



KHANIJ SAMACHAR

Vol. 10, No-05

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

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खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR



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INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

VOL. 10, NO – 05, 1st – 15th MARCH 2026

THE HINDU DATE:1/3/2026 P.NO.21

GSI to pursue 300 critical mineral exploration projects next year: D-G Saha

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has plans to pursue approximately 300 projects for exploration of critical minerals in the upcoming field season, said Director General Asit Saha.

"We will be increasing the number of critical mineral exploration projects from 236 in the current field season to 300 in the next field season," he told *The Hindu* in an exclusive interview.

"We have already formulated plans for them and will start the projects really soon," he added.

Mr. Saha said that about 125 to 150 of these projects were for exploration of rare earths.

The Director General further noted that the outlook reinforced GSI's momentum to outdo the stipulated target of pursuing 1,200 exploration projects for critical minerals before the FY 2030-31 deadline under the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM).

Between field season 2020-21 and 2025-26, the Kolkata-headquartered explorer had completed 858 projects for exploration of critical minerals.

Notwithstanding the preponed attainment, Mr. Saha maintained, "We will not stop there, we will continue to increase the number of projects because the idea is to give as many probable critical blocks for auction as possible."

Essential to note, the figure does not include copper which is classified as a critical mineral. Mr. Saha informed that GSI would



Asit Saha

also be separately doing approximately 50-60 more projects for copper during the 2026-27 field season.

The Director General said that alongside exploration it is essential to spur midstream processing as well, which is transforming critical minerals present in ores for end-use industrial usability.

"Rare earths are available not only in beach sand, but also inland and/or within rocks, like carbonate or other alkali rocks," Mr. Saha said, adding, "It is there [in the mentioned forms] in Assam, Gujarat's Ambadongar which is very famous and Rajasthan's Sivana. These are places where large deposits of rare earths are present."

To a query about the potential for lithium in India and about the lack of takers for mining in reserves discovered in Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Saha observed that mining both lithium and nickel in India require an "altogether different strategy".

Responding to a query about potential foreign exploration being undertaken by GSI, Mr. Saha informed they are exploring the feasibility of a site in Zambia for copper.

NAVBHARAT (NAGPUR PLUS)

DATE:1/3/2026 P.NO.4

आज आईबीएम में मनेगा खनिज दिवस

नागपुर. भारतीय खान ब्यूरो मुख्यालय में रविवार को खनिज दिवस के अवसर पर कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया जाएगा. मुख्यालय में होने वाले कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में संभागीय आयुक्त विजयलक्ष्मी बिदरी उपस्थित रहेंगी. महानियंत्रक पंकज कुलश्रेष्ठ अध्यक्षता करेंगे. वार्ड.जी. काले, वी.जे.के. बाबू विशेष रूप से उपस्थित रहेंगे. भारतीय खान ब्यूरो की स्थापना 1 मार्च, 1948 को राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति सम्मेलन की सिफारिशों के आधार पर हुई थी. एक छोटे से सलाहकार निकाय के रूप में शुरुआत करने के बाद, भारतीय खान ब्यूरो, देश के खनन और खनिज उद्योग के विभिन्न पहलुओं से निपटने वाले एक प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय संगठन के रूप में उभरा है, यह वैधानिक प्रावधानों को लागू करने के साथ-साथ विभिन्न विकासात्मक गतिविधियों में संलग्न होने की दोहरी भूमिका निभाता रहा है. आईबीएम राष्ट्र को अपनी अनुकरणीय और समर्पित सेवा के 79 वर्ष पूरे कर रहा है. स्थापना के समय से ही आईबीएम ने राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कार्यरत राष्ट्रीय तकनीकी नियामक के रूप में विश्वसनीय रूप से कार्य किया है. खनन के विनियमन के लिए प्रणालियों, प्रक्रियाओं और दिशानिर्देशों को तैयार किया है. आईबीएम की भूमिका, मिशन और विशेषज्ञता का क्षेत्र इसकी स्थापना के बाद के वर्षों में काफी विकसित हुआ है. डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी से खनन और खनिज क्षेत्रों के संचालन के लिए नवीनमेषी दृष्टिकोणों के उद्भव और अत्याधुनिक तकनीकों को अपनाने से विकास के मार्ग खुले हैं.

NAVBHARAT (NAGPUR PLUS) DATE:2/3/2026 P.NO.5

स्थापना दिवस : IBM का जीडीपी में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. संभागीय आयुक्त विजयलक्ष्मी बिदरी ने कहा कि खनिज संसाधनों के सतत विकास और रोजगार सृजन के माध्यम से आईबीएम ने देश के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है और खनिज संसाधनों के विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग और पारिस्थितिकी संरक्षण के लिए सतत प्रथाओं पर उन्होंने अधिक जोर देने का आह्वान किया. वे भारतीय खान ब्यूरो के 79वें स्थापना दिवस पर समारोह को बतौर मुख्य अतिथि संबोधित कर रही थीं. आईबीएम ने अपना स्थापना दिवस 'खनिज दिवस' के रूप में मनाया. समारोह की अध्यक्षता आईबीएम के महानियंत्रक पंकज कुलश्रेष्ठ ने की. बिदरी ने राष्ट्र को 79 वर्षों की अनुकरणीय सेवा

बड़े निवेश आने की संभावना : विभागीय आयुक्त

बिदरी ने कहा कि आदिवासी आबादी, भू-अधिकार और वन संबंधी मुद्दों पर आईबीएम और राज्य सरकार मिलकर अधिक निकटता से काम कर सकते हैं. उन्होंने कहा कि आईबीएम द्वारा निर्धारित खनिजों का औसत विक्रय मूल्य राज्यों के लिए रॉयल्टी सृजन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है और राज्य सरकार नागपुर क्षेत्र में कोयला, लौह अयस्क और दूना पत्थर के खनन में सहयोग की तलाश कर रही है. राज्य सरकार का लक्ष्य गड़चिरोली जिले को भारत के इस्पात शहर के रूप में विकसित करना है क्योंकि यहां बड़े निवेश आने की संभावना है और इस क्षेत्र को इस्पात केंद्र के रूप में विकसित करना है. कुलश्रेष्ठ ने कहा कि खनिज विद्युत, इस्पात, सीमेंट और अन्य प्रमुख उद्योगों की रीढ़

सफलतापूर्वक पूरी करने के लिए आईबीएम को बधाई दी. उन्होंने कहा कि ब्यूरो एक तकनीकी सलाहकार निकाय से राष्ट्रीय तकनीकी नियामक निकाय में परिवर्तित हो गया है. खनन पट्टा प्रणाली (एमटीएस) के माध्यम से डिजिटल परिवर्तन, जो खनन अनुमोदन, रिटर्न दाखिल

करने, अनुपालन और निगरानी को एकीकृत करने वाली एक ऑनलाइन प्रणाली है, एक सफल प्रयास रहा है. उन्होंने खनन विनियमन में एमटीएस प्रणाली के कार्यान्वयन के लिए ई-गवर्नेंस गोल्ड श्रेणी पुरस्कार, 2024-25 से सम्मानित होने पर आईबीएम को बधाई दी.



हैं. सरकार का ध्यान वन और पारिस्थितिकी संरक्षण के साथ-साथ खनन पर भी है, जिससे आईबीएम की जिम्मेदारी बढ़ जाती है. मुख्य खान नियंत्रक (एमडीआर) डॉ. वार्ड.जी. काले ने कहा कि सेवाओं को अधिक सुलभ, उतरदायी और नागरिक-केंद्रित बनाने के लिए प्रक्रियाओं को सुदृढीकृत किया गया है. विधि अधिकारी भूमिका कारमवंदनी, पराग तांडलिकेकर सहित अन्य उपस्थित थे.

आने वाले वर्षों में आईबीएम अपनी भावी नीतियों में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता उपकरणों को शामिल करने में सक्षम होगा और खनन से प्रभावित लोगों के लिए जिला खनिज विकास और स्थानीय आदिवासी आबादी के अधिकारों की रक्षा में प्रगति करेगा.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:2/3/2026 P.NO.12

Power, Cement, Logistics to Bear Energy Cost Brunt

Ranjit Shinde

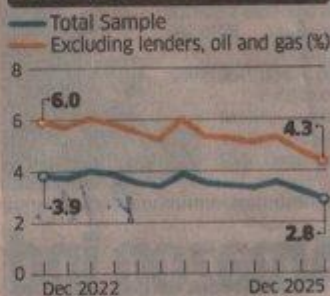
ET Intelligence Group: The rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have raised concerns over their impact on corporate India's energy costs. Although the share of energy costs in total expenses at the aggregate level is just over 4% and has softened over the past three years, it has risen from 2.5% a decade ago. In addition, the sectoral impact is far from uniform. Companies from the sectors including cement, glass and ceramics, transportation and logistics, and power generation show a higher proportion of energy related costs in total costs, which makes them prone to higher volatility in global energy prices. Given this, while the impact may be limited at the aggregate level, select sectors could face margin pressures if the geopolitical crisis escalates.

Energy costs are captured under the subhead of power and fuel expenses in the profit and loss statement of companies.

A quarterly trend analysis carried out by ETIG for a sample of companies excluding those from banking and finance, and oil and gas sectors reveals that though the share of power and fuel costs has remained in low-to-mid single digits over the past 10 years, it has gradually climbed up compared with the decade-ago level.

In addition, while the share has softened to 4.3% in the December 2025 quarter from 6% in the December 2022 quarter, the latest geopolitical development may affect the trend. Exclusion of lending companies from the sample helps in shifting the focus on manufacturing companies while the oil and gas sector companies tend to skew the data given their large business sizes and hence are excluded. The share of power and fuel costs is the highest for the power generation sector at around 60% in the December 2025 quarter. It is followed by sectors including cement (25% share), transportation (18%), and glass and ceramics (15%). These sectors are particularly vulnerable to volatility in

SHARE OF POWER & FUEL COSTS IN TOTAL EXPENSES



SECTOR-LEVEL SHARE OF ENERGY COSTS

| Sector | Share (%) |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Power Generation | 60.4 |
| Cement | 25.4 |
| Transport | 18.4 |
| Glass & Ceramics | 15.0 |
| Paper | 10.3 |
| Metals | 7.9 |
| Chemicals & Fertilisers | 5.0 |



global energy prices. To be sure, coal prices often tend to move in tandem with crude oil prices though may not be in the same proportion. This may raise the cost for companies which use coal as a fuel source. For other sectors such as chemicals, fertilisers, paper, and metals, the exposure to energy costs between 5% and 10% is lesser but significant.

"Energy-intensive industries, including aviation, logistics, paints, and chemicals, are likely to experience margin compression due to rising input costs," Infometrics Ratings mentioned in a note, adding that upstream oil producers could benefit from higher crude prices.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.1

Pacts with Canada on uranium, critical minerals; PM says new energy in ties



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, Monday. ANIL SHARMA

India-Canada CEPA by year-end, defence dialogue established

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, March 2

MOVING TO transform ties to a "next level partnership" and put behind a bitter recent past, India and Canada signed a "landmark deal for long-term uranium supply" after Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Mark Carney held talks in New Delhi Monday.

The two sides also signed pacts on critical minerals, decided to establish the India-Canada Defence Dialogue, and

agreed to conclude a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by the end of the year, and set a USD 50 billion bilateral trade target by 2030.

In all, they signed eight government-to-government pacts, and 24 MoUs or partnerships among universities and institutions in areas such as AI, healthcare, agriculture, and innovation.

This is a huge turnaround in bilateral ties which took a severe hit after Carney's predecessor Justin Trudeau, in September 2023, alleged that Indian government agents were involved in the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar — a charge India rejected as "absurd" and "politically motivated".

Following bilateral talks

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.2

Pacts with Canada

with Modi, Carney said. "So this is not merely the renewal of a relationship, it is the expansion of a valued partnership with new ambition, focus and foresight, a partnership between two confident countries charting our own course for the future."

Calling this an "important milestone", Modi said, "Since our first meeting, our relationship has been infused with new energy, mutual trust, and positivity. I credit my friend, Prime Minister Carney, for the growing momentum in every area of cooperation."

"India and Canada share an unwavering belief in democratic values. We celebrate diversity. The well-being of humanity is our shared vision. This vision inspires us to move forward in every field. Today, we discussed transforming this vision into a next level partnership," he said.

Without mentioning the pro-Khalistan activities in Canada, Modi said, "We agree that terrorism, extremism and radicalisation are common and serious challenges not only for our two countries but for all of humanity. Our close cooperation against these challenges is crucial for global peace and stability."

On trade, he said, "Our goal is to reach \$50 billion in trade by 2030. Unlocking the full potential of economic cooperation is our priority. Therefore, we have decided to finalise the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement soon. This will create new investment and employment opportunities in both countries."

Carney said, "We are advancing towards a Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, with the aim to conclude by the end of this year. This ambitious agreement will reduce barriers, increase certainty, unlock opportunities for exporters, investors and workers in both our countries, with the aim to double trade by the end of this decade."

Modi said, "Canada's pension funds have invested \$100

billion in India. This is a symbol of their deep belief in India's growth story."

He said the pact on critical minerals will "strengthen resilient supply chains". "In civil nuclear energy, we have signed a landmark deal for long-term uranium supply. We will also work together on small modular reactors and advanced reactors," Modi said.

Carney said, "As India seeks access to critical minerals for its manufacturing, its clean tech and its nuclear plans, Canada's resource base and world leading companies position it as a strategic partner. As one example, the nuclear agreement, the uranium agreement signed today... the fact that 40 per cent of the world's mining companies are listed in Canada."

On defence cooperation, Modi said, "Growing cooperation in the field of defence and security is a symbol of our deep mutual trust and the maturity of our relationship. We will work to enhance defence industries, maritime domain awareness, and military exchanges. To this end, we have today decided to establish the India-Canada Defence Dialogue."

Later, at a media briefing, Indian officials rejected allegations of any link to transnational violence or organised crime in Canada after a new report in The Globe and Mail sought to connect Indian consular staff operating in Vancouver to the killing of Nijjar.

P Kumaran, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "India categorically rejects allegations of involvement in transnational violence or organised crime. These claims are baseless, politically motivated and unsupported by credible evidence despite repeated requests."

"India believes that concerns of this nature must be addressed through credible law enforcement and judicial processes and not through public or politicised narratives," Kumaran said.

BUSINESS LINE

DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.8

BUSINESS LINE DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.7

Tata Steel to invest ₹11,000 cr in Jharkhand

Press Trust of India
Ranchi

Tata Steel will invest ₹11,000 crore in Jharkhand for developing advanced grade steel at its Jamshedpur facility, Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran said on Monday. The technology developed by the Tata Group for advanced steel production will benefit other steel-makers, too, he said.

"Tata Steel will invest ₹11,000 crore in Jharkhand for developing advanced green steel technology, pioneered by it with low carbon production... It will make the steel process faster and reduce carbon emission," Chandrasekaran said, sharing the stage with CEO TV Narendran and Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

The steel major has pioneered and developed the

technology, and its first investment will be in Jamshedpur, he said.

"It is a very important project for Tata Steel's footprint globally, and this technology will also benefit other steel companies," he added.

Following successful pilot trials in the Netherlands, Tata Steel plans to establish a commercial-scale facility of around 1 million tonnes per annum capacity in Jamshedpur by 2030.

TATA MOTORS' PLANS

Besides, Tata Motors will also invest in hydrogen trucks at the Jamshedpur facility, Chandrasekaran added.

He also said the Tata Group will form an experts' panel to explore investment in various sectors for the development of Jharkhand, "as suggested by the Chief Minister".

Zinc: Wait for a breakout to go long

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau



Zinc prices remain higher but seem to be struggling to stage a strong rise. The zinc futures contract traded on the Multi-Commodity Exchange has been facing strong resistance in the ₹330-335 per kg region for about a month now. The contract is currently trading at ₹328 per kg.

The broader outlook is positive. The price action since the beginning of February indicates a consolidation. Near-term support is at ₹324. Below that, ₹318 is the next important support. Resistance is in the ₹330-335 region.

A narrow trading range of ₹324-335 is possible for some time now. A decisive break above ₹335 is needed to boost the bullish momentum. Such a break could trigger a fresh rally to ₹355-360 in the coming weeks.

On the other hand, if the contract breaks below ₹324, it could fall to ₹318.

For now, we will have wait and watch for a breakout on either side of ₹324-335 to get clarity on the next leg of move.

TRADE STRATEGY

Traders can go long only on a break above ₹335. Keep the stop-loss at ₹327. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹339 as soon as the contract goes up to ₹344. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹343 and ₹348 when the price touches ₹347 and ₹351, respectively. Exit the long positions at ₹355.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.7

Japan, South Korea flag regulatory hurdles for their steel firms in India

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 2 March

Japan and South Korea on Monday raised concerns that regulatory measures were affecting their steel companies in India, even as the countries reiterated their commitment to expand investments. They attended an interactive session organised by the Ministry of Steel ahead of the Bharat Steel 2026 event.

Speaking at the session, Japan's Deputy Chief of Mission Takashi Ariyoshi said Japanese companies were very active in India but also facing some "real" problems. "One instance is the Quality Control Order (QCO) for intermediate steel products. Although the final products have already been certified, because of QCO, additional certification was required for intermediate steel," he added.

Ariyoshi also flagged issues caused by anti-dumping duties on coke exports to India. "Japan is exporting coke, which is not

Quality concerns

- Japan flags issues with Quality Control Order on intermediate steel products
- Additional certification required despite final product approval
- Japan also objects to anti-dumping duties on coke exports not produced in India



- South Korea cites periodic regulatory friction despite overall positive business climate and mining

produced in India. This export does not affect the internal market of India, but because of these anti-dumping measures, the Japanese steel industry is really facing problems," he said.

Speaking at the event, South Korea's representative highlighted similar regulatory friction, stating that Korean firms usually enjoy good business conditions in India but encounter regulatory hurdles from time to time.

The concerns were raised even as both countries outlined

major investment commitments. Ariyoshi highlighted that Nippon Steel Corporation is expanding its Hazira plant in Gujarat with an investment of around ₹1.1 trillion and has decided to build a new steel plant in Uttar Pradesh.

He also said Japan's JFE Steel Corporation has a 15 per cent stake in JSW Steel and is partnering to invest ₹16,000 crore in an integrated steel plant in Odisha, along with investments in grain-oriented electrical steel in Karnataka.

THE HITAVADA DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.1

India, Canada seal landmark uranium deal; set USD 50 bn trade target

NEW DELHI, Mar 2 (PTI)

INDIA and Canada on Monday sealed key pacts on supplies of Uranium and critical minerals and vowed to soon conclude a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney finalising a new framework to shore up ties including taking bilateral annual trade to USD 50 billion by 2030.

In their wide-ranging talks, the two leaders also pledged to ramp up cooperation in defence, critical technologies, small and modular nuclear reactors, education and renewable energy as Modi said the relations between the two countries are now filled with new energy, mutual trust and positivity.

Canada is set to support India's civil nuclear energy sector under the USD 2.6 billion uranium supply agreement.

The Prime Minister said both sides agreed that terrorism, extremism, and radicalisation are common and serious challenges not only for India and Canada but for all humanity. "Our close cooperation against these is crucial for global peace and stability," he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi exchanges a hand-shake with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. (PMO via PTI)

Modi and Carney also deliberated on the precarious security situation in West Asia with PM Modi asserting that India supports the resolution of all conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy.

"The current situation in West Asia is a matter of deep concern for us. India supports the resolution of all disputes through

dialogue and diplomacy. We will continue to work with all countries to ensure the safety of all Indian citizens in the region," the Prime Minister said in his media statement.

The major outcomes of the Modi-Carney talks were their decision to expand trade relations, a move that comes amid
(Contd on page 5)

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THE HITAVADA DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.5

India, Canada seal landmark...

Canada's increasingly frosty economic ties with the Trump administration.

The fresh move to bolster ties came as part of ongoing efforts by the two sides to reset the relations that came under severe strain following a diplomatic row over the killing of a Khalistani separatist in 2023.

"Our goal is to reach USD 50 billion in trade by 2030. Unlocking the full potential of economic cooperation is our priority. Therefore, we have decided to finalise the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement soon.

"This will create new investment and employment opportunities in both countries,"

Modi said. "Canada's pension funds have invested USD 100 billion in India. This symbolises their deep belief in India's growth story," he said. The volume of two-way annual trade at present is around USD 13 billion. The Prime Minister said the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on critical minerals will strengthen resilient supply chains. Canada is known for its significant reservoir of critical minerals and rare earth materials. "In the energy sector, we are building a next-generation partnership, which will focus on hydrocarbons as well as renewable energy, green hydrogen and energy storage," Modi said.

LOKMAT DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.10

युरेनियम, खनिजांचा पुरवठा, भारत आणि कॅनडात करार

व्यापार ५० अब्ज अमेरिकी डॉलरपर्यंत नेण्याचे लक्ष्य

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नवी दिल्ली : भारत आणि कॅनडाने युरेनियम व महत्त्वाच्या खनिजांच्या पुरवठ्यासंदर्भात सोमवारी महत्त्वपूर्ण करारांवर स्वाक्ष्म्या केल्या, तसेच व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी करार लवकरच पूर्ण करण्याचा निर्धार व्यक्त केला. पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी व कॅनडाचे पंतप्रधान मार्क कार्नी यांनी द्विपक्षीय संबंध अधिक बळकट करण्याबाबत सहमती दर्शविली. २०३० पर्यंत दोन्ही देशातील व्यापार ५० अब्ज अमेरिकी डॉलरपर्यंत नेण्याचे लक्ष्यही ठेवण्यात आले आहे.

संरक्षण, अद्ययावत तंत्रज्ञान, मॉड्यूलर अणुभट्ट्या, शिक्षण आणि अक्षय ऊर्जा या क्षेत्रातील सहकार्यात वाढ करण्याचा निर्णय दोन्ही देशांनी घेतला आहे. पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी म्हणाले की, दहशतवाद, कट्टरतावाद हे भारत आणि कॅनडा यांच्यासाठीच नव्हे तर संपूर्ण मानवजातीसाठी गंभीर आव्हान असल्याचे दोन्ही देशांनी मान्य केले. भारताने कॅनडाशी २.६ अब्ज डॉलरचा युरेनियम पुरवठा करार केला आहे. त्याअंतर्गत कॅनडा भारताच्या नागरी अणुऊर्जा क्षेत्राला मदत करणार आहे.

मोदी व कार्नी यांनी पश्चिम आशियातील

कॅनडा, भारताने परस्परांतील वादग्रस्त मुद्दे ठेवले बाजूला

भारत- कॅनडामधील व्यापार वाढावा हा पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी-कार्नी यांच्या चर्चेतील प्रमुख मुद्दा होता. ट्रम्प प्रशासनासोबत कॅनडाचे ताणलेले आर्थिक संबंध लक्षात घेता हा मुद्दा महत्त्वाचा मानला जात आहे. २०२३ मध्ये खलिस्तानवादी नेत्याच्या हत्येनंतर निर्माण झालेल्या राजनैतिक वादानुळे भारत, कॅनडा संबंध तणावग्रस्त बनले होते. पण त्या गोष्टी बाजूला ठेवून दोन्ही देश परस्पर सहकार्यासाठी पुढे आले आहेत. व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी करार लवकरच करण्याचा आम्ही निर्णय घेतला आहे. यामुळे दोन्ही देशांत गुंतवणूक आणि रोजगाराच्या नव्या संधी निर्माण होतील, असे पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी म्हणाले.

संघर्षावरही चर्चा केली. त्याबाबत पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी यांनी म्हटले आहे की, पश्चिम आशियातील मुद्द्यांबाबत चर्चा व कुटनीतीच्या माध्यमातून तोडगा काढण्यात यावा.

NAVBHARAT DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.7

होगी यूरेनियम की सप्लाई भारत, कनाडा के बीच आपूर्ति पर समझौता

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. भारत और कनाडा ने सोमवार को यूरेनियम एवं महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की आपूर्ति को लेकर अहम समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के साथ वर्ष 2030 तक द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को 50 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर तक ले जाने का लक्ष्य रखा. इसके साथ ही प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री मार्क कार्नी के बीच व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौते (सीडीपीए) को जल्द अंतिम रूप देने पर भी सहमति बनी. दोनों नेताओं के बीच यहां हुई बातचीत के दौरान रक्षा, महत्वपूर्ण प्रौद्योगिकी, छोटे एवं मॉड्यूलर परमाणु रिएक्टर (एसएमआर), शिक्षा और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में सहयोग बढ़ाने का संकल्प लिया गया. प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि भारत एवं कनाडा के द्विपक्षीय संबंध अब 'नई ऊर्जा, आपसी विश्वास और सकारात्मकता' से भरे हुए हैं.



कनाडा 2.6 अरब डॉलर के यूरेनियम आपूर्ति समझौते के तहत भारत के असेन्य परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षेत्र का समर्थन करेगा. मोदी ने कहा असेन्य परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में दीर्घकालिक यूरेनियम आपूर्ति पर ऐतिहासिक समझौता हुआ है. हम छोटे मॉड्यूलर और उन्नत रिएक्टरों पर भी साथ काम करेंगे.

महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों पर समझौता ज़ापन से स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन और उन्नत विनिर्माण के लिए सुरक्षित आपूर्ति शृंखला को मजबूती मिलेगी. कनाडा के पास दुर्लभ खनिजों का बड़ा भंडार मौजूद है.

NAVBHARAT

DATE:3/3/2026 P.NO.7



खनन क्षेत्र की वृद्धि घटकर 4.3% रह गई

इससे पहले जनवरी, 2026 में जारी अस्थायी अनुमान में इसे 7.8 प्रतिशत बताया गया था. एनएसओ के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, विनिर्माण क्षेत्र की वृद्धि दर जनवरी माह में घटकर 4.8 प्रतिशत रह गई, जबकि पिछले वर्ष इसी महीने में यह 5.8 प्रतिशत थी. आलोच्य अवधि में खनन क्षेत्र की वृद्धि भी मामूली घटकर 4.3 प्रतिशत रह गई. यह एक वर्ष पहले की सम्पन्न अवधि में 4.4 प्रतिशत थी.

पर्यालय (एनएसओ) ने दिसंबर, 2025 के औद्योगिक उत्पादन वृद्धि के आंकड़ों को संशोधित कर आठ प्रतिशत कर दिया है.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:4/3/2026 P.NO.8

Global steel output drops 6.5% to 147 mt in January

Sneha Joseph
Chennai

Global steel production recorded a dip of 6.5 per cent at 147.3 million tonnes (mt) in January 2026 compared with the year-ago period.

According to the World Steel Organisation, top producer China's output went south by 13.9 per cent to 75.3 mt where as India's production reached 15.1 mt, an increase of 10.5 per cent.

US NUMBERS SOAR

The US saw its numbers go up by 3.3 per cent to 7.1 mt in the period under consideration.

South Korea also recorded an increase in its production at 5.6 mt, up 5 per cent.

Türkiye's output soared by 5.8 per cent at 3.4 mt and Germany's production boomed 15 per cent at 3.1 mt. Iran produced 2.6 mt of steel, up 15.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, Japan's num-

bers went down by 0.5 per cent at 6.8 mt. Russia and Brazil suffered a similar fate with production plummeting to 5.5 mt, down 7.4 per cent, and 2.7 mt, down 1.4 per cent, respectively.

AFRICA OUTPUT UP

Region wise, Africa's steel production surged by 5.8 per cent to 2 mt in January 2026 while the output of Asia and Oceania plunged to 107.6 mt, a dip of 8.6 per cent. The EU (27) also saw its figures drop by 2.3 per cent at 10.3 mt.

The output of Europe (Other) increased to 3.7 mt, up 4.4 per cent.

The West Asian region's production went north by 12.6 per cent at 4.8 mt.

North America's numbers slipped by 0.6 per cent at 9.2 mt while the production of Russia and other CIS + Ukraine saw an increase by 8.6 per cent at 6.5 mt.

South America recorded a drop of 1.2 per cent in its output at 3.4 mt.

Vedanta preferred bidder for Odisha bauxite block

Our Bureau
Chennai

Vedanta Ltd has been declared the "preferred bidder" for the Karnapodikonda bauxite block in Koraput, Odisha. This follows a competitive e-auction conducted by Odisha's Directorate of Mines and Geology.

A statement said that according to the tender document, the block is at the G2 level of exploration and spans 532,747 hectares. The asset strengthens Vedanta's raw material security and supports strategic backward integration for its aluminium business.

SUPPORTS EXPANSION

Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "This development directly supports our expansion roadmap and reinforces Vedanta Aluminium's commitment to driving industrial growth, local value creation and self-reliance in critical minerals."

Aluminium: Await directional break

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl, research bureau

Aluminium futures are ruling at ₹319 (per kg). The March contract rallied on Monday to a high of ₹324.75. However, after trading above the barrier at ₹322 briefly, it slipped back to close the session at ₹319.10.

COMMODITY CALL.

In case the March futures rally past ₹322 again, the chart shows that there is another resistance at ₹329. Only a clear breakout of this hurdle can lead to the contract establishing a sustained rally.

Notable resistance levels above ₹329 can be seen at ₹340 and ₹350.

On the other hand, if the futures move lower, there is a support at ₹307. The price action shows that March futures have largely been oscillating between ₹307 and



₹319 since the beginning of February.

If the base at ₹307 is breached, the outlook could turn bearish. In such a case, the contract could fall to ₹300. Support below ₹300 is at ₹290. Overall, as it stands, there is a lack of clarity about the path of the next swing in price. It depends on the breach of the ₹307-329 price band.

TRADE STRATEGY

Stay out. However, traders with higher risk appetite can short aluminium (March) if it inches up to ₹325. Target and stop-loss can be ₹307 and ₹332 respectively.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:4/3/2026 P.NO.6

Govt to make carbon credit trading must for steel firms

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 3 March

The government is set to make compliance under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) mandatory for the steel sector, a senior steel ministry official said.

The move is part of a broader push to adopt cleaner technologies and accelerate decarbonisation.

"We are going to start CCTS very soon. I cannot give a date. I am talking about making it mandatory for the steel sector," the official said, requesting anonymity.

He added that the government had conducted a baseline survey covering around 70 steel units to assess current emission levels.

However, discrepancies were found in the initial survey, and parts of the data are now being reverified.

Carbon credit trading is a market-based mechanism in which companies buy and sell credits that permit a specified amount of greenhouse gas emissions. One credit typically represents 1 tonne of carbon dioxide (CO₂) removed or avoided. Companies that emit less than their allocated limit can sell surplus credits, while those exceeding their limits must purchase credits, thereby creating a financial incentive to reduce emissions.

The CCTS, introduced under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022, provides for the establishment of a domestic carbon market in India. The government notified the scheme's

framework in 2023.

The steel sector is among India's most energy-intensive industries and plays a major role in the country's industrial emissions profile, making it central to India's broader decarbonisation strategy. According to the steel ministry, the global average emissions intensity of steel production is about 1.91 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of crude steel, compared with 2.54 tonnes in India.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is developing emissions intensity targets for obligated entities under the Indian Carbon Market framework through the CCTS. Under the proposed trajectory, the average emissions intensity of steel production is expected to decline from 2.54 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of crude steel in 2023-24 to 2.2 tonnes by 2029-30.

Under the proposed framework, emission reduction targets are likely to be defined at the level of specific plant categories, such as blast furnace-based units and electric arc furnaces, rather than applying a single benchmark across the sector. For implementation, the government is considering setting emissions intensity benchmarks and requiring plants to reduce their levels to prescribed targets within a defined timeframe.

"For example, if a company's current carbon emission is 2.6 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of steel produced, it will have to reduce it to 2.3. The company will not get any incentive until it reaches 2.3," the official said, illustrating how performance thresholds could operate.



BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:4/3/2026 P.NO.12

Vedanta

| Forward EPS (₹) | | | | Current share price (₹) | Target price (₹) | Analyst recommendations (No.) | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|
| FY26E | | FY27E | | | | Buy | Sell | Hold |
| Dec 31 2025 | Mar 2 2026 | Dec 31 2025 | Mar 2 2026 | 723 | 838 | 10 | 0 | 4 |
| 45.5 | 53.3 | 56.4 | 76.2 | | | | | |

- The non-ferrous metals producer has seen a double-digit upgrade in its earnings as analysts expect continued bullishness in prices of silver, copper and aluminium
- Its listed unit, Hindustan Zinc is one of the world's top silver producers and has benefitted from a sharp rise in silver prices over the past 12-15 months
- Analysts have raised Vedanta's one-year share price target to ₹838 on average, compared to the current price of ₹723, indicating nearly 16 per cent upside
- Vedanta's earnings in Q3 also exceeded market expectations with consolidated net sales up 37.3 per cent Y-o-Y and net profit up 61 per cent to a record high
- The company's valuation has however become stretched with trailing price-to-earnings (P/E) of 29.4x and price-to-book value (P/BV) of 7x

National Aluminium Company

| Forward EPS (₹) | | | | Current share price (₹) | Target price (₹) | Analyst recommendations (No.) | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|
| FY26E | | FY27E | | | | Buy | Sell | Hold |
| Dec 31 2025 | Mar 2 2026 | Dec 31 2025 | Mar 2 2026 | 363 | 365 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 24.8 | 30.1 | 26.0 | 32.2 | | | | | |

- The public sector aluminium producer has also seen an earnings upgrade after Q3FY26 results, thanks to continued traction in metal prices
- Analysts have raised Nalco's FY27 earning per share estimate to ₹32.2 on average from ₹26 at the end of December 2025
- There has, however, been no change in its target share price, largely due to a run-up in its stock
- Nalco has been one of the top performers in metal space and its share price is up 104 per cent over the last one year
- In 9MFY26, the company's net sales were up 11.4 per cent Y-o-Y, and net profit was up 26.2 per cent Y-o-Y
- Nalco's earnings were, however, flat in Q3FY26, with just 1.1 per cent Y-o-Y growth, and its valuation has turned expensive with P/BV of 3.3x

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:5/3/2026 P.NO.12

Japan and India in talks to develop rare earth deposits

Japan to offer advanced extraction technology in Rajasthan

OUR CORRESPONDENT
WITH AGENCY INPUTS, NEW DELHI

In a move aimed at reducing dependence on China for critical minerals, Japan is in discussions with India to jointly explore rare earth deposits in the desert state of Rajasthan, according to reports.

The talks come after India recently identified three hard rock rare earth deposits in Rajasthan and Gujarat, containing an estimated 1.29 million metric tons of rare earth oxides. The discovery was announced last month by union Mines Minister G. Kishan

Reddy, who said the findings could significantly boost India's mineral security.

Reports said the discussions between New Delhi and Tokyo are part of a preliminary pact on critical minerals signed last year. Under the proposed co-operation, Japan is expected to send experts to Rajasthan to study the deposits. The Japanese government is likely to offer advanced extraction technology and financial support in exchange for a stable supply of rare earth materials to Japan. Hard rock rare earth deposits require specialized extraction techniques, which India currently does not have



at scale. Japan's technological expertise could therefore play a key role in developing these reserves.

The reports said Japan is examining mining projects around the world to diversify its mineral supplies, including rare earth elements. However, the report clarified that there

“Both India and Japan are looking to reduce their reliance on Chinese imports of rare earth materials. Rare earth elements are essential for manufacturing permanent magnets used in electric vehicle motors, wind turbines, fighter jets and drones.”

have been no discussions yet on specific corporate partnerships or technology agreements related to Rajasthan.

As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, India sees secure access to these materials as critical for its industrial and strategic ambitions.

LOKMAT TIMES (NAGPUR FIRST) DATE:5/3/2026 P.NO.2

IBM celebrates Foundation Day

The Indian Bureau of Mines celebrated the 79th Foundation Day as "Khanij Diwas" on March 1, 2026 at its headquarters in Nagpur. Vijayalakshmi Bidari, Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur was the chief guest and Pankaj Kulshrestha, Controller General,



IBM presided over the function. In her inaugural address, Vijayalakshmi Bidari congratulated IBM for successfully completing 79 years of exemplary service to the nation.

"The Bureau has transformed from a technical advisory body to a national technical regulator. The digital transformation transcending through Mining Tenement System (MTS), an online system integrating mining approval, return filing, compliance and monitoring has been a success," she said congratulating IBM for being awarded the E-Governance Gold Category Award, 2024-25 for implementation of the MTS System in mining regulation. The Divisional Commissioner said IBM has played a key role in contributing to the GDP of the country through sustainable development of mineral resources and creating employment and called for more thrust on sustainable practices for judicious use of mineral resources and preserving of ecology.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:5/3/2026 P.NO.2

Gem and jewellery exports lose glitter



TAKING A HIT. Volatility in rupee-dollar rates and gold prices is also seen impacting the business

Suresh P Iyengar
Mumbai

The ongoing war in West Asia and disruptions to global shipments will have a major impact on gem and jewellery exports from India, as the sector grapples with delays in cargo movements and rising costs, said industry players.

The industry is struggling to fulfil pending export orders amid restrictions in cargo movements due to the closure of airspace while rising insurance costs also remain a major concern.

This apart, the volatility in rupee-dollar rates and gold prices is also seen impacting the business, they said.

Kirit Bhansali, Chairman, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India, said the ongoing tensions in West Asia could have a significant impact on the gem and jewellery trade, as the region, particularly the UAE and other GCC countries, plays a crucial role in India's export ecosystem as well as in sourcing raw materials.

India's gem and jewellery exports to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have grown significantly from \$5.4 billion in 2021-22 to about \$8.3 billion in 2024-25, reflecting the region's increasing importance for Indian exporters.

SOURCING HUB

The GCC is also a key sourcing hub for raw materials and precious metals for the Indian gem and jewellery sector, with imports rising from about \$16 billion in 2021-22 to about \$28 billion in 2024-25. The GCC countries and the wider MENA region are also key business hubs, where Indian companies have established strong commercial interests, including investments in jewellery retail chains, regional

The industry is struggling to fulfil pending export orders amid restrictions in cargo movements while rising insurance costs are also a concern

offices, manufacturing units and logistics networks across the region, said Bhansali.

If the conflict continues, it could lead to logistical challenges as flight disruptions would mean re-routing of shipments and delays at ports, which may result in longer transit times. There could also be a rise in freight and insurance costs due to the heightened risk perception in the region, he pointed out.

UNCERTAINTY RISES

Colin Shah, MD, Kama Jewellery, a leading exporter, said the gems and jewellery sector, which is just coming out of a high tariff regime imposed by the US, is facing a fresh wave of uncertainties due to the crisis in West Asia. This is being compounded by the volatility in dollar rates, leading to unpredictability in exports, as overseas buyers are cautious about closing deals until logistical constraints ease he said.

Additionally, a 3-4 time spike in the insurance on shipments is another concern cutting through the already impacted margins of traders, he added.

However, the demand-supply dynamics in gem and jewellery exports are in control as the current inventories are sufficient to cater to the already weakened demand, said Shah.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:5/3/2026 P.NO.8

Coal, aluminium & gold likely to gain from Iran war

BULLISH TONE. The yellow metal may reclaim \$5,600/oz; coal is at a 16-month high; aluminium may remain near \$3,350/tonne as Qatar shuts key plants

Subramani Ra Mancomb
Chennai

Coal prices have increased by 18 per cent and aluminium by 6 per cent while gold stands to gain significantly due to the hostilities in the Persian Gulf with the US and Israel pitted against Iran.

"Following the US-Israeli strikes on Iran over the weekend of February 28-March 1, we think gold could reach a new all-time-high above \$5,600/oz this week if no signs of de-escalation materialise," said research agency BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions.

Gold, which soared to over \$5,350 an ounce at the beginning of the week, pared its gains on a strong dollar and fears of a hike in interest

rates to below \$5,200 by Wednesday evening.

CASH FOR LIQUIDITY

However, analysts said that the selling in gold seen recently, leading to prices seeing a dip, is because investors needed cash for liquidity.

Last week, just before the hostilities broke out, ING Think, the financial and economic analysis arm of Dutch multinational financial firm ING, said that though the momentum in gold may moderate, structural drivers underpinning the market are firmly in place and, in some cases, are strengthening.

"We think gold can still trade higher this week, potentially reclaiming \$5,600/oz and posting a fresh all-time-high," said BMI.

TWO REASONS

It attributed two reasons to



SUPPLY JITTERS. Heightened risks in the Strait of Hormuz have amplified supply concerns, putting aluminium and coal prices firmly on edge

this. The first was the lack of certainty surrounding the duration of the current geopolitical risk premium in oil prices.

The second factor for gold being bullish stems from physical disruption to the bullion market if flights are unable to transit through

Dubai, which is one of the world's largest gold refiners.

ING Think said the escalation in the conflict in the Persian Gulf increased upside risks to physical aluminium premiums, rather than materially tightening global supply.

"The Middle East ac-

counts for around 8 per cent of global aluminium capacity and is heavily reliant on the Strait of Hormuz for both metal exports and alumina imports, with key producers being Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain," it said.

BMI expects aluminium to see the largest gains from disruption in the Middle East, with prices ruling near \$3,350/tonne currently.

"Heightened risks of disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical export corridor for Middle East aluminium producers, have compounded existing supply-side concerns. Collectively, the UAE and Bahrain accounted for an estimated 6 per cent of global aluminium output in 2025 (around 4.3 million tonnes)," it said.

FUEL SWITCH

Reports said aluminium also

surged in view of Qatar halting production due to the tensions in the Persian Gulf region. It will take at least six months for production to resume at Qatalum, a joint venture between Qatar and Norsk Hydro ASA.

BMI said aluminium prices will likely remain near \$3,300/tonne in the coming weeks. Any further material escalation would amplify supply-side pressures and present significant upside risk.

BMI said it sees upside risk for seaborne prices of thermal coal if the Strait of Hormuz disruption affects the availability of Qatari liquefied natural gas (LNG). Qatar has shut down its LNG facilities, a rare event, in view of the crisis after Iranian drones attacked the country's LNG hub.

"Gas prices have already

spiked, with benchmark Henry Hub prices up almost 4 per cent and approaching \$3/MMBtu. If the availability of Qatari LNG is constrained for more than a week, a potential winner would be seaborne thermal coal," said the research agency.

This would be a temporary and significantly more limited repeat of the situation when the Ukraine war broke out in 2022. On Wednesday, Newcastle thermal coal futures (May) ruled at \$138 a tonne, a 16-month high.

Qatar accounts for 80 per cent of LNG supply in Asia and 15 per cent globally. Though coal trade is not carried through the Strait of Hormuz, expectations of Japan and South Korea switching to coal have raised prices of Australian and Indonesian coal by 15 per cent since the beginning of this week.

THE TIMES OF INDIA
DATE:5/3/2026 P.NO.11

Aluminium spikes as Alba halts cargoes

London: Aluminium prices hit their highest in nearly four years on Wednesday after Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) stopped shipments, deepening worries about the impact of the conflict on supplies of the metal used in construction, transport and packaging.

Other industrial metals recovered from recent weakness on better-than-expected private factory data from top metals consumer China.

Benchmark three-month aluminium on the London Metal Exchange jumped as much as 5.1% to \$3,418 a metric ton, its strongest since April 2022, and was up 2.6% at \$3,335 a ton. Alba, which operates the world's biggest aluminium smelter outside of China, declared force majeure on Wednesday, warning some customers of delays because it could not ship through the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:5/3/2026 P.NO.5

PRICES UP 5.1% ON THE LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Aluminium Jumps to Highest in Nearly 4 Years as Alba Declares Force Majeure

Copper and other industrial metals recovered from recent weakness, shows data

Reuters



London: Aluminium prices hit their highest in nearly four years on Wednesday after Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) stopped shipments, deepening worries about the impact of the Middle East conflict on supplies of the metal used in construction, transport and packaging.

Other industrial metals recovered from recent weakness on better-than-expected private factory data from top metals consumer in China.

Benchmark three-month aluminium on the London Metal Exchange jumped as much as 5.1% to \$3,418 a metric ton, its strongest since April 2022, and was up 3.7% at

\$3,371 a ton in official open-outcry trading. Alba, which operates the world's biggest aluminium smelter outside of China, declared force majeure on Wednesday, warning some customers of delays because it could not ship through the Strait of Hormuz. Shipping through the Strait between Iran and Oman, which carries around one-fifth of oil consumed globally, has ground to a near halt after vessels in the area were hit as Iran retaliated against US and Israeli strikes.

The Gulf Cooperation Council countries supplied 8% of the world's aluminium last year.

LME copper rose 0.4% to \$13,010 a ton in official activity, having shed

3% over the past two sessions on worries that the Mideast conflict will undermine economic growth and metals demand.

China's factory data was mixed, with the official purchasing managers' index tracking large state-owned manufacturers coming in slightly weaker.

But the metals market focused on a second survey of smaller, private producers that topped analysts' forecasts, with new order volumes rising for the ninth successive month.

"The PMIs were good, we're going in the right direction, with positive growth again and good orders. People are going long again on copper," said Robert Montefusco

at broker Sueden Financial.

"But we've got to keep an eye on what's happening in the Middle East because we've been having some very large swings this week."

Among other metals, LME zinc gained 1% to \$3,302, lead rose 0.8% to \$1,951, nickel advanced 2.4% to \$17,525 and tin jumped 5.2% to \$51,375.

THE HITAVADA DATE:5/3/2026 P.NO.7

Japan, India talks on rare earth deposits in Rajasthan

NEW DELHI, Mar 4 (IANS)

IN A move aimed at reducing dependence on China for critical minerals, Japan is in discussions with India to jointly explore rare earth deposits in the desert State of Rajasthan, according to reports. The talks come after India recently identified three hard rock rare earth deposits in Rajasthan and Gujarat, containing an estimated 1.29 million metric tons of rare earth oxides.

The discovery was announced last month by Union Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy, who said the findings could significantly boost India's min-

eral security. Reports said the discussions between New Delhi and Tokyo are part of a preliminary pact on critical minerals signed last year. Under the proposed cooperation, Japan is expected to send experts to Rajasthan to study the deposits.

The Japanese Government is likely to offer advanced extraction technology and financial support in exchange for a stable supply of rare earth materials to Japan. Hard rock rare earth deposits require specialised extraction techniques, which India currently does not have at scale. Japan's technological expertise could therefore play a key

role in developing these reserves.

The reports said Japan is examining mining projects around the world to diversify its mineral supplies, including rare earth elements. However, the report clarified that there have been no discussions yet on specific corporate partnerships or technology agreements related to Rajasthan.

Both India and Japan are looking to reduce their reliance on Chinese imports of rare earth materials. Rare earth elements are essential for manufacturing permanent magnets used in electric vehicle motors, wind turbines, fighter jets and drones.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:6/3/2026 P.NO.2

CIL feeds the fire of investor appetite

Climbing coal prices, gas supply squeeze stoke e-auction interest

NIKITA VASHISHT
New Delhi, 5 March

Rising global coal prices pushed Coal India Ltd (CIL) shares up 3.4 per cent on Thursday, as investors anticipated a shift in power generation from gas to coal amid reduced natural gas supply from major West Asian exporters like Qatar.

The stock rose 5.36 per cent intraday before settling 3.37 per cent higher at ₹449.70 per share on the BSE. Over 2 million shares changed hands, compared with a two-week average volume of 520,000. By comparison, the Sensex closed with gains of 1.14 per cent.

Burning up the market

European thermal coal prices reportedly hit their highest level since October 2023 on Wednesday, while South African thermal coal reached its highest since August 2024.

Newcastle Coal Futures, a key global benchmark for thermal coal, is up 13 per cent over the past week and 26 per cent over the past year, trading around \$131 per tonne. Meanwhile, Northwest Europe steam coal — a high-energy thermal coal imported into Europe — jumped 16 per cent to \$133.18 per tonne on Tuesday and is up 26 per cent over the week. A UBS report said that if gas generation becomes expensive due to limited liquefied natural gas supply from Qatar, "more coal power generation could take place, driving up the demand for thermal coal and hence its price".

Analysts, however, note that the direct impact on CIL is limited, as the state-owned company operates largely in a regulated domestic market. Rising global coal prices may still support earnings via the e-auction channel.

"Due to an expected energy crisis triggered by the war in West Asia, crude and gas prices have moved up. Coal prices, too, are moving in tandem, as evidenced by the latest e-auction," said



The impact Global coal future contracts

| | Latest price (\$/tonne) | Weekly change (%) |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Rotterdam Coal | 124.9 | 17.2 |
| Newcastle Coal | 131.3 | 13.3 |
| Richards Bay Coal | 109.0 | 10.3 |

Source: Bloomberg

Ambareesh Baliga, an independent market analyst.

CIL sells 10-15 per cent of its coal through a single-window mode-agnostic e-auction. When global coal prices rise, domestic industries such as cement, steel, and sponge iron turn to locally produced coal rather than imports, driving up CIL's auction premium.

In February 2026, CIL recorded a 35 per cent premium over its notified base prices in e-auctions, according to a recent exchange filing.

Analysts at Citi said import parity prices suggest e-auction rates could move closer to ₹3,000 per tonne, compared with around ₹2,435 per tonne in the third quarter (October-December/Q3) of 2025-26 (FY26). They estimate that every ₹100 per tonne increase in e-auction realisations could lift CIL's earnings per share (EPS) by roughly 2 per cent.

The brokerage maintained its 'neutral' rating on CIL, with a target price of ₹430.

Meanwhile, analysts at JP Morgan said every 1 per cent change in CIL's average selling price would translate into a 3 per cent change in the company's EPS.

Baliga cautioned that since the rise in global coal prices is linked to ongoing conflicts, a truce or negotiation could trigger a quick reversal

in the stock's movement.

Coal's quiet power

In Q3FY26, CIL reported a consolidated net profit of ₹7,160 crore, down 16 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) but up 65 per cent quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q). Consolidated revenue fell 4.7 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹30,818 crore but rose 14.5 per cent Q-o-Q.

Total coal production for nine months (9M) of FY26 declined 3 per cent Y-o-Y to 529.2 million tonnes (mt), with offtake down 3 per cent to 545.74 mt. CIL cited volume reductions, higher contractual costs, and weaker realisations as factors impacting earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation (Ebitda) and margins in Q3. Adjusted Ebitda fell 24 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹7,870 crore but rose 34 per cent Q-o-Q.

"CIL delivered a decent performance in Q3, supported by volume recovery, where e-auction volumes accounted for 10 per cent of total volumes, and the premium stood at 62 per cent," said Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL). "We have raised our adjusted net profit estimate for FY26 by 14 per cent to incorporate the performance beat while maintaining our 2026-27/2027-28 estimates."

More on business-standard.com

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:6/3/2026 P.NO.3

CONFLICT IN WEST ASIA LED TO A SPIKE IN ALUMINIUM PRICES

Aluminium Makers' Shares Unlikely to Stay High for Long, say Analysts

Experts advise taking profits in as prices may struggle to sustain current levels

Nikita Periwal

Mumbai: The recent rally in shares of local aluminium producers is likely to see a pullback as a key underlying factor - the prices of aluminium - are unlikely to sustain at the current levels, experts said. Accordingly, they advise taking some profits as share prices are now likely to consolidate.

Conflict in West Asia has led to a spike in aluminium prices

recently, with prices on the London Metal Exchange having risen 5% since then. In the domestic market, shares of Vedanta, Hindalco Industries and National Aluminium Co ended 1-6% higher on Thursday, outpacing gains in the broader market.

"Even before the Middle East conflict, aluminium prices were quite high in the range of \$3,000 - \$3,100 (per tonne), which is a good level for smelters to make cash," said Aditya Welekar of Axis Securities. "An upside in shares will be only if prices (aluminium) increase further, and that will be a blue sky scenario if geopolitical events further deteriorate and the war continues," he said.

Earlier this week, Doha-based QatarEnergy, suspended



the production of liquified natural gas following which, Qatalum, an aluminium smelter in the country, initiated a shutdown of production. The Gulf Cooperation Council accounted for a little over 8% of the primary aluminium produced in 2026, data on the International Aluminium Institute showed.

Vedanta, Hindalco Industries and National Aluminium Co are the key aluminium producers in India, which itself is the second largest producer of aluminium in the world with an annual production capacity of over 4 million tonne.

Two factors are playing out in pushing aluminium prices higher, Satyadeep Jain of Ambit Capital said. Given the energy-intensive nature of aluminium, higher energy prices are pushing up the cost curve and consequently prices, while supply disruptions are adding to these gains.

"The benefit for Indians (Indian companies) is that they rely on coal and most of this coal is through long-term contracts. So the cost does not go up as much, but prices go up more," he said.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:6/3/2026 P.NO.8

Platinum deficit poised to continue for 4th year in a row

WPIC OUTLOOK. Investment demand may slip 65%, while jewellery offtake may decline by 12%

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Platinum will remain in deficit for the fourth consecutive year in 2026, though the shortage will drop by over 75 per cent, with the demand declining by 8 per cent, the World Platinum Investment Council (WPIC) has said.

Releasing Platinum Quarterly for the fourth quarter of 2025, the WPIC said the market deficit topped one million ounces (oz) in 2025. The deficit was higher than the 0.69 million oz estimated at the end of the third quarter.

4-YEAR LOW DEMAND

For this year, the outlook reflected some of the market's initial reactions to prices more than doubling from the 2025 rates. "Total demand is expected to reach a four-year low, but even with supply reaching a five-year high, the market is still expected to remain in a deficit of 0.24 million oz (equivalent to 3 per cent of total demand)," said the WPIC.

The white precious metal, which is used in jewellery, automotive catalysts, the chemical industry and medical devices, including cancer-treating drugs, is currently ruling at \$2,154 an ounce. Prices are up over 120 per cent on year and about 5 per cent year-to-date.

Platinum supply is forecast to increase by 2 per cent in 2026 to 7.37 million oz. The supply growth will entirely be underpinned by recycling, which is more responsive to prices.

HIGH PRICE IMPACT

Demand is forecast to decline by 8 per cent to 7,619 koz this year.

"Neither the automotive



Demand-supply balance

| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026f |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mining supply | 5.57 | 5.61 | 5.78 | 5.55 | 5.55 |
| Recycling | 1.81 | 1.51 | 1.52 | 1.66 | 1.83 |
| Total supply | 7.38 | 7.13 | 7.30 | 7.21 | 7.38 |
| Automotive demand | 2.76 | 3.21 | 3.10 | 3.03 | 2.94 |
| Jewellery demand | 1.88 | 1.85 | 2.00 | 2.19 | 1.92 |
| Industrial demand | 2.15 | 2.37 | 2.40 | 1.91 | 2.12 |
| Investment demand | -0.51 | 0.38 | 0.70 | 1.15 | 0.62 |
| Total demand | 6.28 | 7.82 | 8.22 | 8.29 | 7.61 |
| Balance | 1.09 | -0.68 | -0.92 | -1.08 | -0.24 |
| Above-ground stocks | 5.54 | 4.85 | 3.93 | 2.85 | 2.61 |

Source: World Platinum Investment Council

nor the industrial segment is expected to be materially impacted by higher prices. Automotive demand is expected to decrease by 3 per cent on lower catalysed vehicle production (-0.9 million units) and industrial demand recovers somewhat, a 11 per cent increase from its low base in 2025," said the WPIC.

"(It)... is forecast to increase by 10 per cent year-on-year in 2026. Mining is somewhat price inelastic and is expected to be stable, with some growth in Southern Africa being offset by lower North American and Russian supplies," the council said.

Higher prices are forecast to impact jewellery demand (-12 per cent), with China (-37 per cent) recording the steepest regional decline.

"Investment demand is forecast to be characterised by two factors. Platinum bar and coin demand (including

China large bars over 500 g) is expected to reach a record of 0.74 million ounces (35 per cent).

"However, the large increase in 2025 stocks held by exchanges of 0.384 million is

main robust, with any price-linked profit taking offset by new investment purchases.

LOW MINE SUPPLY

In 2025, supply slipped by 1 per cent, with a four-year drop in mining supplies. Recycling, however, increased by 10 per cent, partially offsetting the shortage in mine supplies.

"Many of the developments in Q4 2025 that drove the 0.2 million oz quarterly deficit and boosted the full-year deficit highlight the fundamental drivers," the WPIC said. In 2025, mine supplies dropped in South Africa by 4 per cent, while in Zimbabwe and North America, they slid by 2 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively.

"Mine supply was principally affected by an inability of South African producers to continue drawing down excess work-in-process inventories, while in the US, output was reduced by the rationalisation of high-cost production," said the council.

Barring 2020, which was disrupted by Covid, the 2025 supply was its lowest since 2014 and reflects an ongoing reduction in expenditure to grow mine supply. Jewellery recycling increased by 19 per cent, and that of automotive catalyst and industrial by 7 per cent each.

CHINA'S SELL-BACKS

"Recycling supply growth was due to jewellery sell-backs by Chinese wholesalers liquidating inventory built up during the low price in the second quarter of 2025," said the WPIC.

Last year, automotive catalyst and industrial demand decreased by 2 per cent and 21 per cent respectively, but the jewellery demand increased by 9 per cent.

SOLITAIRE PRICE INDEX

6th March, 2026

4,376*

0.85% ↓

Over last Month

4.14% ↓

Over last Year

Nationwide Standard & Transparent Pricing since 2000. Released on the 1st of every month. *This is an average of Divine Solitaires Price List

DIVINE

expected to unwind by 0.1 million oz, reducing platinum investment demand (-46 per cent)," it said.

Exchange-traded funds demand is expected to re-

LOKMAT (HELLO NAGPUR) DATE:6/3/2026 P.NO.2

आयबीएमचा ७९ वा स्थापना दिन साजरा

नागपूर : भारतीय खाण ब्युरोने (आयबीएम) १ मार्च रोजी ७९ वा स्थापना दिन 'खनिज दिवस' म्हणून उत्साहात साजरा केला. नागपूरच्या विभागीय आयुक्त विजयलक्ष्मी बिदरी या सोहळ्याच्या मुख्य अतिथी होत्या, तर आयबीएमचे महानियंत्रक पंकज कुलश्रेष्ठ यांनी कार्यक्रमाचे अध्यक्षपद भूषवले. 'मायनिंग टेनमेंट सिस्टम'मधील उत्कृष्ट कामगिरीसाठी आयबीएमला मिळालेल्या ई-गव्हर्नन्स सुवर्ण पुरस्काराबद्दल बिदरी यांनी संस्थेचे अभिनंदन केले. त्या म्हणाल्या, गडचिरोली जिल्ह्याला देशाचे 'स्टील सिटी' आणि लोहखनिजाचे केंद्र म्हणून विकसित करण्यासाठी राज्य सरकार कटिबद्ध आहे. त्यात आयबीएमची भूमिका महत्त्वपूर्ण असेल. लंडन मेटल एक्स्चेंजच्या धर्तीवर भारतात



'मिनरल कमोडिटी एक्स्चेंज' सुरू करण्यासाठी आयबीएम प्रशासक म्हणून काम करणार असल्याची माहिती मुख्य खाण नियंत्रक डॉ. वाय. जी. काळे यांनी दिली. याप्रसंगी 'इंडियन मिनरल्स इयर्सबुक-२०२३' आणि 'खान भारती' या हिंदी मासिकाचे प्रकाशन करण्यात आले. स्वागतपर भाषण पी. के. भट्टाचार्जी यांनी केले, संचालन विधी अधिकारी भूमिका करमचंदानी यांनी केले आणि आभार प्रदर्शन तांत्रिक सचिव पराग ताडलिंबेकर यांनी मानले.

NAVBHARAT (NAGPUR PLUS) DATE:6/3/2026 P.NO.4

MECL ने राष्ट्र निर्माण के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई

वैज्ञानिक खनिज अन्वेषण पर जोर

नागपूर. केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल के 'सेवा संकल्प' प्रस्ताव के अनुरूप मिनरल एक्सप्लोरेशन एंड कंसल्टेंसी लिमिटेड (एमईसीएल) ने नागरिक-केंद्रित शासन और सार्वजनिक सेवा में उत्कृष्टता के सिद्धांतों को लागू करने के लिए व्यापक कदम उठाए हैं. इस संकल्प के कार्यान्वयन और इसके सिद्धांतों पर चर्चा करने के लिए



एमईसीएल कॉर्पोरेट कार्यालय में सभी कार्यात्मक प्रभागों के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की एक महत्त्वपूर्ण बैठक आयोजित की गई. बैठक की अध्यक्षता सीएमडी (अध्यक्ष-सह-प्रबंध निदेशक) इंद्र देव नारायण ने की. बैठक के

दौरान 'सेवा संकल्प' प्रस्ताव को औपचारिक रूप से पढ़ा गया और इस पर विस्तार से चर्चा की गई. मुख्य ध्यान इस बात पर था कि कैसे एमईसीएल अपने अन्वेषण के मुख्य कार्यों को जन सेवा और पारदर्शिता के साथ जोड़ सकता है. नारायण ने जोर देकर कहा कि यह संकल्प संगठन के लिए एक मार्गदर्शक ढांचे के रूप में कार्य करना चाहिए, उन्होंने कर्मचारियों से आह्वान किया कि वे अपने दैनिक कार्यों में सेवा की भावना को

अपनाएं और सुनिश्चित करें कि एमईसीएल की गतिविधियां जनता के प्रति उत्तरदायी और केंद्रित रहें. पंकज पांडे (निदेशक-तकनीकी) ने कहा कि प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन व्यक्तिगत जवाबदेही और पेशेवर तत्परता पर निर्भर करता है. ताकि तकनीकी कार्य अंततः नागरिकों के लिए सकारात्मक परिणामों में बदल सकें. प्रदीप कुमार (मुख्य सतर्कता अधिकारी) ने स्पष्ट किया कि पारदर्शिता, नैतिक आचरण और प्रक्रियात्मक अखंडता एमईसीएल के कामकाज के केंद्र में होनी चाहिए.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:9/3/2026 P.NO.8

Aluminium Hits Biggest Weekly Gain Since 2023 on Iran Crisis

Bloomberg

Aluminium recorded its biggest weekly gain since 2023 after the deepening conflict in the Middle East snarled shipments from the region and left traders bracing for more disruptions.

Prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME) climbed more than 4% on Friday, extending this week's advance to about 9.7%. Earlier in the week, the benchmark contract spiked to levels last seen in 2022.

Now in the seventh day, the US-Israeli attacks on Iran—and Tehran's response—have sent shock waves through the global aluminium industry. Metal flows through the strategic Strait of Hormuz are effectively halted, and smelters in the Persian Gulf region have reported disruptions to deliveries and production this week.

The turmoil underscores how quickly geopolitical risks can ripple through a market already grappling with constrained supply. Metal inventories on major exchanges remain relatively lean, while a regulatory cap on Chinese aluminium output and smelter outages in Western markets have limited the industry's ability to respond to fresh shocks.

The so-called US Midwest premium, the amount added to LME prices to deliver aluminium to that region, rose to a fresh high of \$1,075 a pound Friday, according to Fastmarkets. Europe-

an premiums also surged this week.

The Chinese aluminium industry—by far the world's biggest—is considering how to respond to any prolonged disruptions. There's potential for China to plug emerging supply gaps, especially if global output of semi-fabricated aluminium starts to be affected.



Prices climbed 4% on LME to 9.7%; analysts warn disruptions could push prices above \$4,000/ton

"Gulf producers are among the largest suppliers of primary aluminium to the global seaborne market, accounting for a significant share of internationally traded metal," analysts at ING said in an emailed note, warning that a sustained disruption on shipments could push prices above \$4,000 a ton. "While oil and LNG markets are the most directly exposed to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, aluminium is likely to be among the most affected industrial commodities."

Part of the price advance on Friday may be due to a huge options trade. April-expiry options with a notional value of several billion dollars have rapidly come into the money this week on the LME, with dealers identifying the massive position as a call spread targeting a price of between \$3,300 and \$3,500 a ton. Dealers and traders in the LME market have said the trade is likely to have been placed by a deep-pocketed hedge fund.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
DATE:9/3/2026 P.NO.12

Trump Raises Ground Troop Option to Secure Iran Uranium

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Saturday raised the possibility of deploying ground troops in Iran to secure the country's stockpiles of enriched uranium as part of efforts to dismantle Tehran's nuclear programme.

"At some point maybe we will. That would be a great thing," Trump told reporters during a briefing aboard Air Force One. "We haven't gone after it, but it's something we could do later," he added.

Some critics of the US-Israeli war on Iran, launched last Saturday, have argued that air strikes alone may not achieve the stated goals of destroying Iran's military capability and preventing it from developing a nuclear weapon.

Asked whether the United States could deploy ground forces, Trump did not rule it out.



Asked whether the US could deploy ground forces, Trump did not rule it out

"Could there be? Possibly, for a very good reason — it'd have to be a very good reason," he said.

"And I would say if we ever did that, they would be so decimated that they wouldn't be able to fight at the ground level."

US WON'T HIT IRAN ENERGY SECTOR

The United States will not target Iran's energy infrastructure as it wages war alongside Israel against the Islamic republic, Energy Secretary Chris Wright said on Sunday. With oil prices surging, Wright told CNN that any disruption to the petroleum and gas industry would likely be brief.

"Worst case, that's a few weeks. That's not months," he said.

Israel struck oil storage facilities in and around Tehran on Saturday, sparking large fires in the first reported attacks on such sites since the war began last weekend. Wright appeared to play down the strikes. AFP

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:9/3/2026 P.NO.6

Escalating tensions in Middle East to impact Indian, other steel markets: BigMint Research

THE global steel industry, including India, is expected to face multiple market-related issues in the coming days as the escalating crisis in the Middle East impacts fuels cost that has led to increased freight rates, according to BigMint Research.

Military tensions in the region are increasing as both Iran, and the US, along with Israel, continue to attack each other. BigMint analysts said crude oil, LNG, and freight costs are rising simultaneously, transmitting cost pressure directly into steel and steel-related commodity markets.

From an average of USD 70 a barrel before the war, crude oil prices have risen to about USD 90/per barrel, an analyst said, adding that the cost is



expected to continue to rise in the coming days. War has also impacted freight cost, which jumped almost 40 per cent in recent times. In the absence of insurance cover, marine operators are also offering freight at non-negotiable prices as per the availability of the vessel.

On the impact of the US-Iran conflict on steel markets, including India, they said the industry would face sustained input cost inflation across coal, scrap and ore, with freight and energy reinforcing one another.

"The players are expected to pass on the increased cost to customers. However, if market is not ready to absorb the cost, steel demand can also be affected," an expert said.

Extended disruption could push prices of coking coal -- a key steel making raw material -- from major supplying markets such as Australia, Russia, and the US. Increased input cost, coupled with higher freight cost, will also put pressure on the margins, the analysts added.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:10/3/2026 P.NO.JACKET

US mulls special op to seize Iran's uranium

President Donald Trump is weighing the option of deploying special forces on the ground to seize Iran's near-bomb-grade uranium, as officials grow increasingly concerned the stockpile may have been moved, according to three diplomatic officials briefed on the matter.

The US and Israel struck key nuclear facilities during last June's 12-day war.

Uncertainty over Iran's highly enriched uranium has intensified because it's almost nine months since UN atomic inspectors last verified its location, the officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss restric-

ted deliberations.

"They haven't been able to get to it and at some point, maybe we will," Trump said late on Saturday during a briefing aboard Air Force One. "We haven't gone after it, but it's something we can do later on. We wouldn't do it now."

Publicly, US officials have projected confidence that they know where the uranium is stored. Privately, there is said to be less certainty.

In the weeks before the strikes, monitors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency observed sustained activity outside tunnels built into a hillside near Isfahan, where the mate-

rial was last documented before the fighting began.

That activity increases the likelihood that at least some of the 441 kilograms of highly enriched uranium stored at the complex was moved, said a diplomat in the Austrian capital familiar with the agency's assessments. The stockpile is sufficient for roughly a dozen nuclear warheads if further refined, with the US saying specifically 11 bombs. US and Israeli officials are actively searching for the highly enriched material and have contingency plans that include deploying special forces if its location is confirmed, one of the officials said. **BLOOMBERG**

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:10/3/2026 P.NO.6

Illegal sand mining busted in Yavatmal

Bhaskar Mehare | TNN

Yavatmal: A major illegal sand mining racket was busted in Yavatmal district after the revenue and police departments carried out a raid at the Rohini sand ghat in the Wardha riverbed in Ralegaon taluka.

The late-night operation led to seizure of 11 tipper trucks, two boats and two poclain machines worth approximately ₹1.42 crore.

Cases were registered against 20 individuals at the Vadki police station under various sections of the law.

Excavation is prohibited after 6pm at the 31 sand ghats auctioned across Yavatmal district. Authorities received information that large-scale illegal excavation and transportation of sand was underway at the Rohini ghat beyond the permissible hours.

Pandharkawada sub-divisional police officer Robin Bansal and Ralegaon sub-divisional officer Sudhir Patil conducted a raid at around 2am. The team found sand was being illegally extracted and being loaded onto trucks.

Officials pointed out that similar illegal sand mining activities are reportedly taking place at Wani, Umarched and Mahagaon talukas, causing the state government losses worth lakhs of rupees every day.

Sources further revealed that sand stockpiled during the day is often transported after 10 pm to avoid detection. In some cases, revenue officials attempting to take action against sand smugglers have allegedly faced threats.



Some of the trucks seized during the late night operation against illegal sand mining

MCOCA slapped on sand mafia gang

Chandrapur: Chandrapur police have invoked the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against alleged sand mafia members accused of murdering a man over money dispute at the Bamarda sand ghat in Warora taluka earlier this month.

Pankaj Wankhede, in his complaint filed on March 1 at Warora police station, alleged that a group of men attacked him and his associates with swords and wooden sticks. The assault led to death of Bharat Dayanand Nagpal, reports **Mazhar Ali**.

Police have arrested 12 accused in the case, most of them residents of Wardha district, while one is from Seoni district in Madhya Pradesh.

Police found that the accused were allegedly part of an organised criminal network involved in illegal sand mining, transportation, gambling and other unlawful activities. Special Inspector General of Police, Nagpur Range, later approved a proposal to invoke MCOCA against the gang.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:10/3/2026 P.NO.6

Vedanta, Nalco, Hindalco gain as global prices rise on supply woes

GALVANISING ELEMENT. Aluminium rate surges to multi-year highs on London Metal Exchange

Gayathri G
Chennai

Shares of aluminium producers have been on an upswing as global aluminium prices surged on supply concerns triggered by geopolitical tensions in West Asia, with stocks such as Vedanta Ltd, Hindalco Ltd and National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco) gaining despite broader weakness in the domestic equity markets.

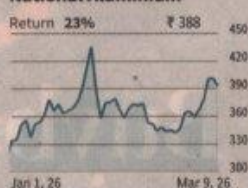
Even though these stocks fell around 2-3 per cent on Monday due to the overall weakness, Nalco rose 2 per cent year-to-date (YTD), Vedanta 17.7 per cent and Hindalco climbed 5.6 per cent, as against Nifty's fall of 8.1 per cent.

Aluminium prices on the London Metal Exchange have climbed to multi-year highs amid rising concerns over supply disruptions across key production hubs.

QATAR TROUBLE

A key trigger was the controlled shutdown of an aluminium smelter in Qatar, operated as a joint venture between QatarEnergy and Norsk Hydro. The facility has an annual capacity of about 6.64 lakh tonnes, and its closure has heightened fears of tightening global supply chains, even as demand remains resilient. It will take at least six months to revive operations. Indian producers are seen as relatively well positioned to benefit from the rally. Domestic firms have

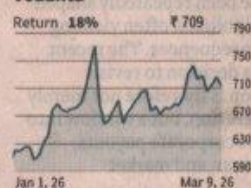
National Aluminium



strong backward integration and local sourcing of key inputs, enabling them to capture higher spreads when global commodity prices rise.

Vedanta is particularly sensitive to movements in global aluminium prices. It is also investing nearly ₹10,000 crore in expanding its aluminium business, including value-added capacity at Jharsuguda in Odisha, expansion at the BALCO smelter in Ch-

Vedanta



hattisgarh, and ongoing capacity additions at Lanjigarh.

Brokerage CLSA said Vedanta is best placed to benefit from the rally given its diversified exposure across aluminium, zinc and oil.

Hindalco is also expected to gain from higher aluminium prices, although analysts caution that rising gas costs and potential pressure on spreads due to disruptions in scrap exports from

West Asia, could cap the upside.

Brokerages remain divided on Hindalco, with Axis Direct and ICICI Direct maintaining a 'hold' rating, while Motilal Oswal Financial has a 'buy' call. Geojit BNP Paribas has also reiterated a 'buy' on Vedanta.

Aluminium Bahrain has declared *force majeure* due to shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, while Qatalum has announced a controlled shutdown after gas supplies were suspended. Antique Stock Broking has maintained a 'buy' on Nalco, with a target price of ₹420.

Analysts said the direct impact of the West Asia conflict on India's coal or aluminium availability is likely to remain limited.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:10/3/2026 P.NO.8

Zinc : Go long on dips at ₹322 & ₹318, stop-loss at ₹314

Gurumurthy K

bl. research bureau

Zinc prices are stuck in a sideways range for more than a month. The contract traded on the MCX has been oscillating between ₹317 and ₹332 per kg since last month. Within this range, the price fell last week and is not attempting to bounce back. The contract is currently trading at ₹325 per kg.

COMMODITY

CALL.

The immediate outlook is unclear. For now, we can expect the ₹317-₹332 range to remain intact.

However, the recent sideways move is a consolidation within the broader uptrend. As such the chances are high to see a bullish breakout above ₹332 eventually. Such a break can take the contract higher to ₹355-360 in the coming weeks. If the price breaks below ₹317, a fall to ₹312 can be seen initially.



The uptrend will come under threat only if the contract breaks below ₹312. In that case, there is a danger of seeing ₹300 on the downside. But such a fall is unlikely.

Our preference is to see a bullish breakout above ₹332. But when this breakout will happen remains a question.

TRADE STRATEGY

For now, traders can play the range. Go long on dips at ₹322 and ₹318. Keep the stop-loss at ₹314. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹323 as soon as the contract goes up to ₹326. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹325 and ₹327 when the price touches ₹328 and ₹330 respectively. Exit the longs at ₹332.

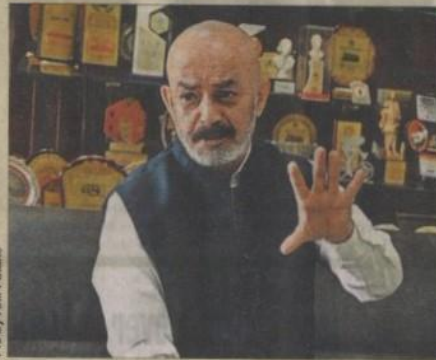
THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:10/3/2026 P.NO.1

The aluminium man: Dr. Anupam Agnihotri

By Vijay Phanshikar

SPEND just a few minutes with him, and you realise his deeply sensitive mind -- and sensible ways. In a few more minutes, you realise that you are in the company of a very important signatory of the country's aluminium research, development and design movement -- and has a say in every scientific development in that regard, as a pivot, as an anchor. Over the past 35-plus years, the country's scientific thinkers and planners have treated aluminium not just as 'a' metal but as a concept and

wove a range of thought-and-action effort to make the best use of it in all its derivatives. Dr. Anupam Agnihotri, as the Director of Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), Nagpur, has been playing a critical role in this range of activities with aluminium technology related to energy audit, environmental monitoring, and modernisation. At the forefront of critical technology-utilisation, Dr. Agnihotri chooses his words carefully, but does not sound clammed up. He is open. He welcomes questions -- and responds to



Pic by Anil Futane

those without seeming to conceal anything. In other words, he knows, what, how, why and where to express.

Even as he presides over the intense scientific activity and administrative work at the sprawling facility, Dr. Anupam Agnihotri's first concern is to create a "happy organisation". Though he uses an everyday lingo saying that, the poetry in Dr. Agnihotri's words cannot be missed. A hint of a smile is all the time etched on his face as he talks about his work, his organisation, his colleagues -- scientific and administrative. Even though he is engaged in sev-

eral national-level research and development projects in critical technologies, Dr. Agnihotri finds time to play cricket on the campus and to interact with colleagues.

What is the source of his friendly persona? -- one may ask.

And the answer, in effect, is: 'My parents. They ingrained into my thought the importance of being nice to everyone and be as humble as possible'. Dr. Agnihotri's parents were symbols of time-tested, traditional value-system -- Honour your word. Respect

Contd on page 2

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:10/3/2026 P.NO.2

The aluminium man: Dr. Anupam Agnihotri

Contd from page 1

everybody. Take life seriously. Work hard -- they seemed to insist.

Those values have stayed with Dr. Anupam Agnihotri. One of the values that he got from his parents was 'hard work'. "It always pays. But it should necessarily be accompanied by dedication and deep involvement. That is the actual mode, method and manner of leadership. That way, one establishes a role model for the organisation."

Dr. Agnihotri says matter-of-factly.

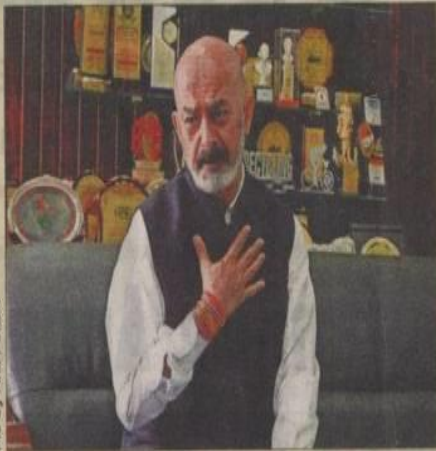
As he heads a hi-tech scientific research and development organisation, how does he handle the actual operational leadership challenge beyond philosophy?

To this question, Dr. Agnihotri replies, in effect,

"People come with many issues, many suggestions, many solutions to vexed questions -- whether scientific or administrative or with obvious human dimensions. As a leader, my response is: Never say 'no' to anybody. That fosters creativity, in the sense people feel enthused to communicate more openly. An organisation that fosters creativity has every reason to be a happy organisation", Dr. Agnihotri asserts.

For somebody pursuing studies in leadership, these responses embody a scientific thought on the subject.

Even though he is Director of JNARDDC for years, Dr. Agnihotri has another approach to leadership -- which needs to be kept in mind. He allows others to go up front and lead projects, take ownership -- which he



Pic by Anil Futane

describes as "leading from behind".

As the conversation proceeds deeper, you realise that Dr. Anupam Agnihotri is rather a person in a rarified league of people. He is all the time looking for work -- not just engagement, but a serious involvement in mission-

mode. "This has been my way. If others cribbed and cringed, I looked forward to more and deeper and higher work. Yes, I do believe in smart work, all right. But the word "smart" should not be used as a replacement of "hard" work. One should do both, hard and smart work -- as an essential

virtue", he stresses.

Dr. Agnihotri's academic and scientific credentials are impeccable, to say the least. He has a B.Tech. degree from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, in Metallurgy - (Fatigue Failure of Metals); M.Tech. from Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology (VNIT) Nagpur in Metallurgy, Doctorate (PhD) from VNIT in Metallurgy. During his upward trajectory to become the Director of JNARDDC in 2014, Dr. Agnihotri held various positions such as Managing Director (Additional Charge) of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd; Director (Additional Charge) NIMH; HoD, Aluminium Electrolysis and Downstream; Technical Secretary to Director; Scientist (from Grade I to Grade IV); Visiting Scientist, United Nations Development Programme in Hungary.

The honours and awards,

too, have flowed his way: Scientific Contribution Award of the International Bauxite Alumina and Aluminum Society; Scientific Institutional Excellence Award; Scientific Excellence Award; Metal Asia Award; Atma Nirbhar Award and Dr. Raja Ramanna Award of the Indian Society of Analytical Scientists; and the last year's honour for JNARDDC as a Top-Five Research Institute.

However, Dr. Agnihotri mentions all these academic and scientific honours only in the passing -- as an outcome of lifetime of dedicated work. His sights are set on creating a happy organisation that delivers -- for national cause, and also works as an ecosystem of growth for individual members. Personally, Dr. Agnihotri is an integral member of national-level research projects such as the development of a Super Aluminium

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CONT. FROM PAGE NO. 29

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE)

DATE:10/3/2026 P.NO.2

Conductor, Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Studies, and is associated with Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) ambitious project on indigenisation of aluminium alloys.

The scientific research and development work conducted by the JNARDDC under Dr. Agnihotri's leadership is massive in size and import. His hands are full -- with scientific work in the institute, with working together on several projects with other institutions nationally and internationally. He also needs to travel a lot to pursue his work with a missionary zeal.

Yet, behind all these is a man who also looks forward to spending quiet time at home (when situation permits) -- and allowing his team to take the lead.

In that manner, he follows his dictum -- of leading from behind.

NAVBHARAT DATE:11/3/2026 P.NO.7

निर्यात में 36% से ज्यादा का उछाल, आयात में बड़ी गिरावट स्टील सेक्टर की 'सुपरफास्ट' रफ्तार

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज़ नेटवर्क.

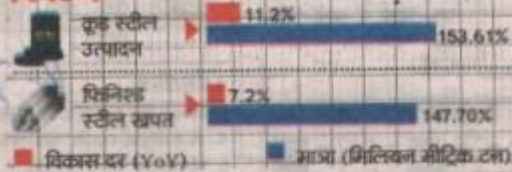
भारत का स्टील उद्योग इस वित्त वर्ष में नए कीर्तिमान स्थापित कर रहा है. रॉयटर्स की ताजा रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भारत ने न केवल

स्टील के निर्यात में बड़ी छलांग लगाई है, बल्कि आयात पर अपनी निर्भरता को भी काफी कम कर दिया

है. यह भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में 'मेक इन इंडिया' की सफलता और मजबूत घरेलू औद्योगिक मांग को दर्शाता है. चालू वित्त वर्ष के पहले 11 महीनों (अप्रैल-फरवरी) के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि भारतीय फिनिश स्टील की वैश्विक मांग तेजी से बढ़ी है. साल-दर-साल आधार पर फिनिश स्टील के निर्यात में 36.6% की भारी वृद्धि दर्ज



विवरण



की गई है. इस अवधि में 6.02 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन फिनिश स्टील का निर्यात किया है.

आयात में ऐतिहासिक गिरावट : दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा क्रूड स्टील उत्पादक होने के नाते, भारत ने अपनी उत्पादन क्षमता को बढ़ाया है, जिसका सीधा असर आयात के आंकड़ों पर पड़ा है.

इंपोर्ट में कमी: अप्रैल-फरवरी के दौरान फिनिश स्टील का आयात 5.6 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन रहा, जो पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि की तुलना में 37.4% कम है.

कारण: विरोधों का मानना है कि घरेलू स्तर पर उत्पादन बढ़ने के कारण विदेशी स्टील पर निर्भरता कम हुई है, जो भविष्य में और भी कम होने की संभावना है.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:11/3/2026 P.NO.10

Buy aluminium futures if the price dips to ₹331

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Aluminium futures are now trading at ₹333 per kg. Over the last week, it saw a sharp rally to hit a high of ₹350.90 before moderating to the current price.

The price action shows that the support at ₹328 is stopping the decline. That said whether aluminium futures will see another round of a swift upswing is uncertain. Nevertheless, the price is likely to retest the ₹345-350 band.

COMMODITY CALL.

If the bulls gather enough strength to break out of the barrier at ₹350, the contract could rally to ₹375.

If the support at ₹328 is breached, aluminium futures



could drop to the ₹320-318 support region. Notably, the 21- and 50-day moving average coincides at ₹318, making it a strong base. Thus, there could be a rebound on the back of this.

In case the support at ₹318 is breached, the contract could extend the decline to ₹307.

TRADE STRATEGY

Traders could consider short-term buys if the price softens to ₹331. Target and stop-loss can be ₹345 and ₹323, respectively.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:11/3/2026 P.NO.12

A rise in aluminium prices boosts the Ebitda of 'integrated' firms like Nalco and Hindalco GCC Plant Shutdowns Give a Lift to Aluminium, Indian Producers

Sachin Kumar

ET Intelligence Group: Shares of aluminium producers have gained 3-10% over the past week, helped by a sharp rally in global aluminium prices following plant shutdowns in Qatar and Bahrain and supply disruptions due to closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The London Metal Exchange (LME) aluminium prices have jumped 7.8% in a week, taking total gains to around 9% in 2026 so far. Higher prices are set to benefit Indian producers such as National Aluminium Company (Nalco), Hindalco and Vedanta, as improved realisations strengthen their earnings.

Every \$100 per tonne increase in aluminium price boosts operating profit before depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) of Nalco and Hindalco by 5.5% and 4%, respectively, noted PL Capital in a report. LME aluminium, which closed at \$3,385.5 per tonne on Tuesday, has risen by about \$246 per tonne over the past week and is up roughly \$370 per tonne since the start of the year.

Hot Metal

Performance of aluminium stocks

| | Market Cap (₹cr) | CMP (₹) | One-week Chg (%) | YTD Chg (%) |
|-------------|------------------|---------|------------------|-------------|
| Vedanta | 2,14,981 | 722.3 | 3.2 | 19.6 |
| Hindalco | 2,14,981 | 956.7 | 3.8 | 8.0 |
| NALCO | 71,427 | 388.9 | 4.3 | 23.9 |
| Arfin India | 1,371 | 81.3 | 10.4 | 11.3 |

Market cap and current market price (CMP) as of March 10, 2026
YTD: Year-to-date. Source: BSE, ETIG



Indian aluminium firms will also benefit given the integrated nature of their operations wherein they control the value chain from bauxite mining to alumina refining and aluminium smelting. For example, Nalco has captive coal mines that supply nearly 57% of coal requirements, helping insulate the company from coal price volatility and supply disruptions.

Shares of Nalco have risen 4% while Vedanta and Hindalco are up

over 3% in a week. Shares of Arfin India, which is into aluminium recycling, have surged 10% during the period.

Qatar's aluminium producer Qatathum has begun a controlled shutdown of its production from March 3, with the closure expected by month-end and a full restart likely to take 6-12 months. Bahrain's Aluminium Bahrain has also declared force majeure on supply contracts.

According to PL Capital, if the cur-

rent situation persists it is expected to increase the global aluminium deficit and lead to higher aluminium prices in the first half of FY27 as global stocks are already at lower levels.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which include Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain, account for 8.5% of global aluminium production and is the largest net exporter of primary aluminium. Most smelters in the region are not integrated for bauxite or alumina and rely on the Strait of Hormuz for their imports. The GCC exports nearly 75% of its aluminium output, which represents around 6.5% of global demand.

Kotak Institutional Equities expects the aluminium market to remain in deficit through 2026-28. The broking firm notes that the Iran conflict now adds significant upside risk to its earlier deficit projections. Its base-case forecast pegs LME aluminium price at around \$2,900 per tonne in FY2027-28, while a prolonged war could push both spot prices and its base-case estimates higher.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:12/3/2026 P.NO.13

RESERVES ESTIMATED AT 38 MILLION TONNES

Jindal Steel Wins Auction for Another Odisha Iron ore Mine

Nikita Periwal

Mumbai: Jindal Steel has secured one more iron ore mine in Odisha with estimated reserves of nearly 38 million tonnes, people in the know told ET.

The steelmaker won a state government auction for the Rengalaberha North-East Extension and Nuagan West iron ore block on Wednesday by offering a 111.15% premium over the base price, they said.

"This mine has a mix of high-grade and low-grade iron ore, but nearly 29 million tonnes of this are high-grade fines and some lumps which have Fe (iron) content of

ding and storage of diesel, and consent from the local Gram Sabha are also needed.

Among one of the largest steelmakers in India, Jindal Steel currently has iron ore mines at Tensa, Kasia and Roida-1, with a combined iron ore production capacity of 10.61 million tonne.

Out of these Odisha mines, reserves at Tensa are likely to be exhausted over the next three-four years.

Jindal Steel recently commissioned additional capacity at its Angul plant, and will be ramping this up, taking steel production capacity at this site to 12 million tonnes over the next one year from 9 million tonnes now.



around 60%," one of the people said. "Because the Fe content is high, we can use the iron ore directly in furnaces or for making sinter and pellets," the person said. Including the low-grade ore, the mine has an average Fe content of 57.87%.

On Tuesday, ET reported that the company won the Thakurani A1 iron ore block that has reserves of more than 50 million tonnes. In an exchange filing Wednesday, Jindal Steel confirmed that it won this block in Odisha's Keonjhar district.

The Rengalaberha North-East Extension and Nuagan West iron ore block, spread across 84 hectares, are also in the same district.

Once it gets a notification from the government on the allotment, Jindal Steel will have to seek several other approvals before beginning mining operations.

These include forest, wildlife and an environmental clearance, as well as consent to establish or no-objection certificate, explosive licences and permission for opening of mines. Approvals for railway si-

LOKMAT DATE:12/3/2026 P.NO.02

इंडोपार परिसरात अवैध उत्खननाची माहिती दिल्यास तत्काळ कारवाई : वनमंत्री

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

मुंबई : मुडनिसरोली जिल्ह्यातील कोरची तालुक्यातील इंडोपार जंगल परिसरात कोषत्याही प्रकारच्या खनिज उत्खननासाठी राज्याच्या वनविभागाकडून परवानगी देण्यात आलेली नसून अवैध उत्खननाबाबत ठोस माहिती मिळाल्यास तत्काळ चौकशी करून कारवाई करण्यात येईल, असे वनमंत्री गणेश नाईक यांनी विधानसभेत सांगितले.

याबाबत सदस्य विजय वडेड्डीवार यांनी प्रश्न उपस्थित केला होता. या चर्चेत सदस्य नितीन राऊत, डॉ. जितेंद्र आकाड, किशोर जोरगेवर, मंगेश चव्हाण, नाना पटोले आणि चंद्रकांत पाटील यांनी सहभाग घेतला.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:12/3/2026 P.NO.8

Copper heads south on stronger \$, Iran war

PRICE RETREAT. The red metal has dropped below \$13,000 a tonne after soaring to \$14,500 in January

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Copper prices have come under pressure on a stronger dollar, rising energy prices and the US-Israel war against Iran, according to analysts.

"Copper prices have come under pressure in recent weeks as macro headwinds combine with softer physical demand signals," said ING Think, the economic and financial analysis wing of multinational financial services firm ING.

Besides the macro issues, rising inventories on exchanges, increasing refined output in China and weaker Chinese import demand suggest that the tight market which supported prices in recent months may be starting to unwind, it said.

SHORT-TERM PRESSURE

According to the Shanghai Metals Market (SMM), the macro transmission implies short-term downside pressure on copper prices.

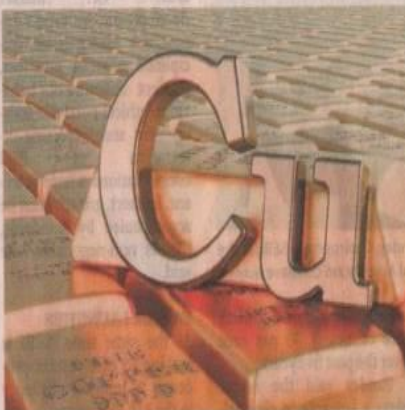
"As the conflict drives oil prices higher, concerns about inflation and tighter monetary policy have increased, risk appetite has declined, and some speculative long positions have begun to unwind, putting pressure on copper prices," it said.

Over the longer term, however, the copper market continues to face structural supply constraints, meaning that the current macro shock is more likely to manifest as sentiment-driven volatility rather than a fundamental reversal of the supply-demand trend, it said.

RECORD HIGH STOCKS

All these are indicators of copper heading south. The red metal, used widely in construction, wiring, transport, industry and electric vehicles, dropped below \$13,000 a tonne to \$12,997 on the London Metal Exchange (LME). In January, it soared to \$14,500 a tonne (\$6.61 a pound on the COMEX, where the metal is down to \$5.81).

ING Think said copper in-



BULL RUN FADES. Rising inventories, higher Chinese refined output and weaker import demand suggest that the market tightness, which is supporting prices, is easing

ventories on the Shanghai Futures Exchange recently hit a record high as physical demand softened in China. LME inventories are near a 17-month high.

"The inventory build also reflects strong inflows into LME warehouses, driven by shifting regional pricing incentives. As the COMEX-LME spread narrows, the in-

centive to redirect metal to the US is fading," it said.

As pricing signals normalise, the metal is being redirected back into LME warehouses and other exchange stocks, ING Think said, adding that the direction of SHFE stocks will be important to watch.

A decline in inventories would suggest Chinese de-

mand is holding up at current price levels. Stocks across the main exchanges have risen by over 5,000 tonnes since the start of this year. This points to improving physical availability.

EASING SUPPLIES

"The scale of the inventory build suggests supply tightness is easing after a period of historically low visible stocks that helped underpin prices in recent months.

If the pace of builds continues, it would reinforce the view that copper market tightness is beginning to unwind," said ING Think.

SMM said developments in the Middle East may affect the copper market through another supply-chain channel—the indirect impact on the hydrometallurgical copper production system in Congo.

"A significant portion of DRC refined copper production relies on hydrometallurgical processes, which depend heavily on sulphuric acid supply," it said.

The future trajectory of

copper prices will depend on the duration of the conflict in the Persian Gulf, movements in oil prices and changes in global financial conditions, while potential disruptions to African supply chains may emerge as another key variable for the market to watch, it said.

RECORD OUTPUT?

ING Think said Chinese smelters had continued to increase production despite tight concentrate markets and the collapse in treatment charges.

Refined copper output is expected to rise to almost 1.2 million tonnes this month (March), according to a poll of producers by Shanghai Metals Markets, it said. "That would be a 4.6 per cent increase from February and a record high for the survey," the ING arm said.

ING Think said it was maintaining its price forecast of a floor price of \$10,000 a tonne for copper, though near-term headwinds are building.

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:12/3/2026 P.NO.6

Government fully geared to meet coal demand amid West Asia crisis



AMID escalating tensions in West Asia threatening global energy supplies, the Government on Wednesday said it is fully prepared to meet any unprecedented surge in coal demand, with overall coal stocks at about 210 million tonne -- adequate for around 88 days.

This year, coal production and

supply have outpaced consumption, leading to record-high stocks at thermal power plants and coal mines. Supplies to the non-regulated sector are up nearly 14 per cent over the previous year. Pithead coal stocks at mines of Coal India Ltd (CIL) stood at 106.78 million tonne (MT) on April 1, 2025, rising to 121.39 MT

as of March 9 this year.

Further, there is around 6.07 MT of coal at the mines of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), another 15.12 MT at captive, commercial mines, and about 14 MT in transit, totalling 156.58 MT, the highest ever. This stock is in addition to the coal which is already available at power plants, which is around 54.05 MT as on March 9, 2026, adequate for nearly 24 days at the present rate of consumption. "The overall coal stock available in the country is about 210 MT, which would be adequate for about 88 days," the Coal Ministry said in a statement.

The coal production in the country continues at the same pace, building stocks at the mine end, for maintaining adequate supply to the consumers as per their requirements, with the support of railways.

LOKMAT DATE:13/3/2026 P.NO.3

अवैध गौण खनिज उत्खनन दंडासाठी दि. ३१ 'डेडलाइन'

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

मुंबई : अवैध गौण खनिज उत्खनन आणि वाहतूक करणाऱ्यांविरुद्ध फडणवीस सरकारने आक्रमक पाऊल उचलले असून दंड आकारूनही थकबाकी न भरणाऱ्यांकडून ३१ मार्च २०२६ पर्यंत वसुली पूर्ण करण्याचे कडक निर्देश परिपत्रकात देण्यात आले आहेत.

ज्या प्रकरणांमध्ये दंडाच्या आदेशाविरुद्ध वरिष्ठ प्राधिकाऱ्याकडे विहित मुदतीत अपील केलेले नाही, अशा प्रकरणांत मुदत संपल्यानंतर १५ दिवसांच्या आत वसुली सुरू करावी. जर दंडात्मक आदेशाला वरिष्ठ प्राधिकरणाने किंवा न्यायालयाने स्थगिती दिली नसेल, तर पहिल्या सुनावणीनंतर १५ दिवसांच्या आत वसुलीची प्रक्रिया सुरू करण्याचे आदेश देण्यात आले आहेत.



यंत्रसामुग्री जप्त होणार

ज्या प्रकरणांत अपील किंवा न्यायालयाने दंडाचे आदेश कायम ठेवले आहेत, तरीही संबंधित व्यक्ती दंड भरत नसेल, तर महाराष्ट्र जमीन महसूल संहिता, १९६६ मधील प्रकरण अकरा प्रमाणे यंत्रसामुग्री आणि वाहने जप्त केली जात आहेत.

अपील करणाऱ्या व्यक्तीने दंडाची २५ टक्के रक्कम जमा केली नसेल, तर मूळ दंडात्मक आदेशाला स्थगिती देऊ नये, असे स्पष्ट करण्यात आले आहे.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:13/3/2026 P.NO.10

Hindustan Zinc ropes in CMR Green Tech to set up unit in Zinc Park

Our Bureau
Chennai

Hindustan Zinc Ltd, the world's largest integrated zinc producer and among the top five silver producers, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with CMR Green Technologies Ltd to set up a manufacturing facility at Zinc Park in Rajasthan.

This is the second major partnership for the proposed industrial park, following an earlier MoU with the Tripura Group.

The park is envisioned as India's first integrated ecosystem for zinc-based industrial applications, the company said in a statement.

Under the agreement, CMR Green Technologies,

one of India's largest non-ferrous metal recycling companies and among the largest globally, will manufacture high-quality, low-emission zinc alloys.

The alloys are widely used in sectors such as automotive, infrastructure, die-casting and consumer goods.

INTEGRATED PLANT

The project is expected to promote downstream value addition in zinc while encouraging sustainable metal processing and strengthening India's self-reliance in industrial materials.

Arun Misra, CEO of Hindustan Zinc, said CMR Green Technologies' expertise in non-ferrous metal recycling and alloy manufacturing would help build a future-ready zinc ecosystem.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS
DATE:14-20 MARCH 2026 P.NO.8

भारत सरकार
Government of India
खान मंत्रालय
Ministry of Mines
भारतीय खान ब्यूरो
**Indian
Bureau of
Mines**

Invites applications for one post of **Chief Chemist**, Indian Bureau of Mines, in the Pay Level - 113 (Rs. 123100 - 215900) on deputation basis (including short term contract) from the officers under the Central Government or State Governments or Union Territories or Public Sector Undertakings or Recognized Research Institutions or Universities or Semi Government or Statutory or Autonomous Organizations.

The last date of receipt of application for the post in the Department is 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News. For details, please visit website: <https://www.ibm.gov.in>.

(Prashant S. Hegde)
Suptdg. Mining
Geologist & Head of Office
EN 50/3

THE HINDU
DATE:15/3/2026 P.NO.12

NMDC clocks a record 50 MT iron ore output

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

NMDC's iron ore production has touched 50 million tonnes and with a fortnight to go for FY26 the miner is set to add more to what is already a new record output in a fiscal year.

It is a significant milestone that comes days ahead of the close of FY26, the public sector miner said, announcing the record 50 MT production. The previous highest for the company was 45.2 MT that came in 2023-2024. Last fiscal, it had reported 44.04 MT output.

"Reaching 50 million tonnes is a notable achievement and reflects the strong progress made under NMDC 2.0. What once took decades to build, we have accelerated in just a few years through sharper execution, responsible mining practices and a clear commitment to national priorities," CMD Amitava Mukherjee said.

The iron ore production has increased by nearly two-thirds since 2015 when it was about 30 MT, with nearly one-fifth of the current capacity added in the last four years. Established in 1958, NMDC, from a modest 10 MT output in 1978, has transformed into a backbone of India's iron ore supply chain.

NMDC said it remains central to ensuring the country's iron ore security. As India eyes expansion of steelmaking capacity to 300 MT by 2030, ensuring a reliable domestic supply of iron ore has become a strategic priority, it said.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:15/3/2026 P.NO.8

Hindalco halts aluminum sales amid Iran war

Hindalco Industries Ltd has notified customers that it's suspending sales of extruded aluminum products, in a sign of the broadening impact that the Iran war is having on the metal's global supply chain.

The conflict has already prompted some aluminum smelters in West Asia to suspend sales due to the effective halt on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, but manufacturers and industrial businesses in India are also facing disruptions to gas supplies transiting through crucial

waterway.

As the supply-chain turmoil grows, Hindalco has invoked *force majeure* clauses in supply contracts with buyers of its extruded aluminum products, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified because the communications were private. The products are used in an array of industries including car-making and construction.

A spokesperson for Hindalco didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.



SUPPLY SQUEEZE

Hindalco makes extruded products from commodity-grade metal sourced from smelters in India, and those smelters are operating as normal, the people said. While smelting aluminum

ingots requires huge amounts of electricity, a reliable supply of gas is also crucial in order to transform them into end-use products.

Hindalco's suspension of extruded product sales comes as analysts and traders warn that the global aluminum market could face severe shortages unless shipping through the strait resumes soon.

Some West Asian producers have already declared *force majeure* due to disruptions to outbound shipments, and there are ex-

pectations that they will soon need to start cutting output unless they can bring in additional raw materials through the strait.

Aluminum prices have surged since the conflict began, with futures hitting the highest in nearly four years on Thursday on the London Metal Exchange. In physical markets from Asia to the US, manufacturers are paying rising premiums over the LME benchmark to obtain spot supplies at short notice, while traders have been racing to withdraw stockpiles from the LME. **BLOOMBERG**

BUSINESS LINE DATE:15/3/2026 P.NO.12

Hindalco halts extruded aluminium products sale

Bloomberg

Hindalco Industries Ltd has notified customers that it is suspending sales of extruded aluminium products in the wake of the impact of the Iran war on the metal's complex global supply chain.

The conflict has already prompted some aluminium smelters in West Asia to suspend sales due to the effective halt on shipping through

the Strait of Hormuz, but manufacturers and industrial businesses in India are also facing disruptions to gas supplies transiting through crucial waterway.

As the supply-chain turmoil grows, Hindalco has invoked *force majeure* clauses in supply contracts with buyers of its extruded aluminium products, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified because the communications were private.

BUSINESS LINE

DATE:1/3/2026 P.NO.11

NMDC iron ore output hits record 50 mt in 2025-26

Our Bureau
Hyderabad

NMDC Ltd, a Central public sector enterprise, clocked a record output of 50 million tonnes of iron ore in a single financial year in 2025-26. It expects to add an additional 2-3 million tonnes, factoring in the production in the remainder of the year.

The 48-year-old organisation, which registered a modest production of 10 mt in 1978, recorded an output of 44 mt in 2024-25.

"The production has increased by nearly two-thirds since 2015, rising from about 30 mt to 50 mt, with nearly one-fifth of the current capacity added in the last four years, the fastest expansion in the company's history.

PRIORITIES SET

"As India advances towards its target of expanding steel-making capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030, ensuring a stable and reliable domestic supply of iron ore has become a strategic priority," Amitava Mukherjee, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC, said.

THE HITAVADA

DATE:15/3/2026 P.NO.9

NMDC becomes India's 1st mining company to reach historic iron ore production

NEW DELHI, Mar 14 (IANS)

INDIA'S largest iron ore producer NMDC has become the first mining company in the country to produce 50 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore in a single financial year, ahead of the close of FY 2025-26.

Established in 1958 to develop India's iron ore resources, the Navratna CPSE, under the Ministry of Steel, produced around 10 MT in 1978. "Over decades, output has expanded five-fold to reach a historic 50 MT in FY 2025-26, reflecting the company's steady transformation into the backbone of India's iron ore supply chain," according to an official statement.