



खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR

Vol. 6, No-3

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खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR



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India steel output grows 18 pc to 118 MT in 2021

INDIA'S crude steel production rose by nearly 18 per cent to 118 million tonne (MT) in 2021, while world leader China recorded a 3 per cent decline to 1032.8 MT, according to Worldsteel.

India, which is the second largest steel producing nation, had manufactured 100.3 MT steel in 2020 and China had produced 1064.7 MT of steel in the same year, World Steel Association (Worldsteel) said in its report.

"Total world crude steel production was 1,950.5 MT in 2021, a 3.7 per cent increase compared to 1 880.4 MT in 2020," the global industry body said.

According to the report, in 2021, Japan produced 96.3 MT steel as against 83.2 MT in 2020. The United States' output was at 86 MT compared to 72.7 MT a year ago. While, Russia produced 76 MT steel.

Tata Steel Long Products' ₹12,100-cr Bid to Buy NINL Gets Govt Approval

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday said it has approved the bid of Tata Steel Long Products to purchase Neelachal Ispat Nigam (NINL) for ₹12,100 crore.

Apart from Tata Steel, consortium of Jindal Steel & Power and Nalwa Steel and Power and JSW Steel also bid for the company.

"Government approves strategic buyer for Neelachal Ispat Nigam located in Odisha. The highest bid of ₹12,100 crore by M/s Tata Steel Long Products is accepted," DIPAM secretary Tuhin Kanta Pan-

dey tweeted. The amount will go towards settling liabilities of the company in the order provided in the Waterfall Agreement.



The company has debt and liabilities exceeding ₹6,600 crore as on March 31, 2021, including overdues of promoters of ₹4,116 crore, banks ₹1,741 crore and to other creditors and employees.

The finance ministry added that the company has negative networth of ₹3,487 crore and accumulated losses of ₹4,228 crore as of March 31, 2021. In a statement issued on Monday, the ministry said

the bid for NINL was approved by Alternative Mechanism, comprising Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goel.

NINL is a joint venture of four Central public sector enterprises — MMTC, NMDC, BHEL, MECON — and two Odisha government PSUs — OMC and IPICOL.

The company has an integrated steel plant with a capacity of 1.1 MT at Kalinganagar, Odisha. The company has been running in huge losses and the plant has been closed since March 30, 2020. The expressions of interest (EoI) were invited on January 25, 2021 and final three bids were received by December 23.

Tatas' ₹12k cr bid bags PSU steel co Neelachal

Move After AI Buy Part Of Tata Steel Plan To Focus On India After Cutting Losses Abroad

Reeba.Zachariah
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Mumbai: Tata Steel will take control of Neelachal Ispat Nigam (NINL) after bidding Rs 12,100 crore, including equity and debt, the government said on Monday. The unit of Tata Sons plans to make Neelachal's Odisha facility, currently defunct, the hub for its long steel business in the future. Long steel products refer to rods, rails and bars used in the construction sector.

The deal comes hot on the heels of Tata Sons acquiring Air India from the government through the privatisation process. The M&A is in line with Tata Steel's strategy of doubling down on the India business after selling some unprofitable overseas ventures. In 2018, it had acquired Bhushan Steel for Rs 35,200 crore, the largest M&A under Tata Steel chairman N Chandrasekaran (who is also the chairman of Tata Sons) — the first India consolidation move as part of that strategy.

On Monday, the govern-

LONG PRODUCTS BIZ TO TAKE OFF

4th asset bought by Tatas from govt

2001 | CMC

2002 | SNL

2021 | Air India

2022 | NINL

M&As under N Chandrasekaran

2018 | Bhushan Steel (largest buy at ₹35,200cr)

2019 | Usha Martin Steel

2021 | BigBasket, 1MG, Tejas Networks, Air India

2022 | NINL

➤ Tata Steel plans to make Neelachal Ispat Nigam (NINL) a hub for long products business in future

➤ The NINL acquisition, financed through a mix of internal accruals & bridge loans, will close within a couple of months

➤ It gives the steel giant 1-million-tons-per-annum (mtpa) of steel-making capacity, 2,500 acres for future growth, and iron ore reserves of around 100 million tons

➤ Tata Steel will also build a 4.5mtpa long products complex in some years, and expand it to 10mtpa by around 2030

➤ The long products segment is poised to witness significant growth as India builds its infrastructure and industrialises



ment said it has approved the highest bid of Tata Steel Long Products, a unit of the \$21-billion Tata Steel, for a 94% stake in the loss-making Neelachal at an enterprise value of Rs 12,100 crore. Besides Tata Steel, billionaire industrialist Sajjan Jindal-controlled JSW Steel and a grouping of Jindal Steel & Power (owned by Sajjan's younger brother Naveen Jindal) and Nalwa

Steel & Power submitted financial bids for Neelachal.

Tata Steel will have to pay 10% of the bid amount when it signs the share purchase agreement. Neelachal's debt exceeded Rs 6,600 crore, while its accumulated losses was Rs 4,228 crore as on March 31, 2021. This is the first instance of privatisation of a public sector steel manufacturing enterprise in India.

Budget's a gem, says jewellery sector

Customs duty on cut & polished diamonds reduced to 5 per cent

OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, February 1

The gems and jewellery sector has reason to cheer after the FM considered most of their demands in the Budget. The FM reduced customs duty on cut and polished diamonds and gemstones to bring it to 5 per cent from 7.5 per cent.

Notably, the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), along with Gems and Jewellery Federation (GJF) and India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), had recommended customs duty reduction of 2.5 per cent. On sawn diamonds, responding to the trade's demand for clarity, the FM stated that it would "attract nil customs duty".

Somasundaram PR, Regional CEO, India, World Gold Council, welcomed the Budget, and stated that the emphasis on exports was evident with the announcement of a simplified regulatory framework to allow the e-commerce export of jewellery.

"The general policy thrust aimed at higher economic growth is again a tangible benefit for gold, as it is well established that income growth is the single dominant factor in long term gold demand," he said. "Definitely one more reason for industry to cheer after the high five for gold in Q4 by customers," he added.

Dinesh Navadia, Regional Chairman, Gujarat, GJEPC, said: "This time, the government has paid adequate attention towards this sector. We have also shown our performance with robust exports. Right now the gems and jewellery sector is having one of its best times. All factors are supportive, US, Hong Kong and Middle East markets are also opening up with strong demand."



Gold import duty

Haresh Acharya, Director, IBJA, said: "This year India's gold imports is crossing 1,000 tonnes — one of the highest in the past 4-5 years. So, there was no case for a reduction in customs duty on gold."

In order to further boost export of jewellery through e-commerce, the Budget also proposes a simplified regulatory framework, which will be implemented by June this year. Further, the customs duty on pearls 7101 and rhodium imports has been reduced to 5 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively as against previous rates of 10 per cent and 12.5 per cent, respectively.

In order to "disincentivise import of undervalued imitation jewellery," customs duty on imitation jewellery was fixed in a manner that a duty of at least "₹400 per kg" is paid on its import.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 3/2/2022 P.N.10

Go long on MCX copper, accumulate on dips to ₹736

GURUMURTHY K

BL Research Bureau

The copper futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange has increased after dropping to ₹732 per kg on Monday. It is currently trading at ₹752 per kg.

Immediate resistance is at ₹759-760. But, the current bounce-back from around ₹732 on Monday has happened from an important trendline support level of ₹730.

As such, the chances are high for the contract to break above ₹760 in the coming days. Such a break above ₹760 can take the contract up to ₹775 initially. A further break above ₹775 will then pave way for an extended rise to ₹790 and even ₹810 over the medium-term. Traders can go

long at current levels. Accumulate the futures contract on dips to ₹736. Keep the stop-loss at ₹728. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹756 as soon as the contract moves up to ₹764. Shift the stop-loss further up to ₹776 as soon as the contract touches ₹782. Book profits at ₹798.

The bullish outlook will get negated only if the contract breaks below ₹730. Such a break will be bearish. In that case, the copper contract can see a fall to ₹710-700.

But such a move looks less likely as the support around ₹730 appears to be strong and it is more likely to limit the downside.

As such, we see high chances of the contract moving up to ₹775 and ₹790 levels in the coming weeks.

Metal, realty stocks rally further on Budget proposals

Companies give thumbs-up to capex plan

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, February 2

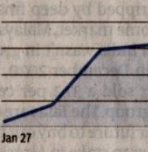
Indian equity benchmark indices surged for the third straight session to close at two-week highs on Wednesday. Specific BSE indices like metal and realty ended in green with the markets continuing to rally on the back of a growth-oriented Budget.

The S&P BSE Metal index, which includes companies like Tata Steel, Jindal Steel (up 1.30 per cent), JSW Steel (0.81 per cent), Hindalco (0.50 per cent), Hindustan Zinc, Coal India, NMDC (up 3.40 per cent) among others, closed at 0.89 per cent up to 20,095.98. Tata Steel bucked the trend to close lower at ₹1,167.50, down 0.01 per cent. The BSE Metal Index had seen a strong rally on January 31 and February 1 too.

Almost all steel and metal

Godrej Properties

₹ 1783 return 11%



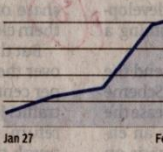
Hindalco

₹ 513 return 5%



Jindal Steel & Power

₹ 416 return 11%



companies had given the Budget a thumbs-up on Tuesday, specially on the back of its capex push. Steel stocks rallied with the announcement of favourable measure customs duty exemption on steel scrap. However, analysts say, steel demand could see some moderation with passenger vehicle sales continuing to remain subdued last month on account of chip availability issues. The auto sector consumes around 10 per cent of total (steel) production in India.

NMDC hikes prices

State-run NMDC, the country's largest iron-ore miner, has also

increased its monthly domestic prices for February by ₹300/tonne to ₹5,200/tonne for lump with 65.5 per cent iron (Fe) content and by ₹200/tonne to ₹4,260/tonne for 10mm fines with 64 per cent Fe. (Prices are lower by 9 per cent and 11 per cent from a year earlier respectively).

"Construction and BFSI remain momentum picks while we see value in FMCG and Pharma stocks at current levels," Sahaj Agarwal, Head of Research - Derivatives at Kotak Securities, said.

Realty index jumps 1.38%

Apart from the metal indices, re-

alty index too saw a sharp rally on Wednesday. Improving demand for homes, and the Budget 2022-23 thrust on affordable housing are seen as major drivers. However, realtors also expressed satisfaction that there were no "unexpected shocks" for the sector in the Budget.

The S&P Realty Index rose to 3931.28, up 1.38 per cent.

Apart from DLF (down 1.37 per cent) and Oberoi Realty (down 1.37 per cent), other companies which are a part of the index were in green. These include Godrej Properties (3.61 per cent), Brigade Enterprises (up 3.87 per cent), Lodha (Marcotech Developers - up 5.64 per

Prestige (up 1.47 per cent) and Sobha (up 1.12 per cent), among others.

According to Anuj Puri, Chairman, ANAROCK Group, previously, the allocation of equity of many fund houses (both domestic & foreign) was less into real estate. But with residential sector gaining a strong footing during the Covid pandemic, many of these fund houses now have increased their allocation towards real estate. Hence, the rally in BSE Realty Index.

"Over and above, there was nothing as such detrimental for the real estate sector. After all, no news is also good news," he told BusinessLine.

This apart, the Government has shown "unwavering focus" on infrastructure and the proposal for one-nation-one-registration structural reform to facilitate land transaction and sale deed from anywhere in the country will help streamline the real estate sector. "This will be quite in favour of the listed play

LOKMAT DATE : 3/2/2022 P.N.4

स्टीलच्या दरात विक्रमी वाढ; घरांच्या किमतीवर परिणाम ?

महिन्यात दहा रुपये किलो वाढ : वीट आणि रेतीचे दरही वाढले

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : स्टीलच्या दरात विक्रमी तेजी आली आहे. यासोबतच इतरही बांधकाम साहित्याचे दर वाढले आहेत. दरवाढीसोबत जुन्या प्रकल्पातील घरांच्या किमती बिल्डरांनी वाढविलेल्या नाहीत; पण नवीन प्रकल्पांतील घरांच्या किमतीत प्रति चौरस फूट ३०० ते ५०० रुपयांपर्यंत वाढ झाली आहे. गेल्यावर्षी बांधकाम क्षेत्राला गती मिळावी म्हणून राज्य सरकारने मुद्रांक शुल्कात कपात केली होती.

त्याचा फायदा बिल्डर आणि ग्राहकांना झाला होता; पण सध्या बांधकाम साहित्याच्या किमती वाढत असल्यामुळे ग्राहकांना नवीन घरासाठी जास्त पैसे मोजावे लागत आहेत.

आधीच सिमेंट, स्टील, काच, पीव्हीसी पाईप, गिट्टी, आदींचे दर वाढले

किरकोळमध्ये सव्वा-६७ हजारांवर

यावर्षी जानेवारी महिन्यात ५७ ते ५८ रुपयांवर असलेले स्टील सव्वांचे दर फेब्रुवारी महिन्यात प्रति किलो ६७ ते ६८ रुपयांवर पोहोचले आहेत. त्याचा व्यवसायावर परिणाम झाल्याचे व्यावसायिकांचे मत आहे.

पावसामुळे विटा महागल्या

जानेवारी महिन्यात आलेल्या मुसळधार पावसाचा फटका विटभट वीट भट्ट्यांना बसला आहे. त्यामुळे विटांचे दर प्रती नग एक रुपयांनी वाढले आहेत. ६ ते ६.५० रुपयांना मिळणाऱ्या विटेचे दर ७.५ रुपयांवर पोहोचले आहेत. त्याचा विपरीत परिणाम बांधकाम सुरू असलेल्या ग्राहकांना बसत आहे.

सिमेंटचे दर उतरले

सहा महिन्यांपूर्वी ३७० रुपयांवर गेलेले सिमेंटचे दर सध्या ३२० ते ३४० रुपयांपर्यंत कमी झाले आहेत. त्यामुळे सिमेंटला मागणी वाढली आहे. कंपन्यांकडून पुरवठाही सुबलक प्रमाणात आहे. दर कमी झाले; पण नफा कमी झाला आहे.

असतानाच डिझेल १०० रुपयांच्या आसपास असल्यामुळे पुन्हा बांधकाम

साहित्याचे दर वाढले आहेत. परिणामी घरांच्या किमतीत वाढ करणे अपरिहार्य



रेती मिळणे

राज्य शासनाने दोन वर्षांपासून रेती घाटाच्या लिलावाला स्थगिती दिल्यामुळे अनेक व्यावसायिक अवघ खनन करून रेतीची वाहतूक करीत आहेत. त्यामुळे ८ ते १० हजार रुपये इम्परचे दर २५ हजारांवर पोहोचले आहेत.

बांधकाम साहित्याचे दर वेळोवेळी वाढत

असल्याचा परिणाम गुंतवणूक आणि व्यवसायावर झाला आहे पैसे देऊनही रेती मिळत नसल्यामुळे चिंतित आहे एकाच महिन्यात स्टील सव्वा आणि विटांचे दर मोठ्या प्रमाणात वाढल्यामुळे मालाची विक्री करताना ग्राहकांसोबत झंझट होते गुंतवणूक वाढली आहे. राज्य सरकारने किमतीव नियंत्रण आणावे.

- राकेश म व्यावसायिक, नंदनव

Aluminum industry urges Govt to restore coal supply

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, February 3

The Aluminum Association of India has sought the Ministry of Coal's intervention to increase coal rakes for the industry.

"To avoid closure of aluminium industry, we earnestly request your kind intervention to normalise the precarious situation with immediate resumption of coal and rakes supply for highly power intensive aluminium industry CPPs, and earmarking at least 25-30 coal rakes per day for economically viable and sustainable industry operations," the Association wrote to the secretary, Ministry of Coal.

It said that the Captive Power Plants are facing alarmingly depleted coal stocks of only 3-4 days against the prescribed 15 days' stock. Even though there is improved availability of coal, non-availability of rakes for non-regulated sectors is a major concern since August 2021, the non-regulated sector is struggling to

get uninterrupted supplies as it is limited to just 40-50 per cent of requirement. "There is a backlog of over 6,000 coal rakes as most of the available coal and rakes are being diverted to the power sector as "Priority Coal Supplies". We understand now that the power sector coal inventory situation has drastically improved to around 10 days' from 2-3 days in September - October, 2021," it said.



Go long on aluminium

COMMODITY CALL

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

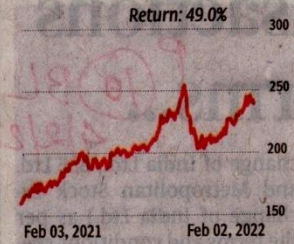
BL Research Bureau

The continuous contract of aluminium on the Multi Commodity Exchange began its latest leg of rally after taking support at around ₹200 in early November last year.

However, the contract, after hitting a three-month high of ₹250.25 last week, has moderated to ₹240 currently. Nevertheless, the uptrend remains intact, and the contract is likely to resume the rally sooner or later.

Notably, the 20-day moving average lies at around ₹240 offering good support for the bulls. Below this, ₹234 is considerable support and the contract is less likely to slip below this level. Therefore, we expect the resumption of the rally at current levels or on the back of ₹234.

On the upside, the con-



tract could move past the prior high of ₹250.25 and touch the resistance at ₹260 in the short-term. There can be a sideways corrective phase or a corrective decline after the contract hitting ₹260. But if the contract breaks below support at ₹234, expect a correction towards the key support at ₹224. Subsequent support is at ₹215.

Traders can go long at current levels and accumulate when the price drops to ₹234. Place stop-loss at ₹228 initially and tighten it to ₹238 on a decisive break out of ₹250. Exit the longs at ₹260.

OPERATING PROFIT PER TONNE DOUBLES; CO USES CASH FLOWS TO PAIR DEBT

Tata Steel Q3 Net Jumps 139% on Commodity Rally

Rising input costs, however, impacted the bottom line on a sequential basis

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Tata Steel's profits in the December quarter more than doubled year-on-year on the back of the commodity price rally over the past year, with the legacy steelmaker's operating profit per tonne more than doubling.

The company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹9,598 crore for the period under consideration, up 139% year-on-year. Consolidated operating revenue for the period jumped 45% to ₹60,783 crore.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) grew by 66% on-year to ₹15,894 crore. The operating profit margin improved by 3.3 percentage points to 26.1%.

Ebitda per tonne doubled year-on-year to ₹22,663. In the preceding quarter, it was ₹24,112.



"India steel demand has begun to improve on the back of continued economic recovery as (the third) wave of Covid-19 begins to ebb," TV Narendran, the managing director of Tata Steel said in a press statement. "Our European operations continue to perform underpinned by strong improvement in realisations."

However, the consolidated bottom line dipped 29% sequentially as input costs soared.

The business generated free cash flows of ₹6,338 crore during the quarter, which was primarily driven towards repaying debt. The company has been leveraging the upcycle to reduce its net debt, repaying about ₹17,376 crore during the first three quarters of this fiscal year.

Net debt at the end of December stood at ₹62,869 crore.

The stock of Tata Steel closed 0.9% higher on the BSE on Friday at ₹1,176.15. The benchmark Sensex closed lower by 0.24%. The earnings were announced post trading hours.

During the quarter the company made capital expenditures to the tune of ₹2,790 crore. It completed the merger of Tata Steel BSL with the parent company.

On a standalone basis, the India business reported operational revenues of ₹31,964 crore — up 38% on-year but down 2% sequentially. The standalone bottom line improved 79% on-year to ₹7,683 crore but was down 12% sequentially.

Gold, silver struggling to find direction

Precious metals futures retain sideways range

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

Gold inched up last week as the dollar saw a decline throughout the week. However, silver underperformed the yellow metal and ended the week flat. In the international market, spot gold price gained nearly 1 per cent to close at \$1,807.5 an ounce, whereas spot silver closed flat at \$22.48 an ounce.

Similarly, on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the gold futures (April expiry) appreciated by 0.7 per cent to end the week at ₹47,924 (per 10 grams) and silver wrapped up the week largely unchanged at ₹60,849 (per kg).

That said, investors seemed to be a bit positive on the yellow metal in January as the global gold ETF (Exchange Traded Fund) holding increased to 3,610 tonnes by the end of final week of January compared to 3,570 tonnes by December-end — an increase by about 40 tonnes.

MCX-Gold (₹47,924)

The April futures of gold on the MCX rebounded on the back of the support at ₹47,400 and posted a gain of 0.7 per cent last week. Nonetheless, the contract continues to remain within the range of ₹47,400-48,550. Until either of these levels are breached, we recommend participants to abstain from entering new trades.

A breakout of ₹48,550 can turn the near-term outlook positive wherein the contract can rally to ₹50,000. How-



ever, from the current levels, ₹48,300 can also be a hurdle. On the other hand, a breach of the support at ₹47,400 can invite fresh sellers which can drag the contract to ₹46,800 and ₹45,920.

MCX-Silver (₹60,849)

Silver futures March series witnessed a mid-week sell-off and hit an intra-week low of ₹59,951. But the support at ₹60,000 arrested the decline. Yet, there was no significant bounce as the contract closed the week almost flat at ₹60,849 versus the preceding week's close of ₹61,034. While ₹60,000 is a crucial support, the contract has resistance at ₹61,850 and a critical one at ₹62,500. So, we can assume the next leg of trend only if ₹60,000 or ₹62,500 is broken decisively. Until then, traders can remain on the sidelines.

If the contract breaks below ₹60,000, it can find immediate support at ₹57,800. Subsequent support can be spotted at ₹55,850. But if it rallies past ₹62,500, there will be hurdles at ₹64,000 and ₹65,000.

Cement prices up in Jan on rising demand

East, South lead hikes; pricier imported coal, volatile crude add to cost pressure

ABHISHEK LAW

New Delhi, February 6

Cement prices have seen a 3-5 per cent month-on-month price increase pan-India in January, led by hikes coming in primarily across east and southern regions.

The upward movement came after weak demand witnessed in November – a wash-out for cement companies – continued into a part of December. Extended rains in South India, and sand mining issues in the East (Bihar and Bengal) were also reasons for weaker demand for nearly half of the October-December period.

Cement companies indicate that there has been a marked improvement in demand mid-December onwards, and this



will not just support the upward price trends. Still, it could also lead to a possible price hike in February.

Market sources say hikes in South and East were around 5 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively. In the West and North, prices went up 3 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively; while in Central India they remained flat m-o-m.

Mahendra Singhi, MD and CEO, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd – the fourth-largest player in the country – told *Business-Line* that capacity utilisation was 69 per cent in Q3 FY22, and at 83 per cent in December; it is expected to be in the 70-75 per cent range for January-March

quarter. He indicated price hikes in select regions were being rolled out already.

In a post earnings call, Shree Cement's (second-largest cement-maker) management said that price increases were happening across its operating geographies in January-February 2022. "(Price) increase is positive and is coming after two months of soft prices," IDBI Capital said in a recent report.

Upward price movement

In its outlook for Q4 FY22, Birla Corp said cement prices have been raised effective the third week of January, and prices, going forward, are expected to remain firm. Demand recovery looks favourable, except in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh.

Star Cement, a pre-dominant East and North East India region player, in its earnings call said, prices in East – which were "really muted in the month of November and December" – were moving up in January (around 3-4 per cent). "The prices have started

going up only from January 10. So, you can fairly assume that 50 per cent of that price drop (in the East) has already been recovered in January. And the balance is a yet to be recovered," the management said.

Ramco Cements' management reportedly said, from mid-January 2022, prices have risen by ₹30-40 per bag in West Bengal and ₹15-20 in Odisha and expect prices in East to further go up. Also, prices have increased by ₹15-20 a bag in the south, with ₹30-40 in Kerala.

Meanwhile, cost pressures continued for cement companies in January 2022. The average imported coal price was up 9 per cent m-o-m in January at around \$161/tonne. Input cost primarily led by crude – around \$92-92 per barrel – has also been volatile over the last few days.

Analysts have already flagged short term concerns on cement companies because of volatility in crude prices.

BUSINESS LINE DATE : 8/2/2022 P.N.9

'Crude steel capacity to double to 300 mt'

Govt to focus on PLI scheme for specialty steel, says Steel Minister

OUR BUREAU

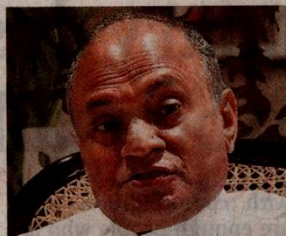
New Delhi, February 7

India is planning to double its steel capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030-31, the Union Minister, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

The present annual crude steel capacity is 144 million tonne.

According to Singh, the National Steel Policy, 2017 aims to provide "conducive environment for attaining this objective by providing policy support and guidance to steel producers".

Nearly 40 per cent of the investment in manufactur-



Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Union Steel Minister

ing in 2020-21 has been made by steel companies.

The focus is also on increasing the usage of domestically manufactured steel and import substitution with the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel having an outlay of ₹6,322 crore, he said.

The government on Wed-

nesday said it has started inviting applications from investors under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel.

PLI scheme

The Cabinet had on July 22 approved the PLI scheme to boost production of specialty steel. The scheme was notified on October 22.

In a December 29 tweet, the Ministry had called for submission of applications under the PLI scheme. Last date of submission for the scheme is March 29.

"@SteelMinIndia calls for Online Registration and Application Submission under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel. Start Date: 29-Dec-2021. End Date: 29-Mar-2022," the ministry said on the micro-blogging site.

Steel demand at pre-pandemic levels: Narendran

Offtake rising from auto sector; Budget's infra push a plus, says Tata Steel MD

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR

Mumbai, February 7

Strong demand from the automobile and infrastructure building sectors has pushed steel consumption to pre-Covid levels in India, multiple price increases by steel makers notwithstanding, a top executive of Tata Steel, one of India's biggest steelmakers said.

Speaking to *BusinessLine*, TV Narendran, Managing Director and CEO, Tata Steel, said: "(Steel) Demand is already at pre-Covid levels. In fact, if you see the steel production in India, we are currently at 30 million tonnes a quarter, which is 120 million tonnes a year. And if I allow for exports, we are pretty much at pre-Covid. Because pre-Covid, we were producing 103 million



TV Narendran, Managing Director and CEO, Tata Steel

tonnes. We have actually recovered quite well."

Squeezed margins

The surge in demand for steel products comes amid squeezed margins for consumers of the metal, with the automobile sector feeling the sharpest pinch. Car, two-wheeler and truck-makers have revised their prices 2-3 times in the last four months following a hike in steel prices and other raw materials. But with the car industry sitting on pending orders of 5.5 lakh units, the demand is far outstripping steel supplies.

"Demand is coming back with the focus on infrastructure. China is managing its own domestic demand. Overall, the sentiment is positive than what it was four weeks ago. We expect steel prices to be firm over the next few weeks. Already some price increases have happened but we have not fully recovered the drop that happened in November and December," Narendran added.

Profit grows 139%

Tata Steel on Friday posted a consolidated net profit of ₹9,589.16 crore, up 139 per cent from ₹4,010.94 crore in the same quarter last year.

The government outlined improved spending on the infrastructure sector in Budget23. Besides the outlay of ₹7.5-lakh crore for FY23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said the total allocation for the highways sector has been increased to ₹1.99-lakh crore from ₹1.18-lakh crore in FY22.

"Focus on infrastructure is

great which means more money will be spent on building infrastructure which creates job in construction, putting more money in people's hands and thereby consumption. Secondly, it creates construction activity which is good for steel demand. Thirdly, the cost outside the factory gate dilutes our competitiveness. As infra gets built those costs will get addressed as well," Narendran added.

Infra spending

The boost in the spending on infrastructure complements investments committed by the private sector. The private sector had rolled back planned investments in the light of Covid disruptions.

Narendran said that "Private sector investment has started to come back and it has been led by the steel industry. Steel industry has announced more than ₹1-lakh crore investments which is more than any other industry in India."

Accumulate nickel futures, exit 50% at ₹1,845

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The continuous contract of nickel on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), which was on an uptrend since March 2020, lost momentum in October last year. Following this, the contract was trading in a range and in fact was forming lower highs and lower lows, essentially forming a triangle pattern. After breaking out of this pattern in the second week of January 2022, the contract rallied and marked high of ₹1,845. But then, the price dropped. However, the price

band of ₹1,670 - 1685 acted as a support and stopped the decline below these levels.

Bullish sign

Notably, the contract has been showing bullish signs over the past week. Corroborating this, the cumulative open interest of all nickel futures on the MCX increased to 2,675 contracts as on Friday compared to 2,439 contracts by the end of January. Also, the price is now above an important level of ₹1,750. Therefore, one can maintain a bullish view on nickel and its futures. On Janu-

ary 27, we had recommended a buy at around ₹1,716. We advised accumulating if the price drops to ₹1,640, which did not happen. Nevertheless, traders who hold longs from ₹1,716 can continue to hold. Fresh longs can be added as the contract decisively closed above ₹1,750 on Monday. While our earlier stop-loss was at ₹1,580, we suggest tightening it to ₹1,650. On the upside, when the contract touches ₹1,845, liquidate 50 per cent of the longs and then tighten stop-loss to ₹1,750. Exit the remaining position at ₹1,900.

MOST OF THE PROFIT COS MAKE IS FLOWING BACK INTO THE COUNTRY AS INVESTMENTS: TATA STEEL MD

'Steel Industry Can Lead the Way in Private Investment Revival in India'

Elevated commodity prices may remain volatile at a higher level, says Narendran

Nehal Challawala & Satish John

Mumbai: The steel industry will lead private sector investments in India as manufacturers make healthy profits during the ongoing cycle of high commodity prices, said TV Narendran, managing director of Tata Steel.

"The profits that we make, pretty much all of that is flowing back into the country as investments," Narendran said in an interview.

For the record, Tata Steel reported net profit of ₹9,573 crore for the December quarter. "And when you look at triggering private sector investment, I think the steel industry can certainly lead the way and we should allow the steel industry to do that with more capacity in India."

Top three producers – Tata Steel, JSW Steel, and ArcelorMittal-Nippon Steel – have discussed plans of investing up to ₹1.5 lakh crore over an unspecified period.

Being an iron ore producing country, India should be exporting more steel than it presently does, compared with other countries

like China, he said.

"Why should countries which have no iron ore be exporting 50-100 million tonnes of steel? And India, which has iron ore, is hardly exporting 20 million tonnes of steel," he said. "If you want to make in India, you should convert the iron ore into steel for India and for the world."

NEELACHAL BUYOUT

Explaining Tata Steel's rationale of buying Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) for ₹12,100 crore, which many termed as an expensive purchase, Narendran said that the asset was a perfect match for India's oldest steel maker. "Neelachal for us, in many ways, is an ideal fit, because it is 2,500 acres of land across the road from our Kalinganagar plant," Narendran said.

The proximity of the plant to Tata Steel's existing setup in Kalinganagar would help it leverage better economies of scale. The asset will also help the company plug a hole around long products in its expansion plans. Tata Steel has ample capacity for flat products but needed organic or inorganic growth opportunities in long products, Narendran said.

Moreover, the asset came with 100 million tonnes of iron ore reserves, he

said. "We bid in a manner that we would have no regrets if we lost it at that price or higher. There is a huge opportunity for us in Neelachal that is unique to us, nobody else has that strategic value."

With this acquisition, Tata Steel can sufficiently meet its growth ambitions for the coming decade and organically reach up to 50 million tons per annum (mtpa) of pro-

duction capacity, as per Narendran. The Kalinganagar plant has installed capacity of 3 mtpa which is being increased to 8 mtpa and could be taken up to 16 mtpa as demand increases. The plant at Angul has 5 mtpa capacity which can be increased to 10 mtpa and the Jamshedpur plant has an installed capacity of 10 mtpa. Meanwhile, the Neelachal plant can be ramped up to produce up to 10 mtpa, he said.

The company has been using the current commodity price upcycle to repay its debt and has reached a debt to EBITDA ratio of just under 1, having repaid ₹17,376 crore in 9MFY22. Narendran said that a debt-EBITDA ratio between 1 and 2 was ideal for a capital-intensive industry like steel manufacturing during a growth cycle and the company will now invest the cash it generates to fund growth rather than repay debt.

VOLATILE PRICES

He expects the elevated commodity prices that turned the fortunes of steelmakers over the past year to remain "volatile at a higher level." While steel prices are volatile, so were input costs like coal and iron ore for steelmakers. Tata Steel's revenues remained flat sequentially in the December quarter, but its margins took a dip due to sharp commodity prices.

Narendran said that there will be further margin squeeze during the ongoing quarter.

If you want to make in India, you should convert the iron ore into steel for India and for the world

TV NARENDRAN
MD, Tata Steel



BUSINESS LINE DATE : 8/2/2022 P.N.5

Lead futures: Go short below ₹180

Stop-loss at ₹185; sell if the contract falls to ₹166

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The uptrend in lead, which has been in place since May 2020 from about ₹130, seems to have lost traction recently. Consequently, the continuous contract of lead on the Multi Commodity Exchange is charting a sideways trend since the past five months i.e., it has largely been oscillating between ₹180 and ₹196. Ideally, until the contract gets out of this range, we cannot confirm the next leg of

trend. However, there are some bearish indications one should take note of. The candlesticks on the weekly chart is showing good selling interest between ₹190 and ₹196. The relative strength index and the moving average convergence divergence on the weekly chart are indicating weakness as they are on the verge of dropping into bearish territory. Also, it has largely underperformed all other base metals since the beginning of 2022. Therefore, traders can take bearish inclination with respect to lead futures.



Yet, until the support at ₹180 is breached, bears will not be able to establish their dominance. So, traders can stay on the side-lines for now and initiate fresh sell positions when the futures decisively break below ₹180. In this case, stop-loss can be placed at ₹185. On the downside, the nearest support is at ₹166. The 38.2 per cent Fibonacci retracement coincides at ₹166, making it a considerable support, which increases the possibility of a bounce off this level. Hence, liquidate shorts when the contract falls to ₹166.

CONSTRUCTION UPTICK amid falling Covid cases, increased infra thrust by govt, rising costs of key raw materials main triggers; UltraTech, Ambuja, Shree likely beneficiaries

Cement Prices Rise in Jan, to Stay Firm in Q4 on Buoyant Demand

Rajesh.Naidu@timesgroup.com

ET Intelligence Group: Cement prices were buoyant in January. Analysts expect the trend to continue for the remainder of the fourth quarter given the rising input costs and improving demand trend as construction activities gain momentum.

This augurs well for cement companies, which have been through a period of demand uncertainty over the past few quarters due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic coupled with an extended monsoon season.

In the recent past, cement prices did not see any major increase as companies were unable to peg the demand trend. However, this is likely to change given the sustained push to demand. In January, companies increased prices by 2-5% compared with the previous

Heading Higher

Cement Price Trends (₹ per 50 kg bag)

Region	Month		
	Jan '21	Dec '21	Jan '22
North	352	360	365
South	398	409	408
East	299	287	301
West	339	384	394
Central	335	341	348
All-India Average	344.6	356.2	363.2

SOURCE: Brokerages, dealers' network



month. All India average cement price increased by 5% year-on-year to ₹365 per 50 kg bag in January. It was 2.1% higher than the month-ago average price.

One of the major reasons for the price increase is the rising construction activities amid falling Co-

vid cases and the abating intensity of cold weather. Besides, the faster pace of construction of government-funded infrastructure projects (including election spending) will boost demand.

The government's thrust on expanding the transportation net-

work in the country in the latest Union Budget also bodes well for the medium- and long-term demand. The government has increased the target for highways two-fold in FY23 compared with FY22. The finance minister also increased the capital expenditure by 35.4% to ₹7.5 lakh crore for 2022-23.

Another major factor is the rising prices of key raw materials — pet coke price has increased by over 50% while diesel price is up 14.4% year-on-year. Cement companies will have to undertake price increases to retain profitability amid rising input costs.

Large-sized cement companies such as UltraTech Cement, Ambuja Cements, Shree Cement and Dalmia Bharat are likely to benefit more from demand push in terms of volumes given their geographical reach, timely expansion and well-managed balance sheets.

BUSINESS LINE DATE : 10/2/2022 P.N.8

Go long on MCX zinc at current level

COMMODITY CALL

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

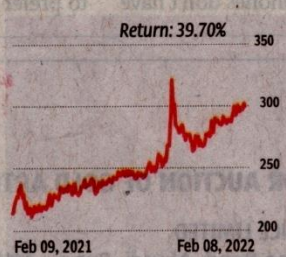
BL Research Bureau

The continuous contract of zinc on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), which was consolidating between ₹284 and ₹290 since December last year, broke out of ₹290 in mid-January this year. Post breakout the contract has been inching upwards.

Consequently, early this week, the contract made a daily

close above ₹300 making the case stronger for the bulls, who already are well-positioned to lift the price of zinc futures.

As long as the contract remains above ₹290, the short-term trend will be bullish. From the current levels, the contract is likely to retest the prior high of ₹326.8 made in October last year. But whether the contract can move beyond this level need to be closely monitored as this is a strong hurdle. At least a corrective de-



cline can be expected after the futures hit this level. So, traders are advised to plan you trades accordingly. Below is our recommendation. Go long at the

current level of ₹300 and accumulate if the price dips to ₹295, where the 21-day moving average lies currently. Place stop-loss at ₹288. We had recommended longs on January 20 at around ₹295 with stop-loss at ₹282. Those who hold this position can now tighten the stop-loss to ₹288.

When the contract rallies past ₹310, revise this stop-loss upwards to ₹295. Liquidate all long positions lead futures touch ₹325.

CO'S CONSOLIDATED BOTTOM LINE SURGES TO ₹3,675 CR

Hindalco Posts Highest-ever Q3 Profits as Prices Surge

With plans of ₹3,000-cr capex for the coming fiscal, co to focus on growth rather than deleveraging

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Hindalco reported its highest ever quarterly profit for the October-December period riding on the back of high commodity prices that have helped the company significantly pare debt.

Deleveraging was no longer a focus for the leading aluminium and copper player, Satish Pai, the managing director of Hindalco told ET. The company will rather invest in organic growth down the value chain with capex plans of Rs 3,000 crore for the coming fiscal year.

Hindalco reported a consolidated bottom line of ₹3,675 crore for the quarter, almost double from the year ago period. Revenue grew by 44% year-on-year to Rs 50,272 crore. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) grew by 38% to ₹7,624 crore.

The bumper earnings were primarily led by the aluminium and copper business in India.

From contributing about 30% to the consolidated operating profit a year ago, the contribution went



Deleveraging is not a big focus point anymore... You will now start to see a constant stream of announcements on capex both from Novelis and Hindalco going forward

SATISH PAI
MD, Hindalco

up to half in the December quarter. The aluminium business reported a 56% on-year growth in revenues to ₹8,243 crore even as sales volume grew by a mere 3%. Copper revenues meanwhile

jumped 67% to ₹10,255 crore.

US-based subsidiary Novelis, which brings the other half of the company's operating profit to the table reported a 1% increase in EBITDA to ₹3,792 crore.

The company has reduced its net debt to EBITDA ratio to 1.62 compared to 3.09 year ago, owing to both lower net dues and higher operating profit. But paring debt is no longer on Hindalco management's to-do list.

"We are now ready for the next phase of growth. Deleveraging is not a big focus point anymore," Pai said. "You will now start to see a constant stream of announcements on capex both from Novelis and Hindalco going forward."

These include a Rs 825-crore investment plan to build aluminium fins and copper tubes for air conditioners to take part in the government's production-linked incentives scheme.

The company also acquired Hydro's high-end extrusions facility at Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh during the quarter.

While higher input costs have put some pressure on the margins, Pai said that the company's strategy to invest in building reserves of coal helped it avoid acute shortages and paying top dollar for the fossil fuel when in a pinch.

Aluminium prices during the quarter averaged around \$2,600-2,700 per ton on the LME, Pai said. The metal is now trading in excess of \$3,000 per ton on the LME, a level Pai expects to be maintained during the ongoing quarter.

Copper in a bind as stocks, bets on price rise drop

Aluminium, tin and nickel gain more than the red metal

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, February 10

Red metal copper is searching for a direction as it trades sideways over the last few weeks even as other base metals such as aluminium, tin and nickel have gained about 10 per cent and zinc by over five per cent.

On Thursday, copper on London Metal Exchange (LME) Select in Shanghai, China, ended higher at \$10,153 a tonne. March futures contract at the Shanghai Futures Exchange, China, were up by 1,130 Chinese yuan at 73,100 yuan (\$11,496) a tonne.

Inflationary pressure

On Thursday, the red metal's three-month contract gained at \$9,841, while it was offered at \$9,880 for cash on LME. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, March copper futures closed higher at ₹786.05 a kg.

Copper prices have remained elevated but have traded in a narrow range between \$9,000 and \$10,000 so far this year. They have, however, come off the highs of \$10,325 for the three-month contract witnessed in October.

This is largely due to inflationary pressure and nervousness in the US equity market, which has seen increased tailwinds for the metal and the broader commodities market due to the need for a hedge, said Wenyu Yao, senior commodities strategist, ING Think, an arm of Dutch multinational financial services firm ING.

Price outlook

"Tensions on the Ukraine front have also benefited copper. But elevated energy prices in Europe remain a threat to metals production,



The base metal is in a quandary as funds are cutting their exposure

including aluminium and zinc, which have borne the brunt. And risks to copper are rising as Aurubis, Europe's largest smelter, just warned that the crisis may start to hurt its bottom line," Yao said.

At the start of the year, US research agency Fitch Solutions Country Risk and Industry Research raised its copper price outlook for this year by \$400 to \$9,200 a tonne. But the research firm said it would retain its bearish outlook on the metal as the fundamentals are likely to weaken.

The ING commodities strategist said low inventories have offered solid support to the red metal, curbing traders from building short positions fearing a squeeze. Though signs of the stock building were seen in January on Commodity Exchange Inc (COMEX) and LME, they did not sustain.

Inventories may rise

According to data from LME, copper stocks had increased to 90,478 tonnes in January from 84,544 tonnes in December, but they have dropped to 77,325 tonnes.

Fitch Solutions said in its outlook for this year that the tightness in copper inventories will ease a tad despite stocks with Shanghai Futures Exchange hovering near a 12-year low.

It said with Chinese smelters increasing production

again after the cuts during the power crisis in October, inventories were expected to improve starting from the current quarter.

Caught in a quandary

ING Think's Yao said copper has shown resilience in the face of the recent hawkish rhetoric from the US Fed meeting and strong jobs data.

But what probably is holding copper from rising despite these signals is that funds are cutting their exposure to the metal. Yao pointed to COMEX data, which showed net longs or bets of prices rising declining to 19,256 lots as of February 1.

Yao said copper seems to be caught in a "quandary" as current prices are too high to attract funds buying but inventories are too low for bears to go short. "Thus, short-term price action will largely be dictated by the dollar's move, without any fresh impetus," she said.

Fitch Solutions said a stable consumption this year will prevent copper from declining to levels that prevailed before 2021. Chinese offtake will increase by one per cent this year as Beijing will likely announce a stimulus package again.

"Overall, we expect global copper consumption growth to come in at 1.8 per cent year-on-year in 2022 compared with 1.3 per cent y-o-y in 2021," it said.

Hindalco net zooms 96% on higher realisation

Revenue from operations up 44% at ₹50,272 crore

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, February 10

Hindalco Industries, an Aditya Birla Group company, reported 96 per cent increase in net profit in the December quarter at ₹3,675 crore against ₹1,877 crore in the same period last year, on the back of higher realisation.

Revenue from operations was up 44 per cent at ₹50,272 crore (₹34,958 crore).

EBITDA increased 38 per



Satish Pai, MD,
Hindalco Industries

cent to ₹7,624 crore (₹5,521 crore) though it fell five per cent compared to ₹8,048 crore logged in September quarter.

While EBITDA of its US subsidiary Novelis was flat at ₹3,792 crore (₹3,711 crore)

year-on-year, the same of aluminium hit an all-time high at ₹3,376 crore (₹1,461 crore) and that of copper was at ₹390 crore (₹240 crore).

Aluminium production was higher at 3.27 lakh tonnes (3.15 lt) and sales were up 3 per cent at 3.25 lt (3.15 lakh tonnes). Sales volume of aluminium value added products increased 8 per cent to 86,000 tonnes (80,000 tonnes), driven by recovery of the domestic market.

Net debt of the company reduced to ₹43,733 crore from the ₹53,802 crore logged last year.

Satish Pai, Managing Director, Hindalco Industries, said the company foresees a surge in aluminium and copper demand and is well-positioned to tap the growing demand with planned investment of ₹825 crore under the government's PLI scheme.

Hindalco has already announced over ₹3,000-crore investments in downstream projects at Hirakud and Silvassa, and the acquisitions of Ryker and Hydro's Kup-pam units.

Novelis also plans to invest \$365 million in closed-loop recycling and casting centre in North America.

MCX copper: Go long with stop-loss at ₹755

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The continuous contract of copper on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) was charting a sideways trend since the year beginning i.e. it was oscillating between ₹735 and ₹760. But in early February, the contract rebounded from the support at ₹735.

A rising trendline support coincided at this level, making it a strong base. Since then, the contract gathered enough momentum breaking out of ₹760-level on Wednesday this week, turning the outlook positive.

Supporting the bullish bias, the relative strength index (RSI) and the moving average convergence divergence (MACD) indicators on the daily chart are showing fresh uptick.

Also, the cumulative open interest (OI) of copper futures on the MCX has been increasing.

On the upside, the contract is set to test the resistance at ₹810. A breakout of this level can induce further bullish momentum resulting in the price appreciating to ₹850 over the medium-term. But there is a possibility of the contract seeing a decline from ₹810..

One can go long at current levels and accumulate if price dips to ₹768 with stop-loss at ₹755. Exit the longs at ₹810 and decide on further trades based on how the contract reacts to ₹810.



'काला गठबंधन'

मार्केट रेट से भी कम में बिक रहा कोयला, कोल कंपनियां भी नहीं दे सकतीं इस दर पर

वाशरी बन गया कोयले का नया मार्केट

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. देश के विकास में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने वाले एमएसएमई सेक्टर को पिछले काफी समय से कोयला हासिल करने के लिए जद्दोजहद करनी पड़ रही है. उस पर से कोटा आधा होने से मार्केट का रेट एक सप्ताह में ही 2,000 रुपये टन तक बढ़ गया है. वहीं पर वाशरी वाले मार्केट में खुलेआम कोयला बेच रहे हैं और एक नया मार्केट ही बना चुके हैं. वाशरी वाले एमएसएमई को कोयला कैसे बेच रहे हैं, यह जांच का विषय है, लेकिन मार्केट में यह चर्चा आम है कि उद्यमियों को कोयले के लिए 'वाशरी' से संपर्क करना पड़ रहा है और बहुत आसानी से कोयला मिल भी रहा है. इसी 'गठबंधन' के कारण उद्योग भी चल रहे हैं और वाशरी वाले अपना काम भी कर रहे हैं.

1,200 प्रति टन पावर कंपनियों को मिलता है
7,500-9,400 ई-ऑक्शन का रेट
10,000-11,000 आयातित कोयला

5,500-6,500 वाशरी का रेट
8,500-9,000 खुले बाजार में



कंपनी का कोयला महंगा

ई-ऑक्शन नहीं होने, कोटा कम करने से मार्केट में कोयले का रेट जबरदस्त बढ़ जाता है. रेट में वृद्धि होने के कारण उद्यमियों, छोटे-छोटे ईट-भट्टों एवं सूक्ष्म इकाइयों के समक्ष बड़ी समस्या उत्पन्न हो जाती है. वे किसी भी कीमत पर कोयला लेने के लिए राजी हो जाते हैं. इसी का लाभ वाशरी वाले धड़ल्ले से उठा रहे हैं. वास्तव में वाशरी वाले का यह अपना कोयला नहीं होता है. इन्हें महाजनको का कोयला धोने के लिए अधिकृत किया गया है. कोयला को धोते-धोते ये कोयले को ही साफ कर देते हैं. वाशरी से साफ हुआ कोयला खुले बाजार में पहुंच जाता है. यानी वाशरी वाले को जो कोयला फुकट (मुफ्त) में मिलता है, उसे वह वेकोलि की दर से भी कम भाव पर मार्केट में बेच देता है. वेकोलि से दर कम होने के कारण छोटे-छोटे उद्यमी उनके स्थायी कस्टमर बन गए हैं.

फिर राख में इजाफा कैसे

पिछले काफी दिनों में कोराडी और खापरखेड़ा के राख एनजीओ के लिए मुद्दा बनी हुई है. लोगों के जीवन पर विपरीत असर भी हो रहा है. यानी राख की मात्रा में कोई कमी नहीं आई है. एनजीओ वाले बता रहे हैं कि पहले जिस कोयले से 20 फीसदी राख बाहर निकलती थी अब लगभग 45-50 फीसदी राख निकल रही है. कोयला धोने के बाद यह संभव ही नहीं था.

पावर प्लांट को 120 फीसदी तक आपूर्ति

पिछले काफी समय से पावर प्लांट के नाम पर हो हल्ला किया जा रहा है. पावर प्लांट को तय लक्ष्य से काफी अधिक कोयला मिल रहा है. कई पावर प्लांट में 100 फीसदी की जगह 120 फीसदी तक कोयले की आपूर्ति की गई. बावजूद इसके स्टॉक नहीं बन पा रहा है. यह सभी को आश्चर्य में डालने वाला आंकड़ा है. वाशरी के पहले इन पावर प्लांट का काम 80-90 फीसदी कोयले में भी चल जाता था, जो अब 120 फीसदी में भी नहीं चल पा रहा है. वहीं हो-हल्ला अलग से मचा हुआ है. कोल कंपनियों से महज 1,200 रुपये प्रति टन में कोयला मिलता है, जो पावर प्लांट के पहले वाशरी जाता है और फिर पूरा का पूरा खेल यहीं हो जाता है.

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Gold, silver breach key hurdle Short-term trend turns bullish for both

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU

BL Research Bureau

The January US Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation stood at 7.5 per cent as per the latest data by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), topping the market expectation of 7.3 per cent. This is also higher sequentially as December inflation was 7 per cent. While this is supportive for bullion prices as the expectation of faster rate hikes by the US Fed grows, both gold and silver has been gaining right from the beginning of last week. Another factor supporting the bullish undertone was that the National Bank of Poland announced last week its intentions to add 100 tonnes of gold this year.

Against this backdrop, gold and silver price in the international market appreciated by 2.8 and 4.8 per cent to end the week at \$1,858.6 and \$23.56 per ounce respectively. Gold gaining the safe haven status on the back of the Russia-Ukraine political uncertainty is also one of the factors to push the prices higher last week.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (April expiry) gained 2.5 per cent to end at ₹49,114 (per 10 grams) and silver futures (March series) posted a gain of 3.5 per cent to close at ₹62,988 (per kg). It should be noted that gold hit a three-month high in domestic as well as international market.

MCX-Gold (₹49,114)

The April futures of gold on the MCX broke out of the range of ₹47,400-48,550 last week and registered a three-month high of ₹49,134 on Friday. This had turned the short-term outlook positive. Supporting the bullish inclination, the relative strength index (RSI)



and moving average convergence divergence (MACD) on the daily chart are showing fresh uptick. Therefore, gold futures on the MCX is set to move higher in the forthcoming sessions.

Nevertheless, the contract could see a corrective decline to ₹48,650 before appreciating. On the upside, the contract is likely to rally past ₹50,000-mark and touch ₹51,800 in the near-term. Subsequent resistance is at ₹52,500. Hence, traders can go long now and accumulate if the price dips to ₹48,650. Stop-loss can be placed at ₹48,000. The price band of ₹51,800-52,500 is a resistance. So exit the longs at ₹52,000. Fresh trades then on can be decided based on how the contract reacts at that juncture.

MCX-Silver (₹62,988)

Silver futures i.e., March series breached the critical resistance at ₹62,500 and thus, the contract is forecasted to make more gains in the upcoming sessions. On the upside, the nearest notable resistance can be spotted at ₹65,500. A breakout of this level can lift the contract to the resistance band of ₹67,000-68,300. The support at ₹62,500 is likely to arrest the declines below this level. So, traders can buy MCX-Silver futures now with stop-loss at ₹61,450. Exit the longs when the contract rallies to ₹67,000 as there could profit-booking in the above-mentioned price range leading to price correction.

Coal Ministry auctions 10 mines in 5 States

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, February 12

The Coal Ministry said on Saturday that it has successfully auctioned 10 mines in five states in the latest round of coal auctions. While six mines were CMSP coal mines, the remaining four were MMDR coal mines. The combined coal reserves are estimated at 1,716.21 million tonnes (MT).

The auction of coal mines for commercial mining under the 13th tranche of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) (CMSP) Act and third tranche of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act began on October 12 last year, the Ministry said in a statement.

"The total geological reserves for these mines are 1,716.21 MT. Nine coal mines are fully explored, while one mine is partially explored. The cumulative PRC (peak rate capacity) for these coal mines is 22.014 MT per annum (MTPA)," it added.

So far, under the commercial coal mining auction process, a total of 42 coal mines, including the above 10 coal mines auctioned in tranche 3, have been successfully auctioned with a total cumulative PRC of 86.404 MTPA, the Coal Ministry said.

The government had launched the actions for commercial coal mining in June 2020 under the CMSP Act and the MMDR Act.

Illustration: ZAHID

WHILE SEEKING SINGH'S CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION

Several Officials of Punjab Govt's Sand Mining Dept Under Scanner: ED in Court

Alleged 'involvement of more individuals, associates of Singh is being probed by ED'

Raghav.Ohri@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Several officials of the Punjab government's sand mining department are under scanner, the Enforcement Directorate has informed a Punjab court in its remand paper.

The agency said that the alleged involvement and proximity of officials to Bhupinder Singh, alias Honey, nephew of the Punjab chief minister, was being investigated.

Seeking his further custodial interrogation in the alleged sand mining scam, the agency told the court that Singh was in "contact with various officials working in the state government in relation with sand mining activities". The ED claimed that Singh had been "generating huge cash from illegal mining-related activities".

The ED told the court it was scrutinising over 18 lakh pages 'recovered from four digital devices belonging to Singh including his mobile phones'. The ED said it had so far scrutinised one lakh pages and confronted Singh with them. "The data has been used for gathering further leads," according to the remand paper, reviewed by ET.

The Jalandhar court on Friday turned down the ED request to further interrogate Singh, who was arrested on

February 3. The agency had sought seven more days of custodial interrogation. The court had observed that ED might take more than 100 days to examine the remaining 17 lakh documents. He stands remanded to 14 days judicial custody.

The data included mails and messages exchanged between Singh and other individuals, the ED claimed. The said devices were seized by the agency during its raid last month on Singh's premises.

According to the ED claim, Singh has admitted that '₹10 crore recovered from his premises belonged to him'. The agency suspected that he amassed nearly '₹3 crore in return for facilitating the transfer of state government officials using his political links'. The alleged involvement of more individuals and "associates" of Singh is being investigated by the ED.



Jalandhar court has turned down ED request to further interrogate Singh

The ED on January 19 had claimed to have seized ₹10 crore and "incriminating documents", which allegedly linked Singh with some shell companies. It was alleged that Singh had floated a company, Punjab Realtors, to secure sand mining contracts. Singh's links with an individual named Kudrat Deep Singh is also being probed, it is learnt. Deep Singh had set up Provider Consultancy Services of which he, Bhupinder Singh and Sandeep Kumar were directors.

वेकोलि खदानों की रेत कराएं उपलब्ध

केंद्रीय कोयला राज्यमंत्री रावसाहब दानवे ने CMD को दिये आदेश

■ कोराडी, संवाददाता. केंद्रीय कोयला राज्यमंत्री रावसाहब दानवे ने वेकोलि नागपुर के मुख्य व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक (सीएमडी) मनोजकुमार को आदेश दिया कि अंडरग्राउंड कोयला खदानों का कोयला खनन कार्य घाटे में व ओपन कास्ट कोयला खदान का कोयला फायदे में इस संबंध में अभ्यास कर रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करें. खदान से निकलने वाली रेत पर राज्य की रायल्टी लगाकर उसे खुले बाजार में नीलामी पद्धति से बिक्री करने में आने वाली सभी दिक्कतों को दूर करने का आदेश भी उन्होंने दिया. उन्होंने बताया कि बाजार में यह रेत उपलब्ध होने से रेत की माफिया पर लगाम लगेगी. वे वेकोलि मुख्यालय में अंडरग्राउंड व ओपन कास्ट खदानों की समीक्षा कर रहे थे. उनके साथ विधान परिषद सदस्य चंद्रशेखर बावनकुले, पूर्व विधायक मल्लिकार्जुन रेड्डी, सुधाकर

इन कार्यों को करेगी वेकोलि

वेकोलि के सीएमडी के मार्गदर्शन में जिन कार्यों को करने की बात कही गई है उनमें सावनेर तहसील अंतर्गत मौजा बोरगांव-पटकाखेड़ी ग्राम में अधिग्रहीत 924.25 एकड़ जमीन के मुआवजा के संबंध में कार्यवाही शीघ्र प्रारंभ की जायेगी. कन्हान स्थित जवाहरलाल नेहरू अस्पताल का अपग्रेडेशन किया जायेगा. 50 बेड उपलब्ध होने की मांग की जायेगी. कांदी गांव का नाला चौड़ाकरण किया जायेगा. नाला बंद हो जाने से बारिश के मौसम में बाढ़ की स्थिति बार-बार हो जाती है. मौजा गोंडेगांव का पूरी तरह से पुनर्वास कर प्रलंबित नागरिक सुविधा पूर्ण की जायेगी. पारशिवनी तहसील अंतर्गत टेकाडी में वेकोलि ने जो 18.27 हे. जमीन अधिग्रहीत की है, उसकी रजिस्ट्री प्रक्रिया

कोहले, प्रकाश टेकाड़े उपस्थित थे. वे इस संबंध में महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री उद्धव ठाकरे, उपमुख्यमंत्री अजीत



शीघ्र पूर्ण की जायेगी. घाट रोहणा गांव का शीघ्र पुनर्वास किया जायेगा. मौजा बीना-भानेगांव का पुनर्वास करने के लिए वेकोलि की ओर से 85 करोड़ व महानिर्मिति की ओर से 122 करोड़ देना तय किया गया था. इस तरह का शासन निर्णय 15 सितंबर 2019 को उद्योग, ऊर्जा, कामगार

पवार से चर्चा करेंगे. उन्होंने कहा कि शीघ्र ही वे विदर्भ में वापस आयेंगे तथा खदानों को प्रत्यक्ष भेंट देकर

विभाग की ओर से जारी किया गया था. परंतु महानिर्मिति ने वर्तमान अवस्था में उसे देने से इंकार कर दिया. इससे पुनर्वास का पूरा खर्च वेकोलि से उठाने की मांग विधायक चंद्रशेखर बावनकुले ने की. इस पर सीएमडी ने कहा कि वेकोलि इस संबंध में पुनर्विचार करेगी.

वास्तविकता का अभ्यास कर केंद्र को रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करेंगे. इस अवसर पर विधायक चंद्रशेखर बावनकुले ने

केंद्रीय राज्यमंत्री दानवे का ध्यान आकर्षित कराया कि सावनेर शहर का डीपीआर वेकोलि की ओर से अनापत्ति प्रमाणपत्र नहीं मिलने से रुका हुआ है. प्रत्यक्ष में 10 करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर लगाये गये रेतों के 2 प्रकल्प भी बंद पड़े हुए हैं.

समीक्षा बैठक में वेकोलि के टी.के. श्रीवास्तव, जे.पी. द्विवेदी, एस.के. जैन, एस.पी. पंड्या, जार्ज मैथ्यू, ए.पी. सिंह, ए.के. दीक्षित, ए.एन. वर्मा, डी. मनोहरन, आर. गुप्ता, एम.के. बलुका, अमितकुमार श्रीवास्तव, ओएसडी विश्वास पाठक, कौशिक चक्रवर्ती, डी.बी. रेवतकर तथा प्रकल्प बाधित गांव के जयराम मेहरकुले, वेंकटेश कारेमोरे, अधि. गजानन आसोले, नरेश मेथ्राम, नीतेश राऊत, सुभाष डोकरीमारे, नंदा तागड़े, विजय पाटिल, भिवाजी तांडेकर, हरीश गजभिषे, सरिता लंसुते, नाना कांबले, दिवाकर सिंगाडे, बंडू बरडे उपस्थित थे.

Coal India net jumps 48% to ₹4,557 crore

Revenue from
operations rises
20% to ₹25,991 cr

OUR BUREAU

Kolkata, February 14

Coal India Ltd has registered a 48 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹4,557 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2021, compared with ₹3,084 crore in the same period last year.

Revenue from operations increased by nearly 20 per cent to ₹25,991 crore (₹21,708 crore in the same period last year).

Sequentially, net profit increased by nearly 55 per cent from ₹2,933 crore during the second quarter ended September 30, 2021.

Net profit on a standalone basis increased by around 12 per cent at ₹5,645 crore (₹5,021 crore) during the period under review. Stan-

dalone revenue increased by 94 per cent to ₹299 crore (₹154 crore).

Interim dividend

The company's board has approved payment of a second interim dividend for 2021-22 at ₹5 per share of face value of ₹10 each.

Production of coal during the quarter increased by nearly four per cent at 163.82 million tonne (mt), as against 156.78 mt last year.

Offtake grew by nearly 13 per cent at 173.77 mt (154.46 mt).

The state-owned miner sold 144.59 mt of coal under the FSA (fuel supply agreement) route at an average

realisation of ₹1,369.85 a tonne. It sold 25.95 mt under the e-auction route at an average realisation of ₹1,947.19 a tonne.

The company's scrip closed at ₹161.70 apiece, down 2.91 per cent on the BSE on Monday.



**Net profit on a
standalone basis
increased by
around 12 per cent
at ₹5,645 crore**

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