breaking a multi-year record, sales at 97,838 tonnes for the month has also been best for any April month and 72 per cent higher than April, 2022.

Giving utmost thrust to

exploration, MOIL achieved core drilling of 7,530 metres in April 2023, which is 3.6 times that of April, 2022. The company has made an ambitious plan of carrying out exploration in brown-field and green-field areas during FY'24.

Production of Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide (EMD) has also been best for any April month, higher by 6 per cent than April, 2022. EMD is a 100 per cent import substitution product, used mostly for pharmaceuticals and manufactur-

ing of batteries.

Ajit Kumar Saxena, Chairman cum Managing Director of MOIL Ltd., congratulated all the staff members on these achievements and reposed confidence of continuing the growth trajectory in the coming times.

MOIL Ltd is a Schedule-A, Miniratna Category-1 CPSE under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel, Government of India. It is the largest producer of manganese ore in the country, contributing -45 per cent of the domestic production.

It operates eleven mines in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The company has ambitious vision of more than doubling its production to 3.00 million tonnes by 2030. MOIL is also exploring business opportunities in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh and Odisha, besides other areas in Madhya Pradesh.



# Silver Imports Could Decline a Third as Demand Plunges

**Footfall in Zaveri Bazaar for silverware has fallen with prices crossing ₹75k/kg**

**Sutanuka Ghosal**  
@timesgroup.com

**Kolkata:** India's silver imports may fall about a third to 6,000 tonnes in 2023 from 9,000 last year, as demand has fallen 15-20% due to rising prices of the metal, said industry executives.

Footfall in Mumbai's Zaveri Bazar, the country's gold and silver hub, has fallen significantly for silver jewellery, silver artefacts and silverware since April 15, with prices crossing ₹75,000 per kg.

"Imports went up in 2022 as demand rose after two years of Covid-19. But now the situation has normalised and imports will come down. But the high prices will dent the demand by



THINKSTOCK

15-20%," said Chirag Sheth, principal consultant of Metals Focus, an independent precious metals research consultancy.

Besides, there is ample silver lying with the banks, which too will impact imports this year, he said.

"Silver buying has dipped over the last few days. We are hoping that demand will start picking up from May 12 onwards. Silver is expected to touch ₹85,000-90,000 per kg by year-end," said Saiyam Mehra, chairman, All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council.

Silver has attracted a larger number of investors, including retail investors who now have greater access to the sil-

ver market through mutual funds. "Silver, like gold, offers a hedge of sorts in a rising prices scenario," said Nilanjan Dey, director of Wishlist Capital, an investment advisory firm.

Investment trends favour both bulk and staggered exposure to silver at this juncture, when prices are rising. "The future reads positive for silver in terms of a hedge and a refuge for those who see the need for diversification. I will implore investors to act decisively and build up a silver portfolio by taking advantage of attractive price points," said Dey. "Silver may not create wealth in a hurry, but it will help sustain broad based portfolios (with no significant downside risk at this juncture) on the retail side."

Silver exchange traded funds (ETFs), which were allowed by the markets regulator last year, attracted an estimated 240 tonnes in the first year of operation. It was a decent start given that ETFs find favour only among a small set of informed investors, said analysts.



## Tata Steel net profit falls 84% to Rs 1,566.24 cr in Q4

NEW DELHI, May 2 (PTI)

TATA Steel on Tuesday posted a steep fall of 84 per cent in its consolidated net profit at Rs 1,566.24 crore during the quarter ended March 2023, dragged by lower income. The steel major had reported a net profit of Rs 9,835.12 crore in the year-ago quarter, it said in a BSE filing.

Tata Steel's total income trimmed to Rs 63,131.08 crore from Rs 69,615.70 crore in January-March period of the financial year 2022-23. The company's total expenses rose to Rs 59,918.15 crore from Rs 57,635.79 crore a year ago. The board of the company also recommended a dividend of Rs 3.60 per equity share of Re 1 each to the shareholders for FY23, the filing said. Tata Steel Europe Limited (TSE), a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of the company, has assessed the potential impact of the economic downturn in Europe caused by external factors, including higher inflation, higher interest rates and supply-chain disruption triggered by the war in Ukraine on its future business outlook for the UK and Mainland Europe (MLE) value chains.

The board has considered reasonably possible scenarios to stress test the financial position of both the UK and MLE businesses, including the impact of lower steel margins against the annual plan and the mitigating actions the Group could take to limit any adverse consequences to liquidity in the annual impairment assessments.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:3/5/2023 P.NO 9

**TOTAL REVENUE FOR MARCH QUARTER RISES OVER 10%**

## Tata Steel Back in the Black in Q4; Sales Volumes Pick Up

Co posts ₹1,566-cr profit in Q4 against loss in Q3; price appreciation in domestic market helps

Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Tata Steel, on Tuesday, posted a consolidated profit for the March quarter as against a loss a quarter ago helped by an improvement in sales volumes both in India and Europe, and higher prices in the domestic market.

The steel-maker's profit for Jan-Mar stood at ₹1,566 crore as against a loss of ₹2,502 crore in Oct-Dec. The bottom line was, though, significantly lower compared to a year ago because of robust market conditions then. Total revenue for the March quarter rose a little over 10% sequentially to ₹62,962 crore, while adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation nearly tripled to ₹7,225 crore on a sequential basis.

"India business witnessed a margin improvement from 15% to 22% driven by improved realisations QoQ. In



Europe, margins were broadly similar on QoQ basis as improvement in costs was offset by drop in revenues, in part due to delay in ramp up of cold mill at IJmuiden," Koushik Chatterjee, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of the company said.

Tata Steel's operating profit per tonne of steel sold improved to ₹16,719 at a standalone level in the March quarter from ₹10,379 rupees a quarter ago helped by lower coking coal consumption cost and operational efficiencies. In Europe, operating loss narrowed to ₹7,610 rupees per tonne from ₹7,810 a quarter ago.

Tata Steel's shares closed at ₹110.30 on the NSE on Tuesday, up more than 2% from the previous close. The benchmark Nifty 50 ended 0.5% higher. For 2022-23 (Apr-Mar), Tata Steel's consolidated revenues remained largely flat at ₹2.45 lakh crore, while operating profit nearly halved to

₹2,698 crore, primarily on account of higher raw material costs. The company spent ₹14,142 crore on capital expenditure through the year, with ₹4,396 being spent in the March quarter. This includes the capacity expansion at Kalinganagar and setting up an electric arc furnace mill in Punjab.

Gross debt as on March-end rose to ₹84,893 crore from ₹75,561 crore a year ago, while net debt rose to ₹67,810 crore from ₹51,049 crore a year ago.

"We remain focused on cost optimisation, operational improvements and working capital management to maximise cashflows and will aim to resume our deleveraging journey in FY2024," Chatterjee said.

Tata Steel has maintained its interest cost even after a 250 basis points hike in interest rates, he said. Its net debt to operating profit ratio was at 2.07 times as on March-end, while the net debt to equity ratio was at 0.61 times. The company has a target of increasing its production capacity in India to 40 million tonne per annum by 2030, from 21 million tonne currently. This includes the capacity expansion at Tata Steel Kalinganagar, an electric arc furnace, and additional capacities at Tata Steel Meramandal and Neelachal Ispat Nigam.

## Ambuja Cements' Margins Rise in Q4 as Input Costs Dip

Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Ambuja Cements, a unit of the Adani Group, reported a sharp recovery in margins for the March quarter compared to the preceding three months on the back of softening input costs and better operational efficiency.

The company reported a consolidated profit of ₹763 crore for the quarter, up 56% sequentially but 11% lower compared to last year.

Consolidated revenue remained largely flat sequentially as well as year-on-year at ₹7,966 crore. Ambuja Cement and its subsidiary ACC cumulatively sold 14.1 million tonnes of cement and clinker during the quarter compared to 13.7 million tonnes in the previous quarter and 14.4 million tonnes in the corresponding quarter last year.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) improved by 34% sequentially to ₹1,523 crore, comparable to the figure recorded last year. EBITDA margin improved 470 basis points sequentially to 19.1%. Last year, it was 19.2%.

"We are pleased to report another strong performance of Ambuja Ce-



ment which has been driven by our strategic initiatives on business excellence, operational efficiencies, and synergies," said Ajay Kapur, whole time director and chief executive, Ambuja Cements.

"Our focus on operational excellence and cost optimisation measures has yielded improved profitability," Kapur said in a press statement. The company also declared a dividend of ₹2.5 per share.

The stock of Ambuja Cement closed 0.48% lower at ₹394.4 on the BSE on Tuesday compared to a 0.4% increase in the benchmark Sensex.

The company said that higher government expenditure on infrastructure development and affordable housing will open more opportunities for cement sector, that will stimulate cement demand and enhance economic growth.



# Now, Russia emerges as top supplier of pulverised coal

Abhishek Law  
New Delhi

Russia has emerged as the top supplier of pulverised coal to Indian steel mills, displacing Australia as the key supply nation.

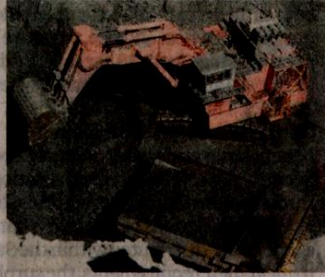
From September, barring January, Russian suppliers continued to ship large amounts to India, as sanctions closed down key European markets and Indian mills explored cheaper alternatives to costly Australian coking coal and PCI supplies.

In the September 2022 to February 2023 period, Russia exported 3.6 million tonnes (mt) of PCI to India, 20 per cent more than Australian supplies of 3 mt for the month.

Indian steel mills opted for supplies from Russia for blending purposes given the relatively lower spot prices of the commodity from the country.

Pulverised coal is an important auxiliary fuel used in the blast furnace.

Pulverised coal injection is a process that involves injecting large



**GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.** From September, Russia started shipping large amounts to India, as sanctions shut European markets and India explored cheaper alternatives

volumes of fine coal particles into the blast furnace. It provides auxiliary fuel for partial coke replacement.

## INCREASE SINCE SEPTEMBER

In February 2023, Russian PCI shipments into India stood at 7.55 mt, 31 per cent more than Australian 5.8 mt; while in December, Russian exports were 7.6 mt, 125 per cent higher than Australian shipment of

3.4 mt. In November, there was a similar trend with Russian supply being 30 per cent-odd higher (6 mt vs 4.7 mt); in October (6.7 mt versus 6.3 mt) and September (7.1 mt vs 5.6 mt), supplies coming in from Russia were 6 per cent and 25 per cent higher than Australian shipments respectively, data from India's Ministry of Commerce and S&P Global Commodity Insights show.

For the April 2022-February 2023 period, pulverised coal imported to India from Russia was just 0.6 mt lower than Australia.

Imports from Russia was 4.7 mt, against 5.3 mt from Australia.

However, Russia and Singapore together supplied 5.6 mt of PCI, higher than Australia.

According to Keith Tan, Associate Regional Director, Asia Metals Pricing, S&P Global Commodity Insights, the Russian PCI adds to the options that Indian steelmakers have other

than Australian coals. "Having a more limited pool of potential buyers, it is often also sold at competitive prices, and so stands to give users an advantage in terms of lowering costs," he said.

Data show Russian PCI supplies increased 124 per cent y-o-y for 11 months of FY23 to 4.7 mt, from 2.1 mt for 11 months of FY22.

On the other hand, supplies from Singapore increased 200 per cent y-o-y to 0.6 mt for April - February period.

Against this, supplies from Australia dipped 32 per cent y-o-y to 5.3 mt.

# Govt aims 1 bn tonne coal production during 2023-24 under 'Action Plan'

- The Coal Ministry has also formulated a strategy to enhance coking coal availability in the country to reduce imports

NEW DELHI, May 3 (PTI)

IN A first, the Coal Ministry has set an ambitious target of 1 billion tonne coal production during 2023-24 under its 'Action Plan' for the sector and a capex target of Rs 21,030 crore for its PSUs.

In a statement, the Ministry said it has conceptualized the Action Plan for FY24 with the goal of achieving Aatmanirbhar Bharat by enhancing the production, efficiency, sustainability, new technologies etc in the coal sector.

"It is an ambitious, well-crafted roadmap that covers a variety of areas including a total coal production target of 1012 MT for 2023-

24," it said. The Ministry has already taken various steps to increase the coal production and efficiency like mining developers cum operators (MDO) for the operationalization of CIL (Coal India) mines/blocks and production in discontinued/abandoned mines on the revenue sharing basis.

The Ministry has also formulated a strategy to enhance coking coal availability in the country to reduce imports. Coal companies along with the ministry has taken various measures to achieve the objective of supply of quality coal to all consumers.

For undertaking the job of sampling and analysis of coal samples at loading end, third party sampling agencies have been empanelled for both power and non-power coal consumers.

"The capex target for FY24 is Rs 21,030 crore with CIL Rs 16,500 crore, NLCIL Rs 2,880 crore and SCCL Rs 1650 crore. The overall

projected target of assets monetization plan for FY 2023-24 is Rs 50,118.61 crore," the Ministry said.

During FY23, the Ministry signed agreements for a total of 23 coal mines having cumulative PRC of 33.224 MTPA and these mines are expected to generate an annual revenue of Rs 4,700.80 crore calculated at PRC (peak rated capacity). These mines are expected to provide both direct and indirect employment to 44,906 people.

Considering the good response received for the sixth round of commercial auctions, it is expected that 25 coal mines will be allocated during 2023-24 for commercial mining.

In consultation with Ministry of Railways, the Coal Ministry said it is closely monitoring the new railway line projects that are critical for coal evacuation and is undertaking mapping of coal sector on NMP and use of Dashboards on NMP.



# 'Status Quo is Not an Option for Tata Steel UK'

**ET Q&A** **TV NARENDRAN**  
MD, TATA STEEL

If the UK government doesn't come to the table soon with better fiscal support for upgrading Tata Steel's assets in the country, Tata Steel may have to pull the plug on its UK operations, TV Narendran, the managing director of the company said. The Rishi Sunak led government's earlier proposal barely covered a fifth of the estimated capital cost required at Port Talbot steel-works, Narendran told Nikita Periwai and Nehal Chaliawala in an interview. Edited excerpts:

**How have your talks with the UK government progressed since you refused their proposal in January?**  
We are in conversation, but as of now it is status quo. But there is only a finite amount of time which is available. So, status quo is not an option. Somewhere, the penny will drop. Let's see how the conversations with the government go or else in the next 12 to 24 months, we will take whatever calls

we have to take.

The proposal that the UK gave is short of what we have sought. Without getting specifically into the numbers, our request was for 50% of the capex (capital expenditure) that is required and some opex (operational expenditure) support because the energy costs in the UK are much higher than in Europe. They have given us a proposal which is less than 25% of the cost; I would say 20% of the cost.

**How would you review the**

**INDIA BUSINESS**

The India business has done well. We struggled last year because of the export duty. That got lifted in November...

**performance in Q4?**

The India business has done well. We struggled last year because of the export duty. That got lifted in November, which opened up the export market. That also coincided with China stepping back from the Covid restrictions. So the overall sentiment in the steel industry changed and hence you saw in January-March quarter the domestic prices went up as international prices went up, and you could export all the excess inventory in the system. So that's why the Indian numbers have been good.

As far as Europe is concerned, the struggle is there

for two reasons. One is you're struggling with demand compression because of the Ukraine war, the high energy prices and its impact on downstream industry. And for us, particularly, we were preparing for a blast furnace relining in Netherlands, which has been our best performing European asset. So we were building up some stock so the working capital in Europe was also higher than what we traditionally had. So Europe numbers in Q4 are not much better than Q3. We expect Q1 to be slightly better but still in the negative terrain, because of blast furnace in Netherlands is down and it will resume in August. I expect Europe to have a challenging Q1, maybe slightly better than Q4 (FY23). And we'll start getting better from Q2.

**You missed your \$1-billion debt reduction target in FY23. What is your target for FY24?**

**EUROPE NUMBERS**

Europe numbers in Q4 are not much better than Q3. We expect Q1 to be slightly better but still in the negative terrain...

As far as debt is concerned, we have reduced it by about ₹3,300 crore in Q4. We said we will reduce debt by \$1 billion a year but last year was probably the first time we did not do it. But on an average, we have reduced more than \$1 billion each year on an average. This year (FY24) we are back to that commitment. We believe that even with the ₹16,000 crore capex that is planned, we can still reduce our debt by a billion dollars.

Last year, there were two reasons for missing the target. One is of course that we acquired Neelachal Ispat and Rohit Ferro etc, which cost us about ₹10,000-12,000 crore. And then the working capital. And then export duty,

higher gas prices, and margins were compressed. So that's the reason.

**Several assets are coming up in the market. What is on your radar?**

I think we don't need to look at anything because the existing sites can take us to 40-45 million tonnes (a year). When we acquired Neelachal, at that time we were keen to have a site for long products. Now we are well set, we can take Neelachal to 10 million tonnes, Kalinganagar to 15-16 million tonnes, Bhushan to 10 million tonnes. With these three sites in Odisha alone, I can go to 35 million tonnes, and Jamshedpur is 11 million tonnes.

In addition, we are building (an electric arc furnace) in Punjab, so if that model works, we can build more such plants in Gujarat or wherever scrap steel is available near industrial areas.

So I think we don't really need any assets to fulfill our aspirations, and these kind of brownfield projects help us pace ourselves also because you can pace your capex and your growth depending on your appetite.

# JSW Steel arm to invest \$145 million in new U.S. projects

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

JSW Steel USA Ohio, Inc., a subsidiary of JSW Steel Ltd. has announced its plans to invest \$145 million in new projects to upgrade its manufacturing operations in Mingo Junction, Ohio.

"JSW Steel USA aims to meet the demand for quality steel products that are 'melted & manufactured in the US'. This is in alignment with President Biden Administration's Buy America policies," the company said in a statement.

Parth Jindal, Director, JSW Steel USA said, "These new investments reiterate JSW's commitment to a sustainable & green future. The operational upgrades being made at JSW Steel USA are a step to-



Parth Jindal

wards achieving our long-term ESG goals."

"These investments and projects will help us in producing high-quality 'melted and manufactured in USA' steel products required by our customers in the infrastructure and renewable energy sectors," he added.

These new projects are expected to be completed and commissioned in FY26.



## मॉयल ने किया शानदार प्रदर्शन

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि.मॉयल ने अप्रैल 2023 में 1.31 लाख टन मैग्नीज अयस्क का उत्पादन किया. यह मॉयल की स्थापना से अब तक अप्रैल माह का सर्वाधिक उत्पादन है. इसमें अप्रैल 2022 की तुलना में 26% की उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है. अनेक वर्षों का रिकॉर्ड ध्वस्त करते हुए इस माह में बिक्री 97,838 टन दर्ज की गई जो कि किसी भी वर्ष में अप्रैल में हुई बिक्री का रिकॉर्ड है. यह अप्रैल 2022 की तुलना में 72% अधिक है. अन्वेषण पर अत्यधिक बल देते हुए मॉयल ने अप्रैल 2023 माह में 7,530 मीटर की कोर ड्रिलिंग करने की उपलब्धि प्राप्त की जो कि अप्रैल 2022 की तुलना में 3.6 गुना अधिक है.



कंपनी ने वित्त वर्ष 24 के लिए एक महत्वाकांक्षी योजना बनाई है. ब्राउन-फील्ड और ग्रीन-फील्ड क्षेत्रों में अन्वेषण कार्य किया जाएगा. इलेक्ट्रोलाइटिक मैग्नीज डाइऑक्साइड (ईएमडी) का उत्पादन भी किसी भी अप्रैल के मुकाबले सर्वाधिक रहा है जो कि अप्रैल 2022 की तुलना में 6% अधिक है. ईएमडी आयात को 100% प्रतिस्थापित करने वाला उत्पाद है. इसका उपयोग मुख्यतः फार्मास्युटिकल और बैटरी के निर्माण के लिए किया जाता है. अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक अजीत कुमार सक्सेना ने इन उपलब्धियों के लिए मॉयल टीम को बधाई दी और आने वाले समय में भी विकास पथ पर अग्रसर रहने का विश्वास जताया.

## Copper drifts higher but gains capped on China



**London:** Copper prices ticked higher on Thursday after the US central bank signalled a pause on rate hikes, but gains were subdued as investors worried about demand in China. Three-month copper on the LME advanced 1 per cent to \$8,555 a tonne in official open-outcry trading, breaking two sessions of losses. REUTERS

## Steel prices drop first time since January on weak global cues, slowdown in domestic buying

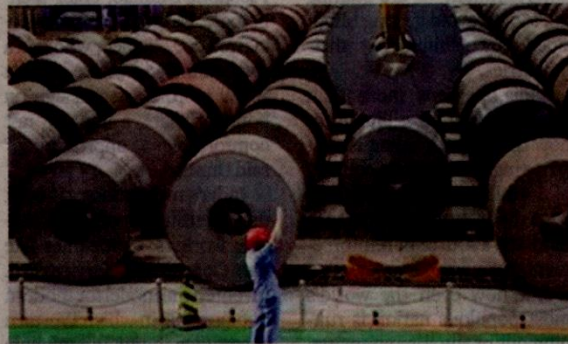
**Abhishek Law**  
New Delhi

Indian steel prices dropped 2-4 per cent month-on-month in May following softened global cues, stressed demand due to increasing imports and slower-than-expected export offers from key markets like the UAE and Vietnam.

This is the first major drop in domestic prices since January when mills initiated a price rise buoyed by better export offers. Price rise was about 10 per cent in the January-April period.

For May first week deliveries, the price of benchmark hot rolled coils (HRCs) stood at ₹59,000 per tonne, down about 2 per cent over last month; while rebar prices took a 2.5-per cent drop to ₹58,700 per tonne.

The price in early-April was ₹59,800 per tonne for HRCs, while for rebars it was ₹60,200 per tonne. Export prices (or of-



**MAJOR DROP.** Import worries resurface with traders working on deals that are lower than overseas and domestic prices

fers for overseas orders) dropped 4 per cent to \$684 per tonne from \$711 per tonne, a month ago.

### IMPORT WORRIES

Import worries have resurfaced, trade sources told *businessline*. A SteelMint report stated that Indian traders concluded deals at around \$700 per tonne levels (for flat steel

offers) in April, and negotiations are currently underway for buying at \$665 per tonne. Both prices are substantially lower than the previous overseas price and current domestic market price.

The anticipated revival in projects segment demand has not happened too for long steel products, as there's cautious buying. Trade sources say

steel-making raw materials have softened considerably.

### VOLATILITY IN APRIL

Steel prices remained volatile throughout April over concerns of a production cut in China, the world's largest steel producer, and continued energy concerns in Europe apart from slow overseas buying.

For instance, mid-April HRC prices in India saw a slight uptick of less than one per cent over March-end prices settling at around ₹60,000 per tonne (up ₹200 per tonne) before falling by ₹200 per tonne to settle at ₹59,800 per tonne over the next two weeks. In the case of rebar, the drop was ₹600 per tonne to ₹59,600 per tonne around the second week of April and slid another ₹300 per tonne to settle at ₹59,300 per tonne in the fifth week of April. Price hikes by Indian mills were also reversed since demand remained volatile.



## Steel exports up 13% in April

**Abhishek Law**  
New Delhi

India's steel mills began FY24 on a positive note with exports increasing 13 per cent in April compared with the same month last year while there was a 5 per cent rise in exports sequentially (April vs March).

Finished steel exports in April stood at 0.855 million tonnes (mt), as per provisional numbers available with the Steel Ministry. As against this, exports in the year-ago period (April 2022) was 0.761 mt. In March, exports were 0.812 mt.

Global markets are still stressed with respect to export offers and remain volatile, steel mill officials say.

### IMPORTS RISE

However, imports for the month saw a sharp spike. Imports were up 38 per cent on a YoY basis to 0.46 mt (against 0.333 mt) while on a sequential basis, imports rose 7 per cent. Import of finished steel in March was 0.429 mt.

"India was a net exporter of finished steel," the Ministry report said.

With price of hot rolled coils dropping in the domestic market and there being a fall in export prices for May first week deliveries - in the range of 2-4 per cent, the industry

continues to be jittery about imports.

According to Ranjan Dhar, CMO, AMNS India, steel prices experienced a correction due to fluctuations in the market dynamics, with global factors particularly emerging from China, playing a significant role. "This is a typical price swing in the industry, and there are no significant structural changes in the market. Demand in China is expected to increase in Q2 and Q3 of the calendar year," he told *businessline*.

### APRIL TRENDS

As per the Ministry report, non alloyed steel exports in April was 0.767 mt, up 10 per cent-odd YoY and 2 per cent sequentially. On the other hand, non alloyed and stainless steel exports increased 29 per cent (considering a low base effect) YoY and 44 per cent up since March 2023.

Alloyed steel continue to account for bulk of exports - nearly 90 per cent of total.

On the other hand, import of non-alloyed steel saw a 46 per cent jump YoY to 0.293 mt. Sequentially, segment imports remained almost flat. In case of non-alloyed and stainless steel import, there was 27 per cent rise YoY and 21 per cent rise month-on-month (over March) to 0.167 mt.



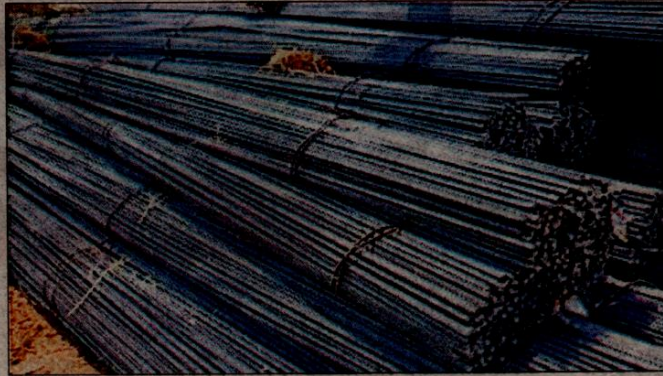
# Steel prices drop by Rs 4,000/tonne from its peak in Jan

■ Business Bureau

CONSTRUCTION activities are normally at its peak during summer and so is the demand for material consumed in it.

But in the current situation, things are moving in different directions as steel prices are witnessing dilution in peak summer.

The prices of TMT bars in the secondary market have dropped by Rs 4,000 per tonne (excluding GST) in a span of the last four months. From its peak of Rs 54,500 per tonne (excluding 18 per cent GST) in January, the prices of 10 mm to 25 mm steel TMS bars slipped to Rs 50,500 (excluding GST) on Friday. Prices of 8mm and 32mm TMT bars have also slipped in a similar proportion. Rajesh Sarda, President of Steel and Hardware Chamber, said that there is a poor demand for steel products in the international



## LOCAL STEEL PRODUCER PRICES

TMT Bar	Prices per tonne + GST
8 mm	Rs 52,000 + 18% GST
10-25 mm	Rs 50,500 + 18% GST
32 mm	Rs 52,000 + 18% GST

markets which is affecting the prices. "Many manufacturers are dumping their steel prod-

ucts in the domestic markets and due to which the supply demand ratio has got dis-

turbed," he said.

He said many factors including international factors are pulling down the steel prices. "Initially there was a rise in prices of steel products during the Russia -Ukraine war. After that we have seen a stable market for a few months. But, in the last 15-20 days, we started experiencing a dip in demand," he explained.

Sarda also said that prices of iron ore and coal are also trading at reasonable levels which are further diluting the steel prices. Sarda said that the steel prices are likely to see further correction in the coming days. "But I think the correction will be very marginal after which the prices may again surge," he felt.

In addition to this, steel scrap is easily available in the international markets at a reasonable rate. This is seen as another reason for the dip in steel prices.

# SCCL to scale up coal handling capacity

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

Singareni Collieries has decided to scale up its coal handling capacity by 25 million tonnes by 2025-26 as part of its plans to go for 85 million tonnes of coal production from the target of 75 million tonnes this year.

The company has handling capacity of 108 million tonnes now and with the addition of new coal handling plants (CHPs) it would go up to 133 million tonnes. This year, a CHP with 2 mtpa (million tonnes per annum) capaci-

ty would be established at Uppal railway siding in Hanmakonda district, another 2 mtpa CHP at Naini coal block in Odisha and a 1 mtpa CHP at GDK-5 opencast mine in Peddapalli district.

The additional 5 mtpa CHPs this year would be part of plans to have 10 mtpa CHPs each at VK-7 opencast mine in Bhadradi district and Naini coal block in Odisha and 5 mtpa CHPs in Ramagundam-2 area mines in Peddapalli district. At a meeting, CMD N. Sridhar instructed the authorities on Thursday to start work on approvals.



# Steel Trade Slows Amid Expectations of Price Cuts

JSW Steel and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India cut list price; buyers hesitant of stocking, say traders

**Nehal Chaliawala**  
@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Steel trade volumes have slowed to a trickle on price-cut expectations, preventing stocking of costlier inventory, traders and industry executives said.

The trade market involves dealers and sub-dealers of primary steel mills, such as Tata Steel and JSW Steel and they sell material to end-user industries. It is estimated to account for a quarter of the overall steel consumption in the country.

The trade market is already operating below the listed price of primary steel mills and there are expectations that the mills themselves will be marking down their prices in line with international

prices of the alloy.

JSW Steel has cut down its list price for benchmark hot-rolled coil (HRC) steel for May by ₹2,000 per tonne compared to April to ₹59,750, data from SteelMint show. ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) has cut it by ₹2,500 per tonne to ₹60,000. Other major players like Tata Steel, SAIL and Jindal Steel and Power are expected to follow suit.

The market expects further drops in prices and buyers will continue to remain cautious in the coming weeks, said a leading Mumbai-based dealer.

"Demand at a fundamental level is strong," TV Narendran, managing director of Tata Steel told ET in an interview on Wednesday.

"But what happens in steel is because of the cyclicity there's

## Poor Offtake

Cos	Drop (per tonne)	Amount in ₹
JSW Steel	2,000	59,750
ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India	2,500	60,000

Tata Steel, SAIL and Jindal Steel and Power expected to drop prices

Buyers will continue to remain cautious



Price cuts follow a hike in list price by steel mills in April

sentiment-driven demand. When the steel price is going up, people will buy more than they need and if they feel the price is going to drop, they'll buy less than they need," he said.

The ongoing price cuts follow a hike in list price by steel mills in April. There was little acceptance

for the higher price in the trade market, industry watchers said. In fact, the lower take-off in the trade market was one of the reasons for inventory to accumulate with mills, prompting the price cuts.

"Everyone is cautious as no one knows where the bottom is," the Mumbai-based dealer said.

above said.

Meanwhile, imported steel has become available at prices undercutting that of domestic mills, further prompting the price cut. Imported HRC is available in the market at ₹56,000-₹57,000 per tonne, market watchers said.

"These price swings are normal. Steel prices have corrected in line with the market trends driven by global factors, largely related to China, as the demand recovery there was slower than expected," said Ranjan Dhar, chief marketing officer, AM/NS India.

The price revision also reflects a drop in input costs for steel mills, including coking coal.

Export markets, which have been an attractive alternative for Indian mills to sell excess inventory

## Coal India Q4 Net Down 17.7%

Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** State-run Coal India Ltd reported a ₹5,528 crore consolidated net profit for the January-March quarter, down 17.7% from a year earlier because of increased provisions towards wages.

The profit would have been the highest ever in any quarter had the provision not been made, the company said in a statement.

Consolidated net sales climbed 17.3% at ₹35,161 crores in Q4.

The state-run company has provided ₹5,870 crore towards National Coal Wage Agreement - XI during the quarter, over three times the ₹1,547 crore set aside a year earlier.

The realisation per tonne of coal was ₹4,526 under the auction segment in the reporting quarter against ₹2,434 per tonne in the same quarter FY22.

The company announced ₹4 per share final dividend to go with ₹20.25 a share paid out in two tranches earlier in FY23.

Ahead of the results, the company's share closed flat at ₹237.35 on Friday.

## Lithium reserves in Raj raise hopes of reduced dependence on China

JAIPUR, May 7 (IANS)

**IF OFFICIALS** in Rajasthan Government are to be believed, Lithium reserves have been traced in Degana (Nagaur) of Rajasthan. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) and mining officials claim that the capacity of lithium reserves found here is higher than the lithium reserves found in Jammu and Kashmir recently.

It is claimed that there is so much lithium here that 80 per cent of India's total demand can be met from here. Till now India is dependent on China for lithium. Now it is believed that China's monopoly will end and like the Gulf countries, the fortunes of Rajasthan will also rise. Lithium is a non-ferrous metal, which is used to make

mobile-laptop, electric vehicle and other chargeable batteries. India is completely dependent on expensive foreign supplies for lithium. Now GSI has found large deposits of Lithium around Degana.

Lithium reserves in Rajasthan have been found in the same Renvat hill of Degana and its surrounding area, from where tungsten mineral was once supplied to the country. During the British rule, the British had discovered tungsten mineral in the year 1914 on the hill of Renwat in Degana.

Before independence, the tungsten produced here was used to make war material for the British Army during the First World War. After independence, it was also used in the field of making surgical

instruments in energy and health sector in the country. At that time around 1500 people used to work here.

In the year 1992-93, China's cheap export policy made tungsten coming out of here expensive. Eventually, the production of tungsten was stopped here. This hill, which was inhabited all the time and helped in the development of the country by supplying tungsten for years, became deserted in a single stroke.

During that period, the offices, houses, gardens and even the schools built by the officials of GSI and other Government agencies were turned into ruins. Now the lithium coming out of this hill will change the fate of Rajasthan and the country, said officials.



# रेत उत्खनन की नई नीति को लेकर आशंका

शहर प्रतिनिधि | नागपुर

राज्य सरकार के राजस्व विभाग ने रेत उत्खनन के लिए नई नीति घोषित की है। वर्ष 2023-24 के लिए नागपुर जिले के रेत घाटों का टेंडर नोटिस जारी कर दिया गया है। इस नई नीति को लेकर आशंका व्यक्त की जा रही है। माना जा रहा है कि इससे बिल्डरों व सरकारी ठेकेदारों को अधिक लाभ मिलेगा। इस बार घाटों से रेत उत्खनन, डिपो तक रेत परिवहन, डिपो निर्माण व इसके प्रबंधन के लिए एक ही टेंडर जारी किया गया है। इसी आधार पर प्रति मीट्रिक टन रेत का मूल्य निर्धारित किया गया है। नई नीति के तहत नागरिकों को 600 रुपए प्रति ब्रास रेत उपलब्ध होगी। बिल्डर और सरकारी ठेकेदार भी 600 रुपए की दर से ही रेत पा सकेंगे। प्रायोगिक तत्व पर यह नीति लाई गई है।

## बिल्डरों व सरकारी ठेकेदारों को मिल सकता है अधिक लाभ



### एक ही टेंडर जारी

महाराष्ट्र शासन के महसूल (राजस्व) विभाग ने वर्ष 2022-23 के लिए नागपुर जिले के रेत घाटों का टेंडर नोटिस जारी कर दिया है। इस बार घाटों से रेत उत्खनन, डिपो तक रेत परिवहन, डिपो निर्माण और इसके प्रबंधन के लिए एक ही टेंडर जारी किया गया है। इसी आधार पर प्रति मीट्रिक टन रेत का मूल्य तय किया गया है।

### यह है जिले में स्थिति

रेत की उपलब्धता के बारे में जानकारी मिली है कि नागपुर जिले में 39 रेत घाट व 11 डिपो हैं। इनमें 310748 ब्रास रेत उपलब्ध है। पारसिवनी में 11 रेत घाटों के लिए 3 डिपो हैं। इनमें 76843 ब्रास रेत उपलब्ध रहेगी। सावनेर में 13 रेत घाटों के लिए 3 डिपो हैं। इनमें 103006 ब्रास रेत उपलब्ध होगी। कामठी में 6 रेत घाटों के लिए 3 डिपो से 70206 ब्रास रेत उपलब्ध होगी। मौदा में 9 रेत घाटों के लिए 2 डिपो हैं। इनमें कुही तहसील का घिचघाट रेत घाट शामिल है। यहां 60693 ब्रास रेत उपलब्ध होगी। निविदा धारकों को डिपो संचालन करने के लिए 9 जून से पहले नदी से रेत उत्खनन कर डिपो तक लाना है। यह समय पर्याप्त नहीं माना जा रहा है।

### नागरिकों का हित नहीं

नई रेत नीति सामान्य नागरिकों के हित में नहीं है। सामान्य नागरिकों को रेत मामले में 5 प्रतिशत लाभ ही मिल पाएगा। पहले गरीब लोगों को घरकुल निर्माण के लिए नाले की पांच ब्रास अशुद्ध रेत उपलब्ध कराई गई थी। उस रायल्टी की आड़ में एक रायल्टी पर कई बार रेत चोरी की जा रही थी। नई नीति से घर निर्माण के लिए 25 मीट्रिक टन रेत उपलब्ध होगी।

—उदय सिंह यादव, कांग्रेस नेता



# Copper: Retain shorts, peg stop-loss at ₹775

**Gurumurthy K**  
bl. Research Bureau

The copper futures contract on the MCX continues to remain bearish. As expected, there was a corrective rise last week. However, it was short-lived and the upside was capped at ₹760 per kg. The contract spiked to a high of ₹760.95 last week and declined from there. It is cur-

## COMMODITY CALL.

rently trading at ₹748 per kg

The short-term outlook is bearish and prices seem to be consolidating between ₹730 and ₹760. This consolidation can continue for some more time. As such one more leg of rise to test ₹760 again cannot be ruled out. However, the upside will be capped at ₹760. Also, there is a bearish moving average cross over on the daily

### MCX Copper



chart around ₹760.

To turn bullish, copper futures will have to rise past ₹765 and negate the fall to ₹710-700. But it looks less probable. Our short positions suggested in three tranches at ₹733, ₹750 and ₹760 have been triggered. Now, the average holding price for short positions is ₹747. We suggest traders to retain the strategy.

Retain the stop-loss at ₹775. Exit 50 per cent of the shorts at ₹710 and then revise the stop-loss for the rest to ₹722. Exit the balance at ₹700.

# Coal imports rose 30% in FY23 to 162 mt on demand

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

India's coal imports increased by 30% to 162.46 million tonnes (mt) in the 2022-23 financial year against 124.99 mt in the year-earlier period, according to a report. The import of coking coal rose 5.44% to 54.46 mt over 51.65 mt in FY22, mjunction said in a report.

In March alone, non-coking coal import stood at 13.88 mt against 12.61 mt a year earlier. Coking coal imports were 3.96 mt (4.76 mt). India is among the top five coal-producing countries in the world.



However, some parts of its coal requirement are met through imports as the country is also among the major consumers of the dry fuel.

For coking coal – a key raw material used in steel making – the country re-

mains heavily dependent on imports.

“The persistently high demand for steam coal in India, coupled with the weakening of seaborne prices led to increased volumes during March. This trend is likely to continue in coming months in view of the above-normal average temperature expected this summer,” mjunction CEO Vinaya Varma said.

Along with other varieties of coal like anthracite, pulverised coal injection (PCI coal), met coke and pet coke, total imports in FY23 were at 249.06 mt, up from 200.71 mt in FY22, a rise of more than 24%.



# पुन्हा सापडली पांढऱ्या सोन्याची मोठी खाण

## राजस्थानात लिथियमचा प्रचंड साठा, पालटेल देशाचे भाग्य

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नवी दिल्ली : अलीकडेच जम्मू - काश्मिरात लिथियमचा प्रचंड साठा आढळला होता. त्यापेक्षाही जास्त साठा राजस्थानमध्ये सापडला आहे. नागौर जिल्ह्यातील देगाना येथे हा साठा सापडला आहे, अशी माहिती भारतीय भूगर्भ सर्वेक्षण विभागाच्या (जीएसआय) उच्चस्तरीय सुत्रांनी दिली. या साठ्यातून भारताची ८० टक्के लिथियमची गरज त्यातून भागविली जाऊ शकते. त्यातून भारताचे चीनवरील अवलंबित्व केवळ संपणारच नाही तर या क्षेत्रातील चीनची एकाधिकारशाही संपेल. तसेच आखाती देशांप्रमाणे देशाचे भाग्यही पालटेल.

लिथियमपासून मोबाइल, लॅपटॉप, इलेक्ट्रिक वाहने आणि अन्य चार्जबल बॅटऱ्या बनतात. लिथियमच्या बाबतीत भारत सध्या पूर्णतः विदेशी पुरवठ्यावर अवलंबून आहे. जीएसआयने देगानाजवळ लिथियमचे साठे शोधल्यामुळे हे अवलंबित्व संपू शकते. लिथियमचे हे साठे देगानातील रेंवत हिल्स भागात सापडले आहेत. या भागातून एकेकाळी टंगस्टनचा पुरवठा होत असे. पहिल्या महायुद्धाच्या काळात युद्धसाहित्य निर्मितीसाठी त्याचा मोठा वापर झाला होता.



### लिथियम असेल हुकुमाचा एवका

■ जगभरात सध्या इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनांकडे लक्ष्य केंद्रित झाले आहे. भारतातही ई-वाहनांची विक्री सातत्याने वाढत आहे.

■ जगभरात पुढील ४ वर्षांमध्ये ३ हजार गिगा वॉट प्रति तास एवढी एकूण बॅटरी क्षमता निर्माण होणार आहे.

■ त्यासाठी लागणाऱ्या लिथियमची जगाची भूक भागविण्यासाठी भारताचा फार मोठा वाटा राहणार आहे.

**पांढरे सोने :** लिथियमशिवाय इलेक्ट्रिक उपकरणे बनतच नाहीत. त्यामुळे हा धातू पांढरे सोने म्हणूनच ओळखला जाऊ लागला आहे. सध्या जागतिक बाजारात एक टन लिथियमची किंमत ५७.३६ लाख रुपये आहे.

**५३.७६%** लिथियमची चीनकडून आयात  
**६,००० कोटी** २०२०-२१ मध्ये आयात.

त्यापैकी ३,५०० कोटी रुपयांची आयात एकट्या चीनकडून.

५.९ लाख टन लिथियमचा साठा जम्मू आणि काश्मीरमध्ये सापडला होता.

**सर्वाधिक लिथियमचे उत्पादन कुठे?**

ऑस्ट्रेलिया	४७%
चिली	३०%
चीन	१५%

**७.३७** लाख टन लिथियम गेल्या वर्षी उत्खनन झाले होते.

**९.६४** लाख टन लिथियमचे उत्खनन यावर्षी होण्याची अपेक्षा आहे.

### भारतातील दर्जा अत्युच्च

■ जगभरात सापडलेल्या लिथियमची क्षमता २२० पीपीएम एवढी आहे.

■ जम्मू- काश्मीरमध्ये सापडलेल्या लिथियमची क्षमता ५०० पीपीएम एवढी आहे. त्यापासून बनविलेल्या बॅटरीची क्षमता दुप्पट राहू शकते.

## Hold on to shorts in zinc futures



Akhil Nallamuthu  
bl. Research Bureau

Zinc futures contract on the MCX has been trading sideways of late — the May expiry futures has largely been oscillating within ₹230-240.

Although the broader trend has been bearish, zinc futures seem to be attracting buyers, especially over the past couple of weeks. Last week, it formed a hammer candlestick pattern and also, the price action shows signs of buying between ₹230 and ₹235.

However, for the contract to confirm a bullish reversal, it should break out of ₹240. In such a case, we can see a quick rally towards ₹255 — a resistance. Subsequent resistance is at ₹262. On the other hand, if the contract falls below ₹230, there is an immediate support at ₹225. A breach of this can mean the bears could drag the contract ₹210 and then possibly to ₹200.

Overall, the next leg of the short-term trend depends on which direction the contract moves out of the ₹230-240 range.

In mid-April, we recommended going short on zinc futures at ₹252 and place stop-loss at ₹262. The stop-loss was modified to ₹245 last week. We suggest further tightening of stop-loss to ₹242 and hold the shorts. Exit when the price falls to ₹225.

But risk-averse traders can book profits at the current level of ₹238. For fresh positions, one needs to wait for the breach of the ₹230-240 range.



# नागौर में नहीं मिला लिथियम

GSJ ने मंत्री के दावे निराधार और भ्रामक प्रचार का किया खंडन



राजस्थान में लिथियम का भंडार मिलने संबंधी खबरों को जीएसआई ने आधारहीन करार दिया है. जीएसआई की ओर से कहा गया कि भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण की ओर से राजस्थान के नागौर जिले के डेगाना क्षेत्र में लिथियम के बड़े भंडार की खोज के संबंध में विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित खबर पूरी तरह निराधार और भ्रामक हैं. जीएसआई की ओर से बताया गया कि लिथियम के भंडार की खोज की ऐसी कोई सूचना न तो क्षेत्रीय मुख्यालय की ओर से और न ही जीएसआई के केंद्रीय मुख्यालय की ओर से जारी की गई थी.

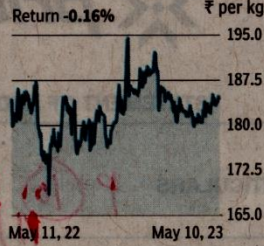
नागौर, एजेंसिया. ईवी इंडस्ट्री के लिए लिथियम का भंडार किसी खजाने से कम नहीं है. पेट्रोल-डीजल के बाद एलपीजी और सीएनजी से कहीं ज्यादा अब इलेक्ट्रिक व्हीकल का प्राथमिकता मिल रही है. ईवी या लिथियम आयन बैटरी के भविष्य को देखते हुए ही देश में लिथियम

की खोज पर जोर दिया जा रहा है. हाल ही जम्मू-कश्मीर में लिथियम के भंडार की खोज हो चुकी है लेकिन एक दिन पहले ही राजस्थान में भी लिथियम के महाभंडार की खोज होने की खबर सामने आई है. इस खोज को

लेकर अब भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (जीएसआई) का बयान आया है. जीएसआई की ओर से इन तमाम खबरों को आधारहीन बताया गया है. राजस्थान के खान मंत्री प्रमोद भाया ने लिथियम की खोज पर बयान दिया था.

## Lead futures: Go long now

**Gurumurthy K**  
bl. research bureau



Lead price has been on the verge of breaking its range on the upside. The lead futures contract on the MCX has been oscillating between ₹178 and ₹188 per kg since February this year. Within that, the price is now moving up and is heading up towards ₹188 — the upper end of the range. It is currently trading at ₹184.50 per kg.

### COMMODITY CALL.

The near-term outlook is positive. Immediate support is at ₹183. Below that ₹182 will be the next strong support. A break below ₹182 looks less probable. The lead futures contract can rise to ₹188 this week. The moving average indicates give bullish signals. The 21-day moving average has made a bullish crossover with the 200-day moving average. This is a positive sig-

nal. That leaves the chances high for the contract to breach ₹188. Such a break will boost the bullish momentum. It will then open doors for the Lead contract to see a fresh rise to ₹192-194 over the next three-four weeks.

Failure to breach ₹188 can drag the contract to ₹184-₹182 again. It will also keep the ₹178-188 range intact.

Traders can go long now. Accumulate on dips at ₹183. Keep the stop-loss at ₹181.

Trail the stop-loss up to ₹186 as soon as the Lead Futures contract moves up to ₹187.50. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹188 when the contract touches ₹190 on the upside. Exit the long positions at ₹191.



## राजस्थान में लिथियम नहीं

# मंत्री का दावा निराधार

यदि तकनीकी मामलों की समझ या पुष्ट जानकारी न हो तो मंत्री जैसे जिम्मेदार पद पर बैठे व्यक्ति को जोश में आकर कोई दावा नहीं करना चाहिए. ऐसा करने से विश्वसनीयता घटती है और सरकार की साख पर भी आंच आती है. राजस्थान के खान मंत्री प्रमोद भाया ने न जाने किस आधार पर बयान दे दिया कि उनके राज्य के नागौर जिले के डेगाना क्षेत्र में लिथियम का बड़ा भंडार पाया गया है. हाल ही में जम्मू-कश्मीर में लिथियम के भंडार की खोज हो चुकी है. इसके बाद जब राजस्थान से भी ऐसी खबर मिली तो लोगों में खुशी की लहर फैल गई. भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (जीएसआई) ने राजस्थान में लिथियम का भंडार होने की बात को निराधार व भ्रामक बताया और कहा कि ऐसी कोई सूचना न तो क्षेत्रीय मुख्यालय की ओर से और न



ही केंद्रीय मुख्यालय की ओर से जारी की गई. विश्व में लिथियम का महत्व इसलिए है क्योंकि इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों का युग आ गया है. पर्यावरण प्रदूषण रोकने के लिए आनेवाले समय में पेट्रोल-डीजल चलित वाहनों की जगह ईवी ले लेंगे. अभी ऐसे वाहन की लिथियम आयन बैटरी चीन से बनकर आ रही है. एलन मस्क ने भी अपनी टेस्ला कार की फैक्ट्री चीन में खोली. यदि भारत में कहीं लिथियम का भंडार मिलता भी है तो उसके एक्सप्लोरेशन से पता चलेगा कि उसकी मात्रा व गुणवत्ता कितनी है तथा खनन का खर्च कितना आएगा. उसके बाद खनन का काम भी किसी जानकार कंपनी को सौंपना होगा. फिर उसकी बैटरी बनाने की तकनीक की दिशा में आगे बढ़ना होगा. इस प्रक्रिया में समय लगेगा.

## Poor demand lowers coal price to Rs 4,000/tonne

- In April-May 2022, thermal coal prices were trading in the range of Rs 12,000 to Rs 15,000 per tonne (including taxes)
- However, it has now come down in the range of Rs 4,000 to Rs 6,000 per tonne (including taxes)

### ■ Business Bureau

CONDITIONS at domestic and international markets seem to have swung in favour of coal consumers as the commodity is showing considerable drop in the prices. From its peak in the recent past, coal prices have dipped by more than half.

In April-May 2022, thermal coal prices were trading in the range of Rs 12,000 to Rs 15,000 per tonne (including taxes). However, it has now come



down in the range of Rs 4,000 to Rs 6,000 per tonne (including taxes). The prices are ex mine.

Rajendra Bansal, General Secretary of Central India Coal Dealers' Association, attributed the price drop to the poor demand for the commodity.

"There is a slowdown in the market due to which the industrial category coal consumers are not lifting the commodity

to their capacity. On the other hand, enough coal is available in the international markets. Many coal producing countries are also pushing the commodity in the markets which has increased the availability of coal," he explained.

Powergenco and steel manufacturers, who are major consumers of coal, are also witnessing a drop in demand which is further

widening the gap between demand and supply.

It is important to note that in the post pandemic phase, coal had witnessed sudden demand and the prices hit the roof. In the last season, the Russia-Ukraine war had also impacted the coal supply scenario due to which the prices went up manifold. Power generating companies, steel manufacturers and other consumers were worst affected during the period. But now, the market is witnessing enough supply of coal.

The miners are dumping enough quantities of coal in the market.

In the meanwhile, city-based coal miner Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) is all set to auction about 2.25 lakh tonne coal on Friday. According to market experts, the commodity is likely to see a price range of Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,500 per tonne (including Govt levy).



## मंदीच्या भीतीने तब्बल ३४.२२ टन सोने खरेदी

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नवी दिल्ली : आरबीआयने वाढत्या महागाई आणि जागतिक मंदीच्या शक्यतेमुळे निर्माण होणाऱ्या आव्हानांना तोंड देण्यासाठी सोन्यात मोठी गुंतवणूक केली आहे. २०२२-२३ या आर्थिक वर्षात, आरबीआयने ३४.२२ टन सोने खरेदी केले आहे. त्यामुळे भारताकडे सोन्याचा एकूण साठा ७९४.६४ टन झाला आहे. वर्षभरात देशातील सोन्याच्या साठ्यात सुमारे ५% वाढ झाली आहे. भारताच्या एकूण परकीय चलनाच्या साठ्यातील सोन्याचा हिस्सा मार्च २०२३ मध्ये ७.८१ टक्के झाला आहे.



### सोने ठेवले कुठे?

गेल्या ५ वर्षांमध्ये आरबीआयने सोने खरेदीत सतत वाढ केली आहे. एकूण सोन्याच्या साठ्यापैकी ४३७.२२ टन सोने परदेशात बँक ऑफ इंग्लंड आणि बँक ऑफ इंटरनॅशनल सेटलमेंटमध्ये सुरक्षित ठेवण्यात आले आहे. त्याचबरोबर देशातच ३०९.९० टन सोने ठेवण्यात आले आहे.

### सर्वाधिक सोने खरेदी कुणी केली?

आकडे टनांमध्ये

तुर्की	१४०.९
चीन	१२०.९
सिंगापूर	६८.७
उझबेकिस्तान	४३.९
भारत	३४.२
इराक	३३.९



# महसूल विभाग मालामाल; सर्वाधिक अवैध उत्खनन सावनेरात, वसुली मात्र उमरेडमध्ये

## जिल्ह्यात वर्षभरात ४०० प्रकरणे : गुन्हे दाखल करून चार जणांना केली अटक

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : जिल्ह्यात मोठ्या प्रमाणात वाळू आणि गोंग खनिजांचे उत्खनन आणि वाहतूक केली जाते. यातील अवैध उत्खनन आणि वाहतुकीवर महसूल विभागाकडून वेळोवेळी कारवाई करून दंडही आकारला जातो. जिल्ह्यातील चौदाही तालुक्यात गेल्या वर्षभरात ४०० प्रकरणे उघडकीस आली आली आहेत.

यापैकी २२ प्रकरणांत गुन्हे दाखल करण्यात आले असून ४ जणांना अटक सुद्धा करण्यात आली आहे. या सर्व प्रकरणात ४ कोटी ६४ लाख ८४ हजार ५४ रुपयांचा दंड वसूल करण्यात आला आहे.

### सर्वाधिक अवैध गोंग खनिज वाहतूक सावनेरमध्ये

जिल्ह्यात सर्वाधिक अवैध वाळू व गोंग खनिजांचे उत्खनन व वाहतूक ही सावनेर तालुक्यात झाल्याचे दिसून येते. एकूण ४०० कारवाई पैकी एकट्या सावनेरमध्ये कारवाईची ६५ प्रकरणे उघडकीस आली आहेत. यात ७१ लाख १८ हजार ८७५ रुपयांचा दंड वसूल करण्यात आला आहे.



### साडेचार कोटीची वसुली

चौदाही तालुक्यात करण्यात आलेल्या अवैध खनिज वाहतूकप्रकरणी कारवाई करीत एकूण ४ कोटी ६४ लाख ८४ हजार ५४ रुपयांचा दंड वसूल करण्यात आला आहे.

### सर्वाधिक वसुली उमरेड तालुक्यात

सर्वाधिक अवैध उत्खननाचे प्रकरण सावनेर तालुक्यात पकडण्यात आले असले तरी वसुलीमध्ये मात्र उमरेड तालुका पुढे आहे. उमरेडमध्ये एकूण ४० प्रकरणांत ८५ लाख १९ हजार ५९३ रुपयांचा दंड वसूल करण्यात आला आहे.

आता नवीन वाळू धोरण आले आहे. त्याच्या अंमलबजावणीची प्रक्रिया सुरु आहे. पूर्णपणे ती लागू झाल्यावर अवैध गोंग खनिजांसह त्याच्या अवैध वाहतुकीवरही नियंत्रण येईल.  
- ओंकारसिंह भोंड,  
जिल्हा खनिकर्म अधिकारी, नागपूर

### कोणत्या तालुक्यातील किती महसूल जमा?

तालुका	एकूण प्रकरणे	दंड वसूल
नागपूर शहर	३	२९,६५०
नागपूर ग्रामीण	४०	५९,४५,५८०
हिंगणा	१९	३३,१५,१००
मोंदा	५०	२६,७५,६७५
कामठी	३८	१३,८९,८५३
काटोल	१३	११,३४,९६२
नरखेड	१७	२४,३६,५००
सावनेर	६५	७१,१८,८७५
कळमेश्वर	२७	३३,६३,९२५
रामटेक	१२	२२,३४,९३१
पारशिवनी	४९	३८,८८,९४०
उमरेड	४०	८५,१९,५९३
भिवापूर	१०	१८,६३,३२०
कुही	१७	२५,६८,७५०

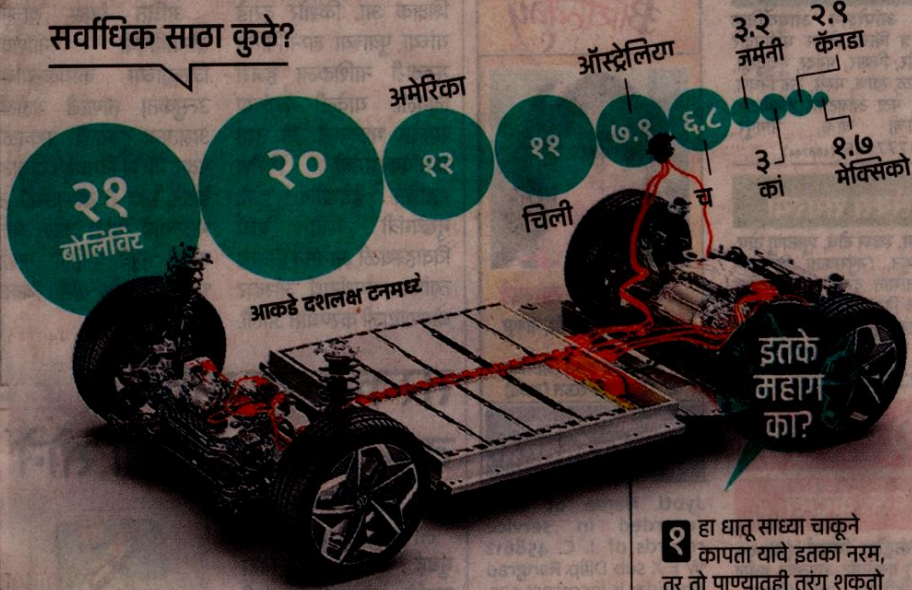


# जगात 'व्हाइट गोल्ड'चा सर्वाधिक साठा कुणाकडे?

ज्या देशाकडे जास्त लिथियम तो ठरणार 'राजा'

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क । नवी दिल्ली : जम्मू-काश्मीरपाठोपाठ राजस्थानातही लिथियमचा आढळलेला मोठा साठा खूप मोठी जमेची बाजू आहे. कारण यामुळे इलेक्ट्रिक वाहने तसेच लॅपटॉप आणि मोबाइलसाठी लागणाऱ्या चार्जबल बॅटरीसाठी लागणाऱ्या लिथियमची देशाची गरज भागणार आहे. यासाठी इतर देशांवर फारसे अवलंबून राहावे लागणार नाही.

सर्वाधिक साठा कुठे?



## भारताकडे लिथियम किती?

फेब्रुवारीत जम्मू काश्मीरच्या रियासी जिल्ह्यात लिथियमचा ५.९ मिलियन टन इतका साठा आढळला होता. भारतीय भूगर्भ सर्वेक्षण विभागाच्या दाव्यानुसार राजस्थानमधील साठा जम्मू-काश्मीरमध्ये आढळलेल्या साठ्यापेक्षा मोठा आहे.

## उत्पादन खर्च कमी, चालतात दीर्घकाळ

बाजारात लिथियम-आयर्न, सोल्लिड स्टेट, निकेल-मेटल हाइड्राइड, लेड-अॅसिड, अल्ड्राकॅपेसिटर, आदी प्रकारच्या रिचार्जबल बॅटरी मिळतात. यातील लिथियम-आयर्न बॅटरी सर्वात चांगल्या मानल्या जातात, कारण यांची ऊर्जा साठविण्याची क्षमता जास्त आहे. उच्च तापमानातही या चांगल्या प्रकारे काम करू शकतात. या बॅटरीच्या उत्पादनावर कमी खर्च येतो, तसेच या दीर्घकाळ चालतात.

१ हा धातू साध्या चाकूने कापता यावे इतका नरम, तर तो पाण्यातही तरंगू शकतो इतका हलका असतो.

२ रासायनिक ऊर्जा साठवून तिचे विजेत रूपांतर करू शकतो. म्हणूनच तो चार्जबल बॅटरीमध्ये वापरला जातो.

३ १ टन लिथियमची किंमत ५७.३६ लाख रुपये इतकी आहे. यामुळे ज्या देशाकडील लिथियमचा साठा अधिक, त्याला भविष्यात मोठे महत्त्व प्राप्त होणार आहे.



# खनिज निधीतून निकषात बसणाऱ्या कामांनाच प्राधान्य

## जलसंधारण व पर्यावरणाच्या कामांना प्राधान्य

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क  
नागपूर : प्रधानमंत्री खनिज क्षेत्र  
कल्याण योजनेमध्ये प्रत्यक्ष  
खाणबाधित क्षेत्रामधील  
विकासकामांसोबत निकषात  
बसणाऱ्या जलसंधारण, पर्यावरण  
आदी कामे प्राधान्याने घ्यावीत, अशा  
सूचना उपमुख्यमंत्री तथा पालकमंत्री  
देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांनी दिल्या.

वनामती सभागृहात जिल्हा खनिज  
प्रतिष्ठानच्या नियामक परिषदेची  
बैठक उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस  
यांच्या अध्यक्षतेखाली आयोजित  
करण्यात आली. त्यावेळी मार्गदर्शन  
करताना ते बोलत होते. बैठकीस  
खासदार कृपाल तुमाने, आमदार  
सुनील केदार, समीर मेघे, टेकचंद  
सावरकर, आशिष जयस्वाल, राजू  
पारवे, मोहन मते, तसेच जिल्हाधिकारी  
डॉ. विपीन इटनकर, जिल्हा  
परिषदेच्या मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी

### लोकप्रतिनिधींना विश्वासात घ्या

- जिल्हा खनिज प्रतिष्ठानअंतर्गत जलसंधारण कामांमध्ये गाळ काढणे, तसेच पर्यावरणाशी निगडित कामे प्राधान्याने पूर्ण करतानाच प्रत्यक्ष खाणबाधित क्षेत्रामध्ये आरोग्य, शिक्षण, पर्यावरण संवर्धन व प्रदूषण रोखण्यासाठी उपाययोजनांची कामे घेताना संबंधीत लोकप्रतिनिधींना विश्वासात घेण्याच्या सूचना फडणवीस यांनी यावेळी केल्या.

सौम्या शर्मा, जिल्हा खनिकर्म  
अधिकारी ऑंकारसिंग भोंड यावेळी  
उपस्थित होते.

जिल्हा खनिज प्रतिष्ठानअंतर्गत  
२०१६-१७ पासून १०२३ कोटी १३  
लाख रुपये जमा झाले असून, यामध्ये  
प्रामुख्याने कोळसा प्रमुख गौण  
खनिजाचा समावेश आहे. प्रधानमंत्री  
खनिज क्षेत्र कल्याण योजनेच्या  
निकषानुसार उच्च प्राथम्य बाबींसाठी  
६० टक्के, तर अन्य प्राथमिक  
बाबींसाठी ४० टक्के निधी खर्च  
करण्यात येत असून, त्याअंतर्गत ८२४

कोटी ३७ लाख रुपये खर्चाच्या  
प्रस्तावाला मान्यता देण्यात आली.  
त्यापैकी ५३५ कोटी रुपयांचा निधी  
वितरित करण्यात आला असून, ३६६  
कोटी ३६ लाख रुपये मार्च अखेरपर्यंत  
खर्च झाला आहे.

प्रधानमंत्री खनिज क्षेत्र कल्याण  
योजनेमध्ये जिल्ह्यात प्राप्त झालेल्या  
प्रस्तावासंदर्भात जिल्हास्तरीय तांत्रिक  
समिती गठीत करून निकषात  
बसणाऱ्या कामांना प्राधान्यक्रमाने  
कामे घ्यावीत, अशी सूचना  
उपमुख्यमंत्री यांनी दिली.



# Gold turns flat

## BULLION CUES. Silver showing bearish signs

**Akhil Nallamuthu**

bl. research bureau

Gold ended last week without much change, whereas silver prices tumbled. Gold, in terms of dollars, was down by a marginal 0.3 per cent to end the week at \$2,011.2 per ounce. The gold futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) was up by a marginal 0.4 per cent as it closed at ₹60,887 per 10 gram.

On the other hand, silver, in dollar terms, lost 7 per cent as it ended the week at \$23.9 per ounce. Similarly, the silver futures on the MCX was down 5.2 per cent as it closed at ₹73,054.

### MCX-GOLD (₹60,887)

The June gold futures was trading in a narrow range last week. Nevertheless, the support at ₹59,000 stays true and thus, the overall bullish inclination is retained. That said, the price action hints at a loss in momentum.

If contract regains traction and rallies, it can go up to ₹63,000. However, if the price drops below ₹59,000, we could see a swift decline to ₹58,000.

**Trade strategy:** Retain the long position initiated at ₹60,511. Add more longs if the price softens to ₹59,600. Place stop-loss at ₹58,800. When the



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contract touches ₹62,000, tighten the stop-loss to ₹60,500. Book profits at ₹62,800.

### MCX-SILVER (₹73,054)

The silver futures made a U-turn and fell below a key support at ₹75,000 last week. Consequently, the price action on the daily chart is resembling a double-top pattern. This means that the silver futures might drop further.

However, there is a strong support at ₹72,000. That said, given the prevailing conditions, there is a possibility for the contract to start consolidating within ₹72,000 and ₹75,000. So, essentially, the next leg of trend can be confirmed only after the contract breaches either of these levels.

Immediate support below ₹72,000 is at ₹70,000. Resistance above ₹75,000 is at ₹78,500.

**Trade strategy:** Stay out for now.



# हथनीतोड़ इलाके में खुदाई के लिए मिली सरकार की परमिशन पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व भी अब उगलेगा हीरा

■ भोपाल, नवभारत ब्यूरो. देश और दुनिया में टाइगर प्रोजेक्ट के लिए पहचान बनाने वाले पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व में अब बेशकीमती हीरे भी मिलेंगे. राज्य सरकार ने नेशनल मिनरल डेवलपमेंट कारपोरेशन (एनएमडीसी) को खुदाई करने की अनुमति दे दी है. सरकार की अनुमति मिलने के बाद हथनीतोड़ इलाके में खुदाई की जाएगी. हथनीतोड़ का इलाका पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व के किशनगढ़ बफर क्षेत्र आता है. अब इस इलाके में हीरे की तलाश की लिए खुदाई करवाई जाएगी. बता दें कि पन्ना मध्य प्रदेश का इकलौता जिला है जहां हीरे पाए जाते हैं. राज्य सरकार से अनुमति मिलने के बाद अब नेशनल वन्यप्राणी बोर्ड से अनुमति लेना होगा. अभी नेशनल वन्यप्राणी बोर्ड की तरफ से अनुमति नहीं

## 25 से ज्यादा खदानें

पन्ना जिले में हीरे की तलाश और खुदाई के लिए 25 से ज्यादा खदानें हैं. इसमें सरकारी और प्राइवेट खदानें शामिल हैं. अभी तक यह खुदाई गैर वन क्षेत्रों में होती थी. लेकिन अब पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व के अंदर भी खुदाई की जाएगी. पन्ना दुनियाभर में अच्छे किस्म के हीरे के लिए प्रसिद्ध है.

बताया जाता है कि पन्ना जिले में हीरे की खुदाई का काम कई शताब्दी पहले शुरू हुआ था. अभी करीब 80 किलोमीटर के दायर में

मिली है. जिस कारण से अभी खुदाई करने में समय लगेगा. हीरे की तलाश के लिए पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व में खुदाई का प्रस्ताव स्टेट वन्यप्राणी बोर्ड की बैठक में लाया गया



हीरे की तलाश की लिए खुदाई की जाती है. यहां करीब 3 से 30 फीट की खुदाई के बाद हीरा मिलना शुरू होता है

था जिस पर सहमति दे दी गई है. इस प्रस्ताव को नेशनल वन्यप्राणी बोर्ड भेजा गया है. वहां से सहमति मिलने के बाद खुदाई की काम शुरू हो जाएगा.

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