

### खनिज समाचार KHANIJ SAMACHAR Vol. 4, No-11

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## A FORTNIGHTLY NEWS CLIPPING SERVICE FROM CENTRAL LIBRARY INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES VOL. 4, NO-11 , 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE , 2020

#### THE HITAVADA(CITYLINE) DATE: 17/6/2020 P.N.6

### BKKMS opposes changes in commercial mining



#### Business Bureau

BHARATIYA Koyla Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (BKKMS) has given a memorandum to the President of India and Union Coal Minister opposing the changes in the commercial mining and labour laws. The memorandum was given through D M Gokhale, Area General Manager, Umrer. Present on the occasion were Sunil Mishra, Treasurer of ABKMS, Jayant Aasole, General Secretary of BKKMS of Nagpur Umrer Area, R S Singh, Member of Security Committee, Mahesh Kumar Patwa, Member of Regional Welfare Committee, Vishal Shambharkar, Member of Regional Welfare Committee, Gangadhar Thakare, Amit Sahu, Vikram Singh, Mamoon Khan, Prahlad Sahare and others.

LOTMAT DATE : 4/6/2020 P.N.7

# बनवाडी गावाजवळ बिनधास्त अवैध उत्खनन

भूखंड माफिया निर्भय, प्रशासनाचे दुर्लक्ष : अवैध उत्खनानाने डोंगरांचे रुपांतर झालेय मैदानात

#### <mark>धीरज शुक्ला।</mark> लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : नागपूरपासून जवळपास २० किमी अंतरावर असलेल्या वर्धा रोडवरील बनवाडी गावाजवळ मोठ्या प्रमाणात अवैध उत्खनन केले जात आहे. विशेष म्हणजे, या अवैध उत्खनन करणाऱ्यांवर प्रशासनाकडून अद्याप कोणतीही कारवाई केली गेली नाही.

बनयाडी गावाजवळील डोंगराळ भागात पोकलॅण्ड आणि जेसीबी मशीनद्वारे खोदकाम केले जात आहे. त्यामुळे, हा भाग मैदानात रूपांतरित झाला असून, या भागाचे सौंदर्य नष्ट झाले आहे. हे कृत्य करणाऱ्या भूखंड माफियांना कशाचीच भीती उरलेली दिसत नाही. या उत्खननात डोंगरांसोबतच शेकडो वृक्षांची नासाडी इाल्याने पर्यावरणाबाब्दतित या

माफियांची उदासीनता प्रकर्षा

सत्यता तपासण्यासाठी 'लोकमत'ची चमू घटनास्थळी पोहोचल्यावर प्रकरण अधिक गंभीर असल्याचे स्पष्ट झाले. बनवाडी गाव ते नवरमारी गावापर्यंत एक कच्चा रस्ता आहे आणि हा भाग वनराजी व भूसंपदेने नटलेला आहे. सामान्यत: या मार्गावर रहदारी कमीच असते. बनवाडीपासून दोन किल्लोमीटर पट गेल्यावर चेंगरांवर मुरुम

काम सुरू

THE HITAVADA DATE : 5/6/2020 P.N.7 असल्याचे नजरेस पडते. यासाठी अवैध उत्खनन करणाऱ्यांनी एक स्वतंत्र रस्ताच बनवला आहे. बनवाडी-नवरमारीच्या मार्गावर अशा प्रकारचे उत्खनन दिसून येते. मात्र, डॉंगरांकडे वळल्यास मोठ्या प्रमाणात उत्खनन सुरू असल्याचे स्पष्ट होते. जेसीबी आणि पोकलॅण्डद्वारे सातत्याने खोदकाम केले जात आहे. एकापाठोपाठ अनेक इम्पर येतात आणि जाताना दिसतात. या अवैध उत्खननामुळे बनवाडी गाव परिसरातील डोंगरांचे रुपांतर अशाप्रकारे मैदानात झालेय.

प्रकरणामुळे शासन-प्रशासनाला कोट्यवधी रुपयांच्या राजस्यापासून अलिप्त राहावे लागल्याचेही समजून येते. स्थानिकांकडून मिळालेल्या माहितीनुसार गेल्या वर्षभरापासून रात्रेविया हे अवैध उत्खनन सुरू आहे. एक डम्पर मुरुम किंवा रगडांसाठी चार हजार रुपये वसूल केले जातात. अनेक ठेकेवार इथूनच मुरुम व दगड घेऊन जात आहेत.

NAVBHARAT DATE : 17/6/2020 P.N.7



दिल्ली. कोयला मंत्रालय ने कहा कि कोयला क्षेत्र संबंधी नियम कानून में सुधार का मकसद दक्षता में सुधार, कारोबार में सुगमता और कोयला क्षेत्र को निजी निवेश के लिए खोलना है. मंत्रालय का कहना है कि इससे घरेलू कोयला उत्पादन में सुधार होगा और आयात कम होगा. कोयले की खोज और खनन क्षेत्र में वर्तमान में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों का वर्चस्व रहा है. सुधारों के लिए पुराने खनिज रियायत नियम, 1960 और पर्यावरण और वन संरक्षण से संबंधित नए कानून के अस्तित्व में आने के कारण नियम कानून में संशोधन की आवश्यकता थी . मंत्रलाय का कहना है कि खनिज कानून ( संशोधन) अधिनियम, २०२० में नीलामी के लिए कोयला, लिग्नाइट ब्लॉकों की उपलब्ध सूची को बढ़ाने व समग्र पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस-कम-माइनिंग लीज (पीएल-और-एमएल) के लिए कोयला ब्लॉकों के आवंटन के लिए प्रावधान किए गए हैं.



कोयला खनन के अनुभव के बिना भी किसी कंपनी को अपनी खपत अथवा बिक्री के लिए कोयला खनन कार्य के लिए लाइसेंस का अवसर देने का प्रावधान किया गया है. इसी तरह कोयला क्षेत्र में एफडीआई नीति संबद्ध प्रसंस्करण अवसंरचना सहित कोयले की बिक्री, कोयला खनन कार्यों के लिए स्वचालित मार्ग से 100% एफडीआई की अनुमति देती है.

इसी तरह खनिज रियायत नियम 1960 में संशोधन के बाद खनन योजना की तैयारी के लिए योग्य व्यक्तियों के पंजीकरण की अब आवश्यकता नहीं है.

### Gold prices fall Rs 274; silver drops by Rs 542

NEW DELHI, June 4 (PTI)

GOLD prices in the national capital fell by Rs 274 to Rs 47,185 per 10 gram on Thursday, according Securities. HDFC On Wednesday, the precious metal had closed at Rs 47,459 per 10 gram. Silver prices also eased by Rs 542 to Rs 49,558 per KG against Rs 50,100 per KG in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 carat gold at Delhi were trading down by Rs 274 reflecting overnight fall in global gold prices despite weaker rupee," HDFC Senior Analyst Securities (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

The retail jewellery stores are opening gradually in India with ease in lockdown, he added. After a long gap, spot gold markets in the national capital reopened on Monday. LOKMAT DATE : 5/6/2020 P.N.9



 जमशेदपुर का टाटा स्टील प्लांट 60 फीसबी क्षमता से कर रहा काम

सतीश चंद्राकर, उमेश निवल, शशि कुमार रायपुर, भिलाई, रांची

लॉकडाउन के दौर में बंद रहीं छत्तीसगढ और झारखंड की स्टील फैक्टरियों में काम फिर से पटरी पर लौटने लगा है। भिलाई स्थित सेल प्लांट समेत छत्तीसगढ़ की 90 फीसदी स्टील फैक्टरियों में काम शुरू हो गया है। झारखंड में भी टाटा स्टील प्लांट समेत तमाम छोटी बडी यूनिट ने काम शुरू कर दिया है। स्टील फैक्टरियों के काम शुरु करने से दूसरी औद्योगिक गतिविधियां भी तेजी पकड़ रही हैं। मालूम हो, देश के कुल स्टील उत्पादन में से एक चौथाई इन दोनों राज्यों में ही होता है।

सरकार की ओर से जारी दिशानिर्देश के बाद छत्तीसगढ़ में अप्रैल के अंतिम सप्ताह से ही स्टील कंपनियों ने उत्पादन शुरू कर दिया था। हालांकि, फिलहाल सभी निजी कंपनियां 50% उत्पादन क्षमता के

में देश की सबसे बड़ी स्टील कंपनी सेल की संबसे बड़ी इकाई भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र (बीएसपी) सहित लगभग 600 स्टील फैक्टरियां हैं, जिनमें स्पंज आयरन, फर्नेंस और रोलिंग मिलें शामिल हैं। इनमें छोटी कील से लेकर रेल पटरी तक का निर्माण होता है। प्रदेश की निजी स्टील कंपनियों में बनने वाले 80% प्रोडक्टस की बिक्री अन्य राज्यों में की जाती है। महाराष्ट्र, दिल्ली, दक्षिण भारत, मध्यप्रदेश, ओडिशा और गुजरात आदि प्रमुख खरीदार राज्यों में शामिल हैं। वहीं, झारखंड में राज्य सरकार ने 27 मई से सभी उद्योगों को उत्पादन

शुरू करने की अनुमति दे दी थी। इसके बाद जमशेदपुर स्थित टाटा स्टील के प्लांट में 60-70% क्षमता के साथ उत्पादन शुरू हो चुका है। यहां करीब 33 हजार लोगों को रोजगार मिला हुआ है।

• सेल के भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र सहित लगभग ६०० स्टील फैक्टरियां हैं छग में



• स्टील उत्पादन शुरू होने से अन्य औद्योगिक

गतिविधियां भी पकड रहीं रफ्तार

5

विजेसाठी कोळसा खाणींच्या क्षमतेचा उपयोग करा मुख्यमंत्री ठाकरे । आदासासह मध्य प्रदेशातील दोन कोळसा खाणीचा शुभारंभ

#### लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपर : जगात कोळसा खाणींमध्ये भारताचा चौथा क्रमांक लागतो. तरीदेखील आपण कोळशाची बाहेरून आयात करतो. कोळशाचे वीजनिर्मितीतील महत्त्व अनन्यसाधारण आहे. दर्जेदार कोळशाची उत्पादन क्षमता संपूर्णपणे उपयोगात आणली तर वीजनिर्मितीचा प्रश्नही मिटेल औणि ग्रामीण भागाला परवडणाऱ्या दरात वीजपुरवठा करता येईल, असे प्रतिपादन मुख्यमंत्री उद्धव ठाकरे यांनी

यांनी केले.

वेस्टर्न कोलफिल्डच्या वतीने नागपुर जिल्ह्यातील आदासा येथे एक आणि मध्य प्रदेशातील दोन कोळसा खाणींचे उद्घाटन मुख्यमंत्री ठाकरे तसेच मध्य प्रदेशचे मुख्यमंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान यांच्या हस्ते ऑनलाईन पद्धतीने झाले. त्यावेळी ते बोलत होते. याप्रसंगी केंद्रीय रस्ते वाहतूक

आणि महामार्ग मंत्री नितीन गडकरी, केंद्रीय कोळसा आणि खाण मंत्री प्रल्हाद जोशी, मध्य प्रदेशचे माजी मुख्यमंत्री कमलनाथ, राज्याचे

#### महाराष्ट्रात १४ खाणी सुरू होणार

पुढील ४ वर्षात महाराष्ट्रात १४ खाणी सुरू होत आहेत. त्यातील ३ याच वर्षी सुरू होणार आहेत. या खार्णीमुळे ११ हजार ५०० कोर्टीची गुंतवणूक होईल आणि सुमारे १३ हजार लोकांना रोजगार मिळेल, अशी माहिती यावेळी वेस्टर्न कोलफिल्डने दिली.

#### कोलमेड मिथेनमधून सीएनजी तयार करावा : गडकरी

वेस्टर्न कोल फिल्ड्सच्या बल्लारशहा चंद्रपूर येथील दोन कोळसा ब्लॉक कोल गॅसिफिकेशनसाठी आहेत. गॅसिफिकेशनच्या माध्यमातून यूरिया तयार करण्यात यावा, तसेच राणीगंज येथे कोलमेड मिथेन तयार करण्यात आले आहे. तसेच या कोळसा खाणीतूनही तयार करण्यात यावे. त्यामुळे विदर्भ आणि विदर्भालगत मध्य प्रदेशच्या काही भागाला सीएनजी उपलब्ध होईल व डिझेल-पेट्रोलचा वापर कमी होईल, असे आवाहन केंद्रीय नितीन गडकरी यांनी याप्रसंगी केले. कोळसा खाणीतून निघणाऱ्या रेतीबाबत सर्वंकष धोरण असावे व रेती माफियांना पायबंद बसवावा, असे आवाहन त्यांनी केले.



कोळसा खाणीच्या ऑनलाईन उद्घाटनाप्रसंगी उपस्थित मुख्यमंत्री उद्भव ठाकरे, केंद्रीय मंत्री नितीन गडकरी, पशुसंवर्धन व दुग्ध विकास मंत्री सुनील केदार, खा.कृपाल तुमाने आणि वेकोलीचे अधिकारी.

पशुसंवर्धन आणि दुग्ध विकास केली जात असून १.५ दशलक्ष टन मंत्री सुनील, केदार, खा. कृपाल तुमाने, आ.आशिष जयस्वाल तसेच वेस्टर्न कोलफिल्डचे अधिकारी (ऑनलाईन) या कार्यक्रमासाठी उपस्थित होते.

मुख्यमंत्र्यांनी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक कळ दाबन ऑनलाईन पद्धतीने या खाणीच्या कामाचा शुभारंभ केला. आदासा खाणीत ३३४ कोटी रुपये गुंतवणूक कोळसा उत्पादन होणार आहे. ५५० जणांना रोजगार मिळणार आहे.

अनेक वर्षापासून रखडलेल्या नागपूर-नागभीड ब्रॉडगेज मार्गाचा शुभारंभही लवकरच करण्यात येईल, असेही मुख्यमंत्र्यांनी यावेळी स्पष्ट केले. आभार वेकोलिचे अध्यक्ष व संचालक राजीव व्यवस्थापकीय रंजन मिश्र यांनी मानले.

## Vedanta's Q4 Loss to Aid Delisting

FALL IN BOOK VALUE may prompt investors to tender their shares; proxy advisors say it may discourage them from quoting higher

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**ET Intelligence Group:** The huge loss posted by Vedanta in its March quarter result could make delisting relatively less difficult.

The record loss of ₹12,521 crore posted by the company immediately after making a delisting offer will erode the company's book value from ₹185 to ₹146. If the company has to make an offer at a lower price (post reverse book building), then it could face less resistance from the investors who may be apprehensive to tender the shares below the book value.

However, the investors should note that the loss is from the impairment in assets of oil and gas, copper and iron ore businesses but is a not actually a cash loss. "Because of the significant fall in oil prices, they have revalued the assets. Eventually the amount can be showed back when the oil price rises again. It has already touched \$40 per barrel from less than \$20 few weeks ago," said JN Gupta, MD, Stakeholders Empowerment services, a proxy advisory firm. "The company wants to con-

#### **Poor Show**

Vedanta's March quarter financial performance (₹ cr)

	Q4 FY20	Yo¥ chg	
Net Sales	19,513	-16%	
EBIDTA	4,844	-23%	
EBIDTA Margin	28%	-300 bps	
Net Profit*	-12,083		
Net Debt	21,273	·21%	

\* inicudes one time non-cash loss of ₹17,132

vey to shareholders that it has made a big loss when it is not really a cash loss. This may discourage investors from quoting higher price for offering their shares as a part of the delisting."

However, operationally, the company has done much better than expected by the Street, especially in its zinc, aluminum, power and iron ore businesses. Despite several commodities including oil having seen a sharp fall in their prices, operating profit (EBITDA) is down only 23% year-on-year and down 11% after adjusting for non-operational items. "Most segments have done well. Aluminum and iron ore businesses have done phenomenally well. A lot will depend on the company's guidance for its oil business which has been grappling due to weak oil prices" said Rahul Jain, analyst with Systematix. "We are estimating ₹24,000 crore EBIDTA for FY22 and based on that valuing the compamy's share at ₹218 on EV by EBIDTA basis and ₹225 on DCF (discounted cashflow) basis,"

Operating profit from zinc business was down near 29% and for oil and gas it was down 52%. Aluminum, power and iron ore businesses surprised positively with their EBITDA rising 186%, 27% and 45% respectively on year-on-year basis. Thanks to strong cash flows, net debt reduced 21% to ₹21,273 crore.

Given this and the delisting offer may support the current price. Rise in commodity prices from their lows also bodes well.

On Friday, the company's shares closed at ₹105.5, 1.3% higher. The company made a delisting offer at the floor price of ₹87.5.

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE: 8/6/2020 P.N.12

खदानों से विदर्भ का विकास व मिलेंगे रोजगार के अवसर : नितीन गडकरी

> खोली जाने वाली खदानों से विदर्भ का विकास एवं रोजगार के अवसर उपलब्ध होने का विश्वास जताया। खदानों से विद्युत संयंत्रों में कोयले की उपलब्धता बढ़ेगी। साथ ही कोयले की गुणवत्ता पर विशेष जोर देते हुए इसमें तकनीक का उपयोग करने की सलाह भी दी। ओवर बर्डन से रेत निकालने की वेकोलि की पहल की सराहना करते हुए भविष्य में इसे बड़े स्तर पर करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर भी दिया। केंद्रीय संसदीय कार्य, कोयला एवं खान मंत्री प्रह्लाद जोशी ने वेकोलि द्वारा तीन खदान खोले जाने पर खुशी जाहिर की। करीब 13 हजार करोड़ रुपए की लागत से भविष्य में 20 नई परियोजना शुरू होने से लगभग 14 हजार लोगों को रोजगार मिलने का भरोसा जताया।



॥गपुर|वेकोलि की तीन खदानों का ऑनलाइन उद्घाटन शनिवार को किया गया। समारोह में विशेष भतिथि के रूप में संबोधित करते हुए केंद्रीय मंत्री नेतीन गडकरी ने वेकोलि द्वारा पिछले छह वर्षों में बोली गई 20 खदानों की सराहना की। भविष्य में LOKMAT DATE : 9/6/2020 P.N.10

### झारखंडमध्ये पाचव्या ठिकाणी आढळले सुवर्ण खनिजाचे साठे खाणीतून २५० किलो सोने मिळण्याची शक्यता

असलेल्या झारखंडमध्ये भारतीय भूगर्भ अंजली यांनी 'जीएसआय'च्या या सर्वेक्षण विभागाला (जीएसआय) ताज्या अहवालास दुजोरा दिल्या. मात्र, पाचव्या ठिकाणी सुवर्ण खनिजाचे साठे आढळले असून, त्यासंबंधीचा अहवाल त्यांनी राज्याच्या खनिकर्म विभागास प्रक्रिया सुरू करण्याआधी आणखी गेल्या आठवड्यात सादर केला आहे.

'जीएसआय'च्या वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यानुसार जमशेदपूरपासून २० असलेले परासी (तामर) गाव, पश्चिम कि.मी. दक्षिणेस पूर्व सिंहभूम जिल्ह्यात हातिया रस्त्यावरील भितर दारी गावात हा नवा सुवर्णसाठा सापडला आहे. गावातील जमिनीखाली १५० मीटरवर हे सुवर्ण खनिज असून, त्यातून एकूण २५० किलोपर्यंत सोने मिळ शकेल. असा अंदाज आहे. 'जीएसआय'च्या रांची परिमंडळाचे अधिकारी सन २०१३ पासून या गावात सुवर्ण खनिज शोधण्याचे काम करीत होते.

रांची : खनिज संपत्तीने समृद्ध 'जिऑलॉजी' शाखेच्या प्रमुख कुमारी हा अहवाल प्राथमिक स्वरूपाचा असल्याने या खाणपट्ट्याची लिलाव बरीच कामे करावी लागतील.

याआधी रांची शहराला लागून सिंहभूम जिल्ह्यातील पहाडिया व कुंडेरकोचा तसेच सरईकेला-खरसावानमधील लावा (चांदील). अशा चार ठिकाणी भुगर्भात सोन्याचे साठे आढळले आहेत. त्यापैकी परासी व पहाडिया येथील खाणपट्र्यांचा काही वर्षांपूर्वी लिलाव करण्यात आला असून, तेथे खाणी विकसित करण्याचे काम सुरू आहे. कंदेरकोचा व लावा (चांदील) येथील खाणी सरू झाल्या आहेत. (वृत्तसंस्था)

राज्याच्या खनिकर्म विभागातील



NAVBHARAT DATE : 10/6/2020 P.N.9

THE HITAVADA(CITYLINE) DATE: 10/6/2020 P.N.6

### 'India's steel demand likely to fall by 18 pc in 2020'

#### Business Bureau

INDIA'S steel demand is likely to face a sharp decline of 18 per cent in 2020, while global steel demand is expected to contract 6.4 per cent to 1,654 million tonnes (MT) due to the COVID-19 crisis, as per industry body worldsteel.

According to official figures, India consumed over 100 MT steel during 2019. "In 2020, worldsteel forecasts that steel demand will contract by 6.4 per cent, dropping to 1,654 MT due to the COVID-19 crisis," the World Steel Association (worldsteel) said in its latest Short Range Outlook (SRO), a publication on steel demand scenario. Steel demand in developed economies is expected to decline by 17.1 per cent in 2020. Although the downturn is led by consumer and service sectors, massive dislocations in spending, labour markets, and confidence are fuelling declines in steel-using sectors, the global body said. "While, the steel demand in the developing economies excluding China is expected to fall by 11.6 per cent in 2020. India is likely to face an 18per cent decline in steel demand in 2020, which will rebound by 15 per cent in 2021," it added.

In India, it said, the Government implemented the most stringent nationwide lockdown measures in the world, bringing industrial operations to a standstill. Construction activity was halted entirely at the end of March, and recovery is expected to remain subdued due to the slow migration of labourers.

Further, supply chain disruptions coupled with slower demand recovery will hit the steelusing industries like the automotive and machinery sectors.



## Gold Prices Rebound as Global Risk Rally Stalls

#### Bloomberg

Gold rebounded above \$1,700 an ounce as the global risk rally took a breather before a Federal Reserve meeting.

Momentum stalled in risk assets on Tuesday, and the dollar strengthened for the first time in nine sessions, as investors weighed fresh outlooks on the economic recovery. World Bank forecasts suggest that over 90% of economies will experience a recession this year, more than at the height of the Great Depression.

"You are seeing some short covering and renewed investment buying from people impressed with the resilience of gold," said David Govett, head of precious metals trading at Marex Spectron. Yet, markets should remain rela-

Yet, markets should remain relatively quiet during the Fed's twoday gathering that ends Wednesday. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell is expected to continue to deploy the full suite of liquidity backstops — even if there is little need for some at the moment – and leave rates above zero.

Bullion-backed exchange traded funds saw outflows for a third straight session on Monday after the longest run of advances in more than a year. While deflation fears put pressure on gold recently, many investors still expect that



and monetary stimulus would ultimately stoke prices and drive real yields further down, aiding bullion."Small allocation to gold as a hedge makes sense at the moment."

massive fiscal

Mike Bell, global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management, told Bloomberg TV.

Spot gold was up 0.6% at \$1,708.67 an ounce at 10:59 am in London, continuing its recovery after a slump last week. Other major precious metals declined.

### High Court refuses to stay ongoing public hearings of sand mining

#### Staff Reporter

NAGPUR bench of Bombay High Court on Tuesday firmly refused to stay the ongoing public hear-

ings conducted by MPCB across Vidarbha on Zoom app for grant of environmental clearance for sand mining projects.

Adivision bench consisting of Justice Ravi Deshpande and Justice

Amit Borkar while formally issuing notice to State Government, its revenue department and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board in a PIL filed by Sudhir Paliwal, convener of Vidarbha Environment Action Group,



public hearings in four districts. The PIL dubbed the ongoing hearings on Zoom App as illegal and sham in contravention of EIA notification which envis-

declined to halt the remaining

ages public participation. The hearings are organised during the lockdown period so as to prevent the "affected persons" from rural areas to raise their objections, the petition-

er claimed while expressing apprehension about safety of Zoom as well citing a Home Ministry advisory dated April 16 asking not to use Zoom as it is unsafe. In spite of such advisory (Contd on page 2)

# High Court refuses to stay ongoing public hearings of sand mining

and ignoring inability expressed by many District Collectors due to ongoing pandemic, the Additional Chief Secretary of Revenue Department issued a notification on April 27, 2020 to conduct the public hearing on Zoom app, petitioner stated.

Adv Tushar Mandlekar argued that State Government has no powers to frame any protocol or guidelines or rules as the power to frame rules related to "Public Hearing" lies with the Central Government under sections 6, 25 of Environment Protection Act 1986.

The petitioner prayed for cancellation of all such public hearings conducted on Zoom apps by various District Collectors, like Nagpur, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal.

Government Pleader Sumant Deopujari strongly opposed grant of any relief and wondered as to why the petitioner was approaching the High Court when notification was issued way back on April 27 and most hearings are over without any problem. The MPCB also justified the hearings and refuted the allegations.

The High Court while refusing to stay forthcoming hearings, issued formal notices to respondents and directed them to file the reply on June 30.

Adv Dr Tushar Mandlekar, assisted by Adv Dr Mahendra Limaye, argued for the petitioner. GP Sumant Deopujari (State), Adv Ravi Sanyal (MPCB) represented the respondents.

#### THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE: 10/6/2020 P.N.8

#### WCL opens 3 mines in Mah, MP

As part of the 'Mission 100 Days' roadmap, Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) opened three coal mines in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh (MP) besides the launch of digital initiatives in a virtual ceremony held on June 6. The aim is to prioritise initiatives for achieving production beyond 75 Mt coal by the 2023-24 fiscal.



Nitin Gadkari, Union minister, was the guest of honour at the online inauguration, chaired by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Madhya Pradesh chief minister. Uddhav Thackeray Maharashtra chief minister, and Pralhad Joshi, minister of parliamentary affairs, were the guests of honour

"Upcoming projects of WCL will contribute to development of Vidarbha and create job opportunities. The new mines would increase the availability of coal in power plants", said Gadkari emphasising on better quality of coal and need for more technological interventions to achieve the goal. Thackeray spoke about environment conservation and pollution control simultaneously with the increase in coal production. He also stressed upon availability of cheaper electricity for farmers and marginalised sections.

#### THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 11/6/2020 P.N.5

## **CLSA Lowers Rating on JSW**, **Tata Steel over Local Concerns**

Further downgrades stocks to sell as it believes recent rally in these is unjustified

#### **Our Bureau**

Mumbai: CLSA has further downgraded its ratings on Tata Steel and JSW Steel to 'sell' from 'underperform' as it believes the recent rally in these stocks is unjustified. Steel stocks have gained 15-21% in the last one month, driven by gains in global commodity-linked stocks and lower coking coal prices. Here are the reasons why CLSA downgraded these stocks:

CLSA believes the concerns surrounding the sector are more local in nature and are likely



to last longer. The government's stimulus is directed more towards construction activities, which is a relatively smaller driver for flat steel. This has fewer benefits for JSW and Tata Steel, said CLSA.

The brokerage also believes le-

verage is high, making risk-re-ward unfavourable.

Outlook for consuming sectors, mainly for flat steel, remains weak, said CLSA. Construction demand could rise when activity picks up but that would help rebar more than flat steel, whe-re demand could remain lower for longer, said CLSA.

Steel inventory at the mills has risen as a result of the lock-down. Mills would look to export more as utilisations increase, said CLSA. This would lead to lower realisations as export realisations are lower than domestic ones.

UNFAVOURABLE RISK-REWARD CLSA said risk-reward is unfa-vourable for Indian steel stocks due to weak price outlook, high leverage and negligible dividend yield versus global peers

LOKMAT DATE : 12/6/2020 P.N.4



येत होते. या उत्खननात मोठमोठ्या टेकड्या भुईसपाट झाल्या. भूमाफियांच्या दहशतीमुळे ग्रामस्थ काही बोलायला तयार नाही. परंतु लोकमतमध्ये प्रकाशित करण्यात ज्या भागात अवैध उत्खनन झाले आहे, तेथील सीमांकन करावे. यासाठी टीम गठित केली आहे. ज्यात जिल्हास्तरावरून एक सर्वेअर, तहसिल निरीक्षक भूमी अभिलेख तसेच

सीमांकन केल्यानंतर टीम आपला जिल्हाधिकाऱ्यांना अहवाल पाठविणार आहे. त्या आधारावर अवैध उत्खनन प्रकरणात भूमाफियांवर कारवाई करण्यात येईल.

Central bank pledges to keep interest rates lower for longer; Conditions are here for gold to move to \$1,800, UBS says **Gold Futures Rally as Powell's Fed Delivers for Bullion Bulls** 



Bloomberg

Gold futures rallied as the Federal Reserve vowed to hold interest rates lower for longer and investors tracked signs of a resurgence in infections in some U.S. states. The haven pushed higher after Chairman Jerome Powell said Wednesday the Fed is committed to "do whatever we can, for as long as it takes." Almost all officials forecast keeping rates near zero through 2022, and the central bank also said it will at least maintain the current rate of bond purchases.

"The conditions are here for gold still going to \$1,800," Dominic Schnider, head of commodities & Asia Pacific currencies at UBS Group AG, told Bloomberg Television. The metal has support "with rates staying where they are for longer, and real rates expectations potentially shifting more negative," he said. Comex gold futures for August

Comex gold futures for August delivery traded 1% higher at \$1,738.20 an ounce at 6:43 a.m. in New York, extending this week's advance amid renewed worries over a battered global economy. Gold-backed exchanged-traded funds returned to buying after four days of net outflows amid the risk rally which stalled after the Fed's meeting.

Spot gold edged 0.4% lower after climbing 1.4% on Wednesday, as some traders were taking profits and the dollar rebounded. The upside for prices was somewhat limited today after three days of advances, with the markets pricing in their expectations for the Fed before this week's meeting, according to David Govett, head of precious metals trading at Marex Spectron.

trading at Marex Spectron. Ahead of the Fed gathering, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. forecast bullion would rise to \$1,800 an ounce over 12 months and may even see a breakout beyond \$2,000 if inflation expectations outpace a rise in nominal rates -similar to what happened in the third quarter of 2009.

Even with recent advances, futures haven't yet reached this year's peak of \$1,789 seen in April, which was the highest since 2012. There's probably some disappointment among investors that the Fed stopped short of embracing the yield-curve control, which would be a strong trigger for gold, according to Ole Hansen at Saxo Bank A/S, who's still bullish on gold.

"So being the devils advocate I worry a bit why the metal hasn't responded better than it did," Hansen said.

## Novelis Refinance Costs Dent Hindalco Profit

Co posts 43% drop in Q4 profit, remains optimistic about U-shaped recovery

#### Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Hindalco Industries reported a 43% drop in fourthquarter consolidated profit due to a one-time impact of refinancing costs at its US unit Novelis, but the Aditya Birla Group's flagship metals business sounded optimistic about a U-shaped recovery paced by demand from pharmaceuticals, electrical goods, construction and food packaging companies.

Consolidated earnings declined to Rs 668 crore in the three months to end-March, reflecting the impact of Rs 568 crore in refinancing costs tied to Novelis that still contributed two-thirds to the operating profit of India's leading non-ferrous metals producer. Standalone net profit rose 38% year-on-year to a record Rs 326 crore in the three-month period, and Novelis delivered an operating profit of \$383 million, the highest ever at the US unit.

"There are winner sectors in this crisis: Like in India, aluminium foil stock had a big demand for us in April and May," Hindalco's MD Sathish Pai told ET, "Sectors such as pharma, food packaging, and bottle caps will do well. The next will be the electrical goods segment (driven by) public sector projects that use conductors and cables."

Hindalco's operating profit climbed 6% in the three months to March at Rs 4,173 crore, and operating margin expanded 200 basis points to 14%. Consolidated revenue in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 29,318 crore, compared with Rs 33,745 crore for the same quarter last year.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE : 13/6/2020 P.N.1

## Govt Coal Cos Halt Ops at Some Mines, Cut Pay

Cos have also deferred perks of execs as sector copes with lockdown

#### Debjoy.Sengupta@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: State-run coal firms have suspended operations at some mines and are paying half the salary to idle employees until production resumes. They have also deferred perks of executives as the sector copes with the coronavirus-led lockdown.

Singareni Colliers has suspended operations at 22 underground mines. About a third of its employees will still take home half the pay, company executives said.

The company operates a mix of 45 underground and open-cast mines. It was unable to operate mines where social distancing was not possible. These mines account for 15-17% of the total coal production. At Singareni Colliers, as many as 15,000 employees have been affected. The company employs 46,000 and pays an average monthly salary of ₹85,000.

"As per the guidelines of director general of mines safety (DGMS), requests from several unions and the situation prevailing due to Covid-19, production operations at the 22 semimechanised mines were suspended," a spokesperson for Singareni Collieries said. "However, following recent requests from all the unions, we plan to lift the suspension and resume operation in a few days." A senior executive said, "The ma-

A senior executive said, "The management was compelled to suspend operations and temporarily cut pay to balance reduction in revenue inflow due to dip in production and sales."

Riaz Ahmad, general secretary of Hind Mazdoor Sabha at Singareni Collieries said the move is illegal as it can be executed only after permission from the administrative authorities concerned.

#### THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 13/6/2020 P.N.6

### PRICE-BOOK BELOW 15-YEAR AVERAGE Metal and Mining Cos Hammered on High Debt, Low Earnings Outlook

	Tata Steel	Vedanta	Hindalco	JSPL	SAIL
Current P/B	0.43	0.45	0,47	0.28	0.30
15-Yr Average	1.60	2.50			
All-Time High	5.26				6.83

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**ET Intelligence Group:** Stocks of metal and mining companies are currently at historically low pricebook (P/B) multiples as the sector faces dual concerns of rising debt and falling earnings.

In addition, a sharp fall in domestic demand may make matters worse unlike during the previous downcycle of 2015 when higher import duties and firm local demand had cushioned Indian metals producers.

Total net debt of the top five companies — Tata Steel, JSW Steel, SAIL, Vedanta and Hindalco — for FY21 is estimated at around ₹3.2 lakh crore. Some of them, especially those in the ferrous (steel, iron ore) segment, are estimated to post losses in the first half of FY21.

As a result, the P/B multiples of Tata Steel, SAIL and Jindal Steel & Power currently languish at levels of 0.3-0.4, which is the lowest in the past 15 years. The average multiples over this period have ranged between 1.6 and 2.9. The debt levels of these three companies are expected to remain high given the weak earnings cycle and recent capacity expansions.

The stock of Vedanta, which has a more diversified portfolio including oil & gas, aluminum, copper, and zinc also trades at a P/B of 0.4 compared with the 15-year average of 2.5. Aluminum producer Hindalco's P/B is at 0.4, lower than the longterm average of 1.2.

Value investors may prefer Hindalcogiven its steady cash flow from the overseas subsidiary Novelis which is in the business of making aluminium products such as beverage cans and auto sheets. In addition, Hindalco's net debt relative to the operating profit (EBIDTA) stands at four, the lowest among the country's top metal producers. LOKMAT DATE: 13/6/2020 P.N.4

# उत्खनन झालेल्या परिसरात नियमित पेट्रोलिंग करणार पोलीस

### बनवाडी अवैध उत्खनन प्रकरण : तहसीलदारांचे पोलिसांना पत्र

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : अवैध उत्खनन प्रकरणात दोषी भूमाफियांवर कारवाई करण्यासाठी जिल्हाधिकाऱ्यांनी सीमांकनाला हिरवी झेंडी दाखविली आहे. त्यानंतर आता नागपूर ग्रामीणच्या तहसीलदारांनी हिंगणा व बुटीबोरी पोलीस ठाण्याला पत्र लिहून बनवाडी गावात उत्खनन होत असलेल्या परिसरात नियमित पेट्रोलिंग करा, असे सांगितले आहे.

बनवाडी गावाजवळ अवैध उत्खननाचे प्रकरण लोकमतने समोर आणले होते. त्यानंतर जिल्हा व तहसील प्रशासन जागे झाले होते. भूमाफियांनी अवैध उत्खनन करून मोठमोठ्या टेकड्या उद्ध्यस्त केल्यानंतरही प्रशासनाला त्याची खबरबात नव्हती. अवैध उत्खनन होत असल्याचे पुढे

#### आता पुढे काय?

तहसीलदार मोहन टिकले यांच्यानुसार सर्वेअर पोहचल्यानंतर भूमी अभिलेख कार्यालयाच्या मदतीने संबंधित जागेचे सीमांकन होईल. तहसिल कार्यालयाचा प्राथमिक अहवाल व सीमांकनाचा अहवाल या आधारे दोर्षीच्या विरुद्ध दंडाची रक्कम ठरविण्यात येईल. सोबतच जमीन मालकांना नोटीस सुद्धा पाठविण्यात येईल.

#### सर्व्हेअर पोहचण्याची प्रतीक्षा

तहसीलदारांनी लोकमतला सांगितले की सीमांकनासाठी त्यांनी भूमी अभिलेख कार्यालयाला पत्र पाठविले आहे. परंतु जेव्हापर्यंत जिल्हास्तरीय सर्देअर पोहचत नाही, तोपर्यंत प्रक्रिया पुढे वाढू शकत नाही. त्यामुळे आम्हाला सर्व्हेअर पोहचण्याची प्रतीक्षा करावी लागणार आहे.

### 🕜 पोलिसांना पाठविले पत्र

जिल्हाधिकारी यांच्याकडून सीमांकनाची परवानगी मिळाल्यानंतर शुक्रवारी आम्ही बुटीबोरी व हिंगणा पोलीस ठाण्याला पत्र पाठविले. त्यांना सांगितले की उत्खनन झालेल्या परिसरात नियमित नियमित पेट्रोलिंग करावी. त्यामुळे अवैध उत्खनन करणाऱ्यांवर नजर ठेवता येईल.

- मोहन टिकले, तहसीलदार, नागपूर ग्रामीण

आल्यानंतर प्रशासनाकडून कारवाईची प्रक्रिया सुरू झाली आहे.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 15/6/2020 P.N.4

### Steel, Cement Demand May Fall Sharply in FY21

Cos pin hopes on govt's infra expenditure for demand revival in the 2nd half of the fiscal

#### Rakhi Mazumdar & Bhavya Dilipkumar

Kolkata | Mumbai: Domestic demand for steel and cement, two commodities that are key to undergirding physical infrastructure, is set to collapse in FY21 as India's economy heads for its first full-year contraction in nearly five decades. The fortunes of both industries are closely correlated with the rate of broader economic expansion.

Steel demand locally could

shrink by a fifth, and that of cement by an even steeper magnitude, compromising profitability and capacity utilisation at the two industries in which India ranks second only to China on the global output leader-board.

Leaders of both industries are looking at the second half of FY21 for demand revival, with government expenditure on infrastructure seen as crucial for lifting demand.

"I see India getting back to normalcy, hopefully, in the second half of FY21," said JSW Steel Joint MD Seshagiri Rao. "We see traction from government-induced expenditure related to transmission, distribution, solar, metros and pipelines." Lower profitability and sales would weaken the industry's credit profile, with Icra anticipating total debt at seven times of operating profits at steelmakers, a level last seen during the FY17 meltdown.

#### **DEMAND IN TATTERS**

With construction, auto and general manufacturing brought to a near standstill, the steel industry's prospects have dimmed, Crisil Research said. Companies are focused on managing liquidity and cash flows in the near term, the report said, citing management responses.

Brussels-based World Steel Association also said that India's steel demand may fall 18% to 83.3 million tonne (mt) in 2020 from 101.5 mt in 2019. Saurabh Bhatnagar, partner — metals & mining, EY India said demand revival would initially depend on government infra spending.