



KHANIJ SAMACHAR

Vol. 10, No-07

(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 – 07, 1st – 15th APRIL 2026

NAVBHARAT DATE:1/4/2026 P.NO.09

11 महत्वपूर्ण खनिज ब्लॉक की नीलामी रद्द

अंतिम तिथि तक कोई बोली नहीं

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. सरकार ने छोटे दौर में बिक्री के लिए रखे गए 11 महत्वपूर्ण एवं रणनीतिक खनिज ब्लॉक की नीलामी निवेशकों की कमजोर प्रतिक्रिया और पात्र बोलीदाताओं की कमी के कारण रद्द कर दी है. यह घटनाक्रम वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में व्यवधान के बीच महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों के घरेलू अन्वेषण और उत्पादन बढ़ाने के सरकार के प्रयासों के लिए झटका माना जा रहा है. खान मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी निरस्तीकरण सूचना में कहा गया कि पांच खनिज ब्लॉक की नीलामी इसलिए रद्द कर दी गई है, क्योंकि कोई बोली प्राप्त नहीं हुई. सूचना में यह भी कहा गया कि पांच अन्य खनिज ब्लॉक की नीलामी इसलिए रद्द की गई कतकनीकी रूप से पात्र बोलीदाताओं की संख्या तीन से कम थी. इसके अलावा पश्चिम बंगाल के बेकू रेयर मेटल ब्लॉक की नीलामी प्रक्रिया भी रद्द कर दी गई है. खान मंत्रालय ने पिछले वर्ष सितंबर में 13 राज्यों में फैले 23 महत्वपूर्ण खनिज ब्लॉक के लिए नीलामी का छठा चरण शुरू किया था.



खान मंत्रालय के अनुसार अब तक नीलामी के छह दौर पूरे हो चुके हैं जिनमें 46 महत्वपूर्ण और रणनीतिक खनिज ब्लॉक पहले ही बेचे जा चुके हैं. महत्वपूर्ण खनिज देश के आर्थिक विकास और खनिज सुरक्षा के लिए अत्यंत आवश्यक माने जाते हैं. स्वच्छ ऊर्जा एवं उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकियों की ओर वैश्विक बदलाव के कारण लिथियम, ग्रेफाइट, दुर्लभ खनिज तत्व, टंगस्टन, वैनाडियम, टाइटेनियम और अन्य दुर्लभ धातुओं की मांग में काफी वृद्धि हुई है. इन खनिजों की सीमित उपलब्धता एवं भौगोलिक रूप से कुछ क्षेत्रों में उनका केंद्रीकरण वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला के लिए चुनौती उत्पन्न करता है. सरकार ने इससे पहले भी नीलामी के पिछले दौरों में कई महत्वपूर्ण खनिज ब्लॉक की नीलामी रद्द की है.

THE HINDU DATE:1/4/2026 P.NO.13

Government says 30 mineral blocks made operational in FY2025-26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a first for India, the Ministry of Mines informed that 30 mineral blocks have been made operational in a single financial year viz. FY2025-26.

Essential to note, most of the blocks made operational are those of limestone followed by iron ore.

Majority of these standalone limestone blocks are located in Gujarat, that is, four blocks, followed by Madhya Pradesh with three blocks, Rajasthan with two, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh



Taking off: After limestone, most of the blocks are those of iron ore. (Picture for representational purpose only).

and Assam one block each.

Iron ore blocks made operational originate in Goa (four blocks) whilst Madhya Pradesh, Odisha

and Karnataka house two blocks each. For example, Odisha has three mines where iron ore and manganese co-exist, while limes-

tone co-exists with marl in two blocks, and with marl and bauxite in one such block— both in Gujarat.

The two minerals, other than the standalone mines, also exist alongside other minerals as marl and bauxite in other mines that have been made operational.

For example, Odisha has three mines where iron ore and manganese co-exist, while limestone co-exists with marl in two blocks, and with marl and bauxite in one such block— both in Gujarat. Overall, majority of the blocks made operational belong to Gujarat (8 blocks).

BUSINESS LINE

DATE:01/4/2026 P.NO.10

COMMODITY
CALL.

Buy aluminium futures once the price breaks out of ₹356



Akhil Nallamuthu

bl. research bureau

Aluminium futures, which saw a decline recently, found support early last week and have moved up since then. The April futures, now trading at ₹350 per kg, bounced off the support at ₹325 last week.

The broader trend is positive, and the recovery is backed by good momentum. Therefore, further rally from the current level is highly likely to happen.

Nevertheless, there is a hurdle ahead at ₹356. That said, any drop in price on the back of this is likely to be short-lived.

Eventually, aluminium futures could surpass ₹356 and move towards ₹380 in the near-term.

On the other hand, if the contract declines below ₹330, the near-term outlook could turn negative.

In such a scenario, aluminium futures could drop to ₹315 and ₹300.

Overall, the bias is bullish, and we expect the contract to break out of ₹356.

TRADE STRATEGY

Buy aluminium futures once they break out of ₹356. Target and stop-loss can be ₹380 and ₹344, respectively.

If the contract sees a price moderation, traders can buy at ₹340. Place initial stop-loss at ₹325.

When the contract breaks out of ₹356, revise the stop-loss to ₹344. Exit at ₹380.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:1/4/2026 P.NO.06

RAJASTHAN

Mines dept's revenue reaches ₹9,620 crore

ANIL SHARMA

Jaipur, 31 March

Rajasthan's mines department has collected over ₹9,620 crore in revenue till March 23, driven by a 12 per cent growth rate, Additional Chief Secretary (Mines and Petroleum) Aparna Arora said.

The collection is over ₹1,000 crore higher than the amount mobilised during the same period last financial year. The department had collected ₹9,228 crore in revenue in FY25.

Arora expressed confidence that the department would meet the March target of ₹1,550 crore. The department set a revenue target of over ₹10,000 crore for FY26.

She also directed officials to draw up a comprehensive timeline from April 1, the start of the new financial year, to expand mineral exploration across the state in a planned manner. The timeline, she said, should cover every stage — from exploration, drilling and chemical analysis to preparing blocks for auction.

"Specific milestones are to be defined for each task to ensure the work proceeds with momentum and is subject to time-bound monitoring," she said. Arora said the mines department is among the state government's key revenue-generating arms and that no laxity in revenue collection would be tolerated at any level.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:2/4/2026 P.NO.01

Desi-American buyout beats China in Congo copper fields

Shishir.Arya@timesofindia.com

Nagpur: An international corporate buyout with a Gadchiroli connection has been hailed as a huge victory for America by the Trump administration as it also brings an advantage for India.

Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited (LMEL), which currently runs the biggest iron ore mine in the once Maoist-hit Gadchiroli, has through its subsidiary and an American ally acquired CHEMAF Group, a copper and cobalt mining company in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The acquisition is touted to open a major non-China source, especially cobalt, for the US, as India would also benefit from the deal. Cobalt is a key mineral for defence and electric vehicle segments.

LMEL has allied with a US company, Virtus Mineral Group, forming a new entity which did the acquisition. The joint entity, Virtus Lloyds Minerals Holdings



(VLMH), outmanoeuvred a Chinese state-owned entity, which was eyeing CHEMAF's business too. LMEL's copper venture in Congo entails an investment of \$250 million, which covers the takeover price too.

CHEMAF operates in the Katanga mining belt, which is known to be one of the world's largest reserves for copper apart from having cobalt deposits.

Following the deal, American under-secretary of state Jacob Helberg wrote on X: "US firm Virtus' acquisition of CHEMAF mines in the DRC is HUGE for America and people of DRC. Under

Deal by alliance of Lloyds Global Resources FZCO and US company Virtus Mineral Group to facilitate non-Chinese source of critical minerals

President Trump's leadership, the US is back competing in the DRC's mining sector. The US-DRC strategic partnership is a linchpin to American economic security."

Here is the Indian connection to the deal. LMEL, the company which operates the iron ore mine in Gadchiroli, has a wholly owned subsidiary, Lloyds Global Resources FZCO (LGRF), which in turn has formed a joint venture, Virtus Minerals, which ultimately purchased CHEMAF. The Lloyds subsidiary has 49% stake in the Congo company.

► 1 lakh TPA of copper, P 3

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THE TIMES OF INDIA
DATE:2/4/2026 P.NO.01

Congo venture to produce 1L TPA of copper


► Continued from P 1

The current capacity of CHEMAF's mines is to produce 20,000 tonne per annum (TPA) of copper cathodes and 4,000 TPA of cobalt. An expansion underway is expected to take it further to 50,000 TPA of copper and 16,000 TPA of cobalt.

After the acquisition, the production is projected to be taken over to 1 lakh TPA of copper and 20,000 TPA of cobalt. At peak production levels, LMEL group's total production of copper, cobalt and precious metals is projected to reach ₹1,400 crore.

The acquisition aligns with broader global efforts to secure non-Chinese supply chains of strategic minerals essential for EV, defence and strategic manufacturing sectors, said a note by the LMEL.

THE HINDU
DATE:2/4/2026 P.NO.13



NMDC is augmenting capacities to meet rising steel demand.

NMDC logs record iron ore output in FY26

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

India's largest iron ore producer NMDC reported record 53.15 million tonne output of the key raw material for steel in FY26. Sales touched 50.23 MT.

Production was 21% higher compared with previous fiscal's 44.07 MT, while sales rose 13% from 44.40 MT in 2024-25. Major iron ore mines - Kirandul and Bacheli in Chhattisgarh and Donimalai in Karnataka - contributed to the record output on best-ever performance.

NMDC has become the first firm in India's mining history to surpass the 50 MT annual output mark. The achievement symbolises growing strength and momentum of India's mineral sector, NMDC said.

"Crossing 50 million tonne is not just a production milestone for NMDC, it is a moment of pride for us and India's mining sector," CMD Amitava Mukherjee said.

For March, NMDC clocked 5.35 MT (3.55 MT) iron ore production and 5.90 MT (4.21 MT) sales.

NMDC said it is augmenting capacities to meet rising steel demand.

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE:2/4/2026 P.NO.07

आईबीएम नागपुर पहुंचे खान मंत्रालय के अपर सचिव



नागपुर | भारत सरकार के खान मंत्रालय के अपर सचिव संजय लोहिया हाल ही में आधुनिक खनिज प्रसंस्करण प्रयोगशाला एवं पायलट प्लांट, हिंगना, नागपुर तथा भारतीय खान ब्यूरो (आईबीएम) मुख्यालय, सिविल लाईंस, नागपुर पहुंचे। नागपुर आगमन पर भारतीय खान ब्यूरो के महानियंत्रक पंकज कुलश्रेष्ठ ने उनका स्वागत किया। अपर सचिव की अध्यक्षता में आयोजित समीक्षा बैठक में डॉ. वाई.

जी. काले, मुख्य खान नियंत्रक, वी. जे. के. बाबू, मुख्य खान नियंत्रक; डॉ. डी. आर. कानूनगो, निदेशक (प्रभारी), अयस्क प्रसंस्करण तथा भारतीय खान ब्यूरो के सभी वरिष्ठ अधिकारी प्रमुख रूप से उपस्थित रहे। संजय लोहिया ने नव नियुक्त अधिकारियों के साथ संवाद किया तथा उन्नत उपकरणों की खरीद प्रक्रिया को सुचारु रूप से संपन्न करने के लिए निदेशक प्रभारी को बधाई दी।

NAVBHARAT DATE:2/4/2026 P.NO.04

नेशनल क्रिटिकल मिनरल मिशन, खान मंत्रालय के अपर सचिव संजय लोहिया का दौरा भारतीय खान ब्यूरो ने निभाई अहम भूमिका

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. भारत सरकार के खान मंत्रालय के अपर सचिव संजय लोहिया ने भारतीय खान ब्यूरो (आईबीएम) मुख्यालय और हिंगना स्थित आधुनिक खनिज प्रसंस्करण प्रयोगशाला एवं पायलट प्लांट का दौरा किया. इस अवसर पर भारतीय खान ब्यूरो के महानियंत्रक पंकज कुलश्रेष्ठ ने गर्मजोशी से स्वागत किया. लोहिया ने समीक्षा बैठक के दौरान विभाग के भविष्य के रोडमैप पर चर्चा की. उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि खनिज एवं खनिज अभियांत्रिकी की विशिष्ट प्रकृति को देखते हुए विभाग में प्रतिनियुक्ति की बजाय प्रत्यक्ष भर्ती और पदोन्नति को प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए. उन्होंने भारतीय खान ब्यूरो में अधिक से अधिक युवा पेशेवरों को शामिल करने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया, ताकि विभाग में नई ऊर्जा और आधुनिक दृष्टिकोण का संचार हो सके. लोहिया ने 'राष्ट्रीय क्रिटिकल मिनरल मिशन' और बल्क खनिजों के क्षेत्र में खनिज प्रसंस्करण प्रभाग की बढ़ती जिम्मेदारी को रेखांकित किया.



नेतृत्व और डिजिटल सुधारों की सराहना

महानियंत्रक पंकज कुलश्रेष्ठ ने बताया कि लोहिया के नेतृत्व में एनएमईटी निधि आवंटन, उन्नत उपकरणों की खरीद और एमटीएस पोर्टल, ई-एचआरएमएस जैसे डिजिटल सुधारों ने विभाग की कार्यप्रणाली को बदल दिया है. मुख्य खान नियंत्रक डॉ. वाईजी काले और निदेशक (प्रभारी) डॉ. डीआर कानूनगो ने भी अवसरवत् विकास और खनिज प्रसंस्करण प्रभाग को सशक्त बनाने में उनके योगदान की सराहना की. भारतीय खान ब्यूरो के प्रकाशन 'इंडियन मिनरल्स इयरबुक-2024' का विमोचन किया गया. संकलन भूमिका सराहना, प्रीति मिश्रा ने किया. अतुल ब्राइस ने परिचय दिया और वाईजी काले ने धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव ज्ञापित किया.

अधिकारियों को अपनी तकनीकी और प्रशासनिक क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय एवं अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रयोगशालाओं का दौरा करने

हेतु प्रेरित किया. अन्वेषण बर्लकों के साथ बेनिफिशिएशन रिपोर्टों के एकीकरण को अनिवार्य बताया.

NAVBHARAT (NAGPUR PLUS) DATE:2/4/2026 P.NO.06

टारगेट से पीछे WCL, 63.03 मिलियन टन ही कोल उत्पादन

खदानें लंबे समय रहीं बंद

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. वेस्टर्न कोल फील्ड्स लि. (वेकोलि) ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 में कोयला उत्पादन, डिसेंबर एवं ओक्टोबर में महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि दर्ज की है. वेकोलि ने 63.03 मिलियन टन कोयला उत्पादन, 60 मिलियन टन कोयला प्रेषण तथा 354.33 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर ओवर बर्डन निष्कासन किया. लेकिन पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में यह काफी कम है. गत वर्ष वेकोलि ने 69 मिलियन टन कोयला उत्पादन किया था. इसी प्रकार गत वर्ष डिसेंबर भी 68 मिलियन टन था, जबकि ओवर बर्डन निष्कासन 370 क्यूबिक मीटर था. सूत्रों ने बताया कि इस बार वेकोलि के लिए बारिश खलनायाक बन गई. लगभग 5 माह तक बारिश चली जिसके कारण कई खदानें लंबे समय तक

69 06
मिलियन टन था गत वर्ष
करोड़ टन उत्पादन हुआ कम



सर्वे में रेनियम, पोटस, टाइटेनियम मिले

वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 में क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स, रेयर-अर्थ एलिमेंट्स के क्षेत्र में भी वेकोलि का कार्य सकारात्मक रहा. वेकोलि की 6 ओपनकास्ट खदानों में 500 सीएल की एलिमेंटल एनालिसिस की गई. इस विश्लेषण में रेनियम, पोटस, टाइटेनियम और टेल्रुरियम प्रमुख रूप से पाए गए. आगे की कार्यवाही हेतु अदासा अंडरग्राउंड से ओपन कास्ट तथा मकरचोकटा-III ओपनकास्ट माइंस के सीपल एनएफटीडीसी हेदराबाद भेजे गए हैं. आगे द्वितीय चरण में 6 अन्य ओपनकास्ट खदानों में एलिमेंटल एनालिसिस हेतु निविदा प्रक्रिया जारी है. सख्त ही वर्ष 2025-26 में कोल गैसीफिकेशन प्रोजेक्ट, फर्स्ट माइल कनेक्टिविटी प्रोजेक्ट एवं नेट जीरो कंपनी बनने की दिशा में भी सकारात्मक प्रगति हुई.

बंद रहीं. और अब वित्तीय वर्ष खत्म होने पर स्थिति स्पष्ट दिखाई देने लगी है. इस वर्ष वेकोलि ने 49 मिलियन टन पावर सेक्टर को कोयले की आपूर्ति की है, जबकि शेष 11 मिलियन टन कोयला सीमेंट, स्टील सेक्टर को दिया गया. वर्ष 2025-26 में वेकोलि ने 5.375 मिलियन टन की इंफ्रीमेंटल पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हासिल कर अपनी क्षमता में विस्तार किया है. इसी दौरान 7

परियोजनाओं के लिए कुल 207.76 हेक्टेयर वन भूमि की स्टेज-II वन स्वीकृति हासिल की गई जो कंपनी की स्थापना के बाद एक ही वित्तीय वर्ष में प्राप्त हुई सर्वाधिक वन स्वीकृतियां हैं. वेकोलि द्वारा कंटीन्यूअस माइनर एवं सरफेस माइनर जैसी नई तकनीक को वृहद तौर पर अपनाया गया. वर्तमान में वेकोलि में 6 सरफेस माइनर एवं 3 कंटीन्यूअस माइनर कार्यरत हैं. जल्द ही 2 और

सरफेस माइनर तथा योजनाबद्ध अंतराल में 23 कंटीन्यूअस माइनर लगाने की योजना है. **वर्षी क्षेत्र सबसे आगे** : इस वर्ष कंपनी के उत्पादन में वर्षी क्षेत्र का सबसे ज्यादा 13.31 मिलियन टन कोयले का योगदान रहा. इसी प्रकार नागपुर क्षेत्र का 11.65 मिलियन टन तथा उमरेड क्षेत्र का 10.57 मिलियन टन कोयला उत्पादन का उल्लेखनीय योगदान रहा.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:2/4/2026 P.NO.03

Coal India FY26 output falls 1.7%, misses annual target

Mithun Dasgupta
Kolkata

Coal behemoth Coal India's total production for the last financial year witnessed a 1.7 per cent year-on-year fall at 768.1 million tonnes (mt), missing the annual production target by a wide margin.

The state-run mining giant's production target for FY26 stood at 875 mt. In FY25, its production stood at 781.1 mt. Among the company's seven coal-producing subsidiaries, four subsidiaries witnessed a fall in their productions for the last financial year. Bharat Coking Coal (BCCL), Central Coalfields (CCL), Western Coalfields (WCL) and Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) registered a production decline of 12.3 per cent, 6.1 per cent, 8.8 per cent and 3 per cent, y-o-y, respectively, according to a stock exchange filing on Wednesday.

Mixed show

Production figures of subsidiary companies of CIL

| | FY25 (in million tonnes) | FY26 | y-o-y change (%) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| ECL | 52 | 52.1 | 0.1 |
| BCCL | 40.5 | 35.5 | -12.3 |
| CCL | 87.5 | 82.2 | -6.1 |
| NCL | 139 | 140.5 | 1.1 |
| WCL | 69.1 | 63 | -8.8 |
| SECL | 167.5 | 176.3 | 5.3 |
| MCL | 225.2 | 218.3 | -3 |
| NEC | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0 |
| Coal India | 781.1 | 768.1 | -1.7 |

Source: Coal India

While BCCL predominantly does underground mining, WCL and CCL operate open mines. Major rain in Jharkhand and Maharashtra affected production for BCCL, CCL and WCL, Coal India sources told *businessline*.

Coal offtake for the company also saw a decline of 2.4

per cent year-on-year at 744.8 mt in FY26 compared to 763 mt in FY25. In March this year, the offtake rose 69.5 mt, posting a marginal growth of 0.7 per cent.

E-AUCTION

Coal India on Wednesday said its e-auction price of coal increased by 45 per cent

over notified prices in March. Quantity offered during the month stood at 32.53 mt, while quantity allocated was 13.32 mt. The quantity of coal allocated through the e-auction increased 41 per cent during the month. According to mjunction, India's largest B2B e-commerce company, there are clear early signs of tightening demand-supply conditions and price firming in the country's coal auction market.

Currently, India is experiencing the ripple effects of the ongoing conflict in West Asia. "Energy stress is most evident in industrial hubs, which are facing fuel shortages and disruptions to the supply of CNG and LPG. Despite persistent efforts to diversify its energy sources, India's heavy reliance on imported crude oil, natural gas, and LPG leaves it vulnerable to such external shocks," said Vinaya Varma, MD & CEO, mjunction services.

BUSINESS LINE

DATE:2/4/2026 P.NO.10

COMMODITY
CALL.

Copper: Go short if price rises to ₹1,180; stop-loss at ₹1,215



Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Copper futures are now trading at ₹1,170 (per kg). The April contract, after marking a low of ₹1,067.05 on March 19, has been on a slow recovery although the trend has been bearish since early February.

The price action shows that the contract can see some more uptick. However, it is likely to be capped at ₹1,180 — its 21-day moving average — or at the subsequent resistance at ₹1,200.

A resumption of the downtrend on the back of the ₹1,180-₹1,200 resistance band can trigger a downtrend to ₹1,070. A breach of this can drag it further lower to ₹1,050.

On the other hand, if copper futures breaks out of ₹1,200, the near-term outlook can turn bullish. In such a scenario, the contract can rise to ₹1,250. A breach of this can lift the contract to ₹1,300.

Overall, so long as the resistance is at ₹1,200, the bias will be bearish and so, traders can consider short positions. Only a decisive breakout of ₹1,200 can bring opportunities on the upside.

TRADE STRATEGY

Sell copper futures (April) if the price rises to ₹1,180. Target and stop-loss can be ₹1,070 and ₹1,215 respectively.

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:2/4/2026 P.NO.06

WCL achieves 63.03 MT annual coal production

Business Reporter

WESTERN Coalfields Limited (WCL) has registered significant achievements in coal production, despatch and overburden removal during the financial year 2025-26. During this period, WCL produced 63.03 million tonnes (MT) of coal, achieved 60 MT of coal despatch, and carried out 354.33 million cubic meters of over burden removal (OBR).

These achievements are the result of several positive initiatives undertaken by the company throughout the year. During FY 2025-26, WCL obtained incremental Environmental Clearance for 5.375 million tonnes. In addition, the company secured Stage-II Forest Clearance for 207.76 hectares of forest land across seven projects, the highest number of forest clearances obtained in a single financial year since company's

inception. To make coal mining operations more efficient and safer, WCL has increasingly adopted modern technologies, such as Continuous Miner and Surface Miner.

Currently, 6 Surface Miners and 3 Continuous Miners are operational in WCL mines. The company plans to introduce two additional Surface Miners soon, along with 23 Continuous Miners in a phased manner in the coming years.

Among the company's operational areas, Wani Area recorded the highest contribution to coal production with 13.31 million tonnes, followed by Nagpur Area with 11.65 million tonnes and Umrer Area with 10.57 MT, making significant contributions to the overall output.

During FY 2025-26, WCL also made encouraging progress in exploring critical minerals and rare earth elements.

THE HINDU DATE:3/4/2026 P.NO.17

Steel price increase hits MSMEs

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

A sharp 15% increase in the prices of steel in the last two months has hit the engineering sector, especially Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs).

President of the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODIS-

SIA) Karthikeyan Mounaguruswamy said output slid 30% in the district MSME cluster. "On an average, steel constitutes almost 60% of a component's production cost. Coimbatore consumes over one million tonne of steel a year. Hence, the impact is huge. MSMEs are reluctant to take up new or-

ders." It is estimated MSMEs in India consume 8.3 million tonne steel. There are also additional levies on special steel products, he added.

Pankaj Chadha, chairman, EEPC India, said the total import duty on steel was almost 20%. "There have been five price hikes in the last two months."

BUSINESS LINE DATE:4/4/2026 P.NO.08

Hind Zinc mined metal output up 2% in 2025-26

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

Hindustan Zinc Ltd's (HZL) mined metal production rose 2 per cent in 2025-26, while refined metal output dipped 0.4 per cent and silver production fell 9 per cent.

The company recorded its highest-ever mined metal output at 1,114 kt, up from 1,095 kt in 2024-25, driven by higher ore production and improved grades.

Fourth-quarter mined metal output rose to 315 kt from 310 kt a year earlier.

REFINED METAL

Refined metal production stood at 1,048 kt in FY26, slightly lower than 1,052 kt last year.

Silver output declined 9 per cent to 627 tonnes, in line with lead production, due to lower mine inputs as per the mining sequence.

In Q4, silver output was marginally lower at 176



tonnes (177 tonnes).

ZINC UP, LEAD DOWN

Refined zinc production rose 3 per cent to 851 kt (827 kt), aided by de-bottlenecking projects, commissioning of a 160 ktpa roaster and Pyro operations on zinc-lead mode.

This includes output from Hindustan Zinc Alloys, its wholly owned subsidiary.

Refined lead production fell 13 per cent to 197 kt (225 kt), primarily due to partial Pyro operations in lead mode in the previous period and lower plant availability.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS
DATE:4-10 APRIL 2026 P.NO.10

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF
INDIA
खान मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF MINES
भारतीय खान ब्यूरो
INDIAN
BUREAU OF
MINES

Invites applications for 01 (One) post of **Staff Car Driver (Ordinary Grade)**, Indian Bureau of Mines, in the Pay Level-2 (Rs. 19,900-63,200) on deputation basis from the officials of Central Government or State Government or Union Territories. For Armed Forces Personnel-Deputation / re-employment. 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 more details, please visit website: <https://www.ibm.gov.in>.

(Prashant S. Hegde)

Suptdg. Mining Geologist
& Head of Office

EN 1/2

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:6/4/2026 P.NO.06

Steel TMT bar prices jump 30% after its recent low

■ Business Reporter

CONSTRUCTION activities are normally at its peak in summer season and building materials like steel TMT bars and demand enjoy good demand during the period. However in the current scenario, the sector is reeling under severe pressure because of the soaring prices of steel TMT bars that have jumped more than 30 per cent from its recent low of posted in November 2025.

Prices of 8 mm steel TMT bars that were at a level of Rs 40,500 (18% GST extra) per tonne in November 2025, has now touched Rs 53,000 (18% GST extra) per tonne on Sunday. Prices of 10 mm and 12-25 mm TMT bars have also seen similar hikes during the period.

The prices posted in November 2025 were five-year low levels for the commodity. However, the situation changed dramatically in January 2026, when the prices had jumped. In January, 2026, 8 mm

| Rates on April 5, 2026 | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 8 mm | Rs 53,000/tn (18% GST extra) |
| 10 mm | Rs 51,500/tn (18% GST extra) |
| 12-25 mm | Rs 51,500/tn (18% GST extra) |
| Rates in November 2025 (five years low) | |
| 8mm | Rs 40,500/tn (18% GST extra) |
| 10 mm | Rs 39,500/tn (18% GST extra) |
| 12-25mm | Rs 39,000/tn (18% GST extra) |



TMT bars were sold at a price of Rs 48,000 (18% GST extra) per tonne; 10 mm bars at Rs 47,000 (18% GST extra) per tonne and

12-25mm bars at Rs 46,500 (18% GST extra) per tonne. But following the West Asia conflict, the prices again started moving

northwards:

Rajesh Sarda, President of Steel and Hardware Chamber, said that logistical disruptions due to West Asia conflict were mainly affecting the prices. "The price of iron ore has gone up significantly in the international markets. Besides, there has been a sharp rise in prices of fuel and other materials in the last 25-30 days. This has been reflected in the prices of TMT bars," he said.

Sarda also said that the falling rupee against the dollar and uncertainty in the markets are further pushing up the prices.

Sarda and other steel manufacturers said clouds of uncertainty are looming over the sector. "It is difficult to predict the prices of these products in the coming days. But there are no signs of immediate relief. The prices may see some correction only in the monsoon season when demand for steel dips," said another manufacturer.

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:6/4/2026 P.NO.06

Amid West Asia crisis, CIL plans to offer 25.62 MT of coal in April via auction



■ Business Reporter

STATE-OWNED Coal India Ltd plans to offer 25.62 million tonnes of coal through online auction in the current month, a move expected to mitigate the impact of energy supply shocks on industries amid the West Asia crisis.

The disruptions in LNG, LPG and crude oil supplies from the Middle East have increased demand for coal, driving up its import prices.

Coal India had offered 32.532 million tonnes of coal through e-auction in March against 20.5 million tonnes in February this year.

The state-run coal producer plans to offer coal through the Single Window Mode Agnostic (SWMA) auction. SWMA auction is a unified, simplified e-auction system launched in 2022 to consolidate multiple existing auction windows (Spot, Special Spot, Forward) into a single platform, making coal procurement easi-

er, more transparent, and market-driven for all buyers.

According to Coal India Ltd's SWMA auction calendar, Coal India subsidiary Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL) plans to put on offer 2 million tonnes (MT), South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) 3 MT, Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) 3.2 MT, Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) 0.6 MT, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL) 3.8 MT, Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL) 4.7 MT, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) 8.5 MT and North Eastern Coalfield (NEC) 0.02 MT.

Coal India Ltd accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal production.

State-owned CIL had earlier said buyers from neighbouring nations Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal can now join its online coal auctions directly, skipping the Indian middlemen.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:6/4/2026 P.NO.03

BCCL halts Dhanbad block mining after workers' protest

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 5 April

Coal mining and dispatch operations at Bharat Coking Coal Ltd's (BCCL) ABOCP mine in Dhanbad have remained suspended since around 3 pm on April 2 following a disruption by local persons, the company said.

The stoppage at the Block-II area is ongoing and has brought production and transportation activities to a halt. BCCL described the

action as an "illegal" stoppage by unorganised persons.

The issue relates to local *mazdoors* who were earlier deployed by transport contractors for shale picking and segregation work at railway sidings.

The company said such work has become largely irrelevant with the reduction in departmental production and the mandatory requirement of coal crushing in outsourced operations.

According to an agreement

with the local administration dated August 18, 2020, the number of such persons was significantly higher than the requirement. They were therefore engaged for only 4-5 days per month and paid HPC wages for those limited days, BCCL said. Despite this arrangement, these persons have continued to demand full-time HPC wages and other benefits, BCCL added.

BCCL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Coal India Ltd, operates 34 mines including underground, opencast and mixed operations across Jharkhand and West Bengal

and is a key supplier of coking coal to the steel industry.

The company produced 35.5 million tonnes (mt) of coal in FY26, marking a decline of 12.3 percent from 40.5 mt a year earlier.

Following the disruption, BCCL said it had written to the SSP, Dhanbad, and CISF authorities, and lodged an FIR at Baghmara police station. The matter has also been escalated to senior officials within the company.

The company did not disclose the extent of production loss due to the ongoing stoppage.



LOKMAT (MARATHI) DATE:7/4/2026 P.NO.02

दुर्गापूर कोळसा खाणीचा विस्तार होईल, अटीचे पालनही बंधनकारक

उच्च न्यायालयाचा आदेश : केंद्रीय समितीकडे लक्ष ठेवण्याची जबाबदारी

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : केंद्रीय पर्यावरण व वन्यजीव प्राधिकरणांनी 'चंद्रपूर जिल्ह्यातील दुर्गापूर कोळसा खाणीच्या विस्ताराला विविध अटींसह परवानगी दिली आहे. त्या अटीचे पालन करणे वेकोलि कंपनीला बंधनकारक आहे, असे मुंबई उच्च न्यायालयाच्या नागपूर खंडपीठाने सोमवारी स्पष्ट केले. तसेच, संबंधित अटीचे पालन सुनिश्चित करण्याची जबाबदारी केंद्रीय समितीकडे सोपवली.

पर्यावरण संवर्धनासाठी कार्य करणाऱ्या प्रकृती फाउंडेशनचे अध्यक्ष दीपक दीक्षित यांनी दुर्गापूर खाण विस्तारविरुद्ध जनहित याचिका दाखल केली होती. हा विस्तार मानवी जीवन,



पर्यावरण व वन्य प्राण्यांच्या अधिवासाकरिता अत्यंत धोकादायक आहे, असे त्यांचे म्हणणे होते. रेकॉर्डवरील पुराव्यांवरून खाणीचा विस्तार कायदेशीर मार्गाने होत असल्याचे आढळून आल्यामुळे न्यायालयाने ही याचिका निकाली काढली आणि भविष्यात अनियमितता होऊ नये, यासाठी आवश्यक निर्देशही

दिले. केंद्रीय समितीकडे सुरुवातीला 'टायगर कॉरिडॉर' सुरक्षित ठेवण्याची जबाबदारी होती. न्यायालयाने समितीच्या जबाबदाऱ्यांची व्याप्ती वाढवून तिला पर्यावरण व वन्यजीव प्राधिकरणांच्या अटीचे पालन होते किंवा नाही, यावरही लक्ष ठेवण्यास सांगितले. वेकोलिनने अटीचे पालन केले नाही तर, याचिकाकर्त्याला समितीकडे तक्रार करता येईल. त्यानंतर समितीने तक्रारीवरून आवश्यक कारवाई करावी. तसेच, गरज पडल्यास याचिकाकर्त्याला पुन्हा जनहित याचिका दाखल करता येईल, असेदेखील न्यायालयाने स्पष्ट केले. याचिकेवर न्यायमूर्तिद्वय अनिल किल्लोर व राज वाकोडे यांच्यासमक्ष सुनावणी झाली.

१२१.५८ हेक्टरवर विस्तार

या खाणीचा १२१.५८ हेक्टर वनजमिनीवर विस्तार केला जाणार आहे. विस्तार क्षेत्र ताडोबाच्या कोअर क्षेत्रापासून १२.३५ किलोमीटर तर बफर व पर्यावरणीय संवेदनशील क्षेत्रापासून १.२५ किलोमीटर दूर आहे.

या विस्ताराला १६ डिसेंबर २०१५ रोजी वन परवानगी आणि १० नोव्हेंबर २०१७ रोजी पर्यावरण मंजूरी मिळाली आहे. याचिकाकर्त्यांच्यावतीने अॅड. महेश धात्रक यांनी बाजू मांडली.

NAVBHARAT DATE:7/4/2026 P.NO.07

लौह अयस्क के दाम बढ़े



बायला फाईस के दाम 11.1 प्रतिशत बढ़ाए गए हैं.

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. सरकारी स्वामित्व वाली एनएमडीसी ने लौह अयस्क के दामों में 11.1 प्रतिशत तक की बढ़ोतरी की है. कंपनी ने शेयर बाजार को यह जानकारी दी. देश की सबसे बड़ी लौह अयस्क उत्पादक कंपनी ने बताया कि नई कीमतें 5 अप्रैल 2026 से प्रभावी हो गईं. कंपनी सूचना के अनुसार बैलाडीला खदानों (छत्तीसगढ़) से उत्पादित उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले बायला लंप (65.5 प्रतिशत लौह अंश) के दाम में 10.4 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी की गई है. वहीं

THE HINDU DATE:7/4/2026 P.NO.13

NMDC shares in limelight on steep hike in iron ore prices

NMDC's shares were in the limelight on Monday in the wake of the State-owned miner announcing a steep increase in iron ore prices. As per the latest revision, announced and effective April 5, the price of Baila Lump has been increased ₹500 per tonne to ₹5,300. The same quantity of Baila Fines will now cost ₹4,500 as against ₹4,050 previously. NMDC shares closed 4.45% higher at ₹81.45 each on the BSE. The iron ore prices are freight on road/rail (FOR) prices that are exclusive of royalty, DMF, NMEDT, cess, Forest Permit Fee, transit fee, GST, environmental cess and other taxes, NMDC said.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:8/4/2026 P.NO.01

Once forbidden Maoist zone, Gadchiroli now realty hotbed

. Shishir.Arya
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Nagpur: Once a Maoist hotbed where few dared to tread, Gadchiroli is now seeing land rates soaring in its interiors. The district clocked real estate transactions of more than Rs600 crore in the last fiscal, mopping up over Rs30 crore as stamp duty on realty deals. Sources say, rates of farmland have touched Rs 10-15 lakh an acre.

The demand is fuelled by the steel industry which finds Gadchiroli a preferred destination. As the state govt

With Gadchiroli emerging as major destination for steel industries, more land deals are taking place

is acquiring land on behalf of steel players like JSW, rates in the periphery too have gone up as a chain reaction.

Like cities, smaller plots are being carved out of farmlands even in the interiors and being sold on a per square feet basis, which was unprecedented till a few years ago, said sources.

A 5% stamp duty is levied on purchase of real estate in rural parts and for urban areas it is 6%. Considering an average 5% rate of stamp duty, the value of realty transactions on which duty has been paid caps Rs 600 crore, said sources. A target of collecting Rs30 crore was fixed for the district, which was surpassed, said sources.

From a Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)-hit district, Gadchiroli has emerged as the most favoured destination for the steel industry.

► Continued on P 5

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CONT. FROM PAGE NO.- 16

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:8/4/2026 P.NO.05

Steel Industries Spur Gadchiroli Realty Boom

► Continued from P 1

During the 2024-25 fiscal, a target of ₹30 crore as stamp duty was set for the district. However, actual collections came to ₹24 crore then. This comes to an estimated ₹ 480 crore in terms of value of transactions, considering 5% duty.

The state govt too has initiated a massive land acquisition drive for industrial units in the district. This includes JSW Steel's facility dubbed to be the largest in the world.

Over a decade ago, the govt offered huge land parcels for a nominal ₹1 at MIDC estate in Gadchiroli town, but many players bought land but started no activity.

Now, govt's land acquisition and sprouting steel units has spurred real estate activity. It's not only the companies whose land purchase is contributing to realty deals, even individual investors are scouting for land in the interiors.

Majority of the buying is happening in rural areas. It's either in the mining pockets like Surjagarh Hills or areas like Chamorshi or Konseri, where steel industries are coming up, said sources. Apart from bigger players

like Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited (LMEL), which is running an iron ore mine and building a steel plant, or JSW, even smaller companies are buying land in the district, a source in the steel sector said. The demand is riding on future development prospects, the source said.

"In areas where investors would once fear to venture, tribals have begun carving smaller plots out of farmlands and scouting for investors. Largely, a forested area and limited availability of land is fuelling rates too," said Ravi Ramgundewar, a resident of Allapalli, an interior pocket of the district.

Amid the realty hype, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) move to acquire land for JSW's proposed steel plant is being opposed by Congress.

The party's district president Mahendra Bramhanwade said over 3,500 hectares spread over 12 villages is being acquired by MIDC. Recently, as a gesture of protest, a group of residents gathered at the district headquarters and tonsured their heads. Bramhanwade claimed residents are not ready to give up land, even if a higher price is offered.

NAVBHARAT DATE:8/4/2026 P.NO.09

गहरे खनिजों की खोज में आई तेजी

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. सरकार ने सोमवार को खनन रियायत नियमों में संशोधनों को अधिसूचित कर दिया

जिससे लाइसेंस-प्राप्त कंपनियों को निर्दिष्ट क्षेत्रों के पास खनिजों का पता लगाने और खनन की अनुमति मिल गई है. इस कदम से गहरे क्षेत्र में स्थित महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों का पता लगाने और उसके उपयोग में मदद मिलने की उम्मीद है. संशोधन से खनन



खनन रियायत नियमों में सरकार ने किए महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन

पट्टों और मिश्रित लाइसेंस वाले क्षेत्रों के आसपास के इलाकों को शामिल करना संभव हो सकेगा. साथ ही प्रमुख और सूक्ष्म खनिजों के पट्टों में संबद्ध खनिजों को भी जोड़ा जा सकेगा.

मिलेगा अनुकूलतम खनन को बढ़ावा

□ खान मंत्रालय ने कहा कि निकटवर्ती क्षेत्रों को शामिल करने की अनुमति से गहरे भूमिगत क्षेत्रों में छिपे खनिजों का पता लगाने और अनुकूलतम खनन को बढ़ावा मिलेगा. ऐसे क्षेत्रों के लिए अलग पट्टे या लाइसेंस के तहत खनिजों का निकालना संभवतः आर्थिक रूप से व्यावहारिक नहीं होता. संशोधित नियमों के तहत गहराई में स्थित भंडारों में छिपे खनिजों के खनन पट्टे या मिश्रित लाइसेंस धारकों के लिए निकटवर्ती भूमि को एक बार में जोड़ने के लिए आवेदन करने की एक सरल और समर्थक प्रक्रिया निर्धारित की गई है.

□ जोड़ा गया क्षेत्र मौजूदा पट्टा क्षेत्र के 10 प्रतिशत या लाइसेंस क्षेत्र के 30 प्रतिशत से अधिक नहीं हो सकता. नीचम किए गए पट्टों के लिए, पट्टेदार को अतिरिक्त भूमि से प्राप्त खनिजों पर नीचामी प्रीमियम का 10 प्रतिशत भुगतान करना होगा, जबकि गैर-नीचामी वाले पट्टा धारकों को ऐसे उत्पादन पर रॉयल्टी के बराबर राशि का भुगतान करना होगा.

□ संशोधन के जरिये किए गए सुचारु खनन क्षेत्र को उद्योगों के लिए खनिजों की आपूर्ति बढ़ाने के लिए प्रोत्साहन देते हैं.

THE HITAVADA DATE:8/4/2026 P.NO.02

HC allows Durgapur coal mine expansion with strict conditions

■ Staff Reporter

JUSTICE Anil Kilor and Justice RajWakode at the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has allowed the expansion of the Durgapur coal mine in Chandrapur district, but made it clear that strict environmental and wildlife conditions must be followed.

The permission for expansion was earlier granted by the Central Environment and Wildlife Authorities with several conditions. The High Court said that Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL) must follow all these conditions without fail.

The court also assigned a central monitoring committee to ensure that all rules are properly followed. Earlier, this committee was responsible only for protecting the tiger corridor, but now its role has been expanded. It will also check whether WCL is following all environmental and wildlife guidelines.

The case was filed as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) by Deepak Dixit, president of Prkruti Foundation, an organ-

isation working for environmental protection. He had opposed the expansion, saying it could harm human life, damage the environment, and affect wildlife habitats.

However, after reviewing the records, the court found that the project had received all required permissions legally. It then disposed of the petition but gave important directions to prevent any future violations.

FROM THE COURT



The court said that if WCL fails to follow the conditions, the petitioner can complain to the monitoring committee. The committee must then take proper action. The

court also allowed the petitioner to file a fresh PIL in future if needed.

The expansion will cover about 121.58 hectares of forest land. The site is located around 12.5 km from the core area of Tadoba Tiger Reserve and about 1.25 km from its buffer and eco-sensitive zones.

The project had received forest clearance in December 2015 and environmental clearance in November 2017.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:8/4/2026 P.NO.02

Tata Steel India logged record 23.48 mt crude steel output in FY26

Tata Steel on Tuesday said it clocked its best-ever annual crude steel production in India at 23.48 million tonnes (mt) in FY26. Production was up 8 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) primarily due to the Kalinganagar ramp-up. However, this was partly offset by the shutdown of 'G' blast furnace for relining at Jamshedpur. In Q4FY26, crude steel production stood at 6.25 million tons, up 15 per cent Y-o-Y. India deliveries increased in line with production leading to 'best-ever' annual volumes of 22.53 mt, the firm said. Domestic deliveries crossed 20 mt for the first time. **BS REPORTER**

LOKMAT MARATHI (HELLO NAGPUR) DATE:8/4/2026 P.NO.03

कोळसा महागला, उद्योगांची गती मंदावली

युद्धामुळे इंधन दरवाढीचा भडका : ८ हजार रुपये प्रतिटनावर पोहोचले दर

मोरेश्वर मानापुत्रे
लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : युद्धाचे पडसाद आता विदर्भातील कारखान्यांपर्यंत पोहोचले आहेत. गॅसची टंचाई आणि विदेशी कोळशाचा पुरवठा खंडित झाल्याने स्थानिक कोळशाच्या मागणीत मोठी वाढ झाली आहे. याचा थेट परिणाम 'वेकोलि'च्या ई-लिलावावर झाला असून, कोळशाचे दर अवघ्या काही दिवसांत दुपटीने वाढले आहेत. या महागाईमुळे विदर्भातील २०० हून अधिक लघु व मध्यम उद्योग संकटात सापडले आहेत. सरकारने हस्तक्षेप करून त्यावर तोंडगा काढण्याची उद्योजक मागणी करीत आहेत.



मार्च ते एप्रिलदरम्यान कोळशाच्या दराचा भडका

कोळशाच्या किमतीत झालेली वाढ उद्योजकांचे कंबरहे मोहणारी ठरत आहे. मार्च महिन्यात ४ हजार ते ४,५०० रुपयादरम्यान असलेले दर एप्रिलच्या पारशी ५ ते ६ हजारांवर गेले. हेच दर ७ एप्रिल रोजी वाहतुकीसह प्रतिटन ८ हजार रुपयांवर पोहोचले आहेत.

बुटीबोरी व हिंगण्यातल उद्योगांना फटका

बुटीबोरी आणि हिंगणा एमआयडीसीमधील कोळशावर आधारित ५० हून अधिक कंपन्यांना या दरवाढीचा थेट फटका बसला आहे. कोळसा हा उत्पादनासाठी मूलभूत कच्चा माल असल्याने, त्याचे दर वाढल्याने उत्पादन खर्च अवाढव्य वाढला आहे. विदेशी कोळसा महागल्याने बड्या कंपन्या स्थानिक लिलावात ५० ते ६० टक्के जादा प्रीमियम देऊन

कोळसा उचलत आहेत. या तुलनेत लघु उद्योगांची कोंडी होत आहे. बड्या कंपन्यांच्या तुलनेत छोटे उद्योजक एवढा महागडा कोळसा खरेदी करू शकत नाहीत. तोंटा सहन करून उत्पादन करण्यापेक्षा अनेकांनी कारखाने तात्पुरते बंद ठेवण्याचा किंवा उत्पादन कमी करण्याचा निर्णय घेतला आहे. त्यामुळे रोजगारावर मोठी संक्रांत येण्याची चिन्हे आहेत.

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युद्धाच्या स्थितीमुळे ई-लिलावात कोळशाचे दर गगनाला भिडले आहेत. सरकारने तातडीने हस्तक्षेप करून लघु उद्योगांना वाजवी दरात कोळसा उपलब्ध करून द्यावा, अन्यथा विदर्भातील उद्योगांची चाके कायमची थांबतील आणि रोजगाराचा मोठा प्रश्न निर्माण होईल.

नितीन लोणकर, सचिव, फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडस्ट्रीज असोसिएशन ऑफ विदर्भ

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कोळशाच्या दरवाढीमुळे बुटीबोरी आणि हिंगण्यातील ५० ते ६० उद्योग संकटात आले आहेत. काहींनी कोळसा खरेदी जवळपास बंद केली, तर काहींनी उत्पादन कमी केले. ही परिस्थिती गंभीर असून, सरकारने याकडे तातडीने लक्ष देण्याची गरज आहे.

प्रदीप खंडेलवाल, माजी अध्यक्ष, बुटीबोरी मॅन्युफॅक्चरिंग असोसिएशन

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:8/4/2026 P.NO.02

Experts inspect prehistoric sites in Bhatala; High Court seeks report on illegal mining

■ Staff Reporter

A TEAM of seven experts, including officials from the Archaeology Department, has inspected prehistoric sites in Bhatala and nearby areas in Warora tehsil of Chandrapur district. The inspection was carried out in the Bhonda Mahadev area, which is known for its ancient heritage.

During the visit, the team examined important locations such as the Mahadev Temple, Bhavani Temple, Rishi Lake, cave carvings, and unique rock formations. A total of 172 photographs were taken to document the current condition of these sites. These photographs have been submitted to the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court.

The High Court, while hearing the matter, issued notices to the District Collector of Chandrapur and other officials. The court has directed them to submit their replies by April 18. It also warned that if the District Collector fails

to respond on time, he must appear in person before the court on April 20.

The Bhonda Mahadev area is famous for its unique structures and is believed to have the largest Shivaling in the Vidarbha region. The court has taken suo motu cognisance of the issue after media reports highlighted concerns about the safety and preservation of these prehistoric sites.

Experts have stated that these sites are an important part of Central India's ancient cultural heritage, with some remains estimated to be nearly two million years old. However, the area is facing serious threats due to illegal mining, stone quarrying, and natural damage.

It is estimated that nearly 75 percent of the archaeological remains have already been destroyed. The High Court also noted ongoing illegal excavation in the region, raising further concern. The matter will be heard again after the authorities submit their responses.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:08/4/2026 P.NO.10

Stay long on aluminium futures; raise stop-loss to ₹340

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau



Aluminium futures are now trading at ₹354 per kg. While the price movement has largely been flat over the last week, there was a sharp drop in price on April 1, but it recovered the same day.

COMMODITY CALL.

The April futures slipped to a low of ₹329.60 on April 1. However, it recovered the same day, closing the session at ₹355.65.

Barring this temporary blip, over the past week, the contract has largely been oscillating between ₹350 and ₹358. That said, the broader price action shows that aluminium futures retain a bullish bias. We expect the contract to break out of the hurdle at ₹358 and rally to ₹380. If the price dips, alu-

minium futures could find support at ₹350 and ₹340. Subsequent support is at ₹330. Only a breach of ₹330 will turn the outlook bearish.

Overall, the outlook is positive. An eventual breakout of ₹358 could lead to a rally to ₹380.

TRADE STRATEGY

We had suggested buying aluminium futures if there was a decline to ₹340. Traders who executed this trade can retain it. But revise the stop-loss from ₹325 to ₹340. When the contract surpasses ₹360, revise the stop-loss to ₹348. Exit at ₹380.

THE HITAVADA DATE:9/4/2026 P.NO.04

Mah Govt gives conditional minor mineral royalty waiver

MUMBAI, Apr 8 (PTI)

THE Maharashtra Government has waived royalty on minor minerals excavated during construction if they are used at the same site, and will roll out an online non-agricultural (NA) permission process within 10 days to provide relief to the construction sector, a State Minister said on Wednesday.

In a statement, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule also assured that a meeting with officials concerned would be convened to address issues related to municipal records and property card entries.

He held a meeting with representatives of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) at the Mantralaya here to discuss issues faced by developers across

the State and pending demands. Several decisions were taken to accelerate the construction sector and simplify administrative procedures.

On royalty levied for excavation during construction, the Minister resolved concerns raised by CREDAI.

The key decision States that no royalty will be charged if minor minerals extracted during excavation are utilised at the same project site, which is expected to reduce costs. The royalty payment process will also be simplified and made applicable for a six-month period.

To reduce delays and procedural complexities in obtaining NA permissions, the revenue department has set a time-bound programme. The entire NA process will be made fully operational online within the next 10 days, which is expected to remove

administrative hurdles in housing projects, he said.

The meeting also discussed adopting the "Pune pattern" of a digital tracking system implemented by the Pune district administration, which has been found effective. There was a positive discussion on extending this transparent system across the State, he said in the statement.

Further, the Minister agreed in principle to CREDAI's demand that any registered document should be promptly reflected in the property card records.

Administrative steps to implement these decisions have been expedited. Separate meetings have been scheduled with Mumbai Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide and Settlement Commissioner Ravindra Binwade, with directions issued to resolve technical issues at the earliest.

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:9/4/2026 P.NO.06

Coal prices dip as geopolitical tensions ease

■ Prices slip from Rs 5,200/tonne to Rs 4,500/tonne

■ Business Reporter

COAL consumers may now breathe a sigh of relief as thermal coal prices are witnessing a significant correction. In auctions held on April 8 at the regional mines, thermal coal was sold at a price between Rs 4,500 and Rs 5,000 per tonne (inclusive of GST, royalty, and other applicable taxes). This marks a notable fall from the highs seen just a few weeks ago, signaling a potential end to the recent period of extreme price volatility.

At the beginning of the year, the commodity was auctioned at a price of Rs 4,200-4800 per tonne. These levels were recorded in January-February. However, initially the global market was disturbed by policy shifts in Indonesia, a dominant player in the coal sector. The Indonesian Government significantly cut its

production targets for 2026, aiming for roughly 600 million tonnes, a sharp decline from the 790 Mt produced in 2025. This deliberate reduction in output tightened global supply, forcing international prices upward and creating a ripple effect in domestic regional auctions. Compounding the supply issues from Indonesia was the sudden escalation of conflict in West Asia in late March. The resulting logistical disruptions and uncertainty in energy global markets, pushed the prices in the regional mines to Rs 5,200

per tonne.

Rajendra Bansal, General Secretary of the Central India Coal Dealers Association told The Hitavada that various international parameters had pushed up the coal prices. "The shipping cost for imported coal had surged dramatically during the US - Iran war. This

has led to sharp rise in coal prices in the international and domestic markets," he explained.

The market was reacting to fear as much as it was reacting to supply. Between Indonesia's production cuts and the tension

in the Middle East, buyers were scrambling to secure stock at any cost.

But then the trend reversed on April 8 auctions. The correction to the Rs 4,500-5,000 per tonne range suggests that the immediate panic has subsided. Market sentiment has turned optimistic following the declaration of a cease-fire in West Asia, which has cleared the way for more stable trade routes and reduced the immediate pressure on energy commodities.

Energy experts believe the downward trend is likely to continue. While the Indonesian production cap remains a long-term factor for the 2026 fiscal year, the removal of the conflict-related surcharge is a major win for regional industries. If the cease-fire holds, analysts predict that prices may dip further in the coming weeks.



Steel consumption grows in FY26

THE domestic consumption of finished steel grew by 7-8 per cent to 164 million tonnes in FY26 on the back of increased activity in infrastructure, construction, railways, and manufacturing sectors.

The country's crude steel output grew by over 10.7 per cent to around 168.4 million tonnes during the financial year, reflecting sustained industrial momentum.

"Domestic demand remained the key growth driver with finished steel consumption (164 MnT), expanding by about 7-8 per cent, driven by increased activity in infrastructure, construction, railways, and manufacturing sectors," the steel ministry said in a statement.

Exports of finished steel products also increased by 35.9 per cent, reaching over 6 million tonnes during the fiscal year ended March 2026, while imports declined sharply by 31.7 per cent, it said. The industry witnessed

continued investments aimed at expanding production capacity. India's total steel capacity, which stood at about 220 million tonnes in 2025-26, is projected to reach 300 million tonnes by 2030, supported by both public and private sector investments.

Major players such as SAIL, Tata Steel and JSW Steel continued to invest in capacity expansion, technology upgrades, and value-added steel production, reflecting confidence in long-term demand growth.

Steel prices in the country followed a downward trend over the past three years before recovering in early 2026. However, the profitability of steel makers remained under pressure due to fluctuating raw material costs, especially coking coal, and volatile global prices. Increased logistics and freight costs also affected margins towards the end of the year due to the geopolitical crisis, the ministry said.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:9/4/2026 P.NO.12

THE COMPASS

Gains for Coal India hinge

DEVANGSHU DATTA

In its update for the fourth quarter of financial year 2025-26 (Q4FY26), Coal India Ltd (CIL) reported low FY26 volumes, with production at 768 million tonnes (mt), down 1.6 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y). Offtake was at 744 mt, down 2 per cent Y-o-Y, despite month-on-month (M-o-M) pickup in March. The Q4 contributed 31.1 per cent to annual output, less than the average of 32.3 per cent, and full-year production was 7.2 per cent below target.

CIL's production is seasonal but thermal power demand was low through FY26 due to extended monsoons, rising share of renewable energy (RE) contributions, and also increased contributions from captive miners. The company reported production of 84.5 mt in March, up 13.1 per cent M-o-M but down 1.5 per

cent Y-o-Y. Subsidiaries Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) and Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL) both disappointed, leading to production declines. Offtake was 69.5 mt for March, up 12.1 per cent M-o-M and up 0.7 per cent Y-o-Y, and it was 744 mt for FY26, down 2 per cent Y-o-Y versus 759 mt in FY25. CIL has a 1 billion mt (bmt) volume target, and it will be looking to boost production from FY26 levels to 815 mt in FY27, and maintain 5 per cent production growth in future, assuming power demand grows at 6-7 per cent.

India's power demand was flat (up 0.5 per cent Y-o-Y) during April 2025-February 2026. Captive production rose 12 per cent Y-o-Y during the same period, with the share of captive coal in total volumes up 222 basis points (bps) to 20.9 per cent in the 11 months of FY26. RE contributed 26 per cent to total generation against 21 per cent for the same period in FY25.

on higher e-auction volumes, demand

For Q4FY26, CIL's adjusted operating profit may fall by 8-9 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹10,200 crore due to lower e-auction realisations and high coal inventories at plants. For FY26, adjusted operating profit growth may be in low single digits.

The market share trend is down from over 82 per cent in FY20 to around 73 per cent in the first 11 months of FY26 as captive and merchant miners raised their production to 194 mt (up 9 per cent Y-o-Y). Given captive production is still ramping up, more loss of share is likely.

Coal inventories at power plants are high. CIL's own inventory is at a record high of 143 mt. On the e-auction front, despite geopolitical tensions and Indonesia's production caps, upside was limited. While inventories are at current levels, e-auction gains could remain limited. This could change if the Iran war leads to sustained increase in global coal



prices. The impending wage revision in FY27 could also put some pressure on earnings. A slowdown in renewables capacity additions, or a substitution of

gas in certain industrial processes could push demand for coal. Of course, higher growth in power demand would also lead to growth in coal demand, since thermal remains the key base-load component of the energy mix.

The Central Electricity Authority projects peak demand at 363 gigawatts (Gw) by FY30, backed by over 40 Gw of additional thermal capacity. This implies a long-term trend of higher CIL offtake in absolute terms, even if market share erodes. Also, industrial metals and cement, which are energy-intensive sectors, are ramping up capacity, and this may drive demand. By 2030, domestic demand should be about 1.3 billion tonnes (bt), which leaves ample headroom for 1 billion production output from CIL.

The company is looking to boost e-auction volumes. In FY25, e-auction sales stood at 79 mt, about 10 per cent of

dispatches and at a 68 per cent premium over FSA (fuel supply agreement). Management looks to increase e-auction offtake to 15-20 per cent of production by measures such as directly allowing buyers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. Subsidiaries have been asked to offer up to 40 per cent of production for e-auctions. CIL is also trying to increase coal-washer capacity to improve its share in domestic coking and non-coking coal. It is expanding its mining operations and may consider raising debt to undertake diversification into RE and coal gasification.

The FY26 underperformance may have been an outlier due to the weather. A mid-single digit rise in volumes may be the trend through the medium term. Higher realisations through e-auctions, and better cost controls are both imperatives. CIL's shares fell on Wednesday on hopes of easing geopolitical tensions. But the stock has risen over 15 per cent in the past three months on expectations of summer demand and support from high prices.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:9/4/2026 P.NO.09

Steel companies to raise HR coil prices by ₹3,500/tonne

MYRIAD ISSUES. Raw material volatility, supply chain disruptions add to overall costs

Suresh P Iyengar
Mumbai

Steel companies plan to increase hot-rolled (HR) coil prices by ₹3,500 a tonne to about ₹64,500 per tonne this month to pass on the incremental cost of raw material and energy costs.

Following HR coil price rise, cold-rolled coil prices will also increase by ₹3,000 to ₹68,000 a tonne.

INVENTORY PROBLEMS

NMDC Ltd, the largest iron ore producer in India, also increased iron ore prices by 11 per cent in April on the back of strong demand. The iron ore lump (65.5 per cent Fe) from Bailadila mine in Chhattisgarh was marked up to ₹5,300 a tonne and at that of fines (64 per cent Fe) was priced ₹4,500 per tonne.

The revised prices are excluding statutory levies such as royalty, District Mineral Foundation charges, Na-



FORGING THROUGH. Steel and other raw material imports have stalled due to costs involving the war in West Asia

tional Mineral Exploration Trust contributions, GST, environmental cess and other taxes, said NMDC.

Most steel companies have almost exhausted their raw material inventory and are now completely dependent on imports for their key raw materials, said a steel company official.

MORE CHALLENGES

This apart, the rise in energy cost, shortage of gas and constraints in labour availability will hit the cost of steel in-

dustry in June quarter, he added.

Steel and other raw material imports have come to almost a standstill due to high shipping and insurance charges due to the month-long war in West Asia.

The steel demand from the downstream industry are expected to slowdown as they are dependent on consistent LNG supply for powder coating and welding, he said.

Vedant Goel, Director of an integrated metal supply

platform Enlight Metals, said ongoing geopolitical uncertainties and energy supply challenges, particularly around LNG availability, are impacting production consistency.

VOLATILITY CONCERNS

Bhavik Bhagwanji Shah, Research Analyst, Choice Institutional Equities, said steel companies have been gradually increasing HR and CR coil prices, largely driven by rising input costs.

However, the current pricing environment remains largely cost-push in nature as the current demand is stable but not strong enough to independently drive sharp price increases, he said.

Overall, while price momentum has turned positive, the sustainability of further hikes will depend on raw material trends, global pricing dynamics and supply discipline, with demand providing a steady but not aggressive tailwind, he added.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:9/4/2026 P.NO.11

In FY27, power sector may consume up to 850 mt of coal; sufficient stocks available

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Coal-based thermal power plants (TPPs) with an installed capacity of over 221 gigawatts (GW) are likely to consume up to 850 million tonnes (mt) of coal in the current financial year, ending March 2027, against a demand of 906 mt.

The Power Ministry communicated a demand of 906 mt for FY26 to the Coal Ministry, of which TPPs consumed around 813 mt.

This reduced consumption was largely due to lower power demand on account of

lower-than-expected Summer temperatures and growing supply from renewable energy sources (RES).

"In FY27 as well, the Power Ministry has made a demand for 906 mt. However, considering the generation from RES, the expectation is that real consumption in this fiscal will be below 850 mt. This is even after factoring in higher Summer temperatures for May-July,"

explained sources. As per projections of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the peak solar and non-solar demand in FY27 is expected to be around 289 GW and 265 GW, respectively.



STOCK IN HAND. Coal stocks at TPPs stand at 55.18 mt as on April 6, sufficient for about 24 days based on recent consumption

Speaking at the daily inter-ministerial briefing on West Asia on Wednesday, Sanjeev Kumar Kassi, Joint Secretary in Coal Ministry, said in the current geopolitical situation, the coal sector carries

greater responsibility and stands fully prepared to meet consumer needs, supported by the Indian Railways and adequate coal stocks at mines and thermal power plants.

Coal stocks at TPPs stand at 55.18 mt as on April 6, sufficient for about 24 days based on recent consumption. In addition, about 171.90 mt is available at mines and in transit, including stocks at Coal India (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company (SCCL), captive mines, ports and transit, Kassi said.

MAINTAINING SUPPLY

"CIL and SCCL have absorbed higher input costs, including increased prices of explosives and diesel, without passing them on to consumers," he noted.

To ensure affordability

and availability, CIL reduced the reserve price of coal by 20 per cent under e-auctions and increased supply through e-auctions and the State-nominated agency mechanism. Coal supply for small, medium and other consumers has been optimised through these two channels, with higher allocations to meet emergent and short-term requirements, Kassi added.

CIL increased the frequency of e-auctions in March 2026, offering 32.53 mt of coal, of which 13.32 mt, about 40.94 per cent, was booked, indicating adequate supply. For April 2026, 30 e-

auctions have been planned offering 25.80 mt; so far, 3.20 mt have been offered and 1.24 mt booked, about 38.75 per cent.

The ministry has advised State governments to submit demand in a timely manner and to prevent profiteering and hoarding, while ensuring fair distribution. Coal off-take by State-nominated agencies is being monitored daily.

The annual average off-take for FY26 stood at 14.26 per cent against allocation, with States permitted to lift the remaining allocation within 90 days beyond March 31, 2026.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE:10/4/2026 P.NO.16

MINING

In Odisha clashes between police & tribals, bauxite mining in focus

Sujit Bisoyi

Bhubaneswar, April 9

CLASHES BETWEEN rural tribal communities and police near Odisha's Rayagada district left at least 40 police personnel and 25 residents injured on Tuesday.

The immediate trigger for the violence was the construction of a 3-km approach road leading to the Sijimali bauxite mine in Kashipur, officials said. But the opposition to the road reflects a long-simmering discontent over the bauxite project, ever since the mine was handed over to Vedanta Ltd in 2023 through an auction.

Concerns over bauxite project

The project's approval has been contentious. The district administration has stated that Gram Sabhas (meetings comprising all adults in a village) were held in all eight affected villages on December 8, 2023, under the Forest Rights Act, and that the villages' residents gave their "unanimous approval". Vedanta has also submitted a proposal to the Centre, seeking clearances for mining.

The residents, however, alleged that the Gram Sabhas were conducted fraudulently and their signatures were forged. They have held protests against the project over concerns that it would endanger their livelihoods.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Vedanta, meanwhile, says it has received Stage-1 forest clearance from the Union government and is targeting commissioning the project next year. Stage-1 clearance is a conditional approval, where the company must comply with compensatory afforestation, deposit funds for diversion of forest land, etc.

ODISHA IS A TOP BAUXITE PRODUCER

- Odisha accounts for 41% of India's bauxite resources
- Alumina is refined from bauxite ore and used to produce aluminium, which is instrumental in making everything from soda cans to aircraft

Significance of Odisha's deposits

Sijimali is part of the Eastern Ghats hill ranges and is interspersed with valleys. The bauxite reserve, spread over 1,500 hectares, covers Rayagada and Kalahandi districts. With an estimated reserve of 311 million tonnes of high-grade bauxite, Sijimali is located close to Vedanta's alumina refinery at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district.

Alumina is refined from bauxite ore and used to produce aluminium, which is instrumental in making everything from soda cans to aircraft. Aluminium's strength, lightness and conductivity allow for a multiplicity of uses. It is also the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust, and the third most common element, after oxygen and silicon.

According to the Indian Bureau of Mines' 2022 Yearbook, Odisha alone accounts for 41% of India's bauxite resources, and was the leading producer in 2021-22, comprising about 73% of the total production. Beyond bauxite, Odisha has some of the richest mineral deposits in the country, including high-grade iron ore, coal, nickel, gemstones and graphite, together accounting for nearly 17% of India's total mineral reserves.

Past protests against mining

Vedanta had earlier faced rejection in its bid to mine bauxite from the nearby eco-sensitive Niyamgiri hill, inhabited by the Dongria Kondhs, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group which worships Niyam Raja as the God of the Niyamgiri forest. Vedanta and the state-owned Odisha Mining Corporation had formed a joint venture to mine the bauxite reserve for the Lanjigarh alumina refinery. The project ran into rough weather after the Centre refused Stage-II forest clearance in 2010 for diverting 660 hectares of forest land. In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled that the mining project required clearance from the Gram Sabhas. Later that year, all 12 Gram Sabhas rejected the plan.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:10/4/2026 P.NO.JACKET

Iran publishes chart showing it may have put sea mines in Strait of Hormuz

Dubai: Semiofficial news agencies in Iran published a chart on Thursday suggesting the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard put sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz during the war, in a message that may be intended to pressure the US.

The chart of the Strait of Hormuz was released by the ISNA news agency, as well as Tasnim, which is believed to be close to the Guard. They showed a large circle marked "danger zone" in Farsi over the Traffic Separation Scheme, which was the route ships take through the strait, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil and natural gas traded once passed.

The chart suggested ships



Cargo ships near the Strait of Hormuz

travel farther north through waters closer to Iran's mainland, a route some ships were observed taking during the war. It was dated from Feb 23 until Thursday, April 9.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Saeed Khatibzadeh, said his country will allow ships to pass through the Strait in accordance with "international law" once the US ends its "aggression" in West Asia and Israel stops attacking Lebanon. REUTERS

Iran's N-agency chief says its right to enrich uranium necessary for talks

Dubai: The chief of Iran's nuclear agency said on Thursday that protecting Tehran's right to enrich uranium is "necessary" for any ceasefire talks with the US.

Mohammad Eslami, who leads the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, made the remarks to journalists in Tehran during commemorations for the late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "It is a part of the necessary (things) that nobody speaks about," Eslami said. AP

BUSINESS LINE

DATE:10/4/2026 P.NO.10

COMMODITY
CALL

Copper futures:
Go long at ₹1,184,
stop-loss at ₹1,140



Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Copper futures, which have been in a sideways trend recently, broke out of a barrier in early trade on Wednesday. This has opened the door for a further rally.

The April contract, now trading at ₹1,184 (per kg), was charting a sideways trend in the narrow range of ₹1,140-1,170. A breakout of the upper boundary is a bullish signal.

Substantiating the bullish bias, the price has now risen above the 21-day moving average, and the contract has breached a trendline resistance. So, in the near-term, we can expect copper futures to surpass the potential hurdle at ₹1,200 and move up to ₹1,250.

On the other hand, if copper futures falls from the current level, it can find support at ₹1,140. A breach of this can turn the outlook weak and drag the contract to ₹1,100. However, as it stands, the probability for a rally is high.

TRADE STRATEGY

Last week, we suggested going short on copper futures (April) at ₹1,180 with a stop-loss at ₹1,215 for a target of ₹1,070. Exit this trade now as the outlook has turned positive.

Buy copper futures (April) now at ₹1,184. Target and stop-loss can be ₹1,250 and ₹1,140 respectively.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:11/4/2026 P.NO.04

Coal India absorbing rise in input costs

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 10 April

Coal India Ltd (CIL) is absorbing a sharp rise in input costs, including explosives and diesel, to shield consumers from higher coal prices amid global energy volatility following the West Asia crisis, the company said on Friday.

The state-run miner has chosen not to pass on the increased costs despite a steep surge in key inputs. Prices of ammonium nitrate (AN), which constitutes around 60 per cent of explosives used in mining, have risen 44 per cent from ₹50,500 per tonne to ₹72,750 per tonne as on April 1. This has pushed the average cost of explosives up by about 26 per cent within a month, from ₹39,588 per tonne in February to ₹49,783 per tonne by March-end. CIL's subsidiaries collectively consume 900,000 tonnes of explosives annually.

At the same time, industrial diesel prices have jumped by nearly 54 per cent, from ₹92 per litre in mid-March to ₹142 per litre as of April 1. Diesel is a critical input for mining operations, with CIL consuming about 419,000 kilolitres in 2025-26 (FY26). To ease the burden, the company is compensating contractors operating its mines for the higher diesel costs, as they procure fuel in bulk.

CIL said that any pass-through of these rising input costs could have a cascading effect on the economy, particularly on power and industrial users dependent on coal. In response, it is also taking measures to ensure affordability and adequate supply. Some subsidiaries have reduced reserve prices of coal under the single window mode agnostic e-auction, while also raising the frequency of auctions and the quantity of coal offered.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:11/4/2026 P.NO.02

Coal India absorbs price shock despite rising expenses on account of diesel, explosives costs

Our Bureau
Kolkata

Despite spiralling operational costs on account of increased prices of industrial diesel and explosives, State-run coal behemoth Coal India (CIL) on Friday said it is absorbing the price shock insulating coal users from escalating cost burden.

"Any pass through of the mounting prices would lead to a cascading effect. The company is also compensating the increased price of the industrial diesel to the contractors, operating in CIL's mines, who purchase it in bulk quantities," Coal India said in a stock exchange filing.

The cost of ammonium nitrate which makes up for around 60 per cent of the material composition in manufacturing of explosives, which CIL uses in its open-cast mines, increased by 44



BLEEDING MONEY. Cost of ammonium nitrate, which makes up for 60% of the material composition in explosives which CIL uses in opencast mines, have increased by 44%

per cent from pre-war level of ₹50,500 per tonne to ₹72,750 per tonne as of 1 April, 2026. Prior to the West Asian crisis ammonium nitrate prices applicable to Coal India held steady from August 2025 till January 2026 before touching ₹50,500 per tonne as of 1 March, 2026 and since then had taken an upward route.

This sharp increase in the price of ammonium nitrate had a direct bearing on the

cost of explosives that CIL uses in large quantities in blasting operations to uncover overburden and expose coal seams. As a result, the average cost of explosives shot up by around 26 per cent from ₹39,588 per tonne in February, 2026 to ₹49,783 per tonne by March end.

DIESEL EFFECT

Annually, CIL's producing subsidiaries consume around 9 lakh tonnes of total

explosives. "Diesel was another important component where the price shot up. In most of CIL's subsidiaries, the price of the industrial diesel increased by around 54 per cent from ₹92 per litre in mid-March 2026 to ₹142 per litre as of April 1, 2026," Coal India said in the filing.

During the recently ended financial year 2025-26, the consumption of diesel was around 4.19 lakh kilo litres.

At a time when the energy prices are surging ahead, apart from absorbing the price shocks, some of CIL's subsidiaries have reduced the reserve price of coal in the Single Window Mode Agnostic e-auction.

The company has also increased the frequency of auctions and the quantum of coal to be put under the auction. "CIL intends to supply the dry fuel at an affordable price to the country's citizens to cap the consequent costs," it added.

Vedanta signs pact with 2 downstream cos to set up plants in its aluminium park

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Vedanta Aluminium has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Singhal Steel & Power (a unit of Singhal Group Of Industries) and SCOT-AL Metcon (an associate company of Scottish Chemical Industries and UAL Industries) for setting up their downstream

aluminium manufacturing facilities in the upcoming Vedanta Aluminium Park in Jharsuguda, Odisha.

The park aims to promote value addition and support the growth of MSMEs while cementing Odisha's position as a global aluminium hub. It is expected to attract fresh investments of over ₹500 crore and create around 1,500 jobs within the State.

PHASE 1

Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister of State, Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Odisha, said the initiative reinforces Odisha's position as a leading industrial destination. The park will accelerate investments, create large-scale employment and strengthen the State's manufacturing

capabilities across sectors.

The Phase 1 of the Vedanta Aluminium Park, spanning about 56 acres, will bring together industrial capability and investment intent to unlock new opportunities across the aluminium value chain. The park is envisioned as a flagship downstream manufacturing hub that will help industries reduce logistics, energy consumption, and production time.

Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said by enabling a strong downstream ecosystem, the company aims to unlock new opportunities for industries, MSMEs and local entrepreneurs, while further strengthening Odisha's position in the global aluminium manufacturing landscape.

businessline.

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THE HITAVADA DATE:13/4/2026 P.NO.07

First coal rake from Garepalma mine reaches KTPS

■ Staff Reporter

KORADI Thermal Power Station (KTPS) having first super critical thermal unit of MahaGenco received first rake of coal from newly opened Gare-palma mine in Chhattisgarh district. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was present at the arrival of first rake at the plant in Koradi. Fadnavis said the mine owned by MahaGenco would ensure supply of quality coal to the Koradi plant as its gross calorific value (GFC) is 4300. Adding further, Chief Minister said this would ensure higher power generation and also reduction in production cost over the time.

Recalling the past, Fadnavis said it took nearly eight year to start the mine and the project was sanction when he was Chief Minister earlier and Chandrashekhar Bawankule was Power Minister that time. The current coal supplied to KTPS is having GFC of 2800



and compared to that the new supply having higher GFC would be a game changer.

Speaking further, he said, right now three coal gassification projects are on in Maharashtra. These are all trial projects and based on the outcome, in future Government would see whether they can be expanded. But there would

be limitation at some places, as residential colonies exists near the coal mines where such gassification projects are not feasible.

Asked about the comments of

Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister mocked the former saying even the Congress Party does not take him seriously. Gandhi is battling to cement his position and hence makes headline seeking comments and time may come, when the Congress itself might cut ties with their leader who has not connect with electorate.

LOKMAT TIMES (NAGPUR FIRST) DATE:13/4/2026 P.NO.03

Gare Palma coal will increase power production in Maha: CM

First rly rake carrying coal from Mahagenco's Gare Palma coal mine arrives

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK
NAGPUR

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis asserted at Koradi on Sunday that the high-quality coal mine, which is crucial for the state's energy security, will significantly reduce dependence on external coal sources. Furthermore, he stated that this initiative will not only aid in environmental conservation but also lead to a reduction in electricity tariffs, thereby fulfilling the state's future energy requirements.

The first railway rake carrying coal from Mahagenco's Gare Palma Sector-II coal mine in Chhattisgarh arrived at the Koradi Thermal Power Station (KTPS) on Sunday. On this occasion, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis flagged off the incoming railway rake and inspected the coal handling plant.

He was addressing the gathering during this event.



Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis flagging off a coal rail rake.

State revenue minister and guardian minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Mahagenco chairman Radhakrishnan B, director Abhay Harne, executive director Nitin Wagh, chief engineer of the Gare Palma coal mine, Shailesh Padole, chief engineer of the Koradi Thermal Project, Sudeep Rane, executive directors Pankaj Sapate and Girish Kumar and Central Railway's divisional general manager, Deepak Kumar Gupta, along with Vinayak Garg were present on the occasion.

ent on the occasion.

Fadnavis said that since the Gare Palma coal mine produces coal of exceptionally high quality, the state's power generation capacity is set to increase. Consequently, the dependence on external sources for energy generation will be reduced. Moreover, this initiative will contribute to both environmental protection and a reduction in electricity tariffs.

He further mentioned that the state will become free from

load-shedding, and it will become easier to ensure a daytime power supply for farmers.

The Gare Palma coal mine has been allotted to Mahagenco. Spread across an area of 1,583.487 hectares, this mine is poised to provide high-quality coal for the next 77 years.

The mine is projected to yield a total coal production of 655.152 million metric tonnes. Fadnavis informed the gathering that production at the mine commenced on March 26, and to date, a total of 80,895.31 metric tonnes of coal has been produced.

This coal mine will ensure a long-term supply to Koradi, Chandrapur, and Parli power plants. With this mine now available to MahaUrja, effective control over the quality of coal will be maintained. This project will bolster the state's energy security and mitigate the risk of future power shortages. Furthermore, it will serve as a significant step towards long-term sustainable development.

THE HITAVADA DATE:13/4/2026 P.NO.09

Coal imports fall 8.5% in February

NEW DELHI, Apr 12 (PTI)

INDIA'S coal import dropped 8.5 per cent to 16.55 million tonnes in February on record stockpile of domestic coal and firmness in seaborne prices.

The country's coal import is poised to maintain a weak trend this month with domestic miners making efforts to liquidate stockpiles.

"A record high stockpile of domestic coal and firm seaborne prices resulted in a drop in thermal coal imports. With the domestic miners endeavouring to liquidate stocks, the weak trend in imports is expected to continue during the current month," mjunction MD & CEO Vinaya Varma said.

Mjunction services is a B2B e-commerce platform and joint venture between Tata Steel and Steel Authority of India.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:14/4/2026 P.NO.11

90 days' coal stock available, says Kishan Reddy

Press Trust of India
Hyderabad

Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Monday said more than 200 million tonnes of coal stock, adequate for 90 days supply, is available in the country.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a roadshow organised by the Mines Ministry on the 7th Tranche Auction of critical mineral blocks and Tranche-2 Exploration Licence here, he said India achieved over one billion tonne coal production for the second year in a row.

"Today, coal adequate for 90 days, either with thermal power plants or at pitheads

where mining takes place, is there. Earlier, we used to have coal adequate for only 21 to 25 days," he said.

He said the Centre aims to reduce dependence on imports and make the country 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant) in the minerals sector.

"I would like to say on behalf of the Centre. The government does not work for revenue in the mineral sector. It takes major steps to make the country *atmanirbhar* in the mineral sector," he said.

Observing that there are a lot of opportunities for extraction of critical minerals in urban mining and coal gasification in the future, he urged the private sector to work together with PSUs,



Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy

State governments and others.

URBAN MINING

Reddy said there is a possibility of extracting 30-40 per cent of critical minerals required for the country

through scrap from urban mining.

The government is preparing an action plan to extract critical minerals from scrap refrigerators, air-conditioners and other appliances, he said.

Union Mines Secretary Piyush Goyal said during FY 2025-26, a record 212 mineral blocks were auctioned compared to 364 blocks in the previous four years combined, taking the total to 684 blocks since the introduction of the auction regime in 2015.

In the critical mineral segment, 22 blocks were auctioned during the year.

Thus, overall 71 critical mineral blocks have been auctioned so far, including 46

by the Centre and 25 by the State governments.

The 7th Tranche of critical and strategic mineral block auction of 19 blocks comprising 17 composite licence and two mining lease was launched on March 23, he said.

SUNRISE SECTOR

He further said critical mineral is the sunrise sector and its importance is only going to rise with each passing year.

Over the past few years, the Ministry has undertaken a series of path breaking reforms aimed at improving transparency, enhancing efficiency and accelerating the pace of operationalisation, he said.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:14/4/2026 P.NO.03

Vedanta inks MoUs for Odisha aluminium park

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
Bhubaneswar, 10 April

Commodities-focused conglomerate Vedanta Ltd on Friday inked pacts with two companies for setting up aluminium-based manufacturing units within its upcoming aluminium park at Jharsuguda in Odisha.

The Anil Agarwal-led company partnered with Singhal Steel & Power Pvt Ltd and SCOT-AL Metcon Pvt Ltd, signalling the beginning of downstream industrial activity, in the first MoUs signed since park's foundation stone was laid in December 2022.

Of the proposed 253-acre Vedanta Aluminium Park, an area of 56 acres has been developed for downstream industries in phase-1. The park is being developed as a

sustainability-driven industrial cluster. It is expected to cut carbon emissions by an estimated 60,000 tonnes to 70,000 tonnes annually.

Vedanta officials said the park's strategic location near the smelter complex will enable industries to access just-in-time, high-quality hot metal in desired quantities, eliminating "the need for long-distance transportation and re-melting. This not only reduces production time and operational costs but also lowers working capital requirements for industries by minimising energy-intensive processes," they said.

Once fully developed, it will be one of the largest metal parks in India and is expected to strengthen Odisha's position as a global aluminium hub.

HC steps in as 'illegal mining' threatens ancient temple site

Vaibhav.Ganjapure
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Nagpur: Taking serious note of alleged large-scale illegal mining near a historically important site, the Nagpur bench of Bombay high court recently initiated suo motu public interest litigation to protect prehistoric archaeological remains, including a 1,200-year-old temple site in Chandrapur district.

A division bench comprising Justices Anil Kilor and Raj Wakode acted on two news reports published in **TOI** (Jan 4 & Feb 5). In the last hearing, it appointed Bhanudas Kulkarni as amicus curiae to examine the situation and assist in the matter.

The amicus, along with experts including archaeologists, academicians and conservation specialists, conducted a site visit to Bhatala and Mowad villages in Warora taluka last month. Along with the help of local, they documented the historical and

HC TAKES NOTE OF TOI REPORTS

- > Case concerns prehistoric sites in Chandrapur district
- > Illegal mining flagged as major threat
- > Experts conducted site visit with amicus curiae
- > HC notes lack of care by concerned departments
- > Collector directed to inspect site and submit



BHONDA MAHADEV TEMPLE AT BHATALA

report by April 18. Report must clarify legality of mining activities

> Officials responsible for lapses to be identified

archaeological importance of the sites through reports and photographs. The court recorded its appreciation for the efforts in identifying and documenting key locations.

The bench observed that "proper care of these prehistoric archaeological sites has not been taken by the concerned depts, despite being aware of its importance and significance". The court also took note of development plans and conservation measures suggested by Kulkarni.

Issuing notices to the Union of India and multiple state authorities, the court directed the Chandrapur collector to inspect the mining site and submit a detailed report by April 18. The bench warned that failure to comply with the directive would require the collector to remain personally present before the court on April 20. HC also expressed expectation that central authorities would consider the recommendations made by the amicus curiae.