



खनिज समाचार

**KHANIJ SAMACHAR**

**Vol. 5, No-18**

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# खनिज समाचार

# KHANIJ SAMACHAR



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## Govt to sell 5% in Hindustan Copper via offer for sale

NEW DELHI, Sept 15 (PTI)

THE Government will sell 5 per cent of its stake in state-owned Hindustan Copper through an offer for sale (OFS) this week, according to a regulatory filing.

The OFS will take place on Thursday and Friday through a separate, designated window of the BSE Ltd and NSE, Hindustan Copper said in a filing to BSE.

"The President of India, acting through and represented by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, is the promoter of Hindustan Copper Ltd," the filing said. The Government will sell 48,351,201 equity shares representing 5 per cent of the total issued and paid up equity share capital of the company.

"The promoter proposes to sell up to 48,351,201 equity shares of the company (representing 5 per cent of the total issued and paid up equity share capital of the company) on September 16, 2021

(for non-retail investors only) and on September 17, 2021 (for retail investors and non-retail investors who choose to carry forward their un-allotted bids) with an option of additionally sell 48,351,201 equity shares through a separate, designated window of the BSE Ltd and the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE)," Hindustan Copper said in a filing to BSE.

The floor price for the offer will be Rs 116 per equity share, the filing said. Hindustan Copper Ltd, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, was incorporated in November, 1967.

It has the distinction of being the nation's only vertically integrated copper producing company as it manufactures copper right from the stage of mining to beneficiation, smelting, refining and casting of refined copper metal into downstream saleable products.



## ये मंगल नहीं, गुजरात की खदान का नजारा है...

हर्यद मिश्री | भरूच (गुजरात)

मंगल ग्रह की सतह जैसा नजर आ रहा ये फोटो गुजरात की कोयला (लिग्नाइट) खदान का है। गुजरात का 'काला सोन' के रूप में विख्यात यह खदान भरूच जिले के राजपाण्डी में स्थित है, जो गुजरात मिनरल डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन के प्रोजेक्ट का हिस्सा है। राज्य के कुल कोयला उत्पादन में इसका 20% हिस्सा है।

**अंतरिक्ष यान जैसा राडार :** खदान में अंतरिक्ष यान जैसा नजर आने वाला एक राडार होता है। यह स्कोप स्टेबिलिटी राडार कहलाता है। यह जमीन की रचना में होने वाले बदलाव पर नजर रखता है। सुरक्षा के लिहाज से यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।

- 7-8 लाख मीट्रिक टन सालाना लिग्नाइट उत्पादन होता है
- 1 से 1.5 लाख मीट्रिक टन सिलिका भी निकलती है हर साल
- 2 लाख मीट्रिक टन बोल क्ले का भी हर साल उत्पादन





**REALISATIONS** from e-auctions rise, while outstandings from state power utilities have fallen; ESG initiatives likely to attract more institutions

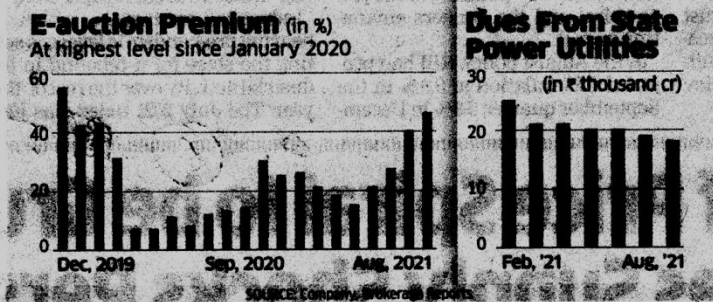
# Coal India May Find Takers on Improving Demand, Capex

Jwalit.Vyas@timesgroup.com

**ET Intelligence Group:** Coal India's performance is improving across key parameters — dues from power utilities are at a 16-month low and sales through e-auctions, which earns high realisations, are at a three-year high. While in the past, the stock has been less in demand since institutional investors tend to reduce exposure to companies related to fossil fuels, value investors may find the stock attractive given the company's higher capital expenditure plan (capex) and a dividend yield of 10%.

Coal offtake rose by 9.5% year-on-year in August to 48.6 million tonnes. It rose by 24% in the first five months of FY22, the highest in 10 years. Coal demand is expected to sustain as the stocks at power plants are at a two-year low amid improving power demand.

Rising dues from the state utilities amid the Covid-19 pandemic was a major concern in FY21. The situation has now improved. After rising by 43% at the end of March 2021, the dues were at a 16-month low in August. They fell by 16% year-on-year and 6% from the previous month to ₹17,900



## ET ANALYSIS

crore at the end of August. They had peaked at ₹25,000 crore in January.

The rising e-auction premiums is another positive factor. Coal India sells 15-20% of production through e-auctions (sale not under an agreement). The premium was 46% in August. It had fallen to a low of 16% in FY21 from a high of 95% in FY19. Likewise, the realisation per tonne during the period fell to ₹1,569 from ₹2,632.

The company's capex plan for FY22 at ₹17,000 crore is the highest in the past five years, with a significant amount allocated for environment, social and governance-related activities (ESG). It includes new mining

projects, first-mile connectivity and railway evacuation projects. This will replace more expensive road transportation with more environment-friendly and low-cost rail and conveyor transport mechanisms. Nearly one-third of the coal offtake will be through this route in three-five years. This effort may attract institutional investors who focus on businesses attempting to reduce carbon emissions.

Analysts expect Coal India to deliver a 15% revenue growth for FY22. The stock has outperformed the Nifty over the past month with a 16% gain. At Thursday's closing price of ₹162.2 on the BSE, the stock was traded at a trailing price-earnings multiple of seven and two times the book value.

# Zinc may rule firm till year-end on demand-supply mismatch

SUBRAMANIAM MANOJANU  
Chennai, September 17

After having hit a three-year high in June this year, zinc prices will likely rule firm for the remaining part of the year following demand-supply mismatch.

Rating agency Fitch Solutions Country Risk and Industry Research (FSCRIR), in a note, said it had raised the price outlook for zinc this year to \$2,900 a tonne from \$2,600 since the demand-supply mismatch had been "long-standing".

The price outlook is in comparison with the World Bank projecting zinc price at \$2,700 a tonne for this year in its commodity forecast and International Monetary Fund pegging it at \$2,828 by the year-end.

## Up 50% y-o-y

The white metal has gained over 12 per cent since the beginning of this year and over 50 per cent year-on-year. On Thursday, three-month zinc contract on the London Metal Exchange closed at \$3,075 a

tonne. The metal, used in galvanising or coating by steel and iron industries to prevent corrosion, was available at \$3,064 a tonne for cash. In June this year, zinc hit a three-year high of \$3,085 on LME.

"While global refined zinc production has ramped up over recent months compared to 2020, it has been outpaced by demand," said Fitch Solutions in its note.

New York-based firm Knoema Corporation said upward price drivers of zinc were disruption of zinc concentrate supplies due to the suspension of large zinc mines as a result of Covid-19, persistent environmental curbs in China and mine closures and disruptions in other countries and recovery of consumption in China, the US, and other countries due to resumption of construction activities.

## Demand seen up 4.3%

The International Metals Study Group, in its June despatch, said world demand for refined zinc metal was forecast to rise



The white metal's rates hover near three-year high

by 4.3 per cent to 13.78 million tonnes (mt) this year, after falling by 3.9 per cent last year. Supply of the metal was likely to rise by 5.7 per cent to 12 mt and refined zinc metal production would rise by 3.1 per cent to 14.13 mt. The Group said global supply of refined zinc metal would exceed demand by 353,000 tonnes this year.

Fitch Solutions said zinc prices have averaged \$2,845 a tonne till now this year. Though prices had climbed down from the highs seen in June, they were still higher than what the market saw after 2018.

"We expect prices to stabilise and weaken from here on in

the coming months, despite remaining elevated compared to historical standards," FSCRIR said.

The International Lead and Zinc Study Group said refined zinc surplus during January-April this year was 31,000 tonnes with the total reported inventories increasing by 142,000 tonnes.

Global zinc mine production rose by 11.3 per cent in the first four months, influenced by increases in Australia, Bolivia, China, India, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, South Africa and the United States, the Group said.

Knoema, quoting *Investingnews.com*, said that global zinc surplus in this year could be 400,000 tonnes.

## Supplies to improve

Fitch Solutions said demand was expected to be boosted by strong consumption from the steel sector in the coming months. Quoting World Steel Association, it said production increased 11.3 per cent year-on-year, suggesting robust recovery in galvanised steel output—

the main demand source for zinc. On the production front, FSCRIR said refined zinc output in China has begun to increase after being hampered by government-enforced power rationing in Yunnan province, which accounts for 12.5 per cent of China's annual refined zinc output, during May-June.

However, the market was expected to be better supplied in the months to come, capping prices. "Additionally, strong growth in zinc mine supply will result from expansions and restarts in key producers including Peru, Australia and Canada, which, in turn, will boost downstream refined zinc production," the agency said.

This has begun to play out in the market with zinc treatment and refining charges increasing. Also, Yunnan has received good rainfall, enabling the local government to reverse production curbs.

In the long term, Fitch Solutions, World Bank and IMF all project a decrease in zinc prices, starting from next year.



## BULLION CUES

# Gold rests on a crucial base

But silver cracks below a support, making short- and the medium-term trend bearish

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

Improved retail sales numbers in the US reignited the policy normalisation debate, leading to a strong dollar which pulled down bullion prices considerably last week.

Gold and silver fell for the second straight week despite a minor recovery on Friday.

In dollar terms, gold lost 1.8 per cent and silver lost 5.6 per cent and closed at \$1,755 and \$22.4 per ounce.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures slipped 1.8 per cent and silver futures tanked 5.7 per cent last week.

Gold October futures and silver December futures ended the week at ₹45,986 (per 10 grams) and ₹59,992 (per 1 Kg), respectively.

Nevertheless, traders seem to be retaining long positions as indicated by the CFTC's (Commodity Futures Trading Commission) COT report - net longs as on Tuesday was at 672.8 tonnes, unchanged from prior week.

On the other hand, there are some supportive factors.

The latest World Gold Council data shows the all-in sustaining costs for gold rose for 3rd straight quarter. This is due to appreciation in the currency of largest gold producers such as South Africa, Australia, and Canada against the dollar.

On the demand front, a WGC study shows that the wholesale demand for gold in China tends to increase in August and September.

However, one should keep a close watch on the outcome of the Fed meeting and FOMC economic projections coming Wednesday, which can



have a significant impact on bullion prices for the near-term.

## MCX-Gold (₹45,986)

Gold October futures, which saw an uptick during the early part of last week, reversed the direction mid-week. The contract faced 21-day moving average (DMA) resistance at ₹47,250 from where the trend turned downwards. Consequently, it broke down from the support of ₹46,800 and marked an intraweek low of ₹45,812 before wrapping up the week a little higher at ₹45,986.

Although the futures is just around the key level of ₹46,000, the price action indicates considerable weakness. This is supported by how indicators like the relative strength index (RSI) and the moving average convergence divergence (MACD) have moved over the past week. The former, which was in bearish territory, is showing a fresh downtick with the bearish mo-

mentum picking up. The latter, which has been charting an upward slope since mid-August, is now pointing downwards. The average directional index (ADX) too is showing bears are gaining good traction. Besides, the number of outstanding open interest (OI) went up during the past week i.e., on Friday it stood at 16,559 compared to 15,240 in previous week end.

While the above symptoms are clear signs of fragility, the contract has a support band between ₹45,660 and ₹46,000. Traders can initiate fresh short positions if the contract falls below ₹45,660. A breach of ₹45,660 can result in the price swiftly correcting to ₹45,000 and then possibly to ₹44,200. But if there is a recovery, the futures can face barriers at ₹46,800 and ₹47,600.

## MCX-Silver (₹59,992)

Silver futures (December expiry) saw a quiet opening last week and it re-

mained dull during the first half of the week.

But the contract saw a sharp fall in the second half and closed the week with a loss of 5.7 per cent. Most of the decline happened on Thursday.

The contract has broken down from its range and the price action on the daily chart - a downtrend followed by a consolidation period followed by a break down - is a bearish indication. The contract has been forming lower highs and lower lows since June, showing that bears are in the driving seat.

With the latest event of a support being taken out, the contract may see another leg of downtrend.

Corroborating this, the RSI, which has been moving down gradually since past two weeks, has extended the downward movement; the MACD on the daily chart has now made a turn towards south and on the weekly chart it continues to show strong bearish momentum.

The break down occurred with significant volume and the number of outstanding OI of all active silver futures on the MCX has gone up significantly to 14,470 as against 10,918 at the end of the preceding week.

Considering the prevailing price action, the short- and the medium-term trend will stay bearish as long as the price remains below ₹65,000 and the 50-DMA, which currently lies at ₹65,600.

So, traders can take bearish view and consider shorting silver futures. The contract, now hovering around ₹60,000 is likely to soften to ₹58,000. The sell-off can intensify if price remains below ₹60,000. In this case the contract can touch ₹56,000.



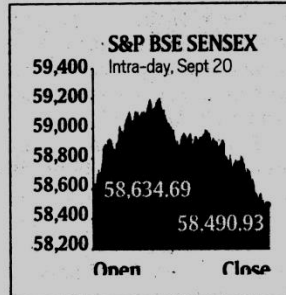
## INDEX JOINS GLOBAL SELL-OFF, DOWN 0.89%

# Realty, metals hit on China property woes, Sensex drops

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 20

DOMESTIC STOCK markets on Monday joined a global sell-off amid concerns that troubles at property giant Evergrande of China are likely to impact the global risk appetite and uncertainty over the forthcoming US Federal Reserve meeting. With metals, realty and banking leading the rout, the benchmark Sensex plunged 525 points, or 0.89 per cent, to 58,490.93 and the Nifty50 lost 188 points, or 1.07 per cent, to 17,396.90 on heavy selling. Markets started the week on a feeble note and lost nearly a percent as weak global cues hit sentiment.

The rupee fell by 26 paise to close at 73.74 against the US dol-



lar, tracking a strong dollar in the overseas market and the sell-off in domestic equities.

Metals have been under pressure today on buzz over Chinese firm Evergrande facing financial trouble and speculation over default on debt payment, which led to a selloff. Tata Steel was the biggest loser on the Sensex chart

and crashed 9.53 per cent. Shares of Jindal Steel & Power Limited tumbled 9.13 per cent, National Aluminium Company Limited plunged 8.92 per cent, Steel Authority of India Limited (8.20 per cent), NMDC (7.70 per cent), JSW Steel (6.99 per cent), Hindalco Industries Limited (6.07 per cent), and Vedanta (4.99 per cent).

Sectorally, BSE metal, basic materials, realty, power and utilities indices tanked up to 6.80 per cent, while FMCG closed higher. In the broader market, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices declined up to 1.84 per cent.

"The decline shows nervousness ahead of the US Fed meet and we may further slide in the Nifty towards the major support around the 17,150-17,250 zone. We recommend keeping a cautious ap-

## EXPLAINED E. Eye on US Fed

GLOBAL MARKETS were negatively as investors were cautious ahead of multiple central bank policy meetings scheduled this week. However, due to weak US job data and inflation increasing at a slower pace, the US Fed is not expected to hint on taper plans in the upcoming meeting.

proach and limiting naked leveraged positions...," said Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare Broking.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE : 21/9/2021 P.N.7

# Metal Stocks Melt on Weak Chinese Demand

Evergrande fears hit investor sentiment; analysts expect further weakness in the pack

## Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Metal stocks were the biggest losers in the market sell-off on Monday as weakening Chinese demand for steel hit investor sentiment. The BSE Metal index declined nearly 7% also on concern over the impact of the crisis unfolding at China's Evergrande, the country's second largest realtor, heightening fears that a housing sector slowdown may hit commodity demand in the world's largest consumer of metals.

Tata Steel and Jindal Steel shares sank more than 9% while SAIL,

NMDC, JSW Steel, Hindalco Industries and Vedanta slid 5-8%.

"Lead indicators of Chinese demand for steel continue to worsen. Weak real estate data as well as contagion fears on account of debt defaults in the high-yield developer market, sets a context for the current steel production cuts," said an ICICI Securities note authored by Abhijit Mitra and Mohit Lohia.

"Risk-reward in steel equities is further worsened by the precipitous fall in iron-ore prices," the note added.

Analysts said one should avoid metal stocks in the short term

till the concerns about Evergrande and the contagion impact fade.

"In the metals space, if China sneezes everybody gets cold. Metal prices are down as a real estate company possibly going bankrupt, there is a big concern," said AK Prabhakar, head of research at IDBI Capital Markets.

"A correction was expected in metals so we need to be cautious but at lower levels. Valuation wise except for SAIL, nothing is cheap, I would wait for at least 15-

20% to buy other steel stocks," said Prabhakar.

The metal index had gained about 148% in the last one year till Friday, outperforming the Sensex which had gained 56% in the same period.

Chandan Taparia, derivative analyst at Motilal, expects top steel stocks to correct 5-8% more. "We expect weakness in metal counters to continue, they are breaking below their short term moving averages and falling below support trendlines. We expect more weakness of 5-8% in counters such as Tata Steel, SAIL, NALCO and Jindal Steel," said Taparia.



# 9 माह में ₹3,900 सस्ता हुआ सोना

**1,700 47,500 61,200**  
रुपये घटा 10 ग्राम 10 ग्राम  
30 दिन में चला रहा अभी चला रही चांदी

■ नागपुर, व्यापार संवाददाता. रिकॉर्ड के ऊपर रिकॉर्ड बना रहे सोने और चांदी जितनी तेजी से ऊपर पहुंचे थे उतनी ही तेजी से नीचे भी गिरते जा रहे हैं. इंटरनेशनल मार्केट का असर और अमेरिकी डॉलर में लौटी मजबूती की वजह से विदेशी बाजारों में सोना गिर रहा है. इसका असर स्थानीय सराफा बाजार में भी पड़ा. सोना व चांदी के खरीदारों के लिए बाजार से अच्छी खबर मिल रही है. शादी-ब्याह में ज्वेलरी की खरीदी करने वाले लोगों को राहत मिल रही है. शादियों के मौके पर सबसे ज्यादा सोना खरीदा जाता है. पिछले 30 दिनों में सोने के दाम करीब 1,700 रुपये कम हुए हैं. जिसके कारण सराफा बाजार की ओर लोगों ने रुख किया है. 1 जनवरी को 24



कैरेट सोने का भाव 51,400 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम था जो 20 सितंबर को 47,500 रुपये पर आ गये. वहीं चांदी के भाव 1 जनवरी को 68,000 रुपये पर पहुंचे थे जो कि अभी गिरावट के साथ 61,200 रुपये प्रति किलो पर आ गये. इन 9 माह में सोना जहां 3,900 रुपए उतरा, वहीं चांदी करीब 6,800 रुपये तक गिर गई.

## भाव गिरने से बजार में आया उठाव

सराफा व्यापारियों के अनुसार लॉकडाउन में घट और सोना के दाम कम होने से मार्केट में हलचल बढ़ी है. हालांकि प्रारंभिक अभी और सोना सस्ता होने की उम्मीद व बाजार कर रहे हैं. अगर इसकी उम्मीद बहुत कम है. दिवाली के बाद के मुहूर्त के लिए लोग शादियों की खरीदारी करने के लिए आ रहे हैं. सोने का भाव गिरने से बाजार में उठाव आया है.

## पिछले वर्ष बनाया रिकॉर्ड

पिछले वर्ष अगस्त-2020 में सोना लंबी उछाल मारते हुए 58,100 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और चांदी 74,800 रुपये प्रति किलो पर पहुंची थी लेकिन बाद में दोनों का भी डाउन फॉल शुरू हो गया जो कि इस वर्ष सितंबर तक सोना-चांदी बहुत ही कम हो गये. लॉकडाउन के दौरान सराफा मार्केट बंद रहने के बावजूद फॉरेन में तेजी के चलते सोने-चांदी में कीमतें उछल मार रही थी. लॉकडाउन में यानी जून में सोना बढ़कर 50,150 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और चांदी 73,000 रुपये पर पहुंची थी. वहीं जैसे ही मार्केट अनलॉक होना शुरू हुआ, वैसे ही भाव में गिरावट भी शुरू हो गई. सोना सस्ता होने से डिमांड मजबूत हो जाती है.

## ऐसे घटी कीमतें

तारीख	सोना	चांदी
1 जनवरी	51,400	68,000
31 जनवरी	50,800	70,300
3 फरवरी	50,200	70,200
20 फरवरी	47,900	68,800
3 मार्च	47,250	68,700
5 मार्च	46,650	68,500
1 जून	50,100	73,000
21 जून	48,800	69,000
1 जुलाई	48,390	69,600
30 जुलाई	49,850	70,000
2 अगस्त	48,900	66,200
30 अगस्त	48,970	66,500
1 सितंबर	48,830	66,500
20 सितंबर	47,500	61,200

BUSINESS LINE DATE : 21/9/2021 P.N.2

## COMMERCIAL EXTRACTION OF COAL BED METHANE

# CIL arm inks revenue-sharing contract with Prabha Energy

SHOBHA ROY

Kolkata, September 20

Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd, has signed a revenue sharing contract with CBM developer Prabha Energy Private Ltd for commercial extraction of coal bed methane (CBM).

CBM is the unconventional form of natural gas found in coal seams. The project is estimated to entail an investment of ₹1,880 crore. While BCCL will invest close to 20 per cent (₹370 crore) towards cost of the land, the remaining (₹1,510 crore) will come from the CBM developer. CBM will be extracted from Jharia Block I under leasehold area of BCCL.

The company was selected through a global bidding process.

CIL has assigned CMPDI, its Ranchi-based consultancy arm, as the principal implementing agency to oversee the project.

"This is an important development and with this CIL will be stepping into a new era of CBM extraction on its own in its leasehold area," a senior company official said in a press statement.

## Project in phases

Spread over an area of 27 sq km, Jharia CBM Block-I has resource of around 25 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM). Average production capacity is pegged at 1.9 million metric standard cubic metres per day once the commercial operation kick starts.

The project is scheduled in three phases. The first phase of exploration is of two-year duration

from the signing of the contract followed by the pilot phase of three years. Thereafter, the production phase is for 30 years.

Given the vast experience that the CBM developer has, CIL is hopeful that the first two phases would be completed earlier than scheduled and production would commence "sooner than planned". According to the CIL official, harnessing CBM has dual advantages. On one hand methane has energy potential, and the captured gas can be put to many commercial uses. "The commissioning of gas pipeline in eastern India under URJA Ganga project is in the works by GAIL. CBM produced may be used for city gas distribution or through pipeline for potential users," the company said.

Methane, which is a potent green house gas with global warming potential greater than 25-28 times compared to CO<sub>2</sub>, is a cause of concern for the safety of mines and environment. Removing fugitive methane gas from underground coal mines and using it in profitable and practical ways would help enhance safety, mine productivity, increase revenues and reduce GHG emissions, it added. CIL had earlier floated global bids looking for developers for two more projects having a combined resource potential of 2.7 BCM. Raniganj CBM block under Eastern Coalfields Ltd, West Bengal has 2.2 BCM resource while Sohagpur CBM block under South Eastern Coalfields has 500 million cubic metre resource of methane.



# Nickel prices may ease by year-end on improved supplies

Moderation in rates could increase from Q2 next year

SUBRAMANIRAMANCOMBU  
Chennai, September 21

Nickel prices will likely weaken towards the year-end as the demand-supply situation could ease, two rating agencies have said.

"Refined nickel prices should weaken over the latter part of 2021 and in Q122 (first quarter next year) as the acute market tightness that developed during recent quarters eases," said US rating agency Fitch Solutions Country Risk and Industry Research (FSCRIR) in commentary on price revision for the metal.

"High nickel prices witnessed during the first half of 2021 are likely to moderate somewhat over the next 12 months or so. The rate of moderation is likely to increase from the second quarter of 2022 as supply is projected to outpace demand, turning the year into a surplus as against a marginal deficit this year," said Kaushik Das, Vice-President

and Sector Head, Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA Limited.

## Average price forecast

Fitch Solutions has raised the average price forecast for nickel this year from \$16,500 a tonne to \$17,500, which implies the price during September-December could average \$16,672/tonne.

However, UK-based business intelligence firm CRU group sees prices ruling firm until the year-end. "CRU expects the nickel price to remain firm until the end of 2021 as the fundamentals of the market are forecast to support the price," said Nikhil Shah, Principal Analyst, editor of nickel related Services at CRU.

Nickel has gained 15 per cent so far this year. On Monday, three-month nickel contract on the London Metal Exchange ended at \$19,056 a tonne, while it was available at \$19,070-80 for cash.

## Steel demand

"Steel demand in China expanded rapidly over the first nine



Nickel has gained 15 per cent so far this year

months of 2021," FSCRIR said — an indication of the firm price trend. "While Chinese stainless steel production is reported to have increased by 25 per cent in the first half of this year, restrictions on production to curb pollution before the winter Olympics early next year is likely to result in much muted growth for the full year," said ICRA's Das.

China accounted for almost 60 per cent of global stainless steel production last year, he pointed out.

Fitch Solutions said high-frequency indicators such as manufacturing PMI's and industrial production figures (from China) suggest an incipient slowdown in demand

from steel end-users. "An ongoing outbreak of the Delta variant of Covid-19 in China should further slow stainless steel production growth in Q421," it said.

## Chinese offtake weakening

It also said demand from China's stainless steel sector, the main driver of global demand in the year-to-date, should begin to weaken.

CRU's Shah said China's nickel demand is expected to ease this year as demand from the stainless industry eases, but demand from the electric vehicles (EV) sector will be strong.

Das concurred with the view saying, "sales of EVs in

China, during the first half of 2021, was almost 3.5 times the levels witnessed a year ago thus supporting overall nickel demand in the nation."

## Production disruptions

CRU's Shah said the pandemic affected production, particularly in Indonesia. "But there have been a number of disruptions outside of Indonesia and most of these have been resolved so production should start to improve," he said.

Fitch Solutions said production of refined nickel should improve in the last quarter this year and first quarter next year. "In Indonesia, a gradual rollback of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions imposed in mid-2021 will reduce disruption to both nickel refining and construction of additional nickel refineries," the rating agency said.

ICRA's Das said nickel production has largely recovered to pre-Covid levels. "Most of the growth, over 2021 and 2022, in production is expected to come via the low-grade nickel pig iron route from Indonesia," he said.

## IBM में हिन्दी पखवाड़ा आयोजित

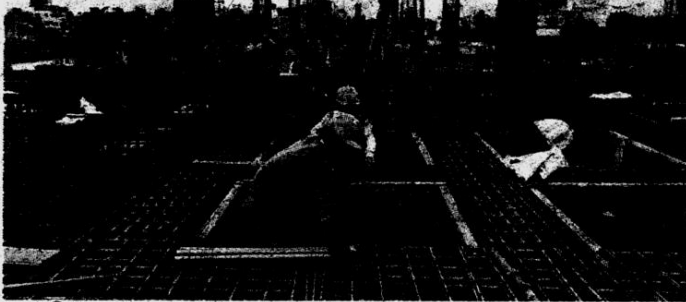
■ नागपुर, व्यापार संवाददाता. हिंगना स्थित भारतीय खान ब्यूरो के खनिज प्रसंस्करण प्रभाग में हिन्दी पखवाड़ा का आयोजन महानियंत्रक के मार्गदर्शन में निदेशक डॉ. संध्या एम. लाल की अध्यक्षता में गुगल मीट द्वारा किया गया. प्रारम्भ में लाल ने हिन्दी दिवस के अवसर पर गृह मंत्री अमित शाह के संदेश का पठन किया व सभी को राज भाषा की प्रतिज्ञा की शपथ दिलाई. तत्पश्चात कार्यालय अध्यक्ष व अधीक्षण अधिकारी डॉ. डी.आर. कानूनगो ने मंत्री प्रल्हाद जोशी का संदेश पढ़ा. अचिन्त गोयल द्वारा राजभाषा के नियमों के अनुपालन संबंधी जानकारी एवं प्रभाग में हिन्दी कार्यान्वयन संबंधी प्रगति की समीक्षा



प्रस्तुत की गई. पखवाड़े के दौरान कार्यालय के अधिकारियों व कर्मचारियों ने हिन्दी के प्रति जागरूकता तथा हिन्दी का ज्ञान संवर्धन करने के उद्देश्य से हिन्दी प्रतियोगिताओं में निबंध, परिसंवाद, चित्र पर आधारित कहानी व टिप्पणी आलेखन आदि करने का निर्णय लिया गया. कार्यक्रम के सफल आयोजन में प्रभाग के संजय डोंगरे का विशेष योगदान रहा.



# कमोडिटी रिव्यू | आयरन ओर के दाम घटने से स्टील की कीमत सालभर पुराने स्तर पर लौटी दो माह में स्टील 13.5% सस्ता, बिल्डर्स फिलहाल नहीं बढ़ाएंगे मकान के दाम



## ■ बारिश सख्त होने से कंस्ट्रक्शन गतिविधियों में आएगी तेजी

सतीश चंद्रकर | रायपुर/अहमदाबाद

आयरन ओर के दामों में नरमी से बीते तीन माह में स्टील की कीमत में 13.5% तक कमी आई है। जून में स्टील का भाव 52,000 रुपए प्रति टन था। अब यह घटकर 45,000 रुपए प्रति टन पर आ गया है। अगले एक महीने में दाम 42 हजार रुपए प्रति टन तक आ सकते हैं। विश्लेषकों के मुताबिक इसका फायदा कंस्ट्रक्शन सेक्टर को मिलेगा, जो कोरोना महामारी के बाद लगी पाबंदियों की वजह से

काफी प्रभावित हुआ था। स्टील की कीमतों में नरमी आने से रियल एस्टेट डेवलपर्स पर कच्चा माल महंगा होने का दबाव कुछ कम हुआ है। डेवलपर्स का कहना है कि त्योहारी सीजन को देखते हुए फिलहाल मकान की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी नहीं होगी। हालांकि, अगले साल क्रीमते 10-15% तक बढ़ सकती हैं। एमएमडीसी ने इस महीने आयरन ओर के भाव में 2 हजार रुपए प्रति टन तक की कटौती की

## त्योहारी सीजन में नहीं बढ़ेंगे दाम

■ रियल एस्टेट सेक्टर कोरोना महामारी के बाद काफी दिक्कत हो चुका है, लेकिन यह कच्चे माल की ऊंची कीमतों को बेड़ा भी उठा रहा है। पिछले दो माह में स्टील के दामों में 13.5% की गिरावट आई है, जिससे राहत मिली है। त्योहारी सीजन काजिक हमने के कारण फिलहाल डेवलपर्स कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी नहीं बढ़ेंगे, लेकिन अगले साल यानी वर्ष 2022 में कीमतें 10-15% तक बढ़ सकती हैं।

-जसवंत राव, गेजलिंग प्रेसिडेंट, केडाई

## इस वजह से मिली स्टील के दामों में राहत

■ चीन सरकार के प्रदूषण फैला रही स्टील कंपनियों पर सख्ती करने से चीन में आयरन ओर की मांग घटी।	■ चीन की सबसे बड़ी रियल एस्टेट कंपनी के डिफाल्ट करने के हतार से चीन में ओर मांग घटने की आशंका।	■ ज्ञायात घटने से आयरन ओर 11 हजार रुपए प्रति टन हुआ, दो महीने पहले तक दाम 16,000 रुपए टन था।	■ आयरन ओर सस्ता होने स्टील के दाम 52,000 प्रति टन से गिरकर 45,000 हजार रुपए प्रति टन पर आए।
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है। कुछ माह पहले तक आयरन ओर 15-16 हजार रुपए प्रति टन तक बिक रहा था। अब तक यह 51% तक घटकर 11 हजार रुपए प्रति टन के स्तर पर आ गया है। स्पंज आयरन मैनुफैक्चरिंग एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष अनिल नचरानी कहते हैं, आयरन ओर की घटती कीमतों का असर स्टील के भाव पर भी पड़ा

है। इस साल जून में स्टील के दाम 52 हजार रुपए प्रति टन तक पहुंच गए थे। जो अब 45 हजार रुपए प्रति टन पर आ गए हैं। पिछले साल सितंबर में स्टील इसी भाव पर बिक रहा था। यदि आयरन ओर की कीमतों में और गिरावट होती है तो आने वाले दिनों में स्टील 2 से 3 हजार रुपए प्रति टन तक सस्ता हो सकता है। छत्तीसगढ़ मिनी स्टील प्लांट एसोसिएशन के महासचिव मनीष धुण्ड कहते हैं, आयरन ओर के दाम घटने राहत मिली तो कोयले के महंगा होने से नई परेशानी शुरू हो गई है। इस साल के शुरुआत में कोयला 7,000 से 7,500 रुपए प्रति टन था, जो अब 15 हजार रुपए प्रति टन हो गया है।

# Copper up 3% as markets cheer Evergrande deal

REUTERS

London, September 22

Copper prices shot up by three per cent on Wednesday on relief that China's debt-burdened Evergrande would pay interest on a domestic bond, easing fears that the property giant's troubles might hit the global economy.

Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange climbed three per cent to \$9,245 a tonne in official trading, reversing losses from the previous session when the contract went as low as \$8,810 a tonne, its weakest since August 19.

An Evergrande unit said it would make a bond interest payment on September 23 after private negotiations with bond-holders.



"That heartened markets for the time being and we're running into some dip buying. Consumers are probably running short of inventory, so these prices may prompt restocking," said independent consultant Robin Bhar.

Risk sentiment was also supported by the People's Bank of China injecting more liquidity into the market to replace certain expiring loans.

The most-traded October copper contract on the Shang-

hai Futures Exchange closed down 0.9 per cent at 68,780 yuan (\$10,636.19) a tonne, catching up with losses in London during the previous two sessions.

Aluminium climbed 2.1 per cent in official activity to \$2,905.50 a tonne; nickel rose 1.1 per cent to \$19,045, zinc advanced 1.9 per cent to \$3,035, while tin jumped 3.3 per cent to \$34,950. Lead lost 0.6% to \$2,122.

## Gold steadies

Gold prices were steady on Wednesday as investors braced for the outcome of a US Federal Reserve meeting and chief Jerome Powell's remarks on reducing its massive support for the pandemic-hit economy.

Spot gold rose 0.1 per cent

to \$1,775.36 per ounce by 0840 GMT, while US gold futures fell 0.2 per cent to \$1,775. "The markets are already pricing in an increasingly hawkish outcome and the nuances will be in (Powell's) press conference," StoneX analyst Rhona O'Connell said, adding gold is also seeing "some safe haven risk-hedging on the back of Evergrande."

"(But) investment flow overall have been limited with the markets concentrating on FOMC," StoneX O'Connell added.

The Fed decision remains the focus and could determine gold's fate in the near-term, as an eventual interest rate hike would raise the opportunity cost of holding non-interest-bearing gold.



# Buy nickel futures, stop-loss at ₹1,400

## COMMODITY CALL

**AKHIL NALLAMUTHU**

BL Research Bureau

The continuous contract of nickel on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), which began the year at around ₹1,215/kg, rallied during the initial weeks and reached ₹1,440 levels towards the end of February.

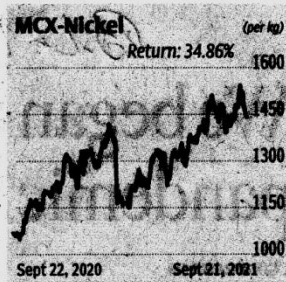
But the contract started to decline and by the first week of March, it had dropped to ₹1,150 levels, thereby losing about 20 per cent within a couple of weeks.

Following this, the futures saw a brief period of consolidation and then began to appreciate.

Since the final week of May, the contract has been steadily gaining with intermittent corrections and notably, the 50-day moving average (DMA) consistently provided support.

The upward progression has been continuing and before a couple of weeks, it hit a fresh high of ₹1,554.7.

However, the contract fell



from those levels to mark a low of ₹1,411 last week.

Although the price has corrected, it is trading around the 50-DMA.

While it briefly went below this level, it swiftly recovered and is now hovering around ₹1,450.

Also, the price band between ₹1,380 and ₹1,400 is a considerable support band and until this band holds, the trend will be bullish.

The price action over the past six months too suggests that the chances of a bounce from the current levels is high.

Traders can buy nickel futures on declines with stop-loss at ₹1,400 and look for a target of ₹1,550.



# Govt offers 15 CBM blocks in first bidding round in more than decade

NEW DELHI, Sept 23 (PTI)

THE Government has offered 15 blocks for extracting gas from coal seams (CBM) in the first bid round in more than a decade.

The blocks are located in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, according to a notice inviting offers put out by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

Bids under the Special CBM Bid Round-2021 are due on February 20, 2022. This is the first CBM bid round in more than a decade. The last round was held in 2010. CBM is gas or methane found below coal seams in coal fields. It is similar to natural gas and can be used as fuel to fire power plants, run fertiliser units, or be used as CNG in automobiles.

The maximum number of five



coal-bed methane (CBM) blocks have been offered in Madhya Pradesh, and two blocks each in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha. Three blocks are on offer in Chhattisgarh and one in West Bengal. The Government has awarded 29 CBM blocks in the previous four rounds of bidding.

"Companies are invited to bid for exploration, development and monetisation of 15 CBM blocks likely to contain both conventional and/or unconventional hydrocarbon resources, distributed in the sedimentary basins of India," DGH said.

All the 15 blocks are in Category-III basins that hold prospective resources to be explored and discovered. India's sedimentary basins are divided into three categories -- Category-I are basins with reserves being produced and exploited, and Category-II are ones with contingent resources to be developed and monetised.

Under current CBM round, bidders offering to do maximum exploration work will be awarded the block. The bid round is part of Government's attempt to raise domestic oil and gas production to cut reliance on imports. India imports roughly 85 per cent of its oil needs and about half of gas requirement. Last month, Government offered 21 conventional oil and gas blocks for bidding in 6th round under OALP.

# SCCL set to achieve production target

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

In the backdrop of increasing demand for energy with the economic activity returning near normalcy, as it was before the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown last year, the demand for coal too is on the rise improving the prospects of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) crossing the target of producing 70 million tonnes (mt) coal this fiscal.

"We have plans to commence production in at least 10 new mines over the next three years and add production of at least 5 mt every year to reach a production target of 85 million tonnes by the end of 2023-24," a senior executive of the coal company said adding that the company has secured environmental clearance for the Cluster of GDK-1 and 3 and GDK-2, 2a and 5 (Godavarikhani) opencast and underground mines with a normative production capacity of 4.1 mt per annum. The plan to add at least 5 mt production capacity every year for the next three years has been prepared keeping in mind the closure of some existing mines during the period.

Along GDK (Godavarikhani) cluster, JVR (Jalagam Vengal Rao) OC-2, VK (Ven-

katesh Khani), the company has plans to start production in MVK, Goleti, Rompedu (JK), Tadicherla, Penagadapa and New Patrapada (in Odisha) over the next three years. A recent move by the Ministry of Coal to regulate coal supply to thermal power projects to ensure required coal supplies to plants having higher plant load factor was a clear indication of rapidly increasing demand of energy, the official said. He cited the example of SCCL itself as the production in the first five months of the current fiscal was 25.4 mt against 14.79 mt during the same period during the previous fiscal. Similarly, the supplies (dispatches) of coal this year has been 26.71 mt till August-end of 2021-22 against 14.18 mt during the same period of 2020-21. Increase in the production of supply, which is nearly 72% and over 88%, respectively this fiscal compared to the last fiscal also makes the demand for fuel clear. Along with GDK opencast and underground mines (5) cluster and JVR opencast-2 extension, which also secured environmental clearance last month, the SCCL plans to commence production in the Naini (Odisha) coal block this fiscal.



# 'समृद्धी'च्या कंत्राटदारांचे अवैध उत्खनन; कोट्यवधींची लूट

बुलडाणा, वाशिममध्ये बदलले कंत्राटदार, तरी काम कासवगतीने

## इन डेप्ट स्टोरी

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क  
बुलडाणा / वाशिम : नागपूर-मुंबई समृद्धी महामार्गाचे काम करताना मोठ्या प्रमाणात गौण खनिजांची अवैध उखल करणाऱ्या जालना जिल्ह्यातील कंत्राटदाराला ठोठावण्यात आलेला कोट्यवधीचा दंड भरावाच लागेल, असे औरंगाबाद खंडपीठाने स्पष्ट केले असतानाच, राज्यातील इतर काही कंत्राटदारांनीही अशाच प्रकारे अवैध गौण खनिज उत्खनन केल्याची गौरी बाब 'लोकमत'ने केलेल्या पाहणीत उघड झाली आहे. तसेच, अनेक ठिकाणी कामे विलंबाने सुरू असून, अवैध उत्खननामुळे शेतकऱ्यांना मोठा त्रास सहन करावा लागत आहे.

### वाशिम : कंत्राटदाराला ३.५५ कोटींचा दंड

■ वाशिम जिल्ह्यात महामार्गाचे काम करणाऱ्या अॅपको इन्फ्राटेक लि. या कंपनीविरोधात मालेगाव तालुक्यात पॅकेज ५ अंतर्गत अवैध उत्खननप्रकरणी ३.५५ कोटींचा दंड ठोठावण्यात आला.  
■ पॅकेज ५ अंतर्गत ८३ रचनांपैकी केवळ २३ रचना पूर्ण झाल्या आहेत. दीड वर्षांपूर्वी कामाचा दर्जा आणि संधगतीमुळे सद्भाव इंजिनिअरिंग कंपनीकडून काम काढून घेऊन ते अॅपकोला देण्यात आले. मात्र, अॅपकोचे कामही संधगतीने होत आहे.



वाशिम जिल्ह्यात कंत्राटदाराने शेतातील मुरम ओखाडल्याने अशी अवस्था झाली.

### बुलडाणा : प्रकल्प अंदाजाने जाऊन उत्खनन

- प्रकल्प अंदाजाने आठवा गौण खनिजांचे अवैध उत्खनन केलेल्या प्रकरणी पॅकेज ५ काम करतानाच्या अॅपको इन्फ्राटेक लि. कंपनीला केवळ ३२ कोटी रुपयांचा दंड ठोठावला जाणार. मात्र, कंपनीने अजून काय भत्ता देतो, अशा सध्या संपादना विभागीय आयुक्ताने पत्रव्यवहार केला आहे.
- मेहकर तालुक्यातील डोंगगाव व आंधड परिसरातील सर्व नं. ३५६ मधील २०८२ आर या शेतजमिनीवर विनापरवाना उत्खनन झाले. ४ फेब्रुवारी २०२० रोजी मेहकरचे तहसीलदार डॉ. संजय गणकल यांनी दंडाची कामकाज केली. ६६ हजार १०० रुपयांचे अवैध उत्खनन करण्यात आले.
- शेतकऱ्यांच्या शेतांकरणीसाठी महामार्गाजवळील शेतांच्या वळीतून सोडण्यात आला असला तरी माल भरलेले ट्रॅक्टर, हावेस्टर या मागावरून जाऊ शकत नाहीत. त्यामुळे शेतकऱ्यांमध्ये संताप आहे.

### प्रकरणाची चौकशी सुरू

सध्या बा. संदर्भातील प्रकरण विभागीय आयुक्ताने सुरू आहे. या प्रकरणात जवळपास ३२ कोटी रुपयांचा दंड संबंधित कंपनीला द्यावा आहे.  
- उदय भरडे, एमएसआरडीसी अधिकारी, बुलडाणा.

पॅकेज ४ ची जबाबदारी पीएनसी इन्फ्राटेक लि. कंपनीकडे, तर पॅकेज ५ ची जबाबदारी अॅपको इंजिनिअर्स प्रा. लि.कडे आहे. पॅकेज ५ मध्ये शेतजमिनीवर अवैध उत्खनन केल्याप्रकरणी अॅपको कंपनीला ३.५५ कोटींचा दंड ठोठावला आहे. हे प्रकरण उपविभागीय अधिकाऱ्यांच्या न्यायालयात चौकशीत आहे.

- रवी काळे, तहसीलदार, मालेगाव (वाशिम)

समृद्धीच्या कामासाठी शेतात अवैध उत्खनन केल्याच्या शेतकऱ्यांच्या तक्रारीवरून मालेगाव तहसीलदारांनी आरमच्या कंपनीला दंडाच्या आदेश दिला. त्याविरोधात आम्ही वाशिम उपविभागीय अधिकारी कार्यालयात अपील केले असून, या प्रकरणाची चौकशी अद्याप पूर्ण झालेली नाही.

- राजीव तिवारी, जनसंपर्क अधिकारी, अॅपको इंजिनिअर्स



# कोळसा संकट गंभीर; केंद्र सरकारला महाराष्ट्राचे साकडे पुरवठा न वाढल्यास लोडशेडींगचा धोका

कमल शर्मा

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : कोळशाच्या अपुन्या साठ्यामुळे राज्यात विजेचे



संकट उभे ठाकले आहे. त्यामुळे महाराष्ट्राने केंद्र सरकारकडे मदत मागितली आहे. ऊर्जामंत्री नितीन राऊत यांनी केंद्रीय कोळसा मंत्री प्रल्हाद जोशी व ऊर्जा मंत्री आर.के. सिंह यांना पत्र लिहून महाराष्ट्रातील परिस्थिती समजावून सांगितली. तसेच व्हिडीओ

कॉन्फरन्सिंग द्वारा संवाद साधून महाराष्ट्राला पुरेसा वीज पुरवठा करण्याची मागणीही केली.

राज्यातील औष्णिक वीज केंद्रात कोळशाचा साठा अतिसंवेदनशील स्थितीत पोहोचला आहे. काही वीज केंद्रांमध्ये तर अर्धा दिवस पुरेल इतका आणि काहीमध्ये दोन दिवस पुरेल इतकाच कोळसा उपलब्ध आहे. कोळसा नसल्याने महाजेनकोचे चार युनिट ठप्प पडले आहेत. दररोज कोळशाच्या २५ रॅक एवजीशवकेवळ १८ रॅक मिळत आहेत. या गंभीर अवस्थेतही परिस्थिती नियंत्रणात ठेवण्यात आली असल्याचा महाजेनकोचा दावा आहे. सूत्रांनुसार कोळशाचा पुरवठा वाढला नाही तर राज्यात पुन्हा एकदा लोडशेडींगचे संकट निर्माण होऊ शकते. नवरात्रसोबतच सण-उत्सवांना सुरुवात होईल तसेच ऑक्टोबर हीटमध्ये विजेची मागणी वाढते. यातच कोळशाचे संकट उभे ठाकले आहे. यातच आता कोळसा कंपन्यांनी महाजेनकोकडे थकीत रकमेची मागणी केली आहे. सूत्रांनुसार थकबाकी वाढल्यामुळे कोळसा कंपन्यांची पुरवठा वाढवण्याची इच्छा नाही. ऊर्जामंत्री नितीन राऊत हे एकूणच परिस्थितीवर नजर ठेवून आहेत. महाराष्ट्रातील ही परिस्थिती पंतप्रधानांपर्यंत पोहोचवण्यासाठी त्यांनी केंद्रीय मंत्र्यांना विनंती केली आहे.

महाजेनकोच्या अधिकाऱ्यांना

खाणींमध्येही दिसला नाही कोळसा

दरम्यान ऊर्जामंत्र्यांच्या आदेशावर महाजेनकोचे अधिकारी खरी परिस्थिती जाणून घेण्यासाठी कोळसा खाणींवर पोहोचली. दुर्गापूर खाणीमध्ये गेलेल्या पथकाने सांगितले की, पाऊसामुळे



येथील उत्खनन बंद आहे. कोळशाचा साठाही नाही. दुसरीकडे भटाडी खाणीमध्ये मातीमिश्रित कोळसा सापडला. त्याचप्रकारे सास्ती घोपटला खाणीमध्ये सुद्धा कोळसा आढळून आला नाही. यामुळे परिस्थितीचे गोभीर्य दिसून येते. दरम्यान महाजेनकोच्या प्रबंध निदेशकांनी कोल इंडियाच्या प्रबंध निदेशकांची भेट घेऊन पुरवठा वाढवण्याची मागणी केली. निधीच्या कमतरतेमुळे यावर्षी केवळ १८ एमएमटी कोळशाचा साठा होऊ शकला, असे महाजेनकोने स्पष्ट केले आहे.

देशव्यापी संकट

केंद्र सरकारने महाराष्ट्राला कळविले आहे की, कोळशाचे संकट केवळ महाराष्ट्रपुरते मर्यादित नाही तर देशव्यापी आहे. देशात १३६ औष्णिक वीज केंद्र आहेत. यात ५८ हे शून्य ते ३ दिवसांच्या साठ्यासह अतिसंवेदनशील स्थितीत आहेत. तर ७० वीज केंद्रात चार ते दहा दिवसांचाच साठा उपलब्ध आहे. येथेही स्थिती संवेदनशील अशीच आहे. असे असले तरी केंद्र सरकारने कोळसा पुरवठा वाढवण्याच्या दिशेने सकारात्मक पुढाकार घेण्याचे आश्वासन दिले आहे.

# Do Not Ignore Debt and Gold, say Fin Planners

Consider dynamic bond funds, arbitrage funds to mitigate risk of correction: Experts

Prashant.Mahesh  
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**Mumbai:** Investor money has been flowing into equities through IPOs, secondary market purchases and mutual funds, driven by the one-way upward move in stocks over the last year and a half. While equity has been gaining, gold has lost its sheen and return on bonds has been low.

While it is normal for investors to chase past returns and allocate money to the asset class that has given a high return while ignoring the rest, fund managers say it is important to also consider debt and gold in portfolios, especially with valuations stretched and markets at all-time highs.

While the Nifty 50 of the NSE has returned 62%, the Nifty Next 50 is up 66%. In comparison, liquid funds have returned 3.14% and gold is down 8.6%.

"Most investors who started putting money post April 2020 are new to equity investing and have never seen a market correction thus far," said S Naren, chief investment officer, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund. He believes first-time investors are ignoring equity market valuation and sees this as a risk of investor sentiment rather than a business cycle risk.

"The optimal approach to investing is to follow asset allocation:



invest in equity, debt, cash, gold and real estate in a reasonable way. Do not concentrate all your investments into equities alone. Debt too has an important role in one's portfolio," Naren said.

Within the debt space, he recommends dynamic bond funds that give the fund manager the flexibility to alter allocation between long-term and short-term bonds to take advantage of changing interest rates. Those looking for tax efficiency, he suggests, could consider arbitrage funds or equity savings funds that have a small proportion of equity in the portfolio.

Financial planners point out that it is important for investors to review their portfolios once in six months to rebalance it.

"At this juncture, investors should have 25-30% in debt and 5-10% in gold with the balance in equities," said Nirav Karkera, head of research at Fisdcom. Given the sharp rise in equity prices, investors should allocate new money to debt or book profits in their equity funds and reallocate that to other assets.



## BULLION CUES

# Gold direction remains uncertain

## Silver can move up before re-aligning with medium-term downtrend

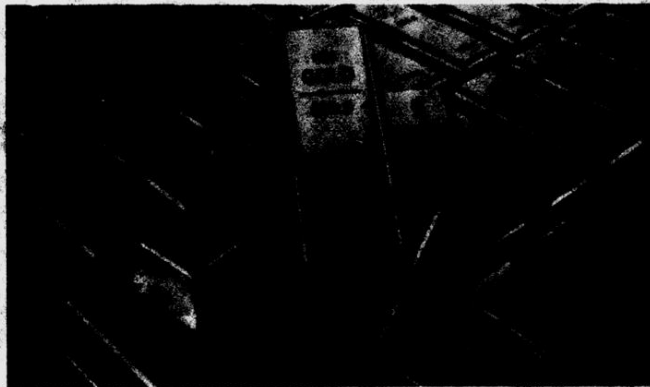
AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

India certainly looks to be taking advantage of lower gold prices (spot price of gold on the Multi Commodity Exchange is down by 7.9 per cent year-to-date) and the recent data by the World Gold Council (WGC) substantiates the same. Imports hit a five-month high in August 2021 to 121.8 tonnes as retail demand strengthened, primarily due to the wedding season and restocking by retailers. This is more than double the 58.5 tonnes imported in August last year and 68 per cent higher compared to 72.3 tonnes in July 2021. Notably, the RBI added 14.9 tonnes in August, the highest monthly purchase since the central bank started purchasing frequently in December 2017. The RBI has added nearly 50 tonnes of gold to its reserves so far this year.

Going ahead, the WGC expects the imports to be healthy in September aided by further correction in the gold price. Gold jewellery exports, which increased three-fold between April and August this year, are likely to continue to grow as exports to major destinations like USA, Hong Kong and China can improve because of the economic recovery. Exports can get a boost from the proposed Free Trade Agreement with the UAE, a major gold jewellery export market. These factors can keep the demand from India sustainable in support of the price of the precious metal.

Regardless of the above, global gold and silver prices seem to be under pressure. Although there was an attempt at recovery, the upward push



could not sustain as prices dropped towards the end of last week. Gold and silver, which were up by 0.8 and 1.3 per cent by mid-week, gave up gains and closed the week almost flat at \$1,750.3 and \$22.43 per ounce, respectively. Similarly, gold and silver futures on the MCX lost all intraweek gains and ended flat at ₹45,995 and ₹59,955 respectively.

### MCX-Gold (₹45,995)

Bouncing off the support at ₹46,000, the October gold futures began last week on the front foot. The rally continued and the contract marked an intraweek high of ₹46,799 on Tuesday. While it traded at these levels for a couple of sessions, the uptrend abruptly lost momentum. Sellers then sharply pulled down the price of the futures. The price region of ₹46,800 and ₹47,000 seemed to present a resistance to the contract from recovering. The contract has a support band of ₹45,660-46,000.

While the trend can turn bullish

only when the contract decisively breaches ₹47,600, the downward movement may be limited as well at the support band of ₹45,660 and ₹46,000. Also, the relative strength index (RSI) and the moving average convergence divergence (MACD) denotes a loss in downward momentum despite a sharp fall towards week end. The daily chart hints that the contract might get into a consolidation phase within ₹45,660 and ₹47,000 in the short run, meaning the next leg of trend depends on which side of this range breaks.

Until then, traders can consider range trading strategy with tight stop-loss. If the contract breaks down from ₹45,660, it will probably drop to ₹45,000 and then to ₹44,200. Alternatively, if it moves above ₹47,000, it can rise to ₹47,600. Next resistance is at ₹48,000.

### MCX-Silver (₹59,955)

The December futures of silver on the MCX, after breaching key supports at

₹62,500 and ₹61,500 during the week before last week, looked well positioned to continue the path southwards. However, the contract found an unlikely support at ₹59,220 last week against which it rebounded. Even though the contract was unable to move above the support-turned-resistance level of ₹61,500, sellers could not influence the contract as much as they would have expected to do post a high volume break down.

While the medium-term trend continues to be bearish, there are hopes of a short-term recovery in price considering how the contract has moved over the past week. The RSI and the MACD on the daily chart are showing clear signs of bears weakening, at least in the near-term, which can lead to the price inching up towards ₹62,500. This is a crucial level. A recovery can result in the contract meeting a falling trendline, which can coincide at the resistance of ₹62,500. So, a recovery beyond this level can be difficult.

Keeping these factors in mind and that the medium-term trend is down, traders can wait and consider going short in the price band of ₹62,500 and ₹62,950, where the 21-day moving average currently lies. If this price area is rejected as expected, the contract can fall back to ₹61,500 and then retest the support at ₹59,220. Supports below this level are at ₹58,000 and ₹57,000. However, if the contract pierces through the barrier at ₹62,500, it will open up room for the contract up to ₹64,200. For the medium-term trend to turn bullish, the contract should invalidate the hurdle at ₹65,500.



# बंद खाणी व ओल्या कोळशाने वीज निर्मिती प्रभावित

पाच खाणी बंद : सुरु खाणीतील उत्पादनही घसरले

राजेश भोजेकर

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

चंद्रपूर : कोळशाचा अपेक्षित पुरवठा न होणे आणि उपलब्ध कोळसा ओला असल्यामुळे चंद्रपूर वीज निर्मिती केंद्रातील वीजेचे उत्पादन प्रभावित झाल्याची बाब पुढे आली आहे. या वीज केंद्रातून १२०० ते १३०० मेगावॅटच्या घरात वीज निर्मिती होत असली, तरी उपलब्ध कोळसा साठा हा दोन दिवस पुरेल इतकाच आहे. कोळसा जसेजसा उपलब्ध होत आहे, त्यानुसार ५०० मेगावॅट क्षमतेच्या संच क्रमांक ५ ते ९ मधून वीज निर्मिती होत आहे. मात्र, ती आता निम्म्यावर आली आहे.

जिल्ह्यातील बल्लारपूर व चंद्रपूर वेकोली क्षेत्रातील तब्बल चार खुल्या व एका भूमिगत कोळसा खाणीतून



होणारे कोळसा उत्पादन बंद पडले आहे. मागील काही दिवसांत झालेल्या मुसळधार पावसाचा फटका कोळसा उत्पादनाला बसला असल्याचे सांगितले जात आहे. यासोबतच वीज केंद्राकडे उपलब्ध असलेला कोळशाचा साठाही पावसाने ओला झाला आहे. ज्या खाणीतून कोळसा उत्पादन सुरु आहे, तेथून अपेक्षित कोळशाचे उत्पादन होत नसल्याने वीज केंद्राला

होणारा कोळशाचा पुरवठा कमी झाला आहे. सध्या उपलब्ध कोळशाच्या आधारावरच वीज निर्मिती सुरु असल्याची माहिती मुख्य अभियंता पंकज सपाटे यांनी दिली.

बल्लारपूर वेकोली क्षेत्रातील बल्लारपूर व सास्ती या भूमिगत कोळसा खाणीतून दररोज सुमारे १ हजार टन कोळशाचे उत्पादन होते. हे उत्पादन आता २५० ते ३०० टनांवर आले आहे. गोवरी, पोवणी १ व बल्लारपूर या खुल्या खाणी बंद पडल्या आहेत. वेकोलीच्या चंद्रपूर क्षेत्रातील पद्मापूर व महाकाली खुल्या कोळसा खाणीतील कोळसा उत्पादनही ठप्प आहे. याचा थेट परिणाम वीज निर्मितीवर होत असल्याचे दिसून येत आहे.

## वर्धा जिल्ह्यात अॅफकॉनला झाला होता २३८ कोटींचा दंड

इन डेथ स्टोरी

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

वर्धा : नागपूर-मुंबई समृद्धी महामार्गाचे काम करताना गौण खनिजाचे विनापरवाना उत्खनन केल्याप्रकरणी सेलूच्या तहसीलदारांनी अॅफकॉन या कंत्राटदार कंपनीला २३८ कोटींचा दंड ठोठावला होता. मात्र, कंत्राटदार अॅफकॉन कंपनीने यावर उच्च न्यायालयातून स्थगिती मिळविल्याची माहिती आहे.

जिल्ह्यातील वर्धा, सेलू आणि आर्वी या तीन तालुक्यांमधून ६१ किलोमीटरचा महामार्ग गेला आहे. नियोजित कालावधीत जिल्ह्यातील ९० टक्के काम पूर्ण झाले असून, उर्वरित कामे सुरु आहेत. महामार्गाची उंची बरीच वाढल्याने पावसाचे पाणी जमा होते. ते वाहून जाण्याकरिता अॅफकॉन कंपनीने कोणतीही व्यवस्था केली नसल्याने शेतात पाणी साचून पिकांचे मोठे नुकसान

भाग २

समृद्धी महामार्गाचे ८० टक्के काम पूर्ण झाले आहे. उर्वरित काम युद्धस्तरावर सुरु आहे. कामाविषयी कोणतीही तक्रार नाही.

- नीरजकुमार, जनरल मॅनेजर, एनसीसी कंपनी, हैदराबाद.

होत आहे.

मेघा कॅस्ट्रेशन आणि अॅफकॉन या कंपन्यांना जिल्ह्यातील कामांचे कंत्राट देण्यात आले आहे. या कंपन्यांनी पेटी कंत्राटदारांच्या माध्यमातून काम

घोटाळा लोकमत नेच आणला उघडकीस समृद्धी महामार्गाच्या कामात अॅफकॉन कंपनीकडून मुरुम चोरला जात असल्याचा घोटाळा दोन वर्षांपूर्वी लोकमत नेच उघडकीस आणला होता. लोकमत नेच अॅफकॉन कंपनीकडून मुरुम कसा चोरला जातोय, याची वृत्तमालिकाच लावली होती. या वृत्तमालिकेमुळे या दोन कंत्राटदारांविरुद्ध गुन्हे दाखल होऊन त्यांना अटकही झाली होती, हे विशेष.

चालविले आहे. अॅफकॉन कंपनीने सेलू तालुक्यात मुरुमाचे अवैध उत्खनन केल्यामुळे पोलिसांनी दोघांविरुद्ध गुन्हा दाखल करून अटक केली होती. सोबतच तहसीलदारांनी कंपनीला २३८ कोटींचा

२५ कोटी दंड प्रकरण कोर्टात

अमरावती : समृद्धी महामार्गावर तीन वर्षांपूर्वी अवैध गौण खनिज उत्खनन प्रकरणी एनसीसी या कंत्राटदार कंपनीला धामणगाव तालुका प्रशासनाने १८, तर नांदगाव तहसीलदारांनी २५ कोटींचा दंड ठोठावला होता. त्यानंतर कंपनीने महसूल मंत्रालयात धाव घेतल्याने १८ कोटींचा दंड माफ करण्यात आला. २५ कोटींच्या दंडाचे प्रकरण कंपनीने चांदूर रेल्वे उपविभागीय अधिकाऱ्यांच्या कार्यालयात जिकले होते. मात्र, या प्रकरणी उच्च न्यायालयात दाद मागण्यात आल्याचे महसूल विभागाकडून सांगण्यात आले. महामार्गाचे ८० टक्के काम पूर्ण झाले असून, १७ किमीच्या कॉन्क्रीटकरणाचे काम प्रगतिपथावर आहे. कोरोनामुळे मजुरांची कमतरता असल्याने या कामाला तीन महिन्यांची मुदतवाढ देण्यात आली.

एंट्री पॉइंटचेच काम ४० टक्के शिल्लक

नागपूर : समृद्धी महामार्गाच्या बाह्य शिरोडवरील शिवमडका ते वर्धा जिल्ह्याच्या सीमेवरील खडकी या ३१ किलोमीटरचे काम ६० टक्के पूर्ण झाले असून, ४० टक्के शिल्लक आहे. सध्याच्या कामाची गती पाहता येत्या तीन महिन्यांत ते पूर्ण होण्याची अजिबात शक्यता नाही. तसेही एमएसआरडीसीने नवी डेडलाईन निश्चित केलेली नाही.

महामार्गाचा नागपुरातील पहिला टप्पा हा ३१ किमीचा आहे. मे. मेघा इंजिनिअरिंग अँड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर लि. यांना कंत्राट दिले आहे. ही कंपनी नावाजलेली असून, नागपुरातील त्यांच्या कामांच्या दर्जाबाबत कुठलीही तक्रार नाही. कोरोना संकटामुळे काम वेळेत पूर्ण होऊ शकले नाही, असा एमएसआरडीसीच्या अधिकाऱ्यांचा दावा आहे.



## Govt launches '2nd attempt' of auction process for 11 coal mines

These mines had fetched single bids earlier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, September 27

The Centre on Monday announced the launch of the "second attempt" of auction process for 11 coal mines for commercial mining.

These were the mines which were offered in the first attempt launched on March 25 this year and had fetched single bids, the coal ministry said in a statement.

"The Nominated Authority of the Ministry of Coal has launched the second attempt of auction process for 11 coal mines (four mines under tranche 12 of CM(SP) Act and seven under tranche 2 of MMDR Act) earmarked for sale of coal in accordance with the rules prescribed under these Acts," the statement said.

Out of these 11 mines, six are



fully explored and five are partially explored.

### Two-stage process

The auction will be held online through a transparent two-stage process, on the basis of percentage revenue share.

Key features of auction process include introduction of National Coal Index, ease in participation with no restriction for prior coal mining experience, full flexibility in coal utilisation, optimised payment structures, efficiency promotion through incentives for early production and use of clean coal technology. "The commencement of sale of tender document shall start from September

27, 2021," the ministry said.

The Ministry of Coal had earlier said that it has executed agreements with the eight successful bidders pursuant to the auction of second tranche of coal mines for commercial mining. Eight coal mines have been successfully auctioned with the winning percentage of revenue share ranging from 6 to 79.5 per cent with an average per cent revenue share of 30 per cent, the ministry had said.

In the first attempt of auction under 11th tranche of auction under the CM(S) Act 2015 and under first tranche of auction under the MMDR Act 1957, out of the 38 coal mines, 19 were successfully auctioned. Out of the remaining mines, four coal mines which had fetched single bid in the first attempt were put up for re-auction in a second attempt with the highest initial offer received in the first annulled attempt of auction as the floor price for the second attempt.

THE HITAVADA DATE : 28/9/2021 P.N.1

## Govt launches '2nd attempt' of auction process for 11 coal mines

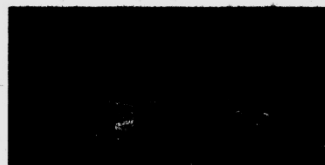
NEW DELHI, Sept 27 (PTI)

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## JNARDDC to conduct Bauxite Miner's Meet on Sept 29

■ Staff Reporter

JAWAHARLAL Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC) is conducting a Bauxite Miner's Meet (BMM-2021) on September 29. The conference will be held online. The proposed Meet will provide perfect forum to the stakeholders involved in bauxite mining and its subsequent users in understanding each other's exact requirements by way of discussions and deliberations leading to enhanced business opportunities.

The aim of the meet is to discuss the various aspects and issues associated with Bauxite. The technical session will mainly cover status of Bauxite, Laterite

and non-metallurgical applications of bauxite; and Issues, challenges in beneficiation and processing.

Participants are from bauxite mining industry, organisations, academia, experts in the area, etc., Vedanta, SCABAL, NALCO, OMC, GMDC, Caldreys, Dharti Minerals, Swati Minerals, Kalyani Systems, Ashapura, Shivam Minerals, Amba Mine, Panditrao Mines, Katni Bauxite, Gujarat Credo, Ln Indtech, IBM, IMMT, CGCRI, DGM, IBAAS, Pune University, ISR Informedia, etc. Dr Anupam Agnihotri, Director JNARDDC will deliver the inaugural address. Dr Pravin Chakraborty and Mr M J Chaddha are coordinators of the Bauxite Miner's Meet.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE : 29/9/2021 P.N.5

# Several Cos may Move Court against GST on Mining Fees

18% GST on royalty or licence fees paid to state since 2017 could wipe out margins, they say

Sachin.Dave@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Several steel manufacturers and coal mining companies have reached out to their legal experts to explore options to challenge the recent government diktat to tax mining royalty and licence fees under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework.

Following the recent GST Council meeting, the government has clarified that any royalty or license fees paid to the state should attract 18% GST.

"The services by the way of grant of mineral exploration and mining rights attracted a GST rate of 18% with effect from July 1, 2017," the government clarification said.

As per the current regulations, mining companies pay license fees to state governments and pay either royalty annually or based on conditions set and agreed beforehand. The question was whether



GST is applicable on a service that the government is providing.

Such services were exempted from indirect taxes under the erstwhile tax regime, say industry trackers.

Tax experts are questioning whether using rights or any legal authority or license provided by the government to a company is taxable. Legal experts say this is set to result in a legal battle.

"The clarification will have to cross the test of constitutional validity because something which is not taxable under the statute can-

not be clarified to be taxable. The statutory levies paid to the government should not be subject to tax in absence of 'quid pro quo'," said Abhishek A Rastogi, partner at law firm Khaitan & Co. Companies that have operations in Goa, Odisha, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are set to get majorly impacted from this clarification.

Some of the companies are looking to challenge the government's stand in court, claiming that this is a retrospective clarification. No company has yet filed any case in this regard but that could happen in the coming weeks. The government has said that GST should be applicable from July 1, 2017. This would mean that the companies will have to cough up GST for the last four years.

Many coal and steel companies will now have to pay taxes from 2017, which will disrupt their cash-flows and profitability, say industry trackers.

While mining companies have to pay GST, some of the steel companies too will have to cough it up.

Insiders say as per GST framework, input tax credit should be available on such cost. However, the question will be whether it will be available on the GST paid since 2017.



**HIGHEST PBT IN LAST 10 YEARS**

# Variety of factors help SAIL 'scale new heights'

**Steel major also used operational facilities optimally to tackle Covid**

**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, September 28

Higher sales of secondary products, sale of iron ore fines, lower usage of other raw materials, decreased purchased power rates, reduction in interest charges, higher dividend income and forex exchange gain were among the main factors that helped Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) post the highest Profit Before Tax (PBT) in the last 10 years, Soma Mondal, Chairman, has said.

Speaking at the 49th annual general meeting of the company, she described FY21 as the year of 'growth and scaling newer heights' for SAIL. The company posted its highest ever EBITDA of ₹13,740 crore, which was higher by 23 per cent over the corresponding period of last year (CPLY). Mondal out-

lined measures taken to tackle Covid challenges. SAIL made optimal utilisation of operational facilities instead of operating a greater number of facilities at sub-optimal level, she said.

**Measures taken**

"Along with reduction in cost by reducing consumption level for various inputs, the capital repairs were also preponed wherever feasible. In these trying times, the company maximised sales volumes through potential channels like exports, dispatch to railways while it reduced cash outflows by reviewing commitments and renegotiating contracts, among others," she added.

SAIL developed medical infrastructure to handle Covid-19 and boosted these facilities during the second wave. SAIL hospitals at 5 integrated steel plant locations were earmarked with 10 per cent (330 beds) of total beds for Covid-19 patients. They were subsequently augmented to 1,000 dedicated Covid beds with oxygen support.

# Most metals retreat on power crunch in China

Coal prices zoom to record level, nickel worst hit; GDP growth forecast lowered

SUBRAMANI RA MANCOMBU

Chennai, September 28

Most of the metals traded across the globe declined on Monday on concerns over a severe power crunch in China that has resulted in growth forecasts for the Communist nation being cut.

Nickel bore the brunt of the Chinese power crisis as its prices dropped by 2.3 per cent to \$18,959 a tonne on Monday and a further two per cent on Tuesday. It was quoted at \$18,585.

Copper slipped 1.1 per cent on the London Metal Exchange (LME) to \$9,258 on Tuesday. Tin dropped by four per cent on Monday but pared its losses a tad on Tuesday. Similarly, other metals such as aluminium, zinc and lead cut their losses. Lithium was another metal to be affected by the Chinese developments.

The London Metal Exchange (LME) index slipped 0.69 per cent to 4,312.40.

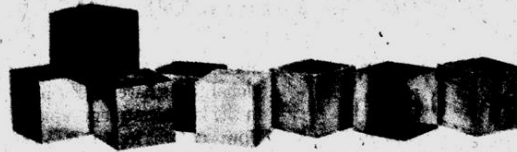
## Coal zooms to record

China's *Global Times* reported that Beijing had imposed nation-wide power curbs caused by a slew of factors, including rising coal prices, surging demand and the nation's commitment to cut carbon dioxide emission sharply by 2030.

Coal prices surged to a new high of \$210 a tonne on Monday on Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange. Beijing is in a way paying for the ban it imposed on imports of Australian coal following a diplomatic row.

India has been tending to buy Australian 5,500 kcal/kg coal, which ended last week at \$108.20 a tonne.

The power situation is expected to turn grim as winter



The downgrading of China's GDP growth is also likely to affect consumption of metals from steel to tin

draws near. The power crunch has resulted in industrial production being affected in provinces such as Jiangsu and Guangdong, besides other key regions. In one case, the daily reported, a textile factory in Jiangsu province received notice about power cuts and that it would not receive supply at least until October 7. Hundreds of companies in the province faced similar problems.

## GDP growth estimate cut

In China's Guangdong's province, problems of power supply have affected the popular Dongguan Yuhong Wood Industry in Dongguan.

The forecast downgrading China's GDP growth, besides the power crunch, is likely to affect consumption of metals from steel to tin. Nomura Holdings said the power shortage has already led to production losses at smelters and steel mills from April this year.

Dutch multinational investment firm ING's economic and financial analysis arm Think said Fujian province, from where many Chinese stainless steel production firms operate, will start power rationing soon. This will result in production cuts by steel units and, in turn, affect demand for nickel.

In view of the power crunch, Japanese financial services firm Nomura Holdings has cut its forecast for Chinese GDP growth to 7.7 per cent from 8.2 per cent. Fitch Ratings has lowered its projections for China's GDP growth to 8.1 per cent from 8.4 per cent. US multinational investment firm Goldman Sachs has cut its GDP growth forecast for Beijing to 7.8 per cent from 8.2 per cent.

## Quick Covid recovery

A major reason for the power shortage in China is that being first in the world to recover from the pandemic, the country was flooded with export orders and industrial units began working overtime to meet the demand.

This economic recovery resulted in electricity consumption in the first half of the year rising by 16 per cent compared with the same period a year ago. Besides, due to typhoons and droughts, power demand peaked last week.

## COMMODITY CALL

# Go short on MCX copper

GURUMURTHY K

BL Research Bureau

The recent upmove in the copper futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) seems to be losing momentum.

The bounce-back move, from the low near ₹685 made last week, is currently facing resistance below ₹725. The contract hit a high of ₹724 on Monday and has dipped from there.

Another strong resistance is at ₹738 which can cap the upside in the near-term in case the contract breaks above ₹725 in the coming days.

A much higher resistance is at ₹755. The downtrend is likely to remain intact as long as the contract trades below ₹738.

Traders with a short-term perspective can go short at current levels. Accumulate short posi-



tions on rallies at ₹733. Keep the stop-loss at ₹748. Trail the stop-loss to ₹710 as soon as the contract moves down to ₹695.

Move the stop-loss further lower to ₹685 as soon as the contract comes down to ₹670. Book profits at ₹660.

The bearish view will go wrong if the contract breaks above ₹738. In that case, it can rise to ₹745-750 and then reverse lower.