



खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR

Vol. 4, No-2

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

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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 ibmcentrallibrary@gmail.com (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.

All are requested to give wide publicity to it and it will be highly appreciated if the valuable feedback is reciprocated to above email.

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खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR



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FROM
CENTRAL LIBRARY
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VOL. 4, NO-2 , 16th – 31st JANUARY , 2020

BUSINESS LINE DATE : 20/1/2020 P.N.9

GLOBAL	Change in %			
	Price	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Metals (\$/tonne)				
Aluminium	1793	0.7	2.5	-2.8
Copper	6247	1.2	1.2	4.7
Iron Ore	90	2.0	5.5	24.6
Lead	1974	3.2	5.8	1.4
Zinc	2449	2.6	7.1	-4.1
Tin	17770	3.3	2.3	-14.1
Nickel	13836	-2.0	-0.5	19.8

BUSINESS LINE DATE : 27/1/2020 P.N.9

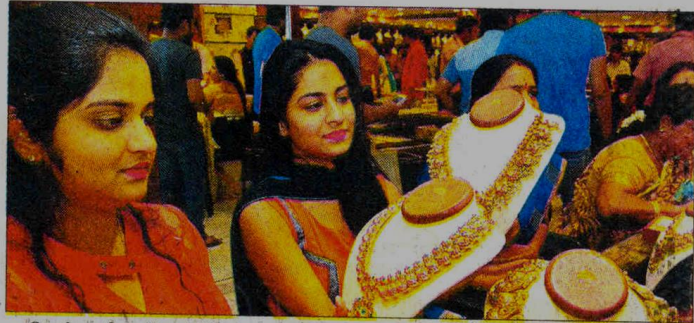
GLOBAL	Change in %			
	Price	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Metals (\$/tonne)				
Aluminium	1770	-1.3	-1.1	-5.5
Copper	5900	-5.6	-4.7	0.1
Iron Ore	89	0.3	5.6	23.6
Lead	1952	-1.1	0.9	-5.8
Zinc	2353	-3.9	3.2	-11.2
Tin	16810	-5.4	-1.9	-20.4
Nickel	12872	-7.0	-9.8	10.0

Jewellery sector seeks reduction in gold customs duty to 6 per cent

■ Business Bureau

AHEAD of the Budget, gems and jewellery industry has sought reduction in import duty on gold to 6 per cent and on cut and polished diamonds to 2.5 per cent to revive the sector.

"The high duty of 12.5 per cent on gold coupled with the goods and services tax has made buying jewellery very costly, affecting consumer demand. After the Budget last year, we have met the Finance Minister several times and we are positive that the Government will look into the industry plight and reduce the customs duty to 6 per cent," All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) Chairman Anantha Padmanaban said.



Saying that liquidity is a major area of concern, he said, the Government should take steps to ensure that banks lend to jewellers. "Banks are staying away from lending to jewellers due to recent incidents of fraud and bankruptcy in the sector. This is affecting manufacturing and many units (are) closing down and (resulting in) lay offs," he

added. The GJC, in a presentation, urged the Government to waive off bank commission on use of credit card or reduce it to 0.20 per cent from 1-1.5 per cent, thus ensuring a boost to 'Digital India' and gems and jewellery industry.

It also sought relief from Capital Gain Tax, which is keeping customers away from buying jewellery.

CORPORATE BUZZ

www.toi.in/psu

WCL CMD awarded

Indian Mine Managers' Association (IMMA) conferred Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, chairman and managing director (CMD) of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), Nagpur with 'IMMA Excellence Award 2020' recently. Mishra was honoured in recognition of his visionary leadership to bring a paradigm shift in operations of the company. He attributes the success to Team WCL.



कोयला खनन पट्टों की नीलामी प्रक्रिया जल्द



सरकार जुटी तैयारी में

एजेंसियां

दिल्ली. सरकार ने कहा कि वह देश में वाणिज्यिक उद्देश्य से कोयला खनन के लिए कोयला ब्लॉक की नीलामी की प्रक्रिया शुरू करने जा रही है और इसमें पहले दौर की नीलामी इसी वित्त वर्ष में की जा सकती है. सरकार के खनन कानूनों को सरल बनाने के लिए

अध्यादेश को मंजूरी देने के कुछ दिन बाद यह घोषणा की गई है.

इससे कोयला खोज और उत्खनन क्षेत्र में वैश्विक कंपनियों को भारत में काम करने की अनुमति मिलेगी. कोयला मंत्रालय ने बयान में कहा कि भारत में स्थापित कंपनी या संयुक्त उद्यम वाणिज्यिक कोयले के लिए कोयला प्रखंडों की नीलामी में भाग लेने के लिए पात्र है. इसमें कहा गया है, "खान तथा खनिज (विकास एवं विनियमन) (एमएमडीआर) अधिनियम, 1957 और कोयला खान (विशेष प्रावधान) अधिनियम, 2015 में हाल के संशोधनों के बाद कोयला मंत्रालय इस दिशा में आगे बढ़ते हुए कोयले की बिक्री हेतु कोयला खदानों की नीलामी के लिए प्रक्रिया शुरू कर रहा है. इसका आयोजन कई चरणों में किया जाना है.

MCX-Zinc is range-bound

COMMODITY CALL

YOGANAND D

BL Research Bureau

The Zinc contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange of India took support at ₹175.3 in December last year and began to trend upwards. Since then, the contract has been in a short-term uptrend. But the contract encountered a key resistance at ₹190 and began a corrective down-move. It is currently trading at ₹184.5. On the downside, the contract has a key support at ₹180.

The daily relative strength index (RSI) is moving in the neutral region, without providing any clear direction. The moving average convergence divergence (MACD) on the daily chart is on the brink of entering the positive territory. A strong rally above ₹190 is needed to strengthen the uptrend and take the contract northwards to ₹195 and then to ₹200 in the short to medium term.

Conversely, if the contract slumps below the immediate support level of ₹180, it could be dragged lower to ₹175 in the short term. Therefore, traders should tread with caution as long as the contract is range-bound between ₹180 and ₹190.

The three-month rolling forward contract of Zinc on the London Metal Exchange is hovering at \$2,388 and has surpassed a key resistance at \$2,350. But it faces key resistances ahead at \$2,400 and \$2,425 levels.

A strong breakthrough of these resistance levels will pave way for an up move to \$2,460. Beyond \$2,460, a vital resistance is at \$2,500. Supports for the contract are at \$2,350 and \$2,270.

Trading strategy

As the price of the contract on the MCX is range-bound between ₹180 and ₹190, traders can take a cautious approach and avoid trading in it until the range is breached on either side and a clear short-term trend is set.

BUSINESS LINE DATE : 17/1/2020 P.N.4

Gold demand to remain soft in India in 2020: WGC

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, January 16

Consumer and gold trade sentiment may remain soft in India through 2020, the World Gold Council (WGC) has said.

However, structural reforms undertaken in the country will support demand in the long term, WGC said in its latest 'Outlook 2020' report.

"In India, policy reforms designed to bring transparency and an orderly trade structure to many sectors of the economy are expected to improve confidence, remove inefficiencies and promote growth. We expect these factors to be a long-term positive for gold demand although their effects may take time to become apparent," the report said.

Volatility, tax factors

Clearly, WGC sees gold price volatility and higher taxes deterring Indian consumers. Tax cuts have to be introduced as a credible incentive to spur economic growth, the report said, highlighting that higher taxes are exacerbating the impact of the record high local gold price on consumption.

While the introduction of mandatory hallmarking for gold jewellery at the beginning of the year may enhance consumer trust, this potential

initial disruption should not be ignored, WGC has said.

David Tait, Chief Executive Officer, WGC, who was in India last week, had expressed hope that India would have a 'spot exchange' for gold this calendar year.

A 'spot exchange' — when it becomes a reality — is expected to usher in transparency and thereby benefit consumers and small jewellers.

Indications are that the gold consumption in India slipped in 2019 as against the level in previous year.

Hallmarking move

On the mandatory hallmarking initiative, PR Somasundaram, Managing Director India, WGC, said this reform, backed by a tight enforcement mechanism, will underpin trust and a change of perception about Indian gold jewellery, creating a favourable environment to market our famed handcrafting skills appropriately.

To make this a smooth success, government and the industry players should also create a strong consumer pull, through consumer awareness campaigns, he said.

"Hallmarking will also create a level playing field, benefiting small players", he added.

NGT bans mining of quartz, feldspar in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, January 17

The National Green Tribunal Friday banned mining of quartz and feldspar minerals in Nagarkurnool district in Telangana and directed the Centre to conduct Environment Impact Assessment appraisal as per the EIA Notification of 2006.

A bench comprising Justices Raghuvendra S Rathore and expert member SS Garbyal held that mining lease area was reduced from 29 hectares to 24 hectares to escape public hearing and rigours of EIA appraisal by the Environment Ministry in terms of EIA Notification 2006, and subsequent amendments thereunder.

"We are also convinced that the mining is currently being done very close to the Singotham lake, in fact at the edge of the lake, in the absence of any safe distances imposed upon the project proponent for their mining operations.

"We, therefore, direct the MoEF to conduct Environment Impact Assessment Appraisal in terms of EIA Notification 2006, and subsequent amendments thereunder and also to conduct public hearing and impose whatever conditions they may find necessary and appropriate for carrying out mining operation and till then mining operation will remain suspended," the bench said.

Judgement

The tribunal's judgement came on a plea filed by Telangana resident C Srinivasulu and others alleging non-application of mind by Telangana State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) in granting environment clearance on April 11, 2017 for quarrying of quartz and feldspar on 24 hectares to a private mine lease holder of Kalwakole village, Peddakothapally Mandal,

The mine lease holder had argued before the NGT that a buffer of 250 metre has been left from the lake boundary to the lease boundary to protect the lake

Nagarkurnool District, Telangana. The petitioners, through advocate Sanjay Upadhyay, alleged that mining area has been reduced so as to get it examined at State level and to escape more rigorous environmental assessment by the Appraisal Committee of the central government.

The mine lease holder had argued before the NGT that a buffer of 250 metre has been left from the lake boundary to the lease boundary to protect the lake.

It had also produced map of the lease area so as to show that the lake is to the north of the mining lease, whereas the mining is carried out in the south east direction from the south face of the hillock.

'Commercial mines will help contain coal imports'

TWESH MISHRA

New Delhi, January 17

Defending the government's decision to allow commercial coal mining, the Minister for Coal and Mines, Pralhad Joshi, said that supplies from commercially auctioned mines will help meet Coal India's production shortfall.

"The broad idea is to limit the import of coking coal to 100 million tonnes at present consumption levels," Joshi said in an interview to *BusinessLine*. "For the coming 5-10 years, it is expected that the supplies from commercially auctioned mines will meet the demand that Coal India is not able to," he said.

"The gap is huge and if we do not try to plug it now, the gap will keep growing. Last year, we

imported around 235 mt of coal. Comparing it with the quality of coal we get in the country, it will be close to 400 mt. So, there is a demand for at least 400 mt that can be met from domestic commercially mined coal," a Coal Ministry official added.



Pralhad Joshi

To a query on how the companies that win these mines will be able to compete with Coal India, which gets its blocks for free, Joshi said: "Coal India gets mines for free is a point. But that just means they are not paying a premium, they are paying the royalty and taxes. Apart from that, there is a demand in the market. There will be a premium on the coal being auctioned under the commercial mine route."

Full interview p4

'Natural resources available here must not be imported'

Even after the industry is opened up Coal India will continue to be a major player: Pralhad Joshi

TWESH MISHRA

New Delhi, January 17

The first round of commercial coal mining auctions will take place before the end of the current financial year 2019-20, according to Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi.

Speaking to *BusinessLine*, Joshi said that the goal of commercial coal mine auctions is to reduce coal imports. The government wants to limit coal imports to 100 million tonne per annum. He also said that Coal India Ltd (CIL) has enough mines and ability to sustain for another 100 years. *Excerpts:*

With the Coal and Mine ordinance being issued, how soon can we expect commercial coal mining in the country?

Now we want to frame rules that are investor friendly. We are putting them in the public domain. It may take around a week or 10 days. After that, we will frame the rules. Subsequently, I think in another month or two we will identify the blocks and put them up for auction. The first lot of

commercial auction will take place around February end or March first week, that is our target.

On what parameter will the coal mines be bid out?

We are taking the stakeholders' opinion for it, as it should be a win-win situation for all. Our natural resources must fetch some income to the government. At the same time it should be industry friendly also. We will frame the rules while keeping both in mind.

We want to increase our total mining activity so that natural resources which are available in our country are not imported. In order to enable that, we have ex-

tended the Prospecting Leases (PL) cum Mining Leases (ML) contracts to the coal sector.

Have foreign players evinced interest in the commercial coal mining auctions?

There is some more work to be done before that. The earlier laws had limited bid participation to those who have mining activity in India. Now we have changed that. But information about these investor-friendly measures need to be spread through road shows and we will do that after the rules have been formulated.

We have published a discussion pa-

per and sought comments till January 30. Maybe within a week or two, we would finalise the process. The discussion paper, and list of mines to be auctioned, has also been floated. Participants are being asked to specify which mine they would want to bid for in the first tranche of auctions.

Will Coal India price for a certain grade of coal be a parameter in the commercial mining auctions?

As of now, in the entire world, Coal India's total cost of mining is very reasonable. But I don't put that as the yardstick. There may be differences from one mine,

block or State to another. Our goal is that the substitutable coal import has to stop. Those who are talking about this need to consider the uncertainty ahead for coal after another 25 years.

With the end of captive and end-use mining, do you expect a rise in price per tonne of Indian coal due to more competition?

Surely, because there will be competition. When there is a demand and supply gap, naturally there is an impact. For example, the Karnataka government is lifting coal from Singareni. The Karnataka Chief Minister and Chief Secretary claim that they are losing ₹1,200 crore annually because they have no other option. They have a linkage and they have to lift coal from there. Now the Karnataka government is seeking the option to mine coal themselves. Once the market opens up, and anyone can buy coal from anywhere, we will then have to appoint a Coal Regulator.

What is the status on the proposed Coal Regulator?

The regulator is on our agenda but as of now there is no coal in the open market. Till now, Coal

India is our major source. Once commercial mining picks up to our expectation, we will think of that.

What role would Coal India play in a denationalised domestic coal sector?

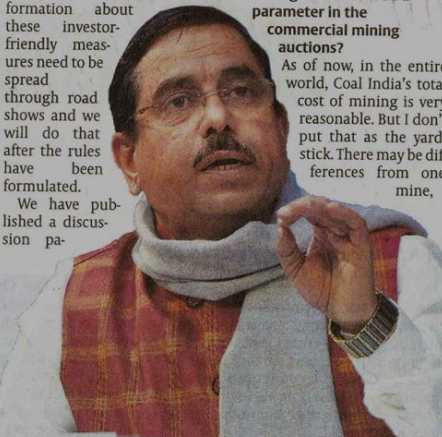
Today Coal India supplies 85-90 per cent of coal. It will naturally continue to be the major supplier of coal. Recently we also have allotted 16 new blocks and the Ministry of Coal has a system set up of following up the Statutory clearances (Environment and Finance Clearances) required from the Centre.

The commercial mine auctions will help address any shortage of coal. Depending on a single entity is also not good for a country with such a huge population and coal requirement.

How will Coal India unions view this move to denationalise the coal sector?

It is our firm belief that Coal India will continue to be a major player. We want to strengthen that. We have no intention to privatise the entire sector. CIL will be there and they have blocks which they can cater for 100 years. We want to see that they achieve 1 billion tonne by 2023-2024.

THE
BL
INTERVIEW



To increase the total mining activity and reduce coal imports, we have extended the Prospecting Leases-cum-Mining Leases contracts to the coal sector.

PRALHAD JOSHI
Coal Minister

Gold might be gearing up for a fresh rally

Silver too seems to have resumed a bull trend

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

MCX COMDEX, the composite commodity index of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), depreciated following a drop in the price of its major components — crude oil and gold.

Although gold looks set to rally, the upside for the index might be limited because of the weakness in crude oil price.

The latter is the largest component in the index with around 33 per cent weight. The index could have a bearish bias going forward.

MCX-Crude (₹4,162)

The February futures contract of crude oil dropped during the first half of last week, but recovered some of its losses. However, the weakness persists and the likelihood of a further decline is more. The contract has

slipped below the support at ₹4,210 and the 50-day moving average, potentially turning the medium-term trend negative.

The daily relative strength index (RSI) is on a downward path and stays below the midpoint level of 50. The moving average convergence divergence indicator in the daily chart, too, hints at more weakness, as it stays in the negative region.

Thus, traders can take a bearish view and make use of the rallies to go short in the futures contract with a stop-loss at ₹4,315. The contract will find support at ₹4,022, below which it might depreciate to ₹3,780.

On the upside, the resistance levels are ₹4,210 and ₹4,315.

MCX-Gold (₹39,946)

Gold seems to have resumed its uptrend after a correction. The February futures contract of gold rebounded on the back of the 50 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the previous uptrend at ₹39,380. The price continues to stay above both the



ISTOCK.COM/TUNED_IN

MCX Gold

Supports:

₹39,300/38,870

Resistances:

₹40,800/41,200

MCX Silver

Supports:

₹46,000/45,650

Resistances:

₹48,100/49,000

21- and 50-day moving averages, indicating that the bull trend is still intact; the prevailing price action indicates a further rally.

The RSI, too, shows a fresh uptick in the daily chart.

From the perspective of trading, one can initiate fresh long positions with a stop-loss at ₹39,300. The support below that level is at ₹38,900, which coincides with the 61.8 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the previous bull trend.

On the upside, the contract will most likely rally to ₹40,800,

beyond which it can appreciate to ₹41,200.

MCX-Silver (₹46,756)

The March futures contract of silver bounced from the support band between ₹45,650 and ₹46,000 last week after an initial dip in price. Thus, the recent uptrend does not seem to be under threat and the contract might rally from the current levels. The price has inched above the 21-day moving average, a bullish indication. Supporting the bullish view, the daily RSI is

showing an uptick and has moved above the midpoint level of 50.

Since the recent trend has been bullish and the price action hints at a further rise in contract price, traders can buy the contract with a stop-loss at ₹45,600. The near-term targets can be at ₹48,100 and ₹49,000 — the 61.8 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the previous bear trend.

MCX-Copper (₹454.6)

Taking the support of the 21-day moving average, the January futures contract of copper advanced during the past week.

It also moved past the 61.8 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the previous downswing.

Though the moving average convergence divergence indicator in the daily chart indicates considerable upward momentum, the daily RSI shows signs of the bulls losing steam.

From the trading perspective, one can initiate fresh long positions on decline and place a stop-loss at ₹448 and look for a poten-

tial target at ₹463 in the coming days. Above that level, the contract can rally to ₹474. On the downside, ₹450 is good support.

NCDEX-Soyabean (₹4,196)

Unable to extend the rally beyond the 21-day moving average, the February futures contract of soyabean moderated during last week. In the daily chart, the contract has made a lower high, a bearish indication.

The price has slipped below the 50-day moving average, potentially turning the medium-term trend bearish.

The daily RSI has gone below the midpoint level of 50 and the moving average convergence divergence indicator continues to be in the bearish zone.

On the downside, ₹4,160 is acting as a considerable support.

Hence, traders are recommended to short the contract with a tight stop-loss only if it decisively breaks below ₹4,160.

The nearest target is at ₹4,000, where the contract might witness some short-covering.

Outlook 2020: Cement prices to inch up

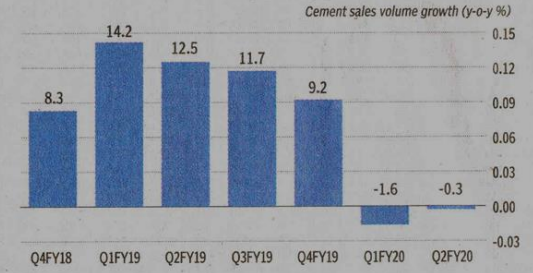
Cement manufacturers had a rosy start in 2019, with a strong pick-up in demand, and consolidation-led cost savings. But the exuberance soon fizzled out. Elections, excess monsoon and stonewalling of on-ground execution of infrastructure and construction projects — all dampened the demand scenario. Despite the Centre ending the year with a big-bang announcement of the National Infrastructure Pipeline, a rampant recovery in demand is unlikely. That said, lower demand in 2019 could prove a favourable base for 2020. A marginal uptick in State-level construction activities could also act as a positive demand driver

After peaking in May 2019, prices have dropped

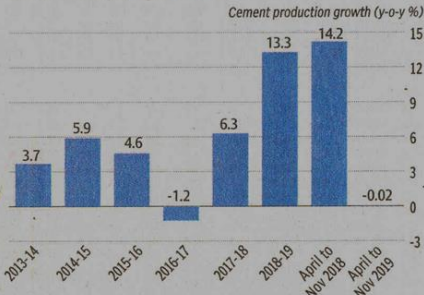
But they are still above 2018 levels



A drop in construction- and infrastructure-led demand has resulted in a contraction in quarterly cement sales in FY20

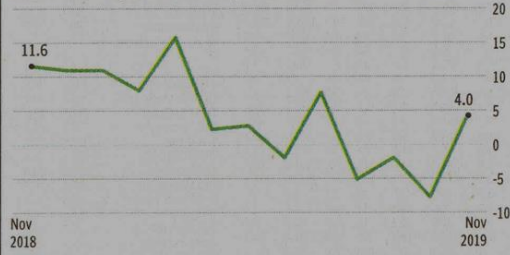


Production plunges in FY20 so far...



...but order uptick in November 2019 gives a positive signal

Domestic order inflows that almost dried up for most infrastructure majors saw a recovery in November 2019



Demand drivers going ahead

- North**
 - Lifting of construction ban in Delhi
 - HPCL's Barmer refinery project (\$6-7 bn)
- South**
 - Government spend on irrigation and urban infrastructure
- West**
 - Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway
 - Better monsoon in Gujarat and Maharashtra
- East**
 - Sand mines allotted for longer periods (5 years) in Bihar
- Central**
 - Sand mines allotted for longer periods (3 years) in Madhya Pradesh

Source: Eight core industries data (Office of Economic Adviser), CRISIL, ICICI Securities (Cement Outlook), JM Financial Services (Channel Check Report)

Compiled by: KEERTHI SANAGASETTI

THE HITAVADA(CITY BUSINESS) DATE : 20/1/2020 P.N.10

Stainless steel industry seeks zero duty on ferro-nickel, scrap

■ Ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap are key raw materials which are not available in the country and must necessarily be imported

■ Business Bureau

AHEAD of the budget, stainless steel players have sought some curative measures like removal of import duty on key raw materials ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget for FY2020-21 on February 1.

In order to augment domestic manufacturing, the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) said it has recommended some curative measures

to the government ahead of the budget.

In a representation submitted to the finance ministry, the body has sought nil duty on import of key raw materials like ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap, it said.

"Ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap are key raw materials which are not available in the country and must necessarily be imported," it said.

At present, the basic customs duty on ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap is 2.5 per cent.

Removal of duty on ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap is a long standing demand and the Ministry of Steel has also at times battled for zero duty on these items. The stainless steel industry meets the bulk of its nickel requirements through ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap route.

"The non-availability of ferro-nickel within the country makes

it necessary for domestic stainless steel producers to import this ferro alloy. This is because India is deficient in nickel ore and therefore there is no production on ferro-nickel within the country.

The bulk of the ferro-nickel procurement is from non-FTA countries. Even within the FTA countries, nil rate of duty is applicable only to imports from ASEAN countries.

Further, FTA partner countries like Japan and Korea are themselves net importers of ferro-nickel given their substantial stainless steel manufacturing capacities. Reduction of basic customs duty (BCD) on ferro nickel will not harm any domestic industry," said. For stainless steel scrap, it said, its availability in the country is extremely limited and bulk of the stainless steel scrap requirement has to be compulsorily imported. Almost 75 per cent of

the stainless steel scrap requirement in the country has to be met through imports. Stainless steel, owing to its corrosion resistant characteristic and high strength, has an extremely long life span - at least 30 years -- as compared to any other substitute material.

It also pointed out that "major stainless steel producing countries like China, Korea, Japan, the EU and USA have zero import duties on stainless steel scrap. From ASEAN and FTA (Japan, Korea) countries while the stainless steel flat products are coming at zero duty, the most essential raw material stainless steel attracts 2.5 per cent duty."

ISSDA President K K Pahuja, said, It is necessary to boost domestic manufacturing by reducing high input costs. Despite global challenges, he said, India is second largest producer and consumer of stainless steel.

JNARDDC discovers a low-cost process to get purest alumina

■ Staff Reporter

JAWAHARLAL Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), Nagpur has developed a process for low cost preparation of 3N purity alumina (99.9%) at lab scale. The project was sponsored by Department of Science and Technology (DST) New Delhi.



Properties, such as low-friction and high wear-resistance, thermal and electrical insulating ability and broad chemical compatibility make high purity alumina a more than useful option in military and aerospace-based applications, engine components, heat shields, electrical insulators, pump and valve com-

ponents and satellite and radar electronics systems.

A team of scientists have been working for the last one year and have successfully developed the process know-how for the low-cost preparation of 3N pure alumina suitable for Light Emitting Diode (LED) and Semiconductor applications at lab scale.

The present work mainly focusses on preparing alpha phase of 3N pure nano-alumina at lowermost possible temperature. Formation of alpha phase usually require higher temperature (>1000 degree Celsius) hence, there was a big challenge to get 3N purity at temperature below 1000 degree Celsius. High purity

(Contd on page 2)

JNARDDC discovers a low cost process to get purest alumina

(Contd from page 1)

nano-alumina finds extensive applications in translucent tubes for high-pressure sodium lamps, single crystal materials such as sapphires for watch covers, high-strength ceramic tools and abrasives for magnetic tape, among others.

Dr Priyanka Nayyar, Investigator and team have worked under the able guidance of Dr Anupam Agnihotri, Director, JNARDDC to make this project successful at lab scale.

Commercial coal auction process 'initiated', 13 blocks from Vid figure in first tranche

- Ministry of Coal releases 'Discussion Paper' on auction of coal mines for sale of coal
- The list of coal mines includes 12 under CM (SP) Act and one under MMDR Act from Vidarbha

■ Staff Reporter

THE Ministry of Coal is 'initiating' the process for auction of coal mines for sale of coal. It is expected to be held in multiple tranches and the first tranche is proposed to be launched in the current financial year. The list of 74 coal blocks the Government plans to auction under commercial mining, includes 13 from

Coal blocks in Vidarbha under CM (SP) Act and prior allottees

- Bander -- AMR Iron and Steel Pvt Ltd, Century Textiles and Industries Ltd, J K Cement Ltd
- Bhandak West -- Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Ltd
- Chinora -- Fieldmining and Ispat Ltd
- Dahegaon/Makardhokda-IV -- IST Steel & Power Ltd, Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd, Lafarge India Pvt Ltd
- Gondkhairi -- M/s Maharashtra Seamless Limited, Enduse Steel Plant and captive power plant (Koppal, Karnataka); M/s Dhariwal Infrastructure (P) Ltd, Deori Steel Plant and captive power (Gondia, (Contd on page 2)

Vidarbha region.

The Ministry of Coal's step comes close on the heels of recent amendments to Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act and Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation)

Act. Under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act total 62 coal blocks have been identified in the country, including 12 from Vidarbha. The blocks from Vidarbha region include Bander, (Contd on page 2)

Shocking: 48% juvenile delinquents found alcoholic and smokers in city

(Contd from page 1)

Government agencies should act swiftly," he said further. The police should also undertake study of the age-groups of such teenagers and draw further conclusion of which age-groups are vulnerable, Yadav opined.

On the issue of school drop outs, Yadav said that of them, 99 per cent are in the school where standard of education is not up to the mark. Poverty, family atmosphere, over crowded families are also some of the reasons behind pushing juveniles in crime world. Such students are more likely to get involved in

crime to fill their pockets, he said. "If a minor has committing offence like murder and rape they have some sort of pervert behaviour and this is something disturbing," he said.

Another officer said that the low socio-economic status of the family, lack of proper schooling, lack of regular jobs and peer group influence has led the juveniles to take up the habits like smoking and drinking from early age.

"The Government agencies need to act on the issue and conduct simultaneous raids in plain clothes and close down establishment of such violators," he demanded.

MCX-Aluminium likely to move up

MCX Aluminium



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The January mini futures contract of aluminium, ie, Alumini, on the MCX started to trend lower in September last year and the downtrend lasted till late November. During that period, the contract tumbled to ₹130 from ₹151, losing nearly 14 per cent.

However, the contract reversed the trend from ₹130 and has been on a rise since then. The contract rallied to ₹142.3 and currently, it is tracing a sideways path between ₹139.5 and ₹142.3. The 23.6 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the recent uptrend is at ₹139.5, making it an important level. And, at ₹139 lies the 21-DMA. Thus, the contract will be bullish until it remains above ₹139. Corroborating this, the daily relative strength index (RSI) is showing a fresh uptick. But the Moving Average Convergence Divergence (MACD) indicator shows that bulls have lost some steam of late.

However, further appreciation in price is likely since the recent trend is bullish and the contract has bounced from the support at ₹139.5. If the contract rallies past the upper boundary of the range at ₹142.3, it can test the previous high at ₹151 in the near term. On the other hand, if the contract declines and breaches the key support at ₹139.5, it might descend to ₹136.2, which coincides with the 50-DMA.

On the global front, the price of the three-month rolling forward contract of Aluminium on the LME continues to consolidate in the range between \$1,788 and \$1,835. The next leg of trend will be confirmed only if the price gets out of this range. Resistance above \$1,835 is at \$1,860 and support below \$1,788 is at \$1,780.

Trading strategy

As the price of Aluminium may resume the uptrend during the upcoming days, one can take a bullish view on the MCX-Alumini futures contract. Hence, traders can initiate fresh long positions with stop-loss at ₹136.

BUSINESS LINE DATE : 21/1/2020 P.N.5

Hindustan Zinc net down 27% on lower realisation

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 20

Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company, has reported a 27 per cent fall in December quarter net profit at ₹1,620 crore against ₹2,211 crore due to lower production and drop in realisation.

Revenue from operations was down 16 per cent at ₹4,626 crore (₹5,485 crore).

Mined metal production was down five per cent due to lower grades at Kayad and Sindesar Khurd mines.

Integrated metal and silver production at 219,000 tonnes, declined by 9 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively, in December quarter due to lower mined metal, lead production and lower silver grades.

Revenue from zinc, lead and other metals was down ₹3,908 crore (₹4,789 crore) while that of silver was up at ₹692 crore (₹678 crore) on the back of lower volume and a 9 per cent decline in zinc LME prices.

Zinc cost of production before royalty (COP) during the quarter was \$1077 (₹76,571) a tonne, higher by 3 per cent

EBITDA during the quarter was ₹2,288 crore was down 20 per cent due to lower revenues.

As on December 31, the company had net cash and cash equivalents was ₹19,513 crore against ₹16,952 crore at the end of FY'19.

On the BSE, shares of the company were down 0.23 per cent at ₹216.50 on Monday.

Hindustan Zinc Q3 net profit drops 27 pc to Rs 1,620 cr

NEW DELHI, Jan 20 (PTI)

HINDUSTAN Zinc Ltd on Monday posted a 26.7 per cent decline in net profit at Rs 1,620 crore for the December 2019 quarter.

Net profit in the year-ago period was Rs 2,211 crore, the company said in a BSE filing.

"Net profit for the quarter was Rs 1,620 crore, a decline of 22 per cent sequentially and 27 per cent year-on-year," it said.

Total income during October-December dropped to Rs 5,117 crore as compared to Rs 6,090 crore in the year-ago quarter, the filing said.

"We have delivered good performance in a challenging market environment and are committed to maintaining the growth trajectory. We remain focused on our fundamentals of sustainability, efficiency, technology and digitisation to maintain industry leadership and deliver healthy

return to our shareholders," Hindustan Zinc Ltd CEO Sunil Duggal said.

Mined metal production for the quarter was 2,35,000 tonnes, up seven per cent sequentially on account of higher ore production and better overall grades.

"Integrated metal production was 219kt (2,19,000 tonnes) for the quarter, up 4 per cent sequentially. Increase in zinc production to 178kt (1,78,000 tonnes) while lead production declined by 7 per cent to 41kt (41,000 tonnes)," it said.

Integrated zinc production increased in line with higher mined metal availability.

The ongoing mining expansion, the company said, is in its final phase and on track to achieve capacity of 1.2 million tonnes per annum. As on December 31, 2019, the company's net cash and cash equivalents was Rs 19,513 crore as compared to Rs 16,952 crore at the end of FY'19.

गोवा खनन मामले में लोकायुक्त की कार्रवाई पूर्व CM के खिलाफ होगी CBI जांच

एजेंसियां

पणजी. गोवा के लोकायुक्त ने लौह अयस्क खदानों के पट्टों के नवीनीकरण मामले में राज्य के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री लक्ष्मीकांत पारसेकर और 2 अन्य अधिकारियों के खिलाफ सीबीआई जांच की सिफारिश की है। खदानों के पट्टों के नवीनीकरण को उच्चतम न्यायालय ने फरवरी, 2018 में रद्द कर दिया था। एक गैर सरकारी संगठन ग्रीन फाउंडेशन की याचिका पर गोवा के लोकायुक्त ने सोमवार को 41 पन्नों का एक आदेश जारी किया। इसमें तत्कालीन राज्य खदान सचिव पवन कुमार सेन और तत्कालीन खदान और भूविज्ञान निदेशक प्रसन्ना आचार्य को लेकर भी संकेत किया गया है।



■ गोवा के लोकायुक्त न्यायमूर्ति पीके मिश्रा ने कहा कि संस्था जांच से सहमत है और सार्वजनिक पदों पर बैठे लोगों ने भ्रष्टाचार रोकथाम अधिनियम 1988 और भारतीय दंड संहिता के तहत दंडनीय अपराधिक कृत्य किया है।

■ लोकायुक्त ने कहा कि शिकायत में पारसेकर, सेन और आचार्य के खिलाफ आरोपों की पुष्टि की गई है और संबंधित अधिकारियों को उनके पद पर नहीं बने रहना चाहिए।

■ चूंकि फिलहाल पारसेकर भाजपा के मुख्यमंत्री या मंत्री नहीं हैं, इसलिए उनके संबंध में ऐसी कोई घोषणा नहीं की गई है। फरवरी 2018 में उच्चतम न्यायालय ने '88 खदानों के पट्टों का नवीनीकरण रद्द कर दिया था।

MCX-Nickel extends consolidation phase

MCX Nickel



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The spot price of nickel on the Multi Commodity Exchange, which had been in a downtrend, witnessed a corrective rally since early December. However, the rally was capped at ₹1,080 and the price started to consolidate.

Likewise, the January futures contract of Nickel on the MCX started to consolidate following the corrective rally, which was capped at ₹1,055. The contract has been oscillating between ₹1,010 and ₹1,055 since the second week of December last year. Unless it moves out of this range, the next leg of the trend will be unclear. But the major trend is still bearish as the contract remains below the 50-day moving average; and the price should break out of the resistance at ₹1,055 to reverse the trend.

The daily relative strength index and the moving average convergence divergence indicator on the daily charts stay flat as price continues to move in a sideways trend.

On the back of the overall bearish trend, if the contract breaks below the support at ₹1,010, it will most likely decline to the previous low at ₹965. Support below that level is at ₹920. On the other hand, if the contract manages to break out of the resistance at ₹1,055, the nearest hurdle will be at ₹1,100. Above the level, resistance is at ₹1,125.

On the global front, the price of the three-month rolling forward contract of nickel on the London Metal Exchange is moving sideways. It is trading between the two key levels at \$13,625 and \$14,526. However, the major trend remains negative. Support below \$13,625 is at \$13,000, whereas the nearest resistance is at \$14,526.

Trading strategy

Though the futures contract of Nickel on the MCX continues to consolidate, one can take a bearish view since the overall trend is bearish. Traders are recommended to initiate fresh short positions below the support level of ₹1,010 with stop-loss at ₹1,055.

MCX-Zinc trades above a support band

MCX Zinc



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The spot price of Zinc on the MCX, after breaching the key resistance at ₹184 last week, could not rally beyond ₹190 in early January. The price looks to be fluctuating within ₹184 and ₹190 and unless it moves out of the price band, it cannot be expected to trend in either direction.

The January mini futures contract of Zinc on the MCX has been fluctuating in the band between ₹180 and ₹185 for the past two weeks. The resistance at ₹185 coincides with the 38.2 per cent Fibonacci retracement level. The contract can be expected to confirm a trend only if it breaks either of the mentioned levels. The 21- and the 50-day moving averages have been contracting towards each other, and the contract has been traversing across both the averages.

The MACD indicator on the daily chart exhibits a positive bias as it traces an upward trajectory. However, the RSI is staying flat following the sideways trend of the contract.

If the contract gains bullish momentum and breaks out of ₹185, it can rise to ₹190. Beyond that, resistance is at ₹195. On the other hand, if the contract slumps below ₹180, it will find immediate support at ₹178. Hence, the price band between ₹178 and ₹180 is an important subppoort band.

The three-month rolling forward contract of Zinc on the LME has been on an uptrend and the contract continues to register higher peaks — a bullish indication. It has rallied past the key level at \$2,400 and seems to be retesting that level. On the upside, the contract might advance towards \$2,500 in the coming days.

Trading strategy

Since the futures contract on the MCX has a support band and LME prices indicate a possible rally, the outlook seems to be positive. Hence, despite sideways trend, traders can initiate fresh long positions with stop-loss at ₹176.

Coal extraction at SCCL Saini block soon

About 100 lakh tonnes of coal would be produced if optimum production is achieved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

A team of officials of Singareni Collieries Company Limited, which visited Saini coal block in Angul district of Odisha, which was allotted to the company by the Coal Ministry, was informed that extraction at the block would start shortly and that production would commence by end of 2021.

This was told by the general manager of the block C.H. Vijaya Rao to SCCL Director (Projects and Planning) B. Bhaskar Rao, Director (Finance) N. Balaram and other senior officials of the company from finance, IT, environment and estates wings during their visit to coal blocks on Wednesday and Thursday.

About 100 lakh tonnes of coal would be produced at Saini block if optimum pro-

duction is achieved. The survey and drilling works were completed, he said.

Patrapada coal block

The directors also visited New Patrapada coal block nearby where 1,040 million tonnes of coal reserves were estimated.

They spoke to the residents and assured that the company will develop basic amenities for them. They inspected the welfare activities of the company in nearby villages.

Mr. Bhaskar Rao and Mr. Balaram said SCCL chairman and managing director N. Sridhar was instrumental in achieving New Patrapada block for the company with help from the State government. The block will provide a golden future for the company. All permissions for New Patrapada block would

be completed by the time production starts in Saini block.

Plans were made for production of 200 lakh tonnes of coal from New Patrapada in three years, the SCCL stated in a press release.

PowerPoint presentation

Earlier, the Singareni team took part in a meeting with a Rajya Sabha committee on environment protection initiatives by industry at Bhubaneswar. The company officials gave a PowerPoint presentation on steps taken in coordination with Coal India and other companies on environment protection during coal mining and transport. The Chief Finance and Accounts Officer Narasimha Reddy, General Manager (Audit) Subba Rao and Personnel Manager Purnachander were present.

हादसा : खदान की दीवार गिरी; 2 की मौत, 2 घायल



■ मृतकों में एक चीन और एक भारतीय निवासी ■ गुमगांव मॉयल की अंडर ग्राउंड खदान में हादसा ■ सुरक्षा में लापरवाही, सुपरवाइजर व अन्य पर मामला दर्ज

निज प्रतिनिधि | नागपुर / संवाददाता, सावनेर।

गुमगांव मॉयल की अंडर ग्राउंड खदान में निर्माणाधीन दीवार गिरने से दो मजदूरों की दबकर मौत हो गई, जबकि दो मजदूर घायल हो गए। मृतकों के नाम पंकज खुशाल चौरवार (25) गडगांव और चैन गंग (31) चीन निवासी है। घायलों में अनिल देवमन बागडे (27) कोच्ची और वॉग यूनशान चीन निवासी हैं। घटना के समय खदान में 13 लोग कार्यरत थे।

सुरक्षा के पुरख्ता इंतजाम नहीं थे

मिली जानकारी अनुसार खदान के अंदर निर्माणाधीन साइडिंग दीवार को सीमेंट फ्रॉंकीट करने के लिए लोहा बांधा जा रहा था, तभी अचानक पत्थर और मुरुम की बनी दीवार गिरने से पंकज और चैन गंग उसके नीचे दब गए। खदान में काम करनेवाले मजदूरों ने पुलिस को बताया कि वहां पर सुरक्षा का कोई पुरख्ता इंतजाम नहीं था। पंकज लोहे के एंगल में नट-बोल्ट फिट कर रहा था और चैन गंग उसके पास खड़ा होकर काम की देखरेख कर रहा था। इसी दौरान छत से पत्थर की दीवार मुरुम के साथ गिर गई। इसके नीचे दोनों दब गए। अनिल और वॉग को किसी तरह बाहर निकाल लिया गया।

चीन की कंपनी को ठेका :

खापा के धानेदार हर्षल एकरे का कहना है की सुरक्षा के अभाव में दोनों मजदूरों की जान चली गई। घटना खदान में बुधवार व गुरुवार की दरमियानी रात हुई। यह खदान खापा पुलिस थानांतर्गत आती है। खदान में अंडरग्राउंड पत्थर तोड़ने के लिए चीन की कंपनी को 3 साल के लिए ठेका दिया गया है। खदान के अंदर पंकज खुशाल चौरवार, चैन गंग, अनिल देवमन बागडे और युवॉन वॉग सहित अन्य मजदूर कार्य कर रहे थे। इस दौरान करीब 40 टन पत्थरों का मलबा गिरने से पंकज और चैन उसके नीचे दब गए, जिससे दोनों की मौत हो गई। दोनों मृतकों के शव को मेयो अस्पताल में पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया गया है। आकाश उमाले मोलीपुरा खापा निवासी की शिकायत पर खदान में कार्यरत विजय कुमार स्वराज सिंह, असिस्टेंट मैनेजर व अन्य सुपरवाइजरों के खिलाफ खापा थाने में मामला दर्ज किया गया है।

8 लाख मुआवजे का प्रावधान : सावनेर तहसीलदार के प्रतिनिधि के रूप में खदान में घटना की जांच करने गए मंडल अधिकारी भूषणवार ने बताया कि खदान में न्यू वर्टिकल का कार्य सवे 64, आराजी 2.05 हेक्टेयर में 163 मीटर गहराई में कार्य शुरू था, तभी यह हादसा हुआ। भूषणवार ने मृतकों के परिजनों को मॉयल प्रशासन से आर्थिक मदद की मांग की है। मॉयल के नियमानुसार मृतक के परिजनों को 8 लाख रुपए देने का प्रावधान है। इससे ज्यादा की राशि के संबंध में बड़े अधिकारी से बातचीत करने पर स्पष्ट होगा।

Two, including a Chinese worker, killed in mishap at Gumgaon mine

■ Khapa Correspondent

A CHINESE worker and a local labourer were killed after a shaft at underground mine of Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL) caved in on Wednesday night. The mishap occurred at Gumgaon mine in Saoner area at 11 pm. Two other labourers were injured by the falling debris of tonnes of boulders following collapse of the shaft that failed to bear the weight of mine wall, said the police after preliminary probe.

A Chinese company engaged by MOIL is working at Tighai area for last three years for vertical expansion of the underground mine. Last night about 10 to 12 labourers were engaged in some work in Section 2. The mine is nearly 173 metres deep and work of horizontal opening was on for which a few days before the controlled explosion was carried out.

The workers were engaged in installing roof belt to support the mine ceiling when a powerful explosion rocked the mine. Within moments entire Section 2 was enveloped by thick boulders trapping the gang of labourers. While two Chang Wang (32), a Chinese, and Pankaj Khushal Chauriwar (23), a resident of Tadgaon, died on the spot and they were trapped under the debris. The other workers managed to extricate two others Wang Yunsha (30), Anil Bagade, a resident of Kocchi, and they are admitted to local hospital.

On receipt of information a team of Khapa police and emergency response team of MOIL rushed to the spot. It took nearly six hours before MOIL team could bring out the bodies of two labourers from the underground mine.

Meanwhile, an inquiry is ordered by Director General of Mine Safety in the incident of collapse of underground mine shaft.

Efforts to get official quote from Vikrant Khedikar, Manager, Gumgaon Mine, MOIL, failed as he did not respond to calls.

Deceased Pankaj was sole bread-winner of the family and fellow workers have demanded compensation from MOIL to next of the kin.

Police Station Officer (PSO) Harshal Ekre, Vijay Barai, Ankush Lakhe, Sanjay Wankhede visited the spot. At present Khapa police have registered a case of accidental death. Further probe is on.

खनिजों का रियल टाइम डाटा करें तैयार

IBM में देशभर के विशेषज्ञों ने किया मंथन

व्यापार प्रतिनिधि

नागपुर. भारतीय खान ब्यूरो (आईबीएम) महत्वपूर्ण कार्यालय है, जो देशभर के खान एवं खनिजों के डाटा का रख-रखाव करता है। भारतीय खान ब्यूरो जिम्मेदारियों के अनुसार ब्यूरो हर पांच साल में खान एवं खनिजों की सूची का नवीनीकरण करता है। उपरोक्त पृष्ठभूमि के अनुसार भारतीय खान ब्यूरो ने 23 जनवरी 20 को मुख्यालय में राष्ट्रीय खनिज इन्वेंटरी या राष्ट्रीय खनिज सूची पर राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया। इस विशाल प्रक्रिया में शामिल सभी हितधारकों के साथ एक परामर्श प्रक्रिया के रूप में और निर्देशित सिद्धांत जिनके अनुसार उन सभी सूचनाओं, विचारों, बारीकियों को आत्मसात करें जिन्हें 'राष्ट्रीय खनिज सूची' शीर्षक की व्यापकता बढ़ाने के लिए एकीकृत किया जा सकता है।



नेशनल कान्फ्रेंस का उद्घाटन आईबीएम की कार्यवाहक महानियंत्रक इंदिरा रविन्द्रन की अध्यक्षता में हुआ। समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि एस.एन. मेश्राम, महानिदेशक, भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण के साथ एस.के. अधिकारी, मुख्य खनन भूविज्ञानी और डा. पी.के. जैन, मुख्य खनिज अर्थशास्त्री ने भी मंच की गरिमा बढ़ाई। माइल, एमईसीएल, जेएनएआरडीसी, सेल, बाल्को, एचसीएल, नाल्को, हिंडाल्को, एचजीएमएल, टाटा, वेदांता, जीएसआई, एनएमडीसी, एफआईएमआई सहित कई कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों ने हिस्सा लिया।

महानिदेशक मेश्राम ने जीएसआई द्वारा किए गए अन्वेषण कार्यों के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए जानकारी दी कि कुछ संस्थानों जैसे, हिंडाल्को, एचजेडएल, एचसीएल आदि ने उन खनिजों की खोज के लिए अपना अस्तित्व दिया है जो जीएसआई द्वारा खोजे गए हैं। भूवैज्ञानिकों के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों के बारे में बताते हुए कहा कि कई खनिज स्थल वन क्षेत्रों के अंतर्गत आते हैं, ऐसे में डाटा संग्रह में समस्याएं सामने आती हैं।

■ मेश्राम ने कहा कि डाटा आज की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए तेल भंडार की तरह है। उन्होंने कहा कि सटीक भविष्यवाणियों के लिए डाटा सटीक होना चाहिए। उन्होंने आईबीएम को देश के लिए एनएमआई के लिए बधाई दी और सम्मेलन की सफलता के लिए शुभकामनाएं दीं।

■ रविन्द्रन ने राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन की मेजबानी में आईबीएम के उद्देश्यों को समझाया और विशेष रूप से राज्य सरकार से सभी गणमान्य व्यक्तियों और प्रतिनिधियों की सम्मानजनक उपस्थिति का धन्यवाद किया, रविन्द्रन ने कहा कि ये न केवल राष्ट्र-निर्माण कार्य को बनाए रखने में दृढ़ विश्वास को मूर्त रूप देगा, बल्कि डाटा को पुनः जीवित करने में भी एक लंबा रास्ता तय करेगा।

■ उन्होंने आज के डिजिटल युग में रियल टाइम डाटा की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि हमारा प्रयास होना चाहिए कि हम एनएमआई डाटाबेस को भी रियल टाइम डाटा संसाधन में अपग्रेड करें।

■ एस.के. अधिकारी, डा. पी.के. जैन ने भी अपने विचार रखे। उद्घाटन समारोह में ए.डी. सेलोकर ने अतिथियों का परिचय दिया। तकनीकी सत्र का संचालन ए.के. रे ने किया। अरुण कुमार ने धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव किया।

'Mining Ban Leads to Fall in Household Income, Rise in Domestic Violence'

Families under severe strain due to rising indebtedness in Odisha, Goa, other states: Report

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Household incomes have fallen by more than half after the mining ban in states such as Goa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Karnataka, a report said.

The ban on mining has not only affected the families dependent on mining, but also the families whose livelihoods are dependent on the ancillaries of the mining industry, said the report 'Mining, A Prudent Perspective', prepared by the Forum for Integrated Development and Research (FIDR).

"With the household incomes depleted by more than half after the mining ban, the incidences of domestic violence have increased due to the joblessness and financial crunch to run families. The women and children are the worst sufferers due to the policy decisions to ban mining," said the report, which surveyed 2,415 people in 13 districts across five states.



According to the report, about 70% of those surveyed felt that mining had helped create jobs for them in the first place. Today, these jobs have vanished. About 65% of the respondents expressed that their family lives are under severe strain and is further getting destroyed due to indebtedness, bankruptcy, violence from moneylenders, drinking and other social vices. About 27% of respondents said mental instabilities have increased due to livelihood stress. This response came with the highest numbers in Goa.

EXTREME DISTRESS

The ban on mining has not only affected the families dependent on mining, but also the families whose livelihoods are dependent on the ancillaries of the mining industry

"The negative economic impact of a continued ban/stoppage on mining activities or trade barriers in various states (like the ones cited in the report) would be a large ticket for the economy to absorb at this stage, when investors' sentiment is already weak, and the global conditions are unstable," Charudutta Panigrahi, mentor at FIDR, said in a statement. "The issues plaguing the mining industry in the country, if continued, will bring the Indian economy to the edge of an avoidable precipice."

The survey indicated that in the five states, mining contributes to over 12% (on an average) of the state GDP. The closure of mines has dimmed the chances of these states contributing to the vision of making India a \$5 trillion economy, it said.

JSW Steels Plans to Raise ₹1k cr Via NCDs

Our Bureau

Kolkata : JSW Steel plans to raise ₹1,000 crore through allotment of 10,000 secured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures bearing a face value of ₹10 lakh each on a private placement basis.

The coupon rate for the issue will be 8.9% per annum payable quarterly, the company said in a notification to the BSE on Thursday. The proceeds will be used to meet long-term working capital requirements, refinancing of existing debt, general corporate purposes and on-going capital expenditure, it said. The tenor of the issue will be 10 years from the deemed date of allotment.

"The committee of directors of the issuer (board)... approved the allotment of 10,000 rated, listed, secured, redeemable, nonconvertible debentures (NCDs) bearing a face value of ₹10,00,000 each..., aggregating to ₹1000,00,00,000," the company said in a statement. JSW Steel shares closed flat at ₹266 from its previous close on the BSE on Thursday.

In October last year, JSW Steel raised ₹2,000 crore through issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) via private placement. The company raised fresh funds from 10-year bonds from LIC at 8.79% payable semi-annually. The Sajjan Jindal-led com-



pany had allotted NCDs having a rate of 8.79%, of ₹10 lakh face value each, aggregating to ₹2,000 crore on private placement basis.

Proceeds will be used to meet long-term working capital needs & refinancing of existing debt, the company said

One of the largest domestic private steel players, JSW Steel has plans to expand capacity to 45 million tonne (mt) by 2030. To fund its expansion, it plans to raise some ₹14,000 crore through equity share sale and debentures to fund its ambitious growth plans, which would include the company's acquisitions. JSW hopes to reach a capacity of 24 mt by 2022 through brownfield expansions with an investment of nearly ₹48,715 crore. This would involve doubling capacity at its Dolvi plant to 10 mtpa.

THE HITAVADA DATE : 24/1/2020 P.N.13

Mine mishap: Sunil Kedar orders immediate inquiry

■ Release compensation to next of kin of the deceased, injured, directs Kedar to officials

■ Staff Reporter

ON receiving the news about mishap at the mines of Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL), Sunil Kedar, Maharashtra Minister of Animal Husbandry, swung into action and issued instruction to District Collector and MOIL bosses to conduct immediate enquiry and announce compensation to next of the kin of the deceased and injured. Kedar asked MOIL management as to what steps they had taken to avoid such mishaps, what kind of plans are there to provide proper safety to the employees. It is the duty of MOIL to take good care of the mine workers, Kedar said. Officers of the company failing in performing duties will face music, warned Kedar.

JSW Steel Q3 net profit tumbles 88 pc to Rs 187 cr

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (PTI)

JSW Steel on Friday posted an 88.33 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 187 crore for the December 2019 quarter.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,603 crore in the year-ago period, JSW Steel said in a filing to the BSE.

The net profit after tax for the quarter was Rs 187 crore, after incorporating the financials of subsidiaries and joint ventures," the company said in a statement.

Its consolidated income during the October-December 2019 period was Rs 18,182 crore, registering a fall of 10.6 per cent over the year-ago period, the filing said. The company's crude steel production during the October-December 2019 period stood at 4.02 million tonne (MT), up five per cent quarter-on-quarter.

"Production in the quarter was lower by five per cent y-o-y due to extended monsoon which impacted operations at both Dolvi and Vijayanagar," the statement said.

After a weak momentum during the first half of the year, the current quarter witnessed a turnaround in business sentiment and better liquidity conditions, driving an overall improvement in steel demand and pricing from November onwards, it said.

"A large part of this demand improvement is from infrastructure and construction sectors," the company said. "Following a period of prolonged inventory adjustment (de-stocking) in the first half, the initial spurt in demand was driven by restocking in the supply chain. As a result, the company was able to liquidate a large part of the inventory," it added.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DATE : 25/1/2020 P.N.4

Vedanta Invites Bids to Outsource Coal Mining

Rakhi.Mazumdar
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Kolkata: Anil Agarwal-led resources major Vedanta has invited expressions of interest (EoI) from global mine developers and operators for developing its recently acquired lucrative coal block at Jamkhani in Odisha with reserves of 222 million tonne (mt) to its full potential of 10 mt per annum.

Once operational, this is likely to be among the largest private captive coal mines in the country in terms of annual output. It could also mark the entry of Vedanta — already a large player in iron ore, aluminium, zinc and oil & gas — into coal mining. Vedanta Group is perhaps the largest producer of captive power in the country. The last date for submitting EoIs is January 31, 2020.

UltraTech Cement (UTCEM IN)

In-line Q3; on-ground vigilance to drive the structural and sustainable delta to earnings in UltraTechs Q3 was largely in-line to our/consensus estimates. As expected by us, acquired Century operations remain a drag on UltraTechs consolidated operations on immediate basis and this may continue for few more quarters. Having said that, we reiterate that UltraTech is industrys undisputed leader in supply-chain vigilance and as the vigilance gets converted to execution it will be a game-changer not just for UltraTech but also for the industry in long run.

■ No major surprises or disappointments on realisations / costs. Volumes were exactly in-line to our expectations. EBITDA/tonne is at Rs 944 in Q3 (3% lower than our estimate). Unadjusted for one-offs of Rs 64/tonne towards settlement of contingent liabilities on adjusted basis it would have been 3% better. Beyond this there were additional costs of ~Rs18/tonne driven by revival of acquired Century assets - we see as cost of business.

■ The comments by UltraTech in the results release / call clearly stresses efforts for fast-track revival of acquired assets of Century in both production and marketing functions.

■ As we see, this reiterates UltraTechs intent, ability and capability to continue to remain vigilant through use of its bargaining power and yet remain directionally positive and sustainable on operating numbers. This is a commendable structural move!

■ We also continue to believe incremental opportunities for UltraTech especially with inorganic moves are distinct which will fundamentally change the course for whole industry, as it will mean structural changes in on the ground business methodologies.

■ We continue to realign our target multiples in-line to our supply-chain thesis.

■ We upgrade our target multiple to 17.0x for UltraTech (vs. 16.0x earlier) and upgrade our PO to Rs 6,000. We dont see any material risk to our estimates. We maintain BUY.

■ The stock currently trades at ~US\$ 180/tonne and at PO it will trade at ~US\$ 220/tonne.

JSW Steel (JSTL IN)

Outlook and valuation: We expect domestic spreads to improve in 4Q aided by steel price hikes. However JSWs benefits would be partially nullified by steep increase in domestic iron ore prices well. Delays in turnaround of the subsidiaries along with possibility of significant jump in net debt keeps us cautious on the company. Improving iron ore integration is a silver lining for future. In view of better spreads, we are increasing out target price to Rs 233 (SOTP). **However we maintain Sell on expensive valuation.** (NMS)

Weak global economy to weigh on aluminium

Weak demand and excess supply in the market to affect prices; slowdown in auto industry, the largest consumer, a dampener

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

All is not well with the global economy. The US-China trade tiff and a slowdown in manufacturing across the West have pulled down demand for base metals, especially aluminium.

At the London Metal Exchange (LME), the spot price of aluminium was \$1,775/tonne last Friday, down about five per cent from the levels a year ago.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its January World Economic Outlook report, revised lower the global economic growth in 2020 and 2021 by 0.1 per cent and 0.2 per cent from its October estimates, to 3.3 per cent and 3.4 per cent, respectively.

In 2019, the global economy is likely to have grown by 2.9 per cent.

However, depending on the development in the US-China trade war, the global growth may even move lower.

Slower economic expansion would mean less industrial activity, resulting in subdued demand for base metals.

Sober demand

Since the auto industry is the largest consumer of aluminium, its slowdown across the globe has been a dampener for the metal. With reduced consumer spending, uncertainty remains for the sector. Rating agency Moody's has given a negative outlook for the global auto industry in 2020, as it expects light vehicle sales to decline by 0.9 per cent following a projected 3.8 per cent decline in 2019.

Demand in China, the single

biggest consumer (little over 50 per cent of global consumption) as well as the top producer (around 56 per cent of global production) of the metal, can have a significant influence on the price of aluminium this year, if it improves.

Many Chinese companies are taking an effort to strike deals to build roads, ports and other infrastructure requirements in other countries. This may boost the demand for the metal going ahead. Further, as emerging markets including India, Thailand and Indonesia aim for more industrialisation, it can help aluminium from the demand side.

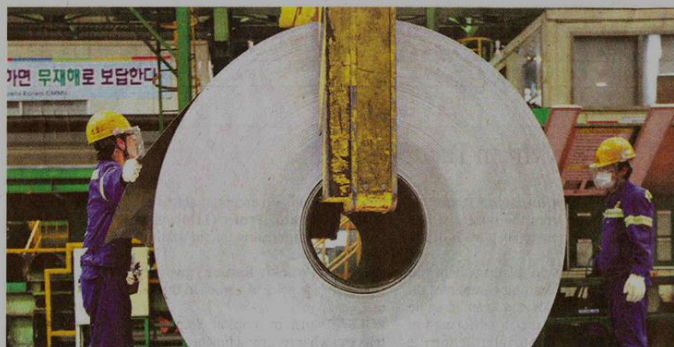
Sufficient supply

The global primary aluminium production in 2019 contracted for the first time in a decade despite the entry of Russian major Rusal's aluminium in the market, as the US lifted sanctions on the company. According to the International Aluminium Institute (IAI), the production was down 1 per cent to 63.7 million tonnes. The

Surplus continues

Year	(million tonnes)		
	Total production	Total consumption	Surplus production
2010	42.35	40.56	1.79
2011	46.27	45.00	1.27
2012	49.16	49.40	-0.24
2013	52.29	51.07	1.22
2014	54.64	54.26	0.38
2015	58.45	57.46	0.99
2016	59.89	58.98	0.91
2017	63.04	59.23	3.81
2018	64.33	60.10	4.23
2019	63.69	60.00	3.69

Source: International Aluminium Institute



BLOOMBERG

last time the metal's output contracted was in 2009, when it dropped 5.7 per cent. The major reason for the 2019 fall was China, which saw its production drop nearly 2 per cent to 35.8 million tonnes.

Western Europe and Latin America, too, saw a dip in production in 2019. That said, the market continues to have excess supply.

Production in aluminium has been in excess of demand for three years now, by 3-4 million tonnes.

In 2019, while production was 63.69 million tonnes, demand was 60 million tonnes.

Thus, the outlook from the supply point is not very encouraging for aluminium investors.

Further, the issues faced by the Chinese smelters seem to be only temporary. Going forward, the supply from these units can be expected to be restored, which will only add to the already surplus production. Also, the output from countries in the Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC) has been steadily increasing. (Currently, GCC production stands at 9 per cent of the global output.)

Price outlook

Going ahead, in 2020, a strong price rally is doubtful, given the weak economic outlook for China as also the US and Europe.

One factor that gives comfort to aluminium investors now is a spike in the cancelled warrants on aluminium at the LME. When a warrant is cancelled, it means that the holder of the warrant, generally large traders, is not ready to make their stock available to the market.

Cancelled warrants on aluminium inventories started shooting up in the last week of December 2019. From 162,700 tonnes in end-November, it ballooned to 623,225 tonnes on January 22 (highest since 2016), and stood at 528,075 tonnes as of January 24. Cancelled warrants now account for 48 per cent of the total in-

ventory at LME warehouses. The highest ever was 56 per cent in 2014. The spike in cancelled warrants is now squeezing the supply available in the market—a positive signal for the price, for the short term. However, note that if the prices scale above \$2,000/tonne, a fresh bout of supply may come into the market from closed smelters, keeping a check on the price.

Outlook for Indian market

In India, almost half the demand for aluminium is from the power sector, unlike other countries where it is the auto sector that drives the demand.

In India, the auto sector consumes about 15 per cent of the aluminium produced in the country. There is not much upside seen in the aluminium price in the domestic market, too.

Aluminium scrap imports come into India in bulk quantities. So, if the global excesses find a way to India this year again, with no custom barriers, the prices may move in tandem with the global market.



Powered by

In India, almost half the demand for aluminium is from the power sector, unlike other countries where it is the auto sector that drives the demand

Gold likely to extend the bull run

But silver outlook remains unclear as it faces critical resistance

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

MCX COMDEX, the composite commodity index of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), fell sharply last week, following a decline in crude oil price.

The higher weight of crude oil (around 33 per cent) dragged the index lower despite a rally in gold, which has a lesser weight of nearly 17 per cent.

The path ahead for the index looks to be on the downside as the crude oil outlook is bleak.

The index can tread lower to 3,825 from the current level of 3,900, in the near term.

MCX-Crude (₹3,873)

Extending the downtrend, the February futures contract of crude oil at the MCX declined throughout the week. The contract has even slipped below the important level of ₹4,000. The outlook thus remains bearish.

The daily relative strength index (RSI), too, hints weakness, as it continues to head south. Also, the moving average convergence divergence indicator in the daily

chart has further moved into the negative territory, showing good bearish momentum.

From the trading perspective, rather than selling the contract at the current levels, traders are advised to wait for the price to retrace to ₹4,000, and then initiate short. A valid stop-loss will be at ₹4,125. On the downside, the contract can weaken to ₹3,780 in the near term. Below that level, the sell-off can intensify, dragging the contract to ₹3,600.

MCX-Gold (₹40,352)

The gold price rallied during the past week and, as a result, the February futures contract of the yellow metal at the MCX rose above an important level of ₹40,000. The bull trend seems to have resumed and notably, the contract remains above the 21-day moving average.

Hence, a further price appreciation in the coming days is highly likely. Though the moving average convergence divergence indicator in the daily chart stays flat, the daily RSI shows a fresh uptick.

As the outlook remains bullish, one can continue to hold positive bias and initiate fresh long positions on declines, with a stop-loss at ₹39,600. The support below that level is at ₹39,300, which coincides with

the 50 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the previous upswing. On the upside, the contract will most likely rally to ₹40,800, beyond which it can appreciate to ₹41,200.

MCX-Silver (₹46,935)

The March futures contract of silver declined in the first half of the week. In the second half, the contract rebounded but could not gain above the resistance at ₹47,000. The futures contract is oscillating between ₹45,735 and ₹47,000.

Along with ₹47,000, the 38.2 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the previous trend at ₹46,816 is acting as a considerable resistance band. Thus, for the contract to establish a sustainable rally, it must breach the key level of ₹47,000.

Since the price is in a sideways trend, traders are recommended to go long only if the contract decisively breaks out of the resistance at ₹47,000, and place a stop-loss at ₹45,600. On the upside, the near-term targets can be at ₹48,100 and ₹49,000.

MCX-Copper (₹437.5)

The price of the February contract of copper at the MCX slumped below both the 21- and 50-day moving averages last week; it breached a key support



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

at ₹440, opening the door for further weakness. The daily RSI has declined below the midpoint level of 50 and the moving average convergence divergence indicator in the daily chart has entered the bearish region.

Though the price action indicates further decline, the contract might rally to ₹445 levels before resuming the downtrend.

Hence, from the perspective of trading, one can initiate fresh short positions if the contract bounces to ₹445 with a stop-loss at ₹455. On the downside, the contract can depreciate to ₹430.

NCDEX-Soyabean (₹4,138)

The February futures contract of soyabean at NCDEX closed the

week below the critical level of ₹4,160, turning the medium-term trend bearish. The contract has also slipped below the 50-day moving average, adding to the bearish outlook.

Corroborating the bearish view, the daily RSI is below the midpoint level of 50 and the moving average convergence divergence indicator in the daily chart remains in the negative territory. However, ₹4,130 is a considerable support.

Since ₹4,130 is a support, traders are recommended to initiate fresh short positions below that level with a stop-loss at ₹4,275. Below ₹4,130, the immediate support is at ₹3,990, which can be the short-term target.



MCX Gold

Supports:
₹39,675/39,300
Resistances:
₹40,800/41,200

MCX Silver

Supports:
₹46,000/45,735
Resistances:
₹47,000/48,100

Govt auctions manganese mine in Ramtek tiger den

Vijay.Pinjarkar@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: The Nagpur forest division is in a quandary as the state mining department has auctioned manganese mines in tiger-bearing areas in Gugaldoh block under Ramtek range.

The Central government amended the Mines & Mineral (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, which has been implemented from

MAN VS WILD

January 12, 2015. The amendment relaxed norms and allowed mining even in notified areas and asked states to auction such mines through competitive bidding process.

Accordingly, the contract for prospective mining lease in compartment number 293 of Gugaldoh (Manegaon beat) has been bagged by Raipur-based firm Shanti GD Ispat & Power Private Limited, which was the highest bidder.

SK Pande, president and CEO of Sharda Ispat, confirmed the firm has bagged contract for mining. "We are in the process of obtaining forest, environment, and wildlife permissions," he added.

► Continued on P 8

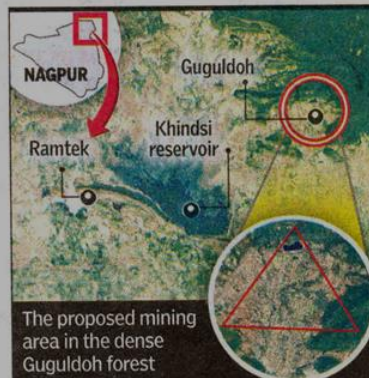
Have submitted negative report, say foresters involved in mining survey

► Continued from P 1

Nagpur forest officials said, of the 105 hectare area auctioned for mining, 99.95 hectare falls in reserve forest while 5.05 hectare is with revenue department. The area was auctioned in 2018.

They said the area has an old history of manganese mining in 1950-55. Now, the abandoned mines have developed into rich forest and wildlife habitats as the mining pits have turned into very good water bodies.

The proposed mine area is a reserve forest and hence project proponent needs forest, environment as well as wildlife clearance. As the area is sensitive, Nagpur deputy conservator of forests (DyCF) Prabhunath Shukla had asked forest officials to submit a survey report.



The proposed mining area in the dense Gugaldoh forest

7, 2019, and January 6, 2020. The camera trap survey recorded images of scheduled animals like tigers, leopards and rattle, porcupines, wild dogs, jungle cats, nilgai, deer, sambar, wild boars, peacocks and hares.

On December 7, a full-grown tiger was found dead in one of the abandoned mine pits in the same area. "We have submitted a negative report and the forest area should not be handed over for mining at any cost," said forest officials involved in the survey.

Nagpur district honorary wildlife warden Kundan Hate says, "As tiger numbers in Pench reserve are increasing, the proposed mine area is being used by tigers and wildlife to settle down. If the area is allotted for mining, conflict will be inevitable. We'll oppose it."

Outlook turns bearish for MCX-Lead

MCX Lead



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The spot price of Lead on the MCX has been in a sideways trend, oscillating between ₹152 and ₹159 since November last year.

However, the futures contract hints at a possible downtrend as it has breached an important support. After fluctuating between ₹151 and ₹153.5, the February contract of Lead Mini has broken below the lower boundary of the range at ₹151. The contract started to decline after testing the 50-DMA resistance, which coincided with the upper boundary of the range at ₹153.5. On Monday, it slipped below ₹150.

Corroborating the negative outlook, the MACD indicator on the daily chart is indicating signs of bears gaining traction. Notably, it remains in the negative region. Also, the daily RSI shows a fresh downtick. However, one should be cautious as the RSI is inching towards oversold territory.

If the bear trend continues, the contract will most likely fall further where ₹145 can act as the nearest support. If that level is taken out, it can extend the down swing to ₹140. On the other hand, if the contract reverses the trend, the price area between ₹150 and ₹151 can act as a resistance band. Above that level, it can appreciate to ₹153.

On the global front, the three-month rolling forward contract of Lead on the LME seems to have resumed the downtrend after the contract failed to sustain above \$2,000. After registering a two-month high of \$2,038 earlier this month, the contract declined and closed at \$1,940 last week, below the support at \$1,950. The price may descend down to \$1,880 in coming days.

Trading strategy

As the futures contract in MCX has made a fresh breakdown and the downtrend on the LME seems to have resumed, one can take a bearish outlook on the metal. Traders are thus recommended to initiate fresh short positions with a stop-loss at ₹152.

Gold trade hopes Union Budget will fix customs duty anomaly

VINSON KURIAN

Thiruvananthapuram, January 27

Organised jewellery chains hope the 2020-21 Union Budget to be presented on February 1 will rectify the taxing anomalies that have benefited illegal players at the expense of genuine traders.

Increase in customs duty to 12.5 per cent (from 10 per cent) last year has put them at a disadvantage vis-a-vis the illegal trade, said MP Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Gold and Diamonds, a leading Kerala-based chain, and General Secretary, Kerala Jewellers Federation.

Per capita spending highest

Kerala accounts for the maximum per capita expenditure on gold – ₹208.55 in rural areas and ₹189.55 in the urban areas and leads other big spenders Goa, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.

After the import duty was revised upwards, the price of gold has gone up by 20 per cent, which has led to a de-growth in business across the country over the previous year. There have been instances in Kerala where small and unorganised jewellery stores have sourced gold from smugglers and sold to consumers at a discount of ₹150 to ₹200 per gram,

boosting smuggling of gold into the State.

Apart from the customs duty, the legal trade also has to pay a GST at three per cent, which means the landed cost of the yellow metal goes up to 15.50 per cent, Ahammed said. The legal trade parts with around ₹5,000 more than the smugglers for every eight gram sold.

The hike in customs duty was intended to curb imports, but it has also brought down the legitimate business.

Besides, it has incentivised the smugglers as is evident from the spurt in gold seizures in recent times. In 2018-19, 166.961 kg worth ₹52.46 crore was seized from the Kochi airport alone, in comparison to 81.69 kg of gold worth ₹23.69 crore in 2017-18.

Demand likely to be subdued

Meanwhile, analyst firm ICRA expects gold jewellery demand may remain subdued in 2020-21 with growth in the range of six to eight per cent even as imports in 2019 were the lowest in three years. Total imports fell 12 per cent compared to 2018.

Gold demand in India in the first half of 2019 was 372.2 tonnes, nine per cent higher than the first half of 2018, despite a slowing economy. Official gold imports in December de-

clined to 39 tonnes from 152 tonnes in November 2019. But a deeper analysis reveals that sales have not actually been impacted. This means that large quantities of the yellow metal have been finding its way to the market.

Arrivals from destinations such as Malaysia and South Korea too have perked up, thanks to free trade agreements with those countries. Authorities are tracking incidents of smuggling from new destinations such as China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, other than the usual smuggling hubs Nepal, Dubai, Sharjah and other Gulf countries.

Boosting transparency

Ahammed is of the view that revising the customs duty downward to around four per cent or so will not only help end the arbitrage that the illegal trade enjoys currently but also may redirect more of gold trade through legitimate channels, boosting customs/tax revenue.

The widening gap of rate with the illegal trade has been a matter of concern for the organised trade for quite some time. He also emphasised the sourcing and tracking of the gold right until it is delivered to the customer. This would ensure transparency in the trade. He requested the Finance Minister to keep these issues in perspective while formulating the Budget proposals.

Scan & Share



In Chandrapur for tigers? Also explore deep mines

'Mine Tourism' Launched In Dist On R-Day

Mazhar Ali | TNN

Chandrapur: Tourists visiting Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve can now also explore the deep coal mines in Chandrapur district through guided tours.

Twelve tourists, all students of Bamboo Research and Training Centre, on Monday went deep inside the Bhatali open cast mine to have first-hand experience of deep coal mining.

NEW AVENUES OF TOURISM

This was made possible by 'Mine Tourism' launched by district administration, in collaboration with Maharashtra Tourist Development Corporation (MTDC) and Western Coalfields Limited (WCL).

Guardian minister of Chandrapur, Vijay Wadettiwar launched the scheme on Republic Day.

TATR has now become an international tourism destination thanks to the good tiger sighting in the reserve. Hundreds of feet deep pits of different coal mines along the road to Tado-



Twelve tourists (L), all students of Bamboo Research and Training Centre, went deep inside the Bhatali open cast mine (above) to have first-hand experience of deep coal mining in the region

med that interested tourists can visit Mahakali underground coal mine and Bhatali open cast coal mine on Monday and Thursday.

The charges for the visit are not fixed yet but will be finalized soon.

MTDC will start online booking for Mine Tourism from February 1. D

ugarpur underground mine and other mines in the area are likely to be added to the itinerary.

Mine tourism was first launched in Nagpur district in December 2016.

ba often arise intrigue among tourists. Looking in to the interest tourists show in these mines, district collector Kunal Khemnari in November 2019 had asked MTDC to explore opportunities in mine tourism.

Official sources infor-

कच्चे स्टील का उत्पादन 2019 में 1.8% तक बढ़ा

नई दिल्ली | देश में कच्चे स्टील का उत्पादन 2019 में 1.8 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 11.12 करोड़ टन रहा। स्टील उत्पादकों के संगठन वर्ल्ड स्टील एसोसिएशन ने यह जानकारी दी। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार देश में कच्चे स्टील का उत्पादन 2018 में 10.93 करोड़ टन था। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वैश्विक स्तर पर कच्चे स्टील का उत्पादन 2019 में 186.99 करोड़ टन था जो 2018 के मुकाबले 3.4 प्रतिशत अधिक है। पिछले साल एशिया और पश्चिम एशिया को छोड़कर दुनिया के हर क्षेत्रों में कच्चे स्टील का उत्पादन घटा है। चीन में उत्पादन 8.3 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 99.63 करोड़ टन रहा। वैश्विक उत्पादन में चीन की हिस्सेदारी पिछले साल बढ़कर 53.3 प्रतिशत हो गई जो इससे पूर्व 2018 में 50.9 प्रतिशत थी।

No royalty for minor mineral used on same land, rules HC

■ Staff Reporter

IN A very important ruling that will have far-reaching consequences on several pending proceedings before the Revenue authorities, the High Court has held that no royalty is required if the minor mineral extracted from the land is utilised on the very same plot for land levelling or any work in the process of development.

Virtually every tehsil and almost all major realty and infrastructure projects are facing proceedings for extracting minor minerals on the plot or land under their possession often leading to even criminal prosecution. But the High Court verdict has dubbed show cause notice issued by a Tehsildar about such excavation as illegal.

The High Court further rejected the contention of availability of an alternative appellate remedy to the petitioners while holding that "where a Show Cause Notice or a penalty order is sans a jurisdiction to the existence of an alternative remedy would not dis-entitle a Petitioner to avail writ remedy."

The High Court noted that Maharashtra Minor Mineral Extraction (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2015 made it clear that no royalty shall be required to be paid on earth extracted while developing a plot of land and utilised on the very same plot for land levelling or any work in the process of development of such plot.

"Thus, it is apparent that exca-

vation or mining by a person will not attract any royalty to be paid if the Minor Mineral extracted while developing a plot of land is utilised on the same land for purposes of levelling or in any work relating to the development of the said plot," the High Court noted while quashing the show cause notice.

In the instant case, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) allotted 49.8 acres of land to the petitioners to set up a tyre manufacturing plant and they commenced land levelling work at the site including digging of trenches to lay the foundation and naturally excavated soil yielding sand and stones. The Tehsildar issued a Show Cause Notice on June 13, 2018 stating that the site visit by the Circle Officer revealed that 100 Brass sand and 200 Brass stones had been excavated but used for levelling at the site. Terming it as violation of Section 48 (7) of Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966, the petitioners were put to notice as to why penal action should not be taken.

The petitioners wondered as to why the notice had been issued at all when the same authority recorded the fact that the excavated Minor Minerals were used at the site for levelling the site. Rejecting this justification, the authority issued a demand of Rs 68.10 lakh. A division bench consisting of Chief Justice Pradip Nandrajog and Justice Bharati Dangre quashed the show cause notice and consequential demand notice.

IBM organises national conference on National Mineral Inventory

■ Staff Reporter

INDIAN Bureau of Mines (IBM) had organised a national conference on National Mineral Inventory (As on April 1, 2020) at its Headquarters in Nagpur as a consultative process with all stakeholders involved in this mammoth process and with the guided principle to assimilate all information, opinions, views, nuances that could be integrated to enhance the comprehensiveness of the title National Mineral Inventory.

Controller General (I/c), IBM, Indira Ravindran presided over the function. Accompanied by the chief guest of the function S.N. Meshram, Director General, Geological Survey of India (GSI); Indira Ravindran along with S.K. Adhikari, Chief Mining Geologist and Dr P.K. Jain, Chief Mineral Economist, adorned the dais.

Delegates from various departments, namely, MOIL, MECL, JNARDDC, SAIL, BALCO, HCL, FIMI, HGML, TATA Steel, NMDC, GSI and State Government department of Geology attended the conference.



Indira Ravindran lighting the lamp. S N Meshram, S K Adhikari, Dr P K Jain look on.

In his address to the audience, S.N. Meshram, narrated the importance of authenticity of data and its effects in measuring not only the strength of the nation in terms of its mineral endowment but also its economic vitality. Highlighting upon the various aspects of exploration works undertaken by GSI, Meshram briefed that organisations, such as, HINDALCO, HZL, HCL, etc. owe their existence to the discoveries of minerals and their deposits made by GSI.

Indira Ravindran encapsulated the objectives of IBM in hosting this national conference. Stressing the importance of critical minerals, such as, Rare Earth elements (REE) and Platinum Group of Metals (PGM), Ravindran said, "It is vital that the concentration of exploration organisation, such as, GSI and MECL should be in the direction to improve the mineral-resource findings of such critical minerals. Ravindran pointed out, "In today's digital age it must be our

endeavour to upgrade NMI database too into a real-time data resource."

S K Adhikari, Chief Mining Geologist, voiced a note of encouragement regarding hosting such conference. Adhikari highlighted the various methods of classifications of minerals including CRIRSCO and UNFC, i.e., adopted by NMI.

Dr P K Jain, Chief Mineral Economist, listed out the complexities of the preparatory work involved in this exercise of preparing the National Mineral Inventory and briefed the audience on the structure, content and features of the National Mineral Inventory database and also elaborated on the utility of the database in defining the mineral wealth of the nation. Briefing the chronology of mineral classification system, Dr Jain also listed out the global mineral position of India's major minerals.

A D Selokar, DME (I) compered the programme. A K Ray, Mineral Economist made the introductory speech. Arun Kumar, AME (I) proposed a vote of thanks.

SC allows mining firm to transport validly mined iron ore if royalty paid

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (PTI)

THE Supreme Court on Thursday allowed mining firms to transport validly mined iron ore from mines in Goa if they have paid royalty to Government authorities. A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde delivered the judgment on a plea by mining firm Chowgule and Company Private Limited. In a major relief to mining firms, the apex court

modified its earlier order and permitted transportation of already mined iron ore lying unused at various sites in the State.

The apex court had earlier banned mining and transportation of iron ore in Goa.

The bench directed the mining firm to transport the iron ore within a period of six months from today provided it has paid royalty to authorities and has valid license with regard to it.

MAXIMUM FALL WAS IN DECEMBER QUARTER OF 2019 WHEN DEMAND FELL 18% TO 194.3 TONNES

Gold demand in India declines 9.2% in 2019 as prices jump over

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

HIGH PRICES kept buyers away from the yellow metal leading to a 9.2 per cent decline in demand for gold in India to 690.4 tonnes in the calendar year 2019 as compared to 760.4 tonnes in 2018. The yellow metal glittered in 2019, with prices rising nearly 25 per cent.

The maximum fall happened during the December quarter of 2019 when demand for gold fell 18 per cent to 194.3 tonnes, compared to 236.5 tonnes in the same period of 2018, according to the

YELLOW METAL DEMAND IN INDIA IN 2019

	Volume*	Value**	Vol rise	Value rise
Jewellery	544.61	1,71,790	-9%	3%
Investment	145.8	45,980	-10%	2%
TOTAL	690.4	2,17,770	-9%	3%

*In tonnes ** In Rs crore

World Gold Council's latest Gold Demand Trends report. Standard gold rose from Rs 3,071 to Rs 3,802 per gram during the 12-month period.

However, the value of gold bought by consumers in calendar

2019 rose 3 per cent to Rs 2,17,770 crore from Rs 2,11,860 crore in 2018 as prices and volatility remained high. Total jewellery demand in India for 2019 was down by 9 per cent at 544.6 tonnes as compared to 598 tonnes in 2018. The value of

jewellery demand in 2019 was Rs 1,71,790 crore, up by 3 per cent from 2018 (Rs 166,610 crore). Total investment demand for 2019 was down by 10 per cent at 145.8 tonnes in comparison to 162.4 tonnes in 2018. In value terms, gold investment demand was Rs 45,980 crore, up by 2 per cent from 2018 (Rs 45,250 crore).

Total gold recycled in India in 2019 was 119.5 tonnes as compared to 87 tonnes in 2018.

Somasundaram PR, managing director India at World Gold Council, said: "India's gold demand was 9 per cent lower in 2019, at 690 tonnes, primarily an outcome

of a sharp surge in prices of over 20 per cent in the second half (H2). However, in value terms, this reflects a growth of 3 per cent over last year. Growth in H1 was followed by a sharp drop in Q3."

India's gold demand value in the December quarter of 2019 was Rs 65,890 crore, a decline of 2 per cent in comparison with the same period a year ago (Rs 67,340 crore). Total jewellery demand in India for the December quarter was down by 17 per cent at 149 tonnes as compared to 180.1 tonnes a year ago. The value of jewellery demand was Rs 50,530 crore, a decline of one per cent from Q4 2018

(Rs 51,270 crore).

Total investment demand for the December quarter was down 20 per cent at 45.3 tonnes in comparison with 56.4 tonnes a year ago. In value terms, gold investment demand was Rs 15,360 crore, a decline of 4 per cent from Rs 16,060 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total gold recycled in India for the quarter was 29.1 tonnes as compared to 18 tonnes.

"Diwali and Dhanteras revived hopes but the volatility coupled with a higher price bar impacted demand, in the lower and middle price bands. Investment demand received some respite during

Dhanteras and the ensuing wedding season with 45.3 tonnes—the strongest quarter in the year, as gold clearly proved to be the best performing asset class in 2019. With high prices, recycled gold increased by 37 per cent to a record 119 tonnes," he said.

The RBI buying was also a positive feature in 2019, lifting its gold reserves by 32.7 tonnes (till November) in 2019.

"Looking ahead, 2020 we expect policy-led and industry-led initiatives to bring a marked shift in making the industry more transparent and organised," Somasundaram said.

BUSINESS LINE DATE : 31/1/2020 P.N.13

High prices pull down gold demand

Second lowest demand in the December quarter in the last 10 years

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 30

Gold demand in the December quarter plunged 18 per cent to 194 tonnes against 236 tonnes logged in the same period last year as the yellow metal prices zoomed to a new high.

The demand in quarter under review was the second lowest in a December quarter in last 10 years. The previous lowest was 182 tonnes recorded in December, 2011.

On value terms, gold demand was down 2 per cent to ₹65,890 crore against ₹67,340 crore recorded last year.

Jewellery demand in the quarter under review fell 17 per cent to 149 tonnes (180 tonnes) valued at ₹50,530 crore (₹51,270 crore).

Weak year

In line with the depressing trend, gold demand last year slipped nine per cent to 690 tonnes (760 tonnes) while in value terms it was up three



In value terms, gold demand was down 2 per cent to ₹65,890 crore

per cent at ₹2.17 lakh crore (₹2.11 lakh crore).

Jewellery demand was down nine per cent at 545 tonnes (598 tonnes) but in value was up three per cent to ₹1.72 lakh crore (₹1.67 lakh crore).

Investment demand during last year dropped 10 per cent to 146 tonnes (162 tonnes) and in December quarter it fell by 4 pc to 45 tonnes (56 tonnes).

Somasundaram PR, Managing Director (India), World Gold Council said though the demand has

fallen in volume terms, it was up three per cent in value during the whole year. This implies that people have spent more money in gold but got lesser metal as the prices were very high, he said.

Gold prices in rupee terms was up 13 per cent last year at ₹31,542 per 10 grams and hit a high of ₹33,913 in December quarter. With prices hitting a new high, recycling touched 119 tonnes (87 tonnes). Government has attracted demand for 28 tonnes gold in 28

tranches.

Notwithstanding the uncertainty over global economic growth, about \$17 trillion global assets are in negative interest rate territory, which augurs well for gold prices in coming days, he said.

Central banks go shopping

Globally, gold demand was down one per cent at 4,356 tonnes despite huge mop-up by ETFs and central banks. Gold purchase by central banks last year at 650 tonnes was the second highest in last 50 years.

Almost 15 central banks bought gold for the tenth consecutive year due to uncertainty in global economy. The RBI bought 33 tonnes of gold last year to increase its gold reserves to 633 tonnes. However, in December quarter, central banks added 110 tonnes which was down 34 per cent year-on-year.

As of December-end, gold reserves of central banks at 34,700 tonnes, was up by 5,000 tonnes in last 10 years.

Inflows in gold Exchange Traded Fund pushed its holding to record high of 2,885 tonnes. It was up by 27 tonnes in December quarter, taking the overall holding to 402 tonnes in 2019.

Scan & Share



Bears gaining ground in MCX-Zinc



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

After consolidating between ₹179 and ₹185 for two months, the February mini futures contract of Zinc on the MCX had breached the lower boundary of the range on Monday. The contract faced resistance at ₹185.8 and started to decline. This level coincides with the 38.2 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the previous downtrend. With the decline, the contract has slipped below both 21- and 50-DMAs, implying a downtrend.

The daily relative strength index (RSI) has fallen below the mid-point level of 50 and the moving average convergence divergence (MACD) indicator on the daily chart hints at more downside as it extends further into the negative territory. Along with the declining price, the daily Average True Range (ATR) is increasing, indicating rising bearish momentum.

Until the contract remains below ₹180, the outlook will be negative. The contract can thus be expected to depreciate to ₹172 in the coming days. If that level is breached, it could potentially drop to ₹165. On the other hand, if the contract manages to reverse the trend and rises, ₹180 will act as a strong hurdle. Beyond that level, it can rally to ₹185.

The three-month rolling forward contract of Zinc on the LME has been on a decline for the past one week. Currently trading at \$2,210, it has considerable support at \$2,200. Notably, \$2,190 is the lowest price since July 2016. The recent trend has been bearish and there are indications of bears gaining traction. So, if the contract slips below \$2,200, it will most likely tumble to \$2,000.

Trading strategy

Though the prices on the LME are trading near a support, the bear trend on the MCX and LME seems to be gaining traction. Moreover, the futures contract on the MCX has breached a key support, turning the medium-term trend negative. Thus, traders can short the contract on rallies with stop-loss at ₹182.