



KHANIJ SAMACHAR

Vol. 10, No-08

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In continuation of this it is requested that the mineral related news appeared in the Local News Papers of different areas can be sent to Central Library via email library@ibm.gov.in (scanned copy) so that it can be incorporated in the future issues to give the maximum coverage of mining and mineral related information on Pan India basis.

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खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR



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INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

VOL. 10, NO – 08, 16th – 30th APRIL 2026

ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:16/4/2026 P.NO.09

Steel Makers to Post Sharp Sequential Profit Surge in Q4

Nikita Periwal

Mumbai: A protectionist measure introduced in late December, along with seasonal strength in the January-March period, is set to drive a sharp sequential rise in profits for steel makers in the March quarter. Higher prices and volumes are expected to offset the impact of rising coking coal costs.

State-owned Steel Authority of India (SAIL) is likely to report the sharpest sequential profit growth, with earnings seen rising threefold from the December quarter, analysts said. A growth in Tata Steel's consolidated bottom line, however, will be weighed down by losses in its UK operations.

JSW Steel, Tata Steel, SAIL and Jindal Steel are among the largest listed integrated steel

producers in the country.

Average hot-rolled coil prices rose 12-15% sequentially in the March quarter as producers implemented multiple price increases, supported by a 12% safeguard duty that came into effect in late December.

"Average retail steel price rose ₹6,300-9,800/t QoQ, much higher than what steel companies might report amid project-led sales and contracts," analysts at Nuvama Institutional Equities said.

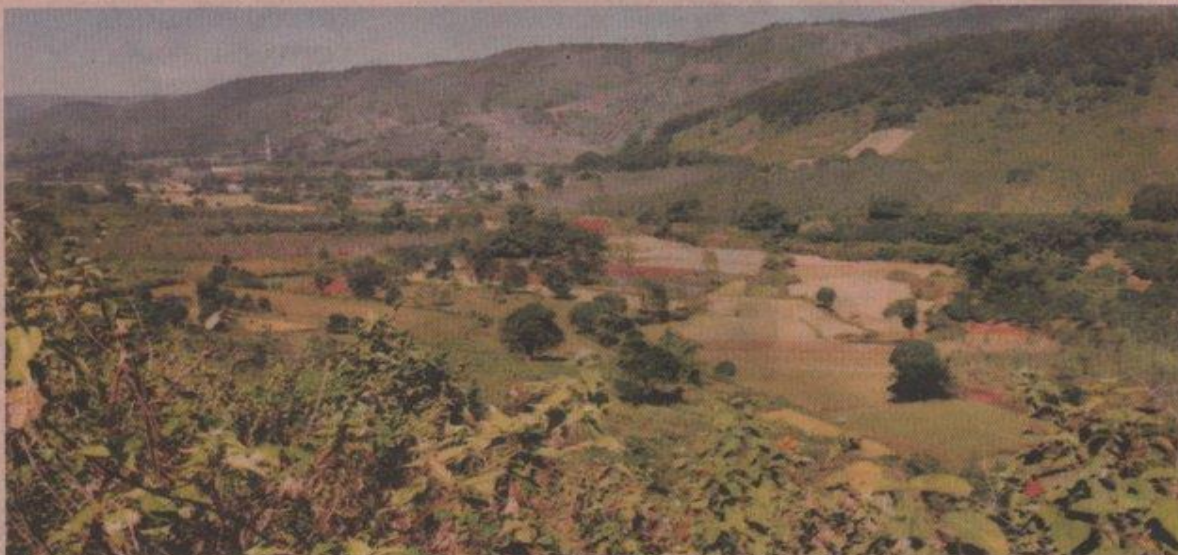
Sequential volume growth of about 7% is also expected to lift operating profit, or earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda), by ₹2,000-3,000 per tonne.

This comes despite a \$15-20 per tonne increase in coking coal costs and a ₹100 per tonne rise in iron ore prices during the quarter.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:17/4/2026 P.NO.19

Bauxite belt back on boil

A hill in conflict: Tribal resistance, contested clearances and a police crackdown in the Eastern Ghats recall Odisha's Niyamgiri story



HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
Bhubaneswar, 16 April

More than a decade after tribal resistance in the Niyamgiri hills halted a proposed multi-thousand-crore bauxite mining project, the mineral-rich southern belt of Odisha is once again on edge. This time, the flashpoint is Sijimali, an unassuming flat-topped hill in the Eastern Ghats that has come to embody the tensions between tribal rights, ecological fragility and industrial ambition.

Disquiet among local communities, predominantly tribal and Dalit, had been building since 2023, when the Vedanta Group was declared the preferred bidder for bauxite mining in the area. That unease turned violent last week as the administration began constructing a 3.4-km approach road from Bichhapinda to the Sijimali mineral block through forest land.

What began as resistance to the road project escalated into clashes between police and villagers in Kantamal and Sagabari in Rayagada district. Around 70 people, including 58 police personnel, were injured on April 7. Since then, the mood has been subdued, but tense.

In villages along the Sijimali foothills, small groups of men gather under trees, discussing police action, injuries and arrests. Women returning from forests with firewood and pots of water carry with them a palpable sense of unease.

Villagers allege that an armed police contingent reached Kantamal around 3 am on April 7, cut off electricity and launched a crackdown, breaking open doors, vandalising vehicles and issuing



(Above & top right) Agitating tribals from Kantamal, Sagabari and other villages of Rayagada district; (top left) The Sijimali hill region

India's east coast bauxite belt, which is one of the country's largest deposits of high-grade bauxite. It makes the region a strategic resource base capable of powering India's aluminium ambitions. The block spans 18 revenue villages across Rayagada's Kashipur and Kalahandi's Thuamul Rampur.

Vedanta has received a letter of intent for the 1,549-hectare block, which holds an estimated 311 million tonnes (mt) of bauxite, and has engaged Mythri Infrastructure and Mining India for extraction.

The company operates a 2 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) alumina

cess was followed and that eight affected villages unanimously approved the mining project on December 8, 2023. Villagers dispute this, alleging that proceedings were fabricated.

The *gram sabhas* — held in Kantamal, Bundel, Sagabari, Aliguna, Dumerpadar, Malipadar, Katibhata and Pelnakana — were meant to approve diversion of about 708 hectares of forest land that falls within the bauxite block. Under the FRA, such consent is mandatory.

Subasingh Majhi alleged irregularities, including signatures of absent individuals, minors, deceased persons and

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BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:17/4/2026 P.NO.19

threats over opposition to the mining project. When residents protested, they say police used tear gas, lathicharges and even opened fire.

"The police force came in the wee hours and surrounded our village. They unleashed destruction and fired gas shells. One hit my milking cow, killing it on the spot," said Rabanu Majhi, a Kantamal resident, adding, "Whatever the police may do, we will not leave our *mati* (land) and *mali* (hill)."

Police deny firing. Swathy S Kumar, superintendent of police, Rayagada, said tear gas was used to disperse a violent crowd. "Protesters threw stones and attacked police with swords, axes and other sharp objects when we went to execute a warrant against Subasingh Majhi, who faces 14 cases. We had no option but to use tear gas," she said.

She acknowledged underlying tensions over the road project. "There were 12 platoons deployed. Villagers knew the terrain, which is why 58 personnel, including senior officers, were injured," she said.

Villagers contest the police version, alleging that 24 people, including 10 women and three minors, were arrested last month on fabricated charges. Subasingh Majhi, president of the Maa, Mati and Mali Suraksha Manch (Mother, Land, Hill Protection Forum), said cases against him were meant to silence tribal voices.

"I have committed no crime. The hill is our mother and our life. We depend on these forests for food, water and survival. If mining starts, everything will be destroyed. Where will we go?" he asked.

Civil rights groups echo these concerns. Narendra Mohanty, convener of the Campaign Against Fabricated Cases, said the clash followed coercive action by authorities. He said there was a pattern of false cases against tribals opposing mining. The confrontation, he added, happened when villagers were intimidated for resisting road construction.

While the immediate trigger was the road, the conflict runs deeper — it's about who decides the future of a mountain, what development means in tribal regions, and whether lessons have been learned from past battles over mining, industrialisation and forests.

Why Sijimali matters

Sijimali lies along the mineral-rich spine of the Eastern Ghats, forming part of

refinery at Lanjigarh (Kalahandi) and aluminium smelters at Jharsuguda and Korba in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, with a combined capacity of about 2.2 mt. Securing raw material has been a longstanding challenge, especially after its Niyamgiri plans were halted following protests and a Supreme Court-backed process in 2013.

India has 4,958 mt of bauxite resources, with Odisha accounting for 51 per cent, according to the Indian Minerals Yearbook 2023. The rest is spread across Chhattisgarh (20 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (12 per cent), Gujarat (8 per cent), Jharkhand (6 per cent),

Maharashtra (5 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (4 per cent).

Despite this, India imported an estimated 4.5 mt of bauxite in FY25, costing ₹4,000-5,000 crore, while aluminium imports exceeded Rs 70,000 crore in FY26.

Within Odisha, a 100-km belt from Niyamgiri in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts to Nanidapur in Koraput accounts for around 40 per cent of the country's deposits. The state also leads production, contributing over 73 per cent of total output, with Nalco as the largest producer at 31 per cent.

India aims to raise bauxite production to 50 mtpa by 2030 and 150 mtpa by 2047, alongside an aluminium output target of 10.2 mtpa by 2030. Unlocking the unexplored east coast bauxite belt, comprising Sijimali, Kutrumali, Baphmali, Panchpatmali, Jeralla and Pot-tangi, is central to this ambition.

To accelerate mining, the Ministry of Mines has urged states to secure environmental and forest clearances before auctions. However, industry voices caution that fast-tracking approvals without local engagement risks conflicts like Sijimali.

"There must be a balance between industrial development and social concerns. Local communities must be taken on board," said former Nalco chairman and managing director Tapan Chand.

Successive governments have argued that Odisha cannot remain mineral-rich yet economically poor, and their policies have pushed for auctions, private investment and faster project execution.

The flashpoint

At the heart of the Sijimali dispute is the question of *gram sabha* consent under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. The administration maintains that due pro-

non-residents. "All eight meetings are shown as held on the same date and time — December 8, 2003, at 10 am — in the presence of the same officials," he said.

Some villagers claim they were misled into signing documents under the promise of development benefits.

Nearly a year later, in August-September 2024, *gram sabhas* across 10 villages in Rayagada and Kalahandi passed fresh resolutions rejecting consent for the diversion of forest land for the proposed mining project. "The district administration did not accept these resolutions," said Sunger *sarpanch* Sarmila Majhi.

Rayagada collector Ashutosh Kul-karni did not respond to calls and messages from *Business Standard*.

In February 2025, villagers from two panchayats moved the Orissa High Court, seeking cancellation of the alleged forged resolutions and FRA compliance certificates to Vedanta. In response to the court's notice, the state government submitted that the *gram sabha* proceedings were duly recorded on video and that the petitioners were present.

In its March 5, 2025 order, the High Court noted the allegations but refrained from adjudicating on the factual dispute, directing the Union government to address the concerns raised by the petitioners and the local communities.

Despite the fresh *gram sabha* resolutions rejecting consent, the state submitted a proposal in April 2025 for the diversion of 708 hectare of forest land to the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) under the Union environment ministry.

The FAC flagged gaps, observing that the state government reports did not address the concerns the villagers had raised before the Orissa High Court, but granted stage-I (in-principle) clearance on December 31, 2025. However, the final (stage-II) approval and environmental clearance are pending.

"Stage-II clearance is required before any forest land can be diverted for non-forestry activities or for mining operations. In case of fraudulent *gram sabha* resolutions, the petitions will have to move a lower court for trial for the authenticity of the documents to be examined," said Sankar Pani, a senior lawyer.

He added that the Sijimali project has been smartly split into two parts — one being the mineral block and the other, the approach road. "Since the approach road is considered a linear project, construction work can be started before final clearances," he said.

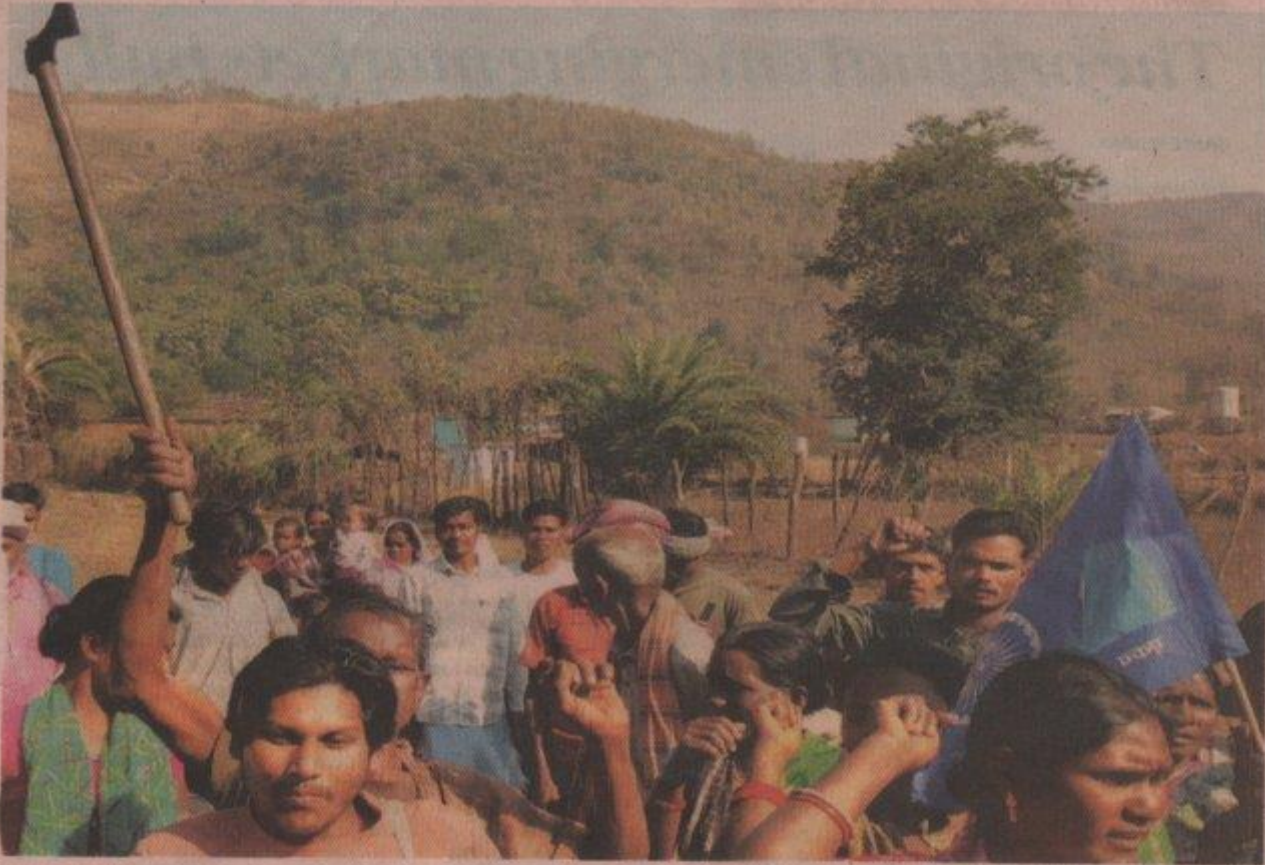
Villagers insist they are not opposed

AROUND 70 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 58 POLICE PERSONNEL, WERE INJURED ON APRIL 7. SINCE THEN, THE MOOD HAS BEEN SUBDUED, BUT TENSE

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BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:17/4/2026 P.NO.19



to development, but demand legal compliance. "Gram sabhas must be transparent. The provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act must be followed. Mining could damage fragile ecology, water sources and livelihoods," said Subasingh.

Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, chairman of Assocham Odisha state council, said Sijimali represents a vital opportunity for Odisha's industrial future, but its success hinges on a "community-first" mining model. "The trust gap needs to be bridged through transparent, rights-based dialogue and direct reinvestment of mineral wealth into local tribal welfare," he said.

Resistance to mining is not new in Odisha. Hindalco, a unit of the Aditya Birla Group, faced protests over its Baphimali block in the early 2000s. Hindalco was the first private company to get a captive bauxite mine in the state. Nalco, too, has encountered opposition for its Pottangi mineral block in Koraput district.

The state government maintains that community and environmental safeguards remain central to its push for industrialisation. Hemant Sharma, addi-

tional chief secretary of Industries and Home departments, said gram sabha processes were properly conducted and affected families compensated. A rehabilitation colony is under construction, he said.

On the recent unrest, Sharma clarified that the approach road is being built by the state to facilitate mineral transport to a nearby railway siding, not as a standalone corporate initiative. "Odisha's economic growth cannot be sustained without unlocking its mineral potential," he said.

A new rush for mining

With Odisha at the core of India's aluminium ecosystem, recent auctions have intensified corporate interest.

Vedanta has committed ₹1.27 trillion of fresh investment for a 3 mtpa smelter in Dhenkanal and ₹1 trillion for a 6 mtpa refinery in Rayagada, in addition to expanding its Lanjigarh refinery with a commitment of over ₹25,000 crore.

Hindalco's Utkal Alumina operates a 2.37 mt alumina refinery in Rayagada, drawing from the Baphimali block that has an estimated deposit of 200 mt of bauxite.

The Adani Group, through its subsidiary Kalinga Alumina Ltd, has already received LoI for Kutrumali and Ballada blocks and it is readying for exploration. Kutrumali, located near Sijimali, holds about 127 mt of bauxite, while Ballada in Koraput has 22 mt. The company will set up a 4 mtpa alumina refinery with an investment of ₹41,652 crore in Rayagada district. The Odisha State Pollution Control Board has issued a notification for the first public hearing for the Kutrumali mineral block on May 13 for environmental clearance.

Vedanta's push in Sijimali is part of its broader strategy to secure raw material after the Niyangiri setback following vehement opposition by the Dongria Kondh community.

"We are deeply concerned about the recent incident. We are hopeful for an amicable and peaceful resolution through dialogue and engagement between the administration and the community," Vedanta Aluminium said in a holding statement shared with *Business Standard*.

For now, Sijimali stands at a crossroads between extraction and ecology, state policy and local consent.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:17/4/2026 P.NO.11

Round 15 of commercial coal mine auctions to open today

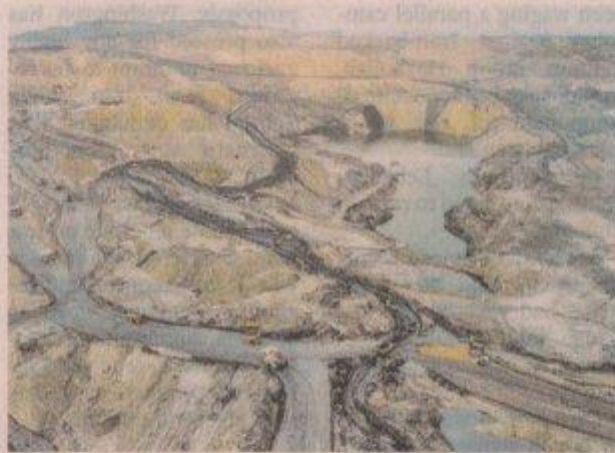
KEEN INTEREST. 136 blocks have been bid out, including 117 to the private sector

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Coal Ministry is set to launch the 15th Round of Commercial Coal Mine Auctions, on April 17, 2026. The event will be held in Mumbai in the presence of Vikram Dev Dutt Secretary, Ministry of Coal, as the Chief Guest.

Since the launch of commercial coal mining in 2020, the initiative has significantly enhanced domestic coal availability and reinforced the nation's energy security, the Coal Ministry said. The upcoming 15th round continues this journey, offering coal mines under liberal terms to promote ease of doing business, attract diverse investments, and encourage wider industry participation.

This round will offer a



AVAILABLE RESOURCES. This round will offer a fresh set of fully explored and partially explored coal blocks

and partially explored coal blocks, inviting participation from experienced miners, new entrants, and technology-driven enterprises alike. It is expected to further energise the coal sector by fostering a vibrant and competitive ecosystem, while paving the way for enhanced invest-

ments, employment generation, and overall sectoral growth, the Ministry emphasised. In the last 13 rounds of commercial coal mine auctions, a total of 136 blocks have been allotted to successful bidders. Of this, around 117 blocks have been won by the private sector.

The auctions are conducted in a two-stage online bidding process, which involves technical screening and submission of competitive initial price offer in the first stage, and a second and final stage where better price offers are intended to be received.

The auctions assume importance in view of India's rising consumption of coal by the power sector and industries. The Coal Ministry has set a domestic production target of about 1.5 billion tonne by FY30.

Last year, the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its world energy employment report said that India's push to expand commercial coal mining is leading to a "resurgence" in coal supply jobs with the workforce growing by 74,000 positions in 2024 with the trend likely to continue.

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

Divnl Commr Bidari talks tough Action against 2,478 cases of illegal excavation of minor minerals in district

■ Staff Reporter

DIVISIONAL Commissioner Vijayalakshmi Bidari, on Thursday, informed that the administration took action against 2,478 incidents of illegal excavation and transportation of minor minerals in Nagpur district.

Bidari shared the details in a review meeting held at Divisional Commissionerate on Thursday. While talking about the steps, Bidari further mentioned that the administration has registered 587 cases and collected a total fine of Rs 55.39



Vijayalakshmi Bidari

crore. Nagpur division has started campaign against illegal excavation of minor minerals in the district and the action has been taken under the same campaign.

According to Bidari, in 2025-26, till March 31, the administration has taken action and imposed a fine of Rs 55.39 crore, in which the administration has already collected Rs 20.15 crore as fine from the offenders.

Out of 587 registered cases, the administration has apprehended 158 persons and seized 1,512 vehicles so far.

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THE HITAVADA DATE:17/4/2026 P.NO.04

Action against 2,478 cases of illegal...

However, 10 heavy machinery, which were used for illegal excavation, were also seized by the administration.

The action was taken against the illegal mining of sand, gravel, and soil in one financial year. The highest incidents took place in Bhandara district as 672 incidents were reported. As many as 637 incidents of sand mining were

reported from Bhandara district. The administration registered 363 cases and collected Rs 5 crore fine so far and arrested 104 offenders from Bhandara district. In Gondia district, 641 cases were registered and the administration has imposed fine of Rs 3.58 crore so far. The authority has already collected Rs 3.29 crore from rule violators.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:17/4/2026 P.NO.05

THE HINDU DATE:17/4/2026 P.NO.13



India-Zambia critical minerals talks stall over mining rights

India's talks with Zambia over critical minerals mining have stalled amid a lack of assurances from Lusaka on mining rights, two sources familiar with the matter told *Reuters*. India last year received an allocation of 9,000 square kms to explore cobalt – a key component in batteries for EVs and mobile phones – as well as copper, widely used in power generation, electronics and construction. India dispatched a team of geologists last year, who have since returned with samples of minerals, including cobalt and copper. The exploration in Zambia was set to run for three years, after which New Delhi had planned to invite private sector companies to participate, subject to securing mining rights.

Industrial push for Chandrapur with ₹10,115cr steel plant

Vaibhav.Ganjapure
@timesofindia.com

DEVPT BOOST

LOCATION | Gondpipri, Chandrapur district

INVESTMENT | ₹10,115 crore

PROJECT TYP | Integrated steel plant

EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL | 8,000+ jobs

FOCUS AREA | Gadchiroli-Chandrapur belt

KEY ADVANTAGE | Utilisation of mineral-rich region

Nagpur: The Maharashtra govt on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding with Shyam Steel Industries Ltd to set up an integrated steel plant in Gondpipri in Chandrapur district, marking a major step in expanding industrial activity in the state's eastern belt.

The agreement, formalised in the presence of CM Devendra Fadnavis and company's chairman Purushottam Beriwal, involves a proposed investment of ₹10,115 crore and is expected to generate more than 8,000 jobs. The project is being positioned as a catalyst for economic development in Gadchiroli-Chandrapur region, an area that has long been identified for industrial expansion.

According to officials, the proposed plant will be an integrated steel facility, strengthening Maharashtra's manufacturing capacity while supporting ancillary industries and local supply chains. The investment is also expected to improve infrastructure and boost allied sectors, including logistics and services.

"This collaboration marks yet another step forward in driving industrial growth in Maharashtra," the chief minister said while presiding over the signing ceremony.

The partnership, officials said, aligns with the state's broader strategy to decentralise industrial growth beyond traditional hubs and create employment in resource-rich but underdeveloped regions.

The Gadchiroli-Chandrapur belt, known for its mineral resources, has been a focal point of recent policy initiatives aimed at balancing economic growth with regional development.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
DATE:17/4/2026 P.NO.5

Round 15th: Commercial Coal Mine Auctions to be Launched Today

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The coal ministry will hold a stakeholder consultation on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat: Coal for Energy Security' and launch the 15th round of commercial coal mine auctions on Friday.

The meeting will be held in Mumbai. ET had reported on Wednesday that the government is working on Atmanirbhar Bharat 2.0 to insulate critical supply chains and ensure energy security amid global economic disruption triggered by the war in West Asia.

The ministry said the initiative aims to support India's growing energy needs and advance the goal of a self-reliant nation. Since the launch of commercial coal mining in 2020, the programme has improved domestic coal availability and strengthened energy security.

The upcoming auctions seek to improve ease of doing business, attract investment and widen industry participation. It will offer a mix of fully explored and partially explored coal blocks, targeting participation from established miners, new entrants and technology-driven firms. Commercial coal mining has begun to increase output. Captive and commercial mines have produced and dispatched more than 200 million tonnes.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:18/4/2026 P.NO.3

11 coal blocks on offer in round 15 of mine auctions

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Coal Ministry on Friday launched the 15th round of commercial coal mine auctions in which a total of 11 blocks are being offered, including seven fully explored and four partially explored mines.

Of these, 3 mines are being offered under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 (CMSP) and eight under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR).

It includes one coking coal block and remaining 10 are non-coking coal blocks, catering to the requirements of key sectors such as steel and power. Additionally, six coal mines are also being offered of 2nd attempt of the 13th round, the Ministry said.

KEY STATES

The mines being auctioned are spread across the coal/lignite bearing States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, and are expected to attract significant investment, enhance domestic coal availability, and generate employment opportunities.

So far, the Ministry has



The mines being auctioned are spread across the coal/lignite bearing States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana

successfully auctioned 135 coal mines across 13 rounds of commercial coal mine auctions, with a peak rated capacity (PRC) of around 325 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), reflecting the strong momentum in unlocking India's coal potential.

Coal Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt highlighted that the introduction of the commercial coal mining framework in 2020 marked a transformative shift in the sector, paving the way for enhanced competition, private sector participation, and improved coal availability for domestic industries.

Referring to the evolving geopolitical landscape, he underscored the importance of enhancing domestic coal production to safeguard India's energy security.

Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary at the Coal Ministry, stressed on accelerated coal production with a conscious approach, balancing growth with environmental stewardship and community well-being underscoring that sustainability must move in tandem with scale.

Highlighting the transformational impact of coal sector reforms, she emphasised transparency, policy stability, and ease of doing business as key drivers attracting investment, fostering competition, and unlocking new economic avenues.

The Ministry also organised a stakeholder consultation, which witnessed insightful deliberations across key sessions covering critical dimensions of coal sector transformation.

Discussions focused on technology adoption, innovation and coal gasification to drive efficiency and value addition; inclusive growth through rehabilitation, resettlement, land repurposing, worker welfare, CSR and just transition with communities and all stakeholders at the centre and sustainability measures promoting greener mining practices and environmental stewardship.

THE HINDU DATE:18/4/2026 P.NO.10

SC warns Rajasthan, M.P., U.P. over illegal mining in Chambal sanctuary

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it would not hesitate to take the extraordinary step of deploying paramilitary forces to curb illegal sand mining in the ecologically fragile and protected National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary if the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh fail to take "concrete measures" to tackle the menace within a month, by the next date of hearing on May 11.

The warning was part of a 28-page order passed by a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which took *suo motu* cognisance of illegal sand mining within the sanctuary, resulting in severe degradation of critical wildlife habitats, including that of the endangered gharials.

Justice Mehta, who pronounced the operative part of the order in the courtroom, cautioned that the court would not only impose a complete ban on sand mining in the States but also impose "heavy penalties" on them for failing to safeguard critical habi-



The degradation of natural resources and fragile ecosystems for short-term gains cannot be countenanced, the court said. FILE PHOTO

tats and the river ecosystem. "The continued degradation of natural resources and fragile ecosystems for short-term gains and greed, coupled with administrative indifference, cannot be countenanced in a system governed by the rule of law," the court said.

The court said the States' explanations about sand mining happening right under their very noses reeked of apathy, tacit connivance and even a sense of helplessness in the face of the "superior firepower" and acts of lawlessness of the miners. The order referred to brutal

murders of forest guards by sand miners in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Issuing a series of directions, the court ordered Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh to install high-resolution and Wi-Fi enabled CCTV cameras in areas affected by sand mining and ensure that live visuals from these cameras are fed directly to the offices of the district police chiefs and divisional forest officers.

Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan should initiate a pilot project to install GPS tracking devices on vehicles used for mining in Morena and Dholpur districts.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:18/4/2026 P.NO.06

House panel flags gaps in offshore mining push

SAKET KUMAR

New Delhi, 17 April

A parliamentary panel has recommended a dedicated offshore mineral exploration policy and funding framework, flagging gaps in India's preparedness to tap seabed resources. The recommendations came after the government's first attempt to auction offshore blocks failed to attract investor interest.

In its 23rd report on the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT), the Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel said offshore exploration presents a "significant opportunity" to harness largely untapped seabed minerals and strengthen long-term resource security, particularly in the context of securing critical minerals.

It recommended that the Ministry of Mines formulate a clear policy framework backed by funding mechanisms and inter-ministerial coordination involving agencies such as the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Geological Survey of India.

The Centre had annulled auctions for 13 offshore mineral blocks in December 2025, 10 of which received no bids, while three failed to attract the minimum required technically qualified bidders, highlighting weak investor response to the segment.

Beyond the absence of a dedicated offshore framework, the panel's findings point to deeper institutional and structural constraints. It noted that NMEDT's mandate has expanded significantly to include offshore exploration, overseas mineral development and coordination with the National Critical Mineral Mission, but flagged the need for a comprehensive manpower assessment and the creation of a specialised cadre with expertise in geology, geophysics, project finance and international mineral law.

The committee also highlighted gaps in the exploration ecosystem at the state level, noting that fund allocation under the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) remains proposal-driven, with no clear framework for equitable distribution across states. It recommended the development of state-specific multi-year

Govt puts 17 coal blocks on offer

The Ministry of Coal on Friday launched the 15th round of commercial coal mine auctions, putting 17 blocks on offer, including 11 in the current round and six reoffered from the second attempt of the 13th tranche, as it seeks to boost domestic coal production.

Of the 11 blocks in the 15th round, seven are fully explored and four partially explored.

Three mines are being offered under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, and eight under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

The blocks include one coking coal mine and 10 non-coking coal mines, catering to sectors such as steel and power, the ministry said.

The mines are spread across Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana. The auction launch was announced during a stakeholder consultation on "Atmanirbhar Bharat: Coal for Energy Security", which brought together policymakers, industry representatives, and experts to discuss reforms, technology, and sustainability in the sector. SAKET KUMAR

exploration roadmaps to build a stronger pipeline of projects, particularly in regions with low participation.

The panel pointed to the need for greater transparency in fund flows, suggesting a real-time digital dashboard to track royalty collections, contributions and transfers across states, given the current multi-layered mechanism involving state accounts and the Consolidated Fund of India.

The report underscored the strategic importance of critical and energy transition minerals, proposing the creation of a Critical Mineral Security Index to map India's import dependence against its domestic exploration pipeline and guide project prioritisation.

BUSINESS STANDARD
DATE:18/4/2026 P.NO.1

Offshore mining: Parl panel flags policy gaps

A parliamentary panel in its 23rd report on the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust has recommended a dedicated offshore mineral exploration policy and funding framework, flagging gaps in India's preparedness to tap seabed resources. The recommendations came after the government's first attempt to auction offshore blocks failed to attract investor interest. 6

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:18/4/2026 P.NO.9

TRIPLES CAPACITY IN A DECADE

UltraTech Expands Production Capacity to over 200 M Tonnes

Our Bureau

Mumbai: UltraTech Cement crossed 200 million tonnes production capacity in India, bolstering its leadership of the world's second largest market for the building material.

The Aditya Birla Group company has more than tripled its capacity in a decade, and is also the world's largest cement producer, outside of China.

UltraTech Cement's annual capital expenditure of about ₹16,000 crore currently is expected to expand capacity further to 240 million tonnes by FY28. The company currently controls about a fourth of the Indian market.

About 110 million tonnes of the existing capacity comprises greenfield and brownfield expansions, with the rest 90 million tonnes coming in through acquisitions. Over the past few years, some of the company's key acquisitions are L&T Cement, Jaypee Cement, Binani Cement, Century, Kesoram Industries, and India Cements.

"It took us 36 years to reach 100 million tonnes," said chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla. "The next 50 million followed in five. The 50 after that, in just over two. No cement company in the world has added capacity at this pace in the last decade."

During the day, the company commissioned three additional cement grinding units at Shahja-

Scale Up

CAPACITY BUILT IN FIVE YEARS

Fiscal	Capacity added	Total Capacity
FY26	7.9	196.7
FY25	42.6*	188.8
FY24	13.8	146.2
FY23	12.4	132.4
FY22	3.2	120.0

*Including acquisitions
figures in million tonnes



hanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Patratu in Jharkhand, and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

At a consolidated level, UltraTech's capacity is now at 205.5 million tonnes, including 5.4 million tonnes from its operations in the UAE, Bahrain, and Sri Lanka.

"The 200 MTPA number in my view does not represent only our capacity, but also India's place in the world," said Birla. "It describes an India that carries scale with confidence - in its ambitions, its execution, and its sense of self."

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:19/4/2026 P.NO.8

AP to boost gold hunt as first private mine to open in May

Mine Expected To Produce 1,000kg Refined Gold/ Year At Peak Capacity

Samdani.MN@timesofindia.com

Kurnool: From the time of Emperor Ashoka to the renewed push for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, India's enduring love affair with and fascination for the precious yellow metal has been both cultural and economic. Now, in the parched, mineral-rich terrain of Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district, a centuries-long dormant ambition is finally turning into reality.

The processing plant of Geomysore Services India Pvt Ltd's Jonnagiri gold project, India's first large-scale private gold mine since Independence, is all set to go live in the first week of May. Hectic activity can be witnessed at the plant as it goes through the pre-commercial operations process with the management closely monitoring the run-up to full-fledged production.



Aerial view of Geomysore goldmine project in Jonnagiri, Kurnool, AP

For decades, India's gold quest has been defined by dependence. The country imports over 800 tonnes of gold every year, which puts sustained pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

CM Chandrababu Naidu is expected to dedicate the Jonnagiri project to the nation. "This is a landmark moment — not just for Andhra Pradesh, but also for India's broader (gold) mining ambitions," said Mukesh Kumar

Meena, state principal secretary, mines and geology.

The project, spread across nearly 598 hectares in Jonnagiri, Erragudi and Pagidirayi villages of Kurnool, has already attracted investments of over Rs 400 crore. BSE-listed Geomysore Services is backed by Thriveni Earthmovers & Infra — one of India's largest mine developers — and Deccan Gold.

The project has robust estimates. The certified re-

sources stand at 13.1 tonnes of gold, with exploration indicating a potential upside of up to 42.5 tonnes. At peak capacity, the mine is expected to produce up to 1,000 kg of refined gold annually over the next 15 years. Before dawn breaks over the rugged stretches of Kurnool, silence at Jonnagiri gold fields steadily gives way to a rising mechanical symphony — drills piercing the earth, controlled blasts cracking ancient rock, and giant excavators clawing through layers that have guarded their secrets for millennia.

"Success of this project should encourage many investors to come into the gold and critical mineral sector, which is the need of the hour for India, both commercially and strategically," said Hanuma Prasad Modali, director of Geomysore and managing director of Deccan Gold.

NAVBHARAT DATE:20/4/2026 P.NO.8

हर वर्ष निकलेगा 1 टन सोना

जोन्नागिरी खदान मई की शुरुआत में होगी चालू

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. आजादी के बाद पहली बार बड़े पैमाने में सोने की खदान की मेजबानी करने के लिए आंध्र प्रदेश पूरी तरह से तैयार है. कुरनूल जिले में स्थित जोन्नागिरी परियोजना मई की शुरुआत में चालू होगी. जियोमैसूर सर्विसेज इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा विकसित यह परियोजना भारत के सोने के आयात पैटर्न में संभावित बदलाव का संकेत देती है. क्योंकि देश घरेलू उत्पादन को मजबूत करने की दिशा में भी प्रयासरत है. भारत वर्तमान में हर साल 800 टन से अधिक सोने का आयात करता है, जिससे विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार पर दबाव पड़ता है. घरेलू उत्पादन सीमित रहा है. हुट्टी गोल्ड माइंस से सालाना लगभग 1.5 टन सोना ही निकलता है. कोलार गोल्ड फील्ड्स के बंद होने से बड़े पैमाने पर खनन में कमी आई. वहीं एनएमडीसी जैसी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों ने विदेशी स्वर्ण संपत्तियों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है.

राष्ट्र को समर्पित होगी ये खदान : जोन्नागिरी परियोजना जोन्नागिरी, एरंगुडी और पागिदिरायी गांवों में लगभग 598 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में फैली हुई है और इसमें 400 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक का निवेश हुआ है. आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री चंद्रबाबू नायडू द्वारा इस खदान को राष्ट्र को समर्पित



800 टन

से अधिक सोने के आयात को कम करने में सहायक

42.5

टन सोना होने का अनुमान

400

करोड़ का निवेश



598

हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में है फैली

□ 13.1 टन सोने के प्रमाणित भंडार □ 100 टन सोने के उत्पादन का लक्ष्य



निवेश को प्रोत्साहित कर सकती है

यह परियोजना इस क्षेत्र में और अधिक निवेश को प्रोत्साहित कर सकती है. जियोमैसूर के निदेशक और डेक्कन गोल्ड के प्रबंध निदेशक डॉ. हनुमा प्रसाद मोडाली ने कहा इस परियोजना की सफलता से कई निवेशकों को स्वर्ण और महत्वपूर्ण खनिज क्षेत्र में आने का प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा, जो भारत के लिए व्यावसायिक और रणनीतिक दोनों दृष्टि से आवश्यकता है. उन्होंने आगे कहा भारत को अगले दशक में प्रति वर्ष कम से कम 50 से 100 टन सोने के उत्पादन का लक्ष्य रखना चाहिए.

किए जाने की उम्मीद है. आंध्र प्रदेश के खान एवं भूविज्ञान विभाग के प्रधान सचिव मुकेश कुमार मीना ने बताया कि यह न केवल आंध्र प्रदेश के लिए, बल्कि भारत की व्यापक (स्वर्ण) खनन महत्वाकांक्षाओं के लिए भी एक ऐतिहासिक क्षण है. प्रसंस्करण संयंत्र 13 महीनों में चालू हो गया. जोन्नागिरी परियोजना यह दर्शाती है कि दूरदर्शिता, प्रौद्योगिकी और क्रियान्वयन के संगम पर भारत क्या कर सकता है, हम केवल एक खदान का निर्माण नहीं कर रहे हैं, बल्कि देश में जिम्मेदार, कुशल और वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी खनन का एक आदर्श स्थापित कर रहे हैं.

THE HITAVADA DATE:21/4/2026 P.NO.9

Reliance, Essar top bidders for CBM blocks



NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (PTI)

RELIANCE Industries Ltd and Essar Group have emerged as top bidders for the 16 coal-bed methane (CBM) blocks offered across two consecutive bidding rounds, according to a list of bidders released by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH). State-owned Oil India Ltd bid for three blocks while India's largest oil and gas producer, ONGC stayed away.

The Government offered three areas for exploration and production of natural gas that is trapped within coal seams underground, in the Special CBM Bid Round

2025, and another 13 blocks in the 2026 bidding round.

Bids for the two rounds closed on March 5. The gas produced, called CBM or coal seam gas, is used as a cleaner-burning fuel for power generation, heating, and industrial use. It can also be turned into CNG to run automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking. It generally produces fewer emissions than coal when burned.

Blocks offered in the 2025 and 2026 Special CBM bid rounds fall in Category II and III basins, where entities offering the most work programme (drilling most wells) are awarded the areas. Reliance bid for three out of the 13 blocks offered in Special CBM Bid Round 2026 while Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd (EOGEP) bid for three blocks of 2026 round and two of the three blocks offered in 2025 round. One block in the 2025 round and seven of 2026 round did not attract any bids, according to DGH. Four of six blocks of 2026 round that got bids, were single bids. The two blocks of 2025 round got multiple bids.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:21/4/2026 P.NO.10

Global steel demand to rise despite W. Asia war

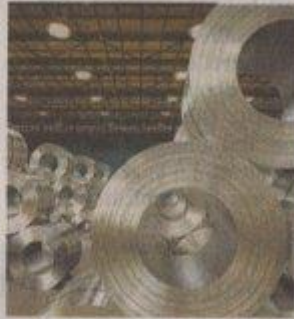
Our Bureau
Chennai

Though the ongoing West Asia conflict poses a risk, the global steel demand is poised to rise marginally by 0.3 per cent to 1,724 million tonnes (mt) in 2026. This will be followed by an accelerated growth of 2.2 per cent in 2027 to reach 1,762 mt, according to the short-range outlook (SRO) released by the World Steel Association.

However, the ongoing conflict might have a negative impact on the demand of that region in 2026.

After a protracted period of decline, all major developed economies, including the European Union, the US, Canada, Japan and Korea, are expected to post positive growth in 2027.

Consequently, global steel demand, excluding China, is expected to grow 4 per cent in 2027. While this outlook reflects data available as of mid-March 2026, the escalating West Asia conflict



presents a significant stress test.

The developed world's steel demand grew by 0.2 per cent in 2025, marking the end of a three-year consecutive decline since 2021.

The outlook expects this stabilisation to pave the way for a gradual recovery, with growth reaching 1 per cent in 2026 and gaining further momentum to 2.3 per cent in 2027.

ASEAN ECONOMIES

Steel demand growth across developing economies, excluding China, is projected to moderate to a 2.5 per cent

pace in 2026, a significant deceleration from the roughly 5 per cent annual growth recorded in recent years. This cooling is primarily driven by a sharp contraction in West Asia, where regional conflict has abruptly reversed previous growth expectations.

Further, the forecast predicts normalisation of demand across ASEAN economies. Following a strong expansion in 2025, growth in this region is expected to temporarily soften as stockpiling activity subsides. However, the outlook for 2027 is more robust, with growth forecast to rebound to 5.1 per cent.

The ongoing West Asia conflict might have a negative impact on the demand in that region in 2026.

Alfonso Hidalgo Calcerada, Chief Economist, UN-ESID, and Chair of the Worldsteel Economics Committee, said: "Our latest forecasts validate the trajectory established in our October 2025 SRO, confirming that global steel demand is

bottoming out over the 2025-2026 period. This follows a protracted and challenging phase of global structural adjustments that has suppressed demand since 2022. We are now transitioning to a path of modest growth in 2026, with a more pronounced acceleration projected for 2027. This broader recovery is being driven by distinct shifts in regional dynamics."

CHINA & INDIA

In China, the rate of demand contraction is finally decelerating in 2026, while demand growth across key developing markets, most notably India, remains vibrant, he added.

India maintains its position as the world's fastest-growing major steel market, with demand projected to expand by 7.4 per cent in 2026 and accelerate to 9.2 per cent in 2027.

This robust outlook is underpinned by broad-based strength across all key steel-consuming sectors.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:21/4/2026 P.NO.7

Odisha pins hopes on JSW Steel-Posco JV

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
Bhubaneswar, 20 April

With JSW Steel formally approving a 50:50 joint venture with South Korean steel major Posco Group to establish a greenfield 6 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) integrated steel plant in Odisha, one of the state's biggest proposed industrial investments has gained fresh momentum.

This comes at a time when India and South Korea are seeking to double bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030 across strategic sectors.

In a filing last week, JSW Steel informed stock exchanges that its wholly-owned subsidiary Saffron Resources Pvt Ltd would

become a 50:50 JV between JSW Steel and Posco Group. The group comprises Posco Co Ltd and Posco-India Pvt Ltd.

Saffron Resources possesses 887 acres of land, including 595 acres of freehold and 292 acres of leasehold in Odisha's Dhenkanal district. Under the agreement, Posco Group will subscribe to shares of Saffron for a consideration of around ₹508.8 crore, subject to closing adjustments. The transaction is expected to be completed by December 31.

Although Saffron Resources has a pre-existing land parcel in Dhenkanal, official sources said the 6 mtpa greenfield steel plant has been planned in mineral-rich Keonjhar district, the home

district of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. So far, six of the 12 gram sabhas planned in Keonjhar for the proposed steel plant have been completed.

The high-level clearance authority has approved the steel project with an investment of ₹35,000 crore. It has an employment potential of 8,000 jobs.

Hemant Sharma, additional chief secretary of industries department, said JSW is looking at two sites for the proposed steel plant and work is also going on at both sites - Dhenkanal and Keonjhar. "The Dhenkanal site is a very small land parcel. At least 2,500-3,000 acres of land is required for a 6 mtpa steel plant, for which a suitable land parcel

has been identified in Keonjhar. Both locations are being pursued simultaneously. If the steel-making facility comes up in Keonjhar, some other facilities like pellet plant may come up in Dhenkanal," he said.

For India and South Korea, the Odisha venture could emerge as one of the most visible next-generation industrial cooperations. It also marks Posco's return to Odisha after the collapse of its earlier \$12 billion proposal in Jagatsinghpur, once billed as India's largest foreign direct investment. That project was eventually abandoned in 2017 after prolonged land acquisition disputes, regulatory delays and local resistance.

THE HINDU DATE:22/4/2026 P.NO.6

SCCL to focus on reducing costs, improving coal quality

The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) will focus on reducing the production costs and improving the coal quality to strengthen its position in the competitive market and the new coal sale system through a coal exchange, Chairman and Managing Director of the company Buddhaprakash Jyoti said while participating in a virtual meet conducted by Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday. He suggested that all public sector coal companies must strive to remain competitive in the market by adhering to strict quality standards. He stated that a new coal sale mechanism through the proposed Coal Exchange was being introduced to enable consumers to procure coal of their preferred grade from a supplier of their choice. Maintaining coal quality would be essential for government companies (PSU coal companies) to sustain their market presence. He advised all companies to take necessary measures to reduce production costs in order to protect and expand their market share.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:22/4/2026 P.NO.7

India's first plant for extraction of platinum comes up in Odisha

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
Bhubaneswar, 21 April

Amid growing global attention over critical minerals and intensifying competition to secure strategic resources, Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) has set up the country's first pilot plant for extracting platinum group metals (PGMs) from mineral ore.

Set up at the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with South Africa's mineral-technology institution Mintek, the ₹10 crore pilot project, commissioned on Monday, is aimed at building India's first integrated ecosystem for beneficiation (the treatment of raw materials), smelting, and refining of PGMs.

The project assumes national significance because PGMs —

NavPrakriti to invest ₹100 crore in Odisha critical-mineral facility

Battery recycling firm NavPrakriti on Tuesday said it would invest over ₹100 crore to set up a greenfield critical minerals refining facility in Odisha, which is expected to become operational by 2028-29. The plant will extract cobalt, nickel and lithium, it said.

The firm was recently considered eligible under the National Critical Mineral Mission aimed at boosting local

recovery of key battery materials and reducing import dependence.

The proposed unit will process up to 5,000 million tonnes per annum of end-of-life batteries and focus on high-purity recovery of critical and rare earth minerals. The project is part of efforts to advance India's circular economy by retaining valuable resources within the country.

SAKET KUMAR

platinum, palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium, and ruthenium — are indispensable for a range of sunrise and strategic sectors, including clean-energy technologies, hydrogen fuel cells,

electronics, catalytic converters, defence systems, medical equipment, petrochemical processing, and advanced manufacturing, besides jewellery. OMC officials said, as part of the pilot project,

PGMs would be extracted from ore sourced from Bangur chromite mines, Keonjhar.

The one-tonne-per-hour pilot plant will be used to validate the consistency, recovery rates, and scalability of PGM concentrate under real-time operating conditions before moving to commercial-scale development. With global supply heavily concentrated in a few countries, India has so far relied on imports for these metals. Globally PGM reserves are estimated at 71,000 tonnes, of which South Africa alone accounts for nearly 89 per cent, followed by Russia with 8 per cent, Zimbabwe 2 per cent, and the US 1 per cent.

If commercialised, Odisha could become the nucleus of India's first PGMs and a key contributor to the country's critical mineral security, officials added.

THE HINDU DATE:23/4/2026 P.NO.14

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:22/4/2026 P.NO.7

RAJASTHAN

Mines department targets 39% revenue growth in FY27

ANIL SHARMA
Jaipur, 21 April

The state mines department has set a revenue target of around ₹14,000 crore for the current financial year, marking a projected 39 per cent increase over the recently concluded financial year, a senior mines department official said.

In the financial year 2025-26, the department achieved a record revenue collection of ₹10,394 crore, registering a 13 per cent growth rate, she said.

"In this direction, the mines department has already initiated the exercise of setting revenue targets for the year

2026-27," Additional Chief Secretary (Mines and Petroleum) Aparna Arora said.

Arora said that, simultaneously, directives have been issued to formulate a calendar for the current financial year, covering the entire process — from the preparation of major and minor mineral blocks and plots to their eventual auction.

She called for preparing a road map — complete with specific timelines — for delineating mineral-rich areas, preparing plots or blocks, and their subsequent auction to promote legal mining within the state while effectively curbing illegal mining.

Centre plans new rail link to 'controversial' bauxite hills in Odisha

Satvasundar Barik

BHUBANESWAR

Notwithstanding massive tribal resistance to the proposed bauxite mining in the Sijimali hills spanning Odisha's Rayagada and Kalahandi districts, the Ministry of Railways has proposed a new rail link connecting two bauxite-bearing hills, the mining rights for which have been secured by the Vedanta and Adani groups.

As per notification by the Ministry of Railways on Tuesday, the Centre, in exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (37A) of Section-2 of Railways Act, 1989 notified a new broad-gauge line connecting Tiki-ri Station to Kutrumali and Sijimali Bauxite Mines on Waltair Division of East Coast Railway.

Kalinga Alumina Limit-



Villagers protest construction of the road connecting State Highway 44 to Sijimali summit.

ed, a subsidiary of Adani Group, has proposed open-cast mining over 701.792 hectare in Kutrumali, with 127.7 million tonnes of bauxite. Vedanta Group has secured rights over 1,549.022 hectare in nearby Sijimali, which holds over 300 million tonnes of bauxite.

Villagers have obstructed construction of the road connecting State Highway 44 and summit of Sijimali announcing that they would not let anyone construct road by felling trees.

BUSINESS STANDARD
DATE:23/4/2026 P.NO.2

JSW Steel to form JV with Japan's JFE Steel Corp for Odisha plant

Days after formalising a 50:50 joint venture (JV) with South Korean steel giant POSCO Group for a 6 million tonne per annum (mtpa) integrated steel plant in Odisha's Dhenkanal district, JSW Steel is all set to deepen its global partnerships with another major Asian steel-maker. Official sources said the Sajjan Jindal-led company will sign a fresh joint venture agreement with Japan's JFE Steel Corporation on April 24 for a 6 mtpa expansion of Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd (BPSL) in Odisha's Sambalpur district. The proposed JSW-JFE venture would involve an estimated investment of around ₹32,000 crore. The JV is likely to be signed at an event at Thekoloi in Sambalpur in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Japanese ambassador to India Kelichi Ono, president and CEO of JFE Steel Masayuki Hirose.

BS REPORTER

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:24/4/2026 P.NO.10

QUICKLY.

Copper slips from peak on West Asia uncertainty



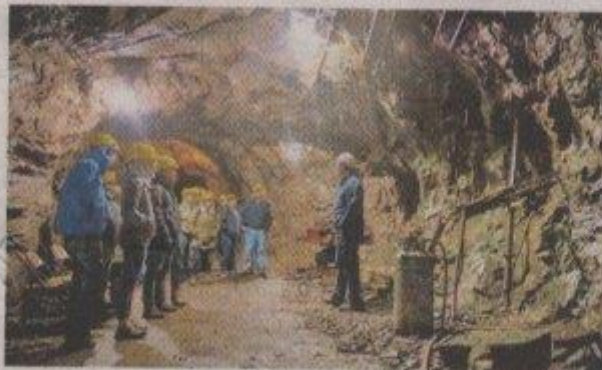
London: Copper prices retreated from multi-week highs on stalled US-Iran peace talks, continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz and a stronger dollar. Benchmark three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange dropped 1.4 per cent to \$13,243 a tonne by 0940 GMT. Nickel edged up 0.4 per cent to \$18,535; aluminium shed 0.7 per cent to \$3,590. REUTERS

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE:24/4/2026 P.NO.17

माइंस टूरिज्म : सप्ताह में तीन दिन मिलेगा खदानों का रोमांचक अनुभव

सोमवार, शुक्रवार और शनिवार को पर्यटकों के लिए खुलेंगी कोयला खदानें
भास्कर संवाददाता | नागपुर

साहसिक पर्यटन को नई पहचान देते हुए नागपुर में 'माइंस टूरिज्म' की शुरुआत की गई है, जिसे अब सप्ताह में तीन दिन आम पर्यटकों के लिए उपलब्ध कराया गया है। वेस्टर्न कोल फील्ड्स लिमिटेड (डब्ल्यूसीएल) ने सोमवार, शुक्रवार और शनिवार को इस विशेष टूर को नियमित रूप से संचालित करने का निर्णय लिया है, जिससे अब अधिक से अधिक लोग इस अनोखे अनुभव का हिस्सा बन सकेंगे। इस पहल के तहत पर्यटक अब तय दिनों में कोयला खदानों के भीतर जाकर खनन प्रक्रिया को करीब से देख सकेंगे। बढ़ती मांग और पर्यटन को प्रोत्साहन देने के उद्देश्य से डब्ल्यूसीएल ने न केवल तय दिन निर्धारित किए हैं, बल्कि समन्वय और संपर्क के



लिए विशेष अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति भी की है, ताकि टूर सुचारू रूप से संचालित हो सके। यह पहल पर्यटन संचालनालय, महाराष्ट्र शासन और डब्ल्यूसीएल के संयुक्त प्रयासों से शुरू की गई है, जिसका उद्देश्य नागपुर को एडवेंचर टूरिज्म के नक्शे पर और मजबूत बनाना है।

टूर के लिए 18 से 65 वर्ष के स्वस्थ व्यक्तियों को अनुमति दी गई है। सुरक्षा के लिए सभी आवश्यक उपकरण भी उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं। पर्यटन विभाग ने नागरिकों से अपील की है कि वे इस अनोखे 'माइंस टूरिज्म' का अनुभव लें और नागपुर के इस नए पर्यटन आकर्षण का हिस्सा बनें।

टूरिज्म को प्रमोट करने डब्ल्यूसीएल की योजना

स्वस्थ व्यक्तियों को अनुमति

पर्यटक पंजीकृत टूर ऑपरेटर या महाराष्ट्र पर्यटन विकास महामंडल (एमटीडीसी) के माध्यम से इस टूर की बुकिंग कर सकते हैं। इस यात्रा में सावनेर की भूमिगत खदान, आदासा की ओपन कास्ट खदान और इको पार्क जैसे स्थानों का भ्रमण शामिल है।

BUSINESS LINE DATE:25/4/2026 P.NO.2

Hindustan Zinc Q4 net surges 68%

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company, reported that its net profit in the March quarter was up 68 per cent at ₹5,033 crore against ₹3,003 crore logged in the same period last year — the highest profit growth in 20 quarters — largely due to a sharp rise in silver and other metal prices.

Revenue increased 44 per cent to ₹12,692 crore (₹8,829 crore) — the best in 19 quarters. EBITDA increased 61 per cent to ₹7,747 crore (₹4,816 crore).

Silver revenue more than doubled to ₹4,032 crore (₹1,688 crore). Revenue from zinc was up 19 per cent at ₹6,997 crore (₹5,856 crore) while that from lead and others increased 12 per cent and 164 per cent to ₹1,153 crore and ₹1,362 crore respectively.

The company's refined metal production was up 5 per cent at 2.82 lakh tonne in the quarter under review.

The cost of producing zinc

Shine stays

	Q4 FY25	Q4 FY26
Net profit (₹ cr)	3,003	5,033
Revenue (₹ cr)	8,829	12,692
EPS (Diluted) (₹)	7.11	11.91

was down 9 per cent at \$903 per tonne on account of lower power cost driven by higher domestic coal usage and softened coal prices, higher by-product realisation, better mined grades and increased metal production, said the company.

The company further strengthened its long-term growth outlook, with record ore resources and reserves of 468.6 million tonnes, supporting a mine life of over 25 years and surpassing 13.9 million tonnes of metal reserves and 1.09 lakh tonnes of silver reserves for the first time, it said.

CAPEX TOP UP

It announced a capex of \$500-\$600 million in FY27. It expects mined mineral and

metal production to increase to 11.5 lakh tonnes and 11 lakh tonnes in FY27.

Silver output is expected at 680 tonnes while cost of production of zinc was at \$975-\$1,000 per tonne in this fiscal. As of March-end, the company had gross investments and cash equivalents of ₹13,846 crore in high quality debt instruments. Total borrowings outstanding was at ₹8,252 crore.

The company expects to complete its 5.1 tonnes per annum fertilizer plant and innovative hot acid leaching technology for recovery of lead and silver from smelting waste at Dariba by the September quarter.

'MINE' STONE OF 1.1 MT

Arun Misra, Chief Executive Officer, said the company's full year mined metal production crossed a key milestone of 1.1 million tonnes.

"We have also delivered the lowest cost of production of despite the ongoing geopolitical challenges with the focus on strong execution and unwavering focus on value creation," he said.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:25/4/2026 P.NO.8

Global crude steel output fell 4.2% in March dragged by China's production

Gayathri G
Chennai

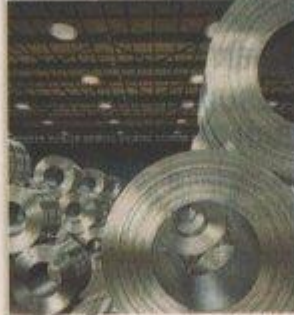
Global crude steel production declined in March 2026, weighed down by sharp contractions in key producing regions even as India and a few others posted strong growth.

According to the World Steel Association, output across 69 countries, accounting for about 98 per cent of global production, fell 4.2 per cent year-on-year to 159.9 million tonnes (mt).

The downturn was largely driven by China, the number 1 steel producer, where output dropped 6.3 per cent to 87 mt in March.

INDIA, US

For the January-March period, China's production was down 4.6 per cent at 247.6 mt.



In contrast, India maintained strong momentum, with production rising 9.4 per cent year-on-year to 15.3 mt in March and 10.8 per cent in the first quarter, reinforcing its position as the fastest-growing major producer.

The output in the US was up 5.2 per cent to 7.2 mt in March, while Germany and Türkiye recorded increases of 7.5 per cent and 6.4 per cent, respectively. Across re-

gions, the trend remained uneven.

REGIONAL TRENDS

Asia and Oceania, which account for the bulk of global output, saw production fall 3.9 per cent to 119.3 mt; the EU recorded a 4.6 per cent decline to 11.4 mt. The Middle East's output plunged by 33.5 per cent, while Russia and other CIS countries, along with Ukraine, reported a 7.9 per cent decline.

In contrast, Africa and North America posted growth of 11.6 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively, while production in "Europe, Other" rose 4.9 per cent.

QUARTERLY OUTPUT

For the first quarter of 2026 (Jan-March), global crude steel production stood at 459.2 mt, down 2.3 per cent from a year earlier.

Polluting Neri Iron Ore Unit Ignores MPCB Notice Slapped A Month Ago

Closure & Fines On Cards If Env Norms Continued To Be Violated

Sumukh Kulkarni | TNN

Nagpur: The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) is facing serious questions over enforcement lapses after an iron ore processing unit in Neri village failed to respond to a show-cause notice for more than a month, even as pollution complaints continue to mount.

The unit, accused of blanketing the village, crops, and water sources with coal dust, was inspected by MPCB officials on February 26 following complaints from the local gram panchayat and residents. The in-

INSPECTION ON FEB 26, NOTICE ON MAR 17

<p>➤ MPCB inspected unit on Feb 26 after complaints from gram panchayat and residents about coal dust affecting the village, crops and water sources</p>	<p>➤ As per report, unit lacked enclosed storage for raw materials & finished goods, lack of pucca roads causing more dust due to vehicles inside premises</p>	
<p>➤ Inspection reportedly identified unchecked fugitive emissions from the rotary kiln and coal conveyor systems</p>	<p>➤ Wastewater accumulating as workers' quarters did not have septic tanks or soak pits, finds survey</p>	
<p>➤ Survey found inadequate or missing dust suppression measures such as water sprinkling systems</p>	<p>➤ MPCB show-cause notice on March 17 required a response and corrective action plan in seven days</p>	

➤ As of April 24, company has neither replied nor taken visible remedial steps



spection reportedly revealed violations of environmental norms, including unchecked fugitive emissions from the rotary kiln and coal conveyor systems,

pointing to inadequate dust suppression mechanisms. MPCB issued a show-cause notice on March 17, giving the company seven days to submit

its explanation and a corrective action plan. As of April 24, the unit has neither responded nor taken visible corrective steps. The inaction has raised con-

cerns about regulatory oversight and accountability in pollution control enforcement. Regional Officer Hema Deshpande said even after repeated follow-ups, no reply or compliance report has been received. "The board has now initiated further steps," said Deshpande. A remote monitoring van was deployed on Friday to assess pollution levels, and a report from the sub-regional office is awaited. Deshpande said the matter would be escalated to the MPCB headquarters in Mumbai for approval of stricter action. "Action may include financial penalties and even closure if violations continue," she said. The delay in enforcement has drawn criticism, especially as residents continue to suffer the impact of pollution. The company has refuted all allegations, claiming full compliance with environmental norms.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:25/4/2026 P.NO.14

JSW and JFE forge ₹32K crore steel JV

Odisha project proposes 6 mtpa capacity expansion

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
Bhubaneswar, 24 April

India's largest steelmaker, JSW Steel, and Japan's JFE Steel Corporation on Friday announced a 50:50 joint venture (JV) for a proposed 6 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) expansion of the JSW-acquired Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd (BPSL) facility in Odisha's Sambalpur, with an estimated investment of about ₹32,000 crore, marking one of the biggest recent foreign-backed steel sector investments in the eastern part of the country.

The brownfield expansion at the Sambalpur facility is expected to significantly increase the company's production footprint as domestic steel demand gains momentum from infrastructure, automotive, engineering and construction sectors.

The companies also unveiled the new corporate identity — JSW JFE Steel Ltd — for the integrated steel operations at an event attended by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Japanese Ambassador to India Kelichi Ono, JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal, JFE Holdings President and Chief Executive Officer Yoshihisa Kitano, and JSW Cement and JSW Paints Managing Director Parth Jindal.

Under the agreement, the integrated steel operations of BPSL will be transferred to the new joint venture, JSW JFE Steel Ltd, in which JFE Steel Corporation will hold a 50 per cent stake valued at ₹15,750 crore. The venture is expected to



CM Mohan Charan Majhi unveiled the JV plaque in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal in Odisha's Sambalpur on Friday

support further capacity expansion beyond the current target and accelerate production of higher-grade and specialised steel products. Majhi said the project represents Odisha's largest-ever Japanese investment and would expand the existing capacity of JSW Steel's Sambalpur plant to 10 mtpa. "I reaffirm Odisha's long-term industrial vision and we are committed to producing 100 mtpa steel by 2030," he said.

Majhi said Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Bargarh and Deogarh would emerge as part of a Sambalpur growth corridor, similar to the state capital region. "Investments worth ₹1 trillion will be brought in by industries, generating more than 200,000 jobs," he added.

Speaking at the event, Jindal said JSW JFE Steel represented more than a joint venture and reflected the vision of two industrial groups shaping the future of Indian steelmaking. "The part-

nership that began in 2009 has evolved into a deep strategic bond. The combination of JSW's speed and execution capabilities with JFE's technological expertise will create a major force in the steel sector," he said.

Kitano said the JSW JFE Steel venture marked the next phase of cooperation between the two groups through an integrated steelworks operation in India.

He said the combination of JFE's advanced steelmaking technologies and JSW's operational scale would create value for stakeholders while contributing to India's industrial development.

The Sambalpur steel complex has rail and road connectivity and proximity to iron ore reserves in one of India's largest mineral-bearing belts. The location is expected to provide raw material security and improve cost competitiveness for the plant.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:25/4/2026 P.NO.5

Hind Zinc Plans to Double Output by 2030, may Revive Demerger Plan

ALL-TIME HIGHS Co reports profit surge of 68% in Jan-Mar, revenue grows 49% to ₹13,544 crore

Nikita Periwai

Mumbai: Hindustan Zinc is set to announce the next leg of its growth plan by July-August, chief executive officer Arun Misra said. Discussions for a demerger may also be back on the table after the demerger of its parent company Vedanta is completed, he said.

The Vedanta-owned company plans to double its production capacity by the end of the decade. The country's largest producer of zinc and silver currently has a production capacity of 1.13 million tonne, of which 919,000 tonne is for zinc.

In 2025, it announced adding 250,000 tonne of capacity, which is likely to be commissioned in fiscal 2029. "In the next phase, we will add about 650 KT, this will be for a smelter and some mills," Misra told ET in an exclusive interaction.

By 2030, Hindustan Zinc plans to have a refined metal capacity of 1.59 million tonne for zinc and 410,000 tonne for lead. The production capacity for silver will rise to 1,500 tonne per annum from 800 tonne currently.

Vedanta will spend \$500-600 million on capital expenditure for growth projects in the current fiscal. It will also spend around \$400-450 million as maintenance capex, taking its total spend for the year north of \$1 billion.

In 2023, the board of Hindustan Zinc had proposed splitting its business into different verticals, but the plan was opposed by the Government of India on concerns that it may not be beneficial for minority shareholders. The government owns a 27.92% stake in the company.

"After the demerger process (for Vedanta) is complete, would be the right time to talk about it," Misra said. "I don't want to put a



timeline, but let's see how it pans out," he said.

The company reported its quarterly earnings on Friday, and its revenue, profit and earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) were at an all-time high in the March quarter. The company made a profit of ₹5,033 crore in Jan-Mar, up 68% compared to the previous year. Revenue surged 49% on year to ₹13,544 crore while Ebitda was at ₹7,747 crore up 61% on year. Ebitda margin for the quarter rose 420 basis points on year to 57%.

For fiscal 2026, Hindustan Zinc made a profit of ₹13,832 crore on a revenue of ₹40,844 crore. Ebitda for the year stood at ₹22,162 crore. All three of the metrics were at an all-time high, boosted by the surge in silver prices, which contributed to about 45% of the company's overall profitability. For fiscal 2027, Hindustan Zinc has guided for producing 1.1 million tonne of refined metal, and 680 tonne of silver.

THE HINDU DATE:25/4/2026 P.NO.15

Mines ministry announce ₹5,000 cr. incentive scheme

Seeking to incentivise States towards ensuring that mines are placed faster for auctions, the Ministry of Mines has instituted an incentive scheme with an outlay of ₹5,000 crore for FY 2026-27. Incorporated under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), it centres around quicker operationalisation of mines, readiness in placing mines for auction, governance and integration with the Ministry's central monitoring portal.

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:26/4/2026 P.NO.3

'Bike raid' crack down on illegal sand mining in Melghat region



The tipper truck and poclain machine seized by the revenue officials after conducting a raid at Tapi riverbed in Melghat region in the early hours of Saturday.

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK
DHARNI (AMRAVATI)

In a decisive crack-down on illegal sand mining, the officials of revenue department carried out a daring midnight raid at the Sonabardi sand ghat on the Tapi river in Melghat region. Sub-divisional officer Siddharth Shukla personally led the operation, adopting an un-

conventional strategy to outsmart the sand mafia. Acting on repeated complaints of large-scale illegal sand extraction, Shukla kept the mission highly confidential. In a surprise move, he avoided the use of official vehicles and instead reached the spot on a motorcycle with two staff members around midnight. The unexpected arrival caught the offenders

■ On reaching the site, the team found sand being illegally loaded into tippers and dumpers. As soon as the officials appeared, panic spread among workers and machine operators, many of whom fled under the cover of darkness.

■ Despite this, the team acted swiftly and managed to seize one poclain machine, one tipper truck, and one camper vehicle involved in the activity.

completely off guard. Speaking after the raid, Shukla issued a stern warning, stating that illegal sand mining and transportation will not be tolerated anywhere.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:28/4/2026 P.NO.9

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AT ALL-TIME HIGH

Acquisitions Turn Earnings Drivers for UltraTech in Q4

Nikita Periwal

Mumbai: UltraTech Cement reported a record quarterly earnings boosted by a sharp efficiency improvements in its acquired units, India Cements and Kesoram's building materials business which could improve further in the current fiscal year. It declared an unprecedented pay-out of ₹240 a share.

"Both India Cements and Kesoram have fully migrated into the UltraTech brand. Cost improvements are underway and the FY27 P&L will start reflecting the benefits of this investment," chief financial officer Atul Daga said on Wednesday.

The Aditya Birla Group company is the largest producer of cement in the country with an installed capacity of more than 200 million tonnes. The brand conversion for India Cements and Kesoram was completed in March, and the two assets currently represent around 13% of the company's consolidated capacity.

"As the cost improvement capex matures, they will be a meaningful and growing source of growth level Ebitda accretion," Daga said on a call post the company's quarterly earnings.

The brand conversion also contributed to UltraTech bettering realisations made on each tonne of cement sold both on a sequential and a year-on-year basis.

The company's consolidated profit for the March quarter was, in fact, at an all-time high of ₹3,000 crore, while net sales grew 12% on year to ₹25,467 crore. Profit before interest, depreciation and taxation (PBIDT) was also at an all-time high of ₹5,688 crore, while the operating PBIDT made on each tonne of cement stood at ₹1,253. Operating margin expanded to 22%, a 200-basis point improvement year-on-year.

For fiscal 2026, UltraTech's net sales rose 17% on year to ₹87,384 crore, while consolidated PBIDT rose 32% to an all-time high ₹17,598 crores. Consolidated profit stood at ₹8,188 crore.

"We enter fiscal 27 in a stronger strategic position than at any point in our history," Daga said.

The company will invest ₹10,000 crore annually on capital expenditure for at least the next five years. "Future capex pipeline remains fully funded and the growth story is intact," he said.

INDIA CEMENTS, KESORAM

India Cements made an operating Ebitda of ₹497 in the March quarter, up from ₹305 in the December quarter, and an operating loss in the March quarter last year.

In April last year, UltraTech had said that the Ebitda per tonne of India Cements would top ₹1,000 by the end of fiscal 2028, with an aim of crossing ₹500 per tonne in fiscal 2026, and ₹800 per tonne in fiscal 2027.

"Price improvements and the real efficiency and integration benefits will start flowing now. It will be one product which is leaving from all the 9 factories of India Cement," Daga said. "My performance will go up further in terms of earnings potential from India Cements."

The cement assets of Kesoram are already generating an Ebitda per tonne of ₹1,000, in line with assets in Southern India.

12%

RISE IN NET SALES FOR Q4 AT ₹25,467 CR



NAVBHARAT

DATE:26/4/2026 P.NO.7

खनन क्षेत्र को गति

दिल्ली. सरकार ने खनन ब्लॉक की नीलामी और उन्हें चालू करने की प्रक्रिया तेज करने के लिए राज्यों को 5,000 करोड़ रुपये का वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन देने की घोषणा की. इस योजना के तीन घटक हैं. यह खनन प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाने एवं प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित निगरानी अपनाने पर राज्यों को 'पहले आओ, पहले पाओ' के आधार पर प्रोत्साहित करेगी. खनन मंत्रालय ने कहा गत वित्त वर्ष की सफलता के बाद 2026-27 के लिए राज्यों को पूंजी निवेश हेतु विशेष सहायता योजना में खनन क्षेत्र सुधारों के लिए 5,000 करोड़ रुपये का प्रोत्साहन तंत्र शामिल किया गया है.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:28/4/2026 P.NO.2

Hindustan Zinc to expand rare earth portfolio

Suresh P Iyengar
Mumbai

Hindustan Zinc plans to expand its portfolio by adding three new metals over the next five years, tapping into a pipeline of 10 mineral blocks, currently under exploration. Arun Mishra, CEO, said the company had recently secured a rare earth mineral block, containing monazite, in Uttar Pradesh and is awaiting regulatory clearances before commencing geological exploration.

"We are waiting to get the licence, sign an agreement and then we will do the geological exploration," he said. Monazite is a mineral rich in neodymium, a key rare earth element used in permanent magnets for electric vehicles

(EVs), wind turbines and electronics.

FOCUS ON MINING

The mining of rare earth minerals has become key focus for India in recent times, as China cracked down on its exports for protecting the reserve for self-use. The curb in Chinese exports hit various industries, including battery and EV manufacturers.

As of March 2021, India had an estimated 12.73 million tonne of monazite, mostly along beach sands in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, according to the Indian Mineral Yearbook.

In all, Hindustan Zinc has 10 mineral blocks and the internal target over the next five years is to add three more metals and it can be



Arun Mishra,
CEO, Hindustan Zinc

copper, gold or any other metal, he added.

"We have to ensure there is no forest cover, then we can start exploration immediately. So, we are targeting exploration sometime by July or August in all the

blocks," he said.

The company started diversifying its mineral portfolio by acquiring potash and tungsten blocks. The acquisition enhances Hindustan Zinc's footprint in India's critical minerals space, especially within the rare earth ecosystem vital to defence, electronics, and clean energy.

SILVER DEMAND

Despite high volatility and rally in silver, Mishra expects the demand to remain strong from photovoltaics and cell manufacturing.

No other metal has better conductivity than silver, apart from gold. The industrial application of silver will continue to rise and hence prices are bound to increase, he added.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:28/4/2026 P.NO.10

China's metals industry racked up huge profits in Q1

Bloomberg

China's metals industry began this year with its biggest profits in at least a decade as soaring prices for aluminium and copper handed the sector a major boost.

Total profits for smelting and pressing of non-ferrous metals across the country more than doubled to reach 142 billion yuan (\$21 billion) in the first quarter, according to the National Bureau of Statistics data. That's the highest level since back to 2016. Metal prices rocketed higher at the start of the year, with copper and gold hitting records and aluminium surging to its highest since 2022.

The big jump in metal-making profits reflects a broader reflation underway across the Chinese economy.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:29/4/2026 P.NO.3

Sand Mafia Runs Riot Across Nagpur, Border Dists As GPS, Geo-Fencing Fail

Enforcement Gaps Leading To Huge Loss

Soumitra Bose
 @timesofindia.com

Nagpur: Sand mafia continues to dominate river ghats with brazen impunity with GPS tracking and geo-fencing safeguards failing to curb illegal mining. Repeated crackdowns, govt directives and Supreme Court guidelines have done little to deter the sand syndicates, raising alarm among authorised ghat operators.

Officials admit enforcement gaps. "Action is taken, but manpower shortage and competing responsibilities

KANHAN UNDER SIEGE, ACTION SOUGHT



AI Image

With construction demand rising, illegal extraction shows little sign of slowing. Without consistent enforcement of geo-fencing and prompt action on alerts, river systems face escalating degradation

- > Kanhan river, a crucial source of water supply and agriculture, under stress
- > Rapid bank erosion, falling groundwater levels, and disrupted flow patterns raise concern
- > In one instance, operators erected an unauthorised steel bridge across the river to facilitate transport
- > Licensed operators have called for stricter monitoring
- > They seek drone surveillance, real-time tracking of GPS alerts, and legal action against violators

dilute the response," a senior officer said.

Geo-fencing alerts designed to prevent mining in closed zones are largely ignored, allowing the mafia to extract sand worth crores of rupees,

while causing significant ecological damage and royalty loss to govt, a ghat owner told TOI.

GPS-enabled trucks continue to ply through unauthorised routes along Kanhan ri-

ver and other ghats in Nagpur and adjoining Bhandara and Chandrapur.

Analysis of GPS data in several cases, including those probed by Enforcement Directorate (ED) earlier this ye-

ar, revealed vehicles do not move to legally permitted sand ghats mentioned in Electronic Transit Permits. Instead, they operate exclusively in illegal mining zones. Automated geo-fencing

alerts generated when vehicles enter restricted areas have prompted little response, officials acknowledged. "The alerts are system-generated, but follow-up action is often lacking," a senior revenue officer said.

Illegal excavation has intensified even after several ghats were officially shut, with heavy machinery operating at night. Police recently arrested an alleged key operator, Kallu Khan, after a prolonged pursuit, pointing to a wider network.

Revenue losses remain substantial, with thousands of illegal mining cases reported statewide this year, including several from Nagpur. While enforcement teams periodically seize vehicles and equipment, convictions are rare.

LOKMAT TIMES (NAGPUR FIRST) DATE:29/4/2026 P.NO.3

Govt steps back on Lohardongri mine; 'ask us first before resumption', says HC

State cites pending PIL and environmental concerns before court

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK
NAGPUR

Taking into account the pending public interest litigation before the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court and opposition from environmental groups and citizens, the State Government has itself stayed the proposed iron ore mine at Lohardongri in Chandrapur district. The court has also made it mandatory for the government to seek prior permission before taking any decision to restart the mine in future. Lohardongri village is lo-



cated in Brahmapuri taluka of Chandrapur district. The matter came up for hearing on Tuesday before a division bench of Justice Anil Kilor and Justice Raj Wakode. During the hearing, the government informed the court about its decision to stay the mining project. The court took the statement on record and clarified that any future move to resume the mine would require permission of

the High Court. The government had earlier granted approval to the mine despite objections raised by a State-level expert committee. The proposed mining site falls in an ecologically sensitive wildlife zone linked to the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and lies in a corridor connecting tiger habitats between Tadoba-Andhari and Umred-Karhandla forests.

Environmentalists had warned that the project could threaten the habitat of nearly 60 tigers and several other wildlife species. The expert committee had recommended that mining should not be permitted in the forest area,

but approval was granted nevertheless.

It was also pointed out that eight tigers are present in the immediate mining zone. Several Schedule-I protected species are also found there. Trees such as Shelzhari, Saja, Bija, Heddu, Bhirra and Nirmali, which provide shelter to tigers and wildlife, are present in the area. More than 18,000 trees were proposed to be cut for the project.

Court-appointed amicus curiae Adv. Gopal Mishra, along with Adv. Asim Sarode and Adv. Smita Sarode-Singalkar, argued against the mining project.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:29/4/2026 P.NO.10

Buy aluminium futures on a dip to ₹360

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Aluminium futures have been in an uptrend.

On Monday, the April contract hit a high of ₹380.60, and the May contract touched a peak of ₹379.65.

Since the former is about to expire on Thursday (April 30), we shall consider the latter for analysis.

COMMODITY CALL.

The chart shows that the uptrend is steady and there are no signs of a bearish reversal. However, there is a possibility of a corrective decline since ₹380 is a hurdle. The temporary moderation could drag aluminium futures (May) to ₹360. The



downtrend could extend to ₹350. Once the rally resumes, the contract could rise to ₹395. However, if the support at ₹350 is breached, the price could drop to ₹328.

TRADE STRATEGY

Buy aluminium futures when the price drops to ₹360. Place stop-loss at ₹345.

When the contract rises to ₹385, alter the stop-loss to ₹370. Book profits at ₹395.

LOKMAT (MARATHI) DATE:29/4/2026 P.NO.6

लोहारडोंगरीतील लोह खनिज खाणीला सरकारचीच स्थगिती

पुढील निर्णयासाठी हायकोर्टाची परवानगी आवश्यक

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : मुंबई उच्च न्यायालयाच्या नागपूर खंडपीठात प्रलंबित जनहित याचिका आणि पर्यावरणाच्या संरक्षणासाठी लढणाऱ्या संस्था व नागरिकांचा विरोध विचारात घेता राज्य सरकारने स्वतःच लोहारडोंगरी येथील लोह खनिज खाणीला स्थगिती दिली आहे. तसेच, यापुढे ही खाण सुरू करण्यासाठी सरकारला उच्च न्यायालयाची परवानगी घेणे बंधनकारक करण्यात आले आहे. लोहारडोंगरी हे गाव चंद्रपूर जिल्ह्यातल्या ब्रह्मपुरी वनविभागात आहे.

या प्रकरणावर मंगळवारी न्यायमूर्तिद्वय अनिल किलोर व राज वाकोडे यांच्यासमक्ष सुनावणी झाली. दरम्यान, सरकारने खाण स्थगितीच्या निर्णयाची माहिती दिली. त्यानंतर न्यायालयाने हा निर्णय रेकॉर्डवर घेतला. तसेच, भविष्यात ही खाण सुरू करण्यासाठी या न्यायालयाची परवानगी घ्यावी लागेल, असे स्पष्ट केले. सरकारने राज्यस्तरीय तज्ज्ञ समितीचा विरोध डावलून ताडोबा-अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील अतिसंवेदनशील वन्यजीव क्षेत्रामध्ये या खाणीला मंजुरी दिली होती. ही खाण ताडोबा-अंधारी ते उमरेड-कऱ्हांडला या वाघांची घनता असलेल्या



जंगलांना जोडणाऱ्या मार्गिकेत येते. त्यामुळे ६० वाघांसह इतर वन्यजीवांचा अधिवास धोक्यात येण्याची शक्यता व्यक्त केली जात होती. तज्ज्ञांच्या समितीने ही खाण जंगलात होऊ नये, असा अहवाल दिला होता. त्यानंतरही खाण मंजूर करण्यात आली होती. खाण परिसरातच आठ वाघ आहेत. अनुसूची एकमधील इतरही प्राण्यांचे वास्तव्य याठिकाणी आहे. वाघांना आश्रय देणारी शेलझरी, साजा, बीजा, हेदू, भिरा आणि निर्माळीची झाडे आहेत. या प्रकल्पाकरिता १८ हजारांहून अधिक झाडेसुद्धा तोडली जाणार होती. न्यायालयमित्र अॅड. गोपाल मिश्रा, अॅड. असीम सरोदे व अॅड. स्मिता सरोदे-सिंगलकर यांनी खाणविरोधात बाजू मांडली.

NAVBHARAT DATE:30/4/2026 P.NO.7

सोने की चमक और बढ़ी

जनवरी-मार्च
तिमाही में वैश्विक
मांग 2% बढ़ी

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. भू-राजनीतिक तनाव और सुरक्षित निवेश के रूप में सोने के आकर्षण के चलते वैश्विक स्तर पर इसकी मांग में बढ़ा उछाल देखने को मिला है. वर्ल्ड गोल्ड काउंसिल की बुधवार को जारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, साल 2026 की जनवरी-मार्च तिमाही में सोने की कुल वैश्विक मांग सालाना आधार पर 2 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 1,231 टन हो गई है. साल 2025 की इसी तिमाही में यह मांग 1,205 टन दर्ज की गई थी. भले ही मांग की कुल मात्रा में मामूली वृद्धि हुई है, लेकिन सोने की मांग का मूल्य सालाना आधार पर 74 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 193 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर पहुंच गया है. जनवरी-मार्च तिमाही के दौरान सोने की औसत कीमत 81 प्रतिशत उछलकर 4,873 डॉलर प्रति औंस रही, जबकि 2025 की समान अवधि में यह 2,860 डॉलर प्रति औंस थी. डब्ल्यूजीसी की वरिष्ठ बाजार विश्लेषक लुईस स्ट्रीट के अनुसार, वर्ष 2026 में सोने की अस्थिरता

केंद्रीय बैंकों की खरीदारी और कुल आपूर्ति

जनवरी-मार्च तिमाही में केंद्रीय बैंकों ने भी मांग को समर्थन देते हुए अपने वैश्विक भंडार में 244 टन सोना जोड़ा. भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने भी इस तिमाही के दौरान 300 किलोग्राम सोने की ताजा खरीदारी की है. वहीं तुर्की, रूस और अजरबैजान के केंद्रीय बैंकों द्वारा कुछ बिकवाली भी की गई. भौतिक रूप से समर्थित गोल्ड इंटीग्रेफ होल्डिंग्स में भी 62 टन की वृद्धि हुई जिसमें एशियाई फंडों (84 टन) का बड़ा योगदान रहा. जबकि मार्च में अमेरिकी फंडों से निकासी देखी गई. आपूर्ति के मोर्चे पर खदान उत्पादन रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर रहा और रिसाइकलिंग में 5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई जिससे कुल वैश्विक आपूर्ति 2 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 1,231 टन हो गई. लुईस स्ट्रीट के अनुसार, भू-राजनीतिक जोखिमों के चलते विशेषकर एशिया में निवेश की मांग आगे भी मजबूत रहने की उम्मीद है. हालांकि पश्चिमी देशों में लंबी अवधि तक उच्च ब्याज दरें बाजार के लिए कुछ चुनौतियां खड़ी कर सकती हैं. आपूर्ति पक्ष में खदान उत्पादन में मामूली वृद्धि की उम्मीद है लेकिन संभावित ऊर्जा संकट इस आउटलुक को प्रभावित कर सकता है.

WGC ने कहा, रिकॉर्ड कीमतों के बावजूद मांग बढ़ी
1,231 टन हो गई वैश्विक मांग बढ़कर | 1,205 टन दर्ज की गई थी वर्ष 2025 में | 193 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर पर मांग का मूल्य



बार और सिक्कों में निवेश बढ़ा आभूषणों की मांग घटी

इस तिमाही में सोने के बार (छड़) और सिक्कों के निवेश में 42 प्रतिशत का भारी उछाल देखा गया, जो कुल 474 टन रहा. डब्ल्यूजीसी के क्षेत्रीय सीईओ (भारत) सचिन जैन ने कहा कि भू-राजनीतिक तनाव ने दुनिया भर के खुदरा निवेशकों को सोने की कीमतों की गति और सुरक्षित निवेश की अपील की ओर आकर्षित किया है.

काफी बढ़ गई है, और जनवरी में इसकी कीमत 5,400 डॉलर प्रति औंस के उच्चतम स्तर को भी पार कर गई थी.

प्रमुख क्षेत्रीय और सेक्टरल आंकड़े

□ चीन और अन्य बाजार : चीन में बार और सिक्कों की मांग सालाना आधार पर 67 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 207 टन के रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर पहुंच गई. भारत, दक्षिण कोरिया और जापान के साथ-साथ अमेरिका (14%) और यूरोप (50%) में भी इनकी खरीदारी में मजबूत वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है.

किस रूप में कितना गोल्ड

216,265 टन 38,666 टन

सोना निकाला जा चुका है
दुनिया में अब तक

यानी 18% सोना जमा है
केंद्रीय बैंकों के पास

97,645 टन 50,978 टन

सोना है ज्वेलरी के रूप में

हे इनवेस्टमेंट रिटर्नेड
होल्डिंग्स के रूप में

32,602 टन इंडस्ट्रियल यूज और प्राइवेट रिजर्व में

सोने की ऐतिहासिक उड़ान

81% 4,873

से अधिक औसत
कीमत में उछल

डॉलर प्रति औंस पर
यह देश खरीद रहे हैं
सबसे ज्यादा

42%

से अधिक सिक्कों
और बार में निवेश

67%

50%

14%

474 टन

पर पहुंचा आंकड़ा

चीन यूरोप अमेरिका

बाजार में क्या
चल रहा है 23% आभूषणों की
मांग में गिरावट

□ आभूषण बाजार पर असर : ऊंची कीमतों के दबाव में सोने के आभूषणों की कुल मांग सालाना आधार पर 23 प्रतिशत गिरकर 300 टन रह गई. इस दौरान चीन में 32 प्रतिशत, मध्य पूर्व में 23 प्रतिशत और भारत में 19 प्रतिशत की गिरावट दर्ज की गई.

□ मूल्य में वृद्धि : मात्रा में गिरावट के बावजूद मूल्य के लिहाज से आभूषणों की मांग में वृद्धि हुई है जो रिकॉर्ड कीमतों के बाद भी उपभोक्तकों की सोने पर खर्च करने की इच्छा को दर्शाता है.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:30/4/2026 P.NO.5

Maha puts mining project near Chanda tiger corridor on hold

Mazhar Ali | TNN

Chandrapur: Maharashtra govt has put the proposed Lohardongri iron ore mining project in Chandrapur district on hold, citing ongoing legal proceedings and growing environmental concerns. The decision was conveyed to Nagpur bench of the Bombay high court on Tuesday.

A division bench of Justices Anil Kilar and Raj Wakode recorded govt's decision and made it clear the mine



cannot resume in future without prior permission from the high court.

The project had faced strong resistance from environmental organisations and local citizens as the site is located in a sensitive forest area within Bramhapuri forest division.

Experts had warned mining here could threaten habitat of around 60 tigers, including 8 near the project. Despite an adverse report from a state-level expert committee, the project had earlier received govt approval.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:30/4/2026 P.NO.2

Vedanta Q4 net profit up 89% on metal prices rally

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta recorded 89 per cent increase in March quarter net profit at ₹9,352 crore on the back of higher aluminium and zinc prices.

Revenue jumped 29 per cent to ₹51,524 crore (₹39,789 crore).

EBITDA in Q4 increased 59 per cent to ₹18,447 crore (₹11,618 crore) on back of higher realisation in both zinc and aluminium business besides rupee depreciation against dollar.

The company is in the process of demerging its business into five different listed companies and fixed May 1 as the record date.

Post the merger, the business will be split into Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Power (formerly Talwandi



Sabo Power), Vedanta Oil & Gas (formerly Malco Energy), Vedanta Iron and Steel and Vedanta (includes Hindustan Zinc, Zinc International, Copper, and Facor).

Shareholders will get 1 share each in the new companies for every share held in Vedanta.

Revenue from zinc, lead and silver surged 44 per cent to ₹12,672 crore in the

Q4 performance

	Q4 FY25	Q4 FY26
Revenue (₹ cr)	39,789	51,524
Net profit (₹ cr)	4,961	9,352
EPS (Diluted) (₹)	8.85	17.01

quarter, helped by robust zinc and silver prices in London Metal Exchange. Aluminium revenues also increased 17 per cent to ₹18,753 crore, aided by favourable prices due to a scarcity in the global supply, said the company. Zinc India EBITDA rose 61 per cent to ₹7,743 crore, as it recorded lowest cost of production in five years. Meanwhile, revenue from iron ore increased 13 per cent to ₹1,722 crore and EBITDA surged 32 per cent to ₹411 crore, amid 1 per cent decline in saleable iron production.

Steel business saw a 12 per

cent rise in revenue at ₹2,107 crore amid robust domestic prices.

COPPER BIZ

Copper business bounced back to profit at ₹8 crore after a loss of ₹49 crore logged last year. For the full year, Vedanta reported net profit of ₹25,096 crore, up 22 per cent year-on-year, and revenue of ₹1.74 lakh crore, up 15 per cent. Arun Misra, Executive Director, Vedanta, said the company deployed ₹14,918 crore of growth capex, commissioning key projects including Lanjigarh Train II, the new BALCO smelter, downstream expansions at Jharsuguda, the Debari roaster at Zinc India, and 1.3 GW of power capacity.

The focus going ahead will be to increase value added products and improve cost efficiency, he added.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:30/4/2026 P.NO.10

Go long on copper futures at ₹1,278

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Copper futures have been trading flat for about two weeks now. The April contract has been consolidating between ₹1,255 and ₹1,290 per kg, whereas the May contract has been oscillating between ₹1,270 and ₹1,305.

COMMODITY CALL.

Since the April contract is expiring on Thursday (April 30), we shall consider May futures for analysis. Copper futures (May) saw an upswing in price, from ₹1,100 to 1,305 between final week of March and mid-April, before the ongoing sideways trend. Therefore, broadly, until the support at ₹1,100 holds, the bias will remain positive.

If May futures break out of ₹1,305, they can rally to ₹1,400. On the other hand, if



the contract slips below the support at ₹1,100, it could decline to the ₹1,230-1,250 support band.

TRADE STRATEGY

Last week, we suggested buying copper futures at an average price of ₹1,267 with a stop-loss at ₹1,220. Since the April contract is about to expire, we recommend rolling over the longs to May expiry.

Exit April futures now at ₹1,265 and immediately go long on May contract at ₹1,278. Target and stop-loss can be ₹1,385 and ₹1,220, respectively.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:30/4/2026 P.NO.4

Rare-earth corridor gains drive in Andhra

State targets investments worth ₹50,000 crore in 10 yrs

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 29 April

Andhra Pradesh is preparing an ambitious push into rare earths, targeting investments of more than ₹50,000 crore over the next decade as India seeks to reduce its dependence on China for strategic minerals and permanent magnets.

The state's plans assume significance after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech for 2026-27, announced that the Central government would support the development of rare earth corridors across four coastal states: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

"The state government envisages investments to the tune of more than ₹50,000 crore, spanning mining, mineral separation, as well as value addition plants in the beach sand mineral sector over the next 10 years," a senior state government official told *Business Standard*.

Andhra Pradesh is also working to expedite the formulation of a comprehensive rare earth policy. "It is expected that the policy will be approved by the Cabinet and will be notified latest by June 2026. Subsequently, the state government will notify the industrial parks and RE (rare earth) corridor within the state and proceed with partnering reputed companies for development of an end-to-end industrial ecosystem within the state," the official said. *Business Standard* had first



Critical push

- Policy approval and notification targeted by June
- Three specialised coastal industrial clusters planned
- Sixteen mineral deposits identified across the Andhra coast
- Ten companies express early investment interest
- APMDC to hold leases and supply feedstock
- Model enables private sector participation
- Rare earth magnets key focus area

reported in February that Kerala had moved into the execution phase of a proposed ₹42,000 crore rare earth corridor, emerging as the first state to operationalise the Centre's strategic minerals push. In March, this newspaper also reported that the Department of Atomic Energy had identified potential corridor sites across the four states, including the Vizag-Srikakulam belt in Andhra Pradesh, the Kochi-Thiruvananthapuram belt in Kerala and Gopalpur in Odisha.

Specialised industrial corridors

Andhra Pradesh has now emerged as one of the strongest contenders, unveiling a detailed road map aimed at building a fully integrated beach sand minerals, rare earth and titanium ecosystem. It seeks to build a fully integrated ecosystem covering mining, mineral separation, refining, metal and alloy production, and manufacturing of high-value end products such as rare-earth permanent magnets.

The state is planning three specialised industrial clusters along its coastline. These include a Titanium Park at Srikakulam, a Rare Earth Corridor at Anakapalli, and an integrated Titanium and Rare Earth Park at Machilipatnam. These clusters are intended to create a complete domestic value chain, from mining and mineral separation to advanced manufacturing of rare earth oxides, alloys, permanent magnets, titanium dioxide pigments, titanium sponge and titanium metal.

The move is a strategic bet for the government. China dominates global rare earth processing and permanent magnet manufacturing, while India continues to rely heavily on imports for rare earth magnets. Recent supply disruptions and export controls have highlighted the vulnerability of India's manufacturing supply chains, especially in electric vehicles, defence.

More on [business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com)

THE HITAVADA DATE:30/4/2026 P.NO.9

Vedanta entities to trade by mid-June post-demerger: CEO

NEW DELHI, Apr 29 (PTI)

MINING major Vedanta will file with stock exchanges next week for listing approval of its demerged entities, with shares expected to list and commence trading by mid-June, a top official of the company said on Wednesday.

During an Investor Call on Q4 financial results, Vedanta Resources CEO Deshnee Naidoo said the demerger is now in its final stage.

"In the next week, we will be filing with the exchanges for listing approval. The shares of the resulting companies are expected to list and commence trading by mid-June," she said.

Vedanta Ltd is the Indian arm of Vedanta Resources.

Vedanta CFO Ajay Goel said the company's board has earlier approved Vedanta demerger effective from May 1, and this will entail the creation of five independent sector-specific pure play companies, allowing each company to chart out its own growth

trajectory and attract investors.

The company, he said, has set May 1 as the record date for demerger and added that the shareholders holding one share of Vedanta as on April 29 will

receive four additional shares of the resulting companies.

"We are targeting listing and commencement of trading of these shares by the first quarter of FY'27," he said.

Vedanta Q4 profit zooms 89% to Rs 9,352 crore

NEW DELHI, Apr 29 (PTI)

MINING conglomerate Vedanta Ltd on Wednesday reported an 89 per cent rise in its consolidated profit after tax at Rs 9,352 crore in the quarter ended March 2026, citing higher sales volume amid rising global metal prices as well as the weakening rupee's exchange rate.

In the year-ago period, the Anil Agarwal-led company posted a consolidated PAT (profit after tax) of Rs 4,961 crore.

The revenue from operations during the latest fourth quarter also rose by 29 per cent to Rs 51,524 crore from Rs 39,789 crore a year ago. "4QFY26 consolidated revenue at Rs 51,524 crore, up 29 per cent YoY & 12 per cent QoQ driven by higher LME, volumes, premium, and forex gain," Vedanta said in a statement.

The total expenses of the company during the reporting quarter rose to Rs 19,119 crore from Rs 13,702 crore recorded in the year-ago period, the filing said.