खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR

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KHANIJ SAMACHAR

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INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

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BUSINESS LINE DATE: 1/6/2017 P.N. 16

MCX-Zinc futures contract stuck in a range

GURUMURTHY K

BL Research Bureau

After trading in narrow range at around ₹170 per kg for much of the past week, the zinc futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) tumbled about 2 per cent on Wednesday. It is now trading near ₹166 per kg.

The reversal from the high of ₹172.65 on May 23 suggests that the sideways movement between ₹160 and ₹173 is intact. The contract is headed for the lower end of the range, and there is a likelihood of its falling to ₹160 this week. Whether or not it reverses higher from ₹160 will decide the next move. A strong bounce will keep the range-bound move intact and increase the chances of the contract moving to ₹170 and ₹173.

Short-term traders with high risk appetite can go long if the contract reverses higher from ₹160. Stop-loss can be placed at ₹156 for a target of ₹170, and revised to ₹162 if the contract moves to ₹165.

But if the contract breaks below ₹160, downside pressure can drag it to ₹155. A further break will extend the down move to ₹150 or ₹148.

Fed move, GST to guide gold

COMMENTARY

G CHANDRASHEKHAR

Even as the gold market is looking for a clear direction for the months ahead, the outlook is becoming complex. Over the next few days, two significant events can have a major impact.

The most significant of these is the mid-June FOMC meeting in the US. It appears increasingly likely that as part of policy normalisation, the Fed will hike the rate by 25 bp. Most macro-data, including employment, are in positive territory. Relatively weak crude oil prices have contained inflation. A rate hike in the US will send gold prices hurtling down as it would boost the dollar as well as the equities market.

But is the gold market ready for a surprise? If the Fed decides to hold the rate, it would be hugely bullish for gold.

The GST rate

Another event closer home is the decision on the GST rate on gold. It has become contentious with stakeholders expressing divergent views on the GST rate. Currently, gold attracts a 10 per cent ad valorem customs duty on import, 1 per cent VAT (value-added tax) and 1

percent excise duty (on jewellery), for a total tax burden of 12 per cent.

Given the five-slab GST rates, it would be logical to fix the GST rate at 5 per cent, the lowest positive rate, notwithstanding the fact that it would take the total tax on gold, including jewellery, to 15 per cent (10 per cent customs duty plus 5 per cent GST).

The concerns of the bullion trade and of jewellery makers that a higher rate than at present may curb demand are misplaced and self-serving. A higher tax by itself is unlikely to curb demand as experience shows. Despite successive hikes in customs duty, gold prices have steadily risen to ₹33,000 per 10 grams due to global factors, with little or no demand destruction.

Indeed, fixing GST at 5 per cent would result in increased revenue earnings for the exchequer. While 5 per cent GST will remain fixed, the customs duty provides leeway for the policymakers to cushion the impact, if any, of the higher total duty. At an appropriate time and when circumstances demand, the rate of import duty can be reduced. Indeed, the recent strengthening of the rupee is itself an 'indirect' reduction in the import duty on gold; and in the coming months and years, both fundamentals and the technical picture suggest that the rupee may gain further strength.

Although widely in demand and consumed by all sections of the population, gold is decidedly a luxury commodity or a 'strong demerit good', and is being heavily subsidised with substantially lower taxes in relation to other goods, according to the Economic Survey 2015-16.

If GST on gold in India is fixed at 5 percent, it would be hugely bearish for world gold prices, which in turn should prove positive for an importing country such as ours. as it would neutralise the impact of a higher tax burden. Again, by mid-June, if the US Fed decides to hike the interest rate, there could a further blow to gold prices, again benefiting Indian consumers.

The writer is a commodities and agribusiness specialist. Views are personal

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 1/6/2017 P.N. 5

Steel pipe makers find the going tough as imports from China rise

SURESH P IYENGAR

Mumbai, May 31

While the government has plugged the problem of steel imports with levy of anti-dumping duty, value-added steel pipes are now being dumped into the country at a price 20 per cent cheaper than Indian producers.

In a recent GAIL tender bidding for 1.6 lakh tonnes of steel pipes worth ₹1,040 crore, North China Pipe Mill has bagged an order worth ₹880 crore leaving just 25 per cent of tender quantity for the Indian producers.

Reeling under a prolonged slowdown in orders, pipe producers in India have already become nervous with GAIL set to open bids for another 3 lakh tonnes of steel pipes worth ₹2,000 crore in three months.

Other public sector oil majors such as IOCL and ONGC are set to tender their pipe requirement worth ₹4,000 crore in the next six months. The capacity utilisation of Indian pipe mills with bank loan exposure of over ₹15,000 crore has already fallen below 35 per cent and they are struggling to stay afloat, said Vinod Mehta, General Secretary, Indian Pipe Manufacturers Association.

China has managed to undercut prices and dump pipes in different countries as their government provides special incentives for exports besides they enjoy lower interest and logistic costs compared to their Indian counterparts, he added.

Though the New Steel Policy that mandates use of 'Made in India' steel looks good, it needs lot of clarifications and faces big challenges on implementation, he said.

Exporters can play around the 15 per cent domestic value addition clause in the policy to still dump steel products, he said.

Seeking levy of anti-dumping duty, Mehta added, the import duty on steel plates, a raw material for making pipes, is 12.5 per cent while the duty on pipes is 10 per cent.

India has six million tonnes of pipe making capacity and imports 50-60 per cent of its raw material. Among the large pipe manufacturers are Welspun Corporation, Jindal SAW and Man Industries.

China has started focusing on Indian market for pipes after Europe imposed anti-dumping duty and US started investigation on their exports for a possible trade barrier, said Mehta.

Import trend

2011-12	7.39 lakh tonnes
2012-13	3.45 lakh tonnes
2013-14	9 lakh tonnes
2014-15	9,000 tonnes
2015-16	Nil
2016-17*	985 lakh tonnes

*upto February

THE HITAVADA

DATE: 1 /6/2017 P.N. 6

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DATE: 1/6/2017 P.N. 9

UP CM takes steps to tide over medicos' crunch; gives nod to new mining policy

LUCKNOW, May 31 (UNI)

TO TIDE over the crisis of shortage of doctors in Government run hospitals and health centres, Yogi Adityanath Government on Tuesday decided to extend the retirement age of doctors from existing 60 to 62 years, which is likely to benefit over 11,000 doctors. The Government also approved the long term mining policy under which special courts will be set up to deal with the cases related to mining.

The decision was taken in the State Cabinet chaired by CM Yogi.

State Health Minister Sidharthnath Sigh said that the Government has approved posts for 18,382 doctors but 7,327 posts are still lying vacant.

"In 2014-15, the former Government made an attempt to post 3,600 doctors and asked State Public Service Commission to start the appointment process, but nothing happened," he said. "Around 1,000 doctors were set to retire in 2017-18 and this decision will help the State to tackle the problem for the time being," he said and added that over 11,000 doctors would be benefited from the decision.

Meanwhile, Primary Health and Medical Services Association and the Association of Government doctors, has hailed this decision but said it should have been option. "Many doctors do not want to continue in Government service anymore. They should not be forced to continue with this service," General Secretary PHMS Association Dr Sachin Vaish said.

In another decision, Government has approved the mining policy under which new contracts will be awarded in a transparent manner. "This policy has been guided by the Central Mining policy and policies of many States have been incorporated. The focus of this policy is transparency and will be technology driven. Government has decided to set up special courts to deal with mining cases," Government spokesman and Power Minister Shrikant Sharma said. Under the new policy, in river bed mining for five hectare of land—lease will be given for five years, for stone chips—the lease has been increased from 10 years to 20 years, for mining of granite and silicon—the lease has been extended from existing 20 years to 30 years.

"This has been done to invite private companies in this sector. This will not only help Government to increase revenue but also generate more employment," Secretary Mining R P Singh said. Government has also decided to charge one per cent cess on mining which will be used for technology upgradation. The royalty will now be collected directly to the bank for this a new App will be launched. Earlier, royalty used to go to treasury from where it was transferred to bank."

MINING WOES

Gamblers and Glut Fuel Iron Ore's Biggest Rout in a Year

Reuters

Manila: A stubborn glut and selling by Chinese speculators have slashed iron ore prices this year, with traders and industry officials predicting further declines as memories fade of the steelmaking commodity's stunning recovery in 2016.

Prolonged price weakness would make business tougher for top miners like Vale, Rio Tinto and BHP, whose earnings were roiled as iron ore markets tumbled 70% in the three years through 2015.

Weaker prices could also hit marginal suppliers such as Iran, potentially forcing that country out of the market again after boosting shipments to top buyer China earlier this year.

Iron ore prices have plunged nearly 40% from this year's peak, trading at just below $60 a ton this week, with stockpiles at Chinese ports swelling to their largest in about 13 years.

In May alone, iron ore has fallen 15%, on course for its steepest monthly drop in a year. In 2016, the commodity rallied over 80%.

"Demand is healthy but there's way too much supply," said a trader at a Singapore global trading firm looking for Chinese buyers for about 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore in coming weeks. He asked not to be identified.

"If you're an iron ore buyer and you see it's an oversupplied market, and supply will only increase from here, would you have any incentive to buy more today?"

Imported iron ore at China's ports reached 136.6 million tonnes on May 26, the highest since SteelHome consultancy began tracking the data in 2004. That is enough to build the Eiffel Tower in Paris more than 13,000 times over.

BUSINESS LINE

DATE: 2/6/2017 P.N. 1

BUSINESS LINE

DATE: 2/6/2017 P.N. 4

Hind Copper's mine inaugurated

New Delhi, June 1

State-run Hindustan Copper on Thursday said its Banwas mine in Rajasthan will start production this fiscal. "Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) has inaugurated Banwas mine at Khetri Copper Complex, Rajasthan after completion of mine construction," the company said in a filing to BSE. The production from mine — having a capacity of 6 lakh tonnes per annum of copper ore — will start from current financia year, it said. The mine was inaugurated yesterday by KD Diwan, CMD, Hindustan Copper, it said. Hindustan Copper's net profit jumped to ₹40.77 crore during the quarter ended March 31, 2017 against ₹0.64 crore in the year-ago period. PTI

BUSINESS LINE

DATE: 2 /6/2017 P.N. 3

CIL plans to shut down 65 mines

Kolkata, June 1

Under pressure from low demand for coal, declining profits and high expectations of workers from ongoing wage negotiations, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has revived plans to shut down loss-making mines to lower its operational expenses. According to sources, the company recently identified 65 loss-making mines for closure. Approximately 40,000 workers employed in these mines — roughly 13 per cent of the total (3,09,455) worker strength — will be redeployed. p4

Singareni Collieries coal production, despatches up in May

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, June 1

The state-owned Singareni Collieries Company Ltd achieved 6.7 per cent growth in coal despatches at 52.5 lakh tonnes and 2.8 per cent growth in coal production at 50.5 lakh tonnes in May. This is against 49.2 lakh tonnes in despatches and 49.1 lakh tonnes in production for the same month last year.

During the month, the overburden removal was up at 21.57 per cent at 333 lakh cubic meters as against 274 lakh cubic metres.

N Sridhar, CMD of SCCL, said the sustained efforts of the employees has ensured adequate coal supplies to various power plants even during severe summer months. Thermal plants now have coal stocks for over 10 days.

The CMD called upon the employees to sustain their efforts to reach the annual production goal of 660 lakh tonnes during 2017-18.

Plant load factor

The unit-2 of the Singareni Thermal Power plant achieved 100 per cent plant load factor (PLF). The plant located at Jaipur in Adilabad district produced 448.54 million units of power and supplied 419.01 million units to Gajwel power grid.

The unit-1 of the plant had achieved a 100 per cent PLF in April. The power project generated about 5,720 million units power and exported 5,320 million units to Gazwel power grid for supply to the State.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 2 /6/2017 P.N. 4

CIL plans to shut down 65 loss-making mines

Low demand for the fuel, declining profits a drag on the company's balance-sheet

PRATIM RANJAN BOSE

Kolkata, June 1

Approximately 40,000 workers employed in these mines will be redeployed BLOOMBERG

Under pressure from low demand for coal, declining profits and high expectations of workers from the ongoing wage negotiation, Coal India has revived the agenda of closing down loss-making mines to cut operational expenses.

According to sources, the company recently identified 65 loss-making mines for closure. Approximately 40,000 workers — roughly 13 per cent of the total (3,09,455) — employed in these mines will be redeployed.

Of the total, 62 are underground mines — spread over four mining subsidiaries, Eastern Coalfields (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal (BCCL), South Eastern Coalfields (SECL) and Central Coalfields (CCL). Approximately 37 mines with 15,000 workers are expected to be closed this fiscal.

"There is no justification to allow these mines to be a drag on the CIL balance-heet. We can save some money on administrative cost and raw material by shutting down production," a CIL official told *BusinessLine*.

The agenda is not new. A majority of CIL's 413 mines either make losses, or are on artificial support (like higher notified price for coal produced by Western Coalfields) or make very low profits.

Disproportionately high manpower when compared to its 554 million tonnes (mt) production further adds pressure on the balance sheet. Over 200 underground mines produce just five per cent (31 mt) coal and are the biggest drag on the balancesheet.

CIL had been trying to shut them down for nearly two decades. The last such attempt was made in 2010 when 30-40 mines were lined up for closure. However, the plan didn't succeed due to resistance from trade unions.

Fortunately for CIL, the high energy commodity prices and an unprecedented coal crisis in India came as a breather in the last decade. Production from high cost underground mines were off-loaded in the open market, where coal was selling at double the notified price.

The meltdown in energy prices in 2014 wiped out this advantage. With abundant supply of domestic coal, low import prices and a general slowdown in industrial activities, e-auction sales no more save the day for CIL.

The result is seen in a 35 per cent decline in net profit in the last fiscal, on the back of 1.7 per cent growth in volume sales. Low import prices limit the scope of raising prices and filling the gap.

To add to the woes, trade unions demanded 50 per cent rise in salary for the five-year agreement starting July 2016.

"There is no way we can sustain operations at perennially sick mines. And we do hope that the trade unions will accept the reality," a source said. He hopes trade unions will put up less resistance to mine closure plans this time.

THE HITAVADA

DATE: 2 /6/2017 P.N. 11

THE HINDU

DATE: 3 /6/2017 P.N. 18

Hindustan Copper's Banwas mine to start production this fiscal

NEW DELHI, June 1 (PTI)

STATE-RUN Hindustan Copper on Thursday said its Banwas mine in Rajasthan will start production this fiscal. "Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) has inaugurated Banwas mine located at Khetri Copper Complex, Rajasthan after completion of mine construction," the company said in a filing to BSE.

The production from mine - having a capacity of 6 lakh tonnes per annum of copper ore - will start from current financial year, it said. The mine was inaugurated yesterday by KD Diwan, CMD, Hindustan Copper Limited, it said. Hindustan Copper's net profit jumped manifold to Rs 40.77 crore during the quarter ended March 31, 2017.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 0.64 crore in the year-ago period. Income from operations increased to Rs 571.76 crore in the quarter under review, from Rs 354.39 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal.

Total expenses rose to Rs 557 crore from Rs 363.25 crore in the year-ago period.

Hindustan Copper has the distinction of being the country's only vertically integrated copper producing company encompassing mining, beneficiation, smelting, refining and casting of refined copper metal.

JSW Steel's plant cleared by Odisha

REUTERS
BHUBANESHWAR

The Odisha government said on Friday it had approved a plan by JSW Steel to set up a 10 million tonnes a year steel plant costing about 500 billion rupees ($7.8 billion).

JSW, India's biggest steelmaker by capacity and produces 18 million tonnes a year, has sought 4,500 acres of land which were earlier allotted to South Korea's Posco, Odisha State Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi told *Reuters*.

"We will evaluate the exact amount of land required for the project and give them the land," Mr. Padhi said, adding the project was likely to be built in four years.

Its plan to lay a slurry pipeline linked to the plant also got approved.

THE TELEGRAPH

DATE: 3 /6/2017 P.N. 10

Niti for Coal India overhaul

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, June 2: After suggesting the privatisation of national carrier Air India, government think-tank Niyi Aayog today pitched for unbundling the world's biggest coal miner, Coal India, which will result in competition and better price discovery.

"The (coal mining) sector works almost through administrative allocation. Yes, auctions of coal mines are done but still a large part of it is administrative allocation and that has a not so good effect on price discovery. So, if we unbundle and if we allow competition, it will have a favourable impact and bring transparency in pricing," Niti Aayog's vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya today said, while briefing about the work of the government think-tank since it was set up in 2014.

The Aayog has suggested that coal mining should be based on competition to determine the fossil fuel's market price.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 13, Niti Aayog had suggested the unbundling of Coal India subsidiaries as there was an absence of a coal market in India and the cost of pass-through electricity tariff was making mining inefficient.

In the past, attempts to unbundle Coal India had been met with a stiff resistance from the unions.

Arvind Panagariya in New Delhi on Friday. Picture by Prem Singh

Air India

On the issue of the divestment of Air India, Panagariya said it would depend on whether the government was willing to write off at least a part of the national carrier's massive accumulated debt.

"Air India has a debt of Rs 52,000 crore, settling which will be a very difficult affair…Something has to be done… Whether the government writes off part of the debt, or not," Panagariya said.

Growth forecast

Panagariya expressed confidence that the economy was expected to recover in the current quarter. "We are pretty much out of the woods as far as demonetisation is concerned. We should see a good turnaround in the first quarter of the current fiscal," he said.

According to Panagariya, growth in the current fiscal would accelerate to 7.5 per cent, faster than 7.1 per cent a year ago, and would top the 8-per-cent mark in 2018-19.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 3/6/2017 P.N. 4

Govt to auction 71 mineral blocks

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 2

The government has identified 71 major mineral blocks in seven States that will be auctioned during the current financial year.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Mines said: "These blocks include 6 blocks (2 gold, 4 cement grade Limestone) in Andhra Pradesh, 11 blocks (4 bauxite, 7 limestone) in Chhattisgarh, 12 blocks (3 bauxite, 9 limestone) in Gujarat, 9 blocks (1 bauxite, 3 limestone,1 gold, 1 graphite, 2 emerald, 1 iron ore) in Jharkhand, 18 blocks (4 bauxite, 7 limestone, 1gold, 1 graphite, 2 manganese, 2 iron ore, 2 copper) in Maharashtra, 7 blocks (1 limestone,1 graphite, 5 iron ore) in Odisha and 8 blocks (7 limestone, 1 copper) in Rajasthan."

The Centre was apprised of this decision by States during a meeting of empowered committee of producing States in New Delhi.

THE HINDU

DATE: 4 /6/2017

P.N. 11

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE: 4 /6/2017 P.N. 1

71 mineral blocks to be auctioned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

As many as 71 mineral blocks have been identified for auction in the current fiscal, the government said.

These include six blocks in in Andhra Pradesh, 11 in Chhattisgarh, 12 blocks in Gujarat, nine in Jharkhand, the Mines Ministry said in a statement.

Besides, 18 blocks are in Maharashtra, 7 in Odisha and 8 blocks in Rajasthan, it said. In a meeting of the Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (CCEC) of the major mineral-producing states under the chairmanship of Secretary Mines Arun Kumar held here deliberate discussion took place on preparedness for e-auction of mineral blocks for 2017-18. Representatives from seventeen states were present in the meeting.

दुनिया के हर 15 में से 14 हीरे हमारे देश में तराशे जाते हैं

पुरुष 10% ज्यादा खरीद रहे हैं हीरे की अंगूठी, डायमंड बिक्री ढाई गुना

धर्मेन्द्र सिंह भदौरिया | मुंबई

देश में डायमंड ज्वेलरी की बिक्री ढाई गुना बढ़ी है। हालांकि ज्वेलरी लेने वालों में 15 फीसदी लोगों की ही पहली पसंद डायमंड से बनी ज्वेलरी है। हीरे को सबसे ज्यादा कामकाजी महिलाएं और युवा पसंद कर रहे हैं। इसमें दिलचस्प बात यह है कि अब पुरुषों का हीरे के प्रति आकर्षण बढ़ रहा है। देश में हीरे के बड़े कारोबारी और हरी कृष्णा एक्सपोर्ट के सीईओ सावजी ढोलकिया बताते हैं कि अब पुरुष सिंगल और बड़े डायमंड की अंगूठी पसंद कर रहे हैं। यह बदलाव पिछले कुछ समय से शुरू हुआ है। पुरुषों के कारण 10 फीसदी अधिक हीरे की अंगूठियां बिक रही हैं।

हीरा कारोबार में लगे जानकार बताते हैं कि हीरे के हल्के गहनों का इस्तेमाल सबसे ज्यादा बढ़ा है। पहले जहां भारी-भारी और बड़ी ज्वेलरी होती थी, वहीं अब अब ईयर रिंग, अंगूठी, हल्का नेकलेस, नाक में पहने जाने वाले गहनों की मांग बढ़ गई है। दक्षिण भारत में हीरे के गहनों की मांग सबसे ज्यादा रहती है। अभी शादियों के सीजन से लेकर दीपावली तक इस वर्ष हीरे की मांग में तेजी बनी रहने की उम्मीद है। 2019 तक देश में 15.95 फीसदी की रफ्तार से ज्वेलरी की मांग बढ़ने की उम्मीद है।

जेम्स एंड ज्वेलरी एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन काउंसिल (जीजेईपीसी) के एक्जीक्यूटिव डायरेक्टर सब्यसाची रॉय ने कहा कि विश्व में बिकने वाले हीरे का कुल दस फीसदी हिस्सा भारत में बिकता है। साथ ही विश्व में बिकने वाले प्रत्येक 15 डायमंड में से 14 भारत तराशता है। विश्व हीरा बाजार में 80 फीसदी वॉल्यूम, 65 फीसदी वैल्यू और 90 फीसदी से अधिक पीस की हिस्सेदारी भारत की है। अभी देश में कच्चा हीरा बेल्जियम और दुबई से आता है।

भारत हीरा तराशने और उसके निर्यात के मामले में विश्व में नंबर एक है। वर्ष 2016-17 के दौरान तीन लाख करोड़ रुपए के हीरे का आयात-निर्यात भारत से किया गया। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की रूस यात्रा के दौरान हुए समझौते के बाद अब देश में कच्चे हीरे की सीधे खरीदी हो पाएगी। अभी तक कच्चे हीरे का भारत में आयात होता है। इससे भविष्य में भारत हीरा ट्रेडिंग हब बन सकता है। एक डायमंड पर 0.25 फीसदी की जीएसटी दर कारोबारियों को प्रभावित करेगी।

राजेश एक्सपोर्ट्स के चेयरमैन राजेश मेहता के मुताबिक वर्तमान में डायमंड ज्वेलरी में रोजमर्रा में पहनी जा सकने वाली छोटे-छोटे डायमंड के आइटम से बनी ज्वेलरी का ट्रेंड चल रहा है। ट्रेंड के बारे में वे कहते हैं कि अब पहले से ज्यादा हीरे की अंगूठी पुरुष खरीद रहे हैं। देश में खरीदी जाने वाली अंगूठी में आठ फीसदी हीरे की अंगूठी होती है। डायमंड की डिमांड अंतरराष्ट्रीय हिसाब से तय होती है। हीरे के मामले में भाव को उपभोक्ता ज्यादा तवज्जो नहीं देते हैं। कामकाजी महिलाओं के कारण डायमंड की डिमांड बढ़ रही है, सोने की ज्वेलरी के साथ ही डायमंड की ज्वेलरी भी वे पसंद कर रही हैं।

सूरत डायमंड एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष दिनेश नावड़िया कहते हैं कि पुरुषों के ब्रेसलेट और अंगूठी में हीरा बढ़ा है। उनका मानना है कि अब हीरा लगी अंगूठी और ब्रेसलेट ही बिक रहे हैं। पांच लाख या इससे अधिक कीमत के गहने भारत में कम बिकते हैं। महंगा हीरा और हीरे से बने गहने यूएई, अमेरिका, रूस, जापान जैसे देशों में बिकते हैं। वहीं भारत में दिल्ली-हरियाणा आदि राज्यों में ज्यादातर महंगे गहने खरीदे जाते हैं। दक्षिण भारत के अलावा उत्तर भारत में दिल्ली, पंजाब और हरियाणा जैसे राज्यों में भी लोग हीरा और उससे बने गहने पसंद कर रहे हैं। वैसे देश में हीरे के गहने पांच हजार रुपए से लेकर 50 करोड़ रुपए तक में मिल रहे हैं। सोने की तरह ही बाय टू बैक यानी जिस व्यापारी से आपने हीरे की ज्वेलरी खरीदी है उसे ही ज्वेलरी वापस कर सकते हैं का नया ट्रेंड सामने आया है। डिटेक्शन मशीन जब तक नहीं थी तब तक नकली हीरे बिक जाते थे, लेकिन अब मशीनों के आने के बाद ऐसा हो पाना मुश्किल हो गया है। हीरे के भारी और बड़े गहनों की मांग वर्तमान में कम हो गई है। हीरे की अंगूठी और ब्रेसलेट को सबसे अधिक कारोबारी पुरुष पसंद करते हैं। सूरत हीरा तराशने के मामले में विश्व में नंबर एक है। इसके अतिरिक्त मुंबई में सर्वाधिक हीरा और हीरे से बने गहनों का कारोबार होता है। हालांकि देश में सबसे अधिक लोकप्रिय सोने के गहने हैं। गहने खरीदने वाले करीब 85 फीसदी लोग सोने को ही प्राथमिकता देते हैं।

हीरे के बारे में वह सबकुछ जो आप जानना चाहते हैं

रूस से संधि के बाद अब भारत बनेगा हीरा ट्रेडिंग केन्द्र

1.14 लाख करोड़ रु.
के कच्चे हीरे देश में वर्ष 2016-17 के दौरान विदेशों से मंगवाए गए। ये हीरे 15.33 करोड़ कैरेट्स के थे।

40 लाख युवा
2022 तक प्रशिक्षित किए जाएंगे। जेम्स एंड ज्वेलरी स्किल्स काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया ट्रेड करेगा। इसके लिए अमेरिका से करार हुआ है।

5.5 हजार करोड़ रु.
का विदेशी निवेश हीरा-सोना ज्वेलरी में अप्रैल 2000 से सितंबर 2016 के बीच किया गया। डीआईपीपी के अनुसार।

सबसे ज्यादा मांग दक्षिण भारत में

सूरत डायमंड एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष और जीजेईपीसी के रीजनल हेड दिनेश नावड़िया के अनुसार अभी डायमंड ज्वेलरी का ट्रेंड बढ़ रहा है। लेकिन उपयोग 10 वर्ष में ढाई गुना बढ़ गया है। वर्तमान में सिर्फ कीमत के हिसाब से देखें तो आठ हजार करोड़ रुपए के पॉलिश्ड हीरे के गहने देश में प्रतिवर्ष खरीदे जा रहे हैं। शादियों में पहले सोने की ज्वेलरी ही चलती थी, लेकिन अब हीरे के गहनों का चलन शुरू हो गया है। वहीं नावड़िया ने बताया कि गिफ्ट में हीरे की रिंग और कानों के गहने युवा स्वीकार रहे हैं। माइक्रा 6 जिरस और माइक्रा 11 जिरस डायमंड से बनी ज्वेलरी की डिमांड सर्वाधिक है। चूंकि इसमें गहना थोड़ा बड़ा दिखता है और यह हीरा अपेक्षाकृत सस्ता होता है इसलिए इसकी डिमांड अधिक रहती है। अभी और अधिक मांग बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। देश में जेम्स और ज्वेलरी के सात लाख से अधिक कारोबारी हैं। जिनमें ज्यादातर छोटे दुकानदार हैं। यहीं 45 लाख लोगों को सीधे हीरे संबंधी कार्यों से रोजगार मिल रहा है।

गोल्ड ज्वेलरी से 3 गुना हीरे विदेश भेजे

- जीडीपी में जेम्स-ज्वेलरी सेक्टर का योगदान 6 से 7 फीसदी तक है। यूएई, अमेरिका, चीन, हॉन्गकॉन्ग, रूस, सिंगापुर और लैटिन अमेरिकी देशों को सर्वाधिक निर्यात भारत से होता है। जीजेईपीसी के अनुसार भारत हीरे का करीब 95 फीसदी निर्यात करता है। वहीं बेल्जियम, रूस और यूएई से सर्वाधिक आयात होता है।
- पिछले वित्त वर्ष में 1.53 लाख करोड़ रुपए का कटिंग और पॉलिश्ड हीरा भारत से विदेशों को भेजा गया। कैरेट में देखा जाए तो यह 3.22 करोड़ कैरेट्स के कट और पॉलिश्ड हीरे हैं। जबकि 58 हजार करोड़ रुपए की सोने के ज्वेलरी का निर्यात किया गया। इधर सोने और हीरे सहित कुल वित्त वर्ष में जेम्स-ज्वेलरी का निर्यात 2.38 लाख करोड़ रुपए का किया गया।

स्रोत - [illegible]

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE: 4 /6/2017 P.N. 1

कंज्यूमर के लिए | सोना, चांदी, डायमंड और ज्वैलरी पर जीएसटी काउंसिल ने लिया फैसला

जीएसटी में सोने-चांदी पर टैक्स 1% बढ़ेगा, 10 हजार की ज्वैलरी पर 100 रु. ज्यादा देने होंगे

- सभी राज्य 1 जुलाई से जीएसटी लागू करने पर राजी

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

जीएसटी लागू होने पर सोना, चांदी, पॉलिश्ड डायमंड और ज्वैलरी महंगी हो जाएंगी। हालांकि कपड़े, जूते-चप्पल और बिस्किट सस्ते होंगे। जीएसटी काउंसिल ने शनिवार को इन वस्तुओं के रेट तय कर दिए। सोना, चांदी, डायमंड और ज्वैलरी पर 3% टैक्स लगेगा। अभी 2% लगता है। यानी 10 हजार रु. की ज्वैलरी 100 रु. तक महंगी हो जाएगी। रेडीमेड गारमेंट पर 12% टैक्स लगेगा। लेकिन 1000 रु. से कम कीमत के कपड़ों पर 5% टैक्स लगेगा। अभी कपड़ों पर 19.25% तक टैक्स है।

तेंदू पत्ते पर 18% और बीड़ी पर 28% टैक्स लगेगा। सिगरेट पर सेस था, पर बीड़ी पर नहीं होगा। सोलर पैनल पर 5% टैक्स लगेगा। काउंसिल की यह 15वीं बैठक थी। इसमें विवादित मुद्दों का निपटारा किया गया। काउंसिल की अगली मीटिंग अब 11 जून को होगी। इस बीच सभी राज्य 1 जुलाई से जीएसटी लागू करने पर राजी हो गए हैं।

भास्कर आपका GST नॉलेज सोर्स

जिन मुद्दों पर राज्य-केंद्र के बीच विवाद थे, उन पर हुआ फैसला; बाकी बचे मुद्दों पर जीएसटी काउंसिल की आखिरी बैठक 11 जून को होगी

	इन सामानों पर अभी ये टैक्स लग रहा				1 जुलाई से	सोना छोड़ सब चीजें सस्ती होंगी		
सामान जिनके रेट तय किए गए	एक्साइज	वैट	एंट्री टैक्स	कुल टैक्स	जीएसटी	अभी	GST के बाद	अंतर (रु.)
सोना, चांदी, डायमंड व ज्वैलरी	1%	1%	0%	2%	3%	10,000	10,098	+98.00
गारमेंट (1000 से ज्यादा 40% अबेटमेंट)	12.5%	5%	1%	13.95%	12%	1,000	983	-17.00
गारमेंट (बिना अबेटमेंट)	12.5%	5%	1%	19.25%	12%	1,000	939	-61.00
फुटवियर (500 रु. से कम)	0%	14%	2%	16%	5%	450	407	-43.00
फुटवियर (500 रु. से अधिक) (30% अबेटमेंट)	12.5%	14%	2%	26.15%	18%	2,000	1,870	-130.00
बिस्किट (100 रु. किलो तक)	0%	14%	2%	16%	18%	20	20.25	+0.25
बिस्किट (100 रु. किलो से ज्यादा)	6%	14%	2%	22.96%	18%	50	48	-2.00

ट्रेडर के लिए: पुराने स्टॉक पर क्रेडिट 40% से बढ़ाकर 60% किया

- ट्रांजिशन के समय पुराने स्टॉक पर 40% इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट देने का फैसला था। इसे बढ़ाने की मांग थी। काउंसिल ने अब तय किया है कि जिन वस्तुओं पर 18% या अधिक टैक्स है, उन पर 60% क्रेडिट मिलेगा। 18% से कम रेट वाले आइटम पर 40% क्रेडिट मिलेगा।
- ब्रांड की परिभाषा भी तय हो गई है। जिस ब्रांड का ट्रेडमार्क रजिस्टर्ड होगा, सिर्फ उसे ब्रांडेड माना जाएगा।
- कंपोजीशन स्कीम का विकल्प चुनने वाले कारोबारियों को पुराने टैक्स का क्रेडिट नहीं मिलेगा। ईकॉमर्स में ऑपरेटर और सप्लायर के रिटर्न की मैचिंग आसान की गई। 5 साल के अनुभवी सेल्स टैक्स प्रैक्टिसनर या टैक्स रिटर्न प्रिपेयरर जीएसटी प्रैक्टिसनर बन सकते हैं।

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 5 /6/2017 P.N. 5

'Americans Buying More Diamonds Than Ever'

US demand makes up over half of the world's diamond consumption, says De Beers

Bloomberg

With stock prices scaling new highs and robust economic growth, Americans spent a record amount of money buying diamonds last year.

Demand in the US, which now accounts for more than half of the world's diamond consumption, rose 4.4% to a record $41 billion last year, top producer De Beers said in a report Friday. That helped offset contractions in China and India, where the company will be stepping up marketing to revive growth. Global demand edged higher by 0.3%, to $80 billion.

The US has been a bright spot in the diamond industry, expanding its market share in the past six years as wage growth, job creation and a strong stock market helped boost consumption, according to De Beers. That contrasted with purchases in key growth market India, where a jewellers strike and the demonetisation campaign led to a 13% contraction. Demand fell 10% in the Gulf region as oil prices remained depressed.

"While the US drove global growth in 2016, it is increasing demand from emerging markets that is behind the last five years being the strongest on record," said Bruce Cleaver, chief executive officer of De Beers. "Despite some markets facing challenging conditions last year, we see this trend continuing, with improvements in demand from China and India, in particular, emerging in 2017."

ET ARCHIVES

De Beers expects a better performance in its key Asian markets in 2017 that should lead to "marginal" growth in global demand this year.

"Sentiment in oil-producing countries was poor because of the impact" of lower oil prices, Stephen Lussier, CEO of De Beers' Forevermark, the company's diamond brand, said Friday in an interview at Bloomberg headquarters in New York. "Demand will be subdued until we see overall economic improvement."

In the US, there have been signs that President Donald Trump's pro-business policies are failing to boost consumption of luxury goods. Last week Tiffany & Co. and Signet Jewelers reported disappointing sales and there are concerns about the amount of rough diamonds sold by the top producers in the first quarter. Yet De Beers remains optimistic, undeterred by concerns about oversupply.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 5 /6/2017 P.N. 12

De Beers Aims Double-digit Growth in India This Year

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: Leading global diamond company De Beers expects all its brands in the country to post double-digit growth in 2017 due to improving economic environment.

"The diamond jewellery consumption is coming back in India, which was affected by jewellers' strike in the first half and demonetisation in the last quarter of 2016.

"With overall economy improving and our marketing initiatives we are very optimistic about 2017. We are expecting a double-digit growth in all our brands," De Beers' Forevermark CEO Stephen Lussier told PTI here.

India being the biggest exporter of polished diamonds, presents a huge opportunity for the industry among the emerging markets, Lussier added.

Asked if he sees the impending Goods and Services Tax (GST) as a big hurdle for the industry, he said nothing could be as big a hurdle as demonetisation was during November last year.

"I don't think that the impending GST will be a very big problem as was demonetisation at the end of last year," he said. Further, Lussier said, with the global diamond industry growing marginally over the previous year to $80 billion, 2017 is likely to witness slight increase in demand.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 5/6/2017 P.N.8

Glut threatens commodity rebound

Slowing growth in China is compounding global surpluses

MARK BURTON

After a 2016 rally that ended five straight years of declines, prices of everything, from crude oil and zinc to sugar and soyabean, are once again mired in slumps.

The outlook for industrial materials like iron ore and coal may get even worse, with the slowing economic growth in China — the world's top consumer — compounding global surpluses.

The Bloomberg Commodity Index dropped for three straight months, the longest decline in more than a year.

While demand for many raw materials remains strong, the growth and the tight supplies that supported last year's rally are fading, according to Macquarie Group Ltd.

Some investors are betting that prices have peaked amid signs that industrial activity is slowing in China, the world's second-largest economy and the biggest buyer of many raw materials.

Iron ore

Among the worst-hit commodity in recent months was iron ore. The raw material used to make steel rallied 81 per cent in 2016, and touched a two-year high of $94.86 a tonne in February, as China stockpiled supply and looser economic policy stoked demand.

Since the end of February, the price has tumbled 39 per cent to $55.97 on Thursday, the lowest since October, according to Metal Bulletin Ltd.

Macquarie predicted the slide will continue, averaging $50 in the third and fourth quarters, before slipping to $47 in 2018, as China looks to rein in lending to industrial sectors to get debt under control. Strong underlying copper demand in China has been masked by a surge in scrap supply after a jump in prices last year, Macquarie said.

Still, copper fabricators in the country will face headwinds as usage in areas like real estate slows in the second half of the year. The bank sees copper averaging $5,600 a tonne in the fourth quarter, down from $5,619 on the LME on Friday.

The outlook isn't all gloomy. Macquarie urged investors to buy precious metals like gold or silver, which have been rising, and select commodities where supply may be constrained by production limits in China, including aluminium and possibly stainless steel.

Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at Saxo Bank, also sees precious metals benefiting from a slower pace of US interest-rate increases this year as a slump in oil and other commodities eases inflation pressure. Funds piled into gold at the fastest pace since 2007 in the week to May 23.

PHONLAMAI PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Offsetting demand

With further losses eyed in well-supplied bulk commodities from metallurgical coal to manganese, Macquarie advises switching into metals like zinc and tin where supply constraints will offset softer demand, as well as markets like aluminium and alumina, where Chinese environmental reforms could crimp output.

The bank also sees opportunities in uranium that have fallen well below the cost of production, as well as precious metals, which may see inflows as hopes for a global reflation in economic activity continue to fade. BLOOMBERG

Gold looks bright

Precious metals may benefit from a slower pace of US interest rate increases as a slump in oil and other commodities eases inflation pressure

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 5 /6/2017 P.N. 8

Gold set to revisit $1,300

Weak US job numbers offer support to the yellow metal in the days ahead

GURUMURTHY K

After being stuck in a narrow range almost all the week, gold price got a boost in the final trading sessions on Friday. Global spot gold prices surged one per cent on Friday and closed the week on a strong note at $1,279 per ounce.

Silver, on the other hand, managed to sustain above $17 per ounce, in line with our expectations. It has closed at $17.55 per ounce, up 1.4 per cent for the week.

On the domestic front, gold futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) closed the week at ₹28,871 per 10 gm, down 0.1 per cent. MCX-Silver futures contract however, managed to close slightly higher at ₹40,274 per kg, up 0.5 per cent for the week. The Indian rupee strengthening against the US dollar last week capped the gains in the domestic futures contract.

Weak US data

The strong rise in the global gold and silver prices on Friday came on the back of weak US job numbers. Although unemployment rate fell to 4.3 per cent from 4.4 per cent, non-farm payroll number failed to meet market expectations.

The US added 1,38,000 jobs in the month of May as against market expectation of an addition of 1,82,000 jobs. Even the payroll numbers for the previous two months (March and April) were revised lower, increasing the concerns of a slowdown in job growth. Employee wages also failed to show signs of picking up.

The slowdown in the job market has increased the expectation that the US Federal Reserve may want to wait and watch before it increases the rates. The next meeting is coming up on June 14.

Election week

With no major data release scheduled for this week in the US apart from the regular weekly jobless claims, all eyes will be on the upcoming elections in the UK on Thursday.

France is also heading for its National Assembly elections over the weekend on Sunday, June 11. The pre-election predictions show that Theresa May might not win a majority and there is a possibility of a hung parliament. The outcome of the UK election can usher in high volatility in global financial markets this week. If the US dollar gains after the UK elections, it could cap the upside in gold prices.

But charts indicate that the near-term outlook is weak for the dollar index (96.67) which has fallen 0.7 per cent last week. Immediate support is at 96.45. A strong break below this support can take the dollar index to 96 immediately. Such a break will also increase the likelihood of the index falling to 95 thereafter.

Such a fall in the dollar index may take gold prices higher in the coming days.

Gold outlook

The global spot gold ($1,279 per ounce) has immediate resistance at $1,282. A strong break above this hurdle can take the prices higher to $1,295 initially. Further break above $1,295 will increase the possibility of the up-move extending to $1,310. Key supports are poised at $1,270 and $1,260 which are likely to limit the downside. The outlook will turn negative only if gold declines below $1,260. But such a fall looks less probable.

MCX-Gold (₹28,871 per 10 gm) is range-bound between ₹28,500 and ₹29,000 over the last two weeks. The bias is bullish to break this range above ₹29,000 in the coming days.

Such a break can take the contract higher to ₹29,300 and ₹29,500. Further, a break above ₹29,500 will pave the way for the next target of ₹30,150. The contract will come under pressure only if it declines below ₹28,480 — the 21-day moving average. However, this looks unlikely. Targets below ₹28,480 are ₹28,150 or ₹28,000.

PHOTOMETERS/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Silver outlook

Global silver ($17.55 per ounce) has reversed higher sharply after testing the psychological support level of $17 in the past week. Next resistance is in the $17.75-$17.80 region, which is likely to be tested this week. A strong break and a decisive close above $17.8 can boost the momentum and take silver prices higher to $18 or even $18.5 thereafter.

MCX-Silver (₹40,274 per kg) is facing resistance around ₹40,500.

A strong break above this hurdle can boost momentum and take the contract higher to ₹41,100 initially. A further break above ₹41,100 will see the upmove extending to ₹41,800 thereafter. Strong support for the contract is at ₹39,400 which needs to be broken to drag the contract to ₹38,500 or ₹38,350.

Events to watch

- UK election
- ECB meeting
- US jobless claims

MCX Gold

Supports
₹28,480 / ₹28,150
Resistances
₹29,000 / ₹29,300

MCX Silver

Supports
₹39,400 / ₹38,500
Resistances
₹40,500 / ₹41,100

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 5/6/2017 P.N.8

GLOBAL		Change in %			52-Week	
	Price	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	High	Low
Metals ($/tonne)						
Aluminium	1929	-1.5	0.4	26.3	1962	1535
Copper	5640	-1.2	-2.3	22.2	6145	4496
Iron Ore	55	-5.8	-16.5	15.9	95	47
Lead	2089	1.2	-7.6	22.1	2466	1682
Zinc	2515	-4.2	-5.1	27.0	2971	1981
Tin	20420	-0.5	2.0	25.4	21945	16200
Nickel	8874	-1.4	-6.2	5.3	11735	8362

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 6/6/2017 P.N.16

MCX-Aluminium hovers above key support level

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The Aluminium futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange fell about 2 per cent in the past week. The contract is currently trading at ₹123.45 a kg, just above a key support level at ₹123. The contract will come under more pressure if it declines below ₹123.

Such a break can take the contract lower to ₹122 or ₹121.5 initially. Key trendline supports are poised at ₹122 and ₹121.5.

An upward reversal from either ₹122 or ₹121.5 can take the contract higher to ₹125 or even ₹127 once again.

In such a scenario, the contract may remain range bound between ₹121.5 and ₹127 for some time. A breakout on either side of this range will then decide the next trend.

On the other hand, the downside pressure may increase if the MCX-Aluminium futures contract breaks below ₹121.5 decisively. Such a break will increase the likelihood of the contract extending its fall to ₹120 and ₹119 thereafter.

The contract will need a strong break and a decisive close above ₹127 for the downside pressure to ease. Such a break can boost the momentum and take the contract higher to ₹130 thereafter. But such a rally looks less probable at the moment.

The contract may consolidate between ₹121 and ₹127 for some time before it makes a swift move on either side.

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

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 6/6/2017 P.N. 18

GST AT 3% to reduce tax leakage, but some in market feel rally may not last

Jewellers Get GST Shine, Titan Seen Gaining the Most

All that Shines is Gold

Company Name	Market Cap (In ₹ Crores)	Trailing P/E	CMP (In ₹)	% Change vs Previous Close	YTD Return (%)
Titan Company	49,042.07	64.38	552.4	16.97	**69.58**
PC Jeweller	9,857.18	22.90	550.25	9.38	**39.20**
Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri	653.95	35.25	98.00	5.43	**66.10**
Renaissance Jewellery	375.69	8.75	196.90	4.87	**56.08**
Tara Jewels	73.49	2.89	29.85	4.55	**-20.19**
Gitanjali Gems	822.04	4.90	69.30	3.36	**22.87**

Sanam.Mirchandani@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Jewellery stocks outshone the benchmark indices on Monday led by industry major Titan Company as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate of 3% for gold announced on Saturday was lower than the rate of 4-5% anticipated by market participants.

The lower-than-expected rate removes an overhang of taxes on the sector, said analysts. The current total indirect taxation on gold is around 2-2.5%, analysts said.

Titan jumped 20% to a lifetime high of ₹566.7 before ending 17% higher on more-than-average traded volume. With GST expected to result in a transition from unorganised to organised market, Titan, market leader, is seen as the biggest beneficiary under the new tax regime.

Brokerage CLSA upgraded Titan to 'buy' from 'outperform' and raised target price on it by 11.7% to ₹620, while HSBC maintained its 'buy' rating and target price of ₹550.

Among other jewellery makers, PC Jeweller jumped 9.4% to ₹550.25 and Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri gained 5.4% to ₹98.

"A potentially higher rate would have promoted tax leakage while a 3% tax rate reduces the attractiveness of such leakage to a great extent, for the unorganised sector. In addition, compliance levels are likely to go up under GST which would also facilitate the conversion from the unorganised sector or at least create a level playing field," said CLSA in a note.

Some in the market said that the rally will fizzle out soon as the GST rate will not impact aggregate demand.

"The news is hyped and ultimately it will not make a big difference to aggregate demand. Based on FY18 numbers, Titan is expensive too," said G Chokkalingam, founder, Equinomics Research and Advisory.

On a one-year forward earnings basis, Titan trades at a price-to-earnings ratio of 47.6 times, according to Bloomberg data. The stock has gained 69.6% this year.

In the quarter ended March 2017, Titan reported a 7.4% increase in net profit from a year ago at ₹200.7 crore and a 43.9% jump in total income to ₹3,487 crore.

"Valuations for Titan are rich for a reason. The sector has seen a clean-up with demonetisation and now GST coming in," said Abneesh Roy, senior VP-Institutional Equities at Edelweiss Securities.

BROKERAGE VIEWS

CLSA upgraded Titan to buy and raised target price to ₹620, while HSBC maintained its buy rating and target price of ₹550

THE HITAVADA DATE: 6/6/2017 P.N. 11

Cement industry to grow at about 7 pc in FY17, says HeidelbergCement India

NEW DELHI, June 5 (PTI)

THE cement industry is expected to grow at 6-7 per cent in the current fiscal with Government's focus on infrastructure development being a key driver of demand, says HeidelbergCement India. A subsidiary of HeidelbergCement Group, Germany, the company also said that while prospects of a normal monsoon augur well for the industry, oversupply may restrict the ability to pass on any input cost increases.

Cement demand growth expectations for 2017-18 is 6-7 per cent, HeidelbergCement India said in an investor presentation.

It cited prospects of normal monsoons, increased focus and outlay for agriculture, infrastructure as well as affordable housing and thrust on construction of cement concrete roads as demand boosters. Besides, the launch of smart cities and urban infrastructure development along with implementation of GST will also bring opportunities for growth for the sector. However, the company said the industry could also face challenge of oversupply restricting "the ability to pass on any input cost increases". Moreover, "delay in awarding infrastructure projects" by the government agencies and "further hardening of fuel and power costs" may also prove to be hurdles to growth. It also listed non-availability of sand and aggregates impacting construction activities, as possible dampener of growth. According to the Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA), the industry had a decline of 1 per cent last fiscal although the CAGR growth of the industry of last five years was around 4 per cent.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 8 /6/2017 P.N. 16

MCX-Nickel consolidates with a negative bias

GURUMURTHY K

BL Research Bureau

The downtrend in the Nickel futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) paused in the past week. The contract was stuck in a sideways range between ₹563 and ₹581 a kg. Within this range the contract is trading slightly below the upper end of the range, at ₹575 per kg.

The bias within the range remains bearish and the overall downtrend is expected to remain intact. A cluster of resistances at around ₹580 may make it difficult for the contract to break above this hurdle.

As such, a break below ₹563 can bring fresh selling pressure. Such a break can drag the contract lower to ₹550 initially. A further break below ₹550 will increase the likelihood of the contract, extending its fall to ₹535. The level of ₹535 is a significant long-term trend support, which can halt the current downtrend.

Short-term traders with a big risk appetite can make use of a rise to ₹580 to go short. A stop-loss can be placed at ₹593 for the target of ₹555. Revise the stop-loss lower to ₹575 as soon as the contract moves down to ₹568.

On the other hand, if the MCX-Nickel futures contract manages to breach ₹581 decisively, it can rise to ₹587 or ₹592 in the coming days. A further break above ₹592 will pave way for the next targets of ₹600 and ₹610.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 9 /6/2017 P.N. 4

Mining districts lagging in DMF set-up, says CSE report

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, June 8

Only seven districts have established District Mineral Foundation (DMF) offices across 50 mineral rich districts, said a survey conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

In its status report on the DMF, released on Thursday, the CSE noted most districts are lagging in making the administrative and institutional arrangements under the DMF.

DMF was were instituted in March 2015, when the government amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (1957). According to the provisions of the DMF, miners and mining companies are mandated to provide a sum to the DMG Trust of the district where the mine is located. The sum is linked to the total royalty payment.

CSE also said that of the 50 districts they have surveyed, only 24 have indicated that their plans for utilising the DMF funds are ready. But, the actual plans were available from only 17 districts. Chhattisgarh has emerged as the State with the most progress with respect to DMF planning. Out of the nine districts surveyed there, eight have prepared DMF plans.

Total DMF collection till February 2017 stood at ₹5,800 crore. Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh contributed 69.5 per cent of the total amount. The report also highlighted discrepancies in the allocation of DMF funds, said Srestha Banerjee, Programme Manager, Environmental Governance - Community Support Programme at CSE.

CSE has stated that in the allocation of funds from DMF, there is a big focus on construction of structures such as school buildings, but there is little focus on providing support resources.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 9/6/2017 P.N. 14

Buy Comex gold at $1,280/oz

GNANASEKAAR T

Comex gold futures edged lower on Thursday as investors stayed on the sidelines waiting for the outcome of the European Central Bank meeting, Britain's national election and testimony from the former US FBI director James Comey.

Comex gold futures moved perfectly in line with our expectations so far. As mentioned earlier, as prices manage to close above $1,272, an upside towards $1,285 or even higher to $1,295/97 can be seen. Strong resistance has been seen so far at $1,295.

But, prices are consolidating once again hinting at a breather before the next up move. Chances exist for an extension to $1,305 or even to $1,330-35, a potential target area in the coming months. Strong supports are in the $1,265-70 range.

The favoured view expects prices to push towards the resistances mentioned above. A failure to cross $1,295/97 could once again result in loss of faith for gold. Only an unexpected decline below $1,258 could hint at a resumption of the downtrend.

Such a move could take prices lower towards $1,245 followed by $1,210, which is not our favoured view now. Price structures are supportive of an up move in the short-term while supports hold.

Wave counts

We will take a look at the wave counts now and understand the possible scenarios that can unfold going forward.

It is most likely that the fall from the all-time highs at $1,925 to the recent low of $1,088 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.

Subsequent to this decline, 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, failure to follow-through above $1,355 has dashed any hopes of any impulsive up move. As prices have broken certain important supports and shown weakness targeting $975 , we are tilted towards looking at this as a corrective wave C in progress.

RSI is in the neutral zone now indicating that it is neither overbought nor oversold.

The averages in MACD have gone above the zero line of the indicator again, indicating a bullish reversal.

Only a crossover again below the zero line could hint at a reversal in trend to bearishness.

Therefore, Buy Comex gold around $1,280 with a stop-loss at $1,264 targeting $1,305 followed by $1,330. Supports are at $1,275, $1,258 and $ 1,245 and resistances are at $1,295, 1,305 and 1,330.

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

THE HITAVADA DATE: 9/6/2017 P.N. 11

India 'bright spot' for global steel output growth: Report

NEW DELHI, June 8 (PTI)

INDIA is seen as a "bright spot" for the global steel production growth on account of the Government's push to augment capacity and demand from the construction, automotive and infra sectors, says a report.

The firms like SAIL and Tata Steel are expected to drive the steel output growth, according to the report by BMI Research, a Fitch group company. "The Govt has been spearheading the push towards the boost in steel production capacity, with upgrades being made to existing steel mills and state-owned companies stepping in to build new steel plants," it said. "India will be the global steel production growth bright spot as demand from the construction, automotive and infrastructure industries continues to accelerate," it added.

Key companies, it said, that will drive growth are Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) and Tata Steel, the latter which aims to boost sales in the automotive segment with the migration of production towards higher-end steel products. For instance, according to the World Bureau of Metal Statistics, in 2016, India's steel output grew by 7.4 per cent y-o-y. "We forecast India's steel output to average annual growth of 8.9 pc during 2017-2021, higher than 2.9 per cent during 2012-2016," the report said.

THE HINDU DATE: 9/6/2017 P.N. 14

DGFT may come under Revenue dept

Foreign trade agency likely to move from commerce ministry for easing export and import processes

ARUN S
NEW DELHI

The Centre is considering a proposal to shift the entire Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) office to the Department of Revenue (DoR) from the Department of Commerce (DoC) – as part of measures to simplify processes relating to export and import.

The suggestion – billed as a major trade facilitation measure and in line with the Centre's 'Ease of Doing Business' initiative – was mooted recently by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in the DoR within the Finance Ministry.

Smooth movement: It is better if the entire trade facilitation work is brought under a single interface, the CBEC suggests.

Specialist cadre

The DGFT's role includes Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) formulation and implementation – to in turn boost India's exports. It is manned mainly by the Indian Trade Service (ITS) cadre officials, but is usually headed by an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer.

If the proposal, that the CBEC put forward in a recent inter-ministerial meeting convened by the Cabinet Secretariat, is accepted, the DGFT will be placed within the DoR and staffed entirely by Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officials, official sources told *The Hindu*.

To enable an IRS official to head the DGFT, a new post – Principal/Chief Commissioner (Foreign Trade) equivalent to Additional Secretary to Government of India (the rank of the official currently heading the DGFT) – will be created, they added. The proposal will be taken up again soon, most probably in the first week of July.

This development follows the DoC recently seeking to hive off non-core areas including FTP implementation. This is to better utilise the DoC's resources (including ITS cadre officials) in 'core focus areas' such as FTP formulation as well as in India's trade negotiations.

The DoC wanted to retain the DGFT as an office attached to it for FTP formulation.

The CBEC, however, is learnt to have said that it was getting several complaints from those in the foreign trade sector saying the current division of trade facilitation-related work between DoC and DoR was resulting in 'red tapism' and delays.

Trade facilitation

Therefore, to ensure greater ease of doing business, it will be better if the entire trade facilitation work is brought under a single interface, the CBEC said. India is currently ranked 130th out of 190 countries in the World Bank's (ease of) Doing Business report (2017) and further lower at 143rd when it comes to 'trading across borders'.

The shifting of DGFT office would require amendments in the concerned laws – the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulations) Act and the Customs Act. Another factor that could strengthen the CBEC's proposal is that it (CBEC) currently houses the Secretariat of the inter-ministerial National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF), which was established in August 2016, consequent to India ratifying the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in April 2016.

The TFA has provisions to help ease flow of goods across borders. The pact has measures to ensure effective cooperation between customs and other concerned authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues.

The NCTF is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and comprises Secretaries of the departments concerned with trade issues including DoR and DoC.

It also has the CBEC Chairman, the DGFT and Railway Board Chairman as Members.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
DATE: 10/6/2017
P.N.10

CIL to Save up to ₹1k cr by Closing Underground Mines

KOLKATA Muted coal demand and eroding profitability have forced Coal India to 'production closure' of 37 loss making underground mines in the current fiscal to save between ₹800 crore to ₹1,000 crore annually. "An action plan was prepared by the subsidiaries in which 37 underground mines were envisaged to be closed for production in 2017-18. This exercise will save between ₹800 crore to ₹1,000 crore," a top CIL official told PTI.

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE: 10/6/2017 P.N. 12

पेंच व कन्हान की पांच कोयला खदानें होंगी बंद

- कभी भी जारी हो सकता है खदानें सील करने का आदेश

भास्कर न्यूज | छिंदवाड़ा/परासिया।

कोयलांचल के पेंच व कन्हान क्षेत्र की पांच भूमिगत कोयला खदानों को कोल इंडिया ने बंद करने का निर्णय लिया है। इन खदानों से मानव बल हटाने सहित अन्य कार्रवाई पूरी करने और महत्पूर्ण जानकारियां हेड क्वाटर को उपलब्ध कराने के निर्देश महाप्रबंधकों को दे दिए गए हैं। किसी भी समय इन खदानों को सील करने का आदेश जारी हो सकता है। पेंच व कन्हान क्षेत्रों में खदानों की संख्या कम होती जा रही है। पेंच क्षेत्र में केवल 7 भूमिगत खदानें संचालित हो रही हैं। उसमें से भी तीन खदानों को बंद करने का निर्णय ले लिया गया है। परासिया के आस पास स्थित गणपति माइन, विष्णुपुरी क्रमांक-1 व 2 को बंद करने प्रक्रिया शुरू करने का आदेश महाप्रबंधक को जारी किया जा चुका है। वहीं कन्हान क्षेत्र की

भवानी और मोआरी खदानों को भी बंद करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू करने के आदेश जारी किए जा चुके हैं। यह निर्णय 25 मई को कोलकाता में आयोजित वेकोलि के बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टर्स की 289 वीं बैठक में लिया गया। इसके अलावा वेकोलि के चंद्रपुर व वणी क्षेत्र की भी पांच खदानें बंद करने का निर्णय वेकोलि ने लिया है।

भाजपा सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण क्षेत्र की खदानें बंद की जा रही हैं, यह गलत निर्णय है। इंटक इस निर्णय के खिलाफ आंदोलन करेगा और खदानें बंद नहीं होने देगा।
-सोहन वाल्मिक, अध्यक्ष इंटक रीजनल

2216 कामगारों का भविष्य संकट में

पेंच व कन्हान क्षेत्र की पांचों खदानों में वर्षों से काम कर रहे 2216 कामगारों का भविष्य इन खदानों के बंद होने के बाद संकट में आ जाएगा। वेकोलि इन कामगारों को अन्य खदानों में शिफ्ट करेगा लेकिन दोनों ही क्षेत्रों में इतनी भूमिगत खदानें मौजूद नहीं हैं जिनमें 2 हजार 216 कामगार शिफ्ट किए जा सकें।

जिन खदानों को बंद करने का निर्णय लिया गया है, उनमें हेवी लॉस है इसीलिए खदानें बंद की जा रही हैं। एक दो महीने में खदानें सील हो जाएंगी। इन खदानों का मानव बल अन्य खदानों और अन्य वेकोलि क्षेत्र में भी शिफ्ट किया जा सकता है।
-केबी मांझी, महाप्रबंधक पेंच क्षेत्र

THE HINDU

DATE: 10/6/2017 P.N. 16

Coal India to shut 37 mines

Unviability cited; unions fear impact on 10,000 workers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is planning to close 37 mines in FY18, the PSU said, even as trade unions are getting together to oppose the move.

"An action plan has been prepared by subsidiaries in which 37 unviable underground mines have been envisaged to be closed in 2017-18," CIL said in a regulatory filing. It said that the identified surplus manpower from these mines would be redeployed in nearby mines.

The Union Coal Ministry, in a review meeting with CIL and its subsidiaries, noted that a substantial number of mines have not been able to recover costs in the form of even salaries paid to the workers. It then directed CIL's arms to conduct a detailed study of such mines and report on action taken.

CIL also said that its subsidiaries generally undertake an annual exercise to determine profit- and loss-making mines for comparative study of performance of these mines and also for taking decisions on new mines.

'Black out': The Coal Ministry had noted that a substantial number of mines were not able to recover costs. • AFP

Three-day strike

B.K. Rai, president of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Koyla Mazdoor Sangh said that the unions were opposed to this and talks have already been held in this regard among all the unions. Five central trade unions have served a three-day strike notice (beginning June 19) to protest a host of issues including commercial mining of coal.

He feared that more than 10,000 workers across all the coal-companies would be affected by the move. "We have come to know that this is part of a plan to shut down 155 mines of CIL". CIL produced 554.1 million tons coal in 2016-17 from its 471 mines across 21 major coalfields. It has said that many of its 273 underground mines were unable to recover costs. Its profits dropped 35% in 2016-17.

THE HINDU

DATE: 11/6/2017 P.N. 10

'CIL will remain a single entity'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said state-run Coal India will continue to remain a single entity and would not be allowed to split further.

The government's policy think-tank NITI Aayog had recently recommended breaking up of Coal India into various subsidiaries.

"It is not at all advisable and we are not taking up that recommendation at all. Coal India will continue to be one entity," Mr. Goyal said when asked about the NITI Aayog's recommendation of splitting the 'Maharatna' company.

Mr. Goyal, who is the minister of state for power, coal, new and renewable energy (independent charge) was speaking to reporters. NITI Aayog vice chairman Arvind Panagariya had recently said that unbundling of Coal India will create competition and increase transparency in pricing.

THE TELEGRAPH DATE: 11 /6/2017 P.N. 8

Coal India to close 37 mines

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta, June 10: Public sector miner Coal India has decided to close 37 unviable underground coal mines and redeploy manpower from the sites to cut losses suffered on lifting coal from these mines.

In a communication to bourses, Coal India said the company and its subsidiaries undertake an exercise every year to assess the performance of the mines.

At a review meeting with the coal major and its subsidiaries, the coal ministry has found out that a sizeable number of mines are unable to recover the salary of workers. Accordingly the miner was asked to conduct a detailed study of such mines and report the action taken regarding them.

"In view of the above, an action plan has been prepared by subsidiaries in which 37 unviable UG (underground) mines have been envisaged to be closed in 2017-18," CIL said in a filing to the Bombay Stock Exchange.

GROUND REALITY

Coal India mines tally

Total	413	Unviable underground mines to be closed
Open cast	176	
Underground	207	
Mixed	30	37

"The identified surplus manpower from these mines would be gainfully redeployed in nearby mine areas to reduce further loss in these mines," it said.

According to a disclosure to the BSE in April, Coal India had said that of 413 mines it owns, 176 are open cast mines, 207 are underground mines and 30 are mixed mines.

However, bulk of Coal India's production comes from open cast mines. Industry sources said the exercise to cut down production from the identified mines could yield savings of around Rs 800 crore for the miner.

Besides high cost, difficult geo-mining conditions, non-availability of large size deposits for adopting mass production technologies, inadequate experience in mechanisation of underground mines, dependence on imported equipment for mass production technologies and long gestation periods are some of the hindrances to augmenting production from underground mines.

Coal India's provisional production in 2016-17 was 554.13 million tonnes against a target of 598.61 million tonnes and recording a growth rate of 2.9 per cent. Of this underground mining contributed to around 31 million tonnes.

Coal India has set a production target of 661 million tonnes for 2017-18 from a combination of its active and future projects.

The public sector miner has identified 121 major ongoing projects expected to produce 561 million tonnes in 2020.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 12 /6/2017 P.N. 8

UK polls, dollar take sheen off gold

Fed meeting outcome will decide whether prices move up from the current levels

GURUMURTHY K

As expected, gold witnessed a sharp rise initially last week. But after marking an intra-week high of $1,296 per ounce, prices reversed sharply.

The trigger for this sudden downward reversal might have come from crude oil prices tumbling over 4 per cent on Wednesday. The US dollar strengthening towards the end of the week increased the downside pressure on gold and dragged the prices to close the week lower by 1 per cent at $1,266 per ounce.

Silver, on the other hand, faced resistance near $17.75 per ounce and tumbled to close the week at $17.21 per ounce, down 2 per cent for the week.

On the domestic front, both the gold and silver futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) moved in tandem with global spot prices and reversed sharply lower from their respective intra-week highs.

From a high of ₹29,585 per 10 gm, the MCX Gold contract closed 0.5 per cent lower for the week at ₹29,019 per 10 gm on Friday. MCX-Silver, on the other hand, dropped from the week's high of ₹40,842 per kg and closed at ₹39,694 per kg, down 1.4 per cent for the week.

UK elections boost dollar

The dollar index (97.28) found support around 96.50 and reversed higher to close the week at 97.28. This is thanks to the UK elections resulting in a hung parliament. The dollar index, which was trading on a weak note until Thursday, gained strength on Friday after the UK election results were out.

Technically, this upward reversal on the dollar index is significant as it happened from near a key Fibonacci retracement support level of 96.45.

The weekly chart suggests a range bound move between 96.5 and 98 for some time. A breakout on either side 96.5 or 98 will decide the next trend.

Watch the Fed

The trigger for the dollar index to break this 96.5-98 range may come from the US Federal Reserve meeting this week on Wednesday. A 25-basis point hike is widely anticipated. The US dollar may come under pressure if the Fed surprises with no rate hikes or changes its stance on future projections. If the dollar index declines below 96.5 decisively this week, it can fall to 96 immediately. Further break below 96 will increase the likelihood of the index extending its fall to 95.

On the other hand, if the index breaks the range above 98, a rise to 99 and 99.3 is possible thereafter.

Gold outlook

Global spot gold ($1,266 per ounce) has an immediate support at $1,265. A break below it can take the prices lower to $1,260 or $1,258 which is the next key support zone.

The US Fed meeting outcome may decide whether gold prices reverses higher from the $1,260-$1,258 support zone or not.

An upward reversal from this support zone may ease the downside pressure and take the prices higher to $1,273. Further break above $1,273 will see the upmove extending to $1,280.

On the other hand, if gold declines below $1,258, it can fall to $1,247 or $1,245. But such a fall looks less probable as the $1,250-$1,248 support zone seems to be very strong. This leaves the possibility high of gold prices reversing higher from this support zone in the coming days.

On the domestic front, the MCX-Gold (₹29,019 per 10 gm) futures contract has cluster supports in between ₹29,000 and ₹28,750.

The 21-day moving average, which is on the verge of crossing over the 55- and 100-day moving average, indicates that further downside in the contract could be limited. A reversal from the ₹29,000-₹28,750 support region may see a rally to ₹29,500 levels once again.

The contract will come under pressure only if it declines below ₹28,750 decisively. Such a break can take it lower to ₹28,500 initially. A break below ₹28,500 may drag the contract further lower to ₹28,100 or ₹28,000.

Silver outlook

Global spot silver ($17.21 per ounce) can extend its fall to test the next key supports at $17 and $16.82. A strong reversal from either $17 or $16.82 can take silver prices higher to $17.75 or $17.80 once again.

But a fall below $16.82 can drag the prices lower to $16.60 or $16.40 thereafter.

Silver must breach $17.80 decisively to gain fresh momentum. Such a break can take it higher to $18.5.

MCX-Silver (₹39,694 per kg) has an immediate support at ₹19,400. A strong break below it can take it lower to ₹38,450 in the short term. On the other hand, if the contract manages to reverse higher from ₹39,400 it may bounce back to ₹40,600 or even ₹41,000 thereafter.

US data watch

- June 14: Retail sales, CPI, Fed meeting
- June 15: Industrial Production
- June 16: Housing starts

MCX Silver
Supports
₹39,400 / ₹38,450
Resistances
₹40,600, ₹41,000

MCX Gold
Supports
₹28,750 / ₹28,500
Resistances
₹29,500 / ₹30,000

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 12 /6/2017 P.N.8

GLOBAL		Change in %			52-Week	
Metals ($/tonne)	Price	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	High	Low
Aluminium	1901	-1.5	2.0	21.1	1962	1545
Copper	5780	2.5	5.3	28.4	6145	4496
Iron Ore	55	0.5	-6.4	11.3	95	49
Lead	2077	-0.6	-4.3	22.4	2466	1682
Zinc	2515	0.0	-3.6	21.9	2971	1981
Tin	18930	-7.3	-4.2	11.1	21945	17000
Nickel	8924	0.6	-2.7	0.3	11735	8710

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 13 /6/2017 P.N.4

'No need to cap iron ore prices'

New Delhi, June 12

The mines ministry today said it has no plans to cap the prices of iron ore as there is no shortage of the key steel-making raw material. It also said the country is looking at expanding the iron ore production and that will take care of market dynamics. "There is no shortage of iron ore and at present there is no thinking in the mines ministry of capping of iron ore prices," Mines Secretary Arun Kumar said at a press conference here. "Mines of ministry does not have a plan of fixation for iron ore prices. They (Mines Ministry) are the administrative ministry," Kumar said. PTI

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE: 13/6/2017 P.N. 14

Industrial output growth slows to 3.1% in April on poor mining

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

INDUSTRIAL production growth slipped to 3.1 per cent in April due to poor show by manufacturing, mining and power sectors coupled with lower offtake of capital goods and consumer durables.

The factory output measured in terms of the index of industrial production (IIP) had expanded by 6.5 per cent in April last year, the data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Monday showed. The CSO also revised upwards the IIP growth figure for March to 3.75 per cent from provisional estimate of 2.7 per cent released last month.

According to the CSO data, manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index, grew at 2.6 per cent in April compared to 5.5 per cent in same month last year.

Similarly, mining sector output grew at 4.2 per cent in the month under review compared to 6.7 year ago. Power generation rose by 5.4 per cent in April, down from 14.4 per cent expansion in April last year. The output of capital goods, which are the barometer of investment in the country, contracted by 1.3 per cent in April compared to growth of 8.1 per cent a year ago. Similarly, consumer durables or white goods production declined by 6 per cent in April against 13.8 per cent growth a year ago.

As per use-based classification, the growth rates in April 2017 over April 2016 are 3.4 per cent in primary goods, 4.6 per cent in intermediate goods and 5.8 per cent in infrastructure/construction goods.

The consumer non-durables have recorded a growth rate of 8.3 per cent. Consumer goods overall grew at 5.8 per cent.

In terms of industries, 14 out of 23 industry groups in the manufacturing sector have shown positive growth in April 2017 compared to the corresponding month of the previous year. The industry group 'manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products' has shown the highest growth of 29.1 per cent followed by 17.9 per cent in 'manufacture of tobacco products' and 9.5 per cent in 'manufacture of machinery and equipment'.

INDIA INC SEEKS RBI RATE CUT

"A more accommodative monetary policy with lower interest rate would stimulate consumer demand that would hedge any downside risk arising from exports"

FICCI

"The Reserve Bank of India's status quo on rates has disappointed the industry as there was a room for reduction in key policy rate"

ASSOCHAM

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 13/6/2017 P.N. 4

Diamond processing industry gets relief with IGST exemption on imports

Council exempts individual advocates, individual sponsors, including sportspersons, from registration for central GST

SURABHI

New Delhi, June 12

In a relief to the diamond processing industry, the Goods and Services Tax Council has exempted import of cut and polished diamonds after testing from payment of Integrated GST (IGST).

"An exporter with an annual turnover of ₹5 crore for each of the last three years may export cut and polished diamonds (each of 0.25 carat or more)…for testing," said a fresh exemption list, adding that on their re-import within three months of export, these cut and polished diamonds will be exempt from customs duty as well as IGST.

The decision was taken at the meeting of the GST Council on Sunday.

Similarly, the Council has also exempted from IGST import of diamonds for certification, grading and their subsequent re-export.

This was also one of the key demands of the diamond industry, which had also been seeking withdrawal of the proposed 0.25 per cent GST on rough diamonds.

"The exemption from IGST was a must as diamonds have to be exported for part of the certification. They are then re-imported. Paying IGST would have been a huge exercise and compliance burden," said Praveen Shekhar Pandya, Chairman, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), adding that they are also hoping that transactions through the Diamond Dollar Accounts will also be nil-rated.

About 65 per cent of the global diamond processing is done in India with gross exports of cut and polished diamonds

estimated at close to $23 billion. In fact, nearly 95 per cent of the diamonds after being cut and polished are exported back.

The Council in its meeting also exempted passenger bus services, spares, fuels and consumables between India and Pakistan and Bangladesh from payment of IGST. At present, two passenger bus services between New Delhi and Lahore and Kolkata and Dhaka are run.

The Council also exempted inter-state movement of goods and passengers between the head office and branch office through trains, buses, trucks,

About 65 per cent of the global diamond processing is done in India with gross exports of cut and polished diamonds estimated at close to $23 billion.

tankers, trailers, vessels and containers from payment of IGST.

Meanwhile, in line with the service tax provisions, the GST Council has also exempted individual advocates and individual sponsorship service providers, including sportspersons, from registration for Central GST.

Final rules

The Central Board of Excise and Customs also released the final rules and formats for accounts and records on Monday. These were approved by the GST Council in its meeting on Sunday.

These require manufacturers, agents, work-contractors, transporters to maintain detailed accounts.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 14/6/2017 P.N. 7

WITH A WIDE DIFFERENCE

Volumes Data Baffle Cement Analysts

Top cement makers report 4.8% average growth in Q4 against DIPP's expectation of a 12% YoY fall

Rajesh.Naidu@timesgroup.com

ET Intelligence Group: The discrepancy between cement volume data released by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and the actual volume recorded by cement companies has been a cause of concern among cement analysts for the past few quarters. It became strikingly evident in the March 2017 quarter itself.

According to DIPP data, cement volume was expected to fall by 12% year-on-year in the March quarter. In contrast, the top four cement makers including UltraTech, ACC, Ambuja and Shree reporter 4.8% average growth. These companies together make up for two-thirds of the country's cement capacity.

In the past, the DIPP estimate had more or less reflected the actual volume change. According to a report by brokerage Jefferies, the correlation between the two variables was 0.8 during the 14 quarters prior to the March 2017 quarter. A correlation of close to one reflects a strong relationship between the parameters. Given this, the wide difference seen during the March quarter poses questions.

Analysts and economists cite three reasons for the discrepancy. First, some large companies might not be reporting volume data to DIPP. Second, since DIPP numbers are based on surveys, in case of missing data, estimates may have been used. Third, abolishing of cement cess, which was a miniscule 70-75 paise per tonne in September 2016, may have played a role in the data discrepancy. It is estimated that the government collected Rs19-20 crore through cement cess and they would get information about the quantity of cement sold by the cement companies. With the elimination of cess, the disclosure pertaining to the quantity of cement sold may have reduced, according to analysts. Calls from ET to DIPP's joint secretary went unanswered.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 14/6/2017 P.N. 16

Upmove in MCX-Zinc futures runs out of steam

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The bounce-back move in the zinc futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) seems to have lost momentum.

The contract made a low of ₹156.1a kg last Wednesday and reversed higher, but this upmove halted at ₹163.3 on Friday, and since then, prices have reversed sharply lower.

The zinc futures contract is currently trading at ₹157.6, down about 3.5 per cent from Friday's high. A test of the crucial support at ₹156 is likely in the coming sessions.

Whether the contract reverses and moves higher or not from this support level will decide the next move.

If the contract manages to bounce back again from ₹156, the downside pressure will ease. A rise to ₹163 and ₹165 is possible in such a scenario. But if the contract declines below ₹156 decisively, it come under more pressure.

Such a break will also mean the downtrend that has been in place since February is intact.

It will also increase the likelihood of the contract extending its down move to ₹150, the 50 per cent Fibonacci retracement support level in the coming days.

An inability to break above ₹163 last week and a sharp reversal keeps the bias bearish. As such, the possibility is high of the contract breaking below ₹156 and falling to ₹150 in the coming days.

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

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 14/6/2017 P.N. 4

Govt halves import duty on some steel grades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 13

The government has halved import duty on certain grades of steel to 5 per cent with a view to cut cost of raw material for domestic industry.

The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in a notification said customs duty on import of "hot rolled coils, cold-rolled Magnesium Oxide (MgO) coated and annealed steel, hot rolled annealed and pickled coils and cold rolled full hard (used) for the manufacture of cold rolled grain oriented steel (CRGO) steel" has been cut to 5 per cent with immediate effect.

CRGO are electrical steel grades used for stampings and cores of electrical transformers and other electrical appliances. They are principally used for motors, generators, alternators, ballasts, small transformers and a variety of other electromagnetic applications.

While India imposes anti-dumping duties on several flat-steel products, it needs to import CRGO steel.

Last month, the government imposed definitive anti-dumping duties on hot-rolled (HR) and cold-rolled (CR) flat-steel products (excluding certain value-added steels such as stainless steel) from several countries including China, Japan and South Korea.

Flat products constitute the bulk of Indian steel imports over the last few years.

Finished steel demand growth in India was relatively weak at 3 per cent in 2016-17.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 14/6/2017 P.N. 4

Steel Ministry to industry: 'Responsible pricing' is key to continued support

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 13

The government may re-evaluate its support to domestic steel manufacturers if they do not price products 'responsibly'.

Speaking at an Assocham summit, Syedain Abbasi, Joint Secretary at Ministry of Steel, said, "While we are willing to give protection, it comes with a sense of responsibility so please be responsible, otherwise charges of cartelisation become very difficult to fend off as prices start rising dramatically."

Under the existing support mechanisms for the domestic steel industry, the Centre provides a minimum value addition of 15 per cent on the notified steel products to boost domestic steel consumption. The government has also continued with anti-dumping provisions to check import of cheaper Chinese steel.

Abbasi hinted that the government may withdraw protection to the industry if prices of domestic steel go beyond a certain level. He said, "It would become untenable for us to continue (with import restrictions and price preference) if you suddenly find that the prices in the next tender for GAIL pipeline have gone up by 30 per cent."

He stated that it is not in the government's interest to buy steel at prices which are very high. He said, "Then if people gather and say that look these controls have to go then ultimately it will be the pipe industry which will be the loser."

Abassi said double taxation has largely been phased out under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime and it will be marginally beneficial for the steel sector as the duty on raw material will be lowered by 1 to 1.5 per cent.

He also noted that, the problems that were earlier created by the Railways in giving 'way leave agreement' to cross the slurry pipeline either underground or overhead across railway land, were solved after the Prime Minister's Office intervention.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE: 15/6/2017 P.N. 2

Satellite cover for state in sight to stop illegal mining

Triggers To Put Officials On Alert

Nisha.Nambiar@timesgroup.com

SMART MONITORING

HOW MSS WORKS

- Geo-referenced mining leases superimposed on latest satellite remote sensing scenes
- System checks a region of 500m around mining lease boundary to search for any unusual activity; flagged-off as a trigger
- Such triggers to be studied at a Remote Sensing Control Centre of Indian Bureau of Mines

- Data transmitted to district-level mining officials
- A check for illegal operation is conducted and reported back through user-friendly mobile app

MAIN ADVANTAGES

- **Transparency:** People will be provided access to system
- Bias-free and no human interference
- Regular monitoring & quicker response
- Effective follow-ups

MINING MATTER

Major mining leases in India **3,843**	Working mines **1,710**
	Non-working mines **2,133**

Pune: Maharashtra will soon join other states in the country equipped with a special satellite surveillance system to map their 3,500 odd stone quarries and help government officials curb ongoing illegal mining activities.

The project of the Indian Bureau of Mines will map the data of minor minerals, particularly sand and other material from quarries used for construction work. The aim is to keep a check on the use of such material and curb illegal mining.

"The Maharashtra government had initiated mapping of major minerals and it would be replicated for minor minerals. The satellite monitoring system would alert the district administration about any illegal activity through a special mobile application," said a senior officer from the mining department in Pune who attended a training programme in West Bengal.

"A number of officers from Pune, Nagpur, Yavatmal and Chandrapur participated in the programme. The details will be shared with the government and the system will be implemented in the state," the official said.

A steady monitoring system is essential following reports of rampant illegalities in quarries from various parts of the state. Officials said the state had last year decided to use drone technology to monitor illegal sand mining, for which steady manpower is a must. "The special satellite mining surveillance system enables better monitoring. If there is any activity outside the area, there are triggers to put the officials on alert," the official said.

THE HITAVADA DATE: 15/6/2017 P.N. 10

MECL inks MoU with Ministry of Mines for FY 2017-18

■ **Business Bureau**

MINERAL Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), a Mini Ratna CPSE for mineral exploration in the country has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Mines, Government of India for the financial year 2017-18 recently at Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

The MoU was signed by Arun Kumar, Secretary of Government of India, Ministry of Mines and Dr Gopal Dhawan, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of MECL, in presence of Dr N K Singh, Joint Secretary and Dr Joyesh Bagchi, Diector (Technical) from Ministry of Mines, Yogesh Sharma, General Manager (BD & P/E) and Dr Anjani Kumar, HoD (Planning) from MECL.

During 2016-17 MECL has carried out more than five lakh metre of drilling for various minerals like coal, lignite, iron ore, gold, copper, lead, zinc, bauxite, limestone etc., and has added 3,184 million tonne mineral resources to the national mineral inventory. The financial performance during 2016-17 has been highest since inception of the company.

The turnover and the profit before tax (PBT) of the company has risen by 28 per cent and 38 per cent respectively from the previous year and the company has paid Rs 23 crore as dividend to Government of India in the previous year.

Under 'Swachha Bharat Abhiyan' company has constructed more than 500 toilets and converted six villages open defecation free.

The MoU has been prepared as per guidelines of Department of Public Enterprise (DPE). The salient features of the MoU includes six lakh metre of drilling with increased productivity, procurement of 2-D seismic survey facilities, induction of 12 hydrostatic drilling rigs, completion of clients order without time over run, bringing transparency in individual performance assessments, timely conducting DPC, vigilance clearance on quarterly basis and turnover of more than Rs 400 crore in 2017-18.

LOKMAT DATE: 15/6/2017 P.N. 3

राज्यातील खाणींवर केंद्र शासनाचा वॉच

खनीज संपत्ती : बेकायदा खनन रोखण्यासाठी 'मायनिंग सर्व्हीलन्स सिस्टीम'

सुषमा नेहरकर-शिंदे ।
लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

पुणे : राज्यात मोठ्या प्रमाणात अनधिकृत खाणी असून, नियम धाब्यावर बसवून सर्रास बेसुमार उत्खनन केले जात आहे. यामुळे दर वर्षी शासनाचा कोट्यवधींचा महसूल बुडतोच पण पर्यावरणाची देखील मोठी हानी होते. या पार्श्वभूमीवर केंद्र शासनाने अनधिकृत खाणी व बेकायदा खननावर लक्ष ठेवण्यासाठी स्वतंत्र 'मायनिंग सर्व्हीलन्स सिस्टीम' विकसित केली आहे. या माध्यमातून राज्यातील सर्व खाणींवर केंद्र शासन थेट वॉच ठेवणार आहे.

केंद्र शासनाच्या भारतीय खाण विभाग (आयबीएम) यांच्या तर्फेमहाराष्ट्र, गोवा, गुजरात, आंध्र प्रदेश, छत्तीसगड, कर्नाटक, मध्य प्रदेश, झारखंड या काही प्रमुख राज्यातील खाण पट्ट्याचे सर्व्हेक्षण करण्यात आले. त्यामध्ये हजारो खाणी अनधिकृतपणे सुरु असल्याचे निदर्शनास आले. यामुळे कोट्यवधींचा महसूल बुडतोच शिवाय पर्यावरणाची देखील प्रचंड हानी होत असल्याचे दिसून आले आहे. या पार्श्वभूमीवर हा निर्णय घेण्यात आला आहे.

सूत्रांनी दिलेल्या माहितीनुसार, केंद्र शासनाने नुकतेच कलकत्ता येथे सर्व राज्यांसाठी एकत्र कार्यशाळा घेतली. यात 'मायनिंग सर्व्हीलन्स सिस्टीम'च्या माध्यमातून सॅटेलाईट इमेजद्वारे केंद्र शासन महाराष्ट्रसह अन्य राज्यातील खाण पट्ट्यांवर वॉच ठेवणार आहे.

'कार्टो साईट' उपग्रहाचा देखील यासाठी उपयोग करण्यात येणार आहे. यासाठी सर्व राज्यांनी केंद्र शासनाला आपल्या राज्यातील सर्व खाण पट्ट्यांची सविस्तर माहिती पाठवायची आहे. यामध्ये एकूण किती खाण पट्ट्यांना परवानगी दिली, 'खसारा मॅप', किती खाणी सध्या सुरु आहेत, अनधिकृत खाणींची माहिती केंद्र शासनाला देण्यात येणार आहे. त्यानंतर केंद्राकडून दर महिन्याला 'सॅटेलाईट इमेजद्वारे' या सर्व खाण पट्ट्यावर लक्ष ठेवण्यात येणार आहे. त्यासाठी या मंत्रालया अंतर्गत वेगळी यंत्रणाही विकसीत केली जाणार आहे.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 15/6/2017 P.N. 16

MCX-Nickel futures to stay volatile but range-bound

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The nickel futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) has been trading in volatile fashion since last week. The contract touched a high of ₹581.9 a kg on Monday and fell sharply to make a low of ₹558.6 on Tuesday. It has reversed again from this low and is currently trading at ₹570. The near-term view is not clear.

The immediate resistance level is at ₹574. A break above it can take the contract higher to test the ₹582-584 resistance region. An inability to break above this resistance zone may trigger a pull-back move once again to ₹558. In such a scenario, a range-bound move between ₹568 and ₹584 is possible for some time. A breakout on either side of ₹558 and ₹584 will then decide the next leg of the move for the contract.

A strong break and a decisive close above ₹584 will ease the downside pressure. Such a break will pave the way for a fresh rally to ₹605 or ₹610 thereafter. It will also signal a reversal of the downtrend that has been in place since April.

On the other hand, if the MCX-Nickel futures contract breaks below ₹558, it will come under more pressure. It will also keep the downtrend that has been in place since April intact. Such a break will increase the likelihood of the contract falling to ₹550 or even lower thereafter.

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

THE HITAVADA DATE: 15/6/2017 P.N. 11

Coal mining gains momentum in NTPC

Delhi Bureau
NEW DELHI, June 14

AFTER start of coal production and dispatch of coal from Western Quarry of Pakri-Barwadih coal mine in December 2016, the National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) has now started the same from Eastern Quarry of this mine, as well, with as much as 56,352 tonnes of coal having already been mined from this quarry.

According to the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of NTPC, the CPSE with Maha-Ratna status has so far produced more than 4.6 lakh tonnes of coal from Pakri-Barwadih mine and successfully dispatched 58 coal rakes (2,02,480 tonnes of coal) to its Barh power station. In another major development, NTPC has already awarded Mine Developer-cum-Operator (MDO) contract for its Dulanga coal mine, located in the State of Odisha. The PRO told the media person that the NTPC is looking ahead with the production of coal for about 3 million tonnes in this financial year. NTPC has been allocated with eight coal blocks, namely, Pakri-Barwadih, Chatti-Bariatu & Chatti-Bariatu (South), Kerandari, Dulanga, Talaipalli, Banai, Bhalumuda and Mandakini-B by Government.

In addition, Government has also allocated Kudanali-Luburi coal block jointly to NTPC and State of J&K, with NTPC's share of coal reserves in this block being two-third. From these 10 coal blocks, with a total estimated geological reserves of about 7.3 billion metric tonnes, NTPC expects to produce about 107 million metric tonnes per annum. Banhardih coal block, allocated earlier to Jharkhand Urja Utpadan Nigam, is now being assigned to Patratu Vidyut Utapadan Nigam Ltd.