खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR

VOL 2 NO-1

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खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR

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INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

VOL. 2, NO.1, 1st – 15th JANUARY, 2018

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 1/1/2018 P.N.13

Engineering exporters seek parity in domestic steel, export prices

Take up issue with Commerce Ministry

AMITI SEN

New Delhi, December 31

Engineering goods exporters have sought the government's intervention to ensure uniformity in domestic prices of steel and export prices alleging that some domestic producers of alloy were exporting at prices which were about a fourth lower than what they were offering at home.

"We have raised the issue with the Commerce Ministry and have pointed out that the lower export prices of steel was giving our competitors in countries such as Vietnam and Cambodia a competitive edge which is unfair," EEPC India Chairman Ravi P Sehgal told *BusinessLine*. Commerce Ministry officials have, however, asked the complainants to come up with more numbers to establish their case. "We have started the preliminary work to get enough numbers to establish our point. We will be getting data from various ports and make comparisons," Sehgal said.

After being at the receiving end of cheap imports from countries such as China and Japan, Indian steel producers such as SAIL, JSW Steel and Tata Steel managed to give their exports a thrust this year. For the first time in three years, Indian steel producers' exports outstripped steel imports in March 2017 owing to factors such as a fall in Chinese exports and the imposition of a Minimum Import Price (MIP) by the government to check

cheap imports. Domestic steel users, however, still remain the main market for Indian steel producers accounting for the giant share of total sale.

Manufacturers unhappy

The increase in exports has, however, made some of the Indian engineering goods manufacturers unhappy as they contend that the cheap prices offered by certain Indian exporters to stay competitive globally should also be offered

> **There is a 20-25 per cent difference in the price of steel in the domestic market and the price at which the manufacturers export to other countries.**

to domestic players. "There is a 20-25 per cent difference in the price of steel in the domestic market and the price at which the manufacturers export to countries like Vietnam. If the domestic engineering industry is given the raw material at the same prices, our competitiveness will go up several fold," he said. Engineering goods exports have witnessed a turnaround this year, thanks to revival in the American and the EU markets. Lower raw material price could increase this further. Sehgal said it would not be difficult for the Centre to ensure parity in domestic and export prices. "The Commerce Ministry will have to work with the Steel Ministry for regulating domestic steel prices and it would not be difficult once the differential pricing is established. Total export of steel, anyway, is just a small percentage of total production," he said.

Steel manufacturers the world over are struggling with over-capacity and countries are exchanging pledges to eliminate their excess capacities. India has been managing to keep cheap imports at bay and protect the domestic industry through various trade remedial measures by putting in place MIPs and imposing anti-dumping duties.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 1/1/2018 P.N.8

GLOBAL		Change in %			52-Week	
	Price	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	High	Low
Metals ($/tonne)						
Aluminium	2256	7.2	9.9	33.3	2256	1700
Copper	7207	3.0	7.1	31.8	7216	5462
Iron Ore	69	-1.6	4.3	-11.5	95	54
Lead	2485	-1.3	2.4	27.3	2586	1984
Zinc	3338	4.0	5.0	33.1	3370	2434
Tin	20096	3.0	2.6	-4.9	21297	18750
Nickel	12706	6.1	10.9	26.2	12830	8710

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 1/1/2018 P.N.7

HIGH RESERVE PRICE and allowing only overseas investors and PE funds seen by observers as reasons for no deal

BoB Fails to Sell Bhushan Steel, Essar Steel Loans

Sangita.Mehta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Bank of Baroda last week failed to sell bad loans amounting to ₹2,300 crore due from Bhushan Steel and Essar Steel as the reserve price was above market rates and only overseas investors and private equity funds were allowed to bid, said two senior bank executives.

"As many as 22 foreign and private investors had shown interest in the loan but did not seal the deal," said one of them. "This only shows that the reserve price is unrealistic."

The Reserve Bank of India has instructed banks to set aside 50% of the loan value as provisions for cases in which insolvency proceedings have begun at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Bhushan Steel and Essar Steel are among the 12 defaulting companies that RBI directed banks in June to refer to NCLT for resolution.

Of the assets, the Bhushan Steel dues amounted to ₹1,300 crore loan while those of Essar Steel were ₹1,000 crore. The bank had set the reserve price at 50% in cash for Bhushan Steel and 60% in cash for Essar Steel.

Bank of Baroda did not reply to queries. A Bank of Baroda executive who did not want to be named said the auction didn't succeed because funds could not get clearance from overseas parents due to the Christmas and New Year holiday break. The assets could be put up for sale again soon, the person said.

While the reserve prices may appear close to other recent transactions, there's a difference in that they involve only a part payment being made immediately. This has been the case in deals involving asset reconstruction companies (ARCs), which are looking to pick up assets during the ongoing insolvency process.

ARCs weren't invited to bid in the Bank of Baroda bad debt auction held last week.

In June, ICICI Bank sold ₹2,000 crore of loan assets to Edelweiss ARC at a 45% discount in a deal based on the so-called 15:85 structure. The bank gets 15% as immediate payment and the remaining 85% is in the form of security receipts issued by the ARC that's paid over five to seven years.

Indian Overseas Bank last week sold a ₹620 crore loan granted to Bhushan Steel to SSG Capital at ₹376 crore, indicating a haircut of 40%. This deal too was based on the 15:85 structure.

"If a deal is under 15:85 structure, the bank is justified in expecting about 40-45% haircut. But if it's a cash deal, the haircut is much more," said a bidder from a private equity fund.

For instance, if the Aion Capital-JSW Steel bid for Monnet Ispat is approved by lenders, the haircut could be as high as 75% since it would be an all-cash deal, said one of the persons cited above.

THE TELEGRAPH
DATE: 1/1/2018 P.N.8

Defaulter duo on SAIL radar

New Delhi: The country's largest steel maker SAIL is considering bidding for the stressed assets of Essar Steel and Bhushan Steel that are facing TBI-initiated insolvency proceedings.

According to sources, "a team of SAIL has visited the units of Essar Steel and Bhushan Steel almost 20 days back to assess how are the units and to evaluate whether to bid (for) the units or not".

Essar Steel was among the initial 12 companies identified by the RBI for insolvency proceedings. "Since we (both Essar and Steel Authority of India Ltd) are in the same sector, we are keeping our options open for buying stressed assets," a SAIL official said.

Bhushan Steel CFO Nitin Johari said "I have nothing to say. There is a process going on thus I can't comment on it".

However, Essar Steel could not be reached out for comments.

Essar Steel owes about Rs 45,000 crore to the lenders.

The Ruias of Essar had earlier submitted expression of interest for Essar Steel and said it will submit a resolution plan to the insolvency resolution professional within the scheduled time frame.

The government has last month promulgated an ordinance to bar wilful bank loan defaulters as well as those with NPA (non-performing asset) accounts from bidding in auctions being done to recover loans under the insolvency process. The ordinance comes as a blow to defaulting promoters seeking to reclaim their firms. PTI

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.14

JSW Energy cancels deal to buy JPVL's Bina plant

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

DEAL'S ENTERPRISE VALUE: ₹2,700 CR

- The deal, now in the making for more than 2 years, was valued at an enterprise value of Rs 2,700 cr or Rs 5.4 cr per MW in July 2016, when JSW Energy agreed to buy two thermal units of 250 MW each
- The Sajjan Jindal-promoted company had wanted to add to its capacity although analysts had pointed out at the time that the plant load factor at Bina was relatively low

POWER PRODUCER JSW Energy has decided not to go ahead with the proposed acquisition of the 500 megawatt Bina Thermal Power Plant from Jaiprakash Power Ventures, the company said in a filing to the stock exchanges on Monday.

The deal, now in the making for more than two years, was valued at an enterprise value of Rs 2,700 crore or Rs 5.4 crore per MW in July 2016, when JSW Energy agreed to acquire two thermal units of 250 MW each.

The transaction had already been pushed back once from May 31, 2017 till December 31, 2017. The Sajjan Jindal-promoted company had wanted to add to its capacity although analysts had pointed out at the time that the plant load factor at Bina was relatively low.

In fact, soon after JSW Energy expressed interest in buying the Bina units, lenders to JP Power initiated an SDR (strategic debt restructuring) scheme on July 26, 2016. Analysts had noted at the time Bina had a debt of close to Rs 2,000 crore as of March, 2015 and an equity of around ₹1,005 crore. Bankers to JPVL include State Bank of India (SBI) and its subsidiaries, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), IDBI Bank, ICICI Bank, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, Central Bank of India among others.

JSW Energy and JP Power remained unavailable for comments on the development.

In FY17, JSW Energy reported revenues of Rs 8,264 crore, a fall of 16 per cent over FY16. The consolidated profits came in at Rs 629 crore, down 57 per cent.

In September 2015, JSW Energy concluded the acquisition of two hydropower projects — Baspa II and Karcham Wangtoo from JP Power for an asset value of Rs 9,275 crore. With the Bina buyout, company had planned to take its overall capacity to more than 5,000 MW.

After its annual general meeting in July last year, Sajjan Jindal, chairman JSW Group had said JSW Energy was in consolidation mode and would look at acquiring suitable assets. The company had announced plans to raise up to Rs 12,500 crore via debt and equity during the financial year 2017-18.

The company's board had passed an enabling resolution to raise around Rs 5,000 crore through secured and unsecured non-convertible debentures on a private placement basis, and another up to Rs 7,500 crore via equity through qualified institutional placements and other equity options. FE

THE HINDU DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.15

Steel, cement lead core sector growth to a 13-month high

'Public sector investment, not recovery in construction, may have spurred trend'

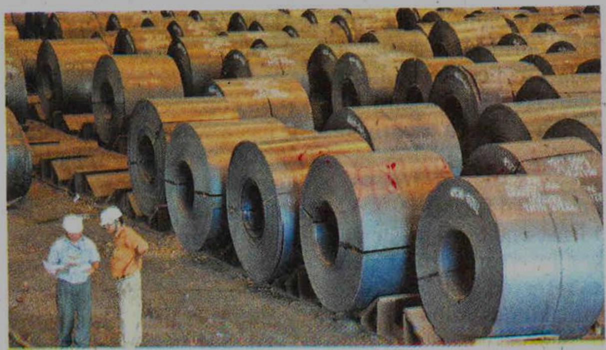
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Activity in the eight core sectors of the economy accelerated to a 13-month high of 6.7% in November, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday, with growth being propelled by the steel and cement sectors.

The index of core industries had grown by 5% in October. In November, the cement sector grew at a record high of 17.3% compared with a contraction of 1.34% in October.

The steel sector grew 16.6% in November, the highest growth the sector has seen since October 2016.

It had grown 8.44% in October 2017. "This does not point to a recovery in construction, but more towards demand created by public sector investment, particularly in roads," D.K. Srivastava, chief policy adviser in EY India, said.



Firm trends: The steel sector grew 16.6% in November, the highest since October 2016.

'Time lag'

"A tangible trend is not there in the private sector, but this usually follows activity in the public sector, so it will take some time." The coal sector slowed for the third consecutive month, contracting by 0.23% in November.

The sector had grown 15.4% in August. The crude oil sector grew marginally in November, by 0.22%, climbing from a contraction of 0.42% in October. Growth in the natural gas sector slowed in November to 2.4% compared with 2.9% in October. At the same time, growth in the refinery products sector quickened to 8.15% in November from 7.49% in October.

Electricity slows

As for the fertilizers sector, growth slowed to 0.27% in November from 3% in October. Growth in the electricity sector similarly slowed to 1.85% in November from 3.24% in the previous month.

The eight infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement, and electricity constitute 40.27% of the total industrial production.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.1

Cement, Steel at the Core of Strongest Infra Show in a Year

Index of eight core industries rises 6.8% in Nov, shows persistent economic revival trend

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's infrastructure sector logged the highest growth in more than a year in November, while the country's biggest carmakers reported double-digit sales growth in December, kicking off the new year on a positive note for the economy and pointing to a persistent revival trend.

The index of eight core industries rose 6.8% in November, data released by the government showed, riding high on growth in the cement and steel sectors. These have a weight of more than 40% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), suggesting strong industrial growth in November after a dismal October.

"Steel and cement growth at very high growth rates of 16.6% and 17.3% indicates restoration of the production in these sectors over pre-demonetisation levels which augurs well for real sector investment," said economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg.

Fast Lane

WHAT IT MEANS

Industrial growth set to rebound in November

Cement and steel show affordable housing could be picking pace

Economic recovery to continue in the third quarter

Favourable base effect of demonetisation impact last year to boost growth

Auto Sales Ride on Better Sentiment

Improved consumer sentiment on the back of economic revival, a surging stock market and year-end offers pushed up sales of passenger vehicles in December. ▸▸ 5

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.16

MCX Aluminium faces crucial resistance ahead

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The Aluminium futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) witnessed a strong rally for the third consecutive week. The contract surged to a high of ₹145.95/kg and has come-off slightly from there. It is currently trading at ₹144.5.

There is a crucial long-term resistance in the band between ₹146 and ₹147. Whether the contract breaks above this hurdle or not will decide the next trend.

Inability to break above ₹147 can trigger a pull-back move to ₹141 in the coming days. If the contract manages to bounce again from ₹141, it can move up to ₹145 and ₹146 levels again. In such a scenario, a range-bound move between ₹141 and ₹147 can be seen for some time. But if the contract breaks below ₹141, the possibility of it falling further to ₹137 or ₹136 will increase.

On the other hand, if the contract breaks above ₹147 decisively in the coming days, it can gain fresh momentum. Such a break will increase the likelihood of the contract extending its current rally to ₹150 and ₹151 going forward.

Since the contract has risen sharply over the last three weeks, the possibility is high that it remains below ₹147 for some time. As such, traders can avoid fresh long positions.

Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis. There is a risk of loss in trading.

NAVBHARAT DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.14

रोका 7 खदानों का कामकाज

ओडिशा सरकार ने दिया आदेश

एजेंसियां

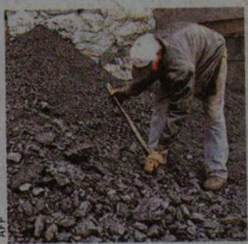
भुवनेश्वर. ओडिशा सरकार ने ज्यादा उत्पादन और अवैध गतिविधियों के लिए 31 दिसंबर तक जुर्माना चुकाने में नाकाम 7 खदानों में काम पर रोक लगाने का आदेश दिया. उच्चतम न्यायालय ने अवैध खनन के लिए 2 अगस्त को 152 लौह अयस्क और मैगनीज पट्टाधारकों पर जुर्माना लगाया था. पता चला था कि इन खदानों में 2000 और 2011 के बीच अनुमति वाले क्षेत्र में वन एवं पर्यावरण मंजूरी के बिना कामकाज हो रहा था. स्टील और खान मंत्री प्रफुल मलिक ने बताया कि राज्य ने 2017 के अंत तक जुर्माने के रूप में 17576 करोड़ रुपये जुटाने का लक्ष्य रखा लेकिन केवल 8223 करोड़ रुपये जुटाया जा सका.

THE HINDU DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.16

SCCL eyes 85 mt coal production in 5 years

Sees 7% annual growth over 3 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD



Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), a state-owned miner, on Monday said it expects coal production to touch 85 million tonnes per annum in the next five years as it plans to open up 12 new mines.

According to a statement issued by SCCL, the miner transported 46.7 million tonnes of coal as on December 2017 against 42.7 million tonnes for the first nine months of the previous fiscal. The production was pegged at nearly 42 million tonnes. "During the past three years (since the formation of Telangana), SCCL has been showing an average growth of 7%... [also], production will touch 85 million tonnes in the next five years," CMD N. Sridhar said.

He expressed hope that the production and coal dispatches may touch 2.10 lakh tonnes and 2.15 lakh tonnes a day, respectively, during the next three months.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.17

Vizag Steel Plant has made impressive strides: CMD

OUR BUREAU
Visakhapatnam, January 1

The Visakhapatnam steel plant – Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd has made impressive strides from April to December during the current financial year, especially in trying market conditions, according to Chairman and Managing Director P Madhusudan.

He was addressing the staff on the occasion of the New Year Day in the plant. He said the performance of the RINL was satisfactory during the period. Especially during the past two months, November and December, the plant produced one million tonnes and registered a turnover of ₹2,000 crores. There were no borrowings during the period (April to December).

He said the RINL had completed the expansion and modernisation projects to scale up the capacity to 7.3 million tonnes. During the period, the plant produced 3.65 million tonnes of hot metal (growth of 13 per cent), 3.54 million tonnes of liquid steel (15 per cent) and 3.19 million tonnes of saleable steel (15 per cent). The turnover during the period amounted to ₹11,405 crore.

THE HITAVADA(CITYLINE)
DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.10

'Iron, steel cos' GNPA for PSBs in basic metals at 24 per cent'

IRON and steel sector accounts for about 24 per cent of total gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) in basic metal metal product category for public sector banks (PSBs), according to the Ministry of Steel.

"The share of gross non-performing assets (GNPA) for iron and steel in basic metal and metal product category as on September 30, 2017 is 23.70 per cent for public sector banks," the Minsitry of Steel said in a statement.

As per the National Steel Policy, 2017, the Indian steel industry contributes approximately 2 per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The benefit of RBI schemes namely 5/25 Scheme and Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A) for restructuring of debts of stressed companies can be availed by steel companies.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS
DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.14

SAIL: Must accelerate pace of turnaround

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

WELCOMING 2018, SAIL chairman PK Singh on Monday asked the employees to expedite the pace of the company's turnaround as it has been posting losses since 2015-16.

"Winning our fear of failure, we must accelerate the pace of turnaround," Singh told the employees here.

Enthusing them to take charge of their destinies and write a new future for the company, he said SAIL has overcome most of the difficulties.

"We must be bold in our decision making and we have to overcome whatever is holding us back," he added.

Welcoming 2018, the chairman wished entire SAIL collective on first day of the new year.

THE BUSINESS LINE
DATE: 2/1/2018 P.N.17

Odisha halts operations in 7 mines

Bhubaneswar, January 1

The Odisha government on Monday suspended operations in seven mines that failed to pay penalties by December 31 for overproduction and illegal activities. The Supreme Court on August 2 imposed a penalty on 152 iron ore and manganese lessees in the State for illegal mining. These mines were found to have conducted operations without forest and environment clearances, sometimes beyond the permitted area, between 2000 and 2011. The State had a target of collecting ₹17,576 crore as penalty by the end of 2017 but could accrue only ₹8,223 crore, said Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Mallick. PTI

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 3/1/2018 P.N.7

Indian Diamond Industry Looks to Russia

Cos aim to set up processing units and buy from Alrosa to get over supply & tax hurdles

Sutanuka.Ghosal
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: India's diamond manufacturers are looking at setting up cutting and polishing units in Russia for easy access of rough diamonds from Alrosa mines as the Central government has yet to come up with a tax structure to enable the country's diamond trade to directly purchase rough diamonds from the special notified zone (SNZ) at Mumbai's Bharat Diamond Bourse.

KGK Diamonds has announced setting up of cutting and polishing unit in Vladivostok in Russia and two more leading diamond companies including M Suresh & Co are looking at opening units in Russia.

Lalit Adani, director at M Suresh & Co, said: "We are keen to set up cutting and polishing unit in Russia and are in talks with Alrosa and Russian government. We will be meeting them shortly. We want to set up a unit in Russia as we can directly procure better-sized diamonds from Alrosa mines."

At present, diamond manufacturers can view the diamonds from miners such as Rio Tinto, De Beers, Alrosa and others at the SNZ and bid but they cannot procure it locally. They have to buy diamonds from Belgium, Dubai, Singapore and Russia despite successful bidding at the SNZ. If they could buy rough diamonds on the spot, their transaction cost would go down.

"In the absence of a proper tax structure for trading at SNZ, we fear that Indian diamond companies may shift a portion of their business to

Russia," said Sanjay Shah, convenor, diamond panel, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

"Russian President Vladimir Putin is inviting diamond trade across the globe to set up units in his country. India, being the leader in cutting and polishing of diamonds, will find it easier to procure raw material and cut down transaction cost if it starts operating in Russia," he said.

For instance, KGK Diamonds has announced that it will be investing 2.8 billion Russian rubles in the Vladivostok unit. The installed manufacturing capacity is 150,000 carats of diamonds per year.

Shah said that the government should come up with a tax structure in line with the carat tax of Belgium for the miners. Carat tax is a clear and predictable fiscal regime that is applied to the diamond trading companies. The regular corporate tax rate —or income tax rate for natural persons — is levied on taxable income that is calculated on the basis of a lump sum margin instead of on the actual margin that is realised.

To supply diamonds in India, miners want the government to adopt a tax structure on the lines of Belgium's. "But Indian tax authorities want to enter into advance pricing arrangement and fix the tax rate. Miners don't agree to this as they fear that tax outgo may hurt them in those years when business is not good," said Sabyasachi Ray, executive director, GJEPC.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 3/1/2018 P.N.1 & 4

As NMDC hikes iron ore prices, sale of sick steel units may be hit

SURESH P IYENGAR

Mumbai, January 2

NMDC's decision to hike iron ore prices by ₹500 to ₹2,760 a tonne will derail the entire process of finding an NCLT-led resolution of the bad debt accumulated by Essar Steel, Bhushan Steel, Monnet Ispat and Electrosteel Steels.

The cost of steel production is expected to go up by ₹1,100-1,300 a tonne after the hike in iron-ore prices. The steel companies, under liquidation, are already finding it difficult to raise working capital to keep their plants running and any shutdown will lead to further write-downs in asset value, said the CEO of a steel company which is in the race to acquire a stressed steel firm.

The current hike in iron ore prices comes on the back of the highest increase in 13 months, effected two months back.

In November, the price of lump iron ore was hiked by 13 per cent to ₹2,600 a tonne, the sharpest increase since the 23 per cent jump in October 2016.

Details on p4

As NMDC hikes iron ore prices, sale of sick steel units may be hit

Steel production costs are expected to go up by ₹1,300/ tonne

SURESH P IYENGAR

Mumbai, January 2

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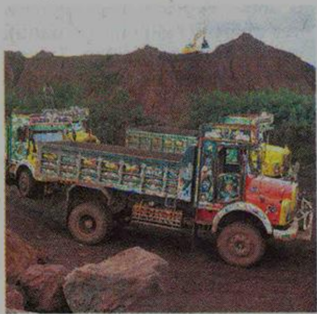
In November, lump iron ore price was hiked by 13 per cent to ₹2,600 a tonne, the sharpest increase since the 23 per cent jump in October last year.

Similarly, the price of iron ore fines was increased 10 per cent to ₹2,260 a tonne.

The price hike in January comes even as seven mines in Odisha are expected to shut operations as they failed to pay the penalty imposed by the Supreme Court for exceeding production limit between FY01 and FY11.

The closure of the mines is expected to reduce domestic supply by 20 million tonnes.

Bidders would definitely factor in the risk of such arbitrary iron pricing before taking a call on sick companies as steel demand has not been robust enough to allow incremental costs to be passed on to the users, said a senior executive of a steel firm.



The current hike in iron ore prices comes on the back of highest ever rise in 13 months effected two months back

Royalty, cess

Along with royalty and other cess, the iron ore price hike works out to ₹600 a tonne, he said.

Incidentally, coal prices has gone up from $169 a tonne to $265over the last one year.

Interestingly, NMDC has increased its exports to 18.5 million tonnes in the first three quarters of this fiscal despite higher domestic realisations of ₹2,760 a tonne against ₹2,200 a tonne earned from exports.

While NMDC may argue that the domestic iron ore prices were pegged to import parity, Rao said the right way to price a key raw material is to compare it with export realisations.

By selling iron ore at a realistic price, NMDC can support the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' vision and create more jobs than exporting iron ore at a lower price and helping other countries to dump steel in India, he said.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 3/1/2018 P.N.16

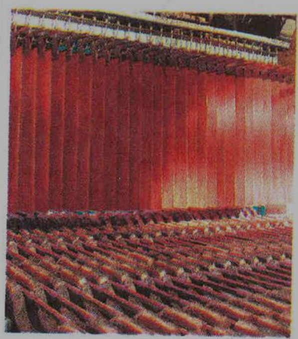
Short-term view remains bullish for MCX Zinc

YOGANAND D
BL Research Bureau

Since taking support at ₹198/kg in early December 2017, the zinc futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) has been in a short-term uptrend.

While trending higher, the contract has conclusively breached its 21- as well as 50-day moving averages and a key resistance at ₹205 during late December. The daily and weekly relative strength indices feature in the bullish zone backing the short-term uptrend.

Moreover, the long- as well as intermediate-term trends are also up for the contract. On Tuesday, the January contract climbed 0.7 per cent to trade at ₹213.4/kg. However, any corrective decline, if occurs, can find support either at ₹210 or at ₹207 in the near-term.



Subsequent resumption of the uptrend can encounter resistance at ₹217 in the coming trading sessions. Traders with a short-term perspective can make use of the corrective dips to buy the contract while maintaining a fixed stop-loss at ₹209. Initial target is ₹217.

Strong break above this resistance can push the contract higher to ₹220 in the short-term.

On the other hand, if the contract decisively plummets below the key short-term support level of ₹205, the short-term uptrend will be under threat.

In that case, trades should avoid taking fresh long positions. Subsequent supports below ₹205 are placed at ₹202 and ₹198. Next vital supports for the contract are at ₹195 and ₹191.

Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis and there is a risk of loss in trading.

THE HITAVADA
DATE: 3/1/2018 P.N.10

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 3/1/2018 P.N.16

MOIL revises manganese ore rate

STATE-RUN MOIL has revised the rates of various grades of manganese ore and other products. The fixed/revised prices of different grades of manganese ore and other products are effective from January 1, 2018, the PSU said in a statement. "In line with the business practice of fixing/revising prices manganese ore, the company has fixed/revised prices of different grades of manganese ore," MOIL said. Providing the details, it said the prices of ferro grade, SMGR (Mn 30 per cent and Mn 25 per cent) and chemical grade have been increased by about 12.5 per cent. The rates of fines have been increased by about 10 per cent on the existing prices whereas electrolytic manganese dioxide (EMD) increased by about 7.5 per cent.

Gold imports jump 67% in 2017 as jewellers restock

REUTERS
Mumbai, January 2

India's gold imports surged 67 per cent in 2017 from the previous year to 855 tonnes as jewellers replenished inventory amid a rebound in retail demand, provisional data from precious metals consultancy GFMS showed.

The rebound in purchases by India, the world's second-biggest consumer of gold after China, could support global prices, which are already near their highest levels in three months. Spot gold values gained more than 13 per cent last year, their best annual performance since 2010.

"Jewellers were replenishing inventory in the first half of 2017 after demonetisation in the last quarter of 2016," Sudheesh Nambiath, a senior analyst with GFMS, said.

Good monsoon in 2017 also helped to revive farmers income and retail demand in rural areas, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a private bank.

The country's overseas gold purchases in December stood at 70 tonnes — up 40 per cent from a year ago, GFMS data showed.

Meanwhile, gold hit its highest since late September on Tuesday. Spot gold was up 0.7 per cent at $1,311.30 an ounce at 1030 GMT, while US gold futures for February delivery were up $3.90 an ounce at $1,313.20.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 4/1/2018 P.N.16

MCX Nickel seen dipping before reversing higher

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The Nickel futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) opened the year on a high note on Monday.

But the contract failed to get strong follow-through buying thereafter. The MCX Nickel futures contract touched a high of ₹815.5 per kg on Tuesday and has come-off that level. It is currently trading at ₹798.5.

Technically, the medium-term resistance is at ₹814 and has capped the upside and triggered this pull-back move.

As long as the contract remains below ₹814, a fall to ₹785 is likely in the coming days.

A break below ₹785 will increase the likelihood of the down-move extending to ₹775. The levels of ₹785 and ₹775 are key trend-line supports, which are likely to limit the downside in the short-term.

A strong upward reversal from either ₹785 or ₹775 can trigger a fresh rally to ₹810 and ₹815. An eventual break above ₹815 will increase the possibility of the contract targeting ₹850 and ₹870 levels over the medium-term.

Short-term traders with a high-risk appetite can wait for dips and go long at ₹787. Accumulate long positions at ₹778 if the contract declines below ₹785.

Keep the stop-loss at ₹770 for a target of ₹810. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹795 as soon as the contract moves up to ₹805.

The outlook will turn bearish only if the contract breaks below ₹775 decisively.

Such a break will increase the likelihood of the contract falling to ₹750 thereafter.

Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis. There is a risk of loss in trading.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 4/1/2018 P.N.3

Rising cost and weak demand to hit cement companies' profit

Demand may grow by just 1-2% this fiscal with a modest recovery from December

Most large cement companies, barring South-based firms, have managed to pass on the rising cost in the first half of this fiscal

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 3

The profitability of cement companies has come under pressure due to an increase in energy and freight costs on the back of the recent rise in pet coke, coal and diesel prices.

Though most large cement companies, barring South-based firms, have managed to pass on the rising cost in the first-half of this fiscal, it will be a challenge to do the same in the coming days due to weak demand.

Given the current trends, demand is expected to grow by just 1-2 per cent this fiscal with a modest recovery from the December quarter.

The Supreme Court recently eased its ban on use of petcoke for cement manufacturing, lime industries and on furnace oil for power generation. It also directed the government to lay down the regulations for such use.

The import duty on pet coke was raised to 10 per cent from 2.5 per cent to curtail its use. However, the future ban on pet coke and its consequent adverse impact on the cost structure of cement companies cannot be ruled out.

Operating profit

Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice-President and Group Head, ICRA Ratings, said the pet coke and coal prices have risen by about 32 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively, in the first-half of this fiscal resulting in higher power and fuel expenses.

This along with about seven per cent increase in diesel prices has hit operating profit of most cement companies.

However, he added with expectations of higher power and fuel and freight costs in this fiscal likely to continue, it is putting pressure on the profit margins and debt metrics of the cement companies in the coming quarters.

The industry players' ability to secure increases in cement prices remains critical from the profitability perspective, he said.

In the first seven months of this fiscal, cement demand was weak due to shortage of sand, slowdown in real estate activity, drought (in a few southern States) and transitional issues related to implementation of structural reforms such as the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Bill and the Goods and Services Tax.

Housing segments

A pick-up in the affordable and rural housing segments and infrastructure – primarily road and irrigation projects – is likely to improve the demand growth to 4-5 per cent next year, he said.

ICRA expects the capacity overhang and moderate demand growth to keep the industry's capacity utilisation level between 60 per cent and 65 per cent over the medium-term.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 4/1/2018 P.N.8

DECENT SCOPE TO RISE Goldman' target price of ₹315 implies a potential upside of 17.45%; brokerage neutral on Tata Steel

Goldman Bullish on Steel, Has a Buy on JSW Steel

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Goldman Sachs is bullish on the Indian steel sector as it believes the sector is in the middle of a multi-year upcycle due to higher spreads, rising domestic capacity and improving iron ore supply.

The investment bank has initiated coverage on the sector with a buy rating on JSW Steel and a target price of ₹315. Goldman has assigned a neutral rating on Tata Steel with target price of ₹780.

Goldman Sachs' target price on JSW Steel implies a potential upside of 17.45% from Wednesday's closing level of ₹268.20 on the BSE. Tata Steel has a potential upside of 3.67% from Goldman Sachs' target price. Shares of Tata Steel ended at ₹733.3 on Wednesday.

The investment bank prefers JSW Steel over Tata Steel due to higher profitability and better valuations.

"In a stable steel price and benign raw material cost environment, we prefer a low cost convertor (JSW Steel) over an integrated steel mill (Tata Steel). On our estimates, JSW Steel screens as attractive among global peers, while Tata Steel looks fairly valued," said Goldman Sachs in a note dated Tuesday.

JSW STEEL	TATA STEEL
Rating: Buy	Rating: Neutral
Comment: While JSW Steel may be slightly free cash flow negative in FY18, Goldman expects it to generate strong free cash flow over FY19/FY20.	Comment: Goldman would consider turning constructive on the stock if it gets visibility on a timely execution of expansion plan.

Goldman Sachs believes that JSW Steel is set to benefit from weaker global raw material prices and the ₹26,800 crore capital expenditure announced by the company will help enhance its steel capacity by 5 million tones by the end of financial year 2019-2020.

The investment bank foresees JSW Steel generating strong free cash flow over the next two financial years and its net debt to EBITDA ratio to come down to 2.6 times from 4.2 times in the financial year ended March 2017. Driven by capital expenditure plans and lower operating costs, JSW Steel is likely to generate top quartile return on equity, added Goldman Sachs.

On Tata Steel, the investment bank said the company's profitability is likely to be partly impacted by narrowing spreads for captive steel mills as global or domestic raw material prices weaken.

Goldman Sachs said it would consider turning constructive on Tata Steel if there is visibility on a timely execution of expansion plan, which would imply faster volume growth and higher profitability trajectory.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 5/1/2018 P.N.16

Buy gold if it dips to $1,290-95 an ounce

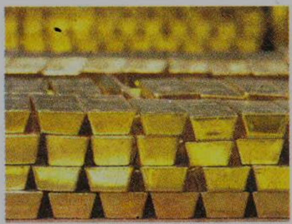
GNANASEKAAR T

Comex gold futures fell marginally on Thursday after hitting a 3-1/2-month high the session before, pulled down as investors took profits and as the dollar firmed.

Comex gold futures moved perfectly in line with our expectations. As hinted earlier, a close above $1,283 an ounce could suddenly open the upside again.

As mentioned in the previous update, charts hint at further upside in the coming sessions towards resistances in the $1,299/1,300 followed by $1,315 levels. Prices could now consolidate in the $1,290-1,320 before edging higher towards $1,352-55 zone.

A fall below $1,290 could postpone the expected bullishness.



Such a fall could see prices testing the next support at $1,280. From the bottom at $1,045 in December 2015, prices have been making higher highs so far in 2017, a clear sign of a rising trend.

In the coming week, we expect the $1,295 levels to hold for a push higher towards $1,335 or even higher to $1,350-55 levels.

Wave counts: It is most likely that the fall from the record $1,925 to the recent low of $1,088 so far, was either a possible corrective wave "A", with a possibility to even extend towards $1,025-30 or a complete correction of A-B-C ending with this decline.

Subsequently, a corrective wave "B" could unfold with targets near $1,375 or even higher. After that, a wave "C" could begin lower again.

Alternatively, we can also expect wave "B" to extend to $1,476. If the current decline as a whole from $1,920 can be considered as a fourth wave, then the fifth wave could begin and cross $1,700 in the long-term.

But a sustained move above $1,200 has once again revived bullish hopes and will make the necessary adjustments to the wave counts, as the prices break key resistance above.

RSI is in the oversold zone now indicating that a downward correction is in the offing. The averages in MACD are have gone above the zero line of the indicator again, indicating a bullish reversal. Only a cross over again below the zero line could hint at a reversal in trend to bearish.

Therefore, buy Comex gold on dips around $1,290-95 with the stop-loss at $1,280 targeting $1,335 followed by $1,352. Supports are at $1,295, 1,280 and 1,260. Resistances are at $1,335, 1,345 and 1,352.

The writer is the Director of Commtrendz Research. There is risk of loss in trading.

THE HINDU DATE: 5/1/2018 P.N.5

Singareni aims to double power generation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) has set an ambitious plans to take its annual production of coal to 85 million tonnes from the present 62 million tonnes in the next five years, while increasing power generation to 2,500 MW from the existing 1,200 MW.

Chairman and Managing Director of the coal company N. Sridhar said here on Friday that major expansion plans to increase production by at least 20 million tonnes in the next five years were underway.

The company plans to set up another power generation unit of 800 MW capacity at Jaipur in Mancherial district. With 500 MW solar power generation across the mining area would take the company's capacity to 2,500 MW, he explained. The company also plans to open 13 new mines over five years.

THE HITAVADA(CITYLINE) DATE: 5/1/2018 P.N.11

Govt bans use of machines for mining sand ghats

- Big ghats to be reserved for public projects
- Only manual sand mining is allowed
- Cartelisation will not be tolerated
- MPDA to be slapped against Illegal sand mining

Special Correspondent

MAHARASHTRA Government has decided to reserve major Sand ghats for various projects of the government and only then remaining sand ghats will be put to auction to private players. The State Government made this major change in the recently announced new Sand Policy. The government has decided to reserve the ghats for Water Resources Department, Water Conservation Department, Public Works Department and Prime Minister's Affordable Housing Scheme.

It may be mentioned that Revenue Minister Chandrakant Dada Patil has assured in the Legislature that the government is mulling the proposal to reserve sand ghats for the government projects. Ambitious infrastructural projects of the State and Central Governments were affected due to non-availability of the sand. The concern departments will have to submit their requisition to the District collectors to reserve sand ghats. The District Collector will also reserve the ghat for Maharashtra State Mining Corporation.

The government has again made it compulsory to obtain environmental permission for the excavation of the sand. The permission of Central Government is mandatory for the excavation from ghats with an area of more than 50 hectares. The ghats with less than 5 hectares land will be cleared at District Level Expert Appraisal Committee and Environment Impact Assessment Authority. The ghat between 5 hectares to 50 hectares will require permission of State level committees. The mining plan is compulsory before environmental clearance of the sand ghats. It is on this point, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has often stayed the mining of sand ghats and recently, even the High Court took a serious note of absence of detailed mining plan before conducting auction of sand ghats.

The State Government has increased the royalty of the respective gram panchayats from the auction fund. The concern Gram Panchayat will get 25 per cent funds from the auction worth of Rs one crore while it will get 20 per cent fund or minimum Rs 25 lakh from the auction between Rs 1 crore to Rs 2 crore. The Gram Panchayat will get 15 per cent amount or minimum Rs 40 lakh from the auction between Rs 2 crore to Rs five crore. The Gram Panchayat will get Rs 10 percent or Rs 60 lakh from auction above Rs 5 crore.

The State Government has set the period for excavation of sand from October 1 to September 30. However, government has banned excavation after June 10. The excavation will be allowed from 6 am to 6 pm only. The government has banned all the machinery used during excavation of sand. The contractors will have to excavate manually. No heavy machinery will be allowed inside the sand ghats. The sand will be transported from tractor trolley only. The sand depots will be created to deposit the sand. The transporters will load sand from the depot. There is no mention about the GPS policy.

The government has warned contractors not to form a ring of contractors to boycott the auction of the ghats. The government has threatened to black list them. The government will take stern action against the illegal transporting of sand and those involved in illegal sand excavation will face action under draconian MPDA.

The District Collector will install Check Post and also measurement machines. The Sand ghats will be having CCTV network to keep watch on them. The district level committee will give every month's detail to State Government for sand excavation.

The government has formed a vigilance committee headed by Deputy Secretary at state level to pay surprise visit and inquire into the illegal mining. The district level committee will be headed by District Collector while top officers will be members of the committee.

Mirza Zia Baig, Petitioner at NGT against policies of the State Government regarding sand ghat alleged that the New Sand Policy-2018 is against the very spirit of the Judgment of the Supreme Court of India. The Apex Court's main concern while passing the judgement was to preserve the Environment and the River Beds. The policy does not define fool proof method in respect of survey of the sand ghat mines and for establishing the quantity of sand deposit available in the sand ghats. The sand policy is totally silent on the period required for studying the replenishment of sand after the Monsoon Period that was must as per the orders of the Apex Court. There is no major change in the new policy in this matter as was required to be done by the State Government.

He alleged that the new Sand Policy is full of ambiguities, on one hand it says that Lease Period of the sand ghats is upto September 30 every year and on the other it is mentioned that sand mining will not be allowed from June 10. On one hand the sand policy says that small sand ghats should be avoided and only big sand ghats should be recommended for Excavation of Sand and on the other it is mentioned that sand ghats having quantity of 3000 brass will be given lease period of three months or September 30 whichever is less which means that only small sand ghats having quantity of 3000 brass can be auctioned.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 5/1/2018 P.N.16

Zinc scales 10-year high on deficit worries

REUTERS
London, January 4

Deficit concerns lifted zinc prices to their highest in more than 10 years on Thursday, while copper rose 1.5 per cent after upbeat Chinese data supported growth expectations in the world's biggest metals consumer.

Zinc stocks held in London Metal Exchange warehouses fell 250 tonnes to their lowest since late 2008. Three-month zinc on the London Metal Exchange was untraded in official midday rings and was last bid at $3,355 a tonne, up 0.9 per cent.

Zinc prices are likely to keep rising over the next six to nine months, Goldman Sachs said in its outlook for 2018, based on refined stocks drawing down, a larger than consensus deficit for 2017 and Chinese zinc mine supply being unlikely to respond to higher prices during the first half.

Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange was up 1.5 per cent at $7,251/tonne. Lead was down 0.3 per cent at $2,572; aluminium was last bid up 0.7 per cent at $2,243; nickel gained 2.1 per cent to $12,660 and tin was flat at $19,900 a tonne.

THE HINDU DATE: 6/1/2018 P.N.4

SCCL to increase coal production

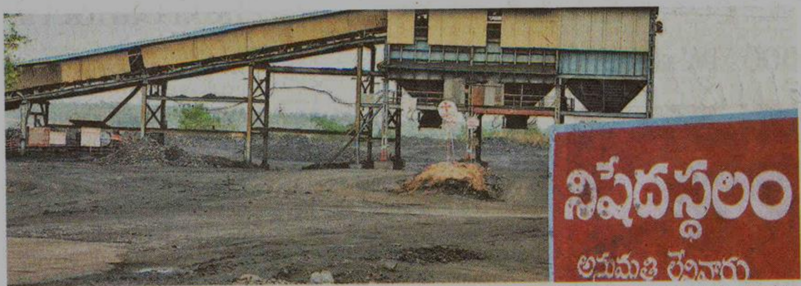
Decision follows introduction of 24×7 power supply to farm sector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) has decided to increase the production of coal in the remaining three months of the current financial year to meet the demand keeping in mind the increase in demand for power in the State following the introduction of uninterrupted supply to agriculture sector.

Daily demand of energy in the State has been recording at around 180 million units (MU) since the introduction of uninterrupted power supply to farm sector from January 1.

On Friday, the maximum demand of power was clocked at 9,329 MW (8.06 am) in the State and on the previous four days the peak demand was 9,376 MW, 9,305 MW, 9,288 MW and 9,115 MW, respectively.



File photo of a coal loading point of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd in Yellandu of Bhadradri Kothagudem district. ▪G.N.RAO

High demand

Similarly, the consumption of energy was recorded at 182.44 MU (on January 4), 184.36 MU (January 3), 185.45 MU (January 2) and 184.77 MU (January 1). At a meeting chaired by Chairman and Managing Director of SCCL N. Sridhar here on Friday, it was decided to meet the target of 2.1 lakh tonnes of coal production per day in the remaining three months of the current fiscal so as to meet the demand of thermal power stations in the State along with meeting the contracted supplies to other consumers in and outside the State.

The CMD has issued directions to 11 area general managers of the coal company to have proper plans both for production and transportation of the targeted coal during the next three months. The company has produced 420 lakh tonnes of coal in the first nine months of the current financial year and the target of another 200 lakh tonnes has been fixed for the remaining period of the fiscal. According to officials, the company has transported 467 lakh tonnes of coal in the first nine months with an increase of 9% compared to the same period last year and it has been decided to transport another 193 lakh tonnes in the remaining period of the current fiscal. Similarly, the removal of over burden was 282.9 million cubic meters with 28% increase during the same period last year.

The target fixed for the remaining period of the fiscal is 14 lakh cubic meters per day.

Meanwhile, the area general managers were instructed to make arrangements for the commencement of new mines as planned along with the mine at Naini in Odisha.

THE HINDU DATE: 7/1/2018 P.N.10

SAIL eyes exports to Japan, Korea

Expands basket to add finished steel

INDRANI DUTTA
KOLKATA

Buoyed by a recent order that it has won in Japan, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is now aiming to increase exports to the country as well as to Korea. The steelmaker has now widened its product portfolio to export finished steel.

This is in tune with SAIL's new marketing policy which aims at increasing its footprint in overseas markets, senior officials said. "Recently, SAIL received an order for supplying 5,000 tonnes of wire rods for Japan's Funabashi port," a company official said, adding that the material will be used for meshing and other purposes. Alongside, SAIL is also exploring the Korean market. It has already won an order for HR coils to Vietnam.

The firm exported about five lakh tonnes of steel between April and November 2017 valued at ₹1,400 crore. This marks a 16% growth in value.

Traditionally, SAIL has been exporting semi-finished steel such as billets and slabs and also some finished steel products such as plates and HR coils. Destinations include the SAARC countries, Europe and some southeast Asian countries.

Of late, India's largest steel producer has expanded its export product basket to include blooms, CR coils, wire rods, TMT and structurals. The Japanese order is being serviced from SAIL's IISCO steel plant.

Africa, Philippines

It is also exploring markets in Africa, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

"India is now better positioned to tap export markets of developed countries due to upgrades in technology that the Indian steel industry has undergone over the last decade," Sanak Mishra, former secretary general of the Indian Steel Association said.

A SAIL official said this was part of its revamped marketing policy that rests on distributor-centric sales, increased share of value-added and customised steel in the product basket and a wider global footprint.

"With the stabilisation of most of our new and modernised mills, we are diversifying our product basket with value-added and ready-to-use products. SAIL will introduce new and niche brands also," company chairman P.K. Singh had said after an interaction with his marketing team.

THE HINDU DATE: 7/1/2018 P.N.10

Gold extends gains on positive global cues

Demand from jewellers buoys prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Gold extended gains for the second straight week and closed with an increase of ₹50 at ₹30,450 per 10 grams at the bullion market, mainly on positive global cues and increased buying by local jewellers.

Silver, too, topped the ₹40,000-level on increased offtake by industrial units and coin makers.

Bullion traders said besides a firm trend overseas as the weakness in the dollar raised demand for the precious metals as a safe haven, increased buying by local jewellers at domestic spot market, mainly kept the precious metals' prices higher. Globally, gold ended higher at $1,318.80 an ounce and silver at $17.16 an ounce in New York.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9% and 99.5% purity commenced the week steady at ₹30,450 and ₹30,300 per ten grams on some support.

Weakness in the U.S. dollar raised demand for the yellow metal. ▪REUTERS

Later, it met with resistance and slipped to ₹30,365 and ₹30,215 per ten grams, respectively but bounced back to ₹30,500 and ₹30,350 on the back of positive global cues before ending at ₹30,450 and ₹30,300 per ten grams respectively, showing a gain of ₹50 each. Sovereign however, moved in a narrow range and settled at ₹24,700 per piece of eight grams.

NAVBHARAT (MAHANAGAR) DATE: 7/1/2018 P.N.7

गौण खनिज उत्खनन नियमों में सुधार

नवभारत समाचार सेवा

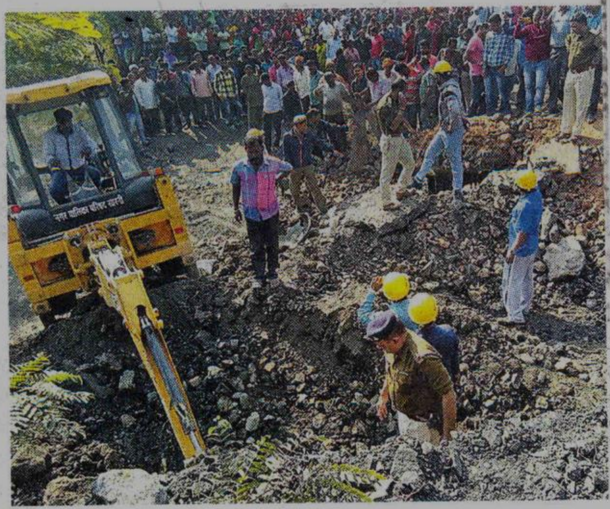
मुंबई/नागपुर. गौण खनिज के उपयोग की प्रक्रिया को और अधिक आसान बनाने के लिए महाराष्ट्र गौण खनिज उत्खनन नियमों में विविध प्रावधानों के समावेश के लिए मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में मान्यता दी गई है. दिये गये निर्णयानुसार महाराष्ट्र गौण खनिज उत्खनन (विकास व विनियमन) नियम-2013 में विविध सुधार किये गये हैं. भूखंड का विकास करते समय निकालने वाली मिट्टी का उपयोग समतलीकरण वं अन्य कामों के लिए उसी भूखंड पर करने को लेकर छूट दी गई है. इसी तर्ज पर जमीन को खोदकर पाइप लाइंस और केबल्स डालते समय निकलने वाली मिट्टी को उसी स्थान पर उपयोग करने वाली मिट्टी के स्वामित्व धन को छूट देने का निर्णय लिया गया है. वहीं सरकार के महत्व के सार्वजनिक प्रकल्प के लिए उत्खनन किये जाने वाले गौण खनिज पर स्वामित्व धन माफ करने या उसके दर कम करने का अधिकार सरकार के पास रहेगा. रेलवे मार्ग, जलाशय, कालवा, नदी, नाला, सिंचाई के कार्यों सहित सड़कें, पुल, इमारत या सार्वजनिक बांधकाम की सीमा के पास से सरकार तय करेगी कि उसके अंतर के भीतर किसी स्थान पर कोई खानकाम किया जा सकता है कि नहीं. इस तरह के प्रावधान को मंजूरी दी गई है. सार्वजनिक जमीन पर गौण खनिज पट्टे नीलामी द्वारा मंजूर करने की कार्यपद्धति का निश्चित किया गया है. गौण खनिज के रूप में वर्गीकरण हो चुकी जिन प्रमुख खनिजों के खदान वितरण के लिए पूर्वेक्षण की अनुमति मिले या खान पट्टा मंजूर हुआ हो या खान पट्टा अपूर्ण होने के मामले में नीलाम पद्धति लागू नहीं रहेगी. जमीन के एकाध भूखंड का विकास करने के लिए उत्खनन करना आवश्यक होगा, तब नियोजन प्राधिकारी या सक्षम प्राधिकारी से आवश्यक अनुमति लेनी आवश्यक रहेगी.

मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में दी गई मंजूरी

LOKMAT DATE: 8/1/2018 P.N.8

कोळसा खाण खचल्याने चार ठार

अनिलसिंग ठाकूर



घटनास्थळी मदतकार्यासाठी दाखल झालेले पथक.

बैतूल : पाथाखेडा येथील वेकोलिची बंद कोळसा खाण खचल्यामुळे तीन महिला व एका बालिकेचा मलब्याखाली दबून मृत्यू झाला. एक महिला गंभीररीत्या जखमी झाली असून तिला उपचारासाठी जिल्हा रुग्णालयात भरती करण्यात आले आहे. ही घटना रविवारी दुपारी घडली.

सीलू केशू चौरसे (४५), मिना शिवलाल गोरासे (३२), नानीबाई नानू पाटेकर (३०) व पायल सूर्या देशमुख (११) अशी मयतांची नावे असून ते टट्टा कॉलनी, शोभापूर येथील रहिवासी होते. संध्या रामस्वरुप डेहरिया (४५) असे जखमीचे नाव आहे. मयत व जखमी महिला खाणीतील खड्ड्यातून लपून कोळसा काढीत होत्या. त्यामुळे वरचा मलबा खचून त्यांच्या अंगावर पडला. बचाव पथकाने जेसीबीच्या मदतीने शव बाहेर काढले. घटनेची माहिती मिळताच जिल्हाधिकारी शशांक मिश्र, पोलीस अधीक्षक डी. आर. तेनीवार, अतिरिक्त पोलीस अधीक्षक घनश्याम मालवीय, शाहपूरचे एसडीएम एस. के. भंडारी, एसडीओपी पंकज दीक्षित व सारणीचे एसडीओपी निहित उपाध्याय खाण परिसरात पोहोचले. ही खाण सुमारे तीन वर्षांपासून बंद असल्याची माहिती सारणी पोलीस ठाण्याचे प्रभारी महेंद्रसिंग चव्हाण यांनी 'लोकमत'ला दिली. या दुर्दैवी घटनेमुळे परिसरात शोककळा पसरली आहे.

NAVBHARAT DATE: 8/1/2018 P.N.9

348 खनन पट्टों की नीलामी प्रक्रिया शुरू करें

दिल्ली. केंद्र ने 2020 में समाप्त हो रहे 348 खनन पट्टों के लिये नीलामी अगले वर्ष शुरू करने को कहा है ताकि सफल बोलीदाताओं के पास परिचालन शुरू करने से पहले जरूरी मंजूरी के लिये पर्याप्त समय हो. खान मंत्रालय ने आंध्र प्रदेश, गोवा, गुजरात, झारखंड तथा कर्नाटक जैसे राज्यों को लिखे पत्र में कहा है, 31 मार्च 2020 को 348 खनन पट्टें समाप्त हो रहे हैं. ऐसे में यह राज्यों के लिये उपयुक्त होगा कि वे एक जुलाई 2019 तक नीलामी प्रक्रिया शुरू करे. उसका मकसद सफल बोलीदाताओं को खनन कामकाज शुरू करने से पहले विभिन्न प्रकार की मंजूरी प्राप्त करने के लिये समय देना है.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 8/1/2018 P.N.2

Base metals turn RED-HOT

This pack was supported by global growth, weak dollar and Chinese demand last year. What does 2018 hold? Our analysis

2017 was a good year for commodities, especially base metals. The Bloomberg Base Metals Spot Price Commodity Index continued its up-move for the second consecutive year, after breaking its multi-year downtrend in 2016.

After surging 21 per cent in 2016, the index sustained its momentum all through last year and was up 27 per cent in 2017.

The index is calculated from the spot prices of six base metals, aluminium (45 per cent weight), copper (25 per cent), zinc (15 per cent), lead (12 per cent), nickel (2 per cent) and tin (1 per cent). Barring tin that is down 5 per cent, all others witnessed a robust rally in 2017, ranging from 23 to 34 per cent. Aluminium, which rose the least in 2016, was the outperformer last calendar, surging 34 per cent.

On the domestic front, the strength in the Indian rupee, which gained over 6 per cent against the US dollar, played spoilsport in limiting the upside in commodity prices. Futures of various base metals traded on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) were up between 15 and 24 per cent, with aluminium and copper contracts sharing the top spot by surging 24 per cent last year.

So, what drove metal prices higher in 2017 and what can influence them in 2018?

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THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 8/1/2018 P.N.2

Global growth

The year 2017 began on a cautious note, with the US Federal Reserve set to hike rates further in the year. With the dollar index hovering above 103, there were increased concerns about global growth getting hit due to a strong dollar and possible rate hikes from the US.

But things turned out to be different in due course of time with growth picking up, boosting consumption. Developed countries including the US, Europe, Japan and the UK posted strong growth through 2017. Europe, which was growing below 2 per cent since 2011, has grown about 2.5 per cent in the third quarter in 2017. The US Federal Reserve has revised its 2018 growth forecast higher to 2.5 per cent from its earlier projection of 2.1 per cent.

Also, manufacturing activity across major nations picked up in 2017. The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) of the US, Europe, Japan and the UK surged strongly all through 2017. For instance, the US and Europe's PMI sustained above 50 all through last year and has surged to the levels of 60, indicating strong growth in the manufacturing sector.

A strong pick-up in global growth and manufacturing activity boosted consumption. This, in turn, kept the demand for base metals higher and pushed the prices higher.

Many institutions foresee global growth continuing to improve further in 2018. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised global growth forecast for 2018 to 3.7 from its earlier projection of 3.6 per cent. Goldman Sachs projects the world to grow at 4 per cent this year compared to a projected 3.7 per cent growth in 2017.

Aluminium

Production cuts from China as a part of its pollution control measures were the most important trigger for the surge in aluminium prices in 2017. China had also curbed exports to meet the increasing domestic consumption in the automobile and construction sectors. This had resulted in a supply shortage in the rest of the world. The production cut was expected to remove about 4 million tonnes from the market. But reports indicate that its impact on the supply side is much worse and it has reduced the supply by about 7 million tonnes.

The production cut is planned to extend until March and will again come into effect in the months of November and December this year. As such, with five months of expected production cuts, the supply could remain short while the demand is expected to increase on the back of global and Chinese consumption. This could leave the aluminium market in deficit and keep the prices higher in 2018 as well.

What the charts say: The Aluminium contract on the London Metal Exchange (LME), which is currently trading at $2,203 per tonne, has strong support in the $2,000-$1,950 zone. As long as it sustains above this support, a rally to $2,500 is likely. An intermediate corrective fall from $2,500 to $2,300 cannot be ruled out. But an eventual break above $2,500 will pave the way for the next target of $2,700.

The outlook will turn negative only if it declines below $1,950. Such a break can drag it to $1,850 or even $1,800.

The MCX-Aluminium contract (₹139 per kg) has a key resistance at ₹147. If it remains below this hurdle, a broad and a volatile range-bound move between ₹130 and ₹147 can be seen for some time. But if the contract manages to breach ₹147, a fresh rally targeting ₹160 is likely.

Nickel

Strong demand from steel industries and electric vehicles is a major positive driver of nickel prices. Also, nickel is one metal which has not witnessed a robust rally over the last couple of years unlike Zinc and Aluminium. So, nickel prices continuing at current levels puts pressure on miners to sustain profitability. If the prices fail to witness a sharp rally and stay at lower levels, that might lead to supply disruption due to mine closures. A possible supply disruption, coupled with an increased demand from the steel sector, can drive nickel higher in 2018 to $15,000 levels.

What the charts say: LME-Nickel ($12,525 per tonne) futures contract can test $13,000 in the near term. A strong break above it can take the contract higher to $15,000. A corrective fall to $13,500 and $13,000 is possible from $15,000. But an eventual break above $15,000 can take the contract higher to $20,000 over the long term.

The MCX-Nickel (₹794 per kg) has risen decisively above the key resistance level of ₹760 last month. The immediate outlook is bullish for a rally to ₹870 or even ₹900. The outlook will turn negative for a fall to ₹745 or even ₹700 if the contract breaks below ₹760.

Lead

Increasing demand from the automobile sector, especially from the US and Europe, will largely drive lead prices higher this year. Although the emerging demand for electric vehicles is a threat to lead, its actual impact might take time to get reflected in the prices. Until then, the automobile sector demand will continue to support lead prices.

The ILZSG forecasts lead demand to increase by 0.9 per cent to 11.82 million tonnes in 2018. It expects the lead market to end with a deficit of 45,000 tonnes this year.

What the charts say: The LME-Lead ($2,540 per tonne) contract is hovering around the key resistance level of $2,500 over the last couple of months. The bias is bullish for it to target $3,000 in the coming weeks.

The MCX-Lead (₹162 per kg) futures contract is stuck in sideways range between ₹155 and ₹165 for more than two months. The bias is positive to witness a strong break above $165 in the coming days as the 21-week moving average has been consistently limiting the downside over the last several weeks. A strong break above ₹165 can take the contract higher to ₹174.

The view will turn negative only if the contract falls below ₹155 decisively. The ensuing targets are ₹150 and ₹145.

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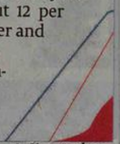
THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 8/1/2018 P.N.2

Weak dollar

The weakness in the US dollar is also one of the key factors that supported the metal price rally last year. Since commodity prices are quoted in the US dollar, both have an inverse correlation. That is, when the dollar value goes up, commodity prices come down as it becomes costlier for the buyer and vice-versa. So, a weak dollar is always positive for commodity prices.

The US dollar index, which had risen to about 104 at the beginning of the year and was threatening a further strong rally, witnessed a sharp fall all through the year. The index had tumbled about 12 per cent to a low of 91 by September and is currently trading around 92.



The outlook for the dollar index remains negative in the short term for a fall to 90 or even lower. Such a fall in the dollar index will continue to push metal prices further higher in the initial period of 2018.

The China factor

When it comes to metals, China is considered the sole driver of prices. This is due to the fact that this country is the world's largest consumer of base metals. It accounts for over 45 per cent of global copper demand and 50 per cent of zinc demand. In case of other metals as well, China accounts for over 40 per cent of the global consumption. The country consumes about 40 to 45 per cent of the lead and nickel produced globally. So, the economic condition in China plays a vital role in determining metal price movements.

When forecasters were bracing for the slowdown to continue, China surprised with robust growth numbers in 2017. The country grew at 6.9 per cent in the first half of the year. IMF forecast the growth to stand at 6.8 per cent for the full year 2017. Though IMF expects the growth in 2018 to be slower at a rate of 6.5 per cent, it has revised it higher from its earlier projection of 6.4 per cent. The manufacturing activity in China has also recovered sharply after falling into the contraction phase in June last year. China's manufacturing PMI surged from 49.5 in June to 51.5 in December last year.

China committing to extend its spending in the infrastructure and transport sectors could continue to keep the demand for metals higher in 2018 as well. China had budgeted to spend about 2.6 trillion yuan last year and is expected to spend the same amount this year as well.

With these three broad factors supporting the entire metal space in 2017, we now take a look at the individual triggers that moved each metal last year and its outlook, going forward.

Copper

Copper prices in 2017 were largely supported by supply disruptions due to labour strikes in the major producing countries like Chile, Peru and Indonesia. Though this is a temporary price driver, any such strikes in the coming year could create short-term volatility in copper prices.

Increasing spending in the infrastructure sectors in major countries like China, coupled with a pick-up in global growth, is expected to keep copper demand high in 2018. The International Copper Study Group (ICSG) expects the global copper demand (ex-China) to increase by 1.5 per cent in 2018 while China's demand is forecast to increase by 3 per cent. This, according to ICSG, may leave a deficit of 105,000 tonnes of copper this year.

Since the major trigger for the price rally came from the labour strikes, if this issue gets resolved this year, then it might restrict the upside in the prices to $8,000 levels in 2018.

What the charts say: For LME-Copper ($7,121 per tonne), an inverted head and shoulder reversal pattern is visible on the charts. The levels of $6,500 and $6,000 are strong supports. A rally to $8,000 is likely. A strong break above $8,000 is needed for the contract to extend its rally to $8,400 and $8,800. But a pull-back from $8,000 can trigger a corrective fall to $7,500 or even $7,000.

The outlook for the MCX-Copper (₹453 per kg) contract is bullish with a strong and confirmed inverted head and shoulder reversal pattern on the charts. Immediate resistance is around ₹490. A strong break and a decisive weekly close above this hurdle will increase the likelihood of the contract rallying to ₹550 and ₹560 levels this year. Key supports are at ₹410 and ₹385.

Zinc

According to the International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG), the market for zinc is forecast to remain under a deficit of 223,000 tonnes in 2018 on the back of increased consumption from the US and Europe. It expects US demand to increase by 12.2 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, in 2017 and 2018.

The European consumption is expected to rise 2.8 per cent in 2018 from a marginal 0.4 per cent increase last year. Chinese consumption is forecast to increase by 3 per cent due to strong demand from the steel sector. A deficit market can aid in keeping zinc prices above $2,000 and move higher towards $3,500 and $3,600 levels in 2018.

What the charts say: The LME-Zinc ($3,354 per tonne) contract, which has been range-bound between $3,000 and $3,300, is showing a bullish sign of breaking this range above $3,300. The contract can gain fresh momentum on a decisive break above $3,400 to target $3,750. The bullish outlook will get negated only if it declines below the psychological $3,000 mark. The next target is $2,500.

The outlook for the MCX-Zinc (₹214 per kg) futures contract is bullish with strong support at ₹200. A rally to ₹225 is likely in the short term. If the contract manages to break above $225 decisively, then the possibility of the current uptrend extending to ₹240 levels cannot be ruled out. The view will turn negative if the contract falls below ₹200. The ensuing targets on such a fall are ₹180 and ₹170.

Levels to watch in 2018

	Return in 2017 (in %)	Current market price*	S1	S2	R1	R2
LME Aluminium	34.0	2,203	2,000	1,950	2,500	2,700
LME Copper	30.9	7,121	6,500	6,000	8,000	8,400
LME Zinc	28.8	3,354	3,000	2,500	3,400	3,750
LME Nickel	27.3	12,525	12,000	10,000	13,000	15,000
LME Lead	23.4	2,540	2,300	2,000	2,500	3,000
MCX Aluminium	23.7	139	140	130	147	160
MCX Zinc	22.0	214	200	180	225	240
MCX Copper	23.7	453	410	385	490	560
MCX Nickel	14.8	794	760	700	870	900
MCX Lead	18.6	162	155	145	165	174

S1, S2 - Supports R1,R2 - Resistances *LME prices are in $/tonne; MCX prices are in ₹/kg

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 8/1/2018 P.N.8

Gold on a strong footing

GURUMURTHY K

Gold has begun the new year on a positive note. The global spot price sustained well above the psychological $1,300 per ounce mark all through the week. The yellow metal surged 1.3 per cent last week and closed at $1,319 per ounce. It has been in a strong rally over the last four consecutive weeks.

Silver outperformed gold last week by surging 1.7 per cent. The global spot silver prices surged, breaking decisively above the psychological resistance level of $17 ounce. Silver made a high of $17.29 before closing the week at $17.22 ounce.

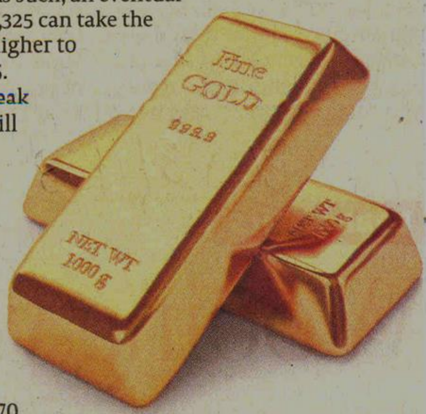
But on the domestic front, the currency movement continues to play spoilsport. The Indian rupee strengthened beyond 64 levels and closed the week at 63.37 against the dollar last week. This limited the gains for gold and silver in rupee terms. The gold futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) closed the week at ₹29,217 per 10 gm and was up just 0.21 per cent. The MCX-Silver futures contract closed the week on a flat note at ₹39,253 per kg.

Dollar supports

Weakness in the US dollar continues to support bullion prices. The US dollar index hovered around 92 all through the week. It fell to a low of 91.75 and closed the week 0.8 per cent lower at 91.95. A key resistance is at 92.25. The index can get a slight breather if it breaks above this hurdle. Such a break can give a relief rally to 93. But as long as the index remains below 92.25, there is a strong likelihood of it falling to 91 in the short term. Such a fall can help in pushing gold prices further higher in the coming days.

Gold outlook

The global spot gold ($1,319 per ounce) has broken above $1,300 decisively. Immediate resistance is at $1,325. Inability to break above this hurdle can keep gold in a sideways range between $1,300 and $1,325 for some time. A fall breaking below $1,300 is less likely at the moment. As such, an eventual break above $1,325 can take the yellow metal higher to $1,340 or $1,345.



A further break above $1,345 will increase the likelihood of the rally extending to $1,365 or $1,370 in the coming weeks. The region between $1,365 and $1,370 is a crucial long-term resistance level that will need a close watch.

On the domestic front, the MCX-Gold (₹29,217 per 10 gm) is hovering above a key support level of ₹29,100. If it manages to sustain above this support, a rise to ₹29,365 or ₹29,400 is possible in the near term. A strong break above ₹29,400 is needed for the contract to gain fresh momentum. Such a break will pave the way for a fresh rally to ₹29,700 and ₹30,000 thereafter.

On the other hand, if the contract declines below ₹29,100, it can test ₹29,000 initially. A break below ₹29,000 will increase the likelihood of the fall extending to ₹28,800 and ₹28,750 thereafter.

Silver outlook

The global spot silver ($17.22 per ounce) has a key resistance near current levels in between $17.25 and $17.30. A strong break above $17.30 will see the rally extending to $17.75. Support is at $16.90. A break below it can take silver lower to $16.6 initially. A further break below $16.6 can drag the prices lower to $16.3.

MCX-Silver (₹39,253 per kg) was range-bound last week. Resistance is in between ₹39,300 and ₹39,400. A strong break above ₹39,400 is needed for the contract to resume its up-move. Such a break can take it to ₹40,000 or even higher.

But if the contract remains below ₹39,400, a dip to test ₹38,500 is likely. A break below ₹38,500 can drag the contract further lower to ₹38,000.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 9/1/2018 P.N.5

UK steel sector flags Bill 'lowering' trade defences

Industry fears that the proposed legislation 'may not defend UK steel companies adequately and will water down anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures'

VIDYA RAM

London, January 8

Britain's steel industry and steel unions have expressed their concerns about the legislation currently passing through Parliament, which they fear may not provide the industry with the much-needed anti-dumping protections, watering down existing provisions that protect the industry via Europe.

Such protections, which have been available to the industry at a European level, have been regarded as crucial to ensuring the industry's stability.

Their concerns centre on the taxation (Cross-Border Taxation), currently going through the House of Commons. The Bill is one of the many pieces of Brexit-related legislation and is focussed on enabling Britain's trade with the rest of the world (alongside a separate Trade Bill) to continue seamlessly after Britain leaves the union, with provisions relating to Britain's customs and excise regime, as well as anti-dumping measures to protect the industry.

Dumping has been a particular issue for the steel industry: trade body UK Steel estimates that over a third of the EU's 92 trade remedies relate to the steel sector.

"Many of the current measures against China, in particular, are vitally important in stemming the flow of under-priced imports that have played such a devastating role in the steel crisis of 2015-16," said UK Steel, which represents the industry, including Tata Steel's UK operations, in a note published earlier this month.

However, industry has serious concerns that the legislation in its current form "may not defend the UK steel companies adequately and will water down anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures."

A significant cause of the recent steel crisis was the illegal dumping of steel by China into the UK market. To ensure that this does not happen again, when Britain leaves the EU, it needs effective trade remedies

Level-playing field

"A significant cause of the recent steel crisis was the illegal dumping of steel by Chinese, state-supported, producers onto the UK market. To ensure that this does not happen again, as we leave the EU, the UK needs an effective trade remedies regime, that enables free trade to take place, in what is a global market. Unfortunately, in its current form, the 'Customs Bill' will fail to achieve this goal. All we want is a level playing field," said Gareth Stace, Director of UK Steel, ahead of the second reading of the Bill on Monday.

Their concerns are shared by workers: this week the committee of the union Community wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer expressing their concerns that the legislation as it stood threatened their "livelihoods" and there was a danger of Britain being seen as a "soft touch" when it came to dumping.

"The UK needs a fully-formed fast-acting and tough trade defence system ready for when we leave the EU and the customs union. But the government's track record on backing robust trade defence and the direction of travel set out in the Customs Bill gives us serious cause for concern," warned Community's steel sector committee.

"We've never asked for protectionism or government handouts, all we ask for is the opportunity to compete in this global marketplace on a level playing field. We must give ourselves every available tool to protect ourselves from unfair trade, or else we will have no industry left."

In its white paper on trade published last year, the British government pledges its commitment to "robust protections" for industry, while taking appropriate account of impacts on users and consumers and the wider trade agenda.

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE: 9/1/2018 P.N.1

खान मंत्रालय की रिपोर्ट में खुलासा | नदियों से जमकर हो रहा है रेत उत्खनन

अवैध उत्खनन में महाराष्ट्र देश में नंबर वन नागपुर जिले में भी बढ़ रही है रेत तस्करी

लोकसभा में भी उठा था यह मुद्दा

- 2013 से सितंबर 2017 तक महाराष्ट्र में 1,44,775 मामले
- 714 लोगों के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज, अभियान जारी है

मुख्य संवाददाता | नागपुर

अपराध के बाद अब महाराष्ट्र नदियों से अवैध रेत उत्खनन और तस्करी के मामले में बड़ा केंद्र बन गया है। बड़ा केंद्र ही नहीं, बल्कि भारत में अव्वल राज्य बन गया है। यह खुलासा केंद्र सरकार ने किया है। 28 दिसंबर 2017 को लोकसभा में प्रश्नोत्तर का जवाब देते हुए केंद्रीय मंत्री नरेंद्र सिंह तोमर ने भारतीय खान ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए खुलासा किया कि नदियों से अवैध रेत उत्खनन व तस्करी में महाराष्ट्र पहले स्थान पर है। वर्ष 2013 से सितंबर 2017 तक महाराष्ट्र में 1 लाख 44 हजार 775 मामले सामने आए हैं। इनमें से 714 लोगों के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज हुई हैं। महाराष्ट्र के बाद मध्यप्रदेश, आंधप्रदेश, उत्तरप्रदेश और कर्नाटक टॉप पर हैं। फिलहाल इस खुलासे ने महाराष्ट्र को फिर सुर्खियों में ला दिया है। इससे पहले नेशनल क्राइम ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट ने अपराध मामले को लेकर महाराष्ट्र को कटघरे में खड़ा किया था। इस रिपोर्ट को आधार बनाकर विपक्ष ने सरकार की खूब चुटकी ली थी।

जिले में 1 करोड़ 26 लाख 57 हजार 893 रुपए की वसूली

महाराष्ट्र में अवैध रेत उत्खनन विवादों का मुद्दा रहा है। राजनेता और अधिकारियों की मिलीभगत से उत्खनन के मामले भी सामने आते रहे हैं। शेष | पेज 16 पर

जिले में सावनेर, भिवापुर, कामठी सबसे संवेदनशील माने जाते हैं

अवैध परिवहन व उत्खनन के मामले में नागपुर जिला अंतर्गत सावनेर, भिवापुर, कामठी, कुही और नागपुर सबसे संवेदनशील हैं। इन तहसीलों में सर्वाधिक अवैध उत्खनन से जुड़े मामले सामने आए हैं। सावनेर में सर्वाधिक मामले पकड़े गए हैं। सावनेर में 307 अवैध परिवहन व उत्खनन के मामले सामने आए। कामठी में 206, हिंगना में 137, मौदा में 193, भिवापुर में 246, कुही में 122 मामले पकड़े गए हैं। हालांकि ज्यादातर मामले अवैध परिवहन के ही बताए जा रहे हैं। उत्खनन के मामले पकड़ने में अधिकारी नाकाफी साबित हो रहे हैं। इसकी बड़ी वजह भी है। अवैध उत्खनन के मामले पकड़ने के लिए घने जंगलों से गुजरकर नदियों तक जाना पड़ता है।

ज्यादा कार्रवाई करते हैं, इसलिए आंकड़े भी ज्यादा दिख रहे

महाराष्ट्र कार्रवाई के मामले में आगे है, अवैध उत्खनन या तस्करी में नहीं। ज्यादा कार्रवाई करते हैं, इसलिए ज्यादा आंकड़े दिख रहे हैं। हमारे जैसी मध्यप्रदेश में कार्रवाई नहीं होती है। फिलहाल नागपुर जिले के रेत घाटों पर उच्च न्यायालय ने स्थगन दे रखा है। तीन महीनों से सभी घाट बंद हैं, लेकिन हमारी कार्रवाई शुरू है। दिसंबर में भी कार्रवाई की गई है। कोर्ट ने पर्यावरण का माइनिंग प्लान देने को कहा है। हमने कोर्ट को आश्वस्त किया है। इस महीने के अंत तक घाट शुरू होने की संभावना है।

-श्रीराम कडू, जिला खनिकर्म अधिकारी, नागपुर

गौण खनिजों के उत्खनन में अवैध कारोबार की रोकथाम के लिए जीपीएस मॉनिटरिंग शुरू

खनिकर्म विभाग कार्यालय में लगे सिस्टम

नगर संवाददाता | नागपुर. जिले में गौण खनिजों के उत्खनन में अवैध कारोबार की रोकथाम के लिए जिलाधिकारी प्रशासन ने सख्त कदम उठाए हैं। रेत घाटों और गौण खनिजों के खदानों में लगनेवाले वाहनों को पूरी तरह से जीपीएस प्रणाली लगाने के लिए अनिवार्य किया गया था। जीपीएस व्यवस्था के तहत ऑनलाइन वाहनों की गतिविधियों पर नजर रखने के लिए खनिकर्म विभाग कार्यालय में सिस्टम लगा दिया गया है। सोमवार को स्थापित किए गए सिस्टम के जरिए अब गौण खनिजों के यातायात पर पैनी नजर अधिकारी रख सकेंगे।

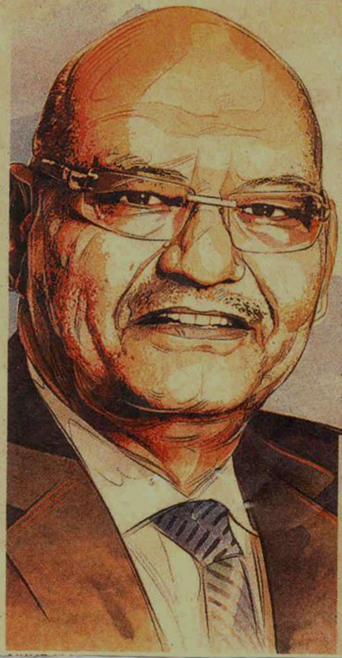
मिलेगा सही लोकेशन : जिला खनिकर्म अधिकारी श्रीराम कडू ने बताया कि इस सिस्टम से न केवल गौण खनिज का परिवहन कर रहे ट्रक का सही लोकेशन मिल सकेगा बल्कि इस पंजीकृत ट्रक का पूरा ट्रैक रिकॉर्ड भी एक क्लिक के भीतर पाया जा सकेगा। ऐसी व्यवस्था से अब खनिकर्म की अवैध तस्करी पर पूरी तरह से लगाम लग जाएगा।

ड्रोन कैमरों का उपयोग : प्रशासन ने रेत तस्करी की रोकथाम के लिए ड्रोन कैमरों से नजर रखने के अलावा, करेंसी कागज पर टीपी आदि की व्यवस्था भी कर रखी है। नए जीपीएस मॉनिटरिंग के जरिए कार्यालय के ऑनलाइन मैप चार्ट में 140 वाहन रेंगते नजर आएंगे। लेकिन इसके बाद भी अवैध वाहनों पर नजर रखना विभाग के लिए फिर भी एक चुनौती है, जिसका पूरी तरह से हल निकाला जाना बाकी है।

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 9/1/2018 P.N.1

Vedanta Leads Electrosteel Race with ₹4,500-crore Bid

ALL-CASH OFFER: Anil Agarwal co may throw in 'sweetener' to pip Tatas



Sangita.Mehta
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Resources submitted the highest bid for bankrupt Electrosteel Steels Ltd, ahead of a Tata Group bid, said two people with knowledge of the matter. The other bidders were Renaissance Group promoted by Abhishek Dalmia and an overseas fund backed by Edelweiss, they said.

The Vedanta bid was said to be worth about Rs 4,500 crore, although one person said it may include an additional "sweetener", without providing further details. The Tata bid was said to be worth about Rs 3,500 crore. **ET** was unable to ascertain the offers made by the other two parties.

The process is being run in accordance with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), PwC said in an email without elaborating. Dhaivat Anjaria of PwC is the resolution professional in charge of the Electrosteel insolvency process. Vedanta and Tata didn't respond to queries.

The Vedanta and Tata bids are all-cash offers, said the people cited above. Electrosteel faces claims of around Rs 10,000 crore from financial creditors, rising to Rs 13,000 crore if interest and penalties are added. If these are excluded, Vedanta's offer implies a haircut of 55% for lenders while the Tata bid would mean one of 65% based on the aforementioned figures. A haircut is the amount a lender has to forgo to settle a loan.

State Bank of India is the lead bank and had referred Electrosteel to the NCLT in July last year at the direction of the RBI.

Steeling a March

Electrosteel Steels among 12 cos that RBI directed banks to refer to bankruptcy court

Vedanta, Tatas, fund backed by Edelweiss Group and Renaissance Group submitted resolution plans

COMPANY HAS DEBT of ₹13,000 crore

KEJRIWAL FAMILY-OWNED

Electrosteel Casting has **45%** stake while the balance is held by public

Shapoorji Pallonji to Buy BKC Project

Shapoorji Pallonji's investment arm is set to buy a commercial project in Bandra-Kurla Complex from Adani Realty in a ₹2,000-cr deal. ▶▶ 14

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 9/1/2018 P.N.10

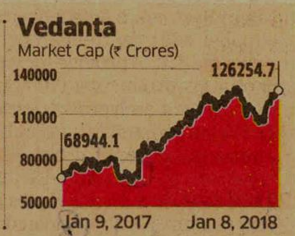
Vedanta Group M-cap Zooms to $45b

Vedanta and Hindustan Zinc each touch $20 billion in market capitalisation

Vatsala.Gaur@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Less than a year after it merged oil producer Cairn India with itself, natural resources powerhouse Vedanta on Monday hit $20 billion in market capitalisation, vaulting into the top reaches of India's corporate leader-board.

Hindustan Zinc (HZL), too, touched $20 billion, taking the total group market capitalisation of Vedanta to around $45 billion. The aggregate valuation includes the outstanding stock of the London-listed Vedanta Resources Plc.



In India, Vedanta's stock is now trading at ₹340 apiece, while Hindustan Zinc closed at ₹317.9 on Monday in Mumbai.

Cairn India and Hindustan Zinc generate cash consistently for the Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta, which is engaged in mining of iron ore, copper, zinc, and aluminium besides production of oil and gas. Both companies had reported record dividend payouts in 2016-17. While HZL gave away a total of more than ₹27,000 crore in the year, Vedanta disbursed more than ₹7,000 crore by way of dividend.

Continued on ▶▶ SMART INVESTING

Vedanta Group M-cap Zooms

▶▶ From ET Markets Page 1

"It's the first milestone," a senior executive at Vedanta said, referring to the vote of confidence by the capital markets. The valuation is undergirded by Vedanta's quality of assets and operating efficiency, which makes the company among the lowest-cost producers of non-ferrous metals. "Our story is not about price. It's about volume growth," he said.

In the past, JPMorgan had acknowledged Vedanta's 'clarity on capital allocation', while a Macquarie research note described the management as having 'delivered on operations and corporate restructuring guidance' and 'regained credibility and investor confidence.'

Vedanta's net debt to EBITDA is at 0.6x (a figure below 4 is considered good) and net debt to equity at 0.7x. "The company is already within comfortable limits of leveraging. So it is not that because it has touched $20 billion, it will take to raising money from the market. Anyway, it does not need to, having enough cash to pay back debt," said an analyst tracking the company.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 9/1/2018 P.N.15

Near-term view negative for MCX-Aluminium

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The resistance in the ₹145-₹147 per kg region for the Aluminium futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) has held well. The MCX-Aluminium futures contract witnessed a sharp fall last week. The contract made a high of ₹145.45 per kg last Tuesday and tumbled over 4 per cent to make a low of ₹138.45 on Monday.

It has slightly bounced higher from this low and is currently trading at ₹139.15 per kg.

Immediate outlook is negative. Key resistances are at ₹141 and ₹143, which can cap the upside in the coming days. Rallies to these levels can find fresh sellers coming into the market. A fall to ₹137 or even ₹135 is likely in the coming days.

Short-term traders can make use of rallies to go short at ₹141. Stop-loss can be placed at ₹144 for the target of ₹135. Revise the stop-loss lower to ₹139 as soon as the contract moves down to ₹137.5.

Whether the contract manages to reverse higher from the ₹137-₹135 support zone or not will be key in determining the next trend.

An upward reversal will ease the pressure and trigger a relief rally to ₹140 and ₹141 levels again.

But if the MCX-Aluminium contract breaks decisively below ₹135, it can come under more selling pressure. In such a scenario, the possibility of the contract falling to ₹131 or ₹130 will increase.

Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis. There is a risk of loss in trading.

THE HITAVADA DATE: 10/1/2018 P.N.11

CIL hikes average prices by 8.5%; power producers see tariff rise

KOLKATA/NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (PTI)

THE State-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) on Tuesday hiked thermal coal prices for both power and non-power consumers with immediate effect, a decision which electricity producers said would jack up energy prices by upto Rs 0.50 per unit. The company has hiked prices of non-coking coal which will raise average coal price by about 8.5 per cent, CIL Chairman, Gopal Singh told PTI. The miner said the hike has been made for the survival of the company which requires implementation of cutting-edge new technologies and environment sustainability.

"Intent for this rationalisation of price is that Coal India survives by adopting state-of-the-art new technology, environment-friendly approach, and with the new coal pricing policy, it will bring transparency, simplicity and linearity of prices," Singh said.

The domestic coal prices were still cheaper between 44 and 64 per cent, compared to Indonesian coal, he said. Prices of seven grades (out of 17) had been lowered by the board in the new pricing. Sources had earlier indicated that the average price hike could be around 10 per cent but the Indian Captive Power Producers Association claimed that it would be in the range of 15-20 per cent for G-11 and G-14 grade fuel which would make power costlier by Rs 0.30-0.50 per unit. The company's board at its meeting approved the revision of non-coking coal prices with effect from January 9, 2018, CIL said in a BSE filing. The revision would result in an incremental revenue of Rs 1,956 crore for the remaining period of 2017-18 fiscal while the total revenue would be Rs 6,421 crore, CIL said.

The price hike will be applicable to "all subsidiaries of Coal India, including NEC for regulated and non-regulated sectors", the filing said. Power producers, however, said that the price hike would increase electricity tariffs.

"This increase for G-11 and G-14 grade (coal) is in the range of 15-20 per cent... It is expected that the coal price increase would result in 30-50 paise/per unit rise in power tariff," Indian Captive Power Producers Association (ICPPA) Secretary, Rajiv Agrawal said. This increase, he said, was over and above 12-18 pc indirect price increase by introduction of evacuation charge (Rs 50 per tonne), sizing charge and surface transportation charge.

"For global competitiveness, energy prices has to come down whereas the nation is being burdened by ineffectiveness of Coal India, its manpower, cost structure and losses," he said.

According to Association of Power Producers, thermal coal price rise would amount to power tariff hike of 25 to 30 paise per unit. "The arbitrary price increases of CIL are burdening common power consumers. As this hike along with earlier imposition of evacuation charge and increase in surface transportation charge would add about 35 paise in retail (power) tariff," Association of Power Producers Director General, Ashok Khurana said.

CIL shares jump nearly 6%; mcap surges by Rs 10,056 cr

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (PTI)

SHARES of Coal India (CIL) on Tuesday ended nearly 6 per cent higher, adding Rs 10,056 crore to its market valuation, after the company said its board had approved a hike in non-coking coal prices for both power and non-power consumers with immediate effect. The stock jumped 5.63 per cent to settle at Rs 304.05 on BSE. During the day, it soared 7.69 pc to Rs 310. On the NSE, shares surged 5.77 pc to end at Rs 304.05. The market valuation zoomed Rs 10,056.28 crore to Rs 1,88,736.28 crore. The stock was the biggest gainer among bluechips on both key indices - Sensex and Nifty. In terms of equity volume, 16.17 lakh shares of were traded on BSE and over 2 crore shares on NSE during day.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE:10/1/2018 P.N.14

Vedanta, Tata Steel among bidders for Electrosteel

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 9

A CLUTCH of large corporates including Vedanta, Tata Steel and Renaissance Steel India have submitted resolution plans for the debt-laden steel-maker Electrosteel Steels. Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors (acting as the investment advisor of EISAF II and EC Holding with support of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company) has also submitted a resolution plan, Electrosteel Steels said in a stock exchange notification.

Electrosteel Steels is the first company among the top 11 stressed assets that were admitted by the NCLT for insolvency proceedings to have put out a list of the bidders it has received from potential investors. Shares of the company closed almost 5 per cent higher at Rs 6.70.

"The resolution professional (RP) is in the process of verifying the same (resolution plans) in accordance with the provisions of the IBC and related rules and regulations issued thereunder," Electrosteel Steels said. FE

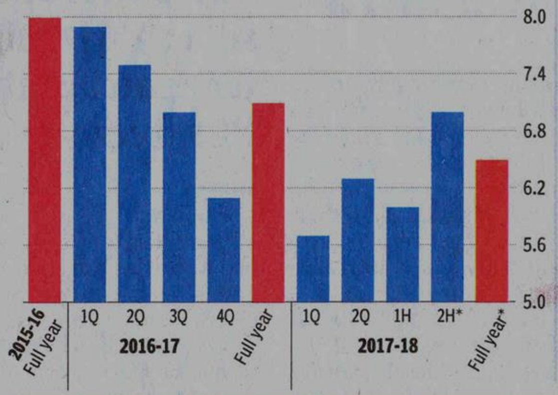
ECONOMY - A REPORT CARD | RADHIKA MERWIN

Growth sputters...

Demonetisation and GST impact growth

GDP growth slipped to three-year low in Q1 of 2017-18

GDP at Basic Price (at 2011-12 prices) % y-o-y



Industry growth moderates .....

....while services sector anchors the overall growth

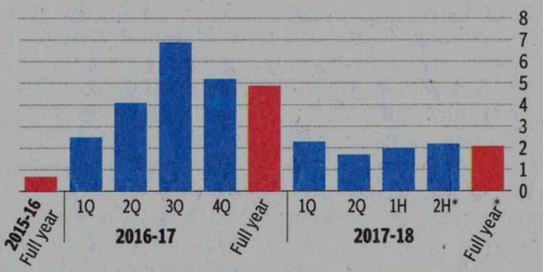
GVA at Basic Price (at 2011-12 prices) % y-o-y

	2016-17	2017-18				
	Full year	1Q	2Q	1H	2H*	Full year*
Mining & quarrying	1.8	-0.7	5.5	2.0	3.6	2.9
Manufacturing	7.9	1.2	7.0	4.0	5.1	4.6
Electricity, gas, water supply& other utility services	7.2	7.0	7.6	7.3	7.7	7.5
Construction	1.7	2.0	2.6	2.3	4.9	3.6
Trade, hotels, transport &communication and services related to boardcasting	7.8	11.1	9.9	10.5	7.0	8.7
Financial,, real est. & professional Services	5.7	6.4	5.7	6.1	8.9	7.3
Public administration, defence and other services	11.3	9.5	6.0	7.6	11.0	9.4
GVA at Basic Price	6.6	5.6	6.1	5.8	6.4	6.1

Slowing agri growth, a major concern

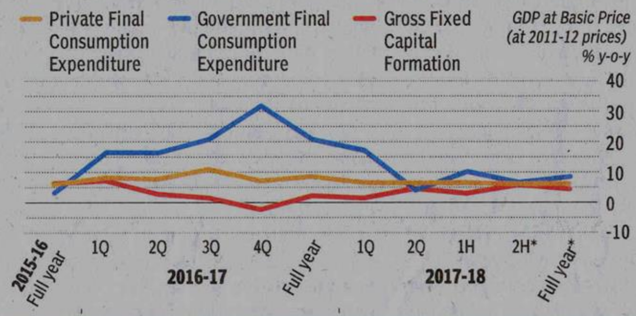
Agriculture, forestry & fishing

GVA at Basic Price (at 2011-12 prices) % y-o-y



Govt spending and private consumption take a hit

GDP at Basic Price (at 2011-12 prices) % y-o-y

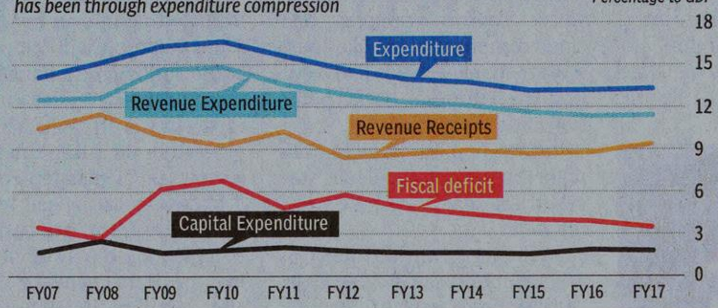


WHAT THE ECONOMY NEEDS...

Improvement in Centre's capital expenditure is critical...

Reduction of fiscal deficit from peak levels in FY09-10 has been through expenditure compression

Percentage to GDP



...but Centre has little leeway to increase expenditure

Govt. of India accounts	Budget estimates 2017-18 (₹ cr)	Acutals up to Nov 2017 (₹ cr)	% of actuals to Budget estimates
Total receipts	16,00,203	8,66,710	54.2
Total expenditure	21,46,735	14,78,815	68.9
Fiscal deficit	5,46,532	6,12,105	112.0

Source: MOSPI *Based on CSO's first advance estimate

Graphic: VISVESWARAN V

Costly coal to pinch consumers

A STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta: Coal India has raised thermal coal prices across certain grades effective from Tuesday. The move, which will inflate prices by an average of around 9 per cent, is expected to earn the miner Rs 1,956 crore on coal sales between January and March 2018 and Rs 6,421 crore annually from the next financial year.

STOCK IMPACT

CIL share price on BSE in Rs

The decision to raise thermal coal prices follows a levy of Rs 50 per tonne on coal evacuation introduced by the public sector miner last month, which will add Rs 800 crore to its topline in 2017-18 and Rs 2,500 crore every year from the next financial year.

In a filing to the BSE, Coal India has said its board of directors in a meeting on Monday has approved the increase in price applicable across all the subsidiaries of the miner for both the regulated and the non-regulated sectors.

It had hiked prices across all its subsidiaries for both the regulated and the non-regulated sectors by around 6.3 per cent in May 2016.

Coal India sources said the increase in prices was mostly on medium grades with gross calorific value ranging between 3,100 kcal/kg and 5,800 kcal/kg, while there has been a slight decrease in prices in both the upper grades (between 6,400 and 7,000 kcal/kg) and lower grades (between 2,200 and 3,100 kcal/kg).

Price impact

The price hike will hit thermal power producers making generation costlier. According to Icra Ratings, this will result in an increase of 9 paise per unit for power purchasers.

"In turn, assuming the average AT&C loss level at around 23 per cent in the country, we estimate the impact on cost of power supply per unit sold and retail tariffs (assuming full pass through by state regulators) at around 11 paisa per unit," said Sabyasachi Majumdar, group head and senior vice-president, Icra.

Power producers, however, estimate a bigger impact of around 25-35 paise per unit at the retail level. "This increase along with earlier imposition of evacuation charge and increase in surface transportation charge would add about 35 paise in retail (power) tariff," Association of Power Producers director-general Ashok Khurana said.

The hike will also affect the non-regulated sectors, including cement, steel and fertilisers.

Stock surges

The Coal India scrip surged on Tuesday following the announcement of the revision in prices. On the Bombay Stock Exchange, Coal India shares ended the day at Rs 304.05 per share, up 5.63 per cent over the previous close.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 11/1/2018 P.N.18

In big Europe push, Liberty House buys Rio Tinto's French aluminium smelter

The company also eyes French steel maker Asco Industries

VIDYA RAM

London, January 10

Industrialist Sanjeev Gupta's Liberty House, part of the GFG Alliance, is to acquire Europe's largest aluminium smelter in Dunkerque, France, kick-starting a major expansion by the company into mainland Europe.

Liberty House, hopes to complete the acquisition of the Rio Tinto facility, which must still be the subject of an employee consultation process, by the second quarter of the year. It believes thousands more jobs could be created at the 570-worker plant as it plans further investment into the site to create an international aluminium products hub to tap into the growing demand for aluminium particular from the automotive sector.

The company estimates that in Europe alone demand for aluminium for vehicles will rise to 4.3 million tonnes from 3.3 million tonnes a year by 2024, given the increasing focus on light-weight materials, and vehicles with a lower carbon footprint. "Our detailed analysis leads us to believe that Dunkerque is the best location to drive forward our downstream automotive strategy. Aluminium Dunkerque has a high-quality aluminium operation benefitting from a top-class workforce and management," said Gupta following the announcement. "This investment will help fulfil our ambitions in the sector, further enabling us to capitalise fully on expected growth in demand for aluminium over the coming years."

He added that the "pro-business environment' created by French President Emmanuel Macron, added to the attractiveness of the asset, and the company will be looking at ways to bring its other divisions, including energy, banking and property development.

The company is also bidding for French steel maker, Asco Industries, which employs around 1,500 people across the country, and which Liberty believes is similar to its speciality steel business in the UK (which it acquired from Tata Steel last May).

The Dunkerque acquisition will further build Liberty House's aluminium base in Europe, following its acquisition in December 2016 of Rio Tinto's aluminium smelter in Lochaber, Scotland, in which it is currently investing 120 million pounds.

The company has made a string of other high-profile investments, globally, including acquiring Australian mining and steel business Arrium, as part of its strategy of acquiring under pressure or distressed businesses and integrating them with its end-to-end business.

Sanjeev Gupta, Executive chairman, Liberty House Group BLOOMBERG

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 11/1/2018 P.N.16

Budget, rupee hold the key to silver's prospects

COMMENTARY

G CHANDRASHEKHAR

The ongoing debate in the global precious metals market is not so much about gold market outlook as about silver. Economic growth, geopolitics, monetary policy and currency factors are set to impact the market outlook in the coming months.

The flow of speculative capital, which usually exerts an exaggerated impact on prices, will depend on the behaviour of the major drivers.

No wonder, divergent views over the likely trajectory of silver prices in 2018 have emerged; all the views on the upside potential and downside risk are equally forceful.

Mixed outlook

Apart from being in the precious metals complex, silver also has plethora of application as an industrial metal with the sector consuming 50 per cent of the total production. So, when prices of industrial metals rise, silver tends to gain.

Many bankers see upside price possibilities emanating from geopolitical tensions that will fuel haven demand. At the same time, positive growth signals, a firming dollar and strong US Fed rate hike expectations cap the upside for silver prices. The consensus price has veered around $17.5 an ounce annual average for 2018, with maximum at $19.4 and minimum at $15.8.

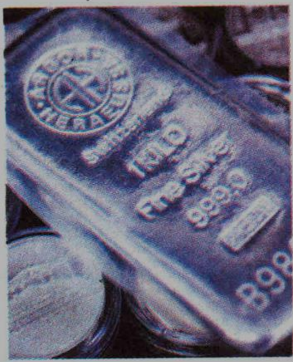
Gold vs Silver

While it is common knowledge that silver usually latches on to the coattails of gold, silver's price performance is often more volatile than gold's. Price movements in the base metals complex too impact silver.

Last year, the white metal underperformed gold with the latter gaining 12 per cent as compared with 4 per cent by the former. Also, silver did not benefit much from improvements in many base metals.

So, will silver continue to underperform gold this year?

According to Capital Economics, despite a rally in gold and base metals prices, silver has had only a modest performance in 2017 and it is believed that silver will continue to underperform gold in 2018. It is argued that the reduced haven demand



has undermined silver as investors tend to favour gold when geopolitical risks are high.

While gold has proved to be a good hedge, silver has behaved more like a contrarian indicator, the agency pointed out, adding that it expects this trend to continue in 2018, which has generated a bearish view on silver prices.

But Metals Focus has a different view. It believes silver will outperform gold this year. According to the agency, the forecast rise in gold price this year is expected to deliver positive spillover effects for silver.

Further, silver's smaller and less liquid market coupled with a modest recovery in investment should see the metal outperform gold in 2018. However, the significant market surplus in the white metal could act as a headwind. End-2018 forecast is $15/oz for silver and $1,200/oz for gold.

Indian imports up

At home, bullion silver imports spurted by 90 per cent to an estimated 5,750 tonnes in 2017, making it the third highest this decade. In 2015, India's imports were a record 7,570 tonnes. In 2018, imports rose modestly, said Metals Focus in a recent report.

From now on, attention will be on the upcoming Budget and the likely impact it would have on the Indian economy, in general, and on the bullion sector, in particular. Any change in the rate of Customs duty would be one thing to watch out for although on current reckoning, the prospect of a reduction is bleak.

Rupee's movements in the months ahead will also be crucial. If there is any directional change, it should be to the downside for the rupee.

The author is a commodities market specialist. Views are personal.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 11/1/2018 P.N.1

SBI, ICICI Bank First Choice for Bidders Eyeing Essar Steel

Bankrupt co's value likely to rise as funds have bought some of its loans from lenders

Sangita.Mehta
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Bidders for the bankrupt Essar Steel, including private equity funds such as Aion and SSG Capital and steelmakers such as Tata Steel, ArcelorMittal, JSW Steel and Nippon Steel, are seeking to tie up funding from banks, two people familiar with the matter said.

State Bank of India and ICICI Bank have emerged as the first port of call for these bidders as they believe that guarantees or letters of comfort from the country's biggest lenders will count in their favour, said the persons. Final, binding bids are to be submitted by the end of the month, they said.

"As many as 10-12 companies are likely to bid and we think that Essar itself would be one of the strong contenders for the company," said one of the persons.

Delisting Rider for Alok Industries

The Alok Industries stock won't be allowed to be delisted for five years post acquisition, as per the resolution terms of the company.

NCLT ADMITS VISA STEEL

The Road Ahead

AT LEAST 10 ENTITIES MAY BID FOR ESSAR STEEL

CO FACES claims of ₹54,851 crore from financial creditors & ₹22,914 cr from operational ones

PROMOTERS will have to arrange for ₹10,000 crore to participate in resolution plan

VALUATION and haircut for Electrosteel Steels and Monnet Ispat may set benchmark for Essar bidders

APPLICANTS have to give binding bids by Jan 29

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 11/1/2018 P.N.1

It's curtains for Tungabhadra Steel, an early example of 'Make in India'

Cabinet approves decision to shut iconic company weighed down by huge losses

K GIRIPRAKASH
Bengaluru, January 10

With the Union Cabinet approving the CCEA decision to shut the Hospet-based Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd (TSPL), the curtains will finally come down on one of the finest and earliest examples of 'make in India'.

Like several other PSUs, Tungabhadra Steel saw its glory days initially but later incurred huge losses.

TSPL was a successor to the Workshops & Machinery Division of the Tungabhadra Dam project, which was set up to manufacture gates and hoists required for spillways, sluices and canal gates. These equipment used to be imported earlier, involving outgo of huge foreign exchange.

In 1960, it was converted into a PSU with equal participation from the governments of Mysore (now Karnataka) and Andhra Pradesh. Later, it became a central PSU with the Government of India taking a 79 per cent stake in the joint venture, bringing the company under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Heavy Industry.

Before it stopped production, the company had started supplying steel structures to power and irrigation projects, with BHEL and SAIL among its customers, and for construction of the Linganmakki Dam and the Sardar Sarovar project.

Missed opportunities

Much before the company went defunct, state-owned KIOCL, an exporter of iron ore pellets, is learnt to have thrown its hat into the ring to take over the company. The acquisition would have helped KIOCL immensely if it had obtained the mining lease for the Ramanadurga iron ore deposit. TSPL also had a mini hydel plant that generated 5.5 million units of power per year.

End of an era Tungabhadra Steel had its glory days initially but later incurred huge losses

Nothing was heard since then and over a period of time, about 350 workers were laid off with a hefty VRS. The project has about 85 acres of land right in the middle of Hospet, once the hotbed for mining activity.

The Cabinet has now approved the sale of the land to the Karnataka Government for use by the Karnataka State Housing Board. The land is being sold to the State government at the ₹66 lakh per acre rate offered by it. The proposal to transfer metallurgical and material handling plants to Karnataka along with 20,000 square metres of land, has also been cleared.

A former union member said that TSPL went belly up because of mismanagement. It also did not receive funding at the right time from the Centre, which was not keen on pumping money into loss-making PSUs. The government also did not provide guarantees for it to raise funds from financial institutions.

At one point, TSPL needed a mere ₹ 150 crore to revive itself but no money came forth from the Centre.

Also read p5

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 11/1/2018 P.N.3

Sajjan Jindal to govt: Let PSUs take over production at 7 iron ore mines in Odisha

Govt must approach Supreme Court to avoid 'disastrous situation'

Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Group

SURESH P IYENGAR

Mumbai, January 10

Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Group, has urged the government to allow public sector companies to take over production at seven iron ore mines in Odisha that have defaulted on penalty payment levied by the Supreme Court for breaching their production limit.

In a tweet tagging the Steel Ministry, Jindal suggested that the Ministry should approach the Supreme Court to seek permission to operate these mines by PSUs until a final decision on the fate of these leases is taken.

This will also solve loss of employment and ensure iron ore supply at competitive price, and hence, affordable steel.

The suspension of production from December by the seven mines will lead to short supply of 20 million tonnes annually and has already pushed up iron ore prices dramatically.

The government must approach the Supreme Court considering that iron ore shortage of 20 million tonnes per annum in the country will lead to a disastrous situation wherein all small companies will be forced to shut operations, said Jindal in another tweet tagging Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology.

Jindal insisted that instead of stopping iron ore production in Odisha due to non-payment of penalty, a new solution should be worked out by the government. Last August, the Supreme Court ordered lease holders of iron and manganese mines to deposit their penalty for overproduction between 2000 and 2011 with the State government before December-end.

About 10 mining companies, including state-owned Odisha Mining Corporation paid about ₹5,000 crore.

However, leaseholders of another 147 mines failed to pay the cumulative penalty of ₹17,576 crore. Currently, of the 147 mines, only 54 are operational.

People are losing jobs, the government is losing royalty and revenue, while the steel industry is losing iron ore. It is helping nobody, he said tagging the Prime Minister's Office.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 11/1/2018 P.N.16

Uptrend gathers pace in MCX Nickel

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The supports in the ₹775-785 per kg region have held well for the Nickel futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), as anticipated.

The contract fell to a low of ₹782.6/kg on Monday and has surged 4.8 per cent to ₹820.

The sharp rally in the past week has taken the contract well above the key resistance level of ₹816.

This level may now serve as a good support for the contract.

Also, cluster of supports present in the band between ₹810 and ₹785 can limit the downside if the contract declines below ₹816 in the short-term.

The 21-day moving average has crossed over the 55-day moving average and it strengthens the bullish bias.

This indicates that the downside in the contract could be limited in the coming days.

A rally to ₹840 or ₹845 is likely in the short term. Inability to break above ₹845 can trigger an intermediate pull-back move to ₹820.

But an eventual break above ₹845 will pave the way for the next target of ₹865 over the medium term.

Traders with a high-risk appetite and medium-term perspective can make use of dips to go long near ₹816 and can also accumulate at ₹806 and ₹790. Stop-loss can be placed at ₹780 for a target of ₹860.

If the contract fails to sustain above ₹816 in the coming days and reverses lower, it can fall to ₹800 levels again.

In such a scenario, a range-bound move between ₹785 and ₹720 can be seen for some time.

However, within this range, the bias will continue to remain bullish.

Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis. There is a risk of loss in trading.

THE TELEGRAPH DATE: 11/1/2018 P.N.8

Fresh shock for coal users

A STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta: The woes of coal consumers refuse to ebb with the Railway Board on Tuesday tweaking freight tariffs for the fuel a day after Coal India raised prices by around 9 per cent.

The revised freight charges, which come into effect from January 15, raise the base tariff around 20 per cent even as the two currently applicable additional charges have been removed.

Under the revised tariff, a distance slab of 201-275km, for instance, will attract a tariff of Rs 618.40 per tonne for a trainload (usually 59 wagons) against Rs 512.10 per tonne at present. The highest slab of 3,491-3,500km will attract a tariff of Rs 3,815.10 per tonne for a trainload against Rs 3,159.50 per tonne at present.

The Railway Board in a circular said it had decided to rationalise the coal and coke tariff structures for transportation by rail route. "The freight rate tables for the transportation of coal and coke by rail shall be applicable throughout the year. No busy season surcharge and development charge shall be levied on the transportation of coal and coke by rail," the circular said.

MORE BURDEN

Base tariffs in select slabs (in Rs/tonne)

Distance (km)	Old	New
201-275	512.10	618.40
3,491-3,500	3,159	3,815

■ Busy season surcharge & development charges abolished

According to industry sources, the busy season surcharge of 15 per cent on the base tariff is currently applicable for nine months, excluding the three months of usually high rainfall (July-September) when mining activity is limited.

A development charge of 5 per cent is applicable throughout the year. Both charges are add-ons over the base tariff.

"The new base tariff effectively absorbs the two additional charges. From a cost perspective, it may seem there is no major impact of the freight rationalisation. But the new tariff is applicable throughout the year, while the busy season charges were applicable for only nine months. So, unless there are any additional circulars, the consumers would have to factor in higher freight cost for the three months (July-September)," said a source.

THE HITAVADA(CITYLINE) DATE: 10/1/2018 P.N.5

JNARDDC to host national meet on January 12

JAWAHARLAL Nehru Aluminium Research Development (JNARDDC), Nagpur, is organising a one-day nationa meet on 'Alternative sources of Raw Materials for Refractory Industry' on January 12 at JNARDDC Auditorium, Amravati Road, Wadi. JNARDDC is organising the meet to share and showcase their achievements to the industry, exchange ideas and understand specific needs of the industry so that the good work done by the institute can be taken to next higher level. SKG Refractory; Castwell, Nagpur; Rushi Refractory, Pune; Premium Refractory, Katni; Lloyed Industries; High-tech Metafluxes, Raipur; Ashapura Industries, Mumabi and many other companies are participating in this event.

The team of JNARDDC are working hard to make this event a success under the guidance of Dr Anupam Agnihotri, Director, JNARDDC. Dr P G Bhukte, Principal Scientist is the convenor of the meet. JNARDDC is successfully catering to the R&D needs of the Indian Aluminium Industry in all areas ranging from bauxite to finished product. All achievements and different works done by JNARDDC will be discussed and shared during the meet.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 11/1/2018 P.N.12

NMDC stake-sale gets thumbs up from investors

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, January 10

The Centre's stake-sale in state-run NMDC on Wednesday received a thumping response from retail investors who put in bids for 8.58 crore shares on offer, helping raise nearly ₹1,200 crore.

The retail portion of the stake-sale on the second day of the offer-for-sale was subscribed 5.4 times on Wednesday. The Centre had reserved 94.91 lakh shares for retail investors with an oversubscription option of 64.19 lakh shares.

On Tuesday, institutional investors had put in bids for over 6.36 crore shares amounting to ₹976 crore in the OFS.

The government had planned to sell 1.5 per cent of its equity stake in NMDC with a greenshoe option to retain oversubscription of a further 1.5 per cent. In total, the Centre is now selling 2.52 per cent stake in the firm. Retail investors were also offered a discount of 5 per cent on the floor price of ₹153.5 a piece.

The Centre currently owns 74.94 per cent stake in NMDC, which is the country's single largest iron ore producer.

On Wednesday, its scrip gained 0.45 per cent on the BSE to close at ₹155.30 apiece.

The government has till now raised ₹53,833.05 crore through disinvestment in PSUs.

For the current fiscal, it has set a disinvestment target of ₹72,500 crore.

THE TELEGRAPH DATE: 12/1/2018 P.N.10

Minister favours higher steel exports

A STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta: The central government wants to raise steel exports to 6-7 per cent of total production in the coming years from the present 1.5 per cent.

"There is no reason to be happy with 1.5 per cent of exports. In the next few years, Indian steel exports should increase to 6-7 per cent of total production," steel minister Chaudhary Birender Singh said on Thursday while addressing a seminar at the Bharat Chamber of Commerce.

Singh was speaking on the improving fortunes of steel makers, following protective measures by the government such as the minimum import price and anti-dumping duty.

The minister said these steps have turned India into a net exporter of steel.

According to official data, the export of total finished

Chaudhary Birender Singh in Calcutta on Thursday.
A Telegraph picture

steel was up 52.9 per cent in April-December 2017 (7.606 million tonnes) over the same period of last year.

The total crude steel production during April-December 2017 was 75.498 million tonnes, a growth of 4.6 per cent over the same period of last year. Leading steel makers SAIL, RINL, Tata Steel, Essar, JSWL & JSPL together produced 43.39 mt during April-December 2017, which was a growth of 6.5 per cent over the same period of last year. The remaining 32.108 mt came from other producers, which was a growth of 2.1 per cent over the same period of last year.

Speaking on iron ore prices, Singh said the ministry does not want ore prices to fluctuate in a way so that it creates disturbances for small and medium steel firms.

"We have constituted a task force on this (fluctuation of iron ore prices) and the report is awaited. As a government, we cannot intervene (in the price movement) but can explore ways to curb price swings. The fluctuation can disturb the budgeting exercise of small steel players...Some mechanism can be thought of (for checking price fluctuations)," he said.

The minister also pointed out that scrap-based steel would provide high quality raw material for future use.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE: 12/1/2018 P.N.14

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 12/1/2018 P.N.18

Crude steel output hits all-time high of 100 mn tonnes in 2017

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE COUNTRY'S crude steel production rose nearly 6 per cent to hit an all-time high of 101.28 million tonnes (MT) last year, according to official data.

During April-December of the fiscal 2017-18, the output stood at 75.50 MT as against 72.20 MT during the same period a year ago, an expansion of 4.6 per cent, the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) — which is empowered by the steel ministry to collect data on the Indian iron and steel industry — said in its latest report. "For the first time..., India's crude steel production crossed the 100 million tonnes mark in 2017, reaching 101.227 MT, a growth of 5.87 per cent over 2016," it said. In December alone, the country produced 8.65 MT as against 8.38 MT in the same month a year ago.

SAIL, RINL, TSL, Essar, JSWL and JSPL together produced 43.39 MT during April-December 2017, which was a growth of 6.5 per cent over the same period of the preceding year, it said. The rest 32.10 MT came from other producers, which was a growth of 2.1 per cent over the same period a year earlier, the report said.

Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh also expressed satisfaction over the production numbers. "Glad to share that India's crude steel production crossed the 100 million tonnes (MT) mark in 2017. This reflects the industry's commitment towards strengthening the Indian steel sector," he said in a Tweet.

India is the third largest producer of crude steel in the world after China and Japan. The country is now aiming to grab the second spot.

The government is taking various measures to promote the domestic steel sector and raise capacity.

On May 3, the Cabinet gave nod to a new policy that aims to achieve steel making capacity of 300 million tonnes by 2030 with an additional investment of Rs 10 lakh crore.

MCX Lead: range-bound with a bullish bias

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The Lead futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) was stuck in a narrow range between ₹160 and ₹166 per kg in the past week. In the broad sideways range between ₹155 and ₹168 the contract has been trading over the last two months.

However, the bias within this broad sideways movement remains bullish for the contract as the 21-week moving average continues to provide strong support over the last several weeks. This leaves the possibility high of the contract breaking above ₹168 in the short-term.

A decisive weekly close above ₹166 will be an initial sign indicating that the contract is gaining momentum and is on the verge of breaching ₹168. Such a break above ₹168 will pave way for the next targets of ₹171 and ₹172.

Both the 21-week moving average and a trend-line support poised at ₹159 is the key near-term support. A strong break below ₹157 is needed to bring renewed selling pressure on the contract.

Such a break can drag the contract lower to ₹155 — the lower end of the range. However, the outlook will turn negative only if the contract decisively breaks below ₹155.

Such a break, though looks less probable at the moment, will increase the possibility of the contract falling to ₹150 or even lower levels.

Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis and there is a risk of loss in trading.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 12/1/2018 P.N.18

Buy gold if it dips to $1,310-15/ounce

GNANASEKAAR T

Comex gold ended marginally higher on Thursday, as China poured cold water on reports that it might stop buying US debt.

Comex gold futures moved perfectly in line with our expectations. As hinted earlier, a close above $1,283 per ounce could suddenly open the upside again. Prices could now consolidate in the $1,290-1,320 levels before edging up towards $1,352-55.

Dips to $1,313 followed by $1,305 is expected to hold for an initial test of $1,335 followed by $1,352-55.

A direct fall below $1,302 could postpone the expected bullishness. Such a fall could see prices testing the next support at $1,280.

In the coming week, we expect the $1,310-15 levels to hold for a push higher towards $1,335 or even higher to $1,350-55 levels.

Wave counts: It is most likely that the fall from record $1,925 to the recent low of $1,088 so far, was either a possible corrective wave "A", with a possibility to even extend towards $1,025-30 levels or a complete correction of A-B-C ending with this decline.

Subsequently, a corrective wave "B" could unfold with targets near $1,375 or even higher. After that, a wave "C" could begin lower again. Alternatively, we can also expect wave "B" to extend to $1,476 levels. If the current decline as a whole from $1,920 can be considered as a fourth wave, then the fifth wave could begin and cross $1,700 in the long-term.

But failure to follow-through above $1,355 has dashed any hopes of any impulsive up move.

As prices have broken certain important supports and shows weakness targeting $1,100. But, a sustained move above $1,200 has once again revived bullish hopes and will make the necessary adjustments to the wave counts, as the prices break key resistance above.

RSI is in the neutral zone now indicating that it is neither overbought nor oversold. The averages in MACD are have gone above the zero line of the indicator again, indicating a bullish reversal. Only a cross over again below the zero line could hint at a reversal in trend to bearish.

Therefore, buy Comex gold on dips around $1,310-15 with the stop-loss at $1,293 targeting $1,335 followed by $1,352.

Supports are at $1,305, 1,289 and 1,275. Resistances are at $1,335, 1,353 and 1,374.

The writer is the Director of Commtrendz Research. There is risk of loss in trading.

THE BUSINESS LINE
DATE: 12/1/2018 P.N.5

Steel output hits 100 mt in 2017

New Delhi, January 11

The country's crude steel production rose nearly 6 per cent to hit an all-time high of 101.28 million tonnes (mt) last year, according to official data. During April-December of the fiscal 2017-18, the output stood at 75.50 mt as against 72.20 mt during the same period a year ago, an expansion of 4.6 per cent, the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) — which is empowered by the Steel Ministry to collect data on the Indian iron and steel industry — said in its latest report. SAIL, RINL, TSL, Essar, JSWL and JSPL together produced 43.39 mt during April-December 2017, up 6.5 per cent. PTI

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 12/1/2018 P.N.19

Work on mining corridors in Goa likely to start next month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, January 11

Work on the much-awaited mining corridors to ease the congestion on the main roads in Goa is likely to start next month, a senior official said today. As a part of the project, a network of roads has been planned in South Goa district so that trucks avoid the main roads while transporting the iron ore from the mining leases to jetties on the river fronts.

"The work on the mining corridor connecting Guddemol to Kapxem in South Goa, costing around ₹100 crore, will begin in February. Attempts are being made to ensure that the work begins on time," Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC) Chairman Deepak Pauskar told PTI today.

The State run-GSIDC has been appointed nodal agency to construct the corridors.

Pauskar said the earlier planned work on the corridor from Tilamol to Rivona in South Goa was delayed as the mining leases around that road are yet to resume operations due to some environmental issues, following closure in 2012.

He also said Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar would hold a meeting soon for clarity on the funding of the project. It is not yet clear whether the cost of the project would be borne by the District Mineral Fund (a fund collected from mine owners), the state government or the Centre.

THE HINDU DATE: 13/1/2018 P.N.4

SCCL dependent job scheme to fore again

AITUC launches agitations at all mines

K.M. DAYASHANKAR
PEDDAPALLI

Revival of the Dependent Employment Scheme (DES) for the coal miners' children of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has again come to the fore with the national trade unions taking up the path of agitation demanding the State government to fulfill the promise it made during the union elections in October last year. During the 2012 elections, the Telangana Bhoggu Ghani Karmika sangham (TGBKS) had won with the slogan of revival of the DES. In 2017 elections too the TGBKS won following an assurance given by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to revive the scheme.

The AITUC is spearheading the movement by staging dharnas and agitations in the entire Singareni coal belt region, asking the government to fulfill the promises made during electioneering. "The TRS government and TGBKS had asked miners to vote for them during Dasara and collect the Dependent Employment Scheme jobs as Diwali gift, but in vain", alleged an AITUC leader.

The Chief Minister had promised to revive the DES by constituting the medical board, sanctioning ₹10 lakh interest-free loans to miners for construction of houses.

Singareni employees casting votes during union elections at Yellandu of Bhadradri district on October 5 last. ▪FILE PHOTO

KTR for curbing illegal mining with tech tools

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Industries and Mining Minister K.T. Rama Rao exhorted the officials of the Mining Department to deploy technological tools for monitoring mining of sand and other minerals in different parts of the State.

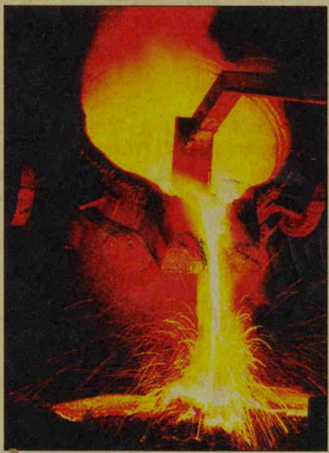
Officials should keep a watch on prospective mining zones using drones while they could consider usage of global positioning system (GPS) and RFID tags to monitor the movement of vehicles engaged in mining operations. "Efforts should be made to utilise satellite-based technologies for ensuring effective monitoring of the mining reaches," he said. "Officials should utilise technology effectively to identify dumps of mined minerals, movement of vehicles and vehicles that are overloaded," he said, while reviewing the functioning of the department with officials here on Friday. The Government was planning to introduce booking for sand requirement through Mee Seva centres soon, he added. Officials would ensure timely delivery of sand once the online system was put in place and reasons given in the event of rejection of the request, he said and inquired with the officials about violations.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 13/1/2018 P.N.1

Tata Steel Begins to Recast up to $2.5 Billion of Global Debt

To launch a $1-b bond issue, refinance up to $1.5 b of loans housed in its Singapore arms

Arijit Barman & Saikat Das



Mumbai: Tata Steel is set to launch a $1-billion bond issue as part of a mega financing exercise to streamline its international balance sheet before its European joint venture with Thyssenkrupp kicks off, said several people with knowledge of the matter. A formal announcement is expected on Saturday, they said. This will be among the largest fund-raising exercises that the group will be undertaking after N Chandrasekaran took over as Tata Sons chairman in February last year.

Apart from the bonds, which will have a tenure of five, seven and 10 years, Tata Steel will also refinance $1.1-1.5 billion of loans housed in its Singapore subsidiaries, TS Global Holdings Pte. and NatSteel Asia Pte, for another six years, said the people. The loans were last refinanced in 2015 and are expected to carry a pricing of Libor+250 basis points or 4.5%. A basis point is 0.01 percentage point.

"Roadshows for the bonds begin on Monday. The management will meet investors in Dubai, London, Singapore and Hong Kong," said a company executive on condition of anonymity. "The plan is to price them on January 18."

Over a dozen global banks have been mandated for the issue and are said to include BofA Merrill Lynch, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Citi, StanChart, Barclays, HSBC, UBS and BNP Paribas among others.

$2-billion Rights Issue Planned ▸▸ 11

TCS in $2-b Deal with Transamerica

TCS has signed a $2-billion-plus contract, its largest ever to date, to provide systems solutions to Transamerica, marking the Indian IT leader's entry into the highly specialized US third-party insurance administration business. ▸▸ 5

100% VARIABLE FOR STAFF IN DEC QUARTER
▸▸ PAGE 6

Foreign Audit Cos may Land Bigger Share

The government's intent to promote domestic audit firms through the recent FDI policy faces controversy due to lacuna in the fine print, report **Vinod Mahanta** & **Sachin Dave**. Industry trackers say the current definition may end up giving more business to MNCs. ▸▸ 5

Trai Cuts Intl Termination Charges

Trai cut the international termination charge – paid by international telecom firms to local networks – to 30 paise a minute, from 53 paise, to stymie the 'menace' of grey route of international calling.

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 13/1/2018 P.N.16

Gold imports may drop to 650 tonnes this fiscal

Investors' shift to other asset classes reason for the dip

RUTAM VORA

Ahmedabad, January 12

The country's duty-paid gold imports for fiscal 2017-18 may touch 650 tonnes at anaverage price of $1,280 per ounce.

This, according to industry experts, would still be manageable on the current account deficit front, thanks to lower global prices of the yellow metal as compared to what they were in 2013-14.

Speaking on gold import trends in India, Rajesh Khosla, Chairman Emeritus, MMTC-PAMP, said that gold imports for the financial year 2017-18 may touch 650 tonnes — almost the same level as last year.

Experts stated that the shift in investment preference rom gold to other asset classes coupled with higher import duty may curb imports, which were earlier estimated to touch 700 tonnes.

GOLD IMPORTS

Year	Imports tonne	Avg price $/Oz	Exch rate ₹
2013-14	665	1,411	60.77
2014-15	915	1,266	61.27
2015-16	968	1,160	65.60
2016-17*	660	1,250	66.90
2017-18*	650	1,257	64.40

*Source: RBI, Kitco, Market estimates * Estimated*

Investment pattern

"The younger generation doesn't look at gold as haven. Emerging asset classes such as cryptocurrencies are turning out to be the preferred investment avenue for people below the age of 35," said Joshy Jacob of the India Gold Policy Centre.

"In the first nine months of the fiscal (April-December 2017), gold imports hovered at about 500 tonnes. We expect this to touch 650 tonnes by the end of the fiscal — almost at the same level as that of last year. But the imports will still be manageable as the average international gold price has come down as compared to previous years," Khosla said.

According to Khosla, in the past, average international gold prices had touched $2,000/oz, while this fiscal the average gold prices would hover around $1,280-1,300. "It will be manageable as the spending on the imports will reduce and the revenues from the imports will go up. Therefore, even if the volume has not come down significantly, the absolute value of imports will come down. Therefore, there will be less burden on our pockets," added Khosla, who was in Ahmedabad for a conference on Gold and Gold Markets organised by the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad on Friday.

Cut in duty unlikely

Khosla, however, expressed his apprehensions over the possibility of a reduction in the import duty on gold, as widely demanded by jewellers and bullion traders. "Until we make stable revenues from GST, there doesn't seem any possibility of reducing import duty. There is no point in cutting government revenues from one source, before the other source of income gets stable," he added.

Notably, the import duty on gold is 10 per cent, in addition to the Goods and Services Tax of 3 per cent. This higher import duty, as claimed by jewellers, is prompting smugglers to resort to illegal imports.

THE HITAVADA(CITY LINE) DATE: 15/1/2018 P.N.8

JNARDDC holds National Interactive Meet

Staff Reporter

JAWAHARLAL Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), Nagpur recently organised a National Interactive Meet on “Alternative Sources of Raw Materials for Refractory Industry”.

Dr I N Chakraborty, President, QPC and R&D of Indian Refractory Makers Association (IRMA) was the chief guest of the inaugural event. Dr Anupam Agnihotri, Director, JNARDDC presided over the event. Dr S P Puttewar, HoD Bauxite, Dr P G Bhukte was the Convenor of the programme. In his remarks, Dr Chakraborty appreciated the works of JNARDDC and the contribution of the organisation in the field of refractory. Similarly, Dr Agnihotri said, “The motto behind holding this meet is to connect with refractory industry and to showcase products developed at JNARDDC for refractory industry using unutilised material from mine site like saprolite, PLK, dross one of waste from aluminium industry and special alumina.”

Dr Anupam Agnihotri delivering speech while chief guest Dr I N Chakraborty and other guests also look on.

He said, “Indian Refractory industry in nutshell of Rs 4000 cr industry with more than 100 units with overall production of 2mT/y having about 65% capacity utilisation with annual growth of 10-12%.”Dr Upendra Singh, Dr Suchita Rai and M J Chaddha presented papers on different products developed for refractory application. Dr A K Nandi, Dr P sengupta, Shiv Kumar, G P Thakre, Dr Sanjeev Bhasin, Venkatichalam Iyer, Tilak Bhattacharya and others were present during the meet. R Shrinivasan and R Vishakha compered the programme.

THE HITAVADA(CITY LINE) DATE: 15/1/2018 P.N.10

Finished steel exports up at 29 pc in December

■ Imports dip at 26 pre cent during the month

Business Bureau

INDIA'S total export of finished steel in December last year jumped 28.9 per cent to 0.964 million tonnes (MT), official data showed. The country had shipped 0.748 MT finished steel in the same month in 2016.

During April-December of 2017-18, the export of finished steel increased 52.9 per cent to 7.606 MT, from 4.975 MT in the year-ago period, the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) has said in its latest report.

On the other hand, imports were down 26 per cent at 0.561 MT in December 2017 compared to 0.762 MT during the same month a year ago. The import of finished steel during April-December last year surged 10.9 per cent to 6.096 MT, as against 5.495 MT in the same period previous year. “India was a net exporter of total finished steel in December 2017 as also during April-December 2017,” the report said. India's consumption of finished steel in December 2017 rose 6.2 per cent to 7.621 MT compared to 7.175 MT in the year-ago period.

In April-August 2017, the consumption of finished steel witnessed a growth of 5.2 per cent to 64.867 MT as against 61.662 MT during the same period a year ago “under the influence of rising production for sale and imports,” it said.

Not very happy with the export figures, Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh has said India should export six to seven per cent of its total steel production from the existing 1.5 per cent.

“There is no reason to be happy with 1.5 per cent of export. In the next few years, Indian steel exports should increase to 6-7 per cent of total production,” Singh recently said at a session.

Empowered by the Ministry of Steel the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) is the only institution in the country that collects data on the Indian iron and steel industry.

THE TELEGRAPH DATE: 15/1/2018 P.N.9

Jindals to bid for Binani Cement

SAMBIT SAHA

Salboni: JSW has joined the race for debt-laden Binani Cement which is facing an insolvency process before the National Company Law Tribunal, signalling an addition to a growing list of stressed steel and power assets that the Jindals are interested in acquiring.

Parth Jindal, managing director of JSW Cement, said it had partnered a global private equity player for the 11-million-tonne (mt) asset and the bid will be made on Monday.

"We will go with the might of the group ($11-billion JSW Group) for assets like Binani. We surely do not want to let this go," Jindal said at Salboni.

The liquidation value of the asset, which is divided among India (Rajasthan), the UAE and China, is about Rs 2,300 crore. However, it has secured a debt of over Rs 3,800 crore and a contingency liability of around Rs 700 crore.

Binani Cement is one of the several assets that JSW Group is bidding through the NCLT-led insolvency resolution process under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

It has emerged the sole bidder for the steel assets of Monnet Ispat and is readying to make an aggressive bid for Bhushan Steel. Sajjan Jindal-promoted JSW Group is also eyeing assets in the power space with its bid for GMR Power.

JSW Cement has 11.6mt capacity, including the 2.4mt unit commissioned at Bengal's Salboni in West Midnapur in June 2016. It intends to expand the capacity to 20mt organically by 2020.

If the attempt to acquire Binani Cement is successful, it will be an addition to the existing expansion plan. But Parth expects strong competition. "There may be 11 bids for Binani. UltraTech and Dalmia are the ones I will be worried about," the candid Jindal scion said.

> We will go with the might of the group (JSW Group) for assets like Binani. We surely do not want to let this go
>
> **PARTH JINDAL**
> **in Salboni on Sunday.**

Picture by Saikat Santra

One of the advantages of cornering the Binani entity would be the integration of its West Asian asset. JSW is building a clinker plant, having its own limestone mine, in Fujairah, while Binani has a grinding unit in Dubai.

JSW is also eyeing Kalyanpur Cement, a 1mt unit in Bihar, which is attractive because it has the only limestone deposit in that state.

Consolidation plan

Even as Jindal said the group could easily plough in Rs 6,000-7,000 crore because of its "strong balance sheet", it decided to partner private equity players for major acquisitions. In Binani, the private equity player — Jindal declined to name it citing competition — will have a majority stake in the consortium.

"The idea is to partner a PE player, turn around the asset and then consolidate into our balance sheet. Till then these assets (Monnet, Binani) will remain separate entities," Jindal said. This may indicate that once these assets are rendered stress-free, JSW will offer an exit route to its PE partners and buy them out. In Monnet Ispat, it has joined hands with Aion Capital, while it is negotiating with Piramal-Bain for Bhushan Steel.

Bengal commitment

Sitting at the lawn of Ankur, the residencies for the managers of Salboni, Jindal reiterated the group's commitment to Bengal, albeit cautiously.

"We are not going to make any promise that cannot be kept, especially after the disappointment of not putting up the steel plant," said Jindal, who will join father Sajjan, mother Sangita and wife Anushree to welcome chief minister Mamata Banerjee for the formal inauguration of the Rs 800-crore plant on Monday.

It will invest another Rs 400 crore to expand the cement capacity by 1.2mt and set up an 18MW captive power plant. Construction of a paint factory may start two-and-a-half years from now. It also has plans for a cold rolling mill.

In 2007, the group had promised to put up a 10mt steel plant and a 660MW power plant. While the steel plant did not happen after the group failed to secure iron ore linkage, the power plant collapsed after a Supreme Court order in 2014 scrapped 214 coal block allocations since 1993.

JSW still remains the leaseholder of over 4,294 acres in Salboni, using just a fraction of land for upcoming and ongoing projects. Jindal, who will join father Sajjan at Bengal Global Business Summit on Tuesday, said the group remained open to the idea of allowing other industrialists to use the surplus land if they could work out acceptable terms.