KHANIJ SAMACHAR

Vol. 9, No-22

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

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KHANIJ SAMACHAR

A FORTNIGHTLY NEWS CLIPPING SERVICE

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INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

VOL. 9, NO – 22, 16th – 30th NOVEMBER 2025

THE HINDU DATE:16/11/2025 P.NO.9

NMDC raises iron ore lump price to ₹5,600 per tonne

State-owned miner NMDC has increased the price of iron ore by ₹50 per tonne of Baila Lump effective November 15 while leaving the price of the Fines unchanged. The new per tonne Baila Lump price is ₹5,600, the company said in a filing on Saturday. This is the second price revision by the company in less than a month. Baila Fines will continue to come for ₹4,750 per tonne. The latest revision is the sixth this financial year and the seventh since January.

Venezuela keen on ties with India over critical minerals

Venezuela has expressed keen interest in enhancing cooperation with India in critical minerals sector and attract investments, the commerce ministry said on Saturday. It was discussed in a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of Ecological Mining Development of Venezuela Hector Silva here. Mr. Goyal had emphasised the need to reactivate the India-Venezuela Joint Committee Mechanism. PTI

Hindustan Zinc gets licence to explore, mine tungsten in A.P.

Hindustan Zinc Ltd. said it has received the licence to explore and mine a tungsten block in Andhra Pradesh by the state government. This marks an important milestone for the Vedanta Group company as it looks to expand beyond zinc, lead, and silver into critical and high-value minerals. A composite licence in mining is a single, two-stage concession that grants both the right to explore for minerals and the right to mine them if the exploration is successful. PTI

THE HITAVADA DATE:16/11/2025 P.NO.7

Venezuela keen to increase cooperation in critical minerals sector with India

VISAKHAPATNAM, Nov 15 (PTI)

VENEZUELA has expressed keen interest in enhancing cooperation with India in critical minerals sector and attract investments, the Commerce Ministry said on Saturday. It was discussed in a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of Ecological Mining Development of Venezuela Hector Silva here.

"During the meeting, the Venezuelan side expressed interest in expanding economic engagement with India beyond the oil sector, including cooperation in critical minerals and attracting Indian investment," it said. Goyal emphasized the need to reactivate the India and Venezuela Joint Committee Mechanism, whose last meeting was held a decade ago.

He noted that ONGC's ongoing operations in Venezuela provide scope for deeper collaboration in mining and exploration. He suggested that Venezuela may consider accepting the Indian Pharmacopeia to facilitate pharmaceutical trade and highlighted opportunities to enhance cooperation in the automobile sector.

In a separate statement, the Ministry said National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited, Logistics Data Services Limited, and the Andhra Pradesh Government signed an MoU to digitize the logistics landscape in Andhra Pradesh by leveraging the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP). As part of the initiative, an integrated digital platform will be developed and implemented to provide Government and private stakeholders in Andhra Pradesh with real-time visibility into the state's logistics operations and performance metrics.

THE HITAVADA DATE:16/11/2025 P.NO.10

Panna diamonds shine brighter with GI tag

PANNA, Nov 15 (IANS)

IN A landmark achievement, the world-famous diamonds from Panna, Madhya Pradesh, have been awarded the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, marking the State's 21st GI product. This long-cherished recognition is set to elevate Panna's diamonds to new heights, establishing a distinct identity both nationally and internationally while significantly boosting their brand value. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed his delight on X, stating, "The 'Panna Diamond' will shine internationally. The Indian government's award of the GI tag to diamonds from Panna, the diamond city, is a matter of pride for the entire State of Madhya Pradesh. This will open new opportunities for Panna's youth, artisans, and the local economy." He echoed the sentiment on Instagram, emphasising the global spotlight now on Panna's sparkling gems. The GI tag, granted after a process initiated on June 7, 2023, is expected to revolutionise the local diamond industry. Experts believe it will enhance transparency, quality assurance, and global recognition, creating new employment opportunities in mining and benefiting thousands of families.

The tag will also expand export prospects, driving a substantial increase in state revenue.

A Panna diamond officer hailed the milestone, saying, "It is a matter of great pride for the district". This will boost trade and attract visitors from across the country and abroad, giving Panna a new identity. Known as the 'Diamond City', Panna is renowned for its rich diamond mines and variety of precious gemstones.

The local administration and industry experts assert that the GI tag will carve a unique niche for Panna in the international market, reinforcing its legacy as a gemstone hub.

The people of Panna are jubilant as their long-pending demand has been fulfilled.

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:16/11/2025 P.NO.2

WCL launches Multimedia Studio

Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), a Miniratna subsidiary of Coal India Limited under the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, has achieved a major milestone in the field of communication and digital innovation. The company has established Coal India's first state-of-the-art multimedia studio at its headquarters, marking a significant step forward for digital transformation within the coal sector. The studio was inaugurated by WCL's Chairman-cum-Managing Director, J. P. Dwivedi, in the presence of Director (HR) Dr. Hemant Sharad Pandey, Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Ajay Madhukar Mhetre, and other senior officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Dwivedi said, "This studio is not merely an infrastructure addition but a powerful creative platform that will elevate WCL's strategic and sustained communication to new heights. Communication is the bridge that connects our workforce, achievements, and vision to the world. This facility will enable WCL to present its stories, innovations," he said.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:18/11/2025 P.NO.6

CHHATTISGARH

SECL launches Coal India's first paste filling project

R KRISHNA DAS
Raipur, 17 November

South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) launched Coal India's first paste filling technology project at the Singhali underground mine under the DSB sub-area of Korba on November 11.

This marks a significant step towards safe, eco-friendly underground mining practices. SECL has coal mines in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

To implement the underground mining technology, SECL has signed a ₹7,040 crore agreement with TMC Mineral Resources, under which large-scale coal production will be undertaken using paste fill technology in the Singhali underground coal mine.

The project is expected to produce around 8.4 million tonnes (mt) of coal over 25 years.

"I firmly believe that paste fill technology will not only secure the future of underground mining but also offer an innovative, eco-friendly solution. This project is a landmark step toward green mining and will shape the future of the coal industry in the years to come," said SECL Chairman and Managing Director Harish Duhan.

Paste filling is an advanced, eco-friendly mining technology in which mine voids are filled with a mixture of fly ash, tailings, and other mine waste with water and cement. The technique enhances underground stability and safety while reducing surface waste disposal challenges.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:19/11/2025 P.NO.2

10 years on, Kalinganagar becomes Tata Steel's growth spine

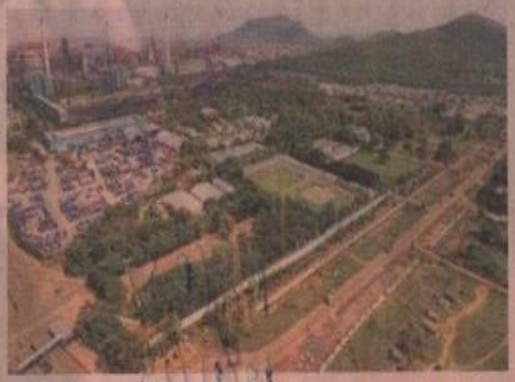
A project forged through resistance and reinvention now readies for its next leap — towards 16 mtpa capacity

ISHITA AYAN DUTT
Kolkata, 18 November

Tata Steel's Kalinganagar complex marked its tenth year of operations on Tuesday, having drawn close to ₹50,000 crore in investment — the largest organic capacity expansion in the company's history. This is set to grow as the steelmaker eyes a future capacity of 16 million tonnes per annum (mtpa).

The company said Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK) holds a unique place in its history.

For many years, Odisha's rich mineral resources primarily served as raw material for its Jamshedpur plant — the steelmaker's century-old base. TSK changed that equation by bringing large-scale steel production directly to the state. From an initial 3 mtpa commissioned in 2015, TSK expanded to 8 mtpa with the commissioning of India's largest blast furnace in September 2024.



The Kalinganagar complex brought large-scale steel production directly into Odisha for Tata Steel

Commenting on a decade of TSK, T V Narendran, managing director and chief executive officer, Tata Steel, said, "For all of us at Tata Steel, Kalinganagar holds a very special place in our hearts. It represents a new era — one where we combined a century of experience with a vision for the future, creating a living blueprint for Indian manufacturing."

He added, "Kalinganagar tested our resilience, teamwork, and faith, and each time, our people rose to the occasion. Over the past decade, Kalinganagar has shown how growth, technology, and sustainability can work in harmony to build lasting value."

TSK also plays a key role in India's Atmanirbhar Bharat push by producing more than 100 grades of high-quality steel, reducing the country's import dependence.

The site is now set for its next leap — towards becoming a 16 mtpa complex — as it continues to innovate, grow, and support livelihoods, the company said.

Getting here wasn't easy.

Tata Steel signed a memorandum of understanding with the Odisha government for an integrated steel plant in 2004, but the project was delayed for nearly a decade after a 2006 police firing over land acquisition led to fatalities and stalled progress.

Tata Steel's investment footprint in Odisha now extends well beyond Kalinganagar. Over the past decade, the state has become the company's biggest investment destination in India, drawing more than ₹1 trillion in cumulative spending, including acquisitions.

In 2018, the company acquired Bhushan Steel under India's insolvency law, adding a 5.6 mtpa plant at Meramandali on a 2,000-acre site.

In 2022, it was declared the winning bidder for Neelachal Ispat Nigam, owned by central and state public sector undertakings. Neelachal, Kalinganagar, and Meramandali now form the three pillars of Tata Steel's plan to reach 40 mtpa capacity over the next five to seven years.

THE HITAVADA DATE:18/11/2025 P.NO.9

Coal Minister inaugurates CIL pavilion at IITF 2025

NEW DELHI, Nov 18 (PTI)

COAL and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday inaugurated the Coal India Ltd (CIL) pavilion, which is showcasing initiatives to acquire critical minerals in the domestic market and overseas, at the trade fair in the national capital. "CIL's strategic initiatives to acquire critical minerals such as lithium and cobalt, both domestically and internationally, were also featured. This approach aims to reduce India's import dependency on these vital resources, supporting the growth of various industries reliant on such minerals," the Coal Ministry said in a statement.

The CIL pavilion at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 being organised from November 14-27 also highlights the country's progress in energy security, diversification projects, and sustainable practices drawing attention from visitors. The pavilion showcases opencast mining method, use of artificial intelligence in coal mining, functioning of Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at headquarters of CIL Subsidiaries.

The use of artificial intelligence has enhanced operational efficiencies and safety compliances. Live demonstration of virtual reality (VR) as immersive technology, primarily for the safety and operational training is organised in the pavilion.

NAVBHARAT DATE:20/11/2025 P.NO.9

सफलता : केंद्र ने दी 100 करोड़ रुपये की प्रोत्साहन राशि

खनन सुधार में उत्तराखंड नंबर-1 पर

■ देहरादून, नवभारत कनेक्ट. मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी के नेतृत्व में खनन क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय प्रदर्शन और लगातार सुधारों के चलते उत्तराखंड एक बार फिर केंद्र सरकार से बड़ी प्रोत्साहन राशि हासिल करने में सफल रहा है. केंद्र के खान मंत्रालय ने वर्ष 2025-26 की विशेष सहायता योजना के तहत उत्तराखंड को माइनर मिनरल्स रिफॉर्म्स में 100 करोड़ रुपये की अतिरिक्त प्रोत्साहन राशि प्रदान की है. इससे पहले भी माह अक्टूबर 2025 में राज्य को एसएमआरआई रैंकिंग में दूसरा स्थान प्राप्त होने पर 100 करोड़ रुपये की प्रोत्साहन राशि मिल चुकी है. इस प्रकार खनन क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट सुधारों और बेहतर नीतियों की बदौलत उत्तराखंड को कुल 200 करोड़ रुपये की प्रोहोत्सन राशि प्राप्त हो चुकी है. राज्य ने हाल के वर्षों में खनन सुधारों पर जोर देते हुए बेहतर नीतियां लागू की हैं जिसका परिणाम यह है कि उत्तराखंड ने खनन सेक्टर में देश में नंबर-1 स्थान हासिल किया है. केंद्र द्वारा जारी ताजा कार्यालय ज्ञाप दिनांक 18.11.2025 में बताया गया है कि राज्य ने खनन क्षेत्र से जुड़ी अधिकांश सुधारात्मक कार्यवाहियों को समय पर और प्रभावी ढंग से लागू किया है.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:20/11/2025 P.NO.6

SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT ON RETROSPECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES

Realty, infra, mining sectors may breathe easy

BHAVINI MISHRA
New Delhi, 19 November

The Supreme Court's decision to recall its May ruling that prohibited post-facto environmental clearances has "fundamentally altered the compliance landscape" and brought sectors such as real estate, construction, mining, and large public infrastructure "back from the brink", according to legal experts.

Calling it a "significant reversal", Ashutosh K. Srivastava, partner at SKV Law Offices, said the judgment revives the 2017 and 2021 government notifications that allowed retrospective environmental clearances.

"Projects that faced imminent demolition can now proceed through proper assessment mechanisms rather than automatic closure," he said. The court has shifted from a blanket prohibition to a position that permits retrospective clearances in exceptional cases, provided damage assessments, remediation plans, and penalties are imposed.

The ruling carries wide-ranging implications, including for real estate and construction projects that began without prior clearance and now have a viable route to regularisation, he said.

Similarly, mining and steel operations can seek retrospective approval where activities are legally permissible, while major public infrastructure projects — including All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospitals and greenfield airports — avoid the threat of complete demolition, Srivastava said.

"Operational continuity is the biggest immediate impact," he added, cautioning that activities in ecologically sensitive zones remain barred.

Ramanuj Kumar, partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, said the recall restores the central government's flexibility. "The power to make regulations includes the power to relax them. Upholding the earlier judgment would have meant the government could not regularise even genuine lapses. The court has attempted to strike a balance between development and environmental imperatives."

Suchitra Chitale, managing partner at Chitale & Chitale Partners, supported the move on practical grounds. "Demolition of what is already constructed would cause more pollution than the construction itself. The recall is correct," she said, adding that planning authorities must now impose stronger penalties for future violations.

Parth Contractor, founder of the tax firm Chambers of Parth Contractor, however, warned that the judgment puts the country in an era where even projects that breached environmental law are given "a chance at validation".

He criticised the ruling for not fully engaging with the environmental impact of post-facto approvals and described Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's dissent as an "eye-opener".

With the case now to be reheard, he said, "the situation remains in flux", and enforcement actions are likely to pause.

What the court held

The Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai and Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and K Vinod Chandran decided the review by a 2:1 majority. CJI Gavai and Justice Chandran recalled the earlier Vanashakti ruling; Justice Bhuyan dissented.

CJI Gavai held that the May judgment was per incuriam (through lack of care) because it overlooked binding precedents such as Alembic Pharmaceuticals, D Swamy, Electrosteel Steels, and Pahwa Plastics, which had recognised that post-facto environmental clearances may be granted in exceptional cases.

Invalidating clearances issued under the 2017 and 2021 office memoranda, he warned, would lead to the demolition of completed or near-complete projects worth "thousands of crores", adding to pollution rather than reducing it.

THE HINDU DATE:20/11/2025 P.NO.9

Search for minerals in Tamil Nadu

New Delhi, Nov. 18: A total area of 5,550 sq. km in Tamil Nadu, including parts of North Arcot, Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirapalli districts, will be covered by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) during 1975-76 in systematic mapping for deposits of minerals such as sulphides, phyrrhotite, pyrite, iron ore and magnesite. The GSI will do detailed mapping over an area of 523 sq. km and carry out drilling of 1,000 metres for investigation of these minerals in Tamil Nadu.

The GSI's systematic mapping programme during the current year will also cover an area of 2,450 sq. km in parts of Cannanore, Calicut, Malappuram, Idikki, and Trichur districts in Kerala. It will do detailed mapping over 600 sq. km and carry out drilling to depths of 500 metres for clays in Cannanore, Quilon and Trivandrum districts and for graphite in Ernakulam and Idikki districts.

In Karnataka, the GSI will cover 4,350 sq. km for systematic mapping and this will include parts of Dharwar, Bellary, Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, South Kanara and Shimoga districts. Detailed mapping in Karnataka will cover an area of 1,182 sq. km and the GSI proposes to do drilling up to a depth of 6,000 metres for investigations for copper, lead, zinc and manganese, limestone, gold, graphite, magnesite, asbestos and magnetite in North Kanara, Gulbarga, Mysore, Hosur, Bellary, Bilapur and Shimoga districts. The GSI's programmes include investigation for limestone in Diu. It will continue the assessment of iron ore in Goa by integrated geological, geophysical and chemical surveys.

THE HINDU DATE:20/11/2025 P.NO.10

Copper: Go short if the contract dips below ₹987

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

Copper prices have been oscillating in a range for more than three weeks now.

The copper futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange has been fluctuating between ₹990 and ₹1,025 per kg for about a month now.

Within this range, the contract is currently trading at ₹998.

COMMODITY CALL.

The immediate outlook is unclear. A crucial support is at ₹987, which could be tested in the coming days.

If the contract manages to sustain above this support and bounces back, then it could get some relief. In that case, it could rise back to ₹1,000-1,025 in the short term and ₹987-1,025 will become the trading range thereafter. But if the contract breaks below ₹987, it could come under selling pressure. Such a break could drag the contract down to ₹970 or ₹960. As such, the price action around ₹987 will need a very close watch.

TRADE STRATEGY

Traders can stay out of the market now. However, fresh short positions can be taken once the contract declines below ₹987. Keep the stop-loss at ₹992.

Trail the stop-loss down to ₹984 as soon as the contract falls to ₹981. Revise the stop-loss down to ₹982 and ₹978 when the contract touches ₹979 and ₹975 respectively. Exit the shorts at ₹973.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:21/11/2025 P.NO.8

Zinc: Go long if futures break above ₹305

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

Zinc prices have come down over the last one week. The contract traded on the MCX has come down, failing to sustain the break above ₹304 per kg. The contract made a high of ₹307.70 per kg and then fell back below ₹304 again to make a low of ₹298. It managed to bounce back from this low and is currently trading at ₹303 per kg.

The overall uptrend is intact. Strong support is around ₹297. Resistance is in the ₹304-305 region. A decisive break above ₹305 could strengthen the bullish momentum. Such a break could take the contract higher to ₹320 in the coming weeks.

Failure to breach ₹305 could drag it down to ₹300-₹297 again. In that case, ₹297-₹305 could be a possible trading range for some time. The broader uptrend will come under threat only if the contract breaks below ₹297. If that happens, the futures could fall to ₹292-₹290.

TRADE STRATEGY

The revised stop-loss at ₹303 on the long positions taken at ₹301 would have been triggered. Traders can stay out of the market now. Take fresh longs only after the contract breaks above ₹305. Keep the stop-loss at ₹298. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹309 as soon as the contract goes up to ₹311. Revise the stop-loss up to ₹312 and ₹315 when the contract touches ₹314 and ₹318. Exit the long positions at ₹320.

THE HITAVADA DATE:21/11/2025 P.NO.9

SAIL's Bokaro plant inks licencing pact with DRDO lab for tech transfer

RANCHI, Nov 20 (PTI)

SAIL'S Bokaro steel plant on Thursday said it has signed a licencing agreement with DRDO's Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) for transfer of technology.

By this pact, Bokaro steel plant will utilise the technology to manufacture special steel used in defence applications. "By this agreement, DRDO grants a non-inclusive licence to utilise the technology for the manufacture of DMR 249A steel sheets for naval applications in India and sell to Indian armed forces and other Government agencies," the company said in a statement.

The licencing agreement for transfer of technology (LAToT) was received from DRDO's DMRL Director Dr R. Balamuralikrishnan in Hyderabad in the presence of senior defence officials.

The LAToT was received by B Sunita Minz, SS Panigrahy, and Rahul Tiwari, representing the steel maker.

The licence agreement is dedicated to the shared vision, hard work, commitment and unwavering pursuit of excellence of the Bokaro steel plant fraternity, the company said.

Bokaro steel plant executive director (works) Priya Ranjan hailed this development as a significant step forward towards fulfilling the requirements of the country in the defence sector.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:22/11/2025 P.NO.8

Aluminium poised to remain elevated

GLOBAL GROWTH HOPES. Demand from the clean energy value chain, supply concerns keep prices firm

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Aluminium prices are expected to stay elevated over the next few months on hopes of stronger global growth despite geopolitical uncertainties, driven by demand from the clean energy value chain (solar, wind, grid and electric vehicles), analysts say.

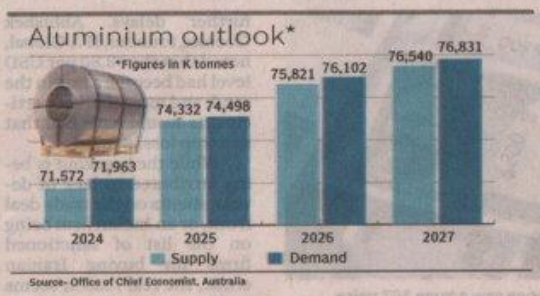
Concerns over limited supply have also kept prices firm, and they are set to persist as China is nearing the 45 million tonnes (mt) smelting cap it has set, constraining domestic expansion, said research agency BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions.

China's primary aluminium production was up 0.4 per cent year-on-year in October at 3.8 mt, but was down 9 per cent from September, said ING Think, the economic and financial analysis wing of the Dutch multinational financial agency ING.

PRICE FORECAST

"We are revising up our aluminium price forecast for 2025 to an annual average of $2,600/tonne from $2,580 previously. Prices have demonstrated resilience in 2025 thus far, up 13 per cent in the year-to-date to $2,859/tonne as of November 14," said BMI. Australia's Office of the Chief Economist (AOCE) said the LME aluminium price is forecast to average around $2,530 a tonne in 2025. On Thursday, aluminium was quoted at $2,810 a tonne on the London Metal Exchange. (LME).

Aluminium, which is used in transportation, packaging, construction, consumer goods and electrical transmission, has been gaining ground of late as the risk of lower supply has returned to the market. BMI said that it sees risks to its forecast as broadly balanced but modestly skewed to the upside for the remainder of the year.



Source- Office of Chief Economist, Australia

"Although persistent geopolitical risks, soft global demand prospects and tariff headwinds linger as downside risks, we have seen a recent easing of this pressure in recent weeks amid a flurry of trade deals between the United States and its Asian partners, and broader US-China de-escalation," said the research agency.

END TO US SHUTDOWN

The end of the US government shutdown on November 12 renewed market optimism and contributed to a weaker dollar, adding a further tailwind, it said.

AOCE said growing global demand for new, energy-efficient cars and technologies and increased electrification efforts were expected to lift aluminium demand over the medium term. BMI said in recent weeks, US President Donald Trump's slew of Asia-focused trade deals had lifted the sentiment, igniting renewed optimism across the metals complex.

"In particular, the easing of US–China trade tensions on November 1, following the White House announcing plans to cut the fentanyl tariff from 20 per cent to 10 per cent effective November 10, has bolstered risk sentiment and reduced trade-policy uncertainty, supporting a firmer near-term outlook for aluminium prices," it said. AOCE said stronger global manufacturing, China's rapid renewable build-out and recent US-China and US-EU trade deals were supporting aluminium prices.

BMI now sees the global aluminium deficit narrowing from an estimated 3,74,000 tonnes in 2024 to 79,000 tonnes in 2025.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:23/11/2025 P.NO.6

Copper price declines sharply

Reuters
London

Copper slumped to a more than two-week low on Friday and was heading for its worst week since April on tech sector fears while US jobs data added to doubts over a potential cut to US interest rates in December.

Benchmark three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange was down 1.2 per cent at $10,613.50 a metric ton and on course for a weekly fall of 2.2 per cent, the biggest since the week

ended April 4. The metal widely used in power, construction and manufacturing earlier touched a low of $10,607.50, its weakest since November 5. "I think the main panic in markets relates to the sell-off in crypto," said Dan Smith at Commodity Market Analytics. "Bitcoin is falling like a stone and down about a third from the recent high. The danger is that this feeds into a death spiral for anybody that is overexposed."

Bitcoin hit a seven-month low on Friday. The US September jobs data, which had been delayed by the government shutdown, on Thursday showed stronger than expected growth in new hiring but a rise in the jobless rate to its highest in nearly four years. "The fog around US statistics has meant that the Fed is unlikely to cut rates in December," Smith said, referring to the US central bank. "This is resulting in some US strength, which is bearish for metal markets."

THE HITAVADA DATE:23/11/2025 P.NO.7

Govt suspends enforcement of 55 IS Standards under steel quality control order to help local industry

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (IANS)

THE Ministry of Steel has suspended the enforcement of 55 IS Standards under the Steel Quality Control Order to ensure adequate availability of steel for MSMEs and consumer industries.

The decision was taken after the Ministry examined the broader implications of enforcing the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024, for the steel sector based on the recommendations of the high-level committee on non-financial regulatory reforms, according to an official statement issued on Friday.

The Ministry has taken into account potential downstream pricing impacts, the need to ensure adequate availability of steel for MSMEs and consumer industries, and the continued reliance on imports for certain specialised grades.

At the same time, considerations relating to the prevention of unfair trade practices, support for small steel producers, and the advancement of domestic self-reliance have also been assessed, the statement said.

Taking these factors together, enforcement of QCO on 42 Indian Standards under the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024, has been suspended for three years, and enforcement of QCO on 13 Indian Standards, relating to speciality steel grades covered under PLI 1.2, has been suspended for one year.

The Ministry of Steel has issued the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025, the statement read.

The enforcement of 42 IS Standards in Schedule 1 of the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024—covering steel grades predominantly used in the manufacturing of engineered products, automotive and durable goods.

The enforcement of 13 IS Standards in Schedule 1 of the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024—covering speciality steel grades majorly used in niche and high-precision applications, including materials requiring exceptional strength, hardness, dimensional accuracy and thermal stability, the statement added.

The suspension of the Quality Control Orders (QCOs) about 55 steel products to address raw material constraints faced by consumer industries such as automobiles and MSMEs takes the total number of such orders put in abeyance based on the high-level reform panel's recommendation to 76.

The panel on non-financial regulatory reforms, headed by NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba, had proposed the revocation, suspension, and deferment of QCOs for more than 200 products, citing concerns that they had increased compliance burden and disrupted supply chains, and were hurting India's manufacturing competitiveness.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
DATE:24/11/2025 P.NO.2

First Limestone Block Auction in Jammu Soon

JAMMU Union minister G Kishan Reddy will lead the first-ever auction of limestone mineral blocks, which will be formally launched here on Monday with a roadshow, an official said. J&K CM Omar Abdullah and deputy CM Surinder Choudhary are also scheduled to attend the event, reflecting strong Centre-state partnership and the strategic importance of the initiative for the region, the official said. He said the milestone marks a significant step in advancing mining reforms introduced under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) in 2015. It is also the first mining block auction taking place in the Union Territory since the implementation of the law, signalling a shift toward transparency, competitiveness and sustainable development in the mineral sector, the official said. **Seven limestone blocks, covering about 314 hectares, have been identified across Anantnag, Rajouri and Poonch districts.** The approach reflects the principles of cooperative federalism, the official said. – PTI

It is also the first mining block auction in UT since mining reforms

THE HITAVADA DATE:24/11/2025 P.NO.9

In a first, 7 limestone blocks to be up for auction in Jammu & Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (PTI)

FOR the first time, a total of seven limestone blocks will be put up for auction in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Monday.

"It is also the first mining block auction taking place in the Union Territory since reforms, signalling a shift toward transparency, competitiveness, and sustainable development in the mineral sector," the Mines Ministry said in a statement.

The blocks, covering approximately 314 hectares, have been identified across the districts of Anantnag, Rajouri, and Poonch.

Categorised under G3 and G4 exploration stages, these deposits hold considerable potential for high-quality limestone critical to cement manufacturing, construction and other industrial applications. The G4 stage is reconnaissance and the G3 stage is prospecting. G4 involves broad-based surveys like regional geological mapping and remote sensing to identify areas with mineral potential, while G3 uses closer-spaced surveys to narrow down specific target locations within those areas.

"The first-ever auction of limestone mineral blocks in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir will be formally launched in Jammu on November 24, 2025," the Mines Ministry said. The event will be led by Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy.

The auction will be conducted under subsections (4) and (5) of Section 11 of the MMDR Act, enabling the Centre to facilitate the process in cases where State or Union Territory administrations face procedural limitations.

THE HINDU DATE:24/11/2025 P.NO.10

PM discusses trade, critical minerals with Ramaphosa

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday met South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit here.

The two leaders discussed cooperation in various areas, including trade, investment, mining, critical minerals, AI, and food security.

"Had an excellent meeting with President Cyril Ramaphosa during the G-20 Summit in Johannesburg," Mr. Modi posted on social media after his meeting.

"We reviewed the full range of the India-South Africa partnership, especially in boosting linkages of commerce, culture, investment and diversifying cooperation in technology, skilling, AI, critical minerals and more," he added.

Mr. Modi congratulated the South African leader on the successful presidency of the G-20 summit this year.

He appreciated South African efforts to take forward and build on the decisions arrived during the New Delhi G-20 Summit.

South Africa is hosting the first G-20 Summit being held in Africa.

The two leaders agreed to work jointly to amplify the voice of the Global South

Earlier, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in a post, said, "The leaders discussed initiating exchange of youth delegations for enhancing technology and people-to-people ties."

Recalling the historical ties that underpin India-South Africa relations, both leaders reviewed bilateral ties and expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in various fields of cooperation, including trade and investment, food security, skill development, mining, youth exchange and people-to-people ties, the Ministry said in a statement.

They discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of AI, Digital Public Infrastructure and critical minerals, it added.

The leaders agreed to work jointly to amplify the voice of the Global South.

Mr. Modi appreciated the initiative taken by South Africa to hold the IBSA leaders meeting.

NAVBHARAT DATE:25/11/2025 P.NO.1

अवसर : तालिबान सरकार का भारत को बड़ा ऑफर

सोना खनन में निवेश टैक्स फ्री

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. अफगानिस्तान के उद्योग एवं वाणिज्य मंत्री अलहाज नूरुद्दीन अजीजी भारत दौरे पर हैं. विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में निवेश की मांग करते हुए उन्होंने सोमवार को कहा कि उनकी सरकार सोने के खनन सहित नए क्षेत्रों में निवेश करने वाली कंपनियों को 5 साल की टैक्स छूट देने के लिए तैयार है. व्यापार मंडल एसोचैम की ओर से आयोजित एक संवाद सत्र में बोलते हुए, अजीजी ने कहा कि पाकिस्तान के साथ तनाव व्यापार में बाधाएं पैदा कर रहा है.

प्रतिस्पर्धी भी नहीं मिलेंगे

अजीजी ने कहा, 'अफगानिस्तान में अपार संभावनाएं मौजूद हैं. आपको ज्यादा प्रतिस्पर्धी भी नहीं मिलेंगे. उन्होंने कहा कि आपको टैरिफ सहायता भी मिलेगी और हम आपको जमीन भी दे सकेंगे. 5 साल की कर छूट उन कंपनियों को दी जाएगी जो नए क्षेत्रों में निवेश करने में रुचि रखती हैं.' उन्होंने कहा कि अगर भारतीय कंपनियां निवेश के लिए मशीनरी आयात करती हैं, तो अफगानिस्तान केवल 1 प्रतिशत टैरिफ लगाएगा.

LOKMAT DATE:25/11/2025 P.NO.5

'जिम कॉर्बेट' निर्णयानुसार दुर्गापूर कोळसा खाणीचा विस्तार अवैध?

हायकोर्टात दावा : मानव-प्राणी संघर्ष वाढेल

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : सर्वोच्च न्यायालयाने १७ नोव्हेंबर २०२५ रोजी उत्तराखंड येथील जिम कॉर्बेट व्याघ्र प्रकल्पाच्या प्रकरणामध्ये दिलेल्या निर्णयानुसार, चंद्रपूर जिल्ह्यातील दुर्गापूर कोळसा खाणीचा विस्तार अवैध ठरतो, असा दावा ॲड. महेश धात्रक यांनी सोमवारी मुंबई उच्च न्यायालयाच्या नागपूर खंडपीठामध्ये केला.

पर्यावरण संवर्धनासाठी कार्य करणाऱ्या प्रकृती फाउंडेशनचे अध्यक्ष दीपक दीक्षित यांनी दुर्गापूर कोळसा खाणीच्या विस्ताराविरुद्ध उच्च न्यायालयात जनहित याचिका दाखल केली आहे. त्यांची बाजू मांडताना ॲड. धात्रक यांनी 'जिम कॉर्बेट'वरील निर्णय दुर्गापूर कोळसा खाणीच्या विस्तारावर थेट परिणाम करणारा आहे, अशी माहिती दिली. दुर्गापूर कोळसा खाणीचा १२१.५८ हेक्टर वन जमिनीवर विस्तार केला जाणार आहे. या विस्तारामुळे ताडोबा-अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील पर्यावरणीय संवेदनशील क्षेत्र व शांतता क्षेत्र धोक्यात येईल. मानव-प्राणी संघर्षाला चालना मिळेल. या क्षेत्रामध्ये वाघ, बिबट इत्यादी शेड्यूल-१ प्राण्यांचा अधिवास आहे. गेल्या काही वर्षांत वाघांनी या परिसरातील अनेक व्यक्तींचे जीव घेतले आहेत. त्यामुळे 'जिम कॉर्बेट' निर्णयानुसार या खाणीचा विस्तार केला जाऊ शकत नाही, असे ॲड. धात्रक यांनी सांगितले.

वेकोलि म्हणते, काहीच संबंध नाही

खाण विस्तार क्षेत्र ताडोबाच्या कोअर क्षेत्रापासून १२.३५ किलोमीटर, तर बफर व पर्यावरणीय संवेदनशील क्षेत्रापासून १.२५ किलोमीटर दूर आहे. या विस्ताराला १६ डिसेंबर २०१५ रोजी वन परवानगी आणि १० नोव्हेंबर २०१७ रोजी पर्यावरण मंजुरी मिळाली आहे. त्यामुळे या प्रकरणाला 'जिम कॉर्बेट'वरील निर्णय लागू होत नाही, असा दावा वेकोलिने केला. त्यानंतर न्यायमूर्तिद्वय अनिल किलोर व रजनीश व्यास यांनी प्रकरणातील मुद्दे सविस्तरपणे विचारात घेण्यासाठी येत्या १ डिसेंबर रोजी पुढील सुनावणी निश्चित केली.

THE HITAVADA DATE:25/11/2025 P.NO.6

MOIL celebrates Environment and Mineral Conservation Week

■ Business Reporter

MOIL Limited celebrated the Environment and Mineral Conservation Week on November 21 at Gumgaon Mine.

The objective of the event was to maintain ecological balance in mining operations, ensure sustainable and responsible use of minerals, and raise awareness among employees and the local community about environmental stewardship.

Chief guests included M K Soni, Team Coordinator, Senior Manager – Mining, RCCPL Pvt. Ltd.; Rahul Garade, Senior Geologist, MSMC Ltd.; and Manoj Mondhe, Assistant General Manager – Mining, MOIL Ltd; At the outset, Umesh Charpe, Mine Managee, welcomed all the dignitaries.

Activities during the week comprised pollution-control measures, water-management reviews, assessment of green-cover status, and comprehensive environmental audits. A tree-plantation drive was also organised, and a street-play on environmental protection was staged by students of nearby Jawahar High School, Khapa. A drawing competition for students further reinforced the conservation message.

THE HITAVADA DATE:25/11/2025 P.NO.9

Afghanistan offers 5-year tax exemption to Indian investors in gold mining, new sectors

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (PTI)

SEEKING investments in a range of sectors, Afghanistan Industry and Commerce Minister Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi on Monday said his Government is ready to offer five years of tax breaks to firms investing in new sectors, including gold mining.

Speaking at an interactive session organised by business chamber Assocham, Azizi said tensions with Pakistan creating hurdles in trade. "There is a huge potential available in Afghanistan. Even you will not find a lot of competitors. You will also receive tariff support, and we will be able to give you land. The five-year tax exemption will be given to companies who may be interested to invest in new sectors," the Minister said. Afghanistan will charge only 1 per cent tariff if Indian firms import machinery for investment, he said.

"Gold mining will definitely require the technical and professional team or professional companies. So initially, we are requesting that you send your team, they can do the research, they can do the exploration initially, and then they can start work.

"However, the condition is that we will expect it to be processed in the country so jobs can be created," the Minister said. The visiting Minister urged the Indian side to remove "minor" hurdles to boost bilateral trade.

"We want to build the relationship between India and Afghanistan. There are some minor hurdles which really affect the overall process, like visa, air corridor, banking transactions. So these have to be sorted to improve bilateral trade and investment," he said in the presence of Indian Government officials.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:25/11/2025 P.NO.7

Coal production, despatch fell for second consecutive month in Oct

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

OUTPUT SLIPS

- The output fell by 8.5% y-o-y to 77.43 mt in October
- Despatches also declined by almost 5% y-o-y to 80.44 mt
- Energy consumption hit 132 billion units, declining by 6% y-o-y

The country's coal production and despatch declined for the second consecutive month in October this year largely in line with lower demand for the dry fuel from the power sector, which also reflected in lower electricity consumption.

According to the Coal Ministry, pan-India production fell by 8.5 per cent y-o-y to 77.43 million tonnes (mt) in October on a provisional basis. Despatches also declined by almost 5 per cent y-o-y to 80.44 mt.

The IIP numbers for last month also share a similar picture. Coal production (weight: 10.33 per cent) declined by 8.5 per cent y-o-y in October 2025. Its cumulative index declined by 2 per cent y-o-y during April-October FY26.

Pan-India lignite production also declined back-to-back for two months ending October. While production fell by a little over 1 per cent to 3.04 mt last month, despatch of the commodity rose by 1.34 per cent to 3.40 mt.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

India's energy consumption hit 132 billion units (BUs) in October declining by 6 per cent y-o-y. Coal power generation was lower on an annual basis in October and April-October 2025 at 93.61 BU and 718.02 BU, respectively, against 108.76 BU and 760.50 BU in October 2024 and April-October 2024, respectively.

Coal accounted for 67.21 per cent of India's total power generation, up from around 63 per cent in September 2025.

Lower demand for coal also led to a fall in requirement for railway rakes. The loading of rakes fell by 3.47 per cent y-o-y to 289.6 rakes per day. For the power sector, the requirement declined by 5.49 per cent y-o-y to 254.8 rakes per day.

Lower demand for electricity also reflected in lower prices on power exchanges. For instance, Indian Energy Exchange said that enhanced hydro, wind, and solar generation, combined with steady supply from coal-based generation resulted in higher supply liquidity on the exchange platform, leading to a decline in day ahead market (DAM) and real time market (RTM) prices.

The market clearing price in DAM at ₹2.67 per unit during October, a fall of 32 per cent on an annual basis. Similarly, price in RTM fell by 28 per cent to ₹2.73 per unit.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:25/11/2025 P.NO.10

Global steel production down 5.9% in October

Sneha Joseph
Chennai

Global steel production nosedived 5.9 per cent to 143.3 million tonnes (mt) in October 2025. It was 152.1 mt a year ago.

According to the World Steel Association, the biggest producer China's output decreased by a huge 12.1 per cent y-o-y to 72 mt in the period under consideration.

INDIA'S OUTPUT UP

India, however, recorded an increase in production at 13.6 mt, up 5.9 per cent in October. The US also saw its figures rising at 9.4 per cent to 7 mt. Meanwhile, Japan and Russia had a dip in production at 1 per cent to 6.9 mt and 6.2 per cent to 5.3 mt, respectively.

South Korean output, too, slipped, going down 5.8 per cent to 5.1 mt. Türkiye saw a drop at 3.1 per cent to 3.2 mt and Germany's production dipped to 3.1 mt, down 3 per cent. Brazil's steel production went south by 2.7 per cent at 3 mt. Iran produced 3.3 mt of steel in October, up 12 per cent.

Region-wise, Africa's October steel output was at 2 mt, up 0.8 per cent. Asia and Oceania saw a drop of 8.2 per cent at 102.4 mt and the EU (27) produced 10.8 mt, down 3.5 per cent.

Europe (others) output went down by 3.8 per cent to 3.6 mt. The Middle East produced about 5.4 mt, up 9.2 per cent. North America recorded a 4.7 per cent hike in output to 9.1 mt. Russia and other CIS + Ukraine produced 6.4 mt of steel, down 5.1 per cent while South America's output dropped by 1.1 per cent at 3.7 mt.

Hike import duty on aluminium to 15%, says mineral industries body

Our Bureau
Chennai

The Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) has urged the Finance Ministry to increase the import duty on aluminium to 15 per cent to protect the domestic industry.

Submitting its recommendations for the 2026-27 Budget, FIMI called for urgent policy intervention to safeguard the domestic aluminium industry.

India's aluminium manufacturing base is currently under threat by a surge in imports from aluminium surplus nations driven by global tariff and non-tariff protectionist measures, it said.

Stating that the ongoing and planned investments were over ₹1.5 lakh crore to raise domestic capacity, it said an additional ₹1.6 lakh crore is in the pipeline to raise primary aluminium production to 7.2 million tonnes (mt) a year by 2029-30 and around 9 mt by 2032-33. This is in line with the Aluminium Vision Document, released by the Ministry of Mines, earlier this year.

Aluminium imports have surged in recent years, especially from China, Russia, Asean nations and West Asia. Despite sufficient domestic capacity, nearly 55 per cent of India's aluminium demand in 2025-26 is projected to be met through imports.

QUALITY STANDARDS

FIMI expressed concern over the rising inflow of aluminium scrap. India has become the world's largest importer of aluminium scrap due to the absence of quality and BIS standards for recycling and scrap imports, it said.

FIMI sought quality standards on scrap in line with India's aluminium vision document.

On the other hand, the federation sought reduction in import duty of critical raw materials for aluminium production. Producers face high production costs due to expensive raw materials, an inverted duty structure, various taxes and cesses, electricity duty and high logistics costs, it said.

Though India has the advantage of being among the world's largest holders of bauxite and coal reserves, domestic aluminium production costs remain among the highest globally. Taxes and duties alone account for nearly 17 per cent of production costs, FIMI said.

THE HINDU DATE:25/11/2025 P.NO.3

Properties valued ₹80.05 cr. attached in illegal mining case

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached immovable and movable assets valued at ₹80.05 crore as part of its investigation into alleged illegal mining by M/s Santosh Sand and Granite Supply. The agency named proprietor Gudem Madhusudhan Reddy and his associate G Vikram Reddy, stating that they carried out excess mining in the allotted quarry and illegally extracted material from unassigned government land. Officials said this caused a royalty loss of ₹39.08 crore to the State and allowed the accused to amass an estimated ₹300 crore.

THE HITAVADA DATE:26/11/2025 P.NO.6

Supply-demand mismatch keeps steel prices down

Industry leaders demand import ban as 8 mm bars see Rs 42,500/tonne rate

■ Business Reporter

HIGHLIGHTING that the low prices of steel TMT bars are hurting the sector, manufacturers on Monday urged the Government to take corrective measures at the earliest. The manufacturers, especially those operating in this region, are demanding that the Government halt the inflow of steel from other countries and that it reduce power tariffs in the State so that a level-playing field can be restored.

On 25 November, 8 mm steel bars were quoted at Rs 42,500 per tonne (including 18 % GST), 10 mm bars at Rs 41,500 per tonne (including 18 % GST) and 12-25 mm bars at Rs 41,000 per tonne (including 18 % GST). These levels are Rs 1,000-1,500 per tonne higher than the levels seen in July-August this year. Although locally-produced or secondary-grade TMT bar prices have shown a modest rise over the past 25-30 days, overall steel prices remain at a four-year iow, squeezing domestic producers.

Steel prices on Nov 25	
8 mm	Rs 42,500 + 18% GST
10 mm	Rs 41,500 + 18% GST
12-25 mm	Rs 41,000 + 18% GST

Traditionally, TMT bar prices tend to climb 10-15 % after Diwali as construction activity spikes. But this year the sector is grappling with a supply-demand mismatch.

"At present a large volume of steel is available in the domestic market because of various geopolitical factors, and imports from international markets are also entering the country. At the same time, domestic demand is not rising as expected," said Rajesh Sarda, Past President of the Steel and Hardware Chamber.

Steel dealers added that demand from builders and contractors is weak, with wholesalers and developers facing cash constraints that are delaying payments for steel supplies.

A surge in cheap imports from South Korea, China, Japan and Russia has flooded the market, while global overcapacity and a slowdown in key consuming sectors have depressed demand. In addition to this, fluctuations in raw-material costs - particularly iron ore and coking coal - have also contributed to the downward pressure on prices. Moreover, the recent expiry of a 12% temporary safeguard duty on flat steel has left the domestic industry without immediate tariff protection, further exposing it to international competition.

Manufacturers therefore reiterated the need for swift Government action to curb imports, lower electricity rates and restore a fair competitive environment, warning that without such steps the domestic steel sector could face prolonged hardship.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:26/11/2025 P.NO.10

Copper rises on outflows to the US

London: Copper prices climbed to their highest level in more than a week, supported by ongoing outflows to US inventories, though weaker demand prospects from China capped the gains. Benchmark copper on the LME was up 0.6 per cent at $10,833.50 a tonne by 0948 GMT. Aluminium and zinc rose 0.1 per cent to $2,812.50 and $3,002.50, respectively. REUTERS

BUSINESS LINE DATE:26/11/2025 P.NO.10

Stay out of aluminium futures for now

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

Aluminium prices have risen back well in the last couple of days after getting beaten down for two consecutive weeks. This has eased the downside pressure and has also reduced the danger of more fall.

COMMODITY CALL.

The aluminium futures contract traded on the Multi Commodity Exchange fell to a low of ₹262.30 per kg, and then has reversed higher from there.

It is currently trading at ₹269. The immediate resistance is at ₹271, which could be tested now.

A break above it can take the contract further up to ₹273 — the next resistance. Ideally, the contract has to breach ₹273 to turn the outlook bullish. Only then the upside will open up to see ₹277-280 levels.

A failure to rise above ₹271 from here could trigger a fall back to ₹265 — an important support. It will also keep the contract vulnerable to break this support. Such a break could trigger a fresh fall to ₹260 and even lower, going forward.

TRADE STRATEGY

Considering the resistance that is coming up and the danger of seeing a fall back, we suggest traders to stay out of the market for now.

THE HINDU DATE:26/11/2025 P.NO.13

Slash tariff on aluminium, ASMA appeals to Centre

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Primary aluminium, accounting for 80% of output cost for makers, attracts 7.5% import duty

The Aluminium Secondary Manufacturers Association (ASMA), a body of downstream manufacturers and MSMEs, has appealed to the Centre to reduce the import duty on primary aluminium.

Primary aluminium, which accounts for 80% of production cost for the manufacturers, attracts a 7.5% import duty. The consequential increase in selling price makes it difficult for aluminium downstream product makers to compete globally.

Challenges galore

"The downstream sector is currently reeling under significant challenges that threaten the viability to compete since we are losing market access both domestically and internationally," Association patron Anil Agarwal said.

In a representation to Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, ASMA cited how free trade agreements such as the ASEAN-India pact allowed finished goods to enter India at zero duty, undercutting local makers who buy raw material at 7.5% duty-inclusive price. Such distortion places downstream makers at a distinct cost disadvantage.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:26/11/2025 P.NO.13

From breakthrough to uncertainty, the evolving story of J&K's lithium discovery

Gulzar Bhat
Srinagar

In 2023, Salal, an idyllic village about 18 km from Reasi town in Jammu division, shot to prominence after the government announced the discovery of what was believed to be a large lithium reserve.

Officials from the Mines Ministry reported finding 5.9 million tonnes of lithium, a silver-white metal vital for batteries supporting India's renewable energy push. The announcement drew media attention to the remote village, where residents spoke proudly of the prosperity the mineral wealth could bring.

Two years on, uncertainty hangs over the extraction prospects, with Union Minister G Kishan Reddy telling reporters in Jammu on Monday that initial findings no longer indicate significant lithium deposits. He said there remained nationwide interest in the lithium find in Jammu & Kashmir.

HOPES DIM. A villager posing on top of rocks containing lithium in the Salal-Haimana area of Reasi district, where the GSI reported finding 5.9 mt of the metal (file photo) PTI

He noted that while the government usually moves to auction after receiving a G4 report from the Geological Survey of India, it had already completed G4 and G3 surveys for lithium and was now finalising a G2 study, expected by January next year.

He added that this level of pre-auction exploration is unusual and was undertaken because early assessments suggested the deposits may be smaller than initially thought, prompting the government to carry out end-level studies before deciding the next steps.

EARLY EXCITEMENT

In Reasi, villagers recall the excitement that followed the announcement. Rumours of jobs circulated, and many believed the region would soon be on the global lithium map. Today, that optimism is fading.

"We were told the world would come to Reasi," said Rajesh Thakur, a resident. "But now they are saying there may not be much lithium at all," he added.

He said that many people even feared displacement if the area was auctioned.

"The excitement was too early. G3 cannot be treated as a final estimate. It suggests the presence of mineralisation and not extractable reserves," said a geologist.

He said that the earlier claims were either overstated or publicised too early.

Officials said the data collected over the next two months would determine whether the site holds any significant and economically viable reserves.

THE HITAVADA DATE:27/11/2025 P.NO.9

Centre auctions 3 coal blocks, likely to attract Rs 7,350 crore investment

NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (IANS)

THE Ministry of Coal on Wednesday successfully completed the auction of three coal blocks in Jharkhand and Odisha under the 13th round of commercial coal mine auctions, which are likely to attract a capital investment of nearly Rs 7,350 crore, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

These three blocks are poised to generate annual revenue of approximately Rs 4,620.69 crore and create 66,248 employment opportunities, the statement said. Damodar Valley Corporation has emerged as the highest bidder for the three coal blocks comprising Pirpainti Barahat and Dhulia North in

Jharkhand, and Mandakini-B in Odisha.

The three fully explored coal blocks together hold geological reserves of approximately 3,306.58 million tonnes, with a cumulative Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) to produce 49 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).

Since the inception of commercial coal mining in 2020, a total of 136 coal blocks, with a production capacity of 325.04 Million Tonnes per year, have been successfully auctioned.

Once operational, these blocks will substantially enhance domestic coal production and advance the nation's goal of becoming self-reliant in the coal sector. Collectively, these coal blocks are estimated to yield annual revenue of Rs 43,330 crore, mobilise capital investment of Rs 48,756 crore, and generate 4,39,447 employment opportunities across coal-bearing regions. The Ministry launched the 13th round of commercial coal block auctions on August 21.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:27/11/2025 P.NO.5

Minerals are G'chiroli's true wealth: Panda

Sumukh Kulkarni | TNN

Nagpur: Gadchiroli district collector Avishyant Panda said that Gadchiroli's abundant mineral reserves, including iron ore, dolomite, quartz, copper and limestone, are the district's greatest natural wealth.

Speaking at a review meeting of Gondwana University during a visit by a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation, Panda noted that with the right industrial backing, the district is poised for significant growth over the next decade. He added that responsibly harnessing these minerals could play a transformative role in shaping Gadchiroli's economic future.

A high-level CII delegation visited Gondwana University to explore opportunities for deeper collaboration between industry and academia. The representatives reviewed the university's research, skill development and innovation programmes, and interacted with senior faculty members.

Discussions were held on exploring chances for collaboration between industry & academia during a review meeting of Gondwana University and a high-level CII delegation

As part of the visit, Panda presented Gadchiroli's industrial potential and investment roadmap before the delegation at the Lloyds Metals & Energy Ltd project site in Konsari, Chamorshi taluka.

The collector highlighted the district's vast 14,412 sq km area, nearly 70% forest cover and rich mineral deposits, calling them Gadchiroli's strongest natural assets. He said the district is on the cusp of rapid industrialisation, and the CII delegation's visit comes at a crucial time for its long-term growth prospects.

A detailed presentation on Gondwana University's initiatives was delivered at the Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC) by Manish Uttarwar, Director of Innovation, Research & Collaboration. The meeting was attended by vice-chancellor Prashant Bokare, pro-vice chancellor Shriram Kawale, registrar Anil Hirekhan, dean Shyam Khandare, STRC chief programme officer Swapnil Girde and other senior officials.

Vice-chancellor Dr Bokare said industry participation is essential for the district's holistic development. He added that collaboration with CII would help strengthen local skills, entrepreneurship and social progress, ultimately benefiting students and communities across Gadchiroli.

The CII delegation also visited STRC, the Centre for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training (CIIIT) and the University Institute of Technology (UIT). They appreciated the university's technology-driven projects, innovative student models and community-focused initiatives.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:27/11/2025 P.NO.7

AIMS FOR 6,000 MTPA CAPACITY

Cabinet OKs ₹7,280 cr Rare Earth Scheme to Boost Magnet Output

Other approvals include two railway multi-tracking projects and expansion of the Pune metro network

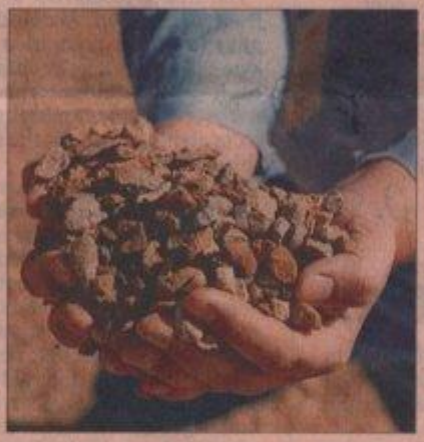
Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a Rs 7,280 crore rare earth permanent magnet scheme, two railway multi-tracking projects, and expansion of the Pune metro.

Announcing the decisions, railways, information technology, and information broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said upstream industries in defence, electronics, and electric vehicle manufacturing will be the key beneficiaries of the permanent magnet incentives.

Underscoring the relevance of this scheme, the minister said contemporary geopolitics has increased the importance of rare earths.

"India has among the highest reserves of rare earth. It will be among the leading producers of permanent magnets in the coming years," he said adding the relevance of these magnets was recently established in the dispute between United States and China.



An official statement said this 'first-of-its-kind initiative' aims to establish 6,000 metric tons per annum of integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing in India.

According to Saurabh Agarwal, Partner & Automotive Tax Leader, EY, disciplined implementation is needed to ensure success of this scheme. "We must prioritize technology access, establish high-quality processing capabilities, and strictly uphold responsible mining and ESG standards," he told **ET**.

A Rs 9,857.85 crore Line 4 (Kharadi–Hadapsar–Swargate–Khadakwasla) and Line 4A (Nal Stop–Warje–Manik Baug) under Phase-2 of the Pune Metro Rail Project also got the cabinet nod. The project will complete within five years and be jointly funded by the centre, Maharashtra state, and external funding agencies. According to official estimates, the daily ridership on Line 4 and 4A combined is expected to be 4.09 lakh in 2028, rising to nearly 7 lakh in 2038, 9.63 lakh in 2048, and over 11.7 lakh in 2058.

MULTIPLIER EFFECT

Upstream industries across defence, electronics and EV manufacturing to be the key beneficiaries of the rare earth incentives: Vaishnaw

Vaishnaw also announced doubling of the Devbhumi Dwarka (Okha) – Kanalus Doubling railway line in Gujarat and the third and fourth line of the Badlapur – Karjat section in Maharashtra. These two projects will cost approximately Rs 2,781 crore. The approved doubling from Kanalus to Okha (Devbhoomi Dwarka) would provide enhanced connectivity to Dwarkadhish temple facilitating access to key pilgrimage destination and lead to all round development of Saurashtra region, a statement said.

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE:27/11/2025 P.NO.1

फैसला | केंद्रीय कैबिनेट की बैठक में चार फैसलों पर लगी मुहर

रेयर अर्थ मैग्नेट्स के लिए 7280 करोड़ रु. की योजना मंजूर, चीन पर निर्भरता घटेगी

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली.

रेयर अर्थ परमानेंट मैग्नेट्स (आरईपीएम) के निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने बुधवार को 7280 करोड़ रुपए की योजना को मंजूरी दी। इस कदम से भारत की चीन पर निर्भरता कम होगी। रेयर अर्थ मैग्नेट्स इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों, रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, एयरोस्पेस और रक्षा जैसे कई क्षेत्रों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में हुई कैबिनेट बैठक में इसे मंजूरी दी गई। सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बताया कि इसका उद्देश्य 6,000 मीट्रिक टन प्रति वर्ष की क्षमता निर्मित करना है। योजना के तहत रेयर अर्थ ऑक्साइड्स को धातुओं में, धातुओं को मिश्र धातुओं में और मिश्र धातुओं को तैयार मैग्नेट्स में बदलने की पांच इकाइयां स्थापित की जाएंगी। वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धी बोली प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से कुल क्षमता आवंटित होगी। योजना की अवधि सात वर्ष होगी। दो वर्ष निर्माण सुविधा स्थापित करने और पांच वर्ष उत्पाद की बिक्री पर प्रोत्साहन वितरण के लिए होंगे। भारत में अभी प्रति वर्ष लगभग 4,000-5,000 मीट्रिक टन प्रति वर्ष रेयर अर्थ मैग्नेट्स की आवश्यकता है। यह खपत 2030 तक दोगुनी होने की उम्मीद है। अभी भारत मुख्य रूप से चीन जैसे देशों से आयात पर निर्भर है। चीन द्वारा लगाए गए प्रतिबंधों के कारण ऑटोमोबाइल और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स जैसे क्षेत्रों में निर्माण प्रभावित हुआ है। वैश्विक प्रोसेसिंग क्षमता का 90% से अधिक चीन के नियंत्रण में है।

अन्य फैसले... गुजरात-महाराष्ट्र में 2,781 करोड़ के दो रेल प्रोजेक्ट मंजूर

▪ कैबिनेट ने गुजरात में द्वारका-कानालुस रेल लाइन के दोहरीकरण और मुंबई महानगरीय क्षेत्र में बदलगांव-करजत के बीच तीसरी और चौथी रेल लाइन के निर्माण को मंजूरी दी। ▪ 9,858 करोड़ की लागत से पुणे मेट्रो रेल नेटवर्क के विस्तार को मंजूरी। -पेज 12 भी पढ़ें

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:27/11/2025 P.NO.4

Coal ministry auctions three blocks in 13th commercial round

The Ministry of Coal has auctioned three fully explored coal blocks in the 13th round of commercial coal mine auctions held between 20 November and 25 November, securing projects with combined geological reserves of 3,306.58 million tonnes (mt). The auctioned mines are expected to generate annual revenue of around ₹4,620 crore, attract ₹7,350 crore in investment and create 66,248 jobs. BS REPORTER

NAVBHARAT DATE:27/11/2025 P.NO.6

एल्युमीनियम पर घटे आयात शुल्क

दिल्ली. एल्युमीनियम सेकेंडरी मैन्युफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन ने सरकार से प्राथमिक एल्युमीनियम पर आयात शुल्क कम करने की मांग की है. इस कदम से घरेलू कीमतों को तर्कसंगत बनाने और उच्च इनपुट लागत का सामना कर रहे उद्योगों को मदद मिलेगी.

NAVBHARAT (NAGPUR PLUS) DATE:28/11/2025 P.NO.6

कोयला की जरूरतों को करेंगे पूरा

कोयला राज्य मंत्री सतीशचन्द्र दुबे वेकोलि के दौरे पर

■ नागपुर, व्यापार संवाददाता. कोयला एवं खान राज्य मंत्री सतीशचन्द्र दुबे ने वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड के नागपुर स्थित वेकोलि मुख्यालय का दौरा किया. इस दौरान उन्होंने कहा कि देश की कोयला की जरूरतों को हर हाल में पूरा किया जाएगा. इसमें वेकोलि भी अहम भूमिका निभा रहा है. उन्होंने मुख्यालय में स्थापित ई-वाहन फास्ट इलेक्ट्रिक चार्जिंग स्टेशन का उद्घाटन किया. तत्पश्चात उन्होंने इंटीग्रेटेड कमांड एंड कंट्रोल सेंटर फॉर ई-सर्वेलंस का निरीक्षण किया. समीक्षा बैठक में उन्होंने वेकोलि के उत्पादन, उत्पादकता एवं कोयला प्रेषण की स्थिति का जायजा लिया. समीक्षा बैठक में अध्यक्ष-सह-प्रबंध निदेशक जेपी द्विवेदी ने वेकोलि में कोयला खनन के स्थिति की विस्तृत जानकारी दी. उन्होंने इस वित्तीय वर्ष के अभी तक किए गए कोयला उत्पादन, प्रेषण, नई पहलें, वेलफेयर तथा सीएसआर गतिविधियों आदि से अवगत कराते हुए आश्वस्त किया कि वेकोलि वर्ष के अंत तक कोयला उत्पादन का लक्ष्य हासिल करेगा.

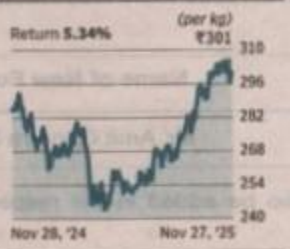
- दुबे ने कहा कि देश की कोयला आवश्यकताओं को पूर्ण करने के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि वेकोलि अपना वार्षिक लक्ष्य पूर्ण करे. देश को कोयला क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की दृष्टि से वर्तमान खनन कार्य को सुदृढ़ बनाना एवं नये प्रोजेक्ट शुरू करना आवश्यक है.
- इस दिशा में उन्होंने कोयला मंत्रालय की ओर से हर पूर्ण सहयोग का आश्वासन दिया. उन्होंने देश की कोयला आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति में वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड के योगदान को महत्वपूर्ण बताया. दुबे ने सुरक्षा प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र इंदौरा में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रमों में सर्वप्रथम हथियार प्रशिक्षण केंद्र 'शस्त्र' का उद्घाटन किया.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:28/11/2025 P.NO.8

Zinc futures: Traders are advised to stay on sidelines

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

Zinc prices seem to be struggling to gain momentum over the last few weeks. The zinc futures contract traded on the Multi Commodity Exchange has been stuck between ₹295 and ₹308 per kg for more than four weeks now. Within this range, it touched a low of ₹295.70 earlier this week and is currently trading at ₹301.



COMMODITY CALL.

Intermediate resistance is in the ₹302-304 region. A break above it could take the contract higher to ₹308-309 in the coming days. A decisive break above ₹309 is needed for the contract to gain back the bullish momentum. Only then will the upside open up for a fresh rise to ₹320-322, going forward.

Failure to rise past ₹304 from here could keep the contract under pressure. In that case, there is a danger of breaking the range on the downside below ₹295. Such a break could trigger a fall to ₹290-288. After this fall, the contract could rise back towards ₹295-297 again.

Since the contract is range-bound, we suggest traders to stay out of the market for now. Wait for the range breakout and then take trades accordingly.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:28/11/2025 P.NO.2

'Stainless steel industry deserves dedicated policy'

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 27 November

"ADDING JUST ONE CHAPTER (IN THE STEEL POLICY) DIMINISHES THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF THIS INDUSTRY"

Abhyuday Jindal
Managing Director, Jindal Stainless Ltd

The Indian stainless steel industry deserves a dedicated policy rather than a mere chapter integrated into the National Steel Policy of 2017 as being planned by the government, according to Abhyuday Jindal, managing director, Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL).

"Adding just one chapter diminishes the value and importance of this industry," Jindal told *Business Standard* in an interview.

He said the sector needs a standalone policy as it is distinct from carbon steel in many ways—the raw materials it uses, the applications it goes for, and the manufacturing processes.

JSL accounts for nearly half of total stainless steel sales volume in India. It sold 2.37 million tonnes of stainless steel in FY25, with majority sales concentrated for the domestic market.

The total domestic consumption of stainless steel was 4.8 million tonnes during the same period, according to industry body Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA).

The comment comes in the backdrop of the steel ministry's plan to bring the stainless steel segment into the National Steel Policy to address the industry's long-standing concerns.

"The present National Steel Policy does not have anything on stainless steel, but we are incorporating a chapter on stainless steel in the proposed new policy," a senior steel ministry official told *Business Standard*. The official, who did not want to be identified, added the new provisions would factor in sectoral realities, including underutilised capacity, higher production costs and raw material constraints.

The major part of the "dedicated policy" pitch by the ₹40,000-crore company revolves around raw material securitisation, especially for nickel and chrome. "Nickel is critical for us and we don't have nickel in India. Like rare earth materials, nickel securitisation should be encouraged," he said. Jindal added that while chrome is available in India, the government must enable greater mining and exploration, and lower royalty burdens in order to incentivise investment.

More on business-standard.com

THE HITAVADA DATE:28/11/2025 P.NO.6

MoS for Coal & Mines visits WCL

■ Business Reporter

MINISTER of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey visited the Nagpur-based Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) on Thursday. On the occasion, he inaugurated the e-vehicle fast electric charging station established at the headquarters. Thereafter, he inspected the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) for e-surveillance. Following the inspection, the Minister chaired a review meeting of WCL.

The session commenced with the inauguration of WCL's new website and the Amrit Pharmacy at Chandrapur Area. Subsequently, during the review meeting, he assessed WCL's performance in terms of production, productivity, and coal dispatch. Chairman-cum-Managing Director JP Dwivedi presented a detailed overview of coal mining operations in WCL. He briefed the Minister on the coal production and dispatch achieved so far.

Minister's OSD Akhilesh Kumar Pandey, Private Secretary Rituraj Mishra, Deputy Secretary Ram Kumar, Under Secretary Vasant Burde, Private Secretary Hradesh Dwivedi; and from WCL, Director (Finance) Bikram Ghosh, Director Technical (Operations and Projects/Planning) Anand Prasad, Director (Human Resources) Dr Hemant Sharad Pande, Chief Vigilance Officer Ajay Madhukar Mhetre and others also present.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:29/11/2025 P.NO.8

China's top copper smelters to cut output to combat negative processing fees

Reuters
Beijing/Shanghai

China's top copper smelters will cut production by over 10 per cent in 2026, to counter overcapacity in the industry that has led to increasingly distorted copper concentrate processing fees, according to a Chinese market information provider.

Treatment and refining charges (TC/RCs), which are traditionally paid by miners to smelters, have been negative in 2025 due to tight copper supply and expanding Chinese smelting capacity, leaving smelters effectively having to pay miners.

TC/RC FEES

The China Smelters Purchase Team (CSPT), a group of the top copper smelters, said its members agreed to cut production to improve market conditions, according to Shanghai Metals Market on Friday.

The move follows comments by Chen Xuesen, Vice President of China's Nonferrous Metal Industry association, who said on Wednesday that the state-backed association "firmly opposes any free and negative processing" of copper concentrate. Chen also said China had halted about 2 million tonnes of planned new copper smelting capacity.

The CSPT refrained from setting copper TC/RC guidance for the fourth quarter in late October, for the third time in a row.

The benchmark three-month copper was up 0.64 per cent to $11,009.50 a tonne as of 1019 GMT.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:29/11/2025 P.NO.5

New royalty rates for 4 critical minerals kick in

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 28 November

GRAPHITE TO ATTRACT AD-VALOREM ROYALTY RATES, INSTEAD OF PER-TONNE ROYALTY

The mines ministry on Friday notified new rationalised royalty rates for four critical minerals: Caesium, graphite, rubidium and zirconium. Graphite will attract ad-valorem royalty rates, moving from the per tonne royalty in effect since September 2014.

Graphite was the only critical and strategic mineral whose royalty rate was specified on a per-tonne basis. The shift to ad valorem is in line with the huge variations seen in graphite prices across grades.

The Union Cabinet had earlier this month approved rate rationalisation for the four minerals to boost domestic production and facilitate their auctions. The Cabinet's decision followed the government's sixth tranche of critical mineral auctions, announced on September 16, which includes five graphite blocks, two rubidium blocks, and one each of caesium and zirconium.

The rate rationalisation will ensure that royalty accruals in different grades would proportionately reflect the changes in the prices of the mineral. It will unlock better value for the four resources and associated critical minerals, such as lithium, tungsten and niobium.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:29/11/2025 P.NO.8

HZL highlights zinc's role in protecting vehicles from corrosion

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) highlighted corrosion challenges and zinc's role in building a rust-free country with a showcase located in the mining pavilion at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 recently. The company's 'Zung Ke Khilaaf Zinc' campaign focused on educating citizens about the importance of galvanisation in protecting vehicles, infrastructure and everyday assets against corrosion.

Hindustan Zinc showcased galvanisation in a way by presenting a vintage Priya scooter structure, split into two contrasting halves — one galvanised and the other non-galvanised.

HZL also conducted on-ground conversations with visitors.

NAVBHARAT (NAGPUR PLUS) DATE:29/11/2025 P.NO.4

राष्ट्र निर्माण में प्रत्येक कर्मी का प्रयास जरूरी

MECL पहुंचे केंद्रीय कोयला मंत्री दुबे

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. केंद्रीय कोयला एवं खान राज्य मंत्री सतीशचंद्र दुबे ने नागपुर स्थित मिनरल एक्सप्लोरेशन एंड कंसल्टेंसी लिमिटेड (एमईसीएल) के परिसरों का दौरा किया. इस दौरान उन्होंने खनिज गवेषण, वैज्ञानिक विश्लेषण एवं इन-हाउस इंजीनियरिंग नवाचारों में एमईसीएल की उन्नत क्षमताओं का व्यापक निरीक्षण एवं समीक्षा की. इस अवसर पर एमईसीएल के अध्यक्ष सह प्रबंध निदेशक इन्द्रदेव नारायण ने मंत्री को एमईसीएल के कार्यक्षेत्र, प्रमुख परियोजनाओं, उपलब्धियों एवं खनिज आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देने में संगठन की निरंतर भूमिका के बारे में विस्तार से अवगत कराया. दौरे के दौरान मंत्री दुबे ने इन-हाउस उत्पाद विकास एवं स्वदेशी तकनीकों में एमईसीएल की उन्नत क्षमताओं की सराहना की.

JNARDDC के XRF लैब का किया उद्घाटन

जवाहरलाल नेहरू एल्युमीनियम अनुसंधान, विकास एवं डिजाइन केंद्र (जेएनएआरडीडीसी) का मंत्री दुबे ने आधिकारिक दौरा किया. उन्होंने केंद्र की अनुसंधान एवं विकास पहलों पर एक संक्षिप्त प्रस्तुति के बाद जेएनएआरडीडीसी के चल रहे कार्यक्रमों की समीक्षा की. उन्होंने नवीन तकनीकों को आगे बढ़ाने, पुनर्चक्रण क्षमताओं को सुदृढ़ करने और महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों पर शोध करने में संगठन के प्रयासों की सराहना की. उन्होंने वैज्ञानिक टीम को आत्मनिर्भर भारत के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप एक मजबूत, आत्मनिर्भर और टिकाऊ खनिज क्षेत्र में योगदान जारी रखने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया. इस यात्रा के दौरान मंत्री ने नवस्थापित एक्सआरएफ प्रयोगशाला का उद्घाटन किया, जो जेएनएआरडीडीसी की विश्लेषणात्मक और परीक्षण क्षमताओं को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाने वाला एक प्रमुख अतिरिक्त कार्य है. बाद में उन्होंने विभिन्न प्रयोगशालाओं का दौरा किया और वैज्ञानिकों से बातचीत की. केंद्र की तकनीकी प्रगति और उद्योग-केंद्रित समाधानों में गहरी रुचि दिखाई.

नवाचार की दिशा में निरंतर प्रयास

एमईसीएल कार्यशाला में ड्रिल बिट्स, कोर बैरल्स एवं विभिन्न ड्रिलिंग एक्सेसरीज के स्वदेशी निर्माण प्रक्रियाओं का प्रत्यक्ष अवलोकन किया. राष्ट्रीय खनिज सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने, गवेषण को गति देने एवं आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देने में एमईसीएल की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर संतुष्टि व्यक्त करते हुए मंत्री ने संगठन के 50 वर्षों से अधिक समय से राष्ट्र निर्माण में अग्रणी योगदान की प्रशंसा की. उन्होंने एमईसीएल को भविष्य में तकनीकी उत्कृष्टता एवं नवाचार की दिशा में निरंतर प्रयास करने का आह्वान किया. उन्होंने जोर दिया कि राष्ट्र निर्माण की दिशा में प्रत्येक कर्मचारी का प्रयास राष्ट्रीय कर्तव्य के समान है.

THE HITAVADA DATE:30/11/2025 P.NO.7

Deccan Gold Mines in dialogue with Kabul to extract minerals from its mines

BENGALURU, Nov 29 (ANI)

DECCAN Gold Mines Ltd has entered into dialogues with potential partners in Kabul to tap into the Afghanistan's mineral resources, including lithium, rare earth minerals, and gold, Managing Director Hanuma Prasad told ANI.

"We have been talking to a few people in Afghanistan for the last one to one-and-a-half years," Prasad told ANI an exclusive interview. "There are entrepreneurs and authorities who have approached us, and we are in regular touch with them about possible business arrangements." Prasad said Afghanistan holds some of the world's largest identified resources of lithium, rare earth elements and gold, mapped extensively during Soviet-era exploration. "Potentially-

wise it is very, very good," he said, adding that India's strategic need for critical minerals makes early engagement important.

On November 24, an Afghanistan delegation met Indian industry body ASSOCHAM and has offered its long-idle mining sites to India for exploration as part of its efforts to deepen economic engagement and generate local employment.

He said the main hurdles slowing progress are the lack of banking channels and uncertainty around regulatory procedures. "As of today, there are no banks that would transfer money. That needs to be sorted out," he said. "We also need clarity on licensing and how they are going to handle permits."

Prasad noted that while India has favourable ties with Afghanistan, governance and human-rights concerns remain. "There are issues, of course but we hope things will improve. The mineral potential is definitely attractive," he said. He added that India remains heavily dependent on imports for rare earth magnets, with China controlling a lion's share of the global supply.Indian used to meet its domestic demand for rare earth minerals from China, but the neighbouring country restricted exports and made Delhi to plan and ramp up its local production.

THE HINDU DATE:30/11/2025 P.NO.15

'Depletion of ferrous scrap sources hugely challenging for India'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The depletion of international ferrous scrap sources due to export curbs like those from the UAE and potential restrictions from the EU aimed at promoting a circular economy and tightening environmental criteria is creating a significant challenge for India, which is now scrap deficient, a top executive said.

To harness domestic scrap and meet the demand, which is projected to reach 65 million tonne (MT) annually by 2030 with a potential import gap of 20-30 MT, several already-initiated measures such as vehicle scrapping policy, recycling infrastructure development, policy support, among others, must be given more impetus said Vinaya Varma, MD, mjunction Services Ltd., a digital platform aiding transparent price discovery of metal scrap and other commodities.

"The Centre's vehicle scrapping policy, launched in 2021, aims at encouraging recycling and removing old, polluting vehicles from the roads, although its uptake is currently low. This is a key step to generating end-of-life vehicle (ELV) scrap and the process needs to be expedited.

Indian producers like Tata Steel have started establishing steel recycling plants to formalise and scale up the domestic processing of scrap," he said.

To deal with the issue the government is actively promoting the shift to Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) steel making, which uses scrap as primary feedstock, he said adding companies like mjunction are building AI-driven digital platforms to bridge the demand-supply gap by organising scrap procurement.

India's steel use is likely to grow to 390 MT by FY50.

Future scrap sources

Underscoring the need to find future scrap sources he said, "As society matures, the domestic scrap generation is expected to grow, moving beyond vehicles to include white goods, air-conditioners, and refrigerators, which will gradually reduce import dependency.

"The government is mulling scrappage recommendations for white goods also.

"The CERC has noted the National Electricity Plan may recommend retiring thermal plants over a certain age, such as 25 years," he added.

India's steel consumption, which stands at 152 million metric tonne (MT), is projected to grow to 220 MT by FY30, 260 MMT by 2035 and 390 MT by FY50.

This surge is primarily driven by massive government initiatives in infrastructure, Mr. Varma said.